



NONGIN

NAMA 2017 Newsletter

www.namaonline.org

ISSUE 05 DEC 2017

Greetings!

When the cool weather rolls around again, it's time to start thinking about the holiday plans. At this joyous time of year, we are grateful for our work with you. We wish you abundant happiness and peace in a new year filled with hope. Happy holidays!



Like us on:



NAMA is a non-profit, non-political, educational and secular organization with the aim of fostering and promoting social, cultural, educational heritages of the people of Manipur in the North American continent and to defend any just cause that affects them.



NAMA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2018

The annual NAMA convention 2018 will be tentatively held on 5th and 6th July, 2018 at Tulsa, OK. Final date will be announced later. Looking forward to all the Manipuri living in United States of America to participate in 2018 NAMA convention.



Nongin – The State Bird of Manipur, also known as Mrs. Hume Pheasant

In this Issue:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Message from the President's Desk | P.1 |
| The 26th NAMA Annual Convention Report | P.2 - 9 |
| A Tribute to Sam Meyer | P.10 |
| Newly Registered NAMA Members | P.11 |
| Annual NAMA 2017 Excellence Award | P.12 |
| NAMA Photography Contest | P.13 |
| NAMA Executive Members 2017-19 | P.14 |
| Articles presented by NAMA members | P.15 - 19 |
| Hurricane Harvey Report 2017, Texas | P.20 |
| Manipur Flood 2017, Relief Effort | P.21 |
| KUT 2017 Celebration in Tulsa, OK | P.22 |
| Ningol Chakouba Celebration, 2017 | P.23 - 27 |
| Reminiscence of Manipur | P.28 |



Join us Next Year in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Dear members, friends & families of NAMA

On behalf of NAMA executive team, I would like to say sincere thank you to all NAMA members for having elected us to manage NAMA for the year 2017 to 2019. It's an honor and privilege to be able to serve Manipuri living around the globe and in particular Manipuri diaspora in North America. We will strive to continue the good work started by our NAMA founding members and past NAMA executive team.



On behalf of NAMA executive team, I would like to welcome those new arrivals to the North America and have recently join the NAMA. For those who haven't join NAMA, I appeal to join NAMA to celebrate our heritage and pass down our culture and traditions to the younger Manipuri American.

As you know 26th NAMA convention was held at Houston on July 2nd & 3rd 2017. We made history by being able to have the pleasure of attendance by the Senior Diplomatic Officer from Indian Consulate, Houston, as chief guest and also by large number of people from different ethnic groups of Manipur, living in the USA. NAMA was further able to have the honor to have elected a diverse NAMA executive team representing major ethnic groups of Manipur for the first time. We will continue to reach out to every Manipuri ethnic group living in the US to be part of the NAMA family.

I am proud to report that NAMA executive team, with the support of NAMA members, raised and donated (INR) ₹ 2 lacs 340 to the Manipur Chief Minister flood relief fund; raised and donated \$1600 to the Hurricane Harvey affected Manipuri family of Houston; extended condolence and funeral gift of \$500 to Ms. Peraly as her husband passed away. NAMA executive reached out to hurricane Irma affected Manipuri families living around Florida as well.

I am also proud to report that we are exploring ways to collaborate with Manipur Chambers of Commerce & Industrialization on how NAMA and Manipuri diaspora in North America can help in the industrialization of Manipur. We are also exploring ways to establish communication channel with Chief Minister of Manipur so that experience and expertise of Manipuri diaspora in North American can contribute for the development of Manipur.

Please mark your calendar for 27th NAMA convention to be held at Tulsa, Oklahoma during the July 4th weekend. Details with specific date would be announced sometime early next year. We are in the process to invite Chief Minister of Manipur as the chief guest for the next year's NAMA convention. On behalf of NAMA executive team, I appeal to all Manipuris living in the US & Canada, to come and attend 27th NAMA convention to celebrate our heritage, meet new people, make friends and empower your children to learn our culture & heritage, and make them proud of their heritage.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all NAMA executive team members who have worked tirelessly, despite their busy work & life schedule to work on this "2017 Nongin" publication. Last not the least, I thank all those NAMA members who have contributed articles or pictures to be shared in this publication.

Lastly, on behalf of NAMA executive team, I wish you all a Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy & Prosperous New Year 2018.

Sincerely

Bish Moirangthem (AKA Moirangthem Bishwambhar)
President, North American Manipur Association (NAMA)



The 26th North American Manipur Association (NAMA) Convention made history. The turnout of the event was huge. People from different ethnic groups of Manipur attended to make this event first of the kind and one of the largest gathering in NAMA history. Approximately 120 members attended this convention. Members from different places in North America gathered to meet, socialize and celebrate Manipuri traditions under one roof on 2nd-3rd July at Houston, Texas. The convention was a diverse and a colorful event, attended by people from different ethnic groups of Manipur. This event highlighted NAMA's continued efforts to bring different Manipuri diaspora of different ethnicities together. It also provides an opportunity for the younger generation of Manipuri American to learn and value our rich and diverse Manipuri culture. By engaging the members in the cultural performances and discussion, the idea of community spirit and our Indian root is strengthened.

