

Welcome to the Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society (**HJAVS**)!
Here is some basic information to help you become familiar with our group:

About HJAVS:

We are a not-for-profit group whose purpose is the study of the African Violet (*Saintpaulia*) and other related *Gesneriads* and to stimulate a widespread interest in their propagation and culture. Whether you are a beginning enthusiast or a seasoned African Violet grower, you will find information, knowledge and experience to draw upon to further your growing skills. We hope you learn much and, in turn, share with other new growers.

HJAVS was founded in the fall of 1993. One of the founding members (Bobbi Johannsen) and one charter member (Sharon Gartner) are still active in the group. Currently we have approximately 52 active members.

HJAVS is an affiliate member of the African Violet Society of American (AVSA), the Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS), and the African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF). All of these groups send us publications that members may check out. They provide a wealth of information including growing tips and show information.

HJAVS members are encouraged to support these groups individually by joining them, and, in doing so, will receive their own publication.

The annual fee for individual membership in HJAVS is \$15.00 for 1 member and \$20.00 per couple, payable in September or at the time of joining.

Regular Society Meetings:

HJAVS meets on the third Sunday of every month from Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32204, 904 355-4224 at 1:30 p.m. There is usually a notification printed in the *Florida Times Union* on the weekend prior to each scheduled meeting. We do not meet in December or during the summer months (June - August) but do hold a holiday party and a Summer social.

Each regular meeting usually begins with an "African Violets 101" session for new members, beginners and visitors and is followed by a brief business

meeting which is followed by the plant raffle and the main program. The plant raffle enables members and guests to share or acquire new plants; raffle tickets can be purchased at the meeting at a cost of four (4) tickets for \$1.00.

Supplies for growing African Violets are also available to members at 50% of the cost to non-members. These supplies include pots in a variety of sizes and shapes, potting soil, fertilizer and other related supplies. These supplies are sold before and after the meeting but not during the business meeting or main program. If you anticipate a large order, you can email your order to Bobbi Johannsen and Vilma Barone prior to our regular scheduled meetings. We will have it ready for you at the meeting.

For more information, please check our website at: www.jacksonvilleviolets.org. The members' password is "heart".

Society Activities:

The Society's main fund-raising event during the year is the **African Violet Display and Sale** at the Avenues Mall each year on the Friday and Saturday prior to Easter Sunday. Any member may bring plants for display and/or sale and the Society retains 20% of the proceeds for costs incurred. The society may also purchase plants from commercial growers for resale at this event.

During the Fall each year, HJAVS schedules day trips to commercial African Violet growers located within driving distance of Jacksonville. This is an opportunity to add to your African Violet collection at wholesale prices and to enjoy a day of fun with other Society members.

HJAVS may also participate in a variety of community events to share information about the culture of African violets. These include retirement communities, garden clubs and other interested groups.

Society Officers:

Society officers are elected every September and hold a monthly business meeting (Board meeting) that is separate from the regular club meeting.

The purpose for this separate business meeting is to minimize the amount of time taken up at regular meetings to discuss routine business matters. This meeting is open to any Society member who would like to attend. Contact any Society officer to get information about the time and location of the next Board meeting.

Officers for the 2008 - 2009 year are:

President: Linda McQueen

First Vice President: Carol McBryde

Second Vice President: Vilma Barone

Secretary: Vanessa Brackett

Treasurer: Bobbi Johansen

Other Sources of African Violet Information:

- **American African Violet Society (AVSA)** can be contacted at www.avsa.org. Their annual membership fee is \$30.00. Their quarterly publication is well worth the cost of membership.
- **Dixie African Violet Society (DAVS)** 's website is www.davs.org
- **African Violet Council of Florida (AVCF)** can be contacted at dir.gardenweb.com/directory/avcf/.

Please let us know if there is any other information that you may need. You can contact us at the meetings or via email at info@jacksonvilleviolets.org. We would like to make your membership an enjoyable and beneficial experience.

Sincerely,

Vilma Barone
Vice President-Memberships