

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

## September 2024 Newsletter

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

**Saturday September 21 at 6 PM in classroom B**

**Refreshment donations are welcomed. There is no general raffle.**

There's a lot going on so please read this newsletter.

## Kofu Welcomes Our Own Mike Viljak



Mike Viljak is one of the stalwarts of Kofu Kai. He is always ready to help with the show and generously stores our backdrops and tablecloths, saving us a couple grand a year which is just amazing. Recently when we all paid a visit to Jason Chan's nursery, the club bought an interesting piece of material, an olive for Mike to use as a demo tree. He will begin the styling at the meeting and continue to develop the tree for future fundraising.

Mike joined Kofu in 2001. He studied closely with our former president, Manny Martinez and also with Harry Hirao, Ryan Neil and Joel Pasco.

You may not know that he is also a bonsai potter. Soon after getting in to bonsai he began making ceramic bonsai pots. I have a number of his pots, collected mostly from sales at past Bonsai A Thons. Today he

sells his ceramics exclusively through Ryan Neil's website. Mike prefers to work on California native trees and also trees from the Mediterranean region.



## Show Time

Our annual show at the Bowers Museum is rapidly approaching. Set-up is on Thursday October 17, times TBA. The show runs from Friday Through Sunday, October 18-20, 10 AM - 4 PM each day. Jason Chan will again be doing the demo on Saturday the 19th at 1:00 PM. Admission to the show is free.

I have a few people already signed up to show trees. They include Gary Lai, Ian Burke, Debra Mauzy-Melitz, Michael Walsh, Tom Vuong, Bill Ward and more.

Please contact me if you'd like to show a tree or even two trees. We are encouraging creativity so if you want to hang a scroll with your tree or display a small painting as part of your arrangement, we look forward to seeing what you come up with. Three item displays are welcome. I know we have one display that features a tree growing from a ruined Irish cottage. If you are not sure, send me a photo of what you have in mind.

Also, I am looking for a way to honor Larry Ragle at the show. It could be a tree, some of the pots he made, I'm open to ideas.

It will be hard to top last years amazing variety of trees, especially the flowering and fruiting ones but I'm confident that we can rise to the occasion. Exhibitors do not have to be members of Kofu Kai, we welcome guest trees.

There are some issues we need to fix. Last year we had a big fail after the show. Most people who helped take down the show left without going over to Mike Viljak's house to stow the gear in his basement. It was just Mike and Joe Galgoul putting it all away. Let's not let that happen again. We'll talk about it at the September meeting. Two of our biggest helpers are dealing with physical challenges and can't lift things so we need to make sure we have enough volunteers. If you can help with set up and take down please contact me now or sign up at the meeting.

In other news, the September meeting will be the last one in the classroom. We will be moving into the choir room which is the room next to the main church. We've been in there before and it should be fine. The church is demolishing the building with the classrooms and building a new food bank facility to further their mission.

We will still be able to use the large hall when needed for the auctions.

See you all at the meeting  
Carol Upston

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

The Bowers Museum Welcomes the

## KOFU BONSAI KAI

2024 Bonsai Exhibit

Friday October 18 - Sunday October 20  
10 AM to 4 PM in the John M. Lee Court

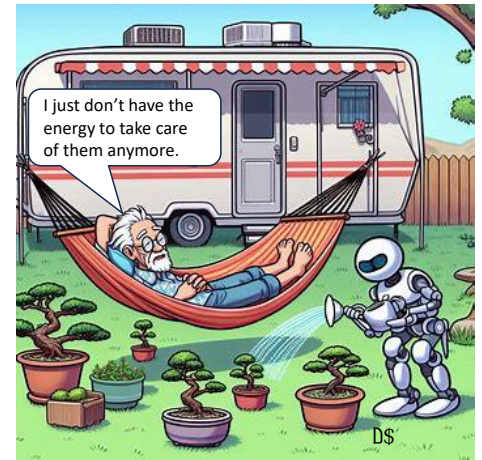
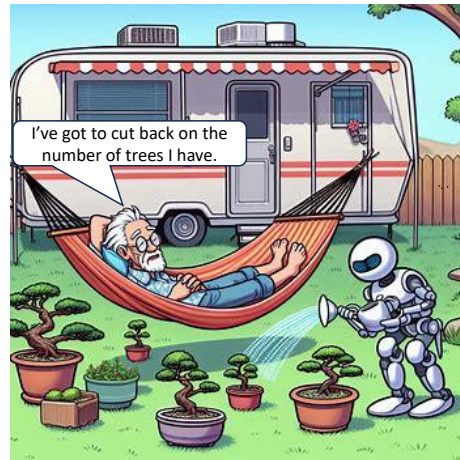
**Bonsai Demonstration Saturday at 1 PM by Jason Chan**

Bonsai club members will be at the exhibit to answer visitors' questions.  
Admission to the bonsai exhibit is free. Admission charges apply to the museum.  
Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St. Santa Ana



## OMIYA TRAILER PARK

Where Bonsai Artists go to retire.



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

A big thank you to everyone who donated, bid, and helped with the auctions in June and August. Because of your generosity we have met our fundraising goal and look forward to great demos, opportunities to educate the public about this crazy thing we do and to enjoying more years of bonsai camaraderie.

Thank You!



# 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

**Benefit Drawing**

Dan and Wanda Danesi

714-826-5024

David and Debra Melitz

949-274-03270

**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)

[kofukai.org](http://kofukai.org)

Follow us on Facebook.

