

SOUTH BAY MEMBERS TAKE ENTRANCE EXAM IN ENGLISH

A single page of the *World Tribune* took her a week to read — even though she was at the advanced study level. But Asako Cooper decided to take the April 25 Entrance Exam in English anyway, basing her decision on the women's division motto for 1999, "Breaking Through the Barriers of Our Own Limitations."

"For a long time, I couldn't speak English," says Asako. "For the exam, Japanese people got together for one or two hours. We couldn't understand the questions. Each time we met, we took a long time looking up each word. But after the exam, I remembered a lot of them. Now I read the *World Tribune* more than before."

The South Bay Area (especially districts in Torrance and Gardena, Calif.) consists mostly of Japanese-speaking members — many at the advanced level of study. However, as Kazuko Yoshida explains: "We cannot really explain Buddhism to Americans. I really feel bad about that." So, with fellow Japanese speakers in North Torrance, she studied together with American members, putting the focus on English, as they tried to answer the Entrance Exam sample questions.

Another South Bay member who took the exam in English, Naomi Sato, says that "my main purpose in taking the exam was to learn Buddhist terms in English and utilize the knowledge for future efforts to introduce people to this practice. We have a hard time explaining terms to Americans. We all had a good time. It's a golden memory for us."

— MARIANNE WINFIELD