

SGI USA MEMO

DATE

March 19, 2003

MEMO NO.

ORG-009

DISTRIBUTE TO: All Members
TO: All Zone, Region Leaders and Office Managers
FROM: SGI-USA Organization Department
SUBJECT: Letter from National Leaders

Dear Friends,

In this new century when we seek to make peace and humanism the guiding principles of society, the world stands at the brink of war. People everywhere, regardless of their political or religious beliefs, are deeply concerned.

Across America, SGI-USA members have been chanting seriously about the world situation and are concerned with the immediate prospect of war. Believing in the power of prayer to stem violence at its root, let's create a groundswell of daimoku for peace. We encourage gatherings to chant for peace wherever possible — at districts, chapters and especially, at our community centers. We kindly ask your support in making our facilities available to accommodate this. Let's pray with conviction, boldly moving forward through the times and creating a new history. And as members of SGI-USA, let's reconfirm one fundamental principle of our faith, in the words of Nichiren Daishonin, that "when great evil occurs, great good follows."

As a result of our prayers and tenacious efforts, we are experiencing a surge in new membership and increasing strength in our organization. March 16, Kosen-rufu Day, reminded us once again of the profound significance of our efforts. Our youth around the country are taking responsibility for peace by developing their districts and their cultural performances. Because of the sincere efforts of our SGI-USA family, the great philosophy of humanism that SGI stands for is making an impact on American society. Certainly, we are not casual observers in these times; rather, we are engaged in sharing hope from shore to shore, determined that with every phone call of encouragement, every letter, every meeting, that one more person will experience a profound change in his or her life. This is our greatest source of pride and confidence—the grassroots efforts that create an enduring fabric for peace.

Let's take to heart SGI President Ikeda's message which he sent following the tragic events of September 11, 2001:

*I am praying for America
For harmony and joy to reign
For the realization of kosen-rufu*

With our deepest respect,

Matilda Buck
Women's Leader

Danny Nagashima
General Director

Tariq Hasan
Men's Leader

Steve Mortan
Young Men's Leader

Ken Saragosa
Youth Leader

Wendy DeSouza
Young Women's Leader