

VOICES: What do you like best about the new neighborhood meetings?

Members from the San Francisco joint territories respond:

I like the neighborhood meeting mainly because it saves time. Before, I had to leave 45 minutes or an hour before the meeting to drive across town and pick up someone I wanted to bring to the meeting. It is much more convenient to meet nearby. I have attended one chanting session with about 10 other members and have been chanting together with other people in my neighborhood. It's a good way to connect with people.

— KAREN McMILLAN, San Francisco

Our neighborhood is really great. We have a lot of pioneer women in it and they have such depth of faith. So it's like gold. It's really been positive for me!

— KATHY D'OR-REID, San Francisco

We have been having meetings at our place in Richmond District for about one year. It's better than traveling across town and helps develop roots where you live. The members are happy to walk to the meetings and the guests are mainly from the area. At the last meeting we had 15 members and one guest. We average from eight to 14 people. Each month the people who come have more to contribute.

— DENNIS WEATHERS, San Francisco

It's like a fresh start for our organization. There are no rules or traditions to follow — we can invent our own format and it's a very free interchange of ideas, feelings, stories and experiences. It also lets me look at the basics of my practice once again.

— GEORGE ROSS JR., San Francisco

There is an earthiness about the neighborhood meetings. We had about 20 people at the last one. There is a friendliness and frankness there. It feels like the SGI is unfolding new branches and our human connections are becoming broader and deeper through these meetings. It's refreshing to make new friends — that's what it's all about. I feel the organization is growing more naturally.

— FREEMAN CHEE, San Francisco

I get to meet new people. I've been practicing 24 years and now I see people who practice in other districts — it's encouraging to me! If I move to another location, I would feel the meeting there is already in place and I would feel comfortable going.

— SYLVIA CLARK, San Francisco

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