

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Read Whatever You Enjoy

SGI President Ikeda has recently given us guidance on the importance of reading literature and the classics, as he calls them (Feb. 6 “Discussions on Youth”). I must disagree with him. I agree that reading is important, but I have a different view of reading literature. I began being “force fed” the classics when I was 15 or 16 years old, and hated every word of them — this experience turned me off from reading for years! The classics are not for everybody.

One must find writers whom one enjoys reading. What a wonderful experience to connect with an author whose book we cannot put down! For some this may mean Elmore Leonard or John Grisham and others, Victor Hugo or Virginia Woolf. Not everything we read must instruct us on how to live. What a mundane, heavy and dry life that would be! Read for the love of it!

— LARRY TISH, Cambridge, Mass.

Death ‘Perspective’ Hits Home

Thank you for the latest issue of the *World Tribune* (Feb. 6)! It has so many great articles in it that have touched my life, especially the “Perspective” by Teri Clayton. We have just lost a very dear friend to cancer, and he had the same spirit as Teri’s friend Beverly. He didn’t give up, although the last year was a constant struggle for him. He was always there for the members and never missed a meeting until the last month of his life.

The impact of his life was evident at his memorial service at the East Bay Community Center [near San Francisco] when both of our Gohonzon rooms were filled to overflowing with SGI members and non-members alike. He had many friends who didn’t even know that others whom they had known for years knew him! It was a great tribute to a great man. You will be greatly missed, Henry, and never forgotten.

— NANJI GAUTHIER, Antioch, Calif.

Sharing Buddhism Naturally

Just a note to thank Reiko Groshell for sharing her thoughts (Feb. 13 “Sign Posts”) regarding her experience of sharing Buddhism with a friend. The morning of the day that issue arrived, I had just made a determination to start sharing this Buddhism with others regularly and did in fact do so that morning.

Since 1990, when SGI President Ikeda made his historic 17-day visit to the United States, many practice-related changes followed. I, like I’m sure many others, went into a phase of trying to figure out just how we were supposed to practice after always being directed what to do. As a result, some of the things we were “told” to do in the past, like propagating this Buddhism, we stopped doing.

I really am so happy for the period from 1990 until now, as rocky and rough as it has been. I’m especially happy because I sense that more people are finally starting to figure out how we should practice — joyfully, willingly, not because someone tells us what to do, but because we’re discovering through our own realizations the correct way to practice.

Ms. Groshell verbalized so well the way I want to tell others about this practice — naturally. My determination is to chant every day to share this practice with others. It feels so different now when I think about sharing this religion with others. In the past, it was out of a sense of obligation, or that if I wanted to overcome a big problem, I should tell others about the practice. While I know that sharing this practice with others will greatly change my karma, now I want to tell people about this practice because it just feels like the natural thing to do. And that feels so-o-o-o good.

— TOBIE MARSH, Vacaville, Calif.

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