

# SGI-USA MEMO

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DISTRIBUTE TO: Zone and Territory Office Managers  
Chapter through Territory Leaders

FROM: Study Department—Jeff Kriger

SUBJECT: Buddhist Learning Review Facilitators Guide

## Facilitators' Guide for the 2009 Buddhist Learning Review

To all facilitators of the 2009 Buddhist Learning Review, the SGI-USA Study Department extends our utmost appreciation for your support to deepen each member's understanding of Nichiren Buddhism.

Any chapter-level or above leader can serve as a facilitator.

All facilitators are encouraged to read "Introduction: What Is the Buddhist Learning Review?" in *SGI-USA Buddhist Learning Review: 2009 Study Guide* in preparation for the Review activities.

The *2009 Study Guide* is available for \$2.00 at the SGI-USA bookstores or the SGI-USA Online Store at [www.sgi-usa.org](http://www.sgi-usa.org). You can also contact the SGI-USA Mail Order Center by calling (800) 626-1313 or by sending an e-mail to [mailorder@sgi-usa.org](mailto:mailorder@sgi-usa.org). The *2009 Study Guide* can also be downloaded free at the [sgi-usa.org](http://sgi-usa.org) site.

• This year's Buddhist Learning Review will be published in the September 11, 2009, *World Tribune*, as a special pullout. This is a new procedure for distributing the Review from previous years.

Please encourage all members to subscribe to the *World Tribune*. The answer key will be provided in a memo, which will be issued at the end of September, and will also be posted on the [sgi-usa.org](http://sgi-usa.org) Web site.

The following are suggested guidelines for facilitating the Review activities:

### § Your Role as a Facilitator

Your role as a facilitator is to make the Review enjoyable for all participants by helping everyone feel comfortable and conducting a meaningful discussion. Although you are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the study materials, you don't need to have all the answers to questions members may raise during the Review.

### § Preparing for the Review

Nichiren Daishonin writes, "Employ the strategy of the Lotus Sutra before any other" ("The Strategy of the Lotus Sutra," *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 1001). Nichiren teaches that the key to our successful efforts is our strong prayer to the Gohonzon. Let's chant abundantly that each person experiences the joy of Buddhist learning through this activity.

Nichiren also writes: "Exert yourself in the two ways of practice and study. Without practice and study, there can be no Buddhism. You must not only persevere yourself; you must also teach others. Both

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practice and study arise from faith” (“The True Aspect of All Phenomena,” WND-1, 386). As he teaches in this passage, all our efforts in Buddhist study are to deepen our faith and inspire our practice. With this understanding, please familiarize yourself with the Review materials in the *Study Guide*.

## § Facilitating the Review—Before the Review

- The Review may replace regularly scheduled October study meetings or be held at the most appropriate meeting for your locality. It is recommended that the Review activity be conducted at the district level and facilitated by chapter-level or above leaders, where feasible. For those unable to participate in the Review activity, SGI-USA leaders may administer the Review through other means, such as a visit to a member’s home or other convenient location.
- Please communicate ahead of time to those taking the Review that they should bring their own copy of the September 11, 2009, *World Tribune*, in which the Review will be published as a special pullout.
- Please remind the members to bring pens or pencils and, if necessary, clipboards or something they can use as a writing surface.

## § Facilitating the Review

- Allow 40 minutes to take the Review. The Review will be closed book.
- Allow 40 minutes for the self-grading and discussion session.
- After taking the Review, use the answer key that will be provided in a future memo at the end of September, and will also be posted on the [sgi-usa.org](http://sgi-usa.org) Web site..
- Go over all the answers first so that participants may finish grading. You may choose to discuss questions raised while grading, but please allow enough time to finish grading and for discussion afterward.

## § Tips for Facilitating Discussion

- Allow as many members as possible to join the discussion by encouraging them to share their thoughts or ask questions.
- Let the participants answer each other’s questions, but be ready to clarify points and correct misconceptions.
- You may encourage participation with questions such as: *Could you please add your comments to what so-and-so just said? Does anyone share a similar experience? Does anyone have a different perspective?*

## § Reporting

- Please report the number of participants by language through your line organization immediately following the Review activity, no later than October 31. The number of participants includes all those who take the Review in October—whether at the district or other locations.
- For questions, comments or suggestions regarding the Review, please send an e-mail to [study@sgi-usa.org](mailto:study@sgi-usa.org).