

PAULING EXHIBITION OPENS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Linus Pauling exhibition, "Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century," opened Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, on the campus of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Subtitled "The Chemistry of Peace," the exhibition's aim is to convey to metropolitan Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas the idea that one person can make a tremendous difference for the good of society by using his or her talent and expertise toward the realization of peace.

Three opening ceremonies were held this week. The opening hosted by the Linus Pauling Exhibition Advisory Committee on Oct. 19, brought nearly 300 dignitaries and representative SGI members to the museum. There they were inspired by the welcoming words of the sponsors (see SGI President Ikeda's message, page 7), by conversations with one another, and by the life of Linus Pauling as depicted so vividly in the exhibit itself.

A luncheon (see story, page 9) hosted by Representative David Dreier (R-CA) two days later on Oct. 21 at the Longworth House Office Building brought more than 70 academics, elected officials and supporters together. These guests embrace the principles by which Linus Pauling lived and used the occasion of the luncheon to make further connections with each other and further arrangements for visiting the exhibit themselves and encouraging others to see it.

The museum also held, on Oct. 14, a special preview of the exhibition at their annual reception for educators, attended by about 50 local teachers and academics.

The exhibition's subtitle during its Washington, D.C., stay, "The Chemistry of Peace," suggests Pauling's work as a scientist who thought, as his son Linus Pauling Jr., expressed it, "that scientists have an obligation to get involved in political and social issues: since they look for the 'truth' in their research they should also say the truth on social topics." The subtitle also suggests the exhibition's venue in Washington, D.C., which is at once the nation's capital where decisions are made about war and peace, and the second largest center for technical research and development in the nation.

Referring to the prior week's Senate vote against the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Linus Pauling Jr., speculated that "my father today would be very disappointed about the vote." If he were here today, says his son, Linus Pauling "would encourage the scientific community to speak out and to take a stand, and he would remind the politicians that it's time that they put the welfare of our nation and of the people at the top of their agenda."

In remarks at the exhibition's opening, Linus Pauling Jr. paid tribute to the contribution of SGI to the exhibit and noted that Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism "teaches that peace can be achieved by overcoming the basic darkness of life." Later he remarked: "I had the fortune to meet SGI's president, Daisaku Ikeda. He is a wonderful and very vigorous man; my father learned a lot from him."

Those attending the opening receptions share Linus Pauling Jr.'s, wish that the exhibition's message of hope and peace will reach scientists and politicians, and indeed all local citizens, especially young people, during its five-month stay in the city.

The installation of the exhibition has fostered a gratifying degree of cooperation between the exhibition's host—the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center—

and its sponsors: the Pauling Family, Oregon State University and the Soka Gakkai International. The museum has gone out of its way to accommodate the exhibit, from allocating it space that entails covering over existing displays, to including addresses supplied by the SGI in a large annual mailing of invitations to the museum's educators' reception. Major General Harold L. Timboe from the Walter Reed Army Center graciously remarked that "This institution is most pleased to hold the exhibition here. Linus Pauling was a great humanitarian whose life and work contributed significantly to science and peace. My wife and I had house guests this past weekend, and we brought them here to view the exhibit. Like us, they were very impressed by it."

The opening reception on Oct. 19 was, according to Mary Jenifer, who served as a hostess, "festive, and a lot of fun." The evening combined festivity and formality. A huge banner with the image of a grinning Linus Pauling tossing an orange into the air was draped above the Museum entrance. Fat orange balloons and pots of brilliant-hued flowers brightened the outside of the building and decorated the inside, where tuxedoed servers stood behind elegant tables offering brimming bowls of whole oranges along with a variety of fresh food. Yet the atmosphere was warm and familiar as smiling SGI volunteers pitched in to do anything necessary—blowing up balloons, making directional signs pointing to the Museum, driving the special guests from and to their hotels, setting up the sound system, or holding the museum doors for the guests with a friendly smile. Washington, D.C., SGI chorus leader, Mollene Fowlkes, wrote a song especially for the exhibition, which the chorus performed in formal attire.

In her welcome, Adrienne Noe, Ph.D., the museum's director, pointed out several reasons that the museum is "so delighted to host this exhibition in the nation's capital." Noting that Pauling's work was foundational to human genome research and that his public service focused on defending civil liberties and public health, she said: "We share with Linus Pauling the faith that medicine, science and the pursuit of knowledge are cornerstones of a citizen's informed dialogue about science policies now and in the future. This is particularly timely now, as we explore the genome (which Dr. Pauling helped to make possible) and articulate positions about test ban treaties (as did Dr. Pauling). With only 73 days remaining in Dr. Pauling's 20th century, let us hope that those characteristics that describe the best of science in our times inspire the young scientists of the next century. That, too, is part of our mission, and I am convinced that this important exhibition will help us achieve it."

As the guests left the museum opening, faculty members from local universities—Johns Hopkins University and Montgomery Community College—expressed interest in telling their students about the exhibition, and were delighted to learn they would be mailed exhibition posters that they vowed to display prominently on their campuses.

The Washington, D.C., community has been working hard behind the scenes since summer to prepare for the Linus Pauling exhibition's installation on this third stop of its tour. Pausing in front of a huge packing crate during the exhibition setup, Sandra Prophet of Capitol Hill pointed out that the reason so many local SGI volunteers had rushed to support the exhibition is that they have been longing to work on a "big movement" that unites many people to support a project that benefits the community.

The exhibition is indeed big. It is an educational feast for the mind, eyes and heart. And the "movement" from now on is to help as many people as possible make the connection with this great American's life and works. Linus Pauling will take it from there.

The exhibition is scheduled to stay in Washington, D.C., through March 4, 2000.

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Beginning on the date of Linus Pauling's birthday in 2002, it will be displayed permanently at Oregon State University.

—*ROBIN MEADER, with help from NICOLETTA NENCIOLI*

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