

Welcome!

SGI-USA is an American Buddhist association that promotes world peace and individual happiness based on the teachings of the Nichiren school of Mahayana Buddhism.



Practitioners reflect a cross section of our diverse American society representing a broad range of ethnic and social backgrounds. The SGI has a same-sex marriage ceremony and has appointed national GLBT leaders. If you are interested in coming to one of Charlottesville's friendly SGI meetings (with prayer, study, discussion, a healthy quorum of GLBT folk, and more), please contact Janet Mullaney at bellelet@aol.com for a schedule and directions.

SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's message to the first annual GLBT members' conference, March 8, 2001

“MY heartfelt congratulations on your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Supporters Conference!... Please enjoy your dialogues and encourage one another to your heart's content, so that you may move forward through building a network of human harmony. As Nichiren Daishonin states, "Through the example of one person all living beings become equal." Buddhism upholds equality and expounds supreme humanism. ALL human beings have equal rights. There is no difference whatsoever in their inherent dignity. So no matter what you may face, please live with pride, confidence and courage. To live with dignity, we must devote ourselves to chanting daimoku [nam myoho rengo kyo]. Through our resolute prayer, we will be stronger, brighter, and happier. Please be true to yourself and live free, for you all embody the Mystic Law. Contribute to your communities and society out of your desire for the happiness of many others. In these efforts shines the splendid beauty of life. I am praying from the bottom of my heart for your great happiness, peace, and safety.”

“Just as flowers open up and bear fruit, just as the moon appears and invariably grows full, just as a lamp becomes brighter when oil is added, and just as plants and trees flourish with rain, so will human beings never fail to prosper when they make good causes.”
(Writings of Nichiren Daishonin)

Members of the SGI practice the Buddhism taught by Nichiren, a 13th-Century Japanese priest whose philosophy centered around the final teaching of the first historically recognized Buddha (known as Siddhartha Gautama or Shakyamuni Buddha). This teaching, called the Lotus Sutra, declares that all living beings have the potential to attain enlightenment or Buddhahood.

Nichiren taught that all of the benefits of the wisdom contained in the Lotus Sutra can be realized by chanting its title [*Nam*] *Myoho Renge Kyo*. Chanting these words and excerpts from the Lotus Sutra is the core of this Buddhist practice, supported by study and the propagation of teachings. Faith, practice, and study are the basics of the Buddhist practice, pursuing activities for oneself and for the sake of others. A wealth of information on Nichiren Buddhism and the SGI (which has 12 million members in more than 180 countries and territories around the world) can be found at sgi-usa.org.

