

Club meeting and demonstration Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00 pm
Repotting Workshop Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00 pm - by reservation -
RSVP at info@marinbonsai.org



President's Message

It's a brand-new year, 2018! In 2017 I travelled to Saitama City, Japan, to participate in the 8th World Bonsai Convention, and believed nothing could top that weekend being among 45,000 other bonsai enthusiasts. However, I am just as excited about what 2018 will bring in the realm of bonsai. Be sure to check the various calendars for bonsai activities and take an active part in some bonsai related events.*

* (Editor's Note: If you haven't registered for the Shohin Convention in Santa Nella, CA on February 2-4 it is not too late to participate in the fun and educational opportunities. Classes are booked up, but there are free seminars all day long on Friday and Saturday and an excellent assortment of vendors, some we seldom see here because they are SoCal based, raffles and auctions and good visits with bonsai friends and/or the chance to make new ones. Santa Nella is about an hour and a half from Marin and it is very easy access from I-5. If 90+ year old David Stern can get himself there, so can you. David knows a good time when it is offered, so hit the road and we'll see you there.)

Please visit our club's website <http://marinbonsai.org/events/> for the

2018 schedule of programs. The board assembled a great line up of guest demonstrators and other activities that is sure to please members of all levels of experience.

Holiday Party

Thank you, Dan and Susan Keller for hosting one of the finest annual club holiday potluck dinners I can remember. The members attending the social enjoyed the drink, food, conversations, and a Christmas bonsai tree contest on a brilliantly sunny day. Three winners received gift certificates for their creative efforts. Bliss!

Pots, Pots, Pots

The club will continue the Curtis Thames bonsai pot sales for January and February meetings and during repotting workshops. So, take inventory of your pot needs and be ready to purchase pots at the meetings and workshops. Get there early for the best selection.

As president of the Marin Bonsai Club, I appreciate dearly the kind words and support of everyone this past year. Thank you.

George

Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt - GRO Initiative

There are two ways for members to contribute to the fundraising in support of the GRO Project. You can donate any amount or purchase a personalized engraved commemorative brick for \$150, \$250 or \$500. Help by making a donation today.

For complete information visit <http://www.gsbflakemerritt.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Bonsai-Garden-of-Lake-Merritt-Brick-Flyer-09-11-17.pdf>

You can also support the Gardens by donating trees and bonsai items to the **Mammoth Sale and Auction** held on February 17-18. If you have good trees or pots to donate or sell at auction please contact George Haas immediately since items will be photographed for the catalog and website on January 13. The sale, on Sunday February 18, accepts donations and consignments, - items can be brought to the sale early the same morning. All proceeds go to maintaining the Gardens and paying our hard working, very talented curator Kathy Shaner.



Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt

Our thanks to Candace Key and Chris Ross who handled docent duties at the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt on December 23. As it turned out the whole Oakland garden was closed, but our intrepid docents found a way in and encountered Kathy Shaner preparing to repot many of the collection's trees. They rolled up their sleeves, weeding trees, sifting and mixing soil, and Kathy seemed very grateful for the help and company, imparting bits of wisdom as she worked. George Haas showed up for the afternoon shift and likewise pitched in. It was an excellent day at the Gardens despite the change in plans.

We need docents - hopefully two - for our next date of January 27. The shift is from 10:00 - 1:00 and even if you haven't been doing bonsai for long you are sure to know more about bonsai than 99% of the visitors. This is an excellent day to volunteer since the Garden Center is the location of the **Bay Island Bonsai** show, one of the very best in the state, if not the country. Why not volunteer in the morning and be done in time to catch the auction that afternoon? Please let Candace or Roger know if you can help us out this month, or visit our club [website](#) to see which months need docents.

We hope more members will step up and support the bonsai community by



January 2 Program

On January 2nd, 2018, 7 to 9:30 p.m. our regular club meeting and demonstration will feature Randall Lee who will create an Elm bonsai forest on a slab. Someone will go home with this unique forest planting. Randall goes to great lengths to prepare for his demonstrations and we promise you will not be disappointed in his performance and the demo material.

Meeting starts at 7:00PM -
Come early to view and
purchase pots from the Curtis
Thames Collection

February 17-18

Mark your calendars for perhaps the most important bonsai event of the year. The Auction on Saturday 2/17, and Sale on Sunday 2/18 are vital in raising money to support the Bonsai Gardens at Lake Merritt. You can donate or consign items for sale or auction, or just come and shop among the vast array of vendors and marvel at a very professional show exhibiting trees in winter silhouette. This is a 'must-be-there' event, so put it on your calendars now.

**taking a docent shift or two at the
Gardens.** It is time well and pleasantly
spent and your contributions are greatly
appreciated.
