

Biographer Chadwick offers new look at famed Zen master

MANCHESTER - David Chadwick will be appearing at the Northshire Bookstore on Thursday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. to read from his new book, "Crooked Cucumber," a biography of the great Zen master Shunryu Suzuki. This reading will be followed by a reception and book signing, also held at the bookstore.

Since the publication of the landmark "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind" 25 years ago, the influence of Shunryu Suzuki has grown extensively. His followers have long hungered for a full portrait of the man whose wisdom touched so many, but no book has been published about the master until now. "Crooked Cucumber" offers a generous glimpse at one of the modern world's great spiritual teachers. Chadwick, who studied with Suzuki at the San Francisco Zen Center from 1966 until Suzuki's death in 1971, has interviewed his mentor's family, friends and disciples, and was

granted full access to Japanese and American archives. The book begins with Suzuki's earliest days in Japan, where his teacher nicknamed him "Crooked Cucumber," claiming that Suzuki was too dim-witted and absent-minded to ever become a successful priest. Chadwick follows Suzuki through his new life in San Francisco amid the cultural upheaval of the 60s, creating a context for his refreshing and profound teachings. Brief and illuminating chapters with previously unpublished lecture quotes convey the down-to-earth message of a man who continues to transform countless lives.

This event will be held at the Northshire Bookstore in Manchester Center, free of charge. In addition, customers will receive 10 percent off a copy of "Crooked Cucumber" when purchasing the book at the event. For more information: The Northshire Bookstore at 1-800-437-3700 or (802) 362-2200.

Columnist to teach memoir writing