

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Manzanar Pilgrimage Interfaith Prayer

On Saturday, April 25, the 57th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage was held at the Manzanar National Historic Site near Lone Pine, California. During World War II, over 11,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in hastily constructed wooden barracks at this location. Five members had the opportunity to participate in an interfaith service at the memorial monument in honor of the people who passed away during the years of incarceration.

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org

May 2026

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- Daily Thoughtfulness -

Last month on the 18th, we celebrated Oyasama's 228th birthday.

This month on the 16th, we will hold our America Women's Association convention. I hope that many of our Women's Association members will participate and that it will be a fruitful gathering.

In addition, we plan to hold our Students Association Spring Conference at the end of the month. I hope that as many students as possible will participate. I kindly ask you to reach out to our high school and university students around you and encourage them to participate.

Furthermore, on the 20th of next month, we will hold our America Boys and Girls Association Service Convention. I hope that many BGA members will participate. Through this convention, I sincerely ask for the generous support of all the nurturing staff so that our children will grow up to be good Yoboku in the future. Especially, much Hinokishin will be needed for the preparations, the

day of the event, and the post-meeting activities and cleanup. I ask for your kind cooperation and continuous support.

Previously, I heard an interesting story from one of the church head ministers in our diocese.

From time to time, non-Tenrikyo high school sports teams use his grand church dormitory in Jiba as their lodging.

Since sports are very popular at Tenri High School, sports teams from high schools all over Japan come to Tenri City to practice or play matches against Tenri High School's teams. During their visits, they sometimes use various Tenrikyo grand church dormitories as their lodging.

I hear that high school soccer

(continued on page 14)

Coming Up

- * TSA Spring Conference
@ Mission HQ 5/25~5/27
- * Boys and Girls Asso. Convention
@ Mission HQ 6/20

EDITORS: Robert Yuge, Amy Morishita **STAFF:** Raymond Morishita

PRINTING STAFF: Chikai Nakabayashi, Motoko Nakata, Takao Takimoto, Tatsunori Fukuda, Michika Fukuda

COVER DESIGN: Jun Nakagawa

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2727 EAST FIRST STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033

Phone: (323) 261-3379 / Fax: (323) 261-8659

E-mail: ameden@tenrikyo.com / Website: www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org

April Monthly Service Prayer

April 19, 2026

Before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, Who is enshrined in this altar, I, Tomoyoshi Tanaka, Board Member, on behalf of the Bishop of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

Dear God the Parent, You created this world and human beings where there was no form. At the arrival of the promised time, You revealed Yourself through Oyasama as Your living Shrine, and enlightened us to this ultimate Teaching and guided us with the fifty-year Divine Model of Oyasama.

We are humbled and grateful to be allowed to spiritedly walk this path towards the Joyous Life as we rely on the Divine Model. This month, we celebrate the birth of the everliving Oyasama on April 18, 1798.

On this auspicious day, receiving the truth of Jiba, we service performers will hold our April Monthly Service by spiritedly performing the seated service and the Teodori service dance with joyous hearts. We will also celebrate the 228th birthday of Oyasama.

Looking forward to this day, we Yoboku and followers have gathered here to give thanks for Your daily blessings and to pray for Your unchanging parental love. In witnessing this, we ask that You become spirited as well.

This month, many followers from our diocese will return to Jiba for Oyasama's Birth Celebration Service. After they receive the truth of Jiba and have returned to their respective locals, please guide them, so that they may spiritedly engage in salvation work.

In addition, from now until next month, we will be holding our annual hinokishin day activities in various districts of our diocese. May this also serve to help spread the fragrance of the teachings.

In light of the world events that we are now being shown, we will reflect upon God the Parent's desire to hasten the realization of the Joyous Life world. We pledge to focus on single-heartedly helping others be saved and whole-heartedly performing the service and to rely on the Divine Model of Oyasama to make even further progress in our spiritual growth, as well as moving this Path forward. Also, we pledge to connect this path to the next generation.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our mind of sincerity and bless us so that, even one day sooner, this world becomes one in which we all mutually help one another. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray, that You bless us so.

