

# THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY

Eido T. Shimano Roshi, Abbot



The Zen Studies Society is dedicated to the practice of Zen Buddhism and the dissemination of Zen culture. It is the parent organization of Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji (a mountain monastery or training center for resident practice) and New York Zendo Shobo-ji (a city center for non-resident practice.)

## SUMMER - FALL 1983

### NEW YORK ZENDO NEWS

#### Mahayana and Zen Buddhism at New York Zendo Shobo-ji

Beginning this Fall, New York Zendo will offer Buddhist studies in addition to zazen practice: Zen Buddhism in the Fall term, and Mahayana Buddhism in the Spring. Although both courses will be required for new Provisional Students, they are nevertheless open to, and recommended for, all members and non-members as well. These classes will be held on Friday evenings at NY Zendo.

While Zen training does not rely on words and letters, that doesn't mean that there aren't any. Persons undergoing training should be well acquainted with the essential doctrinal background of Buddhism, for it will inspire their zazen and they can ground their learning firmly in zazen practice and daily work. Practice does not occur in a spiritual vacuum.

The Provisional Student membership, which had been suspended for the first training period of 1983, will now be reactivated. Beginning with the Fall training period, new members will be accepted as Provisional members for a period of one year, during which they will be required to participate in at least one seven-day sesshin at Dai Bosatsu Zendo, our mountain monastery, and to attend classes in Mahayana and Zen Buddhism. Thus the training of Provisional students for the first year will consist of both zazen practice and formal Buddhist studies.

After a year's leave, GENRO Lee Milton will be returning to NY Zendo Shobo-ji as Resident — after the July 4th Sesshin at DBZ. We welcome him back warmly.

There will be a pot-luck dinner on Saturday, July 9th, at 6:00 pm at New York Zendo. You are encouraged to bring a vegetable dish or dessert of your choice to give the party variety and zest! And, bring a friend to share our gladness. A \$5 donation per person is asked.

This year, New York Zendo Shobo-ji celebrates its 15th Anniversary with a weekend sesshin to be held from Friday evening, Sept. 16th to 5:00 pm Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18th. It will be conducted by Eido Roshi.

On September the 15th, 1968, New York Zendo Shobo-ji was dedicated. Soen Roshi, Sasaki Roshi and the late Yasutani Roshi came to help us open the zendo. From then up until now, thousands upon thousands of Students of Dharma have come and done zazen, creating the present lucid atmosphere. Many distinguished masters, teachers and monks have visited Shobo-ji, and their presence has helped form the special subtle quality of Shobo-ji.

### DAI BOSATSU NEWS

#### Twenty-two Students for Spring Kessei

About four hundred gallons of maple syrup were produced at Dai Bosatsu this Spring, in a rather irregular season that saw at least three periods of freeze-and-thaw. The new evaporator worked well and the sap, gathered through nineteen miles of blue tubing, has been made into superb syrup. It's available in eight different containers, holding eight ounces to one gallon. One collector's item is available: a 14½-ounce plastic bottle with an embossed maple leaf. (And the syrup is good, too.)

Twenty-two Kessei students are observing the long-awaited arrival of Spring in the Catskills. The garden must be planted, the new trees set in their rocky holes, and the wild leeks gathered for pickling. On rainy days, rakusu patches and pins litter the dining room. Students are devoting much "spare" time to memorizing sutras. This difficult work appears to be somewhat easier when the student is seated on a rock, facing the lake.

Roshi is conducting morning class and discussion on the essentials of Buddhism, and on What it Means to be a Buddhist. Zenrin conducts an afternoon class on half-days, elaborating some Buddhist concepts such as impermanence, suffering, and causation.

Roko Sachiko Muramatsu sent a welcome donation of beautiful new chopsticks to the monastery. Kessei students gassho to Roko.

Rutgers, Syracuse, Bucknell, and Muhlenberg colleges have sent groups of students to DBZ this Spring for one-and two-day workshops. Playing host and hostess to these visitors is stimulating to Kessei practice.

Roshi can now be consulted on the proper use of the gasoline-powered wood-splitter, after intensive instruction by the wood crew. His skill in chopping twigs for the kitchen stove is also showing marked improvement.

After a brief review of the mallard duck situation, with particular attention to the apparent inability of raccoons to act selflessly toward duck eggs, the suggestion has come up for the construction of Duck Island in Beecher Lake. Plans have not yet been finalized.

