

SPIRIT OF CONTRIBUTION FROM GENERAL DIRECTOR ZAITSU

I extend my best regards to all the readers of the *World Tribune*. Thank you for your sincere efforts for world peace by striving to win in your daily lives while encouraging those around you. Your support and dedication to American kosen-rufu is appreciated.

Recently, I attended the opening of the New England Culture Center in Waltham, Mass., outside Boston. It was inspiring to see how a large, dark and awkward building, was transformed into a bright, warm and beautiful castle for kosen-rufu through the effort and dedication of the New England membership. The members' pride and joy permeated the entire building, revealing their desire to produce an edifice suitable for spreading the Law.

President Ikeda says it is the ordinary SGI members who have developed kosen-rufu until today. As children of the Buddha, they are most respectable. When we cherish each member, the kosen-rufu movement will continue to advance and flourish.

Watching this building's transformation confirmed my conviction that when members' dedicated actions for kosen-rufu couple with financial contributions, magnificent results can be achieved.

I deeply appreciate the SGI-USA members' sincere financial support. Of course, this New England Culture Center is just one example of how everyone's contributions beautifully flourish throughout the organization. We currently have 70 community centers and culture centers throughout the United States. As the American kosen-rufu movement develops, I am sure that the number of facilities for kosen-rufu will continuously increase.

Nichiren Daishonin sincerely praises and appreciates his believers' heartfelt monetary and material offerings to the Buddha and for the sake of the Law. In one letter he states,

"Whether you chant the Buddha's name, recite the sutra or merely offer flowers and incense, all your virtuous acts will implant benefits and good fortune in your life" (MW-1, 4).

From this, we are able to understand the spirit of offering that is totally dedicated to protecting the Law and Nichiren Daishonin. There is not a hint of expectation that material reward or benefit will result. Yet, Nichiren Daishonin consistently assures us that such sincerity is the source of great good fortune.

Spring is fast approaching and once again, we will have the opportunity to participate in our annual commemorative contribution, beginning on April 28 and continuing throughout the month of May. This is to celebrate the establishment of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism on April 28, as well as May 3, Soka Gakkai Day. Especially in recent years, this occasion has become an increasingly joyous tradition in which the entire membership is able to support the important future development of American kosen-rufu.

I feel that this year, 1999, is crucial for solidifying the foundation for the coming

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century and the beginning of a new millennium. In this way, I encourage everyone to find great significance in this upcoming commemorative contribution. I hope as many members as possible can participate and share in the great joy and realization that each person is the main, driving force for American kosen-rufu. I am praying for everyone's continued good health and fortune. Once again, thank you very much!

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