

GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY SUNDAY, JAN 14, 2018 1 PM
CAROL SIEGEL, EDITOR



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

2018



IT WAS A GREAT
HOLIDAY
PARTY







It was our best holiday party ever as our fun-loving club gathered for all the things we love best- music, mayhem, munchies, margaritas and morchids (more orchids- can you ever have too many? NO!) The food was glorious thanks to the creativity and generosity of our members. A special thank you to Dan and Mike for the tri tip, sausage dish, and ribs, Wanda LaFollete and Christine de la Cruz for the salmon, Betty & John Williams for the ham, Cathy Loftfield for the marinated shrimp, Cathy Weber and Eileen McKyton for the turkey, Joel Davidson for the fried turkey, Ole and Maria Demeo for the pasta and Steve Hochman for the pork roast. Thank me for the music, margarita machine, paper goods, champagne, drinks, palm reader, nail artist, basket of orchids, key chains, and hair tinsel. We honored Tony Billitere, our dear departed friend, by creating the Tony Billitere Annual Show and Tell award, a basket of orchids, to be raffled off free to people who won the Blue Ribbons during the year. We will keep Tony's memory alive and remember all the wonderful things he did for the club in his years of loyalty and dedication. Congratulations to Dan Mumau who won the orchid basket. He got 15 Blue Ribbons this year!! Bring in show and tell plants, and you could win next year. Through the generosity of our members, we were able to donate six cartons of canned goods to the Salvation Army. How nice of us! Larry Evans & Carol Joyce delighted us on keyboard- they were great!- and we drank umpteen bottles of champagne and frozen margaritas. Daring members and even the fearless men got orchids painted on their nails and tinsel in their hair. Jenny read our palms, and we loved her. We walked around with blinking cups, necklaces, hair extensions, and santa hats, and we were honored for all we had done with orchid key chains. If you missed getting one, pay your dues and you can have one, too. We gave awards and gifts to members who had done so much for us this year.



Two members earned the Orchid Digest Award of Excellence this year, presented to members who go above and beyond in their support of the orchid club. Mark Romansky, our secretary, won the award for his tireless support of the club in so many ways. He gives the best talks. His presentations on subjects like "Judging," "Potting" and "Growing in the Home" are very professional and interesting. He designs and organizes the Orchid Show at the Library every year, and he leads us on native orchid walks in Calico Basin. He is very helpful with the Show and Tell and is always willing to lend a hand or teach us about orchids. Everybody loves and admires Mark. Steve Hochman is our Publicity and Membership Chairman, and his tireless recruiting and advertising efforts have resulted in a surge in our membership numbers. He mans the welcome desk with friendliness and warmth and both picks up and returns speakers to the airport, feeding and entertaining them on the way. He has opened his home and graciously hosted speakers. We are lucky to have these two gentlemen.



DUES ARE DUE NOW

2018 DUES ARE DUE. 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. 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

YOU CAN ALSO SEND A CREDIT CARD NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATE, AND WE WILL CHARGE YOUR CREDIT CARD.

We thank our January food team in advance for treats- Hannah Jablin, Dan Mumau, Joe and Aline Boisvenu, Gloria Alvaro, and Joe Raba



WHITE ELEPHANT SALE IN JANUARY...



It's time once more for our annual white elephant sale, JANUARY 14th, an event that earned OVER \$14000 last year. COME EARLY SO YOU CAN SET UP AND BROWSE AND BUY. ONE O'CLOCK WOULD BE GOOD! We are a very high-class club, and our junk is of the very best quality. Everyone brings in some unwanted treasure- wine, a holiday gift, a lamp, a bike, books, CD's, VHS's, DVD's, dishes, pictures, nick nacks, sporting equipment, food...Don't have anything elephantine? Bring an orchid or orchid stuff or a division from your collection or Home Depot. I bought orchids that I am going to donate. You could, too. Start looking around. I will write to our friends at orchid nurseries and try to get them to donate orchids to us for our sale. Last year, I got over 80 for our cause. We sell them for \$10 so it is a bonanza of different kinds of orchids. Don't forget you HAVE to bring stuff and BUY stuff or it doesn't work.

TOM MIRENDA SPEAKER JANUARY “THE ORCHIDS OF COSTA RICA”

An orchid grower himself since 1980, Tom Mirenda was the Smithsonian Gardens' orchid collection specialist for more than 15 years. Along with his duties maintaining and curating the Smithsonian's collection of 9,000 orchids, Tom helped to develop educational displays for Smithsonian Garden exhibits visited by hundreds of thousands of museum patrons. He frequently travels around the U.S. and internationally, giving talks and presentations to scientists as well as the general public about orchid ecology, pollination biology, and strategies for orchid conservation.

