



SOULFIRE

2023 TENRIKYO FAITH CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

 Tenrikyo Faith Conference  www.tenrikyo.com/tfc  [tenrikyo.faith.conference](https://www.instagram.com/tenrikyo.faith.conference)  soulfiretfc@gmail.com



SOULFIRE

TENRIKYO FAITH CONFERENCE

IGNITING OUR JOYOUS FAITH

JUNE 23-25, 2023 | PALM SPRINGS, CA

SCHEDULE [SOULFIRE]

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

(Assemble in Mesquite Ballroom unless otherwise specified)

Breakfast on your own

09:00 - 03:00	Conference Check-In Mesquite Ballroom Foyer
12:00 - 01:00	Lunch
01:00 - 01:30	Opening Ceremony (Opening Prayer, Message by Bishop Fukaya, Welcome)
01:30 - 02:00	Opening Keynote Address Nadine Nakamura
02:15 - 03:15	HARP Team Building Activity: Getting to Know You and More!
03:30 - 05:00	Concurrent Workshops (Session 1) Mesquite Ballroom & Oleander A, B & C
05:10 - 05:30	Evening Service and Announcements
05:30	Dinner On Your Own

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

(Assemble in Mesquite Ballroom unless otherwise specified)

07:30 - 08:50	Breakfast
09:00 - 09:30	Morning Service and Centering Exercise
09:30 - 10:30	Singable-Danceable Mikagura-Uta Interactive Presentation Rev. Marlon Okazaki
10:45 - 12:15	Concurrent Workshops (Session 2) Mesquite Ballroom & Oleander A, B & C
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch
01:45 - 02:45	HARP Faith Building Activity: Keep the Fire Burning Hotter!!
03:00 - 04:30	Concurrent Workshop (Session 3) Mesquite Ballroom & Oleander A, B & C
04:40 - 05:00	Evening Service, Announcements, and Group Photo
05:30 - 07:00	Break and Prepare for Dinner Party
07:00 - 10:00	Dinner Party and Entertainment

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

(Assemble in Mesquite Ballroom)

07:30 - 08:50 **Breakfast**

09:00 - 09:30 **Morning Service and Faith Quote of the Day**

09:30 - 10:00 **Closing Remarks & Reflection**
Rev. Koji Uesugi

10:00 - 10:30 **Closing Ceremony**
(Closing Prayer and SoulFire Memories Video Slideshow)

11:00 AM **Disband**
(bus departs for LA)

SCHEDULE [SPARKS]

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

(Sparks will take place in Canyon A & B)

01:30 - 01:40	Sparks Pick-Up Mesquite Ballroom
01:40 - 02:00	HARP Welcome and Let's Get Acquainted Activities Canyon A & B
02:00 - 02:40	Collaborative Arts and Craft: Being Thankful
02:40 - 03:00	Collaboration Games
03:00 - 03:45	Station Time: Hang Out Time (Snack Time 03:15 - 03:30)
03:45 - 04:00	Collaboration Games
04:00 - 04:50	Mini Olympics
04:50 - 05:00	Hinokishin Clean Up/Pick Up

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

(Sparks will take place in Canyon A & B)

09:30 - 10:30	Singable-Danceable Mikagura-Uta Demonstration (4th Grade and Up) Mesquite Ballroom
09:20 - 09:30	Sparks Pick Up (3rd Grade and Below) CANYON A&B
09:30 - 10:00	Practice Seated Service (3rd Grade and Below)
10:00 - 10:30	Arts and Crafts
10:30 - 10:45	Snack Time
10:45 - 11:00	Collaboration Game + Anecdotes of Oyasama Lecture
11:00 - 11:30	Anecdotes of Oyasama Skit Practice
11:30 - 12:00	Skit Performances
12:15 - 02:30	Field Trip: Lunch and Bowling
2:30 - 03:00	Station Time: Hang Out Time
03:00 - 03:30	Collaboration Game: Escape Room
03:30 - 04:00	Collaboration Arts and Craft: How do we show our Gratefulness
04:00 - 04:15	Collaboration Game

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION



CONFERENCE CHECK-IN AND INFORMATION DESK

The SoulFire TFC 2023 registration desk is located in the Mesquite Ballroom Foyer. The registration desk will be open: Friday, June 23, 9:00 am–3:00 pm



NAME BADGE

Please wear your name badge while you are at the conference. In addition to letting others know your name and affiliation, it is your ticket for meals, sessions, and special events.



COVID-19 SAFETY

We are excited to be together and are committed to protecting the health and safety of all who participate in SoulFire TFC 2023.

Masking at the SoulFire TFC is optional. At this time, there are no local government or hotel requirements to wear masks. We welcome and support anyone who chooses to wear a mask during the conference.

Should you begin to feel unwell or test positive during the conference, we ask you to refrain from participating in conference sessions and activities. If a participant tests positive for COVID, please notify a conference staff person.

For attendees that request face masks or a COVID-19 antigen test, these items are available at the SoulFire help desk.



WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Complimentary wireless internet service will be provided in guest rooms and public spaces.



CONFERENCE SURVEY

On Day 3 of the conference, we ask for you to complete the conference survey so that we can learn about your SoulFire TFC experience and use your feedback to improve future Tenrikyo programming.



PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO DISCLAIMER

Please be aware that by attending the SoulFire Tenrikyo Faith Conference, you consent your name, person, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, in photography, video, and in written format for use in any and all media, and release all conference producers, as well as conference presenters and attendees, from any liability whatsoever.



SHARE YOUR SOULFIRE MOMENTS

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone and upload photos or videos of your great SoulFire moments from the conference!



