

THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



2015

Sunday, February 1, 2015
Piano music 1:30 pm
Meeting 2:00

DUE TO ANOTHER EVENT IN THE RAINBOW LIBRARY, OUR FEBRUARY MEETING WILL START AT 1:30 INSTEAD OF 1 PM. PIANO MUSIC ON OUR BABY GRAND WILL START AT 1:30.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb 1 Ron Parsons "Orchids of Ecuador"
March 1, 2015 Ron Kaufmann "Orchids on the Rocks"
April 12, 2015 Art Chadwick "First Ladies and Their Cattleyas"
May 3, 2015 Tentative barbecue Shelly's house
June 7, 2015 Jason Fischer "7th New Zealand Orchid Council and Orchids of New Zealand"
July 12, 2015 Peter Lin
August 2, 2015 Mark Romansky "Orchids in the Home"
Sept 13, 2015 Alan Koch
October 4, 2015 Diana Smith "Pests"
November 1, 2015 Cathy Loftfield "Orchids Around the World"
December 6, 2015 Holiday Party
January 10, 2016 Mary Gerritsen "The Orchids of Borneo"
February 2, 2016 Fred Clarke
March 6, 2015 Guillermo Salazar "African Orchids"

Mark Romansky has created a Facebook page for us. Type in "Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society" or click on <https://www.facebook.com/glvos>. Be sure to write a comment or LIKE US. People really do take the social media seriously, and, even if you are not a big fan of Facebook, at least visit it once to give us a bigger presence on the web. Alex McKyton, our webmaster, maintains our website. It has a new address www.glvos.org. Take a look. It has information about our club and copies of our newsletters. Many members have told us they have found us from our website.

DUES ARE DUE... DO IT! SEND IN YOURS..



2015 DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY. IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT YOURS IN YET, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE RUN AN EXTRAVAGANT, INFORMATIVE AND EXPENSIVE SPEAKER PROGRAM WITH ONLY THE BEST AND THAT TAKES \$\$\$
(WHAT DOESN'T?) WE HAVE NOT RAISED OUR DUES IN YEARS SINCE SOME OF US HAVE HAD TOUGH TIMES. DUES REMAIN \$30 FOR SINGLE, \$45 FOR A COUPLE- TWO PEOPLE RESIDING AT THE SAME ADDRESS. IF YOU CAN SEND AN EXTRA \$5 OR \$10, IT MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE. YOU CAN PAY AT THE NEXT MEETING OR SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO:
GLVOS C/O CAROL SIEGEL
8601 ROBINSON RIDGE DRIVE LAS VEGAS, NV 89117.

JANUARY MEETING ABSOLUTELY A RIOT!! AND WE MADE \$1400, TOO!

What fun we had at our January meeting! Part carnival, part rummage sale, our Annual White Elephant Sale was a huge success netting us over \$1400 ! We had such a good time haggling over the classy clutter that others foolishly discarded. To cries of, "But what is it?" we delightedly carted out more stuff than we carted in. Thank to everyone for the enthusiasm and generosity. I wrote to a lot of orchid nurseries, and they kindly donated really gorgeous orchids to us. (We offered to pay the postage. Among our generous friends:

The Hilo Orchid Farm (www.hiloorchidfarm.com)

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate (www.sborchid.com)

Repotme (www.repotme.com)

Lehua Orchids (www.lehuaorchids.com)

Cal Orchids (www.calorchid.com)

Zuma Canyon Orchids (www.zumacanyonorchids.com)

Fred Clarke and Sunset Valley Orchids (www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

Andy's Orchids (www.andysorchids.com) allowed us to buy orchids at 50% off for the sale

Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids

Everyone has been very generous, mentioning how much they value our club.

