



**EXPERIENCE:**

Chris Conley sees the benefit of helping others in his first year of Buddhist practice.

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## Pauling Exhibition Opens in Washington, D.C.

Photo by ROB HENDRY



A ribbon-cutting is held at the Oct. 19 opening at the National Museum of Health and Medicine on the campus of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The Linus Pauling exhibition, "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century," opened Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, on the campus of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Subtitled "The Chemistry of Peace," the exhibition's aim is to convey to metropolitan Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas the idea that one person can make a tremendous difference for the good of society by using his or her talent and expertise toward the realization of peace.

Three opening ceremonies were held this week. The opening hosted by the Linus Pauling

Exhibition Advisory Committee on Oct. 19, brought nearly 300 dignitaries and representative SGI members to the museum. There they were inspired by the welcoming words of the sponsors (see SGI President Ikeda's message, page 7), by conversations with one another, and by the life of Linus Pauling as depicted so vividly in the exhibit itself.

A luncheon (see story, page 9) hosted by Representative David Dreier (R-CA) two days later on Oct. 21 at the Longworth House Office Building brought more than 70 academics, elected officials and supporters together. These guests embrace the principles by which Linus Pauling lived and used the occasion of the lun-

cheon to make further connections with each other and further arrangements for visiting the exhibit themselves and encouraging others to see it.

The museum also held, on Oct. 14, a special preview of the exhibition at their annual reception for educators, attended by about 50 local teachers and academics.

The exhibition's subtitle during its Washington, D.C., stay, "The Chemistry of Peace," suggests Pauling's work as a scientist who thought, as his son Linus Pauling Jr., expressed it, "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 say the truth on social topics." The subtitle also suggests the exhibition's venue in Washington, D.C., which is at once the nation's capital where decisions are made about war and peace, and the second largest center for technical research and development in the nation.

Referring to the prior week's Senate vote against the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Linus Pauling Jr., speculated that "my father today would be very disappointed about the vote." If he were here today, says his son, Linus Pauling "would encourage the scientific

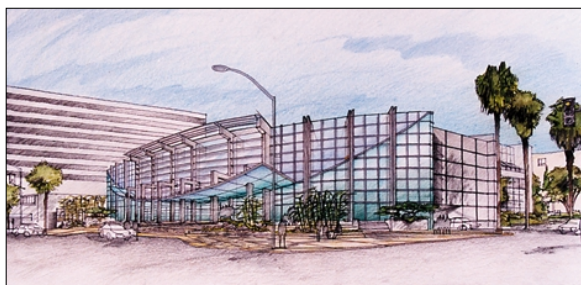
PLEASE SEE PAULING, 6

Photo by ROB HENDRY



The Capitol building in Washington, D.C., where the U.S. Congress meets.

## World Peace Ikeda Auditorium To Get a New Face



The World Peace Ikeda Auditorium in Santa Monica, Calif., is getting a new face! Beginning in spring 2000, the

World Culture Center (located at 525 Wilshire Boulevard), which moved across the street to the SGI Plaza at the end of 1998,

will undergo reconstruction. A blue-green-tinted glass-enclosed lobby, intended to resemble both a globe and a wave

in shape and color, will replace the existing structure. Its unique design by a local Santa Monica architect will make it a signature building within the community and provide a stunning entranceway into the World Peace Ikeda Auditorium.

The reconstruction will also include repairs to and remodeling of the auditorium itself.

The new two-story structure and accompanying landscape will add a graceful note to the design of the 1,100-seat auditorium, as well as to the surrounding community. With its

adjacent conference rooms and translation booths, the auditorium will be available for international, national and some local SGI-USA activities, including cultural events, seminars and symposia. It is anticipated that there will be events of interest to the general public.

Reconstruction of the World Culture Center, which sustained extensive seismic damage in 1994, are expected to last about a year, and a grand opening celebration is slated for May 3, 2001.

—STEPHANIE CELANO

# On the Health of Our Planet

## PERSPECTIVE

By BEVERLY BAGANS

ISLA DE CULEBRA, PUERTO RICO

I welcome the broader discussion of the environmental issues in the pages of the *World Tribune*, something which I have long felt is overdue. I think much more needs to be included in the *World Tribune* in the way of informed opinion and particularly on this vital topic. SGI President Ikeda's support of the Earth Charter process is one indication that these are pressing matters requiring our attention. While I am not a trained biologist, I have done my best to be well informed on a subject that concerns me deeply.

Some personal background: I have a small tree nursery and do horticultural consulting. My home is on the island of Culebra, only about five miles long, lying 20 miles to windward of Puerto Rico. The ferry ride to civilization is long and cumbersome, and the air service is unreliable and expensive, so I'm out of touch with fellow Buddhists other than by phone contact with some sisters in faith. The *World Tribune* and *Living Buddhism* are critical to my understanding and practice of the Daishonin's Buddhism.

As pleased as I was to read the essay on the environment by Frank Hotchkiss in the Oct. 1 issue, I found his tone and emphasis to be off the mark. His characterization of environmentalists as being people nostalgically longing for a sparsely populated world does an injustice to the legions of scientists and citizen activists who are struggling to work out, in theory and in practice, a sustainable interface between our burgeoning humanity and the natural world that supports it.

By some calculations, the homo sapiens population is on a trajectory to pass the 6 billion threshold this month (October) and all thinking people know this crush of humanity isn't going away any time soon, although there are a number of ways we might contribute to our own suffering and in the process carelessly do ourselves out of a habitable planet.

This is not doom and gloom, this is possibility. In the "Rissho Ankoku Ron" (On Establishing the Correct Teaching for the Peace of the Land), when Nichiren Daishonin cautioned



Photo by CHRIS HANSON

The island of Culebra, Puerto Rico.

the leaders of the nation about the dire consequences of flouting the Mystic Law, he did not strike a chirpy note. The repercussions he listed then — famine, disease and war — far from being eliminated in the ensuing centuries, have been escalating right along with our numbers and exacerbated by our ignorance of the ecological effects of our "progress." Wars are fought over limited, natural resources — oil now, water and arable land in the not too distant future. Germplasm of food crops is being commandeered by agribusiness. Does it not behoove us all as perpetrators of pollution, desertification, extinction, and yes, global warming, to take an eyes-wide-open look at these processes and the role we play in them?

Buddhism as I understand it is not about just cultivating a can-do positive attitude. There is a profound teaching here about our place in the universe. It is the best elucidation I have encountered of the role of humans, embedded as we are in the matrix of life. While we each have to thrash out the details in our own life — and practice to the Gohonzon gives us the wisdom and power to do that — the core teaching expounds cause and effect, which brooks no exception. *Esho funi* — the oneness of life and its environment — is a concept that was ahead of its time. The much heralded notion of sustainability grows from such an understanding.

Soka Gakkai founders Makiguchi and Toda were educators. President Ikeda educates us with his vast repertoire of teachings harvested from worldwide history, literature, culture and science. He encourages us to be well informed, to educate ourselves on matters of vital interest to hu-

manity and to engage freely in dialogue.

Before emotionally throwing ourselves into this fray, it would be helpful to have good information. For instance, the problem of extinction is not just a matter of a handful of species, but rather thousands of species, plant, animal and microbe, that are vanishing for eternity as our kind eliminates their habitat.

Granted, all is not gloom; there are some success stories such as the Mauritius kestrel, which was miraculously brought back to the optimum population the island can support from only four known individuals. But the extinction issue is not just about pandas and seal pups, propping up warm and fuzzy creatures at the expense of human development. Our particular form of life, as well as all species, exists at the sufferance of the web of life with its complex interactions. We come forth from the living universe — dependent origination. Again, Buddhism was explaining this relationship well in advance of the sciences that today seek to unravel the mechanisms of co-evolution and species/habitat interaction.

