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NONGIN
NAMA Quarterly Newsletter

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
Charlotte, NC | July 2-3, 2016
JOIN US NEXT YEAR IN NC

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● NAMA CONVENTION 2016!

The NAMA Annual Convention 2016 will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. We look forward to bringing you the most prominent gathering.

YOUR PARTICIPATION COUNTS!

Please make sure you attend the grand **Silver Jubilee celebration** of NAMA on July 2nd and 3rd, 2016.



Caricature – Manas Maisnam

● DONATIONS!

- NAMA contributed Rs. 1,00, 100 as a token of love and remembrance of Shaolin Chandam
- NAMA donated Rs. 1.46 lakh to support the flood victims in Manipur

Press Releases:



- NAMA donated Rs. 32, 760 to support Halley Laithangbam in the Mr. International 2015 competition



To the people of Manipur in North America

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of the NAMA (North American Manipur Association) Executive Team, I would like to express my humble gratitude and appreciation to all the NAMA members for electing us and providing the opportunity to serve our community for the year 2015 - 2017.



It is my immense pleasure to share the good news that our community in North America has been growing and so are the NAMA members and its activities. We heartily extend a very warm welcome to all the new comers and kindly request them to register and join NAMA. Over the past few months, the NAMA Executive team has carried out important initiatives and responded to the flood crisis in Manipur, the tragic death of Shaolin Chandom in USA, and other good-will endeavors to support and encourage the talented youths of Manipur. Thank you for all the support and contribution in these activities!

The NAMA Executive Team is currently planning on new initiatives that will help tremendously in strengthening our association. As always, your active participation and cooperation are requested for successful execution of these activities. Next year, 2016 will be a milestone year for NAMA as it celebrates its Silver Jubilee Year. To celebrate this occasion, we cordially invite you in advance to join us at the 25th NAMA Convention 2016 at Charlotte, NC.

I hope you would find NAMA's quarterly newsletter NONGIN purposeful and interesting. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the executive team for their hard work and commitment to making NONGIN a great success. Also, I would like to appreciate all the members who have contributed articles, pictures and other items for NONGIN. I hope to see more participation and contribution for the next newsletter.

Your continued support and participation in NAMA activities is greatly appreciated.

We wish you and your family a blessed and safe holiday season!!

Sincerely,

Lukhoi Shougaijam

President

North American Manipur Association





Lukhoi Shougaijam
President



Hori Irombham
Vice President



Shilpa Phairembam Weiss
General Secretary



Lily Sharma
Treasurer



Monica Laishram
Cultural Secretary



Bijon Ayekpam
Asst. General Secretary



Nishi Asem
IT Lead



Johnson Elangbam
IT Assistant



Abhishek Sanoujam
IT Assistant



The 24th annual convention of the North American Manipur Association (NAMA) marked the largest gathering in NAMA history with nearly 130 participants in attendance. The annual NAMA conventions that take place every year at different locations provide an opportunity for all the Manipuris living in North America to reconnect with friends and family and rekindle Manipuri tradition and culture. Manipuris across North America gathered under one roof on July 3rd and 4th at Washington, D.C., meeting one another, dressing up in traditional attire, joining in traditional song and dance, eating ethnic food, renewing old friendships and making new ones. Members in attendance traveled far and wide from many states in the USA, including Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida.

Friday July 3rd, 2015 – Social Gathering at Rollins Congressional Club

The 24th NAMA Convention commenced with a social gathering at the Rollins Congressional Club in Rockville, Maryland on Friday July 3rd, 2015 at 7:00 PM. The convention hall was jam-packed with men, children and traditionally dressed beautiful Manipuri women. The stage was set up with a Manipuri theme. An ethnic potluck was held by the DC Area families (Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC) in the evening. While the dinner was underway, NAMA t-shirts were sold. Romola Kshetrimayum and Monica Laishram sang songs and music was played by Nishi Asem, Martin Haobam, Sagar Sharma, and Chingkhei Akoijam. The slide show compiled by Naba Singha displaying the former NAMA members, activities and events was played on the projector. The gathering and the dinner concluded at 11:00 PM.



