

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

Saturday June 20 Meeting, 1 PM in the Choir Room, Special Time!!!!

Usually Meeting at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim

**Our meeting hours will vary in 2026**

**Our first 1:00 PM meeting of 2026**

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## Important Announcement

Beginning this year, some of our meetings will be at 1:00 PM, not 6:00 PM. Please check each month in the newsletter or on the website to see the time. Our meetings that feature the CBS visiting artists will still be at 6:00 PM because that is when they are available. Our annual benefit auction will still be in the evening.

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## Tak Nakamura Divulges his Tanuki Secrets



Tak and his patient and lovely wife, Reiko standing next to his pomegranate . Reiko kindly made our green table covers for our show.

Join us at 1 PM on Saturday June 20 for our first daytime meeting featuring our own Tak Nakamura. Tak has been a long time contributor to our club and to the art of bonsai in California. He always shows interesting and unusual trees in our show like the Madagascar tree formal upright and the pomegranate in the photos. He generously shares his time teaching bonsai and is full of knowledge on many bonsai varieties.



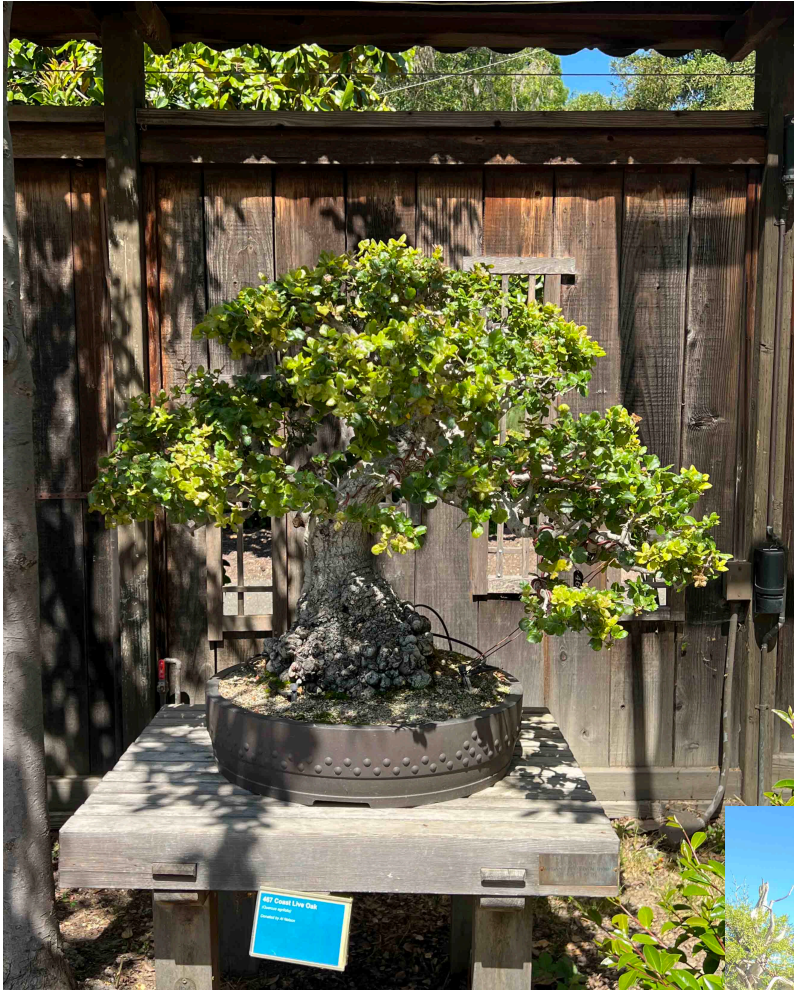
Tanuki are bonsai that combine an element of separate dead wood with a new living plant that is from a separate source. Grafting and training a new tree onto dead wood allows us to use beautiful parts left from trees long deceased or even interesting dead wood elements that were found and kept for their beauty. There are a few

folks who occasionally grumble about tanuki being deceptive or fake. This is only an issue if the fact of a tree being a tanuki, also known as phoenix graft, is not disclosed. Other than that, this is an art form and in art, what looks good is good. Tanuki can be created from many kinds of plant material. I have a good friend who lost a large bougainvillea when he was in the hospital and depending on relatives to water his trees. He successfully tanukied a young bougie onto the back of the massive dead trunk and now it looks even better than the original.

