

**SGI-USA CENTRAL ZONE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
'CHAMPIONING HUMAN RIGHTS'  
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On Nov. 4, more than 3,300 people from SGI-USA's Central Zone gathered at Chicago's Arie Crown Theatre to celebrate 40 years of the kosen-rufu movement in the United States. The origin of the members' fight for human rights was when SGI President Ikeda witnessed an act of prejudice in Chicago's Lincoln Park in 1960, as depicted in *The New Human Revolution*.

Dr. Quentin Young, national coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program, the event's keynote speaker, remarked that Chicago was much more racially divided than the American South, where he accompanied Dr. Martin Luther King as his personal physician in the 1960s. Dr. Young urged the audience that the fight goes on and cautioned that access to basic human rights is still denied to millions of Americans.

The event—titled “Championing Human Rights”—included a dramatic look at the pioneering Japanese members who took the first steps of American kosen-rufu, unsure of the area's language or customs. An homage to the cape dances of past culture shows and a spoken-word performance fresh from today distilled into art the spirit of ordinary people fighting for human rights.

Riding buses back across the heartland or on the way back to homes in the city, a renewed determination filled the hearts of a diverse SGI-USA family. The event capped a monthlong celebration that include SGI President Ikeda's “Dialogue with Nature” exhibit and the proclamation by Governor George Ryan of “SGI Day” on Oct. 8.