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON PADLET

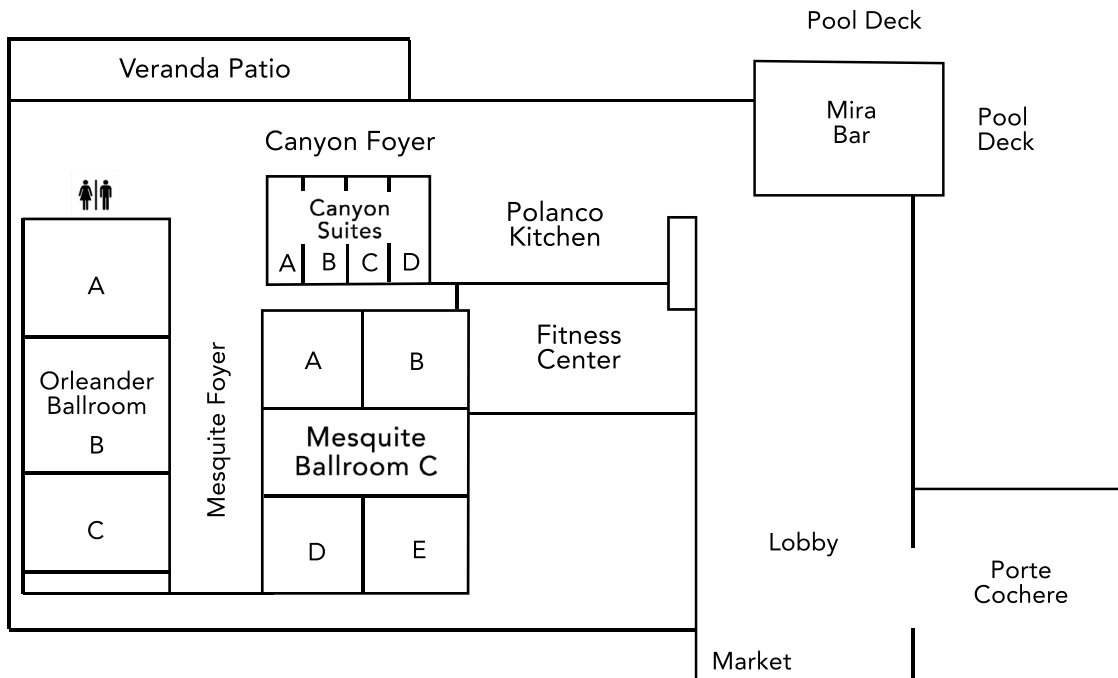
Please take moments from the conference to write down key takeaways and inspirational moments from the presentations, activities, or simply experiences connecting with your friends.



THINGS TO DO IN PALM SPRINGS

Discover some of the unique and enjoyable places to eat, shop, and experience in this beautiful and historic city. Palm Springs is a wonderful place for foodies, golfers, artists, and those who simply want to “chill.”

DOUBLETREE MAP AND CONFERENCE ROOMS



WELCOME AND APPRECIATION BY SOULFIRE CO-CHAIRS

Dear Tenrikyo Family and Friends!

On behalf of the Tenrikyo Faith Conference Planning Committee and Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters In America, welcome to Soulfire 2023 in sunny Palm Springs, California!

Your participation and support is a testament of your commitment, sincerity, and passion to the Path of Single-hearted Salvation and our ongoing mission of bringing joy and peace to our communities. We are very grateful to have you be a part of this momentous and historic event.

Over the past few years, there were numerous occasions when we paused, reassessed and reevaluated the value of hosting such an ambitious conference after experiencing the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. But thanks to the countless warm support by many members of the Tenrikyo community, we were undeterred by these obstacles, and remained steadfast in moving forward with this project and making our vision a reality.

Since then, we were able to successfully hold the Virtual Conference in 2021, and we are now able to host the originally planned in-person conference in 2023. What started as Rev. Masahiko Iburi's vision of hosting a spiritually enriching and spiritual engaging program for English speakers in the form of the Tenri Forum in 2006, has now evolved into one of the largest major Tenrikyo gatherings in North America in recent history.

Special appreciation to Bishop Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, whose leadership and unwavering support has given us the opportunity and drive to put together this platform for English-speaking members of the Tenrikyo community. We wish to express our appreciation to our fellow members of the SoulFire planning committee, who have been a part of this amazing journey for the past few years and share the same common goal of making a positive impact to our ongoing mission in the North America diocese and beyond.

We also wish to thank Mrs. Hiromi Fukaya, Secretaries Dairei Masuno, Raymond Morishita, former Secretaries Shun Watanabe and Hltoshi Morimoto, and the members of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in North America for all their continuous assistance and support. Special shoutout to the members of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii, Tenrikyo Mission New York Center, Tenrikyo Women's Association of North America, the Tenrikyo Boys & Girls Association, and all of the amazing sponsors and donors (whom will be listed later) for their generous contributions and support, and for helping us make this event possible..

Lastly, thank you all again for joining us and sharing your wisdom, experiences, and positive energy to this great cause. We believe that this Soulfire Conference is a pivotal step during the period of the "three years, one thousand days" leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, and will serve as another significant chapter for our ongoing mission. Let us enjoy our time together, motivate and encourage one another, and ignite our spiritual flame that will continue to burn even brighter and stronger for years to come.

Sincerely,

Paul, Toshi, and Koji

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FUKAYA

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the SoulFire Tenrikyo Faith Conference!

I am extremely delighted that we can hold the SoulFire Tenrikyo Conference with all of you today. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who has made the commitment to participate in what will be a memorable event.

As you may know, the in-person SoulFire Tenrikyo Faith Conference was originally scheduled to be held at the end of June 2021. However, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that began to spread at the end of 2019, eventually spread around the world, including the United States. Thus, we had no choice but to cancel the in-person event. Yet, even under this extreme circumstance, the SoulFire Planning Committee committed to change course and we were able to hold a highly successful Virtual SoulFire Tenrikyo Faith Conference in June 2021 joined by 300 participants. Soon after the virtual conference, the planning committee went right back to work to plan the face-to-face SoulFire in June 2022, but the ongoing pandemic forced us to push it back one more year, which brings us to this day.

Now, after three years from the initial schedule, we are gathered in Palm Springs with our family and friends of our Tenrikyo community who we have not seen in-person for four years or more. During the three years of postponement, members of the SoulFire Planning Committee, especially Rev. Koji Uesugi, Rev. Paul Tomizawa, and Mr. Toshimasa Kayama, played a central role to persevere to make the event a reality. I would like to express my appreciation to the entire SoulFire Planning Committee, the presenters, panelists, facilitators, volunteers, and all those who were involved in the event in one way or another. Thank you very much.

This conference follows in the footsteps of the “Tenri Forum,” held in Jiba in 2006. The major difference is that the Tenrikyo Faith Conference was planned and organized solely by members of the North America congregation, with the full support of the Board of Directors of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America. Today would not be possible without their commitment, so my appreciation to our Board of Directors and North America congregation.

As I mentioned in the virtual SoulFire opening address two years ago, the three goals of Soul Fire are to:

- Discover/rediscover the pride that our faith is a meaningful and joyful spiritual practice.
- Inspire participants to live each day with joy and gratitude and arm them with the spiritual tool to address daily challenges with a Tenrikyo mindset.
- Create and strengthen bonds of family and friends.

