

## VALUE CREATION EXPLORED AT 3RD ANNUAL DAY OF INDIANA

Day of Indiana III, dubbed “Creating Value for a Hopeful Future” in honor of Soka Gakkai founder Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, was held on Makiguchi’s birthday, June 6, in Indianapolis. After Gloria Velasquez revealed plans for a daimoku quilt, SGI-USA Senior Vice General Director Guy McCloskey stressed the importance of recognizing that everyone’s life has value and respecting everyone’s differences.

Following Mr. McCloskey’s speech, a flute performance of “Part of Your World” from *The Little Mermaid*, performed by Evan Kang, was among the entertainment highlights. Also moving was the song “Miss Tambourine” by Ann Marie from Chicago, which reflected her experience of teaching music to preschool children in an area filled with drugs, poverty and despair.

On a lighter note, a skit based on the TV program *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* was presented. Gary Russell, as Buffy, learned about value creation and the mentor–disciple relationship from her mentor, Makiguchi, played by John Fox.

In a pivotal scene, Buffy learned that value creation requires action and that being an SGI member is not like “punching a clock.” “A job you can quit,” Makiguchi explained, but “a mission is inescapable.” The entertainment portion of the activity ended with an audience participation song led by James Ryan and Betty Klein that was derived from the Chumbawumba tune “Tubthumping” (I get knocked down / But I get up again).

One display, constructed by Yukari Fukuta, was a colorful collage of Indiana members past and present. Another exhibit highlighted the three Soka Gakkai presidents. All in all, the message was that value creation is more than a slogan or catch phrase: It’s what all of us must do in order to have a better, hopeful 21st century.

— GARY RUSSELL