Celebrating a Vision of Peace

Sponsorship Opportunities

7th Annual Peace Gala

October 8, 2011

One People. One World. Education is the key. Be a part of the dream.
The mission of Soka University of America is to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life.

Design & Illustration: Sharon Thompson Design Studio
Photography: Brad Elliot, Mitsu Kimura
Helping students learn how to create value in their lives, their communities, and the world, are central tenets of Soka education.

Dear Soka Sponsor,

The mission of Soka University of America (SUA) is to foster a steady stream of global citizens committed to living a contributive life. Soka 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. This atmosphere of diversity and humanism attracts students from around the globe.

In order to continue to guarantee that no qualified student will be turned away due to financial need, we must continue building our scholarship endowment. The Peace Gala exists to fulfill that need. You are cordially invited to take a lead role in this event by helping in whatever way best suits your needs: a sponsorship, a donation or a contribution of an item for our auction. I am available to discuss the benefits of each opportunity with you.

On behalf of SUA, thank you for investing in the students of Soka and for joining us in the shared vision of peace.

If you have any questions please contact me via phone at (949) 480-4072 or via email at l kennedy@soka.edu

Sincerely,

Linda Kennedy
Director of Philanthropy
Soka University of America
A Proud Heritage

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 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 460 students, representing more than 30 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. The event will include:

- Elegant Cocktail Party
- Silent auction featuring unique items and experiences
- Patrick Duffy as the Master of Ceremonies
- Gourmet Dinner
- Live auction with many one-of-a-kind items
- Entertainment by Grammy Award winning artist Nestor Torres
- Dancing to live music until midnight

The evening highlights feature the student-lined walkway from the Founders Art Gallery 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 fund for our dedicated students. 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 Founders Circle
- Illustrious dining table for ten
- Special listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

**HOPE LEVEL $50,000**
- Will establish a $45,000 scholarship that can be grown (based on the donor’s wishes and financial capacity) and named when fully funded at $100,000
- Distinguished dining table for ten
- Special listing on all printed materials
- Tribute gift

**DIGNITY LEVEL $25,000**
- Will establish a $20,000 scholarship that can be grown (based on the donor’s wishes and financial capacity) and named when fully funded at $100,000
- 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, Southern Orange County’s newest liberal arts university, netted $513,000 to provide scholarships for students at its sixth-annual fund raising gala, Celebrating a Vision of Peace, held on the campus on Saturday, October 9, 2010.

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.

Almost 500 guests participated in silent and live auctions that contributed nearly $85,000 to the evening’s total proceeds. Following presentations by students who shared their experience at Soka and a delicious gourmet dinner, Grammy Award winning artist Judy Collins delighted guests with a brilliant performance that included some of her well known hits. Ms. Collins’ performance concluded when her granddaughter, who is a student at SUA, joined her on stage for a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace. The night ended with dancing to the sounds of Derek Bordeaux’s sultry renditions of Motown classics.

The organization ended the school year having provided financial aid for more than 90 percent of the broad-minded students who sought out Soka for its unique educational vision.

“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.”

DawnMarie Kotsonis led a lively auction, contributing nearly $50,000 to the evening’s total proceeds. Highlights of the live auction included a $5,000 South Coast Plaza shopping spree, lunch with Herbie Hancock, a guitar autographed by Santana, David August wardrobe consultation including a custom made suit, an official NBA basketball autographed by all of the Lakers plus Phil Jackson, a week’s stay in a beautiful private penthouse in Punta Mita, and a guitar autographed by Judy Collins.
Gala Committee
Honorary Chair
   Teresa Fu
Joan May/Co-Chair
   Dita Shemke/Co-Chair
   Arch Asawa
   Norah Broilet
   Matilda Buck
   Judy Chow
   Grace Christianson
   Kathy Crilly
   Susan Dixon
   Clarissa Douglass
   Debra Gunn Downing
   Ingrid Han
   Darlene Hawkins
   Eileen Hayden
   Cloey Hewlett
   Kathleen Janson
   Linda Kennedy
   Lisa Kirk
   Elvira Limpid
   John Marzullo
   Terry Mitchell
   Jaimee Niles
   Sheila Peterson
   Di Pritchett
   Amanda Railla
   Natasha Saltz
   Coleen Scherf-Ghara
   Harumi Shimanoto
   Carolina Shorter
   Dinia Takacs
   Sharon Belknap Thompson

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