To say don't worry, they're discovering more oil all the time neglects not only the myriad documented unhealthy effects of hydrocarbon pollution, but the salient fact that no more oil is being created. Such a casual attitude arrogantly assumes that science will come up with a techno-fix in plenty of time, and smacks of "scientism," worship of the techo-god. Topsoil loss, falling water tables, loss of genetic diversity in vital food crops — these problems are not likely to see any quick fixes forthcoming, and the biotech is poised to place us in a new and perhaps irreversible predicament

as genetically modified germplasm escapes into wild plant populations.

One criterion of sustainability is that we not use up resources faster than we replace them. To argue quantitatively, that we have more trees in parts of the U.S. now belies the fact that they are qualitatively different, many being industrial monocultures or depauperated biomes, and ignores the global balance sheet, the larger problem of tropical deforestation, where human cultures are being eliminated along with the plants and animals they rely on.

Another tenet of sustainability is that we not produce wastes faster than they can be absorbed and broken down. Hooray for every local that has been brought to health, but much of the wastes that humans shed end up in the oceans, unseen by all but oceanographers who are alarmed at what their body of data is telling them about temperatures, chemicals, and species.

Environmentalists such as little old me are trying to stimulate dialogue and promote understanding in our communities. Culebra is a small island of great natural richness that is much impacted by development. I'm concerned about the sooty tern colony, the leatherback turtles that nest here and our coral reefs that are becoming weakened and diseased by antropogenic stressors; I also care about the quality of my all-too-human life, the livelihood of the fishermen and the natural heritage of the Culebra people.

Environmentalists engaged in the larger contest are trying to fathom how we're ever going to get away with the growth that mainstream economists tout as the solution to society's problems. The health of our planet is very much bound up with the advance of the transnational

economic juggernaut. There are issues of social and economic justice that need to be worked out if our remaining tropical forests, home to the majority of the Earth's species, are to be saved from decimation, if everyone is to have access to safe water, adequate nutrition and breathable air, if the various human cultures and traditions are not swallowed up and leveled by global consumerism. These are human issues no less than environmental issues, and there are no easy answers. But the right questions must be asked and evaluations made by a well informed public. Solutions will come only by pooling the wisdom of many sciences and disciplines. And only if we look the problems square in the eye and confront these obstacles to the enlightenment of humanity.

Following is a list of suggested reading for those who would like to know more of the facts and some of the recent scientific thinking. Most of them were written by scientists eminent in their fields and all of them make for fascinating reading: *Billions and Billions: Thoughts on Life and Death at the Brink of the Millennium* by Carl Sagan; *The Diversity of Life* by Edward O. Wilson; *Divided Planet: The Ecology of the Rich and the Poor* by Tom Athanasiou; *Dominion* by Niles Eldridge; *The Dying of the Trees: The Pandemic in America's Forests* by Charles E. Little; *The Last Harvest: The Genetic Gamble that Threatens to Destroy American Agriculture* by Paul Raeburn; *Sea Change: A Message of the Oceans* by Sylvia Earle; *The Sixth Extinction: Patterns of the Earth and the Future of Mankind* by Richard Leakey; *The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction* by David Quammen. **WT**

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EXPERIENCE — CHRIS CONLEY, SEATTLE

# Like a River That Shapes the Land

Since Chris Conley began his Buddhist practice just a year ago, he reshaped his entire life.

What a difference a year makes. Exactly a year ago July 25, I received the Gohonzon. At that ceremony, my fellow district members were present to give me support and a standing ovation. A women's division leader said to me that my life would get better and better every year from now on. I simply agreed but didn't fully realize the truth in her words — or the effort that it would take.

Before I started practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, my life had its ups and downs. I felt like my life was in a constant cycle of joy and anger. I couldn't figure out how to stop my negativity and self-doubt. It was as if my life were a scene in a snow globe. I wanted to see my life clearly but didn't realize that I kept shaking things up to hide my life from my own eyes. I was responsible for making the snow cover the scene. When difficult situations arose, my solution was to quit my job and move somewhere else.

A month before receiving the Gohonzon, I determined to do gongyo and chant every morning and evening. I said to myself, "If this is going to be my life, I might as well do gongyo from this day forward until the day I die." And so I have. Within three weeks of that determination, I interviewed and was offered a job on the spot for a full-time position teaching ESL and computers to adult immigrants. It is not easy to find a full-time position teaching ESL. Most jobs are volunteer or part time.

Once at my new position, I realized that I was at a company that had the philosophy that I wanted, but I was put right back into the same situation that I had always run from. I had an oppressive supervisor who harassed anyone who wouldn't support her ideas. By chanting and reading the *World Tribune* and other SGI books, I realized that this was my karma and that I was responsible for attracting

such circumstances. I was sending out messages through my behavior and words.

In the past, I usually worked at my job, got frustrated and moved on. I decided that if I was responsible for this, then I had to change it. I put this Buddhist practice to use by trying to change myself and my decisions, so that I wouldn't run from this situation and that I could gain from it instead.

I made a few goals and determinations. First, I made the determination to stay with this company for at least three years no matter what. This totally changed my focus of problem solving. I couldn't get upset and burn bridges. I had to be positive and maintain a good relationship with everyone at work. I had to develop a sense of commitment and compassion to my company and co-workers like I never had before.

Also, I was determined to develop the trust of my supervisor. If I was going to work here for at least three years, I needed to establish a good relationship with her. Finally, I was determined to change my negative behavior and thoughts by chanting one hour a day and throwing myself into SGI activities. I needed to change my anger, my ego and my selfishness into something positive.

At first it was hard. I found it difficult to fit one hour of chanting and to attend various meetings into my schedule. It wasn't that I didn't have the time, it was mostly my selfish nature to do what I want in the evenings. It was difficult to keep this selfish nature controlled. But I tried to put my faith in the practice first, and trust that it would work just as it had worked for getting my job. I also kept the idea of kosen-rufu in my mind when I felt selfish. Akemi, my girlfriend at the time, taught me that if I do something for the peace and welfare of others, it is a good thing. This helped me to continue chanting and to strengthen my connection to the SGI-USA organization.

As I attended more meetings, I really began to see how the process of creating and carrying out such activities was training for my own human revolution. By going through the struggle of making phone calls, planning activities, creating dis-

plays and carrying out the activities, I was building relationships with wonderful people and training myself to be less selfish and more compassionate toward others. I chanted for people so that they would make it to the activity. I really started to care about the people in my district and to chant for their happiness. I expanded this to other important people such as my family, friends, students and co-workers. I eventually decided that I wanted to chant for my supervisor to be happy.

Slowly things started to change at work. I found many people would come to me to talk about their troubles — even my boss. I put my effort into listening to them and I allowed them to express themselves. Most of the time, while they were talking, they would solve their own problems.

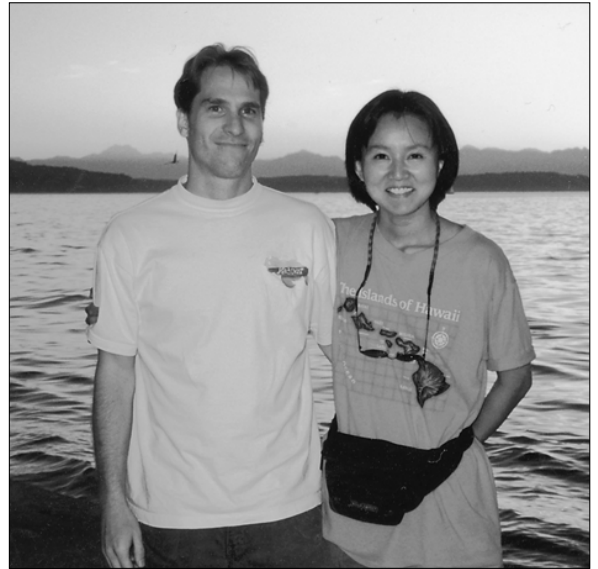
Within six months of being hired (and chanting for my co-workers and supervisor), I was promoted to ESL coordinator, a position that I was determined to create since no one was taking care of these classes and students. Three months later, I was promoted to assistant to the director!