Meet and Greet, July 2 2017

The first day of the convention was held at Holiday Inn Houston SW, Houston Texas, USA. Dressed as cowboy & cowgirls and sporting NAMA T-Shirts, the Texas Team welcomed the Guests.



The first day of the convention was held at Holiday Inn Houston SW, Houston Texas, USA. Meet and Greet event started with a warm and friendly welcome from Texas Team who dressed up as cowboy and cowgirls while sporting NAMA T-Shirts. NAMA T-Shirts were distributed to the members.

Roshan Ngangom kicked off the evening's proceeding with a welcome speech, on behalf of the host team. Each attending family introduced themselves while the single attendees sportively came up on the stage in one group and introduced themselves.

Pratiksha and Bina Raghuvanshi's showcased homemade Herbal Skin/Hair care product based Laimu. 50% of the Profit was donated to NAMA. There were impromptu performances by outgoing president Mr. Lukhoi Shougaijam.

The attendees treated themselves to a sumptuous dinner highlighted by Rohu Ataoba Thongba, Soibum-Yendem Eromba, Gobi Manchurian, Chicken 65, Dal Makhani, Rasgulla and Gulab Jamun for desserts.

The evening ended with the attendees enjoying a game of Grand Tambola, commonly known as Housie in Manipur. All of the winners voluntarily donated all or part of the prize money to NAMA, supporting the causes NAMA stands for.

Main Event, July 3 2017

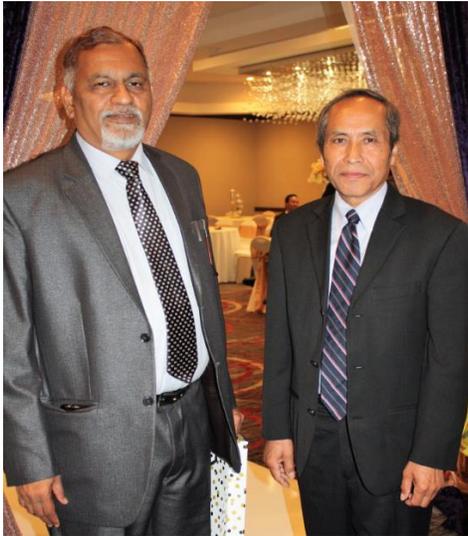
The main event held at Holiday Inn Houston SW, Houston Texas, USA kicked off with Registration and Breakfast. The event hosts, Rex RK and Cyra Ngangom introduced and welcomed the guests of honor and the chief guest for the day. Ravindra Dinakar Joshi, Senior Diplomatic Officer - Indian Embassy, Houston graced the event as the Chief Guest. The guests of honor were Mrs Vandana Joshi, Falguni Gandhi - ICC President, Parul Fernandes - ICC Member, Pastor Hegin Haokip, Ngangom Rastrapati Singh - Ret'd Chief Engineer PWD Govt of Manipur, RK Latamani Devi - Ret'd Lecturer, RK Sanatombi- Ret'd High School Teacher, Pastor Zaklei Kaping, RK Falguni - Chairman IIM Shillong - Ret'd IAS, Jamuna Advani - Poet and Author, Bina Raghuwanshi, Yanglem Ganga and Yanglem Nilamani Singh - Joint Registrar Co-Operative Dept.



President of NAMA, Lukhloi Shougaijam started the proceedings with a welcome speech sharing his gratitude to everyone for their participation in the humble gathering of Manipuri Diaspora in North America. Mr Shougaijam was excited with NAMA celebrating this cultural event in Southern state of Texas for the first time. The welcome speech was followed by, the melodious tune of a patriotic Manipuri song, "*Sanaleipak Manipur*", performed by Sarita Moirangthem, Neeti Shougaijam, Urnija RK, Sunita Yanglem, Sarju Laishram, Pratiksha Raghuwanshi, Lukhloi Shougaijam, Nongthang Langpoklakpam, Leonard Arambam, Ajitkumar Thokchom, Rakesh Moirangthem, Shyam Loukham, and Lamyamba Sapam.



Chief Guest, Ravindra Dinakar Joshi thanked Mr Lukhoi, Ms Sarju and entire NAMA team for inviting him to be the chief guest of the event and expressed his pleasure in joining NAMA convention 2017. He appreciated NAMA for hosting such an event to help promote our tradition and culture to the next generation. He talked about how different ethnicities of Manipur make it a diverse and beautiful state. He mentioned that Pandit Nehru rightly described Manipur as 'Jewel of India' with picturesque backdrops such as Loktak Lake. Mr Joshi Congratulated NAMA on the success of the event and expressed his desire to visit the Northeast India in near future.



Dr. A. Surjalal Sharma, Chairman of Advisory board and one of the founding members of NAMA, expressed his pride about how NAMA has strived to preserve our heritage in North America. He reminisced about NAMA's evolution from a few members to a strong organization representing people from different communities of Manipur across North America.

