



The Mid-American

Newsletter of The Mid-America Orchid Congress
<http://www.midamericanorchids.org>

Fall 2018

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Save the Date!

Meet us in Lansing, MI, for the
Spring MAOC, 22-24 February 2019



Come to the Spring Mid-America Meeting in Lansing, Michigan!

Attendees at the Spring 2019 Mid-America Orchid Congress are in for a treat, two excellent speakers and the fantastic Greater Lansing Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale! We hope you'll plan to join us in Lansing, Michigan, February 22-24, 2019. Details and registration information will be posted on the Mid-America website, www.midamericanorchids.org.

Mid-America meetings and speakers will be at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing, MI 48917. Mid-America has also reserved a block of rooms at the Crowne Plaza

at a group rate of \$129 plus tax (866) 238-4218, ask for Group Code MAO to make your reservation). The orchid show is a 15 minute drive away at the Michigan State University Plant and Soil Sciences Conservatory, 1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing, MI 48824.

We're very pleased to have Leon Glicenstein and Dennis Whigham as our Mid-America speakers. Many orchidists have read Leon's articles in *Orchids* magazine or have heard his programs before, and know what a wealth of information he has to share! Leon will give a Saturday afternoon program on *Habenarias*, an increasingly popular orchid genus, and Saturday evening will tell about his travels in the cloud forests of Costa Rica.

Our second speaker on Saturday afternoon, Dennis Whigham, is a Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's Environmental Research Center and founding director of the North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC). Dennis will update us on NAOCC's various projects and research as the group seeks to conserve the 200+ orchid species native to the US and Canada.

We're also looking forward to the Greater Lansing Orchid Society's show! This show typically features about 10 vendors, as well as displays by 6-7 participating orchid societies, floral arrangements and displays of orchid photography and art.

For more information about the orchid show, visit the society's website at www.greaterlansingorchidsociety.com. After the orchid show closes at 5:00 PM Saturday, the Mid-America auction begins at the Crowne Plaza. This entertaining event is Mid-America's primary fundraiser. Everyone is welcome, and we encourage you to bid generously! Following the auction, we'll enjoy a buffet dinner (advance payment required, see Mid-America website) and Leon Glicenstein's orchid program on cloud forests of Costa Rica.

A Message from Your President



As I am writing this to you, I am recovering from the traditional Thanksgiving Day meal! This reminds me about how much we all have to be thankful for: shelter, food, a safe

country, and of course, ORCHIDS and our friends who share our interest. MAOC had a great gathering, scary actually, on Halloween weekend in Independence, Missouri. The costume party was a blast with some really great themed costumes. Even a pair of "pollinators" in attendance. I didn't notice any seed pods on my orchids after I got home. Even the speakers' topics were themed to Draculas and Greek shenanigans and all sorts of taxonomists having fun with orchid species naming. The show was beautiful, the auction was fun and to those who were unable to join in, we missed you!

Thank you to the show committee and members of the Greater Kansas City Orchid Society for a great and memorable event!

Our next gathering will be with the Greater Lansing Orchid Society on February 23 and 24. They always have a great show with lots of displays and vendors. The show is held on the Michigan State University campus. There is a political convention that same weekend in the city so make your hotel reservations early.

MAOC is looking for a volunteer to chair the Communications Committee. This person and the committee of four others work to help orchid

societies like yours start, develop or trouble shoot web sites and newsletters. They also coordinate with the MAOC newsletter editor. If your newsletter editor or web site manager does a great job, please ask them to consider the position.

MAOC being a 501 (C) 3 charitable institution, up to four society members that attend and sign in at the members' meeting on Sunday, can declare all their expenses for attending, as tax deductible. Now seriously, how can you do better than that? The fun of the meetings, show, auction, speakers, plants to purchase, orchid friends, stories to tell when you go to the next society meeting, AND declare it as a tax write off, need I say more? And that goes for the rest of you as well!

