

THE FINE PRINT

Greetings

I'm writing to send appreciation and gratitude to Margie Polito, who lives somewhere in Arizona now. She faithfully came down to my house in Crescent City to chant with me every week, which I really looked forward to, as it is a remote area, with only one other member. I moved to Oregon and would really appreciate hearing from her (and any other). My address now, Margie, is: Judy Eaton 33499 Row River Rd. Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

Do you know of or are a college student in the Orange County area? If so, we have great news for you! There is an SGI Club at the University of California, Irvine, with members that are dedicated to strengthening friendships and promoting peace in the UCI community. We have weekly meetings on campus where we do gongyo, read study material, and share our experiences. Come join us and have some fun during your college experience! If you are interested or for more info, please contact Lisa Sasaki at (949) 737-1047 or e-mail, lsasaki@uci.edu Hope to see ya! — Lisa Sasaki, Irvine, Calif.

Congratulations

WELCOME TO THE WORLD! Jacob Geone Grimmage, born Dec. 22, 1998, at 12:00 noon. His happy parents are Roger and Tammie Grimmage (maiden name Kichefski). The family still lives in Jacksonville, N.C.

Kudos to Chuck Evans (Rocky Mountain Area) who just celebrated 30 years of practice! Way to go! Here's to 30 more! — Liz Carter in Cambridge (antiboo@cybercom.net)

Congratulations! In recognition for her work contributions, Terrell Frew (Baltimore, Md.) was recently presented with a "Visionary Award." Her employer created this award especially for her and the plaque states that it was presented with appreciation for her vision and creative leadership.

Thomasa Louise Williams, the crew from San Diego Imperial District wishes you a very Happy Birthday and wants to acknowledge that you're a poet, you know it, and you're really showing it. — JL Henriques, San Diego

Milestones

On Nov. 21, 1998, my mother, Kazue Van Pelt, passed away. My desire is to print a quick "Thank you" to the many SGI members who attended Mom's magnificent funeral. My intentions are twofold actually. My mother has traveled extensively, and has touched many people. I would like to inform as many members as possible of her passing. She was a longtime member of SGI (since October 1959). My mother was one of the original women's division pioneers from the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania area. I flew home to be with my mother shortly before she passed. Her funeral turned into quite an elaborate affair. Attending were the usual friends and family, and several hundred SGI members. I was overwhelmed by the number of SGI members who attended, many who traveled a long distance to pay their last respects to my mother. They conducted a beautiful ceremony—I will never forget that splendid tribute to Mom, and many of the attendees provided verbal testimonials to the many personal and professional contributions my mother made to SGI and the

Title: Fine Print

Subject: World Tribune 02/05/99 n.3228 p.9 WT990205p09

Author:

Keywords: Fine Print Tribune World

members—her friends.

I am not a member of SGI, although I am a believer. My mother has, through the years, convinced me that believing in the Gohonzon and listening to the guidance of your President Ikeda and others is the spiritual avenue to travel. My present life path, like that of far too many other people, does not allow me the time to even ponder the spiritual aspects of our existence. However, the passing of my mother has caused me to slow down and redirect my energies. Thanks to the assistance of a gal named Reiko, I changed Mom's subscription to the *World Tribune* to my home address. — Richard J. Van Pelt, Spokane Wash.

Monty Ricard, an SGI member, gave a precious gift to us all in the Stamford/Greenwich, Conn., area. On Jan. 21, 1999, a memorial service was held to honor and celebrate his life at the Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home chapel. Monty had been working as a custodian at the Home for the last 30 years and had touched many lives and hearts over this long stretch of time. He passed away in December 1998 and even though his family does not practice this Buddhism, they honored Monty's faith by having his Buddhist fellow members hold a funeral service for him.

