

Tenrikyo

newsletter



TSA Spring Conference!

From May 25~27, the Tenrikyo Students Association held their Spring Conference at the Mission HQ, under the theme, “The Joy of Faith.” Twelve students participated in this year’s conference.

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.tenrikyo.com

June 2024

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

— Strawberry —

On the 30th of this month, starting at 10am, we will be holding our 90th Anniversary with the presence of Shinbashira’s official representative, Mr. Daisuke Nakayama and the Shinbashira’s wife, Harue Nakayama. Please be early in assembling in the Sanctuary.

Additionally, on the 29th, we will hold a joint convention to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Women’s Association and Young Men’s Association of America, with the presence of both presidents of the Tenrikyo Women’s Association and of Tenrikyo Young Men’s Association. We hope that as many women and young men as possible are able to attend.

Thank you very much.

Our Mission Headquarters is located in Los Angeles. Around 1900, a Japanese person began growing strawberries in an area called Tropic, north of today’s Dodger Stadium. It is said that strawberry cultivation flourished in this area for a time, but due to lack of irrigation water and deteriorating soil conditions, strawberry cultivation subsequently shifted to the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. It seems that strawberries are now grown in various areas of Gardena.

Japanese writer Yoshimi Ishikawa came to the United States after graduating from high school in 1965 at the request of his older brother, who was working at a strawberry farm near Los Angeles. The novel titled “Strawberry Road” is based on her experiences working there for four years. It seems that the strawberry farm where the brother worked was (and possibly still exists) in San Dimas.

As a side note, I remember that Ms. Ishikawa said in a lecture at the Tenri Library that she used the Hinomoto Bunko at Mission Headquarters on holidays during her stay in the United States (also mentioned in the June 1993 issue of “*Taimou*” magazine published by the Young Men’s Association Headquarters).

(continued on page 14)

Coming Up

- * **July Monthly Service Sermon (7/21)**
- Rev. Shino Hirai (J)
- * **TYMANA/TWA Joint Convention (6/29)**
- * **Mission HQ 90th Anniversary (6/30)**
- * **Children’ Pilgrimage to Jiba General Group:**
- July 24~30
- * **International Boys & Girls Hinokishin Corps:**
- July 25~30

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May Monthly Service Prayer

May 19, 2024

Before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, who is enshrined in this altar, I, Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya, Bishop of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

Dear God the Parent, in accordance with Your promise during the creation, at the arrival of the promised time, with Oyasama as Your Shrine, You revealed the origin of all things and opened the path to Universal Salvation.

Since then, Your direct and ultimate teachings have spread over time, and we are blessed with those who strive in salvation work around the world. We are humbled and grateful for the blessings of our present-day path.

As this fine day is our May monthly service, from now, receiving the Truth of Jiba, we service performers will do the seated service and Teodori service dance with spirited minds.

Looking forward to this day, Yoboku and followers have gathered before You to give thanks and to ask for Your continued blessings. God the Parent, in witnessing our spirited singing, please become spirited as well.

For the last month and this month, each district in our diocese has been holding their Hinokishin Day activities, and it is my hope that this will contribute to spreading the fragrance of the teachings.

Also, on the 25th to 27th of this month, our Students' Association will hold their Spring Conference, and we hope that this will promote the spiritual growth of our students, who will be our future leaders.

Furthermore, please guide us so that we will be ready to successfully hold our 90th anniversary on June 30th along with the Joint Convention for the 70th anniversaries of both the Women's Association and the Young Men's Association of America, on the day before.

Reflecting upon the conflicts and disasters that we see in the world today, we are mindful of the importance of spreading the teachings to the world and of furthering our salvation efforts, and we pledge to progress in our missionary and salvation work.

In addition, as we approach our 90th Anniversary next month, we will unify the minds of those in our diocese, and walk on the path of spiritual growth, and after that, we will continue to strive toward the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our minds of sincerity so that, even one day sooner, this world will be transformed into one in which all people live in harmony with one another. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

May Monthly Service Sermon by Rev. Robert Yuge

~Mrs. Yuge's Desk~

Today, on this beautiful third Sunday in the month of May, led by the Bishop and Mrs. Fukaya, we have just spiritedly and joyously completed the wonderful music and dance of the Songs for the Service as taught to us by God the Parent through Oyasama, the Foundress of Tenrikyo. I feel quite blessed to have the opportunity to share my thoughts on our Path at this auspicious time, one month before we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Mission Headquarters in North America. Thank you Bishop Fukaya for trusting in me to give the sermon today. As I have been designated to deliver this month's sermon, I would like to ask for your kind attention.

