

# World TRIBUNE

**INTERNATIONAL ISSUE**  
Our monthly focus on  
SGI's movement of  
peace, culture and  
education.

Periodical Postage Paid at Santa Monica, CA 90401 and at additional mailing offices  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: SGI-USA Subscribers, 606 Wilshire Blvd., PO Box 1427 Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907

No. 3347

\$2.00

MAY 25, 2001

Courtesy of SEIKYO PRESS



SGI President Ikeda rings the 'Seven Bells' presented to him by Tokyo members for the 5th Headquarters Leaders Meeting, April 25, celebrating May 3, Soka Gakkai Day.

## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S APRIL 25 SPEECH—PART 1

# Our New Goal: May 3, 2030

**'Since we have now attained our important goal of May 3, 2001, I propose—if you all agree—that we embark afresh toward a new goal, May 3, 2030, the year marking centennial of the Soka Gakkai's founding,' SGI President Ikeda says.**

*Part 1 of SGI President Ikeda's speech at the 5th Soka Gakkai Headquarters Leaders Meeting, commemorating May 3, Soka Gakkai Day, held at the Tokyo Toda Memorial Auditorium in Sugamo, April 25.*

**M**ay 3, 2001—a goal that once seemed so far away—is here at last! We have finally arrived at this momentous milestone, adorned with great victory, thanks to your energetic, united efforts.

One noted figure has said in wonder: "No matter how the times may change, the Soka Gakkai is always vibrant and full of life. It just keeps flourishing and growing. It is truly amazing."

Since we have now attained our important goal of May 3, 2001, I propose—if you all agree—that we embark afresh toward a new goal,

May 3, 2030, the year marking centennial of the Soka Gakkai's founding.

At that time, all of you will be considerably older than you are now! But just look at Dr. Joseph Rotblat, Nobel laureate and president emeritus of the Pugwash Conferences, whom I met in Okinawa last year. He is over 90 and still going strong!

The Lotus Sutra expounds the principle of faith prolonging life. Infinite life-force wells forth when we embrace faith in the Mystic Law. This is the essence of Buddhism.

PLEASE SEE SPEECH, 6

## SGI-USA FAMILY YOUTH FESTIVALS

# Las Vegas Youth Celebrate VOV

By BARBARA DEMPSEY  
LAS VEGAS CORRESPONDENT

**U**nder the warm, sunny skies of Las Vegas, SGI-USA youth hosted Victory Over Violence—A Celebration of Peace, a daylong community event on May 5 at the Rainbow Library and Amphitheater. More than 1,200 people attended the event, the first of many SGI-USA Family Youth Festivals to be held

throughout the country this year. The governor of Nevada, Kenny Guinn, sent a congratulatory proclamation and Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman proclaimed May 5 as Victory Over Violence Day.

This celebration was a gift from SGI-USA members to the Las Vegas community. It was based on the belief that it is youth who will foster a new hope for an end to violence.

There were months of prepa-

ration, discussion and planning every Sunday after youth activities. Several key committees were formed, each having a young woman and young man in charge and supported by women's and men's division partners. Subcommittees from all divisions gathered and the final preparations began to take form.

The celebration had several events for members and

PLEASE SEE LAS VEGAS, 12



SGI-USA youth enjoy their Victory Over Violence event in Las Vegas, May 5.

**Tsunesaburo Makiguchi Street Opens in Perugia Province, Italy**

Passignano sul Trasimeno City in Perugia Province, central Italy, officially opened a street named after Soka Gakkai founder Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, honoring posthumously his peace activism during World War II. On April 21, the city held a celebration at the Urbani civic auditorium attended by Mayor Vladimiro Chellini, Nadia Pasquali, city official in charge of culture, and other government officials. A dedication ceremony followed on Tsunesaburo Makiguchi Street, attended by nearly 300 local residents. The street lies between the National Birago Elementary and Middle School and the city hall, and is considered a school crossing zone. The middle school students jointly created a mosaic, which included a quote by SGI President Ikeda, on a wall along the underpass in the middle of this street.

**Victor Hugo Exhibition Shows in Bingen, Germany**

The "Victor Hugo and the 21st Century" exhibition, which comprises 107 original manuscripts, letters, rare portraits and photographs of the French author, will be displayed in Bingen,

Germany. The items are from a permanent collection of the Victor Hugo House of Literature, Bievres, France, which is sponsoring the exhibition with a Bingen museum. Bingen City and Rheinland-Palatinate Governor Kurt Beck are supporting the exhibition. Displayed for the first time outside France will be Victor Hugo's original manuscript for *Les Misérables*, a handwritten draft of an order of pardon, and a piece of paper with the last words he ever wrote, "to love is to act," on May 19, 1885, three days prior to death.

Established in 1991 by the SGI, the Victor Hugo House of Literature is the former Chateau des Roches. The Hugo museum contains approximately 1,900 items of the author's memorabilia.

**Implementing Makiguchi's Educational Theories in Brazil**

SGI-Brazil educators of São Paulo, Brazil, have been conducting the

Makiguchi Project, a program to implement the educational theories of first Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi in Brazilian classrooms. Project reports have been collected and published as a book, *Makiguchi's Practical Pedagogy—Education for Peace*. A book launching took place on April 20 at the Simon Bolivar Auditorium, Latin American Memorial, São Paulo. Approximately 600 guests and local residents attended.

The book introduces Mr. Makiguchi's pioneering educational theories and practices, based on humane competition, value-creation and fostering the inherent capabilities of individuals. Experts in education are now recognizing these theories for their relevance in addressing many of the problems encountered with traditional educational methods. Since the start of the Makiguchi Project in 1994, some 60 Brazilian schools have adopted Makiguchi's theories that pro-

vide a guide for teachers in nurturing in children the attitudes and skills needed for leading valuable and meaningful lives. Tens of thousands of students have been exposed to Mr. Makiguchi's value system based on beauty, gain and good.

**Book on Mother-Child Relations Published in Taiwan**

Chen Yin Culture Enterprise Co., Ltd., Taiwan has just published a traditional Chinese version of *A Conversation on Mother-Child Relations For the 21st Century*, a dialogue among representative Soka Gakkai women and SGI President Ikeda on their views of parent-child relations. President Ikeda dedicates the two-volume book to all mothers engaged in parenting and child education. In recent years, Taiwan's economic development has created an affluent society with more people leading lives of comfort and ease. At the same time, child rearing, including education in the home, has become an overwhelming issue for many. *A Conversation on Mother-Child Relations For the 21st Century* provides concrete guidelines on parenting.

Courtesy of SOKANET  
(www.sokagakkai.or.jp)



**JUNE 6: THE BIRTH OF TSUNESABURO MAKIGUCHI**

*A Legacy of Uncompromised Justice*

**SIGNIFICANT DATES**  
ON MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF THE DAISHONIN'S BUDDHISM AND THE SGI  
By JAMIE LIPTAN  
STAFF WRITER



First Soka Gakkai president Tsunesaburo Makiguchi.

At the dedication of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo on May 3, scholars from all over the world recognized the greatness of Soka education. The occasion had a feel of such grandeur, it was striking to remember that this movement of soka—value creation—began with one poor, underfunded and underappreciated school teacher.

On June 6, 130 years ago, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi was born in a small, rural Japanese fishing village. After being abandoned at the tender age of 3, he was taken in by his uncle's family. Poverty prevented him from obtaining a normal education, and he scraped and borrowed to later attend a teaching college.

During his early days of teaching, he began to see the effect Japan's nationalistic educational system was having on children, reducing them to

nothing more than puppets of the state. He realized that a vast change was needed to ensure the happiness of the students.

"Rather than devise complex theoretical interpretations," he wrote, "it is better to start by looking to the lovely child who sits on your knee and ask yourself: 'What can I do to assure that this child will be able to lead the happiest life possible?'"

His efforts to reform Japanese society found renewed vigor with his introduction to Nichiren

Daishonin's writings at the age of 57. His theory of value creation was completely validated by the Daishonin's teachings, which express the inherent dignity and equality of all life.

"And just as I found myself moved by this discovery," he later wrote, "I experienced a number of inexplicable phenomena in my daily life, which accorded precisely with the teachings of the Lotus Sutra... With a joy that is beyond the power of words to express, I have completely renewed the way of life I had pursued for almost 60 years."

After establishing the Soka Kyoiku Gakkai (Value-creating Education Society, forerunner of the Soka Gakkai), he rigorously denounced Japan's war efforts, calling them "a national catastrophe." At a time of frenzied nationalism and the denial of individual liberties, Makiguchi stood firm in his convictions.

