



Holiday Party!



**January 28th at
7PM (PST)**

**NOTE: Zoom
on THURSDAY**

Wondering how we will celebrate? Here's an alternative to our usual festivities: a **zoom social hour!** *You will need to supply your own beverages.* We all enjoy an opportunity to get together and share. We look forward to "seeing" you on the 28th. Here is the zoom link:

<https://mula.zoom.us/j/93425463109>.

BONUS: We will also look at our virtual show and talk about the stones! Don't miss it!!

Without in person meetings and trips to the Yuha, you may be wondering why dues are due.... Aiseki Kai still has expenses, for example, our website, donations (most recently to The Huntington in honor of Jim Folsom) and of course, this newsletter. We believe that \$10 is a small price to pay for your commitment to all that Aiseki Kai has to offer. By paying your dues, you let us know that you support our effort to share all that we can about viewing stones and suiseki.

Dues are Due

This is a request to you kind folks who get the hard copy of the newsletter who have a computer and could easily be *e-subscribers* to please rethink your membership needs. The more of you who are *e-subscribers*, the better for all. We hope you will decide to go green. Save a tree and our precious resources. (If you are saving the newsletter, you can always print it out yourself.) No matter what, we really appreciate your continued support. Thank you.

Please send \$10 payable to California Aiseki Kai
c/o Nina Ragle
P.O. Box 4975
Laguna Beach, CA 92652-4975



The Huntington Show 2020

It seems our virtual show (and both AVSRC shows) was a hit (no surprise!). We had many positive responses from our members and from unrelated viewers who are unfamiliar with what we do. It was gratifying to be able to continue our long history with The Huntington this year.

Thanks to all of you who participated and met the challenge of photographing your own stones. You are the ones who made the show shine and we want you to know how much we appreciate that.

You will notice little gray boxes throughout the newsletter filled with emailed comments singing your praises... We have not included the authors names as we would have had to ask their permission...but we couldn't resist sharing their kind words.

NOTE: The show is still available on line so feel free to go back and have another look, share it with your friends! We will be reviewing the show on Zoom on Thursday, January 28th at 7PM.

"Is there a particular person who makes those bases? I'm guessing a cast of the stone is made and that's how the base is created? The rocks look like they *just* fit with no room to spare. I think it's spectacular. Lots of the rocks don't have those though. Is there a rule when or when not to have one of those bases? Are they a bloody fortune to make? I would imagine they are. I really did enjoy the rocks.... so many very interesting ones."

