



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一分會  
盆中平穩

# THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2016 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 12



DIBK HOLIDAY BINGO PARTY | GSBF CONVENTION | PINNED

# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Website  
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## **OPEN**

*Hospitality*

## **Tom Culton**

*Publicity*

## CLUB FOUNDERS

### **Leila Kusumi**

*Co-Founder | Sensei*

### **Jim Tatsukawa**

*Co-Founder | Sensei*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**W**ell it's been another successful year for Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai. Once again we had a fabulous show with the help from all the members of the club who pitched in. Doyle Saito and Jason Saito (no relation) worked hard to put on our resurrected Holiday Party for our last meeting. This year featured a potluck and Bonsai Bingo which was a great hit. We had beautifully produced Bonsai Bingo cards courtesy of the talents of Jason. It was my job to call out the bonsai references that we used to lay down our markers on the card. That was a hoot, me butchering way too many Japanese pronunciations, as evidenced on page 4, where Gabriel Gonzales was laughing with me, not at me. I swear he was laughing with me. No really.

We continue to grow our membership and we continue to both teach and learn new and different bonsai techniques. I look forward to the new year, when we will once again do all the things that makes DIBK successful as a club. I'm really proud of our presence here in the South Bay. I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and safe travels to all!

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai



*On the Cover | Everyone having a blast playing Bonsai Bingo at our November Holiday Party.  
Inside Cover | Impressive nebari - from the 2016 GSBF Convention. Photo by Barry Miller.*

Bringing back an old tradition, DIBK reinstated our annual Holiday Potluck Party at our November meeting. This year's party was well attended by friends, old and new. After munching on some really delicious food, brought in by club members, the crowd was treated to a rousing night of Bonsai Bingo. The game is your standard simple Bingo game, with the exception that instead of calling out letters and numbers, the card was filled with bonsai terms. DIBK Club president, John van de Wouw served as bingo caller, and he did a great job... he even pronounced *most* of the Japanese words correctly! ;)

# HOLIDAY PARTY BONSAI BINGO





*Lots of tasty dishes...*



*Bingo is serious business...*



# BONSAI CONVERGENCE GATHERING AT THE RIVERS

## THE 2016 GSBF CONVENTION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

BY BARRY MILLER | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



### Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention 39

October 26 - 30, 2016, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento, CA

#### HEADLINERS

"Bjorn and Ryan are two of our most respected and recognizable bonsai talents. They are welcomed everywhere as they travel to share their knowledge and unique bonsai insights. Our event on Thursday evening, 'Evening with the Headliners', will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see them working side by side. It is certain to be a bonsai experience that you will not forget."

Scott Chadd



RYAN NEIL



BJORN BJORHOLM



In October, The 39th Golden State Bonsai Federation held its annual Convention in Sacramento. Headlining the convention were two of America's most well known bonsai artists, Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bjorholm. The exhibits featured some of the finest examples of bonsai from throughout California.

There were many excursions, workshops, critiques, seminars and parties to attend and the enthusiastic crowd took advantage of all of them.

Let's take a look at some of the fun activities and beautiful trees that were featured.





Any trip to Northern California would not be complete without stopping in at the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. It is the home to some of the finest bonsai on the west coast. The BGLM, located at Oakland's Lakeside Park, is the only major all-volunteer bonsai garden in the country and houses some of the most important bonsai in the US. It was built, is staffed and maintained by volunteers from throughout the greater Bay Area and is supported entirely by donations from its visitors and the bonsai community.



# PINNED.

It all starts out innocently enough. . . you attend a convention or club event, and you walk away with a really cool, commemorative bonsai pin representing the event, or the club. You admire it for a few seconds before you toss it into a drawer or empty pot. Before you know it, you've amassed quite a collection. For many, it becomes an extension to their bonsai collection.

Commemorative and souvenir pins are not exclusive to the bonsai world, and there are many fine examples available today. There are a few ways that these pins are manufactured and each method has their good and bad points. Most pins that you see today are cloisonne type pins. Created with a die, the artwork is struck out of metal, then colored, fired, and polished to a jewel-like lustre.