The other day, my boss practiced a speech in front of me. I encouraged her to be positive, to be a role model of what she wanted to change within the company. Afterward, she said that she felt much calmer, more positive. I have gained her trust.

My attitude toward my director changed dramatically during this year. I went from being scared of her and trying to hide from her, to seeing her as a person with a great drive to be the best that she could. Although my boss has her weaknesses, I saw her sincerity, and I can now chant for her at a deeper level.

As a result of my efforts to chant and take action regarding my supervisor and co-workers, I've met two people at work that used to be SGI-USA members. I brought one of these former members to a World Peace Prayer Meeting that was just awesome. She met people that she hadn't seen in 10 years. She even brought her altar out and started chanting and doing gongyo. Two other workers have asked me questions about Buddhism and I've been able to teach them about Nam-myoho-rence-kyo and its meaning.

Definitely the greatest change I've seen in myself through chanting and taking action to change my life is my



Chris Conley with his wife, Akemi, in Seattle.

focus to help people.

I've chanted to have more young men's division in my district. As I've been able to handle more responsibility, they have popped out of the woods to ask questions about Buddhism, attend meetings and learn gongyo. There are now about seven new young men learning to chant in my district, five of whom are in junior high or high school.

I heard on the radio once that many adults don't know or have contact with kids these days, as many couples are choosing not to have kids. That was me. But I wanted to change and to get to know and help the youth in my community. I really want to carry out President Toda's and Ikeda's spirit by raising the youth of this country because they are the future.

Since I feel my mentors' spirits within my heart, I made a new determination to offer any junior high or high school division member my help. On two occasions, I have been called to help with emergency situations. These young men have taught me a lot about the world that they are growing up in. I admire their struggles and applaud their efforts to change their lives. Akemi and I have taken the kids hiking, helped them set up lemonade stands, watched videos together and have visited their homes in order to establish a trusting relationship.

Over the past year, I've received a lot of benefits for my efforts at changing my negative karma: Akemi became my wife; we bought a car to take members to meetings; we bought our first house; I've been promoted twice; my boss is happier; and I have many

great people in my life; and we're going to have a baby. But the greatest benefit is seeing people succeed. While I fight my negative tendencies, I can help others do the same. I may get material benefits, but what gives me goose bumps is seeing others that I've helped become happier. This is the real benefit that I've learned.

My favorite passage from Nichiren Daishonin is: "Suffer what there is to suffer; enjoy what there is to enjoy and continue chanting Nam-myoho-rence-kyo" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 161). These encouraging words tell me that what I may be suffering or enjoying will pass. But gongyo, chanting Nam-myoho-rence-kyo and my faith in them will always give me a sturdy philosophy of life, like a river that shapes the land. **WT**

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## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S OCT. 9 SPEECH

# Passion Is the Proof

**SGI President Ikeda tells students at the Soka schools, 'A life without passion is empty.... Passion is the proof that we are alive.'**

*The following is SGI President Ikeda's speech at the Soka schools' Day of Passion, held in Tokyo, Oct. 9.*

**A**llow me to share some special news: We have invited the soccer team of South Korea's Kyung Hee High School, with which the Soka schools have an exchange program, to come to Japan in January 2000—the opening of the new millennium. The team has accepted our invitation and will play a series of goodwill matches with the soccer teams of the Soka high schools in Tokyo and Kansai. The Kyung Hee High School team is strong. It has even produced Olympic soccer stars.

Incidentally, in 2002, South Korea and Japan will host the World Cup. Cultural exchange among younger generations is most significant.

I hope that the soccer teams of both our Tokyo and Kansai schools will do their best!

The Soka schools are strong in sports and academics alike. They have many active school clubs in both areas. Athletes from the Soka high schools have been selected to represent their respective areas in the National Athletic Meet to be held in Kumamoto Prefecture in Kyushu this month. Ken'ichi Murai of Tokyo Soka High School's track-and-field team will compete in the long jump. Murai already has had the honor of competing in the World Youth Games in Poland this July as the top-ranking Japanese athlete. Congratulations!

Several students from Kansai Soka High School will also compete in the National Athletic Meet as representatives of Osaka Prefecture: Kimiaki Kitagawa and Junji Kitagawa of the rugby team; Shin'ichi Sugiyama, captain of the soccer team; and Makoto Tamari from the track-and-field team, who



Italian soccer superstar Roberto Baggio walks round Tokyo's National Stadium responding to cheers from 50,000 spectators. He won two goals during the first half of a JOMO Cup All-Star soccer match held at the stadium, Oct. 11.

will be in the javelin competition. Congratulations!

Two coaches from our Kansai school have also been selected to coach the Osaka Prefecture kendo [Japanese fencing] and soccer teams for the national championship: Seiichi Kinoshita and Tatsuya Honbo, respectively. Let's give them a big round of applause, too.

I hope all our students will be winners!

The Soka schools have been praised as being among the best in Japan. I ask the teachers of the Soka schools to continue caring for the students as if they were their own children, devoting themselves completely to nurturing these future treasures of the world.

I extend a warm welcome to soccer star Roberto Baggio and his wife, Andreina. On this Day of Passion, what better guest could we have than this passionate, young world hero, Mr. Baggio? In the midst of his extremely busy schedule, he has taken time to visit the Soka schools. I sincerely thank him.

"Soccer is passion!"—this is Mr. Baggio's famous declaration. A passionate person is beautiful, noble and admirable. Mr. Baggio's fierce passion for soccer has captivated not only his fellow Italians but soccer

fans around the world.

A life without passion is empty. Those who lack the passion to accomplish something, living their days by sheer force of habit, are not really alive. Their hearts are dead. Passion is the proof that we are alive.

I have lived to this day burning with passion for my beliefs. I have blazed a trail of victory in the face of countless opponents.

Before coming to Japan this time, Mr. Baggio traveled to Israel to promote peace and friendship. He had the opportunity to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. I have also received an invitation to visit Israel, and Soka University is carrying on exchange with the distinguished Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Soka network of friendship extends around the globe.

Mrs. Baggio, Mr. Baggio's true comrade in life, is the mother of two small children, yet she is also busily engaged in working for the benefit of others, for her community and society at large. My wife and I are deeply impressed by Mrs. Baggio and fully praise her efforts.

**Never forget the gratitude you owe the people who have supported you.**

Mr. Baggio was born on Feb.

18, 1967, the year I founded the Soka schools system—they are the same age. This year Mr. Baggio is 32, the age I was when I succeeded Mr. Toda and became the third president of the Soka Gakkai. The year 2000 will mark the 40th anniversary of that event.

A future of boundless hope awaits Mr. and Mrs. Baggio.

The Soka schools system celebrates its 32nd anniversary this November. Graduates from both the Tokyo and Kansai high schools are today active in a wide variety of fields: education, academia, law, medicine, business and government. Many are also active in the United Nations.

The numbers are so many that I cannot introduce all of them and their activities in the short amount of time we have today. As the founder of the Soka schools system, nothing makes me happier than seeing students play a contributive role in society.

I will continue to pray throughout my life for the growth and success of you, my friends, the Soka schools students.

Mr. Baggio is from a small town in the northern Italian region of Veneto, which has buildings dating back to the Renaissance. He is proud of his beautiful hometown with its rich

history, and though he has become world famous, he still values his warm relationships with the people of the place where he grew up. I hope you will remember this. It is important never to forget the gratitude you owe the people who have nurtured, supported and encouraged you. Please strive to sincerely repay this debt of gratitude. This is the way of a truly humane and victorious life.

