



californiabonsaisociety.com

California Bonsai Society

In Person Meeting Wednesday May 21 at 7 PM

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, 1964 W.162nd St.,
Gardena (room 207/208)

President

Robert Pressler

818-343-4090

bonsaibp@earthlink.net

info@californiabonsai.com

Programs

Robert Pressler

Show Chairmen

Lindsay Shiba

909-806-0937

Joe Galgoul

626-429-0325

Treasurer

Cindi Bayliss

562-596-8464

Membership

Carol Upston

carolupston@icloud.com

310-346-4203

1895 262nd St.

Lomita CA 90717-3346

Secretary/Newsletter

Carol Upston

carolupston@icloud.com

310-346-4203

Website

Diem Van Groth

Refreshments

Doyle Saito

310-940-9482

doylesaito@yahoo.com

Live Streaming/Technology

Jason Saito

310-909-4598

jason@zenplace.com

Publicity

open

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President's Message



Well this year is flying by. Even though it doesn't seem like it with all the grey summer is knocking on the door.

I'm happy to report that we just received a generous donation from member Glenn Pfeffer of a quality collection of bonsai and bonsai related items that will support our scholarship

Speaking of the scholarship program applications are being accepted through May 30th. We give out two \$1000.00 scholarship for someone to study bonsai and to give back to the bonsai community by sharing what they've learned. We also have our visiting artist this month Heike Van Gunst - a 40 plus year practitioner from Germany who has demonstrated through the world as well as being the editor in chief of Bonsai Art the German language bonsai magazine. Let's have a good turnout to welcome this talented lady.

A tip of the hat to Lindsay Shiba and his hardworking team for putting together a quality show. Lindsay always does an amazing job and this year it was with short notice, but he not only got it done but made sure it was up to the gold standard set years ago for the level of quality in a CBS exhibit. Thank you Lindsay and Joe Galgoul who has become Lindsay right hand man. A big thanks also to all that showed a tree, helped set up and break down- you guys and gals are the backbone of this club.

Hope to see many of you on Wednesday May 21st at 7:00 pm at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute 1964 West 162nd St. Gardena, CA 90247

Please help us welcome CBS visiting artist

Heike Van Gunst

Heike van Gunst was born in 1966 and lives near Hamburg in Germany. From early childhood on she grew lots pot plants and vegetables. When she was 13 years old, she saw a bonsai tree for the first time, in the window of a furniture store, and was fascinated. At the age of 15 she tried to grow bonsai trees from seeds, read a first basic bonsai book in German language and her passion grew. Heike would have liked to study horticulture or biology and languages, but ended up with economy and computer science. For many years she worked as a consultant in the IT business, until she got married and her two daughters were born.



She kept growing bonsai trees as a hobby, learned from books, magazines, an internet forum and the comrades in a local club. In 2007 she founded a new local club, the Bonsai AK Hamburg & Umland, began to visit exhibitions and workshops and met many other bonsai people from different nations. Heike joined the team of the German BONSAI ART magazine in 2013 and became the chief editor in 2016. She translated

demos and workshops for several foreign bonsai artists and a number of bonsai books. In 2017 she traveled to Japan for the World Bonsai Convention and was deeply impressed and influenced by what she saw there. In 2018, 2019 and 2023 Heike was invited to Chinese bonsai/penjing exhibitions in Rugao and Nanjing as a demonstrator and 2019 to Canberra, Australia, to teach workshops and perform on the demo stage. Since 2018 she has showed a tree or shohin display at every issue of Europe's most prestigious bonsai exhibition „The Trophy“ in Belgium. In 2021 she took part in an online exhibition of BonsaiKunstHamburg and the demo, which she did together with Sandra Grlica, can still be found on YouTube. Heikes private bonsai collection contains around 120 bonsai trees (most of them medium and small size), around 80 accent plants und a varying number of young plants. She grows a great number of different species and has developed most of her trees herself over many years, aiming to master all the necessary techniques. With more than 40 years experience, Heike especially likes to share her knowledge about longterm bonsai development and bonsai pot choice.