The Chairman of Election committee and one of the founding member of NAMA, Dhrita Sinha emphasized that NAMA is an inclusive organization. He reiterated some of the history of NAMA and the founding members, and his hopes taking NAMA forward. He reminisced about NAMA convention being organized in different cities like Toronto, Detroit, New Jersey, Chicago, D.C., New York. He also thanked all the first-time members for their support.

First time attendee Pastor Hegin Haokip compared the Convention to a Family reunion in a foreign land. He cherished NAMA founders for their vision to bring together Manipuri diasporas in North America under NAMA. He narrated story of his Meitei Tutor whom he felt forever indebted. He compared Manipur as *Singju*, as Manipur is a diverse and multicultural state that has its own unique beauty. Furthermore, he pledged his support to NAMA, the one and only place where we can share our unity in diversity like 'Moirang Lamkhai Singju'.

Mr. Falguni RK enlightened the attendees about how Chingmee and Tammeem have common origins and why they should always stay united. He narrated a story that proves Chingmee and Tammeem are brothers. He said, "We all were in hill while our valleys were covered by water bodies. As sea level decreases, some of us went down to valley to find good fortune and other remained in the hill. Those who came to valley were later called Tammeem".

He further mentioned that was the reason why "Mera Wayungba" is the symbol of strong bond between valley and hill dwellers.



President of India Culture Center, Falguni Gandhi expressed her profound happiness to be part of NAMA convention. She appreciated Pratiksha Raghuvanshi for being persistent to connect ICC with NAMA. India Culture Center represents all Indians in America and aims to promote Indian heritage, arts and culture. It was founded in 1973. ICC is connected to 17 organizations and now NAMA is one of them. ICC invited everyone to join Indian Independence Day celebration at Stafford Center.

One of the eldest attendees was Jamuna Devi Advani wowed everyone with stories about her journey; her childhood, completing BSc from Delhi University in 1958, moving to States in 1996 and fascination about reading, writing and sport. She narrated how post retirement, she started writing articles, stories, poems and memos which are published in India and sold at ecommerce site like Flipkart. She talked about one of her upcoming books to be published in both Meetei Mayek and Bengali Script. She narrated the summary of two stories and recited her two poems. One of the poems "*Epoklamdamdaeikhoi ahansing*", which is dedicated to the old parents and grandparents whose children and grandchildren live abroad touched everybody's heart. She also expressed her love for the city for Houston.

Pastor ZakleiKaping and his wife Gia thanked NAMA for inviting them. Pastor Kaping stated that it is a magnanimous gesture on the part of NAMA for opening its door to all the ethnic groups of Manipur. It was a wonderful experience meeting visionary and influential leaders of our state and the consul of India in Houston, listening to their encouraging and uplifting speeches and exhortations. He remembered his school teachers from Kakching, Moirang and how he feels so blessed to be always connected with people from valley. He mentioned about Shirui Lily Festival which CM Shri N. Biren Singh initiated to bring plain and hill people together. He thanked NAMA founding members who work so hard to bring us together and all the leaders who has been serving for the greater good of humanity.



As a token of gratitude, NAMA presented gifts to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honor and other important guests. Due to time constraint, the chief guest, Mr. R.D. Joshi, Guest of Honor Vandana Joshi, Falguni Gandhi, Parul Fernandes were not able to attend the program till the end. But they exchanged information so that NAMA and organization they are part of remain connected to complement each other. Mr. Lukhoi, president of NAMA, on behalf of all the attendees thanked representatives of Indian Consulate and ICC for their valuable time.



NAMA Executive team updates:

Updates were presented by Lukhoh Shougaijam - President of NAMA, Sarju Laishram - Assist. General Secretary of NAMA, Lily Sharma - Treasurer of NAMA and Nishi Asem - IT Secretary of NAMA.

The president expressed his belief that increasing the participation of Manipuri Diaspora in North America in the convention and engaging them in other activities will make NAMA a much more complete organization. He appealed to the Manipuri Diaspora in North America to be willing participants in NAMA affairs. He thanked the Texas team for reaching out to different ethnic groups of Manipur in and around Texas and made this event colorful, beautiful and diverse. Sarju Laishram emphasized the Educational mentoring program, through which NAMA assists people who aspire to study in US. She reiterated NAMA's commitment in contributing to the development Manipur.

Lily Sharma provided the detailed financial report for the year 2016-17. Since 2008, NAMA financial status has grown eightfold. She thanked all the members for their strong support and faith. Nishikanta Asem highlighted some of the IT development work done in the past year. NAMA website maintenance, Educational and employment resources, Nongin newsletter, NAMA members portal and vision.

