

**KENTUCKY YOUTH HOLD SUMMER FIESTA
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SGI-USA's Kentucky Area held a Summer Fiesta with the theme "Soka=Value Creation," at Founder's Hall on the Shelby, Ky., campus of the University of Louisville.

Activities took place on two floors of the complex. At the entrance level, there were SGI exhibitions and videos with information pamphlets and registration tables. The SGI bookstore sold some of the Middleway Press books sponsored by the local Hawley-Cooke Booksellers. Some women did flower arranging displays, origami and wrote names in Japanese calligraphy for members and guests for an interactive cultural event.

There was an array of special activities planned for the Boys and Girls Group members. Adults took turns leading groups ranging from arts and crafts projects, interactive storytelling and dance, to physical activities like relay races and playing ball. One room held a Culture Department arts exhibition from members and friends of the SGI, which included paintings, drawings and sculptures.

Inside the main auditorium, the morning began with a proclamation from the City of Louisville Board of Aldermen recognizing the SGI-USA youth division and Culture Department for their efforts to work for a healthy, cultural community.

The morning program focused on the theme "Educational and Cultural Vision for a New Era," beginning with a keynote speaker, Dr. Japa Buckner, and followed by three panel discussions with perspectives by parents, educators and students.

Next was a lively culture festival, entirely planned and executed by the youth. Joyful participation from all divisions, along with invited SGI friends, sparked everyone's enthusiasm. There were Hawaiian dancers from Lexington, Ky., Korean women's and youth choruses and Mystic Rhythms African Drummers to name a few. The excitement built to the grand finale of singing "Ode to Joy."

More than 400 people enjoyed the festival, with youth accounting for at least half of the attendees. Edward Hamada, SGI-USA Central Zone leader, congratulated all the members for their support of the youth, saying, "The lasting effects of your efforts to work together to achieve victory will continue on into the future."