ONE PEOPLE.  
ONE WORLD.  
EDUCATION IS THE KEY.  
BE A PART OF THE DREAM.  

Celebrating a Vision of Peace  
9th Annual Peace Gala  
October 12th  
2013
The mission of Soka University of America is to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life.
To Whom It May Concern,

Soka University of America (SUA) provides a liberal arts education that fosters respect for humankind, develops character, and provides an intellectual basis for the realization of peace. Our diverse student body, of approximately 436 students, live on campus, immersed in a unique atmosphere where they learn from one another, exploring differing ideas and opinions from around the world. Students discover how to respect one another in spite of differing viewpoints. In short, Soka empowers learners to contribute to and improve society.

In order to continue to guarantee that no qualified student will be turned away due to financial need, it is imperative that we continue to build our scholarship endowment. The annual Peace Gala, Celebrating a Vision of Peace, was created to fulfill this need. You are cordially invited to take a lead role in this event by helping in the way that best suits your ability: a sponsorship, a donation, or a contribution to our auction. It would be my pleasure to discuss with you the benefits of each opportunity.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff at SUA, thank you for investing in the students at Soka University who are our vision of peace.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 949-480-4072 or lkennedy@soka.edu.

Sincerely,

Linda Kennedy
Director of Philanthropy
Soka University of America
Helping students learn how to create value in their lives, their communities, and the world are central tenets of Soka Education. Founded by Daisaku Ikeda, educator, author and recipient of over 300 honorary degrees and the United Nations Peace Award, the Soka school system has established a tradition of humanistic learning and scholarship where the focus is on each student’s growth and development. Soka means “to create value”.

The mission of Soka University of America (SUA) is to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life. SUA is founded on the belief that student-centered education is the best way to promote peace and human rights by fostering a global humanistic perspective on the world in which we live. The curriculum aims to integrate service to the community, nature and humanity with the actualization of individual achievement and happiness. Learning is pursued through developing a close and humanistic relationship between the teacher and the student. We believe dialogue between teacher and student is a key element in cultivating the type of wisdom and intellect that fosters global-minded individuals.

The atmosphere of diversity and humanism at Soka University has attracted students from around the globe. This year about 438 students, representing more than 28 countries and 30 states will call SUA their home. In addition to this multi-cultural campus experience, students in their junior year undertake a required study abroad program furthering their international exposure.
An invitation to be
An integral part of the dream

The annual Peace Gala, *Celebrating A Vision of Peace*, is an elegant, sophisticated and fun-filled evening with headline entertainment and a fabulous auction.

The campus of Soka University in Aliso Viejo, California, will provide a beautiful location with stylish décor for this year's Peace Gala. At this year's event will include:

- Elegant Cocktail Party
- Silent auction featuring unique items and experiences
- Master of Ceremonies
- Gourmet Dinner
- Live auction with many one-of-a-kind items
- Performance by Esperanza Spalding
- Dancing to live music until midnight

The evening highlights feature the student-lined walkway from the Soka Performing Arts Center where the cocktail party/silent auction will take place to the event venue on the opposite end of Peace Lake. The evening's program will begin with a song by the student chorus followed by Soka student experiences, hailing from various countries around the world.

At this year's event we will host a Fund-A-Soka Student campaign, offering supporters the opportunity to directly donate to the scholarship endowment. During the live auction, the auctioneer will call out funding levels in incremental amounts. When you hear the level at which you wish to make a contribution, simply raise your bidding paddle until your number is announced.

This 100 percent tax-deductible contribution goes directly to the scholarship endowment which provides funds that enable qualified students to attend Soka University of America.
SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

PEACE LEVEL $100,000
- Will fund a fully endowed named scholarship
- Permanent name recognition on Soka University’s Founder Circle
- Illustrious dining table for ten
- Special listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

HOPE LEVEL $50,000
- Distinguished dining table for ten
- Special listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

DIGNITY LEVEL $25,000
- Premier dining table for ten
- Special listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

COMPASSION LEVEL $10,000
- Premier dining table for ten
- Special listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

TOLERANCE LEVEL $7,500
- Priority dining table for ten
- Listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

EQUALITY LEVEL $5,000
- Dining table for ten
- Listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS $300

No qualified student will be turned away due to financial need. We must continue building our scholarship endowment.
Soka University of America, south Orange County’s newest liberal arts university, netted $500,000 to provide scholarships for students at its eighth annual fundraising gala, Celebrating a Vision of Peace, held on the campus on Saturday, October 13, 2012.

The annual event is held to raise funds to support Soka University’s mission of fostering a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life.

536 guests participated in silent and live auctions that contributed more than $136,000 to the evening’s total proceeds. Following presentations by two students who shared their experience at Soka, and a delicious gourmet dinner, Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame inductees, Cornell Gunter’s Coasters delighted both guests and students on the dance floor.

SUA ended the school year having provided financial aid for more than 90 percent of the broadminded students who sought out Soka for its unique mission.

“With the challenges the world is facing today, the gift of value-based education is more important than ever,” said gala co-chair Dita Shemke. “We are extremely grateful to our benevolent donors and guests, who have given generously and unselfishly in this difficult year, allowing us to continue our guarantee that no qualified student will be turned away due to financial need.”

Ron Glass returned for the second year as Master of Ceremonies, graciously leading guests through the evening. DawnMarie Kotsonis led a lively live auction which contributed more than $47,000 to the evening’s proceeds. A special dinner with NBA Hall of Fame inductee Jamaal Wilkes and a Stratocaster guitar autographed by Sirs Paul McCartney and Elton John were the highlights of the live auction.
GALA COMMITTEE

Event Co-Chair Joan May
Event Co-Chair Dita Shemke

Arch Asawa  Kathleen Janson
Sharon Belknap  Mary Patrick Kavanaugh
Norah Broillet  Linda Kennedy
Matilda Buck  Lisa Kirk
Marek Cantor  Elivira Limpid
Judy Chow  John Marzullo
Grace Christianson  Terry Mitchell
Kathy Crilly  Ruby Nagashima
Susan Dixon  Jaimee Niles
Sallie Doebler  Sheila Peterson
Clarissa Douglass  Di Prichett
Suzy Elghanayan  Amanda Railla
Teresa Fu  Coleen Scherf-Ghara
Paula Garcia-Young  Harumi Shimamoto
Kathy Gooch  Carolina Shorter
Debra Gunn Downing  Miki Singer
Ingrid Han  Christina Sun
Darlene Hawkins  Dina Takacs
Eileen Hayden  Megumi Tanaka
Cloey Hewlett  Janet Vinograd
Michelle Hobby-Mears  Liza Wayne
Heran Houllion  Robyn Williams

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
1 University Drive
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Linda Kennedy
Director of Philanthropy
Phone: 949-480-4072
E-mail: lkennedy@soka.edu