

Community Archives Initiative
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Lumana Shakya · Oral History Transcript · Fall 2026

Speaker 1 0:10

This is the orchestra. We are interviewing the chief of the water shopping, and it is not September 11. So, what is your fault? I mean, one second.

Speaker 2 0:30

I will write. Oh, do you prefer to take by me? Okay. Okay. But I mean,

Speaker 3 0:37

I do like super first. Did that have?

Speaker 1 0:42

Does that have a lot of have permission to record this? Do we have permission to take photos or scan and find the sources?

Speaker 3 0:56

Yes. So, who are you? What do you do? Okay. I'm Luana. Shall I do? African Nepal is located in South Asia. It's between India and China, so we have north the Chinatown. runs on it. A few other parts of India are very tiny country around our country. So wait, whenever you were growing up, could you like see all the mountains? My boys lived not all the mountains, but yeah, that's so specific. We have fields and mountains. Yeah, I can see everything. That's the place. I live in behind the valley, so I can see a valley that the mountains are. Oh, that sounds beautiful.

Speaker 4 2:00

So you are from Nepal, where are you from?

Speaker 3 2:03

I was born in June, California. It's a capital city.

Speaker 1 2:07

That's very cool. Did you live there? Yeah, I've

Speaker 3 2:12

lived there my whole life until I got

Speaker 4 2:15

to. Okay, so that's why you came.

Speaker 3 2:16

Yeah. So which was somebody from? Where to pick Georgia during an university? It was going to be there since already doing like supply chain or business manufacturing logistics. Yeah, that's very cool. So. not many universities in the U.S. They have this forums to find it here. Also, have my aunt and my mom's sister. She lives in Brooklyn, and she's 20 minutes from here. So, it would be easier for me to like talk to them, like treat me like they set

Speaker 4 3:02

up. heard any other schools with like the logistics or course. That's really really interesting. Are you doing my graduate

Speaker 3 3:09

program? I'm doing my undergraduate.

Speaker 2 3:10

Oh, your undergrad. Okay.

Speaker 4 3:16

What was it like growing up in all Brazilians? Different than it is here,

Speaker 3 3:22

and it's so fun. So I I was born out of an extended family, so I had 14 people in my house. Just go out, but it's really fun. I have my grandparents. I have like brothers, my dad's brother, brothers, siblings, six cousins and uncle, my pets, my grandparents. It felt like it felt like home, and like we could do everything together in me. Also, I was born up brought up in a kind of like city city, so I didn't go out pretty much. I was in like old like school, and all other picture activities, but I would say my cousin's brother. Are you

Speaker 4 4:10

still like most of them? Do you still talk?

Speaker 2 4:12

Oh yeah, very well. Yeah, it

Speaker 4 4:20

was really fun. I don't know what are weddings like. Are they like different from how kind of like

Speaker 3 4:25

is hair? I think on like one day. Yeah, yeah. Usually it's one very expensive. Well, that's

Speaker 4 4:36
like

Speaker 3 4:40
so much. like a movie session, session on an actual wedding day. Like there is a lot going on. Is

Speaker 4 4:54
it different? I used to be grouping like kind of more urban area in the city. Is it. Different kind of like rural area.

Speaker 5 5:02
There's really nothing I can live near Atlanta, so moving out to rural area, it was it was my different. Honestly, I could like go like seven

Speaker 3 5:16
years back home. Um, I would just go to restaurants, like go shopping at the first time, like to stay there, like five minutes. Yeah, and it's things we're walking

Speaker 5 5:26
with. Yeah, oh

Speaker 3 5:27
well. What was it like when

Speaker 5 5:30
you first got off the plane and like,

Speaker 3 5:36
oh my ass, like, or did um having trees? like for all of us, it's like government or London. I feel like it was like people just how they treat me. Hi, how are you? I mean, I don't know you, but like I like I like how they like make our sand all along, and it felt very like fancy, like water. It was honestly like my bank, like fingerboards, like everything's bigger. Did you come into Atlanta? No, so I was I went to New York. I worked to New York City. So yeah, but it's always different because like different from home themselves. Do

Speaker 4 6:38
you have stories from like growing up with all these people in the hospital, the way the ones that stand out to like to your particular product plans.