April Monthly Service Sermon

by Rev. Paul Tomizawa

We Smile Through Their Complaints

Thank you very much for gathering today to pray for the many people throughout the world and to celebrate Oyasama's birthday. Since I have been given this opportunity to share my thoughts and feelings, I kindly ask for your attention.

My daughter and I were revisiting memories of the Summer Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba through some videos found online. We began reminiscing about the nightly parades, enjoying the variety of bands and the international crowd of followers. I reflected on the immense preparation and tireless practice required by both the band members and staff to put on those nightly performances. Their proud smiles brought everyone immense joy—a beautiful sight that surely brought great happiness to God the Parent and Oyasama as well. As we saw people from every corner of the world in their distinct attire, it reinforced the feeling that we are all truly brothers and sisters returning to our original home. It gave us a sense of being part of something much bigger. Though we came from different corners of the world, we felt like one family of brothers and sisters sharing a

very special experience. At the Home of the Parent, we felt completely embraced. That unmistakable feeling of being welcomed back always makes me feel right at home.

In the Anecdotes of Oyasama #105 titled Thank You For Your Trouble,

Oyasama made no distinction between people and She was a very compassionate person. No matter what kind of person She met, She never showed any sign of discrimination. No matter what kind of person came to the Residence, She considered everyone to be Her child. No matter how great a man came, She said:

Thank you for your trouble.

Even when beggars came, She would say:

Thank you for your trouble.

Her attitude and manner for speaking never changed. She considered them all to be Her loving children. Once a person met Oyasama, no matter what kind of person he was, he would be moved by Oyasama's parental love and be reformed at once. Perhaps they were moved by Oyasama's compassion.



Rev. Paul Tomizawa
head minister of Tenrikyo Honrikuto Church

Oyasama provided the ultimate model for how to live, teaching us to approach every person with a heart of respect, compassion, and sincere kindness.

Reflecting on my years as a BGA member, I've come to value the deep bonds shared with so many brothers and sisters. These friendships, stretching across the East and West Coasts, have lasted a lifetime—even if our reunions happen more often at the Children's Pilgrimage in Jiba than in the U.S. It's a beautiful cycle to return to Jiba as parents and reunite with old friends who are now doing the same. We smile through their complaints about the heat and the long walks because we know what's coming. On our last day together, despite the exhaustion, the children always ask the same thing: 'Can we return next year? Whenever my daughter asks about our next return, I remind her

that God the Parent and Oyasama will be waiting to witness her growth and maturity. It's clear the experience left a lasting, positive impact on her spirit. Following her experience with the Boys and Girls International Hinokishin Tai, she expressed how much she valued the global friendships she formed. She couldn't say enough about the staff's kindness and how dedicated they were to making sure everyone felt supported and included. Reflecting on my past pilgrimages, I've come to realize that the most rewarding part was the community we built—the people and the special bonds that have stayed with me all these years.

The YouTube algorithm recently 'dropped' a great video into my feed about a British guy in Korea who finds tiny, authentic restaurants. He stumbled upon a spot where the owner treated him like family, piling his plate high and explaining that she sees her two sons in every customer. He was so touched by her kindness that he could barely find the words to thank her. As he walked out, a stranger nearby just smiled and said, 'Isn't she great!' I really appreciate that my algorithm mixes in these heartwarming stories with my usual Dodger highlights to help nurture my soul. I apologize for the tangent, but watching that video and others like it brought back vivid childhood memories of the Summer Children's Pilgrimage and our subsequent visits to my grandmother's place at Tohon Grand Church.

Tohon Grand Church was more than just a church to us; it was my mother's childhood home. Every return was marked by a joyful lady in the sanctuary shouting 'Welcome Back!' with a big laugh. That familiar greeting followed me from childhood into my adult life, and even after my grandmother's rebirth, the church always felt like a place of return rather than just a destination. I always found familiar faces and open doors at Tohon, largely due to the Grand Church's Host Family Program. By bringing together students from Japan, who were mostly children of head ministers and followers of Tohon and host families in Los Angeles, the program allowed me to form deep, lasting connections with the Tohon community. It was the church's 'parental heart' that cultivated these global bonds, turning our pilgrimages into a true homecoming.

