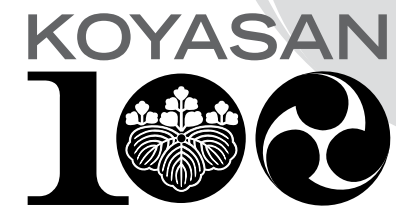
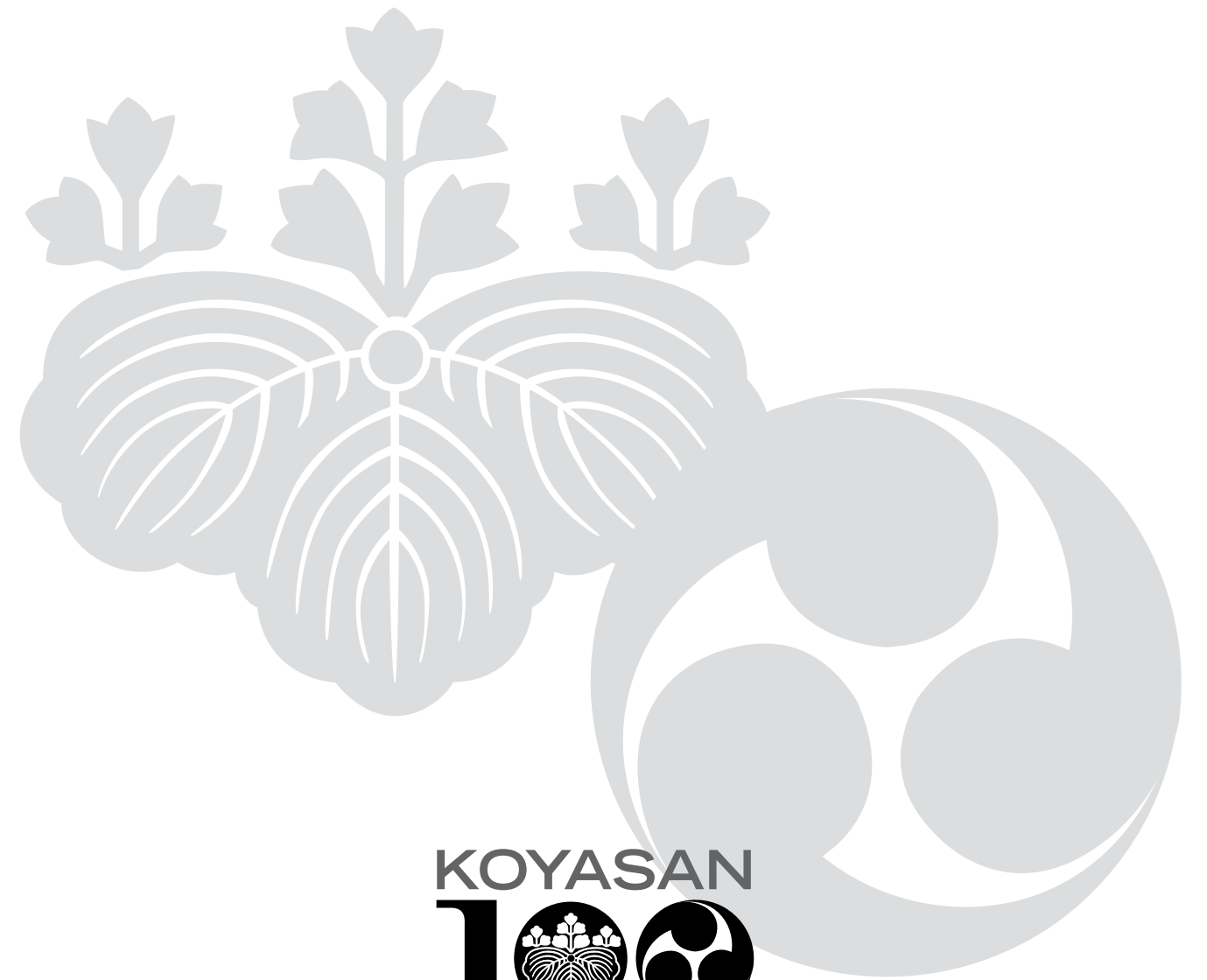


KOYASAN MISSION
LOS ANGELES MISSION
100TH ANNIVERSARY
高野山米國別院開創百周年1912-2012



KOYASAN MISSION
LOS ANGELES MISSION
100TH ANNIVERSARY
高野山米国別院開創百周年1912-2012

Inside front cover



高野山米国別院開創百周年 1912-2012
KOYASAN BUDDHIST TEMPLE LOS ANGELES

KOYASAN FROM 1912 THROUGH 2012

Daishi Kyokai - 1912



Daishi Kyokai - 1913



Daishi Kyokai - 1913



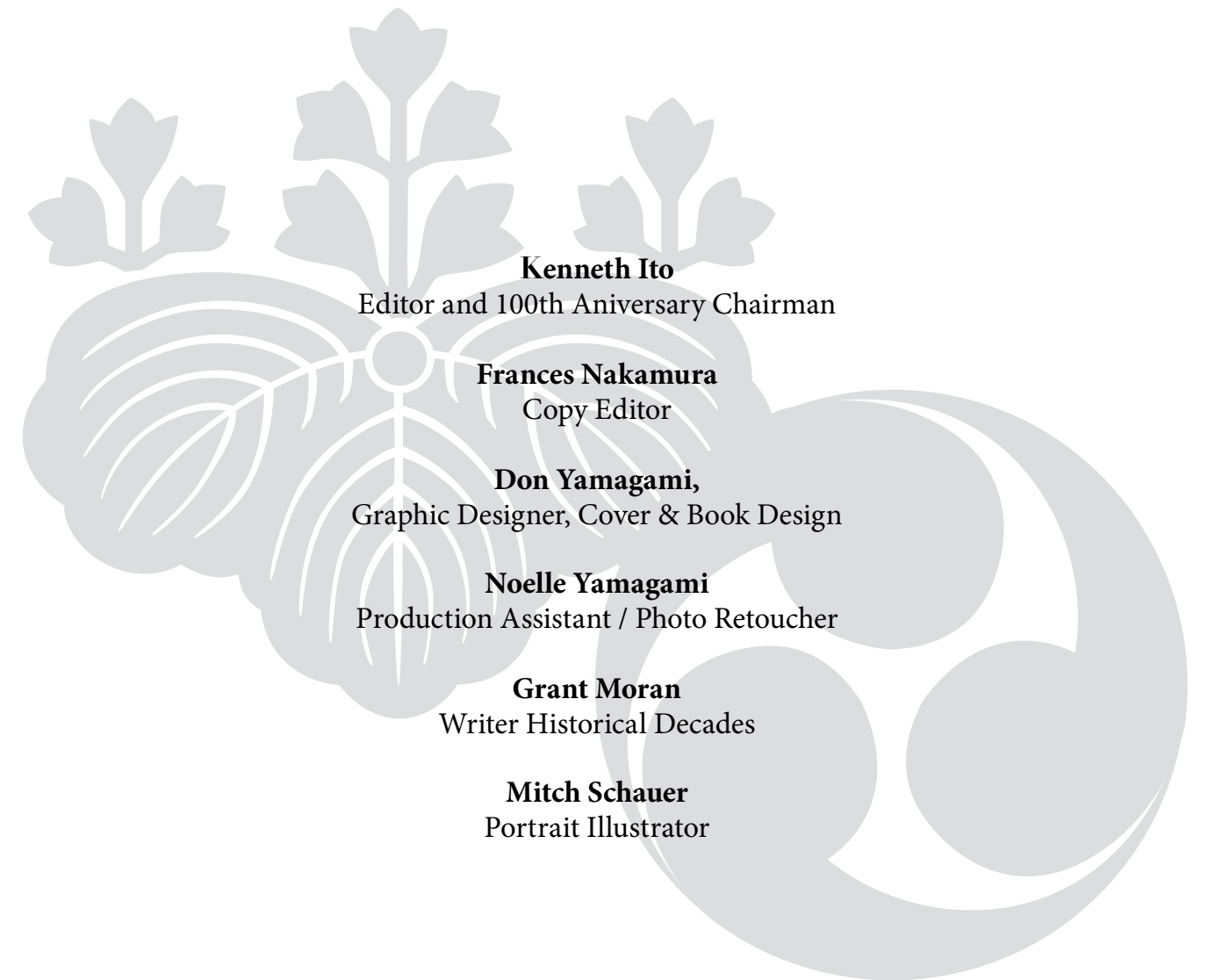
Daishi Kyokai - 1920



Koyasan Buddhist Temple - 2012



KOYASAN MISSION LOS ANGELES MISSION 100TH ANNIVERSARY 高野山米国別院開創百周年1912-2012



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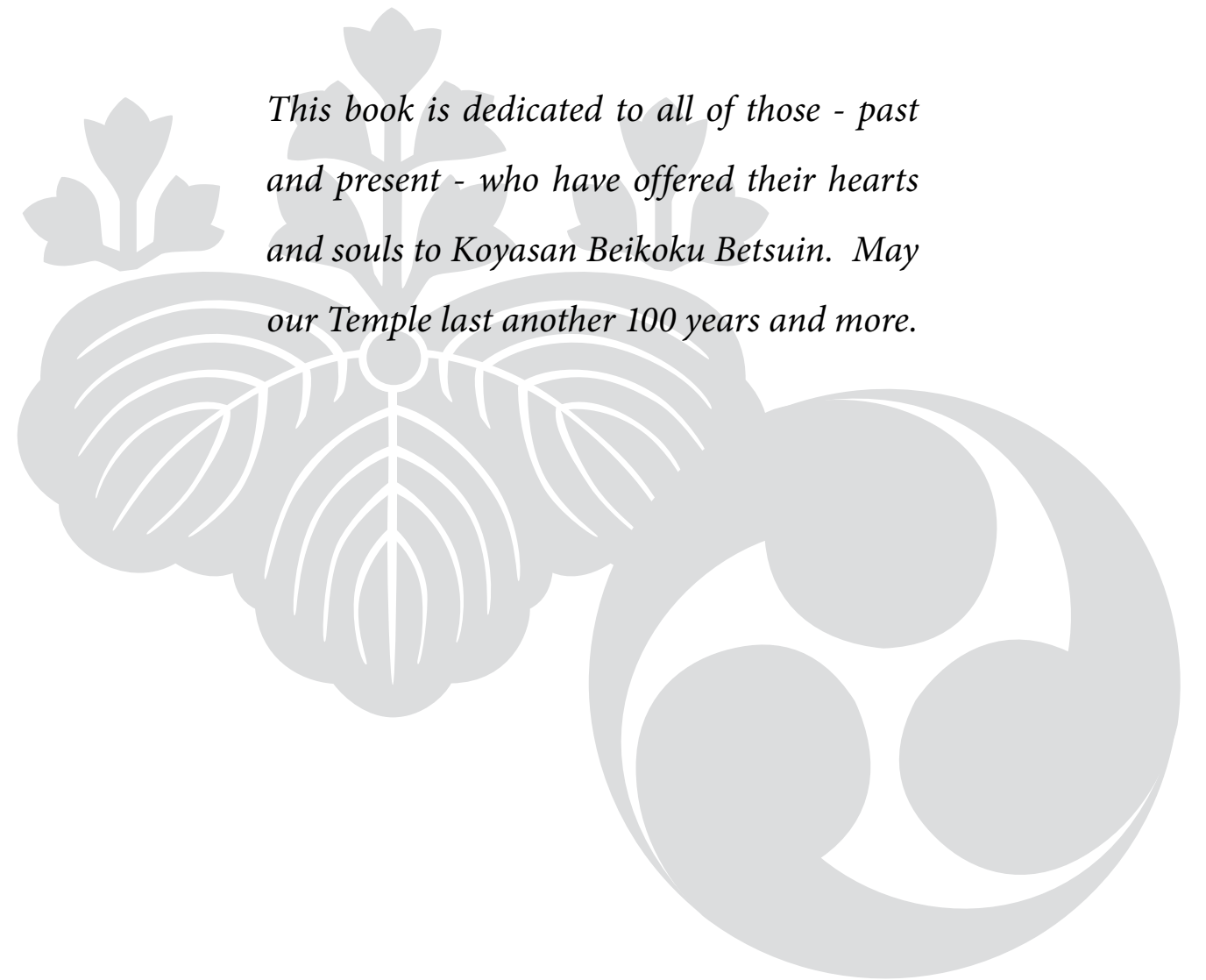
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all of those - past and present - who have offered their hearts and souls to Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin. May our Temple last another 100 years and more.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book is a herculean labor of love, and as I embarked on a quest to create a historically pictorial collection for the centennial celebration of the Koyasan Mission, I truly realized what a major undertaking it was. Researching Koyasan Temple's history—the red 50th Anniversary book really helped in a major way—I was staggered as to just how rich a history Koyasan has had. I thought I knew a lot about Koyasan, but boy, was I wrong... I never knew how painstaking it was for Reverend Aoyama to build up the Daishi Kyokai nor did I know what Bishop Takahashi had to go through to build our current Temple building. I never realized just what Mrs. Koko Furusawa and the Fujin-kai meant to the Koyasan Temple. Had it not been for all the past ministers, Issei pioneers, the Niseis, and today's generation, this Temple would not be celebrating its 100th Anniversary and this book would not exist.

So, first and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to all of those who have worked hard for the Temple and made this book possible.

I would like to thank Don Yamagami for putting together such a marvelous book. Kudos also goes to his wife, Shelley, and daughter, Noelle, for their support. I would also like to thank Frances Nakamura, our present Temple President, for proofreading all the text over and over again. I know proofreading is a thankless job.

Special, special thanks to Alan Miyatake of Toyo Miyatake Studio. This book would not have been as great (or as thick) had it not been for his generosity to allow us the use of the Miyatake archives.

Thank you to other individuals and families who shared their photos: Yone Amimoto, Shigeji and Fumie Ito, Frances Nakamura, Shoji and Masako Kanogawa, Edward and Minnie Takahashi, Scott Takahashi of Boy Scout Troop 379, Ryoko Takata, and Cindy Terakawa.

Thanks also go out to those who scanned non-digital photos for countless of hours, Noel Duer and Nicholas Duer; and those who helped with some of the captioning, Pat Murakami and Regina Sakurai.

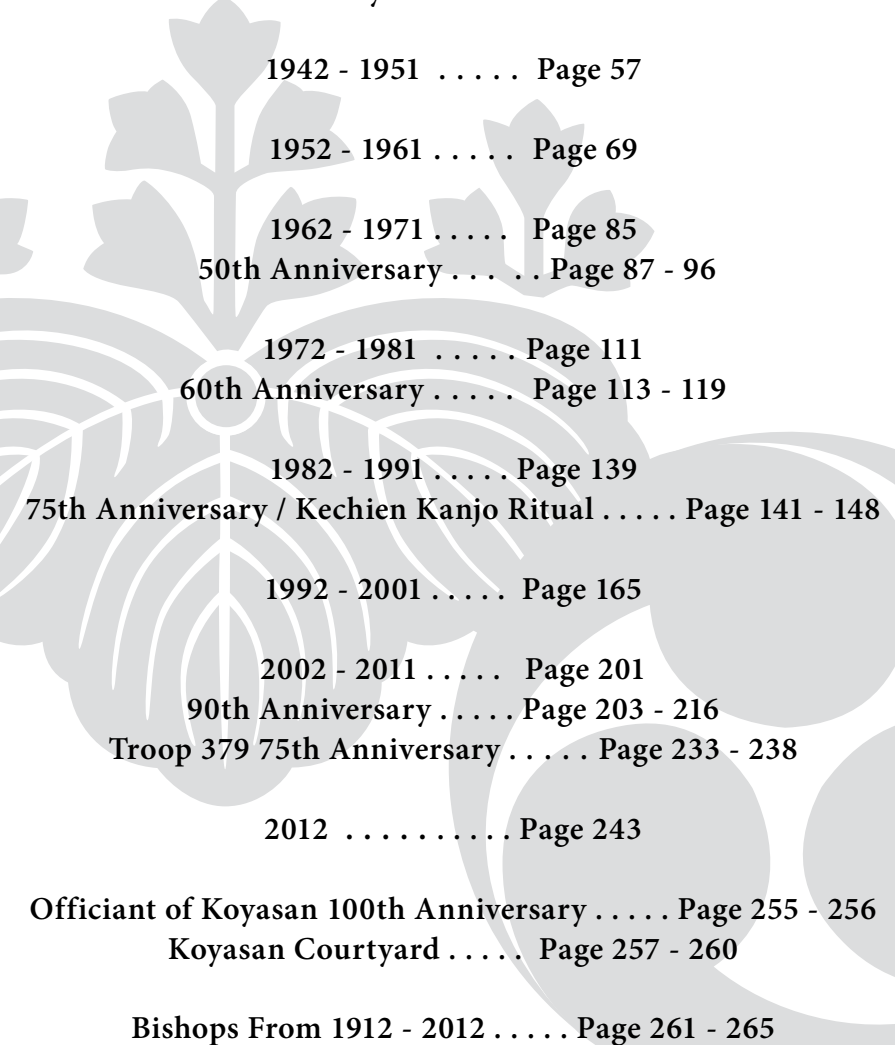
Special mention goes to my friend, Grant Moran, who gladly researched our Temple's history and wrote wonderful prose on each decade of the Temple. Another special mention goes to Mitch Schauer, a fabulous artist; he took on the challenge of creating a portrait of Bishop Hokai Takada that originated from a tiny, blurry photo. (This re-creation is my ode to Bishop Hokai Takada since no photos exist of him today).

I also thank Reverend Keishin Kako for the assistance with getting all the facts straight for the book. His task was truly an important cog for this book and my secret weapon.

And finally, words cannot express my sincere gratitude towards Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata. So vital to this book, Bishop Emeritus Miyata was my direct link to the past and helped me in so many ways. He truly made my life easier.

Kenneth T. Ito,
Editor and 100th Anniversary Chairman

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Foreword

November 18, 2012

In the early twentieth century, the Japanese immigrants from Japan were trying to adjust to a new culture here in Los Angeles. During the course of this adjustment of extreme hardship, language handicap, and financial difficulties, they persevered through the strong/pious Buddhist faith called Odaishi-san's Spirit and the warm support of one another. The Spirit means the faith of accompanying the Savior Kobo Daishi and it is religiously called the faith of Dogyo-Ninin in Japanese. This inner strength and commitment of Issei pioneers including priests and members continue to enhance the scope of Shingon Buddhist tradition to this day.

In 1912, a 37-year-old Shingon priest from Japan, Rev. Shutai Aoyama, started the mission in a room of the old Miyako Hotel in downtown Los Angeles with Mr. Kiyotaro Nakano, the owner of the hotel, and several other Issei members. It was officially named Los Angeles Daishi Kyokai, a local Koyasan Daishi mission. By 1940, its geographical location changed four times: Elysian Park, Commercial Street, North Central Avenue, and East First Street of Little Tokyo. During the transitional period, the Daishi mission facilities were used for activities of young Nisei boys under the leadership of Bishop Taido Kitagawa resulting in the formation of the Koyasan Boy Scouts Troop 79 (later renamed 379) in 1931. In addition, before the outbreak of war in 1941, the Temple facilities were used frequently as an assembly hall for the Japanese Navy sailors while their tanker/ship was docked in Long Beach Port.

At the time of the 1,100th Commemorative ceremony for Kobo Daishi held in 1934, the Daishi Kyokai Mission was elevated to the Koyasan Betsuin Temple and

recognized officially by the Headquarters of Shingon Mission on Mt. Koya, Japan. Under the direction of Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, the Betsuin Temple moved to the present site in the Fall of 1940.

Soon after the outbreak of war, all the residential ministers and Japanese immigrants including Nisei Americans were forcefully incarcerated at several Japanese relocation camps located in the interior of the U.S. under Executive Order 9066 in 1942. Due to the war and the incarceration of the Japanese, the Temple was closed and became a warehouse for Japanese immigrants. It stood on the brink of a precipice for missionary work.

A few years after the end of the war, the Temple was gradually revived through the support of resilient Issei and Nisei members returning from the relocation camps. And because of the Temple's spacious main floor with a capacity of 600 people, it then became a local Japanese community center holding many cultural and sporting events, popularly called "Koyasan Hall" by the community. Various talent shows, Enka singing, modern and classical dances and indoor sport demonstrations such as karate, judo, kendo and aikido were held frequently.

In 1954, a branch mission named Harbor City Koyasan Church was built in the suburb of Los Angeles and a Japanese language school was operated there under the direction of Rev. Ryosho Sogabe. Thanks to the ability of Rev. Sogabe, the Church was highly successful.

At the ministerial level, many of the resident ministers

from Japan in the 1950's undertook advanced studies at the graduate level at major universities in America; namely, University of Southern California, Columbia University, Yale University, Pennsylvania University, California State University at San Jose and Sacramento. They not only earned the degrees of B.A., M.A., and Ph.D at major universities, but also contributed to the introduction of Shingon Buddhism and its tradition to American scholars in general through their academic participation.

A scholar said, "My intellectual understanding of the religions has been reinforced by an experiential knowledge of what are both a process and a state of being. The idea of awareness is not one that is simply thought about and understood, but must be experienced."

During 1967 through 2009, the Temple sponsored the traditional pilgrimage tours under the leadership/sendatsu of resident ministers to visit the 88 temples on Shikoku Island and the 33 temples in Western Japan. Totally, sixteen pilgrimage group tours were formed and enriched the Shingon faith of Dogyo-Ninin through a 15-day Henro experience. The religious significance of the Shingon tradition, the propagative contribution of scholastic ministers and the experience of the Henro pilgrimage tours are highlights in the history of Koyasan Betsuin Temple that should not be forgotten.

As you are aware, communities are drastically changing in Southern California. While modernization has quickly taken place, our Shingon Mission must

meet the needs of the younger generation. In other words, important creative changes in the propagation of our Mission for English-speaking people must be undertaken.

For example, Rev. Ekan Ikeguchi, head priest of Saifukuji Shingon Temple, Kagoshima, Japan, visited Los Angeles in 1968 to assist our mission and introduced the Goma ritual to our Temple for a powerful, energizing experience. Since its momentous introduction, the fire Goma ritual has continued on a monthly basis to this day, and many local members and others regularly attend the Goma sacred rite. Throughout the New Year holiday in recent years, more than three thousand visitors have come to visit the Temple to not only observe the fire rite, Hatsu-goma, of Shingon Buddhist tradition but to also purchase omamori, omikuji and such for a good year. It is truly an extraordinary service that one rarely sees here in Southern California.

With deepest gratitude, I would like to make a pledge to dedicate the rest of my life to our Savior Odaishi-san by magnifying the scope of my mind to be universal toward world peace and harmony.

With Gassho,
Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata



Reverend Shutai Aoyama arrives in 1909 and makes Koyasan a reality in 1912.

with fresh determination.

Working first as a farm laborer and then for the Santa Fe Railway Co. and a San Pedro shipbuilder, Rev. Aoyama spent the next few years schooling himself in the hardscrabble life of privation, ostracism and oppression that was at that time the typical lot of the displaced fellow-countrymen he sought to serve.

His strength of character, humility and quiet zeal attracted the admiration of Mr. Kiyotaro Nakano, a wealthy immigrant. With Nakano's help, Rev. Aoyama began slowly piecing together a small but solid foundation of support. In 1912, after many rounds of calls and much discussion, a plan to establish a Daishi mission in Los Angeles was approved at a meeting attended by just ten people.

With renewed inspiration provided by the arrival that year of the famous Prince Shinnyo portrait of Kobo Daishi, the recruitment of new members throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties continued. By 1913 the new mission counted 58 local chapters. In 1914, when the growing mission moved to Commercial Street in downtown L.A., the service celebrating the move was attended by 300 worshippers.

Soon the mission was attracting 500 worshippers to its annual Shomieku service! Clearly, there was need for even larger quarters and in 1919, after years of careful planning and persistent, dedicated fundraising, the former "Baien" restaurant in the heart of Japanese town was leased. 1500 people attended the service for the Honzon enshrining ceremony on March 21, 1920. The Daishi Kyokai was now the largest Buddhist church building in the Los Angeles area.

Looking back on the success of his mission with deep satisfaction, the now-Bishop Aoyama announced his retirement in 1920. With Rev. Hokai Tokada installed as his successor, Bishop Aoyama sailed home to Japan on May 19, 1921. Hundreds of people – representing a community he himself had willed into existence through faith and tireless effort – assembled at the San Pedro pier to bid him farewell.

1912-1921

The story of the founding of our temple is a story of struggle and sacrifice and faith, of a seed taking root on a surface of sheer rock and blossoming beyond all expectation.

In 1908 the Rev. Shutai Aoyama was entrusted by Archbishop Misumon Yuhan with the propagation of Shingon Buddhism

among the Japanese immigrant population on the West Coast of the United States. Struck with a life-threatening illness shortly after arriving from Yokohama and left destitute on emerging from that ordeal, Rev. Aoyama was nonetheless so profoundly grateful for his recovery that he recommitted himself to his mission



1912

- Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin, formerly Daishi Kyokai is founded by Reverend Shutai Aoyama, a native priest of Toyama-Ken, Japan.



- Reverend Aoyama originally holds services at the Miyako Hotel where he resides.



1913

- A small altar of the Daishi Kyokai is installed inside a rented house near Elysian Park in Los Angeles.



- Daishi Kyokai is moved and established on Commercial Street in Los Angeles.



1920

- An old building on Central Avenue, located near the present site of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), is purchased and remodeled for the mission.

1912-1921

1914

- The Women's Association (Fujin-kai) is inaugurated.
- Formation of Daishiko gatherings is organized.

1921

- Reverend Hokai Takada succeeds Bishop Shutai Aoyama.



1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921

Miyako Hotel - 1912



Reverend Aoyama resides and originally holds services at the Miyako Hotel owned by Kiyotaro Nakano. On November 28, 1912, an important meeting takes place here to discuss the future plans to construct a Daishi Kyokai.

Seikichi Aihara 1916

Seikichi Aihara, a member from Orange County who ardently supports the founding of the Daishi Kyokai.



Saburo Takasugi, Founder of the Daishi Kyokai

Saburo Takasugi, owner of Maru-san Miso-ten, one of the many influential founders of the Daishi Kyokai.

