

NEWSBRIEFS

San Diego Taiko Drummers Make the Scene

The SGI-USA Taiko Drummers joined musicians from around the United States on Sept. 10 and 11 in San Diego's Street Scene Festival, held in the historic Gaslamp District.

Colleen Griffin, a new addition to the group, was proud to represent the SGI. "When we play," she said, "I feel like we're showing them freedom; helping them to truly feel free."

"The support of the members and leaders," drummer Hope White said, "as well as the process of preparing for the event, deepened my faith much more than simply performing. The playing created a unity between us in a way that hadn't existed nearly as much before."

Natalie Creek, the group's leader, said: "For this activity, I was forced to challenge and overcome my internal obstacles. It forced me to have a newfound confidence in my daimoku."

— ALESANDRA RAIN

Golden Eagle Bagpipe Band Takes Flight Again

Back in the '70s and '80s, on any given Sunday morning, the powerful sounds of Scottish pipes could be heard rehearsing in Los Angeles. This July, Golden Eagle Bagpipe Band members held a meeting at the Santa Monica Community Center that was both a reunion and a kickoff. The formerly all-men band opened its doors to new members from all four divisions and also agreed to expand its repertory to include an innovative mix of jazz and traditional Scottish tunes.

A few weeks later, band members participated in South Pasadena's Ostrich Parade.

— EMILE BARTRUM

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