

# Kofu Bonsai Kai [kofukai.org](http://kofukai.org)

## April 2022 Newsletter

Meeting Again at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim East Classroom at 6 PM

**Saturday April 16 at 6 PM**

## **Ron Espiritu works on *Portulacaria Afra***



Ron Espiritu will be our April demonstrator/ speaker. Ron was the recipient of the Ben Oki Scholarship award in 2020, and studies under Gary Ishii at Chicugo-En bonsai nursery in Gardena. He belongs to the Baikoen bonsai club in Arcadia. Ron took over much of the Jack Sherman collection.

Ron will be talking about his Ben Oki Scholarship experience and will work on a *Portulacaria afra* aka small leaf jade or elephant bush. Ron will also discuss how he has incorporated bonsai into his ethnic studies classes.

Gabe Gonzales ( [https://www.instagram.com/gunz\\_ceramics/](https://www.instagram.com/gunz_ceramics/)) will be assisting Ron and providing a choice of pots for repotting.

Ron is also an educator and a great public speaker (See his TED talk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvvMgujD4i8>)

Please join us for this interesting demonstration which will be relevant to newcomers and experienced bonsai artists alike.

Also, Please support your club with donations to the raffle and also buy some tickets. Kofu Kai has been fortunate to make it through the Covid era so far and we are doubly lucky to still have a meeting place; some clubs still do not. However, we need to pull together and raise funds for our continuing expenses so please donate and buy tickets and also see announcements about our auction coming soon.



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## Our Last Meeting

Our March meeting was a field trip to the nursery of David and June Nguy. Members brought trees for a workshop with David and then David styled an Itoigawa juniper which will be featured in our upcoming benefit auction. It was a beautiful day and some of us even got in a bit of shopping as well as enjoying a delicious lunch provided by our hosts. We are hoping to make this and other field trips annual events.



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## Cherry Blossom Festival at the Bowers

Sunday April 3rd was the annual Cherry Blossom Festival at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. Kofu Kai is very happy to be part of this event every year. We set up a few tables with bonsai and we work on our trees and spend a few hours talking about bonsai with the people who come to enjoy Japanese music, dance, crafts, arts and culture. It's a relaxed and low key event, and I hope some of you will join us next spring and experience the fun of talking to people about bonsai. The event includes free museum admission for the day except for ticketed special events. Asahi was even handing out free beer samples!



David Nguy is hosting a bring-your-own-tree workshop on 4/23/2022 from 9 am to 1 pm. A few seats are still available. The cost is \$40.00. If you are interested please call or email me, [dmelitz@uci.edu](mailto:dmelitz@uci.edu) 949-337-2334.

Thank You  
David Melitz

## Support your Club

Kofu Kai is a small organization. It costs an astonishing amount to put on our meetings every month. There's the cost of the room, liability insurance, fees to demonstrators, storage and so on. If you add it up it can cost at least \$500 for each month's meeting. Our fundraising has been limited by the covid situation and we need to increase our revenue. Please seriously consider bringing raffle donations and also please buy raffle tickets. Maybe you don't want anything on the raffle table; that's ok. You can gift your tickets to someone else at the meeting or just not put them in the drum. Think of raffle tickets as paying a small donation to help defray the cost of meetings.

We will be having a major benefit auction very soon, probably at the June meeting. There will be an announcement soon about that. Our benefit auctions are a great way to not only support the club but to obtain bonsai material and pots at a great price. Now is the time to take a look around your yard and find the things you can donate to be auctioned. Maybe they are things you just never seem to get around to or that you have had your fun with and are ready to pass on to someone else. Maybe it's a weird pot that you can never find a tree to fit.

You get the picture, so have a look around. The tree styled by David Nguy at the March meeting will be featured in the auction.

One of our major expenses is storage. We pay a lot to store our display materials and some bonsai pot donations. It would save the club over \$1000 a year if we could find free storage. If you have a property where we could place a shed or have space that we could use please contact us.