

Linus Pauling and The Twentieth Century **By Dianne Douglas. San Francisco**

"I believe that there is a greater power than the evil power of military force, of nuclear bombs—there is power of good, of morality, of humanitarianism. I believe in the power of the human spirit."

Linus Pauling

ON September 20, 1998, the national touring exhibition, "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century," premiered at the Herbst International Exhibition Hall at the San Francisco Presidio. With touring plans for Boston and Orange County in 1999, the seven-week exhibition was well received on its first stop by audiences throughout the San Francisco Bay Area who came to learn about and celebrate the life of Linus Pauling.

The seed for a Linus Pauling touring exhibition was planted in 1987 when Dr. Pauling and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda met for the first time. Recalling his first meeting with Dr. Pauling, President Ikeda said, "I was at once struck by his profound humility and enormously encouraged by the thought that I had gained such a noble-minded and dedicated ally in the quest for peace." Dr. Pauling and Daisaku Ikeda developed a deep friendship during the final years of Dr. Pauling's life. As two men who shared lifelong commitments to peace, their dialogues, spanned the subjects of science, education, humanity, social activism, war and peace. Their conversations were eventually published in the book titled *A Lifelong Quest for Peace* in 1992. In March of 1993, they met again in San Francisco in what was to be their last encounter. It was during this meeting that Dr. Pauling agreed to President Ikeda's proposal to organize an exhibition about his life.

It was not until 1995, a year after Dr. Pauling's death, that plans for an exhibition would resume with subsequent discussions between Mr. Ikeda and Dr. Pauling's son, Linus Pauling Jr. Oregon State University's (OSU) involvement was proposed for its preeminent role in preserving the legacy of Linus Pauling through its Pauling Papers, Special Collection and the Linus Pauling Institute (LPI).

The Linus Pauling Institute was established in August 1996 at OSU, as a working memorial to Linus Pauling, under an agreement reached between its antecedent organization, the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine, and OSU. OSU's work in preserving for future generations Linus Pauling's life work in chemistry, biochemistry, orthomolecular research, and studies in nutrition and human health provided the exhibition project an invaluable resource upon which to draw the legacy of this most extraordinary man.

Exhibition Sponsors

IN the spring of 1997, the exhibition project was officially initiated with the combined commitments of three sponsors: the Linus Pauling Family, Oregon State University and the Soka Gakkai International. The sponsors agreed on the importance of creating an advisory body to help steer the content and direction of

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the exhibition. Invitations were extended to Nobel laureates, science professors, biographers and other professional associates of Dr. Pauling's as well as representatives from the three sponsors to serve on the Advisory Committee.

In the fall of 1997, the first Advisory Committee meeting was held in San Francisco to discuss the creation of the exhibition. The weekend-long conference included the video taping of committee members to capture their personal stories and anecdotes from their memories of Linus Pauling. After several productive planning sessions, the task of creating the exhibition script and design was turned over to two Los Angeles-based exhibition designers, Gary Murie and Mary Worthington (see article on following page).

Concentrated production and event development for the exhibition began in June involving close collaboration between the cosponsors, advisory committee members and the exhibit designers. San Francisco-based SGI volunteers handled everything from local promotion, community affairs, event planning, an educational CD-ROM project, the creation of a website at www.paulingexhibit.org, graphic design, an exhibit docent and schools tour movement, as well as a Linus Pauling Exhibition lecture series. Over 100 community groups, including nationally recognized organizations, academic institutions, museums, local school districts and elected officials, joined as supporters of the exhibition, lending their names, promotion efforts and links to their own websites.

With strong public and community involvement, the exhibition has inspired audiences of all ages and from every public sector with the life of one of the greatest scientists and humanitarians of this century—the only person in history to have won two unshared Nobel Prizes (chemistry in 1954, peace in 1962).

Dr. Pauling's first Nobel award was received for his landmark research on the nature of the chemical bond and its application to understanding the structure of complex substances such as protein molecules and antibodies. The second Nobel Prize acknowledged his courageous protest against atmospheric nuclear testing as detrimental to the health of humans and the environment, and his championship of international peace.

The exhibition traces seven decades of Linus Pauling's life and influence on the twentieth century: as scientific discoverer, dedicated humanitarian, crusader against the testing of nuclear weapons, defender of civil liberties, and prominent researcher on orthomolecular medicine, nutrition and health.

Designed around the central themes of Pauling's remarkable life, the more than 2,000-square-foot exhibition features photos, diaries, molecular models and historic artifacts loaned by Oregon State University's Pauling Special Collection and the Pauling Family. The Pauling Collection contains over 300,000 items and includes all of Pauling's personal and scientific papers, notebooks and correspondence from 1916 to his death at age 93 in August 1994.

The exhibition demonstrates how Dr. Pauling's scientific pursuits and efforts to "minimize human suffering" were not mutually exclusive. Pauling's profound understanding of the physical universe strengthened his personal resolve to secure peace through international nuclear disarmament. The exhibition reveals one man's untiring efforts for peace that was fueled by a belief best expressed in Linus

Pauling's own words: "I believe that there is a greater power than the evil power of military force, of nuclear bombs —there is power of good, or morality, of humanitarianism. I believe in the power of the human spirit."

The Pauling exhibition is providing a rare opportunity to teach today's youth about the role of scientists in creating conditions for a secure and peaceful world. As a cosponsor of this significant exhibit, SGI has been instrumental in helping to bring Linus Pauling's life to future generations so that they may know the difference one person with courage and conviction can make.

It is the expressed hope of the cosponsors and organizers, as the exhibit continues its tour, "That the legacy of Linus Pauling's courageous work in science, health and peace will inspire new generations to meet humanity's challenges in the twenty-first century."

The Extraordinary Life of Linus Pauling

AN excerpt from Thomas Hager's *Force of Nature: The Life of Linus Pauling* (1995) reads: "Pauling's life was extraordinarily long, varied, tumultuous, and important for the history of twentieth-century science. During his career, Pauling, among many other achievements, described the nature of the chemical bond; discovered the structure of proteins; intuited the cause of sickle-cell anemia; engaged in this century's most famous scientific race for the structure of DNA; won a Presidential Medal of Merit for his World War II research; advanced the fields of X-ray crystallography, electron diffraction, quantum mechanics, biochemistry, molecular psychiatry, nuclear physics, anesthesia, immunology, and nutrition; and wrote more than 500 articles and eleven books; not to mention two Nobel Prizes.

"But his scientific work is only half the story. Pauling, influenced greatly by his wife, Ava Helen, used his scientific renown as a springboard to jump into political activism. Along with Albert Einstein and Leo Szilard, Pauling was a member of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, a small but important group that, after World War II, worked to limit the spread of atomic weapons. Pauling's increasingly outspoken views on nuclear policy led to political persecution that included a twenty-four-year investigation by the FBI, an inquiry into revoking his government security clearance, the revocation of his passport, the loss of government grants, vilification in the press, and intimidation and threats of a contempt citation by the U.S. Senate. He fought back with articles, speeches and legal action, including his well-publicized suits against the Hearst organization, William F. Buckley's *National Review*, and the Department of Defense." □

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