

**KENTUCKY AREA CELEBRATES
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Anne Braden has marched for civil rights with Martin Luther King Jr., Julian Bond and Fannie Lou Hamer.

She and her late husband, Carl Braden, were charged with sedition in the 1950s because they had the courage to sell a house to a black family in Louisville during a time of racial segregation.

She has been a newspaper reporter, college instructor and mentor for dozens of activists, including Angela Davis, who view her as one of the beloved figures of the modern civil rights movement.

But until October, Mrs Braden, 76, a Louisville resident, had never attended a Buddhist activity.

That changed when Janet Martin, Kentucky Area leader, and Vanguard District Leader Kathleen Parks in Louisville, began discussing how to make their meeting celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of SGI in America relevant to their members.

So they invited Mrs. Braden, an accomplished speaker and writer, to share her views of improving humanity during a special meeting in October at the Louisville SGI Community Center. Afterwards, Mrs. Braden said she felt she learned as much as she had taught.

“I was quite impressed with the service and the dedication of the people and the diversity of the crowd,” Mrs Braden said.

“There were young and old. African Americans and whites and Asians. There was a good mixture of people. The sense I got was these were people who wanted to make a difference in the world. I thought that was very encouraging.”

Mrs. Braden is not a Buddhist but believes that various religions and philosophies should be used to benefit humankind. After spending the morning listening to Kentucky SGI members chant, do gongyo and complete their prayers, Mrs Braden said she felt the members were sincere in their beliefs.

“I think for most people in Louisville, the Buddhist faith doesn’t impinge upon them that much,” Mrs. Braden said.

“I hope more people will know what Buddhists do.”

During her speech, Mrs. Braden encouraged SGI members to participate in their communities for the betterment of all. She urged people to exercise all their rights—including political activity—to make the world a better place. And, most of all, she asked members to get to know others who may be different from themselves.

“I think we have to be about changing the world,” Mrs. Braden said.

“You do that by organizing and making your voice heard with other people. We can’t do it by ourselves. If you work with other people, you get more done. Sometimes there are trails and tribulations, but we can overcome those. I think that fits in with Buddhist beliefs.”