Vice President of NAMA, Mr. Hori Singha gave the vote of thanks. He thanked everyone who took part in the NAMA convention 2017 and making it a grand success. Mr. Roshan Ngangom complimented the attendees who came in ethnic wears which made the convention vibrant





NAMA Election

NAMA Executive team has a term of 2 years. Every two years new Executive members are selected. 2017 is an Election year. Election committee Chairman - Dhrita Singha, Advisory board Chairman - A. Surjalal Sharma formed a committee and nominated new Executive members. Listed below are the candidates that were elected:

- President- Bish Moirangthem (Texas)
- Vice President - Renu Laishram (New Jersey)
- General Secretary - Roshan Ngangom (Texas)
- Assistant General Secretary - Sarju Laishram (Texas)
- Treasurer - Lily Sharma (Maryland)
- IT Secretary - Kelvin Ashem (California)
- IT Assistant Secretary - Lamyambam Sapam (California)
- Cultural Secretary - Hegin Haokip (Oklahoma)
- Executive Member - Zaklei Kaping (Texas)

NAMA President, Lukhloi Shougaijam and his executive team congratulated newly elected Executive team and wished them a successful tenure.

NAMA received video messages from the Honorable Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh and Honorable MLA of Sagolband, Shri RK Imo Singh. They congratulated and wished NAMA on the 26th convention in Houston, TX and expressed their gratitude to the Manipuri diaspora in North America for their efforts in maintaining and showcasing our culture.

Cultural Programs/Entertainment:



There was a plethora of performances by attendee young and old, keeping everyone entertained.

Laksh Nongpok Ngangom kicked off the cultural program with *Khamba Jagoi*, a folk dance that displays the mighty Moirang Khamba. Later on Laksh showcased his Taekwondo skills with Advance Form 4 by breaking boards with different style of kicks with the help of Kim's School of Taekwondo, one-step sparring and self-defense.



Cultural fashion show displaying beautiful and colorful traditional attire of different ethnicities in Manipur including Hmar, Meitei, Moyon, Tangkhul, Thadou-Kuki added glamour to the convention. The participants who captured the attention of the audience were Sameeta Angom, Lily Sharma, Peraly Meyer, Momo Haokip, Neeti Shougaijam, Anju Aheibam, Raj Thokchom, Jay Moirangthem, Maria Ahmed, Borbitin Ahmed, Trishna Sougrakpam, Yaiphabi Langpoklakpam, Rabina Mangsatabam, Irah Chandra, Pret Khobung, Marcus Johnson, Lily Haokip, Shanti Thokchom, Renu Laishram, Jenitta Nongmaithem, Carolyn and Hegin Haokip, Sameer, Pratiksha and Sameesha Raghuwanshi. The showstoppers for the cultural fashion show were Kiyamba Langpoklakpam in Thang-Ta and Laksh Nongpok Ngangom in Khamba costume.

A series of instrumental performances wowed the audience. Oshin Aslot performed a heart touching flute recital of *'The Blue Danube Waltz, Oh! Susannah, and Auld syne Lang'*. Kiyamba displayed his piano exploits and also sang *'Hingminasi Eikhoi'*. Amy Shougaijam performed *'Along the River'* by Elena Lucas on the Violin. Marcus Johnson played Clarinet - *'Melody from the Opera Orpheus'* by Gluck and *'Andante Grazioso'* by Magnani.

Brother sister duo of Yaiphabi and Kiyamba Langpoklakpam sang *'Te Te Tenawa'*, which amazed everyone. This was followed by Amy and Lavani Laishram performed *'Supermarket Flowers'*, *'Say you won't let go'*, and *'Holding me back'*. Arushi Sharma sang Taylor Swift's *'Love story'*, Jay Shougaijam sang *'50 states song'*. Roshan Ngangom sang *'Anouba Jukki Anouba Asha'*, Ritan RK sang *'I'm yours'*. Rex sang *'Loktak pat ki hi honba'* from Koi, Navya Asem sang *'Bad things'*, Hegin Haokipalong with his wife Carolyn Haokip performed a song, *'Laklo Marupsa'* followed by the group folk dance, *'Lai Haraoba Jagoi'* by Sameeta Ngangom, Sarita Moirangthem, Pratiksha Raghuwanshi, Sunita Yanglem, Lily Sharma, Sally Longjam, Neeti Shougaijam, Renu Laishram, Peraly Meyer, Sarju Laishram and Urnija RK.



After the cultural program, it was the time for much awaited *'Thabal Chongba'*. Once the infectious beat of Thabal music starts, no one could resist. Everyone joined in and danced to the exhilarating rhythms of Thabal music ending the convention in joyful mood.



The direct contributors of the event are:

- Master of ceremony - Rex RK and Cyra Ngangom
- Key event Coordinator - Roshan Ngangom
- Food and beverage manager - Sameeta Ngangom, Sunita Yanglem, Pratiksha Raghuwanshi, Nongthang Langpoklakpam
- Photographer - Sushil Laishram and Jay Moirangthem
- Online streaming coordinators - Nishi Asem and Dhruv Aheibam
- Reception and Registration - Rabina Mangsatabam and Sally Longjam
- Media reporters - Jenitta Nongmaithem and Sarju Laishram
- Convention planning committee - Texas team: Bish Moirangthem, Sarita Moirangthem, Sameeta Ngangom, Sameer Raghuwanshi, Subhash Chandra. NAMA Executive Team: Lukhoi Shougaijam, Hori Singha, Lily Sharma, Nishi Asem, Monica Laishram, Sarju Laishram, Shilpa Weiss, Johnson Elangbam.