Originally trained as a marine biologist, Tom could no longer resist the lure of the flower and made the switch to plants and orchids while living in Hawaii in his 20s. He has worked with orchids at the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and with the extensive private collection at the Greentree Estate in Long Island. He also served as floor manager at the New York International Orchid Show for several years. He now serves as horticulturist at the Hawaii Tropical Botanic Garden

The author of numerous articles on orchids, Tom's contributions have appeared in the magazine of the American Orchid Society, the Orchid Review (UK), Orchid Digest and the Dutch publication, *Orchideeën*. He is passionate about building partnerships between the overlapping circles of botanic gardens, hobby and commercial growers, and scientists to work toward the goal of protecting orchids and their habitats. In his free time, Tom sings with the Victorian Lyric Opera Company, recently as Oswald from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Haddon Hall*.

Tom writes of himself:

Tom Mirenda is a complete orchid dork and has been since his childhood. Working professionally with them for over 3 decades, he has cultivated them for several botanical gardens including most recently at the Smithsonian where he was the Orchid Collection Specialist for the past 17 years. There he curated a huge collection of species and hybrids from around the world, and produced world class educational exhibits for literally millions of visitors. Tom is perhaps best known for his two popular monthly columns in ORCHIDS magazine and has also co-authored an encyclopedic tome called "*The Book of Orchids*" with two scientists from Kew. Tom recently upended his entire existence by taking on a new challenge as the Director of Horticulture Education and Outreach (and now Garden Operations) at the HTBG Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, just north of Hilo on the Big Island. He hopes you will visit what he plans to be the Greatest Orchid Garden on the Planet there.

CLUB EVENTS

We usually meet the second Sunday of the month at the Rainbow Library 3150 Buffalo at Cheyenne at the Meeting Room. Live Piano music at 1. Meeting 2.

January 14, 2018 Tom Mirenda “Orchids of Costa Rica”

February 11 Jason Fischer “Growing on a Log”

March 11 Ron Kaufmann “Orchids of Tropical America”

March 24, 2018 “A Passion for Orchids” Show

April 8 Carol Siegel “Orchids of Hawaii”

And Luau Dancers and Singers!”

May *Epipactis gigantea* walk Calico Basin

May 13 Harold Koopowitz “Slipper Orchids”

June 3 Peter Lin “Lovely Laelias”

July 8 Norman Fang “Harlequin Orchids”

August 12 Mark Romansky

September 9 Diana Smith Barbecue and talk

Oct 14 Fred Clarke “Modern Cattleyas and How to Grow Them”

Nov 11 Cathy Loftfield “Lycaste”

December 9, 2018 Holiday Party April 14, 2019!!! Keith Davis

An Orchid Prayer for the New Year

Carol Siegel

Oh, Lord above who holds us dear

Please let my orchids bloom this year.

Let my roots grow thick and my buds grow round

And let no ugly brown scale be found

Kindly put all the nursery cattleyas on sale

And don't let me have to buy my orchids retail.

Make my plants all bloom right before our meeting

So lots of show and tell excuses I won't be needing.

Try to make my orchids bloom with lots of flowers

So I won't feel I have wasted all those darn watering hours.

Please don't make all my plastic tags fall out

So the parentage of every orphan plant is in doubt.

Bless my orchids to wow with pink, yellow and red

And please prevent more of them from winding up dead.

May all this year have many blessings from above And may you all have blooms that you really love.

Let all my orchid friends be healthy and have no cares

But may all my orchids always be nicer than theirs.



LOOKING BACK AT 2017....

It is hard to believe that 2018 is already here. We had a fantastic year. Pardon us as we strut our stuff, 2017 style. Looking back, the best news is that we love the Rainbow Library, the best meeting room ever. Smart people just wander in, and we just love these new members. We have a beautiful room, totally dark presentations, a kitchen, piano music on a baby grand, and even security. We really learned a lot last year and had great fun. We continued our electronic newsletter. Some of us even bloomed some of our orchids, which always is a miracle in this scorching hot, brutally dry desert. We attracted lots of new members and made new friends. Wanda and Bruce LaFollette provided live piano music on our baby grand with the very talented Dennis Sullivan. We advertised in newspapers, on TV, on flyers, in the RJ, in press releases and on meetup.com. We had fabulous speakers who entertained and informed us and sold lovely and interesting plants. We learned to buy plants for the meeting that someone might actually want at a decent price, another miracle. We raffled off everything from house plants to orchids and marveled at Ole Borresen, Ken Summerville, and Joel Davidson's ability to walk away with so many great things from the hotels. Charm helps... Steve Hochman picked up and entertained our speakers, and he and Jackie Braverman welcomed our members. We ate great food and laughed a lot. We benefited from the talents of webmaster Steven Campbell, but we missed his wife Caroline who has been in the Philippines on business. Cathy advertised on Meetup.com and in newspapers and made great posters that she hung everywhere. Steve Hochman sent out press releases and advertised our club, and our membership soared from 97 to 117 this year. Everyone in the club made great food at meetings which we loved. We donated food to charities and enjoyed our orchid show at the West Charleston Library in March. We had lots more people bringing in blooming

beauties to show and tell and talk about them, too. We were saddened to lose dear members Wally Eastman and Tony Billitere. They will always be in our hearts. Let us stroll back through 2017 and remember some of what we did together.

