



DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

*Serenity through Bonsai*

第一盆裁會  
盆中平穩

# THE DAI ICHI GAZETTE





# DAI ICHI BONSAI KAI

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## John van de Wouw

*President*

## Doyle Saito

*1st Vice President*

*Program Chair*

*Show Chair*

*Past President*

## OPEN

*2nd Vice President*

## CJ Harmatz

*Corresponding Secretary*

*Membership*

*Treasurer*

## Judy Unrine

*Recording Secretary*

*Historian*

## OPEN

*Co-Show Chair*

## Carol Takahashi

*Librarian*

## Kevin Sweeney

*Benefit Drawing Chair*

## Jason Saito

*Newsletter*

*Website*

*Social Media*

## OPEN

*Hospitality*

## Tom Culton

*Publicity*

## CLUB FOUNDERS

### Leila Kusumi

*Co-Founder | Sensei*

### Jim Tatsukawa

*Co-Founder | Sensei*



*On the Cover | Nate Simmons sharing his knowledge of pots and style choices with our club members.*  
*Inside Cover | Bonsai display at the City of Torrance 45th Annual Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai has just completed our 32nd annual *Serenity Through Bonsai* show. It was very successful and it was well attended by the public. I would like to give a shout out to our new members who displayed trees at the show; thank you very much. Your contribution ensures that our club will carry on the art of bonsai. I also want to thank all of our volunteers, of which we had many throughout, and it's your contributions which make this club what it is. Lastly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members who signed up at the show. Look for extensive show coverage in our next issue of *The Gazette*.



At our last meeting Nathan Simmons visited with his extensive collection of bonsai pots and discussed tree/pot selection secrets that will enhance the display of your trees. I especially liked his approach toward pairings that really made the whole display "pop," accentuating the bonsai for a dramatic presentation.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June, and Tak Shimazu will be demonstrating. I highly encourage you to attend this meeting, and witness one of the great Bonsai Masters. Tak was recently honored by the National Bonsai Foundation in Washington D.C. by having a beautiful Shimpaku Juniper accepted for display. Please come down and say Hi.

And finally I want to encourage our members to become active in the running of our club. Greater participation can only make our club better in our pursuit of educating the public about the art of bonsai. We will soon be setting up a DIBK nominating committee in preparation for next year's election of officers. Don't be shy!

*John van de Wouw*

John van de Wouw  
President  
Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai





# NATHAN SIMMONS THE RIGHT POT

Our April presenter was Nathan Simmons who brought a small sampling of his extensive collection to discuss pot selection.







“Shape, style and size of pot, glazed or unglazed... there’s are just so many options to choose from. There are many rules and trends that have been around for years, that result in aesthetically pleasing choices. A lot of rules in bonsai are for that purpose... to get people from point A to point B relatively quickly, and eventually you experience that “a-ha” moment, and understand why that rule is a rule. It’s always interesting to see beginners reject or rebel against these rules, to later learn that they weren’t going to invent some great new style of bonsai that artists before them somehow overlooked.

“With pot selection, there are fundamental rules to follow. Conifers, 99% of the time an unglazed pot is used. Deciduous, tropicals, flowering and fruiting are almost always done in a glazed pot. Evergreens like olives, yaupon holly, or ficus, can go in either. I love glazed pots so I will look for every excuse possible to put a tree in a glazed pot.

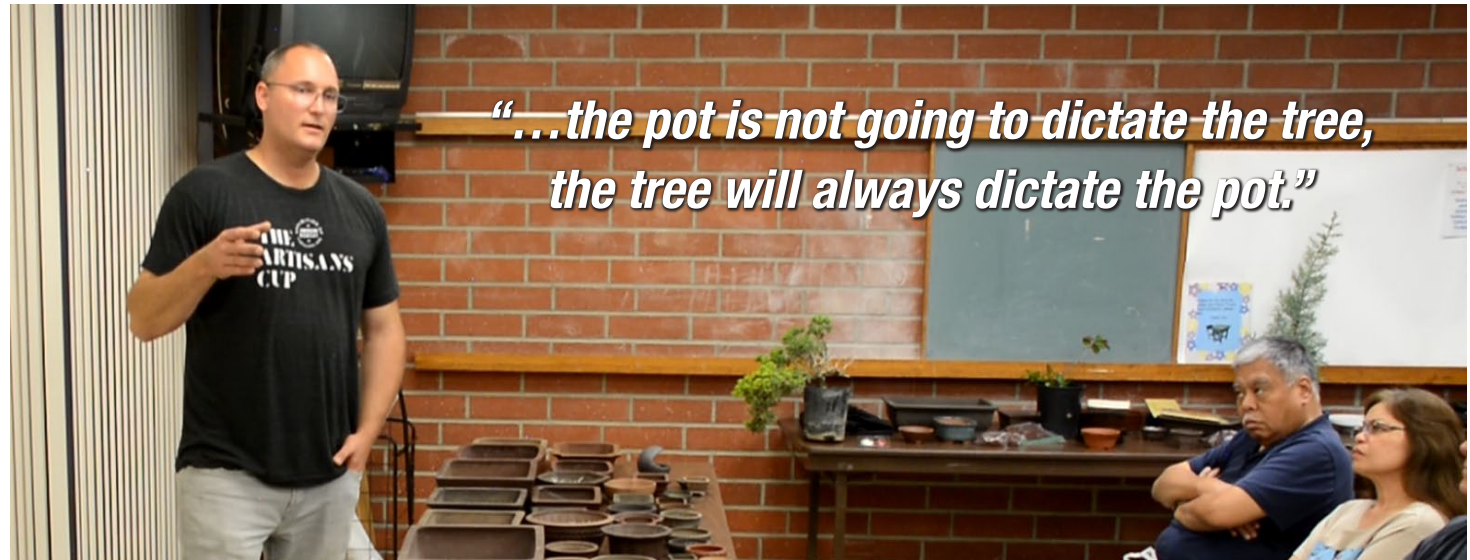
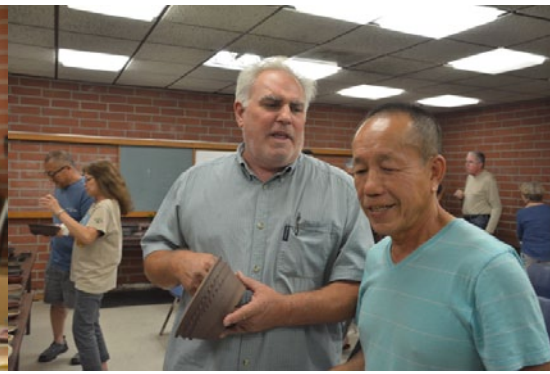
“You don’t ever want the pot to overshadow the tree. A good exercise to do is to study Kokufu-ten

