



# AMERICAN SPACES NEPAL



## Welcome Note

### Namaste!

Thank you for subscribing to the American Spaces newsletter. We hope that the newsletter is helping you to stay in touch with us.

We are happy to inform you that all our American Spaces have resumed their in-person services. The American Center in Kathmandu has also resumed its services and is now OPEN for in-person visits from 9-12 noon and 1-4 pm, Monday - Friday. Please follow COVID-19 health protocols, bring your Photo ID to get access to the Center.

The American Spaces team across Nepal continues to work to develop programs to meet your needs. For April, we plan for hybrid programs conducting both in-person and virtual programs. We post our program plans through our respective Corner Facebook pages (<https://np.usembassy.gov/education/american-spaces/>), so keep checking the page for additional program postings.

Also, feel free to share the American Center [Newsletter Subscription link](https://rb.gy/el551i) (<https://rb.gy/el551i>) with interested folks. We appreciate your feedback and suggestions to make the newsletter even better.

Sincerely,  
American Spaces Team

## Programs - April

- **Employment Skills Development & Awareness**  
April 20 | 1:30 PM  
[\[Register\]](#)
- **Air Quality Awareness**  
April 22 | 2-3 PM  
[\[Register\]](#)
- **Study in the USA**  
April 29 | 2-3 PM  
[\[Register\]](#)

## BOOKS BEYOND BORDERS

Online Book Club  
April 4-28, 2022  
[Register](#)

**The Road by Cormac McCarthy**

## CAO Visits American Corner Surkhet

On March 4, 2022, CAO Sarah Knight visited American Corner Surkhet, observed makerspace activities, and conducted a session on U.S. higher education. CAO Knight interacted with makerspace club members and learned about the drone, ultrasonic blind stick, and remote-controlled car built by the members. In addition, she also led a session on U.S. higher education for over 25 university students and talked about the U.S. education system, accredited institutions, scholarships and exchange opportunities, and working in the U.S. The session was also broadcast live through the Facebook pages of American Spaces in Nepal and has garnered over 350 views. (<https://www.facebook.com/acsurkhet/videos/983470358944410>)



## The USG Alumni Talk Show

American Spaces in Nepal, in partnership with Nepal US Alumni Network (NUSAN)— an umbrella organization of USG Alumni and U.S. Alumni in Nepal— organized the fifth session of The USG Alumni Talk Show series on March 3, 2023. The goal of the program is to promote a consistent and robust exchange of culture, ideas, and mutual understanding. As a guest of the program, Dr. Bhawana Pokhrel, IVLP alumna 2010 and Assistant Professor at Prithvi Narayan Campus in Pokhara, talked about her childhood inspiration, the challenges of teaching English in Nepal, her exchange program, and how she is utilizing the knowledge and experience gained through the exchange program to support her community and colleagues. Answering a question on Women’s History Month, she acknowledged that working women face significantly more challenges than men in Nepal.

(<https://www.facebook.com/ACPkr/videos/1098170374309308>)

## Youth Participation in Elections

With the elections of local levels scheduled for May 13, American Corner Bhairahawa on March 20 organized a timely outreach program for local bachelor’s level students on the topic The Importance of Youth Participation in Elections. One of the founding members of the Corner was the resource person for the session and he informed over 60 participants about the history of democratic movements in Nepal. Furthermore, the speaker noted the importance of youth taking part in the elections to elect well-educated and visionary leaders to bring about positive changes in the country.



## Training of Auto Drivers

To honor Women's History Month and International Women's Day 2022, American Corner Surkhet on March 7 collaborated with the Inner Wheel Club of Surkhet to host legal literacy and vehicle accident reduction training for 26 women auto drivers at American Corner Surkhet.

## Minister's Visit

Minister for Social Development of Karnali Province of Nepal Mr. Yagya Bahadur Budha Chhetri visited American Corner Surkhet on March 7, 2022. Corner's program coordinator gave a tour to the minister and informed him and his team about the Corner's resources and activities.

## International Women's Day celebration

On the occasion of 112th International Women's Day (March 8, 2022) celebrated worldwide with the theme "Gender Equality today for a Sustainable tomorrow," American Corner Biratnagar, in partnership with different government organizations, INGOs, NGOs, schools, colleges, and think tanks, participated in a rally. After the rally, in collaboration with its host institution, Chamber of Industries Morang, the Corner handed over a sanitary vending machine to the District Police Office Morang to create awareness on women's health and safety.

