

## **GANDHI, KING, IKEDA: A LEGACY OF BUILDING PEACE GKI EXHIBIT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE**

The “Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace” exhibition continued its world tour in the months of June and July, stopping at Lewis University, Roosevelt University and the world-renowned Riverside Church in New York City. The exhibition portrays the common vision of humanity and nonviolence of three leaders—Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and SGI President Ikeda.

From June 2–16, Lewis University, located just outside of Chicago and established in 1932, hosted the exhibition. The opening celebration featured a speech by Lewis University President James Gaffney, who said that the ideas of the three men regarding the inherent dignity of human life were respectable, and in line with the beliefs of the University.

Roosevelt University, with a campus in Chicago and another in Schaumburg, Ill., was established in 1945. Founded with the mission to provide quality education to students with a variety of backgrounds, the university prides itself on its student body’s diversity. Against this backdrop, the exhibition opened June 19 in the Roosevelt University Library. The opening started off with a greeting by Roosevelt University English Professor Daisy Balsley and, on behalf of the SGI, SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima presented 100 books to the university’s library.

On July 15, the exhibition debuted at New York City’s Riverside Church, where Dr. King delivered a powerful address denouncing the Vietnam War titled “A Time to Break Silence” more than 30 years ago. More than 225 people attended the opening from all walks of life, including Dr. Victor G. Alicea, president of Boricua College, a private Hispanic institution; representatives from the Philippine organization, the Knights of Rizal; and members of the Arthur Mitchell Dance Theatre and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, both of Harlem.

Charles Harris, a guest at the Riverside Church opening, noted: “This is a very moving event. Seeing people communicate across different racial and religious beliefs is wonderful. The diversity of the world is manifest in the philosophies presented here today.”

The exhibition will travel next to Montgomery, Ala., where it will show at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s annual meeting at the request of Martin Luther King III.

*—Linnea Peery and Sean Grover contributed to this article.*