Testimonials from attendees:

NAMA Convention 2017 was like a beautiful flower garden to me. I'm proud to be part of it. Cherish the mission of NAMA. What a global village we all are in. ~Thien T. Haokip

So happy to be part of NAMA convention for the first time and pleased to meet all of you. I felt home outside of home. It was so much fun and I truly enjoyed it. ~ Jenitta Nongmaithem

26th NAMA Convention was a great success. It really is evident how much work, meticulous planning goes into putting it together. Totally fun and memorable event. ~ Ajit Moirangthem

Conclusion:

We are connected and united under NAMA. The next annual convention will take place in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We look forward to seeing you all again next year. If you know of any Manipuris living in the North America who are not aware of NAMA, please share our information with them and encourage them to join the association. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at namagroups@gmail.com. To learn more about NAMA, please visit our website www.namaonline.org/. Stay updated with the news and events of NAMA by liking our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/NamaSince1992/>.



A Tribute to Sam Meyer

On Wednesday September the 6th, Samuel Harry Meyer passed away leaving behind his wife Peraly Meyer. He was born in Twin Falls, Idaho in 12/15/1965. At the age of 18 he enlisted in military then Navy. He was in a gulf war during desert storm. Then he got out of the Navy. He did Independent Consultant with various company under Department of State and Department of Defense. He travels 48 countries and during his travel he met Peraly and got married in April 2006. He love his country very much. He was a man of integrity, respect and honor. Everything He value is family.

Sam was very much interested in NE India mission stability. He was looking for a partner to governance through the directly affected community to increase stability at the local level even Humanitarian relief leading to sustainable community. Sam and Peraly attended NAMA Convention 2016, which was held in Houston, Texas. He was so proud to be part of NAMA Family. He took notes and wanted to suggest how to reach our more people. He also wanted to collaborate with NAMA and work to help the tribal people of North East India. His vision and skills to help our NorthEast Brethren were cut short. It was an honor to have known such a great person. NAMA would like to extend our heartfelt condolences. We will truly miss him.





Newly Registered NAMA Members

P.11

| Name | City | State |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Kulsi Bhatia | College Park | Maryland |
| Uttam Thiyam | Dover | New Hampshire |
| George Yumnam | Columbia | Missouri |
| Sujata Devi | Baltimore | Maryland |
| Gyaneswari Tongbram | Seattle | Washington |
| Pritam Pebam | San Francisco | California |
| Gama Shamulailatpam | Irving | Texas |
| Haokhomang Haokip | Galloway | New Jersey |
| Binaca Ballard | Sumner | Washington |
| Kayilu Pfoze | Atlanta | Georgia |
| Vivekananada Rajkumar | Orlando | Florida |
| Lemba Meetei | Ludhiana | Punjab |
| Tej Kalianda | Raleigh | North Carolina |
| Brojen Rajkumar | Santa Barbara | California |
| Sam Chaomai | Raleigh | North Carolina |



NAMA Excellence Award in Arts:



Dillon Laishram is a 16 year old who is very passionate about filmmaking. His short video on Traffic Fatality for Vision Zero (New York State) won 2nd place. He wants to pursue entrepreneurship and start a business in filmmaking in the future. He is keeping his body fit by participating in Taekwondo. He is preparing for the SAT exam which will help open doors for his future in college and career. One of his short films 'Taekwondo Spirit' was also screened just after lunch break. The film was about how Kids are getting addicted to technology and how being engaged in some sports makes one active and disciplined.

NAMA Excellence Award in Sports:



Laksh Nongpok Ngangom is a 7 year old attending 1st Grade in Lovett Elementary School, Houston, Texas. He joined Kim's School of Taekwondo when he was 4 years old. He has progressed to "Green Stripe" belt and plans to pursue his Black belt. In his first Tournament (37th UMA Taekwondo Championships), he got a Gold Medal in Poomsae (Forms). He has also won Gold and Silver medals at different Belt levels in different Tournaments since then.





NAMA Photography Contest

The creative, beautiful and inspiring photograph prints were displayed at the venue for audience to vote.



