



Myohoji Bulletin

March, April, May, June 2009

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Message from Rev. Takano

The Commemorative General Tozan Celebrating the 750th Anniversary of the *Rissho ankoku-ron* will be held at the Head Temple throughout this year. I am certain that those who will make this pilgrimage to the Head Temple are looking forward to seeing and praying to the Dai-Gohonzon.

During the lifetime of the Daishonin, tozan was the pilgrimage to visit the Daishonin, the True Buddha. Its original significance was to directly serve the Daishonin and receive his instructions. This was because at that time, Nichiren Daishonin's appearance itself was the center of worship based upon faith, and the Daishonin was the true master who would lead all living beings to enlightenment. The pilgrimage to the Head Temple, the dwelling place for both the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary and the High Priest, has exactly the same significance as making a tozan pilgrimage during the Daishonin's time.

On October 12, 1279, the Daishonin inscribed the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary as his own living form. It is the object of worship of faith for all living beings in the Latter Day of the Law. The Dai-Gohonzon has been solemnly protected in seclusion at the

Head Temple for more than 700 years, continuing until this day.

The Daishonin transferred the entire entirety of his own enlightenment as the True Buddha to Nikko Shonin alone, instructing that he be the successor after his passing. In this succession, Nichimoku Shonin followed Nikko Shonin, Nichido Shonin followed Nichimoku Shonin, and so on, in the order of the Heritage of the true Law up to the present Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin, who possesses the Daishonin's enlightenment as the True Buddha.

If we think of the Dai-Gohonzon as the fundamental root, all other Gohonzons are as branches and leaves. In other words, the Gohonzon enshrined in each temple or the Gohonzon that we have received, are all inscribed by each successive High Priest. These are all transcriptions of the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary, and the great power of benefits arising from them is the benefit coming entirely from the Dai-Gohonzon. Truly, the Dai-Gohonzon of the High Sanctuary is the principle and source of all Gohonzons. Nichiren Daishonin stated:

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March

March 1 (Sunday)

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

March 8 (Sunday)

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

March 15 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Higan-e
Japanese Lecture

March 18 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

March 22 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gongyo only

March 29 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Tozan Orientation Meeting

April

April 5 (Sunday)

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

April 12 (Sunday)

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

April 15 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

April 19 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

April 26 (Sunday)

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

May

May 3 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Kosen-rufu Gongyo
Tozan Orientation Meeting

May 10 (Sunday)

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

May 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

May 20 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

May 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gongyo
Clean up

May 31 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

June

June 7 (Sunday)

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

June 14 (Sunday)

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

June 17 (Wednesday)

6:30 PM: Evening Gongyo
7:00 PM: Introductory Meeting

June 21 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai
Japanese Lecture

June 28 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial
Chinese Lecture
Korean Lecture

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Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism
Orthodox Teaching of
Nichiren Daishonin

Should this mountain, where the most august Votary of the Lotus Sutra resides, be regarded any less highly than the pure land of Eagle Peak? Because the Law is ineffably supreme, the person is venerable and because the person is venerable, the place is sacred. The Wondrous Powers (*Jinriki*; twenty-first) chapter states, "...in a forest, under a tree, in a priest's quarters...the Buddhas enter parinirvana." Those who travel to this place to pay their respects will instantly eradicate the negative karma they have accumulated since the remote past and trans-

form their sins of the three categories of action into the three virtues.

(Gosho, p. 1569; GND-1, p. 83)

How fortunate we are! Let us remember to chant to repay our debts of gratitude to the True Buddha, Nichiren Daishonin, when we have an audience with the Dai-Gohonzon.

—Rev. Taishin Takano

Higan-e Memorial— March 15

Memorial service performed twice a year on or around the equinox. More information will be mailed at a later date.

Risshu-e Ceremony, the establishment of True Buddhism Celebrated on April 26 at 10:00 AM



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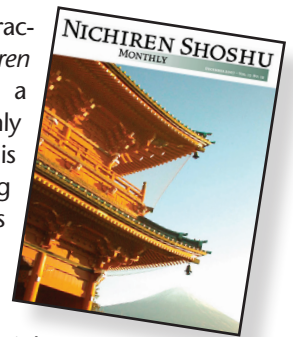
The Risshu-e Ceremony: Celebrating the Declaration of True Buddhism

In the early morning of April 28, 1253, Nichiren Daishonin, 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-Myoho-Renge-Kyo, Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo..." 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-Myoho-Renge-Kyo.

Subscribe to the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly

To learn more about our dynamic practice, we suggest checking out the *Nichiren Shoshu Monthly*, published 12 times a year. Since the purpose of the Monthly is specifically for study, each edition is packed with in-depth material dealing with some of the more complex issues of Buddhism, as well as the more basic Buddhist concepts.

Typical issues have included not only guidance and instruction from High Priest Nichinyo Shonin, but also concise articles dealing with all aspects of Buddhism along with frequent study basics. Also featured are current experiences of Nichiren Shoshu believers from all over, as well as news from our local temples.



NST Myohoji Temple Hours

Open:	Mon. - Sat.:	6:15 AM
	Sun.:	8:00 AM
Closed:	Mon. - Fri.:	7:30 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