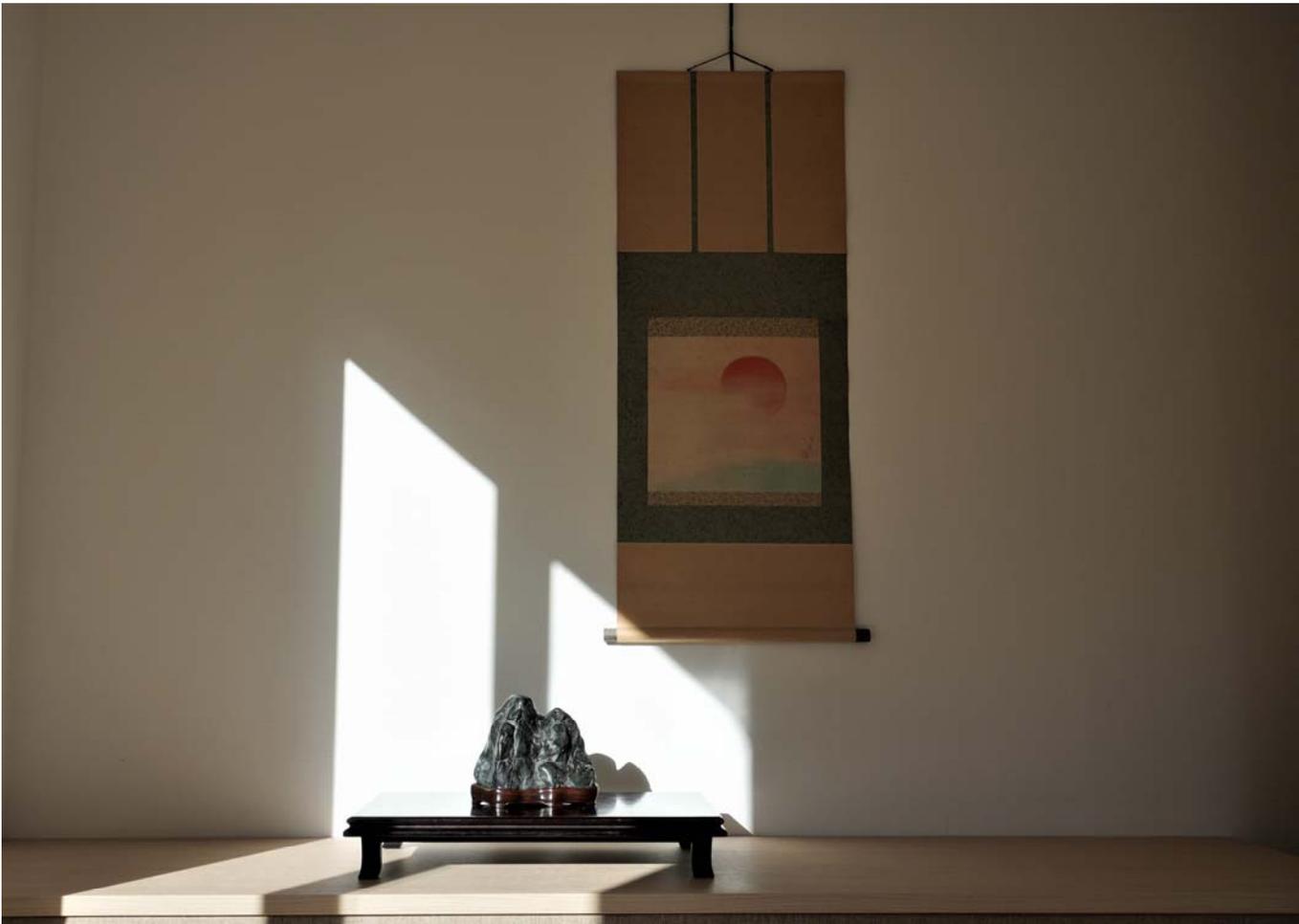
"I hate to admit it but it is great to be able to enjoy the show over and over. It is an excellent show and you are to be congratulated. This is my 6th time today; I am in hog heaven."

"Bravo! The virtual show is a knockout! I think/hope it will reach and inspire many people--a beautiful selection, and for me, just the right number--seeing one makes you want to see the next, and the next, but none of the three are endless, so I think people will really look at all of them. The images and presentation make the stones pop! Great work."

January Display by Yvonne Graubaek



Kamuikotan ishi
in a daiza by
Harada Kazuya



The 1 inch wide inner margins are designed for use with a 3 hole punch.

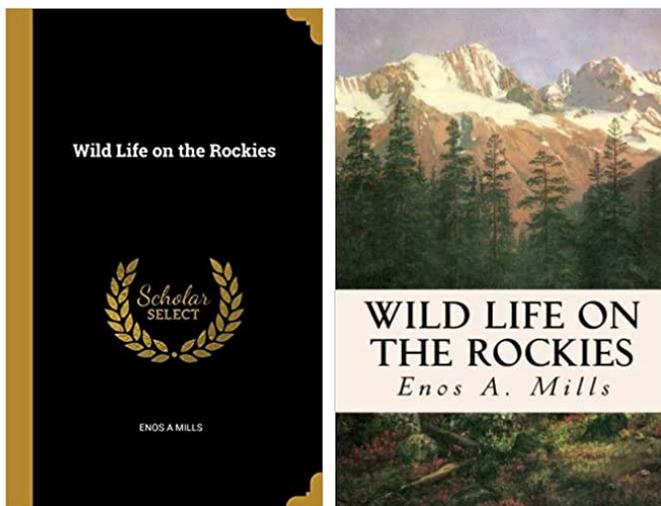


In The Mailbox

Jack Levy wrote: Yesterday I re-read a book that I have had on my shelf for some years, by a man I admire. There were two paragraphs that I thought might be of interest to other members of the suiseki community, since they contain early reflections on stone formations from a pioneer of the southwest. Included are Jack's introductory remarks:

Those of us who love stones, and who spend time in "fantasy land" imagining what the stones we find might be considered to represent, are often interested in the history of stone appreciation and also the apparently much longer history of stone formation. The quote below presents some observations on these subjects from an American who lived over a century ago.