As this month is the time that many countries in the world celebrate mother's and motherhood, I want to make sure that we give honor and credit to all mothers that are here in attendance as well as mothers around the world. In addition, for us here, the followers of the Tenrikyo teachings, we are taught in the Truth of Origin, that Oyasama has the soul reborn of the first mother of humankind, Izanami-no-Mikoto. In this sense, we should all be thinking and appreciating Oyasama in this month of May as well as our mothers in this lifetime. In truth, we should be celebrating and appreciating Oyasama every day... but that's a whole other talk for another day...



Rev. Robert Yuge is the head minister of the Heritage Church.

For me, personally, I want to celebrate the three mothers in my immediate family circle who are in this shinden today: Mrs. Ikuko Yuge, Mrs. Teruyo Nomachi, and the mother of our children, Trasey Yuge. Thank you three for your motherhood and your help to bring up our three children in a loving environment.

I'd like to mention another thing about my mother. As many of you here know, she has served our Tenrikyo community for over 50 years as a staff member of the Mission Headquarters. In fact, many of you here might have been to the Children's Pilgrimage where she served as one of the leaders along with Rev. Ito for over 30 of those years. Well, just to let everyone know, as of December of last year, she has officially retired from being a member

of the staff at the Mission Headquarters. I'd like to recognize my mother for her dedicated and compassionate work throughout those 50 years.

Although I am not completely finished, last November I started cleaning the files and bookshelf in and around the desk that many people know as "Mrs. Yuge's desk." There were many folders and files like 38 Moya room lists from the Children's Pilgrimage from over 30 years ago. There were also notebooks and meeting notes from the Boys and Girls Association as well as the Women's Association. There were also many pictures that I have begun to archive at our home. Basically, she kept a lot of things for a lot of years.

Among the many things that were in her desk, there was one thing that caught my eye. It was an old VHS of a 1977 movie called "Oh, God!" I don't know why it was there and my mother doesn't remember why it was there either. Maybe it was a lost item that someone forgot at Dendocho years ago. In case you don't know what a VHS is, it's an old way that we used to watch movies. It stars an older, gray-haired actor/comedian named George Burns, who plays the role of God. He was known for always having a cigar in his mouth and living until he was 100. It also stars a famous singer named John Denver who plays the part of Jerry, an assistant manager at a local supermarket who God chooses to communicate with. Some of you might remember his popular karaoke song, Country Road.

I was excited to share this movie with my

family, because we still have a VHS player, and because I remember enjoying this movie when I was younger. When we watched it together, I suddenly realized how much the scenes in the movie made me think of Oyasama. For example, Jerry is a simple man who claims that he isn't religious, yet he is chosen by God to be a messenger of God. Jerry asks the question: "Why me?" God replies "Why not you." Now I know that we are taught that Oyasama was the shrine of God the Parent, and had the mind of God from the time of revelation on October 26, 1838, but put yourself into the situation where your significant other or your mother or father all of a sudden says that they are speaking directly to God. What would you do? What would you think?

In the case of this movie, Jerry's wife Bobbie, played by the actress Terri Garr is dumbfounded. She clearly loves Jerry so much but she is worried that her husband has gone "bananas." In the movie, God has a simple message: "Tell people that I exist, and that it can work, but it is up to us whether it does or not." God is frustrated that people have stopped believing in God and that we are ruining the world by fighting with each other and destroying the environment that God created for us. At one point when Jerry is convinced that he is hallucinating that he is seeing and hearing God, he asks God to show him a miracle to prove that God is real. God replies by saying that a miracle should be something that is within the laws of nature otherwise it messes things up. So Jerry asks God to make it rain, and God proceeds to

make it rain all of a sudden when there isn't a cloud in the sky. After seeing this miracle, he is convinced that it must be God that is talking to him and he enthusiastically goes to the religions section editor of the local newspaper to insist that he report about God's simple message.

