



**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 Ryusho 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



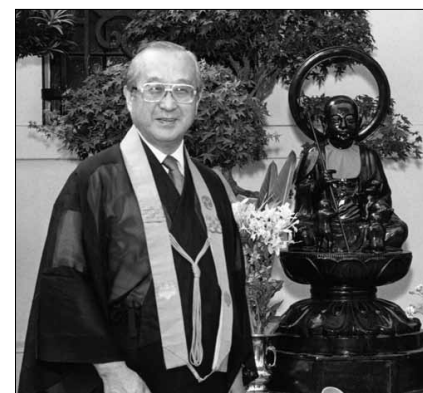
Troop 379 Committee Member Takako Osumi (right) gets a group of children, including some Cub Scouts with recorders, ready for their performance at the Year-End Party in 1985.



1991 - Den Mother June Fujimoto (1991-1994) shows off her pumpkin carving skills as some Cub Scouts look on 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 MIYAKE 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 Ojiro, 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 Ojiro, 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 MIYAKE 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.



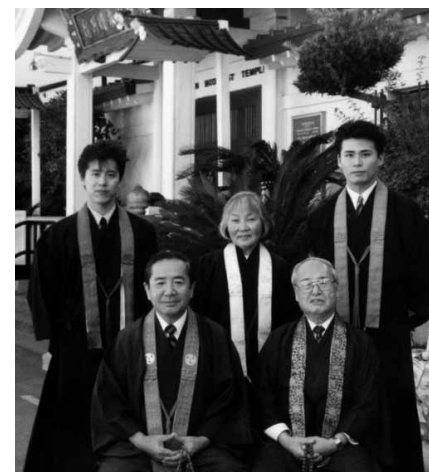
1984 - From left, Reverend Seicho Asahi, Reverend Myojo Yokota, Bishop Ryosho Sogabe, Shikako Sogabe, Kenshusei Tatsuya Iwamoto, Reverend Junkun Imamura.



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.



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.