## Honoring Local Women Leaders

On the occasion of Women's History Month, American Spaces in Nepal honored influential local women leaders in diverse fields from the American Spaces locations across Nepal. American Center Kathmandu took the lead to solicit nominations from Spaces and created flyers with a profile and message from the women leaders. In order to highlight the accomplishments of these women leaders and to inspire others, the flyers were shared through the Facebook pages of all the American Spaces in Nepal. We highlighted 21 women leaders last month. (<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=380844827380078&set=a.258813212916574>)

## Collaboration on Voice for the Voiceless

American Spaces in Nepal collaborated with American Center New Delhi to cross-post series #10 of the Voice for the Voiceless—a celebration of LGBTQI+ communities in the U.S. and South Asia. Through this series, we meet brave LGBTQI+ activists fighting for equal protection, freedom from violence, and recognition of their fundamental human rights. The session on Mar. 24 moderated by REPS Mark Burrell featured Lisa Pradhan, an American Nepali communicator, artist, and art curator. Her artwork focused on autoethnographic gestures rooted in the Nepalese – American Diaspora through media such as site specific performance, video, installation, writing, and soundscapes. And through her artwork, she has been raising awareness for LGBTQIA community of what their needs are and how they are feeling and modeling inclusion by promoting justice and equality.

(<https://www.facebook.com/IHKathmandu/videos/702507894268887>)

## Book Bus Highlights

The Book Bus continues a year-long Creative Educators Program (CEP) project and as the pedagogical content of the CEP nears the conclusion, the sessions engage the participants in considering their personal biases via different [activities](#). From March 20 to 22, Dr. Prathama Raghavan, a child psychologist, supported the participants to understand multiple narratives and break the chain of stereotypical [narratives](#). On March 25, Pranab Man Singh, an editor and translator, engaged the participants in understanding the significance of language. The participants reflected on their individual privileges on being multilingual and how it affects their understanding of a concept.



On March 24, the [Kathmandu Triennale](#), an art exhibition, facilitated the participants for a guided tour which helped them understand the dynamics between traditional and contemporary forms of art.

The first information session for Game On! [NASEF eSports club](#) was held on March 22. 18 gamers participated and engaged in a [discussion](#) about why the Nepali gaming industry hasn't progressed even though it is a multi-billion dollar industry worldwide.

The Book Bus collaborated with [Echoes in the Valley \(EITV\)](#) Festival of Music 2022 and facilitated an exhibition titled Dāphā: Sound and Society, a workshop for children, and different musical and poetry performances on March 26.

## Student Visa Info Session

American Center Kathmandu continues to offer the Student Visa Information Session in collaboration with the Embassy's Consular Section. In an interactive virtual session on March 11, the Embassy's consular officer explained the student visa application process and demystified rumors about student visas. 18 students participated in the Zoom session and asked questions to the Consular Officer.

American Corner Pokhara also hosted a Study in the USA session for thirty-five interested students. The program was jointly facilitated and led by USEF-Nepal EducationUSA Advising Center and Visa Counselor, U.S. Embassy.

American Spaces in Nepal have been a reliable platform to disseminate accurate and reliable information about U.S. higher education. According to the Open Doors Report 2021, with 11,172 students in the U.S., Nepal ranks 12th worldwide in the number of undergraduate and graduate students combined.

## “Books Beyond Borders,” Twenty-Third Regional Book Club Concludes

The American Center in Kathmandu and New Delhi on March 11 concluded the twenty-third regional book club titled Books Beyond Borders. To honor Black History and Women's History Months, between Feb. 7 and March 10, over 130 participants from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka read *Beloved* by Noble laureate Toni Morrison. In the ten hour-long webinars held during the book club, over 200 participants discussed themes such as dehumanization of slaves, parenting challenges faced by slaves, generational trauma caused by slavery, and the importance of family and community for Blacks during and after slavery. The regional book club, initiated two years ago during the pandemic, continues to provide social and intellectual connections, bridging the gaps between countries and getting scores of like-minded people on board at one place thereby sparking off conversations through American literature on social issues, civil society, diversity, inclusion, economic, and migrant issues

## Collaborate on Farmcraft 2.0 Food for Thought series

American Spaces in Nepal collaborated with American Center New Delhi to cross-post Farmcraft 2.0 Food for Thought series of virtual programs. The series screened eSports Kanopy film "A Gamer's Life" screening and followed by Q&A with an American gamer Nick D'Orazio (<https://www.facebook.com/IHKathmandu/videos/297611935849110/>)