

## SGI MEMBERS JOIN UNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

New York is home base for the United Nations and was host for the National Conference of the United Nations Association, March 6–9. Gathered at the historic Roosevelt Hotel were 300 delegates representing the 175 UNA chapters nationwide. Among them were SGI members who are taking the lead in their local UNA communities: Mary Ann Coleman, president, Long Beach Chapter; Royce Ann Mathers, president, Greater Kansas City Chapter; Joanne Tachibana, president, Hawaii Division; and Ann Porowski, vice president, Capitol Chapter (Washington, D.C.). In their UNA responsibilities, these women support SGI President Ikeda's commitment to strengthen the United Nations, the only international forum where 185 countries conduct dialogue and resolve disputes.

The convention program was rigorous, with workshops, panels, plenary sessions and business meetings running from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day. International experts covered a variety of topics: U.S.–U.N. relations, workers rights in the global economy, population/development, disarmament and the adopt-a-minefield program. An important highlight was U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan addressing the group.

The SGI New York Chorus provided the musical opening for the first night's session. Brenda Miller directed the chorus' performance of "United Nations on the March" and a stirring rendition of "The Power of One," which received a standing ovation. The SGI-USA New York members also set up an information booth at the convention site, providing information about the organization to all interested persons.

— JOANNE TACHIBANA

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