Daishi Kyokai - January 26, 1913



Daishi Kyokai opens its doors to members on January 26, 1913 near Elysian Park. The unveiling ceremony of Kobo Daishi's portrait, painted by Prince Shinnyo, is celebrated on May 31, 1913.

Opening
Ceremony
for Koyasan
Daishi Kyokai
at 335
Commercial
Street
March 21, 1914

Among the congregation are influential members instrumental in participating in the hopeful future of the Daishi Kyokai: Kintaro Asano, Katsuichi Kazahaya, Sumio Ono, Saburo Takasugi, Tomozo Tomio, and Ginnosuke Yuasa (chairman for the ceremony).



Daishi Kyokai on Commercial Street - March 21, 1914

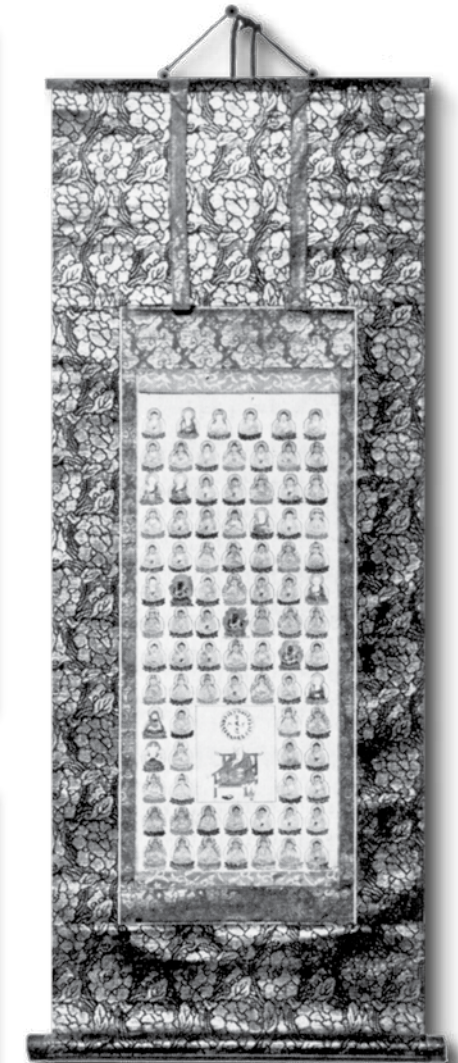
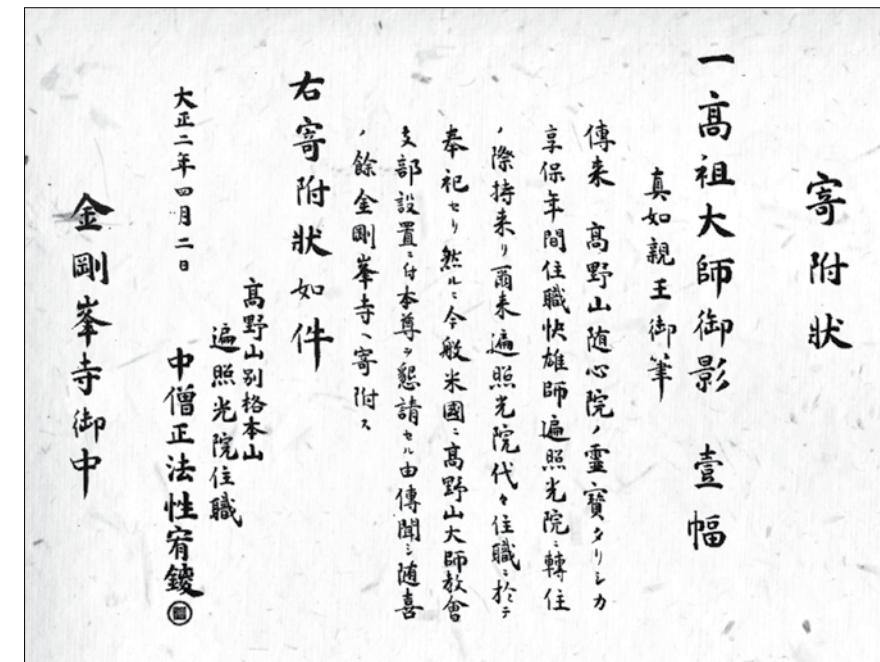
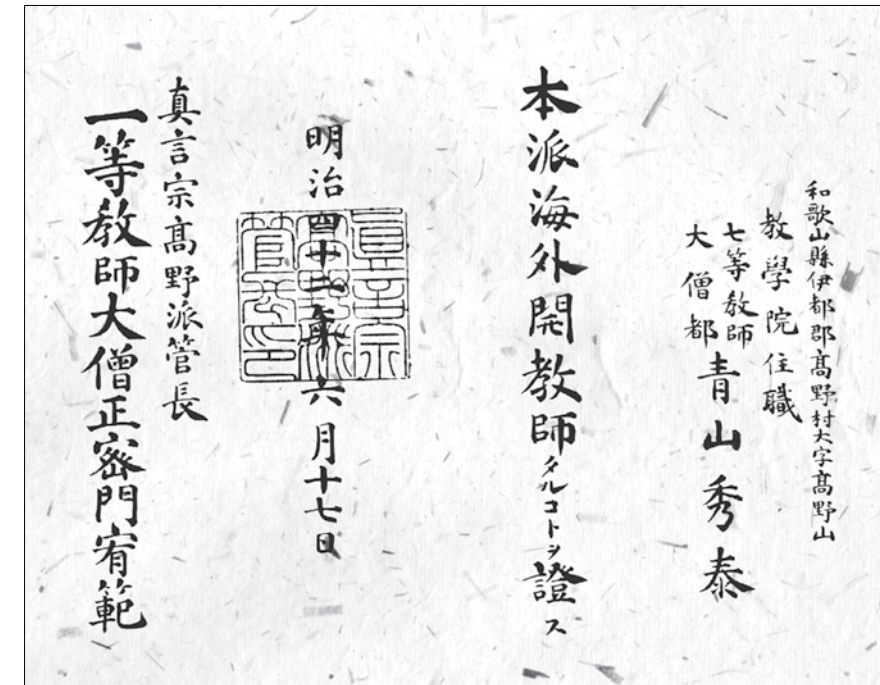


Commemorative picture for Goma Ritual. Pictured are Bishop Shutai Aoyama (far left) and Reverend Joshun Hosoya (far right).



The Daishi Kyokai is relocated on October 2, 1913. A service celebrating the move is scheduled for November 1st and 2nd, but due to the delay of the Buddhist fittings for the altar, the service is postponed until March 21, 1914.

Documents and Scrolls - Early Years



Upper left: Letter of appointment designating Reverend Shutai Aoyama as an Overseas Minister (June 17, 1909) before his departure to the United States. Lower left: Letter acknowledging the donation of a painting of Kobo Daishi to the Daishi Kyokai by Henjo Koin of Koyasan (April 2, 1913). Above: Scroll depicting Kobo Daishi believed to be carried by Reverend Shutai Aoyama during his Shikoku Pilgrimage.

Shomieku - 1915



The congregation gathers to commemorate Shomieku, the day Kobo Daishi entered into eternal samadhi, at the Daishi Kyokai on Commercial Street in 1915.



Shomieku - March 1917

Priests of the Daishi Kyokai address
the congregation in 1917.

First Wedding at Daishi Kyokai - June 25, 1918



The wedding of Jutaro and Yoneko Narumi is the first wedding of a Daishi Kyokai member officiated by Bishop Shutai Aoyama. Because the Daishi Kyokai on Commercial Street is not large enough, the ceremony is performed at Blanchard Hall on South Broadway Street.

Dedication Ceremony on Central Avenue -

March 21, 1920



Congregation gathers to commemorate the opening of the new Daishi Kyokai on Central Avenue.



Chigo pose in front of the Buddhist Altar with Bishop Shutai Aoyama standing on left in back.

Bishop Aoyama at the Daishi Kyokai on Central Avenue - 1921



Bishop Shutai Aoyama stands next to a Moreton Bay Fig tree that will be recognized as a living landmark by the City of Los Angeles in 2008.



Bishop Hokai Takada
1921 - 1924



Bishop Taido Kitagawa
1924 - 1933

1922-1931

The 1920s saw the blossoming into full flower of the mission's Fujin-kai or Women's Association. What had started out as a small group of volunteers providing refreshments for Shomieku and Obon rituals grew into something far greater through the active encouragement of Bishop Kitagawa and the dedicated leadership of Mrs. Koko Furusawa. The group's successful fundraising for victims of the Great Earthquake of 1923 so impressed Bishop Kitagawa that he made nurturing the group and expanding its membership a major priority. A regular cooking class he introduced to the mission in 1925 was very popular with its growing number of homemakers, and the emphasis Bishop Kitagawa placed on associating mission services with various entertainments like dance performances resulted in turnouts of as many as 1,000 people. Such events provided a great opportunity for

the Fujin-kai to recruit new members and to increasingly integrate the association's work into the overall mission and daily life of the Daishi Kyokai.

It has been said that the warm welcome provided by the Fujin-kai to sailors of the Japanese Imperial Navy visiting Los Angeles on training and trade missions remains one of the most noteworthy services provided by the Daishi Kyokai. In some circles the mission became known during this period as "the sailor's temple" and the Fujin-kai as "sailor's aunties". Meals, sightseeing, and a general "home away from home" were offered to sailors without relatives in the area. Both Japanese and Japanese-Americans held the Imperial Navy in high esteem and the Fujin-kai's generous hospitality was deeply appreciated by both groups. The result was a deepening of the mission's connections to countrymen on both sides of the Pacific, a dramatic increase in membership in the Fujin-kai, and further growth for the mission as a whole.

1923

- The Fujin-kai launches a fundraising campaign for the relief of victims of the Great Kanto Earthquake disaster.

1925

- First series of cooking classes (Japanese and Western) is held.



1931

- Reverend Seytsu Takahashi arrives in San Pedro.



1922-1931



1924

- First Sunday school service is conducted by Reverend Ryohan Takagi.
- Reverend Taido Kitagawa succeeds Reverend Hokai Takada.

1926

- In San Pedro, the Fujin-kai welcomes sailors of the Japanese Imperial Navy, providing refreshments.

1931

- Koyasan Boy Scout Troop 79 (later renamed 379) is organized with Bishop Taido Kitagawa serving as chaplain.

1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931

Obon Odori - July 30, 1922



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Members gather for the Obon Odori and the Obon Segaki Service at the Daishi Kyokai on Central Avenue in the summer of 1922.

One-Year Memorial Service for Victims of the Great Kanto Earthquake - September 1, 1924



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Members gather to mourn for the victims of the Great Kanto earthquake at the Daishi Kyokai.

Cooking Class - October 1925



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Bishop Taido Kitagawa plans a cooking class program every Friday afternoon to further develop the Fujin-kai.

Daishi Kyokai Sunday School Meeting - April 27, 1924



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Bishop Hokai Takada (center) holding an ojuzu. Standing to his right is Reverend Taido Kitagawa.



Sachiko Furusawa -
1920's

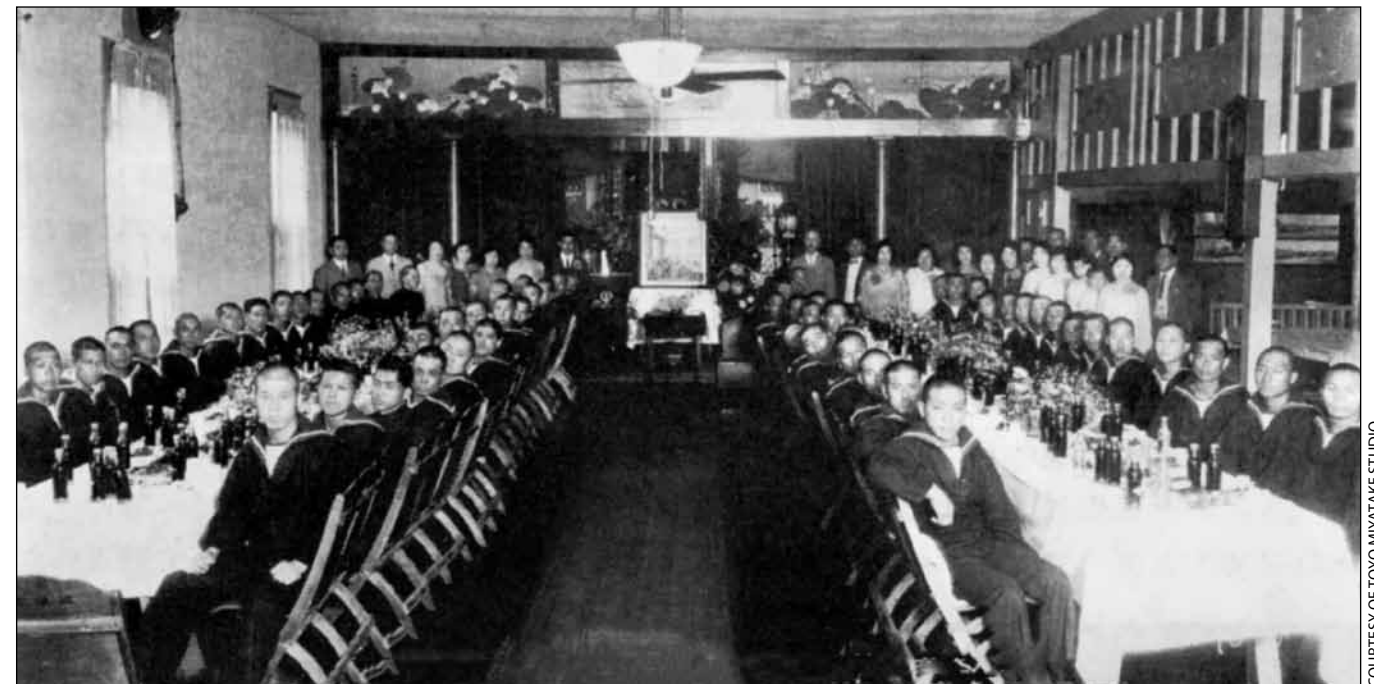
Married in 1913, Sachiko Furusawa, whose correct name is Koko, is pictured here with her husband, Dr. Takashi Furusawa. Seen below in their home on Weller Street, Mrs. Furusawa was the founder and the first Fujin-kai president.



Fujin-kai Welcomes Sailors of the Imperial Japanese Navy - August 9, 1926



The crew of Special Service Vessel, Jin'i, gathers in front of the Daishi Kyokai with members of the Fujin-kai.



In the middle is an oil painting that is donated to the Daishi Kyokai by the crew of Jin'i. The painting is said to depict a naval review by the Meiji Emperor.

Shomieku - March 18, 1928



It is believed that this photo was taken as the congregation gathered for the preparation of the Shomieku

service in March of 1928.

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi
1933 - 1982

and “tireless” come up again and again in the remembrances of those who knew Bishop Takahashi.

The singular monument to his remarkable indefatigability of spirit is, of course, Bishop Takahashi’s successful campaign to construct a new temple. Completed in 1940 at a cost of more than \$100,000 – the equivalent over one and a half million dollars in today’s money! – the beautiful and impressive structure had been a dream envisioned by Bishop Kitagawa as far back as 1929. While transforming that dream into a reality was the result of years of dedicated, painstaking effort by numerous followers of Shingon Buddhism here and in Japan, Abbot Taiken Kato could not help but single out Bishop Takahashi’s extraordinary personal contribution to the great achievement, crediting him in his congratulatory address with “...devot[ing] his body and soul to this project without rest for a number of years.”

The effects of Bishop Takahashi’s powerful faith radiated outwards, inspiring generations inside and outside the temple to heed the Buddhist injunction to “be the best you can” at whatever you do.

Perhaps nothing captures this infectious quality of Bishop Takahashi’s character better than the story of Boy Scout Troop 379. While the founding of the group took place during the stewardship of Bishop Kitagawa, its incredible history of success and worldwide fame was a direct result of Bishop Takahashi’s passionate belief in the program’s potential to impart the precept of personal excellence. Emulating the enthusiastic, determined spirit of Bishop Takahashi himself, 50% of the troop’s members achieved Eagle Scout status during this period – an unprecedented number. The hard work and dedication behind such individual accomplishments was reflected in a legendary string of awards, accolades, and achievements for the troop, including many regional and national awards and honors, an invitation to the Roosevelt White House, and the troop’s proud role as an international goodwill ambassador between Japan and the United States.

1932-1941

In 1931 a fresh graduate of Koyasan University became the temple’s newest priest. It was appropriate that Bishop Seytsu Takahashi arrived in Los Angeles aboard the same ship that first brought Bishop Aoyama to America; aside from the revered founder of our mission, no one has contributed more to

its establishment and growth. In his 50-year association with Daishi Kyokai (later known as Beikoku Betsuin), Bishop Takahashi oversaw the realization of countless temple achievements and milestones. But to say that he merely “oversaw” them is to miss the essence of his greatness. The words “enthusiasm”, “dedication”,

1933

- Lecture series on the life of Kobo Daishi is conducted at monthly Fujin-Kai meetings.
- Sunday school is revitalized with classes broken down by age groups.
- Monthly Henjo News is published.
- Reverend Seytsu Takahashi succeeds Bishop Taido Kitagawa.



1939

- Groundbreaking ceremony is held at the new location of the Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin in Japanese Town (Little Tokyo).



1940

- Honzon enshrining ceremony and Goma service are conducted by

Vice-Archbishop Jisho Matsubashi from Mount Koya for the dedication of the new temple.

- Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin Constitution is adopted and the Temple becomes a non-profit corporation under State of California law.

1935



- Koyasan Boy Scout Troop 379 attends the Jamboree to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the American Boy Scouts in Washington D.C. and under the auspices of President Franklin Roosevelt.

- Daishi Kyokai is elevated to the status of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin and authorized by the Mount Koya Headquarters in Japan.

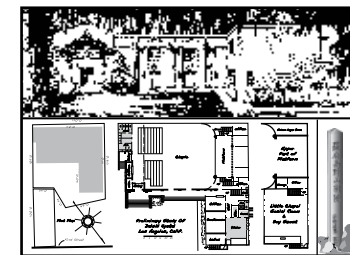
1932-1941

1934

- Memorial service commemorating 1,100th year of Kobo-Daishi’s eternal meditation is held.

1936

- Service in celebration of the promotion to Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin is held. Fundraising for the construction of a new Temple is launched.



1941

- Many Temple officers are taken into custody after the declaration of war against Japan. Management of the Temple is changed over to Reverend Ryosho Sogabe and appointed Nisei followers.

1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941

CONSTRUCTION OF KOYASAN BEIKOKU BETSUIN 1938 PROPOSAL

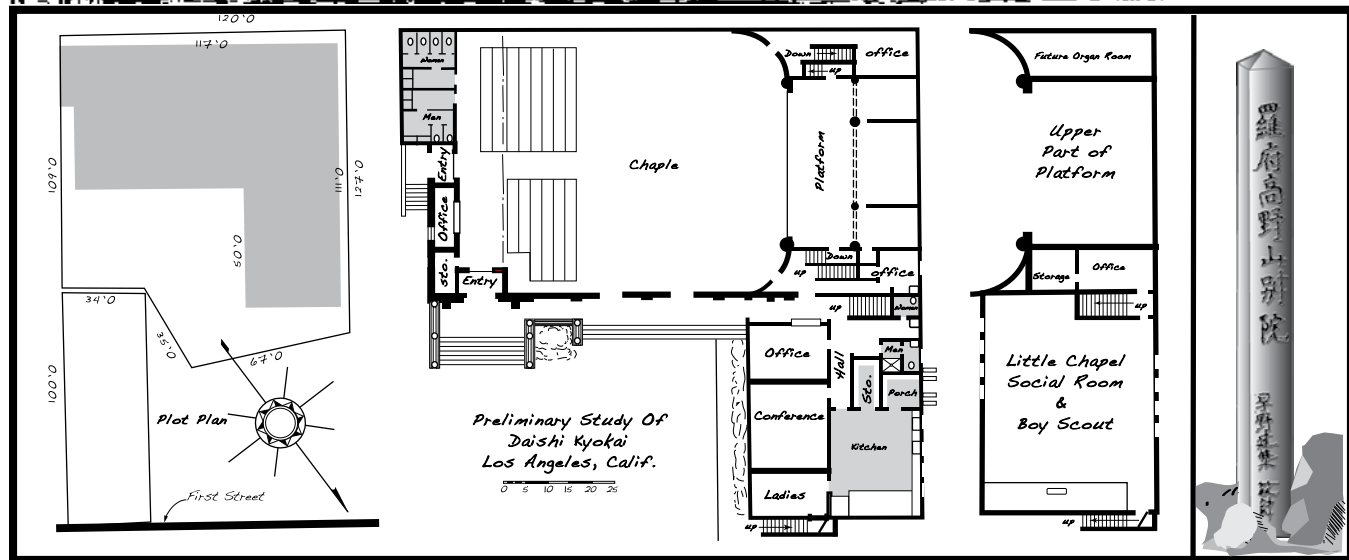
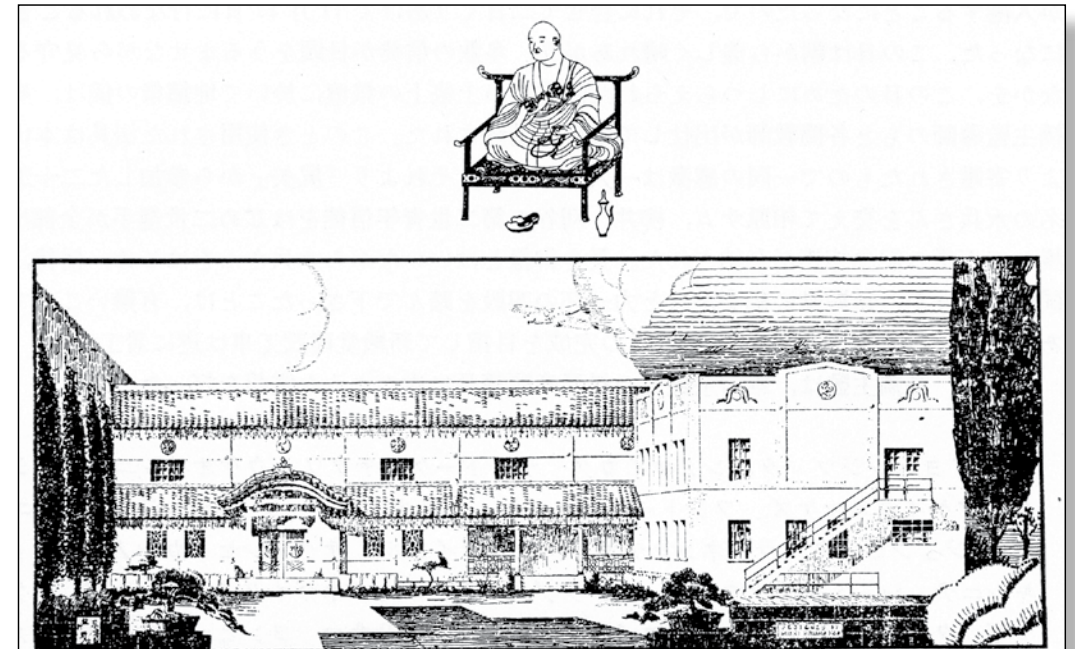


Illustration and Floor Plan of
the Koyasan Buddhist Temple

Donation Solicitation for Construction of New Temple - February 25, 1940



圖之堂殿新院別國米山野高の後成完

謹啓 時下新春の候貴下益々御清榮の段
奉賀候。
陳者今回定期大師信徒總會の決議に基き
貴殿を當別院今年度の役員として御推薦
仕候。今年は愈々各位の御信仰の力と淨
財喜捨に依つて、十數年待望の新殿堂
完成の年にて、恒例の大法會の外に、落慶
入佛大法會も御座候へば、何卒大師奉讚
の誠を表示する爲め、尙貴家の福德圓滿、
功德積聚の爲に倍舊の淨業奉仕を願上候
別院新殿堂に一仙の借財も残さずして、
宗祖弘法大師御寶前に献堂致可く御努力
相成り、尙一人たりとも多く法縁を結ば
るゝ可く、貴殿より友人同胞各位に淨財
御寄附の程重ねて御願申上候。

皇紀二千六百年二月十五日

高野山米國別院

Groundbreaking Ceremony Service - November 17, 1939



It is believed that these photos are of a groundbreaking service for retail rentals. The purpose of the rentals is to generate continuous income to help cover the expenses of the Temple.



From left, Reverend Shozen Yasui, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe and Bishop Seytsu Takahashi bless a sumo wrestling ring (dohyo) as part of the groundbreaking service. It was a common ritual to have visiting sailors of the Imperial Japanese Navy sumo wrestle before the Buddha as a type of blessing.

Koyasan Under Construction - 1940



Various phases of the construction. Bishop Seytsu Takahashi (lower right) examines the craftsmanship of the soon-to-be main entrance of the Temple.