I hope that the SoulFire Tenrikyo Faith Conference will be a force for Tenrikyo followers around the world, not just in English-speaking countries, and will contribute to the realization of a Joyous Life world for all our brothers and sisters.

Furthermore, I would be very happy if all participants will have a meaningful time during SoulFire, inspire each other, and that this event becomes a source of strength for the future of Tenrikyo.

Bishop Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

“IGNITING OUR JOYOUS FAITH”

Friday, June 23 | 1:30-2:00 | Mesquite Ballroom

The SoulFire Tenrikyo Faith Conference 2023 brings us together in beautiful Palm Springs, CA, to learn from one another and celebrate our path together. Nadine Nakamura kicks off the conference with an inspiring and insightful keynote address to ignite our joyous faith.



NADINE K. NAKAMURA

Yoboku

Ms. Nakamura is serving her fourth term as a Representative in the Hawaii State Legislature. She was recently appointed Majority Leader. She is a third generation Tenrikyo follower. She received her undergraduate degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning at the University of Southern California and Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii. She has two adult children and splits her time between the islands of O'ahu and Kaua'i, Hawai'i.

GENERAL SESSION PRESENTER

SINGABLE, DANCEABLE MIKAGURA-UTA (SDM) INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION

Saturday, June 24 | 9:30-10:30 | Mesquite Ballroom

Oyasama taught us the Service as the “means to bring peace to the world and salvation to all.” To help achieve this, the Singable Danceable Mikagura-uta (SDM) seeks to provide English speakers the ability to better understand and practice the teachings through dancing the Otefuri (service dance) to the songs of truth, the Mikagura-uta, sung in English. The SDM demonstration will give participants an opportunity to sing and dance the Seated Service and Yorozuyo in English.



REV. MARLON M. OKAZAKI

Head Minister, Tenrikyo Southern Pacific Church

Rev. Marlon was born and raised in Boyle Heights and graduated from Roosevelt HS and Yale, with honors, in Economics and East Asian Studies. He worked for Sony HQ in sales and marketing; for Bandai Electronics USA, in video game translation; works for Honda R&D as a simultaneous interpreter since 2013; and delivers lectures in Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese. He is the author of the “Red Book,” The Otefuri Guide, and has worked on the English SDM since 1994. At Mission Headquarters, he delivered monthly service announcements from 2005 ~ 2020 and is the head of the Translation Committee and a board member.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSION 1

WORKSHOP 1A:

LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE: FACILITATED DISCUSSION ABOUT EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES

Description: Effective leadership is crucial to the health and prosperity of any organization. Join us in a roundtable discussion of how we can incorporate effective leadership strategies to enhance our church organization and the future of Tenrikyo in America.

Presenters: Rev. Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Darren Ito, Rev. Zen Yukimoto

Location: Oleander A & **Host:** Rev. Michael Yuge

WORKSHOP 1B:

NURTURING OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN FAITH

Description: This panel brings together parents from our faith who will share various ways of raising children and families in the faith. Panelists will examine strategies of nurturing their families in Tenrikyo and share both the joys and obstacles that they have experienced in their efforts of doing so.

Presenters: Rev. Bobby Kokuryo (moderator), Akemi Wong, Christine Yukimoto, Julia Toyama, Rev. Kay Morishita

Location: Mesquite Ballroom & **Host:** Aya Morishita

WORKSHOP 1C:

HOW TO STRENGTHEN MY FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD THE PARENT

Description: Nowadays, we find ourselves facing more turmoil and hardships than ever before. In this panel, we will explore the following questions: How can we utilize faith as a tool to reinforce our resilience and remain hopeful? How do we remain connected to God when met with all of life's challenges?

Presenters: Rev. Takahiko Hayashi (moderator), Rev. Alejandro Jimenez, Etsuko Okui-Isada, Moneke Williams

Location: Oleander B & **Host:** Moneke Williams

WORKSHOP 1D:

HOW TO SHARE OUR TEACHINGS WITH PEOPLE AROUND US

Description: The panelists of mainly first generation Tenrikyo followers will share their experiences and insights on how they saw the Tenrikyo Church from a non-follower's point of view. We will learn how they talk to others about the faith and how we can also model a grateful and caring mindset when we share the teachings with people around us.

Presenters: Rev. Susumu Yuge (moderator), Craig Nishio, Rev. Steven Fujimoto, Yuk Mei Inouye, Yumi Litke

Location: Oleander C & **Host:** Youichi Nakagawa

HARP TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY:

GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND MORE!

Description: Series of fun, engaging, and interactive group activities designed to build friendships, share wisdom, and become motivated and focused for the TFC Soulfire Conference.

Presenter: Rev. Jon Nomachi

Location: Mesquite Ballroom

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSION 2

WORKSHOP 2A:

EXPANDING THE PRESENCE OF TENRIKYO IN OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Description: Numerous church organizations and leaders have expanded the presence of Tenrikyo in our communities through outreach and service. Learn from three innovative practices by Tenrikyo leaders spanning across the globe from London, New York, and Oahu as to how they incorporate the teachings through innovative practices in their communities.

Presenters: Rev. Michael Yuge, Rev. Simon Patterson, Rev. Tad Iwata

Location: Oleander A & **Host:** Rev. Michael Yuge

WORKSHOP 2B:

FACING AND OVERCOMING HARDSHIPS OF ILLNESS OF FAMILY MEMBERS

Description: Facing and overcoming the illness of a family member is something that most of us will have to experience sooner or later in our lifetime. How can our faith help us in such difficult times and how can we strengthen our bonds within the family? This workshop seeks to answer these questions.

Presenters: Rev. Hamilton Niwa (moderator), Dr. Mikio Obayashi, Setsumi Saltman

Location: Oleander B & **Host:** Rev. Hiroko Okazaki

WORKSHOP 2C:

FOLLOWING THE PATH: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TENRIKYO FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

Description: In this workshop, panelists of the “next generation” explore what it means to be Tenrikyo today. They will discuss ways in which they express their spirituality in present times and explore what tools are effective to nurture future generations.

Presenters: Julia Yuge (moderator), Akira Okazaki, Kaitlyn Uesugi, Milo Yukimoto, Natalie Yuge

Location: Mesquite Ballroom & **Host:** Aya Morishita

WORKSHOP 2D:

UNDERSTANDING AND COPING WITH THE EFFECTS OF ABUSE AND TRAUMA

Description: Join this panel to learn about the impact of abuse and trauma on mental health. Through an insightful discussion with professional and anecdotal guidance, the audience will also gain effective coping strategies and helpful resources to create safe spaces that support those that have experienced various types of abuse and trauma.

