

**SOUTHEASTERN REGION GOLDEN STAGE GROUP MEETS  
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On Sept. 13, 29 members and one guest arrived at the Atlanta Community Center from parts of Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama to participate in their first Golden Stage Group meeting. Smiles and introductions filled the rooms as the afternoon began with all sharing in a delicious lunch prepared by several of the members.

Opening the dialogue, SGI President Ikeda's September 1996 message to the Many Treasures Group was shared. In it he expressed his utmost respect for these members and vowed to never forget his seniors in faith who, because of their courageous efforts in laying the foundation for kosen-rufu, are more than qualified to receive the Buddha's praise.

In attendance was SGI-USA Senior Vice General Director Sheilah Edwards, who led the group down memory lane, recalling earlier struggles to propagate Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in the United States. This brought laughter and knowing nods.

Mrs. Edwards good naturedly told them that although some have now retired from their jobs in society, there is no retirement within the kosen-rufu movement. She added: "You're not getting older, you're getting better! There is so much to do!"

During a question-and-answer period, the members were encouraged to take care of themselves and practice according to their capacity. They all agreed that while the brain may forget one's age, the body does not.

In discussing the Buddhist concept of birth, old age, sickness and death, participants were reminded that the quality of their lives was the responsibility of each of them and all were encouraged to nurture their lives with the writings of Nichiren Daishonin and President Ikeda's guidance.