Enos Mills (1870-1922) was a "back woods man": a naturalist, guide, author, and principle proponent behind the formation of Rocky Mountains National Park. He was a contemporary of John Muir, and like Muir wrote several books about his (often solo) experiences in the mountains, and his observations of animals and plants. He and Muir had the same publisher, Houghton-Mifflin, and early editions of their books often had attractive decorative cloth covers. By a fortuitous coincidence, Mills was born on April 22, which is Earth Day (Muir was born on April 21, 1848).



Hard copy

Paperback

One of Mills' books, "Wild Life on the Rockies", was published in 1909 and had chapters which had been previously published as stand-alone essays. The book is dedicated to John Muir. The following quote is excerpted from the chapter titled "Mountain Parks and Campfires":

"The rock-formation is made up of mixtures of very unequally tempered rock metal, which weathers in strange, weird, and impressive shapes. Much of this statuary is gigantic and uncouth, but some of it is beautiful. There are minarets, monoliths, domes, spires, and shapeless fragments. In places there are, seemingly, restive forms not entirely free from earth. Most of these figures are found upon the crests of the mountains, and many of the mountain-ridges, with their numerous spikes and gigantic monoliths, some of which are tilted perilously from the perpendicular, give one a feeling of awe. Some of the monoliths appear like broken, knotty tree-trunks. Others stand straight and suggest the Egyptian obelisks. They hold rude natural hieroglyphics in relief. One mountain, which is known as Turret-Top, is crowned with what from a distance seems to be a gigantic picket-fence. This fence is formed by a row of monolithic stones.

One of the most remarkable things connected with this strange locality is that its impressive landscapes may be overturned or blotted out, or new scenes may be brought forth, in a day. The mountains do not stand a storm well. A hard rain will dissolve ridges, lay bare new strata, undermine and overturn cliffs. It seems almost a land of enchantment, where old landmarks may disappear in a single storm, or an impressive landscape come forth in a night. Here the god of erosion works incessantly and rapidly, dissecting the earth and the rocks. During a single storm a hilltop may dissolve, a mountain-side be fluted with slides, a grove be overturned and swept away by an avalanche, or a lake be buried forever. This rapid erosion of slopes and summits causes many changes and much upbuilding upon their bases. Gulches are filled, water-courses invaded, rivers bent far to one side and groves slowly buried alive."

"I just finished viewing the "Let it Snow" grouping of stones. Some of them are utterly amazing."

"It came out so well, and made me proud to be a club member..."

My Fond Memories of Aiseki Kai

by Philip Chang

When Mas Moriguchi was still alive (Janet's Shimizu father), Janet and I decided to become Mas's personal uber driver. At the age of 93, the DMV took his driver's license away. Janet and I decided to drive Mas around to his meetings so he could continue to mingle with his friends. Since we had to sit through the meetings anyway, we decided to take an interest in them. We were particularly interested in Aiseki Kai. After visiting an annual show at The Huntington in 2004, we were hooked and we've been active members ever since.

As the years have come and gone, I have many fond memories of the people we met through the years. Below are just some of the memories of people and events I will always remember.

Jack and Sachiko Dennis- Jack and his wife, Sachiko, always supplied a large pot of white chili to many of the Yuha Desert outings. He also supplied a pot to our annual show at The Huntington to feed those who helped with the show. I always went back for seconds and thirds, it was that good.

Nina Ragle- Nina and I are dog lovers. Nina had Cooper and I had Yuki (below). The dogs are both gone now but their spirit is always with us. Yuki attended many meetings with me. In fact, she went everywhere with me, even to the Yuha Desert.



Jesse Krong- Jesse and I went rock collecting together. On one trip, we visited the Big Sur area. At one of the larger creeks, I spotted a rock in a pool with a star embedded on the side. I decided to check out the area around the pond before retrieving this stone. To my surprise, the stone was gone. Jesse picked it up and added it to his stash. I will never do that again.

In 2019, Jesse, Janet, and I gave a presentation to about 90 kindergarten kids from Wittmann Elementary School in Orange County. All the kids were excited about our talk. Each and every one was thrilled because they all went home with a piece of petrified wood. Special thanks to Jack Levy for supplying many of the stones.



Jesse and Phil lecturing to kindergarten kids. Janet was the photographer.

Buzz Barry- Buzz always wanted to go rock collecting with Jesse and me, but for some reason something always came up preventing him from joining us. One time his relatives were coming into town and he had to be home to greet them. Another time he reported a fire in his garage that burnt many of his rocks. I began to think does he really want to go rock collecting with us?

