

the Orange County Star



When it comes to Valentine's Day gifts, its the thought and execution that really counts. But let's face it, not everyone is a red roses kind of girl or guy. In this issue we are going to cover Valentine's Day origins as well as a couple of alternatives to the romantic staple that more often than not usually hogs up the Valentine's Day spotlight.

Valentine's Day, or St Valentine's Day, is celebrated every February 14, across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine.

It's the day when people show their affection for another person or people by sending cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love and kissy face fealty.

But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from?

The origins of this festival of candy

and cupids are actually dark, bloody and a bit muddled.

Though no one has pinpointed the exact origin of the holiday, one good place to start is ancient Rome, where men hit on women by, well, hitting them.

If you thought Germans are wild with Oktoberfest, well those wild and crazy Romans steal the cake. From Feb. 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. The men sacrificed a goat and a dog, then whipped women with the hides of the animals they had just slain.

The Roman romantics "were drunk. They were naked," says Noel Lenski, a historian at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Young women would actually line up for the men to hit them, Lenski says. They believed this would make them fertile.

The brutal fete included a matchmaking lottery, in which young men drew the names of women from a jar. The couple would then be, um, coupled up for the duration of the festival — or longer, if the match was right.

Around the 5th century the Normans celebrated Galatin's Day. Galatin meant "lover of women." That was likely confused with St. Valentine's Day at some point, in part because they sound alike.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured.

Inside This Valentine's Issue

Valentine's Day Origins	1-2
Alternative to Roses	2
Why We Love Mercedes-Benz	3
Telematics "Member Talk"	4
Rear View Mirror	5-6
Flowers, flowers, flowers	7
Follow the Star	8
Around the Bend	9
Our Sponsors	10
Miscellaneous Information	11
Mailing Page	12



According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl possibly his jailor's daughter who visited him during his confinement. Before his

death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure.

By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery.

We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

As the years went on, the holiday grew sweeter. Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized it in their work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Handmade paper cards became the tokens-du-jour in the Middle Ages.

Eventually, the tradition made its way to the New World. The industrial revolution ushered in factory-made cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass producing valentines. February has not been the same since.

Today, the holiday is big business, over 20 billion dollars and sadly that commercialization has spoiled the day for many. Helen Fisher, a sociologist at Rutgers University, says we have only ourselves to blame.

"This isn't a command performance," she says. "If people didn't want to buy Hallmark cards, they would not be bought, and Hallmark would go out of business."

And so the celebration of Valentine's Day goes on, in varied ways. Many will break the bank buying jewelry and flowers for their beloveds. Others will celebrate in a SAD (that's Single Awareness Day) way, dining alone and binging on self-gifted chocolates. A few may even be spending this Valentine's Day the same way the early Romans did. But let's not go there.

Five Alternatives to Roses

Sunflowers: What other flower do you know of that instantly inspires happiness? These buds of sunshine will put a smile on their face.

Gillyflowers: Gillyflowers have officially made a comeback and now we aren't talking about some 80's



prom corsage type of comeback we are talking about gorgeous, lush bloom in the richest hues. But don't take our word for it. Check out your local florist.

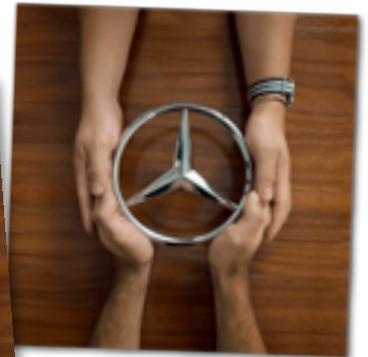
Calla Lilies: I'm a bit biased to Calla Lilies, but roses are red, violets are blue, but Calla Lilies are for the most fabulous and elegant you. There's something about their hypnotic curves that captivate you. Trust a Calla Lilly to play up any chic environment.



Lisianthus: These voluminous blooms AKA (also known as) Texas Bluebells are known for their unparalleled beauty and long shelf life. After all isn't that ultimately what love is?



Ranunculus: While peony fever captivates bridal magazines galore, you can't ignore the stunning ranunculus. It's small and delicate blooms pop with their ever ending layers.