Saturday July 4th, 2015 – Main Event at Rollins Congressional Club

The main event took place on America's Independence Day, the 4th of July. While Americans celebrated their independence, Manipuris in North America celebrated their reunion at Washington D.C. The registration began at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning while breakfast was served. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Babyrani Yumnam. The event started with a welcome address by the President of NAMA, Amom Ruhikant Meetei. The welcome address was followed by an opening song "Ho Ima Poknapham Ima" by the President himself, Thoihen Heisnam, Monica Laishram, Prativa Amom and Pretty Amom. After the song, the President extended a warm welcome to everyone present and appreciated their support for the association. The President urged the members to continue providing support for future NAMA activities.

The President's welcome speech was followed by the General Secretary's activity report. Hori Irombham, the General Secretary of NAMA discussed the activities accomplished in the years 2013-14 & 2014-15. Hori further attested to how NAMA is actively supporting several organizations in Manipur through donations and endorsement during the past years. Lily Sharma, the Treasurer of NAMA, then presented the financial report for the years 2013-14 & 2014-15. According to the report NAMA's financial standing continues to grow.



Naba Singha, Delly Adhikarimayum, Lalit Pukhrambam, Surjalal Sharma, P Swornalata each presented a speech. The presenters discussed the evolution of NAMA and how the association has progressed significantly in terms of program development and membership size. The presenters also reiterated the history of Manipur and discussed how Manipur became a part of India. The founders of NAMA were honored. The participants stood in silence for a minute in remembrance of NAMA members who have passed away.

The newly amended NAMA Constitution was distributed to the participants for their review. Upon strict review of the language, terms, laws and principles of the newly amended NAMA constitution, the members offered their approval. Once approved by the members, Dritha Kumar announced an official final approval of the new NAMA constitution.

Shilpa Phairembam Weiss, the Assistant General Secretary, as well as the main coordinator of the NAMA Excellence Award program unveiled the NAMA Excellence award program. Shilpa outlined that the award program is a new initiative that aims to reward and motivate the talented Manipuri students in North America who have excelled in the field of academics, sports and arts. There was a good turnout in the inaugural year and more applications are expected in the future.



The recipient of the 2015 Sports Excellence Award was Adam Laishram, son of Dr. Joy Laishram and Christina Laishram of Ontario, Canada. Adam is a national hockey player. He played for Team Ontario alongside some of the top NHL draft prospects in the league. Adam has achieved many prestigious awards and played at the international level representing Canada. The recipients of the 2015 NAMA Academic Excellence Award were: Prativa Amom, daughter of Amom Ruhikant Meetei and Kebola Wahengbam; and Bosco Chanam, son of Kulabidhu Chanam and Pramodini Chanam. Their applications were evaluated judiciously and the academic excellence award recipients were selected based on their academic performance, overall GPA, voluntary experience, and participation in extracurricular activities.

Once the awards were distributed, the Chief Guest, Maisnam Riten Kumar who currently works in India as a Superintendent Engineer/Director, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highway presented a speech. The Chief Guest expressed his joy of being there at the convention and appreciated the effort and time that NAMA has been giving for the betterment of our Manipuri community back at home as well as here in the States. There was a 1 hour lunch break



Members assembled around 2:05 PM after the lunch to give their votes for the new 2015-2017 executive members. Listed below are the candidates that were elected:

- 1) President – Lukhoi Shougaijam (Virginia)
- 2) Vice President – Hori Irombham (Illinois)
- 3) General Secretary – Shilpa Phairembam Weiss (Missouri)
- 4) Assistant General Secretary – Bijon Ayekpam (Washington, D.C.)
- 5) Treasurer – Lily Sharma (Maryland)
- 6) Cultural Secretary – Monica Laishram (New Jersey)
- 7) IT Lead – Nishi Asem (Ohio)
- 8) IT Assistant – Abhishek Sanoujam (Texas)
- 9) IT Assistant – Johnson Elangbam (Tennessee)

The President, Amom Ruhikant Meetei, and the NAMA members congratulated the newly elected Executive members. The President elect, Lukhoi Shougaijam, presented the vote of thanks. Lukhoi thanked everyone for their attendance and appreciated the DC Area family for being a great host.



The cultural program began with a beautiful “Mangala Charran” performance by A Indrani Sharmi. The Mangala Charran was followed by a heart touching flute performance of the Indian National Anthem by Ridhi Chingakham. Noopur Singha then gave an amazing “Krishna Abhishar” dance performance. After the dance, there was a very cute drama based on a folk tale “Pebet Macha and Haudong Lamboiba.” The drama was performed by Naba Singha, Monica Ingudam, Marc, Magen, Darshil, and Langlen.