In 1941, facing pressure from the government to support the state-imposed Shinto religion, the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood summoned Makiguchi and his disciple, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, to the head

temple to urge the Soka Gakkai to accept the Shinto talisman and pledge complete allegiance to the emperor. Citing the Daishonin's own refutation of unjust authority, Makiguchi firmly refused.

Toda later recalled his mentor telling him that day: "What are they [the priesthood] so afraid of? Now is the time to admonish the state." Makiguchi continued building the organization for the next two years, attending more than 240 small discussion meetings, always under the scrutiny of the government's Special Police.

In 1943, along with Toda and 19 other leaders of the organization, Makiguchi was imprisoned as a thought criminal. Undaunted by fierce interrogation, failing health and malnutrition, he refused to recant his faith in the Daishonin's Buddhism and died in prison on Nov. 18, 1944.

While Makiguchi's theories and writings are now widely hailed as innovative and brilliant, it was his own actions in living a value-creating life that resulted in the SGI we have today. His drive to provide each person he encountered with the means to revolutionize their life

gave birth to Josei Toda's tenacious efforts to build the Soka Gakkai. It was Makiguchi's insistence on the value of each student that guided SGI President Ikeda in creating the Soka school system. And it was his uncompromising legacy of justice that was inherited by the SGI through its religious revolution in 1991, following the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood's excommunication of the organization.

By following his example, we are continuing to realize his dream of a world in which each person can live a truly valuable, happy life. **WT**

**World TRIBUNE** The SGI-USA's Weekly Newspaper

The World Tribune (692-720) is published weekly by the SGI-USA, 606 Wilshire Blvd., PO Box 1427 Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907; (310) 260-8900; FAX (310) 260-8910; E-mail: wt@sgi-usa.org SGIUSBS@aol.com

Periodical Postage Paid at Santa Monica, CA, and at additional mailing offices. Return To: SGI-USA Subscriptions, 606 Wilshire Blvd., PO Box 1427 Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907

Subscription Rates (subject to state taxes) \$15 for Three Months; \$28 for Six Months; \$50 for One Year; \$85 for Two Years; \$125 for Three Years

Printed on 100% recycled paper  
Copyright © 2001 by SGI-USA.  
All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

EXPERIENCE — KATHRYN D. BROWN, PHOENIX

# Not Taking Buddhism for Granted

**Facing the possible end to a 20-year career, Kathryn D. Brown uses her practice to save her job and beat a life-threatening illness.**

My professional career has been in the criminal justice field since 1978. I was appointed to the Parole Board in 1991 and was reappointed in 1996 to serve through January 2001. In February 2000, I also was appointed chairman of the board. When Arizona Governor Jane Dee Hull took office in 1999, I had two years left to my appointment, and I was told that the governor would not be re-appointing any current board members at the end of their terms. So, for the first time since 1978, I faced the very real possibility of being unemployed.

At the same time, a couple of years ago, I quit smoking, not an easy feat. I gained weight and started having problems with indigestion. Last year, I started having severe pain in my chest and experienced frequent bouts of nausea. When I had an episode of nausea that lasted an entire weekend, my doctor set me up for an abdominal ultrasound that revealed gallstones and a mass on my right kidney that needed to be examined more closely. I was concerned but not quite afraid yet.

A few days later, an MRI revealed that the mass on my right kidney was about the size of a golf ball. The MRI technician said the mass looked like a ball attached to the outside of my kidney.

I tried to contact my doctor several times for the official results, but my calls were not returned. When I finally did see the doctor, two weeks later, the doctor seemed perplexed about what surgeon to refer me to. Now I was getting concerned. Gallstones I could live with for a short while, but the mass on my kidney had to be addressed immediately.

It was this lack of communication between the doctor and I that woke me up. I was facing some serious problems and had to become serious myself. I was chanting on a regular basis, but



Photo by KATHRYN D. BROWN

my gongyo was not consistent, and I was not as active as I could have been in the organization. I took my concerns to the Gohonzon and made a determination to win.

I started to chant at least an hour a day and began doing gongyo regularly. I started reading every *World Tribune* and *Living Buddhism* I could get my hands on. There was also one letter by Nichiren Daishonin, "The Strategy of the Lotus Sutra," that I kept close by. "Spur yourself to muster the power of faith," the Daishonin says. "Regard your survival as wondrous. Employ the strategy of the Lotus Sutra before any other" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 1001). If I was going to win, I would have to revitalize my practice and become stronger than ever.

After a period of confusion and frustration—I was referred to the wrong doctor twice—I was finally referred to a urologist who explained the situation with my kidneys. We viewed the ultrasound films and the MRI results, talked about the tumor and what surgery would entail. I felt very comfortable with the doctor and asked him to schedule the surgery. I left with more confidence and continued my daimoku campaign.

The surgery was on the morning of Dec. 19. The doctor had to remove my right kidney. Apparently, the tumor had grown from the inside out, and the kidney could not be saved; the tumor was made up of blood, muscle and tissue, but

was benign and presented no threat to other organs. However, the remaining kidney was not functioning properly at first. A kidney specialist prescribed a diuretic to jumpstart it, and it finally began to function.

The surgical incision from the procedure completely healed while I was still in the hospital. There was no discharge or bleeding whatsoever, and I was able to return home in just a few days. The following week, the doctor removed the staples, and two weeks later I saw my new primary care doctor. The attending nurse assumed it had been months since the surgery, because I had recovered so quickly.

Back at home and recuperating from surgery, I continued to practice, attending activities with the spirit that I would show actual proof of the Gohonzon's power. While chanting at the Phoenix Culture Center one day, a light bulb went off. I had been taking my Gohonzon for granted throughout my 13-year practice with my inconsistency, building fortune then losing it, due to my own neglect.

Throughout my life, every 10 years or so, I would have a major health issue. In 1981, I had an ovary removed; in 1990, I had a complete hysterectomy; and now in 2000, I had a tumor on my kidney. I had to get it together, or what body part would be affected 10 years later? That is when I determined never to take my practice for granted again.

I decided to go back to work toward the end of January, but

a week before my return, I received a call from the chief general counsel to the governor. I was advised that the governor had appointed someone into my position on the board. I was then told that the governor's office had contacted the director of the Department of Corrections, and that I would be offered a job with them. I had no idea what type of job it would be. The governor's office had never interceded on behalf of a board member before when his or her term expired. I immediately ran to my altar and thanked the Gohonzon.

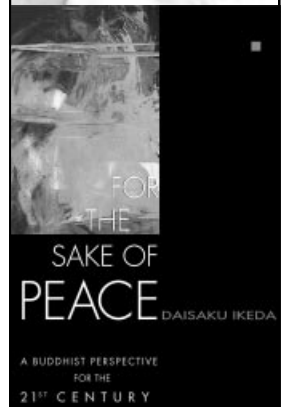
At the interview, they explained the position at the Department of Corrections. I was offered a position as an associate deputy warden working in Prison Operations as the female programs administrator. Of course, I said yes. The kicker is that I am making the same salary I was as chair of the board, which is in the range of what I had chanted for. I did not lose any state service time and I started my new job on Jan. 29, the day the new board member who took my previous position started his term. I was given a position exactly where I wanted, with the money I wanted and at the time I needed it.

I feel that both of these situations I faced served as wake-up calls to my life. By refreshing my determination and dedication to practice wholeheartedly, I was able to turn poison into medicine.

One of the things that I read throughout this experience was SGI President Ikeda's guidance from *For Today & Tomorrow*. The Jan. 29 entry reads: "Practicing Buddhism means being victorious. In advancing one step at a time amid the realities of our daily lives, in showing concrete actual proof, in becoming victors and successes, we are demonstrating with our very beings the validity of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and serving as a source of hope and inspiration for those who will follow us on the path of faith."

From this point on, I will strive to win in every aspect of my life. And I hope that I can provide some ray of hope for others. I will never again take my practice for granted. Ever. **WT**

NEW FROM  
MIDDLEWAY  
PRESS



Based on more than 20 years of peace proposals and university lectures, *For the Sake of Peace* expresses SGI President Ikeda's passionate yet practical vision of the way to achieve peace in the new millennium.

- The Path of Self-Mastery
- The Path of Dialogue and Tolerance
- The Path of Community
- The Path of Culture
- The Path of Nations
- The Path of Global Awareness
- The Path of Disarmament

"Any individual who has questioned whether he or she could actually make a difference should read this book, become inspired and walk the path of peace."

—David Krieger,  
President, Nuclear Age  
Peace Foundation

MIDDLEWAY  
PRESS

Applying  
Buddhism to  
Daily Life

Available now from your favorite neighborhood or on-line booksellers. (Not available at SGI-USA bookstores.)

## SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S APRIL 2 SPEECH

# Become Leaders of True Conviction

**‘Soka University seeks to raise value-creating leaders who will dauntlessly open up new victories of the people amid the turmoil of society,’ SGI President Ikeda tells the Soka students. ‘Studying hard, learning to carry out a sustained and effective struggle, and really challenging yourself— it is through such training that you can cultivate true conviction.’**

*SGI President Ikeda's speech at the joint entrance ceremony for the 31st class of Soka University of Japan and the 17th class of Soka Women's College, held at the Soka University Auditorium in Hachioji, Tokyo, April 2.*

**M**y sincere congratulations on this first entrance ceremony of the new century, taking place on this glorious day with the cherry trees in full bloom!

The magnificent weather calls to mind a passage [from a standard English primer] that I am sure all of you know by heart: “Winter is over and spring has come. The sunshine is bright.”

Among the multitude of universities and the countless students in the world, it is you who stand in the vanguard—as shall those who will follow in your footsteps over the next hundred years of the 21st century.

**Please learn with an unwavering tenacity of purpose.**

Please live vibrantly. There is no need for you to hold back or stand on ceremony. I hope you will feel free to discuss anything at all with your teachers, fully availing yourselves of their life experiences.

Studying is your right. It is the responsibility of your teachers to present things in a way that is understandable to you. When it comes to learning, I hope you will advance with unwavering tenacity of purpose, absolutely never compromising.

You, the members of the entering class, have an extremely noble mission. Once again, I congratulate you, and I present you with a poem celebrating

this occasion:

*Welcome!  
Young friends kindling  
a thirst to learn.  
Welcome!  
Young people of talent  
sharing a profound bond.  
Like your hearts,  
The sky is clear,  
the land aglow,  
And the future rosy as far as  
the eye can see.  
This day of your  
matriculation  
Is truly a significant  
occasion!*

*My friends,  
Absolutely never give up!  
While sharing  
profound exchange  
With new acquaintances,  
While surmounting  
the wild flames  
Of chaos and disarray,  
Decisively seize victory  
With voices raised in song  
infused with hope—  
As heroes of learning,  
As champions of philosophy!*

*Gazing into your  
shining eyes,  
I proclaim with  
boundless joy:  
May you be healthy!  
May you shine!  
May you be victorious!*

Members of the 31st class of Soka University! Members of the 17th class of Soka Women's College! Capable graduate students! Students of the Division of Correspondence Education!

Precious exchange students from around the world! I proudly welcome all of you to the university that I founded!

Is there anyone here from the Kansai area? [Vigorous response in the affirmative.] Congratulations on the Kansai Soka High School's great victory in the Spring National Invitational High School Baseball Tournament! [Earlier that day, the Kansai Soka team advanced to the semifinal round.]

I sincerely congratulate the family members of all entering students. Also, I offer my sincere thanks to those of you who, despite having traveled long distances, are viewing these proceedings via telecast from the gymnasium.

And I ask the members of the faculty and staff to again make every effort to ensure that all students have a rich, rewarding educational experience.

A few moments ago, as Soka University founder, I was named an honorary professor of Northwest University, a school that promises to lead China's advance in the new century. My heartfelt gratitude to the venerable President Sun Yong, a renowned geologist, and to the entire party of educators from Northwest University.

Today, April 2, is the date on which my mentor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, died. It also marks the auspicious 30th anniversary of Soka University's founding. On this significant occasion, I respectfully dedicate this honor to my mentor. At the same time, I share it with all the faculty, staff and students of Soka University, who have worked to develop and protect the school.

Xi'an, where Northwest University is located, was the eastern terminus of the Silk Road, which served as an important crossroads of human civilization linking East and West. Japanese envoys to the Sui and Tang courts braved the rough seas to study there, at the capital of a great cultural benefactor.

Our forebears forged strong friendships and inviolable bonds of trust that transcended



SGI President Ikeda speaks at the joint entrance ceremony for Soka University of Japan and Soka Women's College, April 2.

the bounds of nationality.

**Tsunesaburo Makiguchi's spirit of martyrdom is Soka University's prime point.**

In the early years of the 20th century, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the first Soka Gakkai president, taught at a school called Kobun Gakuin in Tokyo, which had been set up for visiting students from China. There he formed close friendships with many Chinese youth. As it happens, seven Kobun Gakuin students went on to teach at Northwest University.

These young people had been much impressed by Mr. Makiguchi's lectures on his work *The Geography of Human Life*. And there is evidence that after returning to their country, they translated and published it in Chinese.

A recent scholarly reference identifies the Chinese edition of *The Geography of Human Life*, published on April 1, 1906, as a “work on human geography that was influential during the final years of the Qing dynasty.” I was really surprised to learn about this. The entry clearly lists Mr. Makiguchi as the author.

Two young researchers, Soka University graduates—Takao Ito and Daisaku Matsuda—sent word of this important discovery on the eve of the 130th anniversary of President Makiguchi's birth,

which will be June 6.

At present, there are a number of researchers who occupy themselves ferreting out hitherto unknown facts and details about Mr. Makiguchi's life. These include Mr. Masayuki Shiobara, a member of the Soka University staff, who is known as a “walking encyclopedia” on President Makiguchi, and Professor Tsuyoshi Takahashi. It seems that the more we learn, the more brilliantly President Makiguchi's legacy shines.

Yet Japan—an island country whose people are plagued by jealousy and scheming—branded this great philosopher a traitor and sent him to his death in prison. At the same time, the country was committing unconscionable atrocities against the people of Asia: invading China, its cultural mentor, and trampling on Korea. This reveals the true nature of the nation of Japan.

Soka University has President Makiguchi's spirit of martyrdom as its prime point. Peace is our prime point. The mission of Soka University is to spread peace, culture and education throughout the world while forever battling narrow-minded nationalism. This, I declare!

**Learning languages is a great advantage in working for peace.**

Soka University is a school open to the world. Over the

past 30 years, we have welcomed guests from 102 countries and territories. And the Orange County campus of Soka University of America is now opening.

I hope each of you will make continuing efforts to gain mastery of foreign languages. Please really apply yourself.

Without learning languages, you will be hampered in your ability to carry out exchanges for peace with people from other countries. The scope of your lives will be constricted. It will be your loss. Please study hard—SUA is waiting for you!

Friends today are also attending this ceremony from Malaysia, a golden link in the “Marine Silk Road.” I am delighted to welcome Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dato’ Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim, his wife Datin Dr. Nafisah Nik Mohd Adeen and International Director Liew Man Lin of Universiti Putra Malaysia. Thank you for the honorary doctor of letters degree that your university awarded me last November.

In addition, we are joined today by exchange faculty from Wuhan University, Peking University, Fudan University, Shenzhen University, Shanghai University and Xiamen University in China.

Thanks also to our many guests, who include jazz great Buster Williams, for taking time out of their busy schedules to be here today.

#### Young people should shake up society and revitalize the whole world.

One of the Chinese youth who studied at Kobun Gakuin was the great author Lu Xun. Seventy-seven years ago, in July 1924, Lu Xun gave a series of 11 lectures on the history of literature at Northwest University, speaking for a total of 12 hours. The arrogant militarist clique, brandishing its power, pressured him to talk not about literary arts but about military arts.

Lu Xun rejected their entreaties, however. True to his spirit, he addressed the students with the attitude that no matter what anyone might say, he would communicate to young people what was in his heart.

He absolutely refused to tolerate falsehood and deception, which are an affront to human dignity. He wanted young people to dedicate their lives to the struggle for justice and truth, and to be victorious.

Youth, be courageous! Do not fear evil people! Boldly

speak out! Cause your voice of conviction to resound like a thunderclap that awakens all living beings! Shake up society, which has grown stagnant, and revitalize the world!

That was the hope that Lu Xun entrusted to those future leaders. My feelings as I stand before you are exactly the same. “Be courageous!” This spirited cry of Lu Xun marked China’s departure. And now, having weathered all manner of difficulties, a new, reconstructed China stands proudly before the world.

My mentor, Josei Toda, had the greatest respect for China and for Lu Xun. It occurs to me that President Toda and Lu Xun were a lot alike.

I understand that the Northwest University students participate in various activities to contribute to society. For example, some teach classes on a volunteer basis for poverty-stricken children who cannot regularly attend school. This is most admirable.

#### Universities should lead society — not the other way around.

Last year, UPM Vice-Chancellor Syed Jalaludin and I discussed the mission of the university in the 21st century. We firmly agreed that the university ought to lead society, not the other way around.

Soka University seeks to raise value-creating leaders who will dauntlessly open up new victories of the people amid the turmoil of society. Studying hard, learning to carry out a sustained and effective struggle, and really challenging yourself during your years here—it is through such training that you can cultivate true conviction.

