

NEWSBRIEFS

Northern Calif. Members Work for PEACE

For the second year, SGI members participated in Hayward Pride activities through PEACE (People Engaged in Action for their Community and Environment). The city of Hayward, just across the bay from San Francisco, annually sponsors a week of activities promoting volunteerism, which culminated in citywide events on Saturday, May 30. SGI members participated in renovating the landscape at the Family Resource Center. Volunteers trimmed shrubs, removed underbrush, collected garbage, tilled soil and planted flowers and three cherry trees. After the work was done, volunteers from throughout the city met for a barbecue.

— *LINDA WELLS, correspondent*

Culture Festival Celebrates Ethnic Diversity

A cultural friendship fair sponsored by the SGI-USA student group at the University of California, Irvine, was held at the university's Aldrich Park on Sunday, July 26. More than a thousand people attended. Christina Shea, mayor of the City of Irvine, opened the event, welcoming participants on behalf of the city. She also presented SGI-USA General Director Fred M. Zaitso with a proclamation declaring July 26, 1998, as SGI-USA Cultural Friendship Day.

In addition to performances by members of local ethnic communities, many dignitaries from religious and ethnic organizations throughout Orange County were introduced. Children participated in activities including face painting, games and arts and crafts. Local artists displayed their works.

— *KATE LLEWELLYN, correspondent*