

U.S., Japan Youth Stand Up for Peace in Friendship Exchange
By JEFF FARR, Associate Editor
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What many felt was the best U.S.–Japan youth exchange yet began Aug. 12 in San Francisco with youth from both countries signing an anti-war declaration. As this exchange among 88 youth from Japan and SGI-USA members, the fourth such exchange in the last four years, commemorated the 40th anniversary of second Soka Gakkai president Toda's Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, standing up for peace became a theme for the three-city visit.

After attending discussion meetings in the San Francisco area, the group was off to Dallas, where members were especially excited to welcome the group since it was the first time Dallas has participated in the exchange program. It was also the first time Dallas has had an event of this scale since President Ikeda's 1984 visit. Highlights included the Japanese members' presentation of 150 books to the Dallas City Hall and a visit to the Sixth Floor Museum, which has exhibits on John F. Kennedy's assassination.

In Los Angeles, the exchange members attended a mini-culture festival at Soka University of America's Calabasas campus and visited the World Culture Center and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. After this busy week, the Japanese members departed Los Angeles for Japan Aug. 19, exhausted but exhilarated with the feeling that youth of the United States and Japan have so much to learn from one another.

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