



Myohoji Bulletin

March, April, May & June 2018

Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin On the Occasion of the January Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony January 1, 2018 (Excerpt)

Bodhisattva Never Disparaging appeared during the Middle Day of the Law after the passing of Buddha Awesome Sound King (Ion'no). He insisted that all living beings possess the Buddha nature, and bowed in reverence to the people he met, reciting the words of the Twenty-Four-Character Lotus Sutra as follows:

I have profound reverence for you, I would never dare treat you with disparagement or arrogance. Why? Because you are all practicing the bodhisattva way and are certain to attain Buddhahood.

(*Hokekyo*, p. 500; *The Lotus Sutra*, Watson, pp. 266-267)

Whenever Bodhisattva Never Disparaging saw the four kinds of believers—priests, nuns, laymen, and laywomen—he would bow to them in reverence, reciting this Twenty-Four-

Character teaching. He never despised them but instead, he praised them, asserting that all living beings possess the world of Buddhahood. That is why he was called Bodhisattva Never Disparaging.

However, he was persecuted, and attacked with staves, sticks, stones, and tiles. Despite this, he continued to bow in reverence to people. Those who had mistreated Bodhisattva Never Disparaging fell into hell once, but later, they were saved through their reverse relationship formed by hearing the Lotus Sutra.

In this way, the benefit of Myoho-Renge-Kyo is that even those who slandered Bodhisattva Never Disparaging could attain enlightenment through a reverse relationship. It goes without saying that those who have a positive relationship surely will attain Buddhahood. Consequently, the Great Teacher Dengyo taught that “Both the believers and slanderers will

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March

March 4 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

March 11 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

March 18 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: *Higan-e*
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

March 25 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

April

April 1 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

April 8 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

April 15 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodai-kai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

April 22 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Morning Gongyo
Temple Clean Up

April 29 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: *Risshu-e* Ceremony
and Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

May

May 5 (Saturday)

2:00 PM: New Members
Seminar

May 6 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

May 13 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

May 20 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodai-kai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

May 27 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

June

June 3 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Teen Group Meeting

June 10 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Oko Ceremony
Children's Oko in Kyakuden

June 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodai-kai
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

June 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

**Introductory meetings:
3rd Thursdays at 7:00 PM.**

Rev. Taishin Takano
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Nichiren Shoshu True Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

attain Buddhahood without fail.”

Concerning these words of the Great Teacher Dengyo, the Daishonin teaches the following in the Goshō, *Ten Superior Doctrines Described in the Outstanding Principles of the Lotus Sutra* (Shuku jissō-shō):

Those who praise the Lotus Sutra accumulate good fortune as high as Mount Sumeru, while the offense that one commits by slandering the Lotus Sutra opens the path to the hell of incessant suffering. Even so, for those who take faith in the Lotus Sutra, the sutra becomes a heavenly drum, and for those who slander it, the sutra becomes a poison drum. Both the believers and slanderers of the Lotus Sutra will attain Buddhahood without fail.

(Goshō, p. 1348)

This is a metaphor showing that the Buddhist teaching enables all those who hear it to be liberated from earthly desires. Thus, through their relationship with Myōhō-Renge-Kyō, there is no doubt that both the believers and slanderers of the Lotus Sutra will attain Buddhahood without fail.

Equinox Memorial Higan-e Ceremony—March 18

At the *Higan-e* Ceremony, we offer toba memorial tablets to repay our debts of gratitude. Myōhoji Temple will observe the spring *Higan-e* on Sunday, March 18 at 10:00 AM.

The Risshu-e Ceremony: Celebrating the Declaration of True Buddhism—April 29

The *Risshu-e* Ceremony, celebrating the establishment of true Buddhism will be conducted on April 29 at 10:00 AM.

In the early morning of April 28, 1253, Nichiren Daishonin, at age 32, stood alone in Kasagamori forest at the top of Seicho-zan Mountain waiting for dawn. As the sun rose above the Pacific Ocean, Nichiren Daishonin joined his hands in prayer and began to chant the Daimoku: “Nam-Myōhō-



Group Tozan 2018 Schedule

Airing of the Scrolls	April 3-8
New Members Tozan	May 18-23
Summer Study Tozan	August 22-29
Gotai-e	November 17-22

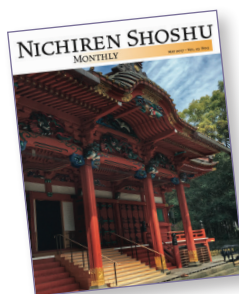
This tozan schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and itinerary prior to events.

Precisely, the phrase: “Both the believers and slanderers will attain Buddhahood without fail” is extremely important.

When we perform shakubuku, it is important that we patiently teach people about the magnificence and superiority of the Daishonin’s Buddhism. This is because, even though those who we do shakubuku may oppose it or turn their backs on us, they eventually will take faith in true Buddhism through their relationship with it, by having the seed of Myōhō-Renge-Kyō sown into their lives. •

Renge-Kyō, Nam-Myōhō-Renge-Kyō...” The significance of the annual *Risshu-e* Ceremony is to express our gratitude to Nichiren Daishonin. Through his profound mercy, he overcame tremendous obstacles to establish true Buddhism for all eternity. So we commemorate this day by making the determination to follow the Daishonin’s example of teaching everyone about Nam-Myōhō-Renge-Kyō.

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To learn more about our dynamic practice, we encourage you to subscribe to the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly, published twelve times a year. Since the purpose of the monthly is specifically for study, each edition is packed with in-depth material dealing with complex aspects of true Buddhism, as well as the more basic concepts.

NST Myōhoji Temple Hours

Open:	Mon. - Sat.:	6:15 AM
	Sun.:	8:00 AM
Closed:	Mon. - Fri.:	8:00 PM
	Thurs.:	8:30 PM
	Sat. & Sun.:	5:30 PM
Gongyo		
Morning:	Mon. - Sat.:	6:30 AM
	Sun.:	10:00 AM
Evening:	Mon. - Fri.:	6:30 PM
	Sat. & Sun.:	4:00 PM