Yesterday, I received a wonderful letter from a Soka alumnus. He writes: “I am the first graduate of Soka University to be appointed principal of a junior high school. Before anything else, I wish to report this matter to the founder. In my new position, I am determined to demonstrate actual proof of humanistic education.”

Already there are approximately 3,000 Soka University graduates active in the world of education. Soka graduates have also passed national examinations in many fields. They include 99 who passed the National Bar Exam, 133 who have passed the CPA exam, 73 who acquired credentials as tax accountants, 48 who passed the exam to enter the diplomatic corps, 28 who passed the exam to enter the se-

nior civil service and approximately 1,200 active in the civil service on the municipal or prefectural level.

I hope each of you will likewise challenge yourself to excel in some area, to acquire the foundation to really be able to contribute to society. Your time at Soka University or Soka Women’s College will pass very quickly.

While working to solidify your foundation in all areas with strength, spirit and tenacity—just like the Kansai Soka High School Baseball Team today—please create a history of proud, unequivocal victory. I want you to become people who can later look back and say, “During my youth I gave it absolutely everything I had, and I succeeded in creating my own Silk Road!”

#### Lives animated by seeking, by inquiry, can never be deadlocked.

In a joint research project with Soka University, the Zhou Enlai Research Center of China’s Nankai University recently published a volume [in Chinese] on Zhou Enlai’s years as a student in Japan. At their request, I contributed a preface to the work. [President Ikeda is an honorary professor of Nankai University and an honorary director of the Zhou Enlai Research Center.]

The work calls attention to an entry that Premier Zhou made in his diary when he was about the same age as all of you. The 19-year-old Zhou sets down his own three-point motto:

1) Be ahead of the times in your thinking.

2) Conduct yourself in the most up-to-date manner

3) Keep abreast of the most current scholarship.

From that time forward, the young Zhou, his life burning with the spirit of inquiry, initiated a personal campaign to open up a new era in his thinking, studies and activities. And he firmly maintained this youthful earnestness and humility throughout his entire life. As a result, he developed the profound character that won him the love and admiration of the world’s people.

Those whose lives are animated by the spirit of seeking and inquiry are never deadlocked. They boundlessly advance, summoning forth fresh energy at every turn. On the other hand, those who succumb to decadence find themselves at a dead-end on a daily basis.

In 1973, one year before he passed away, Premier Zhou graciously met with me despite his being very ill. Gazing into my young eyes, he entrusted me with his commitment to realizing a new age of China–Japan friendship and world peace.

#### Strive each day to open up a new age of victory for yourself and all humankind.

Members of the glorious 1st class of the new century of Soka University and Soka Women’s College, from this moment forward, please strive each day to open up a new age of your own victory as a human being and of

the victory of humankind. Cheerfully advance, tenaciously along the brilliant path of your mission—together with your professors, together with me, together with your irreplaceable friends.

My heartfelt prayers for the excellent health of all our distinguished guests from Northwest University and UPM, as well as all the faculty and staff who have kindly attended this ceremony.

Xie Xie! (Thank you very much!) **W**

### Subscribe to the Justice Chronicle

The Justice Chronicle is a free, weekly e-mailer for *World Tribune* subscribers about the Soka Spirit movement. Its purpose is to support SGI-USA’s ongoing education campaign about this subject in the timeliest fashion possible.

The Justice Chronicle will feature the latest Soka Spirit movement news, SGI President Ikeda’s recent guidance about it and study articles explaining the difference between Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism and what the temple is teaching.

To subscribe to the Justice Chronicle, just follow these three easy steps:

- 1) Open a new e-mail message
- 2) Enter to: ListManager@sgi-usa.org
- 3) Enter message text (first line): SUBSCRIBE chronicle

*You’ll receive a confirmation message and then a new issue every week!*

## Subscribe yourself or share it with a friend.

To subscribe, visit [www.sgisubs.com](http://www.sgisubs.com) or send in the order form below with your payment enclosed. No cash, please. Call 1-800-835-4558 if you have questions. Please check the appropriate boxes.

WORLD TRIBUNE		LIVING BUDDHISM		If you wish, please select one free optional language supplement of the World Tribune.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 months \$15 (13 issues) Save \$11	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 months \$15 (3 issues) Save \$3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 months \$28 (26 issues) Save \$24	<input type="checkbox"/>	6 months \$28 (6 issues) Save \$8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 year \$50 (52 issues) Save \$54	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 year \$50 (12 issues) Save \$22	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 years \$85 (104 issues) Save \$123	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 years \$90 (24 issues) Save \$54	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 years \$110 (156 issues) Save \$202	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 years \$125 (36 issues) Save \$91	
<input type="checkbox"/> Are you a new subscriber? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		U.S. rates only. International rates vary.		
Charge my VISA <input type="checkbox"/> or Master Card <input type="checkbox"/>				
Card # _____				
Expiration date _____				
Signature _____		<small>All credit card orders are subject to bank approval</small>		
Name _____				
Address _____		Apt. # _____		
City _____		State _____ Zip _____		
<small>(For gift subscription, please indicate gift giver)</small>		<small>District Source Code (if known)</small>		
<b>SEND TO: SGI-USA Subscriptions, PO Box 1427, Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907</b>				

## FROM SPEECH, I

Taking good care of ourselves and making every effort to extend our lives to the fullest, let us gather again in good health and high spirits on that fresh milestone of the Soka Gakkai's 100th anniversary!

**True, lasting victory always has its roots in solid faith.**

Giuseppe Mazzini, who was a leading advocate of Italian independence, said, "I do not know, speaking historically, a single great conquest of the human spirit, a single important step for the perfecting of human society, which has not had its roots in a strong religious faith."

A victory that does not have its roots in religious faith is not enduring. True, lasting victory has its roots in solid faith. This is a fact borne out by history. This is the insight of a famous revolutionary.

A friend of my heart, the French writer Victor Hugo, asks, "We who believe, what can we fear?" Those who have something they truly believe in are fearless. As Nichiren Daishonin declares, nothing can match a person of strong faith.

The Soka Gakkai's kosen-rufu movement has now, in name and fact, become the pillar of Japan in the 21st century. We of the Soka Gakkai are undeterred by the incredible slanders and abuse we encounter.

Indeed, we have been impervious to all attempts to undermine or destroy our movement



The Soka Gloria Wind Orchestra performs at the 5th Headquarters Leaders Meeting, commemorating May 3, Soka Gakkai Day.

over these many decades. There is no other organization like ours. Japan's future will be decided by the Soka Gakkai's advance. That is the kind of era we have now entered. For the first time in human history, we have succeeded in creating a great tide of world peace and kosen-rufu, for which the Daishonin would surely commend us.

Of course, irrespective of our great achievements so far, we

must always stay alert. While entrusting the future of our movement to the youth, I wish to declare that a solid foundation for the next millennium, for the next 10 millennia, is complete in every way.

**The SGI network today encompasses the entire globe.**

A short while ago, I received a report that another two countries have been added to our global SGI network. First, Grenada—a beautiful island-country in the Caribbean. And second, Mozambique—a country achieving vibrant development in that great continent of hope, Africa.

The SGI network today encompasses the entire globe, extending to a total of 165 countries and territories. We have built a great solidarity of global citizens without parallel.

At this meeting, we have members representing some 18 overseas countries and territories, including South Korea, Brazil and Spain. Thank you for joining us from so far away.

The central figures who are leading kosen-rufu activities in the two new countries joining our network are, incidentally, both women. The central figure in Mozambique is a doctor and in Grenada it is an airline company employee.

They have stood up resolutely with the determination to take full responsibility for the development of kosen-rufu in

those countries. This is wonderful proof that we have indeed entered a Century of Women.

May 3, 2001, also marks the first Soka Gakkai Mother's Day of the 21st century. Congratulations to all our mothers! We should have the utmost appreciation for the great mothers of kosen-rufu throughout Japan and the world. Let us give them a hearty round of applause.

Also, I am happy to say, we have recently celebrated the 50th anniversary, on April 20, of the *Seikyo Shimbun*, the Soka Gakkai's daily newspaper. Let us also give a big round of applause to those whom we owe an immeasurable debt—our "Uncrowned Heroes" who deliver the *Seikyo Shimbun* to us day in and day out. Thank you so much for your unstinting efforts.

**In the SGI, everyone is a champion of kosen-rufu.**

Buddhism is a teaching of great impartial wisdom. All members are presidents. All are block leaders. All are champions of kosen-rufu. This is the Soka Gakkai.