The next day, the newspaper has a short sentence about the sad state of society and how he recently met a local supermarket assistant manager who is imagining that he is talking to God. Most people think that he has gone insane, but the next day, a television news reporter mentions the newspaper article at the end of a broadcast as a little special interest story. This leads to Jerry getting an appearance on a nationally televised talk show, which leads to God's message being given to a larger audience, which then leads to bigger things which I won't get into now because I don't want to spoil the movie for you. I guess you'll just have to watch the movie yourself. Let me know if you are interested in borrowing the VHS.

This scene reminds me of one of the many miracles from our stories of Oyasama. I'd like to read a section from our sacred text, *The Life of Oyasama, Foundress of Tenrikyo*. (page 188)

During a severe drought in 1883, villagers from the nearby Mishima village made a request to Oyasama that a Service for Rain be performed. In response Oyasama said:

Whether it rains, is God. Whether it does not rain, is God. It is all God's free working. I shall bestow rain if your minds

so deserve. Sah, set about, set about.

Then, after discussing the matter with the village representative, Keiji Isonishi, it was decided that the Service performers would first assemble on the grounds of the village shrine. Accordingly, the Service performers made preparations and left the Residence at about four o'clock on the afternoon of August 15 and proceeded toward the village shrine. The day had been bright and clear since morning; not a speck of cloud was in the sky.

Shinnosuke and Izo Iburi remained at the Residence and prayed fervently at the place for the Kanrodai. The performers of the Service for Rain on that day were: Chusaku Tsuji, Gisaburo Nakata, Kaji Nakata, Isaburo Okada, Gonjiro Sawada, Tohei Hakata, Kaji Murata, Jukichi Nakayama, Yahei Nishiura, Yoshie Iburi, Tomegiku Tsuji, Otokichi, and others.

For the sake of time, I'm going to skip ahead a few paragraphs.

About that time, a dark spot of a cloud appeared in the eastern sky. The performers continued on to the northwest corner, and, as they began to perform, clouds as black as India ink rose above the mountains in the east and quickly covered the entire sky. A piercing downpour accompanied by thunder began, developing into a storm. The joy of the Service performers and villagers alike was beyond description.

Skipping ahead again,

The Service completed, the performers were resting on the grounds of the village shrine, when the villagers, in their great joy, asked to be allowed to give thanks at the place for the Kanrodai. So they all returned to the place for the Kanrodai, and, while they were giving thanks, several police officers came running from the Tanbaichi Branch Police Station. They demanded, "What are you doing?"
(Life of Oyasama, pgs. 188-190)

There are more details to this episode, but in the end, the police held everyone in custody for interfering with the water supply by the Service for Rain. Let me repeat, the police held everyone in custody for interfering with the water supply by the Service for Rain... Can you believe that! They were accused of causing the rain which should have fallen on all nearby villages to fall on Mishima village only. They were also charged for obstructing traffic by performing the Service on the roadside. After the fines were paid, they were released later the same day except for Oyasama, who was imprisoned alone for the night and released the next day. She was 85 years old at the time. Can we all let that sink into our minds!

Keep in mind that by charging the followers with a crime, it is on official police records that the Service for Rain had, in fact, brought about the blessing of rain. Now, just like the movie example that I presented, this

miracle further proved to the followers around that time that Oyasama's words are God the Parent's words. In fact, many of the followers that participated in the Service for Rain, are considered the disciples of Oyasama and their stories are recorded in various books, mostly in Japanese, but for us English readers, a great book that very few of us know is called "Disciples of Oyasama, Foundress of Tenrikyo." Many of these disciples went on to start Tenrikyo fraternities which today are some of the original Grand Churches. Please look for this book on the back shelf, it is this smallish purple book, which incidentally is one of the few books that give credit to the translator, who happens to be my father, Mitsuru Yuge. We should also make sure to read The Life of Oyasama, the Anecdotes of Oyasama, which is undergoing a thorough retranslation, and the illustrated Tale of Oyasama and be inspired by the miracles that are recorded in Oyasama's history.