In January, we made over \$1500 at our White Elephant Sale amid cries of “But what IS it?!!” as we lugged out more stuff than we brought in. We loved the 80 orchids in bloom that we scooped up donated by our nursery friends. Ron Kaufmann did a wonderful talk on “Phragmipedium,” and Sandra Swan donated her own artwork to the fundraiser. We gave Blue Ribbons to the Best Orchid, Best Story, and Best Newbie Orchid.

In February, Fred Clarke did an amazing talk on “Orchids 101- How to be an 80% Grower” and sold beautiful plants. The newsletter had an article on growing and a poem on speakers.

In March, Carol Siegel (me!) did a talk on “The Sex Life of Orchids,” and we sold orchids from Hilo Orchid Farm. The Board provided a Chinese feast. The club put on an orchid show and lecture series called “A Passion for Orchids” at the West Charleston Library in March. Mark Romansky designed our show and was the mastermind behind our beautiful display. Diana Smith and Mark Romansky did excellent talks on growing orchids, Cathy Loftfield entertained with the “Orchids of the New World,” and I spoke about “The Sex Life of Orchids.” A big orchid arrangement was raffled for free to people who came to the show. We had demonstrations on potting, free orchid corsages and stems, a native orchid display, a gorgeous orchid display the club put together, Cathy’s beautiful orchid photos, and a display on different kinds of orchids.

In April, Peter Lin did a great talk on “Brassavola” and sold his great plants. The newsletter had an article on Brassavola and one on intergeneric hybrids.

In May, the newsletter had an article on the native orchid of Nevada although our own *Epipactis gigantea* had a poor showing this year, and we didn’t do our annual native orchid walk. Ron Parsons did a wonderful talk on “The Orchids of Columbia,” and we sold orchids from Fred Clarke. The newsletter had an article on *Cattleya trianae* from Columbia.

In June, we welcomed back Art Chadwick who spoke on “Large Flowered Cattleyas of the Cut Flower Era.” We loved his beautiful plants. We had a very fun luau complete with flower leis, roast pig and hula dancers and singers arranged by Joe Raba. We howled as our very own members tried their hands (and hips) at hula dancing. Who knew we had such talent! The newsletter had an article on “The Orchids of Hawaii.” The new

In July, Diana Smith opened her lovely home at the foot of Mt. Charleston for a barbecue. She did a great talk on “Growing in a Rainforest,” and she showed off her rainforest greenhouse. She also wrote a wonderful article for the newsletter on her “rainforest.” The newsletter had an article on Steve Hochman’s growing area.

In August, we loved our pizza party and Chocolate Bar. I bought the pizza and everybody brought fabulous chocolate treats and Clearasil. Mark Romansky did an amazing talk on judging, and the newsletter had articles on judging and awards. There was also an article by Sue Bottom on the “Top Ten Signs Orchids Are Happy.”

In September, Mary Gerritsen spoke on “Orchids of the Lost World,” mesas in the Guiana Highlands of South America. Her inspiring account of her trudge through mud and water and forest increased our admiration for her and made us want to stay home. We sold Fred Clarke’s orchids, and the newsletter had an article on “Ten Warning Signs of Orchid Addiction” and “Does Your Orchid Need Repotting?”

In October, Keith Davis gave a wonderful talk on orchid growing tips, and we learned that we could have done everything better. His handouts were wonderful, and we sold orchids from Hilo Orchid Farm. The newsletter had a poem “Speaking of Speakers,” all about how every speaker tells you to do something else and not to worry so much.

In November, we held elections, and Carol Siegel, Cathy Loftfield, Mark Romansky and Diana Smith were thrilled to be elected. We gave out samples of Purely Organic so that people could try it on a few plants and see if they liked it. It was recommended by Keith Davis, but everybody does well with different things so no need to buy 25 lbs. Steve Frowine did an excellent talk on phalaenopsis, and the newsletter had his handouts. We sold orchids from Akatsuka Orchids.

In December, amid flashing with lights and laughing with margaritas, we ended the year, thanks to the dear Lord, once again with a festive holiday party. The newsletter had a Christmas orchid poem and an article on growing under lights.

Here’s hoping that 2018 bring you and yours only the best. Love Carol