

NEWSBRIEFS

Parenting Workshop Held at Los Angeles Friendship Center

Dr. Cornel West, who has written numerous books on the plight of urban families, and Dr. Sylvia Hewlett, founder of the National Parenting Foundation, led a workshop on “Parenting Techniques in the Next Millennium” at the Los Angeles Friendship Center, Oct. 24.

The workshop, the first community event to be held at the new center, was attended by parents of more than 200 middle-school children in urban Los Angeles. Dr. West and Dr. Hewlett introduced a study they have written together, *The War on Parents*, which outlines many of the challenges facing parents today.

The event was sponsored by LA Bridges, a citywide project now in its second year, which is working to develop and support innovative approaches toward combating the serious problems of delinquency and gang involvement by Los Angeles youth. LA Bridges is focusing on youth between the ages 10 and 14, and is emphasizing youth achievement, strong families and community action.

Los Angeles Students Meet

On Oct. 24, the student division sponsored the Los Angeles–Wide Student Division Welcome Meeting at the Los Angeles Friendship Center. Around 80 students who are currently attending colleges or universities in the Los Angeles area participated.

The meeting included an experience and determination from a brand new member, Montez King, a Pasadena City College student who has been practicing for eight months. He talked about how he was finally able to find his true mission in life and overcome struggles with his family through sincerely dedicating himself to SGI-USA activities.

Participants also enjoyed “The Song of Human Revolution” sung a cappella by a student from Santa Barbara, Mario Perez. The core of the meeting, though, was the small group discussions; the participants discussed the question “For what purpose do we acquire knowledge?”

— SEJI TAKAKU