Marker for Koyasan - 1940

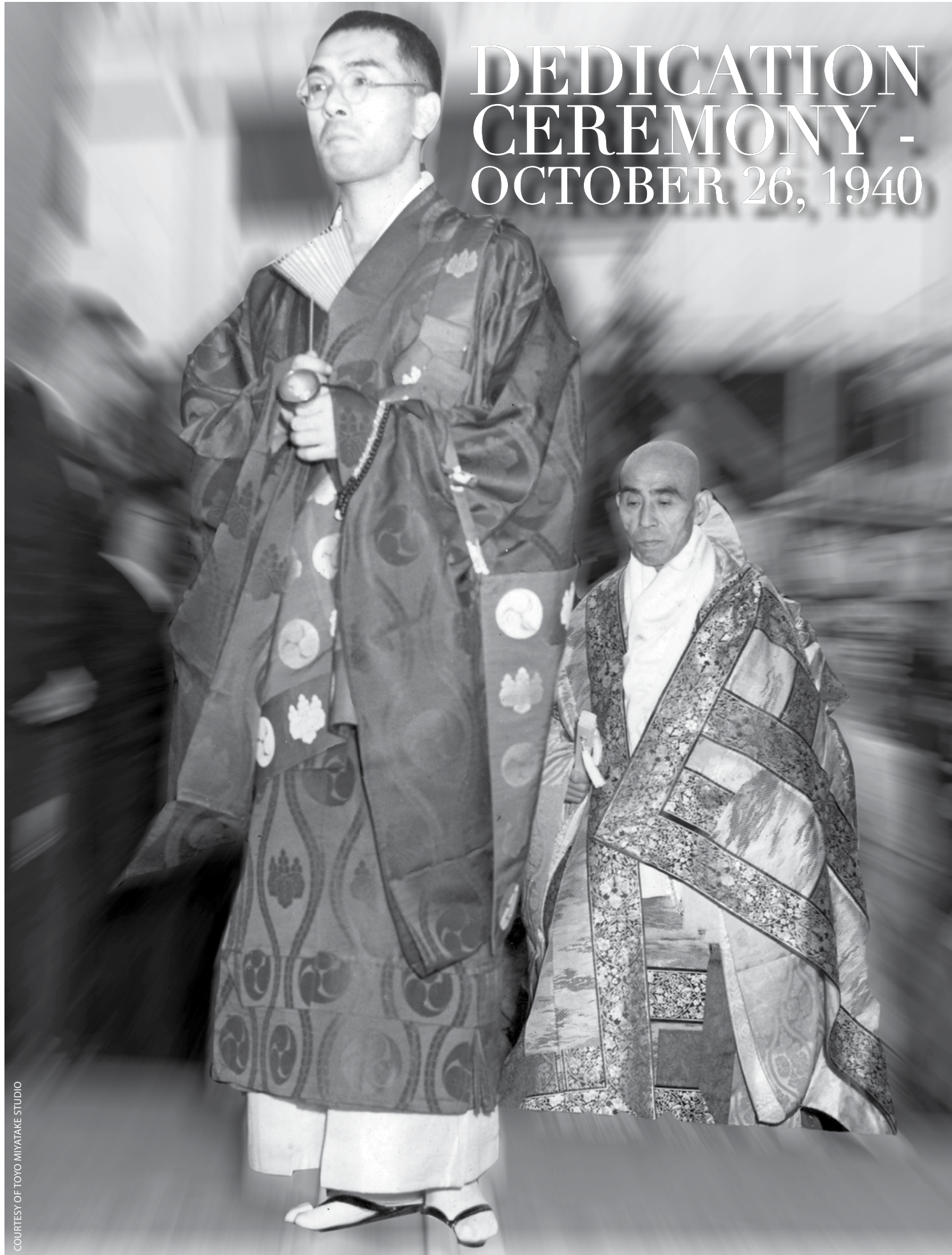
A marker announces the construction site of the new temple to be called Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin.

Construction Completed - August 1940

With the Temple courtyard behind him, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi kneels at the stairs to the entrance of the Temple, resting his hand on an incomplete stone lantern that exists to this day.



DEDICATION CEREMONY - OCTOBER 26, 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Dedication Procession - October 26, 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Vice-Archbishop Jisho Matsubashi of Koyasan Headquarters and Bishop Seytsu Takahashi lead the procession of officials of the congregation through the streets of Little Tokyo.

Dedication Procession - 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Members of the Fujin-kai and other officials of the congregation escort the chigo through First Street.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Vice-Archbishop Jisho Matsubashi approaches the Temple doors.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Leading the procession into the new Temple are Reverend Josen Kawashima and Vice-Archbishop Jisho Matsubashi.

Ministers of the Dedication Service - 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Shozen Yasui, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Bishop Chijo Ohira, Vice-Archbishop Jisho Matsubashi, Bishop Shinmyo Hasu, Reverend Josen Kawashima, Reverend Gikan Kimura.

Dedication Service - 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Officials of the congregation sit on stage as the dedication service commences.

Opening of Koyasan - October 26, 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Evergreen Cemetary Service - 1930's



The congregation, Sunday School students and Troop 379 gather at Evergreen Cemetary in Boyle Heights.

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Shomieku - April 1934



Many children dress as chigo to commemorate Shomieku on March 1934. Bishop Seytsu Takahashi stands in the

center. It is the 1,100th Memorial of the passing of Kobo Daishi who entered eternal Samadhi in the year 835.

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Little Tokyo Parade for the 1,100th Memorial of Kobo Daishi - April 21, 1934



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

A parade is held in honor of the 1,100th Memorial of Kobo Daishi entering into eternal meditation (Shomiekū). Extending as long as one-hundred yards, the procession includes the Boy Scouts, celestial children (chigo), representatives of the Daishi Kyokai and Bishop Seytsu Takahashi.

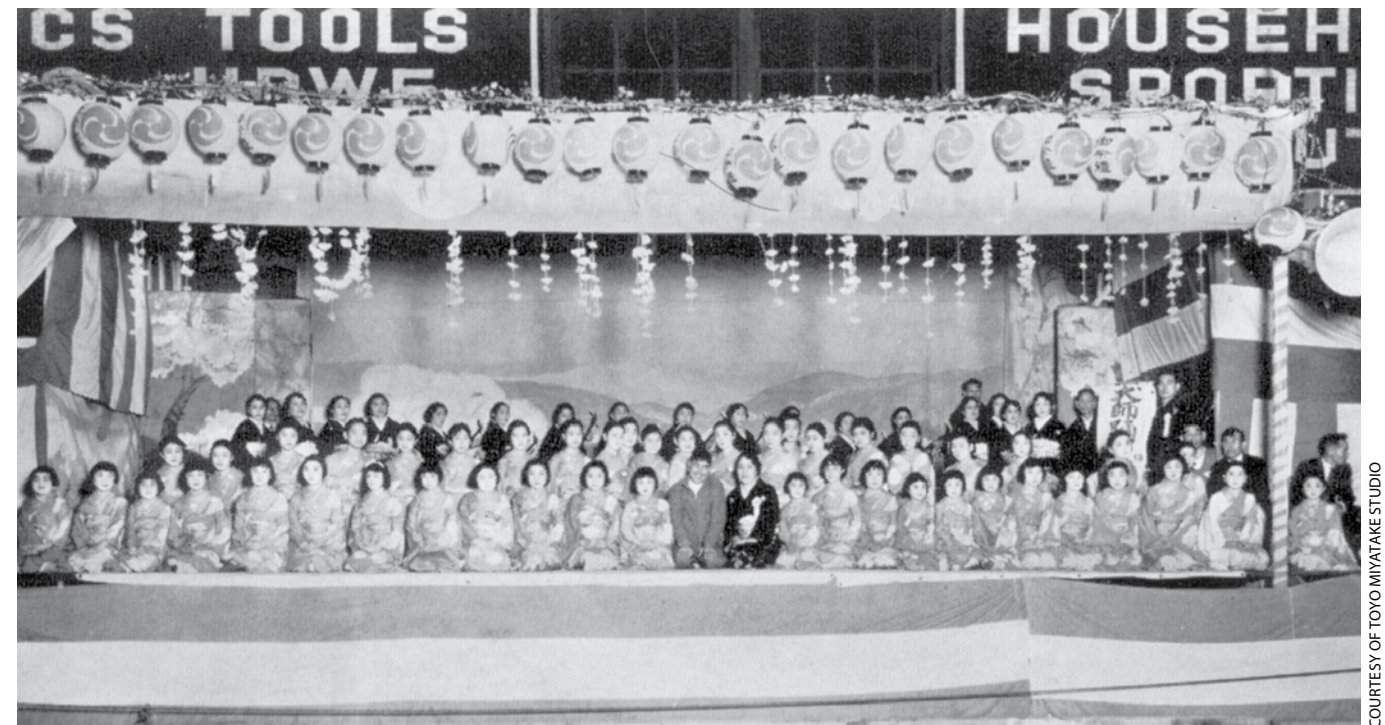
Shomiekū - April 1934



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The commemoration of the 1,100th Memorial of Kobo Daishi entering into eternal meditation continues on into the night. Members dance on Commercial Street with the Daishi Kyokai structure visible on the right.

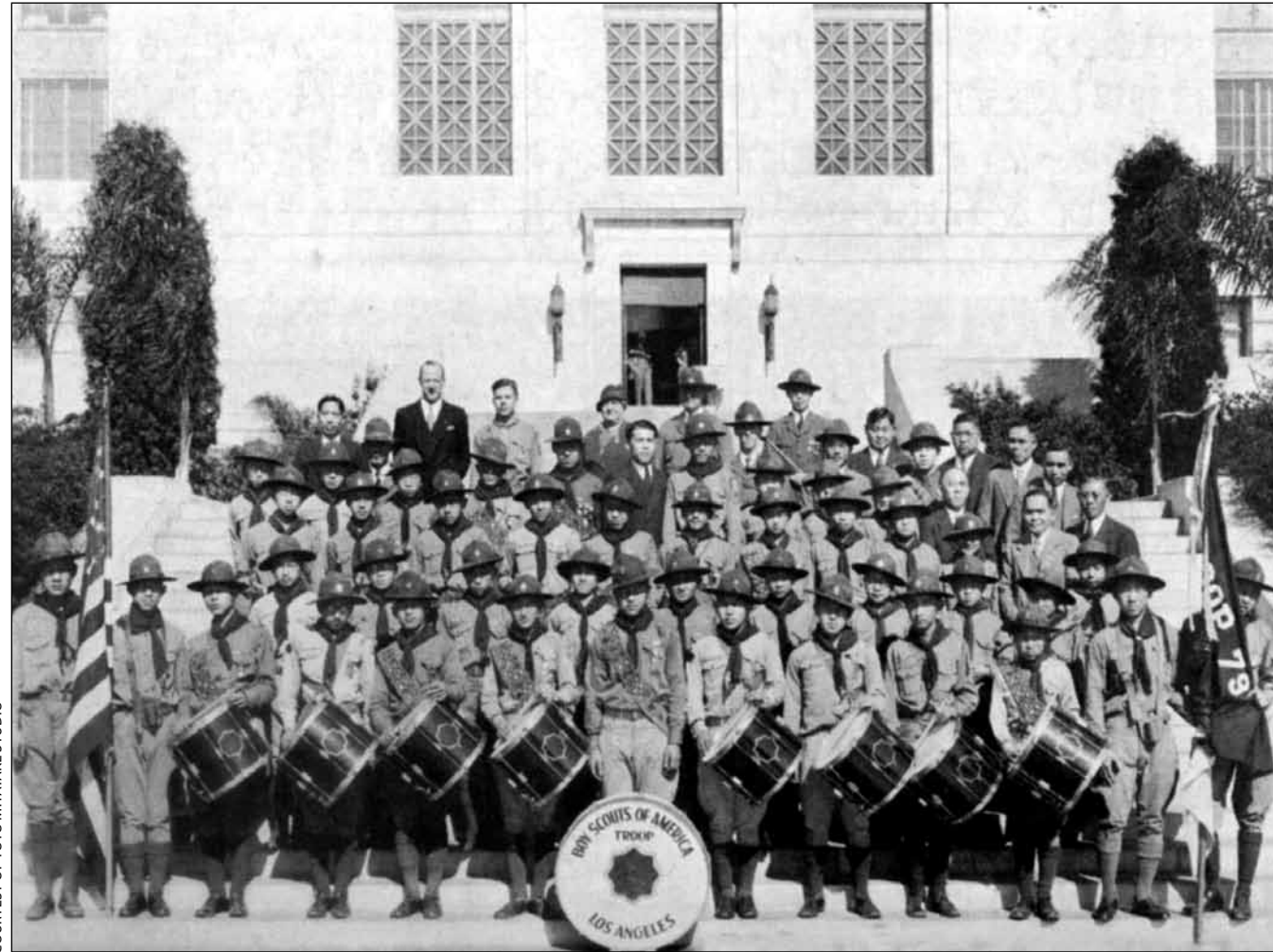
Obon - 1934



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Due to the excitement of Shomiekū in April still lingering, the Obon Festival in July is also a gala celebration. Japanese actor, Shiro Otsuji (center) participates in the festivities.

Ceremony of President Roosevelt Award and the Second Anniversary of Troop 79 Boy Scouts of America - February 11, 1934



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Boy Scout Week 1934 – Troop 79 (later named 379) in front of Los Angeles City Hall, celebrate their second anniversary. The 170-member troop is awarded second place in uniform inspection and wins official commendation from the Boy Scouts of America Headquarters.

Boy Scout Troop 379 - 1937



Troop 379 in front of the Daishi Kyokai on Central Avenue. Top row (L to R): Yoneo Narumi, Hisao Hata, Henry Handa, Asaichi Hieshima. Second row (L to R): Ronnie Sugiyama, Toshio Tosaya, Shigeo Inamura, Takashi Yamada, George Ishihara, Soichi Fukui. Third row (L to R): George Narumi, Fred Narumi, K ei Murakami, Frank Matsuura, Kaname Kawamura, Kiichi Kazahaya. Bottom row: Scout Master Susumu Igauye and Troop Committeeman Jutaro Narumi.

Hoshimatsuri - 1940



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Top row (L to R): Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Shozen Yasui. Bottom row (L to R): Bando Miharu (Japanese dance troop instructor), Yaemon Minami (rice grower), Fujima Kansuma (Japanese dance troop instructor).

Third Year Memorial and Commemorative Service of New Tombstone for Bishop Aoyama - March 24, 1936



On March 24, 1936, at Okuno-in, Mount Koya, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi (seated second from the left) attends the third year memorial service for Bishop Aoyama, which is also a service for his newly erected tombstone. Other high ranking priests, including Bishop Shinko Fujimoto, sitting to the left of Bishop Takahashi, participate in the service.

Sunday School - 1935



Sunday School students in front of the Daishi Kyokai on Central Avenue in 1935. Formed in 1933, the Sunday School program flourishes under the guidance of Bishop Seytsu Takahashi.

Sunday School - Spring 1940



The children and teenagers of Sunday School gather on the front steps of the Daishi Kyokai on Central Avenue.



The Sunday School students hold a fundraiser, selling snow cones, candy and soda.

Daishi Kyokai Junior YWBA - September 1, 1938



Members of the Daishi Kyokai Jr. YWBA (Young Women's Buddhist Association) – Top row (L to R): Yoko Magara, Chiyoko Fujinaka, Miyoko Yoshimura, Yoshiye Mitsumata, Suzuko Tamura, Alice Nakane, Teruko Kiyomura. Bottom row (L to R): Tomiko Inouye, Mary Wada, Michiko Kuriki, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Sachiko Hori, Kazuye Morishita, Minnie Oyama.

379's First Family: The Narumi Family - 1930's

From left, Tatsuo Frederick, Shigekazu August, Yoneo Junior, father Jutaro, and Michio George.



Koyasan Seinen-kai and Shojo-kai - 1941



The Seinen-kai (Young Men's Group), mainly comprised of Kibei-Nisei males and the Shojo-kai (Young Girl's Group),

comprised of Nisei females, is believed to be the predecessor of the Young Buddhist Association.



Visit to Imperial Army Hospital in Nagoya, Japan - 1938



Sachiko Furusawa and the Fujin-kai - 1938

Above: Sachiko Furusawa (far right) leads female members of Koyasan, Miss Kiyomura, Miss Kuriki, and Mrs. Murase, to visit the Imperial army in Japan and China. The visit to Japanese-occupied China is the very first visit ever made by a women's group.

Left: Seen here as a young lady, Sachiko Furusawa is given the nickname, "Auntie of the Imperial Navy (Kaigun no obasan)" in her later years.



Top: From left, Mrs. Murase, Mrs. Furusawa, Miss Kuriki and Miss Kiyomura stand in front of the temporary military hospital in Nagoya. Above: The four ladies from the Temple give support to injured and sick soldiers of the Imperial Army at the hospital.

Welcoming Party for Admiral Osumi, Port of Los Angeles - 1939



Members including the Fujin-kai of the Temple gather at the Port of Los Angeles to greet Admiral Mineo Osumi. Pictured here is Bishop Seytsu Takahashi and Sachiko Furusawa who is holding the Imperial flag of Japan.

Koyasan Trip - April 7, 1933



Tour group in front of the Koyasan Headquarters, Wakayama prefecture. Tomokichi Wada (front row fourth from the right) serves as the tour group leader. Jack Wada stands to the left of his father. Tomokichi Wada was Temple President from 1959 – 1960.

Reverend Sogabe's Wedding - 1941



Reverend Ryosho Sogabe marries Shikako Uyeda in 1941 with Bishop Seytsu Takahashi officiating the ceremony.

First Wedding at Koyasan Buddhist Temple - 1941



In 1941, Kiyomi and Tsuyoshi Akazawa are the first couple to be married after the completion of the temple construction.



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi
1933 - 1982

1942-1951

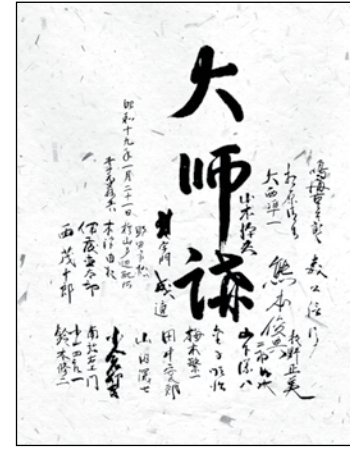
Soon after arriving at the relocation center in Poston, Arizona, in 1942, detainees set about irrigating the dusty desert grounds of the camp and sowing the seeds of flowering plants. In this same spirit, reverent and resourceful Buddhists throughout the far-flung camp system improvised numerous ways to “keep the flame of the Buddha alive” despite the often spartan conditions and unprecedented hardships imposed upon them. Rev. Ryosho Sogabe, charged with the management of the temple after the internment of Bishop Takahashi, saw this quality of stoic endurance and persistence as reflecting a fundamental tenet of the Buddhist faith. In an eloquent correspondence sermon to the Daishiko at the Manzanar Relocation Center, he wrote:

“Regardless of whether it is peacetime or wartime, we must continue to walk along the path of our never-ending life... without

pausing or lagging behind. When one wakes up in the morning, one will find the path of getting up. When one gets up, one will find the path of washing one’s face. Then, one will find the path of eating breakfast. When one receives a letter, one will take the path of writing a reply. This path and this step. All this common path is a path of faith protected by Daishi...”

Ironically, in the midst of darkness, the faith was made to shine ever more brightly: a gift by way of hard affliction, thanks to the grace and wisdom of Kobo Daishi.

Immediately upon returning to Little Tokyo from the relocation centers, temple members found a way to express their deep gratitude for this gift and indeed share it with others. People’s former homes had been rented to new families during the years of internment and so residents returned to face a severe housing shortage. The temple opened its doors to this displaced group, acting as a hostel and an indispensable source of security and community in a chaotic and confusing post-war world.



1945

- Reverend Ryosho Sogabe returns to the Temple from Poston (Arizona) relocation center. The Temple serves as temporary shelter for returning members from the relocation centers.

1947

- 35th Anniversary of the Temple is celebrated.

1948

- Young Buddhist Association (YBA) stages the first carnival in Little Tokyo under the guidance of Reverend Ryocho Matsuda.
- YBA organizes a talent show to raise funds for the Anti-Tuberculosis Association.



1942-1951

1942

- The Temple closes and is entrusted to the care of Cadillacz Insurance Company due to the forced evacuation of the Japanese by the U.S. government. Most Temple members are incarcerated.

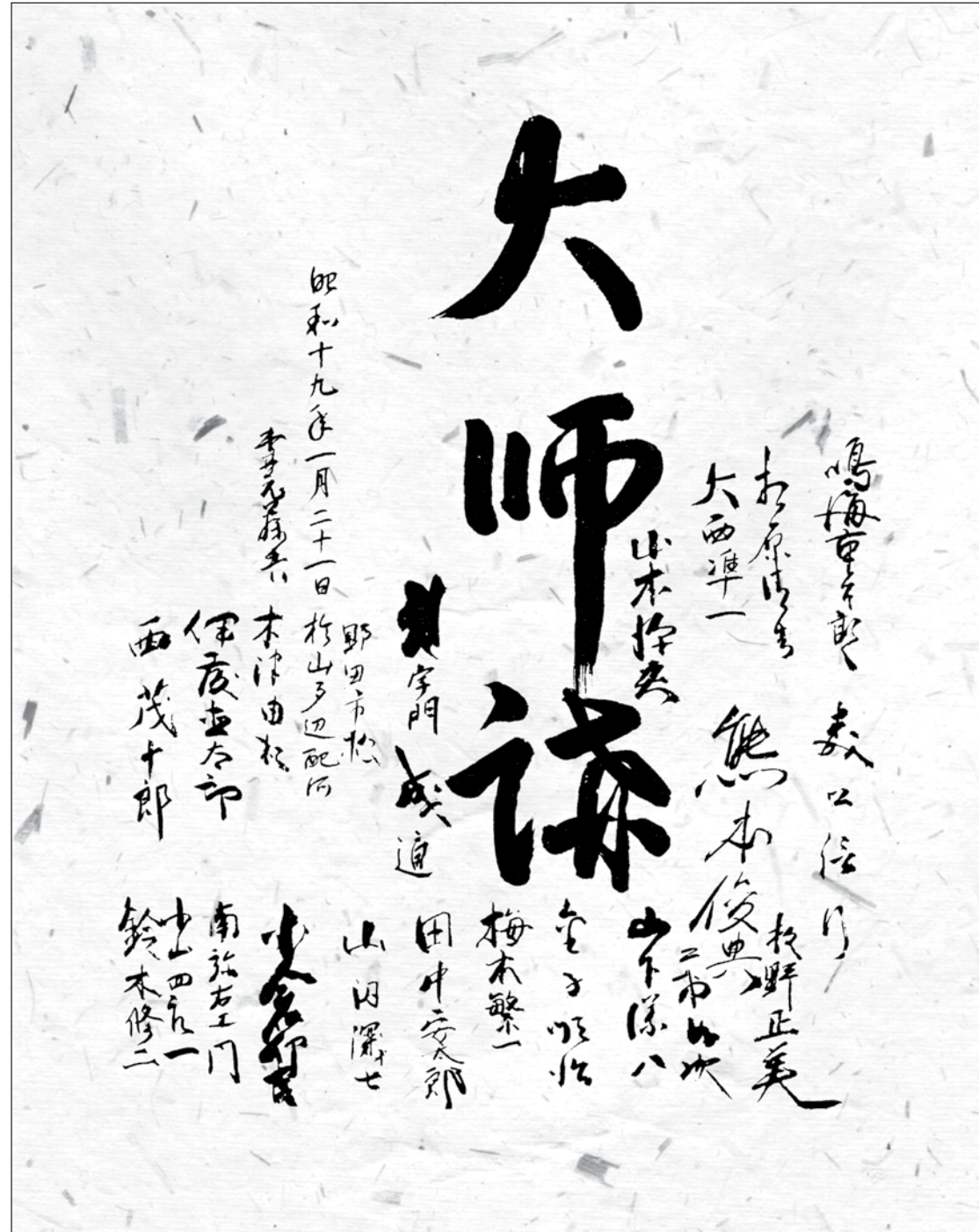
1951

- Bishop Seytsu Takahashi is promoted to the rank of Gon-Daisojo (Vice Arch-Bishop).
- Recruitment of graduates from the Koyasan University, Japan, to serve as ministers at the Temple begins with Reverend Seisho Yoshito Hakeda being the first.

1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951

Daishiko - Santa Fe, New Mexico
Internment Camp - January 21, 1944

Obon - 1948



Signature of Koyasan members who attend the Daishiko at the Federal internment camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Among the signatures are Bishop Seytsu Takahashi and past Temple presidents, Jutaro Narumi and Junichi Onishi.



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi conducts Obon Service at Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights in July 1948.

YBA Girls Cabinet Installation - 1949



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIOS

Members of the YBA Girls are introduced and installed as officers of the cabinet at the second floor chapel.

Sunday School Teachers - 1949



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Yoshiye Yamane, Sachiko Yokota, Yae Aihara, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Kiyoko Kanno, Toshie Okamoto, Shigeko Yokota.

May Dance - 1949



On May 13, 1949, the Temple sponsors a dance with the Nisei Serenaders performing.

Fujin-kai with Actress Kinuyo Tanaka - 1948



Considered one of the top five actresses of Japanese cinema, Kinuyo Tanaka (center) with Sachiko Furusawa (left), Shima Kazahaya (right) and other Fujin-kai members prepare post-war care packages for the less fortunate in Japan.



Kinuyo Tanaka with the Fujin-kai at Evergreen Cemetery.

Boy Scout Troop 379 Reunion - November 12, 1950



The Boy Scouts of Troop 379 have their 19th Reunion on November 12, 1950. In the early 1950's with the trauma

caused by World War II subsiding, Little Tokyo begins to thrive. Troop 379 sees an influx of new recruits and

many Scouts earn their Eagle Scout rank.

Torazo Performance - December 8, 1950



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Famous Naniwa Bushi performer, Torazo Hirozawa, gives a concert at Koyasan Hall in 1950.

Nisei Veteran's Appreciation Dinner - February 25, 1950



The Temple often sponsors Japanese-American community events during the 1950's with the Nisei Veteran's Appreciation Dinner, held in 1950, being just one example.



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi
1933 - 1982

1952-1961

For people all over the world, the immediate post-war years were a period of taking stock, adjusting to new realities, and preparing for a new era. So it was with our Temple.

In this regard, 1952 was a particularly important year. The signing of the Treaty of Peace with Japan, officially ending the war, and the passage of a bill allowing for the naturalization of many Japanese nationals who had resided in the U.S. for years provided profound practical and emotional relief to a population that had been living under various clouds of uncertainty and hardship since the end of the war. The Temple was now free to contemplate its past and future with a new degree of security and confidence:

“Now that the Temple has gone through the three major stages of the pioneer, preparation, and completion periods, the new goal is to further insure the Temple through the maintenance of good manage-

ment... In this respect we earnestly desire to establish a firm management policy with the new generations of Nisei and Sansei in mind so that we can make a long-range plan for the future drive of the Temple missions.” [from a prospectus drawn up by a Temple committee for raising funds for the Kihonkin]

The revival of the temple-sponsored Koyasan Carnival in 1955 was symbolic of the gradual passing of the torch from Issei to Nisei in this period. Board members voted to allow members of the Young Adult Association to take the lead in the organization of the event and its success was a boon to the Temple’s strapped finances. Equally important, it served to bring the generations within the Temple closer together and to demonstrate the readiness of its Nisei members to assume the mantle of leadership.

