

An Affiliate of the American Orchid Society

# FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

December, 2010

## Get Your Tickets Out and About. Your Ticket Money Is Due for The Show's Preview Party By Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>

All of us enjoy the preview party, but, if in the past, you just paid for your tickets and put them in a drawer, this is the year to move those tickets into the hands of people who will attend the show and buy from our vendors. Even if they don't buy orchids we will have first class booths of orchid-related crystal, clothing, jewelry, and more.

If you need more tickets, call Chris Crepage /954-563-3548/ for more and send in your ticket money to get your free ticket for selling 10 or more tickets for a single member or two tickets for dual members who sell 20 or more tickets. Our January meeting will be your last chance to turn in money to attend the preview party.

**Call Chris Crepage** if you can take show posters to AIA hotels the week of the show.

## A Membership Renewal Reminder

About half of our membership have renewed already, and that promptness is much appreciated. If you have not yet renewed, please do so, and please confirm that your information is current by filling in the blanks on the dues envelope which was in the November newsletter.

## December 4<sup>th</sup> Ramble South

There are a few bus seats left and if the newsletters get printed and mailed in time, call Bob at 954-772-4836 to learn whether there is still a seat left open for you. The hours are 8AM-5PM and the cost is \$25.

## President's Message

Boy what a year we've had including a great show, great rambles and a fantastic trip to the Fakahatchee Strand. We have had wonderful speakers, beautifully grown orchids, and we opened a page on Facebook. Seventy one friends to date have found a new way to communicate with each other. Members and friends are posting pictures and sharing information. Do stop by to see the wonderful changes to our web site too.

**The show will be here before you know it, and we need your help.** Please sign up to volunteer for your show. Remember we can't do it without your help.

Looking forward to seeing you at the holiday party and wishing you and your family a happy holiday and a prosperous new year.

Sincerely,  
Joan



2011

## Planning Ahead

Program Chair Allen Cogar has teamed up with program chairs from other South Florida societies to bring **Fred Clarke** here on a speaking tour. He will speak at our society's meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Fred is from Sunset Valley Orchids and is famous for his awarded *Catasetums* and *Cattleya* hybridization. Fred will supply the raffle table and sell plants. If you 'need' something special from Fred use the information which follows and order ahead for 10% off the list price. Be sure to tell Fred that you want your plants delivered to the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society meeting. Here is the information:

Sunset Valley Orchids  
1255 Navel Place  
Vista, CA. 92081  
[www.sunsetvalleyorchid.com](http://www.sunsetvalleyorchid.com)

## November Program Review

### Columbian Orchids for S. Florida

Gator, Andrea Niessen, has been with orchids in her native Columbia for her entire life, except for the time she spent at the University of Florida. Columbia is known for its coffee, its Cattleyas and for orchids in general. It has about 5,000 orchid species of which 3,500 have been described and classified. Most of Columbia is in the tropical northern hemisphere and almost every climate occurs at various elevations.

Orchids for us to grow here from the North Atlantic coast include: *Brassavola grandiflora*, *Encyclia cordigera* var. *semi-alba*, *Oncidium amplicatum*, *Schomburgkia tibicinis*, *Cyrtopodium paniculatum*, *Cattleya dowiana aurea* and *Gueiranthus (C.) deckeri*

The Pacific coastal plants get more rain than the Atlantic coastal plants which results in greater biodiversity. Plants for us include: *Cattleya dowiana aurea* (Pacific type), *Phrag. longifolium*, *Gongora fulva*, and *Gongora chocolensis*.

The Andean region of Columbia is comprised of mountains and valleys with tropical dry forests. This is the home of *C. trianae* (The national flower of Columbia), *C. schroderiae*, *C. Hardyana* (a natural hybrid) *C. warsecewiczii (gigas)* *C. quadricolae*, *Epi. rigidium*, *Sobralia virginialis*, and *Sobralia andreae*.

Plants that would grow here from the Orinoco basin include: *C. violacea*, some *Catastums*, *Stanhopeas*, and *Schomburgkias*. D.H.

