



# Myohoji Bulletin

June, July, August, September 2011

[www.nst.org/myohoji](http://www.nst.org/myohoji)

## Guidance from Sixty-eighth High Priest Nichinyo Shonin On the Occasion of the May Kosen-rufu Shodai Ceremony May 1, 2011 (Excerpt)

As the Daishonin teaches, chanting Daimoku for oneself and others is most essential in the Latter Day of the Law. Therefore, the practice of Daimoku should not be only for the sake of chanting Daimoku. It is important for one to move forward and do shakubuku, based on the benefits and joy one has received. Each individual must put the actual practice of shakubuku before theory. This is the practice befitting "The Year of Taking Action to do Shakubuku."

There is a proverb that says, "If one only sits and eats, a mountain of wealth will be gone." It is true that if we are idle and do not work for a living, our abundant possessions eventually will be completely consumed. Likewise, if one does not do shakubuku, his accumulated benefits will be lost before he is aware of it.

In order for each of us to achieve the attainment of Buddhahood in this lifetime and realize the establishment of the Buddha land, we must act as Bodhisattvas of the Earth. We must be aware that the best way to live is to consistently chant Daimoku and do shakubuku, upholding the vows: "to attain the supreme enlightenment," and "to save innumerable living beings."

After witnessing the disaster of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, I feel very strongly about these vows.

The Goshu, "Attaining Enlightenment at the Initial Stage of Faith through the Lotus Sutra" ("*Hokke shoshin jobsutsu-sho*") reads:

In the Latter Day of the Law, it is a matter of principle that we firmly should teach the five characters of the honorable title of the Lotus Sutra, whether or not it is suited to the capacities of ignorant common mortals. This is because in the past, when Shakyamuni Buddha was called Bodhisattva Never Disparaging (*Fukyo*), he propagated the Lotus Sutra. Men and women, monks and nuns, all mocked him. Bodhisattva Never Disparaging was spoken ill of and cursed. He was beaten and exiled out of the country. He also was detested, and people held grudges against him. Yet, he remained undaunted. Instead, he strongly taught the Lotus Sutra to the people. This led him to become Shakyamuni Buddha.

(*Goshu*, p. 1315)

As these golden words indicate, shakubuku in the Latter Day of the Law should be conducted following the example of Bodhisattva Never Disparaging. It is vital for us to maintain the spirit that "we should firmly teach the five characters of the honorable title of the Lotus Sutra, whether or not it is suited to the capacities of ignorant common mortals."

The same Goshu states:

Thus, we should strongly teach and make them listen to the

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## June

### June 5 (Sunday)

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

### June 7 (Tuesday)

7:00 PM: Exchange Meeting  
with Fuji Gakurin Student Priest

### June 12 (Sunday)

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

### June 15 (Wednesday)

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

### June 19 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai  
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

### June 26 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial  
Chinese Lecture / Korean Lecture

## July

### July 3 (Sunday)

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

### July 10 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Urabon Ceremony  
Oko Ceremony

Children's Oko in Kyakuden

### July 17 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai  
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

### July 20 (Wednesday)

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

### July 24 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Morning Gongyo

### July 25 (Monday)

7:00 PM: Basics of Practice  
Meeting

### July 31 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial  
Chinese Lecture / Korean Lecture

## August

### August 7 (Sunday)

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

### August 14 (Sunday)

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

### August 17 (Wednesday)

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

### August 21 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Shodaikai  
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

### August 28 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial  
Chinese Lecture  
Korean Lecture

## September

### September 4 (Sunday)

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

### September 11 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Gonan-e Ceremony  
Oko Ceremony

Children's Oko in Kyakuden

### September 18 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Higan-e Ceremony  
Japanese Lecture

Young Adult Meeting

### September 21 (Wednesday)

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

### September 25 (Sunday)

10:00 AM: Monthly Memorial  
Chinese Lecture / Korean Lecture

### September 26 (Monday)

7:00 PM: Basics of Practice  
Meeting

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

(continued)

teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Those who follow and take faith in it will be able to attain enlightenment, and even those who slander it will likewise attain Buddhahood in the end through their reverse relationship with it.

