

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK ZENDO

The New York Zendo is the place for meditation of The Zen Studies Society, Inc., whose activities consist primarily of Zazen (Zen meditation practice). These activities are directed by the Reverend Eido Tai Shimano, a Rinzai Zen monk, originally from Japan. Every Thursday night the Zendo is open for a public meeting in order to provide an introduction to Zen Buddhism and Zazen. The meeting is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.; plan to arrive between 6:15 and 7 o'clock. There is a lecture by Reverend Shimano, elementary instruction in Zazen for newcomers by a resident assistant and Reverend Shimano, and actual Zazen. You may also do Zazen the entire evening if you wish. A contribution of one dollar is requested. Wear clothing appropriate for Zazen: neat, loose fitting and inconspicuous. Be alert and silent in the Zendo and carefully follow the simple procedures.

If you so desire, application for membership may be made after attending a minimum of seven Thursday night meetings. Your name is then put on a waiting list which is reviewed every four months (January, May and September) for potential members. Those on the waiting list may attend, with permission, two less-crowded regular meetings per week. Available seats in the Zendo as well as the number of students a teacher can guide must necessarily limit membership. In addition to a satisfactory Zazen condition, necessary criteria for membership include a responsible attitude and a humble and sincere enthusiasm for Zazen practice. Those selected from the waiting list are accepted for a four month period of trial membership. During this period they become acclimated to the Zendo schedule and activities. If their trial membership has been satisfactory and they are happy with the Zendo, they will be invited to become regular members at the end of the period.

There are two kinds of membership. Regular members are those who live in the New York City area and can attend Zazen meetings often. To help maintain the Zendo, they pay \$18 monthly by the middle of each month. Nonresident members live away from the city and cannot participate regularly, yet wish to belong to and support the Zendo. They must apply in person for membership and are asked to pay \$18 as quarterly dues. All contributions and dues are tax deductible.