In the early days of the Soka Gakkai, we had leadership titles such as corps chief and the like, which were criticized as sounding militaristic. My mentor, Josei Toda, second Soka Gakkai president, who fought against militarism, deliberately chose these terms. He said: "We are not militarist in substance. Peace is our cause, not war." I

also commented to Mr. Toda, "Christianity, too, has a group that proudly calls itself the Salvation Army and is carrying out various activities in society to contribute to people's welfare."

Some have also claimed that our Japanese Soka Gakkai songs sound like military songs. In response to this, a distinguished scholar from overseas, who is well acquainted with our organization, says: "I have heard the brass band perform Soka Gakkai songs many times, and I enjoy them immensely. They are filled with the passion to work for the welfare of humanity and with the joy of human revolution. It is rousing music that springs from the heart, just like that of Beethoven."

**Only the noble can truly appreciate noble deeds.**

Just as people might tire of you always wearing the same clothes, people grow weary of leaders talking about the same thing all the time. They will be turned off, for instance, if every time you open your mouth you go on about "many in body, one in mind"! You will not succeed in getting your message across.

Here, I want to touch on the words of the American thinker and poet Henry David Thoreau. He also greatly influenced the thinking of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who both championed the cause of nonviolent action. Thoreau asked the question

## New Book on the Soka Gakkai

David Machacek, lecturer at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Bryan Wilson, professor emeritus at Oxford University, have published a new study of the Soka Gakkai. *Global Citizens: The Soka Gakkai Buddhist Movement in the World* is a unique, objective study of the lay Buddhist movement. Divided into two parts, "Origins and Changes in Japan" and "International Appearances," the work breaks new ground in research in English on the SGI because it is comprised largely of material contributed by Japanese scholars. The book includes perspectives on the movement's



evolution, its political endorsement in Japan, the influence and role of women, and analyses of SGI organizations in varied parts of the world such as the United States, Brazil and Europe.

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION MEETINGS

# Advancing With Patience

From This Speech:

Sometimes in our efforts to share Buddhism, instead of winning the other person's understanding, we meet with hostility and rejection. The Lotus Sutra predicts that those who propagate the Buddha's teachings will encounter attacks from arrogant lay people and arrogant priests — the first two of the three powerful enemies of Buddhism. The sutra teaches that Buddhism will spread for the 10,000 years and more of the Latter Day of the Law, for all eternity. Therefore, let us advance with such a big heart and vision as to be able to say serenely: "There's no hurry. We can gradually gain people's understanding over the course of the next 10,000 or 20,000 years!"

- 1) Have you ever encountered "hostility and rejection" in your efforts to share Buddhism with others? What was your response when meeting with this kind of reaction?
- 2) If people respond negatively to your efforts to share Buddhism with them, does that mean that the benefit you receive is less than the benefit you would get if they responded positively?
- 3) SGI President Ikeda says: "Therefore, let us advance with such a big heart and vision as to be able to say serenely: 'There's no hurry. We can gradually gain people's understanding over the course of the next 10,000 or 20,000 years!'" What do you think he is trying to teach us about the spirit of sharing Buddhism with others?
- 4) Why is sharing Buddhism with others such a powerful cause to bring forth the true potential of our lives? Do you have experiences of benefit derived from sharing Buddhism with others?

"When a noble deed is done, who is likely to appreciate it?"

In our case, noble deeds refer to activities such as introducing Buddhism to others, widely spreading its principles and teachings, helping others attain enlightenment and genuine happiness, and working to create lasting world peace. All of which we do, moreover, free of charge! [Laughter.] However, the world is all too full of deeds that are motivated only by self-gain or ambition for personal advancement.

Who is it that can correctly appreciate selfless, altruistic efforts? Thoreau asserts: "They who are noble themselves.... How can a man behold the light, who has no answering inward light?" Only the noble can appreciate noble deeds, he says.

Sometimes in our efforts to share Buddhism, instead of winning the other person's understanding, we meet with hostility and rejection. The Lotus Sutra predicts that those who propagate the Buddha's teach-

ings will encounter attacks from arrogant lay people and arrogant priests — the first two of the three powerful enemies of Buddhism. The sutra teaches that Buddhism will spread for the 10,000 years and more of the Latter Day of the Law, for all eternity. Therefore, let us advance with such a big heart and vision as to be able to say serenely: "There's no hurry. We can gradually gain people's understanding over the course of the next 10,000 or 20,000 years!"

Allow me to share some more words of Thoreau's of which I am fond: "The one great rule of composition — and if I were a professor of rhetoric I should insist on this — is to speak the truth. This first, this second, this third." The important thing is to just *speak the truth*. To speak out exhaustively until you get your message across.

*To be continued in the June 1 issue.*

## MAY 3 ACROSS THE NATION

Photo by JONATHAN WILSON



Members applaud a performance at the Philadelphia Community Center, May 3.

Photo by OLABISI FOWLER



Orlando Area members celebrate May 3, Soka Gakkai Day, at the new Orlando Community Center.

Photo by DIXON HAMBY



Pacific Northwest Zone members gather at the Seattle Culture Center on May 3.

# The Answer Is Education

## Dialogues on Education

**'All hope for the new century rests on the wisdom of the people. An awakened citizenry must keep a careful watch over politics. What, then, can be done to ensure a wise, well-informed citizenry? The answer lies in education.'**

On March 13, SGI President Ikeda met with Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a prominent Jewish human rights organization in the United States. Also present at the meeting, which was held at the Seikyo Shimbun Building in Tokyo, were Dr. Alfred Balitzer, newly appointed dean of faculty at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, SGI General Director Eiichi Wada, SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima and SUA President Daniel Habuki.

President Ikeda and Rabbi Cooper first met in January 1993, when the SGI leader visited the SWC's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. That visit led to the Soka Gakkai collaborating with the SWC in mounting the "The Courage to Remember: Anne Frank and the Holocaust" exhibition in Japan.

The traveling exhibition documents the tragedy of the Holocaust, which claimed more than 6 million Jewish lives, through photographs and the personal effects of those who perished, with a special focus on the young diarist Anne Frank. Since its opening at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building in 1994, the exhibition has been viewed by more than 1.7 million people. It is the first full-scale exhibition on the Holocaust to be shown in Japan.

President Ikeda thanked Rabbi Cooper for the SWC's assistance in making the exhibition possible and explained that its tour has brought hope and courage to people throughout Japan. As one example, he



President Ikeda takes (l-r) Rabbi Abraham Cooper and Dr. Alfred Balitzer on a tour of the Seikyo Shimbun Building, March 13. The three discussed Jewish culture and the future of education.

cited a letter from a teenager in Fukui Prefecture who had written saying that she had once attempted suicide, but after viewing the exhibition she was filled with fresh appreciation for the preciousness of life and determined to live from that point on with hope.

During the course of the discussion, it was announced that the SWC's traveling exhibition "Friedl Dicker-Brandeis," which features the life and works of the famous Bauhaus artist who perished in the Holocaust, will open at the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum in spring 2002. Dicker-Brandeis, an Austrian of Jewish descent, was deported to the Nazi concentration camp in Terezin during World War II. There, she taught art to the children in the camp, who were traumatized by the death and violence they witnessed around them.

Located near Prague in the Czech Republic, the Terezin concentration camp held some 140,000 Jews of German, Austrian and Czech descent before they were sent to the Nazi death camps during World War II. The detainees included some 15,000 children, only around 100 of whom survived the Holocaust. Dicker-Brandeis was later sent to Auschwitz, where she died at the age of 46, together with the children whom she would not abandon.

Rabbi Cooper explained that Dicker-Brandeis' courage in lighting a flame of hope in the children's hearts through art was comparable to Makiguchi's courage in fighting Japanese fascism to the death. Lauding President Ikeda's efforts to carry on his predecessor's spirit through his activities for peace, Rabbi Cooper presented the SGI leader with several pieces of fabric hand-woven by Dicker-Brandeis.

"I am honored to receive these treasures," Mr. Ikeda said, describing them as works of art woven with blood and tears. He promised to ensure their careful preservation and to put them on display for people around the world.

Speaking of the exhibition on the Austrian artist's life and works, the SGI leader said: "The 20th century was, sadly, a century of war. Therefore, it is imperative that we make the 21st century a humanistic, peaceful century for women and for children. In that sense, I believe the Dicker-Brandeis exhibition has great importance."

The SGI leader added that although the artist could have escaped before being sent to Terezin, she boldly chose to remain with the children in her community. "This is nobility of the highest order," he said. "Her example prompts

all of us to ask ourselves whether we could be capable of the same selfless courage in such circumstances."

He also cited second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda: "No people have been as oppressed as the Jews. None can compare to them in terms of their intellect and talent. We should emulate them and learn from their indomitable spirit!" Acknowledging the many influential scholars and intellectuals of Jewish heritage, President Ikeda said he had the deepest respect for the Jews and said he looked forward to seeing what kind of outstanding world leaders would emerge from the ranks of the Jewish youth in the future.