Why We Love Mercedes-Benz



If you are one of our members and currently own a Mercedes-Benz you probably have a laundry list of reasons why you love your vehicle. I know I do! I absolutely love my car.

If you're in the market for one, then I'm sure like most of us, you've done a ton of research to find the Mercedes-Benz that meets all of your needs.

While I'm certain there are a million and one reasons why Mercedes-Benz owners love their Merc, we decided to jot down some of the most common reasons why most do.

History: Mercedes-Benz invented the automobile. Behind the three pointed star on the hood of your vehicle is over a century of engineering and innovation.

Innovation: Mercedes-Benz has come up with patents for all sorts of features. Such features that help keep its cherished owners and their passengers and even other drivers safe, even in potentially life threatening situations.

So far to date, Mercedes-Benz holds some 82,000 patents. Most of these have accident free driving in mind, many are what Mercedes-Benz would consider "standard" safety equipment on nearly any vehicle.

These systems include but are not limited to driver side airbags, ABS, crash testing, Attention Assist and other electronic driving assistants.

Engineering: Speaking of engineering, every Mercedes-Benz vehicle is built with passion and an attention to detail that spans from under the hood to behind the steering wheel and even into the backseat. Think details like power folding and unfolding rear seats, hands free trunk access and advanced lighting technology that lets you see around curves. AMG, the high performance division of Mercedes-Benz takes



luxury and attention to detail one step further with hand stitched detailing along with hand built engines that are even signed by the technician who built it!



Sound: Of course a Mercedes-Benz doesn't sound like any other vehicle on the road either. Whether you opted or opt for a more traditional Mercedes-Benz or you fancy the more powerful robust AMG models, you'll get several hundred horsepower and torque under those bonnets along with responsive handling and multiple drive modes. So your Mercedes-Benz will always perform exactly the way you want.

Nationwide Support: As a Mercedes-Benz owner, we get 24/7/365 access to Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance any time we have a a problem with our vehicle. With 368 dealerships across the country, help is never too far away. Roadside Assistance experts know Mercedes-Benz vehicles and they are prepared to help handle unforeseen roadside complications.

If your Merc is under any Mercedes-Benz warranty (New Vehicle Limited Warranty, Extended Limited Warranty, Certified Pre-Owned Warranty), additionally if your Merc was purchased directly from an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership prior to January 4, 2011 and you still own the vehicle you are eligible for complimentary Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance. Please check your Owners Manual or contact Mercedes-Benz Roadside Assistance for additional eligibility, details and restrictions. Courtesy Mercedes Roadside

So, why do **YOU** love Mercedes-Benz?
Or more importantly, why do you love **YOUR** Mercedes-Benz?

We'd love to hear from you! Share with us at [OCMBCA@gmail!](mailto:OCMBCA@gmail.com)





MEMBER RECOGNITION

Welcome
MBCA OC MEMBER

JANUARY | FEBRUARY

Richard Kleinberger.

*We would like to also welcome all
Long Beach South Bay Members!*

Thank you to the following for Renewing Membership:
PETER & ROSI BAUER. L. GERRY. C. HERN. JOHN McDONALD. IVAN MOLINA.
EDDIE NGO. DAVID ROSEMAN. IRA ROSENBERG. DAVID TODD. TIANA TOM.

*If we've missed your name in this issue, we
apologize. Please contact us and we'll be sure
to get you in our next issue.*
ocmbca@gmail.com

- M. Ward



MEMBER TALK

Paint Care

Mercedes-Benz has achieved the highest standard of paint finish on our vehicles, providing greater luster and longer lasting protection than ever before. The finish on your Mercedes-Benz is extraordinarily durable, and to keep it stunning requires just a bit of regular care. We'll call it "Star TLC"

Removing Contaminants

Scratches, swirl marks, and common surface contaminants - including vehicle exhaust, insecticides, industrial pollutants, tree sap, bird and insect deposits, and ocean salt - can compromise your vehicle's finish and, if left untreated, make even vibrant colors look faded and dull.

To evaluate your paint finish, run a clean, dry hand along your vehicle's clean surface. It should feel as smooth as glass. If it doesn't, you're feeling bonded contaminants.

Regular attention with Mercedes-Benz Car Care Products or equivalent will remove this contamination. Whether you're waxing yourself or having your vehicle professionally detailed, it will help your star shine at its brightest.

