

FOR THE FEBRUARY 2002 WOMEN'S COMMEMORATIVE MEETINGS

It is significant that the theme for 2002, The Year of Expanding Dialogue, comes on the heels of the Sept. 11 tragedy. In uncertain times, honest and open dialogue will spread hope, optimism and trust. It will help each person awaken to the treasure of life and make peace a reality. In this light, we would like to present the following guidelines and suggestions for the February 2002 women's commemorative meetings. These meetings celebrate the anniversary of the Feb. 27, 1990, women's meeting with President Ikeda, a day that subsequently became SGI-USA Women's Day.

- The purposes of our February 2002 meetings:
 - 1) To reach out to all members, active and inactive.
 - 2) To empower each woman to introduce one person to Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in 2002.

Using the entire month of February, we can "expand the force for peace" (as stated in our SGI women's theme in the box above) through our activities, highlighted by our annual commemorative meetings.

- The Five W's (and One H) of Planning

Who?

Each meeting group (whether group, district, chapter, area or region level) is free to choose whom to invite, whether all four divisions, or women and young women, or the women's division members themselves.

What?

Each group will choose its own targets. By uniting for an organizational goal, each woman can challenge her personal goals.

When?

These commemorative meetings are more than a one-day event—they are a month-long celebration that involves planning, the event itself and follow-up.

Where?

The location will reflect the level at which each meeting is held: by group? district? chapter? combining with another? Keep in mind that small groups foster dialogue.

Why?

This is an opportunity for SGI-USA women to take action for peace, as we embrace a concrete method for self-transformation.

How?

Strong prayer to expand the force for peace based on individual happiness.

Make a clear plan—discuss well so that each woman feels involved and motivated.

Teamwork—everyone can contribute. No one should feel burdened.

Because an important focus is to introduce many people to the SGI through these meetings, we suggest doing an A-and-C gongyo.

- Suggested study and support materials are:

—The Jan. 11, 2002, *World Tribune*, which will feature articles and experiences on propagation, peace movements and education, all in support of our February women's commemorative meetings.

—*My Dear Friends in America* (which includes "Buddhism Is the Clear Mirror That

Reflects Our Lives” and “Thoughts on Education for Global Citizenship”) by SGI President Ikeda.

—*For the Sake of Peace*, by President Ikeda.

Today, more than ever, we play vital and varied roles in every area of society that reflect the broad spectrum of our intelligence, strength and compassion. In February, our meetings will embrace that incredible variety.