

**DISTRICTS, BOOKSTORES PARTNER TO SHARE BUDDHIST MESSAGE
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SGI-USA districts in several cities have started to discover just how powerful a tool Middleway Press books can be in helping spread the peaceful and empowering message of Buddhism in their communities.

Walt Whitman District in Camden, N.J., is just one of several districts that have had or are planning activities at neighborhood bookstores centering on Middleway Press books. Readings from and discussions about *For the Sake of Peace* and *The Buddha in Your Mirror* will highlight their introductory meeting at La Unique, an independently owned bookstore.

“This adds a whole new dimension to our activities,” says Bev Roberts. “Times are moving, changing, evolving, and we can’t do things only the way we’ve always done them. Trying new things, like this event, is important, to reach people in any way we can.”

Members in Gaithersberg District in Germantown, Md., found that their discussion on *The Way of Youth* at a local Barnes and Noble attracted guests who might have been intimidated by the idea of a meeting strictly on Buddhism. “It’s sometimes easier to bring young people to an open forum in a public place like a bookstore,” says Emily Walch, 13, who was one of the event’s moderators. She says that because the event exposed the kids to Buddhism, many have felt comfortable enough to come to regular meetings since then.

These partnerships between districts and local bookstores benefit everyone: SGI-USA members, who have another type of event to enjoy; invited guests and people happening by, who get to hear the Buddhist message of happiness and peace; and the bookstore owners, who can create stronger relationships with their customers and community at large by offering such informative programs.

Each of the four Middleway Press titles — *The Way of Youth*, *For the Sake of Peace*, *The Buddha in Your Mirror* and *Soka Education* — can be the start of a wide variety of events at bookstores coast to coast, which are generally happy to host them. Interested districts can contact local bookstores directly, expressing their interest about holding such book discussions. (For those areas with several districts in the same geographic area, please coordinate well with chapter or area leaders so as to avoid any confusion.) Or, for more information, contact Middleway Press at middlewaypress@sgi-usa.org or 310-260-8900.