To reduce surface damage, park your vehicle in the garage whenever possible or use a vehicle cover, available at your local authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.



REARVIEW MIRROR

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Perhaps it was love at first sight and we're not just talking about you and your Valentine.

This Valentine's Day, we want you to share your Mercedes-Benz Love Story with us! Post a photo of you and your Mercedes-Benz to the OC Section Facebook page and tell us why you LOVE your car!

How many miles have you been together?

What special memory you've shared?

Winner will receive a K&N Drop In Filter(s) for their beloved Mercedes-Benz!

Here's how to enter:

1. Submit a photo of you and your Mercedes-Benz onto our Instagram page, our Facebook page or by email.

2. On February 20th, we'll compile an album with all of the entries.
3. When the album is up, the voting will commence! The photo with the most likes on the 23rd of February wins and will be announced on the 24th.



We look forward to seeing all of your photos!

Meeting adjourned. Next Board Mtg. March 2, 2018 @ 12noon

- Ann-Marie Alexander

Care like no other, for a car like no other.

Keep your Mercedes-Benz looking like new inside and out with specially formulated shampoo, paint cleaner, polish, and other products from the Mercedes-Benz Car Care Product Collection. Each product is meticulously designed to clean, protect, and maintain the original Mercedes-Benz appearance that was love at first sight.





REARVIEW MIRROR

LOOKING BACK

How To Show Your Car At A Concours

Two-time Best of Show winner Jeff Wong and MBCA Concours Judge Anne-Marie Alexander will present a two-hour class.

Our speakers provided a broad overview of what a concours is, the judging standards and how awards are given. They then provided a timeline of preparation - long term, short term, and day before/day of. Included in this session were tools/products/tips that we have found helpful.

They also went into what to expect at the show as well as the do's and don'ts. Finally a review of sample cars from the judging point of view.

We had an amazing turn out! Standing room only. Thanks to everyone who RSVP'd and made it out to help make this a success.

If you were not able to attend, not to fret, head over to **MBCA.org** or type **<https://orangecounty.mbca.org/How-To-Show-Your-Car-At-A-Concours>** into your browser to check out the video recording of the entire class!

We look forward to seeing you at a future activity!



Find a product you love, use it on your car often.

Each of us has a preference. No matter yours, always show your Mercedes-Benz the TLC it deserves. Your Benz will love you for it!





Flowers, flowers, flowers

When you think of Valentine's Day, you might think of candy hearts, boxes of chocolate and grocery store aisles lined with red. There's an excellent chance, however, that you might also think about flowers.

Valentine's Day and flowers have been synonymous for centuries as flowers can symbolize many things; fertility, love, marriage and romance.



Valentine's Day flower of choice meant an aching heart of admiration.

During the Victorian Era floriography became commonly used to express messages of Victorian etiquette deemed unacceptable to share openly. The language of flowers was much more than the singular meaning given to a flower, it was also the combining, presenting and receiving of flowers.



But you might have noticed we don't just send any ol' type of flowers on February 14th, c'mon now! Roses, peonies and carnations all share the same white, red and pink hues perfect for Valentine's Day.

Earlier MBCA-OC gave you some alternatives to roses that often steal the Valentine's Day spotlight. Here we'll walk you through a flower filled Valentines Day history.

So Why Valentine's Day Flowers?

The history of Valentine's Day flowers might have developed more recently than that of the holiday itself. In the 18th century, introduced by Charles II of Sweden, the custom of sending floral bouquets to pass on non-verbal messages became more mainstream. Each flower had a specific meaning attached to it, making it possible to have an entire conversation using on flowers. This form of communication is called floriography, or the cryptological communication through the arrangement of flowers.

Red roses meant, well what else? Romance and this is why it steals the spotlight and is the most commonly given flower on Valentine's Day. Pink roses meant gratitude and appreciation whereas white roses meant innocence and purity. Carnations which are another popular

Counting Your Valentines: By The Numbers

Earlier we mentioned that Americans do approximately over 20 billion dollars of spending each on Valentine's Day, \$2 billion of that coming from flowers alone. 73% of Valentine's Day flowers are sent by men, although its never too late to change the tide; ladies reading this, order you man some flowers.

