

SUNNYVALE CHAPTER CELEBRATES ITS COMMUNITY

On May 16, the members of Sunnyvale Chapter in San Francisco No. 2 Region held a Celebrate Sunnyvale meeting, at which they donated a tree to their community and fostered connections between SGI-USA members and the citizens of Sunnyvale.

The meeting was held in Las Palmas Park, where the members held a tree-planting ceremony with the plum tree they donated. At the base of the tree was a sign that read, "This tree is given to the citizens of Sunnyvale by the SGI-USA in honor of Daisaku Ikeda."

Involving members from all four divisions, the meeting included various performances, from the Boys and Girls Group backed up by the Men's Division Band to a skit on how the practice is a mirror for one's life. Presentations were also made to those who had pioneered the organization in Sunnyvale and to those who had worked behind the scenes.

Ellis Smith, the Sunnyvale Chapter leader and a longtime resident of the city, recounted some of the city's history, in particular its emphasis on providing good public education for Sunnyvale's children. Paraphrasing SGI President Ikeda's 1999 Peace Proposal, he stated that isolation, not only among nations but among individuals, is at the core of many of today's problems — especially those concerning young people. Enthusiastic dialogue ensued after the meeting, with more than 100 attendants wearing stickers that said, "Ask me about my human revolution."

— ANNIE SMITH