

**'UNITED FOR PEACE' IN DALLAS
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On Oct. 1, the members of Texas/Oklahoma Region celebrated the 40th anniversary of SGI President Ikeda's first trip for worldwide kosen-rufu, holding their first culture festival at the beautiful Southfork Ranch in Plano, Texas.

The theme, "United for Peace," was clearly displayed on the smiling faces of the more than 2,000 people in attendance, gathered here to watch the performances of members from Oklahoma City, Houston, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Killeen, Fort Worth, Austin, Tulsa and Dallas.

Upon their arrival at the auditorium, guests were welcomed by the sweet sounds of the Dallas Jazz Band and viewed an exhibition detailing the SGI's movement for peace, culture and education, as well as the new campus of Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, Calif.

The two-hour event featured magnificent performances such as the Fort Worth young women performing a hip-hop dance as the "Hip-Hop Power Puff Girls," and a traditional Indian and Japanese dance from the Dallas young women. The San Antonio members offered a traditional African song and dance called "Aki Wo Wo," and from Corpus Christi, aspiring rapper Steve Orgas had the crowd moving with his song "The Truth Is Supreme."

Members from all over the region contributed to swing dance performances, drum routines and wonderful choral performances, such as "Be True to Your School" by the Houston Boys and Girls Group, "Love Is the Seventh Wave" by the Oklahoma City Chorus and "The Tater Song" by the Austin members.

The highlight of the festival was the youth. The young men performed several energetic hip-hop and Stomp-style dance routines that got the crowd out of their seats. The young women excited the audience with songs and dances profiling "Women Through the Decades," a history of women in the 20th century. The festival concluded with the Sunset Chorus leading everyone in singing Beethoven's "Ode to Joy."

Soroya Anderson, representing the mayor's office, presented a proclamation naming Oct. 1 "SGI-USA Day" in Dallas. She commented that the "SGI-USA is actually accomplishing what many organizations are trying to do. I truly enjoyed this event."

Mimi Kubiak, young women's region leader, said: "Our goal of all the members uniting together has been accomplished. I feel like I'm walking on air!"