

CONTRIBUTING TO HISTORY
SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF OUR KOSEN-RUFU MOVEMENT

2017 May Contribution

DISTRICT LEADERS ENCOURAGEMENT GUIDE

Message to District Leaders

Thank you very much for your tremendous care of the members in your district and for all that you do. Your efforts on the frontlines are advancing kosen-rufu at this crucial time for our SGI movement, our country and the world.



May Contributions provide vital funds to fuel our movement and are needed for its growth. We ask that you encourage your members to challenge themselves to participate and have a great victory in faith. Contributing to advance kosen-rufu with appreciation for this practice is

a powerful cause that cannot fail to bring benefit to the lives of those who participate. We hope that you find this guide helpful in promoting May Contribution. Thank you very much for your sincere efforts to support and expand our movement for peace.

Using This Encouragement Guide

Feel free to draw from this Guide when promoting May Contribution at the April and May Discussion Meetings and on Home Visits. Contents are below:

- May Contribution Overview/Summary Page
- History of Contributions
- Discussion Meetings: Promotion Ideas & Materials
- Guidance
- Contributions Today

Ways to Give:

- Online at www.sgi-usa.org/contributions
- By phone at 855-744-2030
- In person OR by mail

Please do not give or collect cash outside of SGI-USA Buddhist Centers. Thank you!

MAY CONTRIBUTION DATES: FRIDAY APRIL 28 – SUNDAY JUNE 4

SUMMARY PAGE

2017 May Contribution

Supporting the Expansion of Our Kosen-rufu Movement



President Ikeda will finish the final installment of *The New Human Revolution* by November 18, 2018.

Importance of This Time:

- SGI President Ikeda has asked us to work hard with him over the next two years to expand our movement for the sake of humanity.
- We are determined to create an eternal foundation for our organization and raise youthful successors for the future.
- Our first milestone toward this is to gather 50,000 determined youth in 2018 and create history together with our mentor.
- May Contributions will provide vital support to these and other expansion efforts.

Purpose of May Contribution:

- Our sincere offerings are, first and foremost, an opportunity to express appreciation for having our Buddhist practice.
- Members' financial contributions support the practice of our growing membership, activities, Buddhist Centers and new projects.
- Contributions also support efforts to reach new people with an empowering message of hope, at a time when many feel hopeless and helpless.
- Making offerings and other causes to advance kosen-rufu will help to transform society and bring benefit to our own lives as well.

May Contribution Dates:

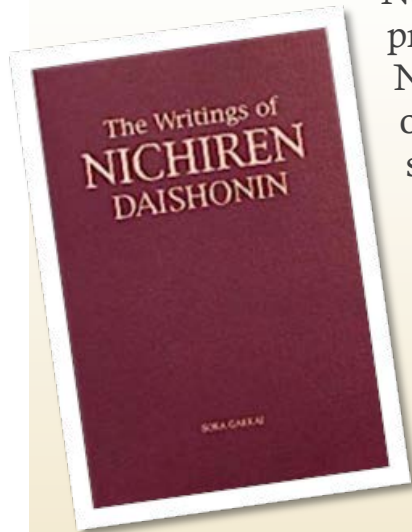
- Friday, April 28th through Sunday, June 4th

Additional Reference Materials:

- **Living Buddhism:** April & May issues have May guidance, experiences and other information.
- **World Tribune:** Look for the April 7th Contribution Insert and various issues through April and May.
- **SGI-USA Website:** For videos and written experiences, study and information, please visit our website at: www.sgi-usa.org/contributions

HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Heroes of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Nanjo Tokimitsu and others provided crucial support to Nichiren Daishonin despite their own difficult circumstances, saving the Daishonin from starvation and supporting the transmission of his teachings.

As the Daishonin wrote to his disciple, Soya Doso:

“[T]his last third month, you donated numerous strings of coins.

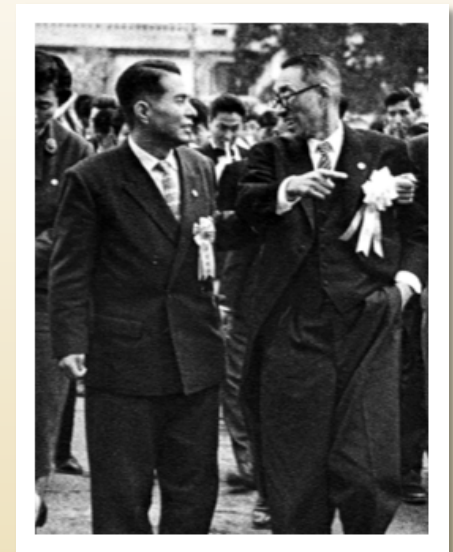
As a result, this year, we have been able to support over a hundred men at this mountain dwelling and they are able to read and recite the Lotus Sutra and discuss its doctrines all day long. In this evil latter age, this represents the foremost Buddhist practice in all of Jambudvipa.” (WND-1, 990)

