



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai

第一分盆裁會
盆中平穩



THE DAI ICHI

GAZETTE

JUNE 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 6

DIBK SHOW • MICHAEL RYAN BELL • SANSUI KAI SHOW • FULLERTON ARBORETUM EXHIBIT

DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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On the Cover | Master bonsai and saikei artist Frank Goya, assisted by Jaime Chavarria, was our featured demonstrator at the 2016 DIBK show and sale.

Inside Cover | Just like kids waiting in line for the school bus, these 30 Juniper nana await styling and repotting at the Beginner's workshop.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai just completed one of the most densely packed months in our club's history. Our annual DIBK show was a huge success with many club members stepping up to help along the way. Our beginner's workshop was completely filled and our club members provided expert instruction on styling and care. Saturdays round robin featured four demonstrators; Jason Chan, Barry Miller, Allan Sugimoto, Robert King, and Kevin Sweeney.



We were honored, once again, to have Frank Goya demonstrate his world-class saikei skills. There was plenty of food at the potluck, and I found the evening's entertainment, the Matsutoyo-Kai Traditional Japanese Music & Dance group, an excellent introduction to Japanese Folk music. I was especially taken by the performance of their little eight year old dancer.

We also set a new world record in breaking down the show. The tables were cleared, along with the drapes and supports, and everything was packed away in 15 minutes! The tokonoma took a little longer, but that is to be expected, as it's built like a big puzzle. A special shout-out to Doyle Saito, who even though he was under the weather, stepped up and worked his tail off. I also want to extend a special thank you to the South Coast Bonsai Club for participating and displaying their fine bonsai.

We also held a club meeting in May. To my knowledge this is the first time the club has held a club meeting in the same month as our show. Our featured presenter was Michael Ryan Bell, who is an expert on bonsai pots. I definitely learned a thing or two from him. Did you know that the *Kokufu-ten* exhibition winners, more times than not, are the ones who display their trees in antique Chinese pots?

DIBK completed our hosting assignments at the federated California State University Fullerton bonsai exhibition. Once again DIBK took a leading role in supporting this activity and we were able to introduce many people to bonsai that previously had little or no knowledge of the art form. Thanks to all that supported the exhibit by being a host and/or displaying your bonsai.

John van de Wouw

John van de Wouw
President
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



Michael Ryan Bell (left) and the lucky raffle winner of Ryan's Tokoname pot, Louis Carillo.

MICHAEL RYAN BELL

A WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JAPANESE POTS

When it comes to presenters, there are few individuals who possess the ability to take a subject matter and present it in a way that captivates the audience's interest, and convey that knowledge and experience in a dynamic and entertaining way. Michael Ryan Bell is one of these individuals.

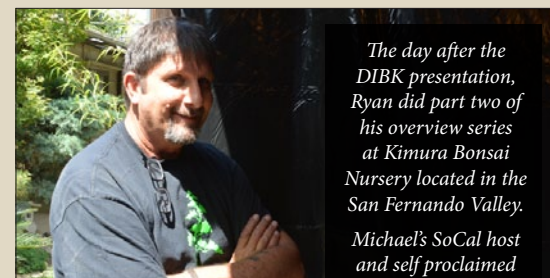
Ryan has been collecting bonsai pots since 2011, a year after he began pursuing bonsai seriously, and now has an extensive collection. After coming across a container without any information, he decided to research bonsai containers, and has since made it his specialty.

Passion for Japanese pots runs deep with Ryan, so it's no wonder that his presentations are so anticipated and well attended. He offers several different presentations, all tailored towards the group's level of interest. His Bonsai Pottery Overview Lecture Series comes in 3 parts: Introduction, Intermediate, and Advanced. It covers a range of topics including history, appreciation, classification, discernment, identification, and selection. Each lecture is 2 hours long, with a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a Q and A, where he identifies and appraises members' containers, or discusses selection for specific trees.

At our May meeting, MRB gave us part one of the series, explaining in great detail, specifics and anecdotes of all aspects of pottery. Many members did indeed bring in their finest pots for identification and appraisal.

Ryan is also the creator of one of the most in-depth, and comprehensive Japanese pot websites around. There, he catalogs and identifies pots and chops from most of the Japanese potters and is an invaluable resource for accurate pot identification.

