

## Mahavihara Lit Up with 108 Butter Lamps to Mark 2567th Buddha Jayanti

By Dr.Rabin Man Shakya



Over 100 people came to Nriya Mandala Mahavihara to celebrate the 2567th Buddha Jayanti on Saturday, May 6, 2023. The Buddha Jayanti programs included: kids' procession around the Mahavihara, Baby Buddha Bath, and Naamsangiti Chanting.

108 butter lamps were illuminated during the ceremony, and Charya Nriya Refuge Prayer Dance was offered 108 times, continuously, by all

American and Nepali devotees.

Several Buddhist Bhajan songs were presented by Joshua Proto, Anna Shustrova and Adam Bidema. At the end of the program, a talent show was held. Sangha member Naveena shared a poem, and Axi presented a Jataka Tale - Buddha as the Rabbit "How the rabbit got on the moon."



Daya Shakya, president of Nepali Association of Oregon, made a short presentation on Spiritual Vocabulary in Nepalese Buddhism.

Buddha Jayanti celebrates the Newar Buddhist traditions and customs, demonstrating the aspiration of the American Buddhists and Nepalese Portlanders to keep the Newar Buddhist traditions alive.

In the evening attendees enjoyed Kheer dinner (rice cooked in milk with sugar, cashews, cloves, cardamoms, raisins, coconuts etc) along with sweetmeats like Jeri and

Lalmohan and other Achars, curries and delicacies.



## Portland's Dance Mandal Duo Perform Charya Dances at Himalayan Fair, Berkeley

Prajwal Vajracharya and his student Bobby Romansky performed various Charya dances at the Himalayan Fair in Live Oak Park in Berkeley Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 2023.

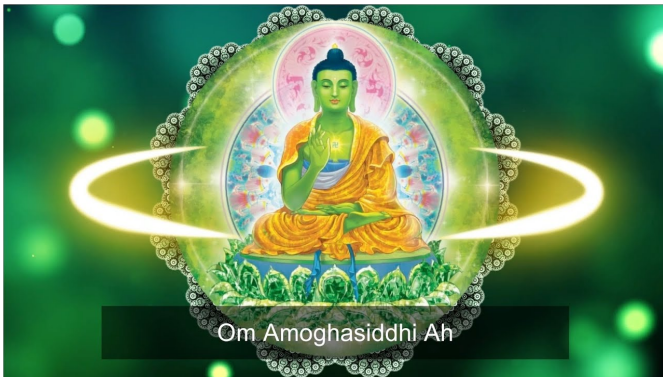
Prajwal presented two Charya dances - Vajravarahi and Ekajati while his student Bobby offered Padmanateshvara and Avalokiteshvara charya dances at the Himalayan Fair. On the occasion, Prajwal also briefly spoke about the meaning and history of the charya dances.

Prajwal offered volunteer service for the preparation of the Fair along with member of the organizing committee Rajesh Shrestha.

The program -- which kicked off with a welcome by Sri Devi and blessing by monks from Sera Jey Monastery -- was also participated by a wide spectrum of famous singers and dancers. Numerous booths showcased Himalayan arts and crafts, food, travel and trekking. The Himalayan Fair was launched in 1983 by Arlene Blum along with Tibetan Buddhist Monk, Lama Kunga of the Ewam Choden Center. Blum was part of the Bicentennial Everest Expedition in 1976 that set an altitude record for American women.



## Virtual Teaching on Amoghasiddhi Buddha



May 14th, a virtual teaching on Amoghasiddhi Buddha was organized by Hong Kong Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Prajwal said "Pancha Buddhas, or Five Buddhas, are the five transcendental Buddhas of Newar Tantric Vajrayana. Vairochana, Amitabha, Ratnasambhava, Akshobhya and

Amoghasiddhi Buddhas are the Pancha Buddhas. Pancha Buddhas are Samvogakaya Buddhas and work relentlessly for the wellbeing of all sentient beings.

Amoghasiddhi in Sanskrit means 'unfailing success'. He represents the purified form of jealousy, and protects and destroys every ounce of envy or jealousy from the hearts of people who meditate on him.

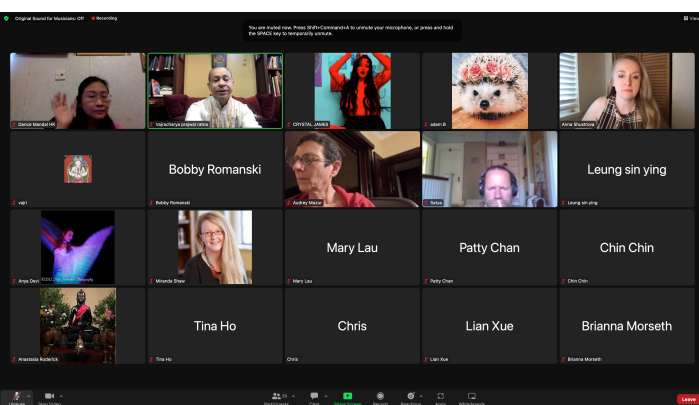
Amoghasiddhi's mantra Om Amoghasiddhi Ah Hum is Abhaya which means fearlessness. He is associated with the Tantric rite of fearlessness and with meditative success, or siddhi.

Sapta Naga (seven serpents), "Sapta Naga were the ones that protected Siddharth Gautam Buddha during his Tapasya in the forest from rains and storms. Amoghasiddhi is the only Buddha who has a

canopy of snakes over his head. Among the Pancha Buddhas, Amoghasiddhi is represented in the stupa, chaitya or Chibaha Dyo facing to the north."

The teaching presented a detailed and comprehensive portrayal and description of Amoghasiddhi Buddha.

One student commented, "Amoghasiddhi Buddha is depicted in green color holding double vajra. His consort is Arya Tara and his vehicle (vahan) is Garuda."



## Vihara Organizes Potluck Picnic at Laurelhurst Park for Starlight Parade Prep



A potluck picnic was organized by Nriya Mandala Mahavihara at the Laurelhurst Park Saturday, May 27, 2023, to celebrate the rehearsal for the Starlight Parade to be held on June 3, 2023. The Starlight is an annual parade held in Portland, Oregon as part of the Portland Rose Festival. "Our Mahavihara has been selected for the Rose Festival Starlight parade this year. Our

participation in the parade is an opportunity to showcase our identity and culture to the Portland community," said Prajwal. The focus of our participation is to give an introduction to Portlanders about various Charya dances including the Pancha Buddha. Our participation will also feature Living Goddess Kumari, Lakhe Dance, Dhime Baja, Nepalese ladies in Haku Patasi and Dupatta saree, and the Sherpa community."



# Weekly Activities in Vihara Continue

In May, as scheduled, Dharani chanting on Zoom was conducted once a week, every Tuesday evening. Similarly, Sadhana practice and Buddha Bhajan were held on Wednesday evenings. Likewise, the practice of singing Charya Giti was practiced every Friday morning. Edited By Teya DeSesa

