I hope everyone had a great holiday season and that you didn’t spend too much time in the doctor’s office getting bandages from pruning roses such as Mermaid, Russeliana, The Garland, etc.

This marks my last year as your District Director, because I plan to run for ARS Vice President. In the first two years, we have accomplished a lot, but we need to go further. The first thing we need is a Judges school sometime in the spring. We have several judges and arrangement judges who need to take the exam. So if anyone is willing to put on a Judge’s school, please let Frank & Cherrie Grasso know ASAP.

Congratulations to all the Bronze Honor Medal winners who were awarded by the various local rose societies! The Bronze Medal is a terrific way to honor your most dedicated members.

For those on the Silver Medal committee, make sure you get your votes in ASAP. We love to award the Silver Medal because we have so many deserving people. We have a short time frame this year so please submit your nominations and votes quickly to Dan Bifano.

The spring will be busy soon enough with our roses bursting forward. I pruned my roses around Christmas and with the unseasonably warm weather I already have full leaves developed and six inches of new growth on some plants. At this rate I might be able to exhibit at the Arizona shows in early April.

Speaking of Arizona, make sure you attend the District Convention in Mesa, Arizona April 10-13. As usual we will have our rose show, business meetings, and a lot of fun. You can download the form and schedule from the PSWD Gold Medal winning webpage. They are also included here in this issue of Pacific Southwest Rose. My good buddy John Mattia will be one of the speakers and the keynote speaker at the awards banquet. He is an awesome photographer and has raised roses and digital photography to a new level. Don’t miss his talks.

The weekend after our District is the national convention in the “Big Easy” ... New Orleans. I love this town, usually stopping there every other year to relax and eat. Nowhere can you get such great food in the United States as in New Orleans. I can taste those muffulata sandwiches, and café au lait and beignets right now. Incoming ARS President Marilyn Wellan promises an excellent convention, so sign up today! A copy of the schedule and hotel information is in the January issue of the ARS magazine.

Let’s hope for a great, rosey 2003, and may all of your roses be best in the show.
From the Editor’s Desk

By Kitty Belendez

Congrats to Our Bronze Honor Medal Winners!

Thanks to all those local rose society presidents who took the time to send photos and write-ups to me of their Bronze medalists. Many of the societies did not even respond to my e-mail asking for the names of their Bronze Medal winners, so I had to contact ARS for the names of all the winners in the PSWD. I tried to fit in as many as possible, but in the end, because of a shortage of space, I was only able to include photos of those winners who are subscribers to Pacific Southwest Rose. I did however include every write-up that was sent to me by the deadline. We are fortunate to have so many special people in the Pacific Southwest District.

We Need Subscribers

Please encourage your rose society members to subscribe to Pacific Southwest Rose. We barely have 200 subscribers, just enough to qualify for our non-profit mailing status. This saves the district a lot of money. What would normally cost 60 cents first class mail (for 2 ounces), only costs us about 15 cents. All presidents, officers, consulting rosarians, judges and exhibitors should be subscribing to the district bulletin. Thankfully, most judges do subscribe. Sadly, only 50% of the local rose society presidents currently subscribe. Even worse, only about 30% of our consulting rosarians subscribe. The district bulletin provides all the news of the Pacific Southwest District. The cost is only $10 per year, with four issues per year, published quarterly. This cost just barely covers printing and mailing. All graphics are done by me at no charge to the district. Checks should be made payable to PSWD, and mailed to Kitty Belendez, 21133 Kingscrest Drive, Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

Have You Reserved Your Hotel Yet?

Looking on the web site of the Sheraton Mesa hotel really got me into the mood for the District convention this coming April. It really is a beautiful facility! April is one of the best times of the year to visit and enjoy the Arizona desert. Better make your hotel reservations early to make sure you get a good room at a very special price. It sounds like the convention committee has made some awesome plans for our visit.

VISIT THE GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNING DISTRICT WEB SITE:
http://www.geocities.com/pswdistrict

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF PACIFIC SOUTHWEST ROSE:

APRIL 15, 2003

Please send all materials to the editor, preferably via e-mail to: rosextckb@aol.com
The Mesa-East Valley Rose Society invites you to attend the Pacific Southwest District Convention and Rose Show, to be held April 10-13, 2003 in Mesa, Arizona. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society, the theme of the Convention is “Golden Celebration.”

