

NEWSBRIEFS

CALIFORNIA

Bagpipers Win Civic Award

The SGI-USA Golden Eagle Bagpipe Band received plaudits and an award for its performance during the Skippers Holiday Boat Parade, held in Marina Del Rey on Dec. 13, 1997.

Alan Viner, Golden Eagles leader, accepted the award for the best civic service/nonprofit entry in the annual event. Aboard the Los Angeles County fireboat, the SGI-USA group played such favorites as “Scotland the Brave” and “Highland Laddie” for two hours before “piping in” Santa Claus.

The Golden Eagles’ next venue is the Chinese New Year’s meeting in February at the World Peace Ikeda Auditorium in Santa Monica, Calif.

— JOHN BATES

SOUTH KOREA

SGI President Honored by South Korean City

The Legislative Assembly of Pucheong presented SGI President Ikeda with a certificate of commendation and a key to the city in recognition of his global contributions to the development of peace, culture and education. Pucheong is situated next to Seoul and claims a population of 800,000. The conferment ceremony took place on Dec. 7, 1997, at the 5th Headquarters Leaders Meeting of the SGI of Korea. The International Association of Educators for World Peace also took this opportunity to bestow its World Peace Academy Award on the KSGI in praise of its long-standing efforts in society.

The citation states that the city assembly eternally commends President Ikeda for his devotion to securing peace for humanity and outstanding contributions to the development of culture and education. It further acknowledges the SGI leader’s efforts toward the strengthening of friendship between South Korea and Japan as a diplomat of the people.

— *Courtesy of SGINEWSLETTER*

MASSACHUSETTS

Culture Festival Marks Founding Day

New England Region celebrated Soka Gakkai Founding Day (Nov. 18) on Nov. 16, 1997, with a Culture Diversity Festival in Boston that featured performances from more than 10 cultures. After the performances, members and guests joined in an international food festival and cabaret that had people dancing and conversing late into the night. Some 900 people from all over New England attended.

“We overcame every obstacle,” one person said. “There were times when I thought it might not happen. But we won over every difficulty.” With a snowstorm hitting New England the day before, many young people braved the bad weather to put the finishing touches on the festival with a spirit to drive away the poor weather so that everyone could enjoy themselves. The weather the next day was enough to melt away any snow that might have hindered the event.

— GEOFF WESTROPP

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