

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

The Himalayas A Workshop for Educators
The World Affairs Council of Houston
Saturday, Dec 12 2015
8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Himalayas: An introduction –Chetana Baskota, Nepal Global Ambassador / Director of Programs, World Affairs Council of Houston
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Nepal: geopolitics & international development – Chetana Baskota, Nepal Global Ambassador / Director of Programs, World Affairs Council of Houston
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Tibetan Buddhism – Dr. Claire Villarreal, PhD – Rice Religious Studies & Program Manager, Dawn Mountain
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	LUNCH
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Bringing the Himalayas back to your classrooms – Lorelei Clarke, Kempner High School
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Break
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Bhutan – The Refugees of Shangri-La – Doria Bramante, Producer/Director
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	The Refugees of Shangri-La: Documentary screening followed by Q&A with Doria Bramante

Speaker Bios:

Chetana Baskota has been with the World Affairs Council of Houston since 2011 and currently serves as the Director of Programs. Prior to joining the Council, she spent a year traveling around Asia, Europe, and South America, teaching English and volunteering. She has a background in project management, with experience in logistics, marketing, and budgeting. She earned her BS in Political Science from the University of Houston in 2006. She was born in Kathmandu, Nepal and is fluent in Nepali, Hindi, Urdu, and basic spoken Spanish.

Claire Villarreal, a native of Fort Worth, TX, has been practicing and studying Buddhism since 1997. She completed her undergraduate studies, including two years of Tibetan language study with Dawn Mountain co-founder Anne C. Klein, with a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies at Rice University in 1999. Next she traveled to Thailand, where she trained with Buddhist monastics, focusing especially on cultivating mindfulness. Returning to Texas, Claire has taught mindfulness in a variety of settings in Fort Worth and Houston since 2004. She defended her dissertation, on the interface between contemplative practice and philosophical developments in Tibet, in spring of 2015. She is now the Program Manager at Dawn Mountain.

Doria Bramante - Director and Producer of The Refugees of Shangri La. A graduate of New York University and an award winning theater artist. She has been following the Bhutanese from camp to her home town in America for the past six years. She serves as a board member for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Bhutan and has been an active supporter of the Bhutanese Community in America since 2008.