When we look back at the history of the Soka Gakkai and the three presidents, we can see how each one’s desire to respond to his mentor served to propel our

movement forward. The great advances of the SGI’s movement for peace can be traced back to the actions of these three men and their disciples, who each worked to realize their mentor’s vision, while supporting kosen-rufu financially to help to ensure the realization of these dreams. As President Ikeda has said:

“In the early days . . . no one believed that worldwide kosen-rufu could become a reality. . . . From nothing — no funding, no support, no human resources, no time—we have forged a path where none before had

existed. And now, true to my conviction, Bodhisattvas of the Earth have appeared in countries around the world.” (*The Wisdom of the Lotus Sutra*, vol. 6, p. 214)



Like these heroic figures of the past, we too are fighting to support our mentor and advance kosen-rufu now and into the future.

Discussion Meeting and Promotion Ideas:

- Ask a member to share a well-prepared faith experience related to appreciation and contribution at your discussion meetings.
- Invite members, especially youth, to share why they choose to contribute to SGI-USA.
- Describe the purpose & spirit of May Contribution using this Packet's Summary Page.
- Prepare a study presentation using materials from this packet or one of the publications on the topic of contributions.
- Members may enjoy watching a youth experience **online** at: www.sgi-usa.org/contributions



"I received the Gohonzon in 2013. After a year of practice, I had great appreciation for the SGI and President Ikeda, because the way I viewed my life had changed, and so I am determined to show my gratitude in financial contributions. Before Buddhism, I believed that I didn't belong anywhere, but I've come to realize that I belong everywhere; my judgmental nature

has transformed into empathy and compassion. So like all SGI activities, participating in contribution helps me expand my life." –Seth Leeper, NY (April 7, 2017 *World Tribune*, p. 3)

Guidance and Encouragement:

"The benefit that accrues from making contributions is clearly spelled out in the Goshō. If we were to contribute to kosen-rufu just as the Goshō teaches and then failed to receive actual proof, then Buddhism would be false. . . . Confident of the good fortune we are attaining, let us continue to advance joyfully, harmoniously and in high spirits." (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 10, pp. 171-72)

"In the face of these severe economic conditions, the determination of [Soka Gakkai members] to make contributions only burned brighter. They knew they were presented with a rare chance. Had they been born in a different age, they thought, they would never have been given this opportunity, and they thus regarded it as the greatest good fortune. . . . Sharing their determinations with one another, members set high contribution goals for themselves and then poured their energies into achieving them, their hearts aflame with vibrant joy." (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 10, pp. 165-67)

"Since your unlined robe has been offered to the Buddhas of the 69,384 characters that make up the Lotus Sutra, it is 69,384 robes. And since every one of these 69,384 Buddhas is made up of the 69,384 sutra characters, it is as though you had offered that many robes to each of them. . . . Be firmly convinced that the benefits from this will extend to your parents, your grandparents, nay, even to countless living beings, not to mention your own husband, whom you hold most dear." (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 533)

Please find additional guidance, experiences and information online at www.sgi-usa.org/contributions

CONTRIBUTIONS TODAY

Contributions help to build and strengthen our movement for peace by supporting new and ongoing projects, activities, special events and Buddhist Centers.

Reaching People Online:

- SGI-USA has reached millions of people online through its: Facebook Page, YouTube Videos, and the World Tribune and SGI-USA websites.
- New people contact SGI-USA's Facebook Page each day asking about the practice and expressing interest in attending a meeting. Others discover the SGI through online videos.
- SGI-USA members can enjoy and share these sources of encouragement as well.



At a difficult time in his life, Joe Perretti saw an inspiring quote from President Ikeda on a friend's Facebook page. He asked about it and was invited to a meeting. He said that chanting "relieved the tightness and pressure I felt in my chest. . . . I found myself smiling." Joe received the Gohonzon soon after and is now a YMD leader in Queens, NY.

Special Events

West Territory
Champions of
the New Era
Meeting,
March 2017



Please learn more by visiting our website at www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/contributions/howmakediff/

New Buddhist Centers

Since 2010, SGI-USA has opened 34 new or expanded Buddhist centers across the country with more on the way.



SGI-USA 2016 Expenditures

SGI-USA Use of Funds from Operations in 2016

- Buildings: Operations/Maintenance
- Activities/Programs/Services
- Cost of Goods: Bookstore, Publications
- General/Administrative
- Facilities—Capital Expense: IT
- Fundraising

