

**Treasure Group Feted by All**  
**By KATHLEEN DOCKETT**  
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The joys of practicing Buddhism in the third stage of life were celebrated at the first general meeting of the Washington, D.C., Region Treasure Group. The entire organization worked together to create a festive appreciation for its 180 pioneer members, age 60 and up, who traveled from as far away as Savannah, Ga., to attend.

“Together we have created great memories!” Caroline Morgan, of the D.C. Region guidance staff, said, as she asked the pioneers to join her in thanking the other members for preparing everything for the meeting, from the hand-crafted cherry blossom branches to hotel check-in to food and everything in between.

“You’ve had hard times, hard lives, but you’re here today — you’ve won,” said pioneer Jerry Hicks in his congratulations. “From now on, enjoy yourselves and everyone around you, and share your wisdom and compassion and love and concern. We’ve built the foundation. Your names will go down in history. The fortune you’ve created, no one can take away, so please enjoy it.”

SGI-USA Vice General Director Patricia Kasahara in closing expressed deep appreciation for the great efforts of the Treasure Group pioneers. She also spoke of the wonderful role models for our present and future we have in Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, Josei Toda and Daisaku Ikeda, who recently said: “The third stage of my life is just beginning. I am prepared to keep on going, with the spirit that this is the most important period of my life.” Mrs. Kasahara asked the Treasure Group, “Please use dialogue and your experience to encourage others, and let’s enter the 21st century with great, great joy.”

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