



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

OCTOBER 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 10

第一分盆栽會  
盆中平穩

# THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE



KATHY BENSON DEMONSTRATION | VIET BONSAI TODAY SOCIETY SHOW

# 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 | Kathy Benson talking about Prostrata.*

*Inside Cover | Adorable fruiting shohin Grape, on display at the Viet Bonsai Today show.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is just about over, we just had some real scorchers here at the beach in the high, high 90's and now my heater kicked in for the first time this morning. I've been cleaning up the house both inside and out getting ready for shorter days and I have made



a promise to myself that I will work more on my bonsai this winter. I have put my inside bonsai work area back in order, which I used last week only to be totally disappointed in my treatment of my pine. Seems that even though I know better, I left my wire on for way too long. What might have been a great show tree now has reverse taper along the upper trunk and scarring along the branches. I love the tree still, and it will still be impressive, but I lament on what might have been.

Bonsai is funny that way. If you don't do the right thing, at the right time, a potentially great tree might only turn out to be good, if you're lucky. But here again bonsai is unique for growing, and further training could, in fact, make your tree great again! We wire so that we can impart a feeling of age or design elegance. Wait too long to wire, and that one little branch becomes too thick and unresponsive to our desire. Wait too long to take the wire off and we have scarring. Don't fertilize at the right time and we won't get buds popping out where we hope to see a new branch someday.

I think there might have been an easier way to say this, in my lead up to encouraging you all to come to our next meeting without me crying over my pine, but our next Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai meeting is a Member's Workshop. Come on down, bring a tree, and we will work together on its refinement and talk about timing of the different aspects that go into making a good bonsai great!

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai

For nearly 40 years, Kathy Benson has been widely known throughout Southern California's bonsai community, as an instructor and demonstrator. Kathy brought to her demo a very leggy Prostrata, once owned by Harry Hirao.

"I got the tree at Bonsai-a-thon, and have been nurturing and loving it, and it has grown quite a bit. I've been thinking about this tree for a long time, and the obvious thing to do is to make a *bunjin*, but there are other options as well.

"Based on a picture I found in a book, another option would be to make a wind-swept style tree. A third option, is to take the really simple approach, and make a shohin... but then the demo would only be 5 minutes long."



Kathy then sketched out her ideas for different directions for the tree: *bunjin* or windswept; and the attendees voted for a *bunjin* style. After cutting about half the tree's height, she stripped the bark to make a *jin* at the tip of the cut. It really complemented the tree well, as the trunk on this tree was nice and thick. She then started on cleaning and trimming the tree in preparation for styling.



KATHY BENSON  
PROSTRATA JUNIPER

“I’ve been learning a lot more about Junipers lately. They really don’t like being pinched all of the time. It’s something we’ve been taught for years to do, but are now finding out they don’t take well to it. The practice now is to let them grow out all lush and thick, then trim (not pinch) the shoots that grow past the foliage, once, maybe twice a year. Apparently if you cut back the foliage, the roots won’t grow as much, so you want to encourage the roots to grow by letting the foliage grow as well.

“When you take a strong growing shoot off a branch, it redistributes the energy (growth) to other areas of the tree, so the goal is to balance the energy of the tree so that all branches become strong, and none of them are weak.

“Since Prostrata grow very slowly, you don’t have to repot very often; maybe 5-8 years depending on how well it is growing. They do like a well draining soil. You can use pumice, decomposed granite, perlite, hard akadama, and even bark depending on your area. They like full sun and are prone to spider mites. Most any takedown spray can be used to get rid of these mites, but you will have to repeat a few times to end the cycle. Watering the foliage also helps to get rid of them as well.

Kathy then went on to wire and style the tree into a nice starter *bunjin* that with a few years and development, will turn into a nice showpiece for the lucky winner, Joe Ortega.