Now, I would like to transition to something that I'm participating with currently. I'm not sure how many of you have heard of the Nikkei Interfaith Fellowship, but it's a group of religious leaders from the Japanese American community in the Los Angeles area that first got together in 1995 to commemorate the 50th year since World War II ended. Different religious groups were represented and Rev. Kunishige Ito, the Head Minister of Westside Church was asked to represent Tenrikyo. Since that time, the group has had regular meetings at different religious locations where they take tours of the facilities and discuss various topics, usually regarding

the host location's history and beliefs. We have even had the opportunity to host here at Dendocho a few times. I've been fortunate to participate with the meetings since 2014 with Rev. Marlon, Rev. Hiroko and Rev. Kay, and over the years, the NIF as its called, has participated with different commemorative activities including the Hiroshima Bombing memorial, and the opening of the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo. However, the activity that this group has participated with consistently is the interfaith prayer at the annual pilgrimage to the Manzanar Internment Camp which is about 3 and a half hours away from here near a city on the way to Mammoth Mountain called Lone Pine. It is held every fourth Saturday in April each year and I have been able to go to the last four pilgrimages, although the pilgrimage in 2020 was canceled due to Covid precautions and the 2021 pilgrimage was held virtually through the internet. This year was the 55th annual pilgrimage and I drove with Robert Kanegawa and we met my son Trevor who was participating with his college Nikkei Student Union. I didn't plan on participating in the interfaith prayer, which is always at the end of the day's program, but I happened to have my kyofuku in my car because I had worn it for morning service here at Dendocho before I left for Manzanar. So, when people were gathering for the interfaith prayer, I asked Rev. Dickson Yagi, our Nikkei Interfaith Fellowship chief and Christian minister, if I could wear the kyofuku and stand with him in solidarity. There were four Buddhist priests there, but neither of them

had done the prayer at Manzanar before so when we realized that there was no one to start the program, I volunteered to begin with a Tenrikyo sampai. I explained to the crowd of around three hundred that we would clap to God the Parent first and then to the Memorial shrine four times to begin and four to end the prayer. I was happy to hear many people join in the prayer behind me. After the program was over, I was surprised to have some people come up to me and say how happy they were that Tenrikyo was being represented. There were people connected to Tenrikyo in different ways. One person grew up attending services at Sacramento Church, another person says that she is related to the Rev. Masao Miyano from South California Church, and another said that his great grandfather was the first minister of San Francisco Church, Rev. Tsunetaro Kanzawa. Neither of these people attend Tenrikyo services now, but they felt an affinity to the prayer and they were happy to make the connection. Suddenly, I understood my larger purpose for being there that day, and that it was not an accident that things happened the way that it did. I also had the opportunity to invite them to Dendocho's 90th anniversary and hopefully they will be able to attend.

I also made a connection with the professional musician, Mr. Ken Koshio, who performed taiko and guitar at the pilgrimage. Some of you might remember him because when he first came to the United States in 1998, he lived down the street on Michigan Avenue while he performed guitar and folk music at different venues in Los Angeles. His

grandmother is Tenrikyo and he would come to our services regularly until he left to perform his folk music and teach taiko drumming in Phoenix, Arizona in 2004. Well, after talking to him, and getting permission from the 90th Anniversary entertainment committee, I am happy to announce that he will be playing some of his music for us at the anniversary banquet.

One more thing before I end. Along with this year being the 90th Anniversary of the Mission Headquarters, it also marks the 40th year of the Oyasato Seminar, which is the great youth summer program that was started by the Tenrikyo Overseas Department in 1984. I think that it is not an exaggeration to say that many of us here in this shinden would not be here today if we didn't have the opportunity to learn about the Tenrikyo teachings and way of life through the Oyasato Seminar at the Jiba, the home of the Parent. Thank you Rev. Masahiko Iburi and the many members of the Overseas Department for starting this transformative program.

Although many of us who became more involved in Tenrikyo, did so for varying reasons, by my unofficial count, there are over twenty of our OS graduates from the US mainland, Hawaii and Canada who have decided to take on the role of Head Minister of a church or Head of a fellowship over the years. In fact, two OS graduates just became Head Ministers last month on April 18; Rev. Yosuke Kimura became the new Head Minister of Chicago Church and Rev. Glenn Honda Jr. became the new Head Minister of North Honolulu Church. By the way, Rev.

