

July Program

We postponed this program from our May meeting. We will discuss our stone of the month in greater depth. Please be prepared! You are the program. Reread **Jim Greaves'** comments in the April newsletter on page 9 and the meeting notes in the May newsletter on page 2.

As we stated earlier, this is an experiment! It should be really fun. Open up about your passion, share your thoughts and let the good times roll.

For those long distance members, we would love to hear from you. Send a picture of your favorite stone and tell us all about it. Guidelines can be found in the May newsletter which is available on our website.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing you on July 25th.



Stone of the Month

Please select one favorite suiseki to talk about. (Yes, it is a challenge to pick just one favorite.) Your stone must be in *daiza* or *suiban* so please be prepared. We are hopeful that an in depth discussion of each stone and its display will be educational and fun. We want to know why you like your stone, perhaps something about the circumstances of how you came to have it and its strength and weaknesses. Please read the updated instructions in the right column so you are prepared.



Nina found this figure stone (3.5 x 3 x 2.5) during a break from white water rafting on the Kings River 35 years ago and it is still one of her favorites. Master Gail Middleton made the daiza in 1987. Look closely and you can even see the face (right eye, nose and mouth) in profile in the upper right area. This stone has been shown at Meihintin in Tokyo.

Your Participation

Richard Turner sent the following updated version of our program for this month. Please read carefully:

Our July meeting will be a workshop led by **Richard Turner** and **Paul Harris**. Please bring a favorite stone, in a *daiza* or *suiban*. Be prepared to talk about your stone for a few minutes and to answer any questions that fellow collectors might have. Some questions that you might ask yourself are: how and where did you find the stone, what qualities attracted you to the stone, how did you decide to display it as you have? We will discuss your stone as a group with the hope that each of us will learn something about your stone and our own.

In addition to discussing our stones, we will publish a record of our conversations in the next newsletter. Instead of writing up your thoughts about your stone beforehand, as we initially agreed on, we now think that the newsletter entries would be more comprehensive if you wrote the piece about it after the workshop. That way you can incorporate your own thoughts as well as the comments of others in your short piece. Take notes on the responses to your stone to use as references for what you write. Be sure to include the dimensions of your display. And, as we mentioned before, you can ask **Richard Turner** or **Paul Harris** for help writing or editing your newsletter text.

Nina will need your text not later than July 31.

We have been meaning to acknowledge a few of our unsung heroes who have been so helpful in keeping Aiseki Kai running smoothly. Of course, we mention these folks as our contact people in the newsletter each month (except for the diligent **Phil Chang**) but truly, we cannot thank these people enough!

Chris Cochrane is our brilliant, informative and welcoming web site correspondent, **Jack Levy** supplies our beverages, **Janet Shimizu** brings all our refreshment table needs, **Phil Chang** records our stone of the month information and **Flash Partch** picks up, seals, stamps, addresses and mails our newsletter every month.

~Larry Ragle

June Meeting Notes

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Everyone expressed their enormous sadness over the loss of **Taka**, GuyJim's super dog and constant companion. We all send our heartfelt sympathy to **Jim**.

Phil Chang related the success he and **Janet** have had with their viewing stone talks to a variety of venues in southern California. Thanks for spreading the word.



Rick Klauber: *Spring Water Cascade*, 9 x 3.5 x 4.25, Skagit Drainage



David Melitz: *Coral Reef*, 5 x 4 x 2.5, source unknown. David said he picked it up from the laboratory of Dr. Ribak and that it may have been collected by Dr. Kitzes



John Mortensen: *Waters of Mars*, 8 x 5 x 4, Black Butte Lake, CA Carol said that they "displayed it many years ago as 'Kilauea Iki' (or 'Little Kilauea') with the red hot stream of lava flowing into the ocean. I expect the waterfalls on Mars to be just as red and hot."

STONE of the MONTH: Water related, a cooling image for the summer months

Measurements are in inches, w x h x d

Thank you long distance members **Rick, John, Carol** and **Ron**, for your participation. We look forward to hearing from you and many others in future months.



