

# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Library — Archives December 21, 1983

To the Board of Directors  
of The Zen Studies Society

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Attached please find a letter written by Dorris Carlson on October 21, 1974. This letter has two points:

First, "When I gave funds for the purchase of the property at 356 East 67th Street, it was primarily to provide a "homey" and absolutely private atmosphere for Eido Roshi and his wife to take refuge in for rest and privacy."

Second, "It is my wish that the property at 356 East 69th Street not be sold but that it be retained as the home of the Roshi and his wife alone."

Beginning with the first point, let me express our gratitude to Dorris Carlson and to the Board of Directors of The Zen Studies Society. During the past twelve years, Aiho (Yasuko) took care of the house very well. As you all know she created the beautiful atmosphere where many guests came, stayed, and enjoyed the visit. At the same time we were able to have the privacy which was very precious. But the time has come for us to simplify our lives so that we don't have to worry about possible burglary while both of us are at Dai Bosatsu or elsewhere. Also, we are a little tired of the responsibility of maintaining and fixing pipes, roofs, etc.

Hence, during the past few months we searched for an appropriate co-op for us to move to. By chance we found a small apartment across the street, and after two months of careful examination by their Board, we were luckily accepted. On November 17th the closing took place, and on November 23rd most of the furniture was moved in by the help of resident students of both zendos. So, Dorris' wish "to provide a 'homey' and absolutely private atmosphere for Eido Roshi and his wife to take refuge in for rest and privacy" has been assured, and we are very happy. Although, if there were another room we would be more contented.

As for the second point, on September 19th, 12 noon (Chester Carlson's Memorial Day) I called Dorris, and at the end of our conversation I mentioned our wish to move from the townhouse to a cooperative apartment. She understood our wish and agreed to the sale of the townhouse. I also mentioned to her at that time that when it is sold, the net worth will be kept at The

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Zen Studies Society and called the Carlson Fund. The interest will be used for various activities of The Zen Studies Society.

The purchase price of this apartment (1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 kitchen) was \$160,000. I borrowed \$50,000 from Citibank and \$100,000 from two friends. The old house is now on the market, and Aiho has shown it to 30-40 people already. Douglas-Elliman's real estate agent suggested an asking price of \$850,000. But so far there is no settlement.

When it is sold, I would like to ask The Zen Studies Society to extend to me \$160,000 so I may repay the above mentioned loans which have been necessary to provide a suitable residence replacing the house to be sold. In turn, we will arrange in our will and with the executor of the will that the apartment is to be sold and the subsequent money to be returned to the Carlson Fund of The Zen Studies Society upon our demise. The law does not allow the apartment to be left directly to the Society. It will also specify that if one party dies and the survivor wishes to return to Japan, the apartment is to be sold and \$160,000 be returned to the Carlson Fund of The Zen Studies Society, the balance of the sale to be considered the survivor's pension. It would also specify that the Carlson Fund of The Zen Studies Society would be responsible for the maintenance of the apartment (currently about \$500) in the period between the demise of the owners and its sale.

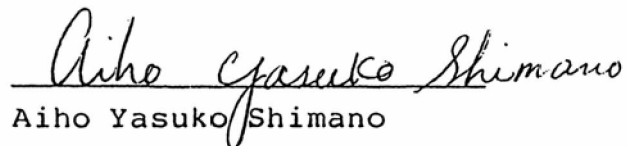
I hope that I have made our intentions clear and wish to thank you all for your understanding and cooperation. It goes without saying that we are most grateful to Dorris Carlson. Without her it would not have been possible for us to have had our personal privacy, and the two zendos would not have been established in the way they are today.

"Let True Dharma continue Universal Sangha relation International Dai Bosatsu Zendo become complete."

Gassho,



Eido Tai Shimano



Aiho Yasuko Shimano