Presenters: Rev. Wesley Mikuni (moderator), Rev. Colin Saito, Sherri Kokuryo

Location: Oleander C & **Host:** Moneke Williams

HARP FAITH BUILDING ACTIVITY:

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING HOTTER!

Description: Faith-building group activity involving scriptures of Tenrikyo. Participants will have the opportunity to work together in developing a greater understanding and appreciation of the Teachings, share their thoughts and experiences, provide support and wisdom, and set goals (spiritual, personal, and professional) heading towards the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama and beyond.

Presenters: Rev. Jon Nomachi, Paul Yagi, and Toshi Kayama

Location: Mesquite Ballroom

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSION 3

WORKSHOP 3A:

LET US MASTER THE ENGLISH SINGABLE DANCEABLE MIKAGURA-UTA YOROZUYO

Description: We are taught that the two pillars of salvation in Tenrikyo are the Service and Sazuke. When we administer the Sazuke to someone who is suffering, we have the opportunity to “save” that person. However, teaching someone how to learn and understand the service, provides them the tools for their own salvation and others for a lifetime! Building on the SDM Demonstration in the General Session, join us for a step-by-step interactive workshop to master the SDM Yorozuyo as a method to impart the beautiful fragrance of these teachings more effectively through the service to all our English-speaking friends. Let us revolutionize this faith in America and Canada by giving “full” access to Oyasama’s teachings through the service!

Presenter: Rev. Marlon Okazaki

Location: Mesquite Ballroom & **Host:** Rev. Koji Uesugi

WORKSHOP 3B:

PROFESSIONALS WITHIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY AND HOW THEY INCORPORATE THE TEACHING IN THEIR PROFESSIONS

Description: Professionals within our faith community will join our panel to discuss how they incorporate the teaching in their professions. We hope to learn from their experiences in order to understand how to implement the teaching in our daily lives at work.

Presenters: Paul Yagi (moderator), Daniel Higaki, Satoko Sasaki-Lam, Trasey Yuge

Location: Oleander A & **Host:** Rev. Michael Yuge

WORKSHOP 3C:

BEYOND TRADITIONAL METHODS OF PROMOTING THE TEACHINGS

Description: Church Headquarters has recently begun to acknowledge the importance of adapting to the changing times and modifying our approach to ways we sprinkle the fragrance. This workshop showcases members of our faith who utilize art, technology and other “non-traditional” methods to share the teachings with others.

Presenters: Minoru Nishida (moderator), Grant Inouye, Lewis Nakao, Shigeko Fukaya

Location: Oleander B & **Host:** Youichi Nakagawa

WORKSHOP 3D:

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WITHIN THE TENRIKYO CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Description: As people of the faith, how are we doing in terms of diversity and inclusion? What do our scriptures tell us and how is the organization affected by culture? This workshop seeks to tackle the past, present, and future of diversity and inclusion within our church organization.

Presenters: Rev. Jon Nomachi (moderator), Dr. Grant Hisao, Rev. Hiroko Okazaki, Ms. Kelly Turner (via video recording)

Location: Oleander C & **Host:** Rev. Hiroko Okazaki

Part I: 21 Times

Sweeping away evils, please save us, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto.

(Current Mikagura-uta Translation)

All__ | ills__,
Ashi | ki | o
PRAY

sweep a- | way and
haro | (o)te
SWEEP HEART

save__ | us__
ta | mae
PRESS

ple- | ase__, • **Tenri- | O-no- | Miko- | to.**
ta | mae
WAVE TO COME 2 R | PRESS | RECEIVE

(**English SDM**)
(Romanized Mikagura-uta)
(Hand Movement Name in "The Otefuri Guide")

Part II: 1 Time

Just a word: Listen to what God says. I will never tell you anything wrong.

Just a | word to | you:
Choito | hana | shi
CONVERSE 3 R

say- | ing__
yu__ | koto
PT. MOUTH

listen • **No__ | harmful**
ki__ | te
PT. EAR

please. • **Ashi | ki | no**
kure
OPEN

thing to | you__, **will I | ever | say.**
koto | (o) wa
OPEN

THROW 3 L
iwa | n | de | na

Representing heaven and earth, I have created husband and wife.

With__ | this__ | world's
Kono | yo__ | no
WEAVE 3 R

ear-th | and | hea- | vens
ji | (i) | to | ten | to o
EARTH - SKY

as__ | the mo- | del, • **husband | and wife**
kata | do__ | rite
TAKE FROM A MOLD

I cre- | ated **with the | greatest | care.**
koshi | rae
CROSS OVER CHEST

THROW 3 L
kita | ru | de | na

This is the beginning of the world. Namu Tenri-O-no-Mikoto.

This is__
Kore wa
OPEN R

I be- | gan__ | this__ | world.
yo | no | haji | me | da | shi
GIVE BIRTH 2

• **Namu**
PRAY

• **Tenri-O-no-Mikoto.**
PRAY

Part III: 3 Sets of 3 Times

Sweeping away evils, hasten to save us. All humankind equally purified, the *Kanrodai*.

All__ | ills__,
Ashi | ki | o
PRAY

sweeping | away,
haro | (o)te
SWEEP HEART

ha__ | sten__ • **One and | all__**
seki | komu
PLACE FORWARD

sumi | shite
CALM WATER

purified, then
suma | shite
CALM WATER

Kan | ro | dai.
KANRODAI
(Press | Scoop | Lift)

Looking all over the world and through all ages. I find no one who has understood My heart. Mikagura-uta, Y:1

Thru all | ages | of **the | wor-ld,** **at all | people,** **I've looked | here and | there;** • **My | heart is** **under- | stood | by** **no one,** **none | at | all.**
 Yoro | zuyō | no se | kai ichi(i) | reisu mha | rase | do • Mu | ne no waka | ri | ta mono wa | na | i
 WAVES 3L WORLD TURN AROUND SHADE EYES 3R HEART B (slightly Open) | OPEN HEART | PRESS OPEN NEG. 3R

So should it be, for I have never taught it before, it is natural that you know nothing. Mikagura-uta, Y:2

So | should it | be, **to | teach | and** **have you | listen,** **this I** **have | not | done;** • **that you | don't | know** **is cer- | tainly** **only | natu- | ral.**
 Sono | hazu | ya to | i | te kika | shita koto wa | na | i • Shira | nu | ga muri | de wa nai | wai | na
 HIGH THROW 3L PT. MOUTH PT. EAR OPEN NEG. 3R NEG. 3L PRESS | OPEN THROW 3R

