



THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY
DAI BOSATSU ZENDO KONGO-JI

SHINGE ROKO SHERRY CHAYAT ROSHI, ABBOT

May 24th, 2011

Dear Sangha,

After deep reflection on all the painful events, discussions, responses, and decisions that have occurred over the past year, which have led to rifts and fragmentation of our Sangha, I have requested that the Board of Directors bring in a professional mediator who can help us in a process of open listening, which I feel is the only way we can begin to heal and restore trust.

It is my profound wish that we bring this about, so that we can go forward in a positive way both at Dai Bosatsu Zendo and at New York Zendo, creating an atmosphere in which openheartedness, kindness, and mutual respect are integral to authentic Rinzai Zen practice, in keeping with the compassionate and noble teachings of the Buddha.

A first meeting with the mediator, between Eido Roshi and members of the Board, occurred in early May. A second meeting with Dai Bosatsu Zendo residents and the entire Board will occur in early June. An all-Sangha meeting with the mediator will take place on the weekend of August 26-28, at Dai Bosatsu Zendo. (For more information or to register, please contact the DBZ office.)

As many of you know, the Committee for Sangha Stepping Forth, a group of 16 former and current Sangha members, met with two facilitators March 20 in New York City and talked frankly about many issues, including exploitative relationships, power dynamics, idealization, and "spiritual bypassing," as psychologist John Welwood has phrased it. Other sangha members have strongly expressed their wish to continue practicing with Eido Roshi for as long as possible. Every single person who has been and continues to be part of the Zen Studies Society family must have the opportunity to be heard, so that we can create and uphold a healthy and inspiring practice environment for us and for future generations.

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful spring, and I look forward to sharing the resurgence of the season at Dai Bosatsu Zendo with you.

Gassho,

Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat, Abbot