

# THE GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

## THE ORCHID COLUMN

CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



2017

Sunday, February 12, 2017  
Piano music 1:00 pm  
Meeting 2:00

## OUR PROGRAMS

MEETINGS 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY EXCEPT  
JUNE 4

Feb 12, 2017 Fred Clarke  
"Orchids 101"

March 12, 2017 Carol Siegel  
"The Sex Life of Orchids"

March 25, 2017 A Passion for  
Orchids

Show W Charleston Library 10-4

April 9, 2017 Peter Lin  
"Brassavola

Species and Hybrids"

April or Beginning May depending  
on bloom time *Epipactis gigantea*  
Wildflower Walk

May 14, 2017 Ron Parksons  
"The Orchids of Columbia"

June 4, 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) Art  
Chadwick

"The Great Cattleya Species of  
the  
Cut Flower Era"

July 9 Barbecue Diana's house  
"Setting Up a Rainforest"

Aug 13 Mark Romansky "Judging  
Orchids"

Sept 10 Mary Gerritsen "Orchids  
of the  
Lost World"

Oct 8 Keith Davis :Orchid Growing  
Tips"

Nov 12 Steve Frowine TBA

Dec 10 Holiday Party

2018!!!!

Jan 14, 2018 Sandra Tillisch  
February 11, 2018 Jason  
Fischer

March 11, 2018 Ron Kaufmann

April 8 Greenhouse Tour



DUES ARE DUE!

2017 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 (PLEASE DO NOT MAKE IT OUT TO  
ME...) SEND TO:

CAROL SIEGEL

8601 ROBINSON RIDGE DRIVE

LAS VEGAS, NV 89117.





## **JANUARY MEETING ABSOLUTELY A RIOT!! AND WE MADE \$1550, 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 \$1550 ! 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](http://www.hiloorchidfarm.com))

Santa Barbara Orchid Estate ([www.sborchid.com](http://www.sborchid.com))

Repotme ([www.repotme.com](http://www.repotme.com))

Lehua Orchids ([www.lehuaorchids.com](http://www.lehuaorchids.com))

Cal Orchids ([www.calorchid.com](http://www.calorchid.com))

Zuma Canyon Orchids ([www.zumacanyonorchids.com](http://www.zumacanyonorchids.com))

Fred Clarke and Sunset Valley Orchids ([www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com))

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

Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids

Akatsuka Orchids ([www.akatsukaorchid.com](http://www.akatsukaorchid.com))

Calwest Tropical Orchid Supply ([www.calwesttropical.com](http://www.calwesttropical.com))

Orchids Limited ([www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com))

Chadwick Orchids ([www.chadwickorchids.com](http://www.chadwickorchids.com))

Despite requests, we did not succeed in getting donations from Norman's Orchids or Orchids by Hausermann. Everyone else has been very generous, mentioning how much they value our club. We paid for the shipping, but Santa Barbara Orchid Estates, Cal Orchids, Peter Lin, Repotme, Orchids Limited and Chadwick Orchids paid for shipping, too.

**SUPPORT THE GENEROUS FOLKS WHO SUPPORT US IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, AND TELL THEM THANK YOU WHEN YOU DO ORDER.** Thanks to Ken Summerville and Ole Borresen for selling the orchids plants that I got donated. We made \$530 on that alone. What great guys! We are grateful to our White Elephant Captains for helping with the sale- Cathy Loftfield , Myra Glassman, Betty and John Williams, Bruce and Catherine Weber, Christina de la Cruz and others. We couldn't do it without you.. Thanks to everybody for being such good sports amid the madness and for bringing in such wonderful treasures for us to buy. Myra and her raffle made \$350. Members paid \$695 in dues, and we got \$1500 in donations. Thanks to Steve Hochman for picking up entertaining the speaker. Thanks Linda Bushaw, Dallis Church, Janet Quinlan, Stephanie Ciers, Yolanda Alberici and Ole Borresen for the delicious food. Thanks to Diana for keeping track of it all and to all the Captains who helped out. It was a blast! We thank in advance our February food team, , Kathy Weber, Shirley Grieg, Claudia Drake, Randa Stice and Marilyn Short.

A special thank you to Sandra Swan who donated a gorgeous multimedia artwork, framed beautifully, for us to raffle off. So nice of her. She even delivered it to my house. Thank you so much.

## FRED CLARKE SPEAKS ON “ORCHIDS 101” IN FEBRUARY

Everybody loves Fred Clarke of Sunset Orchids, so we are excited to have him speak to us on February 7<sup>th</sup>. He will be bringing orchids to sell. You can pre-order by going on his site [www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com) and then emailing him your request. Then, you don't have to pay postage. He is offering a 10% discount on pre-orders and will also bring plants to sell. His email is [fred.clarke@att.net](mailto:fred.clarke@att.net)

Fred Clarke  
Sunset Valley Orchids

### “Becoming an 80 Percentile Grower”

Learn about the fundamentals of growing orchids and explore some advanced techniques. Orchid plant culture is explained and techniques on how to maximize growth and flowering are reviewed. Learn how to become an 80 percentile grower. This is a PowerPoint presentation.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 35 years and has been hybridizing for 32 of those years. With over 28 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids.

His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the **blackest** flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received eight FCC's and 44 AM's on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.

Fred Clarke  
Sunset Valley Orchids  
1255 Navel Place  
Vista, CA 92081  
(760) 639-6255  
[fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net](mailto:fred.clarke@worldnet.att.net)  
[www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com)

## 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-18<sup>th</sup> century, Englishmen of all classes exchanged gifts and cards on this day. Gradually, printed cards replaced hand-written ones by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.





