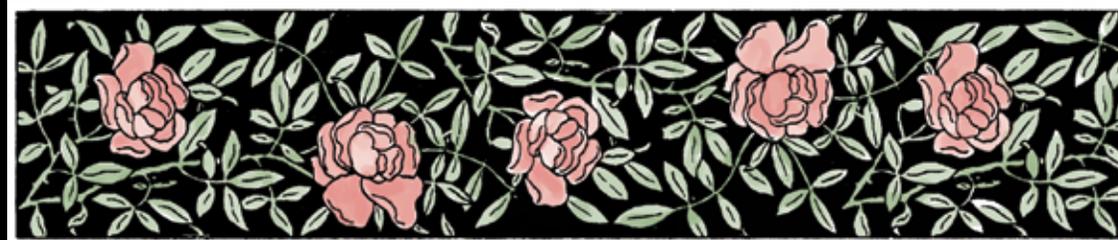




THE *Vintage rose*

Spring/Summer 2019, Issue 21



THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES
Spring/Summer 2019, Issue 21

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is a time of renewal and celebration. New buds, fresh new leaves, yellow daffodils, Narcissus paper whites, blue hyacinths, fragrant freesias in yellow and white, a few early roses in various pinks, later roses in a spectrum of color—all are calling us to celebrate life. It’s an invitation we can’t refuse. Ancient Rome and later the Persian empire celebrated spring with a joy and jubilation of roses. We, The Friends of Vintage Roses, will do likewise, as this issue of *The Vintage Rose* demonstrates. Our rose festival, Rosalia, will occur on May 18th, to which all are invited. But we are already celebrating the good fortune of having in our rose family so many of you who donate to us, work with us, and help us in our preservation of this valuable collection of roses. Thank you. —*The Editor*

DIRT DAYS FOR 2019

Works begins at 10:00 a.m. Lunch at 1:00	SAT & SUN, MAY 18 (Rosalia) & May 19 (Celebration of Old Roses, Albany)	SUN, AUG. 25
SUN, MAR. 17 (St. Patrick’s Day)	BRIEF RESPITE	SAT, SEPT. 7
SAT, MAR. 30	SAT, JUNE 15	SUN, SEPT. 22
SUN, APR. 13	SUN, JUNE 30	SAT, OCT. 5
SAT, APR. 28	SAT, JUL. 13	SUN, OCT 20
SAT & SUN, MAY 11 & MAY 12 (Rosalia prep)	SUN, JUL. 28	SAT, NOV. 2
	SAT, AUG. 10	SUN, NOV 10 (final work day of the season and potluck lunch to celebrate the roses!)



‘Mutabilis’ (photo by D. Schramm)

Mutabilis

Darrell g.h. Schramm

To be mutable is to be changeable. Now, to be changeable can be negative if to change means to be fickle. But it can be positive if it means to alter naturally, to change with growth, to “go with the flow.”

The exquisite, five-petaled rose ‘Mutabilis’ goes with the flow of natural growth; it changes color with age. Just as a toddler may be pink and fair, then strawberry blond in mid-life and silver-haired



'Mutabilis' (illustration by James Sagemiller)

with age, so it is with 'Mutabilis'. The difference is that the rose in bloom invariably appears lepidopteran, that is, butterfly-like, whereas human beings with age appear more reptilian or dinosaurian. Ask me. I know. My mirror tells me so. The flowers of this rose do remind many viewers of orange fritillaries, yellow sulphurs, and even monarch butterflies, all on the same plant. Even the scent is mutable: at first sweet but later somewhat spicy.

'Mutabilis' is a large, China shrub—quite likely a China hybrid—willing to climb two stories but can adapt to much shorter heights. It is, however, fond of walls. The strong, reddish canes are twiggy, with narrow, lanceolate leaves and a scattering of falcate prickles. The buds range from coral to scarlet, opening first to the color of straw or chamois, then, sunlight stimulating a chemical reaction, to carmine or pure pink, finally changing to ruby red or vermilion. To see such a variety of colors on a blossoming plant is sheer delight. The rose reblooms from April or May to December or January. Preferring warm climates, generally no colder than zone 7, it enjoys a clean bill of health with occasional side-trips into the territory of mild blackspot—nothing serious.

The origin of the rose is somewhat mysterious. Not introduced to commerce until the early 1930s, it was growing in Italy forty years

earlier in the 1890s. Renowned rosarians Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix suppose the rose to have been brought from China or India by the French East India Company to Isle de Bourbon (Reunion) and from there to Italy.

But the French East India Co. ceased functioning in 1789 during the French Revolution. If 'Mutabilis' was already growing on the island in 1817 when Edouard Perichon showed the visiting French botanist Jean-Nicolas Breon his newly found seedling in bloom, the first Bourbon rose, why did he not also alert the botanist to 'Mutabilis'? Or, if it was Breon who first spied the rose growing among Perichon's 'Old Blush' and 'Autumn Damask' roses, why did he, a plant explorer on this small island and the new curator of its botanic garden, not also observe such a distinctive rose as 'Mutabilis' and mention it in the course of his curatorship?

