

THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
A NOVELIZED HISTORY OF THE SOKA GAKKAI
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The New York Chapter is born on President Yamamoto's second visit to New York. Newly appointed leaders, sharing their sincere determinations for American kosen-rufu, introduce themselves at the America East General Meeting.

The America East General Meeting/New York Chapter Inaugural Meeting was held at the city's Japan Club, which had been rented for the occasion. Around 200 members attended, some of them traveling all the way from Chicago and Washington, D.C.

When Shin'ichi arrived, the meeting was already under way. Kiyoshi Jujo was announcing the establishment of New York Chapter, and excited applause filled the air.

When Shin'ichi entered the room, the audience cheered.

"Hello, everyone! Good evening," he called to them, then saying to Jujo, "Please continue."

The vice general director went on to read the new district leadership appointments.

New York Chapter, which would start out with six districts, would be the Gakkai's sixth U.S. chapter, after the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Hawaii chapters.

Next, Shin'ichi introduced the new leadership for the America General Chapter and New York Chapter: "The following appointments for the America General Chapter were made in Hawaii: Nagayasu Masaki, general chapter leader, and Emiko Haruyama, general chapter women's division leader. They replace Mr. Jujo and Ms. Kiyohara, who will continue to support you as advisors.

"I also wish to announce today the appointment of Koichi Yabe as a general chapter advisor and Tomio Haruyama as leader of the North America General Corps of the young men's division.

"And now the leaders of New York Chapter," he went on. "Tomio Haruyama has been appointed chapter leader — a position he will hold concurrently with that of YMD North America General Corps leader — and Yukiko Nishino, who until now has been the Washington District women's division leader, is the new chapter women's division leader. Mitsuo Sugihara will serve as chapter vice leader. In addition, Robert Nishino, until now a Washington District advisor, will become chapter advisor and Hanae Yabe will become chapter women's division advisor.

"I will now turn over the floor to the new leaders, so that they can introduce themselves," he concluded.

One by one, the newly appointed leaders came to the microphone and voiced their resolutions toward fulfilling their new responsibilities.

Emiko Haruyama was anxious, wondering what her husband would say. Although he had accepted the positions of chapter leader and YMD leader at Shin'ichi's request, it seemed improbable — going by his past words and actions — that he would make a determination that would inspire everyone.

She suddenly realized that she had begun to chant inside.

Finally, it was Chapter Leader Haruyama's turn to introduce himself. He calmly approached the microphone and said: "My name is Haruyama. I'm going to do my best in

faith, study and practice.”

Everyone waited expectantly for his next words, but that was it. He promptly returned to his seat. While this was still registering with the startled audience, Shin’ichi began to applaud, leading the others to do the same.

Emiko’s reaction was mixed. On the one hand, she realized that this was probably the best Tomio was capable of at this stage, given his lack of experience. On the other, she couldn’t help feeling that he could have made a bit more effort and said something more.

Eventually, it was her turn to take the microphone.

“On accepting the enormous responsibility of America General Chapter women’s division leader,” she said, “I pledge to work to the fullest to serve all of you. I look forward to your support.

“Today, the New York Chapter has been officially inaugurated. Congratulations!” she continued. “New York is a leading international center for business and many other fields. In fact, you could call it the heart of the world. The establishment of this New York Chapter is extremely significant in terms of our movement to spread Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism across the globe. I deeply feel the profound importance of our mission.”

Emiko’s words brimmed with renewed commitment to realize kosen-rufu. She had undergone a profound change of heart from the woman who, a few days earlier, had serious doubts about her ability to promote the Daishonin’s Buddhism in America. The guidance she received from Shin’ichi in Hawaii had marked a turning point.

Now, she was filled with hope for the future again. A desire coursed powerfully through her to pour her energies, steadily, naturally, into pioneering the kosen-rufu movement in America.

She had spoken with eloquence, the dynamic vitality of her newfound determination infusing her words.

Next, General Chapter Leader Masaki rose to speak. He voiced his resolve to devote himself wholeheartedly to fulfilling his responsibilities, pledging to give his all to America to the last moment of his life.

Then, his voice breaking, he said: “I’m so happy, so very, very happy to finally welcome Sensei here in New York — a day we’ve been looking forward to for so long — and to hold such a fine meeting.

“In Los Angeles, President Yamamoto said that spring had come to Los Angeles at last,” he went on. “And now, spring has also come to New York. I really feel this with all my heart. When the Bodhisattvas of the Earth rise, spring will always follow. Let’s work together and bring a spring of happiness and peace to all America!”

To be continued