So, come and join us in Lansing, Michigan, and prepare for a great time.
Russ Vernon, President
The Mid-America Orchid Congress

Mid-America Orchid Congress **Fall Business Meeting** **Independence, MO** **26-28 Oct 2018**



(NOTE: This is a draft subject to approval at the Spring 2019 Congress. Corrections should be sent to Doris Asher: Asherdoris44@gmail.com)

President Russ Vernon called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. He thanked the members of the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City for their masterful job of hosting the Congress, commenting on the excellent meals, entertaining programs, and the beautifully-staged show. He invited members of the OSGKC to stand so we could applaud them.

He detailed the changes in Committee members and chairs and solicited volunteers for remaining vacancies.

Acting Secretary Doris Asher called the roll, and the following societies were represented:

Alabama Orchid Society
 Ann Arbor Orchid Society
 Atlanta Orchid Society
 Batavia Orchid Society
 Central Indiana Orchid Society
 Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society
 Greater Lansing Orchid Society
 Greater Omaha Orchid Society
 Greater Pensacola Orchid Society
 Gulf Coast Orchid Society
 Huntsville Orchid Society
 Memphis Orchid Society
 Miami Valley Orchid Society
 Michigan Orchid Society
 Mobile Area Orchid Society
 Niagara Frontier Orchid Society
 Northeast Alabama Orchid Society
 Northwestern Michigan Orchid Society
 Northland Orchid Society
 Orchid Growers Guild of Madison WI
 Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City
 Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee
 Orchid Society of Minnesota
 Orchid Society of the Ozarks
 Saginaw Valley Orchid society
 Smoky Mountain Orchid Society
 South Metro Orchid Society
 Springfield Orchid Society
 Three Rivers Orchid Society
 Windsor Orchid Society
 Wisconsin Orchid Society

The following societies were not represented:

Blue Grass Orchid Society
 Central Iowa Orchid Society
 Central Missouri Orchid Society
 Central Ohio Orchid Society
 Central Ontario Orchid Society
 Eastern Iowa Orchid Society
 Essex County Orchid Society
 Grand Valley Orchid Society
 Greater Akron Orchid Society
 Greater Cleveland Orchid Society
 Greater Toledo Orchid Society
 Illinois Orchid Society
 Illowa Orchid Society
 Kentucky Orchid Society
 London Orchid Society
 Mansfield Orchid Society
 Michiana Orchid Society
 Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society

Orchid Society of Greater St Louis
 Orchid Society of the Royal Botanic
 Gardens
 Peoria Orchid Society
 Prairie State Orchid Society
 South Mississippi Orchid Society
 West Shore Orchid Society of Northern
 Ohio

Doris declared that there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was approved to accept as distributed the minutes from the Business Meeting in Strongsville, OH, April 28, 2018.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Michele Little



reported more than \$13,000 in the checking account and more than \$81,000 in total assets. She requested approval to pay Mid-America's AOS dues for 2 years at \$125.

In addition, she presented the following report:

Checking	\$13947.86	
Money Market		\$55365.18
CD1	\$5457.21	
CD2	\$6558.16	
	\$81328.41	

Insurance received \$550.00

Motion to approve passed.

Committee Reports:

Affiliated Societies: Russ introduced new



Chair of the Committee Donna Lipowicz, who reported the Committee met on October 26 to plan. Members present were Doris Asher, Susan Charles,

Roberta Ginavan, and Susan Wilson; only Judith Rapacz was absent. About 40 people participated in the breakfast meeting earlier in the morning discussing “The Role of the Beginners’ Group in Your Orchid Society.” **The detailed report is on pages 11-12.** She will be working with Treasurer Michele Little to try to get renewal dues for 2018 in from all of our societies. The topic for the next meeting’s Affiliated Society breakfast in Lansing, MI, will be “How Do You Handle Difficult or Inappropriate People in Your Society?” Motion to approve passed.

Annual Meeting: Chair Beth Martin announced



that the Congress will be meeting in conjunction with the Orchid Show of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society in Lansing, MI, on February 23-24, 2019. The host hotel is the Crowne

Plaza Hotel; the Orchid Show takes place on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. She is making good progress on her roster of speakers for the meeting.

All other meeting dates are open, and Beth asked for help from one and all. She can provide data from past meetings of the Congress to help societies decide if they can host a meeting.

Motion to approve passed.