It seems more likely that the rose was growing on nearby Mauritius, which the French had once owned but had lost to the British in 1810. After all, between 1767 and 1773 Pierre Poivre on Mauritius had fashioned a notable garden of Eastern plants that included several kinds of China roses; 'Mutabilis' may have been one of them.

By 1894 the rose, also called 'Tipo Ideale', was grown in Count Vitaliano Borromeo's Italian garden on Isola Bella in Lake Maggiore. (Incidentally, the title of Prince had been sold in the 1600s and was not restored until the 1920s, a fact that explains why at times the Borromeos are referred to as Princes and at others as Counts.) Supposedly his son Ghilberto VI had financed an expedition to the Indian Ocean which returned with the rose from either Isle de Bourbon or Mauritius. In 1894 this Ghilberto sent a sample of the rose to Geneva for an exposition, whence the Swiss botanist Henri Correvon obtained a specimen of his own. Forty years later Correvon introduced 'Mutabilis' to the market (he had earlier introduced 'Rouletti'), and by 1937 Bobbink and Atkins in New Jersey was selling it. Why Correvon held onto the rose so long is a mystery.



Isola Bella

The gardens of the Isola Bella palace where the Borromeo princes still live has received distinguished guests over many years. With war looming in Europe in the early 30s, and

hoping to curtail the rising power of Germany and Hitler, Prince Borromeo hosted a small conference of French and English leaders chaired by Mussolini. Unfortunately, the Italian ruler seemed more curious than concerned. In 1938 the abdicated Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson visited incognito. In 1984 Prince Ghilberto VII and his wife entertained Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Legend has it that Napoleon and Josephine visited Isola Bella, but that is mere glamour and wishful thinking. In fact, the current Princessa Ghilberto Borromeo VIII asserts that Napoleon had indeed invited himself in 1797, but Count Borromeo refused to receive him.

The gardens of this island palace rise on ten tiers. While most of the gardens have been open to tourists, the rose garden has not, until May 2015. I have not visited the island. Apparently a number of different roses grow there, mostly climbers and standards. Among them are the bright red climber 'Blaze' and the peach-pink climber 'Claire Matin'. Perhaps the 1992 seedling of 'Mutabilis', the pink 'Mateo's Silk Butterflies', flatters that garden as well. Certainly one hopes that 'Mutabilis' does too. ■



'Lady Curzon' (photo by Étienne Bouret)

Four Noble Roses and Lady Gay

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Though less often now, it comes as no surprise to encounter a rose bearing an aristocratic name. Even in the 21st century we have roses named 'Queen of Sweden' (2004), 'Countess of Wessex' (2006), 'Baronesse' (2010), 'Lady James' (2015) and the like. In the 19th century such names were quite common. In the first quarter or so of the 20th century, several roses were named for the wives of barons or baronets. This article will consider four such rose Ladies along with an interloper and their contributions to the world. For unlike today's nouveau riche and most billionaires, the wealthy elite of a hundred years ago and more believed in *noblesse oblige*. As roses they are noteworthy for having stood the test of time.

'LADY CURZON', a Hybrid Rugosa of 1901, displays five large petals of a violet blush blending into a white halo in the center, crinkled

like those of an Iceland poppy. The tall cream-yellow stamens show off their darker anthers. An intense fragrance announces itself on the opening of the flower. Rose historian Roy E. Shepherd writes that the flowers occur "in such profusion that they nearly conceal the foliage." The foliage, typically rugose, and canes ferociously prickly, form a bush of about six feet wide. It can climb to eight feet. A very healthy plant, it does well—I'm told—on slopes and rocky places. It is unclear why Rose Kingsley in 1908 considered this rose a Damask.

Lady Curzon was born Mary Victoria Leiter in 1870 in Chicago to the wealthy co-founder of the Marshall Fields retail department stores. She was educated by a governess and tutors at home, traveled much at an early age and enjoyed residing abroad. In 1894 the U.S. Ambassador introduced her to London society where she met Baronet George Curzon, a Member of Parliament. They were wed in 1895 and eventually had three daughters.

When in 1898 her husband became Viceroy of India, he was elevated to Baron Curzon. As Vicereine, Lady Curzon's title was second only to the Queen's. In a welcome address to Lord and Lady Curzon having arrived in Calcutta, the baroness was referred to as "A rose of roses bright/A vision of embodied light." Indeed, she was beautiful. In 1909 William Logsdail painted her full length portrait in her famous peacock gown trimmed in white roses. By not a few persons, internationally, she was considered one of the best dressed women in the world.

Lady Curzon advised embroiderers, silk weavers, and other artisans to adapt their fabrics, designs, and styles to fit into modern fashions. She also resuscitated art skills that had been nearly forgotten, promoting the clothing trade and wearing only Indian fabrics.

Embracing Indian culture, Lady Curzon, with the Marchioness of Dufferin, established hospitals for women and supplied them with women doctors. One of these hospitals, this one in Bangalore, was

named the Lady Curzon Hospital. Furthermore, concerned about saving the endangered rhinoceros, she was instrumental in Lord Curzon's founding of what today is India's Kaziranga National Park. *Noblesse oblige.*

Eventually, India's tropical climate and special surgery following a miscarriage and a nearly fatal infection diminished her health. Convalescence in England came to nothing. In August 1905 the baron resigned as Viceroy, and they returned to their home in London. At age 36, in July 1906, Lady Curzon died.



'Lady Roberts' (photo by D. Schramm)

'LADY ROBERTS', a Tea sport of 1902, varies her wardrobe. At times her petals wear a peach-fuzz hue, at other times a nearly translucent, pale apricot pink, and sometimes a firmly textured apricot shaded with copper. The flowers are large and full, on a four-foot bush

oblivious of rain. If invited, this drought-tolerant rose will sit complacently in a container.

Lady Roberts was born Nora Henrietta Bews in 1838 and married Field Marshall Lord Frederick Roberts in 1859. Six children were born to them, but three died in infancy.

Lord Roberts fought in Abyssinia, Afghanistan, South Africa, and India. Though much admired for his successful military career, he damaged his reputation by his war-hawk actions in the Second Afghan War of 1879 when he indiscriminately hanged 87 men without solid evidence for the killing of a British envoy and his escort. He then arbitrarily shot another 76 for resisting.

A rose-related tangent is significant here. In Lord Roberts' 300-mile march from Kabul to Kandahar, a Dr. J.B.T. Aitchison accompanied him as army doctor and botanist. It was on this march in 1880 that Aitchison discovered and named the wild rose *Rosa ecae*, a deep orange-yellow flower.

Like Lady Curzon, Lady Roberts was involved in hospital issues in India. With the support of leading physicians, she established a fund to buy and to build convalescent hospitals along with Homes in the Hills for Nursing Sisters as a vacationing reprieve from the heat and a way to attract nurses to India. Such homes and convalescent hospitals were built in Murree and Quetta (now in Pakistan) and a few other towns. Joining her husband during the Boer War, Lady Roberts roused South African hospitals, imported more nurses, and helped improve medical care. *Noblesse oblige*.

According to George White who succeeded Lord Roberts as Indian Army Commander-in-Chief, Lady Roberts was "a prejudiced woman and nothing is too bad for those she does not like, but I think she is a warm friend." After Lord Roberts became a baron in 1892, she and he visited Burma and Nepal. Lord Roberts died of pneumonia in 1914. The baroness unveiled a statue in his honor in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow. Lady Roberts died in December 1920.



'Lady Waterlow' (photo by Cydney Wade)

A climbing Hybrid Tea of 1903, '**LADY WATERLOW**', once open to the sky, discloses a large semi-double rose of silky lilac-pink and blush complexion, the outer edges of the petals usually slipping gracefully into paler blush or nearly white, the reverse side darker. The stems and canes are rather angular and stiff. It exhales a pleasant scent. Twenty-five years after its release, the English still considered it one of the twelve best climbing roses.

Like Lady Curzon, Lady Waterlow was born in the United States and married into nobility. Born Margaret Hamilton in Iowa in 1849, she moved to San Francisco at age eleven. (Her father was from Napa, California.) There she associated with children of prominent citizens. A brief, early marriage was a catastrophe: Her Bostonian husband squandered her inheritance then abandoned her.

At a Crocker mansion gathering in 1881, she met the widower Sir Sydney, a baronet and publisher from London as well as former Lord Mayor. They spent the next ten days together. A few months later, though nearly twice her age and with eight adult children, he

proposed marriage and she accepted. Wed in Paris in 1882 (he was 60, she 33), they traveled the world for a year.

Although Sir Sydney Waterlow owned a mansion in London, a country estate in Kent, and a villa on the Riviera, he was generously charitable. He had set up trade schools for interested working class youth to be followed by scholarships to various universities. A friend of Florence Nightingale, he obtained Lauderdale House, which adjoined his Highgate property, in the early 1870s and converted it into a convalescent hospital. In 1889 he and Lady Waterlow deeded their 29 acres on Highgate Hill as Waterlow Park to London as "a garden for the gardenless." *Noblesse oblige*. The Waterlows spent the winter months in Cannes. He died in 1906. Continuing her husband's charitable work, Lady Waterlow during World War I served on Princess Mary's committee for War Children's Christmas Fund. As widow, she lived at 29 Chesham Place and died in 1931. A writer described her as "The real royal American."

A harmonious fusion of pink, coral, and translucent gold or copper yellow on long stems depicts the Pernetiana rose '**LADY FORTEVIOT**' of 1926. Admired for its large, high, conical-shaped flower, semi-double, it contains a sweet scent and shrugs off disease. Floriferous, the plant bears its roses in small corymbs. A rather low but vigorous bush—perhaps three feet high—it commands an abundance of both foliage and prickles.

Born Margaret Elizabeth Holland in 1873, she became in 1905 the second wife of Scotsman John Alexander Dewar, a baronet, a liberal Member of Parliament, and son of the founder of Dewar's Scotch Whiskey. When she married him, she inherited six stepchildren, two fewer than Lady Waterlow, but she gained two of her own.

On January 3, 1917, Lady Dewar (as she was known then) with the Countess of Mansfield hosted a tea party and concert in a hospital for wounded and ailing soldiers of World War I. *Noblesse oblige*. The very next day her husband was made the First Baron Forteviot.



'Lady Forteviot' (photo by Stan Shebs)

Overnight, she became a baroness, Lady Forteviot. In 1922 Philip Alexius de Laszlo painted her portrait. And in the 1920s, Baron Forteviot rebuilt the Scottish village of Forteviot, which had once been the ancient seat of various Pictish kings in the ninth century. Influenced by the Garden City Movement, the village was recast as a model parish.

The baron died in 1929. In 1930 Lady Forteviot purchased the estate and gardens of Galloway House, built in 1740. She brought her two step-grandchildren to live with her. When she died in 1940, the house became a hospital during WWII. After the war, the step-grandson Edward Strutt continued to live there, farming the estate and enlarging the gardens with rhododendrons and other plants, no doubt including the rose 'Lady Forteviot'.

And who was **LADY GAY** that a rose should bear her name? No one to my knowledge among English aristocracy. However, in 1892 the Duke of Portland bred a bay race horse named Lady Gay Spanker. Was the rose named for a horse? And why not? The great Australian



'Lady Gay' (photo by D. Schramm)

rose breeder Alister Clark named a few of his roses for horses, such as 'Lady Medalist' and 'Bright Boy'. But that is a supposition.

Perhaps the rose was named for a sow called Lady Gay who farrowed three pigs on January 29, 1899, in Kingsley, Iowa. Or it may have been named for a cow who dropped a calf which, the *American Hereford Record* of 1902 informs us, was born on December 22, 1900.

If named for a human being, the rose 'Lady Gay' may refer to the Canadian journalist Grace E. Denison (1853–1914) who wrote under the pen name of Lady Gay, reporting on hospitals and slums of certain European cities. Around 1906 she also wrote *The New Cook Book*.

Then again, this rambling rose may have been named simply for its feminine appearance, swathed as it is in chenille shawls of cherry

pink. Indeed, the rose in its thick, pendent trusses of double flowers on long, flexible stems appears quite gay. Though often confused with 'Dorothy Perkins', its new foliage is never bronze, the flowers are larger, the outer petals are nearly white, and, most importantly 'Lady Gay' exhibits glandular bristles on its pedicels. It is also less given to mildew than 'Dorothy Perkins'. Because the two roses are frequently mistaken for each other, 'Lady Gay' may be more often grown than is assumed; in fact, what some gardeners grow as 'Dorothy Perkins' may be really the healthier 'Lady Gay'.

The lives of the five women discussed here all were connected in some way to hospitals, and their lives mattered to those in need.

And these five old roses of the early 20th century matter also. Because they are good roses, healthy roses, lovely roses, they have survived. 'Lady Curzon' remains popular in Australia and western Europe. No nursery in the Americas sells it. 'Lady Waterlow' is sold in a dozen rose nurseries abroad and in two in the USA: Antique Rose Emporium and Rose Petals Nursery. 'Lady Roberts' can be found in two Florida nurseries, one in Australia, and one in New Zealand.

Only three nurseries worldwide sell 'Lady Gay', one each in France, Japan, and the Netherlands.

Fragrant 'Lady Forteviot' cries out to be saved. Only one rose nursery in the world carries it—Burlington Roses—but it is currently out of stock. May the mother plant survive!

If you, gentle reader, want long-lived, stalwart rose beauties, invite these ladies to your garden. Should you not be able to acquire them from one of the nurseries mentioned, look for them at special events such as at the Sacramento Historic Cemetery rose garden sale every April, or at California Coastal's Annual Rare and Unusual Rose Auction every October in San Diego, or at The Friends of Vintage Roses' Rosalia this May 18th in Sebastopol, California. You just may find one or more of them. ■

How To Make a Crown of Flowers

Pamela Temple

If you're going to Rosalia be sure to wear some flowers in your hair. Adorning oneself with roses was part of the ancient Rosalia celebration and we hope will also be part of our May event. Even if you just tuck a rose behind your ear, you will be participating, but you might want to go further and make yourself a Flower Crown. It's easier than you might think.



Begin by choosing your flowers large and small and maybe a bit of greenery. Here is what I used this morning.

1. These lovely orange roses are called 'Orange Crush'. I also chose some feathery Sidalgo and some green button Chrysanthemums.
2. Besides the flowers, you need two things: Paper Stem Wire and Flower Wrap Tape. They can be purchased at Michael's Crafts and other such stores.
3. First take two pieces of the Paper Stem Wire. Set them on a table overlapping each other by around seven inches like this. Then twist them together.

4. Next, try the wire on your head.
5. Make a little loop on one end. You can then put the other end through, adjusting for your head and twist it closed.
6. Now begin to add the flowers. Start with a flower pointing to the middle of the circle. Cut the stem fairly short, no more than two inches. This will be wrapped to the stem wire with the floral wrap tape. It's a good idea to cut some of the tape ahead of time in about four-inch pieces. Floral tape sticks to itself well but is not very sticky. Here is a photo of the first stem applied.
7. Continue adding flowers or bits of greenery until you reach three inches from the end where you will continue the wrapping of tape to the end, then wrap flowers on the other side facing in the opposite direction. Here is a crown partway done.





8. If you're short on time or flowers you could just go partway like this. I used eight roses and bits of the other material in between to complete my crown. Here it is on the table.
9. And here I am feeling very festive in my crown of roses. ■



A HISTORY OF ROSALIA

Caracalla & Geta by Alma-Tedema

Darrell g.h. Schramm

As an imperial system, the Roman Empire existed for about 500 years, roughly from 23 BCE to 476 CE., an empire much given to celebrations. Its citizens celebrated Lupercalia, Saturnalia, Vestalia,

Vulcanalia, Hilaria, Floralia, and at least a dozen more. Floralia, even earlier than the imperial government, held annually since 173 BCE from April 28 to May 3, was a fête of fertility in the name of Flora, goddess of flowers. Wearing rose garlands on their heads, celebrants indulged in licentious behavior and general sexual freedom. Around 50 BCE Lucretius wrote of festivals in which the streets were strewn with white rose petals.

As for Rosalia, the earliest documents we have of this rose festival occur during the tyrant Domitian's rule (81–96 CE). At least 24 Latin writings referring to Rosalia have been found in northern Italy, and another ten are from the Italian peninsula. Apparently it was quite popular. And as recent as 1822, M. Bizard listed in his catalogue a Gallica rose named 'Rosalia'.

The Romans loved roses. At first they imported them from Egypt to supplement their desire for the flowers, but before long they were growing enough to put Egypt's supply to shame. Roses were a part of weddings, during which the bridegroom wore a crown of roses, sometimes intertwined with violets. The Latin phrase "in the roses and violets" meant that one was experiencing the pleasure principle. Rose garlands and rose wreaths symbolized not only beauty but also the brevity of life. *Carpe diem*: enjoy the day while you can, seize it, "gather ye rosebuds while ye may."

Roses also signified rebirth, rejuvenation, and the memory of loved ones. Thus, while Rosalia celebrated both the joy and brevity of life, it also became a commemoration of the dead, a memorial day in which the custom gradually developed of laying flowers, especially roses, on tombs and graves, an ancient tradition carried into our own times. Roses were also planted at graves and mausoleums; even today in pioneer cemeteries we find roses planted at gravesites.

According to one Roman epitaph: "Here lies Optatus, a child ennobled by devotion: I pray that his ashes may be violets and roses, and I ask that the Earth, who is his mother now, be light upon him, for



Rose at grave of two Pulich children, Plymouth Cemetery, Calif.

the boy's life was a burden to no one." The remains of the deceased, this child, is with Mother Earth now, who will cause his ashes to become violets and roses. Rebirth, rejuvenation, the memory of a loved one.

Though Rosalia occurred on varying days in May, sometimes June, dependent on the blooming season of the region, it generally lasted three days, often from May 24 through the 26. Even the Roman army adorned its military standards with garlands of roses in May, calling their rose jubilation *Rosaliae Signorum*.

Vases of rose bouquets, rose petals scattered on floors and tables as well as outdoors, rose wreaths, rose chaplets, and rose garlands adorned happy celebrants and festival sites. Roses were given or exchanged in memory, in friendship, for birthdays, for love. For a day or more the world was roses roses roses. ■

Rosalia—The Latest Information and an Appeal for Volunteers

Our work on creating Rosalia has come a long way, and we want to share more of the details of this promising event to revel in the peak of rose bloom.

ENGULFED IN ROSES—ROSALIA IS ABOUT GIVING ROSE JOY

- 4000 square feet of Historic Roses
- Hanging from the rafters
- Clipped in hair, hanging from shoulders
- Roses, roses, roses, roses roses

THE ROSE ALTAR—ROSALIA IS ABOUT MEMORIALS

- Departed mentors of old roses recalled
- The Loved One—place a flower for a friend

A SALE OF RARE ROSES—SUPPORT FOR A GREAT COLLECTION

- From the Friends of Vintage Roses: rare gems
- From Alexander Gardens: Climbers, ramblers and tough companion plants
- From Burlington Roses: Choice selections from Burling Leong

BOOKS FOR THE ROSE-CURIOUS—A SALE OF OLD BOOKS AND MORE.

Sponsored by the Heritage Rose Foundation, Frances Grate and Denise Gilmer

- Deeply discounted publications from HRF
- Private library donations from 2 old rose fanatics
- JUNIOR DISCOUNTS—Under 30? Extra discounts for you.

DEMONSTRATIONS & TALKS

- Noon to 1pm Burling Leong: Propagating roses, slides & demo
- 1:30 to 2:30 pm: Cemetery roses—the Essence of Rosalia
- Anita Clevenger, Sacramento City Cemetery
- Sandy Frary and the Rose Brigade, Santa Rosa Cemetery
- Connie Stevens Hilker, Richmond Virginia's Hollywood Cemetery
- Gregg Lowery, collector and distributor of cemetery roses

VENUE NOTES

Be sure you are on our email list. In a few days we will be sharing information about the venue in Sebastopol, and about where to go, what to eat & drink, who to see and why Sebastopol is so wonderful!



Images on this and the following 2 pages are by the Pre-Raphaelite painter John William Waterhouse.



A Festival is Not a Flower Show!

VOLUNTEERING AND GIVING = ROSALIA

We are pushing the boundaries of traditional spring flower displays by choosing Rosalia as our theme. This ancient Roman festival was about doing, not about watching. In essence it was about adorning yourself and others with rose flowers, about smelling and holding and experiencing roses at the height of spring when nature reminds us of the cycle of life.

We invite you to the complete festival which has already begun and will continue in the weeks ahead up to May 18th, the culmination of rose joy.

We invite you to volunteer. And we NEED you to volunteer. There are hundreds of roses to be picked, processed and made ready to share with others. Chaplets and garlands, ropes and chains and curtains, chandeliers and obelisks—all these decorations are calling to you to join in on the fun.

So, here is a list of the jobs we need your help on, when they happen, and how much time is involved for a volunteer.

Please email to Gregg Lowery at curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org

Leave your full name, best email address and what job on what day you would like. Our crunch time will be the week leading up to the 18th, beginning Saturday, May 11th.

■ **ROSE SALE PLANT**

PREPARATION, Dirt

Days through 5/11 and weekdays by appointment with Gregg, at the garden, 3003 Pleasant Hill Road, Sebastopol. Inventorying, labeling, weeding, feeding and primping our beauties. 3 to 5 volunteers for a day or more.

■ **VASE GATHERING:**

We have already brought in donated and purchased vases but still remain short. In particular we





need larger vases, 12" to 18", approximately 30, clear glass, but we are open to offers. 1 or 2 volunteers, on your time.

■ **BOOK SALE:** Inventory, pricing, cleanup, signage, packing (all in advance), delivering to the hall and setup, as well as manning the booth for an hour or so on May 18th. Would love to give this to one person or two; Gregg is already working on it. 1 or 2 volunteers, now through May 18; on your time in Sebastopol.

■ **TRANSPORT OF MATERIALS** to

Wischeman Hall on Friday, May 17 and Saturday AM, May 18. Truck or van would be very helpful. 3 to 4 volunteers.

■ **FLOWER PICKING:** The creme de la creme of volunteer tasks. Thursday & Friday, May 16th & 17th in Sebastopol & Santa Rosa with Gregg. We will pick blooms in 3 or 4 gardens including the Friends garden. Locales and tools required will be shared with the group nearer to the date. We are NOT labeling individual flowers, but there will be some order in how stems are grouped. 6 to 10 volunteers with pruners & buckets.

■ **FLOWER ARRANGING:** Working with Pamela Temple and Jennifer McClendon we have hundreds of flowers to process and arrange in bouquets, as individual stems to give away, in clips and garlands and much more. Pamela has been working

on creating the props for flower holders, however she very much needs help. 3 to 4 volunteers on Dirt Days or by arrangement at home to assist now through May 12. 4 to 6 volunteers to help May 17 and May 18 at Wischemann Hall.

■ **SET UP AND BREAK DOWN:** May 17 and May 18th, Wischemann Hall. Set up tables and chairs, assist with canopies in plant sale area, help to move bouquets and rose decor into place, Our breakdown is particularly important as we have only 2 hours from the end of Rosalia to remove everything and clean the hall. 6 to 7 volunteers.

■ **SALES ASSISTANT** for payment processing. 1 volunteer, May 18 for 2 hours.

■ **AUDIO-VISUAL AID** for 1 hour on May 18th, 10 am to 11 am. 1 volunteer to set up projector.

■ **ADVERTISING** locally and in the Greater Bay Area. We have some really killer posters and business cards as handouts to get into places where folks can learn about Rosalia. This is for the extraverts in our ranks! 1 to 3 volunteers, as soon as possible.



Roses Matter: *Volunteers Help Volunteers*

Justin Klenow

On the morning of January 13th, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) opened its garden beds to The Friends of Vintage Roses for a pruning party. Our volunteer coordinator, Linda Perry, graciously provided coffee and donuts for us in the BAHA facilities. BAHA operates from The McCreary-Greer House, an early 20th Century Classic Revival House, and volunteers were given a hospitable tour of the interior. The carved wooden stairwell and other period details were delightful to see before the day's work began.



We gathered outside as the foggy morning brightened. Our curator Gregg Lowery gave a talk focused on healthy, organic soil culture and his philosophy on pruning roses. In short, Gregg's years of experience have indicated to him that feeding soil microorganisms, and adopting a lighter touch with the pruning shears, encourage healthy root development for roses. The BAHA members asked

some thoughtful questions as Gregg gave a pruning demonstration. Then he delegated groups of volunteers to various garden tasks.

Over the years, BAHA collected a lovely variety of heritage and modern roses, many of which were propagated from Miriam Wilkins' garden. One group passed a pair of beautiful, mature camellias to prune the mountainous 'Climbing Mademoiselle Cécile Brünner'. Many volunteers set to work on pruning a garden bed alongside the House which included the found Hybrid Perpetual "Grandmother's Hat." In this same area, cuttings were taken from plants, such as the Tea rose in commerce as 'Mme Berkeley'. A plant of 'Rose de Rescht', a Portland rose popular in shows for the Old Garden Rose category, was determined too large for its location, so its suckers were divided amongst us. I, too, carried home a small group of cuttings.

After much pruning and breaking down of rose canes for disposal, BAHA brought out an array of beverages and pizza, including a gluten-free option, for our lunch. New acquaintances were made, and old friends had a chance to catch up with one another. More work continued in the second half of the day. Gregg carefully pruned and moved an unidentified Pernetiana rose to a site with more sun exposure. I pruned the tall 'Mme Alfred Carrière,' a stalwart Tea-Noisette rose, with the help of a few other volunteers until a fountain-like form emerged at a more manageable height.

In the late afternoon, taskmaster Gregg put an end to the pruning after a surprising breadth of the garden had been tidied up. Some blue birds joined us as we packed away our supplies and protected our rose cuttings for the journey home. I appreciated the opportunity to join a gathering of fine people in readying the stately house's garden for its spring rejuvenation. BAHA and The Friends of Vintage Roses share an appreciation for preservation. I am grateful that the BAHAs of the world endeavor to do the complicated work of restoration instead of discarding things due to age and fashion. The importance of maintaining period pieces, in architecture and landscape, stands to enrich current and future generations. ■



Remarks by Donors

The importance of being earnest about roses, especially the preservation of roses, is shown in the words of some of our donors. We are grateful for their understanding of our needs and our fund-raising efforts. These efforts are vital and ongoing, so we invite you, if you haven't done so yet, to become a part of our enterprise, whether it is help on Dirt Days, to curate one or more roses, or to donate to our non-profit cause. This is what some of our donors have had to say about the work of The Friends of Vintage Roses.

I give in fond memory of my dear grandmother, Fleurette Michel Larson, who brought her love of gardens and roses to California from Melbourne, Australia, in 1919. She would know the value of this important effort.

—Linda Perry

I've dealt with Vintage Roses in years past, and preserving a rose [collection] with so many varieties that risk being lost forever is very special. Vintage Roses is a very special place.

—Kathleen Forchelli

I love roses. Gregg has given his heart to this [collection], and for a number of years now, Gregg's roses have filled my heart with joy.

—Machrina Blasdell

This is an important collection

—James Martin

Gregg's devotion for the survival of treasure roses is fantastic. He deserves the rose lovers' world help.

—Inés Diaz de Licandro

Great news. At the Ventura Co. Rose Society tonight, I made an announcement for TFoVR, and we raised \$55!! Folks were so kind and concerned. Please help to spread the word on this important mission of saving these beautiful one-of-a-kind Heritage roses! Let's all try to raise money for this!

—Holly Hagy

I donated because Gregg has done such a wonderful job thus far in saving the old roses; I want to see it continue.

—Katharina Pifari

My friend Justin works with the roses, and I appreciate your cause.

—Gary Istre

I so miss your shop but wish you well in your efforts to save the roses.

—Lisa Hallinan

I respect the work that Vintage does and has done for the preservation of roses.

—Carla Parker

I love & grow old roses, most of which were ordered as bare root from *Roses of Yesterday & Today* about 30 years ago. I still have many of their beautiful catalogs.

—Pamela Miller

I love what Gregg has done for roses.

—Charles Everett

It would be a shame if the roses disappeared.

—Elizabeth DeLaurentis

I wholeheartedly support this effort of love and hope for the future.

—Jennifer Krieg

I love the work you do and wish only that I could do more!

