

**Local Chapter Supports Community Play**  
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What does it mean to take our Buddhist practice into the community?

In Los Angeles, about 50 SGI-USA members from several cities threw every ounce of their energy and commitment into supporting Hathaway Family Resource Center in the successful production of the play *Isis and Osiris*. The message of the play is that every individual is unique and precious, and that all members of the human family need to work together.

The Hathaway House is a well-known community association that provides day care for low-income children, alcohol and drug counseling, and after-school activities, among other services.

The play was performed on June 6 in San Pascual Park in Highland Park. This Latino neighborhood is better known for violence, gangs and poverty than for cultural events.

Tattoos on some of the more than 60 young actors peeked out from under their elaborate, satin Egyptian costumes. The stage was an imaginary River Nile that ran across the park. The audience eagerly followed the actors as the action of the bilingual play moved from site to site. Pride and an increased sense of self-worth could be felt in the air.

The production had been in danger of being canceled due to lack of support before SGI-USA volunteers swept in with high spirits. Beginning with one person, member after member of Glen Rock Chapter volunteered to help, becoming a tidal force that touched the searching hearts of neighbors. Copies of the *World Tribune* were snatched up like hotcakes at the SGI information booth at the accompanying festival.

To express their appreciation, the City of Los Angeles and the California State Assembly honored the SGI-USA, several members and other volunteers at an informal dinner on June 30.

The determination of the Glen Rock Chapter members is that, through continued involvement in the community, Highland Park will be transformed from one of the scariest places to live into one of the most desirable: Lotus flowers will burst out of the muddy pond.

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