

## THE FINE PRINT

### Greetings

To the St. Lucia members —

I was a medical student in St. Lucia for a few semesters, and although I did not get a chance to attend meetings an hour and a half away very often, I want them all to know how beautiful I found their spirit and how refreshing their daimoku. I want to thank Martha and Littleton especially, as well as all those whose faces are clear to me, if not their names.

I was encouraged and inspired and must say that I could feel President Ikeda's presence in the meetings I attended. The purity and struggle I witnessed will remain with me as a beautiful stroke in the watercolor painting of my Buddhist experience. I know many there are fighting hard, both inner demons and outer. But I know they are sure to win in each of their daily lives because they possess sincerity. The young men's division is so strong there!

Thank you, St. Lucian members, for all your efforts and dedication, something which many will never know, but which the universe can never fail to reward. — Dianne DeKeyser, El Paso, Texas

I recently attended the "Happiness in this World" conference at FNCC. I went on the Everglades tour and had a fabulous time. Our Airboat captain was Gorilla. All he kept telling us was how much he "LOVED SGI." Toward the end of the ride he told us why. His daughter had been born with three holes in her heart and some other life-threatening complications. The doctors went so far as to tell him not to get attached to her. He had the doctors try an operation. The doctors said that even if she survived the operation, recovery would take at least six to nine months and then there were no guarantees.

Gorilla has been the Airboat captain for most of the SGI Everglades tours, so people are always telling him about the practice. He said that he told some members about his daughter and they said that they would chant for her and taught him how to do the same. His daughter recovered in about six weeks and is doing wonderfully. Gorilla has a message for those members who chanted for him and his family: "Thanks from the bottom of my heart. I love you all." — Gorilla

I was so encouraged and touch by his story. He proved to me that this Gohonzon works for ALL HUMANKIND. I determine to tell everyone I can about chanting. Whether they practice or just say Nam-myoho-rence-kyo one time, it is truly the cause they make that matters. Thank you. — Bryant Williams

P.S. See you at FNCC soon.

We are snowbirds who winter in south Florida. One thing we always look forward to is New Year's World Peace Gongyo at the Florida Nature and Culture Center. It gets better year by year.

Arriving at the Culture Center, we were welcomed by sunny skies and a mid-70 degree temperature unlike any other place in the USA on that, the first day of the new year.

The hour and a half program was virtually flawless. We want to commend all the performers: the four piece string ensemble; the singing group, Global Voices; the Miami Dance Group; the Miami Music Group (orchestra); the youth performing "Wild People;" and the joyful singing and participation of the boys and girls. It must have been quite an undertaking to manufacture the paper dragon the boys and girls held over their heads as they marched throughout the auditorium.

Everything moved according to schedule due to the splendid work of the emcee, who also asked

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“Buddhist” type questions to people in the audience chosen at random. All questions were answered correctly by design. One question comes to mind: “Who was the founder of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism?”

All the people involved, performers and the behind the scenes people who put the whole thing together, are to be congratulated for the valuable time and effort they devoted to this wonderful program. Months of hard work and planning had to have been done by many people who have busy schedules of their own.

These two snowbirds so far away from home are certainly grateful for the opportunity to start 1999 in such an uplifting way. Thank you. — Dale and Kathy Anderson, 1711 South Shore Dr., Portage, MI 49002 / Winter residence: Hobe Sound, Fla.

## **Congratulations**

To our friends in the SGI in New Jersey and New York: We have moved to Seattle and practice in the Thornton Creek District. Our son, Griffin Thomas King, was born at Swedish/Ballard Hospital in Seattle, Wash., at 2:46 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, 1998. He weighed in at 6 pounds 11 ounces. We are blessed with this new addition to our family and thank you for the kind thoughts, prayers and generousities you have shown us on Griffin’s behalf. We look forward to all the joys and challenges that our new life will bring. — Michael, Glyde and Griffin King, Seattle

## **Milestones**

Tom, we shared the same birthday, many of them together, and oh, what fun we had. We were alike in many ways, but not in every way. You taught me things I didn’t know, I showed you things you couldn’t see. We were never family in name, but we were always family in heart. And I will miss you from my life, but never forget you because you will always be a part of my life. You touched so many, Tom DeSimone, and made a difference in so many lives, especially mine. Your best friend, Cynthia Fiducia, New York City

Steve Kistler, who practiced in Olympia, Wash., and Evanston, Ill., passed away on Feb. 9, 1999. Steve was a gifted and prolific musician and a man capable of great sensitivity and kindness. It was Steve who midwived me into my practice by introducing me to the organization though he was not yet a member himself. He gave many of us a lot to chant about, but was also a tender and gentle friend. “Every drop of sweat shed for the sake of art adds to the river of human peace and culture. I pay respect to artists several times, tens of times more than I do politicians of those in the economic sector” (President Ikeda). — Marybeth Goodrich McCarthy <suneyewoman@hotmail.com>

## **Lost and Found**

I am looking for Beverly Corpus who used to practice in Beverly Hills. Are you out there? Haven’t been in touch with you for several years and would love to hear from you. Hope all is well with you. Please call, e-mail or write me if you get this. Kirsten Ator (718) 788-1048. 222A Prospect Park West Brooklyn, NY 11215. kirator@aol.com

Desperately seeking LaWanda Cavallo who practiced in Kent, Ohio, until 1997. Your Kent Group really misses you, especially Jazsma, my mom and I. — Ann Perry (330) 297-4472 517 Clinton St. Ravenna, OH 44266

I am looking for any members in Richmond, Va., to help my wonderful cousin to practice. She just started chanting and needs a sponsor to encourage her, find her discussion meetings, and to teach her gongyo! If you can help, please contact me at LauraRecht@aol.com. Thanks!

I am searching for Teresa Fosque. She and I practiced in YWD and Byakuren together in Baltimore, Md., about four or five years ago. However when I moved, we lost touch with each other. Teresa then moved to Atlanta and I to Virginia. Teresa was my headquarters leader and a good friend. Teresa girl, if you get this message, please e-mail me at rnharvey@yahoo.com because I sure do miss chatting with you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wanted: *Lectures on Buddhism*, vol. 1, by Daisaku Ikeda, 1961. Please respond to August March, 37 Central Ave. Ravena, N.Y. 12143. Thank you.

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