In September, SHODO Pedro and KANRO Sandy Carr's baby Martha arrived, and in December, KENKON George and JUKO Joan Sugihara's baby Emily was born, and in early spring, OGO Jim and KUGE Susan Benjamin's baby Kyle appeared. Congratulations to them!

# NEW YORK ZENDO SHOBO-JI

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The New York Zendo is a city center specially structured to accommodate those who live and work in the New York area. Zazen (Zen meditation) meetings for students and the general public are held each weekday. They are conducted by senior students of Eido Roshi. Beginners' instruction and a talk are given on Thursday evenings. Though non-members may attend any sitting, beginners and visitors are asked to attend Thursday evenings first for orientation. All are welcome at morning service. Weekend sesshins and all-day sittings occur monthly during the zendo's two yearly training periods.

**All-day sittings** begin at 9:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. Please provide your own lunch.

**A weekend sesshin** offers an opportunity for city students and interested beginners to experience something of the intensity of a sesshin. It is conducted by Eido Roshi, and includes zazen, dokusan (private meeting with the Roshi) and teisho (talks by the Roshi). Silence is maintained. Sesshins begin at 6:00 pm on Friday and end at 5:00 pm on Sunday.

## Daily Zazen Schedule at Shobo-ji

Monday	6:00 - 7:45 am	—	7:00 - 9:00 pm
Tuesday	6:00 - 7:45 am	2:00 - 4:00 pm	—
Wednesday	6:00 - 7:45 am	—	7:00 - 9:00 pm
Thursday	6:00 - 7:45 am	—	7:00 - 9:00 pm (Public Night)
Friday	6:00 - 7:45 am	—	7:00 - 9:00 pm
Saturday	—	—	—
Sunday	9:00 - 12:00	—	—

Doors open 45 minutes before zazen begins.

A \$3 donation is asked of non-members.

## New York Zendo Calendar

1983	July 5	First Training Period ends Zendo closes for one month
	July 9	Sangha Fund-raising Dinner
	August 5	Zendo opens, Second Training Period begins: Classes on Zen Buddhism on Friday nights, taught by SAMAN Lea Liu
	August 14	O-Bon - All-day Sitting 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Please bring your own lunch.
	September 16-18	Shobo-ji 15th Anniversary Sesshin
	October 16	Zazen Workshop with Eido Roshi
	October 30	Soyen Shaku Memorial All-day Sitting
	November 13	All-day Sitting
	December 10-11	Zen Arts Sale
	December 23	Second Training Period ends, Zendo closes
	December 31	New Year's Eve celebration Doors open at 9:00 pm Ceremony at midnight

**Membership.** If you have attended Thursday night orientations or a Dai Bosatsu Zendo Zazen Workshop, and you want to join our sangha (community), apply to the Resident. You will be accepted as a Provisional student for a period of one year, during which you will be expected to attend all Friday night classes and sittings. You are then eligible to attend any other scheduled zazen, use the library and attend Dai Bosatsu Zendo sesshins at the reduced rate. Members are asked to offer \$30 per month (= \$1 per day). All contributions are tax deductible.

# DAI BOSATSU ZENDO KONGO-JI

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The monastery of the Zen Studies Society is located in the Catskill Mountains, 140 miles northwest of New York City. It is a training center for lay Zen students of any faith, from any country. It is staffed by monks and senior students of Eido Roshi. In this strong and beautiful monastic setting, the spiritual life of all participants is immeasurably enriched.

**Kessei** is a three-month, concentrated period of practice that gives the student a firm spiritual foundation for daily life. It includes Zen meditation, study, private guidance from Eido Roshi, manual labor, and attendance at three seven-day sesshins during the Hundred Days. The Kessei student is expected to remain at the monastery for the entire training period. Any seriously interested person at least eighteen years of age, and in good health, is welcome to apply.

**Sesshin** is the traditional Zen retreat of seven intensive days. Manual labor is almost completely suspended, as is communication with the world outside the monastery. Spiritual effort is energetically concentrated on Zen meditation. Each day there is a talk by Eido Roshi, who also gives individual guidance in Zen practice. The intensive period is arduous, but revitalizing. Any student with prior zazen experience is welcome to register for any sesshin.

A **Zazen Workshop** offers a weekend of Zen experience to those who are new to Zen practice, or who have limited time to share monastic living. From late Friday afternoon to early Sunday afternoon, participants follow the monastery schedule, with minor changes. Instruction is given in meal procedures, and almost all meals are taken in silence. Evening and morning services and chanting, and zazen periods, take place as usual, except that sitting periods are shorter than the customary forty-five minutes. Eido Roshi gives one formal talk during the weekend, and at each Morning Meeting, presents some material for thought and mutual exchange. Other relatively informal periods of exchange with residents take place at tea after lunch and after supper.