Amy Shougaijam played the American National Anthem on the piano. Lavani Laishram danced to fusion music. Langlen Heisnam sang the song “Chingda Satpi Eengelei”. Navya Asem presented Thougai Jagoi. Pretty Amom sang the cover of the song “I Am Not the Only One”. Lilianne Pukhrambam played “Sentimental Saraband” on violin. Prativa Amom sang “Color of the Wind”. Monica Laishram also sang “Eigi Chenghi Manam.” The songs were followed by “Thoibi Jagoi” by A Indrani Sharmi, Linthoi Angom, Lily Sharma, Monica Ingudam, and Ebechaobi Laishangthem. Once the Thoibi Jagoi performance was done, Amom Ruhikant Meetei presented two songs “Nouribi” and “Hey Ima Manipur”. Airi Haobam sang “Let it go”. Prasana Kumar gave a classical sitar performance. Naba Singha and Chingkei Akoijam also joined Prasana by playing drum and guitar. The rock ensemble composed of Martin Haobam, Raj Chingakham, Nishi Asem, Sagar Sharma and Chingkei Akoijam played several songs. The slide show compiled by Dillon Laishram was played on the projector.



Prativa Amom acknowledged and awarded the children participants with a certificate of participation. After the certificate distribution, there was a “Leima Jagoi” performance by Kebola Wahengbam, Amom Prativa, Amom Preti, Amrabati Adhikarimayum, Anju Aheibam, Lily Sharma, Priyadarshini Koijam, Khumanleima Laishram, Swornalata Takhellambam, Judy Sarungbam, and Linthoi Angom. Finally, all men, women, and children irrespective of age and race gathered around, held hands together and danced happily to the beat of the drums to a grand Thabal Chongba. This concluded the big event of the day successfully.

The 2015 NAMA Convention was a perfect example of a close-knitted Manipuri community in North America. This gathering has also proved how well the Manipuri traditions have been practiced abroad. Abhishek Sanoujam and Geetanjali Laishram who attended the convention for the first time commented, “The convention is absolutely great! We feel like we are in our native place. The food tastes even better than the food we make in India. After long time, we even got an opportunity to participate in Thabal Chongba. Thanks to NAMA for inviting us.”



What made the convention even more interesting was the crowd that filled the room. People of different races and ages socialized and appreciated the beautiful culture of Manipur. Brian Weiss, American husband of Shilpa Phairembam Weiss stated, “The exposure to the richness of the Manipuri culture and the hospitality of the people made the weekend a great event to remember. The food was excellent, the performances were entertaining, and the Thabal Chongba was exhilarating. I look forward to next year!”

The NAMA Executive team would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “Thank You!” to everyone who has attended the convention. The phenomenal success of the convention is a reflection of the ever-increasing dedication and enthusiasm the members display. Special thanks goes to the DC Area Families who hosted the program and arranged the potluck. The Executive team hopes for a continued support from the members and are glad that they are able to help people back at home and here in North America. If you have any questions for NAMA or would like to contact the executive team, please contact them at namagroups@gmail.com. They look forward to seeing you at next year’s convention!



➤ **2015 NAMA SPORTS EXCELLENCE AWARD**

ADAM TOMBA LAISHRAM



Thanks to Tamo Dhrita Sinha who travelled to Canada and handed over the Sports Excellence Award in person to Adam Laishram.

In April 2013, at 16 years of age, Adam was drafted to the Belleville Bulls Hockey Club in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). The OHL is a very high level of hockey and is the main league from which players are drafted to the National Hockey League (NHL).

In his first year of play 2013-14, Adam was selected to represent Canada in the World under 17 Hockey Challenge in Nova Scotia. Adam played for Team Ontario alongside some of the top NHL draft prospects in the League. This was a major achievement for Adam to play at the international level as a 16 years old and he was very proud to represent Canada.

<http://www.bellevillebulls.com/article/lemcke-and-laishram-named-to-ontario-under-17-team>

In April, 2015 Adam was named the “Hardest Working Player in the Ontario Hockey League” for 2014-15 season and earned a scholarship award. He received 68,000 votes from fans around the League. Being recognized for having a strong work ethic is indeed an honor.

