

AKRON DISTRICT WOMEN MEET

“The Power of One Woman to Make a Difference” was the theme of the Akron, Ohio District Women’s Meeting held Feb. 27 at the home of Patty Bernard.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of SGI-USA Women’s Day, the group shared experiences in faith and reminisced about individuals who had contributed significantly to society as a whole or to their own lives. We also enjoyed a great potluck dinner.

Highlights of the program included an overview of SGI President Ikeda’s “clear mirror” guidance presented by Keiko Shibahara and a moving narrative of personal triumph by Mi-tsuko Mianowsky. Among extraordinary females honored were pioneering Akron educator Edith Delaney, who was praised by Gail McWilliams for inspiring a generation of students to “reach for the stars.” Margaret Moore shared her respect and awe of her older sister Charlotte Martinez, who sacrificed to help raise her 11 younger siblings after the untimely death of their mother. Mitsuko Mianowsky told about 12th-century Japanese author Murasaki Shikibu, who is remembered even today for her masterpiece *The Tale of Genji*. Former Akron–Canton Chapter leader Yoshiko Burgen was commended by Ann Perry for her compassion and leadership.

Every participant received a copy of the booklet “Buddhism Is the Clear Mirror That Reflects Our Lives” and a handmade mirrored memento proclaiming each a Bodhisattva of the Earth.

—ANN PERRY