1952

- 40th Anniversary of the Temple is celebrated with the Shomieiku service.



1953

- Japanese Language School opens under the direction of Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.



1955

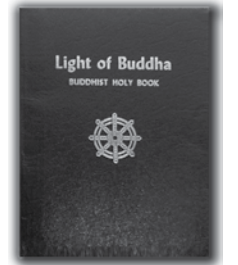
- First annual Koyasan Carnival is organized.

1959

- First Goeika presentation is held.

1960

- The Light of Buddha, a Buddhist Sunday School Service book, is published.



1952-1961

1954

- Harbor Koyasan Church, a new branch of the Temple, is completed. Honzon enshrining ceremony is conducted by Bishop Iwo Iwamoto for the dedication of the Harbor Koyasan Church and the Japanese Language School.

1961

- The stone Kannon statue is donated in commemoration of the 100th Japan-US Friendship Agreement.

1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961

Meeting with Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron - 1950's



Reverend Ryosho Sogabe and members of the Cabinet meet with Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron. In all likelihood, the purpose of the meeting is to receive permission from the Mayor to hold some sort of public event at the Temple.

Visit by Crown Prince Akihito - September 1953



Crown Prince Akihito attends a memorial service at Evergreen Cemetery. Sachiko Furusawa (foreground) pays her respect to the Crown Prince.

Prince Mikasa at LAX - July 8, 1958



Satoko Kazahaya (former Fujin-kai President), Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, and Fujin-kai President Hiro Nishi greet Prince Mikasa, a member of the Imperial House of Japan, and his wife, Yuriko, at Los Angeles International Airport.

Fujin-kai with Miss Japan/Fess Parker - 1958



Fujin-kai members meet Fess Parker, the star of the television show, "Daniel Boone," and Kyoko Otani, Miss Japan of 1957.

Fujin-kai - 1950's



Members of the Fujin-kai in the mid 1950's.

Oseibo Taikai - 1956



The Sunday School children put on a program of performances: Skits about the birth of Sakaymuni Buddha, the Buddhist songs such as Iroha Uta and When We See the Golden Sun; and the recitation of the Golden Chain.

Visit of Abbot Wada and Bishop Nakagawa - September 21, 1952



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Abbot Shokai Wada (sitting top center) and Bishop Zenkyo Nakagawa of Shinnoin Temple in Wakayama Prefecture participate in the fall Ohigan Service.



Eagle Scout Award - 1953

Edward Takahashi earns the Eagle Scout award, the highest achievement in scouting.

Goeika Taikai - October 25, 1959



Reverend Taisen Miyata sits to the left. The participants chant "Namu Daishi Henjo Kongo" before they begin the Goeika Taikai held for the first time in 1959. Although the format has changed, the Goeika Taikai continues to be held every year, presently in the month of November. November 2012 will mark the Taikai's 53rd year.

Goeika Taikai - October 29, 1961



From left, Kuichiro Nishi, Nobuyuki Moriguchi, Tomokichi Wada, Katsuichi Kazahaya, Tsuruhiko Abe, Shigeko Kariyama, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Shozui Togano, Reverend Shunyu Asahi, Reverend Shunshin Iseki, Reverend Suen Tanjo, Reverend Keiryō Mizuno.



Goeika group from Sacramento.



San Jose Daishiko Goeika group.

Goeika Taikai - October 29, 1961



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Pictured here are members of the Long Beach Daishiko group. Through the years, the groups from Sawtelle Daishiko, Harbor City Daishiko, Los Angeles Daishiko, San Jose Daishiko and Sacramento perform at the Goeika Taikai.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Once all of the performances are completed, a closing ceremony takes place on the stage where each group is recognized by receiving certificates and trophies. Seen here are members of the Sawtelle Daishiko group.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Harbor City Daishiko Goeika group.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Sawtelle Daishiko Goeika group.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The San Jose Daishiko Goeika group.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Goeika group from Sacramento.

YBA Installation - 1956



Both gentlemen and ladies of the YBA are installed as officers of the large group. By the time of the 50th Anniversary in 1962, this YBA group becomes known as the Sonen-kai (Young Adult Association).

Ministers - 1955 and 1961



1955 - From left, Reverend Shunsho Terakawa, Reverend Seisho Hakeda, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Shinsho Hasu, Reverend Shoun Ishikawa.



1961 - From left, Reverend Shunshin Iseki, Reverend Suen Tanjo, Reverend Shinsho Hasu, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Shunsho Terakawa, Reverend Chisei Uragami, Reverend Taisen Miyata.

Koyasan Ministers - 1958



From left, Reverend Shoun Ishikawa, Reverend Shunsho Terakawa, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Shinsho Hasu, Reverend Shozui Togano.



From left, Reverend Suen Tanjo, Reverend Kendo Kimura, Reverend Shunsho Terakawa, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Shinsho Hasu, Reverend Shozui Togano, Reverend Taisen Miyata.

Koyasan Ministers - 1954 through 1958



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi and Bishop Ryosho Sogabe.



Reverend Shunsho Terakawa (far right) at San Juan Capistrano.



Wedding photo of Reverend Shunsho Hasu and Cecilia Akaeda, 1958.



Reverend Seisho Hakeda.



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi
1933-1982

1962-1971

The year 1962 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Koyasan Buddhist Temple. The occasion was celebrated with two weeks of festivities highlighted by a grand ceremony at which Bishop Takahashi officiated. Joining him in those solemn duties were the temple's three resident ministers, six Shingon ministers from other American temples, and several priests from the Los Angeles Buddhist Church Federation. The services were followed by Goeika and the burning of incense, a statement of "Keisanmon", prayers for the departed, and a ceremony of commendation in which many members of the Temple were honored for outstanding service. Various messages of congratulation were read aloud. Rev. Seisho Hakeda, Professor of Religion and East Asian Languages and Culture, Columbia University, rounded off the day's program with a special sermon in which he honored the Issei pioneers

and exhorted the new generation to emulate their hard work and admirable sense of duty.

Professor Hakeda was himself an exemplary representative of the new breed of American Koyasan ministers whose facility with English and impressive academic achievements filled the founding generation with confidence in the continued success of Bishop Aoyama's original mission. Rev. Hakeda had already earned his doctorate at Yale University and others, like Rev. Shunsho Terakawa, Rev. Shozui Togano, and Rev. Taisen Miyata, were likewise pursuing advanced degrees at respected institutions. Thus, the 50th anniversary celebration was both a joyful commemoration of the Temple's past success and an extremely satisfying and reassuring glimpse of a bright future.



1965

- Memorial service commemorating the 1,150th year of the founding of Mount Koya is held.

1970

- First Jiho newsletter is published.

1962-1971

1962

- 50th Anniversary of the Temple is celebrated.
- After twenty-five years, Boy Scout Troop 379 goes on a second Goodwill tour of Japan.



1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971

50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF KOYASAN
BEIKOKU BETSUIN, 1912-1962

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

50th Anniversary - December 1962



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Reverend Hiroyuki Kawashima, Reverend Suen Tanjo, Reverend Shozui Togano, Reverend Seisho Hakeda, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Shunyu Asahi, Reverend Shunshin Iseki.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Reverend Keiryō Mizuno leads the procession into the Temple. To the left are Reverend Ryosho Sogabe and Reverend Shunshin Iseki. Behind are Temple President Tsuruhiko Abe (left) and Sodai Katsuichi Kazahaya (right).

50th Anniversary Service



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

With the assistance of the LABCF ministers on the left and Koyasan ministers on the right, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi leads the Sange Ritual.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Sunday School children offer incense at the 50th Anniversary.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Goeika group performs during the service.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Members of the Sonen-kai in line to offer incense.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Incense offering by teenage members of the Temple.

50th Anniversary Service



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Reverend Seisho Hakeda and Bishop Seytsu Takahashi.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Sodai representatives are honored for their contribution to the Temple.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Jack Wada is commended as the President of the Sonen-kai.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Fujin-kai Advisor honorees.



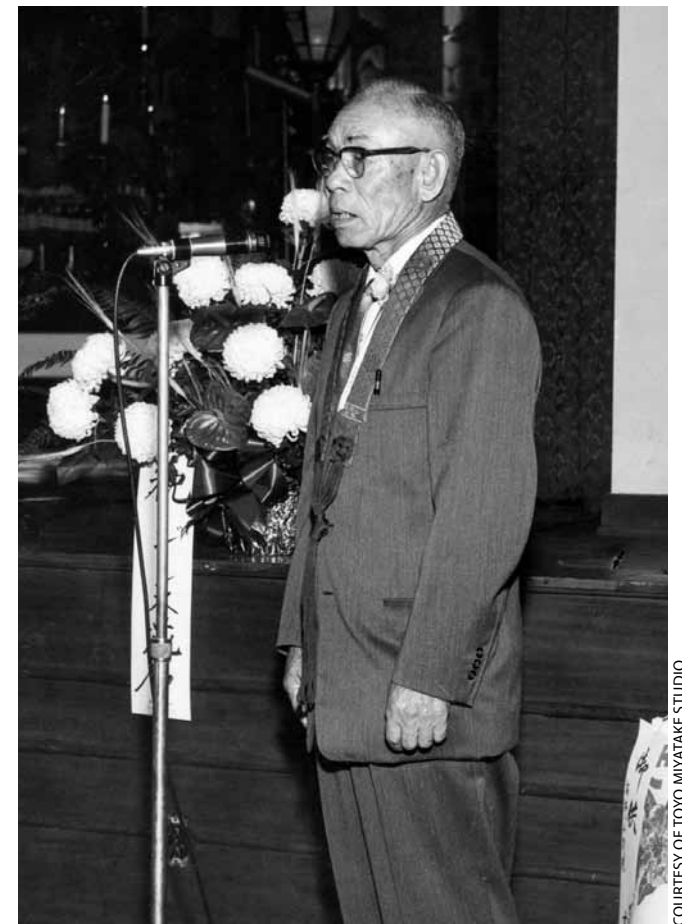
COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Harbor City Koyasan Church honorees.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Betsuin Sunday School Teacher honorees.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Temple President and Anniversary Committee Chairman, Tsuruhiko Abe.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Kakuo Tanaka, future Temple President from 1965 to 1974, addresses the congregation.

50th Anniversary Banquet - 1962



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Issei pioneer leaders of the Temple are honored at the 50th Anniversary banquet held at Restaurant Raffle.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Mitsuye Sadamitsu, Suzue Takahashi, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Tom Oki.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Peggy Wada and Yutaka Sadamitsu honor Mr. and Mrs. Katsuichi Kazahaya.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Members of the Sonen-kai at the banquet.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Shoji Kanogawa, Yasuko Yamagami, Yoshio Kato, Imaharu Yoshimura, Kiyoko Watanabe, Suzie Oki, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Jack Wada, Reverend Shunshin Iseki, Reverend Shinsho Hasu, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Hiroyuki Kawashima.

50th Anniversary



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Jack Wada, Reverend Seisho Hakeda, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Sachiko Hakeda, Yae Aihara

50th Anniversary - Sonen-kai



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Sonen-kai (YAA) evolves into the group now known as the ABA (Adult Buddhist Association).



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

50th Anniversary Boy Scout Troop 379

The Boy Scouts are on hand to post colors at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Fall Ohigan Lantern Dedication - 1966

Shomieku - 1965



Bishop Zenko Kusanagi of Mount Koya's Sanhoin arrives for the lantern dedication ceremony. He holds one of the highest positions serving as the Chief of Religious Affairs for the Headquarters.

Kyogi Nagashi - 1965

To guide the spirits of the departed back to the other world, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi (kneeling), Reverend Keiryō Mizuno and Reverend Ryosho Sogabe burn kyogi (wooden tablets) with names of the deceased at Seal Beach.



June 1965 is the 1,150th year of the founding of Mount Koya. A special Shomieku ceremony is held to commemorate this event.



Cabinet members and ministers in procession to enter the Temple.



Kakuo Tanaka, Temple President, leads the procession of Cabinet members.

Hoshimatsuri - 1968 through 1971

1968



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1969



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1970



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Several former Nisei Week Queens including actress Helen Funai and prominent people from the Japanese-American community participate in the Hoshimatsuri service from 1968 through 1970.

Hoshimatsuri - 1971



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

A common ritual of Hoshimatsuri is to toss the fuku-mame (lucky beans) by a Japanese-American celebrity and toshi-otoko, a man born in the Chinese zodiac year. Additionally, the congregation is treated to the fuku-mame distributed by the participating celebrity and toshi-otoko.

Goeika Taikai - November 1970



Reverend Ekan Ikeguchi performs a buyo dance during the Goeika Taikai.

Oseibo Taikai - December 1970



Children of Sunday School give various performances during the Oseibo Taikai.

Boy Scout Troop 379 Honors Scoutmaster - 1969



Troop 379 show appreciation to Shoichi Sayano (center) for his ten years as Scoutmaster from 1959 - 1969.



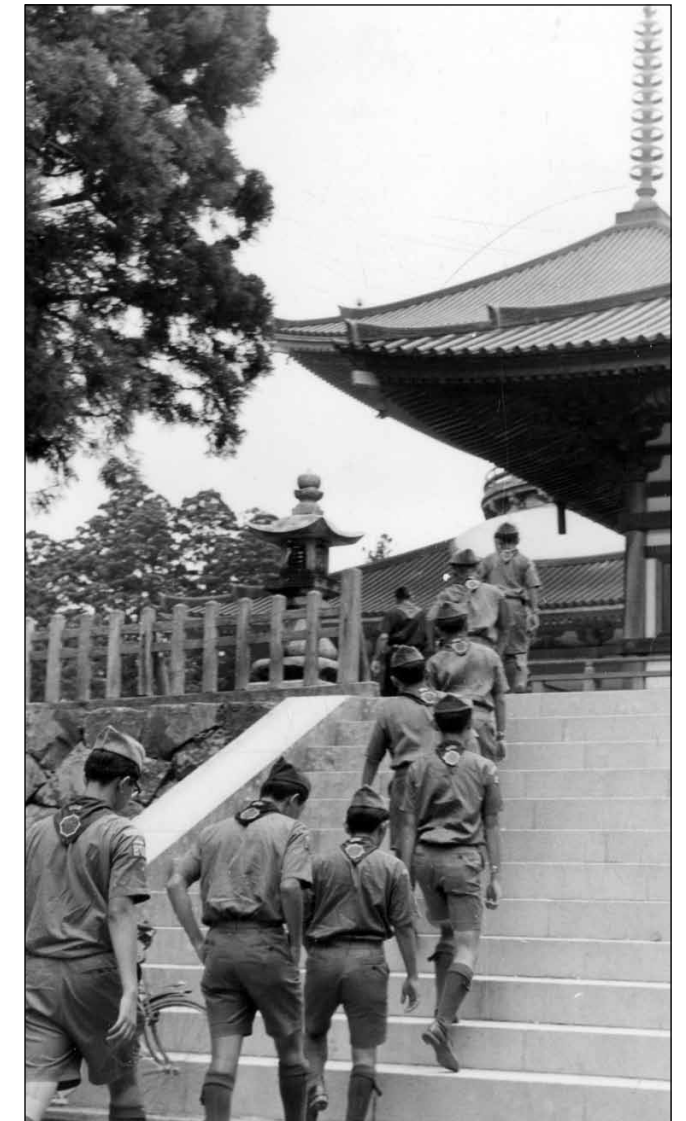
Cub Scout Troop 379 Halloween Party - October 10, 1963

Two Cub Scouts show off their trophies and prizes won in a contest at the Halloween party.

Boy Scouts Goodwill Tour of Japan - 1962



Scoutmaster Ronnie Sugiyama (left), one of the first Boy Scouts to go to Japan in 1937, visits the country again for the first Asian Jamboree.



Troop 379 participate in the Asian Jamboree near Gotemba, Shizuoka. In addition, the troop make a guest appearance on NHK television, and perform at the opening ceremonies of the Koshien Baseball Championships before 60,000 people



From July 31 to August 21, the Boy Scouts travel through cities such as Tokyo, Kamakura, Nagoya, Osaka and Hiroshima.

Fujin-kai Travels To Sacramento - 1962



Fujin-kai members and their spouses stand in front of the State Capitol Building in Sacramento. Bus tours to cities such as Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Fresno and Las Vegas become a Fujin-kai tradition and last for several years.

Fujin-kai Trip - May 1963

The Fujin-kai takes a bus trip up north in 1963. Reverend Ryosho Sogabe (third from the left in front) is part of the group.



Fujin-kai Installation - 1965



In 1965, Kamiye Taenaka is elected to serve as Fujin-kai President.

Cabinet - 1966



Kakuo Tanaka (second from left in front) in his second year as Temple President.

Junior YBA Installation - 1967



Banquet for the Jr. YBA installation. Kiyoko Onishi (on left) acts as advisor to the group, while Reverend Taisen Miyata serves a religious advisor.



Newly elected officers after the installation ceremony. A young Ken Fujimoto stands next to Reverend Taisen Miyata.

Some of the other elected officers are Wendy Aihara and Emi Sadamitsu (both on right).



Junior YBA Hawaii Conference - 1968



Top row (L to R): Steve Kato, Yuki Yoneda, Naomi Katayama, Eddie Ogawa, Irene Kato, Emi Sadamitsu, Don Yamagami, Robin Yoneda, Wendy Aihara, Susan Noritake. Bottom row (L to R): Helen Takata, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Janie Sogabe, Janice Nii, Barbara Amimoto.



Left: The members of the Jr. YBA enjoy a dinner banquet in Waikiki, Hawaii.

Koyasan Carnival - 1962 through 1965



The ladies of the Sonen-kai help with food booths selling hamburgers, tacos, and teriyaki BBQ chicken.



Members of the Sonen-kai show off their handiwork heralding the weekend carnival.



The grand prize winner of the raffle tickets wins a round-trip ticket to Japan donated by Asia Travel Bureau.



1965 - A young Leonard Narumi with Usaburo Amimoto.



1965 - Reverend Ryosho Sogabe shows off a prize he won playing a game at the carnival.

Ministers - 1965 through 1970



1967 – From left, Reverend Kosho Shono, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Shozui Togano, Reverend Shoko Horisaka, Reverend Keiryō Mizuno.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Reverend Hiroyuki Kawashima, 1965.

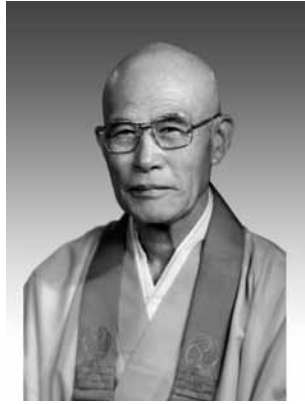


1970 – From left, Reverend Shozui Togano, Reverend Shunsho Terakawa, Reverend Seisho Hakeda, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Kosho Shono, Reverend Eishun Shigetoshi.

Reverend Terakawa's Wedding Reception - 1962



Standing from left, Katsuichi Kazahaya, Satoko Kazahaya, Reverend Shunsho Terakawa, Chiyeo Terakawa, Nobuyuki Moriguchi, Tomie Moriguchi. Bishop Kenko Yamashita and his wife, Shizue, of Zenshuji in foreground.



Bishop Seytsu Takahashi
1933-1982

1972-1981

In 1971 Mrs. Shigechiyo Ishii, at the time the owner of a well-known Little Tokyo restaurant, Tokyo Gardens, was inspired to undertake the Shikoku Henro – the 1,500 kilometer pilgrimage to 88 temples on the island of Shikoku. It is Japan’s oldest pilgrimage, dating back to the 8th century, and it offers believers the opportunity to enrich their faith by walking in the footsteps of Kobo-Daishi, to experience Dogyo Ninin: the sense of “two walking together” with him.

The “Walk of Life” (as it is popularly known) attracts 100,000 - 150,000 pilgrims a year. Mrs. Ishii was among the countless number of them for whom the experience strikes with the impact of a life-changing event. Feeling profoundly moved and enlightened, she approached Bishop Takahashi on her return from Shikoku with a desire to make a donation to the temple. As the wooden sign outside the

temple, reading “Koyasan Buddhist Temple” in English, was weathered and somewhat worn at that time, it was agreed that a replacement for it would be most appreciated.

The new sign, in Japanese and with calligraphy modeled after Kobo-Daishi’s own writing, was dedicated on June 3, 1973, at a ceremony celebrating the 1,200th anniversary of the birth of Kobo Daishi. It was thus both a gift to the temple and a gesture of gratitude to Kukai.

Seen as a symbol of Generosity – the first of the Six Paramitas – the sign is a reminder of our faith’s promise that we can each of us “become buddhas ourselves, and perfect the Bodhisattva practices and the skillful means for benefitting others.”

1972

- Koyasan celebrates its 60th Anniversary in October.



1978

- New kawara roof tiles donated by Temple members are installed.



1979

- Bishop Seytsu Takahashi leaves for Japan to become 482nd Hoin.

1972-1981

1973

- Installation of nameboard above the main entrance, donated by Shigechiyo Ishii. The characters, “Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin” are the calligraphy of Kobo Daishi.

1977

- Japanese pop group, Four Leaves, managed by Johnny Kitagawa, son of Bishop Taido Kitagawa, gives a concert at Koyasan Hall.



1980

- Shichi-Go-San Special Service becomes an annual event.

1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOYASAN BEIKOKU, 1912-1972 BETSUIN, 1912-1972



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

60th Anniversary - 1972



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The Goeika group performs a hymn as ministers enter the hall.

60th Anniversary Service



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Procession of ministers into the Temple.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Ministers chant Teisan before the altar.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Bishop Seytsu Takahashi.

60th Anniversary - 80 Year Old Awardees



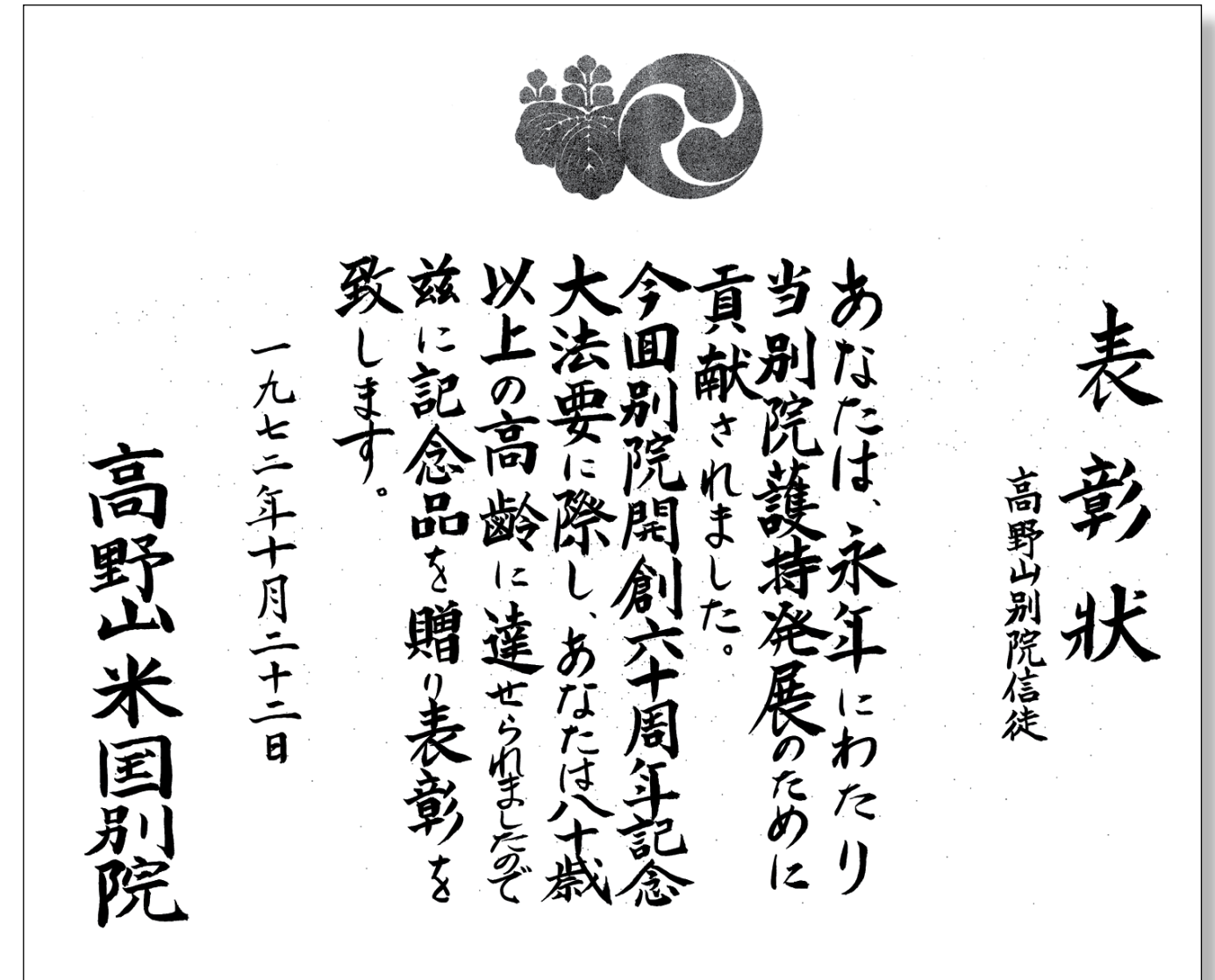
COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Top: Members who are 80 years and older receive certificates for their contribution to the Temple. Bottom: The recipients of the certificates are acknowledged before the congregation as part of the 60th Anniversary Service.

60th Anniversary Certificate - 1972



Certificate of Commendation: For many years, you have contributed to the maintenance and development of the Betsuin. Because you have reached or surpassed the advanced age of 80 years on this special occasion of the 60th Anniversary Service of the Betsuin, we pay tribute by bestowing a memento of appreciation to you. October 22, 1972, Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin.

60th Anniversary - 1972



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Top row (L to R): Reverend Keiryō Mizuno, Reverend Shunshō Terakawa, Reverend Eishun Shigetoshi, Reverend Shunyu Asahi, Reverend Junkun Imamura. Bottom row (L to R): Rimban Horyu Ito of Higashi Honganji, Reverend Chiko Inouye, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Taisen Miyata.

