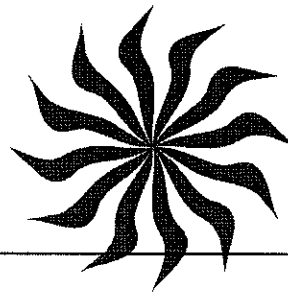


# Mitrata-Nepal Foundation NEWS



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## *I miss the "Zone of Peace"*

As I began to get a glimpse of the Himalayan Range, I knew I was home at last. I was a little nervous at first. Would you blame me? I had not been home for five years. I had left to go to college in the US and I had gone back to visit this spring for four weeks. I had anticipated a lot of changes. But I did not realize so much had changed to such an extent.

The first week was spent just trying to settle into this new old life. I met with my cousins, aunts, uncles and all of my immediate and extended family. I loved the feeling of belonging that I was missing in the US. It was after all my home.

The second week was a shocker for me although to people living there, I'm sure it was just another usual day. The Seven Party Alliance (SPA) called for nationwide strikes starting April 6<sup>th</sup> to April 8<sup>th</sup>. Their key demand was restoration of the Parliament. The three day strike prolonged to indefinite strike when more and more people began to join in the People's Movement. When the Maoists supported the People's Movement, there was volume big enough to get the Royal Government as well as the international media's attention. The Government attempted to subdue the peaceful protests by using batons, tear gas and declaring curfews.

As my vacation came to an end so did the protests and demonstrations. King Gyanendra restored the Parliament and asked the SPA to form an interim government. The SPA along with Maoists will hold Constituent Elections in the near future.

It is ironic that today we are in all the top news channels because we are fighting among ourselves. There was a time when Nepal was called the "Zone of Peace". It is the place where Lord Buddha was born. I was proud to be a citizen of the peaceful country. I just hope all the Nepalese people can come to an understanding and live in peace. I hope that one day in the near future, we shall be able to restore our lost identity.

*written by Barsha Tuladhur*

**TRIP PLANNED TO NEPAL  
IS NOW AUG.19 - SEPT. 2, '06**

**Total Cost \$2500.00 per person**  
*Includes airfare, ground transfers moderate  
hotel accommodations, guided sightseeing,  
day hiking. Please contact Chris for details.*

## **The Mitrata-Nepal Foundation for Children is Growing**

Thanks to the efforts of Julia Mariani and Christine Schutz, Mitrata-Nepal Foundation for Children has attained 501C-3 status as a not-for-profit organization. We have completely separated from OUEST and now all checks made out to the Mitrata-Nepal Foundation for Children are tax deductible. Our board officers consist of Christine Schutz as President, Nancy Williger as Vice-President, and John Godfrey as Treasurer. We are appreciative of the efforts of Julia Mariani as Secretary and are saddened by her resignation of that post. We are currently trying to recruit someone to fill her position. If you have the interest and the time, let us know. To date the board has been focused on small fund raising events and fine tuning the mechanics of the all volunteer organization. As the home is growing and expenses in Nepal are rising, we are in need of a more consistent source of donors. If you have access to these resources and/or would like to serve on the board and contribute to the fund raising effort, please let Christine know of your interest.

## **More Children Coming to the Home**

In spite of the economic and political difficulties in Nepal, we have continued to support a safe and loving home for our children. Nanda Kulu, our Director in Nepal emails me frequently now that there is a computer and online setup in our home in Naya Bazaar. I know that the last few months have been hard in Kathmandu, with frequent strikes and protests and the closing of business/school for long periods of time. Supplies have been more difficult to obtain and the children were cooped up in the house for safety reasons on some occasions. The costs of goods and food have been soaring. This is the reason we have raised our sponsorship to \$800 per year, still just \$67 per month for total care and schooling for one child. Our school sponsorship is now \$300 per month. If you have already given for this year, please consider an additional amount to help us defray our costs for food and shelter.

Hope springs eternal now that the cease fire is on, the Parliament is reestablished and much is going back to normal in Kathmandu. Truly this is a great relief and blessing. Nevertheless, the fallout from this strife has been that there are more displaced and needy families and children. Nanda tells me we have 11 more children, 9 girls and 2 boys from Dolpa in the far west regions of Nepal coming to our home. We now have 43 children in our home and 24 that we support for school. Your continued generous contributions make all of this possible. Please help us spread the word about the Mitrata home and our needs. The word of mouth network for Mitrata has been our greatest strength. We are in need of more sponsors. If you know of anyone, please have them contact me directly at 314-762-9412.

