

# Burning Questions for...

## Tim Warneka

The leadership expert talks about his new book *Leading People the Black Belt Way*, what makes him laugh, and the most important thing in his life

### Who are Your Heroes?

“My kids! (Laughs). They have taught me a great deal about life. Most of my other heroes I’ve met through books, like Joseph Campbell, who wrote *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. And, of course, Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido, the martial art I practice.”

### What is one talent you wish you had?

“To speak another language. I can only speak English, and I’m always deeply impressed by people who are multilingual.”

### What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?

“That I take my job very seriously. Sometimes people think that the whole “black belt” thing is just a big schtick. But for me, it’s not, it’s very real. When I’m working with a client, I always give 110%. People are entrusting me with their lives, their careers and their businesses, and that is not a trust that I hold lightly.”

### What makes you laugh?

“I love to laugh! I’ll laugh at anything funny from old Marx Brothers movies to my kids dancing around the living room.”

### What was the best part about writing your book?

“Being a parent of young kids, I often wrote early in the morning before my kids got up. Sitting by the fire, listening to the silence of the house as I wrote - that was the best part.”

