



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一分盆栽會  
盆中平穩



THE DAI ICHI

GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 9

# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## John van de Wouw

*President*

## Doyle Saito

*1st Vice President*

## OPEN

*2nd Vice President*

## CJ Harmatz

*Treasurer*

## Judy Urrine

*Recording Secretary | Historian*

## CJ Harmatz

*Corresponding Secretary*

## Doyle Saito

*Program Chair*

## Kei Ikari

*Co-Show Chair*

## CJ Harmatz

*Membership*

## OPEN

*Librarian*

## Kevin Sweeney

*Benefit Drawing Chair*

## Jason Saito

*Newsletter | Website | Social Media*

## OPEN

*Hospitality*

## Tom Culton

*Publicity*

## Doyle Saito

*Past President*

## CLUB FOUNDERS

### Leila Kusumi

*Co-Founder | Sensei*

### Jim Tatsukawa

*Co-Founder | Sensei*



*On the Cover | Jason Chan working his demo Prostrata as Tom Culton assists.  
Inside Cover | Detail shot of Jason wiring his demo tree.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai has just launched a new social media presence! With this development we can now share, with ease, our mission and history in a global way. That's exciting, and again shows our club's commitment to promoting the art of bonsai. Please share our new link with your friends: [daichibonsaikai.com](http://daichibonsaikai.com).



How many times have you brought up in conversation that you're involved with bonsai, and the other person responded by saying, "I used to have a bonsai"? I am sure that they had a happy flash in their mind of their tree, and then a less than happy feeling on their loss. Well it happens to me pretty often, and I try and remember to mention our club and invite them to our meetings. We are always looking for new members. To that end we receive a lot of people who wander into our meetings because they read about DIBK in their local paper's event calendar. Tom Culton sends out these blurbs like clockwork every month to a host of publications. Thank you Tom. If you have suggestions for a local paper in your area, let's hear about it and we will look into adding them to our distribution list.

So I am a little excited, I plan to spend some much need time in my backyard today. I've got new growth popping out on a lot of my trees, so I'm going to apply a little fertilizer for encouragement. I have a lot of weeding to do and dead needles to remove. I plan to rotate all my trees 180 degrees, or in such a way as the weaker part of the tree is facing south. I will also be organizing my soil aggregates and potting area in preparation for potting season in a few months. Maybe if I start that now, I'll be ready in a few months to start repotting?

I missed last month's meeting, but I want to thank Jason Chan for a great presentation, and from the pictures, he developed a beautiful bonsai that was raffled off and won by a member of our audience. What a club! This month I'm looking forward to welcoming our demonstrator, Kathy Benson, an old friend. See you there.

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



**JASON CHAN**  
PROSTRATA JUNIPER

Our featured presenter at the August meeting was Jason Chan. He brought with him a Prostrata Juniper, which he explained had been acquired from a nursery where it was completely overgrown.

“What we do is we find material that is leggy and overgrown, and we repair it. In this case, we cut back the leggy growth, and allowed it to regrow with the shape and foliage that we can work with. Prostrata grows really fast so we could even cut this back again and let it regrow, but we have enough here to develop a really nice tree right now.”

Jason then queried the attendees, getting opinions on front of tree, as well as angle and foliage choices. He went through his thought process on each suggestion, and explained his game plan for the tree.

*“As you start doing bonsai and going to shows, you begin to learn what works, and what looks good.”*

“The three things you want to look for is taper, movement and nebari. If you have all three, or a clear way of creating them, you can make a really good tree.”



“When I wire, I always wire from bottom, to top. When I wire a single branch, I’ll usually go from the outside of the branch, and work my way inward. Placing the roll of wire on your arm makes this easier to do. This way you don’t waste wire by cutting too much.

“The most important thing when wiring, is to bend the branch to where you want it to sit, then wire it. This way, you don’t add too much tension between the branch and the wire, and there’s also less chance of the wire cutting in. If you don’t do that, and you wire the whole branch, it may not even go into that position.

