

SAN FRANCISCO GETS INVOLVED IN HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE

The passionate voice of Grammy nominee and SGI member Roberta Donnay soared through the high rooms of San Francisco's Bahai'i Faith Center on March 27. The words to her song "One World" seemed an answer to the question "How can ordinary citizens build a culture of peace and eliminate the root causes of war in the 21st century?"

The occasion was an orientation for San Francisco Bay Area organizations and interested individuals, including several members representing SGI-USA, who are committed to advancing The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference. The international conference, which marks its centennial this year, will be held May 11–15 in the Netherlands.

The 1st Hague International Peace Conference, organized by Czar Nicholas II of Russia and the queen of the Netherlands in 1899, was the first-ever international conference to focus on world peace. In his 1999 Peace Proposal (coming in the May *Living Buddhism*), SGI President Ikeda expresses his support of HAP's international campaign to bring civil society together with governmental organizations in order to define and take the next steps toward a more peaceful new century.

HAP involves young people at every stage. Fred Duperrault of the Action Coalition for Global Change awarded a HAP scholarship on March 27 to 19-year-old SGI-USA member Alex Bardales, a Santa Rosa Junior College student, so that he can attend the Netherlands conference.

Yasuko Ikeda, a HAP member and member of SGI-USA's Youth Peace Committee, and Patty Duggan, also an SGI member, both described the importance at the orientation of follow-up discussion activities, large and small, to explain HAP to the community at large. A subsequent planning session was held at the San Francisco Culture Center.

— DONNA PARTEN