You can visit Michael Ryan Bell's website at www.japanesebonsaipots.net



The day after the DIBK presentation, Ryan did part two of his overview series at Kimura Bonsai Nursery located in the San Fernando Valley. Michael's SoCal host and self proclaimed Uber driver, Robert Pressler looks on.



Serenity through Bonsai

This year's DIBK show,
"Serenity through Bonsai,"
was a phenomenal success.

It brought together the
club's friends and supporters
to share with the public,
the beauty and serenity
that bonsai can bring.

盆中平穩
為一盆栽會
冬 碩 書



AL NELSON
COAST LIVE OAK

Al Nelson | Coast Live Oak



The exhibit showcased a variety of different styles of bonsai, on all artist levels. The exhibit was well attended, and club members, as well as friends and supporters of the club, lent their very best trees, offering them in harmonious displays of art.

The public was excited to participate in the beginner's bonsai workshop led by Robert King, as well as a great group of experienced and talented bonsai students and artists. Participants got the chance to learn bonsai basics and create their own Juniper Nana bonsai. People either experience these workshops as a fun way to spend the morning, or a first step into a lifelong passion for bonsai. The latter is why the club continues to carry on this show tradition.

Attendees were then treated to a round robin demonstration with Jason Chan, Barry Miller, Robert King, Allan Sugimura and Kevin Sweeney. The group all worked through the demonstration, creating beautiful bonsai out of pre-bonsai stock. All trees were placed into the Saturday raffle, and many lucky people went home with some fantastic material.

Later in the day, the attendees were further encouraged to network and enjoy a great meal at the show reception and dinner. The selection of food was varied and all incredibly delicious thanks to everyone that contributed a dish to the feast. Seconds were a must! The after dinner entertainment was provided by Matsutoyo-Kai Traditional Japanese Music & Dance.





Sunday brought us another great demonstration with Frank Goya. Assisted by Jaime Chavarria, Frank showed the attendees what it takes to create a three-tree Juniper sai-kei. In addition to the Junipers, the beautiful tray landscape consisted of natural rock (hardscape), Irodium and Dwarf Mondo grass (accents). Frank then donated the finished sai-kei to the Sunday raffle. Neil Nguyen was the lucky winner.



Photo by Michael Izumoto



Photo by Paul T. Bannai



Photo by Michael Izumoto

In all, it was a great weekend that gave the general public, as well as club members, a chance to interact and learn about the art of bonsai as well as the opportunity to own some great material.



SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING THIS YEAR'S SHOW A SUCCESS!



GRATITUDE

Friday Setup

Barry Miller, Keith Waters, Kei Ikari, Doyle Saito, Allan Sugimura, Jason Saito, John Van de Wouw, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Culton, Mark Levinstein, Tom Vuong, Robert King, Tyler Ferrer, Michael Izumoto, and Fred & Shirley Floresca

Sunday Breakdown

Barry Miller, Louis Carrillo, Doyle Saito, Tom Culton, Allan Sugimura, John Van de Wouw, Jason Saito, Kei Ikari, Robert King, Tony Nguyen, Dee Fann, Gabriel Gonzales, Neil Nguyen, Fred & Shirley Floresca

Plant Sale

CJ Harmatz, Fred & Shirley Floresca

Vendors

David & June Nguy, Mel Ikeda

Food Reception/Dinner

Judy & George Unrine, CJ Harmatz, Yumi Carrillo, Hanna Vuong

*Centerpieces created and donated
by Judy & George Unrine*

Beginners Workshop Instructors

Kei Ikari, Dr Chin, Barry Miller, Robert King, Kevin Sweeney, Michael Sykes, Jason Saito, Michael Izumoto, John Monos, Mark Levinstein, John van de Wouw, Michael Sykes, Allan Sugimura, Milton Louie, Joe Ortega and Shinya Miyakoshi

Round Robin Demonstrators

Allan Sugimura, Kevin Sweeney, Robert King, Jason Chan, Barry Miller

*All demonstration trees were donated to
the Saturday night raffle*

Sunday Demonstration

Frank Goya

*Frank graciously donated his demo
saikei to the Sunday raffle*

Saturday Benefit Drawing Donations

Gary Ishii-Chikugo-En, James Harlow & Family, Doyle Saito, CJ Harmatz & Mark Levinstein, Milton Louie, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Oka, Sumi-e group-Akie Uyemura, David & June Nguy-West America Trading Company, Stan Sato, Louis Carrillo

Sunday Benefit Drawing Donations

Mel Ikeda, James Harlow & Family, Mr and Mrs Ted Oka, David & June Nguy-West America Trading Company, Jason Saito, Frank Goya

Event Photography

Jason Saito, Michael Izumoto, Paul T. Bannai

Special Thanks to

City of Gardena, Community Center – Pauline Moses

For their ongoing support of the DIBK show, use of the Ken Nakaoka facility, as well as assisting with show setup and cleanup.

