

NEWSBRIEFS

Indiana Members Say 'We Are Family'

It was a family affair at the 2nd annual Day of Indiana. With the theme "Celebrating Family: The Foundation for World Peace," the diversity of today's family was celebrated in the form of exhibits and performances.

A presentation on the dysfunctional family and a poetry reading were on the program. Displays on topics from interracial family to parent/child relations were also entertaining and informative. A particular standout was an exhibit on families with same-sex partners. Among the many items on display were a photo album from a family with same-sex partners, a video of a same-sex commitment ceremony performed at the Indiana Community Center, and various *World Tribune* clippings that focus on same-sex issues.

As with many SGI-USA activities, the preparation was joyful but not necessarily easy. "The process was illuminating, especially in the way it helped me to strengthen bonds with fellow members," said John Fox, who worked on the display concerning families with same-sex partners. The committee members started out as strangers but ended up knowing a little more about one another other and developing friendships, he said.

And by knowing fellow members better, the movement for world peace becomes a more unified, joyful experience. Just like a family should be.

— GARY RUSSELL, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville Members Support U.N. Association

In their latest support for the United Nations, four SGI-USA members from Jacksonville, Fla., attended the U.N. Association-USA Florida Division Annual Conference held in their city in May and talked about the SGI's activities and vision from local to international levels.

At one session a conference delegate asked the guest organizations — the SGI-USA, AFL-CIO and Catholic Charities — to share causes of special concern to them. The SGI-USA representative mentioned that the Soka Gakkai in Japan is collecting 13 million signatures on petitions for the abolition of nuclear weapons, as well as international efforts to support the Earth Charter. None of the conference attendants had previously heard of the Earth Charter, so the SGI-USA representative delivered information packets about it the next day.

— ANDREW BRUCK & NICK ALEXANDER, *Correspondents*