"Persecutions of the Jews have often been incited by the hate propaganda of political demagogues," he stated. "This is a historical fact that we absolutely must not forget."

During a 1999 showing of "The Courage to Remember" exhibition in Tokyo, Rabbi Cooper said that ordinary people understand the true nature of problems in the world far better than politicians. Reminding him of this comment, Mr. Ikeda expressed his complete agreement: "Ultimately, all hope for the new century rests on the wisdom of the people. An awakened citizenry must keep a careful watch over politics.

What, then, can be done to ensure a wise, well-informed citizenry? The answer lies in education. The Jews have a great tradition of education and a profound respect for books."

President Ikeda identified the French philosopher Henri Bergson as one of the authors whose works he loved reading as a youth. He mentioned that Bergson was very proud of his Jewish heritage. "Raising the question of what can be done to combat a person of extreme evil such as Hitler," the SGI leader says, "Bergson states that there is only one way: for the Jews themselves to appeal to the conscience of humanity and to cause their voices to resound throughout the world." President Ikeda commended the SWC for carrying out activities in precisely this manner.

Responding to a number of questions from the SGI president on Judaism, Rabbi Cooper briefly explained the Jewish understanding of God, love, prayer and funerals; the status of the rabbi or teacher; the differences between Judaism and Christianity; and the Jewish view of life and death.

Asked by President Ikeda if he had any message he wished to convey to youth, Dr. Balitzer said that he hoped young people would live true to themselves. Next, he continued, he hoped they would have big dreams and be bold and courageous. He also hoped that they would help others before they helped themselves—this is a path to personal growth.

At the end of their meeting, Rabbi Cooper said he hoped that in the near future Mr. and Mrs. Ikeda would visit Jerusalem. The SGI leader said that he very much hoped to visit Israel, which he described as the microcosm of humankind and the world. **WT**

## Read the WT E-mail Express

The WT E-mail Express is a free, weekly e-mailer for World Tribune subscribers. It features excerpts from President Ikeda's new speeches, essays and dialogues, as well as previews of other upcoming World Tribune articles.

To subscribe to the WT E-mail Express, just follow these three easy steps:

- 1) Open a new e-mail message
- 2) Enter to: **ListManager@sgi-usa.org**
- 3) Enter message text (first line): **SUBSCRIBE wtexpress**

• You can also see the WT Express on the web, with pictures, at [www.sgi-usa.org/publications/wtexpress](http://www.sgi-usa.org/publications/wtexpress)

# the new HUMAN REVOLUTION

SGI President Ikeda's novelized history of the Soka Gakkai

## 'JEWELLED SWORD'

VOLUME 8, CHAPTER 2, PARTS 7-8

*'It may be difficult for those with experience to delegate responsibility to the younger generation. Nevertheless, it is only by learning from our mistakes and gaining experience over time that we acquire substantial strength.'*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto recalled his mentor, Josei Toda, for the Suiko-kai members: "When Mr. Toda's business fell into crisis, I was suffering from tuberculosis. I had a persistent fever and sometimes coughed up blood. Our salaries were still suspended, and my coworkers were leaving one after another. Though they were indebted to him in many ways, some criticized Mr. Toda harshly behind his back.

"But I kept working. I had inwardly determined to give my life to Mr. Toda, to fight alongside him, and to die spreading Nichiren Daishonin's teachings while he was still alive. I believed that was the only way to leave behind an example of what it is to be a true disciple of Mr. Toda and of the Daishonin in the present day.

"Mr. Toda understood everything. He knew me completely, inside and out. He said to me: 'You're trying to kill yourself, aren't you? You've decided to give me your life. But I won't have it! You must live — live out your life to the fullest. I will give you my life so that you may do so.' It was a mentor's passionate cry of concern for his disciple and for the future of our movement. At those words, I strongly resolved to live out my life, dedicated to the advancement of kosen-rufu.

"To give one's life to kosen-rufu and to live one's life for kosen-rufu are two sides of the same coin. One is not different from the other. Both include the spirit to devote one's life to propagating the Mystic Law.

"Why am I telling you, the Suiko-kai members, these things? It is because you represent the youth who have been

entrusted with the mission of accomplishing the worldwide spread of Buddhism."

This guidance carried profound significance for the youthful leaders. Eisuke Akizuki and the others acutely sensed that Shin'ichi was pouring all of his energy into the Suiko-kai.

That evening, the youth gathered for a guidance session in a hall of the inn where they were staying. This gave Shin'ichi an opportunity to hear their opinions, reports and questions. He knew that dialogue that promotes life-to-life exchange was extremely important, for it embodies the principle of oneness of mentor and disciple.

Kenshiro Ishikawa, head of the young men's division, acted as moderator. No sooner did he invite those with questions to raise their hands than did the hands of everyone in the room shoot up. All were eager for the opportunity to ask a question or share their thoughts with President Yamamoto.

Shin'ichi felt that all the guidance and encouragement he had been giving to youth was steadily bearing fruit.

Shin'ichi had consistently appealed to his precious successors in the youth division: "Above all, I want you to decide that the responsibility for our movement's progress lies with you. I hope you will always deeply consider the many social problems that are sure to arise as we proceed with our great task and think of the wisest possible solutions."

He had also said to them: "Whether you are a politician, a company president or in

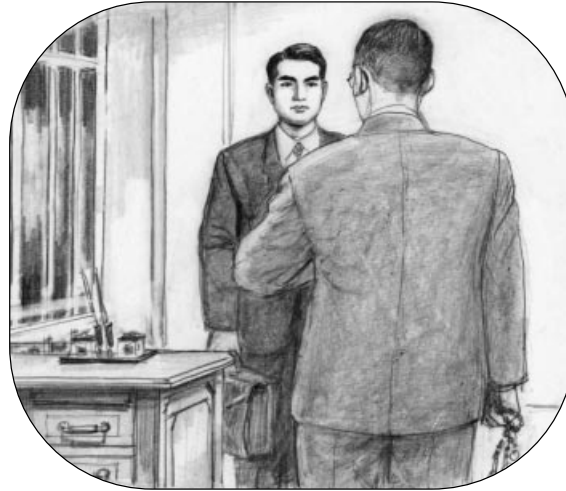


Illustration by KENICHIRO UCHIDA

charge of an organization, you cannot fulfill the heavy responsibilities that come with the job if you are passive and inactive. The Daishonin writes: 'The generals in a tumultuous age develop strategy behind drawn curtains, and victory is decided thousands of miles away from the field of battle' (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 183). When generals gather, they bring to the table information they possess and the various issues that need addressing. They examine in minute detail every conceivable approach and consider every solution, creatively working out a plan that will lead to victory.

"I myself am constantly thinking about how to spread the Daishonin's teachings and devising different ways to reach our goal. Based on your ideas and reports, I draw up plans of action. But without any input, I have nothing to work with. Zero multiplied by any number will always be zero.

"I therefore ask that whenever you come to see me, you bring with you any questions, thoughts, opinions or reports you may have."

These youth, who were in the prime of their development, had put Shin'ichi's guidance into practice. Their questions and ideas ranged widely, from doctrinal issues to the relationship between social reform and human revolution. Many expressed the opinion that if the Komei-kai was really aiming to change Japanese government for the better, it

would have to send representatives not only to the Upper House of the Diet but to the Lower House as well.

Opinions were exchanged openly, and various issues were raised. Shin'ichi addressed them all, sometimes going into great detail, and sometimes saying only, "I'll leave it up to you!"

When people are given real responsibility, they become aware of their mission and demonstrate surprising ability. It may be difficult for those with experience to delegate responsibility to the younger generation. There is certainly the risk of mistakes. Nevertheless, it is only by learning from our mistakes and gaining experience over time that we acquire substantial strength.

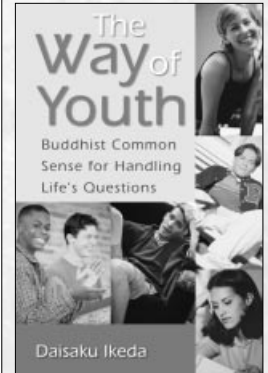
Youth must be given a stage upon which they can act freely, while being watched over from a distance. It is up to those who are older and have more experience to have the generosity of heart to take full responsibility if they fail.

Daisaku Ikeda appears in the novel as Shin'ichi Yamamoto. The events take place in 1963.

