

LEGACIES

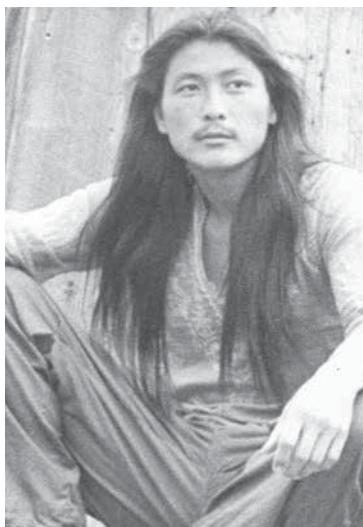
THE EARTH NEEDS A FEW GOOD FRIENDS



What You Scatter Matters

Tlaloc Tokuda grew up in a Japanese American enclave in Los Angeles. Both his parents were active in the community, church, coaching and PTA, and Tlaloc's house was the neighborhood hangout. Tlaloc struggled with structured learning and started hanging out with a hippie crowd. A friend introduced him to books exploring Asian American, Native American and Black experiences, sparking his passion for social justice and exploring the world.

Tlaloc hitchhiked all over California. He returned to Los Angeles and volunteered for Head Start in the Watts neighborhood. Enjoying the experience, he went back to



Tlaloc Tokuda

school to teach with Head Start. After earning his bachelor's, he pursued a master's degree.

Tlaloc learned yoga, vegetarianism and Hinduism and traveled to India, where he hitchhiked across the country, and spent three months traveling across Europe before heading to Iran, Turkey and Pakistan.

While in India, he spent time at Auroville, near Pondicherry—an international community focused on peace and human unity. Tlaloc planted trees over a barren five kilometers and immersed himself in the lifestyle, learning dry land cultivation and wearing traditional clothing.

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Good News for Givers

Last year saw the rise of a devastating global pandemic that left every corner of the globe reeling from the repercussions. But if we learned one thing, it was that in trying times Americans are among the most generous people on earth.

Every day, there are stories of neighbors volunteering to help those in need and strangers performing random acts of kindness. Many are continuing their support of a broad array of causes, even making larger charitable gifts in light of the current environment.

This year, several COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for use, and another round of economic legislation has been passed. A few of the highlights of the recent package include direct financial relief payments to individuals and dependents, enhanced unemployment benefits for those who have lost their jobs and relief for small businesses. There are also several measures to enhance charitable giving. These options may help you maximize your charitable gifts to Friends of the Earth whether you itemize deductions for income tax purposes or not.

A Charitable Component

- Taxpayers who take the standard deduction are allowed a bonus deduction of up to \$300 (\$600 for couples) for charitable contributions of cash. (This provision applies to most qualified charitable contributions but not to donor advised funds.)
- For charitable gifts of cash, the overall percentage of adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation is increased to 100% for individual taxpayers who itemize deductions for tax year 2021. Gifts of appreciated assets are generally deductible up to 30% of AGI and may be combined with cash gifts up to the 2021 maximum of 100% of AGI. Excess amounts may be carried over for use in future years. The 10% of AGI limitation for corporate contributions is increased to 25% this tax year; contributions of food inventory are also increased to 25%. (The deduction is normally limited to 15%.)
- Those who do not need the stimulus funds may choose to donate some or all and then deduct those cash gifts in accordance with Option 1 or 2 above.

Please contact us for more information about charitable gift planning opportunities under these new laws. Above all, know that we are grateful for your support in these turbulent times.

A Free Gift From Friends of the Earth

We're excited to offer a free gift to help you prepare for the future and ensure your values live on indefinitely! Creating a will is one of the most impactful ways to support the people and causes you love. We've partnered with FreeWill to give you an easy way to write your legally valid will today. Many people also like to include a gift to Friends of the Earth to ensure a healthy planet and people for decades to come.

The service is free whether or not you choose to include Friends of the Earth. You can also use the tools to start your will and document your wishes before visiting an attorney. Visit www.FreeWill.com/FOE to get started today (and you can make changes at any time)!

Use Your IRA To Support Friends of the Earth

If you are age 70½ or older, you may make gifts directly from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to Friends of the Earth. It's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Why is a QCD such a good giving option?

