

## Jemez Bodhi Mandala

A New-Mexico non-profit corporation and tax-exempt organization as described  
in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

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Roshi Joshu Sasaki  
Chief Abbot of Rinzai-ji, Inc.  
% Myoren Ji-e  
Rinzai-ji Zen Center  
2505 Cimarron Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Re: Jemez Bodhi Mandala

Dear Joshu Roshi,

Jemez Bodhi Mandala is a New Mexico non-profit corporation. Members of the Board of Trustees of Jemez Bodhi Mandala have, under both American law and the law of the State of New Mexico, legal duties to Jemez Bodhi Mandala. This means that we must act in good faith and in the best interests of the nonprofit corporation as we understand those interests. This is our solemn duty under law.

It is both the duty and within the authority of the Board to decide how best to preserve and maintain the assets of Jemez Bodhi Mandala while continuing the mission of Jemez Bodhi Mandala and Bodhi Manda Zen Center. Under law, all decisions of the Board of Jemez Bodhi Mandala must focus on what we determine is best for Jemez Bodhi Mandala and Bodhi Manda Zen Center.

We understand that Joshu Roshi has suspended Hosen Christiane Ranger as a nun and osho. We do not agree with this, and ask that Roshi reconsider. Based on our understanding the reasons given in prior letters to the Board are misinformed or incorrect. We address this below. However, the matter of the suspension of Hosen Christiane Ranger as a nun and osho is not within the authority of the Board to decide.

### Position of Abbot

It is clear to the Board that since 1989 Roshi has graciously acted as Shike and given sanzen and teisho at Bodhi Manda Zen Center, for which we and all students of Roshi are grateful. But at the same time, since 1989 Roshi has not acted as Abbot of Bodhi Manda Zen Center. The minutes of the non-profit corporation clearly show that Roshi resigned as Abbot in 1989. Since 1989 Roshi has not attended any meeting of the Board of Jemez Bodhi Mandala, or taken any action as Abbot of Bodhi Manda Zen Center. To the contrary, Roshi has acted as Shike and Zen Master, but not as Abbot.

Whether we want to say that Hosen Christiane Ranger has served as abbot or acting abbot, it is clear to the Board that since 1989 she has been solely responsible as president and chief executive officer of Jemez Bodhi Mandala and chief officer of Bodhi Manda Zen Center. Of course, since 1989 she has also been a student of Roshi. Since 1989 both the nonprofit corporation Jemez Bodhi Mandala and Bodhi Manda Zen Center have looked only to Hosen Christiane Ranger as the responsible officer. But we have all looked to Roshi as the Shike or Zen Master, and have been honored that over the years Roshi agreed to teach at Bodhi Manda Zen Center.

Since the formal title of Hosen Christiane Ranger has been ambiguous since 1989, and no formal installation ceremony as abbot was ever held, we cannot say whether Hosen has been acting abbot or abbot. But we do not view this distinction as important.

#### Interim Position at Bodhi Manda Zen Center

It is our understanding that Roshi desires to appoint Seido as acting or vice abbot. This decision will be subject to ratification and acceptance by the Board. We recognize that it is fitting that Bodhi Manda Zen Center have an osho as its leader.

We have great respect for Seido and his abilities. However, we have very real concerns. Managing Bodhi is a full time job, requiring attention to a great number of matters, including guests and workshops, as well as coordinating care of Teishin. It is our understanding that Seido would be able to devote, at best, only part time attention to Bodhi. While various volunteers might come and go, the Board believes that for Bodhi to continue as a viable entity there must be continuity in terms of operations, relationships with guests and workshops, and the like.

During the period of her suspension, the Board intends to retain Hosen Christiane Ranger as the manager at Bodhi, and she will receive room, board and a stipend. Since she has been suspended as a nun and osho, we view this as a secular matter within the authority of the Board.

