

Old Rosers' Digest

Spring-Summer
2024

Biannual Bulletin for the Heritage Roses Group Bay Area

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Old Rosers' Digest
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<https://www.celebrationofoldroses.org/>

Remember to check your email subject line and renew your subscription and membership before it expires!

A Message from Our
Convener: Recent
happenings (page 2)



Rosa "Madame Antoine Mari"

From the Editor: Rugosa
Hybrids (page 5)

Celebration Planning Meeting

Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Albany, CA
See details on page 4

Old Pink Moss by Don
Gers (page 8)

San Mateo County Rose Society Talk featuring Kristina Osborn

Thursday, April 25, 2024 starting from 11 a.m. at San Mateo, CA
See details on page 4

Members' Questions:
Thoughts from Our
Readers (page 15)



A Message from Our Convener

by Kristina Osborn, Convener, HRGBA

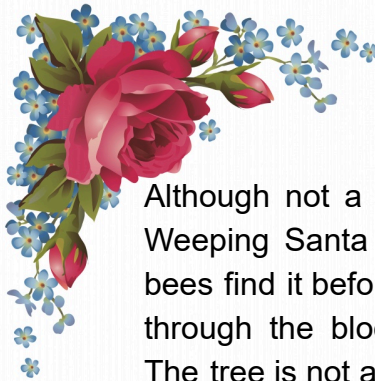
Hello rose friends,

What a whirlwind these past few months have been. When I retired, I looked forward to spending time working in my garden every day. How wonderful that would be. My thoughts did not include days and days of rain! My plants love it, but so do the weeds. And guess who is winning!

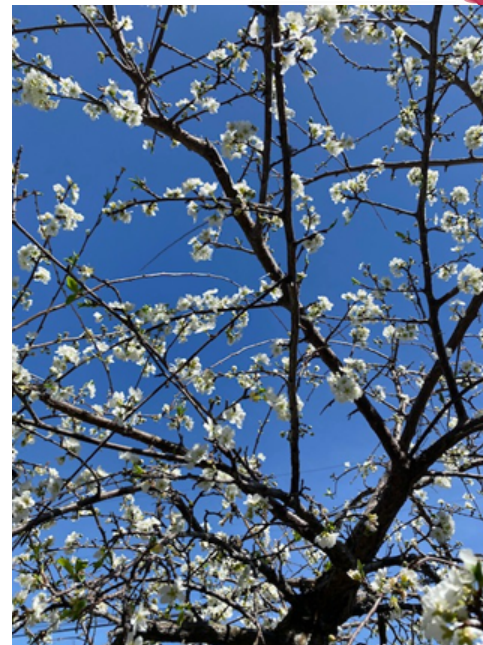
Slowly, my roses are getting weeded, pruned and fed. I did not meet the mid-February deadline, but the roses don't seem to mind too much. Mme Alfred Carriere is an amazing noisette bred in France in 1875 by Joseph Schwartz. In my garden it grows to over 15 feet and is never without a blossom. The gorgeous voluptuous blossoms have such a lovely fragrance. February is when I usually prune it and each year I am able to collect enough blossoms to completely fill a vase. I have just learned that this rose does not like to be pruned and this concerns me because I usually prune it back each year by at least one-third (It might try to take over the neighborhood if I didn't!). It has been in this spot in my garden for at least 15 years and appears to be thriving. Sigh! Although the pruning of this rose is done for this year, I now have a dilemma for next year. I am open for any advice or guidance on how best to go forward with this rose.



Every year I set up a competition in my garden. The first rose to show a new blossom in the spring receives the prize of accolades. Silly, but it is such fun to find the first blossom of the year. This year the award went to Jay's Hudson Crimson, also called Jay's Hudson Perpetual. This found rose is a beautiful hybrid perpetual that Jay Williams found in Oakland. There are some who believe that this is the same rose that was found in Novato, CA and was named Old Town Novato. The form is full and lovely and the fragrance is intense. This rose gives me blooms throughout the year, but the biggest flush is in the spring. I highly recommend it for every garden.



