

## IMPORTANT NAMES IN THE HISTORY OF ZEN IN AMERICA

**Soen Shaku:** abbot of **Engakuji** (Kamakura)  
1893 World Parliament of Religions, Chicago  
1905 came again to U.S. (San Francisco)

**D.T. Suzuki** (1870-1966): student of **Soen Shaku**  
1897 came to U.S. to work with Paul Carus (LaSalle, Ill.)  
1907 back to Japan  
1911 married Beatrice Lane  
1936 lectured in England, met **Alan Watts**  
1939 came to U.S. (Hawaii, California)  
1951 moved to New York, began seminars at Columbia (until 1957);  
students included **Philip Kapleau**, Erich Fromm, **John Cage**, **Allen Ginsberg**, **Jack Kerouac**  
1957 helped establish Cambridge Buddhist Association

Nyogen Senzaki: student of **Soen Shaku**  
1905 came to U.S. with Soen (SF, LA); established Mentorgarten and "floating zendo"  
1955 returned to Japan, died 1958

Sokei-an: 1906 came to U.S. with Sokatsu Shaku (another student of Soen Shaku)  
1916 moved to New York  
1931 established Buddhist Society of America (later First Zen Institute)  
1944 married Ruth Fuller Everett, Alan Watts' mother-in-law (she then became Ruth Fuller Sasaki)

**Alan Watts** (1915-1973)  
1938 came from England to New York with wife and mother-in-law, Ruth Fuller Everett;  
all three worked closely with Sokei-an  
1940s became Episcopal minister  
1957 published *The Way of Zen*; became as well-known as **D.T. Suzuki**

Ruth Fuller Sasaki: 1944 married Sokei-an  
1949 moved to Kyoto (Daitokuji), organized Rinzai translation project (translators  
included **Philip Yampolsky**, Seizan Yanagida, **Burton Watson**, **Gary Snyder**)

Hakuun Yasutani: **Sanbo Kyodan** school of Zen (combines Soto and Rinzai methods); trained **Maezumi**, **Eido**, and **Kapleau**

**Shunryu Suzuki:** 1959 came to U.S. as priest of Sokoji, or Soto Zen Mission, SF; founded Zen Center of San Francisco; died 1971

**Taizan Maezumi:** 1956 came to U.S.  
1968 founded Zen Center of Los Angeles  
1995 died; successors founded White Plum Sangha (network of Zen centers)

**Eido Tai Shimano:** Former abbot (1965-2004) of New York Zendo Shoboji

- Philip Kapleau:** early 1950s: attended D.T. Suzuki's lectures at Columbia  
 1953 moved to Japan for Zen training, studied with Yasutani  
 1965 published *The Three Pillars of Zen*  
 1966 founded Rochester Zen Center  
 2004 died
- Robert Aitken:** 1942 met R.H. Blyth in POW camp in Japan  
 1950s studied with Soen and Yasutani in Japan and Nyogen Senzaki in LA  
 1959 founded Diamond Sangha, Honolulu  
 2010 died
- Gary Snyder:** 1951 read D.T. Suzuki's *Essays in Zen Buddhism*  
 1952- studied Chinese and Japanese at UC Berkeley; met **Allen Ginsberg** and **Jack Kerouac**  
 1956-65 in Japan (with short U.S. interlude in 1958); studied Zen at Daitokuji and Shokokuji, Kyoto
- Jack Kerouac** and **Allen Ginsberg** 1951- attended **D.T. Suzuki's** talks at Columbia  
 1955 met **Gary Snyder**  
 1969 Kerouac died  
 1997 Ginsburg died
- Joshu Sasaki: came to LA in 1962  
 1968 founded Cimarron Zen Center (now Rinzai-ji) in LA; Mt Baldy Zen Center (CA) and Jemez Bodhi Manda (New Mexico) in early 1970s
- Thich Thien-an: Vietnamese Rinzai master; founded International Buddhist Meditation Center (LA, late 1960s), and University of Oriental Studies (LA, 1973); died 1980
- Thich Nhat-hanh:** Founded Tiep Hien ("Interbeing") Order in Vietnam; "engaged Buddhism;" now based in Plum Village, near Bordeaux, France
- Richard Baker: 1971 succeeded **Shunryu Suzuki** as abbot of San Francisco Zen Center; forced out in 1983
- Dainin Katagiri: Assistant to **Shunryu Suzuki** at SFZC: founded Minnesota Zen Meditation Center in Minneapolis, 1970; died 1990
- Seung Sahn: First Korean Zen master to be established in the U.S.  
 1972 founded Providence (R.I.) Zen Center  
 1983 founded Kwan Um School of Zen
- Sheng Yen:** 1976 Came to New York from Taiwan; founded Chan Meditation in Elmhurst, Queens (American branch of Dharma Drum Mountain in Taiwan)
- Bernard Tetsugen Glassman: First dharma successor to **Maezumi Roshi**, ZCLA; founded Zen Community of New York and Zen Peacemaker Order
- John Daido Looi:** student of Maezumi Roshi  
 1981 founded Zen Mountain Monastery in Catskills, part of Mountains and Rivers Order