Ron Maggio: *Waterfall*, 9 x 7 x 6, Iyo, Japan. Previous owners were Morimae-san and Negishi -san



Ron Maggio: *Little Puddle*, 6 x 5 x 4, Japan. Previously owned by Morimae-san



Carol Mortensen: *Fissure Eight*, 6 x 3 x 3, Cache Creek, CA Carol said she "named this stone 'Fissure Eight' in dedication to all our friends in Hawaii...our hearts are with you."

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





Hanne Povlsen: *Mountain Lake*, 7 x 6.5 x 4.5, Dumont Dunes, CA



Buzz Barry: *Water Pool*, 8 x 2.5 x 5, Yuha Desert



Linda Gill: *Coastal Stone*, 6.5 x 1.25 x 1.5



Nina Ragle: *Water Pool*, 4 x 1.5 x 3, Japan



Janet Shimizu: *Iceberg*, 8 x 5 x 3.5, Wrightwood, CA



Linda Gill: *Water Pool*, 4.5 x 4 x 1.5, source unknown.



Larry Ragle: *Island Stone*, 6.5 x 3.5 x 3.75, Dumont Dunes, CA



Linda Gill: *Island Stone*, 5 x 3.5 x 1.5, Yuha Desert





Janet Shimizu: Wave, 8 x 4.5 x 3.5, China. Owner is Phil Chang



Jack Levy: Above Suspension, 6.5 x 3 x 3.5, Thomes Creek, CA



Phil Chang: Iceberg with Walrus, 5.5 x 4 x 4, Wrightwood, CA. Phil said "global warming is causing a shortage and rapid acceleration of melting icebergs. This walrus has found his perch."

[Your editor asked **Jack** to write about his "Above Suspension" story. Thank you, **Jack**, for providing the following]:

I found this stone along Thomes Creek in northern California. In this area (and also along various other creeks and rivers of northern California) there is a substantial amount of dark (most commonly gray) stone with intrusions of white or nearly white stone. In these areas, finding pattern stones and waterfall stones is somewhat easier than in most other stone collecting areas of California with which I am familiar. Of course, great stones are still uncommon. So, I was very pleased to find this stone, which to me represents a mountain peak, with its summit reaching up through a layer of clouds. This stone reminds me of a time when I lived high up on Mount Palomar, in San Diego County, and from nearby high vantage points I often saw below a cloud layer, that at times appeared almost as an ocean or even solid surface of land, extending to the horizon.

This stone is one of (as yet) only a handful of stones for which I have made a *daiza*, and it is the only such stone which, in my mind, has a water-related feature. So, it was the obvious choice for me to share this month.

Those who know me are aware that I have a penchant for word play, which often extends to the naming of stones. For me, "Above Suspension" relates phonically to the phrase "above suspicion". Letting those concepts or phrases play in my mind, I think of (suspicious) individuals with cloudy records, and other individuals whose behavior rises above such. And, of course, clouds are composed of suspended droplets of water, and in this stone the peak rises above the clouds. No doubt with a bit of additional thought, this stone may inspire other connections.



Rick Klauber: Snowy Mountain Ice Falls, 3 X 4.25 X 3, Snohomish County, Washington

June Program Notes

Larry and Nina Ragle showed slides of the *tokonoma* displays from the 5th Nippon Suiseki Exhibition that was held in the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum February 14-17, 2018.

First we showed the whole display and then close ups of each element within the display. We talked about each one including the beautiful furniture and accessory pieces and how each one complements the other pieces in the display.

More than a few of us noticed the challenges of dealing with the seams in the back drops and their location in relation to the display pieces.

The more we look and experience, the more we learn and the more we learn, the more it may be possible for us to refine our own displays.

(Here are 4 suiseki displays and 2 suiseki without their displays.)



This Setagawa ishi has a pear-skin surface. The scroll's calligraphy reads, "Recumbent Moon, sleepy clouds".



This Kamuikotan ishi is enhanced by the scroll which reads, "Auspicious Clouds".