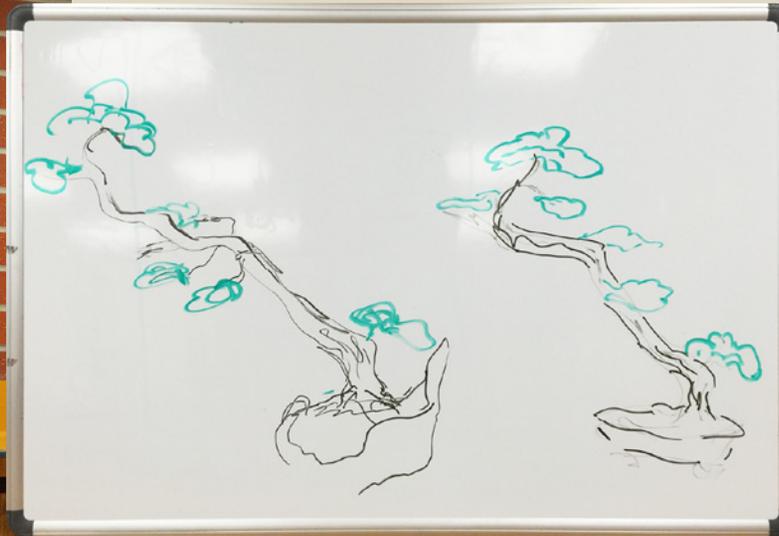
*“I like the Chinese description of bunjin/literati...*

***The tree that is a brush stroke.”***





Below left: The finished tree, and the inspirational sketch on the left.



On the right: the inspirational windswept sketch and the photo that inspired it. Bottom right: Kathy and the lucky winner, Joe Ortega.



