

From: Genjo and Carolyn zenquake@gmail.com
Subject: Eido Shimano teaching at Reflections Yoga Center
Date: November 4, 2014 at 7:43 PM
To: ptursi@reflectionsyoga.com
Cc: info@reflectionsyoga.com



Dear Paula Tursi,

I am writing with a concern for your organization and patrons. Do you realize that there is a teacher renting your space, Eido Shimano Roshi, who is considered by many to be a sexual predator? He rented space at the Reflections Yoga Center for a public event on October 25th of this year and is scheduled to lead a second event there on Sunday, November 23rd.

If you are unaware of Eido Shimano's predatory history, please read the book devoted to exposing his behavior titled: "The Zen Predator of the Upper East Side" written by New York Times reporter Mark Oppenheimer: <http://www.amazon.com/Predator-Upper-East-Kindle-Single-ebook/dp/B00GMVTPYI>. It is an accurate account of some of his misdeeds, but I can attest that it does not fully represent the extent or depth of his misuse of power, trust and respect given to him as a Zen Master. I can say this because I was in a position to listen to first hand accounts from former female students who he had cajoled, manipulated, and occasion forced to meet his sexual needs. I heard these accounts when investigating his behavior as the head of the Ethics committee at his former monastery Dai Bosatsu Zendo (DBZ) Kongo-Ji. The accounts I was exposed to sickened me and caused me to lose all faith in his capability to rightly continue to teach. In fact he is no longer allowed to teach in the very monastery he helped found.

Eido Shimano is a former teacher of mine, and I actually have great respect for his skill as a teacher, but I can no longer sanction or support his teaching in any public setting. Not only has he been banned from teaching at DBZ and New York City Zendo Shobo-Ji, but he has been turned away to my knowledge, by every Zen and religious institution where he has tried to continue his teaching. I hope now that you have been made aware of his history that you and the directors of the Reflections Yoga Center will ask him to go elsewhere. In my opinion no one should encourage or enable this man to continue as a spiritual guide and teacher. Please contact me if you have any questions that I may be able to help answer.

Sincerely,

Genjo Marinello

Abbot of Chobo-Ji

(former member of the board of directors DBZ)