Although not a rose, I just had to share a picture of my Weeping Santa Rosa Plum in full bloom. Hoping that the bees find it before it rains again. Two years ago it rained all through the blooming season and I didn't get one plum! The tree is not a heavy producer, but I get enough plums to make two batches of very tasty plum jam. I also have a dwarf peach tree and two cherry trees. I have to admit that I am not above using a small paint brush to help the bees with the pollination. Not certain this brushing really works, but it makes me feel useful. Unfortunately, the squirrels usually get to the fruit before I do. Last year I draped a huge netting around the cherry trees to keep the squirrels away. Feeling pleased with myself, I walked out one day to discover two very happy Steller's jays who had found their way into the netting. They were chattering away and eating every cherry they could find. Although annoyed, they quickly found their way out of the netting when I screamed at them. Sometimes I wonder why I bother!



It is with sadness that I share with you the passing of Patty Britton from a sudden illness on October 10, 2023. She was a longtime member of HRGBA and actively participated in the Celebration of Old Roses every year. She attended every member's meeting and all of the field trips. Although shy and not eager for recognition, she was always ready to help whenever the need arose. This picture of Patty was taken last May in Miriam's garden. Each year, a few days before the Celebration, Miriam's family allows us to collect roses from the garden for the Celebration displays. That is always a special day that we look forward to each year. We will remember Patty's smile and quiet enthusiasm. She will be missed.

I am thrilled to report that our membership is growing by leaps and bounds. The HRGBA membership is almost triple what it was three years ago! We are so happy for the energy and ideas that new members bring. Additionally, many of the new members have stepped up to be a part of the planning and managing of our events and activities. It will be exciting to see where this new energy manifests itself in our Celebration and other events.



Mark your calendars: **The Celebration of Old Roses** will be open to the public on Sunday, May 19, 2024, rain or shine! This is such a fun event and every year more people attend. But it is also a lot of work to pull together, both before and during the event. If you would like to participate in the fun of making this day special, please consider attending our Celebration Planning meeting on April 6 to share ideas and sign up for a fun activity. Just a reminder that all members who volunteer to work at the Celebration are invited to take a free rose plant from Miriam's Corner. See details for the meeting in this newsletter. If you would like to participate, but cannot attend the meeting, please contact me by phone/text: **510-542-7149** or email: kmosborn@earthlink.net.



Old Rosers' Calendar

Celebration Planning meeting: Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All members are welcome! We will catch-up briefly and then organize the activities and duties for the 2024 event. We especially appreciate comments from new members who bring fresh eyes and fresh ideas. This is an opportunity for members to sign up for fun duties such as *"running the roses," selling rose plants in Miriam's Corner, greeting visitors at the Members/Information table, organizing the Photo Booth, helping with organizing the Raffle Table, and, of course, set-up and clean-up.* Per tradition, people are invited to bring to the meeting a snack to share and we will have a mini raffle. We will meet at Kristina Osborn's home, **818 Adams St., Albany, CA 94706**. There will be time to wander the garden and afterwards we usually go for lunch at a restaurant on Solano Avenue. Please email or text if you can join us for this meeting so that we have an idea of how many will be joining us: kmosborn@earthlink.net or **510-542-7149**.

San Mateo County Rose Society Guest Lecture: Thursday, April 25, 2024 starting at 11 a.m. Kristina will be partnering with the San Mateo County Rose Society this April with a guest lecture titled *"History of the Rose: From Dinosaurs to Today."* The meeting will be held in the **Rose Room** at the **San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA 94403**.

Celebration of Old Roses 2024: Sunday, May 19, 2024 from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mark your calendars as this event is not to be missed. **Roses, roses, everywhere!** See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details. If you would like to be part of the exciting event and volunteer to help that day please contact Kristina Osborn: 510-542-7149 or <mailto:kmosborn@earthlink.net>. For more information, visit www.celebrationofoldroses.org.



Filoli Gardens: A visit to this lovely garden is being planned for spring 2024, so stay tuned!

