

July 12, 2011

Dear Dharma Sisters and Brothers,

It has been a great burden mixed with great pleasure working with all of you over this past year through such difficult times. I feel we all have grown immensely from our efforts to serve our legacy and sangha. However, I've exhausted my reserves, and I need to concentrate on my practice in Seattle, as we will soon be opening our new zendo and residential practice center. Given our recent success encouraging Eido Roshi to be fully retired and not do any more teaching on or off campus, I feel we have rounded a big corner for the Zen Studies Society (ZSS). Therefore, I can withdraw from this board without feeling I am abandoning this organization or my commitment to True Dharma.

In addition, it is clear from our last Board Meeting that my position is no longer in harmony with the majority of this board. I feel that in order for ZSS to deeply heal and grow in a way that will allow a genuine opportunity for former students to return and the real possibility of cultivating new students, at least a moderate break from Eido Roshi's presence on campus is necessary. I also believe that Eido Roshi should not have rooms or space devoted to him for his use on either property, and I'm frustrated that after six months of retirement neither of his rooms have been cleared. I think that this board is taking a huge fiduciary risk by allowing highly restricted but regular access on ZSS property to someone who has such a long documented history of ethical breaches. At this point, the slightest sexual transgression by Eido Roshi on our property would be disastrous for us. Given his recent documented lack of awareness of the severity of the damage he has done, as evident by his July 5<sup>th</sup> letter to us requesting that he be allowed to lead zazen and teach Dharma classes at New York Zendo (NYZ), I think it is a mistake to allow him regular, all be it highly restricted, access to our property. I fully understand and support the ideas of installing an electronic lock with camera that would only allow access for him at times that NYZ is not in use by our sangha, but really if these are the precautions that are deemed necessary, I think it is safer just not to let him on the property at all.

Let me be clear that I have no interest in punishing Eido Roshi for past transgressions, and I support paying him and Aiho-san a decent retirement stipend for the rest of their lives; however, I am concerned by how difficult it has been to arrive at a mutually agreeable amount. Nevertheless, I trust your negotiations will soon conclude with a satisfactory arrangement that everyone can live with.

Overall, it has been a great blessing in my life to work with such a dedicated and determined group of people. I pray that any hard feelings generated recently between us, or by my departure, will quickly dissipate. It is my intention to attend two sesshins a year at Dai Bosatsu Zendo (DBZ), and I will be at the August Sangha meeting. If a committee is convened at the August meeting to assist with the development of new bylaws, I will volunteer to join it, as I am still committed to assisting the ZSS becoming a membership-based organization, where at least the majority of the board is elected by the membership. May True Dharma grow and flourish at both DBZ and NYZ.

With deep gassho,

Genjo Marinello