

## In Memoriam

### - Solita Tafur Rosade -

The world-wide bonsai community will mourn the loss of Solita Tafur Rosade who passed away on August 31, 2019. A much loved figure who dedicated her life to promoting the art of bonsai, Soli was born in Colombia, South America, but left at an early age and was educated in the United States, Spain and Switzerland.

Returning to Colombia, Soli married and had two children. She became interested in bonsai, her children were young and her husband a politician. In 1984 she attended her first bonsai class in Cali, Columbia. Later while in Colombia she wrote a bonsai manual in Spanish entitled "The Essentials in Bonsai," and she became President of the Asociacion Vallecaucana de Bonsai.

Following the untimely death of her husband she started traveling; her love of bonsai took her to many places in the world, both as a bonsai artist and as a bonsai diplomat. She gave demonstrations and held workshops at bonsai conventions and other bonsai events in Asia, India, South Africa, New Zealand, United States, Canada as well as Latin America. In 1991 she attended the BCI Convention held in Birmingham U.K.; here she met a demonstrator at that event, Chase Rosade who some years later became her husband.

In 1992, Solita founded the Latin American Bonsai Federation (FELAB) and served as President until 1998. From 1998 to 2002, she was the President of Bonsai Clubs International and In 2005, she became Chairman of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF). After her term ended in 2009, she continued to serve as President of the North American Bonsai Federation. Until her death, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF) supporting the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington, D.C.

Earlier this year Soli and Chase Rosade celebrated 26 years of marriage. They owned and ran Rosade Bonsai Studio in New Hope, Pennsylvania. From there they invited both masters and novices alike to share in their love of bonsai, over the years giving countless classes and demonstrations to anyone willing to learn. From its inception the Rosade Bonsai Studio helped lead the way in celebrating World Bonsai Day in support of peace and friendship through bonsai.

Soli was an amazing person, she lived life to the full, she was dedicated and determined, possessing "the spirit of bonsai" and working tirelessly to spread bonsai both at home and abroad. She enjoyed life and gave fully of herself; she will be sorely missed by the many friends she made around the world.

All the sides of a very active and loving character.





