

THAI AND CAMBODIAN MEMBERS MEET IN SANTA ANA

It was no ordinary meeting. The more than 70 Los Angeles and Orange County Thai and Cambodian members who met at the Santa Ana Community Center on March 14 heard a rags-to-riches experience, an impression of the joy of visiting the Florida Nature and Culture Center, that there is no greater happiness for human beings than chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, and that a mission is something we create and determine on our own.

The meeting was topped off with an international buffet and many sounds of joy and laughter. Many of the women had stayed up all night cooking their countries' traditional foods for the buffet.

"There are so many people out there in trouble or very unhappy who need to go to the FNCC, who need this Buddhism," said Charlie Janlekha, as he shared his story of visiting the FNCC and the determination to introduce his friends to the practice that he strengthened there. "People have so much trouble today — drugs, alcohol, divorce, crime — society is very mixed up. People have no place to turn. We've got to help them, before it's too late. The only way we can is by introducing them to this Gohonzon!"

— JOSEPH GRONER