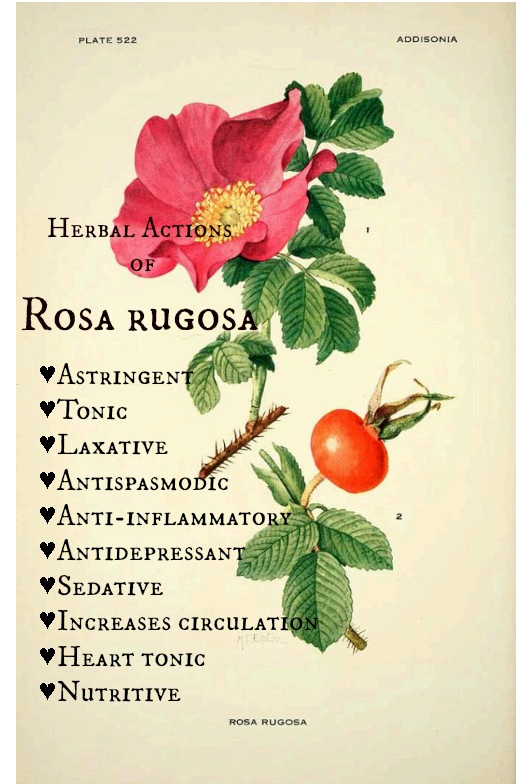
Dirt Days in Sebastopol: Located in Sebastopol, California, the Friends of Vintage Roses (TFoVR) hosts one of the most extensive old rose gardens in the world. Check out their website <https://thefriendsofvintageroses.org/> for volunteer opportunities if you want to work and spend some time in a glorious rose garden! It is so special to work side-by-side with other garden volunteers to help preserve the Friends of Vintage Roses collection. This is always fun and educational. For more information contact Gregg Lowery at volunteercoordinator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org if you are interested in participating.

San Jose Heritage Rose Garden maintenance: Every Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Trimming, weeding, mulching, repairing irrigation and then planting in December. Join a friendly group on any Saturday and help maintain a wonderful old rose collection!

Rugosa Hybrids by Yvonne Liu, Editor

2024 - this is going to be my second spring as a serious, dedicated rose gardener. Many of my roses have gotten bigger from when I started out. I can hardly contain my excitement. Out of my 100-something roses, the Rugosas are the first ones to bloom.

I happened upon *Rosa rugosa* as I was researching what roses to plant around our cabin near Bear Valley, CA. The elevation is 7,000 ft and it is covered in snow from November to May. I read that Rugosas are native to Japan (my son Jerry later informed me that they are actually native to China, where they are endangered, but have become invasive in many other parts of the world). They can be found growing along the beaches of Hokkaido. They are hardy up to zone 3, so I went ahead and started looking for Rugosas.



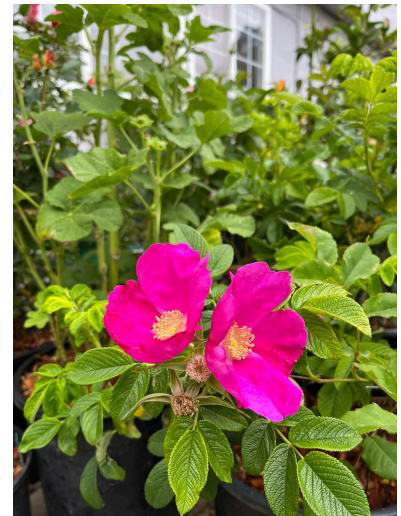
I now have four Rugosa roses here in my home in Foster City. I still have not planted one in Bear Valley yet:



Frau Dagmar Hastrup (left) - a light pink, single; purchased from Edmund's Roses online.

Double Blanc de Coubert - white and huge (more than 10 cm), purchased from Trifilio Garden Center in Murphys, CA. No picture, sorry - it's not in bloom right now!

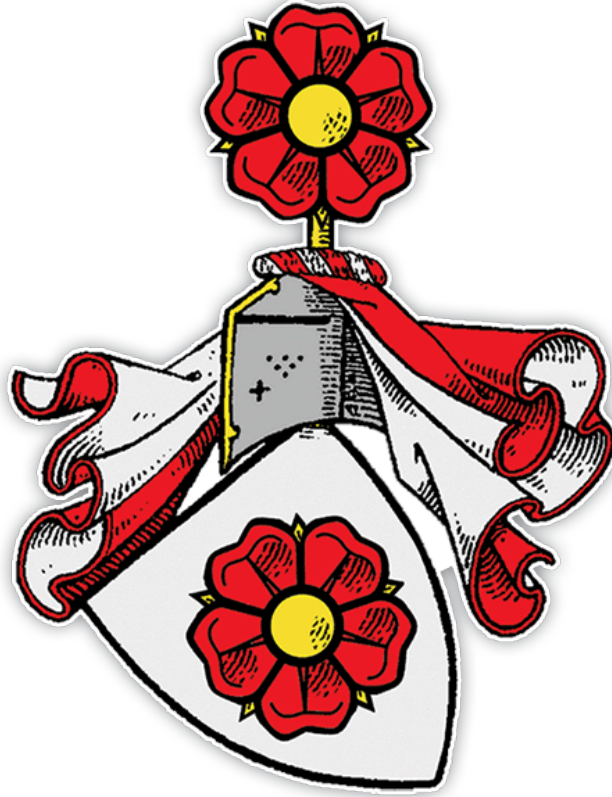
Wild Berry Breeze (right) - fuchsia, single, gifted by a fellow member of the San Mateo County Rose Society. This is my favorite.