- Giving directly from your IRA—rather than withdrawing these funds—won't increase your adjusted gross income or subject your Social Security income to more taxes.
- Such gifts can count toward all or part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). For those turning 70½ beginning in 2020, the minimum age for taking RMDs has increased to 72.
- QCD gifts can be especially advantageous for those who do not expect to itemize their deductions and for those whose deductions are limited.
- You may make QCD gifts in any amount up to \$100,000 per person per year or \$200,000 for a couple with separate IRAs. Because of recent tax law changes, you may be able to continue to add to an IRA after age 70½. If this is your situation, the amount of QCD gifts you can make will be reduced.*

What You Scatter Matters *continued from Page 1*

After circling the globe in 4½ years, Tlaloc returned to Hawaii where he completed his master's degree in Education and the Environment—one of the first to do so!

Tlaloc spent a few years in Saipan working as a solar technician. He later received a grant to earn a Ph.D. at The East-West Center, but when his wife became pregnant, they chose to return to her home—Australia—and the family immigrated to Oz. There, Tlaloc worked with the indigenous culture in a school, an aboriginal dance theater and as a Tai Chi instructor. Tlaloc also taught classes on sustainability and social justice, which he considers inseparable priorities.

Now retired, Tlaloc regularly travels between Hawaii, Australia, India and Vietnam. He was in Vietnam when the COVID-19 crisis started. A few months later, Tlaloc



Can I do this with other retirement plan assets?

- The QCD is only possible with an IRA. It is possible to roll funds from other retirement plans into IRAs in order to take advantage of a QCD.
- Some people choose to simply make charitable gifts with their retirement plan withdrawals—whether IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other similar arrangements. When doing this, you will recognize income on your tax return, but you also can deduct the amount of your gift.

If you have any questions about QCDs, please return the enclosed reply card or contact us.

*As a result of the SECURE Act, if an individual with earned income continues to make deductible contributions to an IRA beyond age 70½, the individual's maximum QCD amount will be reduced by the amount of deduction claimed for an IRA contribution.

returned to Hawaii to help care for his mother. At 98, Tlaloc's mother created her own will, which inspired Tlaloc to make his long-term plans.

Tlaloc chose to include Friends of the Earth because of our similar focus on the environment and social justice. When he was younger, his parents stressed tithing. Because Tlaloc doesn't contribute to a church, after providing for his son and stepdaughter, the remainder of his estate will go to environmental, first nation and social justice organizations. "I donate and volunteer in the spirit of solidarity, not charity," Tlaloc shared.

Believing climate change is our most urgent priority, Tlaloc is grateful to younger generations leading the fight around the world. As he says, "It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that matters."

Do You Have a Donor Advised Fund?

The rising popularity of donor advised funds (DAFs) means that more and more people have made contributions to them. If you have established a DAF account, please consider requesting a distribution to Friends of the Earth.

Example of a DAF gift

Laura's accountant has advised her that she could benefit from a significant tax deduction this year. She isn't ready to make such large gifts at one time to the charities she supports regularly and has not decided if she wants to make gifts to several other organizations she admires.

If she makes a contribution to a DAF, Laura can realize the financial and tax benefits she needs this year and make

decisions about supporting her favorite charities, such as Friends of the Earth, when she is ready.

Leave a legacy

We would also welcome being designated the eventual recipient of funds from a terminating DAF or to be a beneficiary of endowment distributions.

To be sure we have the opportunity to thank you and share how your specific contribution makes a difference, please let us know the amounts and sources of funds you may be generously sending our way through a DAF.

Please contact us or your advisor if you have any questions.



Considering a Bequest?

If you are considering making Friends of the Earth a part of your legacy, please accept our thanks. Here is some suggested wording to share with your attorney:

"After fulfilling all other specific provisions, I give, devise and bequeath _____% of the remainder [or \$_____] of my estate to Friends of the Earth, a District of Columbia charitable corporation [tax ID #23-7420660] currently having offices at 1101 15th Street NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20005."

Have you already made a gift through your estate plans? Please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to our Shared Earth Society.

The purpose of this publication is solely educational, namely to provide general gift, estate, financial planning and related information. It is not intended as legal, accounting or other professional advice, and you should not rely on it as such. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other implications, the services of appropriate and qualified advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Consult a tax and/or accounting specialist for advice regarding tax and accounting related matters. © Copyright 2021 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NNNPDF-21



For more information on ways to include Friends of the Earth in your estate plans, please contact:

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