<http://www.intelligencer.ca/2015/04/14/bulls-forward-wins-ohl-hardest-workingplayer-honours>

<http://www.bellevillebulls.com/article/adam-laishram-named-ryobi-hardest-workingplayer>

<http://www.ontariohockeyleague.com/article/adam-laishram-named-ryobi-hardestworking-player-of-the-year>

Academics are also very important to Adam, his family and the Ontario Hockey League. Adam has achieved Honors in all 4 years of high school. In 2014, he was awarded the Bobby Smith Academic Award by the OHL, for achieving academic excellence while playing hockey in the League. He was subsequently named to the OHL’s Scholastic Team for 2013-14. Adam will commence University courses part time this year, while playing for OHL team Hamilton Bulldogs (formerly named Belleville Bulls). Adam aspires to be a Physician Radiologist when his hockey career is completed.

<http://www.bellevillebulls.com/article/laishram-named-scholastic-player-of-the-month>

<http://www.bellevillebulls.com/article/laishram-named-to-ohl-scholastic-team>

➤ **2015 NAMA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

PRATIVA AMOM

Prativa Amom is a recent graduate of Sycamore High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Joining the Girl Scouts of America from a young age, she became an active member of the National Honor Society and Japanese Honor Society and actively volunteered at her local hospital. Her 7 year intense study of Japanese has led her to receive the Japanese Medallion twice in her junior and senior years of high school. She was also elected as the President of her high school’s Japanese Club for two consecutive years. During high school, she dabbled in the arts, winning numerous gold and silver key Scholastic awards in photography.





Prativa has really enjoyed her high school career, graduating with summa cum laude, highest honors, at the top 3% of her class with a GPA of 4.38 and 51 college credits from taking 12 nationally recognized Advanced Placement classes. Her achievements in high school have led her to the Ohio State University via a hefty Maximus scholarship. Majoring in Molecular Genetics, Prativa has just completed her first year of college in OSU's honors program, she hopes to be able to work even harder and pursue her dream of becoming an OBGYN in the future and empower women around the world as well as promote cultural awareness.

➤ 2015 NAMA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

BOSCO CHANAM



At the age of 6, Bosco won the Kumon Academic Bronze trophies in Mathematics and English. In 2010, Bosco won a Bronze Medal for 'working at least 6 months above their grade level'. Bosco also bagged Academic Excellence Awards in English and Environmental Studies. He received 'A+ Awesome Student Award' for excellent performances in English as well.

In his 5th grade at Briarmeadow Charter School, Bosco achieved the Finalist Medal and 3rd place in Ready Writing in two different competitions. Bosco further was placed 3rd in Listening under the University Interscholastic League (UIL) competitions. He was also awarded by the Million Word Club for reading a total of 3,794,724 words during 5th grade. He recently completed 6th grade with Excellence in Reading and GPA 3.9. Furthermore, in UIL he achieved Finalist Medal in Dictionary skills, 2nd place in Art and 3rd place in listening. Bosco also received District Finalist Medal (4th Place) in 'Name'.

In addition to academics, Bosco also carries a very good sportsmanship. He has achieved many feats in different fields. He won Champions Medal in Football Championship under 11 in 2012-13, 1st prize in Taekwondo Championship held in MPal Taekwondo Academy in 2010. In Penang Sports Tour & Kuala Lumpur International Schools Sports (KLISS) 2013, Bosco bagged numerous gold and silver medals.

Bosco aspires to be an Astronomer in the future.



NAMA CONTRIBUTED Rs. 1,00,100 AS A TOKEN OF LOVE AND REMBEMBRANCE OF SHAOLIN CHANDAM

The North American Manipur Association (NAMA) is saddened and appalled by the news that Shaolin Chandam passed away on August 25, 2015 in a tragic incident. It is a great loss of a dynamic youth and brother from Manipur in North America.

NAMA has been engaging in activities to expedite the capture of the murderer and dispatch of the body to Manipur as soon as possible.

On hearing the news, NAMA members have been outpouring condolences for the loss and sympathy for Shaolin's family. As token of love and remembrance of Shaolin, NAMA members have contributed to a fund of \$1516.66 (Rs.1,00,100) sent to Shaolin's family on Friday, September 4th, 2015.