Therese Bugnet (left) - double, magenta, magnificent, large blooms, purchased from Home Depot. Really glorious blooms, too bad it only had one flush. Hope for a better performance this season. I have a suspicion that this one is also known as 平陰玫瑰 (píng yīn méiguī) in Chinese, though I have no concrete support.

The *R. rugosa* hybrids are all extremely disease resistant. I don't see them being plagued by mildew, rust, or black spots. The leaves look like raspberry leaves, are chartreuse, and are basically always in perfect shape. All the Rugosa roses are intensely fragrant, the only drawback is that the flowers do not last long. Two days at the most.

When I visited Cesky Krumlov, a medieval town in the Czech Republic, I learned that the noble family, who ruled the town for 300 years (1303-1603) had a coat-of-arms as the five-petaled rose, just like the Rugosa. Isn't that fascinating?



Please write back to the Editor at yvonneliu@hotmail.com: Which Rugosa rose do you like?
I'd love to hear your thoughts!



Old Pink Moss by Don Gers



It was a foggy May morning...



Waiting for the sun to break through.





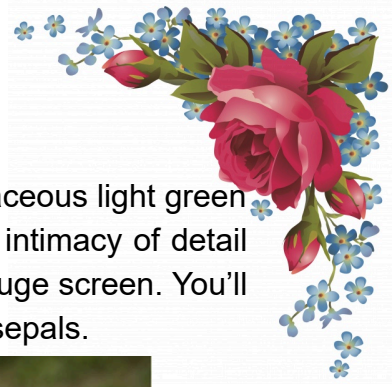
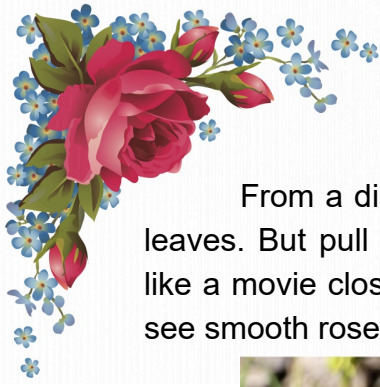
What lovely new blossoms would greet me today...



Surprise! Instead, these bejeweled buds.

...of the Old Pink Moss.





From a distance, this rose is simply pink flowers sprinkled among foliaceous light green leaves. But pull up a chair, sit within its embrace, and you'll experience an intimacy of detail like a movie close-up when the camera moves in and a face totally fills the huge screen. You'll see smooth rose-pink petals peeking through the soft green bower of mossy sepals.



A profile view of the bud reveals how gracefully the sepals undulate beyond the petal tips and also the contrasting character of the "moss" - clipped and compact on the sepal surface, but filamentous and branching along the edges. The silhouette of an individual sepal looks like a miniature conifer or some spruce-like tree.



Bejeweling the whole are myriad minute red spheres of fragrant resin which also cover the edge and lower surface of the leaves along the veins.



Just as there are various forms of moss expressed in nature, so are there fascinating varieties among old roses. Moss can cover the canes as it does so exquisitely on 'Mousseux du Japon' (in the middle on the left in the photo below) or be a mass of resinous, red beads completely covering the flower bud as it does on 'Chapeau de Napoleon' (in the middle on the right in the photo below). Also known as 'Crested Moss' for the green gland-covered, moss-like filaments at the top of the bud in the fanciful form of a French tricorne hat.



'Laneii' buds are covered with a more natural moss-like texture (as in the middle on the left), and 'Andrewsii' or 'Muscosa Simplex,' the single moss rose, has sepals that are simpler and discreetly mossed in keeping with its single flower petals. In winter, the 'Old Pink Moss' is a mass of very prickly and leafless canes (top, center photo below).



