

The Gazette

Official Publication of

Dai Ichí Bonsai Kai



“Serenity Through Bonsai”

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About Our Club

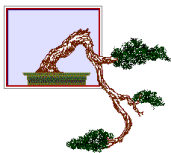
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai ("Number One" Bonsai Club) was established in January, 1986 and takes great pride in its family-oriented character. Our club is dedicated to promoting the art of bonsai. The club meets on the third Friday of each month at the Ken Nakaoka Community Center, 1670 W. 162nd St., Gardena, at 7:00 P.M.. Each meeting features a bonsai demonstration, benefit drawing and is open to the public. Our annual bonsai show is held on the first weekend in May at the Nakaoka Community Center. Other club activities include: bonsai digs, annual auction, potting parties, and outings to nurseries and private gardens.

2011 Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Board

President	Herb Eisenberg (310) 545-5954 heisenbergmb@verizon.net
1 st Vice President	Open
2 nd Vice President/Fundraising	Doyle Saito (310) 539-9265
Treasurer	Carl Crouse crlbrdly@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary/Historian	Dorthy Ray/Judy Unrine
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Browne
Program Chair	John Van de Wouw
Co-Show Chairs	Gary Lai/Herb Eissenberg
Membership	Carl Crouse crlbrdly@yahoo.com
Librarian	Judy Unrine judyyou@verizon.net
Website Chairs	Peter Macasieb
Benefit Drawing Chair	Scott Pogolian
Newsletter	Doyle Saito doylesaito@yahoo.com
Publicity	Tom Culton

Co-Founder/Sensei

Leila Kusumi (310) 327 0216



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

ANNUAL AUCTION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Ken Nakaoka Community Center
1670 W. 162nd Street, Gardena, CA

Bonsai trees, display stands, accent plants, pots and
much more available to bidders.

The auction is open to the public.

Previews at 6:30 P.M.

Call (310) 539-9265 or <http://daiichi-bonsai.com>
for more information.



President's Message

by Herb Eisenberg

You are the Difference

On Friday October 21st we will hold the annual Dai Ichi Auction which is our club's largest fundraiser of the year. I'm sure all members know that our dues alone do not cover all the costs of the club's events. These expenses includes: paying our excellent demonstrators, offering a free beginners workshop to the community during our annual show, providing food and entertainment during our show reception and picnic, purchasing material for member workshops during the year and purchasing material for the benefit drawing. So, how do we fill in these costs? Revenue from the benefit drawing helps a lot but it does not cover the entire amount. Our annual auction is the primary way that we make up the difference. Over the years members have generously donated numerous items to auction and help raise the funds that support our club.

What can you donate? Certainly we appreciate any bonsai, bonsai pots, pre-bonsai material, accent plants, dais, viewing stones and suiseki. But lots of other items you have at home can help. How about that charming flower pot your mother-in-law gave you for your birthday? Donate it to the Dai Ichi Auction. Or maybe those pink flamingos on the front lawn that the neighbors have been looking at strangely? Donate them to the Dai Ichi Auction. Books on trees or gardening? Framed prints or paintings with a horticultural theme? Just about anything someone else might like could help the club. Donate them to the auction and let the marketplace decide.

Everything you donate will be appreciated, and hopefully taken home by someone other than you. We are a charitable organization and can provide you with a receipt for your gift. The doors open for your donations at 6:00 P. M. and then you can participate in the bidding on some new treasures. We look forward to seeing you for all the fun and excitement.

Happy Bonsai, Herb

Dai Ichi Thanks

Contributions to the Benefit Drawing Table

Harry Hirao, Herb Eisenberg, Ted Oka

Contributions to the Refreshment Table

Harry Hirao, Tom Culton, Herb Eisenberg, and
Ryoko Onishi

Welcome

Welcome to the following new members

Todd Walsh

Lei Vinoya

Jose Nakasone

Refreshments

October

Herb Eisenberg

November

Judy & George Unrine



September with Harry Hirao



Tom Culton and
Peter Macasieb
Helping Harry with
the demo





“Mr California Juniper” Harry Hirao



Harry Hirao with the big winners Carol Upston and Ed Walters. Harry's assistants were Tom Culton and Peter Macasieb.



The following article was extracted from the Rafu Shimpo website

‘Mr. California Juniper’

Bonsai master Harry Hirao holds a demonstration in Gardena



Harry Hirao demonstrates bonsai trimming and wiring techniques on a California juniper with the help of Daiichi Bonsai Kai member Tom Culton at the Nakaoka Center in Gardena on Sept. 16. (RYOKO OHNISHI/Rafu Shimpo)

By RYOKO OHINSHI

RAFU STAFF WRITER

Harry Hirao, a 94-year-old bonsai master, demonstrated trimming and wiring techniques to the members of Daiichi Bonsai Kai (“Number One” Bonsai Club) at their monthly meeting last Friday in Gardena. Hirao is an honorary member of the Gardena-based club and also the founding president of Kofu Kai, an Orange County-based bonsai club.

Hirao has been known as “Mr. California Juniper” for his expertise in crafting delicate bonsai from native California trees growing in the desert mountains. He still goes to a private property in the Mojave Desert weekly to find his next masterpiece. He says, “The beauty of the California juniper is the twisted roots and the strength of the branches that have survived in the harsh weather for many years. When I go to the mountains, the tree calls to me, ‘Come and get me.’ “

During the demonstration, Hirao trimmed and wired two California junipers in one-gallon containers in about an hour with the help of club board members Tom Culton and Peter Macasieb. Club president Herb Eisenberg says, "It is great to have Harry. His passion and energy are amazing. Once I went to the mountains with Harry. He started running and called to me, 'Come on, boy, come on.' He was so quick."

Hirao was born in Longmont, Colo. in 1917 and his parents were from Fukuoka. He spent his youth in Japan and came back to the U.S. when he was 16. He shared his hometown with the late John Naka, another legendary bonsai master who established the Nanpu Kai. Naka and Hirao used to work together to spread the knowledge of bonsai in the U.S.

Hirao has served in many capacities in the Golden State Bonsai Federation and in the California Bonsai Society (the nation's oldest bonsai club). In 1981, he was honored by Prince Takamatsu of Japan with the "Ryoku Hakiju Yukosho" medal and by the Japanese Agricultural Society with a plaque for his contributions to the art of bonsai in the U.S. He is also a board member of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. and has both stones and bonsai on display there.

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After the demonstration, Hirao, Daiichi Bonsai Kai member Ted Oka (center) and his girlfriend, Emiko Hitomi (right), enjoyed a reunion. (RYOKO OHNISHI/Rafu Shimpo)

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai is a proud member of the Golden State Bonsai Federation
<http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/>

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai Gazette



Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai
22720 Eastwood St
Torrance, CA 90505

Club Meeting Friday October 21, 2011 Club Auction

Club Meeting Friday November 18, 2011—TBD and Club Elections

No Club Meeting in December