It was the shared vision of my parents and Tohon that bridged the divide between us. They dedicated themselves to building a bridge between our American church and Tohon, an ambitious program that surely relied on the tireless support and cooperation of many. Maintaining the America-Canada group for so long is a testament to the power of cooperation. Each year, it requires a dedicated effort of planning and support to bring so many people together for the pilgrimage. We are so grateful for the dedication of Mrs. Yuge, Rev. Ito, Rev. Linda Nishi and her mother, Wesley, and the entire staff. Their commitment, in addition to the countless



staff, both then and now, ensured that everyone who joins the pilgrimage feels an immediate sense of belonging and family. One of my favorite memories is seeing Mrs. Yuge and Rev. Ito jump in the water with all of us and share in the joy of the refreshing water. They understood that in the middle of a hot summer pilgrimage, the pool was the place to be. Serving as staff, I've witnessed the pure delight that this pilgrimage inspires. A particularly moving moment for me was watching a young participant greeting her grandmother in the worship hall. It was her first time participating in the Summer Pilgrimage and the first time meeting her grandmother. The way she called out and wove through the crowd just to give her a hug is a memory I'll always cherish. It was incredibly touching to witness a staff member, returning for the first time since the pandemic, sharing a tearful embrace with her parents after their prayers in the

worship hall. Her father kept a composed, traditional exterior, but I know he must have felt immense pride and relief seeing her return safely from America to the Home of the Parent. Or having a group of grandmothers coordinate a pilgrimage for their grandkids made me realize how much effort goes into this mission. I am truly inspired by those who work without rest to share our path and share how important it is to return to the Home of the Parent.

I'm reminded of a special trip I took with my father during my high school years. We joined a church tour that retraced his spiritual roots, visiting the subordinate churches of his home church alongside the missionary who originally shared the teachings with my father's family. She was in her seventies, and while I remember the many churches we visited and the constant flow of green tea and rice cakes, what sticks with me most is her driving. She drove so cautiously that I don't think she ever actually shifted out of first gear. I think her slow pace was intentional. She wanted to bridge the distance between us, allowing us to communicate to those local churches that we were practicing the same faith and traditions across the ocean.

In the Ofudesaki IV:62 God the Parent states:

To God, who began this world, all of you in the world are equally My beloved children,

Verse IV:62

To God, the people throughout the world are all My children, All of you equally, know that I am your Parent!

Verse IV:79

All of you throughout the world are brothers and sisters. There should be no one called an outsider.

Verse XIII:43

It was like a team-building tour; by visiting each church, she showed us that we aren't playing alone. We share the same struggles and victories, and by opening those lines of communication, she helped us build the relationships necessary to work toward our shared mission as one united team.

This year marks a major milestone as the Boys and Girls Association of America-Canada holds its 50th Service Convention in June, just ahead of the annual Summer Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba in July. We've come this far because of the shared dedication of those before us and those serving today. To sustain the BGA for another fifty years, we need to strengthen our collaboration. While our core members consistently step up, additional support would go a long way in securing our future. With that request, I thank you for your kind attention.

Regarding application distribution:

- As of April 25, downloadable application forms are available on the TLI website.
- At the same time, details should be released regarding the study requirements for the skill certification test.

9) MEMORIAL DAY CEMETARY VISIT

On May 25 (Mon) at 10 AM, the Mission Headquarters will offer their prayers, then proceed to Evergreen Cemetery to pay their respects.

10) AMERICA ICHIRETSU-KAI SCHOLARSHIP

We are now accepting applications for the 2026 America Ichiretsukai Scholarship. Children of church, fellowship, and mission center heads who have been accepted to attend college are eligible. Application forms are available at the Mission Headquarters for those who wish to receive the scholarship. The application deadline is June 30 (Tue). New recipients will be announced on the August monthly service day. Those wishing to continue to receive the scholarship in the second, third, or fourth year of college will not have to resubmit applications; however, if students plan to take time off from school or transfer to another school, they must report it to the Mission Headquarters by August 31.