Goeika Taikai - October 22, 1972



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Performing a goeika hymn from left, Tetsujiro Murakami, Takao Kawashima, Reverend Junkun Imamura, Reverend Taisen Miyata.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The group of eight seen above is one of several groups that participate in the Goeika Taikai.

1,200th Commemorative Anniversary of Kobo



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Daishi's Birth, Aobamatsuri - June 1973



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

After the procession travels through Little Tokyo, it makes its way into the Temple courtyard as the Boy Scouts Troop 379 performs.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The unveiling of the new nameboard: Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin.

Aobamatsuri - June 1973



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Commemorating the 1,200th birthday of Kukai, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi bathes a miniature statue of Kukai as an infant with sweet tea, a ritual known as kanmoku in Japanese.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Temple members pay homage to Kobo Daishi by offering sweet tea on the 1,200th Commemorative Anniversary of his birth.

Aobamatsuri - June 1973



Donor of the new Temple nameboard, Shigechiyo Ishii, with Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Akira Akagi and her grandchildren.



From left, Yutaka Sadamitsu, Temple President Kakuo Tanaka, Reverend Keiryō Mizuno, Bishop Kenko Yamashita (Zenshūji), Reverend Ryoshō Sogabe, Tom Yamada (umbrella), Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Shigechiyo Ishii, Akira Akagi, Ishii grandson and granddaughter, Reverend Shōzui Togano, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Junkun Imamura, Fujin-kai President Shigeko Mikami, Imaharu Yoshimura.

Hoshimatsuri - 1972 through 1976



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1972 - Bishop Seytsu Takahashi performs the Goma Fire Ritual at the Hoshimatsuri Service.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1973 - Bishop Seytsu Takahashi and 1972 Nisei Week Queen Carol Lynn Matsunaga distribute fuku mame to the congregation.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1974 - From left, Kenjiro Ito, Kiichi Kazahaya, Toshi otoko of 1974, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, 1973 Nisei Week Queen Cheryl Kawakami, Temple President Kakuo Tanaka, Fujin-kai President Shigeko Mikami, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1975 - From left, Fujin-kai President Kimiko Igaue, Toshi otoko of 1975, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, 1974 Nisei Week Queen Eliza Akemi Cuthbert, Temple President Buichi Watanabe, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1976 - From left, Toshi otoko of 1976, 1975 Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Fujin-kai President Kimiko Igaue, Temple President Buichi Watanabe.

Hanamatsuri Posters - 1972



The children of Sunday School proudly display their Hanamatsuri artwork. Posters were submitted for the annual Hanamatsuri poster contest by children from various temples that belong to the LACBF.

Hanamatsuri Award - 1975



Kenneth Ito (11 years old) receives the top award for his artwork shown on the right, at the Hanamatsuri LACBF service in Elysian Park. From left, Bishop Kenko Yamashita of Zenshuji, Kenneth Ito, Fumie Ito, Reverend Junkun Imamura.



Banmi Shofu Ryu Flower Arrangement Commemoration - 1975



On New Years Day, Satoko Kazahaya (center) commemorates her 35th Anniversary of Banmi Shofu Ryu, a style of flower arrangement (Ikebana). Joining the celebration are from left, Temple President Kakuo Tanaka, Reverend Junkun Imamura, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Kiichi Kazahaya, Masako Kazahaya, Miyuki Miyake, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.

Aobamatsuri - 1978



To commemorate the 1,205th year of Kobo Daishi's birth, delegates from Koyasan headquarters visit the Temple to participate in a special Aobamatsuri Service.

Sangha Award Ceremony - April 1972



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

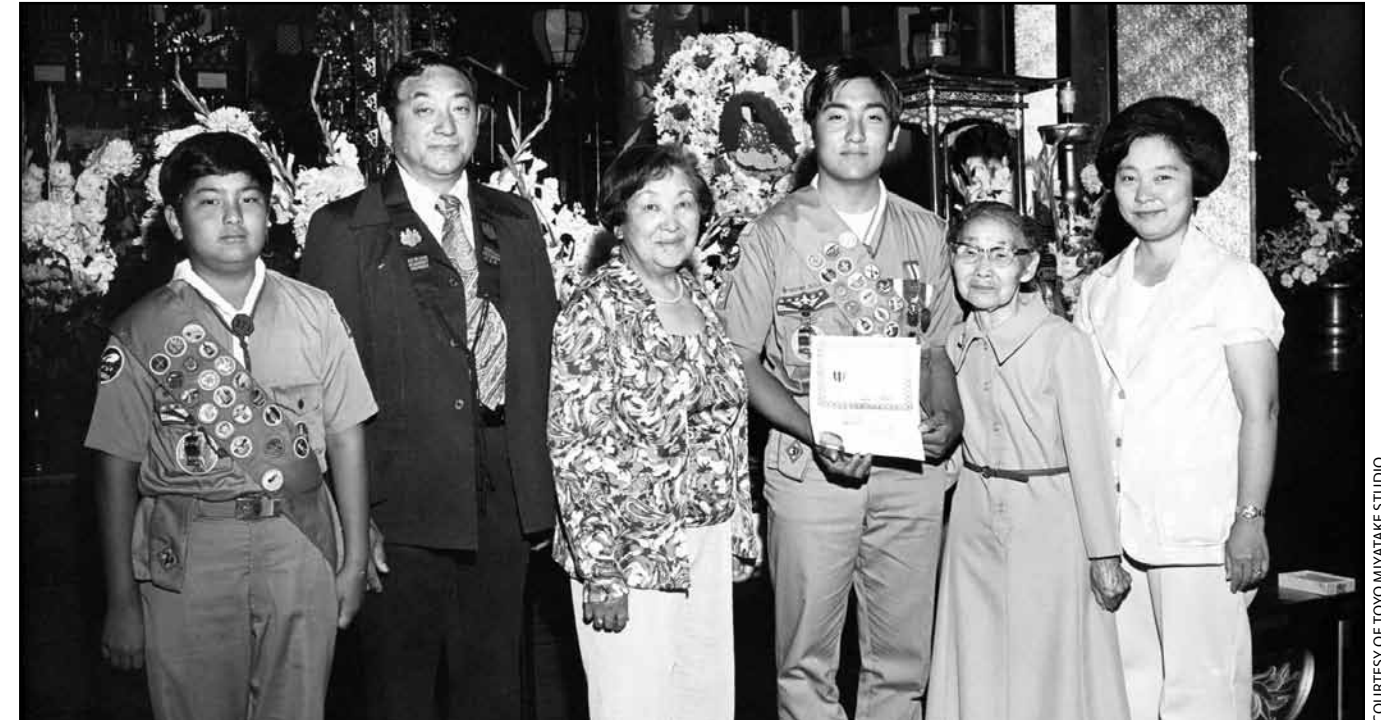
Top row (L to R): Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Masanori Fujimoto, Mark Sadamitsu, Glenn Onishi, Ken Fujimoto, Reverend Taisen Miyata. Bottom row (L to R): Leonard Narumi, Fred Narumi, Fred Sumi.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

From left, Boy Scouts Fred Narumi, Leonard Narumi and Fred Sumi receive their Sangha Awards during a ceremony conducted by Bishop Seytsu Takahashi.

Sangha Award Ceremony - 1976 and 1980



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

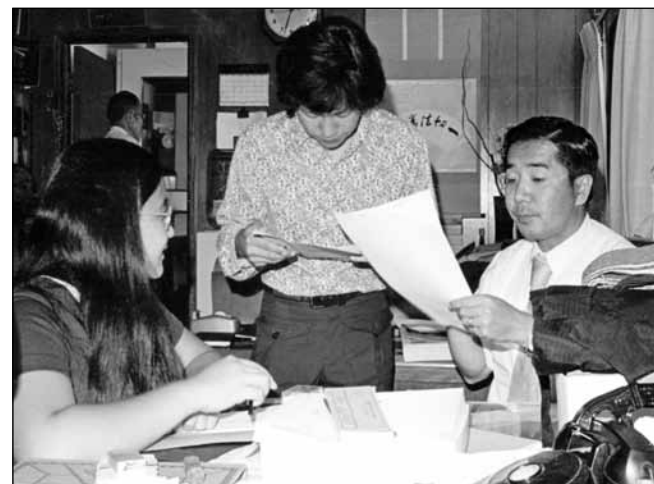
1976 - Richard Narumi proudly shows his Sangha Award. Surrounding him is his family from left, younger brother Robert, father Michio Narumi, grandmother Yoneko Narumi, grandmother Tou Omori, mother Beverly Narumi.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1980 - Having completed Sunday morning Dharma class, Boy Scout Robert Narumi receives the Sangha Award, while Kenneth Ito receives the Dharma award.

Junior YBA Conference at Koyasan - August 1973



In the summer of 1973, the Koyasan Jr. YBA sponsors the Jr. YBA Conference. It takes a year planning by the members, with help from the ministers and advising parents, to prepare for the gala event. This conference is both religious and social for the teenagers of all Buddhist Temples affiliated with the LABCF.

Junior YBA Conference - August 1973



Above: Supporting the Jr. YBA conference, parents attend the dinner banquet. From left, Michio Narumi, Beverly Narumi, Ted Hasegawa, Hideko Narumi, Yoneo Narumi.

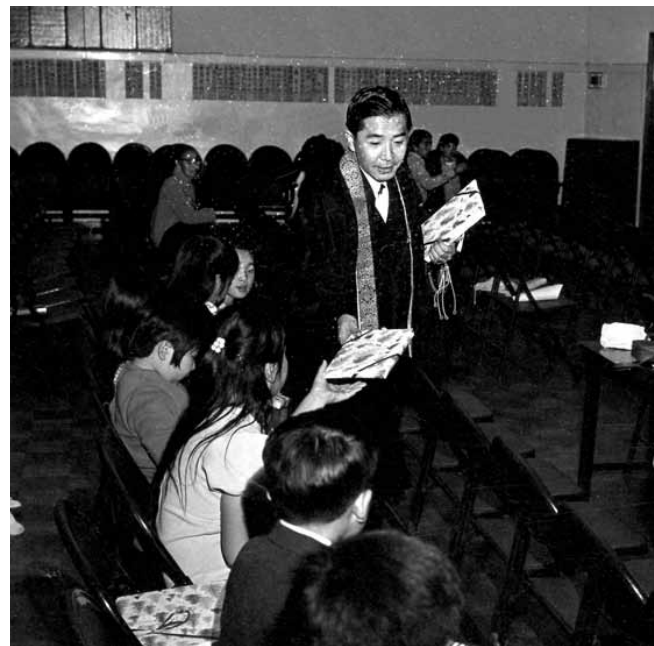
Left: Lunch is served in the hall at Koyasan after the morning activities are concluded.

Junior YBA Play - 1980



Members of the Jr. YBA, Kenneth Ito and Glenn Noborio play "obaa-chan" and "ojii-chan," respectively, in the Jr. YBA's presentation of "Shitakiri Suzume."

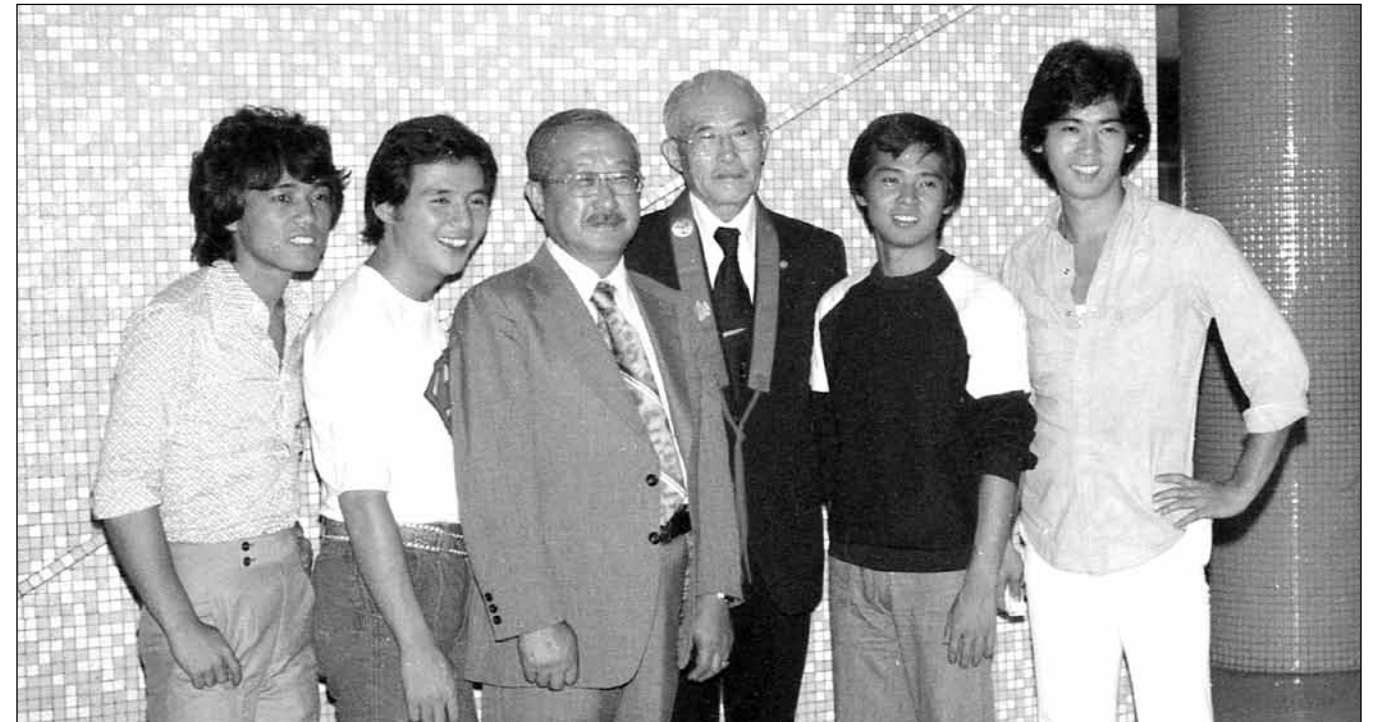
Oseibo Taikai - December 1972



Reverend Taisen Miyata distributes gifts to the Sunday School students, while Michael and Nancy Fujiwara happily show off their presents.



Four Leaves Concert - 1977



Members of Koyasan greet the Japanese pop group, the Four Leaves, at LAX. Pictured here are Koji Kita, Toshio Egi, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Takashi Aoyama, Masao Orimo.



The Four Leaves perform one of their hit songs, Bulldog, at a concert held at Koyasan Buddhist Temple during Nisei Week.

Kawara Blessing Ceremony - October 14, 1978



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Above: From left, Fujin-kai President Yone Amimoto, Reverend Hosho Nishiyama, Reverend Yukai Isoda, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Kaizan Kosaka, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Temple President Roy Takata, Sodai Kakuo Tanaka, Yukio Tanaka, Usaburo Amimoto.

Left: Bishop Seytsu Takahashi inscribes the names of donors on the individual roof tiles.

Ministers - 1975 through 1979



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1975 - From left, Reverend Junkun Imamura, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Taisen Miyata.



1979 - From left, Reverend Shuho Jishi, Reverend Yukai Isoda, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Ryosho Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Chiko Inouye, Reverend Hosho Nishiyama, Reverend Yuji Matsumoto, Reverend Myojo Yokota.



Bishop Ryosho Sogabe
1982 - 1991

1982-1991

In 1982, Rev. Ryosho Sogabe became Bishop, succeeding Bishop Takahashi who had served the Temple with unmatched vigor and devotion for 50 years. In the course of Bishop Takahashi's long tenure, Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin had grown enormously, suffered through the destructive and challenging trials of the war and post-war periods, struggled successfully to reestablish itself as a vibrant hub of the local Japanese-American community, and then passed the reins of leadership to a new generation.

Feeling it was an appropriate occasion to express gratitude to all those whose steadfast faith had seen the Temple through decades of existential and administrative upheavals, Bishop Sogabe was inspired to bring the Kechien Kanjo Ritual to Koyasan, the last time it was performed being in 1940.

Rarely performed outside Japan, the Kechien Kanjo is one of the most important and powerfully moving rituals in

Shingon Buddhism. It was originally transmitted to Kobo Daishi by his master, Hui Kuo of the Green Dragon Temple in Ch'angan over 1,200 years ago, and offers the opportunity to discover one's true self by uniting with a Buddha and thereby empowering one to progress along the path towards enlightenment.

The ritual was performed in October of 1987 in conjunction with the Temple's 75th anniversary. Joining temple members and officials was a large contingent from Mount Koya, including a Goeika group and over 25 Japanese priests. Abbot Ryusho Abeno assisted Bishop Sogabe in conducting the ceremony, which to this day remains a profoundly significant and indelible moment in the memories of all who participated.

1982

- Reverend Ryosho Sogabe succeeds Bishop Seytsu Takahashi. Commemoration of the Temple's 70th Anniversary and retirement of Bishop Takahashi is held.



1987

- The 75th Anniversary of the Temple is celebrated with Japanese delegates from Mount Koya. The Kechien Kanjo Ritual is performed.
- Twin paintings of the Mandala are installed in the Temple altar.



1991

- Reverend Chiko Inouye succeeds Bishop Ryosho Sogabe.

1982-1991

1983

- The first Kenshusei (student), Shinnin Hokimoto, arrives in Los Angeles. The Kenshusei program is established to train new students for a year, and it lasts until 1995.



1988

- Shikoku Pilgrimage to 88 Temples is led by Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.

1989

- Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley designates the Temple as the keeper of the Hiroshima Peace Flame that was brought to the U.S. in 1984.
- YBA is re-organized as the Young Adult Buddhist Association (YABA).

1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991

The
75th
Anniversary
1912-1987



Celebration of
Koyasan
Beikoku Betsuin
Kechien
Kanjo
Ritual
Ceremony

Welcoming the Japanese Delegation and the
75th Anniversary Procession - October 1987



Above: The congregation gathers at the Japanese Community Cultural Center for the start of the 75th Anniversary procession that progresses through Little Tokyo and concludes at the Temple.

Top: Bishop Ryosho Sogabe and Reverend Chiko Inouye from Chicago greet the Japanese contingent from Mount Koya at LAX. Left: Also giving a warm welcome to the Japanese guests is Reverend Taisen Miyata.

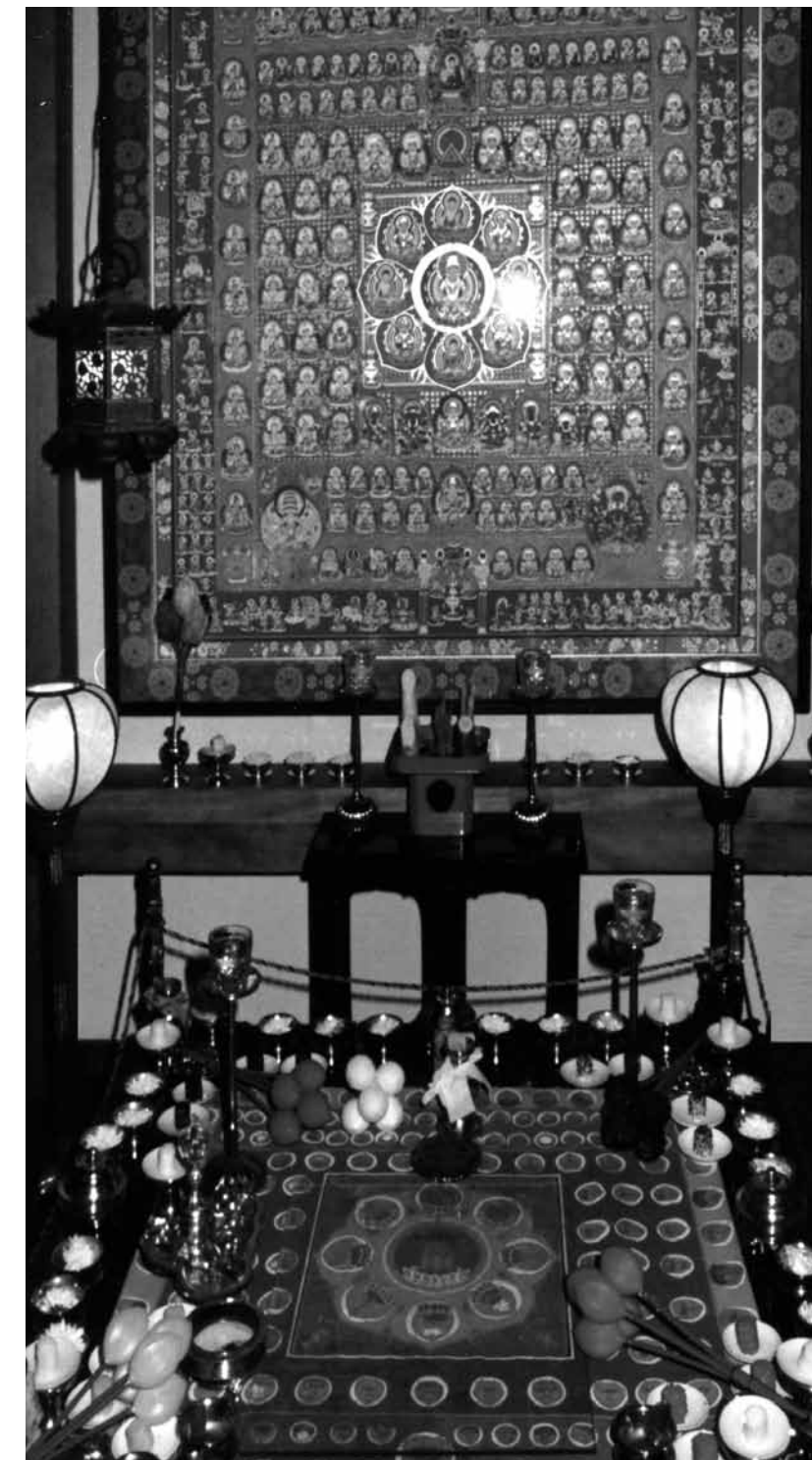
Procession into the Temple



Procession and Commencement of Ritual



Bishop Ryosho Sogabe Starts the Kechien Kanjo



Kechien Kanjo and Incense Offering



Above: Ministers explain the meaning and procedure of the Kechien Kanjo.

Left: The congregation-at-large offers incense before going through the Kechien Kanjo ritual.

Visiting Ministers



Abbot Ryusho Abeno of Mount Koya leads a group of more than twenty-five ministers to help with the Kechien Kanjo, one of the most important rituals of Shingon Buddhism. Performed for the first time since 1940 in Los Angeles, the Kechien Kanjo is a ritual that allows a blindfolded participant to establish a bond with a Buddha and receive a Dharma name.



Hoshimatsuri - February 5, 1984



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Toshi otoko, Michio Narumi, born in the Year of the Rat, offers fuku-mame to Sakae Fujimoto.

Ohigan - March 21, 1982



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Reverend Ryosho Sogabe bestows a certificate honoring Reverend Junkun Imamura.

Shichi-Go-San - 1991



Bishop Chiko Inouye blesses the children attending the Shichi-Go-San service.

8th Nippon Jamboree - 1982



The 8th Nippon Jamboree proves to be an uproarious time for the Boy Scouts of Troop 379.



Explorer Post 379 - From left, Loreen Yasui, Joyce Tamanaha, Katherine Takahashi, Alice Sakaguchi, Joy Takahashi, Pat Murakami, Debbie Kotani.



Top: At the Los Angeles International Airport, Koyasan Troop 379 gets ready to go to the Nippon Jamboree. Above: The Boy Scouts proudly show off their banner at the third subcamp in Tokyo.

Scouts Field Day - May 1, 1983



Explorer Post 379 – Top row (L to R): Nancy Sakurai, Katherine Takahashi, Jenny Kan, Joy Takahashi, Christine Takatani, Pat Murakami, Naoko Kono, Donna Sakaguchi. Bottom row (L to R): Debbie Kotani, Nancy Kan, Alice Sakaguchi, Michelle Miyatake, Loreen Yasui, Cathy Kawamoto, Joyce Tamanaha.



Left: Junichi Nakagawa participates in an activity as Jeff Yamabayashi and Tomoya Satoh root him on.

Boy Scout Troop 379 Court of Honor - January 1985



From left, Yuji Nakagawa (face not seen), Lance Miyatake, Jeff Sakurai, Paul Kaneta, Junichi Nakagawa.



Boy Scouts Troop 379 Silver Cuckoo Award - 1984

Recipients of the Silver Cuckoo Award from the Boy Scouts of Japan in 1984, Masanori Fujimoto and Michio Narumi with presenter, August Narumi (center).

Cub Scout Troop 379 Activities - 1985 through 1991



Troop 379 Committee Member Takako Osumi (right) gets a group of children, including some Cub Scouts with recorders, ready for their performance at the Year-End Party in 1985.



1991 - Den Mother June Fujimoto (1991-1994) shows off her pumpkin carving skills as some Cub Scouts mug for the camera.

Mizuko Jizo Statue - September 26, 1983

Bishop Ryosho Sogabe stands in front of the Mizuko Jizo statue. The statue is donated by several Temple members in commemoration of the 1,150th year of Kobo Daishi entering eternal meditation. With the Mizuko Jizo statue in place, Jizo-bon Service now replaces Kyogi Nagashi.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Shikoku Pilgrimage - 1984



Co-group leader for the pilgrimage in 1984, Dr. Leo Pruden, in a black robe sitting on the right of Reverend Seicho Asahi, is a Brown University professor who has translated and published books on Indian Buddhist philosophy.

Shikoku Pilgrimage - 1988



The group recites the Hannya-Shingyo sutra, which is a standard ritual when visiting the 88 temples of the Shikoku Pilgrimage.



Top row (L to R): Shingo Wada, Yutaka Sadamitsu, Makin Kariyama, Tom Sakurai, Roy Takata, Shoji Kanogawa. Second row (L to R): Kiyoko Wada, Tsuyako Koyama, Kiichi Kazahaya, Kazutoshi Ojira, Regina Sakurai, Grace Saika, Suzuye Kariyama, Masae Odachi. Third row (L to R): Kiyoko Yanagisawa, Sakae Hamasaki, Yae Aihara, Miyoko Koike, Helen Hashimoto, Helen Takata, Frances Nakamura, Peggie Wada, Masako Kanogawa. Bottom row (L to R): Yone Amimoto, Yoshiko Ojira, Masako Kazahaya, Shikako Sogabe, Bishop Ryosho Sogabe, Jack Wada, Mitsuye Sadamitsu, Suzue Takahashi.

