

Diamond Sangha

A ZEN BUDDHIST SOCIETY

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MAUI ZENDO
R. R. 1, Box 702
Haiku, Hawaii 96708
10 February 1976

Dear Eidō Rōshi:

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to me to attend your International Sesshin and Opening Ceremonies of Kongo-ji together with one or two of our students.

I have considered this matter together with Anne and with other members of our sangha, and decided to arrange matters so that I can accept. It is an important event, and I am looking forward to participating.

I will take part in both the sesshin and the opening ceremonies, and will come to Shoboji on June 26 to accept your generous offer of overnight accommodations and transportation on the 27th to Kongo-ji. I will be accompanied by two students, Lucile Jenkins and Nelson Foster. Lucile may go directly to Kongo-ji on the 27th, as she has relatives in upstate New York who can drive her. This is not settled yet, and she will let you know. Nelson will meet us at Shoboji and stay overnight on the 26th. We will all have sleeping bags.

Lucile Jenkins, age 74, five-year community member of the Maui Zendo, realization confirmed by Yamada Rōshi, fall, 1972, working steadily on koans since, now in the middle of the Shoyoroku. She is a retired psychiatric social worker, and is presently vice-chairperson of our Board of Directors.


Nelson Foster, age 25, three-year resident and community member of the Maui Zendo, with a summer at Koko An previously. Realization confirmed by me, fall, 1974, working steadily on koans since, now in the middle of the Hekiganroku. Came to the Maui Zendo right after graduating from Harvard with a major in art history; immediate past chairperson of our Board of Directors.

Both Lucile and Nelson have attended a great many sesshin with both Yamada Rōshi and myself. Nelson has had experience in jikijitsu and jisha roles in the dōjō. They will bring a sitting robe each, plain, dark brown. Let me know if these will not be suitable. Lucile, being older, should not be assigned jobs during rest periods.

All three of us will be moving around a lot in the interval before coming to New York, but we will be in touch with your centers by phone and letter to keep up with any changes.

Please feel free to assign me any job during sesshin or during the ceremony, and let me know if there is anything I should prepare. I will bring the Brother Bowl for tea ceremony with Soen Rōshi; let me know if I should bring anything else. I am looking forward very much to this important occasion, to seeing you and Sōen Rōshi once more, and to meeting your members and other teachers. Thank you very much for the invitation.

With gasshō


Robert Aitken