“Wiring is just repeating a pattern. There’s four or five patterns that you’ll repeat over and over again. If you think of it that way, it’s easier to get the hang of wiring.





Above: Jason putting the finishing touches on the tree as Jason's sensei, David Nguy, looks on.

Jason then went on to style the tree. He spoke about his philosophies in styling and foliage development, as well as aftercare and future development ideas for the lucky winner. The club wishes to thank Jason for his great demonstration.



Above: Club members taking in the info at the August demonstration.



Right: Jason and the lucky winner Alor, strike a pose next to the finished tree.

## EASTERN LEAF

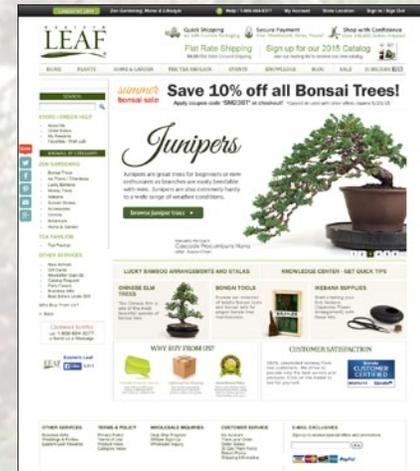
IBK member Jason Chan owns Eastern Leaf, an online store selling everything from tools and supplies, to pre and finished bonsai material.

The site is clean and easy to navigate, and features a knowledge center with an extensive collection of articles and videos that teach basic and advanced techniques to hobbyists and artists of all skill levels.

You can visit Jason's site at:

Website | [www.easternleaf.com/](http://www.easternleaf.com/)

YouTube Channel | [www.bit.ly/EasternLeaf](http://www.bit.ly/EasternLeaf)



# NAN PU KAI SHOW

BY BARRY MILLER | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

On August 20 and 21, Nan Pu Kai had their annual exhibit as part of the Nisei Week festival. The show featured the bonsai trees of five, second generation Japanese bonsai artists, who continue to carry on the artistic legacy of their fathers.

The exhibit was beautifully set in white and a wide variety of trees were on display for all to admire. The crowd was enthusiastic and the overall experience was quite ethereal.

Attendees were also treated to Nisei Week activities, including Calligraphy demos, Japanese Doll exhibits and even a Gyoza eating contest.

Through their studies, John Naka's dream for his Nan Pu Kai students nurturing the traditions of bonsai, and introducing the art to a wider audience, carries on.



Shimpaku | Roy Nagatoshi



Juniper | Shig Miya

Cedar | Ann Erb



Juniper | Mel Ikeda



Boxwood  
Frank Goya



Olive | Kathy Benson

Juniper | Steve and Ted Iwaki



Shimpaku | Gary Ishii



Prostrata | John van de Wouw



Cedar | Gary Judd



Foemina | Jim Barrett



Special thanks to Tom Lau and Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyu Kai, for assistance in tree identification.

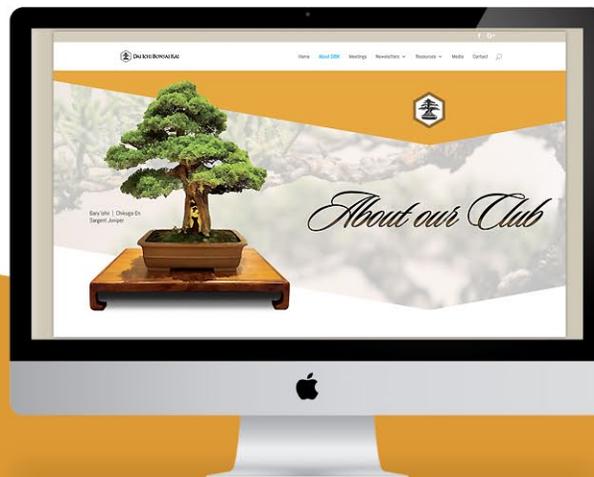
# DIBK WEB 4.0

daiichibonsaikai.com

From its inception, DIBK has been a club that has strived to bring the art and techniques of bonsai to the public. We do that in many ways, such as our annual show and sale, as well as through this newsletter. With the advent of the Internet and social media, a web presence has become another must have resource for every bonsai club.