Snapshots



Bishop Ryosho Sogabe leads the Henro pilgrims.



Reverend Junkun Imamura and his family visit Bishop Ryosho Sogabe.



Jack Wada and Roy Takata clown around.



Helen Takata and Regina Sakurai celebrate their respective birthdays during the pilgrimage.



Shikoku Pilgrimage - 1988



At Lake Manno in front of the Kobo Daishi statue.



From left, Kiyoko Yanagisawa, Helen Takata, Yone Amimoto, Frances Nakamura.



Roy Takata offers incense at the Amerika Shinto Bochi (Cemetery for American followers) in Okuno-in.

Snapshots



Dogyo Ninin.



Shosanji Temple (No. 12).



Jorakuji Temple (No. 14).



Reverend Shuho Jishi and Helen Takata.



Strolling through the pathway to Konpira Shrine.



Returning to Los Angeles.

Cabinet Members - 1985



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Top row (L to R): Kenshusei Takeshi Sakuma, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Reverend Seicho Asahi, Reverend Junkun Imamura, Imaharu Yoshimura, Ken Sogabe. Bottom row (L to R): Yukio Tanaka, Makin Kariyama, Tsuyako Koyama, Bishop Ryosho Sogabe, Michio Narumi, Kakuo Tanaka, Roy Takata.

Koyasan Sunday School - 1981



Thanks to programs such as drawing classes and guitar classes offered in the early 1980's by Reverend Kaizan Kosaka, Sunday morning services see a rise in attendance of families and children.

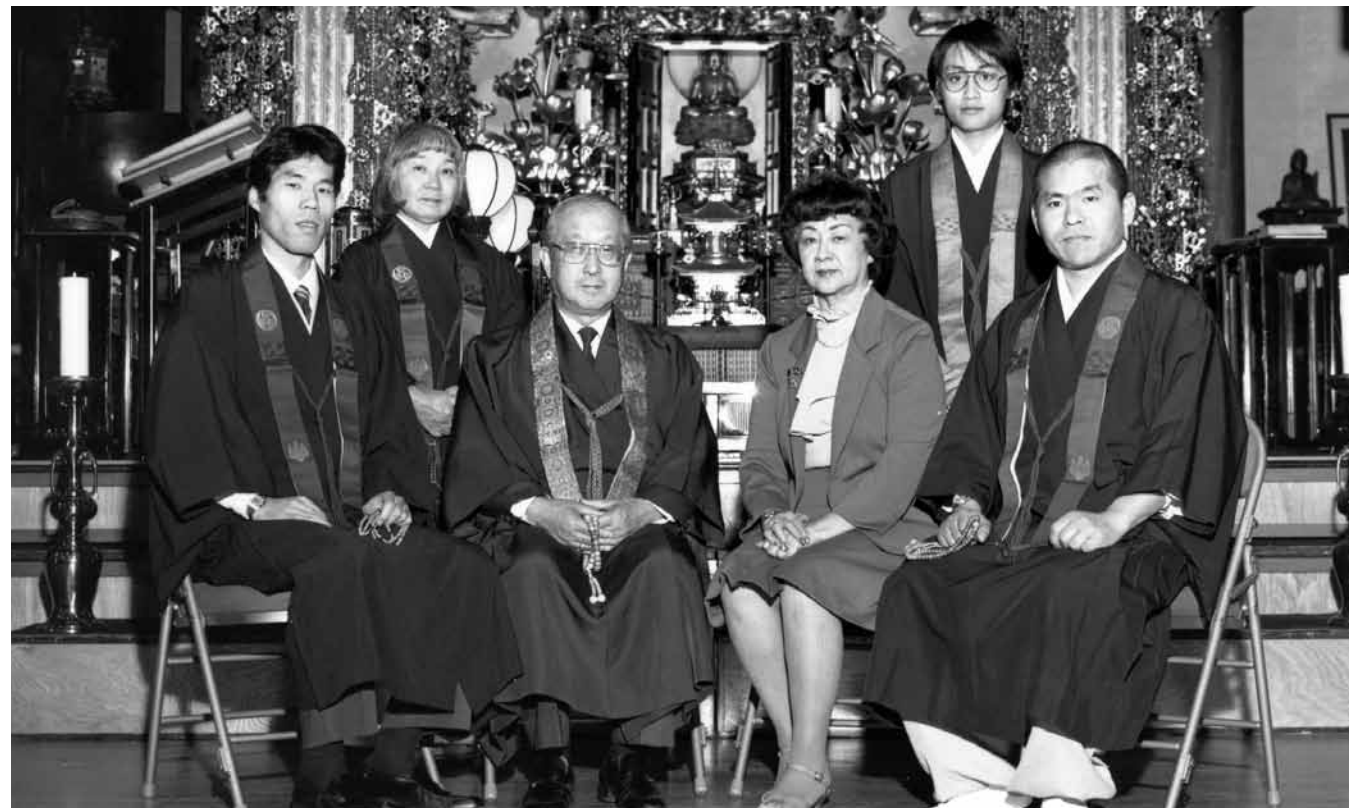
Ministers - 1983 through 1991



1983 - From left, Kenshusei Shinnin Hokimoto, Reverend Junkun Imamura, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Reverend Shuho Jishi, Reverend Seicho Asahi.



1987 - Top row (L to R): Reverend Seicho Asahi, Reverend Choku Fukushima, Kenshusei Tomotaka Nishikubi, Reverend Myojo Yokota. Bottom row (L to R): Shikako Sogabe, Bishop Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Chiko Inouye.



1984 - From left, Reverend Seicho Asahi, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Bishop Ryosho Sogabe, Shikako Sogabe, Kenshusei Tatsuya Iwamoto, Reverend Junkun Imamura.



1986 - From left, Reverend Seicho Asahi, Kenshusei Keigen Homma, Bishop Ryosho Sogabe, Reverend Myojo Yokota.



1991 - Standing (L to R): Kenshusei Kunihiko Yabu, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi. Seated (L to R): Reverend Taisen Miyata, Bishop Chiko Inouye.



Bishop Chiko Inouye
1991-1993



Bishop Taisen Miyata
1993 - 2007

*Although its scent
still lingers on,
the form of a flower
has scattered away.
For whom will the glory
of this world remain
unchanged?
Arriving today at
the yonder side
of the deep mountains
of evanescent existence,
we shall never allow
ourselves to drift away.*

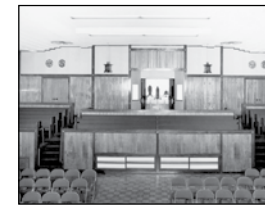
Iroha Uta - Written
by Kukai (Translation
by Ryuichi Abe)

The temple Nokotsudo was completed in 1993. It is a great comfort in our hectic world to know that the memory of our ancestors is being sanctified every day with the proper rituals. It is, in fact, a double blessing. Through prayer and the simple offering of rice and vegetables, we are not only honoring our obligation to past generations but in celebrating that sacred bond, we help to keep ourselves from drifting away into the illusion of this evanescent existence.

1992-2001

1993

- Reverend Taisen Miyata succeeds Bishop Chiko Inouye.
- Nokotsudo (columbarium) Shrine is installed at the east side of the main hall.
- Kannon Pilgrimage to 33 Temples of Saikoku is led by Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi.
- Girl Scout Troop 379 is organized under the leadership of YABA members.



1995

- Koyasan High School students and delegates from Mount Koya Headquarters visit.
- Memorial service for victims of the Hanshin earthquake is conducted.

1999

- Visit by a large group of delegates from Mount Koya Headquarters touring both South and North America.



1992-2001

1995

- The Shingon Buddhist Service book is published.
- The Kenshusei program comes to an end. Yasumasa Fukushima is the last Kenshusei to train in Los Angeles.



Hoshimatsuri - 1992 and 1993



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1992 – Top row (L to R): Fujin-kai President Masako Kanogawa, Temple President Yutaka Sadamitsu, Takashi Miyamoto as “oni”. Bottom row (L to R): Toshi otoko Roy Takata, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Bishop Chiko Inouye, Bishop Emeritus Ryosho Sogabe, 1991 Nisei Week Miss Tomodachi.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

1993 – From left, Fujin-kai President Yachiyo Kato, 1992 Nisei Week Queen Andrea Kawamoto, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Bishop Chiko Inouye, Bishop Emeritus Ryosho Sogabe, Toshi otoko Yoshio Kato, Temple President Yutaka Sadamitsu.

Hoshimatsuri - 1994 and 1995



1995 - The congregation enjoys watching the guests of honor ward off double oni, Kenshusei Yasumasa Fukushima and Takashi Miyamoto, with fuku-mame.



1994 – Bishop Taisen Miyata offers an omamori to the 1993 Nisei Week Queen Naomi Ono.



1994 – Naomi Ono, the 1993 Nisei Week Queen.

Hoshimatsuri - 1996 and 2001



1995 – From left, 1994 Nisei Week Princess, Toshi otoko Archie Miyatake, Reverend Myojo Yokota, 1994 Nisei Week Queen Judy Sato-Gilbertson.



2001 – From left, Fujin-kai President Frances Nakamura, 2000 Nisei Week Queen Tricia Tanaka and Bishop Taisen Miyata enjoy the traditional ritual of mamemaki (bean tossing).

Shukan Inauguration Procession - 1993

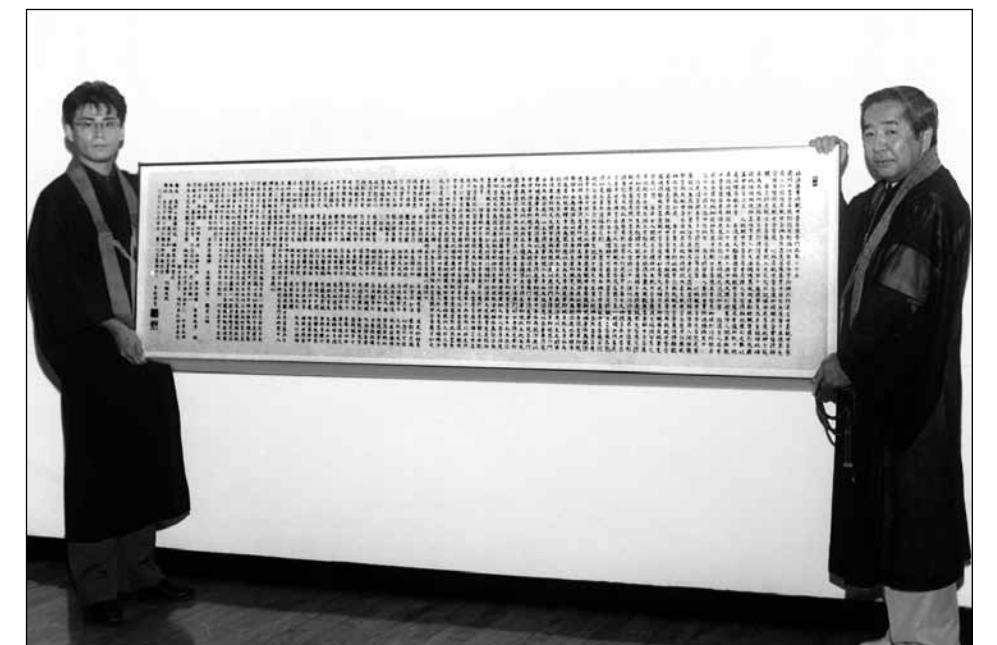


Hiro Miyata holds up the umbrella over his father, Taisen Miyata - the newly appointed Shukan (head minister) of the Temple - as the procession goes through Little Tokyo. Other dignitaries in the procession include Bishop Ryosho Sogabe (right) and Bishop Kakusho Ureshino (far left), the Chief of Education from Koyasan Headquarters.

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Kannon-gyo Sutra Scroll - 1993

Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi and Bishop Taisen Miyata display a framed scroll of the Kannon-gyo Sutra.





COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

On June 6, 1993, the Temple celebrates both the Nokotsudo Shrine Dedication and the promotion of Reverend Taisen

Miyata to Shukan (Head Minister) of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin.

Nokotsudo Construction and Completion - 1993



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



Above:
Completion of the Nokotsudo.

Left: Roy Takei, chief architect for the Nokotsudo, with Bishop Taisen Miyata.

Nokotsudo Dedication Service - 1993



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

Before the Nokotsudo Dedication service on June 6, 1993, Temple President Noboru Yonemoto, Bishop Taisen Miyata and Fujin-kai President Yachiyo Kato stand before the newly installed pillar that reads Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin.



Ramp Construction Spring 1999

A handicap ramp is installed. Bishop Taisen Miyata stands in background.

Spring Ohigan - 1995



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

The members of the Temple welcome a contingent of Koyasan High School students at the Spring Ohigan

service in March of 1995.

Fall Ohigan Reverend Tanjo Visit - October 5, 1996



At the Fall Ohigan service, the congregation welcomes Reverend Suen Tanjo, a former residential minister from 1959 to 1964. Reverend Suen Tanjo, who hails from Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, is seated on the left next to Bishop Taisen Miyata and Bishop Emeritus Ryosho Sogabe.

Fall Ohigan - October 20, 1998



Members of the 1998 Shikoku Pilgrimage have a reunion during the Fall Ohigan. Top row (L to R): Mine Fujinami, Suzie M. Tanaka, Noriko Ishikawa, Kiyoko Yanagisawa. Second row (L to R): Hiromu Matsuo, Ruby Matsuo, Satoko Kurata, Yasuo Kurata, Masanori Fujimoto, Sakae Fujimoto. Seated (L to R): Temple President Noboru Yonemoto, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Fujin-kai President Frances Nakamura.



Director of Education, Yukou Kitahara, and several delegates from Mount Koya visit the Temple during their

goodwill trip through North and South America in 1999.



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

A luncheon is held at the Temple for delegates from Mount Koya after they attend a commemorative

service in Brazil.

Commemorative Service and Banquet
for Delegates of Mount Koya -
November 18, 1995



Visiting priests from Mount Koya begin a service in the Temple courtyard.

Koban Dedication Service
LABCF - May 1996



Ministers of the LABCF, from left, Reverend Shomyo Kojima (Zenshuji), Head Minister Ryosho Kokuzo (Long Beach), Bishop Ryosho Kawai (Jodo Shinshu), Bishop Kenko Yamashita (Zenshuji), Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Shokai Kanai (Nichiren), Bishop Noriaki Ito (Higashi Honganji), Reverend Myojo Yokota pray for the success and safety of the Little Tokyo Koban and Visitor's Center.

Aobamatsuri - June 8, 1997



Goodwill visit between Los Angeles and Hawaii - A contingent from Liliha Shingon Mission of Honolulu comes to visit the Temple on Aobamatsuri in 1997.

Obon - July 1997



Former Los Angeles minister, Reverend Shuho Jishi (seated next to Bishop Taisen Miyata) and his family visit the Temple on Obon in July 1997. Standing from left are Reverend Taishu Hosokawa, Reverend Akio Okuni and Reverend Myojo Yokota.

Hanamatsuri - April 4, 1999



Reverend Eisho Okawa, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Bishop Emeritus Ryosho Sogabe, Shikako Sogabe and Reverend Taishu Hosokawa pose before a new life-size Baby Buddha diorama created by the YABA for the Hanamatsuri service.

Shichi-Go-San - November 2001



Above: For the second consecutive year, students from South High School in Torrance assist at the Shichi-Go-San service in 2001.

Left: Volunteer Rika Itami gives a balloon to one of many children who attend the service. The Shichi-Go-San service is a blessing for the healthy growth of those children in attendance. The children are often in traditional Japanese garb - boys in hakama and girls with their first obi.

Cub Scout Troop 379 at Dodger Stadium - 1992



Proudly presenting colors before a Dodger game are from left, Assistant Cub Master Ken Fujimoto, Gilbert Guevara, Jeffrey Takimoto, Quincy Yamada, Wayne Aono, Yamato Ota, Cub Master Robert Narumi.

Koyasan Cub Scouts - 1992 through 1993



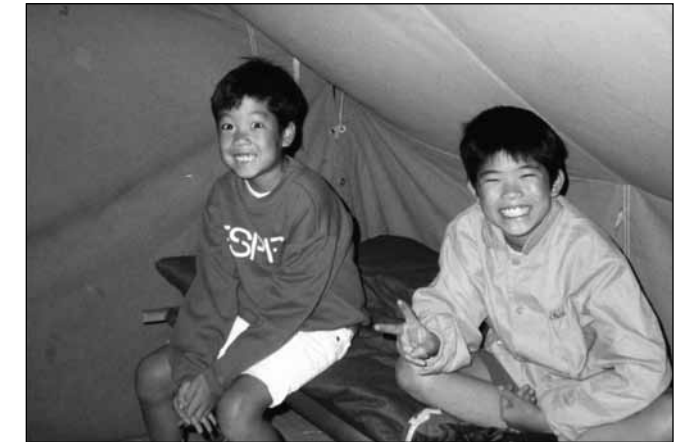
Junichi Nakagawa, Eagle Scout Alumna, watches Yamato Ota having fun pounding mochi.



Richard Narumi shows scout Leo Nakano the proper way to do mochitsuki.



Cub Scout Summer Camp 1992.



Dan Suzumori and Kevin Koga.



From left, Shaun Oshita, Go Ogawa, Derek Norimoto, Yoshi Nakazato, Ricky Kotani.

Sangha Award Recipients - November 19, 1993



Nine Boy Scouts are awarded the Sangha Award in 1993. Standing from left, Kazutaka Osumi, Roy Yamamoto, Shogo Takayama, Youki Terada, Kirk Yamada, Shingo Kusama, Jun Tosa, Ryotaro Isobe, Ben Okazaki. Seated in front are Bishop Taisen Miyata and Reverend Myojo Yokota, acting Troop Minister.



Troop 379 Year-End Party - 1993

Girl Scouts, Mai Suzumori (foreground), Sallien Kaneko and Susan Keefe (in background) give a performance at the annual Year-End Party.

Boy Scout/Cub Scout Troop 379 Award Celebrations - 1997



From left, Boy Scouts, Derek Kusagaya, Yamato Ota and Gilbert Guevara celebrate their Eagle Scout Awards with their mothers, Susie Kusagaya, Etsuko Ota, and Sugiko Guevara.



Chikara Ota and Christopher Chu celebrate their advancement from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

Girl Scout Troop 379 at Nisei Week - August 8, 1998



The Boy Scouts Drum and Bugle Corp accompany the Girl Scouts in a performance at the Nisei Week Parade. From left, Candy Lee, Alice Lee, Heather Iwata, Michele Shimabukuro, Jennifer Koga.

Boy Scouts Reunion at Sambi - November 2, 1997



A reunion at the Japanese restaurant, Sambi, in Downey, California. Colorful displays in the banquet room chronicle the history of Troop 379, while past scouts, mothers and wives of scouts reunite and tell stories, recounting their past memories as if it were yesterday.

Junior YBA Installation - 1994



Teen members are installed as Cabinet members of the Jr. YBA by Bishop Taisen Miyata. Johnny Kuramoto (far left) is elected as President of the association.

YABA Chibi 5K Fair - 1999



Students of South High School and members of YABA sell drinks and hurricane popcorn at the Chibi 5K Fair in the Summer of 1999.

Cabinet - November 1, 1998



Top row (L to R): Koichi Ohara, Jack Wada, Yutaka Sadamitsu. Second row (L to R): Toshio Babamoto, Kiichi Kazahaya, Shoji Kanogawa. Third row (L to R): Frances Nakamura, Masanori Fujimoto, Yoshio Kato, Roy Takata, Noboru Yonemoto. Seated (L to R): Reverend Eisho Okawa, Reverend Taishu Hosokawa, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Myojo Yokota.

YABA - December 2000



Members of the YABA celebrate the winter holidays at Empress Pavilion Restaurant. From left, Craig Harada, Pei Eto, Naomi Kariyama, Kevin Eto, Regina Sakurai, Pat Murakami, Kenneth Ito, Hope Fujita, Haruko Harada, Paul Kaneta.

Saifukuji - July 8, 1996



A group from Saifukuji Temple of Kagoshima, Japan, visits the Temple on July 8, 1996. The head priest of Saifukuji Temple, Bishop Ekan Ikeguchi, seated between Bishop Taisen Miyata and Bishop Emeritus Ryosho Sogabe, is a high ranking minister renowned for his elaborate Goma Fire Ritual.

Kenshusei Reunion - 1994



Kenshusei reunion at Hanabishi Restaurant in Koyasan, Wakayama Prefecture, Japan. Top row (L to R): Reverend Hirotsugu Okuni, Reverend Jiro Takagi, Reverend Kunihiko Yabu, Reverend Tainin Nishi. Second row (L to R): Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi, Reverend Shinnin Hokimoto, Reverend Eiryō Tokoro. Bottom row (L to R): Reverend Chisei Uragami (Aratano), Bishop Emeritus Ryosho Sogabe, Shikako Sogabe.

Ministers - 1992 through 1995



1993 – From left, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Kenshusei Tainin Nishi, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi, Bishop Emeritus Chiko Inouye.



1994 – From left, Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi, Kenshusei Hirotsugu Okuni, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Myojo Yokota.



1992: Reverend Tokusei Miyake from Seattle Koyasan (top row second from left) visits the Temple.



1995 – From left, Kenshusei Yasumasa Fukushima, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi, Reverend Seinin Otaga.

Ministers - 1997 through 1999



1997 - From left, Reverend Akio Okuni, Reverend Taishu Hosokawa, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Myojo Yokota.



1999 - From left, Reverend Shinyu Masuda, Mine Fujinami (cook), Reverend Eisho Okawa, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Fumie Ito (bookkeeper), Reverend Myojo Yokota.



1998 - From left, Reverend Eisho Okawa, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Reverend Taishu Hosokawa.

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



Bishop Taisen Miyata
1993 -2007



Bishop Seicho Asahi
2007 - 2011

2002-2011

Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2002. Among the highlights of the festivities commemorating this milestone was a visit to the temple by a contingent from Kakuganji Temple in the Toyama Prefecture. Kakuganji was the home temple of Bishop Aoyama and is currently administered by his grandson, Tetcho Aoyama. The participation of the Kakuganji delegation was of unsurpassed symbolic and emotional significance. In 2006, Kakuganji Temple donated a bust of Bishop Aoyama which currently graces the temple courtyard. It serves as both a memento of that historic visit and a testament to the unique and eternal bond between the two temples.

In 2008, in a ceremony hosted by the Little Tokyo Historical Society and attended by a large gathering of temple and community members, government officials and various dignitaries, the "Aoyama Tree" was officially accorded historical-cultural landmark status

by the city of Los Angeles. The 60x70-foot Moreton Bay Fig tree, located in the courtyard of the Japanese American National Museum in downtown Los Angeles, has been associated with the Daishi Kyokai since 1920 when the mission relocated to the Central Avenue location. The tree stood at the front entrance to the mission. Councilwoman Jan Perry, speaking at the dedication ceremony, noted the unmistakable symbolic connection between the tree's endurance and the inspiring perseverance that characterizes the story of the city's Japanese-American community:

"The fact that it is strong and has sustained and has great longevity in the midst of an asphalt desert is reflective of the values, I think, of this community, and its own strength and desire to sustain itself and to share with others."

One hundred years ago an impoverished immigrant planted a seed of faith in inhospitable soil. Nourished by the devotion and sacrifice of subsequent generations, his legacy has flourished triumphantly and stands today as an enduring anchor for an entire community and a continuing source of enlightenment for all.

2002

- 90th Anniversary of the Temple is celebrated.



2005

- First female President, Frances Nakamura (daughter of Bishop Seytsu Takahashi) is elected..

2006

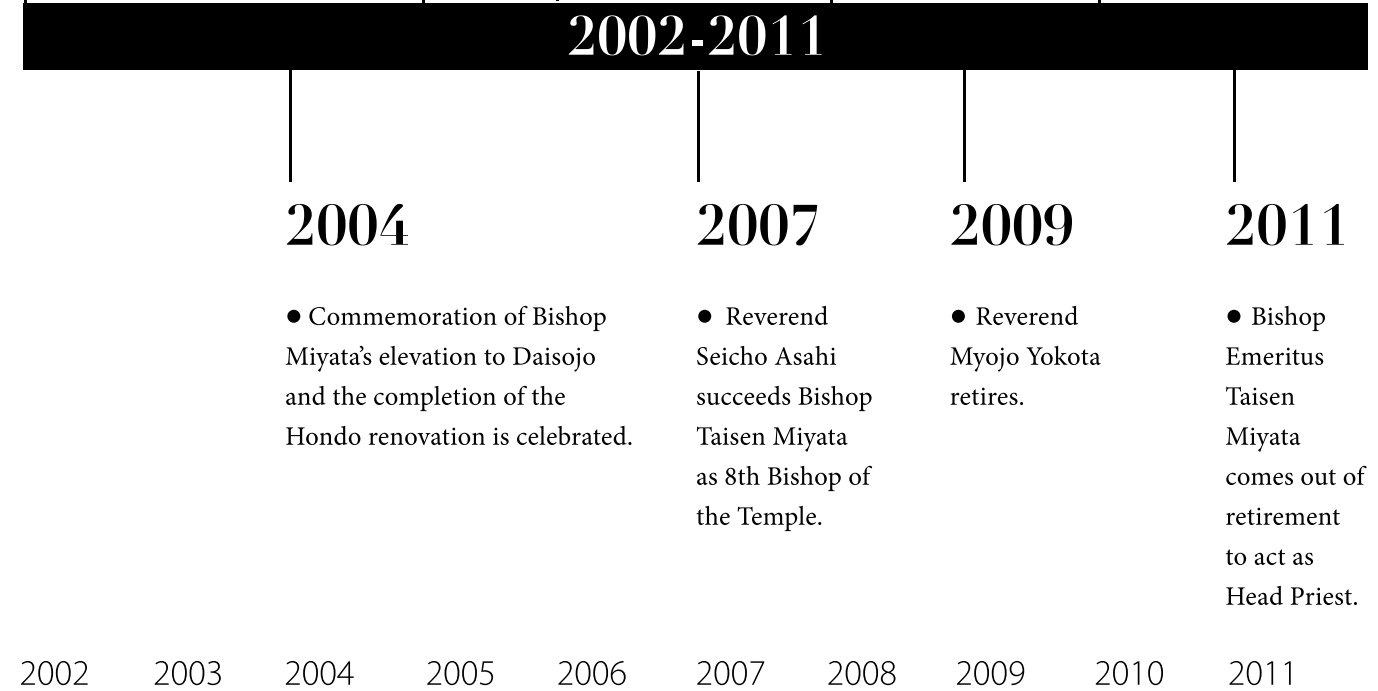
- Koyasan Boy Scout Troop 379 celebrates its 75th Anniversary and Reunion.
- Delegates from the Kakuganji Temple, Toyama Prefecture, Japan, attend the unveiling ceremony of a bust sculpture in honor of Bishop Shutai Aoyama in the Temple courtyard.

