

# The Rinzai Zen Sangha

The Followers of Rinzai Zen Buddhist Practice

FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY

MASTER RINZAI SPEAKS

DREAM SESSHIN

UPCOMING EVENT

## DREAM SESSHIN

On May 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Rinzai Zen Sangha hosted its Inaugural Sesshin, dedicated to the memory of Nyogen Senzaki Zenji, with Eido Shimano Roshi as its invited guest teacher.



We inspired the cool, crisp, lilac and magnolia scented spring air at a beautiful, secluded, historic country mansion that we fondly called the "Hidden Zendo." It reminded me of the somewhat informal and improvisational sesshins, at the Daibosatsu Zendo Guest House, before the construction of the monastery.

Of all the sesshins that I have participated in, during the forty-three years that I have been Eido Roshi's student, this sesshin was, undoubtedly the most memorable.

We were only twelve students under Eido Roshi's watchful eye. It was everyone's first time, in over two and one half years, to be in sesshin with Eido Roshi. It was also my first time to lead the zendo as its Jikijitsu. With Yusen Junko Fujii as our Tenzo, each day we were all treated to the most elegant and sumptuous vegetarian meals, all with a Japanese flair.

Eido Roshi gave 100% of himself, especially evident, during teisho and dokusan. The subject matter for Teisho was from the Rinzai Roku, spiced with comments and stories from the life of Nyogen Senzaki, the corner stone of our American / Japanese Zen Mandala.

Dokusan was given three times per day. Since we were only 12 of us, Eido Roshi made a commitment to interview all students that came, during each dokusan session. That was three personal teaching sessions each day, with Eido Roshi! This was the most auspicious opportunity to receive, from a Japanese trained Master of Zen Masters, personalized coaching and encouragement beyond the usual horizons of our regular training and practice.

Throughout this sesshin, an image kept appearing, in my mind's eye. This was triggered by a remark made during Teisho. Eido Roshi said that, "Taizan Maezumi Roshi would often goad him with the fact that, Eido Roshi built Zen edifices, whereas Maezumi Roshi trained people." It reminded me of an old conversation that I had with Eido

Roshi, before he became my teacher. I was a Yoga instructor with a, well-known Indian Guru, who had tens of thousands of students, scattered throughout the world. The majority of this Guru's students only had one private encounter with him, usually on the occasion that they received their mantra. Eido Roshi, upon hearing this, laughed and said that this was, "supermarket spirituality." In contrast, he envisioned a teaching style that was more like "bringing a few close friends to an elegant French restaurant."

After serving, a most distinguished career as the founder / builder and Abbot of the Zen Studies Society, Eido Roshi was now ready to realize his spiritual dream of offering a "sumptuous French dinner" to the Sangha during this extraordinary inaugural session. I assert that this vision will continue to be realized through his future encounters with the Rinzai Zen Sangha.

Ungan Richard D'Eletto



Nyogen Senzaki Memorial Sesshin

"Hidden Zendo" May 10 - 15, 2013

The Rinzai Zen Sangha

 Recommend this on Google

[Home](#)

Subscribe to: [Posts \(Atom\)](#)