

## FROM OUR READERS

### THANKS FOR POEM

THANK you, Eugene Bolánde, for your wonderful tribute to Nichiren Daishonin, published in the February issue of *Living Buddhism*. It is such a fine piece of poetic expression that I've read it over and over, copied it and sent it to friends, and hope to someday memorize it. How did you create such power-packed lines? Where did you find all the rhyming phrases that made it flow so well? There is a beautiful energy to it that picks up speed and carries the reader on a rolling journey through time. It is complete, from the general historic beginnings to the joy of personal growth in the present. You, the poet, have a terrific grasp of the English language. This is a piece I will enjoy reading and sharing for years to come.

MOLLY MOLL  
Denver

### APPRECIATION FOR A READER'S SUGGESTION

M Y sincere thanks and sincere appreciation to the many people who took the time to call and write to me to express their appreciation of my poem "The Promised Man" commemorating Nichiren Daishonin's birthday, February 16. A member made an excellent suggestion and I would like to include it in the text of the poem. Thank you, Mr. Chinberg, for taking the time to read and study my effort to honor the Daishonin and offering me your brilliant suggestion. The suggestion is so right on that it will truly finish the poem.

In the twentieth stanza (February 1998 *Living Buddhism*, p. 7), I have written:

He engraved his enlightenment on a paper scroll  
And left it for centuries, for one and for all

Please change "And left it for centuries, for one and for all" to "And left Nam-myoho-renge-kyo for one and for all"

EUGENE BOLÁNDE  
Los Angeles

### CORRECTION

JUST a note to let you know I liked the February issue, although there is an error on page 6. It states Nichiren Daishonin's birthday as February 12, 1222, when it is really February 16. This error was brought to my attention by an 11-year-old boy who is studying for the Entrance-level Exam.

GARY REXINE  
Lewisville, Texas

## **GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER**

AS an SGI member in Australia and through my active participation in Melbourne and at the SGIA Community Center, I'm fortunate to gain access to overseas SGI publications. These include *Living Buddhism* and the *World Tribune*. I highly commend you and your staff for quality and unbiased journalism of the highest standard. The quality and content continue to reflect the membership, their views and opinions, seeking reader input, etc. From March 13–15 this year, the youth of SGIA will gather in Sydney at our annual camp. This year we'll be deepening our understanding of the mentordisciple relationship with a view to welcoming President and Mrs. Ikeda in Australia in the not-too-distant future.

In Australia, activities vary from state to state. At district level the regular meetings are discussion, study and group meetings. These are usually held at members' houses.

At chapter and HQ level, activities include kosen-rufu gongyo, HQ Study (run by the women's division), Open Study Forum (run by the men's division), Fundamentals (by our new Victorian HQ Study Committee).

At HQ level, the community involvement has increased and this year we'll, for the second time, participate in Clean Up Australia. It is hoped that this activity will be held at district level from 1999 on.

The successful "Dialogue With Nature" exhibition was held in Melbourne last year. As a result our local council, City of Glen Eira, organized a peace forum that was run during the exhibition. SGIA has been invited to participate in their Japanese Festival to be held in spring this year and we'll be included in the city's culture development policy.

The youth division will run a Spring Festival scheduled for August this year.

JOHN SEAL  
Australia

## **MOREHIP!**

IREALLY loved the February issue. I knew as soon as I saw it that something was special about it. Maybe it was the beautiful photograph on the cover or the larger text in the title, but the whole feeling of the magazine seems fresher, more contemporary, more hip.

I was especially encouraged by the "Travels With Aunt Jean" article and the experience by Cynthia and Gustavo Bulgach. The subtle nuances that make these people's lives beautiful and unique really came through in the articles.

I really appreciated the honesty of the articles and I feel that anyone who read them would be encouraged and reminded that Buddhism is truly the key to realizing all their dreams—whatever they are.

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