Let's take a look at examples of some beautiful collectible pins from across the bonsai world.

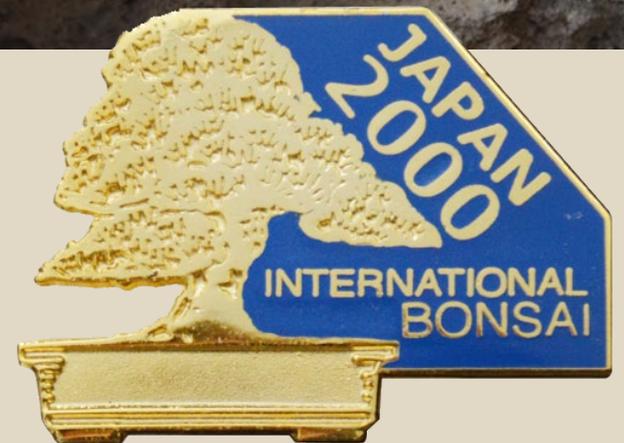
*From the collection of  
Doyle Saito*



Bonsai artist Kathy Benson has a neat way of displaying her collectable pins.



From the collection of Kathy Benson



From the collection of Jason Saito

**A**nother way of creating bonsai pins and jewelry, is through the process of wax casting. One of the leading practitioners of this method, is artist Frank J. Mihalic. Frank, is an experienced bonsai artist as well as a popular presenter at conventions throughout the world, conducting workshops where attendees create their own one of a kind jewelry. Frank graciously took the time to explain his methods.

### **How did you get into the art of wax casting?**

Well, I started making bonsai pendants & rings... then from there started to make bonsai pins because people asked for them. But to my surprise they wanted sterling silver pins... that always boggled my mind... to pay \$75 - \$125 for a sterling silver pin seemed crazy to me, when I could make that same pin in pewter for 1/3 the cost. So I started pushing pewter bonsai pins. They look the same as sterling, but at 1/3rd the price.

### **What are the materials/tools/ required to create these pins?**

Well I make every thing using the lost wax process. Every bonsai pin is first carved out of wax using dental tools, X-Acto knives and files. Then I cast it into metal. After it is in metal, I make a rubber mold to make more waxes of the same piece.

### **What motivates you?**

I just love the challenge of creating pieces of peoples actual trees. I also love teaching people how to make thier own bonsai pendants using the lost wax process.

### **Any interesting anecdotes or experiences you would like to share?**

I taught a bonsai pendant class in Florida and 6 of the 10 students brought actual pictures of thier bonsai trees to create... that was a lot of fun.

I have always been into jewelry, but ten years ago I went to the reverse jewelry academy in LA, where I finally learned how to carve and cast wax into metal. From that day on I have never looked back. I really enjoy a challenge.

I just recreated John Naka's "Goshin" into a 3" high, 3D free standing bronze sculpture.



*Frank J. Mihalic is one of a few second generation bonsai artists in the US today. Frank perfected his craft under the critical eye of his father, bonsai master Tony Mihalic.*

*In 2008 Frank began carving bonsai jewelry out of gold, silver, and pewter. Frank conducts workshops and demonstrations throughout the United States.*

*To learn more about Frank, please visit his website at [frankscustomjewelry.com](http://frankscustomjewelry.com).*

# WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED.

Got something to say?

Want to be published in an award winning newsletter?

The DIBK Gazette is looking for creative, fun people, who would like to contribute feature stories and photos for our monthly newsletter.

Training, tutelage and editing (if necessary) is available, and any bonsai related content is welcome.

Interested?

Please contact [jason@zenpalace.com](mailto:jason@zenpalace.com)

## It's time to renew your ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership is only  
\$25.00 per year

Family Membership is just  
\$35.00 per year

Your dues enable the club to present activities such as our annual show, guest demonstrations, workshops, the *Dai Ichi Gazette*, club library, as well as refreshments and club raffles.

