

**NOVEMBER 18 CELEBRATED
DAY OF SOKA GAKKAI'S FOUNDING COMMEMORATED NATIONWIDE
'ACHIEVING A LIFE OF VICTORY' IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.**

Scottsdale District commemorated Nov. 18, Day of the Soka Gakkai's Founding, with a meeting held on Nov. 14 that focused on the theme of "Attaining a Life of Victory." District leader Jared Goldman honored the stand-alone spirit of first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makigu-chi and the unshakable mentor-disciple relationship that developed between Mr. Makiguchi and Josei Toda, which continues today between SGI President Ikeda and SGI members.

District members divided into five groups to discuss the SGI organization, health, relationships/family, work and education. At the end of the meeting, representatives of each group summarized the discussions.

Kim Masumi reported for the group that discussed the SGI organization. It was agreed that SGI activities should center on the interests of the members, not the organization. In addition, the organization should use all methods of communication, including modern technology to accomplish that goal.

College student Denise Stinnett, 20, reported on the discussion about work, which focused on how Buddhist philosophy relates to work and how to solve problems. "It's really encouraging to hear people talk about using Buddhist practice in the work force, since having a real career seems so far off to me right now," she said. "I know how to use Buddhist philosophy in school, and it's nice to know I can use the same techniques to tackle problems at work."

What are important for relationships and family, according to group facilitator Carol Ehrenreich, are respect, commitment and communication. Sheethong Ho's group discussed health, the oneness of body and mind, and how prayers work.

The discussion on education centered on how the education system does not have the values it should. "We can still practice Buddhism and chant, and bring the practice in the school to influence the environment," said Jassandra Nanini, 16.

"It was a fantastic success," Jared said of the meeting. "The planning was good, and everybody pulled together beautifully. Every group was active, with members speaking freely. The meeting was a fitting close to the millennium, ushering in the new."

—DIANA DECKER