(Gosho, p. 1316)

Faith is not theory. It is actual practice. Through the practice of shakubuku, we are able to eradicate our negative karma from the remote past and attain Buddhahood in this lifetime.

We now must take to heart the passage from the Teachers of the Law chapter that states, "After I have passed into extinction, one should accept and uphold this sutra. There is no doubt that such a person is assured to attain the Buddha way."

It is vital that we practice not only for ourselves, but also teach others about the great benefits of the mystic Law (*Myoho*) and shakubuku the many people who suffer from misfortune.

It is often said, "Good timing is hard to come by and easy to lose," or "Time and tide wait for no one." If you think you have plenty of time before the end of the year, you will not be able to achieve your goal. It also is said, "Time is money." Since time is precious, we should not waste our time.

We must not waste even a minute and do shakubuku. I sincerely hope that all the chapters definitely will achieve their goals this year. •

## Group Tozan Schedules

### August Study Tozan

Leave U.S.: August 24  
Return to U.S.: August 29

### November Oeshiki Tozan

Leave U.S.: November 17  
Return to U.S.: November 22



## The Urabon Ceremony: Annual Memorial Service for the Deceased (July 10)

The Urabon Ceremony dates back to the days of Shakyamuni in India and is described in the Sutra of the Festival of the Dead (Skt. *Ulambara*; Jpn. *Urabon*). Through this sutra, we learn that the deceased are unable to make causes and help themselves, so we, the living, help relieve their suffering in their deceased states and increase their fortune by requesting toba tablets for them and praying to the Gohonzon together with the priests for their peace and happiness.

This annual ceremony for the deceased will be celebrated together with the Oko Ceremony on July 10, at 10 AM. An application for toba memorial tablets is enclosed with this mailing. Please return your toba requests by July 3.

## Gonan-e Ceremony: Commemorating the Tatsunokuchi Persecution (September 11)

The Tatsunokuchi Persecution occurred on September 12, 1271. It is one of the four great persecutions that Nichiren Daishonin underwent. Through these persecutions, he proved the predictions made in the twenty-line verse of the Encouraging Devotion (*Kanji*; thirteenth) chapter of the Lotus Sutra of the trials and tribulations the True Buddha would endure while propagating the Lotus Sutra in the Latter Day of the Law. The Tatsunokuchi Persecution was the Kamakura Government's failed attempt to execute Nichiren Daishonin.

Through this event, the Daishonin cast off his transient identity as the reappearance of Bodhisattva Jogyo and established his true identity as the True Buddha of the infinite past of *kuon ganjo*. We will be celebrating this very significant ceremony together with the Oko Ceremony on September 11, at 10 AM.

## Equinox Memorial Higan-e Ceremony (September 18)

The Higan-e Ceremony is the traditional memorial service performed twice a year on or about the same day as the spring and fall equinox. At the Higan-e Ceremony we offer toba memorial tablets to repay our debts of gratitude. Myohoji Temple will observe the fall Higan-e on Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 AM.

Toba applications will be mailed to believers in August. Please submit toba requests by September 11. Thank you.

## Subscribe to the Nichiren Shoshu Monthly



To learn more about our dynamic practice, we encourage you to subscribe to 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.

## NST Myohoji Temple Hours

|         |              |         |                   |
|---------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| Open:   | Mon. - Sat.: | 6:15 AM |                   |
|         | Sun.:        | 8:00 AM |                   |
| Closed: | Mon. - Fri.: | 8:00 PM | (8:30 PM in July) |
|         | Thurs.:      | 8:30 PM |                   |
|         | Sat. & Sun.: | 5:30 PM | (6:00 PM in July) |
|         |              |         |                   |

**Gongyo**

|          |              |          |
|----------|--------------|----------|
| Morning: | Mon. - Sat.: | 6:30 AM  |
|          | Sun.:        | 10:00 AM |
| Evening: | Mon. - Fri.: | 6:30 PM  |
|          | Sat. & Sun.: | 4:00 PM  |