

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### **'Happy' Is Just Fine**

I appreciated reading Michael Lisagor's article in the Jan. 16 "Perspective" ("There's More to Happiness Than Being Happy"). While I've always found Mr. Lisagor's writings to reflect a sincere and compassionate viewpoint, I don't necessarily agree that we need to find a new euphemism for the word *happy*. Perhaps all we need to do is continuously remind ourselves and each other what *happy* truly means in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

Like Mr. Lisagor I started practicing in the old NSA when much of the promise of happiness was based on external "results." But I also know that from the beginning, with the help of the practice, I innately understood the real happiness that my life was seeking. After chanting for some months in California, I remember my ex-wife (in New York) telling me that our young daughter had grown from selfish and intolerable to a generous and happy individual. Knowing my practice had already impacted my child's life, I then thought — despite my extremely miserable situation — "If she is happy, then I must be happy, too." My daughter's change was a gauge that gave me hope and further reason to continue chanting. Though I desired some relative happiness to alleviate my immediate suffering, I knew that it was a permanent happiness my heart was truly seeking.

As SGI President Ikeda says: "Because we receive (the eternal joy derived from the Law) ourselves, our happiness does not depend on others.... Only by our own efforts can we become happy." Easier said than done. It's a struggle, but it's kept me going.

— ROBIN AZI, Richmond, Calif.

### **Disappointing 'Worldview'**

I was very disappointed to see a photo of William Shockley in "Worldview," Jan. 23. He with others [John Bardeen, Walter Brattain] made advances in semiconductor technology. In later life, William Shockley pursued genetic studies to try to prove blacks were genetically inferior to whites. He wanted voluntary sterilization of those with low IQs and contributed to a genius' sperm bank in hopes of advancing the (white) human race. I don't admire the "genius" given to the likes of William Shockley. Accolades to those who have made advances toward human rights are much more pleasing to my sensibilities.

— SUSAN LOCKWOOD, Conifer, Colo.

*Editor's note: Thanks for pointing this out. Since the "Worldview" focused on John Bardeen, we didn't know about this aspect of Shockley's life.*

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