

From: Shinge Roshi
Sent: 11/1/2011 6:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A letter from Shinge Roshi

November 1, 2011

Dear Zen Studies Society Sangha,

In the weeks since our Sangha Weekend facilitated by An Olive Branch, I have felt deeply saddened. I want to express my sorrow and regret to those harmed by affairs with their teacher, to the many who have suffered feelings of betrayal and disillusionment, and for the bitterness and divisiveness that have occurred.

Although I cannot apologize for what others have done or have not done, what I can do is to ensure a safe and inspiring environment for authentic Rinzai Zen training and practice at the Zen Studies Society's monastery and temple.

To that end, the current Board of Directors and I are taking many positive steps to restore trust in the Zen Studies Society. We have already revised the Zen Studies Society's By-laws, and we have created a firm framework for upholding the Precepts and ethical guidelines at Dai Bosatsu Zendo and New York Zendo.

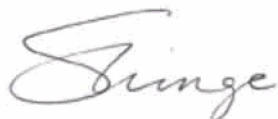
I have also nominated new Board members to include dedicated practitioners who have strong non-profit, law, and business careers, as well as elected representatives from both the New York Zendo and Dai Bosatsu Zendo. From January 2012, I will work with this expanded Board to ensure transparency in our communications with Sangha members, emphasizing the kind of deep listening that took place during our facilitated Sangha Weekend. To ensure that our skills as directors meet the Society's needs, I will arrange a Board training retreat with a non-profit professional on best practices for governance and communication.

I recognize that the transition from an organization based on the charismatic leadership of one individual to one that is based on the strength of the Sangha as a whole is not easy, but it is an exciting chance to develop a long-term, stable, and harmonious future. Know that my door is always open to you as we work to envision and implement this future.

It is heartening to see more practitioners, both new and old, attending sittings and events at New York Zendo, and participating in sesshin, Introduction to Zen, and samu weekends at Dai Bosatsu Zendo. I am grateful for everyone's pure motivation and dedication.

I want to take this opportunity to pledge my support and encouragement to each one of you. Let us join together in experiencing the treasure of zazen, so that we and future generations may mature in Buddha's wisdom.

Gassho,



Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat

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