The body has left JFK airport on Friday, September 4th and is on its way to Delhi. The body will reach Delhi on Sunday, September 6th and will be received by Shaolin's brother Lawrence Chandam

Below is the list of people who have contributed generously for Shaolin:

Dilly Devi & Surjalal Sharma, Anurupa Rajkumari , Barun Okram , Bijon Singh, Bimolchand Thounaojam, Kulabidhu & Pramodini Chanam, Chitaranjan Thoudam, Dhrita Kumar, Dhrubaraj Aheibam & Lily Sharma, Bob Hijam Singh, Hori Singha, Jerina Ngangom & Bryan Hallett, Johnson Elangbam, Judy Sarungbam, Kebola Wahengbam & Amom Ruhikant, Omnath & Memicha Khundongbam, Lakshmikanta Laikangbam, Lalit & Anjana Pukhrambam, Leenthoingambi Nameirakpam, Longjam Somesh Singh, Lukhoi & Neeti Shougaijam, Naba Singha & Indrani Aribam, Nishikanta Asem & Anju Asem, Nongthanglemba Langpoklakpam, Preetam Yengkokpam, Premjeet Sougrakpam, Raj Chingakham & Priyadarshini Koijam, Raju Huidrom, Sagar Sharma & Amrabati Adhikarimayum, Shanti Thokchom , Shilpa Phairembam & Brian Weiss, Sonia Sarangthem & Bobby Maisnam, Sonia Singgam & Abishek Jhureley, Sudeep & Olivia Khuraijam, Sunita Yanglem, Anonymous from Silicon Valley, Thoihen & Linthoi Heisnam

The NAMA Executive team is very thankful to the members who have contributed and supported this cause. Without our valuable members' support, we wouldn't be here today



"Thank you very much for your kind condolence message and the support you have shown to my family in this hour of crisis. I also acknowledge the sum of Rs.100100 sent to me as a token of love for my son Shaolin Chandam. It is because of your continued support and relentless effort which has brought immense relief to my family."

Chandam Ranjan (Retd. Col)
[F/O Chandam Shaolin]

Picture: Shaolin Chandam's family receiving the condolence gift from NAMA

NAMA DONATED Rs. 1.46 LAKH TO SUPPORT THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN MANIPUR

The severe flooding in Manipur that caused chaos throughout the state left Manipuris residing abroad terribly concerned. The cries of help that echoed far from Manipur reached the ears of many who are residing outside India. Upon learning the news, the North American Manipur Association (NAMA) executive members communicated and decided to raise funds through an outreach program utilizing social media to help the flood victims. With contributors across the world, NAMA successfully raised \$2300 (One lakh, forty-six thousand and three hundred rupees [Rs. 1, 46,300.00]). This fund has been donated to Flood Relief Manipur on Tuesday, August 11th, 2015. Lily Sharma, the Treasurer of NAMA, contacted and ascertained the details of the relief team.

Lukhoi Shougaijam, the President of NAMA said, "Though we are many oceans apart, NAMA members felt the sorrows and sufferings of the people in Manipur... We are so grateful to NAMA members for their generous contributions to the relief fund."



Fourteen states in the U.S. and people from India and South Korea have contributed through NAMA. The states in the U.S. that have contributed in the fundraising are: Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Shilpa Phairembam Weiss, the General Secretary of NAMA commented, "The most notable act about this fundraising drive is how different people across the world joined hands together to support the cause. It is truly teamwork that made this possible. We appreciate everyone who felt the pain and supported this cause."

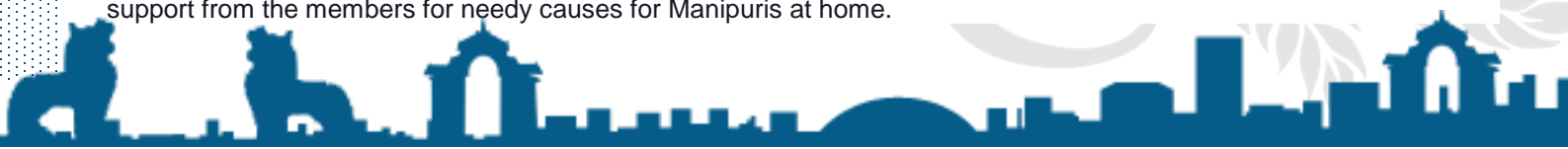
Special thanks goes to Nancy Yambem, Jiten Nongmaithem (South Korea), Ronie Thoudam (New Delhi, India), Lori Weiss and W D Wilkens who have contributed through NAMA.