SUPPORT THE GENEROUS FOLKS WHO SUPPORT US IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, AND TELL THEM THANK YOU WHEN YOU DO ORDER. Thanks to Tony Billitere and Ole Borresen for the hotel plants and Joel Davidson, too. They deliver NO MATTER WHAT. What great guys! We are grateful to our White Elephant Captains for helping with the sale- Cathy and Jim Loftfield, Myra Glassman, Bettye and John Williams, Bruce and Catherine Weber, Bob and Shirley Kramer, Liz Waters, and Christina de la Cruz We couldn't do it without you. Members loved getting great orchid books for a couple of bucks. Thanks to everybody for being such good sports amid the madness and for bringing in such wonderful treasures for us to buy.

We had marvelous food thanks to the culinary genius and generosity of Kathy Weber, Claire Ehrrsam, Wanda LaFollette, Margaret Redman, Bettye Williams and Carol Siegel. We thank in advance our February food team, Jeri Lee, Liz Waters, Maryann Honeycutt, Carol Siegel, and Claudia Drake. We need people for April.

We welcomed guests Fred Keefer and Mark Vranesit and new member Jean Schultz. Happy to have you!

We are excited to welcome our February speaker, Ron Parsons, who will do a Power Point presentation on "The Orchids of Ecuador." A master photographer and noted author of many books, Ron is one of our favorite speakers and a wonderful friend to our club. He is also a great friend to me, providing all the images for my Orchid Digest articles.

I have also ordered twenty full-size budded cattleyas from Akatsuka Orchids for the club to sell for \$35. We never have full-size cattleyas, and I think we will all want to get one.



Pot Passion "Dogshima x Blc Guess Who "Suo" Am/AOS
Dan Mumau January Blue Ribbon Winner Best Orchid
Photos by Cathy Loftfield



Mark Romansky Blue Ribbon Winner January for 2x4 mount for orchid Most Interesting Story



SPEAKING OF SPEAKERS

Carol Siegel

The speaker in January gave quite a firm warning
“Only water your orchids first thing in the morning.
Never, oh never, water orchids at night
Or the dust for sure they will certainly bite.”

The speaker in February laughed at that with glee
“So you think in the jungle high up in the tree
When the moon is full, there is no tropical rain
Well, if you think that, think it over again.”

What, oh what, is a member to do
Now for sure I haven’t a clue.
One says yes, and the other says no
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in March said to grow only species
To try to preserve their ecological niches.
“It is up to us to save orchid kind
If you grow hybrids, you’re out of your mind.”

The speaker in April thought that was a hoot
He firmly advised us to give him the boot.
“Hybrids are pretty, hybrids are better
If you breed hybrids, you’ll be a trendsetter.”

What, oh what, is a member to do
Now for sure I haven’t a clue
One says yes, and the other says no,
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in May really was very bossy.
He strongly advised we grow only sphagnum mossy.
“Moss is strong and moss is clean
And you’ll hardly have to water in between”.

The speaker in June nearly fell on the floor
He loudly told us we should have shown him the door.
“Kiwi bark is the best, as everyone knows
To grow great orchids that win all the shows.”

What, oh what is a member to do
Now for sure, I haven’t a clue
One says yes, and the other says no
How am I supposed to know how to grow.
The speaker in July stressed watering with rain
Though collecting it during drought proves a very big pain.
“The rain is pure, and the rain can’t be beat
Anything else and orchids are dead meat.”

The speaker in August heard this with dismay
He advised if we did this we would rue the day.
“What you want is de-ionized, ladies and gents,
Just don’t give any thought to the recurring expense.”

What, oh what is a member to do
Now for sure, I haven’t a clue
One says yes, and the other says no
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in September liked only clay pots
He only used these, and he certainly had lots.
“They retain the water and leech out the salts
As a place to grow they don’t have any faults.”

The speaker in October said he had a bone to pick
He said the only way to grow was mounted on a stick.
“It’s how they grow out in nature you see
I never have to repot so it’s great for me.”

What, oh what is a member to do
Now for sure, I haven’t a clue
One says yes, and the other says no
How am I supposed to know how to grow.

