

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library — Archives

Zen Studies Society Board of Trustees Meeting - October 19, 1982
New York Zendo Shobo-ji, New York City, N.Y.

Present: Aiho Yasuko Shimano, Korin Sylvan Busch, Rinko Peggy Crawford, Jikei Jean Bankier, Bugyo David Schneyer, Kogen Mike Rafter

Also present: Eido Roshi, Muin Bernard Spitz

The acting president, Korin Sylvan Busch, said that Eido Roshi had asked to be present in order to make a statement. Eido Roshi then told the board of a call he had received from Sasaki Roshi of Los Angeles in which he was advised that Myoshin-ji in Kyoto--the headquarters for some 3600 Rinzei Zen monasteries and temples in Japan including Ryutaku-ji--had in 1975 invited Soen Roshi to become one of the 15-20 or so Myoshin-ji rekijus (high-ranking ecclesiastical officers). Acceptance necessitates conducting an "opening the hall" ceremony, usually at Myoshin-ji; however, Soen Roshi deferred accepting at the time, saying he would rather perform the ceremony at Dai Bosatsu Zendo--which he never did. In April of this year, Myoshin-ji again offered Soen Roshi the rank with the condition that he put on the ceremony at Dai Bosatsu and be acknowledged DBZ's founder.

After some discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was RESOLVED that the Zen Studies Society acknowledges and declares Eido Tai Shimano Roshi to be the founder, and the first and present abbot of Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji and New York Zendo Shobo-ji; and Soen Roshi and the late Nyogen Senzaki to be honorary founders; and that Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji and New York Zendo Shobo-ji are and will remain independent from any other Zen Buddhist organization here or abroad.

The election of new board members, to fill vacancies created by the resignations of Eido Roshi, George Zournas, and Frank LoCicero, next came before the board. Kogen Mike Raftery (heretofore an ex officio member), Muin Bernard Spitz, and Zenshin Richard Rudin (absent at this meeting) were proposed and unanimously elected. At this point, Muin was invited to join the meeting.

Next on the agenda, Bugyo David Schneyer called for reconsideration of the decision made at the January board meeting to exclude women from DBZ between September 20 and January 4 excepting during sesshins. After some discussion, it was decided that following Rohatsu at DBZ December 10, 1982, women will be permitted to live and work at DBZ as residents and students.

Eido Roshi stated that he hoped kessei would be reinstated next spring. Speaking of his forthcoming sabbatical, he said it most likely will commence during or shortly after the winter interim.

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He said that sesshins will be held primarily at DBZ, and that the 1983 schedule will be substantially completed by the Zen Arts Sale in December.

Rinko read to the board a letter she had written proposing that simultaneous Rohatsu sesshins be held--at DBZ, headed by Eido Roshi, and at NYZ with Soen Roshi presiding.

A draft of a letter Eido Roshi had written in reply to some of the accusations recently made was read by Roshi to the board. He said he had not decided whether to circulate the letter or not.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Jikei Jean Bankier, Secretary