

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ZONE SETS GOALS FOR 2001
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STAFF WRITER

More than 2,000 Southern California Zone leaders gathered June 17 at the Hollywood Palladium to set goals toward May 3, 2001. Various leaders, including SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima, shared their vision of celebrating May 3, Soka Gakkai Day, next year by gathering 30,000 people for a cultural festival.

Linda Johnson, zone women's leader, emphasized "quality care" of each member and the importance of introducing others to the practice. She encouraged everyone to use the organizational structure to take care of each new member.

SGI President Ikeda sent a message, which read in part: "To live for the sake of this Buddhism is to lead a supremely noble life, a life filled with happiness and great satisfaction. As Nichiren Daishonin states, 'Nam-myoho-renge-kyo is the greatest of all joys' (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 788).

"People will gather where there are bright and cheerful smiles. Boundless good fortune will shine where there is joyful faith. Victory will arise where people are full of positive energy and enthusiasm.

"For this reason, I ask that all of you please advance anew with the harmonious unity of many in body, one in mind. Advance with the spirit to enjoy working for what is right and to enjoy winning. Through your faith, please achieve victory at home, at work, in society and in life....

"Let us wholeheartedly pray, speak and work hard to create a new era for America — an America that will lead the rest of the world. I will certainly join you in your struggle."