

IN SAN FRANCISCO THE CENTURY OF AFRICA CELEBRATED

This event was a bridge of humanism linking America and Africa. Entitled “Celebration: Humanism! African People’s Worldwide Journey Toward Africa As the Continent of the 21st Century,” the special occasion welcomed all humanity to come to a richer understanding of the African American and African experience here and abroad.

More than 500 people showed up at the San Francisco World Peace Ikeda Auditorium on March 28 to celebrate the best of both lands and learn from one another — to share and support one another’s ideas, resources, traditions and struggles, and to change and grow through chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. There were keynote speeches, which touched on racism, responsibility and the importance of being true to yourself, from Goeffrey Nwogu and Robin Azi, who said that “because we chant, we need to take a look and be the first to address these issues within the SGI organization. We can show by example to the world that all people are equal.”

The Ikeda Auditorium was alive with color and rhythm: There was art, traditional dress, music, dance, poetry, drums. Also featured were 16 performances with more than 70 SGI-USA members and guests displaying their talents. March 28 in San Francisco was a family affair — a celebration of humanism and black history — a story about bodhisattvas.

— ZONIA ALSTON