

**SGI-USA FAMILY YOUTH FESTIVALS  
SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH REV IT UP  
BY RON BAIRD  
SAN FRANCISCO BUREAU CHIEF**

The SGI-USA Northern California Zone Family Youth Festival took place on Aug. 19 at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium across from San Francisco City Hall. Some 8,500 members and guests viewed exhibitions by scores of SGI-USA chapters, districts and areas, which featured their members' poster displays and artistic creations.

A video presentation featured several pioneer members of the SGI-USA in Northern California. The pioneers recalled campaigns of the 1960s and '70s, which enabled them to create a foundation of good fortune for their lives.

The highlight of the day, however, was the original musical production *Rev It Up*, featuring 500 youth, including the Boys and Girls Group, Taiko drummers, fife and drum corps, brass band, hip-hop dancers, chorus and orchestra. *Rev It Up* ran for 90 minutes and included 12 original songs written by local SGI-USA members. As writer Linda Wells explains, the title means "to get it going and rev up your engine for human revolution based on the mentor-disciple spirit, study and taking action."

"We wanted to create something with a positive message, without a lot of clichés," said Northern California Zone Youth Leader David Eisenberg. "That's how we came up with the idea for a musical production that would include all of the performing groups."

Prior to the show, SGI-USA Vice General Director Richard Yoshimachi received a proclamation from San Francisco City Supervisor Leland Yee praising the Buddhist organization's efforts to take a stand against youth violence. Also attending the festival was SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima, who received a proclamation from San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. On the mayor's behalf, City Assessor Doris Ward made the presentation and exclaimed to the audience, "Anybody who wants to fight violence, as you do, and gather together with diversity and a multicultural practice...it's young people like you who will lead us further into the 21st century."

*For more on this festival, please visit the festival Web site at [www.sgi-norcal.org](http://www.sgi-norcal.org).*