Below are the names of the people who have made generous donation for this cause:

Nancy Yambem, Amom Ruhikant Meetei, Pukhrambam Lalit Singh, Tekendrajit Singh Maisnam, Gandhi Basnet, Kulabidhu Chanam, Johnson Elangbam, Sally Longjam, Arun Khanal, Premjeet Sougrakpam, Brian Weiss, Shilpa Phairembam Weiss, Lukhoi and Neeti Shougaijam, Thoihen Heisnam and Linthoi Angom, Nishikanta Asem & Anju Asem, Surjit Konjengbam, Dhaneshwori Kshetrimayum, Basanath Moirangthem, Sonia Singgam, W D Wilkens, Ronie Thoudam, Jiten Nongmaithem, Longjam Somesh Singh, Roshan Ngangom, Dhruvaraj Aheibam & Lily Sharma, Chiragkumar and Tampha Patel, Monica Laishram, Rosanta Nahakpam, Paramananda Chabungbam, Rajeshwar Laishram, Renu Laishram, Abhishek and Geetanjali Sanoujam, Lori Weiss, Surjalal Sharma and A Dilly Devi, Sunita Yanglem, Priya Kojiam, Hori Singha, Sagar Sharma, Sarita Moirangthem, Dritha Kumar, Bijon Singh

Devakishor Soraisam, the volunteer member for the Flood Relief Manipur confirmed receipt of the amount on August 11th, 2015. Devakishor further reported, "We shall share every details of the expenses so as to maintain the transparency we vouched for. NAMA has almost always been there when people from back home reached out for help. On behalf of the flood victims, we thank the entire team of NAMA."

The NAMA executive team is extremely grateful to all the contributors for their generous donations to the relief fund. Without their support, it wouldn't be possible to raise such a large amount. The executive team hopes to receive continued support from the members for needy causes for Manipuris at home.



NAMA DONATED Rs. 32,760 TO SUPPORT HALLEY LAITHANGBAM IN THE MR. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

NAMA Nov 20th, 2015: Mr. Halley Laithangbam, a popular model from Manipur is the winner of Mr. International India 2015. Mr. Laithangbam has come a long way and Manipur is absolutely honored to have someone like him. The North American Manipur Association (NAMA) is very proud of Mr. Laithangbam's achievement.

Mister International organization is a non-profit organization based in Singapore and the participants are expected to raise fund for: traveling, designer costumes, designer's fees, gym fees, trainer's fee, Thang-ta class's fee, gifts, grooming and maintenance fee etc.

In an effort to meet the financial needs, Mr. Laithangbam has reached out to NAMA hoping that NAMA can lend him a helping hand. Considering his genuine need for support, NAMA raised an amount of \$500 (Rs. 32,760) in just 5 days and sent this amount to Mr. Laithangbam.



Upon receipt of the money, Mr. Laithangbam stated, "I thank you my brothers & sisters who have been supporting me financially, mentally and for encouraging me with your endless love and care. Thank you for understanding my situation. That truly touched my heart. May the good God shower his blessings upon you all".

Mr. Laithangbam left Imphal on Monday, Nov 16th for Philippines to take part in the competition. He will be proudly representing India at an international level. NAMA wishes him good luck for his upcoming competition.

The contributors for this cause are: Gautam and Garima Thokchom, Lukhoi and Neeti Shougaijam, Nishikanta and Anju Asem, Nongthanglemba Langpoklakpam, Shilpa Phairembam, Nancy Yambem, Ingoba Ningthoujam, Lalit and Anjana Pukhrambam, Bijon Singh, Shyamananda and Sujata Sapam, Sushil and Renu Laishram, Lily Sharma and Dhrub Aheibam.

The help that NAMA provided to Mr. Laithangbam would never have been possible without the members' support. The generous contributors understood the cause and supported this gentleman who had worked very hard to reach this level. Once again, the NAMA Executive team is very thankful to all the members who've participated in this fund drive. Let the momentum continue.



The Perks of Being a Mom – *by Sarita Moirangthem* (In Diverse Culture)

Mom, is a very strong word the meaning behind says it all. Her genuine unconditional love is the underlying stream making every child worth living. Raising a child in the digital era with ever increasing technology is a new phase of parenting. Gone are the days you can prove whatever your mom said is true, and no argument beyond that. In this new digital generation with a memory span of five minutes the major unseen task for a mom is immeasurable.

In order our culture and tradition to survive in this land where we call our Home a role for a mom is also changing. Change is not easy but bendable. To bend to the existing culture the role of a parent is to teach the next generation the value and respect of our tradition as it is merging to the new culture. The new two phrases **accepting the difference** and **tolerance in thought** and action has become the main ingredients of our day to day bustle that a child is encountering.

