

NST MYOSENJI

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August 12, 2011

To: Members of the Myosenji Chapter of the Hokkeko
From: Rev. Yuzui Murata, Chief Priest
Re: **Higan-e Ceremony – September 18th, 2011**

I will be conducting the **Higan-e Ceremony at Veirs Mill Park Activity Building (for the location: see the flier of September Sunday Myosenji Temple Gatherings) on Sunday, September 18th, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.** The **Higan-e Ceremony**, a very significant memorial ceremony for the deceased, is conducted only twice a year at Nichiren Shoshu Temples, in March and September.

In the Gosho, On the Enlightenment of Plants and Trees (Gosho – p. 522), the Daishonin states: **“When our fellow human beings pass on, it is essential to perform a *Toba* service. By so doing, the deceased will attain enlightenment as well as plants and trees.”** When we sincerely practice True Buddhism, we can purify our lives, eradicate our negative karma and experience enlightenment. Those who are unable to practice True Buddhism, however, such as the deceased, as well as plants, trees and other insentient life forms, must rely on the merit of the Gohonzon and on the faith and practice of others to attain enlightenment. In other words, we send the merit of the Gohonzon to the deceased in order to ease their present suffering and to ensure they will be reborn in a higher life condition. By requesting that a Toba tablet be prepared and offered to the Temple Gohonzon, the full merit of the True Law is immediately implanted into the life of the deceased. By continuing to offer Toba tablets to the deceased, we are expressing our desire to nurture the seed which has been planted until it reaches fruition at some point in the future.

To facilitate the offering of Toba tablets, Toba Tablet Request Forms have been printed/attached. Please make as many copies as you need for the **Higan-e Ceremony** on September 18, 2011. To allow sufficient time for a Priest to prepare each Toba tablet, please make sure that your request arrives at Myosenji Temple **no later than Sunday, September 4, 2011**. Make sure the proper amount of Gokuyo (\$10.00 for each Toba tablet) is also submitted. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.