AOS Liaison:

Doris Asher presented the following report: “Since I last reported to you at our meeting in Strongsville, OH, this past spring on April 29, there have not been any AOS Members’ Meetings. The AOS convenes almost immediately after our meeting – in conjunction with the International Slipper Orchid Symposium in Apopka, FL, October 31 – November 4, 2018, and I will be there. I shall report on personnel changes involving Mid-America when we meet in Lansing, MI, next February.

Some general news items from the AOS which you may find of interest:

The Society published its tenth special annual supplement this month on *Cymbidium*, the largest supplement yet – 80 pages. Dr. Ron McHatton expects to do one next fall on *Oncidium*. People are welcome to buy extra copies of the *Cymbidium* supplement at \$25.

Members number slightly more than 9,900. The Membership and Marketing Committees have been merged into a single committee.

On April 10, 2021, the Society will celebrate its 100-year anniversary. Bob Fuchs is already hard at work putting together a celebration at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

The Society has created a “Master Orchidist” program, similar to the very successful Master Gardener Program. Look for that to be rolled out later this year.

There are three new annual awards to be given for the first time for the year 2017, the Walter Off Award, recognizing the most outstanding Show Trophy exhibit of the prior year. The Paul and Mary Storm Award will be given to the grower of the orchid plant regarded as the most outstanding example of a hybrid with at least one valid *Myrmecopilia* species and/or the former *Schomburgkia* species now classified in the genus *Laelia* (or any related species or natural hybrids later described) in its background. The third new award, the Martin Motes Orchid Breeder’s Award, goes to the grower and hybridizer of the orchid plant regarded as the most outstanding Award of Quality (AQ) or Award of Distinction (AD).

The spring AOS Members’ Meeting will be in San Diego, March 20-24, 2019, and I hope to attend.”

Motion to approve the report passed.

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee reports only at the Spring Meeting of the Congress.

Awards Committee: Chair Anna Morrison recruited Jan Yates to present her report because Jan is better at pronouncing orchid names! (Editors' Note: Special thanks to Janice Yates for providing the awards photos!)



The Mid-America Perpetual Trophy winner for The Most Outstanding Exhibit by an Affiliated Society of the Mid-America Orchid Congress: Springfield Orchid Society (also won the AOS Show Trophy):



The Clifford and Vivian Walters Award for the Best Oncidium Alliance Plant in Show: *Oncidesa Aloha Iwanaga*, owned by Nick Buksas of the Springfield Orchid Society:



In Memory of Raymond McCullough Award for the Best *Epidendrum/Encyclia* in the show: *Prosthechea radiata*, owned by Sarah Waddoups of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks:



The Christine M. Chowning Award for the Best Angraecoid species in the show: *Angraecum eichlerianum* owned by Sarah Waddoups of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks:



The Orchid Digest Show Trophy went to the exhibit of the Orchid Society of the Ozarks:



The Delbert Lowell Jacks Award for the Best Specimen plant in the show: *Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry 'Jean'* HCC/AOS owned by Sarah Pratt of Timbucktoo Orchids:



The Best Orchid in the Show went to *Paphiopedilum henryanum* in the Springfield Orchid Society exhibit, owner: Bob Pettibone:



The Best Plant by an OSGKC member went to Beth Martin (*Habenaria Regnieri* in the OSGKC exhibit)



The Best Exhibit by an OSGKC member went to Beth Martin (the chest of drawers exhibit)



In addition, there were 4 American Orchid Society flower awards:

Adenoncos parviflora 'NWO Little Green Bee' CBR/AOS (exhibited by New World Orchids):



Catasetum Aurora 'Mary Keast' AM/AOS
(exhibited by Tom & Mary Keast):



Stanhopea stevensonii 'Mysterious Valley Sunburst' AM/AOS (exhibited by Ian Rich)



Motion to approve passed.

Paphiopedilum Oriental Spring 'Bryon'
HCC/AOS (exhibited by Bryon Rinke)



Budget: Chair Jan Yates reported as follows:



For the first time in a while, the budget assumes that both the spring and fall Congresses will be held in-conjunction with another society rather than hosted. For budgeting purposes,

that means the MAOC, rather than the host society, will receive registration and meal monies for each Congress meeting and then pay out similar amounts for meals, speakers and other expenses related to putting on a Congress, rather like a conduit. It also means that auction proceeds are not split with a host society but go entirely to the MAOC. Finally, this budget, like others before it, covers significant expenses with endowed funds, i.e. funds already on hand, and which pay for a speaker at each Congress and all but one of the MAOC trophies.