Entertainment

Matsutoyo-Kai Traditional Japanese Music & Dance

Out of Town Guests

Michael Sykes and Fred Miyahara (in spirit)



Gary Ishii | Chikugo-En
Sargent Juniper



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

Serenity through Bonsai



2016 EXHIBITION CATALOG



“WHAT I LIKE
ABOUT BONSAI IS
THAT IT HAS A
BEGINNING
BUT NO END.
A BUD TODAY
BECOMES
A BRANCH
TOMORROW.”

— John Naka

Serenity through Bonsai

Kevin Sweeney | Foemina Juniper



Doug McGavin | California Juniper



Fred Miyahara | Itoigawa Juniper



Michael Izumoto | Japanese Black Pine



Tom Vuong | Olive



Ken Uyeda - South Coast Bonsai Association | Live Oak



“SOMETIMES, YOU HAVE
TO COMPROMISE WITH THE TREE...
SOMETIMES, THE TREE
HAS TO COMPROMISE WITH YOU”

— Frank Goya

Serenity through Bonsai

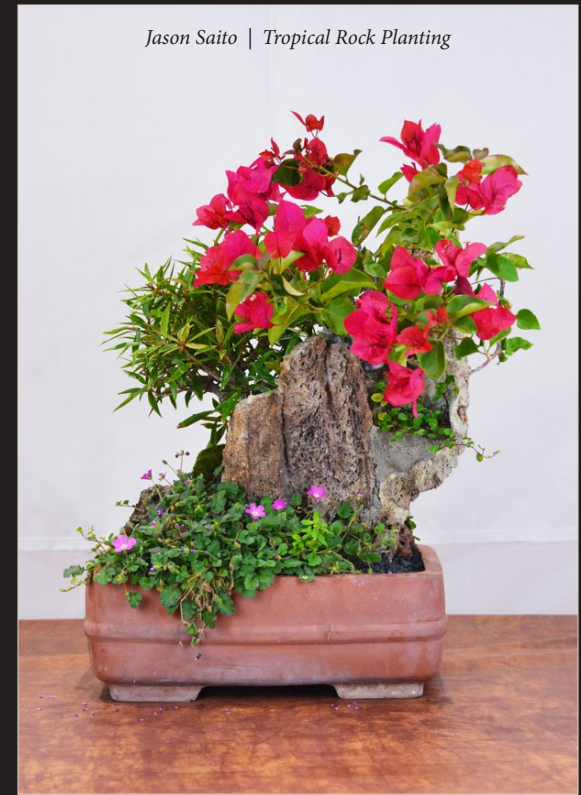
Frank Goya | Ginkgo



Tony Nguyen | Shimpaku



Jason Saito | Tropical Rock Planting



Tom Culton | Prostrata Juniper



“TREES ARE THE EARTH’S ENDLESS EFFORT
TO SPEAK TO THE LISTENING HEAVEN.”