Mr. Baggio is the sixth of eight children. At age 9, he joined a soccer team and began pouring all his energy into practicing his favorite sport. I imagine study was much more difficult for him than soccer, for which he has such an outstanding natural gift. One of his junior high school teachers recalls Mr. Baggio's student days with humor, "If textbooks had been round like a soccer ball, he would have become one of the world's great scholars!"

I'm sure Mr. Baggio endured many hardships because he was so involved with soccer—like graduating late, for example. But he was resolved not to be defeated. "In soccer I will never lose!" was his spirit.

And if he suffered a setback, he was determined to win the next time. People with such determination are strong; they are the ones who make progress.

**The bottom line is that life is a struggle.**

When he was 14, Mr. Baggio joined a professional soccer team, where he began to shine like the sunrise. He started to play better and better. At the same time, the intensity of the sport meant that he was often beset by injuries.

Everyone faces obstacles in life. There is no life without them. The only question is whether you are going to lose against those obstacles or fight against them and win? The bottom line is that life is a struggle.

At 18, Mr. Baggio was so severely injured it appeared he would have to retire from professional soccer. For several months, he could barely run. But despite such hardship, he did not give up. He rose again. This kind of determination is truly admirable. It is the key to achieving victory in one's youth.

Mr. Baggio believed in the power deep within his life and summoned all his courage to

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS

lift himself out of the depths of despair. Such is his spirit. Therein we also find the Buddhist perspective, philosophy and way of life.

People for whom everything always goes smoothly run the risk of growing weak, complacent and arrogant. On the other hand, those who overcome some great difficulty or deep suffering — such as a serious illness, bankruptcy or the loss of a parent at an early age — can become victors and true philosophers of life.

That is why undergoing many hardships in one's youth can be a source of good fortune and benefit. The point is to forge invincible strength by never giving in to adversity. Mr. Baggio gained this unbeatable strength in the world of soccer.

#### Persecution is a badge of honor worn by the just.

Because Mr. Baggio has such wonderful athletic ability, and because he has always lived his life in an upright, honest manner, he has constantly been the target of jealousy, envy and criticism. But he and his wife have borne all this with dignity and shown the world a splendid drama of triumph.

A noted philosopher of the East once said that criticism and slander are what test great people. Persecution is a badge of honor worn by the just.

Leonardo da Vinci, the towering genius of the Renaissance, did not allow himself to be defeated by the mean, spiteful plots against him. He fought back bravely. He was one of the most gifted figures of all human history, leaving an eternal legacy in the arts and sciences. The scope of his work encompassed painting, sculpture, music, architecture, medicine and much more.

Soon a magnificent statue of Leonardo will be installed in the main lobby of the Central Tower at Soka University.

#### Working for others is the best way to live.

How did Leonardo draw out such limitless potential? One way was through the efforts he made to master foreign languages and read widely. He could not receive the education he wanted but nevertheless studied everything on his own, including ancient languages. Many of his notebooks survive today, and among them are vocabulary lists with more than 9,000 words from foreign languages. He used this language ability, which he worked so hard to acquire and polish, as a way to open the door to written works,



SGI President and Mrs. Ikeda enjoy a reunion with Roberto Baggio and his wife, Andreina, Oct. 9.

both contemporary and ancient. This reading dramatically deepened his philosophy and art.

Through reading, Leonardo carried on a dialogue with the great thinkers of the past. The time he spent reading was truly pleasurable and fulfilling for him. He chose good books and studied them humbly and thoroughly.

The continuous reading of good books stimulates lively young minds, enabling them to bring forth fresh creativity. Therefore, I hope you will read — read good books, in abundance. I want to see you, the students of the Soka schools, become Leonardos of the 21st century. Always challenge yourselves to read worthwhile books.

I am kept abreast of how frequently the Soka schools' libraries are used. Of the roughly 80,000 books at our Tokyo High School Library, about 14,000 are borrowed each year. That's an average of 7.6 books per student.

Out of approximately 60,000 books at our Kansai High School Library, 20,000 are borrowed each year, an average of 10.9 per student. I have heard that one student at the Tokyo Soka Junior High School checked out and read 29 books during the month of June, Book Month!

Leo Tolstoy was also a voracious reader of works by writers East and West, past and present. One result of his reading was his *Calendar of Wisdom*, a collection of his favorite quotes. One quote was by the 19th-century Italian intellect and advocate of Italian independence Giuseppe Mazzini, who expressed that life is a struggle between good and evil,

justice and injustice, egotism and human solidarity.

Self-centered people only look out for themselves. No one trusts a self-serving person. Working for others in a bond of human solidarity is the right way to live.

#### Great people invariably give their all to their cause.

The co-founder of the think tank Club of Rome, Dr. Aurelio Peccei, with whom I published a dialogue, was a freedom fighter who struggled against the tyranny of Italian fascism during World War II. He made a special trip to Paris to meet and talk with me in 1975, even though a birthday party for his wife was planned for that day. For another meeting, in 1981, he drove from Rome to Florence. Though he was a learned scholar, he was humble and modest.

With tears in his eyes, he recounted his past, telling me how he and his comrades fought valiantly in the Resistance movement during the war, and how, even when he was arrested and sentenced to death, he didn't falter a single step.

We talked for hours, losing track of the time. He also showed a deep understanding of my activities.

How noble it is to follow one's ideals! How shameful it is to betray one's comrades!

The young Resistance fighters of Italy were real heroes. Fifty-five years ago — at just the time Mr. Makiguchi was dying in prison in 1944, a victim of the Japanese militarist government — one of these brave heroes was sentenced to be executed by Italy's fascist

authorities. Just before his sentence was to be carried out, he wrote a last letter to his daughter: "My life is over, but yours is just beginning. Living honestly and having ideals is what makes life worthwhile, along with having the desire to be of use, not just to yourself, but to all humanity.... Your studies are not only for the sake of your future, they are so that you can be of use to people in society.... Do not be defeated by grief.... Take care of your mother for me."

After writing this letter, he was executed.

Great people invariably give

their all to their cause. Lofty ideals cannot be realized without such dedication.

In closing, I hope all of you, students of both the Tokyo and Kansai Soka schools, will pledge to one another to exert yourselves on the field of your mission with energy, purpose and burning passion to the very end, just like Mr. Baggio.

May each of you become a person praised by all as the scorer of winning goals in your respective field in the 21st century! Be good to your parents!

Grazie!

WT

#### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION MEETINGS

## Overcoming a Great Difficulty

### From This Speech:

People for whom everything always goes smoothly run the risk of growing weak, complacent and arrogant. On the other hand, those who overcome some great difficulty or deep suffering — such as a serious illness, bankruptcy or the loss of a parent at an early age — can become victors and true philosophers of life. That is why undergoing many hardships in one's youth is a source of good fortune and benefit. The point is to forge invincible strength by never giving in to adversity.

1. Why do people "for whom everything goes smoothly" sometimes become arrogant?
2. Does this mean that we should seek out hardship so that we won't become arrogant?
3. What, to you, is a great difficulty?
4. How can the experience of overcoming a great difficulty become lasting happiness?
5. How can we remind ourselves of this when we're in the middle of overcoming a great difficulty?
6. What was the greatest difficulty in your life so far?

# 'The Chemistry of Peace'

*Exhibition carries message of hope and peace during its five-month stay in Washington, D.C.*



Photo by RON HOUGHTON

Viewing the exhibition at the National Museum of Health and Medicine.



Photo by ROB HENDRY

Cousins Dr. Donald Jenkins, Washington, D.C., area resident and nephew of Linus Pauling, and Linda Pauling Kamb, daughter of Linus and Ava Helen Pauling, look at a family group photo that includes their mothers.