DIBK has had a web presence for over 20 continuous years. The very first DIBK website was established at Geocities, on January 26, 1996, by previous DIBK President, Rick Wagner. At that time, it was the only bonsai site on the Web. Since the initial site launch, DIBK's web presence has gone through two additional iterations.

Today, we start anew.

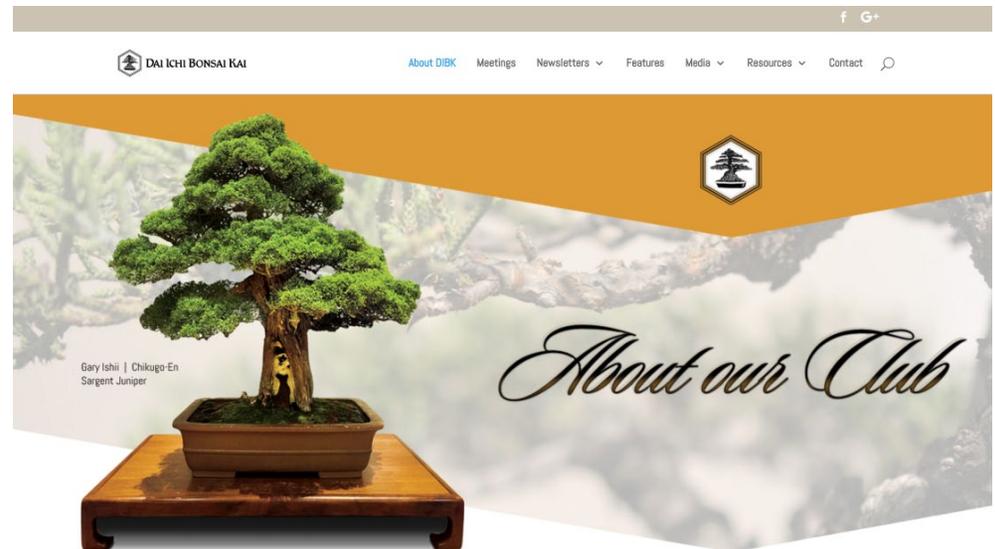
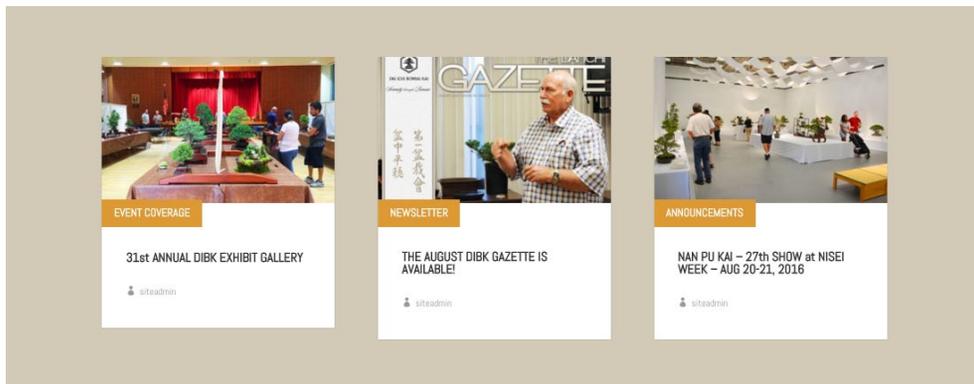


With the new iteration of daiichibonsaikai.com, we bring forth a new resource for club members and Southern California bonsai enthusiasts alike. The new site offers feature articles and coverage of club events throughout the bonsai community.