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

- * Thank you for your monthly service duty at the Mission Headquarters for church, fellowship, and mission center heads. The duty calendar up to July is as follows.

May: Junjiro Nakatomi, Taichi Onishi

June: Noriko Kitai, Kinpei Ito

July: Robert Yuge, Hifumi Nakagawa

NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Oyasato Seminar subcommittee staff, students, & parents will be having a joint orientation over Zoom with Hawaii on May 17 (Sun), in preparation towards the Oyasato Seminar.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight local activities and events under the title, "Joyous Life Here & There." Therefore, we would like to request churches, fellowships, districts, and individuals to submit your activity information & pictures to us (Kawakami: kamishuyo@hotmail.com or Hayashi: takhayashi@gmail.com).
- We have created and are continuously updating the Mission HQ Homepage so that our congregation members may make use of it. We have recently updated the Our Guide to Jiba page. Please visit our homepage, and let those around you know as well. Domain Name: TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org .

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

- TWA Convention (Sacramento District) June 6, 2026 (Sat) @ 11AM
Place: Sacramento Church

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

- The 2026 BGA Practice Service Convention will be held on June 20 (Sat) at the Mission Headquarters, and the Youth Conference will be held the day before, June 19 (Fri). We ask for your help in spreading the word, so that many members may attend.
- Registration forms for this year's Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba and International Shonen Hinokishin Corp will be distributed this month, so please submit said form if you are planning to return to Jiba.
- Please send an email to [moto1884@icloud.com] if there are any new BGA members, newborn or new to the North America congregation.

TYMANA

- We will hold our TYMANA Convention on August 15 (Sat) from 10:30 AM, followed by a barbecue in the evening. More details pertaining to the program will be announced soon.

NY CENTER

- May 24: Family BBQ (sponsored by NY YMA)



SOULFIRE

TENRIKYO FAITH GATHERING

Saturday, November 14th, 2026

10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of America & Canada
2727 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033



@tenrikyo.faith.conference

<https://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/tfc>



www.facebook.com/soulfiretfc/

Fife and Drum Corps - New York District

On April 18, 2026, the New York District Boys and Girls Association Drum and Fife Corps performed at the 21st Sakura Matsuri at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, hosted by the Japanese American Association of New York. Twenty-three members with eleven staff members performed the songs “Mickey Mouse March,” “Sukiyaki,” and “Sweet Caroline.” Our members performed joyously with the cherry blossoms in full bloom. Afterwards, our members were able to celebrate Oyasama’s birthday with a cake and picnic.



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Manzanar Pilgrimage Interfaith Prayer



On Saturday, April 25, the 57th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage was held at the Manzanar National Historic Site near Lone Pine, California. It is approximately 4 hours away from Los Angeles and it is where during World War II, over 11,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in hastily constructed wooden barracks. Many of our Tenrikyo members were held here from 1942 to 1945. Rev. Marlon Okazaki and Rev. Robert Yuge, who both have family that were in one of the ten camps nationwide, had the opportunity to participate in an interfaith service at the memorial monument.

Together with three other members, Robert Kanegawa, Terry Gilmore, and Riki Okazaki, we danced the eight verses of Yorozuyo in honor of the people who passed away during the years of incarceration. We hope to continue this tradition at future Manzanar Pilgrimages so please keep the 4th Saturday of every April open so that you might be able to participate with us.



Hinokishin Day Activities

- Various Districts -



Orange



Gardena



San Diego



Sacramento



Tacoma



Hollywood

players often stay at his dormitory. And apparently, the staff at that dormitory can immediately tell whether a visiting soccer team is strong or weak.

How can they tell this right away?

As you know, in Japan, people take off their shoes before entering a home. Even in the United States and Canada, Japanese and Nikkei families often have the custom of taking off their shoes before entering the house.

Since people are expected to take off their shoes at the entrance to the dormitory, the high school soccer players who visit will take off their shoes right at the entrance of the dormitory. It is said that the way the team takes off their shoes shows the strength level of their team.

I was told that when a high school soccer team enters the dormitory and their many shoes are neatly aligned, this means that they are usually a strong team. On the other hand, teams whose shoes are scattered are usually a weak team.