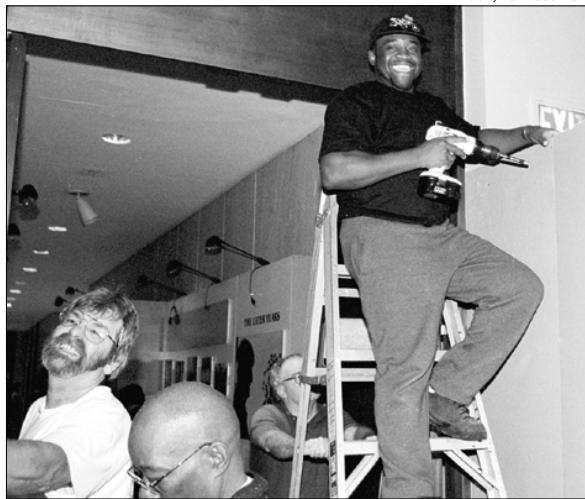


Photo by RON HOUGHTON

(L-r) Bob Engard of Baltimore, Charles Herbert of Washington, D.C., Ralph Matthews of Dover, Del., and Robert E. Lee of Pennsylvania help with preparations.



Photo by RON HOUGHTON

Sandra Davila of Northern Virginia puts finishing touches.

FROM PAULING, I community to speak out and 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."

In remarks at the exhibition's opening, Linus Pauling Jr. paid tribute to the contribution of SGI to the exhibit and noted that Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism "teaches that peace can be achieved by overcoming the basic darkness of life." Later he remarked: "I had the fortune to

meet SGI's president, Daisaku Ikeda. He is a wonderful and very vigorous man; my father learned a lot from him."

Those attending the opening receptions share Linus Pauling Jr.'s wish that the exhibition's message of hope and peace will reach scientists and politicians, and indeed all local citizens, especially young people, during its five-month stay in the city.

The installation of the exhibition has fostered a gratifying degree of cooperation between the exhibition's host—the Na-

tional Museum of Health and Medicine, a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center—and its sponsors: the Pauling Family, Oregon State University and the Soka Gakkai International. The museum has gone out of its way to accommodate the exhibit, from allocating it space that entails covering over existing displays, to including addresses supplied by the SGI in a large annual mailing of invitations to the museum's edu-

cators' reception. Major General Harold L. Timboe from the Walter Reed Army Center graciously remarked that "This institution is most pleased to hold the exhibition here. Linus Pauling was a great humanitarian whose life and work contributed significantly to science and peace. My wife and I had house guests this past weekend, and we brought them here to view the exhibit. Like us, they were very impressed by it."

The opening reception on Oct. 19 was, according to Mary

Jenifer, who served as a hostess, "festive, and a lot of fun." The evening combined festivity and formality. A huge banner with the image of a grinning Linus Pauling tossing an orange into the air was draped above the Museum entrance. Fat orange balloons and pots of brilliant-hued flowers brightened the outside of the building and decorated the inside, where tuxedoed servers stood behind elegant tables offering brimming bowls of whole oranges along with a variety of fresh food. Yet the atmosphere

Photo by ROB HENDRY



Washington, D.C., chorus sings an original song for the opening.

Photo by ROB HENDRY



Friends of the late Dr. Linus Pauling: Advisory Committee members Dr. Arthur Livermore, science education consultant and assistant to the executive director of the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education (left), and Dr. Robert H. Maybury, executive director, International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development, a nonprofit agency.

was warm and familiar as smiling SGI volunteers pitched in to do anything necessary—blowing up balloons, making directional signs pointing to the Museum, driving the special guests from and to their hotels, setting up the sound system, or holding the museum doors for the guests with a friendly smile. Washington, D.C., SGI chorus leader, Mollene Fowlkes, wrote a song especially for the exhibition, which the chorus performed in formal attire.

In her welcome, Adrienne Noe, Ph.D., the museum's director, pointed out several reasons that the museum is "so delighted to host this exhibition in the nation's capital." Noting that Pauling's work was foundational to human genome research and that his public service focused on defending civil liberties and public health, she said: "We share with Linus Pauling the faith that medicine, science and the pursuit of knowledge are cornerstones of a citizen's informed dialogue about science policies now and in the future. This is particularly timely now, as we explore the genome

(which Dr. Pauling helped to make possible) and articulate positions about test ban treaties (as did Dr. Pauling). With only 73 days remaining in Dr. Pauling's 20th century, let us hope that those characteristics that describe the best of science in our times inspire the young scientists of the next century. That, too, is part of our mission, and I am convinced that this important exhibition will help us achieve it."

As the guests left the museum opening, faculty members from local universities—Johns Hopkins University and Montgomery Community College—expressed interest in telling their students about the exhibition, and were delighted to learn they would be mailed exhibition posters that they vowed to display prominently on their campuses.

The Washington, D.C., community has been working hard behind the scenes since summer to prepare for the Linus Pauling exhibition's installation on this third stop of its tour. Pausing in front of a huge packing crate during the exhibition

#### SGI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON THE EXHIBITION'S OPENING

## The 21st Century Must Be a Century of Life

Dr. Adrienne Noe and the other distinguished representatives of the National Museum of Health and Medicine; Dr. Linus Pauling, Jr., and all the members of the Pauling Family; Dr. Orcilia Forbes; Dr. Bruce Albert; Dr. Mary Good; Dr. Rita Colwell; distinguished members of the Advisory Committee; Ladies and Gentlemen; Friends:

It is a great pleasure to be able to celebrate with you the opening of the "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" exhibition in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States of America.

It was my honor to have known Dr. Pauling in the last years of his life, as we engaged in a dialogue that was eventually issued in published form. During the course of our meetings, I was struck by the sense that each word and phrase spoken by Dr. Pauling resonated with a powerful significance for the future. As we shared our visions of the future, we found that we agreed fully on this point: that the 21st century must be a century of life, defined as one in which greater attention will be paid to human beings and their happiness and health.

Human health and happiness were indeed the noble values to which Pauling dedicated his life. This is reflected not only in his important scientific and medical contributions, but also in his relentless efforts for peace, for the banning of nuclear tests and the abolition of nuclear weapons. These commitments were the natural outgrowth of Dr. Pauling's dedication to the cause of health—the health of all humankind, the health of our planet.

In this sense, it is hard to imagine a more fitting site for this exhibition than the National Museum of Health and Medicine. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt respect and appreciation to Dr. Adrienne Noe, Director of the Museum, and all those who have supported the realization of this exhibition at this venue.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being." This comprehensive understanding of health actually relates importantly to the original inspiration of Buddhism. Buddhism grew, as a philosophical system, from the fundamental question of how humans can, in their physical, spiritual, and social dimensions, confront and overcome suffering—the sufferings of living, of aging, of illness, and finally of death and dying. It was thus quite natural that Dr. Pauling, as a great scientist, and myself, as a Buddhist, should concur on the overarching importance of protect-

ing and enhancing the health of humankind and of Earth. When Dr. Pauling acted as a commentator for a lecture I once gave at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California, he expressed his strong sympathy for the Buddhist ideal of the Bodhisattva; that is, an altruistic way of life dedicated to the happiness and welfare of others.

From the Buddhist perspective, health is certainly more than the mere absence of disease or infirmity. Rather, health indicates the capacity, even while struggling against illness or other burdens, to continue to meet those challenges and to live creatively throughout the course of one's life. This kind of creative way of life, transcending sufferings and hindrances, is essential to a life of genuine health.

In this sense the example of Dr. Pauling and Mrs. Ava Helen Pauling offers a testament to a life of authentic health, more eloquent than any scientific theory. For they were able to turn harassment and persecution into the impetus for advancement, as they brought their extraordinary resources of wisdom and courage to bear on the quest for human health and happiness.

It is my conviction that to learn from the life of Dr. Pauling, and to share it with others, is for all of us, and in particular for young people, the highest form of humanistic peace education. It was this conviction that inspired me in first proposing the holding of this exhibition to Dr. Pauling.