This time I, God, revealing Myself to the fore, teach you all the truth in detail. Mikagura-uta, Y:3

Now | at this | time, **I, God, | have,** **to the | fore |,** **re- | vealed My- | self • and | all things,** **in full | detail,** **teach | you,** **lis- | ten | now.**
 Kono tabi | wa Kami | ga omo | te ara | wa(a)re | te • Na | nika isa | i | o to | ki ki | ka | su
 PRESS THROW 2R PRAY CIRCLE COME OUT 3R PRESS LIFT UP 2R PT. MOUTH PT. EAR | THROW 2R

You are calling this place the *Jiba*, the home of God, in *Yamato*; but you do not know of its origin. Mikagura-uta, Y:4

This | place here | in **Yama- | to (o),** **Jba | (a), is** **God's | Resi- | dence;** • **you | say this,** **yet, to | you, the** **ori- | gin's | not | known.**
 Kono toko | no Yama | to no Jba | (a) no Kami | gata | to • yu | (u)te ire | domo moto shi | ra | nu
 OPEN PRESS | OPEN MOUNTAIN JIBA PRAY PT. MOUTH THROW 2R PRESS NEG. 3R

If you are told of this origin in full, great yearning will come over you, whoever you may be. Mikagura-uta, Y:5

To this | ori- | gin, **taught in | detail:** **If you | listen,** **when you | have | done | this,** • **who- | ever** **you may** **be |,** **yearning | will | fill | you.**
 Kono | moto | o kuwa | shiku kii | (i)ta koto | na | ra | ba • I | kana mono demo koi | shi | na | ru
 HIGH THROW 3L PT. MOUTH PT. EAR OPEN | THROW 3R SWEEP UP R PRESS THROW R HEART B | THROW 3R

If you wish to hear and will come to Me, I will tell you the truth that this place is the origin of any and everything. Mikagura-uta, Y:6

Listen | if you | wish: **then | seek Me |** **come, | and | I | will** **teach | you,** **li- | sten | now,** • **about | all things | in de- | tail—the** **ori- | gin | of | all.**
 Kiki | taku | ba ta | zune ku | ru | na | ra yu | te ki | ka | su • Yo | rozu isa | i | no moto na | ru | o
 PT. EAR | THROW 2R PT. FORWARD PT. CHEST | THROW 2R PT. MOUTH PT. EAR | THROW 2R PRESS LIFT UP 2R PRESS THROW 3R

When I, God, reveal Myself and teach you everything in detail, all people in the world will become cheerful. Mikagura-uta, Y:7

When God | has **come | forth** **and all | things** **in de- | tail are** **taught; | when | this | is | done,** • **all | the world,** **one and | all, will** **become | spi- | rited.**
 Kami | ga de | te nani | ka isa | i | o to | ku | na | ra | ba • Se | kai ichi | reisu isa | mu | nari
 PRAY | PRESS, L, HP COME OUT 2R PRESS LIFT UP 2R PT. MOUTH | THROW 3R WORLD TURN AROUND LIFT UP 3R

As I hasten to save all of you equally, I will set out to cheer up all the minds of the world. Mikagura-uta, Y:8

Every | one of | you: **to | quickly** **save | you |** **since I | am | in | haste;** • **all the | world's |** **minds must | also** **become | spi- | rited.**
 Ichi | reisu | ni hal | yaku tasu | ke | o iso | gu | ka | ra • Sekai | no koko | ro mo isa | me | kake
 TURN AROUND QUICKLY SWEEP BODY ACTIVITY 4R WORLD HEART RL LIFT UP 3

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

AKEMI WONG,

Yoboku and Customer Service Agent,
SWA

Akemi Wong is a second generation Tenrikyo follower. She attended Tenri University's Bekka Nihongokatei in her early 20's and after she graduated she did hinokishin for her Grand Church and at Church Headquarters and attended the Lay Minister's Qualification Course. She has two children ages 22 and 24 who are as active as their schedules allow them to be.

AKIRA OKAZAKI,

Yoboku, OSA and College Student

Akira Okazaki is the eldest of four siblings born to two ministers. He attended John Marshall High School in Los Angeles where he was the captain of the volleyball team. He has attended the Oyasato Seminar and Tenrikyo Three Day Course. He is interested in the environment, communication, psychology, Korean language and culture, and public transportation.

ALEJANDRO JIMENEZ,

Fellowship Head and IT Business
Analyst

Alejandro Jimenez is Head of the Tenrikyo Shimagahara Boston Fraternity and a Tenrikyo New York Center staff member. He is also an Information Technology Business Analyst. Alejandro graduated from Tenri University's Religious Studies Department and when he is not busy chairing the East Coast Boys and Girls Association, he relaxes as a certified advanced open water diver.

AUDREY SUGA- NAKAGAWA,

Head Minister and Advocacy Director

Rev. Audrey Suga-Nakagawa is the third Head Minister of Tenrikyo Lanai Church in Honolulu. She is also the Advocacy Director of AARP Hawaii and has 25+ years in healthcare administration with a specialty in gerontology. Audrey has a master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in Public Affairs from USC.

BOBBY KOKURYO,

Head Minister and Board of Director

Rev. Bobby Kokuryo has been the Head Minister of Tenrikyo Grandville Church in Vancouver, Canada for over 25 years. He is also the father of three adult children and feels fortunate enough to work on a few Tenrikyo committees with wonderful people who are striving to guide and nurture people in faith.

COLIN T. SAITO,

Head Minister and Board of Director

Rev. Colin T. Saito is a second generation Tenrikyo follower who is the Head Minister of Tenrikyo Honolulu Church since 1992. Previously, he served as head of Palama Church for seven years, which is now Taitan Church headed by his sister, Rev. Lynn So. Colin has taught Shuyoka in Ojiba five times and is a Board of Director at the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii.

CRAIG NISHIO,

Yoboku, OSA, and Hospitality Industry Professional

Craig Nishio is a first generation Tenrikyo follower who was introduced to the faith by joining Koteki at the “Tenrikyo Church next door,” and eventually attended Oyasato Seminar. He learned Japanese and taught English in Ojiba through the Tenrikyo Overseas Mission Department. He has engaged in missionary work at Saitama and Hawaii missionary houses. Craig also worked at the Translation Department of the Overseas Department, served as a secretary at Mission Headquarters of Hawaii, and has spent over 20 years working in the tourism industry.

