



**Bishop Seytsu Takahashi**  
1933 - 1982

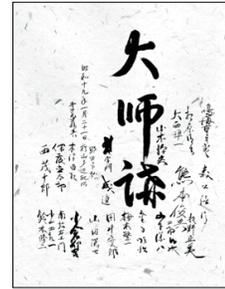
# 1942-1951

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 Cadillac Insurance Company due to the forced evacuation of the Japanese by the U.S. government. Most Temple members are incarcerated.

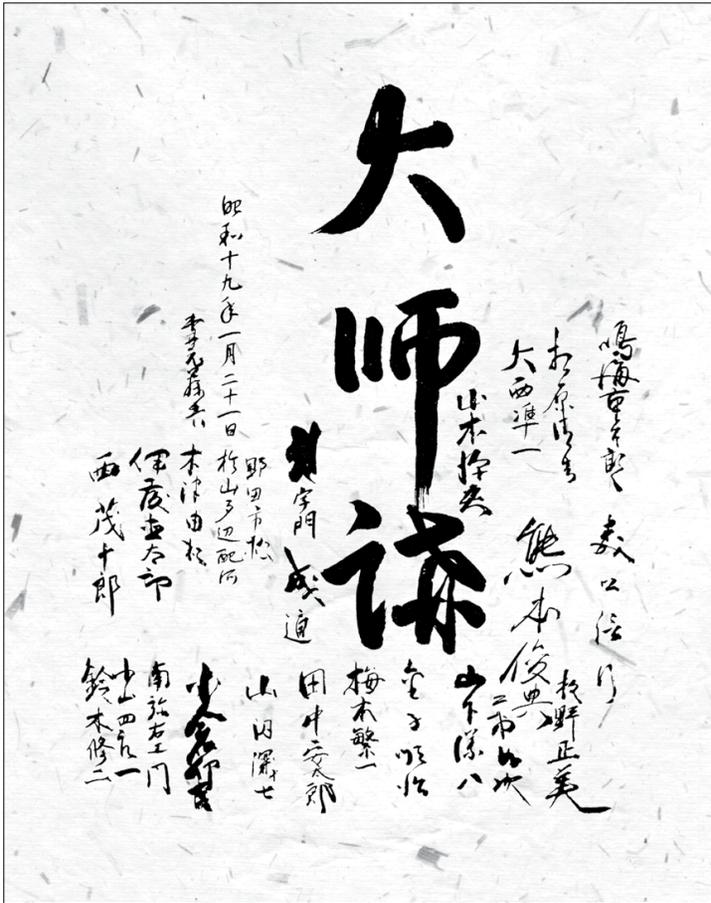
## 1951

- 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 Cemetary 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 STUDIOS

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), Shimaie 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 many Scouts earn their Eagle Scout rank.

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

## 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.