Speaker 3 6:47
Yeah, so we used to have a little exciting like art books back home when I was a kid, and used to be in those immigrants' lives or in a candle seat, and I mean no internet, no phone, no nothing. My cousin I used to do dance practices. I used to go over to

events. We do the whole song and present it in front of our parents. We played a lot of games, did a lot of like sketches, did a lot of like napping. So I was with my joint family until I was 16 years old. But later, I was like with my friends and my kids.

Speaker 2 7:37

Yeah,

Speaker 4 7:37

did you find that to be like very different from growing up with like all the places, but

Speaker 3 7:44

it was because you go to a little. You're still in the city, but a little tormented and like obviously you're just born during the time of like your parents are working. Yeah, but I like it because I was kind of done with a scratch. What are

Speaker 4 8:09

you most most about? Like, do you want to get like opposite? Oh yeah, like

Speaker 3 8:14

the hardest part was the summer. Like I wanted to go back home so bad. I miss my parents. I miss the food there. I try to win later, but it's not the same. I ask for the rest. It doesn't taste like first. But I feel like more than just going to my parents. I think the way the winner it's it's very slow. Just for me, and I just missed those looking like outside of my window, like watching the feels. In fact,

Speaker 1 8:52

they're more like fast paced. I would absolutely mention

Speaker 4 9:00

food. Is there anything like you made a lot growing up? Like to think about now that you live here.

Speaker 3 9:05

Yeah. So there's a this new name bubble. So there's a different kind of dumplings, but for the we call it bubble. Basically, a dumpling that will have different kind of steels and spices. So there's also a story with people. Every story you got with so every story you got. So we're like setting the floor. Someone's rolling the dough. Someone's cutting up on a circular, like cutting on a like circular circle, kind of thing. Yeah, yeah. And the kids' job is to put the mute. So we add those leaves on the dough, and like a little density or like my parents, they like try to make. And it's it's more more than just getting tickets to like hang out together. Also, like they're sharing the food while also making like so much love. That's

Speaker 5 10:14

so nice, and when you eat it, it's so good. It's a little bit.

Speaker 1 10:19

So you mentioned that college mom and like give me these recipes. Was that one of them? That you were like, I want to make this here. Yeah. So I have nine friends, and we did a dinner party here, and I wake up serving friends and other friends. When you have time? Which takes on so good, but there's

Speaker 4 10:47

like that kind of

Speaker 5 10:48

building community. Have you

Speaker 4 10:50

been able to find like any kind of big community

Speaker 3 10:52

here kind of helps fit that? Yeah. So when I moved to my apartment, my all my roommates were snagging, so these are also international from like Colombia, Mexican partners. So I got a little bit of their culture too. Like we would like share foods, like all the stories, and I love to learn about them. And with my work, I have a lot of my good friends, and they invite me to dinners. And I do a lot of like thrift spirit, and I get to see like all the backcountry stuff. So I love movies. Yeah, I have a strong movie, and I'm really grateful that the world died. Like actually, like they share their stuff to me. Where should we be a place of Catholics? Yes, I've been to a lot of states in summer. I went to Maryland. How do you like that? So fun, so fun, but um. What did you do there? So I went to my cousin. So I was like, just shutting out, and I think it's because. a good place for my

Speaker 4 12:30

students too. What? So I know you like talked about like you know feeling false again. That's when I'm going to try to other things. Yeah, maybe look around better. But just

Speaker 3 12:41

so that. So I was gonna call before I came here, but those those moments when you're like always you've been like celebrating with them and you get to do it, it kind of sucks and you just like face time and just first my head, like I want that. But I'm kind of used to it. But I get those little metal photographs that we can do something called too much plus my feelings. But even bars. So