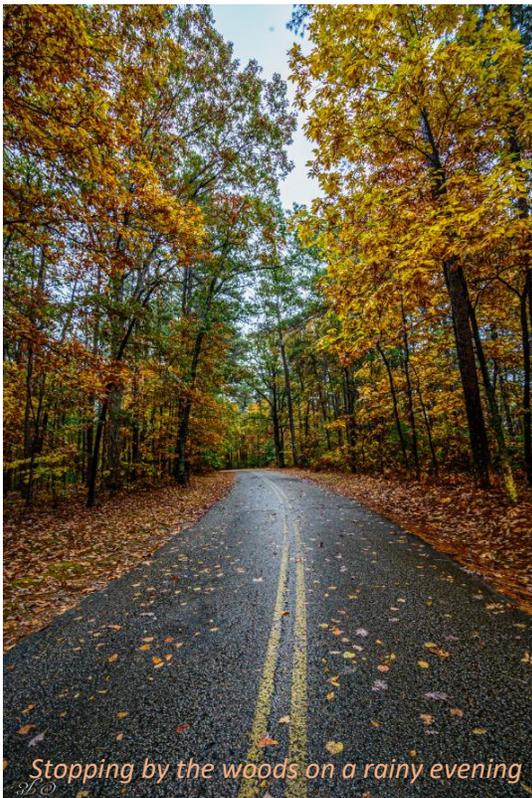
1st Prize

Sally Longjam



2nd Prize

Shanti Thokchom



3rd Prize

Johnson Elangbam



Bish Moirangthem
President



Renu Laishram
Vice President



Roshan Ngangom
General Secretary



Lily Sharma
Treasurer



Sarju Laishram
Asst Gen Secretary



Zaklei Kaping
Executive Member



Kelvin Ashem
IT Secretary



Hegin Haokip
Cultural Secretary



Sapam Lanyamba
Asst.IT Secretary



My husband Rup's story

"My father was not in his usual shape when he returned from the neighbor's house that evening. It was the time hatred's been spreading fires, during the partition of India and Pakistan in August 1947. I was just 10 year old and a bit confused seeing my usually reasonable father returned crazy from helping our neighbor.

He told us to start packing immediately whatever we were allowed to take with us. Gold and valuables were not allowed so we had to pack only what we would be needing for our survival. My father was the only one who always wanted to stay back at our own birthplace Sind and he presumed that he had lots of Muslim friends who would protect us. Now he insisted that we leave for India as soon as possible. Even though we were surprised by his change we followed his instructions. My mother guided seven of us (siblings) what to pack whatever we could take. We were leaving for India next day as a big ship carrying about 4000 passengers would be leaving from the port of Karachi in Pakistan to Mumbai/Bombay in India. We arrived in India after about a week or so as refugees. We had to spend few days at the railway station's big hall and slept on the floor barricaded with our trunks as demarcation from other families' space.

Once we were in the ship, boarded safely my father told us the horrible scene he witnessed when he went to help the neighbor. The lady of the house lying on the floor fainting and the three kids crying near her, my father saw the parcel containing the severed head of the lady's husband. After helping them to leave for India immediately my father also changed his plan of staying back in Sind".

This is how it happens when human beings carry hatred in the name of religion since time immemorial and it is still going on at 21st century too.

Written by
Jamuna Devi Advani.





Power of Mind

Up in the sky beyond the cosmos
Let me ruffle my feathers and
Fly through the
Storms of vibrating air,
Pass through the whirling galaxies
And land in Mars,
In the stillness of the night.

When the restless mind is calm
I can preen back to my original,
And just acknowledge that it is just
Evanescent taste of freedom.

Written by
Jamuna Devi Advani.





Raising a Teen

Today, I want to say something about raising a teen. It's not a cakewalk, I am telling you!! I am in awe of parents who have more than 1 kid & doing so well in everything. It's natural for us all to feel "The grass is greener on the other side of the fence". Well, my son turned 16 last August. He belongs to the new "SAB JAANTA" generation (know it all). He is going through the regular teen crisis at every turn. He talks back, he does not want to wear regular clothes, he wants to drive on his own, and he doesn't like to eat what is being cooked in the house!!! He wants to sleep and sleep and not do anything, if permitted. He had been in the boarding school in India for 7 years since his 3rd grade and I brought him back this year to be with me. He is missing all his Indian school friends dearly and was very miserable the first few months. He had to adjust to the American education system after his arrival which is vastly different from the Indian school system. He has had some ups and downs in his adjustment but just doing ok. He is unable to make friends here as the kids are entirely different in their upbringing and all their RIGHTS. We Indian parents, especially Manipuris, are so uptight about our kids' education 24/7 and we fail to realize that they too have their options of wanting to do what they enjoy most!

Anyway, I am more a tiger mom than a helicopter parent. I am not the mollycoddling type of mom either. Maybe I am not a softie. I can't make myself to cater to every whim and wishes of my son. I always try to instill in him the importance of hard work and being a responsible person!

This summer I signed him up to volunteer at the local 2017 Tulsa May Festival of Arts which he enjoyed and kept him busy. And also volunteered at the public library too. That gave him a good opportunity to interact with other teens too. I plugged him into our local church where they have a great and awesome youth based activities and church services aimed towards the youth.

So far, we are doing well with rough patches in between but I know it is all part of his growing up and being a teenager. Kids do try to test our patience, no doubt. They try to catch on every single mistake of yours so these days I am extra careful of what I tell my son. Anyway, I enrolled my son for his driving class and he has his learner's permit. I make him drive some 2/3 days on the highway for some 30/45 minutes with me by the passenger seat. He has this great urge of speeding but I do have to take on the form of the all fighter tiger mom with my paws and claws out, to keep him in his place.

