

CONTRIBUTING TO HISTORY
SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF OUR KOSEN-RUFU MOVEMENT
2018 MAY CONTRIBUTION
DISTRICT LEADERS ENCOURAGEMENT GUIDE

MESSAGE TO DISTRICT LEADERS

Thank you very much for your wonderful care of your members and for the many things you do on the frontlines. Together we are working to secure the peace of our land through the historic expansion of our SGI movement.



May Contributions provide vital funds to support kosen-rufu in America 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 advance 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: SATURDAY APRIL 28 – SUNDAY JUNE 3

SUMMARY PAGE

2018 May Contribution Supporting the Expansion of American Kosen-rufu



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

IMPORTANCE OF THIS TIME:

- In this period of violence and upheaval, SGI President Ikeda has asked us to work hard with him 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 a message of hope to enable them to change their destinies.
- Making offerings and other causes to advance kosen-rufu will help to transform society, futher our human revolution and bring great benefit to our own lives.

MAY CONTRIBUTION DATES:

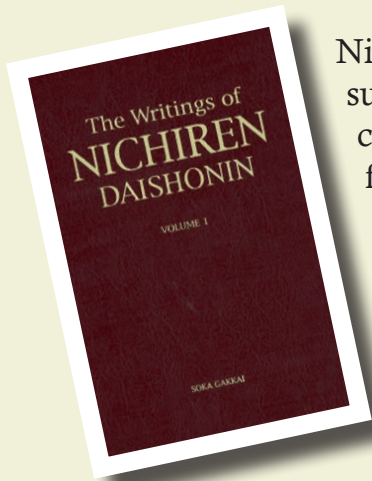
Saturday, April 28th through Sunday, June 3rd

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- **Living Buddhism:** April & May issues have May guidance, experiences and other information.
- **World Tribune:** Look for the April 6th 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



Nichiren's disciples provided crucial support to him, despite their own difficult circumstances. This saved the Daishonin from starvation and supported the transmission of his teachings.

The Daishonin described the benefits of making offerings to his disciple Myomitsu, who continued to practice in Kamakura despite government suppression:

“[Y]our sincerity in sending a gift of five strings of blue-duck coins whenever the opportunity arises truly entitles you to be known as one who propagates the daimoku of the Lotus Sutra in Japan. As first one person, then two persons, then a thousand, ten thousand, a hundred thousand, and then all the people throughout the country come to chant the daimoku, before you know it, their blessings will accrue to you. Those blessings will be like the drops of dew that gather to form the great ocean, or the specks of dust that pile up to become Mount Sumeru.” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 672)

When we look 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. Each worked to realize their mentor's vision, while supporting kosen-rufu



financially to help to ensure the realization of these dreams. President Ikeda has written:

“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)

“The mentor's challenge is the disciple's challenge. The disciple's victory is the mentor's victory. The brilliant achievements of mentor and disciple endure for all time.” (March 2018 Living Buddhism, p. 61)

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 one of the video experiences 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 offerings and financial contributions the organization solicited were exclusively to accomplish the Daishonin's mandate to widely propagate the Mystic Law. Offerings made toward this end were equivalent to offerings made to the original Buddha. There was, then, no greater offering, no greater good. Certainly, nothing could bring greater benefit.” (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 4, pp. 115)

“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)

“The spirit of joyful offering elevates our state of life and produces immeasurable benefit. This, in turn, deepens our conviction in faith. It is an unchanging equation for consolidating the foundation of happiness in our lives.” (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 4, p. 112)

“Just as flowers open up and bear fruit, just as the moon appears and invariably grows full, just as a lamp becomes brighter when oil is added, and just as plants and trees flourish with rain, so will human beings never fail to prosper when they make good causes.” (WND, vol I, p. 1013)

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

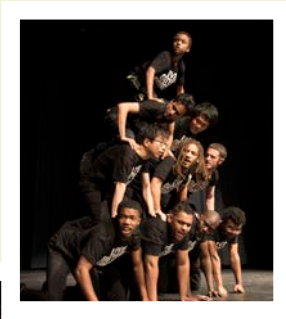
CONTRIBUTIONS TODAY

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

SPECIAL EVENTS AND VENUE RENTALS

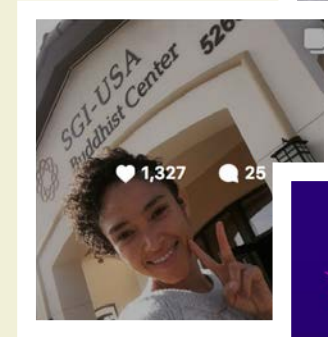
Events, rehearsals and other preparations provide opportunities for training and encouragement. Contributions support SGI-USA's rentals of outside venues and other event expenses, including:

- The 50K Lions of Justice Events in nine locations nationwide;
- Schools used for youth practices; and
- Rentals for Kosen-rufu Gongyo in areas without an SGI center.



REACHING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ONLINE

- Millions have encountered SGI-USA online through its Social Media program, including a new focus on Instagram.
- New people reach out weekly to learn about SGI.
- A new Lions of Justice Website has experience videos, interviews, guidance and ways to share and promote these exciting events.



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 2017 EXPENDITURES

SGI-USA Use of Funds from Operations in 2017

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