Speaker 4 13:23

there's like all sorts of celebrations. Like only time is your favorite

Speaker 3 13:27

one. Yes. So there's a festival called United, which is a lot of a festival of lights. Okay. Things celebrated. Like you see, there's we celebrate dogs. We pray for dogs like Better Life and Health because they are like party guys. They're good family, so we celebrate dogs. We celebrate ourselves. It's called Walgesa, which is like you're praying for your well, health, and for your future. So you have to do like a little beer troll, like with my big family, where like all the one who are something, and you teach yourself. And then the next day we have a bica, which is very important, like good life and everything. And these are like the natural holidays. Yeah, well, it's it's like Christmas for you. Okay, because we have dozen the hour on the same line. I think dossin's more like Thanksgiving and Christmas

Speaker 6 14:34
is

Speaker 1 14:34
more like. Do you

Speaker 4 14:36
still celebrate them on your theater? Do you have ways to kind of like participate

Speaker 1 14:39
in your

Speaker 3 14:39
neighborhood? Yeah, so my so my aunt answers. She's like, so she invites me to circulations. We found two fighters since I don't have a brother here, but we dream all of that. Um, kind of like a senior lady. Like she has all the stuff.

Speaker 4 14:58
Are there any traditions? So if I is

Speaker 3 15:12
like Eva has the most quality in the whole world. It sounds like it sounds like a party. But there is a festival like dinners at that, and those festivals we have to be present there. We have to do the family and jala, like berries, like eating. Those are the stuff I can argue at all. So, and those like Father's Day, Mother's Day, we have a bunch of different dates. So now, like internets for Mother's Day, Father's Day now are very old. Just we have like three calendars by home. Okay, so calendars.

Speaker 2 15:52
So

Speaker 3 15:56
one's English. We have other ones from Samba, which we use as a Nepali calendar to me, and there is another called Nepal Sambat, which is more like the Nevada community theory. So I'm Nepali, but also within their communities and backgrounds,

and I was born and white at home. So, so yeah, three birthdays is over too. Really fun. So growing up, like my body, like the birthday used to be for my family. Yeah, when my friend asked my birthday, like I did not know my English birthday until I was fourth grade. Really, my birthday changes every time, like so. I made sure that I know English, so English is for my friends and then like for this for my family. Okay, to instruct it.

Speaker 4 16:55

So back home, are there any sort of like historical events or like any sort of like um International relations that kind of influenced how it was to live there, how living was.

Speaker 2 17:11

Yeah, it's okay.

Speaker 3 17:13

We have a little influence with India. It's our neighbor. Let's say in the rain. there's a ceremony called weeping session. We usually don't do that, but the experience has brought those things in the wedding as well. Out of that, maybe your clothing a little bit, but we have become a little more like westernized with like how you dress up. In terms of events,

Speaker 4 17:47

what does it look like to kind of see like a Western portrait in like dress?

Speaker 3 17:55

So before, like my grandma, she's very sorry. She's wearing. Now they have started going to punta, which is more like pants and long shirt, like long shirt. People used to wear just those puntas and booties with the pants and longs, but now they want like shoes, t-shirts. I mean, like my age, like with us, we're going on. Like how we dress up here, it's it's the same guy. It

Speaker 4 18:29

seemed like your older family kind of shifted that time. So I said, you want to raise something? Like I mean, it's technically

Speaker 3 18:35

my family that

Speaker 5 18:36

always

Speaker 3 18:37

dressed up was if I was like.

