

The Ven. Eido Tai Shimano Roshi, founder of two American Rinzai Zen temples, died February 18 shortly after presenting teachings at Shogen-ji Junior College in Gifu, Japan. He was 85.

He moved to Hawaii in 1960 after many years of intensive practice at Ryutaku-ji in Mishima, Japan with the late Soen Nakagawa Roshi. He settled in New York City in 1965, and was asked to become president of the Zen Studies Society, which had been established in 1956 to assist the Buddhist scholar D.T. Suzuki in his pioneering efforts to introduce Zen to the West.

He established New York Zendo Shobo-Ji, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, on Sept. 15, 1968, and International Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-Ji, in the Catskill Mountains of Upstate New York, on July 4, 1976.

Eido Roshi received Dharma Transmission from Soen Nakagawa Roshi on Sept. 15, 1972, and served as the abbot of New York Zendo and Dai Bosatsu Zendo until his retirement in 2010. He was the author of *Points of Departure; Golden Wind; and Zen Word, Zen Calligraphy*. He brought out a translation of *The Book of Rinzai: the Recorded Sayings of Master Rinzai*, and translated several volumes of Eihei Dogen's *Shobogenzo*. He gave teachings and held retreats throughout the world, and was the recipient of the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai award, honoring his remarkable achievements and contributions in bringing the teachings of Buddhism to the West.

In the Postscript to his section of the book *Namu Dai Bosa: A Transmission of Zen Buddhism to America*, edited by Louis Nordstrom, Eido Roshi wrote:

“On the Way to Dai Bosatsu I met many travelers. Some taught me how to get there. Some gave me lodging, some guidance. For all those people, for their support, help and inspiration, I have nothing but sincere gratitude. I cannot write the details of all these encounters – however, there is one person, who, from the beginning of my New York life, walked with me as closely as my shadow on that rough road, all the way to Dai Bosatsu: Aiho Yasuko Shimano, my wife and my assistant. Without her the Way would surely have been much more difficult.”