

7/27/12

Rick Werwaiss , Executive Director
Eastern New York Chapter Nature Conservancy
265 Chestnut Ridge Road
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Mark Tercek, President and CEO
The Nature Conservancy
4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203-1600

Dear Mr. Werwaiss and Mr. Tercek,

I have just read the following piece published on the Buddhist Channel:
<http://www.buddhistchannel.tv/index.php?id=70.10993.0.0.1.0>

I wish to add my voice to the plea that you NOT proceed with the land trust deal that is in the works with the Zen Studies Society (ZSS) at this time. I have no argument with protecting the land concerned, but I do object the fact that the resources generated from this trust will mainly go to a known sexual predator, the founding abbot of ZSS, Eido Shimano Roshi, who serially groomed vulnerable female students under his care and direction for his sexual gratification over the course of decades, even reportedly engaging in date rape if he didn't have his way.

The land is not going anywhere and the deal should be at least postponed until after the ZSS has concluded all financial obligations and organizational connections with the Shimanos (they still invite him to events and ceremonies). At the moment, as the Buddhist Channel article correctly states, the Shimanos are being paid in excess of \$90,000 a year in deferred compensation and benefits, which is bankrupting the organization, making it clear that if the trust would go forward at this time the monies would end up going to him. Please let the ZSS become disentangled financially before proceeding. I believe not going forward with the trust at this time will force the ZSS to go to court to abrogate what are legally flawed, unjustifiable Deferred Compensation Agreements with the Shimanos. Please don't help ZSS give this precious resource away. If anything the monies should be used to support the victims not the victimizer.

I served on the ZSS board for a number of years, I am one of only five Dharma Heirs of Eido Shimano Roshi and I was at one time seduced by his lies that his behavior had reformed, so I know whereof I speak. It is imperative that the ZSS cut all ties with Eido Shimano before the trust proceeds.

Sincerely,

Genjo

Genjo Marinello, Osho
Abbot of Chobo-Ji
1733 S. Horton St.
Seattle, WA 98144