Speaker 4 18:43

Switching a little bit, is your experience your kind of graduate you thought it would be like whenever you were back home, like thinking about coming to the U.S. to study? Is this what you would

Speaker 3 19:00

imagine? Yeah, definitely. So I think I. studies, like like education back home, it's not like not like it's very traditional. Um, I grew up and um, I went to like student from high school, one more like traditional and more international thing. Um, so coming here, I had I wasn't like in shock because I was I watched like international sports and a little bit of that. But yeah, like it met my expectations. This is kind of what you picture. It's like everything would do. Oh, okay. Like studies like

Speaker 2 19:43

that. Like I'm not

Speaker 3 19:44

going for like Steve's, or it's kind of like you just here for the coursework, not the area for the studies. Yeah. Um. Tell me about like whenever you were in school, like what was that kind of? What does that look like? At first, I was born in a traditional school. It was kind of the school had the combination of empathy and the examination board, so I had like both influence. Usually, we wear formal like clothes, like blue eyes being so hot. Like I have been wearing clothing since nursery, sweet celebrating. How long is nursery? I'm sorry. I'm like picturing

Speaker 4 20:30

right now the age of having just a baby. That's kind of funny to me.

Speaker 2 20:33

Or

Speaker 4 20:36

okay, instead of I don't. Um, whenever I think nursery thing, like babies, I was like, "That's so funny! They have a baby, like a little tiny infant, like a little you know suit uniform that way. What kind of stuff did you study? It was it just like you know traditional like you know math signs?

Speaker 3 20:54

So, so we had signs, science, village, your body, math, um. Computer science to me. It depends on like what place you know. Like when I was in the international school, okay. So in my traditional school, teachers it used to be like teaching used to be more like teacher oriented than the student oriented. They would just write answer in the board. Like we don't have anything at all. Just imagine like we don't interact, don't think. Yeah, like like break like going that that was really hard for me when I changed the school because I I never done that and now I have to be in gross with experience and actually does it. So English, I started when I was going to study CB. Started by the one CBC, it's always been English, so I just learned Nepali in my

Nepali first. Do my science, math, etc. Okay, the teachers will be teaching with Nepali or like English or Nepali, but the teacher and everything in English. Okay, that's really interesting. Did that help different like learning continents? like my point is not that good since I was talking and like my biology, but like had a good writing in the book that I was interested in.

Speaker 4 23:10

Um, did you belong to like these issues? Get like a thing in your school? Did they have a

Speaker 3 23:17

strategic? Yeah, so we did it. Yeah, we did a home with my international school. We did. I went to orphanage. Oh yeah, it was good. Sometimes that was actually nice. We had to go there to take treats for the kids. We also went to English home and parked in the farm to go for a burpee. It's a purchase. Like you get to do community service to a China, look at herself and even to show devil and stuff. So for that, I also volunteered against me.

Speaker 4 24:07

Oh wow!

Speaker 3 24:07

Probably like 45 hours. That is

Speaker 2 24:09

serious.

Speaker 3 24:11

That was so fun. I used to go with the elephants like they did this. It was really fun. Um, but I was also involved in Brookside, like 12. So I've always been like doing community service.

Speaker 4 24:28

Learning stories from all of that, from like working, the working it's an old age, all into is there any like specific stories that I stand out to you? Is like this happened? It is certainly something.

Speaker 3 24:39

I feel like the old age company, cause um, it's just a home and like bunch like the old people they see, but like it's not very um professional. It's me, it's very like periodic. Okay, it's really sad to see them and they're like. Tell you stories. Some people they don't remember like how they placed it, but they were like, "Oh, like so. Really sad. This is one of my last stories that they were telling. There was this one granddad who was active finding daughter, which is really sad. That's so sad. Is

Speaker 4 25:26

this the first college that you found? Did you do it?

