

## **CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP!!**

### **BY RENU JIANDANI, SGI-USA YOUNG WOMEN'S DIVISION LEADER**

SGI President Ikeda writes in the “Long Journey” chapter of *The New Human Revolution*, “A poet once wrote ‘*Through man the human world will be conjoined.*’ Friendship brings people together; it links the world, building a golden bridge to peace.”

Our March 16 gatherings were a total success. Many guests were able to attend and many youth were able to participate in creating these meetings. As young women, we would definitely like to continue with the spirit of propagation. Our focus for the next three months is to visit each and every one of our members and to continue to have our guests learn more about this practice and the SGI.

The purpose of our visits is to develop understanding of this practice in our young membership of the basics such as gongyo, daimoku, study, spirit of contribution and reading publications and to develop our further friendships and understanding of the greatness of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism. Please dialogue about how to involve all of our members in these activities.

President Ikeda states: “There may be times when a single word of encouragement can change someone’s life. It can be more moving than 10,000 volumes of writings, and can keep a friend from retreating in faith to a life of hope and courage.”

In July, we would like to culminate these efforts to celebrate the establishment of Young Women’s Day in small celebration gatherings for all the YWD including Jr. High & High School Division, Student Division, Music Corps, Byakuren and all other activity groups. These activities can be small-scale simple gatherings to celebrate friendship and refresh our determination to work together to further spread the understanding of Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism in America and of course kick off toward this fall’s Grand Culture Festival.

In *Discussions on Youth*, volume 1, President Ikeda states, “In fact, the purest and most beautiful stream that can be found in human existence is friendship.”

Let’s create beautiful gatherings and celebrate our friendships as young women.

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