Glenn is an OS classmate of ours from the 1984-85 class and even though his church is in Honolulu, it is a subordinate church of North America church here in Los Angeles, which, last July became a subordinate church of America Dendocho. Up until last year, our Heritage Church was the only church directly affiliated with America Dendocho, but now, I'm happy to have three new sibling churches which I can share a closer connection with, something like what many other churches experience with their parent churches.

In addition to that great news, our new Rev. Glenn is also the first LGBTQ Tenrikyo Head Minister, at least, that I know of. And yes, if you're wondering, Rev. Glenn gave me permission to say that last part. I'm excited to think about the future of our path here in our diocese. We have a lot of great people that God the Parent has brought together to do the good work that God has asked us to do.

With that, I would like to close my talk for today. Let's have a wonderful day and may God the Parent and Oyasama bless us all. Thank you all for your kind attention.



*You can view
all the past
sermons
here!*

News and Announcements

1) JUNE MONTHLY SERVICE (6/16)

Officiant: Bishop Assistants: Kuniaki Hasegawa, Junjiro Nakatomi Attendants: Ichiro Ito, Koji Uesugi
 Director: Shigemi Torizawa Offerings Officiant: Eddie Takemoto Sermon: Kuniaki Hasegawa (E)

2) CHURCH AFFAIRS

* Divine Sanctions:

Canada Church: Request for Special Service, Request for Temporary Change of Service Date

Divine Sanction: April 18, 2024 90th Anniversary Commemorative Service: December 1, 2024

Chicago Church: Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Divine Sanction: April 18, 2024 Head Minister: Yohsuke Kimura Enshrinement Service: July 28, 2024

Taitan Church: Request for Relocation & Special Service

Divine Sanction: April 26, 2024 Head Minister: Lynn Mitsuno So Enshrinement Ceremony: July 27, 2024

Enshrinement Service: July 28, 2024

Orange Church: Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Divine Sanction: July 26, 2024 Head Minister: Kinpei Ito Enshrinement Service: September 21, 2024

3) THIRD SHINBASHIRA TENTH MEMORIAL SERVICE

The tenth memorial service for the third Shinbashira, Zenye Nakayama, will be conducted at Church Headquarters on June 24, 2024.

4) 85TH AMERICA SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE (SHUYOKAI)

The 85th Spiritual Development Course at the Mission Headquarters is currently scheduled to be held from July 21 (Sun) to August 17 (Sat). These courses will be held if there are at least two applicants for the English or Japanese course, or five applicants for the Spanish course, as of one month prior (June 16).

5) AMERICA ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP

We are now accepting applications for the 2024 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. The application deadline is June 30(Sun). New recipients will be announced on the August monthly service day. Those wishing to continue to receive scholarship in the second, third, or fourth year 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.

6) TENRIKYO LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (TLI) & ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

TLI applications for the Japanese Language Department (the 2025-2026 academic year) are now available. Ichiretsukai Scholarship applications for Japanese Language Department applicants are also available. For those who wish to apply, please notify the Mission Headquarters by the end of August. From this year, please download the applications from the TLI homepage (<https://kaigai.tenrikyo.or.jp/tli/top/>). You can also find additional information on the homepage, so please visit the website if you are interested in enrolling.

Form	Application Period	Fee
TLI Japanese Lang. Dept.	August 15~September 20, 2024 (Excl. Sundays and Holidays)	None
Ichiretsukai Scholarship	August 15~September 20, 2024	None (for TLI applicants)

7) SERVICE ROSTER

Currently, we are confirming the attendance of service performers for the Mission Headquarters monthly services every six months, and waiting for final confirmation of their attendance until about the second Sunday of that month. As a result, the service roster is distributed after the second Sunday, and we find ourselves in a situation where we are receiving numerous calls to confirm the service roster roles. From this year (2024), we would like to distribute the service roster by the beginning of each month, therefore we request service performers to communicate their final availability to the Mission Headquarters by the end of the month prior to their attendance. For example, please communicate your final availability for the July monthly service by the end of this month (June 30, 2024).