This Tanba shiun seki was shown with a scroll that read, "Sky". The elongated suiban is well suited to this dignified display.



This Sajigawa ishi elicited "oohs and aahs" from our members. It was shown with a faint ink painting of the moon.



This Furuya ishi is paired with a scroll that reads, "Without Limit".



This Kamagawa ishi is named "Vanishing Behind the Clouds", which refers to the white inclusion atop the stone.



Sylvia's Slipper by Richard Turner



Richard Turner: *Ballet Shoe*, 11.5 x 3.5 x 4.5, purchased from Arthur Leonards in 2016.

This stone was purchased from Arthur Leonards, a viewing stone collector who passed away this year. I spotted the stone on a visit to Arthur's home with Jim Greaves in 2016. Arthur asked me what I thought it looked like. I replied that it resembled a ballet slipper and then went on to tell Arthur that my wife Sylvia had died just five months ago and that she had been a dancer. Hearing my story, Arthur insisted on giving me the stone but, seeing the poverty in which he lived, I refused his gift. I finally convinced him to accept money for the stone and left, happy that I had acquired the stone but troubled by Arthur's difficult straights.

The base for the stone is inspired by the box in which Capezio ballet slippers are packaged. Prior to making the base I visited a local Capezio store and photographed the boxes. I modified the proportions of the box slightly to best accommodate the size of the stone. The display sits on my fireplace mantle alongside a vase that has a pinch of Sylvia's ashes fused into the purple glass.



Taka ~ RIP

ED NOTE: It must be a bazillion degrees here (upstairs) where my computer sits. We do not have a/c. I managed to pull 8 pages together for this issue before I reached my melting point. Thanks for understanding.

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.

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Newsletter Committee

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Editor: Nina Ragle

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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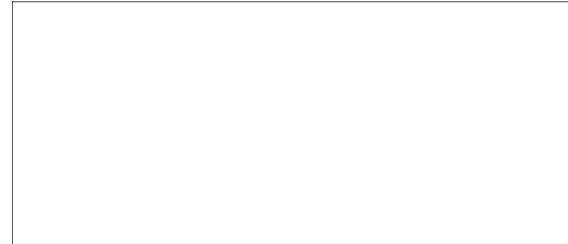
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Leaves no stone unturned

See our website:

aisekikai.com



Coming Events

SAN FRANCISCO SUISEKI KAI

37th Annual Suiseki Exhibit, August 4-5, Union Bank Hospitality Room, Japan Center, 1675 Post Street, SF. Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4. Sales. For information, email sfsuiseki@gmail.com

NANPU KAI BONSAI EXHIBITION

Annual Nisei Week Bonsai Exhibit, August 18-19, JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., LA. 10-5 both days

REDWOOD EMPIRE BONSAI SOCIETY

35th Annual show, August 25-26, Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Bldg, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa. Demos both days at 1:00 by **Kathy Shaner**. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. Sales, raffle, silent auction. More info: **Bob Shimon** at 707.884.4126 or simon@mcn.org



KOFU BONSAI KAI

Bonsai exhibit at the Bowers Museum, Sept 5-9, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana.



U.S. NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

6th Exhibition, September 8-9, Total Sports Experience, 435 West Commercial Street, Rochester, NY. Admission \$20, weekend pass \$30 (before August 1st). Invitational suiseki exhibit and critiques, demonstrations, vendors. For more information see usnationalbonsai.com

GSBF 41st CONVENTION

“Creativity Taking Flight”, October 24-28, Sacramento, CA. McClellan Conference Center, 5411 Luce Ave., McClellan Park. Seminars, raffles, vendors galore! Go to gsbfconvention.org for more information.



Refreshments

Thank you to **Hanne Povlsen, Jack Levy, Janet Shimizu, Naomi Yoshida** and the **Ragles** for the June snack break. Yum!



Our July festivities will be provided by **Buzz Barry, Linda Gill, Naomi Yoshida** and the **Ragles**.

Always check Golden Statements Magazine Calendar section for additional coming events