



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.



1973

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

1978

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



1979

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

1972-1981

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 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



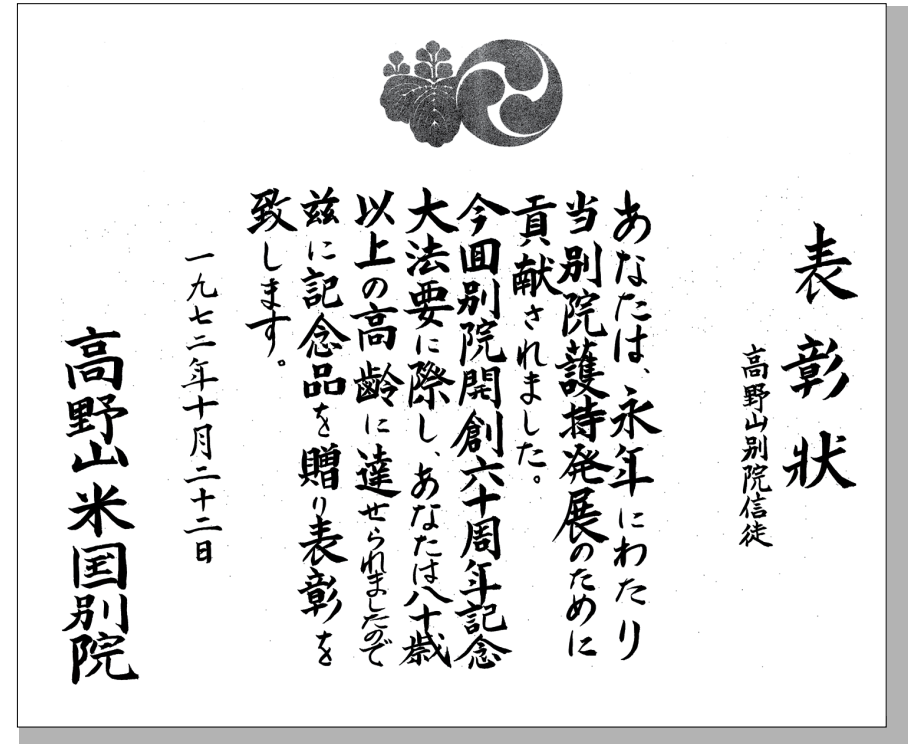
COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



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



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.

Daishi's Birth, Aobamatsuri - June 1973



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO



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



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYAKE STUDIO

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



COURTESY OF TOYO MIYAKE STUDIO

From left, Yutaka Sadamitsu, Temple President Kakuo Tanaka, Reverend Keiryō Mizuno, Bishop Kenko Yamashita (Zenshūji), Reverend Ryōshō 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

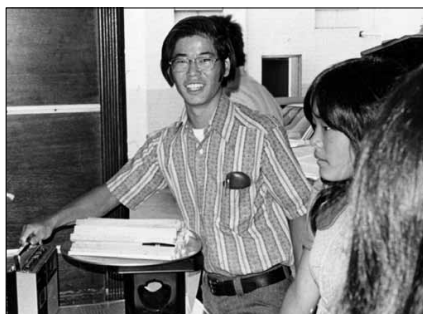
1976 - Richard Narumi proudly shows his Sangha Award. Surrounding him is his family from left, younger brother Robert, father Michio Narumi, grandmother Yoneko Narumi, grandmother Tou Omori, mother Beverly Narumi.



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.

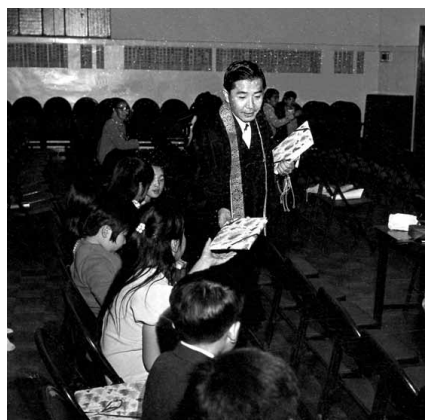
Left: Lunch is served in the hall at Koyasan after the morning activities are concluded.

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 Hoshō Nishiyama, Reverend Yukai Isoda, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Kaizan Kosaka, Reverend Ryoshō 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 Ryoshō Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Taisen Miyata.



1979 - From left, Reverend Shūhō Jishi, Reverend Yukai Isoda, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Ryoshō Sogabe, Bishop Seytsu Takahashi, Reverend Chiko Inouye, Reverend Hoshō Nishiyama, Reverend Yuji Matsumoto, Reverend Myōjo Yokota.