The reception of this exhibition at its previous venues in San Francisco and Los Angeles was extremely encouraging, evidencing the extent to which the citizens of those cities responded to its core message.

Truly, it gives me great pleasure to imagine the joy with which Dr. Pauling would have greeted the sight of his values being conveyed from America to the world, from the present into the future. In my mind's eye, I picture his warm smile, the rosy tint of his cheeks, lit by the flame of inquiry and seeking for truth, which burned brightly in him to the very last.

I would like to close by offering my pledge to continue working for the realization of the ideals to which Dr. Pauling dedicated his life, and by extending my best wishes for the well-being of all our friends in attendance and for the further flourishing of the individuals and institutions who have provided their support to this exhibition.

*Daisaku Ikeda, President,  
Soka Gakkai International  
October 19, 1999*

setup, Sandra Prophet of Capitol Hill pointed out that the reason so many local SGI volunteers had rushed to support the exhibition is that they have been longing to work on a "big movement" that unites many people to support a project that benefits the community.

The exhibition is indeed big. It is an educational feast for the mind, eyes and heart. And the "movement" from now on is to help as many people as possible make the connection with this great American's life and works. Linus Pauling will take it from there.

The exhibition is scheduled to stay in Washington, D.C., through March 4, 2000. Beginning on the date of Linus Pauling's birthday in 2002, it will be displayed permanently at Oregon State University.

—ROBIN MEADER, with help from  
NICOLETTA NENCIOLI

# 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 circulation 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 Paul-

ing'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!"



**G. Terry Sharer, 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!"

# Congressional Luncheon Offers Lawmakers a Sample of the Linus Pauling Exhibition

The Linus Pauling exhibition on Oct. 21 received a special welcome to the nation's capital at a Congressional luncheon hosted today by California Representative David Dreier (R-CA). Congressman Dreier's district includes Pasadena, the home of Cal Tech, where Linus Pauling spent most of his academic career.

Addressing the guests, Representative Dreier welcomed everyone to Capitol Hill and encouraged them to visit the exhibition at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He also expressed his appreciation to the Linus Pauling family, Oregon State University, and SGI for sponsoring the exhibition and extended a special thanks to Daisaku Ikeda for initiating the project.

On display at the event were specially made smaller panels that provided guests a sampling of what they will find when they visit the exhibition. Among the members of Congress and staff who attended the affair was Dan Pearson, a staff member of the House Science Committee. He worked closely with the late Congressman George Brown of California, who worked to help bring the exhibition to Washington, D.C.

Representative Brown, who died this past July after serving on the Science Committee for 34 years, had heard of the planned exhibition and offered his support of the endeavor in remarks on the House floor right before the opening in San Francisco last year. The Democratic Congressman from California admired SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. The two had corresponded after Congress-



Photo by ROB HENDRY

A luncheon hosted by Congressman David Dreier (R-CA) held Oct. 21 at the Longworth House Office Building brought 71 academics, politicians and supporters together. On display were specially made smaller panels that provided the guests a sampling of what they would find when they visited the exhibition.

man Brown learned of President Ikeda's work for peace, which Brown also embraced.

Representative Brown worked together with Linus Pauling to bring a halt to atmospheric nuclear testing in the 1960s and then a decade later strove to end U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. The two traveled together, even venturing as far as Germany to conduct teach-ins about the horrors of war. Congressman Brown determined he wanted people in the national capital area to have the opportunity to learn about this great scientist and humanitarian, so he wrote the SGI directly, requesting that Washington, D.C., be included in the exhibit's touring schedule. In his last conversation with Dan Pearson, Brown expressed how eager he was for the exhibition's arrival.



Photo by KATHRYN AIKEN

Congressman Dreier welcomes the luncheon guests to Capitol Hill and encourages them to visit the exhibition.

The overwhelming positive response from participants at the congressional reception serves as a heartfelt tribute to Congressman Brown, who

throughout his career embraced many of the same ideals as Linus Pauling.

—LINDA WRIGHT



**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 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 ded-

icated 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.*



**Publisher**  
Fred M. Zaitso  
**Assistant Publisher**  
Greg Martin  
**Editor in Chief**  
Ted Morino

**Managing Editor**  
Margie Hall  
mhall@sgi-usa.org  
**Associate Editor**  
Jeff Farr  
jfarr@sgi-usa.org

**Staff Writer**  
Stephanie Celano  
scelano@sgi-usa.org

**Contributing Writer**  
Terry Ellis

**Contributing Artist**  
Stephanie Sydney

**Staff Translators**  
Jeff Kriger  
Shin Yatomi

**Contributing Photographers**  
Gregory Nakasui  
Kirk Condyles  
Jonathan Wilson  
Dixon Hamby

**Photo Editor**  
Lisa Hollis  
lisahollis@earthlink.net

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**READERS COMMENTS**  
Send to:  
Mailbox

606 Wilshire Blvd, PO Box 1427  
Santa Monica, CA 90406-1427  
or e-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
1-800-835-4558  
or e-mail: SGISUBS@aol.com

**FRIENDS FOR PEACE**  
ffp@sgi-usa.org

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seize@sgi-usa.org

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# The Ultimate Lesson

## A Record of My Life by Daisaku Ikeda

**SGI President Ikeda remembers what he learned from President Toda near the end of his mentor's life: 'We must be prepared in our future activities for kosen-rufu for every imaginable kind of persecution and attack, and be determined to overcome them. This is the ultimate lesson for a practitioner of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.'**

The old Soka Gakkai Headquarters in Shinanomachi, Tokyo, was always filled with the sound of members' chanting and the buzz of conversation and animated discussion. The president's office was in a corner on the second floor.

In the days leading up to the youth division sports festival held at the Mitsuzawa Stadium in Yokohama on Sept. 8, 1957, Mr. Toda could be found sitting in his office busily making notes. He would write something, then, through his thick glasses, peer closely at what he had written. Every time he wrote, he would stop to look over his notes again.

His mentor, Mr. Makiguchi, made it a practice to always jot his thoughts down. He called it "storing up thoughts." Now Mr. Toda was doing the same.

When Mr. Makiguchi was active as a teacher, he accumulated an enormous quantity of notes on the importance of education and its practical methods. These notes, through Mr. Toda's efforts, were compiled and published as Mr. Makiguchi's masterpiece, *The System of Value-Creating Education*.

As the sky outside the window began to take on shades of evening, Mr. Toda would pause in contemplation and say, "Ah, it's time to go." Then he would head off to that night's meeting. His mood of intense concentration continued for several days. I was always nearby, and I sensed that he was preparing to make a very important an-

nouncement. This was how Mr. Toda's epoch-making Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons was born.

Closing my eyes, I can still see the Mitsuzawa Stadium in Yokohama as it was on that day, Sept. 8, 1957. The day was perfectly clear, without a cloud in the sky. The evening newspapers the day before had forecast heavy rain, as Typhoon No. 10 made its way toward Eastern Japan. This only increased the joy of the festival's participants when they awoke Sept. 8 to the bright blue skies left in the wake of the typhoon's passing.

The heavenly deities—the protective functions of the universe—must surely have provided the fine weather to celebrate this event, the stage from which Mr. Toda launched his landmark declaration, an occasion that would be remembered down through the generations.

The youth division sports meet, dubbed Festival of Youth, began with a Cessna flying overhead and dropping a congratulatory message. I then opened the event by firing a starter's gun, the signal for a hundred doves to be released into the sky.

I can still see Mr. Toda's vigorous figure that day. He declared: "Today's Festival of Youth has been blessed with clear skies, free of any trace of yesterday's storm, as if the heavenly dragon has responded to your enthusiasm. I am overjoyed with all my heart by your spirit—both those of you on the ground, who fully demonstrated the Soka Gakkai spirit, and those of you in the stands who cheered them on."

