

DISTRIBUTE TO: District Through Territory Women's Division Leaders
FROM: SGI-USA Women's Leader, Naoko Leslie
SUBJECT: Women's Division Guidelines 2020

United as a Soka family, women's division activities will be based on the organizational rhythm and direction for 2020 and the 60th anniversary of worldwide kosen-rufu.

WOMEN'S FOCUS

"First, it's important to pray wholeheartedly to the Gohonzon to be able to share Nichiren Daishonin's teachings with others. When you do so, people who are seeking Buddhism will appear in your environment. It's also crucial that you speak with as many people as possible about the practice.

At any rate, all your efforts to share Nichiren Buddhism will come back to you as good fortune. Whether or not the other person starts to practice, you are still creating causes for your own attainment of Buddhahood."
(*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 13, pp. 165-66)

In 2020, let's each determine to expand trust and friendship to secure the peace of the land. So Let's:

- Sponsor one friend (especially a youth) to receive the Gohonzon.
- Connect with and warmly encourage our co-YWD leaders and YWD in our districts.

SGI-USA Women's Day—February 27th Commemorative Introductory Meeting

Between February 27-29, an introductory meeting open to all women, young women and their guests, will be held in commemoration of SGI-USA Women's Day.

Each zone can decide the level and location to hold this meeting (local centers, district/chapter homes).

Suggested Agenda

- Gongyo
- Intro to Buddhism
- Gohonzon Conferrals
- Experience
- Small Group Discussions
- Encouragement by WD or YWD Leader



Establishment of the Women's Division—June 10th Relay Gongyo and Daimoku

Second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda inaugurated the women's division on June 10, 1951. He repeatedly encouraged women, expressing his heartfelt wish for each and every one of them to become happy.

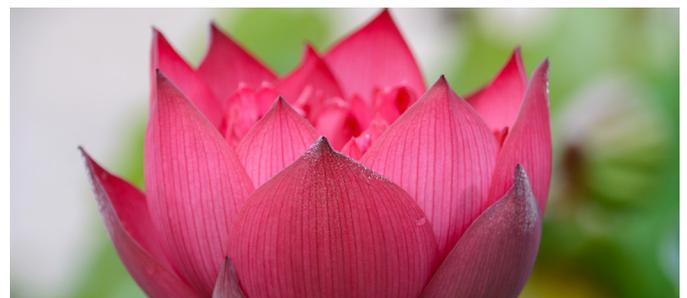
Wednesday, June 10th—Relay Gongyo and Daimoku for the Happiness and Peace of the Land

- One-hour relay gongyo and daimoku at your own home
- Anytime from 5am to 10am in your time zone

FNCC Conferences

Conference Dates

June 26-29 Women's #1—WD ages 45 and under
Sept 11-14 Women's #2—Open to all women



AMERICA VICTORY DAIMOKU GROUP

“The power of the Mystic Law to ‘change poison into medicine’ is absolute. The purpose of faith is to transform our karma and enjoy a life of unparalleled happiness. Prayer to the Gohonzon, chanting Nam-myoho-rence-kyo, is not abstract or theoretical. It is a burning inner flame to be victorious. If that flame of resolve blazes in our heart, the instant we chant, we have already won. It is, as the Daishonin declares, like ‘a lantern lighting up a place that has been dark for a hundred, a thousand, or ten thousand years’ (“The One Essential Phrase,” *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 923). This is the practice of human revolution that is accessible to all.” (May 15, 2009, *World Tribune*, p. 5)

The America Victory Daimoku Group is open to all women to gather and chant daimoku (Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo) for:

- Sensei and Mrs. Ikeda’s excellent health and longevity
- Secure the peace of the land through youth shakubuku expansion
- Personal breakthrough and victories

The frequency can be decided by leaders at the level the activity is being held. Please share short encouragement from *The New Human Revolution* or from a current *World Tribune* or *Living Buddhism* at the conclusion of the chanting session.

SOPHIA GROUP

In February 1990, Ikeda Sensei named a gathering of women’s division members “Sophia” (meaning skill, intelligence, wisdom in Greek) with the intent that its members expand their intellect for the sake of happiness of themselves and others and the protection of our kosen-rufu movement.

The purpose of the Sophia Group is to develop leaders who are rooted in the oneness of mentor and disciple and who advance kosen-rufu on the frontlines by creating victories in their personal lives and districts.

Sophia Term

The 2020 Sophia Group meetings will begin in March and conclude in December 2020.

Study Material

The study material will be *The New Human Revolution* which is published in the *World Tribune*, *Living Buddhism* or any volume of the book sold in SGI-USA Bookstores or online store.

Eligibility

Sophia Group is open to all women’s division members and guests who want to study and must bring their own study material to the meetings. Please use this opportunity to encourage new women’s division members, including YWD graduates, to join the Sophia Group. No copies of the material will be provided.

Group Size

The group should be no more than 10-12 women to accommodate meaningful discussion. Based on feedback, it is suggested that meetings be held at the chapter level.

Facilitators

Each region should confirm the Sophia Group meetings to be held for 2020. A facilitator(s) should be assigned to each group by the appropriate level (chapter or region) women leaders. Each zone is asked to submit a name list of facilitators **by January 20th** to your territory women’s leader.

The facilitator’s role is to coordinate and communicate about the monthly study to the Sophia Group members and to keep this activity fresh and vital. Prior experience in Sophia Group is not necessary.

Facilitator orientation link coming in February.

Five Eternal Guidelines for the Women’s Division

1. Everything begins with prayer.
2. Advancing harmoniously with our families.
3. Fostering young successors.
4. Cherishing our communities and societies.
5. Joyfully sharing our experiences in faith.

This information and additional resources are available on the SGI-USA Women’s Division Page at:
www.sgi-usa.org/category/wd/