To interpret this, it can be said that the soccer team's daily mindset is reflected in the way they remove their shoes. This mindset is likely reflected in their daily practices and may influence the quality of their teamwork. In other words, I believe that, whether or not their hearts are united toward a common goal is symbolized in the simple act of taking off their shoes. Of course, simply take off shoes and lining them up neatly at the entrance won't make any team stronger,

however, the way they take off their shoes may indicate the team's level of discipline and unity.

When we consider this, we can see that our daily habits are extremely important. I believe that a person's mental strength and personality are often revealed by how carefully they handle their daily activities.

Shohei Ohtani, who plays for the Los Angeles Dodgers, continues to rewrite MLB history as a two-way player, thriving both as a pitcher and a hitter.

I only know this from social media and other sources, but what seems to impress his teammates is his uncompromising amount of practice and his meticulous pre-game preparation routine. It goes beyond mere practicing techniques—it's his very "mindset going into a game." Apparently, his training load is quite heavy; even though he already puts in a substantial amount of work as a hitter, his practice volume as a pitcher is also nothing short of extraordinary.

I believe that he is able to maintain such uncompromising training due to his foundation of daily consideration for others. Of course, he has a strong desire to win the World Series, but more importantly, he believes that improving his individual performance will lead to his team's victory. To me, the determination and effort he puts into his daily training is what is truly important.

However, that's not all. Ohtani is also known for his exceptional thoughtful consideration for his teammates, and

he often draws attention for actions that top-tier players tend to avoid—such as picking up balls during practice or picking up small pieces of trash from the field and putting them into his pockets.

Furthermore, he never forgets to show respect for the other team. It's well known that before stepping into the batter's box for his first at bat, he lightly touches the brim of his helmet, "tipping his hat," and bows to the opposing manager to pay respect.

I think that this ability to show such respect for opposing teams stems from his understanding that baseball is a game that exists because there are opponents, and that there is meaning in friendly mutual rivalries as games unfold.

I also believe he places a high priority on putting on a great game for the fans. I think his underlying motivation is a desire to create games that the fans can enjoy.

I believe the reason he can consistently act this way is that he always carries a spirit of gratitude and respect within himself, and it is precisely because of that spirit that he is able to tackle even the most grueling training without compromise.

In our faith, as well, our daily attentiveness and mindset are important. Take "Hinokishin," for example. When we clean something with a heart of gratitude for the blessings of God the Parent, it becomes Hinokishin; but without that mindset, it becomes nothing but a just "chore." It seems to me that the

habit of putting care and sincerity into our basic daily actions is what ultimately determines whether we can put our heart into great acts of faith (the practice of our faith).

I believe that our ability to put our heart into things, is shaped by the thoughtfulness we show in our daily lives. In other words, I think it's influenced by the basic principles of behavior—such as the manners and actions we take in our daily lives—that I mentioned earlier in reference to strong soccer teams. It seems to me that the thoughtfulness we show in our daily lives is what determines whether or not we can put our heart into our words and deeds.

If we are "practicing" the Tenrikyo faith, it is important to join our hearts together with the teachings into each and every one of our words and actions. This means expressing gratitude for the blessings of God the Parent and embodying our faith in the ordinary moments of our daily lives as we strive toward the Joyous Life.

What do you all think about all this?

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TOWARD THE JOYOUS LIFE

TENRIKYO came into existence on October 26, 1838, when God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, became revealed through Oyasama, Miki Nakayama, to save all humankind. God the Parent is God of Origin and God in Truth who created this world and has nurtured and protected us ever since.



God the Parent created human beings so that by seeing us lead the Joyous Life, God could share in our joy. Leading the Joyous Life is, therefore, the purpose of our existence. Since God is our Parent, we are all God's children; thus, we should realize that we are all brothers and sisters.

“With human beings : the body is a thing lent by God, a thing borrowed. The mind alone is yours.”
Osashizu : June 1, 1889

We are taught that we borrow our bodies from God the Parent and only our minds truly belong to us; further, through the proper use of our minds, we will be able to lead the Joyous Life.