Income projected for next year:
Auctions (spring and fall) \$5,000
Donations and Honoraria 600

Investment Income	50
MAOC Registrations and Meals (spring and fall)	8,000
Show Tags	250
Society Dues	<u>1,500</u>
Total	\$15,400

Expenses projected for next year:

Bank Charges	\$25
Conservation Grants	2,400
Conservation Speaker*	750
Filing Fee (State of Ohio)	50
Judging Center Support (\$150 each to 6 centers)	900
Liability insurance	550
MAOC Expenses for in-conjunction Congresses	8,000
MAOC Newsletters	100
Officer expenses	100
Shirley Burr Moore Speaker Fund*	1,500
(\$750 paid for speaker within US; \$1,500 for an international speaker)	
Trophies*	<u>550</u>
Total	\$14,925

(*endowed funds)

Motion to approve passed.

Communications: In the absence of a Committee Chair, there was no report although the Wilsons reported that they sent out 149 copies of The Mid-American since the last meeting.

Conservation: Chair Bill Morrison reported that he, Russ Vernon, Susan Wilson and Jack Shumaker met in Independence, MO on October 26th.



They received the three grant reports from last year -- Ball State and

Marjorie McNeely for orchid plant acquisition, and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum hoop house restoration.

The first was a \$400 request from Wheeler Orchid Collection at Ball State for the purchase of insect mimic species (including Pleurothallideae and Catasetinae), Australian

species and Phalaenopsis species to increase their species orchid collection.

The second was a grant request for \$400 from Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park to further expand their collection of Central and South American species orchids. The Committee would like MMC to increase the quality of their grant application, which Bill will address with them in the coming year. However, this application is in the same format as last year.

The third was a request from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for \$400 to purchase 30 long term storage jars for their seed storage freezers with supplies for the storage jars. This is projected to last two years. At that point, the freezer space will have to be expanded for continued seed banking.

The Committee approved all three grants. Committee.

Motion to approve passed.

Constitution and By-Laws: Chair Charles



Wilson reported there had been no requests for changes, so there was no report. However, the Committee has now at this meeting received several requests for changes from the President, which they will be working on.

Education and Research: No report

Historical: Chair Lois Holmes recalled the



previous time that the Congress met in Independence – Fall of 2012. She reported that due to lack of interest, the essay contest has been dropped. (Lois provided an historical essay from 1988 that is reprinted on page 13.)

Motion to approve passed.

Orchidist of the Year: Chair Lowell Jacks



presented this report: “We are once again most fortunate in having another dynamic duo as Orchidists of the Year for 2018. This duo has moved far away but are still very near and dear to our hearts here in Mid-America. They are both movers and shakers in the

orchid world and are wonderful ambassadors representing both Mid-America and the American Orchid Society.

She has previously served as Secretary to MAOC and currently serves on the AOS Conservation Committee and the Education Committee as well as Mid-America’s Affiliated Societies Committee. In addition, she is Training Coordinator for her local AOS Judging Center.

He is currently serving as Chair of the MAOC Constitution and By-Laws Committee. In addition, he is an AOS Trustee, serves on several Committees to include Conservation, Development and Education, as well as serving on the Species Identification Task Force.

As you can see, both of these individuals are very busy and involved in the orchid world and work to make it a more interesting and better orchid world for all of us.



In addition to the many committees and activities these individuals are involved in, they also serve as Co-Editors of our MAOC newsletter, The Mid-American. This is in itself a great and thankless task and they do a truly

wonderful job in pulling this off with each new edition to which everyone looks forward. It is with our greatest thanks and pleasure that we are pleased to honor Charles and Susan Wilson as the 2018 Orchidists of the Year.”

Lowell presented them with a plaque for this honor.

Motion to approve passed.

Show Schedule: No report

Technology: In the absence of a Committee Chair, there was no report.

