



Dune Rose[®]



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

Celebrating 50 Years of Roses in Southampton

Dear Members and Friends,

With the return of longer days and the first signs of spring, we are delighted to welcome you to a very special season—the 50th anniversary of the Southampton Rose Society. As our gardens awaken, we look forward to a year that celebrates both our shared history and the beauty ahead.

We begin on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM with Peter Bertrand's hands-on Pruning and Planting Session in the SRS Rose Garden adjacent to the Rogers Memorial Library. This longstanding tradition—rain or shine—remains a favorite way to reconnect with our gardens and one another.

Our Children's Mini Rose and Art Workshop will follow, continuing our mission to inspire the next generation of rose enthusiasts. Their enthusiasm is a wonderful reminder the future of roses is in very good hands.

A highlight of this milestone year will be our 50th Anniversary Rose Show Weekend, June 12–13. Friday's Fifth Annual Rose Day invites Southampton merchants to create rose-inspired storefront displays, with awards presented during Saturday's Rose Show. New trophies and categories will mark this anniversary—please visit southamptonrose.org for details.

We are also pleased to present our Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser, the Golden Rose Gala, on Saturday, August 8 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, set within the gardens of an historic Stanford White estate on Lake Agawam in Southampton. Proceeds from this elegant evening support our five public rose gardens and educational programs.

I encourage you to visit the Southampton Rose Society Library Rose Garden—the largest public rose garden on Long Island and one of our community's hidden treasures. Here, you'll find yourself among true “celebrities,” as the rose is our National Flower, New York State Flower, and the official flower of Southampton Village.

For 50 years, the Southampton Rose Society has thrived because of members like you. Thank you for being part of this remarkable community.

I look forward to seeing you throughout this golden season.

Warm regards,

JIM BERKROT

President, Southampton Rose Society

1

President's Letter

2

Board of Directors

*2026 Rose Guardian
Angels*

*Rose Garden Brick
Program*

*Pruning and Planting
Session*

3

*Celebrating 50 Years
of Leadership*

Events Calendar

4–5

*SRS's Golden
Anniversary*

6–7

*SRS's Golden
Anniversary (cont'd)*

*50 Years of Leadership
(cont'd)*

*2026 Southampton
Rose Show*

2025 SRS BOARD MEMBERS*President*

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Second Vice President

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Dune Rose Chair

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Education Chair

Peter Bertrand

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Helga Dawn

(Pres. Emer. 2020)

Carole Guest

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Lyn Hamer

Huguette Hersch

Jane Indoe

(Pres. Emer. 2004–2005)

Carol Kroupa

(Pres. Emer. 2009–2011)

Christl Meszkat

Nancy Rollins

Jane Rose

Kim White

(Pres. Emer. 2018–2019)

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

Dune Rose is the newsletter of the Southampton Rose Society, which is published in Spring, Summer and Fall/Winter.

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Southampton Rose Society

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Southampton Rose Society News

2026 ROSE GUARDIAN ANGELS

WE ARE honored and fortunate to have sponsorship for five SRS rose gardens for our 50th anniversary, as listed below. The Garden at Agawam Park garden is available. Please consider becoming a Guardian Angel. To find out more visit our website <https://southamptonrose.org>

Sincere thanks to this year's Rose Guardian Angels!

Rogers Memorial Library Rose Garden Christl Meszkat

Garden off Hampton Road Alixandra Baker

Shippy's Garden Audrey Gruss

Southampton Cultural Center Carole Guest

Garden by Agawam Park Available

ROSE GARDEN BRICK PROGRAM

IN 2003, the Southampton Rose Society designed, built and dedicated the magnificent SRS Rose Garden at the Rogers Memorial Library to the Village and people of Southampton. Each year, people from all over the world visit the garden to enjoy its visual and fragrant beauty. Many of the bricks in the paths around the garden are inscribed as tributes to a loved one's birthday, anniversary, to honor their memory. The cost of inscribing a brick is \$250. We encourage all to dedicate a brick! Order forms can be found on our website. <https://southamptonrose.org/brick-order-form/>.

SRS Rose Planting and Pruning Session with Rosarian Peter Bertrand

Rogers Memorial Library Rose Garden

Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 10 am to 12 pm

PLEASE join the Southampton Rose Society as it hosts its annual Rose Planting and Pruning Session to welcome spring and jumpstart its event season. Noted rosarian Peter Bertrand will demonstrate the fundamentals of planting and pruning a variety of rose bushes, including climbers, on the grounds of the Rogers Memorial Library in the Rose Garden on Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 10am to 12pm.

