

## OPEN HOUSE HELD AT EAST LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY CENTER

On a beautiful, sunny Saturday, the East Los Angeles and La Puente areas held their first open house at the East Los Angeles Community Center in La Puente. The 1,300 SGI-USA members, friends and neighbors who attended the five-hour celebration were greeted by brightly colored yellow, blue and red welcome banners. The community center's large front lawn served as the site for a stage and booths that featured the arts and crafts talents of the members, plus various games and face painting.

Several community groups, including Asians For Miracle Marrow Matches, the local Sheriff's Department and the Department of Social Services, also manned booths.

The lively performances showed the great diversity of the area. Beginning with the Boys and Girls Chorus and ending with a Chinese dragon dance, the performances included Korean drummers, Peruvian dancers, Philippine tinikling, Japanese dancers, the America Rainbow Chorus, the Pearl Chorus and lots of laugh-inspiring clowns. Inside the community center, a display of SGI activities helped guests find out more about the SGI-USA.

Planning for the event began months earlier, with the goal of reaching out to the community that has been the community center's home for 14 years. This outreach began more than two years ago, when the local organization began to support the City of West Covina's 75th anniversary celebration that was held last June. Many local leaders, including two mayors, attended the open house to thank the members for being such good citizens.

— LILY BABA