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JAWALA REGMI, of Syracuse, performs a traditional Bhutanese dance during the Bhutanese Community in Syracuse cultural festival Saturday at Franklin Magnet School in Syracuse. Bhutanese-Nepali community celebrated Dashain, the largest festival on Nepal's calendar.

New Community Has Reason To Celebrate

Staff report

Members of Syracuse's Bhutanese-Nepali community celebrated Dashain, the largest festival on Nepal's calendar, Saturday with a cultural festival featuring traditional music, dance and food at the Franklin Magnet School on South Alford Street, in Syracuse.

More than 300 people attended the event, which was open to the public.

When celebrated in Nepal, in South Asia, Dashain is a 15-day religious festival during which people travel

home for family reunions. From Sunday through Oct. 22, members of the Bhutanese-Nepali community plan to honor that tradition by visiting their elders' homes and seeking blessings.

People from Nepal began arriving in Syracuse in 2008. Before that they lived in refugee camps for 18 years, after fleeing or being deported from nearby Bhutan. Their Lhotshampas ancestors had lived in Bhutan for more than 100 years at the invitation of the king.



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PEOPLE TAKE IN a performance during the Bhutanese-Nepali festival Saturday in the auditorium of Franklin Magnet School, in Syracuse.