Peter will also discuss fertilization, soil management, proper watering techniques, and happily answer any rose-related questions. No registration is required for this ever-popular, hands-on session created to make rose gardening accessible for all. Take-home instructional pamphlets will be given to all participants.

The rose is the official flower of the United States, New York State, and our beloved Southampton Village. The Southampton Rose Society (SRS) is a not-for-profit chari-



table organization, affiliated with the American Rose Society. Now in its 50th year as a local organization, the Southampton Rose Society has six public gardens in Southampton that are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. All donations are tax-deductible, and all proceeds go towards maintaining our public gardens and community programs

For more information about the Southampton Rose Society, visit southamptonrose.org. 🌱

Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership

Presidents of the Southampton Rose Society

FOUNDED in 1976 in Southampton, New York, the Southampton Rose Society was established as the first New York State chapter of the American Rose Society. For nearly five decades, the Society has promoted the beauty, cultivation, and appreciation of roses across the East End of Long Island.

The organization's success is due in large part to the dedication and vision of the volunteer presidents who have guided the Society's rose shows, educational programs, public gardens, and community outreach. We gratefully recognize the individuals who have served in this leadership role.

SEE A *Roster* OF
SRS DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENTS ON PAGE 7

→ 2026 ← SRS Events Calendar

Planting & Pruning Session
APRIL 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Rogers Memorial Library
Attending: Jim Berkrot, Lisa Vahradian,
Cornelia Bostwick

Children's Workshop
MAY 8, 2026 | 3:00–6:00 PM

Rogers Memorial Library
Coordinators: Lisa Vahradian,
Cornelia Bostwick

Southampton Rose Day
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026

Shops design rose-themed windows in the Village.
Awards presented at the SRS Rose Show

Rose Show
JUNE 13, 2026

**50th Anniversary
Fundraiser**

Golden Rose Gala
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 | TIME: 5:00–8:00 PM



Southampton Rose Society's Golden Anniversary

Official Flower of Southampton Village
Our National Emblem is a Boundless Beauty

THE rose may be America's national flower, but on the East End it's the Southampton Rose Society that cultivates this iconic bloom to breathtaking glory—for our 50th anniversary year, we're pruning, planting, and showing it to dazzling new heights.

Founded right here in 1976, the SRS has spent half a century beautifying Southampton's streets, parks, and historic sites with roses that echo President Ronald Reagan's 1986 proclamation of the rose as our timeless symbol of love, beauty, and devotion, much like George Washington's devotion to rose breeding as our founding father.

Long before SRS volunteers were deadheading in Southampton, New York schoolchildren were already campaigning for the rose as their emblem. They voted for it as early as 1890, but Albany took another 65 years to make it official in 1955, finally choosing a flower as comfortable on a Brooklyn stoop as on an Adirondack fencepost. The rose went on to become the emblem of both the state and New York City, a rare case of government getting its poetry exactly right and giving New Yorkers a symbol that is both classic and, like the state itself, undeniably tough.



Past rose show tables

AUG 16 1976 AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY APPLICATION for CHAPTERS, AFFILIATED CLUBS AND ASSOCIATED CLUBS

Please check the classification for which your group is applying: Chapter Affiliated Club Associated Club

Full official name of organization: SOUTHAMPTON ROSE SOCIETY

Date of founding JULY 1976 How often are your officers elected YEARLY

What month are your officers elected OCTOBER

If you have a regular meeting place give full address PARRISH MEMORIAL HALL, LEWIS STREET, SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. 11968

Do you publish a bulletin WE PLAN TO give title _____

Is membership limited in any way YES If so, how ONLY TO ARS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, OTHERWISE OPEN

What is your total club membership now 25 Now many individuals are 7 ARS members 18 How many families hold at least one regular ARS membership 85

Please enclose a complete roster of your total club membership as it stands presently. Be sure to indicate which of your members are also } ARS members.

Important addresses needed for ARS files: Southampton Rose Society P.O. Box 1022 Southampton, New York 11968

President: Mrs. Richard Nigro (Dorothy) Secretary: Mrs. Eleanor Johnson

Address 20 Fair Lane Road Address 76 Captain's Neck Lane

City SOUTHAMPTON City SOUTHAMPTON

State NEW YORK Zip Code 11968 State New York Zip Code 11968

Date AUGUST 11, 1976 Signature Dorothy Nigro

Title President

50 Years of Roses on Shinnecock Homelands

The Southampton Rose Society was born in 1976 when local gardeners persuaded Dorothy Nigro—then a rose novice—to lead the effort, creating the first American Rose Society chapter in NYS. These lands, ancestral homelands of the Shinnecock Nation, have long honored seasonal blossoms through ceremonies like the “Feast of the Moon of the Flowers.” Most roses bloom from late spring through early fall in temperate zones like ours, but in warmer Southern California or equatorial regions, they can flower year-round, with repeat bloomers producing cycles from March to October.