*Note: I was away at the national quilt show and appreciate that Brian Boyle and Ken Slump took notes on the speaker for this review. Next time you have to replace a button add this trivia to your sewing knowledge:*

#### Saliva Magic

1. Tip the eye of your needle to your tongue, not the end of the thread. The dry thread will seek the moisture and slip right through the eye.
2. If you stick yourself with a needle, and you have a spot of blood on your fabric, your own saliva will take away the spot. Other people's saliva won't work, not that you are likely to try that!

### Thank Those Who Donated November's Tasty Refreshments

Carrie Ackerman	Bonnie Bonneau
Joan Connors	Lisa Davis
Nora Dyke	Vicki Hallock
Leah Ostrander	Ginny Salus
Vicki Trank	

## November Ribbon Judging Results

Helen Rivenbark /CULTURE/ *V. lamellata* . var. *remorse*,  
/blue/ Lc. Makai Mauami, *V. luzonica*

Rich Ackerman /red/ *Cychnoches cooperi*

Bonnie Bonneau /blue/ Onc. Tsiku Marguerite NN # 1

Norma Jean Flack /red/ Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puanani' AM/AOS

Vicki Hallock /blue/ *Enc. boothiana*

William Knost /blue/ Blc. Chyong Guu Linnet Water

Dave Levine /blue/ B. Jimminey Cricket

Tin Ly /blue/ Bl. Morning Glory 'H&R', Pot. Marlene

Lundquist /red/ Milt. Darth Vader 'Dark Force' x Milt. Ken Peterson 'Flagpole'

Tony Millet /red/ C. Violetta

Petra Thomas /blue/ Onc. Kalihi

Eileen Toler /red/ v. *lamellata*

Shari Weidenbaum /blue/ D. Samsak x D. Apricot Rainbow

## Get The Facts Before You Start Your Own Orchid Business!

The good news is that orchids have replaced poinsettias as the leading pot plant sold in the United States. The bad news is that a hard business is changing and getting harder. Of the 120 orchid businesses that advertised in the AOS's 1980 Source Directory only 7 are still in business. Some of the major stumbling areas for a new small business might include: the impact of mega growers; the fact that too many smaller growers have similar inventories; depot type stores, grocery stores, and florists sell potted orchids; internet brokers will compete with sales; and orchid societies themselves will hurt your sales.

Backing up to how orchid societies will hurt your sales. They have auctions for which you donate plants, auction plants often go for such bargain prices that members hate to buy at full price. It doesn't help that members quit growing orchids and sell off their collections at low prices.

The mega growers are another big variable for you to consider. The two biggest in the United States are Matsui in California and Kerry's in Florida. Matsui imports 2,000 flasks of orchids per month. Matsui doesn't put name tags on their plants because each tag costs 5 cents. To stay in business you'll need to control costs too.

Some other things that you would need to stay in an orchid business would be to find a unique inventory, and to find new orchid customers. You will need to attract young people to your plants and maybe take the time to grow larger plants than the mega growers do.

*Editor's note: These statistics came from a lecture based on a survey of 37 U.S. growers. The lecture was given by John Salvanti from Parkside Nursery at the October, 2010 AOS Members Meeting.*

# Do YOU Need to Join These Current Show Volunteers?

**Show Set-up Tuesday,**

**Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> 8: 00 AM**

*Help Chris and John!*

1. Wayne Musgrave
2. Dave Levine
3. Eileen Toler
4. Gary Pierce
5. Thuy Pham
6. Leah Ostrander (20+ needed)

**Preview Party Prep. Thursday**

**Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 PM**

1. Zoe Bejar (3 needed)

**Show Take-down, Sunday**

**Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM**

1. Wayne Musgrave
2. Norma Jean Flack
3. Joan Connors
4. Eileen Toler
5. Ray Ratliff

**Plus all 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers other sections- but still not enough volunteers.**

**Show Judging Clerks,**

**Thursday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM**

1. Chip Jones
2. Sue Dohm
3. Joan Connors
4. Ginny Salus
5. Shari Weidenaum
6. Zoe Bejar (10 more needed)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Show Shift Times:**