trees, and instead of looking at the tree first, look at the pot first; then examine the tree and how it relates to the pot. Most people are so interested in the tree, that they don’t even notice the pots. Books, magazines and website coverage from high profile Japanese shows are all good tools to learn these aesthetics.

“Art is not for everyone. Not everyone is born artistic, but you can learn a skill, and become disciplined enough to be able to mimic the art. In doing so, you begin to pick up the aesthetic knowledge that creates a pleasing display. You know these tree pot combinations work because they’re on display at big shows, and if you do this enough times, that aesthetic becomes your aesthetic.”

Nate then went on to field questions, give advice, and review and suggest pots for members who brought trees in. It was a great presentation and we want to thank Nathan for taking the time to share his knowledge with us.









Since 1973, the Torrance Sister City Association has been promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the City of Torrance and the City of Kashiwa, Japan.

The TSCA's 45th Annual Bunka Sai Japanese Cultural Festival was held on April 22 & 23, at the Ken Miller Recreation Center, and featured an Asian-themed craft faire with 22 vendors; children's games, food, Japanese cultural arts performances as well as a bonsai exhibit.

Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai is currently in the running to take over the bonsai display exhibit at future Bunka-Sai festivals. If chosen, our presentation will feature show trees as well as demos and other bonsai related activities.



# BONSAI EXHIBIT AT BUNKA-SAI CITY OF TORRANCE







Photo via The Press Enterprise.

## JUNE 16, 2017

SoCal bonsai artist and teacher, Tak Shimazu will be our June demonstrator.

Born in Kumamoto, Japan, Tak immigrated in 1968 to Cypress in Orange County before moving to Riverside two years later. He supported his family for 40 years with a business, Tak's Gardening Service, specializing in Asian-style designs before branching into bonsai as a hobby with his brother as a tutor.

Tak is considered a master working with Pine and Juniper, and has taught and demonstrated throughout Southern California.

Tak will be working on an Itoigawa Juniper at the demo. Don't miss out!

## UPCOMING

All events are tentative and subject to change.

JULY 21, 2017 | **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

AUG 18, 2017 | **ALBERT RIVERA**

SEPT 15, 2017 | **MEMBER WORKSHOP**

*Bring a Tree!*

## EVENTS

### June 3 – 4, 2017 Sansui Kai 2017 Annual Exhibit

Japanese Gardens

6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Admission is \$5 which includes entrance to the gardens. Sale table and demonstration on Sunday. For more details please visit [www.sansui-kai.org](http://www.sansui-kai.org).

### June 10 – 11, 2017 Descanso Bonsai Society 47th Annual Show

Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge

The club will host a reception on Saturday night from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a raffle at 8:00 p.m. A large selection of trees, pots, plants and bonsai related items will be for sale.

### June 24 – 25, 2017 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](http://www.vjcc.com)

### August 19 – 20, 2017 Viet Bonsai Today Society 2nd Annual Bonsai Exhibition

Bao Quang Temple

713 N Newhope Street, Santa Ana

Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The show features demonstrations, club sales, vendors and an auction on both days. For more information, please contact Dinh Nguyen at (949) 302-3048, or Tom Vuong at (714) 878-8004.

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.*

### Benefit Drawing Contributors

Mel Ikeda, Doyle Saito, Fred Floresca,  
Tom Vuong, Ivan Salas, Nathan Simmons

### Refreshment Contributors

Tom Vuong, Peter Macasieb, Doyle Saito,  
Judy Unrine, Tucker McClure, Tina Hsu

### Refreshment Signup for June

Please fee free to bring your favorite yummys. Nom nom nom. ;9

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

### Welcome New Members

Ron Espiritu, Louis & Ruth Fuller, Marty & Diana Murphy, Michael Jonas

### Special thanks to

Nathan Simmons, Torrance Sister Cities Association, and The Press Enterprise  
*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)