California Bonsai Society is proud to announce: The Ben Oki Bonsai Scholarship Fund. The California Bonsai Society (CBS) has set up a scholarship fund to honor Ben Oki - a man who devoted most of his life to enjoying and sharing bonsai. Ben was happiest when he shared his knowledge or worked on a tree.

To honor that sharing spirit Ben had, we will be making two \$1000.00 grants available to anyone in the bonsai community to be used to attend classes, workshops, study with a pro, or other bonsai-related educational activities. The winners will also need to do something to give back to the bonsai community- such as a club demo or online video showing what you learned or some other method of giving back to the community.

To apply, the applicant should send an email to:
CaliforniaBonsaiSociety123@earthlink.net

In that email, they should explain what they intend to do with the money to improve their bonsai skills and what they intend to do to give back to the bonsai community. Be creative.

Applicants who receive scholarships agree that in return for these funds, within 15 days of completing class, etc., they will provide CBS photos and a short write-up of what they did with the funds to improve their bonsai skills that will be published on our website and in our newsletter. They will also have to come up with and complete a way of giving back to the community and commit to doing this.

The application period will be annually from May 1st through May 30th, with the scholarships awarded on June 15th. Applications will be accepted by anyone in the bonsai community who can deposit a US bank check. Awarding the scholarships will be by decision of a committee of California Bonsai Society Board members after going through all applicants. All committee decisions are final. Everyone in the bonsai community is encouraged to apply for this chance to expand their bonsai knowledge and to help contribute to the bonsai community.

Anyone interested in contributing to the scholarship fund to honor Ben and help promote bonsai is more than welcome to contact Robert Pressler -President of The California Bonsai Society, at the above email. We are a privately funded 501c3 corporation, so that any contributions may be tax-deductible.

Upcoming Events

Ben Oki Scholarship nominations open May 1, California Bonsai Society
californiabonsaisociety.com

Serenity through Bonsai show Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai May 10th 10am to 9 pm, May 11th, 10am-1pm at the Nakaoka Center in Gardena, Reception on Saturday night at 6 PM
daiichibonsaikai.com

Santa Anita Bonsai Society show. May 24 - 26, 10 am - 4 pm, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Baldwin Park sabonsai.org

May 31-June 1. Coastal Bonsai Club annual show at the Sherman Library and Gardens. 10 am-4pm. Demos both days. Held concurrently with the Orange County Fuchsia Society annual sale coastalbonsaiclub.com

LA bonsai swap, June 8. Woodley Park Van Nuys

Orange County Bonsai Society show. June 28 - 29th. Cool Japan Center. 4199 Campus Drive, Suite A, Irvine ocbonsai.org

Wednesday July 16 at 7 pm CBS welcomes visiting artist Cesar Ordonez of CenCal Bonsai. Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, 1964 W 162nd St., Gardena

Kofu Kai annual benefit auction, August 16 in the large hall at Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim. Drop off auction items from 5 PM, auction starts at 6:30

Kofu Bonsai Kai annual exhibit at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Set up is on Thursday November 6 and the show is the 7 - 9. Contact Carol Upston to show a tree.

Our February meeting Wirth visiting artist

Kris Springer

Kris Springer had a very successful visit to the bonsai clubs participating in the CBS Visiting Artists Program. In fact I probably took more notes during his demonstrations than with any other artist. My notes include phrases like 'pitch pine mutants', the use of perlite for bonsai soil, the advantages of Minwax wood hardener, using super glue on a dremel wire brush to help it last longer, JB Weld glue, and most amazingly, the use of preparation H to facilitate rapid healing of large cuts on trunks.

Unfortunately, we had technical difficulties at the actual CBS meeting and were Unable to stream Kris's talk so we had a question and answer session.

Our apologies for the lapse.