Three Sensitive Social Topics



Few years ago Politics and Religion was one of the very sensitive public topics. As of today the three most sensitive topics are, **The Confederate Flag**, **Same Sex Marriage**, and **Transgender**. Such sensitive topics are practically not encourage to discuss openly but expected to respect and understand. The most crucial time to discuss such topic is the adolescence period especially if you are raising a middle or high school student. As we all know this is the experimenting years to adulthood also, the school bullies play an important role in their activities. As kids started forming groups of like mindedness. To discuss such sensitive issues has become mandatory, from a mom's point of view our job is prepare them the consequences if ever happened.

Confederate Flag is a very sensitive topic and do not encourage student to discuss in schools. Most of the schools district in Texas has given guidance during the start of the school year to refrain from discussion especially in the campus. It is understood if any of the student's ancestor had fought in the American Civil war, definitely the pride and glory still runs in the family same as we feel of our forefathers Bir Tikenderjit and Paona Brajabashi.

The other two topics **Same Sex Marriage** and **Transgender** the time has come that our children are aware to accept the difference and look forward from the human point of view. The social media along with the ever emerging technology tolerance is virtue, by limiting opinions on other people's feeling and bend with the culture. It is a challenge for every mom to guide, to ensure, to protect and provide the best possible a child can grow to be successful.

Modern Technique Modern Mom

Traditional mom usually raise her child in a limited thoughts of her experiment. The path of her child is set up in a way that the child has to be careful not to overstep or fall from the steps.

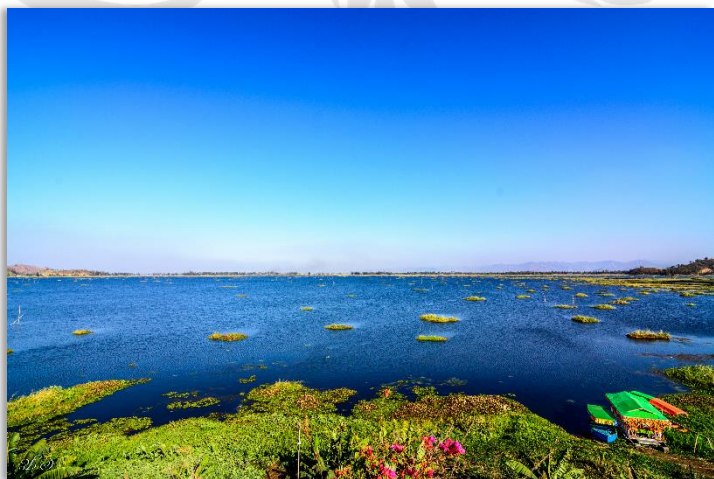
The modern mom has different views and different options, to have a positive upbringing of a child, a mom has to analyze, infer, demonstrate and interpret from the child's point of view. To analyze what is best for the child; by inferring to his or her idea; by demonstrating without changing our cultural norms and traditions and interpreting in a positive way.

Our child is our future not as an American but, as Manipuri American the most a mom can contribute is teaching them to differentiate the value of Manipuri's life with the changing society, by accepting the change; by knowing the situation; by taking responsibility of his or her action.

And finally making a difference by avoiding negativity and maintaining family values.