We look forward to meeting with Seido. Assuming that we reach agreement on his appointment at Bodhi Manda Zen Center, Seido would assume responsibility for practice matters at Bodhi, and subject to the oversight of the Board, responsibility for business and management matters at Bodhi. We would expect that Hosen Christiane Ranger and Seido would work together collaboratively on business and management matters, with Seido having final decision making authority subject to the oversight of the Board on business and financial matters.

#### Matters Raised in Letters to the Board of Jemez Bodhi Mandala

In letters to the Board, Roshi has raised a number of points regarding Hosen Christiane Ranger. We regret that on these points Roshi has received incorrect advice or was improperly informed by those who are advising Roshi. We address these matters individually.

*Filing of the Annual Report with the Secretary of State of New Mexico:* It is correct that the current annual report was not filed on time. This is a minor matter, for which the fine is ten dollars, and so long as correct documents are filed does not in any way imperil or threaten the corporation. While it is best to file all reports and documents on time, this is not a significant matter.

*Unrelated Business Income Relating to Motel:* It is correct that in general a non-profit corporation must pay income tax on "unrelated business income", which is income not related to the nonprofit purpose. However, there is an exception which has been in force for many years and provides that even if the income is from an unrelated business, if the work relating to that activity is done by volunteers or uncompensated persons, the proceeds are not taxable. Bodhi has always used monks, nuns and students to clean and maintain the motel units, to take reservations, and to assist guests. Over the years the Board has had this matter reviewed by its accountants, and it is clear that income from the motel is not taxable, and does not in any way imperil or threaten the tax exempt status of Jemez Bodhi Mandala.

*Buildings at Bodhi Manda Zen Center:* Please rest assured that the Board is committed to maintaining the buildings at Bodhi Manda Zen Center, and the buildings are generally in good repair and condition. We will not allow existing buildings to fall into disrepair. If any new buildings are constructed, these buildings will relate to Zen practice and the mission of Jemez Bodhi Mandala. We note that the Sutra Hall at Bodhi Manda Zen Center is one of the very few major temple buildings to have been constructed at any center affiliated with Rinzai-ji in the last twenty years.

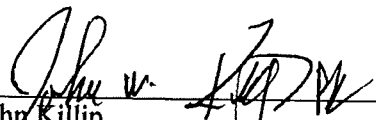
*Loss of Long-term Practitioners and Supporters:* The letter of October 12, 2013 states that “many of Bodhi Manda’s long-term practitioners and supporters are no longer in support of Bodhi Manda.” There have been resignations and a decrease in support over the past year. We apologize for having to raise this matter, but Roshi should be aware that to our knowledge such resignations and decrease in support are not due to any action by Hosen Christiane Ranger, but rather are due to reports and allegations concerning improper conduct by Roshi with some of his female students. To our knowledge, Hosen Christiane Ranger has always acted in support of Roshi, and has met with and counseled many former students of Roshi who are deeply troubled by reports concerning Roshi’s conduct.

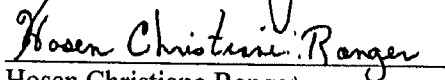
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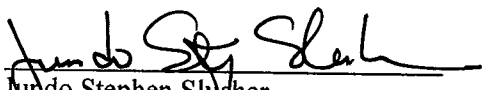
We humbly beseech Roshi to reconsider his suspension of Hosen Christiane Ranger as a nun and osho. If Roshi cannot reconsider, then subject to meeting with Seido and ratification by the Board, we will accept Seido as acting Abbot or Administrative Abbot. We intend to retain Hosen Christiane Ranger as manager at Bodhi Manda Zen Center, and in this position she will report to Seido.

Sincerely yours,

Board of Trustees of Jemez Bodhi Mandala

  
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John Killip

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hosen Christiane Ranger

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jundo Stephen Slusher

Note: Jim Houle, M.D., has resigned as a director effective November 2, 2013, but remains as an advisor to the Board and supporter of Jemez Bodhi Mandala. Jundo Stephen Slusher, who served on the Board for many years, has been elected to the Board to replace Dr. Houle.