**Iconic SRS Milestones:
From Pink Ribbons to Rose Lane**

SRS history sparkles with community tales. In 2003, president Harvey Feinstein convinced Rogers Memorial Library trustees to swap paving for the SRS Rose Garden; Helga Dawn and Adeline Christie then debuted their design under

a “Think Pink!” theme with C.Z. Guest cutting pink satin ribbons amid cheers. The Southampton Rose Society now stewards six public gardens, each sustained annually by devoted Guardian Angel donors. Most recently in 2025, the Peter Marino Art Foundation generously assumed care of its public rose garden for the SRS, dedicating it to the people of Southampton Village—and transforming everyday corners into fragrant declarations that this is, unapologetically, a rose town.

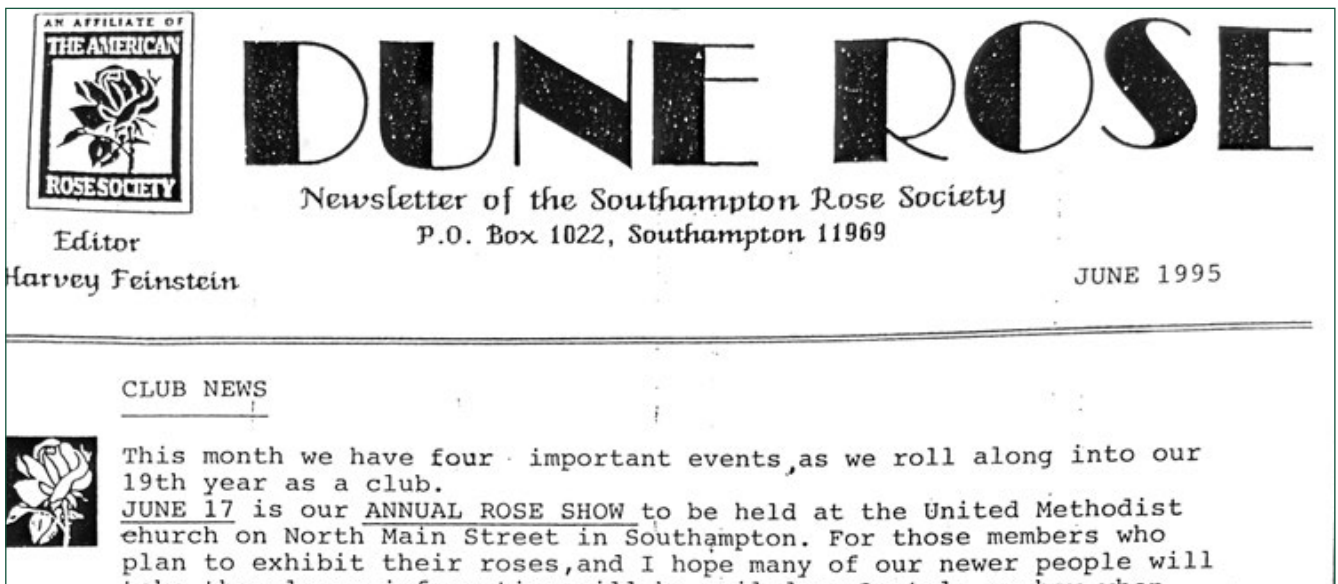
Southampton Rose Day, held one day before the rose show, transforms local stores’ windows into enchanting rose-themed displays. This spirited competition crowns the best entry, blending village charm with floral exuberance.

**Shipwrecks, Beach Roses,
and East End Legends**

No East End rose story tops the “Shipwreck Rose:” In 1842, the French ship Louis Philippe wrecked off East Hampton, washing ashore ‘Celsiana’ roses that villagers propagated as hardy survivors, blending maritime drama with garden legacy.

Do you know of any? Please let us know, or post your photo to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

continued on page 6



Dune Rose Issue 1995



Then of course, there are our ubiquitous beach roses (*Rosa rugosa*), planted for sand dune stabilization since the 1880s and now perfuming Hamptons shores with salt-tolerant blooms and hips. They are invasive; these spreaders spark ongoing debate among coastal gardeners! But the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) takes modern institutional credit for their value highlighting rugosas in fact sheets and then releasing the cultivar ‘Sandy’ in 1992 for just that purpose (via Cape Cod National Seashore collaboration).

For sheer scale of size compared to gigantic dune roses, though, nothing beats the world’s largest rose bush—a 141-year-old *Rosa banksiae* in Tombstone, Arizona, that spans 9000 square feet with a 12-foot trunk circumference.