Loktak Lake
- by Johnson Elangbam



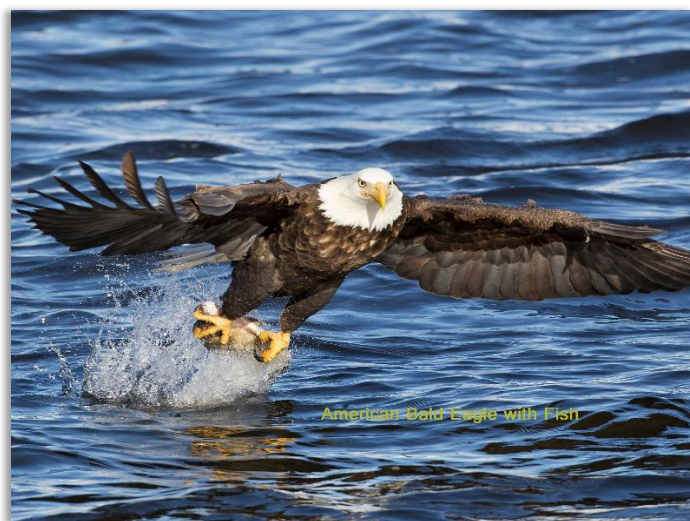
Morning Puja
- by Johnson Elangbam



White Throated Kingfisher [ngarakpi/wakhek]
- by Ruhikant Meetei



American Bald Eagle with a fish
- by Ruhikant Meetei



Chakouba – Cincinnati, Ohio



Chakouba – Frederick, Maryland





Chakouba – Chicago, Illinois



Chakouba – Minneapolis, Minnesota



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Chakouba – Boston, Massachusetts



Chakouba – Houston, Texas





Chakouba – San Diego, California



Chakouba – Bay Area, California



Modhubala Pukhrambam

I feel grateful for the warm welcome NAMA has extended and take this opportunity to introduce myself as part of the ritual of every new member joining the family.



I am Modhubala Pukhrambam from Keishampat, Imphal. I moved to Austin, Texas on 2nd Aug, 2015 to work on long term projects for an e-commerce client. I work as Manager in Advanced Analytics and have 10+ years of work experience. I have an MBA degree in Marketing & International Business. Before moving to US, I lived in Bangalore for 10 years and Pune for 3.5 years. Apart from work, I love travelling, adventurous sports/activities and gardening. I am always fascinated by the different cultures/traditions and cuisines the world offers and try to explore this fascination through travelling. I also have an adventurous side. I have done scuba diving in Sri Lanka, Thailand and India and zip line crossing in Chonburi, Thailand. My next plan is to do sky diving near Gulf of Mexico.

About my family, I have mom, dad and 3 siblings. My parents live in Imphal.

I am really excited about exploring this new country and meeting all my manipuri fellows at the same time through this forum.

I look forward to meeting you all in the future and participate actively in all the events organized by the group.



Ingoba Ningthoujam



My name is Ingoba Ningthoujam. I am from Thoubal Okram, Thoubal. I am software engineer by profession and currently based in Mooresville, NC.

Married to Romabati Naorem from Haobam Marak. She is a nurse. We are blessed with a son Lamyamba (4 years). I came to US in March 2015. Appreciate NAMA's effort to bring all Manipuris together in North America.

Niristotle Okram



Thanks for the warm welcome....

I am currently residing at the Vancouver, Washington, but is scheduled to move to Bentonville, AR by the end of this year.

Completed High School from Don Bosco Imphal - 2000

Below are my social and professional profiles let's hook up:

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



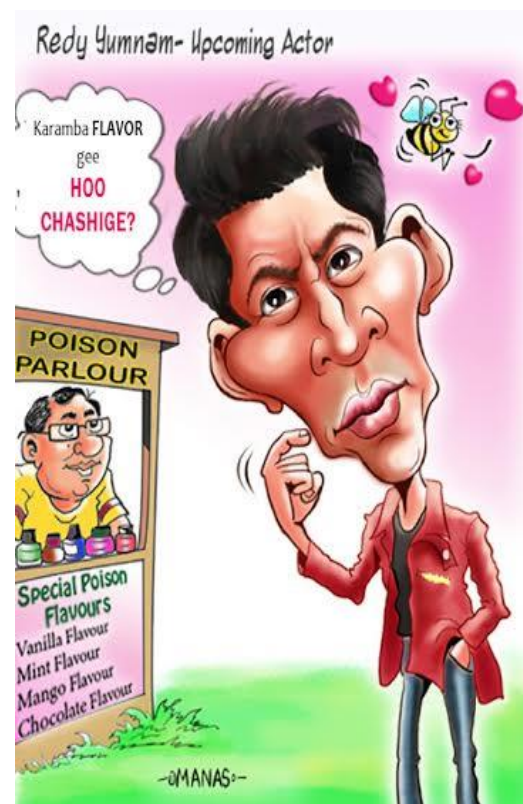
Ongoing projects:

- Demographic Information Collection
- Collaboration with all ethnic organizations of Manipur and Manipuri origin
- Revamping the NAMA website: *add educational, career and other resources*
- 2016 NAMA Excellence Award Program

Upcoming Projects:

- Transition of NAMA to a 'Non-Profit' status
- NAMA Membership policy
- Social Media policy
- Fundraising policy





Connect With 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/North-American-Manipur-Association-NAMA-183898871646820>

