

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Praise for Men

I really enjoyed the Sept. 15 issue of the *World Tribune* with the men's division articles, especially Matilda Buck's letter. It was a beautiful heartfelt and refreshing statement. I can truly say that Matilda's compassionate words have healed some anger in my heart; for 24 years, I have practiced in an organization that routinely makes jokes about the men's division With leaders like Danny Nagashima and Matilda, I have 100 percent confidence that we are on the correct course for victory in the new century.

—DIXON HAMBY

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Congratulations, Minnesota Youth

Thank you for your great coverage of the Minnesota Culture Festival (Sept. 1 *World Tribune*). As a member of the area, I am so happy to read about our event of the year. I understand that because of the limited space it is very difficult to cover every aspect of the event. Therefore, I thought that I would like to extend the most respect and appreciation to our youth, who worked and chanted so hard for the success of this event. We love you guys.

—KATHY and

HANK FUKUI

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Excited About the Parables

Thanks for the great parable of "The Three Carts and the Burning House" in the Aug. 18 issue. I was so excited that you've decided to use the stories in the Lotus Sutra as material for kids and adults. It's very applicable and easy for people to understand. Story telling is a great art and symbol of culture and we need to develop this art with Buddhist parables and stories. It's also an important facet of family life that I want to pass on to my children. My wife and I had our first daughter four months ago.

Over the past year since my wife has been pregnant, I've had a great determination to find parables and stories in the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren Daishonin's writings. I want to create stories for my kids and all kids from these writings so that even children can understand and learn Buddhist concepts. Over this past year, I have taken to writing some of these parables on my computer. Some of them are so straight forward that they only need to be copied from book to computer. Others are only an analogy that I created a story out of, such as the carp climbing a waterfall to become a dragon in "Dragon Gate."

I can't wait for the day to see a children's story book made of Buddhist parables and stories from Nichiren Daishonin and the Lotus Sutra. This is my dream and my goal even

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though I am not a professional writer.

—CHRIS CONLEY,
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Thanks for Pride

Thanks so much for the beautiful spread on GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) Pride events in the Aug. 4 issue: I'm always proud to be an SGI member, but especially so when we show appreciation for members who have the stand-alone spirit and lots of spunk! It was so much fun walking through the streets of Boston with our SGI Rainbow Lotus banner, hearing people along the route cheer us on. My smile was quite broad all day!

—ADRIENNE LANDAU, Center for Wellness & Health Communication
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Appreciation for Parents

I really appreciated seeing the Mother's Day feature on parenting (June 2 *World Tribune*). The messages from parents were inspiring and also encouraging, because the parents shared both their joys and struggles. I can identify with both. From one parent's description of low daimoku days on which her life-condition "bee-lines to the lower worlds" to another saying that parenting compels him to become a better person, to the mention of the happiness that comes from watching our "baby Buddhas" grow, hearing these parents' experiences was food for my soul. Also, as someone who is a big advocate of our organization encouraging and supporting 100 percent participatory fatherhood, I thought it significant, appropriate, contemporary, visionary and affirming that dads were a big part of this feature. Thanks so much!

—LAVORA PERRY,
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Thank You for the Prayer Article

I want to say thank you to Matilda Buck for the wonderful article "Prayer: A Real Force for Change" in the June 9 issue. I have just celebrated my 12th year of practice on June 4. However, for the last several months have felt very "stuck" with the death of my best friend in November, followed by the death of another dear friend in February. Then my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in March. I have been going through serious doubt and have had a difficult time with deciding what my prayer should be. After reading this article, I realize that I have had serious doubts believing that I am a Buddha (guess that will hold ya back, eh?). I am determined to pray with the belief that I am a Buddha (there I said it and it felt pretty darn good!). My sincerest appreciation to Matilda for sharing her wisdom.

—KAREN CHRISTEN,
Brisbane, Calif.

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