2008

- Aoyama Tree dedication.

2010

- Shugyo Daishi statue is donated by Yasuo and Satoko Kurata.

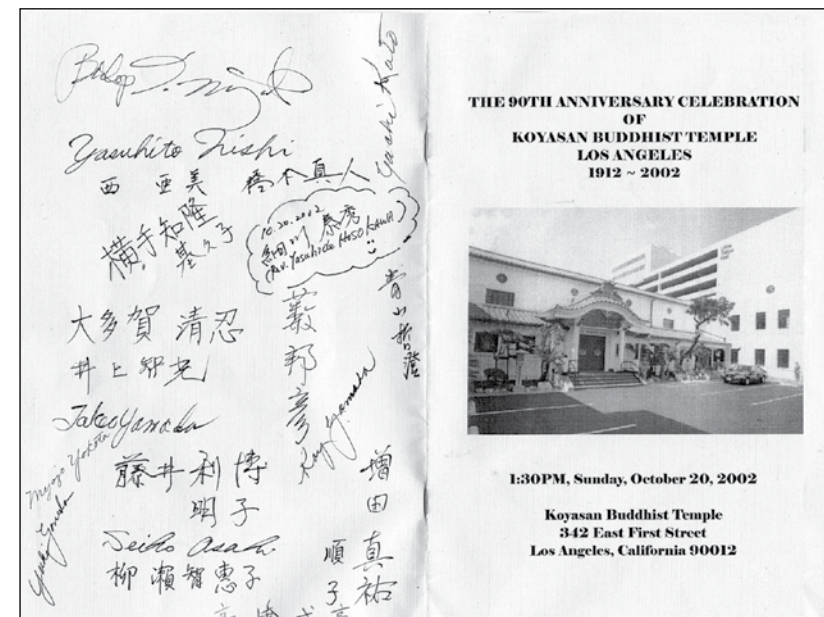


90TH 1912-2002 ANNIVERSARY OF KOYASAN BEIKOKU BETSUIN



90th Anniversary

Bishop Taisen Miyata and Reverend Tetcho Aoyama of Toyama Prefecture's Kakuganji Temple, grandson of Reverend Shutai Aoyama, standing before the sign announcing the 90th Anniversary.



90th Anniversary Program

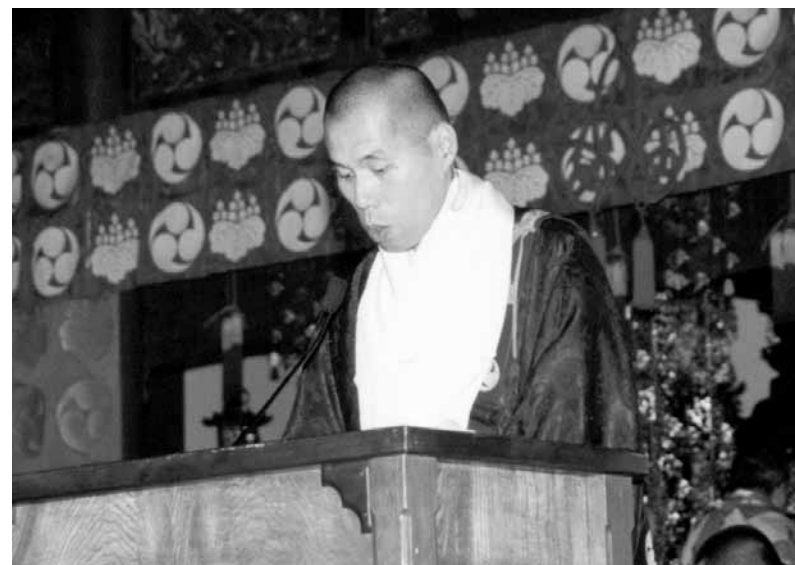
Helen Takata's 90th Anniversary Program with signatures of past priests and Kenshusei who attended the service and banquet.

90th Anniversary Service

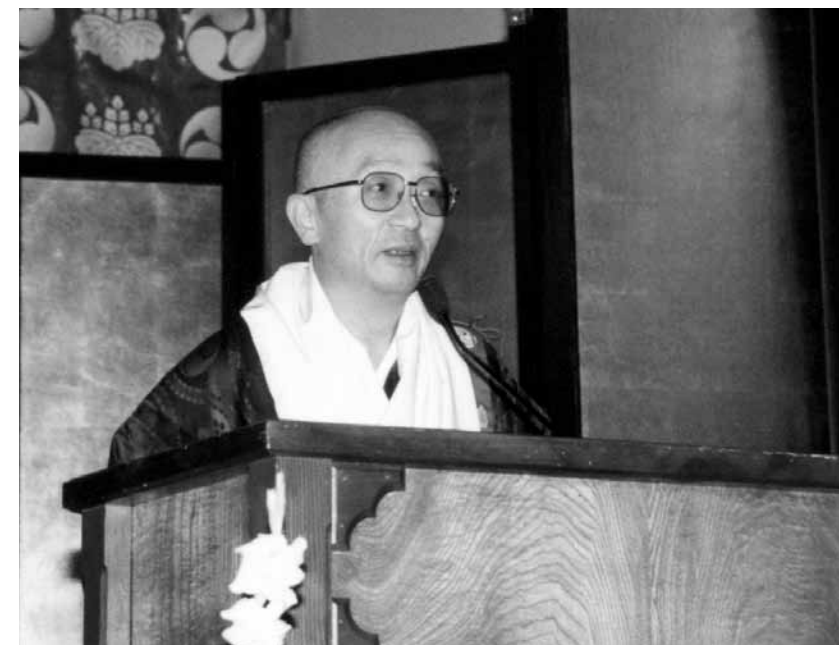


Bishop Taisen Miyata explains the procedure for the 90th Anniversary service to the priests who have come from Japan to help commemorate the anniversary. The group of priests consists of former Kenkusei who trained in Los Angeles, former priests who resided in Los Angeles, and priests from Buddhist Temples that are members of the LACBF.

Reverend Seicho Asahi, head minister at Sacramento, addresses the congregation attending the service.



Leading the procession of priests is Reverend Kunihiko Yabu from Fukuoka, a former Kenshusei from 1991.



Reverend Tetcho Aoyama from Kakuganji Temple gives a commemorative greeting, speaking about the origin of Daishi Kyokai and the propagation of Shingon Buddhism in the United States started by his grandfather, Reverend Shutai Aoyama.

90th Anniversary Service



The Koyasan Eiyu-kai sings Sogokuyo Wasan as the LABC and Koyasan ministers proceed into the Temple.

Boy Scout Troop 379 Performance

In true Boy Scout tradition, Troop 379 proudly performs before the 90th Anniversary Service commences.



With the Eko Concluding Prayer completed, the participating ministers listen to the concluding address given by the chairman of the 90th Anniversary Service.

Awards Presentation

Members of the Temple receive awards for their various contributions to the Temple. From left, Noboru Yonemoto, Frances Nakamura, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Helen Takata, Katsutoshi Sasabe, Masanori Fujimoto, Itsuko Kotani.



90th Anniversary Service



The ministers begin to chant one of the most important sutras in Shingyo Buddhism, the Hannya-rishu-kyo, also known as the Prajna-paramita-naya in Sanskrit.



Over three-hundred Temple members and some guests from Japan commence incense offering.

Incense Offering by Temple Organizations



Richard Narumi
(Koyasan Cub Scouts 379)



Johnny Kuramoto
(Koyasan Boy Scouts 379)



Patricia Murakami
(Koyasan Girl Scouts 379)



Helen Takata
(Koyasan Eiyu-kai)



Frances K. Nakamura
(Koyasan Fujin-kai)



Shoji Kanogawa
(Koyasan ABA)



Paul Kaneta
(Koyasan YABA)



Yutaka Sadamitsu
(Koyasan Betsuin Temple)

90th Anniversary Service - Goeika



Members of the Koyasan Eiyu-kai perform Goeika Komyo and Yoryu during incense offering by the congregation.

90th Anniversary - Commemorative Banquet



Held in the San Antonio Room of Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello, Bishop Taisen Miyata gives words of appreciation in Japanese, discussing the Temple's long history as well as recognizing all people - past and present - who have contributed to the success of Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin.

Words of Appreciation



Temple President, Noboru Yonemoto, offers words of appreciation on behalf of the Temple.

Speakers



LABCF President, Rimban Noriaki Ito of Higashi Honganji, offers a congratulatory message.



Reverend Seigo Takahashi gives the benediction.

90th Anniversary - Commemorative Banquet



Representing the Evergreen Association of Japan (a group comprised of past Los Angeles Kenshusei), Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi, formerly a Kenshusei and then returning as a full-fledged priest to the Temple, offers a congratulatory message. Behind him are past ministers and Kenshusei: Reverend Kunihiko Yabu, Reverend Shinyu Masuda, Reverend Akio Okuni, Reverend Tainin Nishi, Reverend Senin Otaga, and Reverend Shinnin Hashimoto.



Bishop Emeritus Chiko Inouye, standing at the podium, gives a toast. At the head table are Temple President Noboru Yonemoto, Fujin-kai President Frances Nakamura, Katsuko Miyata, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Tetcho Aoyama (Kakuganji Temple) and Reverend Shinnin Hashimoto (former Kenshusei).

Speakers



Master of Ceremonies, Richard Narumi, gives an opening message. The grandson of Jutaro Narumi and son of Michio Narumi, he is the third generation to serve as a leader of Troop 379.



Frances Nakamura, Fujin-kai President and the daughter of the fourth shukan, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, addresses the guests.



Shoji Kanogawa offers words of appreciation in English. Temple President from 1989 - 1990, he is now a Sodai.



Fujin-kai member, Satoko Matsuura, recites a Shigin (Chinese poem), congratulating the Temple on their 90th Anniversary.

90th Anniversary - Commemorative Banquet

Shusho-e (New Years) - 2006



From left, Junko Masuda, Reverend Shinyu Masuda, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Member of Kakuganji Temple, Reverend Tetcho Aoyama, Reverend Kunihiko Yabu, Reverend Taishu Hosokawa.



Sodai Shoji "Stogie" Kanogawa and Sodai Yutaka "Hap" Sadamitsu usher in 2006, the Year of the Dog.



From left, Reverend Tomotaka Nishikubi (Yokote), Kenneth Ito and Kikuko Yokote.



From left, Robert Narumi, Naomi Kariyama, and Regina Sakurai serve as receptionists for the banquet.



Kenneth Ito and Reverend Seigo Takahashi.



Koichi Ohara and Hiromu Matsuo at the reception table to receive donations.

Shusho-e (New Years) - January 2011



Bishop Seicho Asahi blesses a young child.



Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata blesses a worshipper.



There is an increasing number of worshippers every year. Many are from Japan carrying on the tradition of receiving a New Year's blessing and purchasing omamori to usher in good luck for the year.

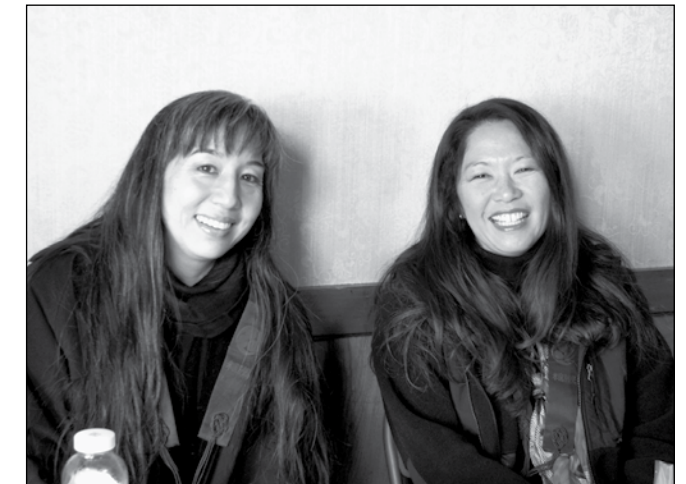
Shusho-e (New Years) - January 2011



The Sodai representatives, from left, Jack Wada, Koichi Ohara, Noboru Yonemoto, Shoji Kanogawa.



Long-time member and former Fujin-kai President, Yone Amimoto, supported by her grandson, Joel, receives mochi for turning 96 years old in 2011, the Year of the Tiger.



Volunteers, Alison Booth and Lori Kanogawa-Johnson, greet hundreds of worshippers who attend the New Year service.

Hoshimatsuri - 2006 through 2011



2007 – From left, Fujin-kai President Kiyoko Yanagisawa, 2006 Nisei Week Queen Liane Takano, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Toshi otoko Kazuyoshi Kitaoka (TV Fan magazine), Temple President Frances Nakamura. Standing is Takashi “oni” Miyamoto.



2011 – Fujin-kai President Kiyoko Yanagisawa, 2010 Nisei Week Queen Lani Nishiyama, Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata and Bishop Seicho Asahi ward off bad luck by tossing fuku-mame (lucky beans) at the fleeing Takashi “oni” Miyamoto.



The toshi otoko for the year 2008 are Seiki Tamae and Edward Takahashi. Yoshie M. Okada (Nisei Week Princess) also participates.



Toshi otoko of 2011, Shoji Kanogawa, Sodai and former Temple President, poses with wife, Masako and daughters Nancy and Lori.

Shichi-Go-San - 2002 through 2006



2002 - Volunteer Jason Sky ties a balloon to a young boy.



2002 - Joyce from South High chats with two girls.



2005 - South High Students, Kriszta Farkas, Trent Hagiya, Mariko Nishi and William Chang with Reverend Seigo Takahashi, Reverend Shinyu Sato and Bishop Taisen Miyata.



2006 - Easting Chitose ame.



2006 - Kaycie Nakata from South High passes out balloons.

Aobamatsuri - June 2005



Reverend Seigo Takahashi (center) displays a certificate of promotion in missionary rank.

Hanamatsuri at Keiro Retirement Home - Spring 2008



Bishop Seicho Asahi chants as a resident offers sweet tea to the Baby Buddha.



Left: Reverend Shinyu Sato prepares for the Dedication Ceremony. Top right: The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts entertain the contingent from Kakuganji Temple, Toyama Prefecture. Second right: The unveiling of the Aoyama bust by Bishop Taisen Miyata, Temple President Frances Nakamura, and a family member of the Aoyama family. Bottom: After the unveiling, a short service commences.



Temple members have a farewell party for Reverend Seigo Takahashi after the Spring Ohigan service in 2006.



Fuku-Sodai Installation - March 3, 2008

Dr. Ernest Mashiyama and Tom Nakano (posthumously) are recognized as Fuku-Sodai for their contribution to the Temple. Bishop Seicho Asahi stands in the center as Dr. Mashiyama and a representative from the Nakano family display their certificates.

Spring Ohigan - March 20, 2011



Clockwise from top: Students from Koyasan High School visit for Ohigan service in March. They give a kami-shibai performance about Kukai. Scout Committee Chairman David Chu, Jake Salazar and Sodai Koichi Ohara make one student feel welcome. After dinner, students give the typical "peace sign" as they mug for the camera. Prayers for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake (3/11/11) are offered during the service.

Jizo Bon Mizuko Kuyo Service - August 11, 2011



Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata conducts service.



Statue of Mizuko Jizo Bosatsu.



Members burn old omamori and ofuda of their ancestors and offer water to the Mizuko Jizo statue.



Aoyama Tree Designation Ceremony - July 17, 2008



A city official highlights the historical significance of the Aoyama tree at the ceremony. In attendance are members of the Little Tokyo Historical Society, ministers from Koyasan Buddhist Temple and the Eiyu-kai.



From left, David Nagano (Little Tokyo Recreation Center Board); Deanna Matsumoto (Little Tokyo Historical Society), Bill Watanabe (Little Tokyo Service Center), Kiku Harada (Little Tokyo Historical Society), Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata, Reverend Shinyu Sato with Certificate of Recognition.



Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata with Huell Howser (right). Howser, an American television personality, films the designation ceremony and edits it as a segment for his PBS show, California's Gold.



From left, Dan Suzumori, Brandon Chu, Ryu Masuda, Tora Masuda, Andrew Shiroishi, Richard Narumi, David Chu, Dave Hayami.

Bishop Taisen Miyata's Retirement Party - May 20, 2007



Bishop Taisen Miyata's retirement party is held at Empress Harbor Seafood in Monterey Park. From left, Reverend Shinsho Toyoda from Muryoji Temple, Yokohama, Reverend Hoshi Nishibu from Seattle, Reverend Shoun Ishikawa, Reverend Taishu Hosokawa, Reverend Shinyu Sato, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Reverend Seicho Asahi, Bishop Taisen Miyata, Reverend Hiroyuki Kawashima.

Reverend Myojo Yokota's Retirement Party - June 5, 2009



Bishop Seicho Asahi and Reverend Myojo Yokota.



Jack Wada honors Reverend Myojo Yokota.



Reverend Myojo Yokota with Boy Scouts, Jake Salazar and Makoto Asahi.



Fumie Ito's Retirement - January 27, 2008

After thirty-three years as the bookkeeper for the Temple, Fumie Ito retires and receives a commendation from the Koyasan Headquarters for her services.

Shugyo Daishi Statue Dedication - October 2009



The statue of the Shugyo Daishi is made possible by long-time members, Yasuo and Satoko Kurata, who are seated in front wearing their oizuru (white pilgrimage robes) with wagesa.



Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata addresses the congregation during the dedication ceremony.



The Shugyo Daishi statue represents Kukai at the age of 42 on his pilgrimage through Shikoku.

Girl Scout Troop 379 Gold Award Ceremony - 2005



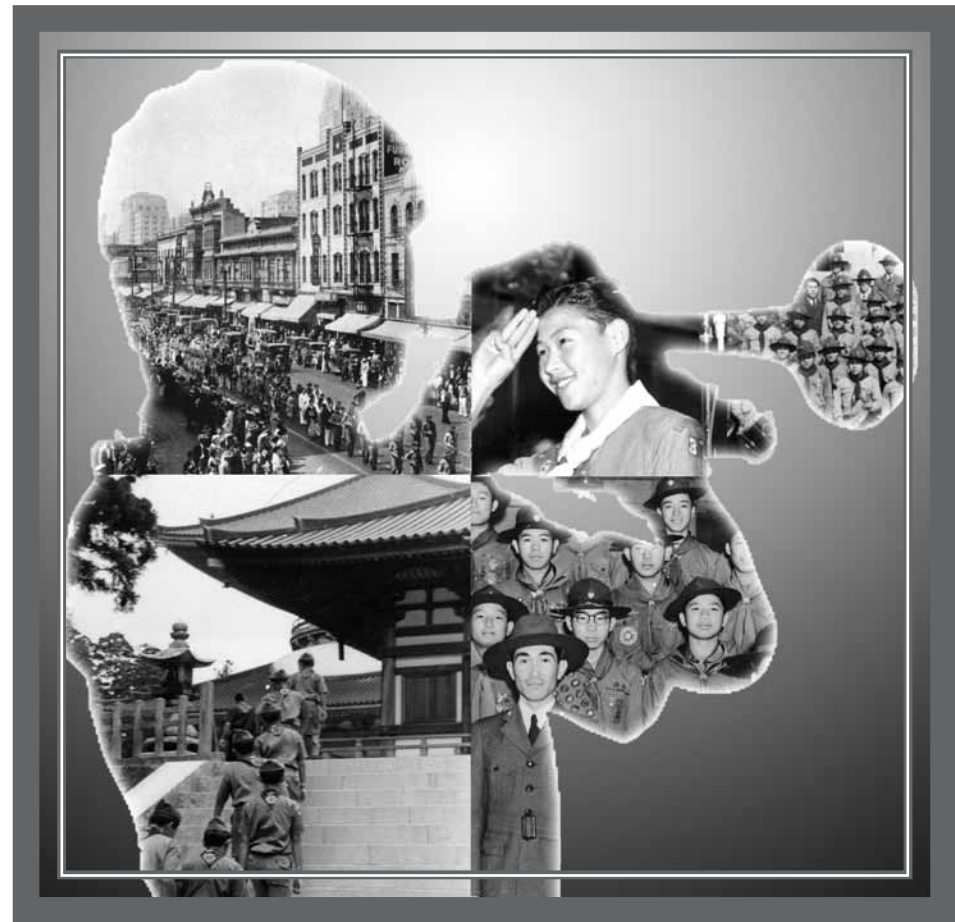
Back row (L to R): Pat Murakami, Paul Kaneta, Regina Sakurai, Noriko Suzumori, Etsuko Ota, Jimmy Koga, Naomi Kariyama, Kevin Koga. Middle row (L to R): Vicki Iwata, Jane Tsukamoto, Mai Suzumori, Keiko Achiwa, Jennifer Koga, Karen Ota, Michele Shimabukuro, Janie Guevara, Sadako Achiwa, Ryoko Koga, Alfred Gutierrez, Leia Koga. Front row (L to R): Krystina Tsukamoto, Kimberly Tsukamoto, Heather Iwata, Reverend Myojo Yokota.



Left: Michele Shimabukuro and Jennifer Koga are the recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement for a Girl Scout.

TROOP 379

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOYASAN BOY SCOUTS



DON YAMAGAMI

1931 - 2006

Koyasan Troop 379 75th Anniversary - 2006



The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts along with their leaders pose with keynote speaker, John Wooden, one of the most revered college basketball coaches.



George Takei, actor and former Boy Scout (1951), poses with a visiting scout from another troop.

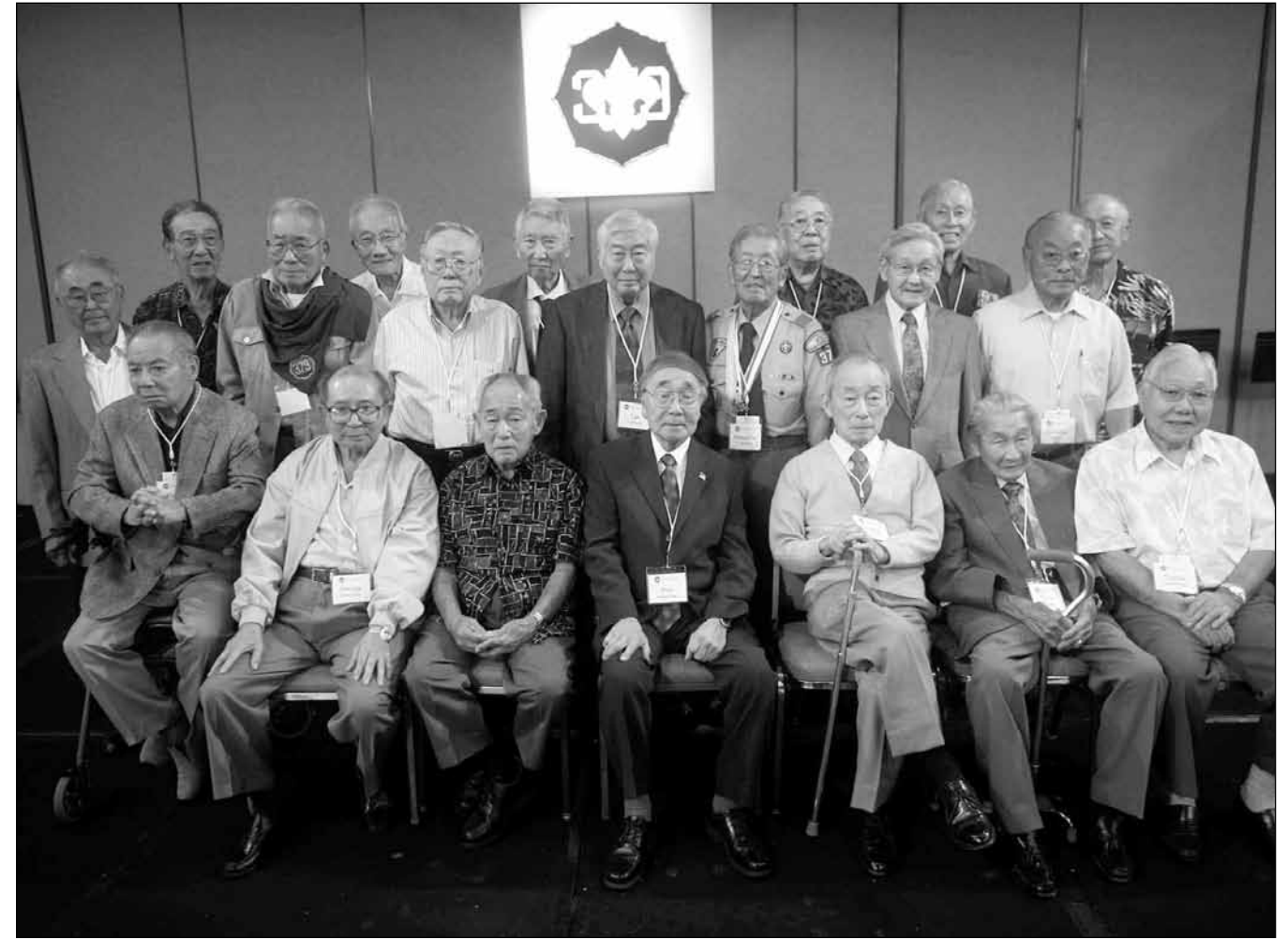


Coach John Wooden gives words of wisdom to former Scout, George Nakano (1950).

Koyasan Troop 379 75th Anniversary - 2006



Past and current leaders of Koyasan Troop 379 with Coach John Wooden.



The Pre-World War II Boy Scouts attending the anniversary celebration pose for a photo.



Derick Tagawa, Eagle Scout alumni in 1954, addresses the guests at the Anniversary.



