

CELEBRATING DR. PAULING'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND HEALTH

Adrienne Noe, Ph.D., director, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C.; member of the Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory Committee: “The opening of the exhibit ‘Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century’ is truly a celebration. It celebrates the creativity, devotion and service of Soka Gakkai International for making tangible Dr. Pauling’s deep commitment to peace and health.

“It celebrates the Pauling family and its foresight and generosity in contributing so meaningfully to this nationally shared exhibition. It celebrates the Oregon State University’s abiding promise to safely care for the Pauling treasures while promoting an international understanding of his contributions to modern science and its place in the modern world.

“And finally, by hosting the exhibition in the nation’s capital, it celebrates the missions and heritage of the National Museum of Health and Medicine of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. We will be able to share it with the city, the region and the nation by hosting it at our museum and pairing it with programs jointly sponsored by the many organizations that contributed to the exhibition.

“I was particularly moved by the words of Mr. Daisaku Ikeda, president of SGI. Through the presentation of Mr. Kenji Yoshigo, vice president of SGI, Mr. Ikeda reaffirmed SGI’s commitment to the ideals his members share with Dr. Pauling, particularly those that describe how the 21st century will be a time of life, with health and happiness intertwined.

“Clearly, the entire SGI organization is a manifestation of those ideals—collaboration among generous, devoted people with a vast array of skills, interests, and sensitivities working together to share Dr. Pauling’s views and the tenets of SGI. We, too, have a commitment to understanding health and sharing expressions of that understanding with our visitors. So it is an honor to work with SGI in this important undertaking and [we] look forward to more collaborations in the future.”

Linus Pauling Jr., M.D., son of Linus Pauling; permanent member of Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory Committee: Asked what message his father and he would send to Washington, D.C., through this exhibit and what is the piece in the exhibit that best captures his father’s spirit, Dr. Pauling replied: “My father’s thought was that scientists have an obligation to get involved in political and social issues; since they look for the ‘truth’ in their research they should also speak the truth on social topics.

“That’s why my father today would be very disappointed about the vote that took place last week at the Senate, where the Nuclear Global Test ban Treaty was rejected. It’s a shame that there is no one like my father today to publicize the dangers of abandoning this Treaty. So today and also through this exhibit, he would encourage the scientific community to speak out and to take a stand, and he would remind the politicians that it’s time that they put the welfare of our nation and of the people at the top of their agenda.

“To me the images and the words that best capture my father’s spirit are the ones that recount his appearing in 1960 in front of the Senate internal security subcommittee, where he had to answer questions about his ‘communist’ activities and his participation in the cir-

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ulation of the 1957 petition calling for a ban on nuclear testing. Even though threatened with imprisonment, he refused to give the names of the people who helped distribute the petition.”

Dr. Isabella L. Karle, Naval Research Laboratory: “The exhibit was done very professionally. The photography was very well chosen to show Pauling’s family life—his children, and grandchildren—how important family was to him. It was also nice to see his place of work.

“It reminded me of the time when I started in science, except that his computer was better than mine! —but he was a professor and I was just starting out. I received my doctorate in Ann Arbor from Linus Pauling’s first graduate student, so Dr. Pauling would come to visit. I knew enough about him that I wasn’t surprised by anything in the exhibit, but to see the photos pleased me because it brought back images from the past.”

Linda Pauling Kamb, daughter of Linus Pauling; permanent member of the Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory committee: “It’s very appropriate that an organization like the SGI, which is so connected to peace for all, is co-sponsoring this exhibit, along with Oregon State, my father’s alma mater. And our family is delighted that we could all bring this wonderful exhibit to Washington, D.C. It is also significant that it is being presented at the National Museum of Health and Medicine at Walter Reed Hospital because my father was very involved in health sciences both early in his life when he made the first discovery of a molecular disease, sickle cell anemia, and in his later work in the nutrition field.”

Dr. Jerome Karle, chief scientist, Laboratory for the Structure of Matter, Naval Research Laboratory, Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1985; member of the human rights committee of the National Academy of Sciences; member of the Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory Committee: “I have always admired Linus Pauling as a scientist—especially for the major legacy he left on understanding structural chemistry—and as a man: He was a great example of a human rights activist. On a more personal level, I had a connection with him because I was a student of a professor who was one of the first students to write his thesis with Pauling.

“I think the exhibit is great. I think it states in a way that lay people can almost understand what it is Linus Pauling did. It humanizes him as a great scientist. It shows that great scientists can be great human beings.

