

News of the Buddhist World

Maurine Stuart, Roshi, 1922-1990

Maurine Stuart, Roshi, one of the foremost of contemporary American Zen teachers, died of cancer on February 26, 1990 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was 67.

Maurine Stuart was born in the Canadian prairies of Saskatchewan, in a house that had no plumbing or electricity but was filled with culture. Before she was three, Maurine insisted that her mother teach her how to play the piano. Later, Maurine Stuart would become an accomplished concert pianist.

Stuart Roshi received authority to teach from Rinzaï Zen Master Nakagawa Soen (1907-1984) in 1982. She taught primarily at the Cambridge Buddhist Association, a non-residential center in Old Cambridge. In addition to leading retreats, she would visit students in their homes, encouraging them to express their Zen practice outside the zendo.

Stuart Roshi was known for her eloquence, refinement, and creativity. Her students remember her as warm-hearted, joyous, and strong. She held unswerving confidence in each person's ability to find his or her own way. Her last words to her sangha were, "Please continue your practice. You know what to do."

Our condolences to her sangha and the many who were touched by Maurine Stuart, Roshi's heart and spirit. Memorial contributions may be sent to Cambridge Buddhist Association, 75 Sparks Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 or Ahimsa Foundation for Animals, 7 Vine Street, Marion, MA 02738.

Koun Yamada, Roshi, 1907-1989

Koun Yamada, Roshi (1907-1989), a prominent teacher from a distinguished Japanese lineage that helped bring Zen to the West, died last September in Kamakura Japan after a long illness. He was 82. Yamada Roshi was the closest disciple and a Dharma heir of Haku'un Yasutani, Roshi (1885-1973). This lineage, beginning with Dai'un Harada, Roshi (1871-1961) revolutionized and reinvigorated Japanese Zen with its emphasis on teaching lay people, giving public lectures (unorthodox at the time) and incorporating Rinzaï koan study into Soto Zen practice. Yasutani Roshi was instrumental in the transmission of Dharma from East to West, leading sesshins in the United States throughout the 1960's.

In an amazing coincidence of history, Yamada's high school roommate was Nakagawa Soen (1907-1984). Soen, later to be a Zen Master himself, was yet another seminal figure in the transmission of Dharma from East to West.

Yamada Roshi was a layman; he studied at Tokyo Imperial University, graduating with a law degree in 1930. Later, he commuted daily from Kamakura to his job as a hospital administrator in Tokyo. In 1974 he gave Dharma transmission to Robert Aitken in Hawaii. Yamada Roshi is succeeded by two Japanese Dharma heirs as well.

If you have a news item of general interest to the Buddhist community, please submit it to: News, PRIMARY POINT, 528 Pound Road, Cumberland, RI 02864. Deadline for the Summer 1990 issue is May 1.

The Kwan Um School of Zen Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board presents brief notices of special opportunities for participation in school-wide and Zen Center programs. Space is available to member Zen Centers and groups at nominal cost.

KWAN UM SCHOOL OF ZEN seeks volunteers to help prepare a book on the eight American Ji Do Poep Sa Nims. Ellen Sidor (first Editor of **PRIMARY POINT**) has collected tapes, letters and biographical information on each teacher. We need help with the next step. Tapes need to be reviewed and excerpted; chapters need to be organized. A challenging project for an individual, a perfect opportunity for a few Zen Center members to work together (perhaps editing material about your Guiding Teacher). Contact Director, Kwan Um School of Zen, 528 Pound Road, Cumberland, RI 02864. Telephone (401-658-1476).

PROVIDENCE ZEN CENTER has work-study residencies available to serious students wishing to experience Zen training for a limited period. Work-study residents receive room and board, and participate in daily practice, retreats, and workshops. Providence Zen Center's current work needs include skilled maintenance and office help. For information write 528 Pound Road, Cumberland, RI 02864 or call (401) 658-1464.

PRIMARY POINT seeks help in distributing this periodical. We would like to make **PRIMARY POINT** available in alternative book stores, health food stores and other receptive outlets. You can also help your Zen Center this way, by stamping its name and address on the cover or inserting a flyer. Contact **PRIMARY POINT**, 528 Pound Road, Cumberland, RI 02864. Telephone (401) 658-1476.

A book is being compiled on **SPIRITUAL AWARENESS AND VALUES FOR CHILDREN**. Please submit poems, stories, and other materials to: David Jordan, 2011 East Indian Head Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301, or call (904) 656-0530.