Chinese legend has it that heavy rains are caused by a dragon that resides in the heavens. It was just like Mr. Toda, with his great fondness for the Chinese classics, to open his speech this way.

He continued: "Nevertheless, for all the joy we feel today, it is quite likely that the Soka Gakkai may encounter persecution again in the future. And I am sure that we shall be destined to meet all kinds of attack. Having said that, I want now to share with you what I hope you will regard as the first of my final instructions for the future."

And indeed they were final instructions, as if he knew in advance the limits of his life—that just six months hence his

health would fail him, and he would die. At the same time, it was an indication to us that we must be prepared in our future activities for kosen-rufu for every imaginable kind of persecution and attack, and be determined to overcome them. This is the ultimate lesson for a practitioner of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. How fortunate we were to have such a great mentor as Mr. Toda!

**Josei Toda declared that the use of nuclear weapons was an absolute evil.**

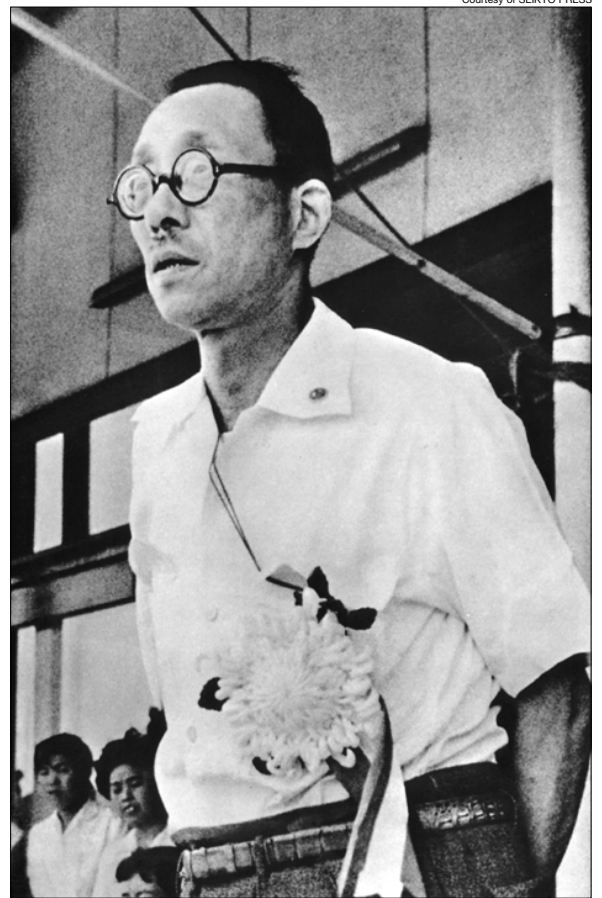
Mr. Toda continued speaking with powerful conviction to the 50,000 young people assembled, his voice shaking them to the core of their beings: "The responsibility for the coming era will be shouldered by the youth. There is no need for me to tell you that kosen-rufu is our mission.... But today, I want to clearly state my stance toward atomic testing and the testing of the hydrogen bomb...."

"It is my hope that, as my disciples, you will inherit the declaration I am about to make and, to the best of your ability, spread its intent throughout the world."

He spoke simply and clearly, but the faith and expectations he held for the young people who would carry on the work of kosen-rufu were apparent—as were his love for them and the extraordinary depth of his determination in making this declaration.

He went on to declare that he wished "to rip out the claws that are hidden in the very depths" of the issue of nuclear weapons. At the time, there was mounting public opinion against nuclear weapons. Three years earlier, in 1954, a Japanese fishing vessel, the Lucky Dragon V, was exposed to radioactive fallout from a hydrogen bomb test blast conducted on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific, and the ship's radio operator, Aikichi Kuboyama, died of radiation poisoning.

Mr. Toda began to approach the crux of his speech, the portion that he had recorded in his notes, the fruit of his intense and prolonged thought: "We, the citizens of the world, have a right to life. Anyone who tries to jeopardize this right is a devil incarnate, a fiend, a monster.... Even if a country should conquer the world through the use of the atomic bomb, the nation



Josei Toda makes his declaration against atomic and hydrogen bombs at the fourth East Japan Athletic Meet, Mitsuzawa Ground, Yokohama, Sept. 8, 1957.

and the persons that use that weapon must be viewed as devils, as evil incarnate. I believe that it is the mission of every young man and woman in Japan to disseminate this idea around the globe."

Mr. Toda declared that the use of nuclear weapons was an absolute evil that violated people's right to life, and he exposed the "claws of the demon" that lay hidden behind all arguments for their use. In other words, he pursued the issue to the profound level of human life itself, condemning the demonic nature within humanity that produced nuclear weapons and sought to justify their use.

Dr. Linus Pauling once said to me: "I believe that there is a greater power in the world than the evil power of military force, of nuclear bombs—there is the power of good, of morality, of humanitarianism. I believe in the power of the human spirit" (*A Lifelong Quest for Peace—A Dialogue*, p. 72). These

words are very similar to a sentence from the Russell-Einstein Manifesto: "We appeal as human beings to human beings: remember your humanity and forget the rest" (*Ibid.*). Both statements strike a resonant chord with my mentor's words.

Mr. Toda's declaration set a clear course for the Soka Gakkai's future activities for peace and culture. So many of our activities have been born from its spirit, including the youth division's petition to the United Nations with 10 million signatures for the abolition of nuclear weapons in the 1970s; the more recent Abolition 2000 campaign, in which 13 million signatures were collected; the "Nuclear Arms: Threat to Our World" exhibition, which opened at the U.N. Headquarters in New York and has been shown in Moscow, Beijing and other leading cities around the world; and the "War and Peace" exhibition, among many others.

**Two in a series**

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS



## Victory Over Violence in Frederick District

Frederick District in Frederick, Md., had a successful Victory Over Violence meeting held Sept. 1. More than 24 members and four guests attended the meeting. Two youth division members, who previously attended the SGI-USA Victory Over Violence camp out in Chestertown, Md., gave their experiences in overcoming violence from bullies and from the hatred and stereotyping among classmates in their local school. Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism teaches us to value life and with that comes mutual respect as human beings. Other topics included: communication and mutual respect between parents and their adolescent children; ways to deter violence both in the home and within society at large. The Frederick District members agreed that challenging our lives to win over violence is a step to advance kosen-rufu.

### Greetings

Interested persons who live in Southern Utah and outlying areas, St. George District welcomes you. Please call Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Weiss at (435) 635-7848.

Hello! My name is Nancy. I have practiced with many members and want to hear from you by e-mail: dayzetta@webtv.net My last name was Weisz; now it's Owens. We live in Magalia, Calif. I practiced in: Hawaii (Big Island and Kauai); Santa Cruz/San Jose, L.A. territories 3 and 7; San Diego, and now Paradise, Chico, Magalia Areas. I cannot list everyone I'd like to contact: The Uyeda family, Honey Schimelfennig, the Shibata family, the Awai family, Tame Stow, Tina Van Dyne, Michele & Craig Bowers, Debra & Marty Vittore. You all helped me to practice correctly and I offer my sincerest gratitude to you all...it will be FUN to hear from you!  
— Rick and Nancy Owens

To SGI Homeschoolers, Aloha, to any or all you pioneers in home education. If there's anyone in the organization who would like to expand or share their thoughts on how to incorporate Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism with their child's daily curriculum, please contact Joan Heller at (nate@aloha.net). My son is a fourth grader. We're both learning a lot and appreciate any correspondence or networking with other Buddhist homeschoolers.