The speaker in November liked to foliar feed
For fertilizing the bark he saw no need.
“Just spray it on the leaves and let it work
Doing anything else makes you a jerk.”

The speaker in December came to our holiday party
He drank lots of booze and ate really hearty.
He confessed nobody knows just what to do
And he gave us advice that we’ll pass on to you.

Enjoy your orchids and give them your heart
Take lots of time and love them from the start.
Orchids are like children, and there is no one right way
Like Darwin, remember they are really just play.



Getting to the Heart of Valentine's Day

Carol Siegel

I was born on Valentine's Day, and I married a heart doctor, so this particular holiday has always had a special meaning for me. How did this Valentine's Day begin? Its origins are shrouded in mystery, but it takes us back to both pagan Roman and early Christian days. The roots of the holiday are steeped in sex and fertility. For 800 years,, the ancient Roman spring festival of Lupercalia was celebrated on February 15. It was dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture as well as to Rome's founders, Romulus and Remus. Priests of the Luperci order gathered at a cave where the twins Romulus and Remus were thought to have been raised by a she-wolf or "lupa." A goat was sacrificed for fertility and a dog for purification. Boys sliced the goat's skin into strips, dipped it into the sacrificial blood, and went around slapping ladies with the goat hide to make them fertile. Later, all the ladies' names were placed in an urn, and gentlemen would choose a name. The couple would be paired sexually for a year, which, happily, often led to marriage. Needless to say, it was a very popular holiday.

In 498, the Pope Gelasius decided that it was a little TOO popular. He declared the lottery system "unchristian" and decided to recast it as a Christian holiday dedicated to St. Valentine. Men and women would choose the names of saints from an urn, instead. They would emulate the lives of the saints for the year. (We can only imagine the disappointment of the young Roman

men.) Old habits die hard, and Roman men continued to send notes of affection to women on this day.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there are at least two St. Valentines, according to legend. Archeologist recently unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine, who apparently was a real person. We just don't know which "Valentine" Pope Gelasius had in mind. Both were third-century Christian martyrs who were put to death on the same day, one an Italian priest and physician and the other the Bishop of Terni. Butler's *Lives of the Saints* tells both stories in an almost identical manner.

Legend tells us that the Roman Emperor Claudius II declared that married men were too emotionally involved and made poor soldiers. He, therefore, outlawed marriages for young men. Valentine, taking pity on young lovers, married them in secret despite the edict. Claudius had the young priest arrested and threw him into prison. His jailer, Asterius, had a blind daughter, and begged Valentine to cure her. Miraculously, Valentine restored her sight with the depth of his faith. When Valentine refused to give up his religion, Claudius had him beaten with clubs and beheaded on February 14, 270. Before he died, he wrote a last letter to the jailer's daughter and signed it, "From Your Valentine," the traditional signature we use today. So Valentine wrote the very first valentine.

The day of Valentine's death was decreed by Pope Gelasius as Valentine's Day, a day of religious devotion. However, sex and love continued to stick to the holiday. It was traditionally the day that birds started to mate, and the custom arose to exchange letters, gloves and gifts on this day to one's beloved. According to UCLA medieval scholar, Henry Ansgar Kelly, it was Geoffrey Chaucer who first linked Valentine's Day with romance. In 1381, he wrote a poem in honor of the engagement of England's King Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. By the mid-18th century, Englishmen of all classes exchanged gifts and cards on this day. Gradually, printed cards replaced hand-written ones by the end of the 18th century. Postage was cheap, and people began mailing their notes. In 1840's, American Esther Howland, the Mother of the Valentine, made the first mass-produced valentines in America of lace, ribbons and colorful pictures, known as "scrap" and the American tradition of sending greeting cards was born. Today, one billion valentine cards are sent every year, 25% of all cards ever sent. In 1969, the Catholic Church dropped Valentine's Day from the official calendar of Catholic feasts, but some parishes still celebrate it.

Steeped in history and mystery, Valentine's Day continues to delight young and old with the chance to express our love and affection.