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Construction Committee

- * We are working on weeding around the Mission Headquarters premises.
- * Tree trimming in the large parking lot.
- * Mr. Robert Barkaloff has repainted the guest bedroom and bathroom in the second floor of the Tenri Kaikan building.
- * Mr. Junichi Hamada has refurbished and installed new outdoor tabletops.

Nurturing & Educational Committee

- * We held an online meeting for those students who will be attending this year's Oyasato Seminar, including students from Hawaii. 11 students from the America-Canada diocese will attend the Seminar. Of those 11 students, nine will be staying at the Honjima Tsumesho (with the permission from their DSC) during the period leading up to the Oyasato Seminar. During their stay, OS counselors Jared Yuge and Ashley Miura (Hawaii), along with Rev. Hiroko Okazaki, will be responsible for those students.
- * We successfully held our TSA Spring Conference; 12 students attended.

Public Relations Committee

- * We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight everyone's efforts and activities leading up to the 90th anniversary of the Mission Headquarters so that we can share our events & ideas with all of our congregation members. Therefore, we would like to request churches, fellowships, districts, and individuals to submit your activity reports & pictures to us (Kawakami: kamishuyo@hotmail.com or Hayashi: takhayashi@gmail.com).
- * Mission HQ Homepage
 - The "Stories Inspired by Oyasama," SoulFire, monthly service sermons, & podcast videos are now viewable on the Mission Headquarters homepage. Please visit our homepage to view these videos, and let those around you know as well.
 - New information regarding the 90th anniversary of the Mission Headquarters has also been updated.

Women's Association

* The book titled "Oshie wo Moto ni" has been published in English, titled "How to Lead a Faith-Based Life." Those interested may receive the book for \$1 per copy. Please reach out to your District Representative or to a Publications officer (naomi.k.yagi@gmail.com).

* District Conventions:

- San Francisco	9/28 (Sat)	@ San Mateo Church
- Los Angeles	9/29 (Sun)	@ Mission HQ
- Chicago	9/29 (Sun)	@ Midwest Church
- New York	10/5 (Sat)	@ New York Center
- West Canada	11/3 (Sun)	@ Joyous Fellowship

Boys & Girls Association

* Thank you for your help in fundraising! We were able to raise \$1565.50 for the BGA, which will be used towards the new KOG t-shirts, as well as towards future association activities.

* KIDS FUNFEST: On the weekend of the 90th anniversary celebration, we will be holding activities to learn and have fun, so please register your child using this form: <https://forms.gle/vyYD882Rcq71M1ud9>

* The BGA America Service Convention will be held at the Mission Headquarters on August 17 (Sat). Please help those members assigned to the service practice their service roles at your home or at your church. We hope that many members can attend.

* Children' Pilgrimage to Jiba General Group: July 24~30. International Boys & Girls Hinokishin Corps: July 25~30. From this year, the America-Canada and Hawaii groups will be combined and participate together. If you have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible.

TYMANA

* 6/16: Pressure-wash building exterior walls, weeding of parking lot.

* 6/29 @ 2PM: TWA/TYMANA 70th Anniversary Joint Convention.

* 7/18~24: International Hinokishin Corps. Applications have been distributed to TYMANA members. Please submit all applications and questions to kkryono@gmail.com.

NY Center

* 5/26 TYMA-sponsored Family BBQ (120 persons attended)

* 6/2 Action Day for All Yoboku, NY District (49 persons attended)

90th Anniversary

SHARING OUR JOY OF FAITH
Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters
in America

Saturday
JUNE 29

1:30 - 3:30 PM

70th Anniversary Joint Convention
Young Men's and Women's Associations
Attended by Mrs. Harue Nakayama and Mr. Daisuke Nakayama

3:30 - 9:00 PM

Commemorative program and Dinner Reception

Sunday
JUNE 30

10:00 AM

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America
90th Anniversary Commemorative Service

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Reception and Entertainment



For Further Information, visit our website at tenrikyo.com
Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters · 2727 East 1st St · Los Angeles, CA · 90033

I don't know if strawberries are currently cultivated in the area mentioned above, but there is a farm run by Japanese Americans in a city, south of our Mission Headquarters, called Irvine, where they also host strawberry picking in May.