“It covers the various subjects that interested him. For the purposes of the exhibit, it covers him very well, and I think if young people come, there’s a good chance that some would be stimulated to follow a career in science. What is also very good is that his major efforts toward peace, more basically, for human rights, have been emphasized. For young people to become interested in human rights could only make them better people.”

Professor Warner Love, Department of Biophysics, Johns Hopkins University: “I liked the exhibit. I think what’s really good is that it brings out the nonscientific activities of Dr. Pauling. He stood up to the McCarthy witch hunts. He had a lot of guts. That was a very important part of this man. Also, one of the things the pictures show is his exuberance in his teaching. He taught freshman chemistry—he wouldn’t let anyone else teach it! Big shots usually teach fancy chemistry!”

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G. Terry Shar-er, Ph.D., curator, Health Sciences, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution; member of the Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory Committee: “In a couple of months will be the first clinical trial to fix a molecular disease. The first time you will find any mention of a molecular disease was 1949—and it’s called sickle cell anemia, a molecular disease—by Linus Pauling. That was 50 years ago.

“Finally, we are coming to the point that the idea that he had—which originated when he had a cold and was lying in bed and drew molecules on a piece of paper—is about to change history. If it works, it will be the first time medicine has cured a disease at its point of origin. You sometimes wonder what one person can do. Linus Pauling is the story of what one man’s mind can achieve. He also demonstrated the scientist’s responsibility to society.

“My best day as a Smithsonian employee was sitting on Dr. Pauling’s porch and hearing him talk about his life. It means a great deal to me personally. My mother had just been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. He would call me after that to see how she was doing. He means a lot to me because he was personally interested in my struggle.”

Franklin C. Salisbury Jr., president, National Foundation for Cancer Research: “This is a wonderful exhibit because it focuses on and illuminates the significance of basic science research and the hope and promise such research—and scientists like Linus Pauling, who dedicated his life to basic science—gives to mankind. This hope and promise too often goes unnoticed and unappreciated, because there *is* hope and promise.”

Wallace Warfield, clinical faculty, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.: “It’s marvelous that SGI is one of the sponsors of the Pauling exhibit. One recognizes that many spiritual movements can become very introverted. But this exhibit is one way that SGI can get out and make itself known. Through seeing this exhibit, people can become more comfortable with the spiritualism of the SGI movement. SGI can take its message to people through this medium in a way that they can identify with and not be frightened by the spiritual aspect. SGI’s message to me is that there are many ways that all people can strive for peace. Everyone has a message of peace within himself and it needs to be brought out.

“I have been to the local community center and I was first struck by the diversity of the membership, and that has been a lasting impression. I was also struck by the intensity of faith of ordinary people, which I could see just from the chanting, and the environment. People could express the SGI message in whatever way that they feel comfortable. I have been particularly impressed with the young people—they were there because they wanted to be, they weren’t brought there kicking and screaming. The spirit of the SGI has to be captured!”

Dr. Jane Hurst, professor of philosophy and religion, Galludet University, Washington, D.C.: When asked what she would say to young people who wonder why they should even think about global issues or act on really big scale initiatives, Dr. Hurst replied: “It seems to me that you can’t support thinking that you live in isolation anymore. It’s pretty clear we live in a time when diversity and human interaction is at its peak, I think, in human history, unless there’s something way, way back we don’t know about. You can’t live in isolation. You need to be a global citizen. You have to look at the Earth as one thing which we all share. So everything that you and I do affects the Earth that we

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live on. I see that not only in a sort of material sense about pollution and use of resources, but I think it applies to our attitude towards one another and our kindness and our acceptance and our support of one another.

“I feel that Dr. Pauling’s work for peace is very clearly in that vein. It’s actually given me some hope because this has been a difficult week here in the States. Having our Congress turn down the test ban treaty is a shameful episode, I feel. I’m referring to it as an “episode” because I think it’s something that will be overturned before too long and that we will ratify this treaty and that the goodness of human beings will triumph. To see Dr. Pauling’s work and his life dedicated to that is helping me feel a little better about this issue.”

Washington, D.C., Bureau World Tribune correspondents who wrote interview questions and commentary, collected the impressions, conducted research and took the photographs are: Kathryn Aiken, Rob Hendry, Ron Houghton, Rick Kulick, Lynda McCann Gillman, Robin Meader, Mary Morris, Leanne Nurse, Phyllis Turner-Lawrence, Jocelyn Woodards, Linda Wright, Penny Parker and Nicoletta Nencioli.