

## Eido Shimano Roshi

Retired Founding Abbot

We've all gathered here at Dai Bosatsu Zendo to witness the installation ceremony of Shingeshitsu Roko Roshi, who from now on, I will call "Shinmei-san" – which means "New Life."

As you know, there are many Buddhist groups and Zen groups nowadays. And I respect their traditions and leadership. But, we have to be proud of this particular tradition known as The Zen Studies Society.

It was founded by Cornelius Crane in 1956 to support Dr. D.T. Suzuki's academic work at Columbia University. D.T. Suzuki is responsible for introducing Zen Buddhism to the West. He is, so to speak, the First Patriarch in The Zen Studies Society. His teacher, Soyen Shaku, brought Buddhism for the first time to America in 1893.

The society was created and, in the beginning, was quite active. But when D.T. Suzuki went back to Japan, it became an inactive organization. And then, I took over and shifted the society's emphasis from academic study to practice. With all your help, Shobo-ji was born in 1968, and DBZ was dedicated in 1976.

Today, Shinmei-san offered a verse: From nation to nation, this Dharma lineage, which is boundless, receiving and trans-



mitting... In our tradition, she and I are the only lineage-holders. I have deep trust in her insight and leadership. There will be no problem with this, as long as we work together like we have these three days.

Residents of DBZ, students of Hoen-ji, students from Shobo-ji, and others came together to work harmoniously. This is not a concept, but the reality of The Zen Studies Society mission. With each of your understanding and cooperation, I trust this will continue.

In any rate, thank you – for your friendship, your support, and your cooperation – these past 46 years in New York. And now I am 80 years old, so allow me to be emancipated from the heavy responsibilities.

And, as much as you supported me, please support and encourage Shinmei-san, so that she will grow. So that someday, this Lamp – coming from Gempo Roshi to Soen Roshi, from Soen Roshi to me, from me to Shinmei-san – will be transmitted to future generations. This is the unique part of Rinzai Zen practice; and this is what we are now.

Thank you again, and Happy New Year! ❖