Emma Janza- Emma was our traveling partner through China that was sponsored by Aiseki Kai. As a precautionary measure, they said not to drink the water so we drank beer every night. Well, the beer caused my gout to flare up. The hotel was nice enough to lend me a pair of crutches for the remainder of my trip. One day, as we traveled through the rural part of the country, we were invited to visit their long-houses that sat on the side of the hill. There was no way I could manage to climb up the hill with crutches. I had to stay back and waited for their return on the tour bus. What hurt more than the pain from gout, was the wonderful stories they brought back from their visitation.

Tell me how those trays that some of them sit in, fit perfectly around the rock? They're as beautiful as the rocks!"



Some of the long-houses in China

Janet Shimizu- Our trip to the Eel River was spectacular. I was crossing the river near Dos Rios when Janet shouted to me that she found this marvelous stone. The only problem was that it was located at the bottom of the river. I was nice enough to retrieve that stone for her which was sitting at the bottom beneath four feet of water. I was soaked but to make matters worse, I had to carry the stone back to the car which was parked a quarter of a mile away. If you know Janet, she very seldom picks stones that are small. Toward the end of that day, I mention to her, "from now on, you find, you carry".

A month later, we visited Tecopa, California. We were parked by the main road and searched the plains on either side. When it was time to go, I couldn't find Janet. So we waited and waited. I finally spotted her about half a mile away. She was carrying something heavy. By the time she made it to the car, she was carrying a stone that weighed about 20 pounds. She said since she found this keeper, she had to carry it back because of what I said on the previous trip. Boy, did I feel like a heel!

Linda Gill- Linda was one of the members who traveled through China with us. She had one main passion and that was to find a good "chicken-blood-stone". I never found out whether she found the rock she had set out to find. However, at every annual show, she was in charge of security and one thing she was instructed to do was to make sure those who sat in the gallery during visiting hours hung this red scarf around their neck. This is so visitors would know who to approach if they had questions. Immediately, that gives me a flashback about Linda's hunt for "chicken-blood-stones." For that reason, I refused to wear the red scarf. Nina was annoyed with me for not following the rules

but the thought that went through my mind was utterly terrifying. The usual way one prepares a live chicken is to cut off their head and blood will spill out. You get the picture; I will not wear the red scarf.

Marty Hagbery- Marty is in charge of many of our outings. I remember he was one who always brought his dog, Blue, on the hunt. Besides Marty and Blue, there was Jim Greaves who brought Taka (below) and myself who brought a dog along. Taka and Blue are medium size dogs; they were fast and their owners did not worry too much. They would let them roam the desert and occasionally call them back so we would know their whereabouts. To think back now, it was foolish for me to do as they did. Especially for me since Yuki was a tiny dog, around 6 pounds. She would run from bush to bush and hide in the shade to keep cool.



It finally happened; Blue came back to Marty with his face distorted. First, we thought that Blue was stuck by a thorn because there are lots of cactus in the desert. We weren't too concerned because Blue was still very active. Just to be sure, Marty did take Blue to the vet that evening. After an antivenom was administered, the healing took effect and the swelling went down. He was apparently bitten by a sidewinder rattlesnake. He was one lucky dog.

Lastly, there was Cliff Johnson. When Cliff decided to move from Arcadia, California to New Mexico, he had to lighten his load by getting rid of his stones. He mentioned in an announcement to Aiseki Kai that he would have a garage sale where many of his stones would be available. If you knew Cliff for any period of time, he had a beautiful accumulation of stones. I got to his garage and was amazed at the quality and quantity of the stones for sale. He sold most of them by weight, three dollars a pound. I purchased what I could afford and said goodbye to the rest.

Cliff loaded the leftover stones on a truck to ship back to his new home. On the way there, the weight of



the stones had broken the axle of his truck. He unloaded the stones by the side of the highway and limped the rest of the way to his new home. I was tempted to find this pile of stones but finally decided it was not right to take them plus I didn't have a vehicle to transport them once I found his stash.

Later, I found out his brother wanted to build an outside fireplace and needed stones to do it. I got to thinking that it might have been God's wishes that he didn't want his beautiful creations to be embedded in a fireplace and ordered the axle to break.



This is one I purchased from Cliff Johnson

Finally, I hope each and every member has their own favorite memories and I hope you will share them with everyone in the future through Aiseki Kai.

"I sent the link to the exhibition to some of my arty friends and they were astounded at the display. They never thought rocks could be so gorgeous! ... It really was spectacular!"

