

VOICES: As SGI members how can we protect and receive protection from the environment?

Members from the San Francisco joint territories respond:

I am completely surrounded by flood plains. I chanted that the flood waters [in January] would drain off and for people to use common sense when developing new neighborhoods. We were able to avoid flooding, and city officials are now more carefully scrutinizing new developments.

— KAREN BROWN, Rio Linda, Calif.

By reusing what I can and recycling what I can't, I do my part to protect the environment. During the recent flooding, when my neighbors chose to evacuate I stayed and chanted daimoku, praying for protection. The waters then ceased to rise, stopping at my driveway. My prayers were definitely answered.

— MARLENE JUETTE, Sacramento, Calif.

During the floods we had to evacuate. Many of us went to a member's house in Sacramento. Colusa Yoshimura took care of several of us for three days. We chanted a lot of daimoku for our homes to be safe. We are very lucky to be in the SGI-USA because the members take care of one another. Also I received many calls of concern when I returned home, even from members in Japan.

— ETSUKO OKUDA, Yuba City, Calif.

When we change, our environment also changes. If we are negative, our environment is ugly and dark. I chant, study and practice because I want others to be happy. I want to show people we can change anything.

— YOKO COLELLA, Antelope, Calif.

Recently my sister was in the hospital with cancer. I chanted every morning and evening for her stability and for family members who were trying to help her. In the space of just one week, we moved mountains of paperwork and approvals so that we could fly her to another state to the hospital she needs to be in. Knowing I had been chanting about the situation, her son asked me for a prayer book and beads before he went home.

— ROBERTA FLEET, Sacramento, Calif.

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