To subscribe to the *World Tribune* or *Living Buddhism* via the web, visit [www.sgisubs.com](http://www.sgisubs.com)

## The Way of Youth

Buddhist Common Sense for Handling Life's Questions  
Daisaku Ikeda



Based on the popular "Discussions on Youth" series in the *World Tribune*, *The Way of Youth* brings together President Ikeda's responses to the questions of today's young people. Edited for a general audience, the book offers insights into a variety of issues of concern to today's young people, including how to build confidence and character, learning to live with and respect both yourself and others, finding true happiness, dealing with peer pressure and how to contribute to a positive, free and peaceful society. The book is sure to appeal to teens and their parents of all faiths. 0-9674697-0-8, Paperback, \$14.95

**"An outstanding guide to humanity. I recommend it to all who desire to seek self-improvement."**

—Arun Gandhi, Founding Director of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

MIDDLEWAY PRESS

APPLYING BUDDHISM TO DAILY LIFE

Middleway Press books are available at your favorite neighborhood or on-line bookseller. (Not available at SGI-USA bookstores.)

## VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE 2001

# CHERISHING YOUNG PEOPLE CREATES A NEW FUTURE

By DARIN NELLIS

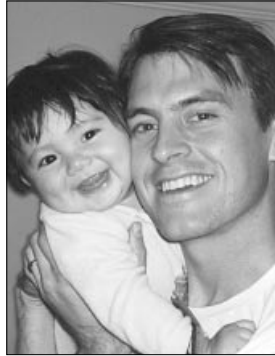
SGI-USA YOUTH PEACE COMMITTEE  
CO-CHAIR

**‘Cherishing the sanctity of human life!’ Darin Nellis says. ‘This is the heart and soul of what is meant by Victory Over Violence and the mentor–disciple relationship.’**

In my last article, on “The Next Steps for Victory Over Violence” (March 23 *World Tribune*), I wrote about the alarming increase in youth-on-youth violence and the significance of the mentor–disciple relationship in addressing this. In particular, it is the example of SGI President Ikeda’s compassionate actions to care deeply for others that I think can help us in addressing the underlying causes of youth violence.

Describing the purpose of the VOV campaign in his latest education proposal, President Ikeda says: “This movement is conducted through promoting dialogue to disseminate the spirit of nonviolence. The overarching goal is to transform the tendency to downplay the sanctity of life that became deeply rooted in the minds of our children during the twentieth century, the century of war and violence. The VOV movement is developing broadly in U.S. society and receiving support from many human rights organizations, schools, and other educational institutions. Above all, it has become a tremendous source of hope and courage for young people who have suffered the effects of violence” (February *Living Buddhism*, p. 26).

Cherishing the sanctity of human life—this is the heart and soul of what is meant by Victory Over Violence and the mentor–disciple relationship. So how can we “transform the tendency to downplay the sanctity of life” and cherish the lives of young people, es-



Darin Nellis with his daughter Sienna.

pecially for those who show signs of some of the common risk factors for violent behavior, i.e., weak social ties, anti-social behavior, delinquent peers and poor parent–child relations? Even if we have good intentions, are we guaranteed that a troubled young person will listen to us?

For the past five years this question has been a particularly painful concern of mine. Five years ago, my younger brother graduated high school. He seemed to be marked with the promise of future success. He was an all-star athlete and a good student. He was also the prince at his prom.

However, after he graduated he did not know what to do with himself, had little hope for the future and had a strong aversion to speaking with or being around his family. Sound familiar?

It got worse. Over the following five years, he fell into a deep depression and did a lot of drugs, avoided his family like the plague and even contemplated suicide several times. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and we had to force him to receive treatment and live in a locked facility. This experience tore my heart to shreds.

No matter what tactic I took, he would not be honest with me or speak to me at any length. I was extremely frustrated. I chanted and chanted and chanted until I was blue in the face.

When I did have the courage to face my younger brother, he would completely disrespect me, curse me and even hit me. It took a long time before I could get over

my anger at his insensitivity.

**We need to have unconditional love for young people.**

I thought again about how President Ikeda had been able to reach the hearts of generations of youth to build the SGI into the great organization it is today. I was particularly inspired by the following passage written by President Ikeda in *Learning from the Goshō: The Eternal Teachings of Nichiren Daishonin*: “Because Shakyamuni loved people, many gathered around him, drawn by his thoroughly human conduct. And, naturally, the atmosphere around him was always lively and bright. The same was true of the Daishonin. In his presence, people doubtless felt free to voice their innermost thoughts and feelings.

“Nichiren Daishonin was of course a strict mentor and teacher. But at the same time, from his many letters, we can see that people felt absolute assurance in confiding in him. He knew everything about them. In the Daishonin’s presence, even adults would become as honest and open as children. Almost without realizing it, they would reveal their genuine, unaffected selves, their true faces” (p. 144).

I realized that President Ikeda must know how Shakyamuni and the Daishonin loved people

because he also truly loves people. This is the love I have so often felt from President Ikeda in his guidance and when I recently visited Japan on a training trip.

I realized that if I were to help my brother, I would have to deepen my love for him and for other people. I needed to learn how to become more compassionate, more caring.

But what would I do if, despite my continued efforts, he kept rejecting me? Again, I was reminded of something President Ikeda had once said: “Friendship is not simply a matter of the other person liking you and caring about your welfare. Nor is true friendship conditional, lasting only as long as the other person does not betray you or let you down. It is your concern and feelings for the other person that make a friendship. Friendship is never betraying a friend, even if he or she should betray you. Being friends with someone while they’re experiencing good times but deserting them when they experience hard times cannot be called true friendship. Genuine friends have the courage to stick by a friend in even the worst situation, when everyone else has turned against him or her” (March 9 *World Tribune*, p. 6).

I realized that it did not matter what my brother did. What mattered was my attitude to continue to show him my love and not give

up, no matter what happened.

**The universal values of Buddhism can be shared through VOV.**

My challenges with my brother have given me the opportunity to deeply self-reflect and expand my capacity to care for others without any expectations. After five years of pain and struggle to understand why I was in this situation and could not seem to change it, I feel a profound sense of appreciation for my brother’s existence. My life has grown beyond what I could have imagined just five years ago.

Even more important, my brother has grown. He is now beginning to open up again to his family, he calls and visits his mother and he has a wonderful girlfriend who he is now moving in with. I cannot describe the amount of joy and appreciation I have for the practice of Buddhism and my mentor, Daisaku Ikeda, who guided me through every painful step of this experience.

VOV is our campaign to share universal Buddhist values, which we cherish so deeply, with people throughout the world. In my experience about learning how to cherish my brother’s life, I touched on a few of these values: compassion, reverence for life, courage and interdependence.

As we gear up for our Youth Family Festivals around the country this summer, I hope we can all take “The Next Steps for Victory Over Violence” by deepening our own capacity to care for others and to reach out to one young person who is suffering.

*Coming up next in this series: “The Mentor–Disciple Relationship and Mastering the Art of Dialogue.”*

Photo by KATSUNORI UMEZAWA



SGI-USA sponsors a VOV booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Monterey Park, Calif., April 21.

# Middleway Press: A Valuable Tool for Our Future

By REIKO GROSHELL

MIDDLEWAY PRESS MARKETING MANAGER

Have you ever gone to your local bookstore looking for books on Nichiren Buddhism and found only an abundance of books on Tibetan or Zen Buddhism? Or felt a little frustrated when you couldn't simply direct a friend who wanted to read about our philosophy to their neighborhood bookstore because there were no books available there? Well, no more — Middleway Press is here.

At first I did not understand why SGI-USA started Middleway Press. We already publish many books through World Tribune Press for our members, which are sold at SGI-USA community center bookstores. What is the difference whether we sell our books in our centers or in mainstream bookstores?

SGI President Ikeda has written scores of books, but ask almost anyone outside of SGI who he is, and they could not tell you. Unfortunately, his name is not as familiar as the Dalai Lama's. The same holds true for Nichiren and his teachings. Middleway Press is out to change this.

One experience helped me really understand how powerful a difference it will make. In marketing our first book by President Ikeda, *The Way of Youth*, we hired a publicity firm to assist us. The firm's president liked the idea of Buddhist philosophy and felt *The Way of Youth* was a great book for everyone, so she took on the project. Thanks to her firm's efforts, we have gotten print and radio exposure for President Ikeda's book all over the country. But that is not all.

The next project we wanted help with was *The Buddha in Your Mirror*, a new practical introduction to Nichiren Buddhism, which has just been released. Our publicist read the book and was so inspired she started chanting two hours a day to and from work — and getting benefits. "Miracles" she called them.