My son has adjusted to the school and now he has to run to be on time to his various subject in his freshman class whereas in India it was different. Everyone keeps asking me why I sent him there. Not for anything but to make him learn to appreciate and value what he has here. I have no regrets any, whatsoever. He has learnt to speak Hindi and Punjabi fluently. He loves Punjabi foods so much so that I have to buy readymade parathas- stuffed India round breads and rotis - round Indian bread "from the Indian stores here. We sure do have busy lives. I work full time Monday to Friday in the mornings at a nursing home so that I can be home when my son gets back from school. We go to the public library to do his homework/school assignments. I do feel it's a good place for him to do his studies there.

Thank God! Just sharing some of our daily life activities here with you all.

Written by
Shanti Thokchom





CHRISTMAS!!!

I will not be wrong in saying that CHRISTMAS is the most popular and celebrated event in the world year after year. It is a historic event that took place a little over two thousand years ago when God's love for sinful humanity was 'realized' at the birth of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ in Bethlehem according to His plan and purpose. The Creator and Sustainer of the universe became a human being to give meaning and purpose to humankind who were helplessly drowning and submerged in sin.

The Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, and Immutable God voluntarily initiated and came into this world to have a personal relationship with you and me forever! The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). So, it is God's desire for all people on earth to accept and receive His love through His Son Jesus Christ and have that personal relationship with Him now and forever!



Christmas Celebration 2015 - Ukhrul, Manipur.

May we accept God's love this CHRISTMAS and live out the Christlike life here on earth – the kind of life based on the love of God.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Written by
Zaklei Kaping



KUKIS in USA

Kukis have been in the US as early as the 1980s, with the '90s and the turn of the 21st century seeing a growth in Kuki immigrants.



The reasons for immigrating to the US stems from higher education, religious, occupation, as well as fleeing from ethnic cleansing in their native lands-- some arriving to the US as refugees.

Currently, the Kuki population in the US is roughly just under 500, with the majority of the population residing in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois & Maryland.

My family was one of the first Kukis in the US, having arrived in 2001. Since then, my wife & I have been leaders & organizers in both the church and community among the Kukis, having been founding members of the first Kuki church in the US, the latest Kuki church, as well as Kuki-Innpi, the umbrella group for the Kuki community in the US.



Written by
Dr. Hegin Haokip





On August 26, 2017 Hurricane Harvey made landfall in the coastal city of Corpus Christi, TX causing widespread devastation. Within a day of making land it stalled over Southwest Houston as a Tropical Storm. It brought torrential rain causing widespread flooding in Houston and surrounding areas. A record breaking 50+ inches of rain was dumped within 5 days, causing extensive damage and forcing over a million people out of their homes. Communities after Communities got submerged in water. Recovery is still underway for many families and will continue for months if not years. Since the flooding was unprecedented (800-1000 year flood), it affected many families who lived in communities not designated in the 100 year floodplain. As such many of these families does not have flood insurance.

Couple of Manipuri families living in the Houston metro were affected by Harvey. One of the business location owned by the Ngangom Family (Sameeta's Beauty Lounge) got upto 2 ½ to 3 ft of water during Harvey flooding. R.K. Borosana Devi's home had about a foot of water and was not accessible for about a week. Unfortunately, Ms. Devi's home was in a community that was never supposed to flood and didn't have Flood insurance to cover for the damages. Fortunately, the Ngangom family's business recovered in just over a month with help of the landlord.

NAMA executive committee moved quickly to extend help to the Manipuri families. The Chandra family (Subhash & Sunita Yangle), the Moirangthem family and the Ngangom family helped in demolition & cleaning work as soon as Ms. Devi's home was accessible. A fundraising effort within the NAMA members was undertaken and within a short period of time, \$1600 was raised for relief effort. The Ngangom family felt that Ms. Devi's home damages needed more attention and requested NAMA to use the funds raised for the recovery of Ms. Devi's home. In light of these situations, NAMA donated the funds raised from its members to R.K.Borosana Devi. Ms. Devi's and the Ngangom families expressed their gratitude towards NAMA and its members for keeping them in their thoughts during difficult times.

NAMA would like to thank its members for their generosity during such times of need.



The early part of the rainy season in Manipur brought incessant rain, causing widespread damages across the Imphal valley. Major rivers Imphal, Nambul, Kongba, Iril overflow and their banks were breached in many areas. Water entered homes in both the urban and rural areas Farmlands were submerged and farmers and their families were displaced from their homes. Many people had to take shelter in makeshift camps. Tragically a few lives were lost.

In light of the turmoil caused by the floods in our beloved native, the NAMA executive committee decided to contribute to the relief effort. NAMA executive committee requested their members to contribute to the flood relief fund. The members responded quickly and with their help, NAMA was able to raise approximately INR 200,000. The raised funds was contributed to Chief Minister's Flood relief fund. Honorable Chief Minister, Shri N. Biren Singh expressed his gratitude towards NAMA and its member for such gracious gesture during turmoil in Manipur.





