

DISTRIBUTE TO: Group through Territory Women's Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Women's Leader Naoko Leslie
SUBJECT: Women's Division Guidelines 2021

United as a Soka family, women's division activities will be based on the organizational rhythm and direction for 2021: Year of Hope and Victory, and toward the 100th anniversary of the Soka Gakkai in 2030!

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 2021, let's each determine to expand trust and friendship to secure the peace of the land by:

- Encouraging one friend to chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo; and
- Connecting with and warmly encouraging our co-YWD leaders and YWD in our districts.

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

Between February 25-28, a virtual introductory meeting open to all women, young women and their guests, will be held in commemoration of SGI-USA Women's Day.

Each region can decide the level to hold this meeting (group, district, chapter).

Suggested Agenda

- Intro to Buddhism
- Message (TBD)
- Experience
- Presentation
- Small Group Discussions
- Encouragement by WD or YWD Leader



70th Anniversary of the 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.

Thursday, 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

Daimoku Charts

Feel free to utilize the daimoku charts available at this link: <https://www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/womensdivision/resources.php>

AMERICA VICTORY DAIMOKU GROUP

“Those who consistently chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo are never defeated. Members throughout Japan and the world are demonstrating the tremendous beneficial power of the Mystic Law. Chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo is a source of limitless hope.

“The motto of our women’s division members in Brazil is ‘Muito mais daimoku!’ (‘More daimoku!’). They have triumphed over all obstacles with prayer powered by the determination to make the impossible possible.

“In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, our members around the globe, with our dauntless women’s division members in the forefront, have been chanting even more strongly—their combined chanting reaching truly astronomical proportions. The incredible benefit flowing therefrom is sure to enfold and positively impact all humankind on a broad and deep level” (worldtribune.org).

The America Victory Daimoku Group is open to all women to chant 60 minute domei (simultaneous) daimoku (Nam-myoho-renge-kyo) for:

- Sensei and Mrs. Ikeda’s excellent health and longevity
- To secure the peace of the land through planting seeds of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo.
- The happiness and growth of our Future Division members as our successors.
- Personal breakthroughs and victories

The frequency can be decided by the leaders at the level the activity is being held. Please share a short 10–15 minute direction and encouragement from *The New Human Revolution* or from a current *World Tribune* or *Living Buddhism* at the conclusion of the chanting session. The meeting can be by phone or zoom.

SOPHIA GROUP—Let’s encourage every woman to join the 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 for 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 2021 Sophia Group meetings will begin in March and conclude in December 2021.

Study Material

The New Human Revolution, Volume 30—Each Sophia Group member should subscribe to the SGI-USA publications and have their own copy of the study material.

Volume 30 is expected to be available in book form in the spring period. In the meantime, Sophia Group members can access chapter 1, “Great Mountain, at <https://www.worldtribune.org/c/great-mountain/>.

Suggested Agenda

- Presentation on Material
- Small Group Breakout
- Encouragement by Local Leader
- Memo to Sensei

Eligibility

Sophia Group is open to all women’s division members and guests who want to deepen their 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. Since the Sophia Group is an ongoing women’s study group, there will be no graduation certificates at the end of the year.

Small Group Breakout

The group should be no more than 6–8 women to accommodate meaningful discussion. It is suggested that meetings be held at the chapter level.

Facilitators

Each region should confirm the Sophia Group meetings to be held for 2021. A facilitator(s) should be assigned to each group by the appropriate level (chapter or region) women’s leaders. Each zone is asked to submit a namelist 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.

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.