Long Island is flush with rose ‘proving grounds’ testing their mettle in East End soil, salt air, and climate—much like how Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s Cranford Rose Garden trials thousands of bushes. Three nearby are Old Westbury Gardens’ formal parterres, Sands Point Preserve’s 1500 red roses and Madoo Conservancy’s painterly mixes in Sagaponack. Against that distinguished backdrop, Southampton’s public rose beds hold their own,

offering something distinctly local: roses woven into an old but vibrant village, its library walks, restaurant fronts, village parades and so many very personal private gardens.

Taken together, these events stitch SRS’s 50 years into Southampton’s larger tapestry—from Shinnecock renewal rites to shipwreck legends and dune thickets, from Albany’s choice of a state flower to the Village Board of Trustees’ vote under Mayor Cecilia W. Tunney in the early 2000s that made the rose Southampton’s own emblem. In true New York fashion, the story is bold, a little improbable, and utterly devoted to beauty—proving that our National Floral Emblem is also our local heartbeat, kept alive one rose at a time. 🌹



Dorothy Nigro in 1978; "King of Show" winner

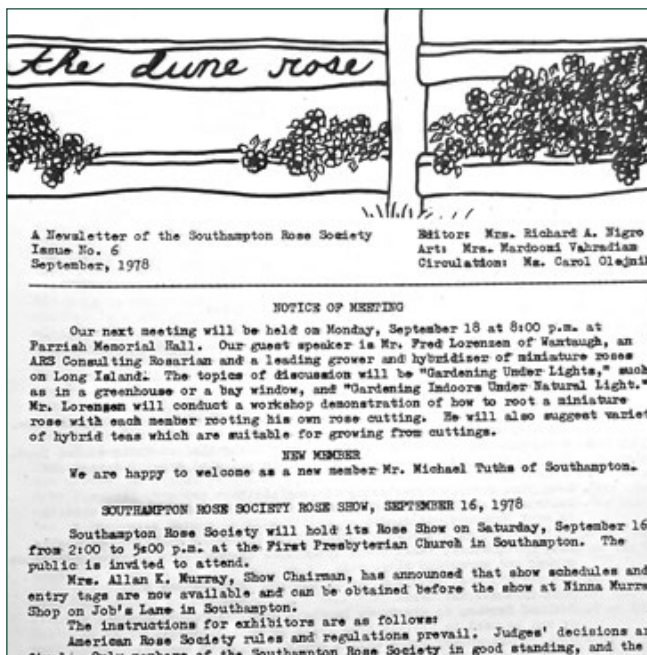
PAST PRESIDENTS

1976–1978 — Dorothy Nigro
1979 — Lois Scancarello Fowkes
1980–1981 — Maureen Oser Matthews
1982–1983 — Madelle Semerjian
1984–1985 — Pauline Sullivan
1986–1987 — Dee DeNiff
1988–1989 — Nancy Stone
1990–1992 — Brenda Baldwin
1992–1997 — Harvey Feinstein
1998–1999 — Roberta Liford
2000–2001 — Cynthia Brodsky
2002–2003 — Spencer Dworkin
2004–2005 — Jane Indoe
2006–2007 — Adeline Christie
2008 — Dennis P. Sheahan
2009–2011 — Carol Kroupa

RECENT PRESIDENTS

2012–2013 — Hal Goldberg
2018–2019 — Kim White (*President Emeritus*)
2020 — Helga Dawn
2023–Present — Jim Berkrot

With appreciation to all past presidents whose leadership and dedication helped cultivate the Southampton Rose Society and sustain its traditions for nearly 50 years. 🌱



Dune Rose Issue 1978

2026 Southampton Rose Show

June Art Exhibition
at the Rogers Memorial Library

CELEBRATING its 50th anniversary, The Southampton Rose Society will revive one of its earliest and most exciting traditions - an art show of roses with art created exclusively by members only.

We'll feature members' paintings and photos in the Madelle Hegeler Semerjian Gallery at the Rogers Memorial library.

Your art must be framed and ready to be hung.

GUIDELINES:

- Art work must be original paintings or photos of roses or rose gardens.
- Must be no larger than 24 by 24 inches.
- Must be displayed in a wooden or metal frame.
- Must be wired or have brackets on the back of frame to work with the hanging system at the library.
- Must be submitted with the artist/photographer name and AND a title for the piece.
- Please note that submissions are limited to SRS members for consideration this year.

For more information, see the Southampton Rose Society website at southamptonrose.org or via email at sh.rosesociety@icloud.com.

Southampton Rose Society
P.O. Box 1022
Southampton, NY 11969-1022