A short time later, she wanted to subscribe to our publications and shared her experience with her father and brother, who also could not wait to read our books. More



Photo by GREGORY NAKASUJI

SGI-USA's book department is determined to make Nichiren Buddhism, the SGI and Daisaku Ikeda household names among the book-buying public. (Back row, l-r) Ted Morino, Lisa Kirk, Dave McNeill and Fred Zaitu. (Front row, l-r) Joel Drazner, Reiko Groshell, Greg Martin and Palma Odano.

chanting and benefits later, she wanted to know everything about SGI-USA and how to join. She is now connected to her local organization and attending meetings.

I finally got it. Middleway Press's purpose was to reach not only people we know but people we don't know — people who might encounter us

only through books. Such is the power of the printed word. With Middleway books displayed in our neighborhood and online bookstores, we can reach a broader audience. You and your friends going into your local bookstore asking for our books is a powerful cause to create this greater awareness.

Please send any comments to us at [middlewaypress@sgi-usa.org](mailto:middlewaypress@sgi-usa.org). Please also visit our Web site, [www.middlewaypress.com](http://www.middlewaypress.com), where you can buy books directly from a bookstore in your area.

We hope Middleway Press continues to be a valuable tool for you, and we thank you for your continued and enthusiastic support. **WT**

I am looking forward to the day when Daisaku Ikeda, the SGI and Nichiren Buddhism are household words.

In the past nine months, we have been hearing from people about how much they've enjoyed *The Way of Youth* and *For the Sake of Peace*, and how the existence of Middleway Press is helping them in their efforts to share Buddhism. We want to hear your impressions regarding any Middleway Press book, so we can share it with everyone.

**World**  
**TRIBUNE** The  
SGI-USA's  
Weekly  
Newspaper

**General Director**  
Daniel Nagashima

**Publisher**  
Fred M. Zaitu  
**Assistant Publisher**  
Greg Martin  
**Editor in Chief**  
Ted Morino

**Managing Editor**  
Jeff Farr  
[jfarr@sgi-usa.org](mailto:jfarr@sgi-usa.org)

**Staff Writer**  
Jamie Liptan  
[jliptan@sgi-usa.org](mailto:jliptan@sgi-usa.org)

**Staff Photographer**  
Gregory Nakasuji

**Contributing Artists**  
Stephanie Sydney  
[ssydney@sgi-usa.org](mailto:ssydney@sgi-usa.org)  
Linda Eberle

**Staff Translators**  
Jeff Kriger  
Shin Yatomi

**Contributing Photographers**

Kathryn D. Brown  
Audrey Dempsey  
Olabisi Fowler  
Dixon Hamby  
Jennifer Lawrence  
Pat Lawrence  
Rena Sachartoff  
Katsunori Umezawa  
Jonathan Wilson

**Bureau Chiefs**

Angela Harris, Atlanta  
Fletcher Dalton, Boston  
Veronica Evans, Chicago  
Jim Dreisbach, Florida  
Joanne Tachibana, Hawaii  
Kathleen Slattery, Los Angeles  
Cheryl Utley, Midwest  
Robert Taliaferro, New York  
Dave Shadovitz, Philadelphia  
Irene Owada, Rocky Mountain  
Liz Anderson, San Diego  
Ron Baird, San Francisco  
Bill Lawrence, Seattle  
Troy Murrain, Texas  
Robin Meader, Washington, D.C.

**Foreign Language Pages**

Chinese: Ingrid Yeh  
Korean: Charles Lee  
Spanish: Martha Mauny  
Japanese: Katsunori Umezawa

**READERS COMMENTS**

Send to:  
Mailbox  
606 Wilshire Blvd. PO Box 1427  
Santa Monica, CA 90406-9907  
or e-mail: [wt@sgi-usa.org](mailto:wt@sgi-usa.org)

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
1-800-835-4558  
or e-mail: [SGISUBS@aol.com](mailto:SGISUBS@aol.com)

**FRIENDS FOR PEACE**  
[ffp@sgi-usa.org](mailto:ffp@sgi-usa.org)

**SEIZE THE DAY**  
[seize@sgi-usa.org](mailto:seize@sgi-usa.org)

**SPANISH PAGES**  
[wtspanish@sgi-usa.org](mailto:wtspanish@sgi-usa.org)

The *World Tribune* welcomes reader submissions. If you are interested in contributing an article or photograph, please contact us for guidelines. Together we can make a great newspaper.

## SUA Family Tour Day, Aug. 4

If you have been looking for a chance to see the new SUA, Aliso Viejo campus, Aug. 4 is your chance. SUA's staff and faculty will be on hand to answer questions and assist with self-guided walking tours that will give parents, students, interested friends and neighbors a chance to go inside key buildings.

**Here is the schedule:**

**9:00 a.m.— Noon**

Self-guided Walking Tours  
(SUA provides the map!)

**10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Student and Parent Q-and-A  
session

### SUA Family Tour Day Reservation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of other people attending with you? \_\_\_\_\_

How many prospective students will be in your group? \_\_\_\_\_

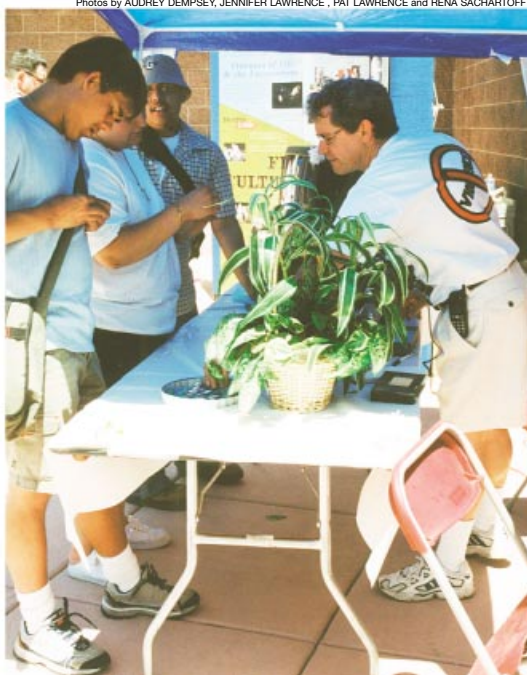
Will anyone in your group need special assistance for the tour? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please let us know how we can assist you: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** Family Tour Day Reservations  
Soka University, Aliso Viejo  
1 University Drive  
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656



Photos by AUDREY DEMPSEY, JENNIFER LAWRENCE, PAT LAWRENCE and RENA SACHARTOFF



FROM LAS VEGAS, 1

guests to enjoy. There were a dozen exhibits, a youth forum, a community panel seminar, exciting musical performances and a special area of continuous games and stories for the Boys & Girls Group and their guests. The games and stories all had significant lessons, teaching the children that violence was not the way to solve disputes.

The exhibits were individually based on defined areas of violence, passive as well as aggressive. Some of the booths were created by SGI-USA members and others from the community.

The SGI-USA's Victory

Over Violence exhibit was displayed and attendees were asked to sign the VOV pledge. Another booth displayed the perspective of violence against women from all corners of the world, and the passive violence of prejudice was dramatically displayed through current newspaper articles, films and books.

The Golden Stage Group determined never to have war again and shared their war experiences through an exhibit. Children and adults enjoyed the environmental exhibit that made a plea to all to save the Earth, and that to cause its destruction was one of the greatest acts of violence.

Several community agencies participated. They in-

cluded: Neighborhood Justice, an agency dedicated to counseling at-risk youth; the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish anti-hate educational group; Safe Nest, a service that provides a variety of domestic violence solutions for victims and their families; and Teens, Crime and the Community, a county-wide school program dedicated to public awareness. Although the subject matter was serious, all the booths were bright and cheerful. Each one offered hope through information, education and assistance for anyone needing help.

The high point of the day was the afternoon seminars. The Youth Forum was attended by approximately 100 young peo-

ple. Divided into 12 groups, each table had a youth facilitator. They discussed causes and possible solutions to domestic, neighborhood, economic and cultural violence, as well as political perspectives and the role of the media. The result of these discussions will be collected and then published.

Immediately following the Youth Forum, a community panel of speakers was conducted. It consisted of John Overhall, local newscaster; Ramon Savoy, editor of the Sentinel Voice, a minority-directed weekly publication; Cynthia Luria, director of the Anti-Defamation League; and Suzette Norland, of the Community Counseling Center. The room was filled to capacity

with many people standing. Each panelist spoke on their area of knowledge and influence. A spirited Q-and-A session followed.

At the end of the seminars, the drums rolled, the trumpets blared and the Celebration of Peace performance began, starting with a musical number from the Las Vegas Boys & Girls Group. The performance showcased SGI-USA groups and several groups from the community. Acts included dancers, singing groups, dramatic readings and precision drill dancers.

While the event itself came to an end, the cause made that day will reverberate in Las Vegas for a very long time to come. **WT**