

ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY NEWS

ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY BOARD NEWS

The Board of the Zen Studies Society is the decision-making body of the institution. With Eido Shimano Roshi who is the Chairman of the Board, its members are chosen from the practicing Sangha at Shobo-ji and Dai Bosatsu Zendo. The Board's primary responsibility is to assist and sustain the authentic transmission of Rinzai Zen Buddhism from East to West. Its second responsibility is to support the evolution, the transition and the growth of the Society both in terms of practice and thought. Currently there are twelve members on the Board. The senior Board members are:

Muin Bernard Spitz is a senior member who has been practicing at Shobo-ji and Dai Bosatsu since 1976. Presently he conducts weekly zazen meetings in Ridgewood, New Jersey with his wife, Kuon Marcia Spitz. Muin has been the President of the Zen Studies Society for three years, and has been on the Board for ten years.

Aiho-san Yasuko Shimano is the Treasurer of the Zen Studies Society, and has been the Director of Shobo-ji for three years. A teacher in her own right, she has been involved with the Dharma for over thirty years.

Hozo Wilkie Pretorius has been on the Board since 1986. He is the current Secretary. Hozo works as a fundraising consultant for various non-profit organizations in New York. He brings his managerial and organizational expertise to the Board. Hozo has been a member of Shobo-ji for over ten years.

Jikei Jean Bankier is one of the most senior of all board members, and has been the past president and secretary of the Zen Studies Society. Jikei started zazen at Tassahara in 1971, and was a friend of Buddhist author Nancy Wilson Ross. She has been a member at Shobo-ji since 1974, and has been on the Board for over twelve years.

Zenshin Richard Rudin lives in California. He has been a student of Eido Roshi for eighteen years and a member of the board since 1982.

Shingo John Brady works as a national sales manager for a major mail order company. He has been practicing at Shobo-ji since 1986 and a member on the board for two years. Shingo brings his business and fundraising skills to the Board. He is currently a member of the Shobo-ji Executive Committee along with Aiho-san, Rev. Saman Sodo, Daichi Vasken Kalajian, Fran Perriello, and Charlotte Mansfield.

The four newest members of the Board are:

Daichi Vasken Kalajian is the President of a New York based corporate communications agency. Daichi has offered his graphic design skills for both zendos since he started sitting in 1989. He brings his experience in business and corporations to the Board.

Fran Perriello is an environmental manager at a major corporation and holds leadership roles on several environmental committees on the national level. Fran came to the Zen Arts sale in 1990 and began formal practice at Shobo-ji in 1991. She brings her background in law, labor relations, and business management to the Board.

Charlotte Mansfield has been a member of The Zen Studies Society since 1991 and has contributed administrative and technical support to the organization since 1992. She is a consultant specializing in information systems engineering and data architecture.

Seigan Ed Glassing is the Shikaryo at Dai Bosatsu Zendo and has ex-officio status on the Board. He has been at Dai Bosatsu Zendo since 1988, previously sitting at Shobo-ji for two years. He is a member of the Executive committee at Dai Bosatsu Zendo with Seiko Susan Morningstar, Fujin Attale Formhals and Tashi Linda Baylor.

At no other time has the Board been as active. After two years of research,

new By-laws were drafted and adopted, and four new members were chosen to be on the Board. With regret the Board accepted the resignation of Junpo-shi Denis Kelly as Vice-Abbot of Dai Bosatsu Zendo, Seigan was then appointed the Shikaryo. Recently, the Board approved an accounting firm to set up a computerized system of finances for both zendos, and a consulting firm to advise on our future plans.

Perhaps the most significant decision this year has been the drafting and adoption of a set of guidelines (page 14 of this issue) that will apply to both Zendos. After months of deep thought and much work, The Zen Studies Society joins other Zen Centers and Buddhist communities throughout the United States in issuing a statement of conduct for the organization.

THREE NEW DHARMA TEACHERS

In an unprecedented ceremony held December 8, 1992, at Dai Bosatsu Zendo, three women were acknowledged as new Dharma teachers by Eido Shimano

Roshi. They are: Aiho-san Yasuko Shimano; Roko-san Sherry Chayat; and Agetsu-san Agatha Wylder-Haduch. They were each presented with gold brocade rakus as symbols of their new position.



In his address Roshi spoke of their long years of practice and dedication and the creation of their own sanghas with their own students. Most importantly though, Roshi said, each of them has experienced clear Insight and with this wisdom can help others. He concluded that each within their characters have the gift of leadership and the potential to carry the authentic Rinzai Zen spirit into the future.

We congratulate them.

ORDINATION NEWS

We are pleased to announce that on September 12, 1993 Fujin Attale Formhals will receive full ordination as a Rinzai Zen nun. Fujin has been a student at Dai Bosatsu Zendo for two years and took Jukai November of 1992. She is an accomplished flutist, playing in several orchestras and tutoring students both in France and America.