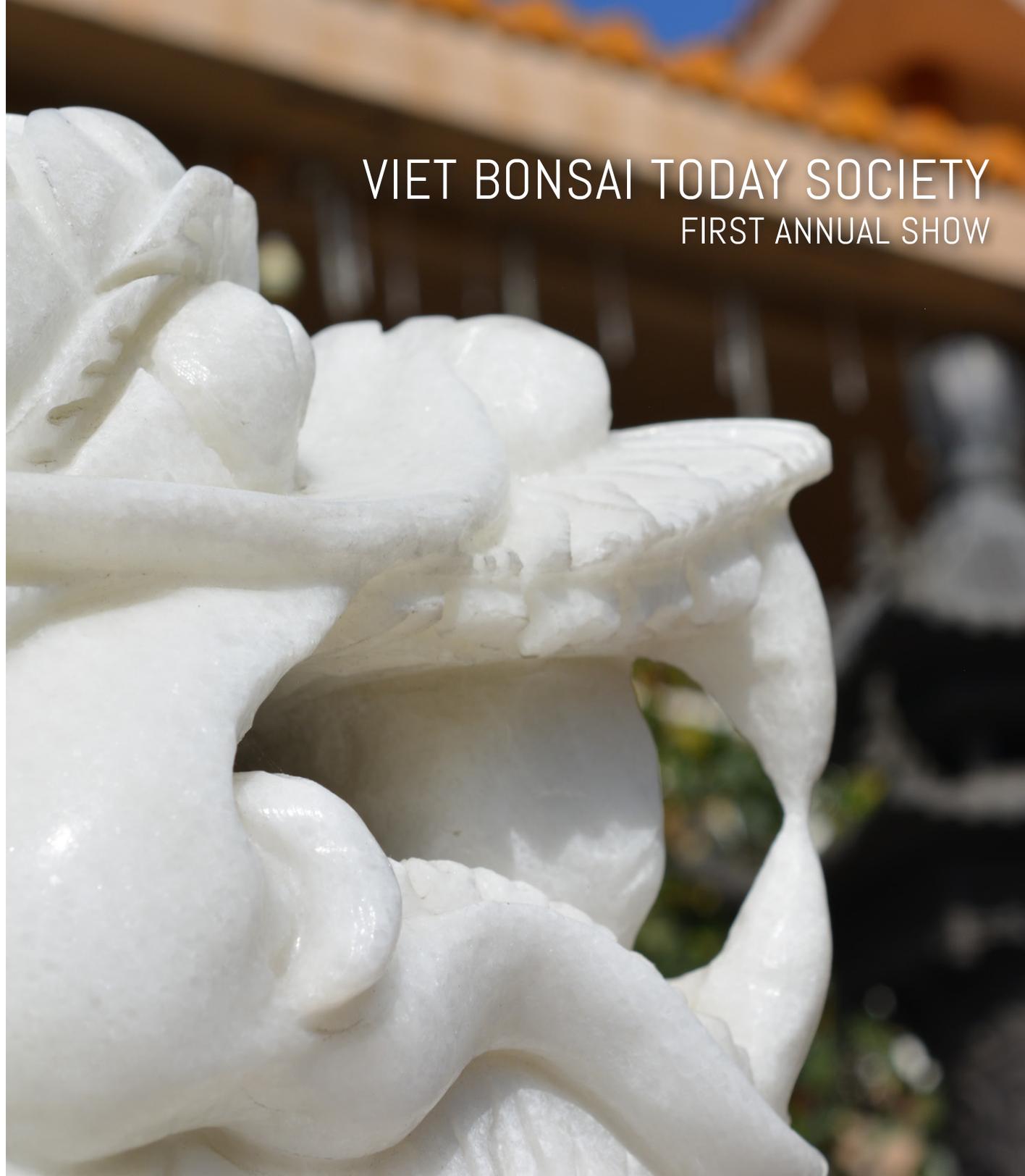


There's a new club in town, and their first annual exhibit showcased their members' finest trees. While the club has only been together for a short time, its members have been friends for quite some time. Led by Club President Dinh Nguyen and Tom Vuong, the roughly 10 member club has many years of experience between them, and by viewing the exhibit, it shows.

The exhibit was held at the beautiful Bao Quang Temple in Santa Ana and featured demonstrations, sales, and of course, many beautiful trees.

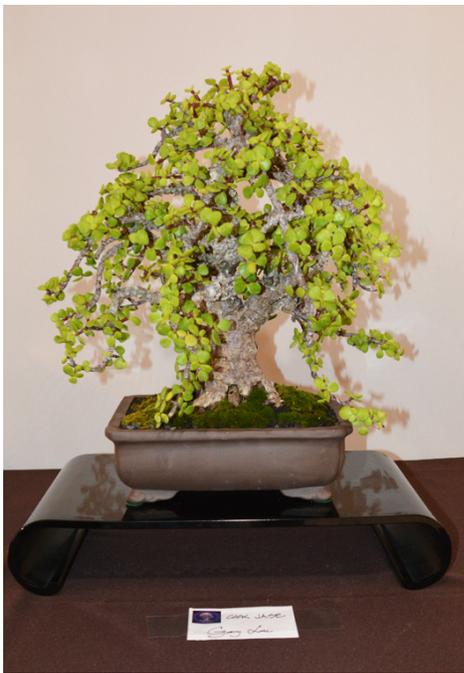
The club meets on the 4th Sunday of each month at Tom's house. For more information, please contact Dinh Nguyen at (949) 302-3048 or Tom Vuong at (714) 878-8004.

## VIET BONSAI TODAY SOCIETY FIRST ANNUAL SHOW









## OCTOBER CLUB WORKSHOP



### Friday, October 21st

Bring your tools, wire, and bonsai material to our next member workshop! With the help of other members, you can create your next masterpiece. The club will also provide various trees for the members to style, which will be placed in the meeting's raffle.

Alternatively, you can watch and offer suggestions as experienced Dai Ichi members work on a variety of trees.

### UPCOMING

November 18, 2016

**BONSAI BINGO - HOLIDAY PARTY**

December 2016

**No Meeting**

## EVENTS

**Oct 27 – 30, 2016**

**GSBF Convention 39**

**“A Bonsai Convergence:  
Gather At The Rivers”**

The Double Tree By Hilton  
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento  
Headliners: Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjornholm. More  
Workshops and Seminars from: Kathy Shaner,  
David Nguy, Peter Tea, and others.

For more information, please visit [www.gsbconvention.org](http://www.gsbconvention.org)

**Dec 26 – 30, 2016**

**California Aiseki Kai 27th Annual Show**

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino  
Hours: 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

For more information, visit:  
[www.aisekikai.com](http://www.aisekikai.com) or contact  
[sashaichris@gmail.com](mailto:sashaichris@gmail.com)

**February 25-26, 2016**

**Bonsai-A-Thon XXI**

The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road  
Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Admission to the event is free with Bonsai-A-  
Thon “early bird” registration between  
8 AM – 9 AM. Pancake breakfast, demonstra-  
tions, lunch, bonsai exhibits, large sales area,  
raffle and auction.

For more information visit [www.gsbhuntington.com](http://www.gsbhuntington.com)

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

Jim Harlow & Family

### Refreshment Contributors

Fred and Shirley Floresca,  
Glen and Carol Takahashi

### Refreshment Signup for October

Please fee free to bring your favorite yummys. Nom nom nom.

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

### Special thanks to

Kathy Benson, Dinh Nguyen, Tom Vuong - Viet Bonsai Today Society  
*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)

©2016 Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. All rights reserved.