

**VCR MEMBERS HOLD ‘PRELUDE TO MAY 3, 2001’
BY JANET PALMER MULLANEY
CHARLOTTEVILLE, N.C, CORRESPONDENT**

The ringing sounds of Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man” played live on trumpet and a colorful Chinese dragon dance by boys and girls were the joyful preludes to the new Virginia/Carolina Region’s kickoff, “Prelude to May 3, 2001.” The April 29 extravaganza — featuring inspiring solo songs, lively dances, zestful group harmonizing, and powerful experiences — was attended by 1,100 members and guests at the Dorton Arena in Raleigh, N.C.

Youth of the various chapters spearheaded the entire meeting. SGI-USA Young Men’s Leader Cory Taylor summed up their energetic spirit with a quote from SGI President Ikeda: “The SGI has always succeeded because youth took the lead.”

VCR Region Leader Steve Doty congratulated the participants for “making it here today to be a part of this historic moment in the unfolding of our peace movement. Whether you come from Edisto Island, S.C., Farmville, Va., Taylorsville, N.C., or any other place, you are not alone. You have the whole Soka family here for you.”

“Even though I’m not an SGI member,” commented a guest named Rann, “I came along to encourage my sister and see my nephew perform in the dragon dance. What I found most interesting and impressive about the meeting is the passion you all bring to the activity.”

Robin Meader of Washington, D.C., and Merilee Brown of Chapel Hill, N.C., assisted in preparing this article.