



California Bonsai Society

Quarterly meetings at Nakaoka Community Center (On Hiatus)

1700 W. 162nd St., Gardena 90247 **Dues are deferred this coming year for current members.**

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President's Message

Finally this crazy year is coming to an end. We can only hope that 2021 is much better.

This year has been challenging for everyone in so many ways. Each of us has had to find their own way to deal with the challenges we faced. I hope and pray that all of you are getting through this ok. If any of you need some help with your bonsai please reach out and we will get some people to lend a hand.

It's been challenging to CBS as a club as well, as it has to every group and club across the country. We've had to suspend our Visiting Artist Program for most of the year- though we did have a nice video demo by Christopher Sambolin in July. We had to cancel our annual members sale which saddened many. We canceled February's visiting artist- Yannick Kiggen- a very talented young artist from Belgium. He has agreed to try again in February of 2022. I hoping and still planning on having our May visiting artist - Marija Hajdic- an amazing talent from Croatia. We'll be keeping our fingers crossed that by then we can get together again.

We did have an amazing turnout for our Virtual World Bonsai Day exhibition with over 600 entries from bonsai artists around the world. This was I believe the first of the big virtual exhibits this year and even if I do say so myself one of the most successful. The images of the entries can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/cbs-exg>

Our Ben Oki Scholarship was another huge success this year, thanks to a super successful fundraising campaign last year we were able to increase the scholarship from 5 -\$200 grants to two \$1000 grants. There were a ton of applicants and I think the two winners will do much to advance the art. I think that this is one of our most important projects and believe it will not only have a positive impact on the art but will encourage other groups to start their own programs to advance bonsai education. As always we encourage and are very grateful for donations of either cash, bonsai or bonsai related materials that can be used to support the scholarship.

As of now we're still planning on our show in March at the Huntington. Lindsay has been staying on top of that and I'm sure in spite of any challenges he'll make sure we have a great show. Lindsay will provide further details as the time comes closer.

Here's something that I would like everyone to consider and to give their feedback on- I received an email from Jack Sustic asking us- CBS- to consider putting in a bid to host the 10th World Bonsai Convention here in Los Angeles. It will be in 2025 which also happens to be our 75th anniversary. I don't know all that that would

Events and Opportunities

Aiseki Kai Viewing Stone Exhibit

The 31st annual Aiseki Kai viewing stone exhibit is available to view online for a limited time at

<https://www.huntington.org/events/viewing-stones-online-show>

CBS Annual Exhibit

Huntington library, Art Galleries and Botanical Garden

March 19 - 21, 2021

entail but I do know it would be a tremendous amount of work. I've asked the presidents of both the Phoenix and Las Vegas clubs to consider being co-hosts along with us if it's something we decide to do. If not this, which admittedly will be a huge undertaking, then I think we need to come up with some kind of special event for that momentous occasion. Anyhow something for the members to consider. Please reach out to me by email- bonsaibp@earthlink.net or phone(818) 259-8361 with any thoughts, comments or ideas about this.

Moving forward I think it's important for us to continue being the resource to the community we've become and hope to implement some new programs with that in mind in the next couple of years. I would like to put together a teachers program to help develop and encourage people to share their knowledge and passion to educate others and keep the art form vital. It's important to look to the future and to do everything we can to promote this amazing art form that brings all of us together.

I want to thank the members of the board who help make all we do possible- without them we wouldn't be able to do the things we do. Doyle Saito who is always there to lend a hand no matter what and who insures that everyone is always well fed. Cindi Baylis who does a fine job of keeping our finances in order, and makes sure that all the necessary tax forms etc. are done. Jason Saito who has started and oversees our tech program - live streaming our meetings and showing other clubs how to use tech to their advantage. Also as part of our tech program we have Jonathon Jee who runs our very successful Instagram page and Sung Shin who along with Jonathon has developed our YouTube page. Diem Van Groth who set-up and maintains our website-even though he has moved out of state. Carol Upston our secretary and newsletter editor who keeps us all in the loop and is another one who is always there to help out. Cary Sullivan who is our membership chair and another reliable helping hand wherever needed. And last but certainly not least Lindsay Shiba, show chair, past president and another person who can always be relied on to help out wherever needed. It truly takes a team and you guys are an incredible one. I also want to thank all the elders who have paved the way and kept this club going for decades.

I wish everyone all the best for the holiday season and hope that 2021 brings health, happiness, prosperity and plenty of bonsai to all.

Looking forward to the day we can all gather together again. Stay safe.

Robert Pressler
President California Bonsai Society