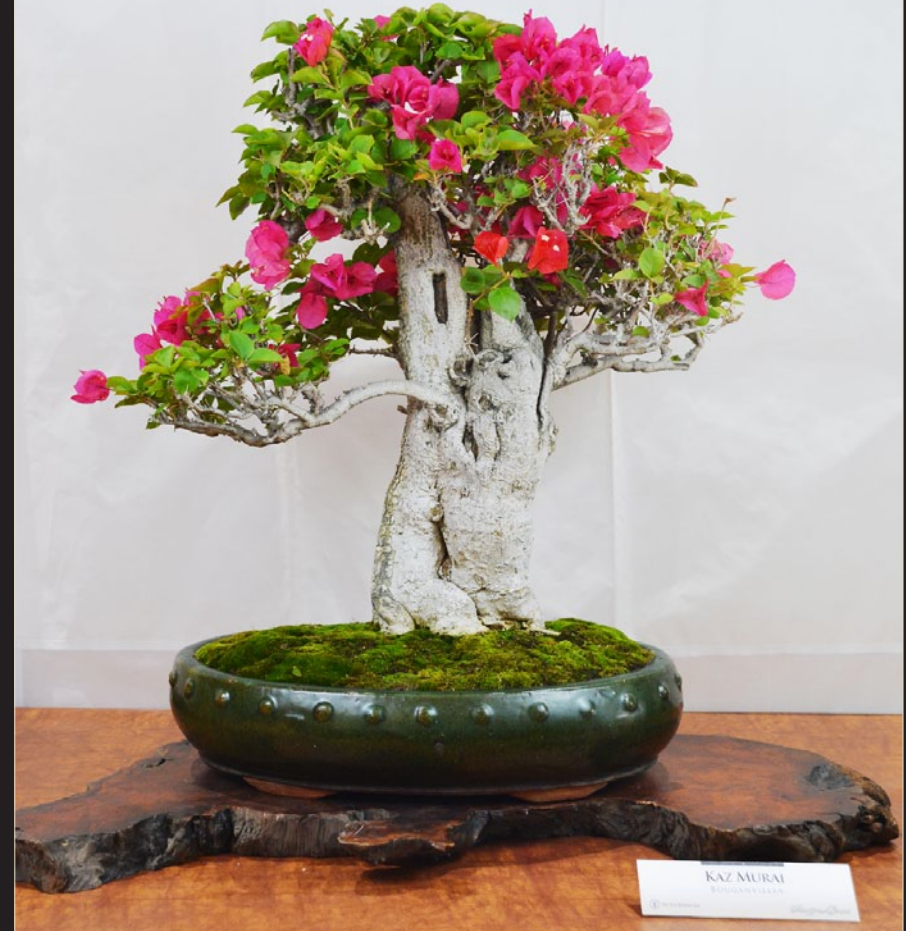
— Rabindranath Tagore

Serenity through Bonsai

David Nguyen | Shimpaku



Kaz Murai | Bouganvillea



“YOUR TREE HAS TO TELL A STORY.
YOUR DESIGN HAS TO
MAKE THE STORY BELIEVABLE.”

— Mel Ikeda

Serenity through Bonsai

Jason Chan | California Juniper



Kei Ikari | California Juniper



Robert King | Foemina Juniper



GROW.