There is a lot more to come, so bookmark and check back often. If you would like to be a website contributor, please feel free to contact us through the site.

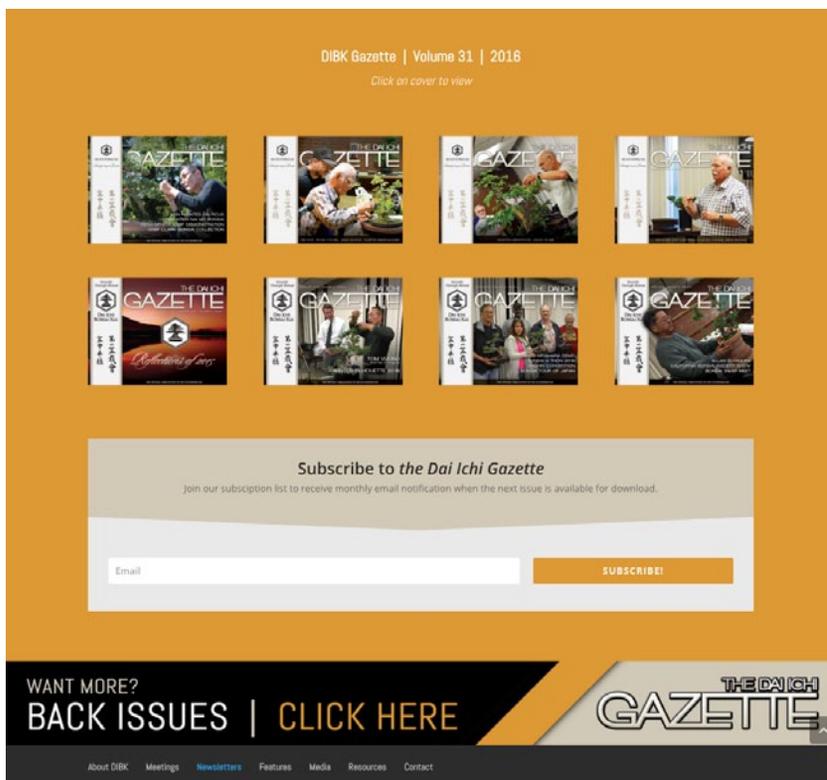
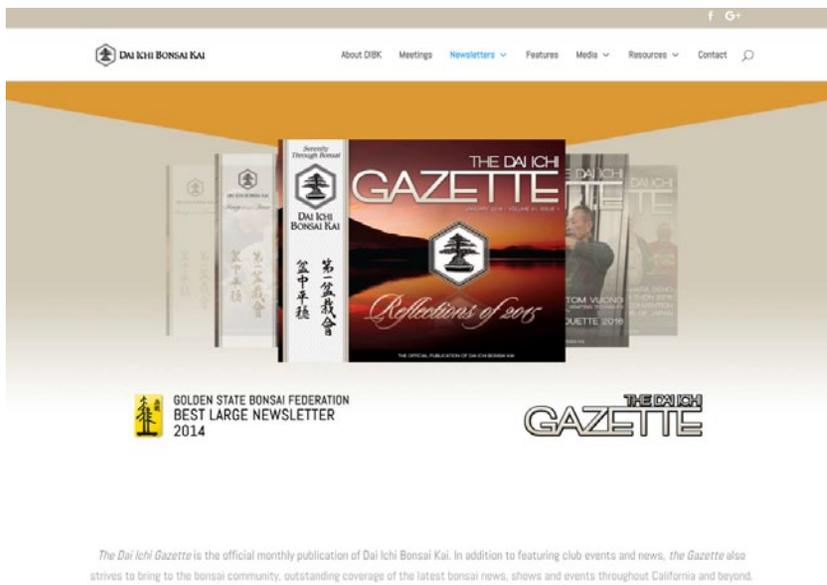


The new site is developed in a vertical scrolling page style that allows us to deliver targeted information in a cohesive and organized manner. The site is fully responsive, and displays well on both mobile and desktop platforms. Developed within the Divi/Wordpress framework, this new design will adapt to the clubs need's, for many years to come.