Speaker 3 25:30

Oh, I just read. I found something else. Have you got something about students exchange? So I did students exchange bands. It was not like it was really fun. It was just for they came to my country first, and I show them like other negative signs, like how we like they do the things and those guys. And when I went to France, it's just like they do. That's really the young. Yeah, they're so like they're so few in front of me. Especially if you're not working. Um. If you want to talk to somebody who wanted to come into school, is there any advice they wanted to give them? They should come there. Like, like the education is so much better. Like back home, if I you know under school, under undergrad school medical, just imagine like results, like the first three results when I'm like in third grade. Oh, so what's going on with your life? Because my child is to go back. You mean like my my dream, but like definitely come here like starting a study a lot about like how the first world um actually how they work how they're like organized because they're it's all organized um in terms of like the administration everywhere it's it's organized like I feel like you travel more. You learn so much stuff, not just moving around it, but be able to own how you give. So I will get by step to them because we travel precisely because experience and give it to them. That's so cool. Say only. That's really Yeah, is it um uncommon to like go different countries like in Nepal? Is when you talk to people, like most people been out of the countries. We might have been to the neighboring countries. Um, probably not all of them. Because I also because my parents are busy. Like I haven't been anywhere with them outside. But I went through schools, so that's how I got to basically that it's not very common. What do you wish people knew more about the immigration experience than the human body experience? I think it's it's very hard for them, since that they're going in a big country. They're learning so much stuff because right now, like most of the students need to studies abroad, like Australia, China, UK, US. They think it's easy to see our pictures and they're like going there having fun, but usually it's not because you have to study, you have to know all the culture, you have to be somewhere you've never like travel, also like work because it's expensive to live here. Anything it's so different, you don't get to be working on, and this cons like constantly having like missing and like feeling lonely.

Speaker 1 29:33

Yeah, how do you experience? I mean, it's it's hard. I just would never refused. I felt like I was anybody that makes you feel that way, especially with

Speaker 3 29:59

it. I'm not sure. I feel like if I see more like some people together, I might feel a little, you know, like a little torture, or like they're like a very situation. Like I get them born into. Let's say like out of that. Yeah, I would feel a little bit left out. Is there a time when somebody needs to feel particularly welcome? Like I mentioned, their aunt already lives there. Is there anybody else that like you might be like up like they like really welcome to this community? Yeah, I mean, I would say my work

friends maybe try everything. There's no way. Um, yeah, just nothing. Like at first, I used to like struggle with jokes, uh, a lot of words and stuff. But they have always like taught, like teach me. They always teach me like when they see they never laugh at me. They always like make sure like I was included. I also do like dinner rolls with them, and then they're always like they open. My family really worked at. I work for Southern Adventurers.

Speaker 4 31:18

Oh, cool! Tell me about that. What do you do

Speaker 3 31:21

so far? So I live out of no trips. Okay. And the rental center. I am also a declining gym. I do like high school challenge courses.

Speaker 4 31:38

Did you do a lot of those outdoor stuff inside at home. Want to do a name for this? Very big hyper. Yeah, I'm yes.

Speaker 3 31:54

So before I came here, I went to which is on a planetary stand. We went out with kids about. before I. Yeah, I love doing outdoor and more like I love mountains.

Speaker 2 32:30

The

Speaker 4 32:30

air feels

Speaker 2 32:31

good.

Speaker 3 32:32

Oh yeah, I love the smell of mountains. I can say

Speaker 4 32:41

nothing. What is hiking? Why you know there's like me being able to go hiking here?

Speaker 3 32:47

Well, it's it's really different this year. It's more like a backdrop thing. You have to get everything like from fence to food in your stomachs to do the audience stuff. But back home, it's more like it has been very commercialized and more like two years. So we have everything like guest house, just having eight days. We have a lot of tourists, so it's easier back home. The drills are hard, but like everyone else, like logging, fooding, it's pretty chill.

Speaker 1 33:21

We like doing that here, so we always like to be different. Yes, do more

Speaker 3 33:26

like waterways activities. So like, and I've never been to Santa, like mainly see what's the beach for the first time, and a tiny beach was my first time. I'm kind of scared. Water, but I mean, I grew up like swimming, but there were social. Yeah, like it's good to see like those things like. Do you like to know the water activities now for work and everything that I'm doing things? You didn't do that back home. I mean, I did. Okay, I did, but it's different. How's it going? How's it different? I'm very well. I used to go in weeks. Yeah. that you

Speaker 4 34:27

grew up in? How has it changed like over the years? Like when you were a small child to like kind of being an adult to change.