## Schedule of Activities - Summer/Fall

July 5 (afternoon) to September 17th (before noon)	Guest House open.*
July 27 (evening) to July 31 (after lunch)	Seminar "Introduction to Zen Training." Roshi and staff will conduct the seminar, which will include zazen, manual work, and group discussion. Fee \$150.00
August 13	O-Bon Festival - Traditional Japanese Memorial Ceremony
September 17	Fall Kessei begins
September 24 to October 1	Golden Wind Sesshin*
October 8 (10:00 am) to October 10 (after lunch)	Zazen Workshop
October 29 to November 5	Harvest Sesshin
November 30 to December 8	Rohatsu Sesshin
December 10	Fall Kessei ends

\*All sesshins begin at 5:00 pm on the date given

\*The Guest House is already booked for August 26 to September 4.

## Fee Schedule

Zazen Workshop	\$75
Kessei	First Kessei attended, \$900. Second, \$700. Third, \$500.
Sesshin	Sangha member \$170. "Friend," \$190. Others, \$220.
Room and Board at the Monastery	Sangha and "Friends" \$18/day, \$110/week, \$325/month. Others \$20/day, \$120/week, \$425/month.

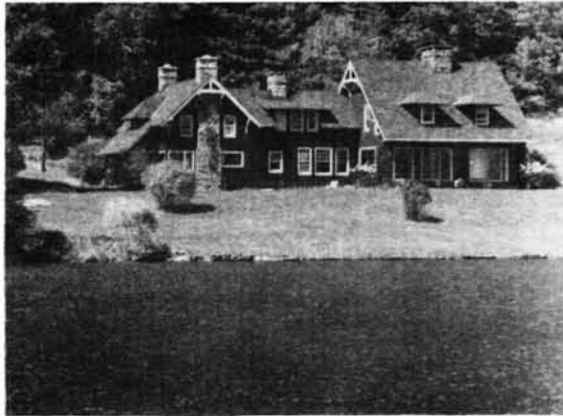
## Transportation to Dai Bosatsu

**BY BUS:** The Short Line from New York City's Port Authority Terminal to Livingston Manor.

**BY CAR:** Palisades Parkway or New York Thruway (Exit 16) to Route 17 West. Follow Route 17 to Exit 96 (Livingston Manor-Lew Beach). Turn right and follow signs to Lew Beach. Continue through Lew Beach along winding country road, always bearing right. At Amoco Station (Turnwood Grocery) main road turns left over bridge, but follow smaller road (County 54) to right. Eight miles further you will come to the gatehouse of Dai Bosatsu Zendo on the left side of the road (two buildings, cedar roofs, stone boundary walls). The Zendo is two miles up the mountain, about twenty miles from Livingston Manor.

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THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY  
223 East 67th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10021



## The Guest House of Dai Bosatsu Zendo

During the summer interim period, Dai Bosatsu's Guest House is open to visitors. This is a former vacation lodge, built in 1903 and recently renovated, on the shore of Beecher Lake. It has seven rooms for guests which look out onto the quiet lake and the green of the surrounding hills.

The usual hotel amenities are provided. Activities are informal. Excellent family-style vegetarian meals are served, using home-grown produce as much as possible. Swimming and boating begin with a step across the lawn. Please note, however, that fishing is not permitted.

Guests are welcome to participate in the Monastery's daily schedule of meditation and work if they wish.

Dress is casual (but please bring a robe for zazen if you have one, and if you plan to take part in sitting periods). Remember that at 3,000 feet of altitude here in the mountains, evenings and mornings are brisk.

For a combination of country living and Zen atmosphere, it is hard to imagine a better spot than Dai Bosatsu Guest House.

**The Fee Schedule is:**

Per Day	\$ 50/single occupancy	\$ 90/double occupancy
Per Week	300/single occupancy	540/double occupancy

A one-third deposit is necessary to secure your reservation.

Children under 12, ½ price.

## Monastery Summer Accommodations

The monastery summer schedule includes rising at 5:00 am for a two-hour morning service of chanting and meditation (zazen), silent meals, assigned work, certain free periods, and a two-hour evening service with zazen.

Guests electing to stay in the moanstery itself **must** participate fully in its daily schedule.

The fee for this accommodation is \$20/day, \$120/week. A one-third deposit is required to secure a reservation

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