**1<sup>st</sup> shift- 10:00 AM -1:20 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> shift- 1:20 PM- 4:40 PM**

**3<sup>rd</sup> shift- 4:40 PM -8:00 PM**

*Times right for Jan. 14-16*

*Last shift Sunday to stay after 6:00 when show closes to help with tear down or man doors, etc.*

Please get a parking pass at the box office at least 15 minutes before your shift. Return the pass after you park so the next shift can also park free. Check your name off the volunteer list when you return the pass. Thanks

\*\*\*\*\*

**Smiles in Green Vests**

**Hosts- 6 needed per shift**

**Friday- shift one**

1. Joan Connors, 4. Vicki Trank
2. Connie Walker 5. Marian Huber
3. Chris Carney 6. Zoe Bejar

**Friday- shift two**

1. Chris Carney (3 needed)

2. Bernie Langerluttig

3. Peggy Knight

**Friday-shift three**

6 needed for full shifts, Chacko Zachariah to fill in 6-8:00 PM

**Saturday- shift one**

1. Joan Connors 2. Chris Carney
3. Michael Bryant 4. Rick Bellas
5. Glenn Koffman 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday- shift two**

1. Saira Kaizad 2. Norma Jean Flack
3. Francis Buckley 4. Rich Ackerman
5. Bernie Langeluttig 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday- shift three**

**As Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. HELP!**

**Sunday- shift one**

1. Joan Connors 2. Michael Bryant
3. Glenn Kauffman 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday - shift two**

1. Saira Kaizad 2. Ron MacDonald
3. Susan Gutman 4. Jean Valentine
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday -shift three**

1. Wayne Musgrave 2. Ray Ratliff
3. Sandi Gardner 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

\$

**Box Office - One or two needed each shift to help Michael Schaber}**

**Friday- shift one- (1-2 needed)**

- 1, Brian Boyle

**Friday shifts two and three**

1-2 needed for each

**Saturday- shift one**

1. Marcie Muller

**Saturday- shift two**

1. Victoria Buckley

**Saturday- shift three**

1. Saira Kaizad

(3)

**Sunday -shift 1**

Rich Ackerman

**Sunday- shifts 2 and 3**

**help needed**

\$

**FLOS BOOTH- Ginny Salus**

**will need one helper per shift**

**Friday - shift one**

1. Marie Muller

**Friday - shift two**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday shift three**

1. Dave Levine

**Saturday- shift one**

1. Sue Dohn and Barbara Gatterman

**Saturday- shift two**

1. Dasha Urosecic

**Saturday- shift three**

1. Mercedes Steuerwald

**Sunday - shift one**

1. Barbara Gatterman

**Sunday -shift two**

1. Petra Thomas

**Sunday- shift three**

1. Mercedes Steuerwald

\*\*\*\*\*

**Booth for AOS**

**I need one person for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shifts on Friday, and one person for the first shift Saturday and Sunday.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> shift- Saturday- Sarah Mitchell**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> shift- Marcie Muller**

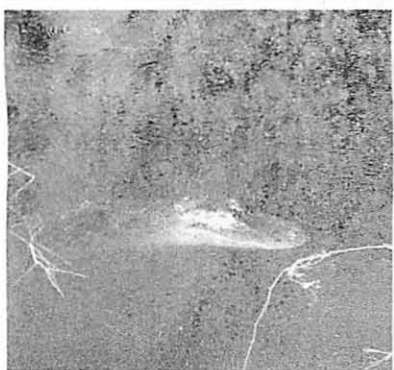
**As needed : Bonnie Bonneau and Bob**

\*\*\*\*\*

**CALL 954-772-4836 to**

**sign-up or change time or post before the December party or January meeting.**

**Remember there is NO December meeting.**



## Remembering The Fakahatchee

By Rich Ackerman

Thirty lucky Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society members enjoyed a gorgeous October day in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park on our recent expedition. From the park headquarters, our bus bumped up a dirt road for six miles, getting deeper and deeper into the Strand. Lush Everglades vegetation pressed in on the bus when we were not traversing open fields that are regularly burned to preserve their open state. Fire is part of the natural cycle of the 'Glades'. The occasional fires encourage biodiversity.

After unloading the bus we split into two groups, applied copious amounts of sunscreen and bug goop, and we started off down an abandoned railroad bed. As State Park Biologist, Mike Owen, explained at our September Society meeting, railroads were built throughout the Strand to facilitate lumbering operations. Today the beds remain as paths into a wonderland of plants and animals. Plants find the raised ground a particularly propitious place to grow so the growth is thick! Entering into a slough off the bed was the hardest part of the hike. Culverts needed to be banged with our walking sticks to chase out the alligators; one of our groups did indeed find a gator at their desired point of entry.

Wading for an hour up our chosen slough was the most amazing experience. It was lush with ferns, bromeliads, orchids, palm trees, pond apples, and other swamp shrubs galore. It was cool and shady and beautiful, with nary a bug needing a swat. Our two groups saw different plants, but between us we saw a blooming Clamshell Orchid (*Encyclia cochleata*) and a blooming Butterfly Orchid (*Enc. tampensis*). Both groups saw several ghost orchids (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) and two other leafless orchids as well as other native orchids.

We are hoping to repeat this trip in years to come. Don't hesitate to sign up for it. You will gain a new appreciation for our favorite plant and have a great time as well.

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**John Wrench** took the pictures on the opposite page and **Chuck McCartney** forwarded a list of the orchids seen by at least one of our groups. Chuck's list follows and their common names are: Pine Pink Orchid, Ribbon Orchid, Jingle Bell Orchid, Onion Orchid, Roller Coaster Orchid, Night -Fragrant Epidendrum, Tooth -Petaled Rein Orchid, Little Yellow Spikes Orchid, Clamshell Orchid, Onion Orchid, and Ghost Orchid.

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Thank you John, Rich, and Chuck for recounting the Fakahatchee experience for all of us to share.

## Grow An Agave or Yucca

Well, not in a window sill with orchids, but since 7,000 BC man has found them to be useful and beautiful plants. Thomas Jefferson was the first famous American to grow them. While they are primarily grown for their flexible and long lasting fibers, they were a major food source for people in Mexico and South Western United States. Leaves were eaten as well as the flowers which were pickled. An alcoholic beverage was also made from emerging bloom spikes, and the roots were primarily used to make a soap.

So you don't expect to make soap or weave a rope or basket with the leaf fibers, why not grow them in your landscape? They are worth the space just to see bloom spikes which may exceed 25 feet tall. The only absolute rule found for growing them was good drainage. Most thrive in full or partial sun, and as a general rule they reflect that they evolved in arid places.

You may not wish to grow a Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) since its flowers have an unpleasant odor, but if you love the uncommon, maybe having a 30' tall yucca tree is for you?

While you probably can't grow a member of this plant group in a window sill, some make great container plants for a patio or balcony. They have a compact root system and tolerate root crowding well. The source suggested *Agave parviflora*, *A. pygmaea*, *Yucca pallida*, and *Y. filamentosa* as pot plants. The best bet for indoor, dry, dusty conditions was *Y. elephantipes*.

Information from Google and the following:

Irish, M. and G. **Agaves Yuccas and Related Plants**. Timber Press, Portland.. 2010 Pp. 1-15, 71

## Gene Crocker To Retire

Gene is one of our all time favorite speakers. His *Cattleya* hybrids have been world class and world famous. While he and Kitty deserve to relax and travel, Carter and Holmes, and in fact the orchid world, will be less beautiful without his hybrids.

### Remembering:



*The brother of Chris Binder  
The husband of Laima Petrusis  
The father of Diana Scott*

## Notes on Orchid Names: *Epidendrum stamfordianum*

At first glance, it doesn't look much like an *Epidendrum*. For one thing, *Epidendrum stamfordianum* has pseudobulbs. But other epidendrums, such as the familiar *Epidendrum ciliare*, also have the thickened stems that we call pseudobulbs. But even more unusual, the flower stalk on this odd *Epidendrum* most often appears to emerge from the base of the pseudobulb, rather than from the top, which is the typical flowering habit in the New World orchid subtribe Laeliinae. But *Cattleya walkeriana* and *Brassavola acaulis* are also exceptions to this "rule." In reality, though, these three orchids are blooming on the top of a rudimentary or aborted pseudobulb, so the flowering habit isn't truly basal. In the case of *Epidendrum stamfordianum*, it very occasionally will bloom from the top of a mature pseudobulb in the "normal" manner.

Despite these anomalies, *Epidendrum stamfordianum* is still a "good" *Epidendrum*. The fragrant yellowish flowers with streaky reddish spots (with some flowers being pinkish in a color form that is rare in nature but frequently cultivated) are typical for the genus, with the reproductive column fused with the base of the lip for its whole length, creating a tube that is a necessary element for pollination in orchids with flowers of this configuration. This form is dubbed a "keyhole flower" by the great contemporary orchid scientist Dr. Robert L. Dressler, who says it most often indicates pollination by moths, butterflies or hummingbirds, in other words, by some creature with a long, narrow proboscis or beak capable of fitting into the tube in search of some nectar reward. The majority of epidendrums are of this keyhole form with the lip fused to the underside of the column.

The genus name *Epidendrum* is familiar to most orchid growers, and its derivation is easy to understand. It comes from a combination of the Greek prefix *epi* and noun *dendron* and simply means "upon a tree," referring to the epiphytic habit of the majority of the 1,327 or so species now

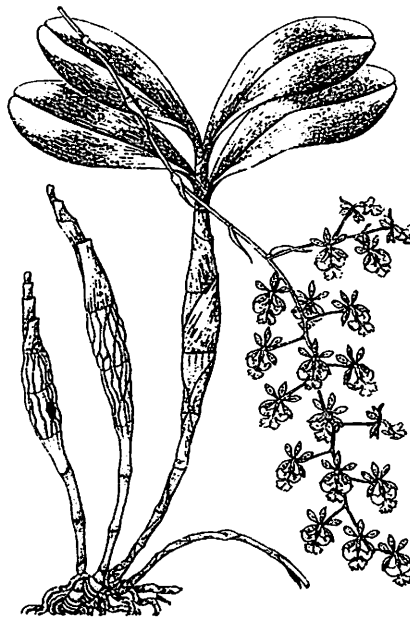


FIG. 105. *Epidendrum stamfordianum*. Flowering plant (x 1/4). Drawn by Dorothy O. Allen.

recognized for the genus by the orchid scientists at Britain's Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. Remember, though, that in a genus this large, not all epidendrums are necessarily epiphytes (tree-growers). Some, such as the common orange-flowered *Epidendrum radicans*, grow on the ground.

The species name *stamfordianum* was first applied to this attractive orchid in 1838 by Englishman James Bateman in his book *The Orchidaceae of Mexico & Guatemala*, based on a plant collected in a lowland area of Guatemala the preceding year by George Ure Skinner (of *Cattleya/Guarianthe skinneri* fame). The species epithet honors George Harry Grey, the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Stamford and Warrington, who at that time had a notable collection of tropical orchids at his estate at Enville Hall in Staffordshire.

The name is frequently misspelled, most often as *Epidendrum "stanfordianum."* But remember: It's *stamfordianum* (with "m" as the fourth letter), as in Stamford, Connecticut, and NOT "*stanfordianum*," as in Stanford University.

The species has a wide distribution, ranging from Mexico through Central America to Panama and into Colombia and Venezuela in northern South America. It grows most often as an epiphyte, but occasionally can be found growing on rocks as a lithophyte.

-- CHUCK McCARTNEY

The drawing is from *Orchids of Guatemala* by Oakes Ames and D.S. Correll (1952). I'm sorry to put Chuck's article near the back of this issue, but 'the last shall be first', right?

From the cranberry marsh?

## Amazing Broccoli Salad

### Dressing full batch

1 cup mayo  
1/3 cup sugar  
2 TBS. cider vinegar

### Dressing half batch

½ cup mayo  
8 tsp. sugar  
1 TBS vinegar

### Full batch

Chopped broccoli bite -sized

Full head.