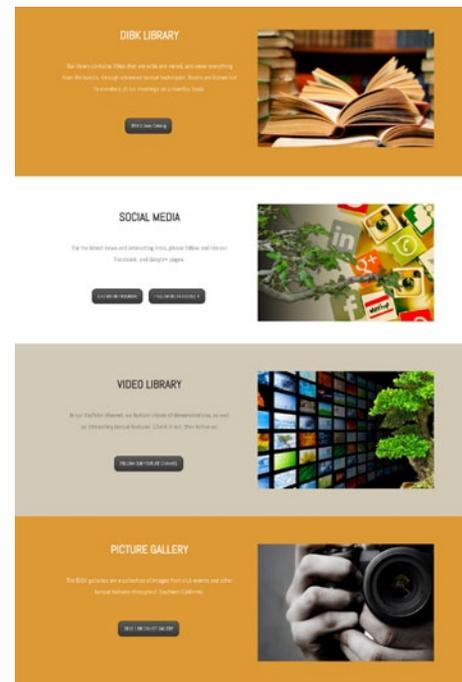


The club meets on the third Friday of each month (except May and December) at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd st., Gardena, at 7:00 pm. Each meeting features a bonsai demonstration, and a benefit raffle drawing. The public is welcome, and families are encouraged to attend. Our annual bonsai show and sale is held on the second weekend in May, where members and invited artists are encouraged to show off their best trees.

You can learn more about Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, by attending our meetings, and by visiting and liking our Facebook page at [facebook.com/daiichibonsaikai](#)

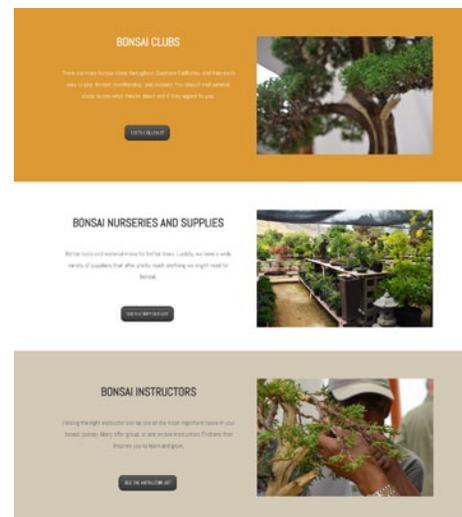


The site features an archive of current and previous newsletters. The archive is ever expanding and future plans include digitizing and posting every newsletter since the club's inception. All 31 years worth.



Featured are Media Links to the various club related resources such as:

- The DIBK LIBRARY - A listing of all of the books and printed material that is available for loan to all DIBK members in good standing.
- SOCIAL MEDIA - Links to our various social media accounts.
- VIDEO LIBRARY - Our YouTube Channel contains all bonsai videos produced by the club.
- PICTURE GALLERIES - Highlights from various bonsai related events we've covered.



One of the goals with the site is to create a resource for not only the club, but for all Southern California bonsai enthusiasts.

*Current features include:*

- BONSAI CLUBS - An up-to-date listing of all SoCal bonsai clubs which includes contact information, meeting dates and locations.
- NURSERIES AND SUPPLIES - A listing of nurseries and companies that sell bonsai material and related products.
- BONSAI INSTRUCTORS - A listing of bonsai instructors and classes within Southern California.



# AUGUST KATHY BENSON



Image courtesy of Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyu Kai

## Friday, September 16th

For nearly 40 years, Kathy Benson has been widely known throughout Southern California's bonsai community, as an instructor and demonstrator. She is well liked, and held in high esteem by her students and the bonsai community. Kathy studied with several world famous bonsai masters such as Dick Wydman, John Naka, and Jim Barrett.

