

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### Careful With Money

After 22 years of practice with the SGI organization, I am more impressed each day by the incredible benefits of this practice. I am especially grateful for the progress that the *World Tribune* has made in becoming a truly useful publication. The “Mailbox” is my favorite section because it keeps me in touch with other members. Not only do I occasionally recognize names, but I feel that this section keeps our finger on the pulse of the membership nationwide.

I want to thank the *World Tribune* for adding the “Sign Posts” column. What could be more inspiring in the middle of a hectic day than opening up the newspaper at a restaurant or in line at the ATM and reading the writings of Nichiren Daishonin! This is really getting to the core of practice — applying the Buddha’s teachings to daily life, while we are living it.

I want to comment on the “Perspective” by Marion Wheeler in the May 23 issue. I can certainly relate to this article, having struggled with my own attitudes about money my whole life, culminating in a fulfilling career as a financial planner. First of all — great article! Secondly, I think we need to use caution when we tell people that making contributions has increased our financial fortune. It may be true, but it is important to fill in the missing details: for example, that making contributions has caused us to change something inside of ourselves, which has brought about a corresponding change in the environment (the principle of the oneness of self and environment). I think that this type of explanation is really doing *shakubuku*, and this is precisely one of the reasons we need to study Buddhism — so that we can explain it to others.

We need to be careful not to be manipulative when we encourage people to make contributions. It’s fine to give experiences on how we feel about giving money to support our organization, but let’s try to give in-depth explanations and let’s be very open about what we are doing: for example, raising money to keep our community centers running, or whatever the case might be. Each person’s circumstance is different; no one should compare themselves to anyone else. And if one wants financial stability, one has to use the very best common sense.

— NATHEN BANNE, San Francisco

### 30 Years of Music Corps

As a past Fife and Drum Corps member, I was encouraged to read Tony Gregg’s article on the 30-year history of the newly renamed Music Corps (May 30 *World Tribune*).

My participation in the Fife and Drum Corps was from 1972–87, and it was such a golden memory to play for SGI President Ikeda, the members and the people on my flute, or piccolo or glock! I remember also what Robert Dixon describes so vividly: “To take a seemingly unattainable goal, in an unreasonable amount of time, and make it happen.” The spirit of the Brass Band and Fife and Drum Corps — I’m so proud to have been part of that history!

It’s been 10 years since I graduated from the Fife and Drum Corps, and with a name as broad as the SGI-USA Music Corps will the Fife and Drum Corps (previously Kotekitai) share that name? Is it up to local areas? Is the National Support Committee made up of both young men and young women? Here’s to the next 30 years!

— CATHI KING, Hyattsville, Md.

*Editor’s Note: The Music Corps is the new name for the Brass Band. The Fife and Drum Corps remains a separate entity. In July, there will be special pages on the establishment of that group.*

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