"Your slide show was well-organized and terrific. We thoroughly enjoyed it...The stones are amazing...I also especially liked Hanne Poulsen's "The Needles," Don Mullally's "Rugged Terrain," and Karen Higgins' "Hopi Mesa." Actually, it's hard to single out just a few. There are just so many that are spectacular."

"I really did enjoy the stones. I find it fascinating that people just find these stones lying about and that they look so much like something they can actually put a name to. I can see why you get so excited to go searching. How much fun it would be to actually find something so exciting."

Nina Blew It!

Whitney Leeman was the first to submit his photos for the virtual exhibit. I misplaced his email and his stones never made it into the exhibit.

There is no way I can make up for my blunder and I am forever sorry.

Whitney, please accept my *mea culpa*.

Here are Whitney's stones:



Mountain: 12 x 4 x 5 purchased in U.S. circa 2008



Dragon: 5.5 x 3.4 x 2.25 purchased in Japan circa 2018



Daisy: 4 x 2.25 x 2 purchased in Japan circa 2017

Our Virtual Exhibition at The Huntington

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

In 2020 Aiseki Kai presented its 31st annual show virtually featuring outstanding examples of suiseki and other viewing stones. It is STILL available on their site. Share it with friends!

Let it Snow! Viewing Stones of Winter

The Magic of Mimetoliths ~ Animal Imagery in Stones

In addition, the American Viewing Stone Resource Center presented two complementary virtual displays, "Let It Snow! Viewing Stones of Winter," and "The Magic of Mimetoliths ~ Animal Imagery in Stones," to introduce children of all ages to the appreciation and display of natural stones. These shows are still available on The Huntington site! Share them with friends!



'Sunlight and Shadows' Guohua Picture Stone
Guangxi Provence, China 18 x 24 x 1 AVSRC Collection



This Rick Klauber "combo" stone (both winter and animal imagery) was not included in the virtual show. Too bad....It's a show stopper! Is it a polar bear?

'Bear Descending Hill'
Stillaguamish River, WA 4.5 x 3.75 x 1.5
AVSRC Collection

California Aiseki Kai meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Nakaoka Community Center located at 1670 W. 162nd St, Gardena, CA. Second floor. We do not meet in Nov-Dec.

Contact People

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We hope you will participate. Please send any submissions to ragle@cox.net no more than 10 days following our monthly meeting. Thank you!

Ragle
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



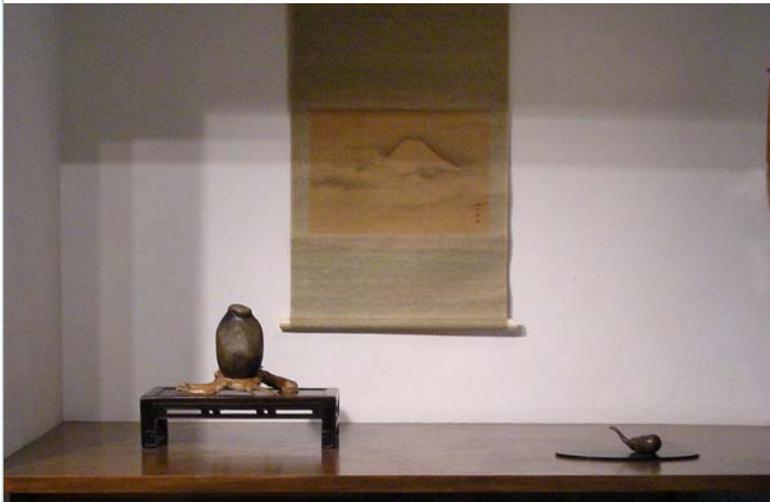
Leaves no stone unturned

See our website:

aisekikai.com



Display from 2014 AVSRC Exhibit in the Ikebana House



First Dream (Hatsuyume)

To dream of Fuji on New Year's Day, the Japanese say, is an auspicious sign. Sometimes Fuji is teamed with a falcon and eggplant, also considered to be lucky omens in a First Dream. In the homophone-rich Japanese language, the words for Fuji, falcon and eggplant can be understood to mean "achieve unparalleled success".



This interstellar visitor is evidence of
the universal appeal of viewing stones !

Kakejiku (Hanging Scroll) Mt. Fuji

Falcon
Feather River, California
Arthur Leonard

Okimono:
Eggplant-shaped
Water Dropper