



AUGUST 2021 | NEWSLETTER

# AMERICAN SPACES NEPAL

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## WELCOME NOTE

### AMERICAN SPACES NEPAL

Namaste!

Thank you for subscribing to our American Spaces newsletter. We appreciate your subscription and your continuous feedback. This newsletter would not be what it is today without your valuable suggestions.

The American Spaces team across Nepal continues to work to develop virtual programs to meet your needs and help you navigate this new world we live in. For August, we plan to provide programs focused on Women Equality, and raise awareness in our communities. Do join us and contribute to the conversations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to alter our lives, we will provide virtual programming until we are able to open our Spaces to the public. If you have suggestions or ideas to share, feel free to contact us.

To register for our programs, please click on the given link (Register). We post our programs in our respective Corner Facebook pages (<https://np.usembassy.gov/education-culture/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/el55li>) with interested folks.

Sincerely,  
American Spaces Team



## AMERICAN SPACES IN NEPAL DISCUSSES THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

To mark the 245th anniversary of the American Independence, American Corner Surkhet on July 16th invited Associate Professor Benjamin Welsh from Morgan State University, Maryland, to talk about the History of American Independence. Dr. Uttam Gaulee, a Fulbright alumnus from Surkhet and also a professor at Morgan State, was a special guest at the program. Dr. Welsh talked about the timeline of the American Revolution and Civil War, the Declaration of Independence, the role of slavery in the U.S. independence movement, the sovereignty of U.S. states, and the multiple layers of government in the U.S. Broadcast live through the Facebook pages of American Spaces, the event has been viewed around 200 times so far.

<https://www.facebook.com/acsurkhet/videos/860100621564080>

*"Books Beyond Borders," Eighteenth Regional Book Club completes*

*From July 15th to 29th, REPS Mark Burrell led the eighteenth regional book club titled Books Beyond Borders and welcomed participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. To honor freedom and American Independence Day, participants read J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye. In the five hour-long webinars held on July 15 and 29, around 100 participants discussed J.D. Salinger's reclusive life and his literary contributions. In addition, the participants analyzed Holden Caulfield, the central character of the novel, and discussed a host of other themes, such as childhood, innocence, growing up, women, and sex.*

## **MENTOR TALKS WITH FULBRIGHT ALUMNI**

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright Program, American Spaces in Nepal are collaborating with the Fulbright Commission (aka USEF-Nepal) to invite Fulbright alumni to offer virtual skill-building/information sessions for Nepali students. The second program of the series on July 12 noted the Fulbright Program's positive impact on the lives of individuals and on global and local communities. Two recent returnees who are alumnae of the Fulbright program detailed their Fulbright journey, their educational experience in the U.S., and how the U.S. education has helped in their personal and professional growth. Broadcast live through the Facebook pages of American Spaces, the event has been viewed over 450 times so far. (<https://www.facebook.com/IHKathmandu/videos/3919776651482454>)

## **EMBASSY'S MAKERSPACE PARTNER CONTINUES TRAINING OF AMERICAN SPACES PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

Embassy's makerspace partner, Karkhana, has continued training Nepali as well as regional American Spaces coordinators as part of a regional grant. The Training of Trainers (ToT) on July 9 focused on digital storytelling for Nepali coordinators. Since February, Karkhana has also been offering ToT to over 20 American Spaces staffers from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. Titled South Asia Regional Collaboration (SAReMC), the project seeks to provide youth around South Asia pre-entrepreneurial skills - such as problem solving, creativity, public communication, and design thinking through makerspace-based learning techniques by leveraging American Spaces in the region.

## **What's coming up in August?**

**BOOKS BEYOND BORDERS  
GOLD DIGGERS  
AUGUST 9-30, 2:30 PM  
[REGISTER](#)**

**INFO SESSION ON U.S.  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
AUGUST 10, 1 PM  
[REGISTER](#)**

**MENTOR TALKS WITH  
FULBRIGHT ALUMNI  
AUGUST 13, 1-2 PM  
[REGISTER](#)**

**SCREENING & ENGLISH  
CONVERSATION  
AUGUST 19, 1-2 PM**

**HOW MEDIA LITERACY  
CAN HELP STUDENTS  
DISCERN FAKE NEWS  
AUGUST 20, 1-2 PM**

**WHY WOMEN  
EQUALITY MATTERS?  
AUGUST 26, 1-2 PM  
[REGISTER](#)**



## *Book Bus Continues Discussion on Gender & Sexuality*

*On July 23 and 25, 2021, Book Bus team organized the next two sessions of virtual book discussion, Nepal Reads: Gender & Sexuality with 19 participants. Readers shared their favorite lines and metaphors from the poems 'Elegy with Grown Folks Music' from the prelude of Saeed Jones' book How We Fight for Our Lives, and 'Into the Breach' from Ocean Vuong's poetry collection Night Sky with Exit Wounds. Participants also discussed the prevailing gender norms, and the gender inequality it has led to in our society. They expressed how Nepali society still has a long way to go before it rejects gender binarism. During the second session, participants read Ocean Vuong's book On Earth, We're Briefly Gorgeous and talked about the prolonged after-effects of war. They came up with different interpretations for the word 'survival' as it pertains to the book. While some participants related survival with living through the COVID-19 pandemic, others mentioned how survival doesn't just relate to big catastrophes but also to day-to-day life.*

## **AMERICAN SPACES CONTINUE ENTREPRENEURS' TALK SHOW**

On July 22, 2021, American Spaces in Nepal organized an interaction program with Mr. Suyesh Raj Pyakurel, President of Chamber of Industries Morang—Embassy Kathmandu's host for American Corner Ilam. Mr. Pyakurel talked about his entrepreneurial journey and the challenges he faced and overcame. He also requested the government to act as a guardian to encourage entrepreneurship in Nepal. Citing his own example, he emphasized how brain drain can result in brain gain to promote entrepreneurship and also noted the importance of taking calculated risks to grow a business. Broadcast live through the Facebook pages of American Spaces in Nepal, the program has been viewed around 400 times.

<https://www.facebook.com/americancornerbiratnagar/videos/607350016935637>