The 'Old Pink Moss' was a favorite early American rose, so well-known that even *Rosa nitida*, a wild species of New England rose whose bare winter canes were identical to the 'Old Pink Moss,' was commonly known as the "moss rose," too.

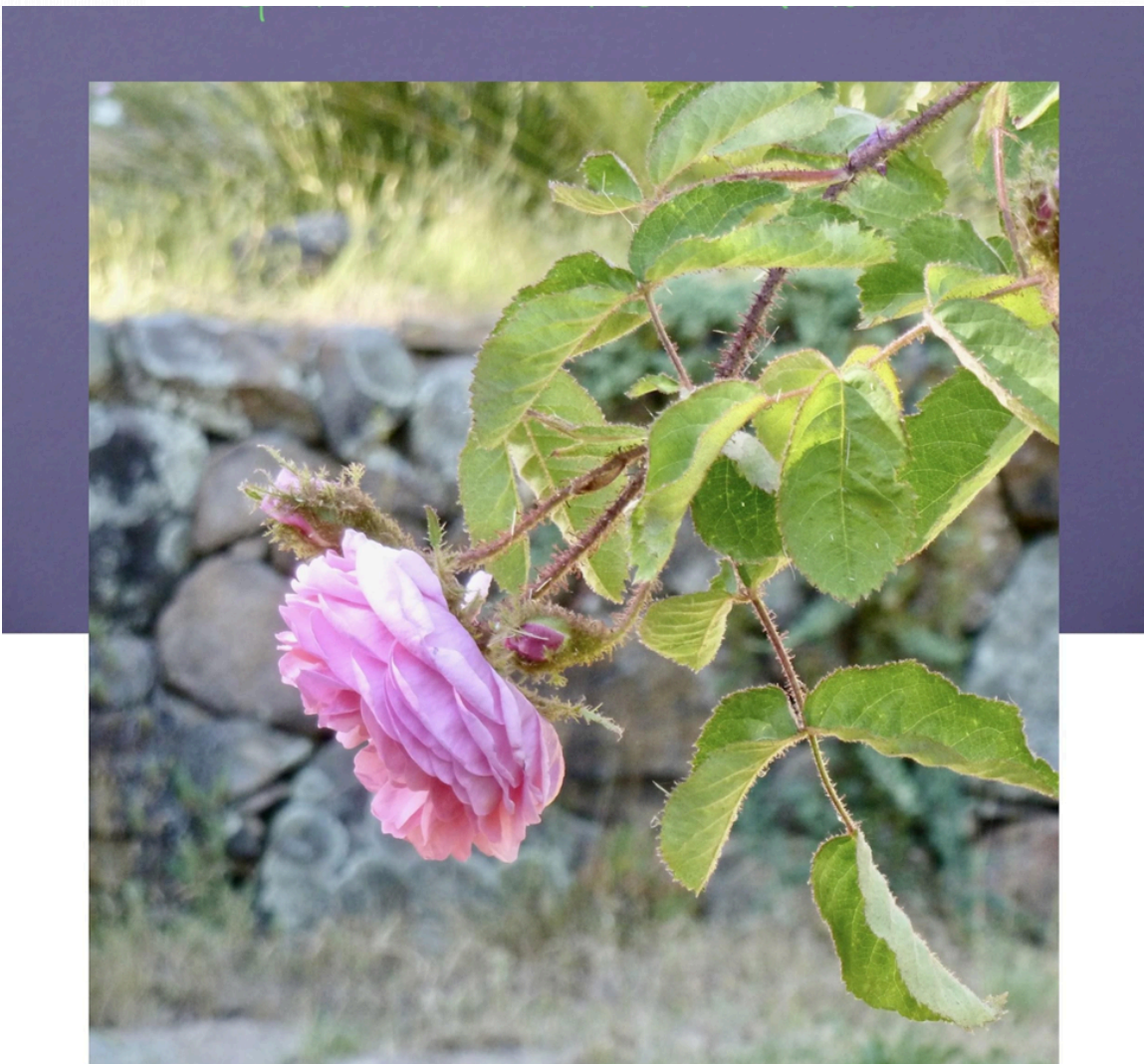


New England, winter, snow, snowballs, I'll conclude with a dedication and a poem. In memory of Miriam Wilkins who fifty years ago started the old rosers' snowball rolling with an ad in the American Rose Magazine which evolved into an old rose fellowship that now spans the globe. Miriam loved this old rose; it's my favorite, too. She wrote a great poem about the Old Pink Moss first published in this very ORD which she also started. Here it is for you to enjoy:



I never count the May morn lost
When there are roses velvet mossed.
Green fringe on sepals, calyx stem
And snugly in the midst of them
The nested petals. They unfurl,
Disclose the dusted heart and curl
In perfect exercise of grace
Until arranged, each one in place
Exactly as that rose has formed
Through centuries. Now warmed
Beneath the sun's hot glance
The musk scent rises to enhance
The charm of every mossy cup.
It leads the dazzled bee to sup
As I, likewise bedazzled, pause
Spellbound beside the Old Pink Moss.





Combined Rose List 2024

Support a worthy cause! As we lose more old rose nurseries we need to support this valuable resource more than ever! The 2024 issue is available for pre-order. This is a most valuable resource that lists EVERY rose that is in commerce and where it might be purchased. Available from Peter Schneider, P.O. Box 677, Mantua. Ohio 44255. Send your check for \$27.00 plus shipping today! You can preorder online at <https://www.combinedroselist.com/freedom-gardens.html>.



Garden Tasks to Remember

- Pruning and feeding should be completed by now! So, time to enjoy the blooms!
- But, if you are still pruning, don't be dismayed, old roses are very forgiving. Also, there are lots of rose pruning demonstrations at garden centers and rose groups all over the Bay Area if you need support.
- There are an abundance of roses available to purchase in your local nursery.
- There is still time to order bare-root roses online.
- Don't forget wonderful companion plants, too!
- Keep track of the rain. Sometimes the rainfall is only a few drops, so you will need to begin watering.
- Don't forget sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat.

From the ORD archives

If you have a garden event that would be of interest to old rose lovers and interested gardeners, please let us know and we will include it in our calendar. The next issue will be in September. Due date for that issue is July 25, 2024. You can email Yvonne Liu at yvonneliu@hotmail.com, or call her at **650-422-8118**.

Members' Questions

The Editor received this request from an HRGBA member Heather Hafleigh:



"I won this rose in the raffle at the Rose Show (Celebration of Old Roses), probably before the pandemic. There was no tag. Now the plant is about 4 feet in diameter and last year the canes reached 8-10 feet long. The clusters of flowers are a strong pink, each flower being the size of a 50 cent piece. There is some re-blooming throughout the year. Very healthy. If anyone knows what rose this is or where it came from I would be thrilled. Thanks."



If you have an idea about the identity of this rose, please write your comments to <mailto:kmosborn@earthlink.net>. Comments may appear in the next ORD.



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The HERITAGE ROSES GROUP was formed in 1975 and is now international. There are groups in most areas of California, which meet and hold rose events each year. The San Francisco Bay Area group sponsors the *CELEBRATION OF OLD ROSES* each year on the Sunday after Mother's Day. This year, the Celebration will be on May 19, 2024 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Albany, California.

**Heritage Roses Group Bay Area
and
Old Rosers' Digest subscription!**

for a 2-year membership and subscription to the **Old Rosers' Digest** Newsletter
Two electronic editions-Spring and Fall
please send a check for \$10.00 to Heritage Roses Group Bay Area (HRGBA) to:
Kristina Osborn, 818 Adams Street, Albany, CA 94706

Check your email Subject line for renewal date!!!

A Celebration of



Mme Antoine Mari

OLD ROSES

Sunday, May 19, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

What's old is new! Numerous tables of beautiful rose blossoms, labeled and sorted by class! **Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses from specialty nurseries.** Rose experts will be available to answer questions. Vendors will be selling roses, rare perennials, crafts, books, jam, jewelry, and clothing, all inspired by roses.

Sponsored by **Heritage Roses Group Bay Area (HRGBA)**

Children are welcome!!

Children will receive a FREE rose plant
(While supplies last!)

Admission is FREE!

Per Alameda County, face masks must be worn at public gatherings: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/face-masks.page?#must-mask>

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – ALBANY, 1325 Portland at Carmel.

Take Hwy 80 or 580 to the Albany exit. Go east to San Pablo Ave, then left to Portland and right to Carmel.

www.celebrationofoldroses.org