Serenity through Bonsai

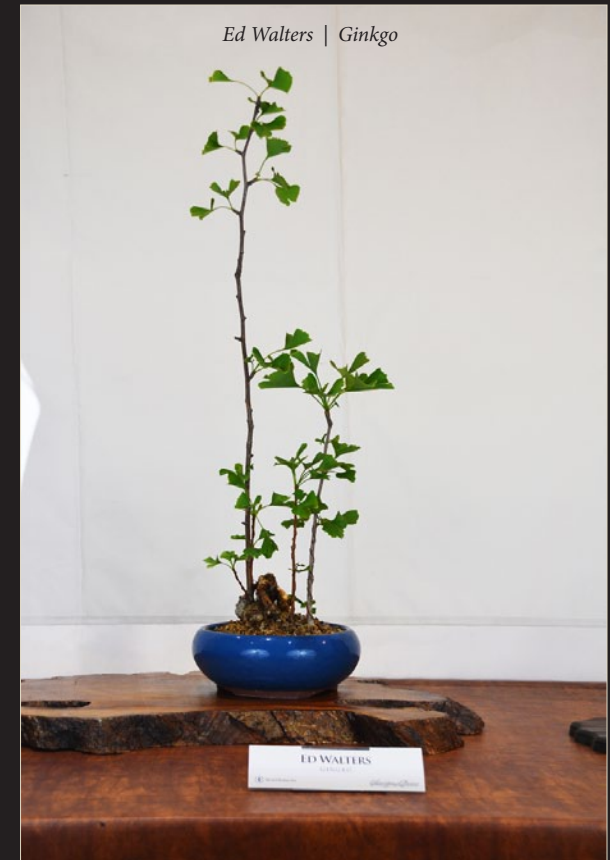
Kei Ikari | Japanese Black Pine



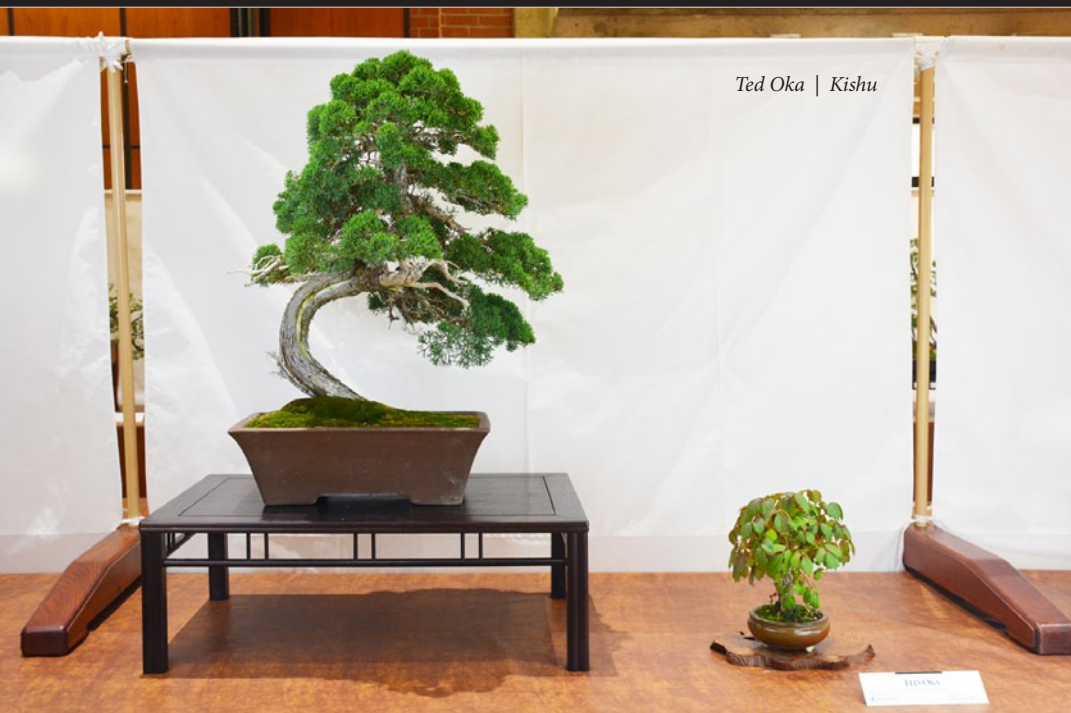
Allan Sugimura | Chinese Elm



Ed Walters | Ginkgo



Ted Oka | Kishu



“THE MOST REWARDING THING
ABOUT BONSAI TO ME,
IS TO SEE A STUDENT PROGRESS.”

— *Leila Kusumi*

Serenity through Bonsai

Jason Saito | Kingsville Boxwood Saikei



Keith Waters | Prostrata Raft



June Nguy | Japanese Black Pine



Jaime Chavarria | Rosemary



Tyler Ferrer | Japanese Black Pine



Michael Sykes | Yaupon Holly



Dee Fann | Grape

John van de Wouw | Prostrata Juniper



Tom Culton | Prostrata Juniper



CREATE.

Doyle Saito | Pomegranate



Keith Waters/South Coast Bonsai Association | Shimpaku



Harry Hirao | Viewing Stones



"IT'S THE ABILITY TO LISTEN TO
THE TREE THAT MAKES A BONSAI ARTIST EITHER
A MASTER, OR AN AVERAGE PERSON,
IN THE ART FORM."

— Warren Hill

on Harry Hirao from the PBS series, EGG The Arts Show.

Serenity through Bonsai



SANSUI KAI BONSAI CLUB SHOW

MAY 2016

JAPANESE GARDENS · VAN NUYS





FULLERTON ARBORETUM BONSAI EXHIBIT

APRIL - JUNE 2016

FULLERTON ARBORETUM • FULLERTON

The Fullerton Arboretum Exhibit is open weekends, through June 19th. It is staged by the Orange Empire Bonsai Society, Orange County Bonsai Society, Kofu Bonsai Kai and Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai.