Kathy is also a member of the California Bonsai Society, Nan Pu Kai, Descansco Bonsai Society, the Golden State Bonsai Federation, and several other local bonsai clubs.

In the past, Kathy has won best of show for her very powerful, well defined and beautifully proportioned bonsai trees at the Descansco Bonsai Society exhibit.

Kathy's beautiful trees have been artistically and formally displayed at many bonsai shows in Southern California including the prestigious Nan Pu Kai.

Be sure to attend the next meeting where Kathy will be working on a Prostrata Juniper from Harry Hirao.

## UPCOMING

October 21, 2016  
**Workshop**

## EVENTS

### September 17 - 18, 2016 Viet Bonsai Today Society 1st Annual Bonsai Exhibition

Bao Quang Temple  
713 N Newhope Street, Santa Ana  
Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

For more information, please contact Dinh Nguyen at (949) 302-3048, or Tom Vuong at (714) 878-8004.

### September 24 - 25, 2016 San Diego Bonsai Club 2016 Fall Bonsai Exhibition

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park  
Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily  
Featuring demonstrations at 11 AM and 1 PM. Free Admission. Bonsai pots and trees for sale. For more information visit [sandiego-bonsaiclub.com](http://sandiego-bonsaiclub.com) or contact Janice Hale.

### September 29 - Oct 2, 2016 Kofu Bonsai Kai 2016 Bonsai Fest at the Bowers Museum "The Bonsai Tradition: Cultural Arts of Japan"

John M. Lee Court, 2002 N. Main St. Santa Ana  
Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM daily  
Featuring bonsai trees of the members of Kofu Bonsai Kai. Demonstration by Takuo Nakamura, Sat. 1st at 1 PM. Free to Bowers Museum members or with paid museum admission. Final speaker and presentation schedules will be posted on at [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org) and [www.kofukai.org](http://www.kofukai.org).

### October 1 - 2, 2016 Conejo Valley Bonsai Society: 13th Annual Bonsai Exhibition

2001 Thousand Oaks Blvd.  
Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Demonstrations at 11 AM (Saturday) and 2 PM (Sunday) in the Bandstand. Free Admission. For information, call Marj Branson at 805-373-1330 or visit [www.cvbs-bonsai.org](http://www.cvbs-bonsai.org).

For more event information, please visit [www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events](http://www.bit.ly/GSBF-Events)

## GRATITUDE

*Thank you to all of the members who contributed.  
The club truly appreciates your generosity and giving spirit.*

### Benefit Drawing Contributors

Barry Miller, Jim Harlow & Family, Doyle Saito, Fred Floresca, George & Judy Unrine, David & June Nguy, Jason Chan

### Refreshment Contributors

Doyle Saito, Shirley Floresca, Tom Culton, Jason Saito

### Refreshment Signup for August

John van de Wouw, Salas Family

*Please remember to sign the contribution sheet so that we may acknowledge your generosity.*

### Special thanks to

Jason Chan and Easternleaf.com, Barry Miller, Rick Wagner, Tom Lau and Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyu Kai, Tom Culton  
*for their contributions to this issue of the DIBK Gazette.*

## ABOUT DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai ("Number One" Bonsai Club) was established in January, 1986. Our club is dedicated to promoting the art of bonsai, and takes great pride in its family-oriented character.

The club meets on the third Friday of each month at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, at 7:00 P.M. Each meeting features a bonsai demonstration, benefit drawing and the public is welcome.

[www.daiichibonsaikai.com](http://www.daiichibonsaikai.com)

***Please feel free to forward this publication to friends, family or anyone with an appreciation for bonsai.***

Do you have any comments, questions, or submissions? If so, please contact:  
**Jason Saito** ph 310.909.4598 | email [jason@zenpalace.com](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)