If you've ever eaten strawberries in Los Angeles, you know that sometimes they are so sour that they make you shiver. Of course, there are sweet strawberries, but for those who know the taste of Japanese ones, the strawberries eaten here tend to taste sour.

Strawberries are now an indispensable fruit used in shortcakes. For this reason (though not exclusively), some farms grow them in greenhouses so that they can be harvested even in winter, regardless of the season.

In Nara Prefecture, which includes Tenri City, strawberries seem to be one of the specialty products. In supermarkets, there are improved varieties such as Tamahime, Kotoka, and Nanoka, as well as Asuka Ruby which are sometimes sold along with commercial songs. Each variety has its own characteristics in size, color, and taste.

A strawberry is a fruit, so it goes through the process of blooming, being pollinated, and then becoming a fruit. In other words, "pollination" is required for fruit to develop.

There are two types of pollination: artificial and natural. In "artificial pollination," pollen from the stamens of the flower is applied to the pistil by hand, using tools like the soft end of a Japanese ear picker or a makeup brush. It is necessary to pollinate evenly. It seems that each strawberry flower has more than 100 pistils, and if each of them is not pollinated, it will not form a beautiful strawberry but rather

a deformed one.

I think the mainstream method of natural pollination is to use bees, but there are also methods such as using flies. Of course, pollen can be blown by the wind and pollinated, but this would be difficult when growing strawberries in a greenhouse.

Considering the labor involved in artificial pollination, natural pollination using bees and other means may be a very efficient method. Cultivation in a plastic greenhouse apparently requires 6,000 to 8,000 bees per 1,000 square meters. Bee hives are brought in during the flowering season for natural pollination to occur.

I recently learned that the strawberries grown by a Japanese co-founder and CEO of a venture company in New York are very popular. They are so delicious that some restaurants serve straight strawberries as a dessert without any processing.

This company grows strawberries in a "plant factory." A plant factory is a system in which vegetables and fruits are systematically produced indoors in an enclosed, controlled environment. This means that vegetables and fruits are grown inside a building. In this way, data management is possible, and temperature, fertilizer, etc. can be controlled by computer. Shipping times can also be adjusted regardless of the season. Using machines also leads to the reduction of personnel. In addition, since cultivated land is not required, crops can be grown without being affected by changes in the natural environment. This is expected to become a safe food resource in the future.

However, the initial capital investment is

high, and there are electricity and maintenance costs during cultivation, so it can be difficult to make a profit.

Cultivating strawberries at the aforementioned company requires pollination. I thought they were doing artificial pollination using a machine, but it turns out they are doing natural pollination. In other words, bees are used for pollination. For this purpose, bees are released into buildings, but bees are delicate insects and do not seem to come out of their hives under artificial light. Therefore, the company started by creating an environment where bees could fly out of the hive.

After solving that problem, the next problem was productivity. As I mentioned earlier, if pollination is not evenly distributed, you will not be able to produce beautiful strawberries, and if not, the strawberries will not be able to be sold.

In addition, the yield varies depending on the success rate of pollination, so they needed to solve this problem. The company's successful pollination rate reached 95% which is higher than the conventional greenhouse success rate of 60-70%. In addition, based on the data collected, they control liquid fertilizer and watering, and even decide whether to send bees or not. Furthermore, they also know the amount to be shipped in 40 days, allowing them to plan production and sales.

When we see that natural pollination is carried out in plant factories like this, we realize the importance of the power of nature. I was also reminded of the greatness of nature in that bees exist in this world, allowing us to harvest our food. It may be a bit of a leap, but I was reminded of the importance of pollina-

tion through insects and that fruit cannot be produced without pollination, and that "this universe is the body of God's body."

As written in the Ofudesaki:

When the mind of God is depressed over everything,

the growth of all crops will be depressed, too.

Ofudesaki I:12

The mind that causes depressed crops is pitiful.

Quickly become spirited so that the crops are not depressed.

Ofudesaki I:13

If you wish that the crops grow spiritedly, do the Kagura Service and the Teodori.

Ofudesaki I:14

Therefore, for harvesting various crops, I have reaffirmed to myself the importance of performing the service.

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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 of 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.