



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

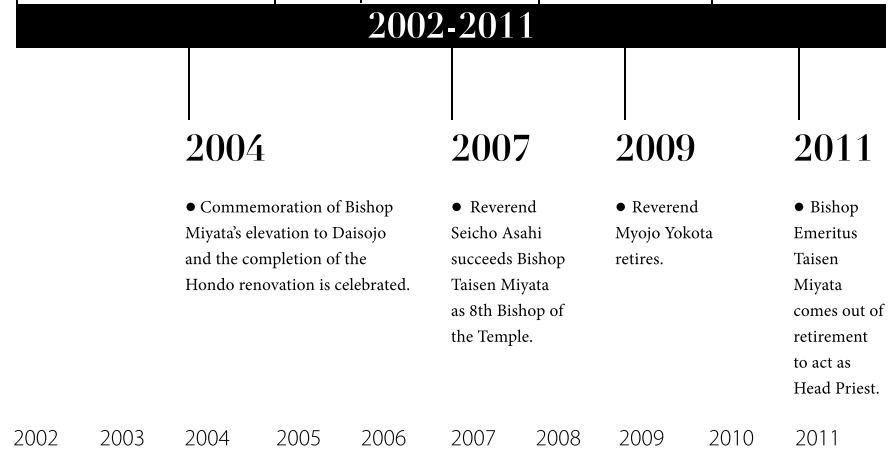
- Koyasan Boy Scout Troop 379 celebrates its 75th Anniversary and Reunion.
- Delegates from the Kakuganji Temple, Toyama Prefecture, Japan, attend the unveiling ceremony of a bust sculpture in honor of Bishop Shutai Aoyama in the Temple courtyard.

2008

- Aoyama Tree dedication.

2010

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



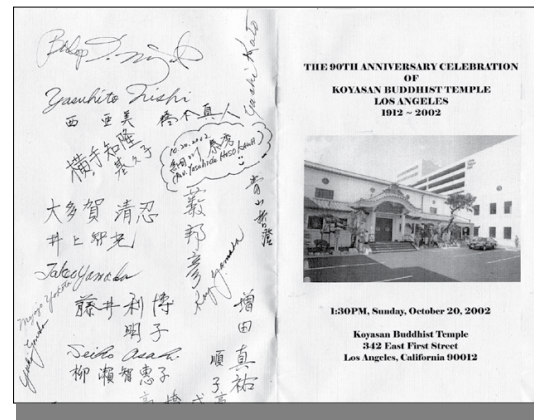


90TH 1912-2002
ANNIVERSARY
OF KOYASAN
BEIKOKU BETSUIN



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

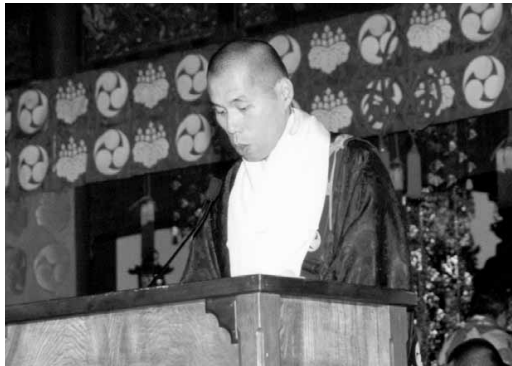
Helen Takata's 90th Anniversary Program with signatures of past priests and Kenshusei who attended the service and banquet.