Speaker 3 34:37

I feel like just people like because since it's a city and an urban base, there's a lot of people migrating from other parts of Nepal. Somewhere like mountains, like mountain to the right side is more like big and big cities. So people from the right region more committed to the city. And like for the last like couple of years, I've seen like those dancers, and like like more people, like I've seen more people, like as many others.

Speaker 4 35:15

Did you know a lot of people growing up who weren't born in Chicago, who were born in college at their dance time?

Speaker 2 35:22

you

Speaker 4 35:23

were growing up, did you have like neighbors to go in the community who weren't born there? Actually,

Speaker 3 35:32

not. But I have my best friend. She she was born there in Texas, and she she did her like when she was there. That's really cool. How'd you guys meet? Oh, we met in school. What's your age in school?

Speaker 1 35:52

It's interesting, you guys. You know, going different places like nothing, so that's not another since.

Speaker 3 36:03

I can get there as many as everybody would like to. Is there anything that you wish that people would like ask you more about? Like when you tell them that you're not

from the U.S. people have like the same free questions that they like always ask you, so I can tell you what they ask. Okay, what do they ask us? So first, like they kind of say, I know like Spanish. I get it because I feel like spending is like like cool too. So it's it's okay. But they ask me like where are you from, and I have to tell them I'm I came from where mom generous is, and they're like oh they cannot figure out where that is. Some people don't know where that is. Sometimes, but there are like most people who get it, and I feel like very happy. I usually type more while I was like, yeah, that's my

Speaker 4 36:59

chance to be able to find everything right here.

Speaker 3 37:02

I feel like like buffalo like everything that buffalo. It's

Speaker 4 37:06

too.

Speaker 1 37:08

Yeah, it's too. We have a buffalo. Yes.

Speaker 3 37:15

But we're used to eating rice a lot and sweet rice twice a day. So rice, lentil, whatever like chicken spray and vegetating is not. And I miss those home book messages here. Chicken nuggets and ladies they. spirit. How do you find that your spirit is different? Like a lot, like everything I eat here was like a junk food back home. Uh huh. So I feel really like all like all good meals when I get my family. Like there's some like very fresh. And just okay at that time. We just need her. It's more like in the chicken, they are frozen. We just there. We just go, but often there. But it's more like a package. Yes, it's a

Speaker 5 38:15

problem.

Speaker 1 38:20

When did you decide that you wanted to go to U.S. for school? Is there like been the stream you had since you were like a child?

Speaker 3 38:33

I doubt it is, but education that book was more like not good at all. So I have a couple of countries that only go like either Australia, Netherlands, or the US. My mom's like the US is the best option because the US has like better education. English is very smooth, so sweeter. or even more. Yeah, so I think that's why.

Speaker 4 39:09

When I remember what you talked about, like the schools back in the fall get like disorganized too. But what kind does that look like?

Speaker 3 39:18

It's amazing first. So this is for the undergrad and graduate. So you have the final exams, and then you'll probably be getting those results in like next two years. And you want to pass it on. And even if you really want to do that again, again the test from the fifth year, and you don't know you what you got on your. Oh wow! It's insane, but there's a lot of like international universities that's coming in Michigan club, but for those like the body boards, and we also have national. What was that last January? So for me, high school was 1112. Okay, and I did a second high school. Wow,

Speaker 4 40:10
how was that?

Speaker 3 40:11
That was hard.

Speaker 2 40:13
Yeah, yeah.

Speaker 4 40:18
You want to talk about maybe how to ask you guys, you know, and I really got this guy started asking this question.

Speaker 2 40:29
That's like conversation. I've been flipping that for things.

Speaker 3 40:45
Like most people, sometimes I I just speak in like English is my third language because her first language is my name. She is like that's my community because we have my son. I feel like there might be a few like moments I felt left out. The most of the time, when I'm my friends, like professors, or whenever I go, they they're always

Speaker 1 41:30
like. Thank you so much for the time. We really do appreciate it before things I talk to.