

Mr. Joe Soun Dowling
President, Board of Directors
Zen Studies Society
233 East 67th Street
New York, New York 10065

Re: Eido Shimano

Dear Mr. Dowling,

I am the Abbess of the Vallejo Zen Center, Clear Water Zendo. I trained at the San Francisco Zen Center and Tassajara. I'm writing to add my voice to the many that have contacted you about your former abbot, Eido Shimano.

While it may well be true that maintaining Rev. Shimano in any role could open the organization to legal challenges, (I used to be a lawyer) I don't think that sort of thing is a reason for a dharma organization to act or not act. I think we need to act or not act based on our bodhisattva vows.

I know that sounds grandiose but it is also simply our practice. In this instance, it seems to me that the way is clear, though difficult. After reading Rev. Shimano's purported letter to the Times, I felt it became straightforward and simple: he is very damaged and should not be "sponsored" to teach in any way by any dharma organization. As Norman Fischer said, perhaps a clear break and clear message from you will be of help to him. I hope so. Nothing else seems to have gotten through his denial. Bodhisattvas are not saps, in my view. Sometimes they must set boundaries and make difficult decisions that hurt people. I think this is such a situation. I hope that you and the other leaders of the ZSS can find the strength of such vows to protect the current sangha as well as to reach out to those harmed in the past. They are your sangha as well, after all. Finally, as others have said, you represent all of us in this.

We stand with you and your new abbot, Shinge Roshi and will support you in the new beginning that we hope is dawning in New York. Our hearts go out to you in this difficult time. Thank you for your efforts in the dharma.

Warmly,
s/

Zenki Mary Mocine
Abbess, Clear Water Zendo