

Shari Young

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To: Kobutsu Malone

Sasaki Roshi

I was a student of Roshi from age 19 until about 23, and was Shoji at Cimarron Zen Center. I attended his first sesshin in the US at Cimarron and first Rohatsu, which was at Mt. Baldy.

I believe groping and "showing me your breast" was first put to me as a way to break past my limitations of mind (my words not his). I felt he had enlightened mind, and I was so ignorant, that he must be right. It fell precisely into the "unequal power" model which I subsequently learned is usual in clergy sexual abuse.

I was a student when Gesshin was his assistant and her presence was part of it all. She was in the next room (behind a shoji screen) in Sanzen at Mt. Baldy and as I remember burst into the room (it's been about 40 years since then...details a little fuzzy).

I packed up my car and left Cimarron Z.C. in the middle of the night one night....Roshi's (persona) was too strong to confront in daylight. I have become an Episcopal priest, ordained now for 24 years, but when telling of my Zen history always conclude by saying that if this had not happened "I would be a Zen priest today."

Glad this is all coming out.....

Shari

*The Rev. Shari Young
Associate Rector
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*