An estimated 198 million roses were sold in the U.S. last year with carnations, lilies and tulips trailing closely behind.

It would seem we send today's Valentine's Day flowers as part of a long standing tradition of love and admiration and while we might not survey them for symbolic clues as closely as we used to, we certainly pay attention to things like color, bloom choice and presentation.

Gifting Flowers 101: Whether you're celebrating yourself, your spouse, your domestic partner or your best friend floral bouquets are a perfect way to show how much you care. They're a beautiful, thoughtful and fresh reminder that romantic and platonic love makes our lives better.

Hopefully your upcoming February 14th will be a successful one and won't depend on your knowledge of Valentine's Day history. But it can't hurt to be reminded of the symbolism of Valentine's Day flowers to inspire you.

Happy Valentine's Day from your MBCA-OC Board of Directors



We all love our vehicles! If you'd like to feature your Mercedes-Benz vehicle(s) in a future issue of the OC Star Newsletter or if you have an interesting story or photo with you and your Benz on a road trip or anything else you'd like to share or feature, please submit them in digital format via e-mail to: ocmbca@gmail.com





FOLLOW THE STAR

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Car Nomenclature

Until 1994, Mercedes-Benz utilized an alphanumeric system for categorizing their vehicles, consisting of a number sequence approximately equal to the engine's displacement in liters multiplied by 100, followed by an arrangement of alphabetical suffixes, indicating body style and engine type.

- "C" indicates a coupe or cabriolet body style (for example, the CL and CLK models, though the C-Class is an exception, since it is also available as a sedan or station wagon).
- "D" indicates the vehicle is equipped with a diesel engine.
- "E" (for "Einspritzung") indicates the vehicle's engine is equipped with a petrol fuel injection. Also used for electric models and plug-in hybrids.
- "G" was originally used for the Geländewagen off-road vehicle, but is now applied to Mercedes SUVs in general (G, GLA, GLC, GLE and GLS).
- "K" was used in the 1930s, indicating a supercharger ("Kompressor") equipped engine. Two exceptions: the SSK and CLK, where K indicates "Kurz" (short-wheelbase) (though the SSK had a supercharger).
- "L" indicates "Leicht" (lightweight) for sporting models, and "Lang" (long-wheelbase) for sedan models.
- "R" indicates "Rennen" (racing), used for racing cars (for example, the 300SLR).
- "S" Sonderklasse "Special class" for flagship models, including the S-Class, and the SL-Class, SLR McLaren and SLS sports cars.
- "T" indicates "Touring" and an estate (or station wagon) body style.

Some models in the 1950s also had lower-case letters (b, c, and d) to indicate specific trim levels. For other models, the numeric part of the designation does not match the engine displacement.

This was done to show the



model's position in the model range independent of displacement or in the price matrix. For these vehicles, the actual displacement in liters is suffixed to the model designation. An exception was the 190-class with the numeric designation of "190" as to denote its entry level in the model along with the displacement label on the right side of the boot (190E 2.3 for 2.3-litre 4-cylinder petrol motor, 190D 2.5 for 2.5-litre 5-cylinder diesel motor, and so forth). Some older models (such as the SS and SSK) did not have a number as part of the designation at all.

For the 1994 model year, Mercedes-Benz revised the naming system. Models were divided into "classes" denoted by an arrangement of up to three letters (see "Current model range" above), followed by a three-digit (or two-digit for AMG models, with the number approximately equal to the displacement in litres multiplied by 10) number related to the engine displacement as before. Variants of the same model such as an estate version or a vehicle with a diesel engine are no longer given a separate letter. The SLR and SLS super cars do not carry a numerical designation.



Today, many numerical designations no longer reflect the engine's actual displacement, but more of the relative performance and marketing position. Despite its engine displacement in two litres, the power plant in the A45 AMG produces 355 brake horsepower so the designation is higher as to indicate the greater performance. Another example is the E250 CGI having greater performance than the E200 CGI due to the different engine tuning even though both have 1.8-litre engines. From the marketing perspective, E200 seems more "upscale" than E180. Recent AMG models use the "63" designation (in honor of the 1960s 6.3-litre M100 engine) despite being equipped with either a 6.2-litre (M156), a 5.5-litre (M157) or even a 4.0-litre engine.