It is customary to hold a memorial service for the residents and staff members who have passed on at the nursing home chapel run by the Rev. Wentroble, a Presbyterian minister, who was aware that Monty was a Buddhist. The Rev. Wentroble had also earlier on in the year joined our Buddhist group for an interfaith dialogue on life and death. This was part of our Common Ground series of lectures to initiate a dialogue with representatives of local churches and synagogues to create a circle of faith and friendship in our area. The Reverend felt it only appropriate to have Monty's Buddhist family hold the service for him. This is the first time that a Buddhist service was held at the chapel.

The chapel started filling up at 1:45 for the 2.00 p.m. service, with family, friends, fellow workers, staff members, nurses and administrators, residents in walkers and wheelchairs until there was standing room only and people spilled over into the corridor and beyond. The Rev. Wentroble graciously handed over his church to our chapter chief, Fred Tunick, who shared with those present Monty's faith and practice of this Buddhism. He quoted passages from Nichiren Daishonin's writings and Daisaku Ikeda's works about the eternity of life, the Buddhist concept of life and death and the meaning and significance of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. The chanting of Nam-myoho-renge-kyo resonated while everyone patiently lined up to offer incense to Monty's memory. Everyone and everything there seemed to reflect the gentleness of Monty's life, the vastness of an expanded human heart, the enormous generosity of the human spirit. Everything was just so right. This is how we are meant to live, each one of us recognizing the humanity in one another, celebrating one another's beliefs and traditions, honoring our lives and elevating our experience as a human family on this planet earth we call home. All we truly need is kindness toward one another, love of our family and friends, celebrating our joys together, grieving for one another's losses and basically sharing our common humanity.

It has taken me a week to absorb the enormity of this experience and maybe it will take me weeks or months to grasp the value of this gift of Monty's, but it seems like we just experienced our first victory in the community for the next century. —Shashi Khorana 52, Riverside Ave. Riverside, CT 06878 Ph. (203) 698-2813; Fax (203) 637-4143; skhorana@aol.com

Lost and Found

I am looking for Diana Shinn. As you know, I practiced with my mother, but you were the one who gave me my first prayer book and prayer beads in 1982. It's been a long time, and I will be receiving the Gohonzon in April of this year! Please contact me at: 226 3rd St. #30 Marysville, CA 95901. Anxiously chanting! — William Buster, Marysville, Calif.

Title: Fine Print

Subject: World Tribune 02/05/99 n.3228 p.9 WT990205p09

Author:

Keywords: Fine Print Tribune World

Trying to locate a long lost friend from the Washington, D.C., area. Denise Blakely, aka "Nicee Fufu." She attended Howard University in the late '70s. Drama was her thing. Camille Mitchell and Reuben Banks aka Chepito "Cheko" Matsumoto, are looking for you. Rumor has it you are practicing in the San Diego area with your daughter Fumiko Palmi. Please e-mail me at rbanks3162@aol.com or call Camille at (301) 738-1186.

To Theresa Straley: Thirteen years ago you were able to shakubuku me when you read of my son's extensive medical record and summoned me to your office. Although I resented the fact that I had to drive 20 miles just to sign a medical form and hear of your "stupid" Buddhism, you did in the 10 minutes we were together plant the seed (of Buddhism) in me. Happy to say the seed has sprouted and my son and I are now enjoying the fruits of your effort. Please call me at 808-456-1683.—Edwin A. Ikeda, Pearl City, Hawaii

I am searching for Teresa Fosque. She and I practiced in YWD and Byakuren together in Baltimore, Md., about four or five years ago. However, when I moved, we lost touch of one another. Teresa then moved to Atlanta and I to Virginia. Teresa was my headquarters leader and a good friend. Teresa girl, if you get this message, please e-mail me at rnharvey@yahoo.com because I sure do miss chatting with you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wanted: Lectures on Buddhism, vol. 1. by Daisaku Ikeda, 1961. Please respond to August March, 37 Central Ave. Ravena, N.Y. 12143. Thank you.

Desperately seeking LaWanda Cavallo who practiced in Kent, Ohio, until 1997. Your Kent Group really misses you, especially Jazsma, my mom and I. — Ann Perry (330) 297-4472; 517 Clinton St. Ravenna, Ohio 44266