I would like to contact any Vietnamese members to share our struggles and any translated materials of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in Vietnamese. I've been a member for 17 years. In Houston, where I live, there are three Vietnamese members, two of whom are active. My e-mail address is huemn@yahoo.com  
— Hue Martell



Fellow French-speaking Buddhists: Are you interested in having study materials in French? Meeting in French to introduce your friends and family members (who don't speak English fluently) to the practice? Would you like to get information on how to connect them to the SGI in your respective countries? Would you like to have contacts or addresses to visit SGI centers or help with meetings while you are visiting your country? Would you be interested in participating in an FNCC conference in Florida, conducted in French, in the future? Would you be interested in a French Page in the *World Tribune*? Would you be able to help translate study materials into French? Would you like to share your ideas and experiences? We are a group of French-speaking Buddhists, based in Los Angeles, from 12 different countries. For several years, we have been meeting regularly, conducting a meeting in French to support both ourselves and others in our practice of Buddhism. We would like to get an idea of the potential strength of the French-speaking population within SGI-USA. Contact us by phone (310) 558-3410, by fax (310) 558-3420 or by e-mail: meduski@yahoo.com

You are invited to an international birthday party for the new millennium!  
Happy Birthday President Toda!

Bon anniversaire!  
Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!  
Felice compleanno!  
O-tanjobi o-medeto gozaimasu!  
We would like to invite SGI members around the world to share in celebrating the 100th anniversary of President Toda's birth! Please send your birthday greetings, cards, messages, etc., in any language, to the Ishikawa Culture Center, in Ishikawa, Japan, birthplace of President Toda. We will then deliver your birthday greetings to the people of Kaga City, Shioya Town, in the month of February, for them to display at the Kaga Community Center.

Place: Ishikawa Japan. Date: Feb. 11, 2000. Time: The new millennium!  
R.S.V.P/Please send greetings by Feb. 11, 2000 to:

Ishikawa Bunka Kaikan  
100 Banchi  
TakaoMinami, 1-chome  
Kanazawa-Shi  
Ishikawa-Ken  
Japan, 921-8154  
Attn.: Hokuriku International Group

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at e-mail: nadines1@neteze.com. I really would love to hear from my overseas comrades in faith.  
— Nadine Shaw-Landesvatner

### Milestones

An excerpt from a letter: To my friend Richard Marshall, it is the day after your passing. No matter what we have gone through, one thing has remained constant, that is our friendship and commitment to the Gohonzon. Richard, I will not shed a tear to add to the sea of suffering. I will chant the daimoku to fill the sails of the boat that carries you across that sea.  
— She'Rue Riley, San Diego

Below is an excerpt from a letter to Richard Marshall, a member from San Diego, Calif. Richard is a wonderful friend and unique human being. We practiced together for many years and shared many SGI-USA experiences. His entity will be missed by many. Thank you so very much for your assistance. Respectfully, Sherry J. Harger  
"I have felt your presence with me as I chant daimoku. I am not going to say goodbye because I know we will always be friends in our lifetimes to come and always fight side by side for kosen-rufu. I love you, Richard. Hugs and kisses, Sher"

Correction: On page D of the Nov. 5 issue of "Friends for Peace" is a wonderful poem by Yumi Look of Albany, Calif. We regret that we inadvertently misspelled her last name and apologize for any confusion. Thank you, Yumi, for your very encouraging poem!

It would bring me great joy to hear from members who practiced with me in Buffalo, N.Y., State College, Penn., and Pittsburgh, Penn. Though we've lost touch, I still think about all of you. I'm alive and well in N.J. with my husband, Derrick, plus two dogs, three sheep, two goats and 25 chickens. You can contact me at: 295 Sykesville Rd, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 or (609)723-0137 or chickenlady43@hotmail.com or alicep@erols.com — Alice Tiffeault Parfitt

I'm trying to locate members from overseas during the period when I lived in Japan and Thailand. Japan...Mihoko Iwashita: Where are you? Does anyone know if she is still in Kagoshima? Thailand...Hey, Rainbow Group members...Sawadii Ka! Kaori, are you in the USA in New York? What happened to Ricky and co. Please contact me. I have a second fortune baby now. I'd love to tell you the details. You can contact me

# Open Each Day to the Century of Life!

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OF THE EARTH'S NATURAL  
MAJESTY & GRACE...

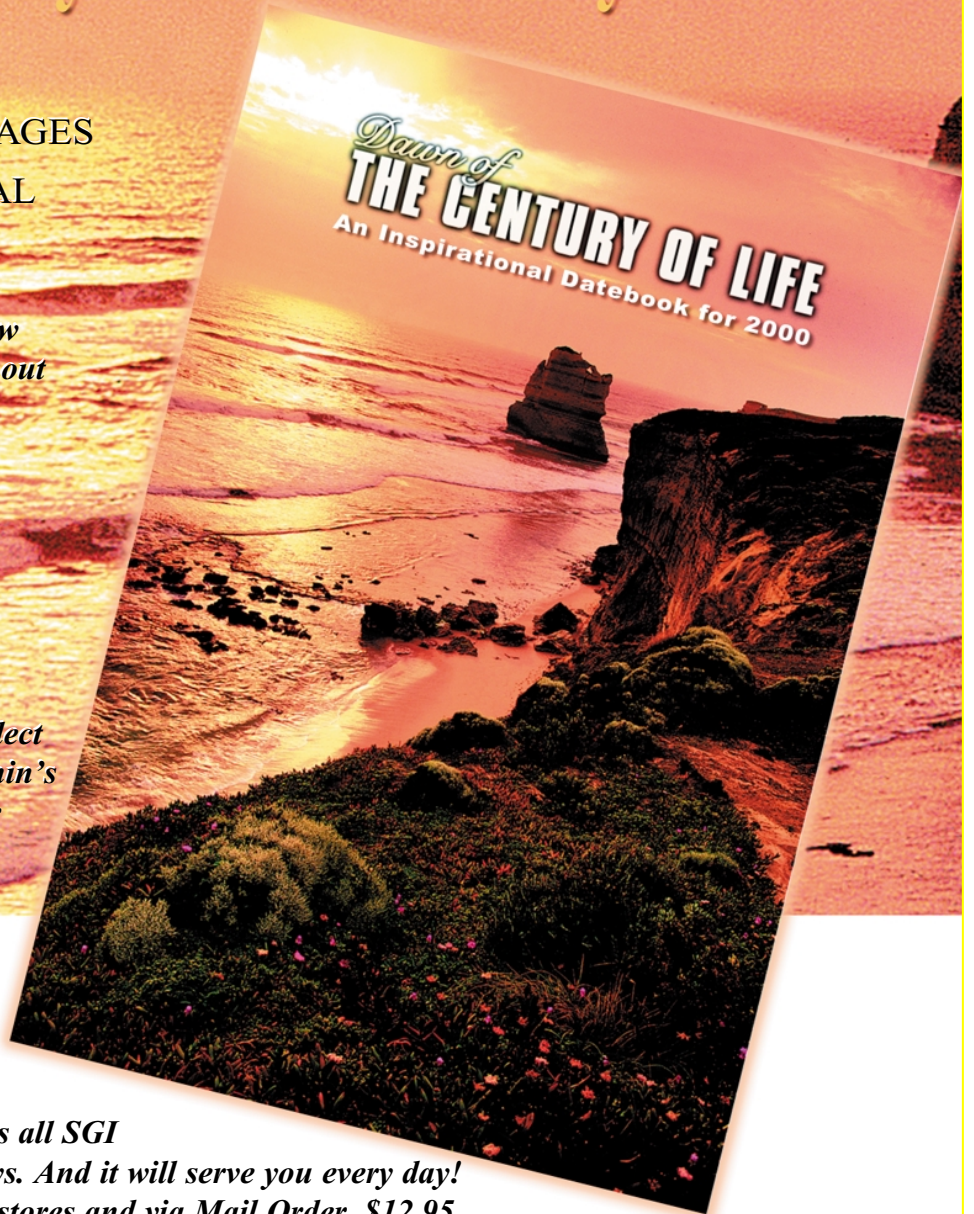
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