Scott H. Takahashi speaking as Troop 379 Incorporated Chair also holds the title of Assistant Scoutmaster.



Performance of Drum and Bugle Corp with Color Guard.



Color Guard put on a performance.

Koyasan Troop 379 75th Anniversary - 2006



Tora Masuda (2003).



Troop 379 salute the entrance of John "the Wizard of Westwood" Wooden.



From left, Mieko Yamagata; Masanori Fujimoto (1936) and Pat Murakami (1982).



Kyle Nakayama (2001), Doreen Nakayama and Kenneth Nakayama (2000).



Guests look at the display of Troop 379's colorful history beginning in 1931.



The Boy Scout motto in Japanese: "Sona e yo tsune ni" (Be prepared at all times).



2006 Boy Scout and Girl Scout Leaders.



2006 Boy Scouts.



2006 Boy Scouts and family members.



Attendees affiliated with Troop 379.



June Fujimoto, Coach John Wooden, Pat Murakami and Edward Takahashi start the cake cutting ceremony.



Cake for the 75th Anniversary Banquet.

Dharma Class - November 28, 2007



From left, Alyssa Furukawa, Chloe Masuda and Clarisse Kanon Masuda display the butsudans made from shoe boxes during Dharma class.



Hiro Miyata and daughter Kayla show off her Butsudan.



Dharma class coloring pictures of flowers and Buddhas for their butsudans.

Reverend Sato's Wedding - 2007



Reverend Shinyu Sato weds Hiroko on the luckiest day of the decade, July 7, 2007.



Reverend Shizuka's Farewell Party - 2004

The members of the Temple bid farewell to Reverend Akio Shizuka. Pictured here are from left, John Mitchell, Reverend Akio Shizuka (with guitar), Kenneth Ito and Noboru Yonemoto.

Fundraiser Drives - 2002 through 2011



2007 – The Boy Scouts cook teriyaki barbeque chicken, which has been a mainstay since the 1960's carnival days.



Omamori Sale in August 2001 - Alison Booth, Christine Ito and Brandon Paris explain the purpose of the omamori.



2002 – Hap Sadamitsu checks the barbeque grills.



2009 – From left, Masumi Asahi, Kiyotaka Asahi, Thomas Hodges, Christine Ito.



2008 – John Lee and Tetsuro Arasawa slave over a hot grill.



April 2011 rummage sale.



Due to the success of the April 2011 rummage sale, another one is held in June 2012.

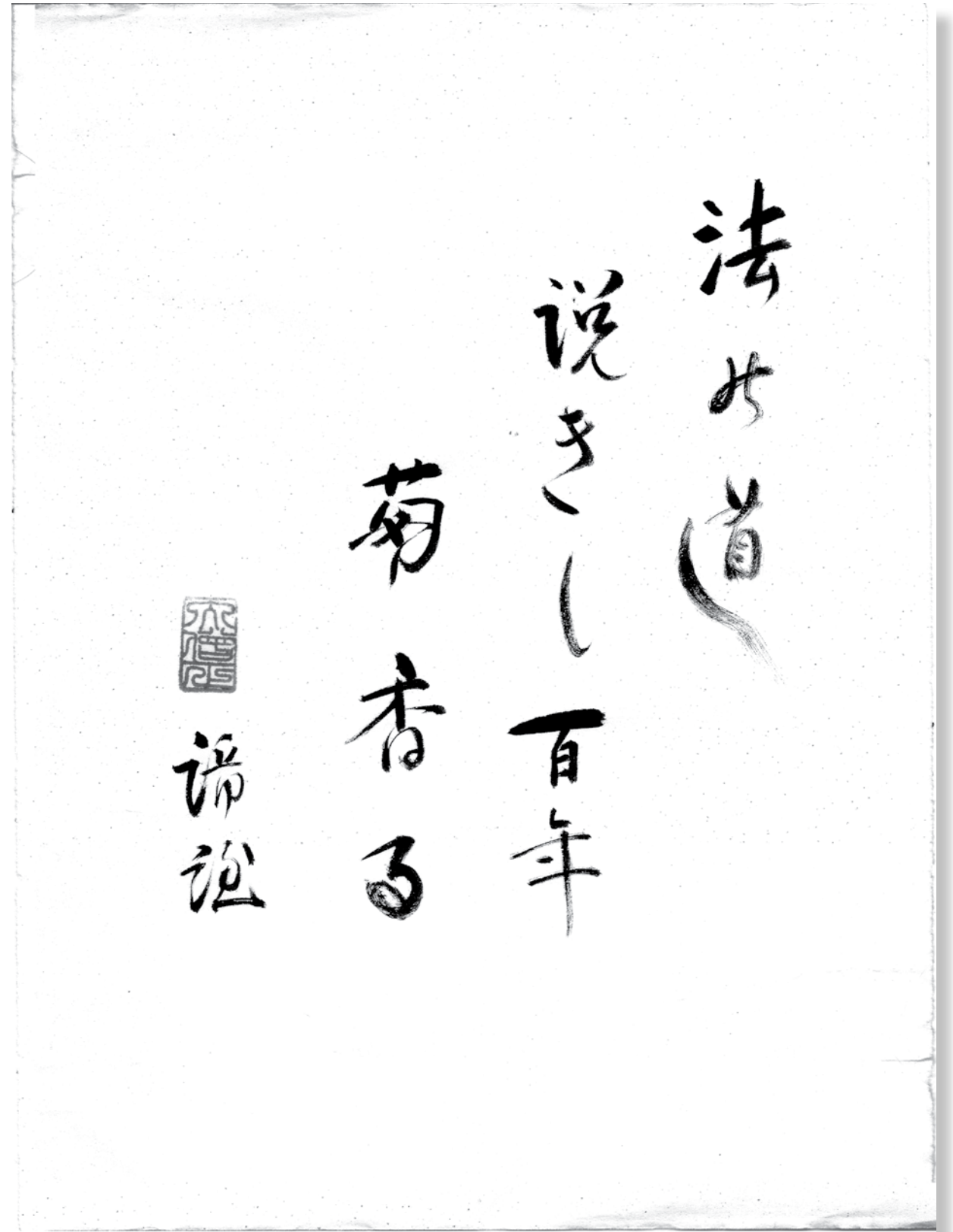


Bishop Taisen Miyata
1993 - 2007
2011 - Present

2012

*One hundred years pass
On the way to delivering
Buddha's Dharma.
A chrysanthemum blooms
In everyone's heart.*

With Gassho, Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata



Shusho-e (New Years) - January 2012



The podium is adorned with a drawing of a tatsu (dragon). 2012 is the Year of the Dragon, a year predicted to be filled good fortune.



A long line of people wait to enter the temple for prayer and blessing.



Thanks to Temple-goers who purchase omamori, omikuji (fortune) and ema for good luck in 2012, Koyasan makes record-breaking sales.



Newer members of the congregation help out with the New Years service: Brandon Paris, William Tamae, Masumi Asahi and Kiyotaka Asahi.

Plaque Dedication for Aoyama Tree - February 4, 2012



From left, Bill Watanabe (Little Tokyo Historical Society), Jan Perry (Councilwoman), Frances Nakamura (Koyasan Buddhist Temple President) and Reverend Keishin Kako stand beside the plaque commemorating the Aoyama Tree.



Plaque proclaiming the Aoyama Tree as a historic-cultural monument of Los Angeles.



Reverend Kako performs a dedication ritual.

General Membership Luncheon - January 29, 2012



Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata's birthday is celebrated at the luncheon following the annual General Membership Meeting.



Members of the Temple enjoy lunch at Sansuitei.



From left, Brandon Paris, Sonya Kuki, Joe Zallen, Michiyo Masubuchi.

Hanamatsuri - April 2012



The ministers and the future generation of Koyasan offer sweet tea to the Baby Buddha. Center right photo shows the Baby Buddha altar at the Japanese Community Cultural Center garden, where the LACBF holds their Hanamatsuri Service in 2012.

Hanamatsuri - April 2012



Members of the Eiyu-kai perform with the Zenshuji Goeika group at the LACBF Hanamatsuri Service held at the Japanese Community Cultural Center.



Hoshimatsuri - February 2012

Top row (L to R): Fujin-kai President Kiyoko Yanagisawa, Takashi "oni" Miyamoto. Bottom row (L to R): Temple President Frances Nakamura, 2011 Nisei Week Queen Erika Mariko Olsen, Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata, Toshi otoko Chogi Higa (Nanka Kenjin-kai Association), Reverend Keishin Kako.

Ministers - 2012



From left, Reverend Keishin Kako, Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata and Reverend Ryuzen Hayashi.

100th Anniversary Committee - 2012



Top row (L to R): Don Yamagami, Regina Sakurai, Brandon Paris, Pat Murakami, Sonya Kuki, Kiyoko Yanagisawa, Naomi Kariyama, Michiyo Masubuchi, Masako Kanogawa, Paul Tamae. Bottom (L to R): Noboru Yonemoto, Kenneth Ito, Reverend Keishin Kako, Bishop Emeritus Taisen Miyata, Frances Nakamura, Shoji Kanogawa.

NOELLE YAMAGAMI

Announcement of the 100th Anniversary Celebration

Rafu Shimpo – May 31, 2012



A sign post in the front courtyard heralds the important facts about the 100th Anniversary.

羅 府 新 報 2012年(平成24年) 5月31日(木曜日) (11)

高野山米国別院 開創100周年で記念式典

今秋、小東京で開催 不動息災護摩供を奉修

小東京の東1街にある高野山米国別院(宮田諦詮名譽主監)は、開創100周年の記念式典と祝賀昼餐会を11月18日(日)午前10時から、日本から元別院開教師や研修生を迎え、同別院とキョウト・グランドホテルの2会場で開催。

祝典は「炎の行者」として、徒とのリユニオンを主眼とし、わたり渡来し、現在の月並み全国に知られる鹿兒島市最福寺法主、池口恵観大僧正を迎え、た記念プログラムの計画が進められている。導師の池口師は1968年に高野山北南米は1968年に高野山北南米伝道部長として当地に数年に秀泰師により「羅府高野山大元年」秋、富山県出身の青山

小東京の東1街にある高野山米国別院

師教会として発足。市内エリシアン公園近くの借家からスタートし、14年市内コマィシャル街に進出。20年北センラル街(現在の全米日系人博物館旧館)の会堂を購入し移転。高野山ボーイスカウト379小隊が誕生。34年に二世週祭のはしりとなった弘法大師ご遠忌パレードに1万人の人数で小東京は賑わった。35年、本山より別院に昇格。40年に現在の地に600人収容の殿堂が高橋成通主監の下に完成。50年、82年、高野山ホールとして日系社会に開放し、諸種の芸能イベントが毎週催された。89年夏、広島・長崎平和の灯が日本から安置される。93年、2000年納骨堂、歩行ランプや本堂改装工事が行われ、最近では殿堂屋根瓦葺き替えをはじめ、扁額の再塗装、堂内リモデル工事などが進められている。

過去100年の間、駐在した開教師や研修生は70余人を越すが、ほとんどは日本から派遣された僧侶で、中でも米国の各大学に進学し、博士号、修士、学士号を取得して大学教授や学識畑に活躍した開教師も多い。

詳細・問い合わせは別院寺務所まで。電話213・624・1267 ファクス213・625・2197。

Newspaper article in the daily Japanese-American newspaper, Rafu Shimpo, describes the celebration of the Temple's 100th Anniversary.



Goma Fire Ritual performance by Bishop Ekan Ikeguchi of Saifukuji Temple.

Officiant of Koyasan's 100th Anniversary Service - Bishop Ekan Ikeguchi



The officiant (doshi)

for the 100th Anniversary

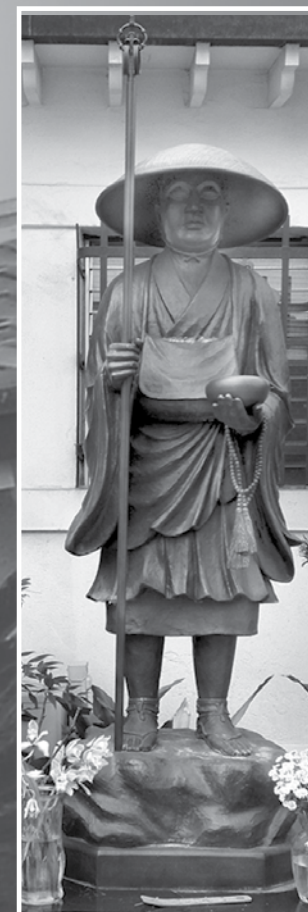
who introduced the

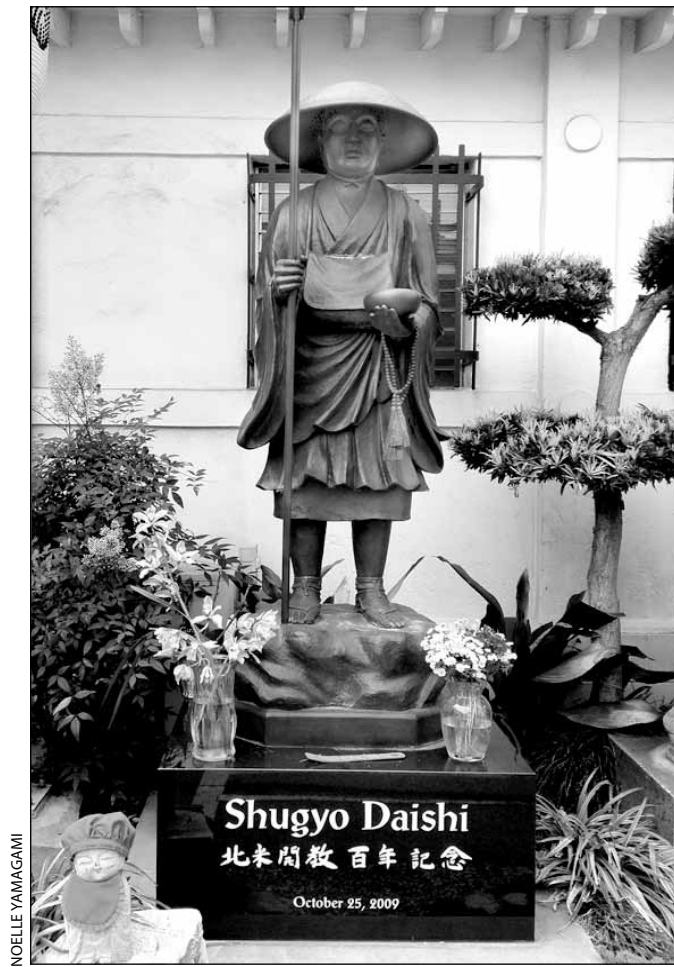
Goma Fire Ritual

to Koyasan

Buddhist Temple.

Koyasan Courtyard

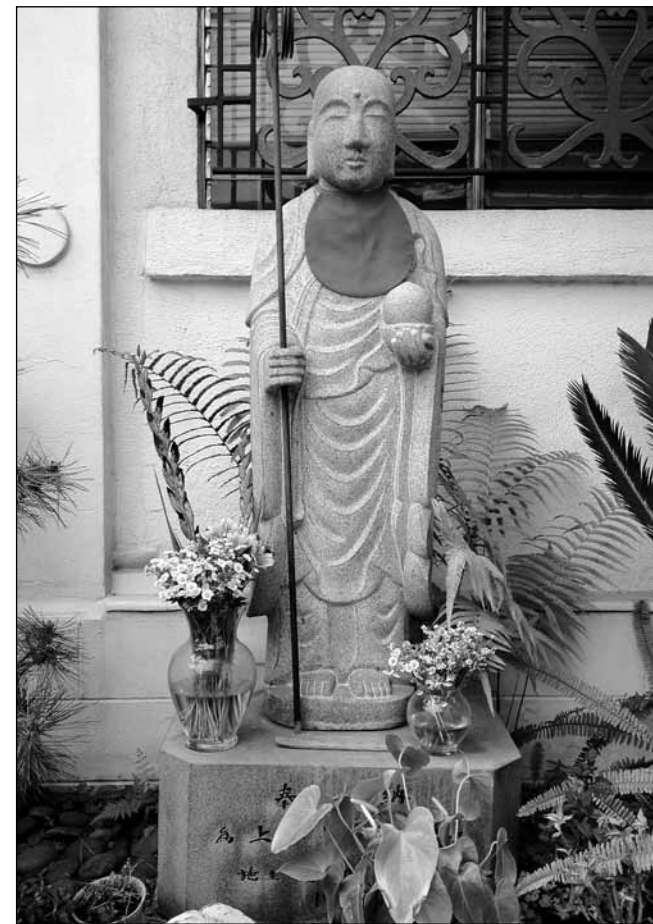




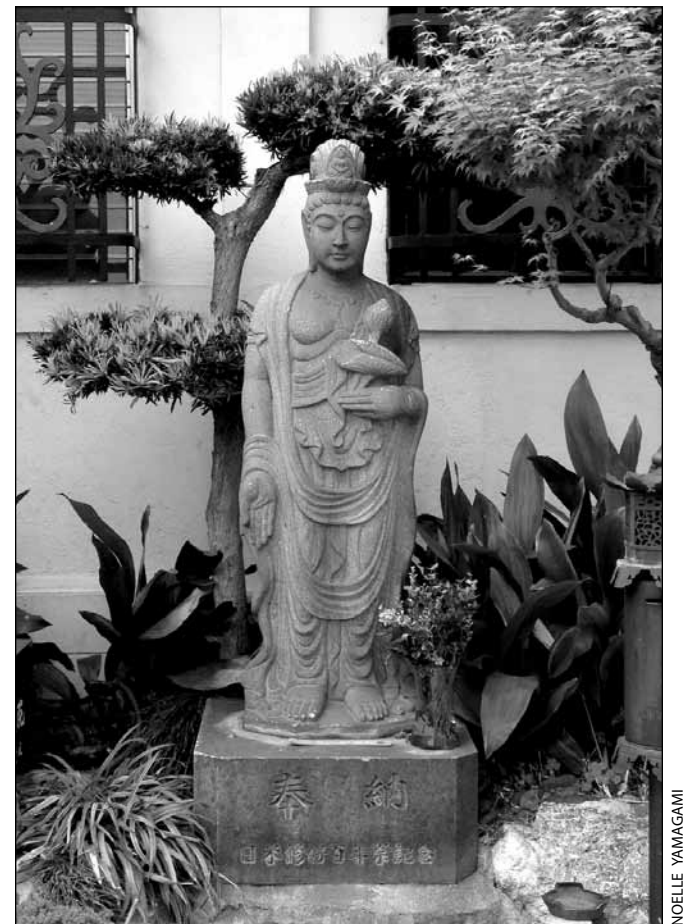
Donated by Yasuo and Satoko Kurata, 2009.



Donated by Kakuganji Temple, 2007.



Donated by Kayoko Tsukada, 1992.



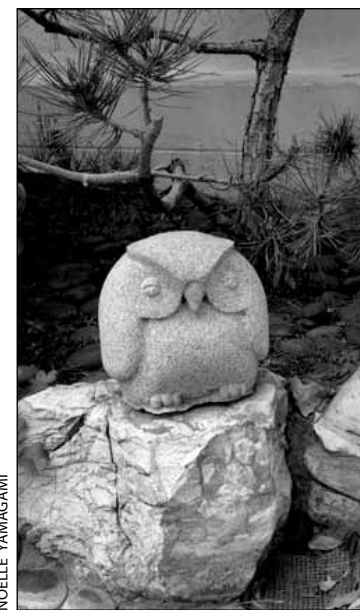
100th Japan-US Friendship Agreement, 1961.



Donated by Temple members, 1983.



Donated by Kuichiro Nishi, 1940.



Donated by Reverend Chihan Ono, 1999.



Donated by Reverend Chihan Ono, 1979.



Donated by Bishop Etus Taisen Miyata, 2012.



Donated by Sumi Toraichi, 1940.

Bishops from 1912- 2012

Bishops from 1912 through 1924



Bishop Shutai Aoyama
1912 - 1921

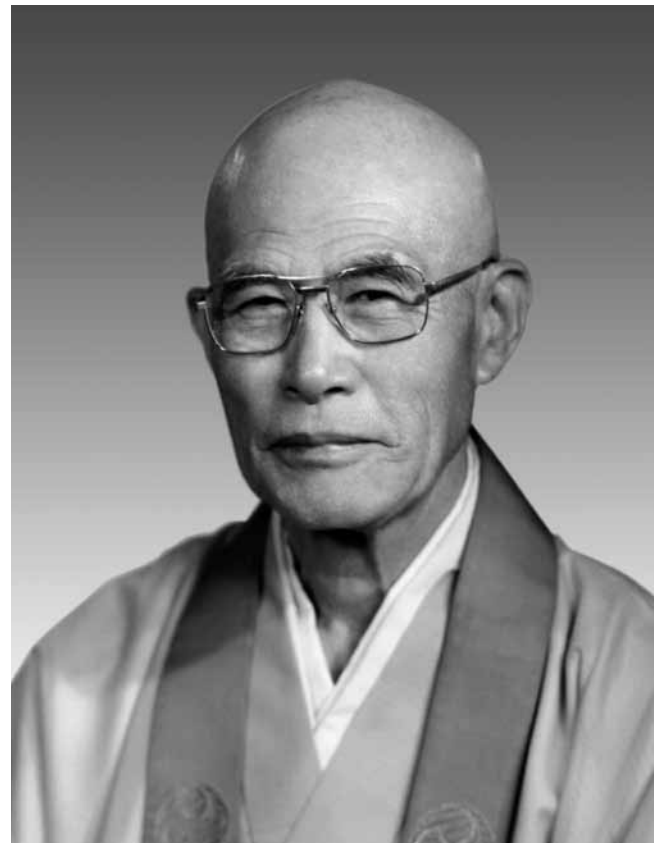


Bishop Hokai Takada
1921 - 1924

Bishops from 1924 through 1982



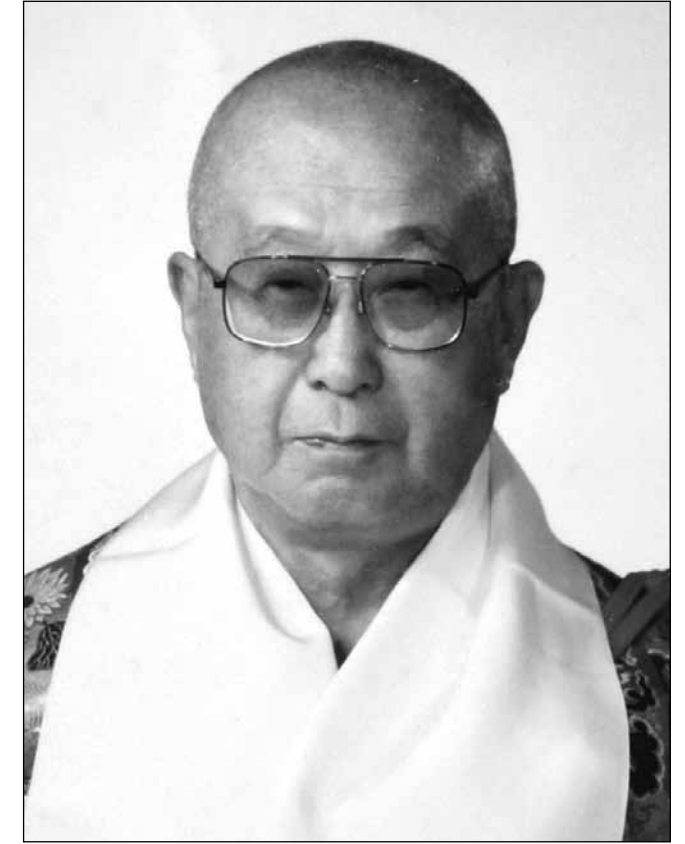
Bishop Taido Kitagawa
1924 - 1933



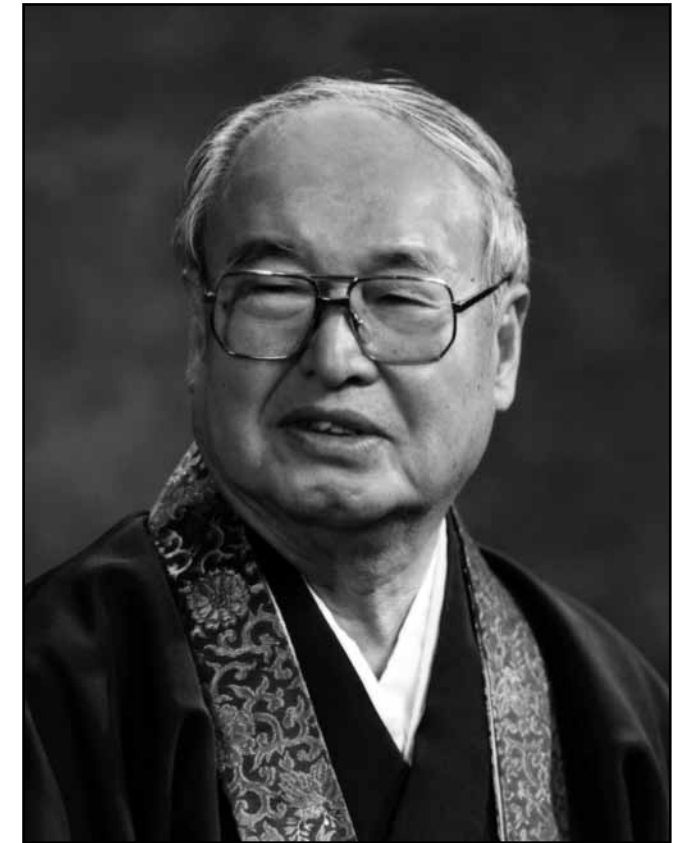
Bishop Seystu Takahashi
1933 - 1982

Bishops from 1982 through 1993

Bishop Ryosho Sogabe
1982 - 1991



Bishop Chiko Inouye
1991 - 1993



Bishops from 1993 through Present



Bishop Taisen Miyata

1993 - 2007

2011 to Present



Bishop Seicho Asahi

2007 - 2011

Back Cover Design for Ojuzu Insert for
Koyasan Mission Los Angeles 100th Anniversary
by Don A. Yamagami

100th Anniversary Logo Design
By Katherine Weinstock

Inside Back Cover

