

Blossoming in Denver
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Cherry trees bloomed like popcorn in Denver on April 6 as the city council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution recognizing the SGI-USA and SGI President Ikeda. Over the past 10 years, SGI-USA members have donated and planted more than 1,000 cherry trees along Denver's Cherry Creek. The council also recognized the establishment of the Cherry Tree Garden, donated by President Ikeda, in a new park.

Councilman Dennis Gallagher presented the resolution, saying: "It is my personal pleasure to recognize SGI-USA and their president, Daisaku Ikeda.... This is a wonderful gift from this organization to help beautify our city."

Councilwoman Polly Flobeck, who seconded the motion, gave a short bio of Frances Wisebart Jacobs, the pioneer woman for whom the new park was named (see "Worldview" on page 16). Among her other humanitarian contributions, Jacobs established the National Jewish Hospital. "It's so lovely to have this Cherry Tree Garden happen in this park!" said Councilwoman Flobeck.

The garden in Jacobs Park was dedicated on April 18, and SGI-USA members planted 45 trees there. The base of a park bench donated by the SGI in the garden will bear a bronze plaque inscribed with the date, April 2, 1998, the 40th anniversary of second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda's death, and the opening lines of Mr. Ikeda's novel, *The New Human Revolution*: "Nothing is more precious than peace. Nothing brings more happiness. Peace is the most basic starting point for the advancement of humankind."

It is hoped the garden will become a place where Denver citizens can relax under the canopy of cherry trees and enjoy a panoramic view of the majestic Rocky Mountains.

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