

Members March With Pride
By RON BAIRD, Bureau Chief
San Francisco, June 28

Approximately 200 SGI-USA members, representing both gay and straight communities, marched in the June 28 San Francisco Gay Pride Parade. A banner was carried proclaiming the SGI-USA to be a Buddhist organization for peace, education and culture. At the civic center, the end of the parade route, members at an information booth distributed copies of the *World Tribune*, SGI-USA pamphlets and specially printed bookmarks.

“We ran out of bookmarks about three-quarters of the way through,” said Diana Elrod. “We had 4,000 of them, and the people just had their hands out, ready to take them.”

After morning gongyo for the marchers earlier in the day, Sam Cady, the San Francisco #2 Region vice leader, urged participants to express to the crowd the power of this practice. He said that in a recent “Dialogue on the Lotus Sutra” segment in *Living Buddhism*, a definition of bodhisattvas emerging from the earth was given. “*Emerge*,” he said, “means to leap forth joyfully. With that spirit, today let’s share with everyone our happiness.”

As follow up to this event, an introductory meeting on the Buddhist practice was held in the San Francisco Ikeda Auditorium on July 12. More than 150 people attended this meeting, including 60 guests.

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