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 “Keisan-mon”, 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.
Reverend Keiryo 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).

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.

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

Sunday School children offer incense at the 50th Anniversary.

The Goeika group performs during the service.

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

Incense offering by teenage members of the Temple.
50th Anniversary Service

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

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

Reverend Seisho Hakeda and Bishop Seytsu Takahashi.

Reverend Ryosho Sogabe.

Fujin-kai Advisor honorees.

Harbor City Koyasan Church honorees.

Temple President and Anniversary Committee Chairman, Tsuruhiko Abe.

Betsuin Sunday School Teacher honorees.

Kakuo Tanaka, future Temple President from 1965 to 1974, addresses the congregation.)
The Issei pioneer leaders of the Temple are honored at the 50th Anniversary banquet held at Restaurant Raffle.

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

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

Members of the Sonen-kai at the banquet.

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

From left, Jack Wada, Reverend Shunshin Iseki, Reverend Shinsho Hasu, Reverend Taisen Miyata, Reverend Hiroyuki Kawashima.
The Boy Scouts are on hand to post colors at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

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

50th Anniversary - Sonen-kai

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

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

50th Anniversary Boy Scout Troop 379

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

Kakuo Tanaka, Temple President, leads the procession.

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

Cabinet members and ministers in procession to enter the Temple.

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

Shomieku - 1965

Kyogi Nagashi - 1965
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.

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

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

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

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

Cub Scout Troop 379 Halloween Party - October 10, 1963

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO
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.
In 1965, Kamiye Taenaka is elected to serve as Fujin-kai President. Banquet for the Jr. YBA installation. Kiyoko Onishi (on left) acts as advisor to the group, while Reverend Taisen Miyata serves a religious advisor. Kakuo Tanaka (second from left in front) in his second year as Temple President. 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). Fujin-kai Travels To Sacramento - 1962 Fujin-kai Trip - May 1963 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. 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 Cabinet - 1966 Junior YBA Installation - 1967
Members of the Sonen-kai show off their handiwork heralding the weekend carnival.

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

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

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

1965 – A young Leonard Narumi with Usaburo Amimoto.

Junior YBA Hawaii Conference - 1968

Koyasan Carnival - 1962 through 1965


Left: The members of the Jr. YBA enjoy a dinner banquet in Waikiki, Hawaii.
Ministers - 1965 through 1970


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