Peace to all of you and "Danyabad" from all of our children. If any one is interested in going to Nepal we are scheduled for August 19 - September 2. We have several people going and this time all looks good for the adventure!

*Christine Schutz, President, Mitrata Nepal Foundation for Children*

## **MITRATA-NEPAL Foundation for Children will participate in the 2006 Festival of Nations A Celebration of Diversity in St. Louis**

Saturday, July 22 - 10 am to 7 pm & Sunday, July 23 - 10 am to 6 pm  
Tower Grove Park on the City's South Side  
Admission and entertainment is **FREE** • Food and gifts are extra

The event will take place nearest S. Grand and Arsenal, just steps away from the thriving International District. A free shuttle service will be available throughout the Park during most of the opening hours. Parking is available in Tower Grove Park and on surrounding streets.

Festival of Nations is an outdoor multi-ethnic celebration featuring traditional dance and music, ethnic food, cultural and educational exhibits, folk art demonstrations, and international market. Presented by the International Institute and 125 ethnic organizations, the festival promotes awareness and understanding of our community's growing ethnic population. Festival of Nations is the largest event of its kind in our region.

## **3 SUMMITS EXPEDITION**

### ***Help Us Help Nepal's Children Affected by Civil Conflict***

The "3 SUMMITS" project will raise funds to help Mitrata-Nepal achieve their goals. We believe it befitting that we attempt three summits in our own Pacific Northwest for this event; befitting because our attempt to summit three peaks in the US will go to help the children in the Himalayas. The dates for the climbs are as follows:

Mt. Adams - May 27 and 28; Mt. Baker - June 17 and 18  
Mt. Rainier - July 15 and 16

We hope to reach our financial objective of \$10,000 through  
1) corporate sponsorships 2) participant contribution (\$500 minimum)  
and 3) individual donations.

Interested donors, and climbers please contact:

Ambrose Bittner, [ambrose@redlantemjournays.com](mailto:ambrose@redlantemjournays.com), (206) 568-0710  
Jwalant Gurung, [Jwalant@u.washington.edu](mailto:Jwalant@u.washington.edu), (206) 934-8588

*3 Summits is a brain-child of current and previous MBA students of the University of Washington, Seattle and their friends who share a common love for outdoor activities and for Nepal.*

## **Earth Day Festivities 2006**

The Earth Day event in Forest Park on April 23, 2006 was well attended and many people, old friends and new, stopped at our booth to say hello and inquire about our activities. The political events in Nepal had made the national news that weekend and people were eager to know how the children were faring in these unsettled times. This year, we had crayons and pictures for children to color. As the children were occupied, our volunteers had an opportunity to talk to the adults about our efforts for children in Nepal. Giving of their time that day were Christine Schutz, Nancy Williger, Jim Brasunas, Gyanesh Lama, and Sandra Hoffman. We collected one hundred and sixty dollars in cash donations and we welcome Dr. Tom Conran as a new sponsor for a child in the home. The Earth Day celebration gets bigger and better each year. It is a great way to honor both the physical and humanitarian needs of our planet. Hope to see you there next year!

## **MITRATA-NEPAL FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM HIGH FASHION**

PRONTO brought St. Louis' first annual international fashion show on May 12, 2006 an exciting evening of couture featuring pioneering designers from the region and around the world. Ten emerging designers were introduced to an audience of over 600 people and competed for a cash prize.

During the reception, four organizations were featured in the Silent Auction and benefited the following causes: Legal Advocates for Women, Mitrata-Nepal Foundation for Children, The One Campaign, and Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation.

Mitrata Nepal Foundation for Children NEWS is published at various times each year to keep donors informed. Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Tracy Drissell at [dtdrissl@swbell.net](mailto:dtdrissl@swbell.net) or by mail at 317 North Rock Hill Rd. Webster Groves, Missouri 63119.

**MITRATA-NEPAL**  
**Children First**  
**They Are Our Future**  
**FOUNDATION**

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