APPROXIMATELY 150 MILLION VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS ARE EXCHANGED ANNUALLY, MAKING VALENTINE'S DAY THE SECOND MOST POPULAR CARD-SENDING HOLIDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.



Courtesy of Mercedes-Benz



UPCOMING EVENTS



STARTIVITIES CALENDAR

Dates: February 2 - Classics & Coffee. 8am - 11am MB VPC - Rescheduled due to Weather
February 9 - Cars & Coffee Meet Up 7am-9am - Saleen Headquarters Corona
Meet Up @ IHOP Parking Lot at 6:45 so we can Roll In & Park as a group. More Details to Follow via OC Section website & email

Dates: March 16-19 Classic Car Show
More Details to follow as we finalize

Dates: April - CHP Distracted Driving Event More Details to follow as we are working with CHP for location and date.

Dates: May - Malamut Tour - Thousand Oaks
Finalizing Dates, etc. More Info Coming Soon!

Dates: June 8 - Nethercutt Collection Tour - RSVP ASAP
June - TBD - Huntington Beach Concours
More Info Coming!

StarDrives & Other Startivities Coming Soon! Stay Parked.



CLUB CONTACTS

SECTION OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

- President Daniel Schwartz carsfordan@gmail.com
Treasurer Rosi Bauer stareuro@hotmail.com
Secretary Anne-Marie Alexander a.alexander89@gmail.com
Director at Large David Stillwell beachhouseinhb@aol.com
Newsletter Editor M. Ward millenias1@yahoo.com
Regional Director Bud Cloninger scottsdale3@mac.com SW Region



CLUB CONTACTS

ADDITIONAL CLUB CONTACTS

- Social Media | Startivities Anne-Marie Alexander a.alexander89@gmail.com
Membership | Startivities Maurice Ward millenias1@yahoo.com
Road Captain | Startivities David Stillwell beachhouseinhb@aol.com



DRIVE THE FASTEST AND MOST POWERFUL THAT MERCEDES-BENZ HAS TO OFFER
AMG Driving Academy allows you to develop high-performance skills in a premier selection of AMGs - including the all new Mercedes-AMG GT S - in ways you never thought possible.
Everything put into AMG vehicles we learned at the track. Now you can share in that too.
https://www.amgacademy.com/register





Thank
TO OUR SPONSORS
You



OC Support
Our sponsors graciously support our section. Please show support by utilizing their services.

Leistung AUTOHAUS

Your ad here



Contact
a.alexander89@gmail.com
to have your ad in the next issue of
the Orange County Star

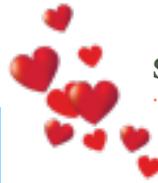




PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS



STAR TRADITIONS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Ho Ho Go! 364 Days of Preparation. 1 Day of Holiday Celebrating. We will let you know when its Jingle Time for the OC Holiday Party 2019.



For more info contact MBCA-OC StarExperiences at ocmbca@gmail.com



FEBRUARY 9, 2019 - SALEEN HEADQUARTERS - CORONA CALIFORNIA
Celebrating 80's and 90's automotive lifestyle! **CARS & COFFEE**
Car get together
We are to be the featured club at the event.
Get those Mercs all dolled up! Please let us know if you'll be joining us so we can all roll in together and make a MBCA Presence!



JUNE 8, 2019 - NETHERCUTT COLLECTION TOUR
TOUR IS FREE! RSVP ASAP ONLY 21 SPACES TO GO!
Back by Member Request, we have coordinating with the Collection to allow us to bring more members this time.
Head over to our site for Tour Restrictions & Guidelines!

DO YOU KNOW ALL THE PERKS OF BEING A MEMBER OF MBCA-OC?
One of the many benefits that your OC section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America offers you is:
Exclusive Discounts - Head over to the Website for details





the Orange County Star



ORANGE COUNTY SECTION

MEMBER UPDATE

Dear Valued Members,
If you've either moved, changed numbers, email or addresses please login or call the National Business Office to update your information to receive the latest club info.

NBO# 800.637.2360



We're now on Facebook & Instagram, please take a moment to follow us.

facebook.com/orangecountystars
instagram.com/orangecountystars



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Orange County Section

PO BOX 17434

Anaheim, CA 92817-9998



WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS