

Dune Rose®



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHAMPTON ROSE SOCIETY—AN AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY AFFILIATE

President's Letter



Jim Berkrot

Dear Members,

I would like to begin my final letter for the season by announcing some changes to the Board. Hal Goldberg has decided to resign from the Board, and the SRS truly appreciates all of his hard work and endeavors for our organization. Hal was instrumental in creating the organic garden at the Southampton Cultural Center, as well as many other brilliant, successful ideas he implemented throughout his years of service. We will miss Hal's energy and creativity, and thank him for his

wonderful work on behalf of this organization. We are very grateful and pleased that Kim White has assumed the role of 1st Vice President and we look forward to her ideas, energy and experience. Kim holds positions on several other Boards, and as a resident of Southampton she shows a true passion for the mission of the SRS.

This past September we had two delightful and enlightening events. The annual garden party was hosted by Christl and Kenneth Meszkat at their beautiful home on Halsey Neck Lane. Their garden was simply breathtaking and there were many blooms to be enjoyed. The rose garden was still alive with color. Christl did an amazing job creating stunning flower arrangements using flowers from her own garden. Great people, delicious food and lively music enhanced the festive atmosphere. Thank you, Christl and Ken for your gracious hospitality.

Our luncheon/lecture was a terrific event, with Peter M. Krask as our guest lecturer. Peter is a renowned floral designer and the founder of PMK Floral Arts in NYC. Peter brought a unique, fascinating and cerebral perspective to floral arrangements, incorporating elements from both classical and modern fine art paintings. Much of his inspiration for creating his beautiful work is taken from those paintings. Peter uses elements of contrast, color, light, line and balance as basic principles to create his own fine works of art in floral arrangements. Thank you to Peter for creating such a special presentation. The Board is looking for another great lecturer for 2017, so please let us know if you have any ideas!

Speaking of the new year, we have more big and exciting events planned. The Annual Rose Show and Shopping Bazaar will be held on Saturday, June 17th at the Southampton Arts Center on Jobs Lane, so bring your most beautiful roses – anyone can enter! The Cocktail Party Fundraiser "Roses & Rosé" will take place on Saturday August 12th in the Estate Section, at the beautiful home of Kim White and Kurt

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The Southampton Rose Society, established in 1976, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization affiliated with the American Rose Society.

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The 2016 Luncheon/Lecture

This year's luncheon/lecture was a triple treat—we enjoyed an inspiring presentation by one of NYC's foremost floral designers, Peter M. Krask of PMK Floral Arts, plus we were treated to a truly delectable lunch (the best yet) which featured lobster salad with an entire lobster tail in each serving, and in addition it was a chance to get together as a group for the last time until spring. Here are a few highlights from Peter's talk.



Peter M. Krask & Jennifer Muench

Entitled *Creating Beauty*, Peter shared with us some insights into how he does just that in his floral design work. The paramount principle of working with color for Peter is that of simultaneous contrast, which means that any color changes in relation to the colors it is next to. To illustrate, Peter and his assistant, Jennifer Muench, gave out three different roses: Juliette (pale orange), Edith (peach) and White OHara, along with three hydrangeas, one with blue and green coloring, one blue and purple, and one that combined pistachio, cream and pink tones. As the audience passed the flowers around, everyone could see for themselves up close how the blush-colored hydrangea worked better with the peachy Edith than with the others. Pale orange Juliette set against the very blue/purple hydrangea looked very different than when it was placed next to the greener hydrangea.

Peter also showed some graphic examples of simultaneous contrast, with an image of a pink stripe crossing over horizontal black and white stripes. The pink took on an obviously different quality against the black stripes than against the white. Similarly, a pink rose displayed against a black background would look quite different than the same rose placed in front of a white background.

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LEFT: Diane Vahradian wins the President's Trophy. RIGHT: Members and guests at the Luncheon/Lecture.

The Members' Garden Party



Members enjoyed this year's Garden Party at the home of Christl and Kenneth Meszkat.

Luncheon/Lecture at the Meadow Club



THE 2016 LUNCHEON/LECTURE, *continued from page 2*

Peter also explored how we define beauty. For him, defining beauty involves answers to 6 questions, and considering them in relation to each other. They are: 1) *Purpose*—what are you doing and why? 2) *Craft*—how do you work, what are your tools, and how do you learn? Craft is how you implement your purpose. 3) *Color*, which can be the most complex relationship among flowers in a garden or an arrangement. 4) *Scale*, which is how we locate ourselves in an environment and includes the relationship of big to small, background to foreground. 5) *Who are you?* is an underlying question. When you create a rose garden or an arrangement of flowers from your

garden, you bring your own personality and sensibility to working with color. 6) *Inspiration* is the final element—think about what inspires you and what nourishes you. Peter finds inspiration in paintings and other expressions of visual arts. You may find your inspiration in music, or literature, or nature, or any of a myriad of sources. You just need to be open to it.

Peter's final message to us, and one worth remembering every day: Put yourself in the way of beauty, always.

Everyone went home with flowers that day, along with some fresh insights and much to think about. 🌹

From the Archives

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Southampton Rose Society this year, we are going to share bits of SRS history in this special feature in Dune Rose. The material we will share is courtesy of Lois Fowkes, an SRS founding member (and current member), past president and a judge for our 2015 Rose Show. Lois kept an album over the years which she has generously shared, and now in Dune Rose we are able to share excerpts with you.

Many thanks to Lois for sharing this window into SRS history!

In 1977 the Southampton Rose Society held its annual Rose Show on September 24—in fall—and in that year the *SRS Annual* (our newsletter) won the top award for an Annual from the American Rose Society. The Editor of the *SRS 1977 Annual* was Mrs. Joseph Scancarello (Lois Fowkes) and our President was Mrs. Richard A. (Dorothy) Nigro.

In the September issue of the *SRS Annual*, the role of fall garden cleanup in preventing black spot in the rose garden was considered. Conventional wisdom then, as now, favors cleaning up fallen leaves in the rose garden to lessen the chances of harboring black spot spores. In fact, the current American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian Manual advises that fall cleanup is critical. But in 1977 we published an article by the renowned Cynthia Wescott, titled “Fifty-Five Years of

Learning From Roses,” which expressed a different view. Ms. Wescott said that she never believed that cleaning up all the fallen autumn leaves had any effect on reducing black spot. She considered it an unnecessary chore that would only discourage people from growing roses. Ms. Wescott believed that if black spot is present in the garden there are probably lesions of the canes that went unnoticed and where the fungus would overwinter and infect the plants in spring. Fall leaves, she said, aren’t to blame. She believed the only sure cure for black spot was several summer sprayings.

Ms. Wescott also learned in 50+ years of growing roses that roses are tough and resilient, not fragile things that need to be pampered. She wrote that one hurricane felled a large cherry tree in her garden in New Jersey, but left her roses untouched. So take heart. Your roses are probably tougher than you think. 🌹



My Favorite Rose will be back in spring!

If you would be willing to share your experience with your favorite rose (or roses, if you can’t pick just one) with our members, please contact **Anne Halpin** by phone at:

631-728-7716 (please leave a message if no one is home)
or via email at ahalpinwhite@gmail.com.

Preparing Roses for Winter



Here is some sage advice from Peter Bertrand, the caretaker of all of the SRS rose gardens in Southampton, as well as many notable private gardens, on preparing the rose garden for winter:

1. Clean up the garden; remove old leaves, especially diseased ones, and dispose of them. Don't put them on the compost pile; put them out with the trash.
2. Don't fertilize in fall, so plants can harden before the weather turns cold. The last feeding should be in late August to early September. Water the garden if it's dry.
3. Fall is a good time to remove from the garden any weak roses that are not thriving, and to amend the soil with organic matter like composted leaves, to prepare for planting in the spring.
4. After two or three good frosts (often in November) stop deadheading if you haven't already, so you don't encourage new growth that would not have time to harden. Cut back tall bushes by 1/3, or approximately waist high, so winter winds, snow and ice don't damage the bush. This cut back does not require any technical pruning. Tie loose climber canes to supports.
5. When the ground freezes and bushes go dormant in mid-December, mound 6 to 8 inches of mulch or compost around the base of each plant to protect the bud union in winter. This will also help keep the soil from thawing and refreezing.
6. Set up a windscreen to protect hybrid teas. You can make a windscreen with sections of snow fence over which you fasten burlap. Surround the plants with the screening, or position it between the plants and the prevailing winds.
7. For standard (tree) roses: stake them securely in winter. In the Rogers Memorial Library Garden we have Julia Child and Sunsprite trees, both resilient varieties. Older varieties such as Brandy and Sea Shell aren't as hardy; such older varieties may need to be detached from their supports and laid down in a trench and buried for winter protection.
8. After the roses go dormant, in mid-December to early January apply a dormant oil spray to target overwintering insects and scales. This is best applied when temperatures are above freezing. 🌹

2017 Events Calendar

Southampton Rose Society Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Pruning and Planting Workshop with Peter Bertrand

Location: SRS Garden at
Rogers Memorial Library
91 Coopers Farm Road
Southampton, NY 11968

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Children's Mini Rose and Art Workshop with Peter Bertrand

Location: Rogers Memorial Library

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

41st Annual Rose Show (Includes Shopping Bazaar)

Location: The Southampton Arts Center
25 Jobs Lane
Southampton, NY 11968

TUESDAY, JULY 4

Southampton Fourth of July Parade

AUGUST

Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser: Roses & Rosé

Location: Garden of Kim White and
Kurt Wolfgruber

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 (Rain date: SEPT. 17)

Annual Members Garden Party

Location: Garden of Saki Mitchell

SEPTEMBER (Date to be determined)

Annual Members Meeting & Luncheon/Lecture

Location: The Meadow Club
11:00 am—Members Meeting
12:00 pm—Luncheon/Lecture



Horticultural Alliance of the Hamptons (HAH) Monthly Lectures

The HAH lectures take place on Sunday afternoons at 2 pm in the Bridgehampton Community Center on Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton

JANUARY 8

Betsy Pinover Schiff, *The Sidewalk Gardens of New York*

FEBRUARY 12

Mary Woltz, *Meeting the Bees' Needs*

MARCH 12

Alex Feleppa, *The Living Landscape of LongHouse Reserve*

APRIL 9

Larry Weaner, *Lawn Alternatives: Creating a Successful Groundcover*

MAY 7

Ruth Rogers Clausen, *Essential Deer Resistant Perennials for Outstanding Gardens*

JUNE 11

Edwina von Gal, *Perfect Earth Project*

Long Island Rose Society Events

*The Long Island Rose Society holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 pm from March to December. Meetings are held at the Plainview/Old Bethpage Public Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview. The **Annual Rose Show** takes place in June at the Planting Fields Arboretum. For information visit: longislandroses.org.*



PRESIDENT'S LETTER, *continued from page 1*

Wolfgruber. Sean Bruns, owner of Old Town Crossing, is the event Chair. Sean is a highly experienced event planner with a keen eye for beauty. The fundraiser is our most important financial event and promises to be a glittering affair. Please mark your calendars for both events. The Annual Garden Party will be on September 10th at the home of Saki Mitchell. Her home is located on the water, in a private promontory in the Estate Section. We look forward to seeing her beautiful garden. A full schedule of 2017 events with dates will be released later this winter.

We did not have a fundraiser in 2016, so I would also like to thank all of those who donated money as a result of the Financial Appeal Letter sent out in November. We raised several thousand dollars, which will certainly be put to good use in funding our gardens around the Village. Thank you for your generosity!

I would like to personally wish each and every one of you a happy Holiday Season filled with good health, warmth and joy. See you in the spring!

Jim

Jim Berkrot
PRESIDENT, Southampton Rose Society