The exhibit is open weekends from 10am - 4pm, and admission is free. 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831. For more information, please visit www.fullertonarboretum.org

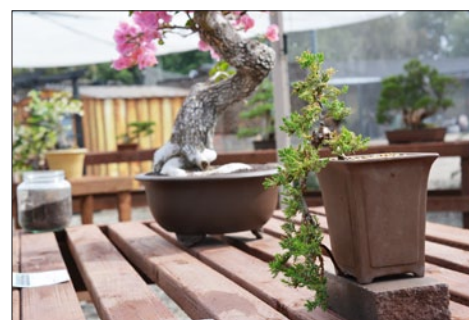


Photo by
John van de Wouw

BONSAI GROWN IN WATER... WAIT, WHAT??

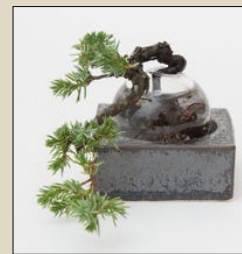
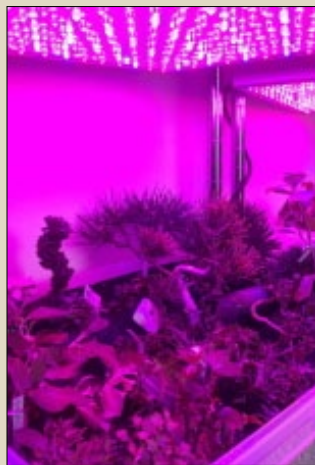
In any artform, there will always be artists who push the boundaries of technology and aesthetics, to elevate and expand the art.

This interesting little tidbit comes courtesy of our friends at Bonsai Empire.

There are many “alternative” methods to growing bonsai, but probably none as crazy as this right? Well, growing plants hydroponically, has been a well researched and accepted method of growing plant material for years... but bonsai?

Is this the new trend to take over the art? Probably not, but it’s always a good thing when people use their imagination and creativity to create alternative art.

Whether you love it or hate it... you have to admit those melted glass, pot over rocks are pretty darn cool.



Read more about hydroponic bonsai at:
www.bonsaiempire.com/blog/aqua-bonsai
www.aquabonsai.jp/

JUNE TED MATSON



Friday, June 17th

Ted began studying bonsai in 1979 in San Francisco, where he learned the basics under John Boyce. He moved to Los Angeles in 1980, where he became involved in a number of clubs and began taking classes from leading masters in Southern California, including Ben Suzuki, Shig and Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka.

With Ted's bonsai knowledge, experience, and storytelling skills, this will surely be a popular demonstration. Mark your calendar, and we'll see you there!

UPCOMING

July 15, 2016
Bob Hilvers

Aug 19, 2016
Jason Chan

September 16, 2016
Kathy Benson

EVENTS

June 4 – 5, 2016
Orange County Bonsai Society
52nd Annual Bonsai Exhibit
Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton
Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM
Feature Demonstrations:
Saturday, 1 PM Tom Vuong
Sunday, 1 PM Peter Macasieb.
Parking and admission to the exhibition is free. Plants available, benefit drawing.

June 11 – 12, 2016
Descanso Bonsai Society
46th Annual Show
Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM
Demonstrations 11 AM and 1 PM each day. Sales area is open to the public. Admission to the exhibition is free with admission to Descanso Gardens. A Saturday night reception 6 PM – 9 PM includes light refreshments, auction and raffle. For more information go to www.descanso-bonsai.com

June 25 – 26, 2016
Marina Bonsai Show at the
VJCC Annual Summer Festival
12448 Braddock Drive, LA 90066
Hours: 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM Sat
11:00 AM – 8:00 PM Sun
Admission is Free. In addition to the show, there will also be food, games, ondo dancing, cultural exhibits and demonstrations. For more information please visit www.vjcc.com

For more event information, please visit
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
Jim Harlow & Family, Doyle Saito,
Fred Floresca, Nelson Sanabria

Refreshment Contributors
Doyle Saito, Jason Saito,
Louis Carillo

Refreshment Signup for June
Please feel free to bring your favorite treats to the next meeting!

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

Special thanks to

Michael Ryan Bell, Paul T. Bannai, Michael Izumoto,
Sansui Kai Bonsai Club, Fullerton Arboretum, John van de Wouw
Bonsai Empire, Aquabonsai.co.jp

for their contributions to this issue of the DIBK Gazette.

Welcome New Members

Kimberly Camille Long, Mitron Family

ABOUT DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

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

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 is open to the public.

*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