—Alexis Masters

Wonderful work you are doing. Let me know how I can help.

—Margaret Spaulding

Vintage Roses was one of my sources for old roses years ago. I appreciate this work and would like to be a part of it as one of the repositories for cold hardy OGR climbers and ramblers.

—Leon Ginenthal

I support Gregg's valiant efforts to save these wonderful, old garden roses for new generations.

—Maryanne Razzo

I believe strongly in saving these beautiful roses.

—Pamela Temple

If I could give a million, I would.

—Christopher Gon

ROSALIA

WHAT: a gathering of rose lovers, a discovery about roses, their history and how to grow them, a sale of rare roses and companion plants, an adornment with roses

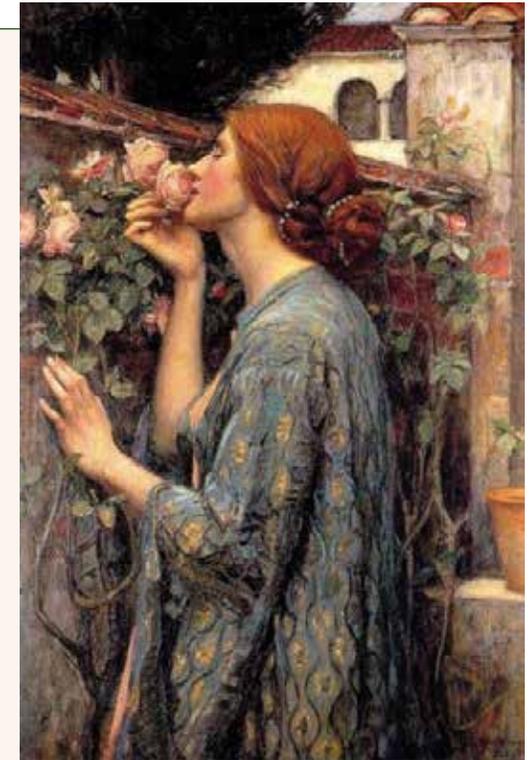
WHERE: Wischemann Hall, 465 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA 95472

WHEN: Saturday, May 18th from 11 am until 3:30 pm.

WHO: The Friends of Vintage Roses, a non-profit established to preserve an historic collection of several thousand roses, based in Sebastopol, CA, in Sonoma County, and sharing curatorship of the roses with preservation-minded individuals and groups across the United States.

- Contact: Gregg Lowery, Curator at curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org or info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org.
- Our website: thefriendsofvintageroses.org
- Post enquiries to The Friends of Vintage Roses, 3003 Pleasant Hill Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472

WHY: To aid in the work of the volunteers who maintain and help to preserve a great collection of old roses.



The Soul of the Rose

THE FRIENDS' ADOPT-A-ROSE PRESERVATION PROJECT

JOIN US IN PRESERVING A SINGLE ROSE

The Friends have a plan to share the wealth . . . and a bit of the responsibility, with individuals.

We are offering roses for volunteers to take home and adopt, permanently. These are roses currently in pots at our garden site in Sebastopol. At each Dirt Day volunteers may take home a rose to revive and bring back to beauty. In a quick survey of the 4000 or so pots we care for you'll notice a big bunch that are barely visible in the weeds that choke their pots. These are most in need of a foster parent, and we hope you will consider being one. Please note that we are not able to provide a specific rose variety you may wish to own; we do try to propagate roses from the collection to put in the hands of those who commit to preserving.

WHAT WE OFFER TO YOU

- These rose plants will be yours to keep, plant, or maintain in containers as you prefer.
- If you need advice on planting or caring for the roses, we'll do our best to answer your questions and guide you.
- If you should lose the plant, we're willing to assist you finding a replacement or in making one from cuttings.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

- Volunteer to help with our clean up and maintenance of the rose collection, both in pots and in the ground.
- Share cuttings back with us so that we can continue to help preserve that variety.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Vintage Roses exists to preserve and enhance the unique and extensive collection of historic roses developed by Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson, to establish the collection in a garden, and to share the collection with other public rose preservation efforts, all for the purpose of educating the public about the importance of the rose to human history, cultures, technology, and science.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Gregg Lowery, Curator & President
Carolyn Sanders, Membership
Darrell g.h. Schramm, Editor-in-Chief
Joan Olson, Layout Design Editor & Secretary
Steve Dunatov, Business Manager
Pamela Temple, Facebook Editor & Rambler Curator
Sue Bunte, Treasurer & Floribunda Curator
Susan Feichtmeier, Shrub & Hybrid Musk Curator
Linda Perry, Volunteer Coordinator

OTHER MEMBER POSITIONS:

John Bagnasco, Hybrid Tea Curator
Daniel Nauman, Pernetiana Curator
Bill Smith, Old European Rose Curator

CONTACT INFORMATION

General questions: info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org
Re: the rose collection: curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org
Re: donations: treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org
Volunteering: volunteercoordinator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org