Ways and Means: Chair Roberta Ginavan



thanked the folks who helped with the auction Saturday night: the auctioneers, clerks, other members of the Committee and also the persons who donated items and

certainly the bidders. Without all of these people we could not have a successful auction. Our auction last evening brought in \$2,200.

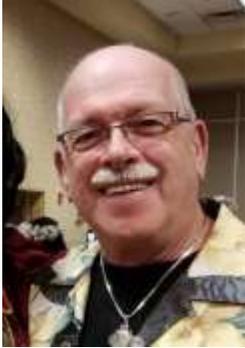


(Roberta (l) organizes her auction assistants (l to r): Susan Charles, Donna Lipowicz and Roberta’s granddaughter Ripley Stansbury)

The proceeds will be split with the Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City since this is a hosted meeting. Our raffle item is a commissioned vase by Ephraim Pottery; the raffle brought in \$425. The winner of the drawing was Acting Secretary Doris Asher. Ephraim has agreed to make additional copies of this vase at a cost of \$190.50 which includes shipping.

Motion to approve passed.

Nominating: Chair Doug Hartong asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Jim Newsome, who died this past summer. Doug presented the following slate for 2019:



President: Russ Vernon
1st Vice President: Jack Shumaker

2nd Vice President: Alexa Noel

Secretary: Doris Asher

Treasurer: Michele Little

There was a motion to accept the slate by acclamation – passed.

Charles Wilson “I move that all actions taken by the officers and committee members of the Mid-America Orchid Congress since the last Annual Meeting be ratified and confirmed, and that the officers and committee members be commended for their good work”.

Motion seconded and passed.

As there was neither any Old Business nor any New Business to come before the delegates, Russ adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Acting Secretary Doris Asher

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES REPORT

For the Fall Meeting in
Independence, MO
October 27-28, 2018

A highlight of each meeting of the Mid-America Orchid Congress is the Sunday morning Breakfast sponsored by the Congress’ Affiliated Societies Committee. At the October Congress in Independence, MO, new Committee Chair Donna Lipowicz did a masterful job leading a discussion of “The Role of the Beginners’ Group in an Orchid Society.” Although we miss our previous Chair Mary Beth Mansour, we thank her for chairing our Committee tirelessly for at least eleven years! And we

thank our new Chair Donna for her leadership.



(A rousing discussion at the Affiliated Societies Breakfast in Independence, MO, 28 Oct 2018.)

About 40 people participated in the conversation at breakfast, contributing numerous suggestions and observations:

- Beginner groups are the most important part of the society: get someone to come once, this gets them to come again.
- Have a 2-year curriculum that teaches culture, differences in orchid sections and genera, how to read a label. Get into some technical information. Beginners don’t know what they don’t know. It builds confidence in the new members.
- Have beginner group 45 minutes to an hour before general meeting.
- Some beginners may feel intimidated by veteran growers.
- Veteran growers also want to come. Now general meeting earlier and includes two speakers.
- Beginner group is separate, has a curriculum that includes culture, potting sessions and more social things. Group orders of easier to grow plants. One social each year. People self-select out. Strength is bringing more long-term members into society.
- Beginner group sets up its own display at show. A beginner group became so cohesive that it formed its own society.
- There is incentive at the show to join the society. Need to provide a sheet with society meeting information: location, date and time, etc.

- Have a round table with information on culture, growing under lights, how to identify, how to find name, etc. Participant visit the different stations.
- No beginner group. Have an all-day workshop in April for new members. Connect each new member with a mentor/friend in society.
- Have a partnership with the botanic center; members care for their orchids on Wednesdays and can use that for demonstrations and invite outsiders. Do repotting demonstrations this way. No charge for society meeting space. Get new members to clerk at show. Have a work party on a week-end.
- No botanical center—makes it hard to find a place for a show.
- Hold orchid show at a garden center at no charge.
- Have a wine-tasting event at a garden center. Set up 4-5 exhibits.
- Garden Center opens its top green house to society and use their meeting room at no charge.
- Have an “Ask the expert” session 2 hours ahead of general meeting. Not structured or planned but is “hands on” and encourages questions.
- Have a session for sick plants.
- Give old AOS magazines to new members. This also encourages new members to join AOS.
- Have a raffle at meeting. Give tickets to visitors. Give old copies of Orchids magazines, Orchid Digest, or Slipper Alliance magazines.
- Have American Orchid Society culture sheets (available on website) for plants on the raffle table for winners to take with them. Also have sheet to explain words on culture sheet.
- Have beginner group meet at members’ homes so beginner sees how they grow.
- Meet at a member’s home 2-3 times a year. Have hand-out so beginner can see

what is being grown and how.

Conversation related to what they see.

Snacks.

- Member photographed growing area in a number of other members’ homes. Give a visual “greenhouse” tour. Photos taken so situations can be compared. Member explains his/her set-up.
- Tour 3 members’ homes in summer to see how they grow.
- Get master gardeners in society.
- Assign a mentor and give an orchid. Now people (in Hawaii) are growing indoors. Water is the biggest problem. Use distilled water.

The next Mid America Orchid Congress meeting will be held in Lansing, Michigan, February 23 and 24, 2019. The Affiliated Societies Breakfast topic on February 24 will be: “How Do You Handle Difficult or Inappropriate People in Your Society?” We hope you will attend to share your solutions and to learn from the experience of other societies.

If you have questions or suggestions about the Mid-America Orchid Congress, please contact any member of the Affiliated Societies Committee – the MAOC is your organization.

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“I Tried It (Slab Spools) and It Worked!”

(The following essay written by Rita R. Lyons of Rock Island, IL, won the 1988 Mid-American essay contest, announced at the 1989 Spring Orchid Congress meeting in Livonia, MI.)

Growing under lights in the orchid world can be compared to writing left handed in a world oriented to right-handedness. Obstacles to growing the plants you like, not the ones which are easy for you, can be compared to writing legibly in spite of doing it awkwardly and perhaps upside down. As we all know, there are inherent structural problems in accommodating awkward-growing plants.

Slabbed species and hybrids are usually more difficult to grow under lights than potted plants because most of them (at least, the ones I like) require high light while needing cool and humid conditions. Have you ever tried to hang a plant real close a light bulb and yet keep it moist? Well I have, and my success rate was about zero. Still, I stubbornly persisted in buying those ill-fated plants.

Quite by accident (although I would prefer you thought it was by cleverness) I found a solution. The metal hanging hook on the back on one of my slabbed Masdevallias broke off and I laid the flab flat on a large ‘spool’ and left it there several days waiting for repair. The plant perked up almost immediately since water lingered longer on the moss and roots.

The ‘spool’ was one I had been using to raise a potted plant closer to the lights. These spools come from hardware stores where they are used on a metal rod to hold varying sizes of metal chain for sale by the yard. They are normally discarded when empty. They come in varying heights and the ends are normally six to eight inches in diameter. They are plastic, rust-free, and (best of all) free for the asking.

In addition, there is a big bonus for slabbed plants. The ends are corrugated to a depth of about ¼”, which traps run-off water which

keep- s the slabs lightly moistened and humidified.

Not all my slabbed plants are growing happily in a horizontal position. No longer does success elude me.

Being left-handed is perhaps a good handicap to have for growing under lights. You are used to starting out with perseverance, determined to succeed.

(And, of course, a “little bit of luck” helps, too.)

In Memoria:



Dr. James L. Newsome of Birmingham, AL passed away on July 12, 2018 at the age of 62. Jim was 1st Vice President of MAOC and an AOS Accredited Judge out of the Atlanta Center. Jim was born in Marietta, GA, graduated from the Medical College of GA, and later practiced pathology in Birmingham, AL, until he retired due to multiple sclerosis. He was an active member with Alabama Orchid Society and Birmingham Botanical Society. He will be remembered as a gracious, generous man who was a life-long learner.

KEY MID-AMERICA CONTACTS

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Show Tags: Hermann Pigors
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Technology: vacant
Ways and Means: Roberta Ginavan
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Parting Shots:

The Halloween Preview Party was quite a costume hit with (from left) Susan Charles and Donna Lipowicz,



and (from left) Doug & Beth Martin and Susan & Charles Wilson.