DANIEL HIGAKI,

Fellowship Head and Manager for JAL

Daniel Higaki is a third generation follower and Head of Tenrikyo Ho’opono Mission Station in Mililani, Hawaii. He has been employed at Japan Airlines (JAL) in Honolulu since 1996 and has served as Administration Manager (13 yrs) and currently as Airport Operations Manager (7 yrs). Daniel strives to instill the fundamental teachings of gratitude and helping others with his colleagues by coordinating volunteer activities at JAL.

DARREN ITO,

Yoboku, OSA, and Project Manager

Darren Ito is a Yoboku and plays an active role for the Tenrikyo Westside Church, and comes from a lineage of Head Ministers and followers, spanning many generations. Professionally, Darren has over 17 years of project management experience, managing multiple construction projects of diversity and complexity in Mission Critical Environments, ranging between \$1MM and \$120MM. A graduate from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, Darren has been involved in many leadership responsibilities for various companies.

ETSUKO OKUI-ISADA,

Yoboku, OSA, and Former Board Member of New York District TWA

Etsuko Okui-Isada was born in New York City and grew up at Tenrikyo Mission New York Center during her father’s first term as Head Minister. She attended Oyasato Seminar in Ojiba and Spiritual Development Course at Mission Headquarters in America. Etsuko is married with two children, an active member of Tenrikyo New York Center and served for 10 years (2010-2020) as a Board Member of the Tenrikyo New York District Women’s Association.

GRANT S. HISAO,

Yoboku, OSA, and Environmental Scientist

Dr. Grant Hisao (he/him) is a Senior Environmental Scientist for the California State Government. Originally from Hawaii, Grant grew up in a church (Maui Church) until high school. Pursuing further education led him to spend 13 years in the Midwest before moving to Sacramento, CA.

GRANT INOUYE,

Yoboku, OSA, and Motion Designer

Grant Inouye is originally from Hawaii and currently lives in Southern California. He has spent time in Japan learning the Japanese language, culture, and Tenrikyo. Grant has a background in digital media and video editing and is a 3D motion designer. He uses his talents to support and nurture creative projects and the Tenrikyo creative community through “Tenrikyo Creatives.”

HAMILTON NIWA,
Head Minister, OSA, and Life Coach

Rev. Hamilton Niwa is the Head Minister of the Tenrikyo Hope of the Pacific Church in San Francisco. He is a double major and minor graduate of UC Davis. Hamilton practices hypnotherapy, life coaching, and real estate investing. He is also a proud parent of two beautiful children.

HIROKO OKAZAKI,
Head Minister

Rev. Hiroko Okazaki was born in Kathmandu, Nepal and attended an American school from K-9. She continued her education in Tenri, and upon graduating from Tenri University with a BA in Religious Studies, she worked at the Translation Section of the Overseas Department. After obtaining a master's degree in teaching reading in Saginaw, Michigan, she taught English at Tenrikyo Language Institute. Hiroko has been the Head Minister of the Tenrikyo Hollywood Church since 2007 and along with her spouse, parents, and four children.

JON NOMACHI,
Head Minister, OSA, and Principal
Analyst

Rev. Jonathan Nomachi (he/him) is the third Head Minister of Tenrikyo Los Angeles Central Church in Downey, CA. He is a Principal Analyst in the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office as part of the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative. In this role, Jon focuses on culture and climate, sustainability, housing and homelessness, internal policy, and strategic plan implementation. In his personal life, he enjoys raising two children with his wife and is committed to bringing championships home for the Dodgers, Lakers, and Raiders!

JULIA TOYAMA,
Yoboku and Retired Educator

Julia Toyama is the treasurer of Tenrikyo Honolulu-ko Church Board of Directors. She completed Shuyoka, has two children and three grandchildren, and is a retired high school educator with experiences as a classroom teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator.

JULIA YUGE,
Yoboku, OSA, and Registered Nurse

Julia Yuge is a registered nurse at NYU Langone Health and is an active member of Tenrikyo Heritage Church in Los Angeles. Julia and her family live in New York and attend Service at New York Center, where they are active participants in the Young Womens' Group, Women's Association, and Boys and Girls Association. Julia enjoys being able to use her upbringing in a large Tenrikyo community and professional skills as a nurse to teach and nurture the next generation of Tenrikyo followers.

KAITLYN UESUGI,
High School Student

Kaitlyn Uesugi is a fifth generation Tenrikyo follower of Tenrikyo Pacific Valley Church and will be a high school senior in the fall. She is interested in public policy and hopes to pursue a career as a human rights lawyer. Kaitlyn has attended the OS pre-seminar course and looks forward to attending Oyasato Seminar in Japan next summer.

KAY L. MORISHITA,

Head Minister and Business Owner

Rev. Kay Morishita is Head Minister of the Tenrikyo Brotherhood Church. She started her own business as a house cleaner and caretaker, which allows for a flexible schedule to prioritize helping others. Although there were many obstacles to overcome in her journey of spiritual maturity, Kay feels blessed and joyous everyday and surprised at how far she has come in life. She loves the outdoors and enjoys being busy inside and outside of her church.

KELLY TURNER,

Yoboku, OSA, and Writer/ Producer/
Marketer

Kelly Turner is a third generation Tenrikyo follower who appreciates the teachings about joyousness, gratitude and brother/sisterhood and works to infuse these principles into all her projects and everyday practices. She serves as a board member of Tenrikyo Los Angeles Central Church and member of the tenrikyo.com website sub-committee. Kelly has over 20 years in the film and television industry as a marketer and documentarian, and is an advocate for diversity and inclusivity in media. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends in nature.

LEWIS NAKAO,

Lay Minister, OSA, and Software
Engineer

Lewis Nakao is a fifth generation Tenrikyo follower, a father of four, software engineer, and a prolific personality on social media within the Tenrikyo English-speaking community. For the past 15 years, Lewis has managed and contributed to Tenrikyo websites, social media accounts, and groups for the Tenrikyo Resource, Tenrikyology (by Roy Forbes), Tenrikyo Hawaii, and Tenrikyo Pearl Church. He developed a few Tenrikyo-related apps such as the Ofudesaki Browser & Anecdotes Browser.

MICHAEL YUGE,

Former Head Minister, OSA, and
Executive Director

Rev. Michael Yuge is the Executive Director of Tenri Cultural Institute of New York and the former Head Minister of Tenrikyo Mission New York Center. He has been an instructor for the Spiritual Development Course and Minister Qualification Course in Jiba and has been in charge of the Three Day Course and Joy Workshop programs in New York. He has a master's degree in public health from Columbia University. Originally from Los Angeles, he is the father of three daughters and has been living in New York for 25 years.