*Seattle,
Washington*

*Texas,
USA*





DC, USA

Arizona,
USA





*California,
USA*

*Ontario,
Canada*





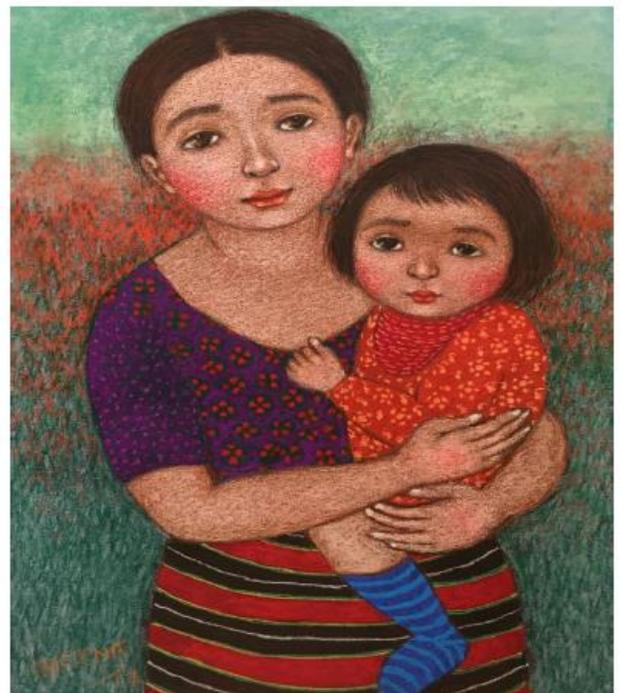
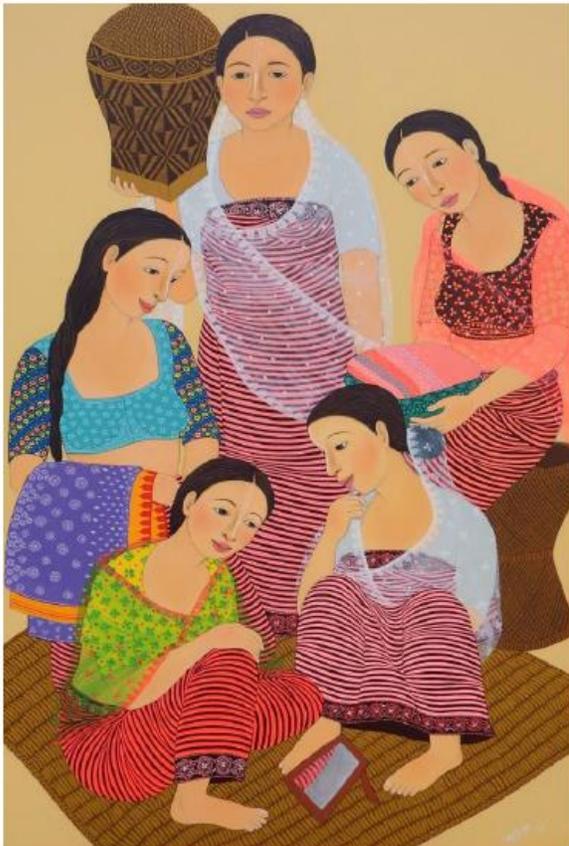
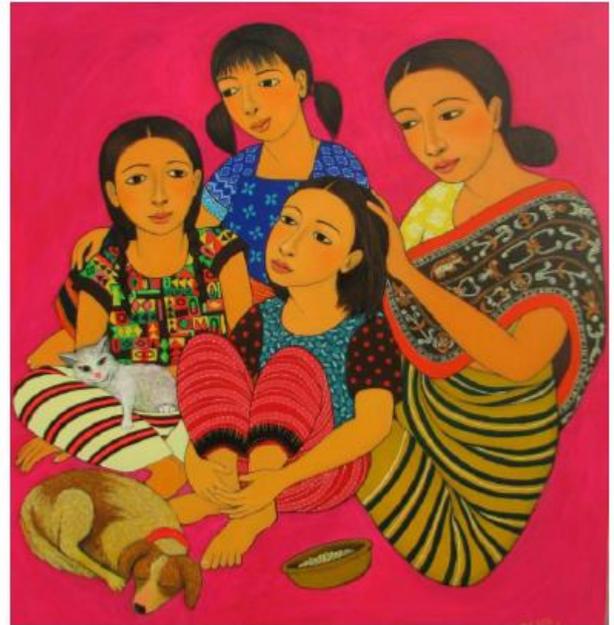
*Detroit,
Michigan, USA*

*San Diego,
California,
USA*





Laishram Meena's paintings reflect the images of Manipuri culture and traditions. It captures the beauty of the indigenous women, innocence of children and the events she experienced. Her collection of artworks promote cultural integrity and bring back the nostalgic memories of Manipur.





Thank You!

P.28

Connect us:

Website: <http://www.namaonline.org>

Email Address: info@namaonline.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 682, Fulton, Maryland 20759-0682

FB Closed Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/namaonline/>

FB Community/Public Page: <https://www.facebook.com>NamaSince1992>