Tak will be working on a juniper and I know you will enjoy learning how he makes tanuki look natural and beautiful. See you there at 1:00 PM in the choir room.

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Al Nelson (1931-2026 )



Al Nelson passed away on April 29 at the age of 94. He was a huge contributor to the bonsai community for decades. He championed his favorite bonsai species, coast live oak (see the photo at left of his tree at Lake Merritt). He often gave very detailed talks about the various oak species that we can grow here in California. He also championed the art of saikei and would field a whole crew of helpers for saikei and oak demos.

His trees can be seen in major collections including Lake Merritt and the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington DC.

But by far the most important contribution Al made to bonsai was his patient and tireless mentoring of bonsai artists.

He realized early on that one of the barriers to learning to do bonsai is the fact that beginning practitioners have very few trees to work on. His solution was to have classes at his home and have his students work on his many trees, thus learning about all aspects of bonsai practice. He was always so positive and supportive of Kofu Kai and, until his health kept him closer to home, always available to show a tree or do a demonstration. We will miss him very much.

Please see below for info about the memorial service and lunch for Al and do not fail to RSVP if you are attending,




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It's very important that you RSVP if you attend the memorial service and lunch for Al Nelson. Please contact David Melitz at [dmelitz@uci.edu](mailto:dmelitz@uci.edu) right away so that the family knows how many people to expect.

THE NELSON FAMILY INVITES  
YOU TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF

## ALBERT NELSON



1933-2026

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 10 A.M.  
LUNCH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
18182 CULVER DR, IRVINE, CA 92612

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, CONTRIBUTIONS IN HIS  
MEMORY MAY BE MADE TO CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY IRVINE

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## Our May meeting with CBS visiting artist Philippe Baron

CBS visiting artist Philippe Baron worked on a juniper owned by Bob Pressler. Philippe had pre-wired the tree which was nice because we didn't have to endure watching someone wire and he was able to spend the whole meeting doing an interactive styling with feedback from audience members. He also went over many aspects of juniper styling and maintenance. It was good to see such lively participation from the audience.



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## OMIYA TRAILER PARK

Where Bonsai Artists go to retire.

*Overheard at the Coastal Bonsai Show....*



## Upcoming Events

Saturday August 15

The Kofu Kai Annual Benefit Auction!

It's coming soon and it will be a special auction this year. There will be several fine trees from past Kofu demonstrations which have recovered and in some cases been repotted and are growing well. There will also be a fine California juniper received as a donation from the California Bonsai Society and many other goodies. Mark your calendars.

Photos and further details coming soon!

### Continuing

Tuesday Evenings mentoring workshop with Mel Ikeda. 6:00 -8:00 most every Tuesday. Bring your own tree and table cover. \$15 per session. 11832 Euclid Avenue, Garden Grove. It's ok to just show up. Contact Paul Minerich with questions. [pminerich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pminerich@sbcglobal.net)

Kimura Bonsai Nursery in Castaic; Classes and workshops. Check their website for the latest offerings.

30535 Harley Canyon Rd, Castaic. [kimurabonsainursery.com](http://kimurabonsainursery.com)

David Nguy, Bonsai Jidai, offers once-per-month workshops year round. [bonsaijidai.com](http://bonsaijidai.com)

Peter Macasieb also offers workshops. @petermacasieb for instagram photos and videos.

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

**Founding President**

Harry Hirao

**Past President**

Manuel Martinez

**President**

Carol Upston 310-346-4203

[carolupston@icloud.com](mailto:carolupston@icloud.com)

**Vice President**

David Melitz

**Recording Secretary**

Open

**Treasurer**

Ryan Cali

**Program Chair**

David Melitz 949-337-2334

[dmelitz@uci.edu](mailto:dmelitz@uci.edu)

**Workshops**

David Melitz 949-337-2334

**Website**

Bob Warner

**Meeting Refreshments**

Kimberly Warner

**Show Co-Chairs**

Mike Viljak 949-642-3577

**Membership**

Carol Upston

1895 262nd St

Lomita CA 90717

[carolupston@icloud.com](mailto:carolupston@icloud.com)

**Newsletter Editor**

Carol Upston 310-346-4203

[carolupston@icloud.com](mailto:carolupston@icloud.com)

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