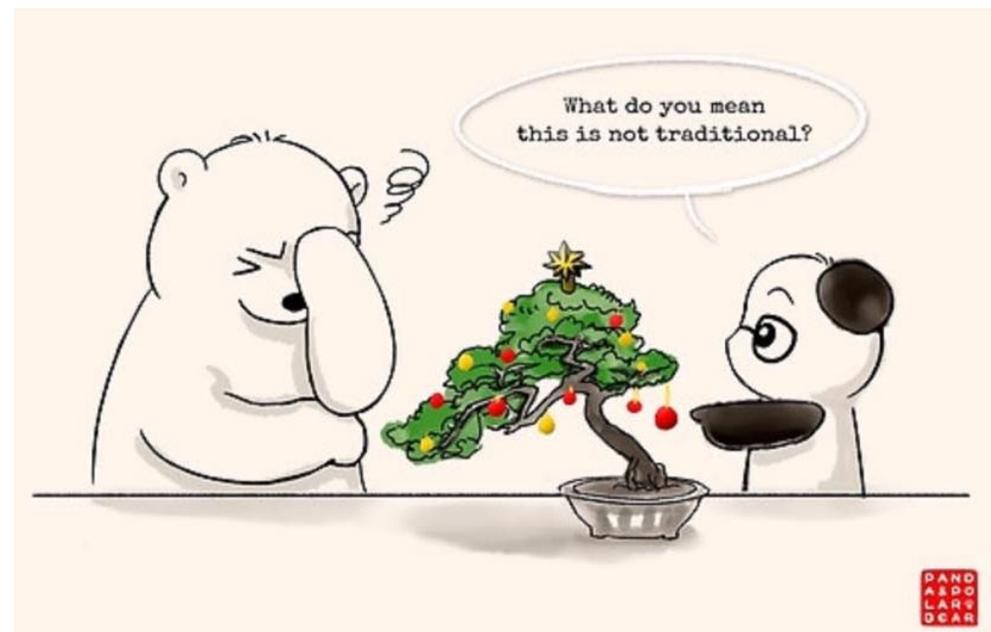
You can pay your dues at the next club meeting, or by check to:

CJ Harmatz

2828 Allred Street, Lakewood, CA 90712

Or via PayPal:

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



Panda and Polar Bear courtesy of Louise Wei and Dave Hodgkinson.

For more adorable Panda and Polar Bear comics, please visit [www.pandaandpolarbear.com](http://www.pandaandpolarbear.com)

# DECEMBER NO MEETING

## UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.  
Please subscribe to our Facebook page  
for current information.  
[www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/](http://www.facebook.com/DailchiBonsai/)

JANUARY 20, 2017

**SEAN SMITH**

*Shimpaku Styling; Q&A*

FEBRUARY 17, 2017

**STEVE IWAKI**

*Repotting Demonstration*

MARCH 17, 2017

**FRED MIYAHARA**

*Repotting Workshop*

APRIL 21, 2017

**NATHAN SIMMONS**

*Tree & Pot Selection Seminar*

MAY 2017

**NO MEETING**

*CLUB SHOW & SALE*

JUNE 16, 2017

**TBD**

JULY 21, 2017

**TBD**

AUGUST 18, 2017

**TBD**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

**MEMBER WORKSHOP**

OCTOBER 20, 2017

**TBD**

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK**

*BONSAI BINGO*

DECEMBER 2017

**NO MEETING**

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*

## EVENTS

**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)

**Jan 21 – 22, 2017**

**Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai  
53rd Annual Winter Silhouettes Show**

Arboretum of Los Angeles  
310 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Exhibit, sales area, Saturday night reception  
featuring entertainment, food, giant raffle and  
auction.

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

**February 25-26, 2017**

**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.gsbfhuntington.com](http://www.gsbfhuntington.com)

For more event information, please visit

[bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents](http://bit.ly/GSBF-MoreEvents)

## GRATITUDE

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

*A big thank you to all Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai  
members, friends, and supporters for  
making 2016 a great year for the club  
and for bonsai in general.  
Happy Holidays to all!*

*Special thanks to*

Barry Miller, Doyle Saito, Kathy Benson, Frank J. Mihalic, Louise Wei and Dave Hodgkinson  
*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)

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