90th Anniversary Service

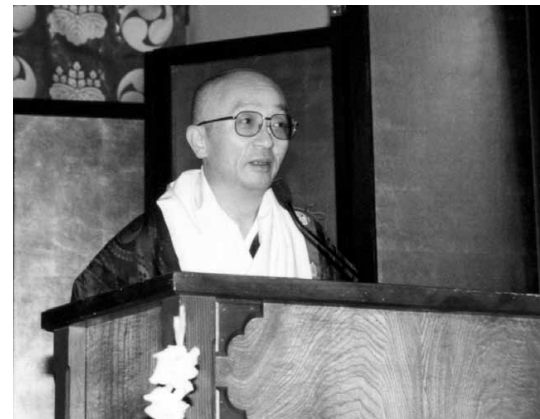


Bishop Taisen Miyata explains the procedure for the 90th Anniversary service to the priests who have come from Japan to help commemorate the anniversary. The group of priests consists of former Kenkusei who trained in Los Angeles, former priests who resided in Los Angeles, and priests from Buddhist Temples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

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 LACBF 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

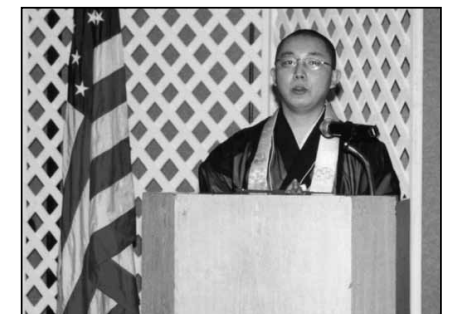


Temple President, Noboru Yonemoto, offers words of appreciation on behalf of the Temple.

Speakers

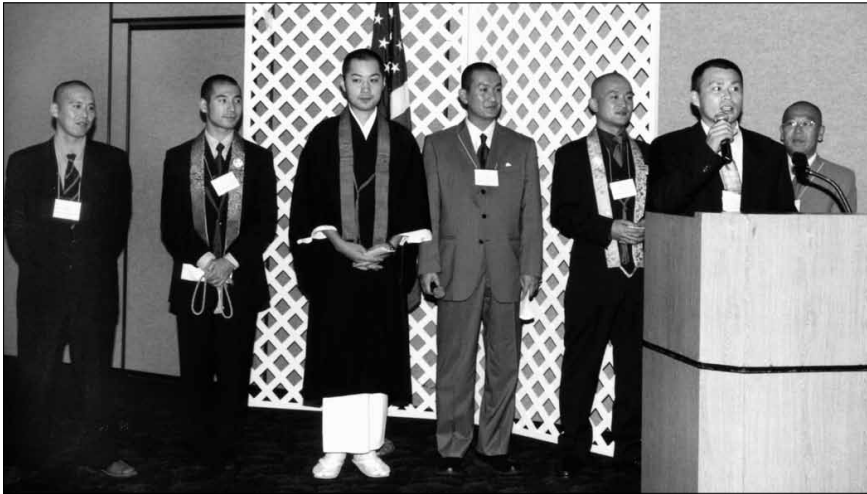


LABCF President, Rimban Noriaki Ito of Higashi Honganji, offers a congratulatory message.



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



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



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.

Shusho-e (New Years) - 2006



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



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.

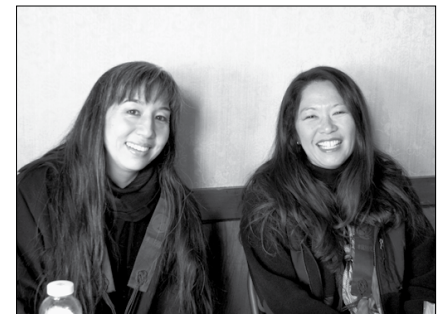
Shusho-e (New Years) - January 2011



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.

Aoyama Bust Dedication - October 29, 2006



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.

Spring Ohigan - 2006



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 wagers.



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.

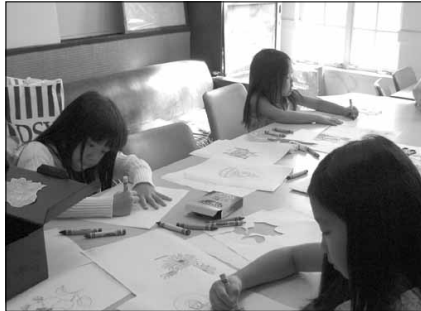
Dharma Class - November 28, 2007



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 Butsudans.



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.



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.



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



April 2011 rummage sale.



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