

NEW ENGLAND CULTURE CENTER HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

“Where are they all coming from?” someone asked. “There are people everywhere.” The New England Culture Center’s June 27 open house attracted citizens of Waltham, SGI members, their families, friends and acquaintances. Bringing the excitement up another notch, former members of SGI-New England, now living elsewhere, took advantage of the occasion to drop in on old friends in faith in their new home.

First-time visitors, including many neighbors who remembered the building from one or more of its former uses — wrestling arena, playhouse, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers meeting place, etc. — availed themselves of guided tours through the large building. Others went directly into the auditorium and viewed the exhibits highlighting the many levels of activities sponsored by the SGI. Also, in a room flanking the auditorium, children created a “peace garden” and a “peace tree” — a live tree to which children attached construction-paper leaves, on which their determinations were written. What really captivated onlookers was the sight of preteens guiding the efforts of their juniors in creating the garden and tree.

The day’s central activity, the planting of a plum tree, took place in midafternoon. During the tree-planting, the announcement was made that the Massachusetts House of Representatives had issued a proclamation designating June 27, 1999, SGI Day in the Commonwealth.

— *FLETCHER DALTON*