½ cup pine nuts

½ cup dried cranberries

### half batch

½ head

¼ cup

¼ cup

*Note: these last 3 things can be modified to fit your taste. Further note: I know you can cut measurements in half, but I thought the cut for sugar would save you time.*

### Good news in the Fakahatchee Strand

## More on Florida's Wild Orchids

The Fakahatchee is said to be the "orchid capitol" of the United States since it has the largest known population of our native orchids. In January, a wild orchid not seen there since 1905 was found in the special place\*. Florida has 118 species of orchids which is about half of the known species in the United States and Canada.

According to Rene Ebersole, (*National Wildlife Magazine*, February/March 2005 pages 35-42) Larry Richardson who is a panther biologist in the 26,400 acre Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in Collier county is not only looking out and after panthers he is pollinating the wild orchids that live in the Refuge, since most of their pollinators no longer exist. Richardson's other orchid work is to keep orchid poachers from knowing where the 40 or so species of wild orchids are located within the Refuge. Richardson and a colleague at the University of Florida are trying to cultivate native orchids in the laboratory to return to the Everglades.

\* Finding the Mossy Helmet Orchid (*Cranichis muscosa*) was described in Georgia Tasker's Miami Herald article on June 19. While a mat of about 40 of the little orchids was found, one was taken back to the University of Florida for identification.

Editor's note: *I needed to fill this space and found an article from 2005. It fits well with the recent outing to the Strand, and I gained some time. I hope that you can find ways to gain time this busy season as well. Happy December!*

### One last time.. maybe:

## Plants Are Just Slow Green Animals

Spiny lobsters which hatch here migrate to Africa for their adult lives, and of course African babies spend their adult lives here. While that is 'getting away from mama' big time it is one of a billion or so survival mechanisms seen in nature. Here the species is protected from catastrophic events that might make it extinct.

Orchids have devised some interesting ways to get pollina away from papa and a catastrophic event and to a mate at some distance away from harm. For instance, Bucket Orchids (*Coryanthese*) grow high in the canopy in Central America. Each of the 20 species has its own bee species which is attracted to its sweet smell. Male bees swarm around the flowers to collect the sweet fluid that their females will like. A male often slips into the bucket of the orchid. As he escapes he gathers pollinia on his back which will be taken to another Bucket Orchid to make Bucket babies!

South American *Oncidium*s (Dancing Lady Orchids) produce a cloud of tiny flowers on long branched spikes that 'dance' in the slightest breeze. Territorial male bees charge the flowers as rivals and thus gather and dispense pollen.

*Paph. rothschildianum* from Borneo has long lateral sepals. The spotting on the sepals probably resembles a little clump of aphids. Flies lay their eggs near aphids so the maggots can parasitize the aphids. In the process of depositing eggs with the 'aphids' the flies fall in the pouch of the paph. The fly can only escape by a route which results in pollination.

### Animal-like behavior in non-orchids:

Central American Cheese Plant seeds germinate into algae-like growths that crawl across the forest floor to find a tree trunk. They will climb up the tree and change into a light -seeking vine. Several kinds of trees have been shown to produce a toxin in their leaves only after an attack by insects, and some trees (Birch and Acacia) emit a chemical which warns trees downwind to produce the toxin ahead of the insect invasion.

*Orchid information from : Attenborough, David. 1995. The Private Life of Plants. Princeton Univ. Press.*

## Take This Taste Test To See Whether You Are Normal

Coat your tongue with blue food coloring using a cotton swab. Have someone count the non-blue spots on the front of your tongue. If you have 30 or more you are a 'super taster' who likes bland food. If you have between 15 and 30 you are normal, and of course those who love spicy food will have lower scores within the range.



# FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4677  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338

**Regular meetings:** Second Monday of each month  
**Time:** 7:30 P.M. Workshop, 8:20 P.M. Program  
**Place:** Christ Lutheran Church Social Hall  
1955 East Oakland Park Blvd.

**Directions:** Use Oakland Park Blvd. from I-95.  
Go East for 2.4 miles, go to the rear of the church  
which is on the North side of Oakland Park Blvd.  
Or take US-1 (Federal Hwy.) to Oakland Park  
Blvd. And go West for 2 blocks.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President..... **Michael Schaberl**  
Recording Secretary..... **Gigi Granger**  
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