MIKIO OBAYASHI,

Yoboku, OSA, and Medical Doctor

Dr. Mikio Obayashi, MD, FAAFP, attended the University of Utah School of Medicine and completed his residency in Family Medicine at St. Vincent Health Center in Erie, PA. He practices at the Intermountain Roy Clinic in Roy, UT where he sees patients of all ages. Mikio is also an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine and plans to be the Head Minister for the Tenrikyo Utah Church when he is ready. He is also interested in exploring the intersection of Tenrikyo teaching and medical science.

MILO YUKIMOTO,

Lay Minister, OSA, and Water Resource Engineer

Milo Yukimoto was born and raised in Fresno, CA, and is a member of Tenrikyo Central Fresno Church. He has participated in various organizations since childhood and attended courses/events such as Shuyokai, Kyoto Koshu, and Tenri Forum. Milo has a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Water Resource Engineering, and is a Water Resource Engineer. Two of his passions are environmental conservation and human health, and loves music, all outdoor activities, and hanging out with friends/family.

MINORU NISHIDA,

Yoboku, OSA, and General Manager

Minoru Nishida is a loving husband and doting father of two young boys. He is a third generation Tenrikyo follower, former president of TSA, OS graduate, Joy Workshop facilitator, Translation Committee member, and occasional emcee. Minoru is general manager of an international aerospace trading company and has facilitated business communications between US and Japanese companies for the past 15 years. He graduated UCLA with BAs in International Economics and Japanese.

MONEKE WILLIAMS,

Yoboku, Personal Empowerment Coach, and MFT Student

Moneke Williams began following the faith in 2011 and is a member of the Tenrikyo Mission New York Center. She attended Shuyoka and became a Yoboku in 2012, and served as President of the Tenrikyo Young Women's Group in NY for three years. Moneke is currently a student at Northcentral University studying Marriage and Family Therapy and specializing in Systemic Sex Therapy. She is also a certified Personal Empowerment and Emotional Intelligence coach.

NATALIE YUGE,

Yoboku, OSA, and College Student

Natalie Yuge attends Stony Brook University, where she is a Biology Major. She was born and raised in New York, and has been a part of the Tenrikyo community since she was born. Natalie's family has a multi-generational history in Tenrikyo, specifically in North America. Natalie is very involved in church activities, and currently serves as president of the NY district Tenrikyo Students Association.

PAUL YAGI,

Yoboku, OSA, and Educator

Paul Yagi is a fifth-generation follower of the Tenrikyo Faith who was born and raised as a member of the Tenrikyo San Diego Church in California. His studies include a BA in Cognitive Psychology and a MA in Teaching from the University of California, Irvine. After teaching History in Los Angeles for three years, he spent the past four years teaching English at Tenri Kyoko Gakuen High School in Japan. Paul loves the meal combination of gyoza + beer and enjoys the feeling of being in an open-air hot spring on a cold, chilly day.

SATOKO SASAKI-LAM,
Yoboku, OSA, and Pediatric Physical
Therapist

Satoko Lam is a Yoboku and while living in Hawaii, she was very active in the Tenrikyo Church Community, helping to organize Sunday School, teaching pom pom dance and participating in the Young Women's Group. She has worked as a physical therapist for 20 years. She earned her master's degree in physical therapy from Boston University. Her career has taken her from Boston to Hawaii and currently resides in Dallas, TX, where she is working as a pediatric physical therapist at Children's Health Hospital.

SETSUMI SALTMAN,
Yoboku and Registered Nurse

Setsumi Yukimoto Saltman is a mother of two children and a member of the Tenrikyo Central Fresno Church. Setsumi was born in Hiroshima, Japan, as the oldest daughter of the first Head Minister, Rev. Masutsugu Yukimoto. She graduated with a nursing degree from Creighton University and has lived in Honolulu for the last 32 years. She has worked as an inpatient staff nurse and held management roles in primary care, specialty, and surgical settings. Most recently, she was a clinical care coordinator in an acute rehabilitation hospital. Setsumi is actively involved in church activities at Mission Headquarters of Hawai'i.

SHERRI KOKURYO,
Yoboku, OSA, and Registered
Psychiatric Nurse

Sherri Kokuryo grew up in a Tenrikyo church in Vancouver, British Columbia and studied at the University of British Columbia and Douglas College, and currently works as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Both her clinical and personal experience give her insight into the topic of trauma and overall mental health in our community.

SHIGEKO J. FUKAYA,
Yoboku, OSA, and Artist

Shigeko Fukaya was born in Tenri and moved to California when she was 13 years old, returned to Tenri for two years, and moved to New York in July 2022 for an artist assistant job opportunity. Shigeko considered herself a passive Tenrikyo follower and was not interested in becoming a stronger Tenrikyo follower. However, while working in TLI, she started to realize how much the Tenrikyo teachings are a part of her thought process and life. She now introduces herself as a Tenrikyo artist to people in and out of the Tenrikyo community.

SIMON PATTERSON,
Head of UK Center, Fellowship Head,
and Psychologist

Rev. Simon Patterson is Head of the Tenrikyo UK Centre in London since 2015 and also Head of the London Sakurai Fellowship. Brought up as a Christian, Simon converted to Tenrikyo at the age of 26 when he became a Yoboku a few days before the 100th Anniversary of Oyasama in 1986, a year after he married his wife, whose mother and grandmother introduced him to Tenrikyo. Simon has returned to Jiba 25 times, attended Shuyokai at Mission Headquarters in America, and is a Chartered Psychologist specializing in international Qualitative Market Research. Fun fact - Simon was a drummer in a punk band and a singer/songwriter/performer.

STEVEN H. FUJIMOTO,

Mission Station Head

Steven Fujimoto is a fifth generation Tenrikyo path finder and Minister of Shigeto America Mission Station. He considers himself to be very open minded towards many topics to educate and nurture each other.

SUSUMU R. YUGE,

Head Minister, OSA, and Former Teacher

Rev. Susumu Yuge has been the Head Minister of Tenrikyo Heritage Church in Los Angeles for the last ten years, which was established in 1992 by his mother, Rev. Ikuko Yuge. Heritage Church is directly affiliated with the Mission Headquarters in America. Before becoming a full-time minister, Susumu taught at an elementary school for 13 years in Los Angeles.

TAD IWATA,

Head Minister, OSA,
Chair of Hawaii Boys and Girls Association

Rev. Tad Iwata has been a Head Minister for 16 years, including his leadership of Honolulu-Ko Church. His other Tenrikyo roles include, Chairman of the Hawaii Boys and Girls Association and member of Tenrikyo Hawaii Finance, Ichiretsukai, Future Path, Bazaar, Technology, and Translation Committees. Outside of church, Tad is a board member of the local middle school, school band booster, school fundraising, Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Club, and Kiwanis Club, and is a member of the Lions Club. Tad earned his master's degree in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and spent 15 years as a teacher and counselor in the Hawaii public school system before becoming a full-time head minister in 2017.

TAKAHIKO HAYASHI,

Head Minister and Translation Expert

Rev. Takahiko Hayashi is the Head Minister of Tenrikyo America West Church, located in San Francisco, CA. Translation is his forte, and he has been involved with a number of valuable projects related to translation of Tenrikyo books into English, including the Tale of Oyasama. Tak earned his BA from UC Berkeley in Religious Studies and MA from the University of Chicago in modern Japanese History, and is a proud father of three sons.

TRASEY YUGE,

Yoboku, OSA, and Educator

Trasey Yuge was born and raised in the Tenrikyo Los Angeles Central Church and has participated in and held posts in the Tenrikyo Students Association, Oyasato Seminar, Shuyokai, Koshu Pt. 1, and is currently serving on the boards of the Women's Association of America and Los Angeles Chapter, as well as Tenrikyo Heritage Church. She is a proud mom to three healthy children at home and thousands of high school students over her 30+ years of teaching.

WESLEY MIKUNI,

Head Minister and OSA

Rev. Wesley Mikuni is Head Minister of Tenrikyo Taiheiyo Church. He was born and raised in a church, the son of parents who were full time missionaries. They were excellent role models for showing care and empathy to those suffering from various types of abuse and trauma. While he has been in the role of a head minister for 8 years, Wesley admits he hasn't had anywhere near the experiences his parents went through, but believes the keys to helping victims of abuse or trauma are building trust and being a good listener.

YUK MEI INOUE,

Fellowship Head

Yuk Mei Inouye was born in Hong Kong and completed Nihongo-senka after earning an associate's degree in accounting. She also completed Shuyoka in Ojiba in 1980. In 2007, Yuk Mei became the Head of HawaiiKai Fellowship. She also taught the English Spiritual Development Course in Ojiba, Class in 2018.

YUMI LITKE,

Yoboku and Educator

Yumi Litke is a first generation Tenrikyo follower and Yoboku. She teaches math intervention and helps behaviorally-challenged students K-8. She is half Japanese and half Colombian and speaks four languages. Yumi is married with a son and a daughter who are also Yoboku, and she is a cancer survivor which she credits to her faith. She is looking forward to the conference so people can become inspired to help because she loves serving others.

ZEN YUKIMOTO,

Fellowship Head, Board of Director,
and Strategic Account Executive

Rev. Zen Yukimoto is the Head of the Happiness Fellowship and Board of Director at Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America. He also leads the Tenrikyo Future Path Advisory Committee and formerly served as Chairman of the Tenrikyo Young Men's Association and Tenrikyo Student Association in North America. In his professional role outside of church, Zen is a Strategic Account Executive in the health insurance industry managing employer clients.

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Erika Hsu (lead, fundraising)
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The Tenrikyo Women's Association
Los Angeles District sends our heartfelt
congratulations on holding the Tenrikyo Soul
Fire Conference. We also extend our
appreciation to the speakers, panelists
and staff for their efforts in providing
the spark on this occasion.

Our goal is to set an example toward the Joyous Life
with an upbeat, positive and kind heart
while embracing the teachings of God the Parent and Oyasama.
Once again, congratulations!



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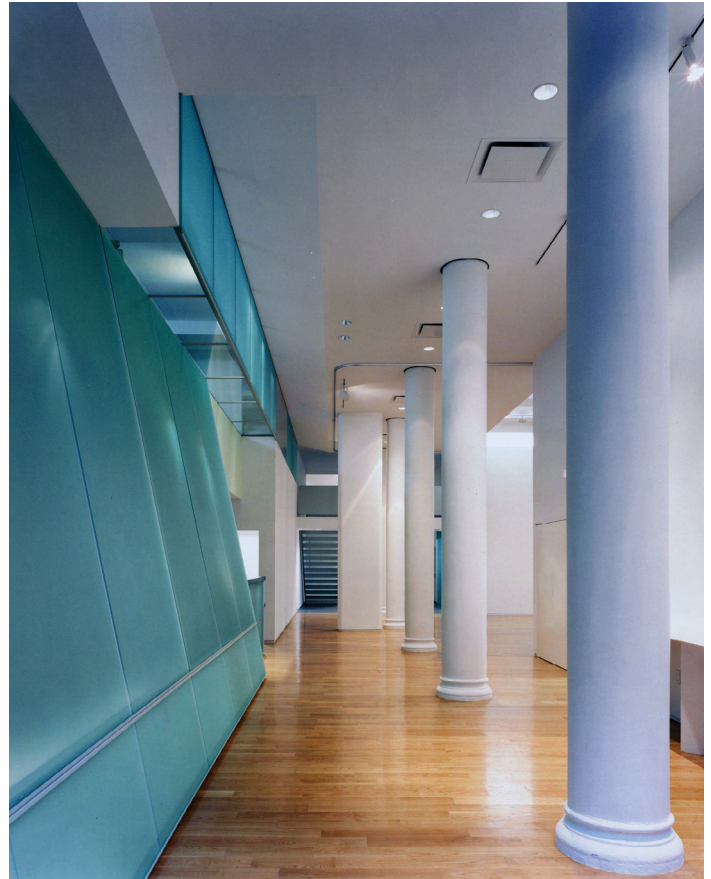
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WHAT IS TENRIKYO CREATIVES?

Currently, Tenrikyo Creatives aims to provide creative services for the Tenrikyo community through our Youtube channel, digital media services, and initiatives to support future generations of creatives within the community. We have bigger aspirations to foster a larger, inclusive group that supports and assists creatives in the Tenrikyo community with their own projects and services. Whether it's covering current needs like software and equipment costs for aspiring creatives or funding our growth into a thriving community, we would greatly appreciate your support. Scan the QR code above to contribute and help us achieve our goals.





*Best Wishes to the
TFC SoulFire Conference!*

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