Mesa is located just minutes east of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and is easily accessible via freeway. The host hotel for the Convention will be the Sheraton Mesa Hotel and Convention Center, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa. A welcome reception for convention registrants will be held poolside at the hotel beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 10th.

Friday morning brings the annual District Rose and Arrangement Show, which will be staged in the spacious Mesa Centennial Hall Convention Center adjoining the hotel. In addition to the District Challenge Classes, the rose show schedule will feature a complete range of classes for horticultural and arrangement entries. A cold storage area will be available for exhibitors as well as spacious indoor preparation facilities.

The preparation area for the rose show will open at 4:00 a.m. on April 11th and entries will be accepted from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Judging of the show is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and the show will be opened to the public at 2:00 p.m. following the Opening Ceremonies. Rose show trophies will be awarded following the opening of the show except for the District Challenge Trophies and the trophies for Queen and Miniature Queen of Show, which will be awarded at the District Awards Banquet on Saturday April 12th.

Friday evening features a tour and dinner at the Desert Botanical Garden, home to one of the world’s largest and most diverse collection of desert plants. A stroll through the Garden’s meandering trails will show how much life and beauty the desert holds. We will be visiting the “DBG” during the peak of wildflower blooming. The dinner will be held in the Wildflower Pavilion, with an open copper dome designed for star gazing. This will be accompanied by live music.

The one-third mile Desert Discovery Trail winds past thousands of plants, including more than half the cactus, century plants, and aloe species in the world. Short trails branch off to interpret other aspects of desert life: the uses of plants by people, interactions among plants and animals, desert wildflowers, and landscaping and gardening in the desert. All the trails have interactive signs and guidebooks that identify and explain the plants and have been graded for wheelchair access. Lighting on the main trail and late closing hours allow for the unusual experience of strolling through the desert at night.

Saturday morning brings a garden tour of private Mesa area rose gardens, concluding with a tour and lunch at the Mesa Community College Rose Garden. Three private gardens on fully landscaped acres will include those of Barbara Schoenberg and Dona Inglish, each with extensive collections of all types of roses, companion plantings and garden art. The new garden of Bob Martin, which includes transplants of the cream of his former Pasadena garden, has recently been added, along with two additional rose gardens each on half acre properties.

The MCC Rose Garden is the premier public rose garden in the Desert Southwest, featuring more than 26 free-form beds, two terraces and more than 5,000 rose bushes, representing over 450 varieties. All-American Rose Selections (AARS) has recognized it as both a test garden and a demonstration garden and in 2001 it received the AARS award for outstanding garden maintenance. The luncheon will be held in the new Veterans Bed area, with a Highland Pipe Band performance and welcome presentation by District leaders and MCC President Dr. Larry Christiansen.

On Saturday afternoon, there will be three sessions of informative and educational programs. At 2:00 p.m. amateur hybridizer Bob Martin, creator of ‘Pasadena Star’, will present a program on “Amateur Hybridizing.” At the same time, local Master Gardener and rosarian Larry Bell will present a slide program in the theater on “The Year of a Commercial Rose Grower.” The program follows the production of roses in the Phoenix area, an area which now accounts for over half of the U.S. commercial production of roses.

At 3:00 p.m., University of California entomologist, Baldo “Bugman” Villegas, will present a slide program in the theater on the latest in “Pest Control for Roses.” At the same time, Shirley Dattilo and Sandy Miller will demonstrate their unique techniques for “Drying Roses for Arrangements.” They will have their book and hard-to-find products available as well.

Continued on page 10
2002 Local Rose Societies in the Pacific Southwest District

ARS Bronze Honor Medal Winners

For Outstanding & Meritorious Volunteer Service
To Their Local Rose Society

Congratulations to All!

Albuquerque Rose Society
Carroll Sue Wagner

California Coastal Rose Society
Harold Golden

Desert Rose Society
Henry McCarty

East County Rose Society
Miriam Yoder

Fair Friends of Roses
Carrah Lanquist

Glendale Rose Society
Nona Welsch

Inland Valley Rose Society
Dick & Fran Kaelke

Kern County Rose Society
Samuel T. Trivitt

Los Angeles Rose Society
Norm Nelson

Mesa-East Valley Rose Society
Rod McKusick

Orange County Rose Society
Denise Pulley

Pacific Rose Society
Grace Seward

Saddleback Mountain RS
Joe Foraker

San Diego Rose Society
John Farleigh

San Fernando Rose Society
Loren Zeldin

Santa Barbara Rose Society
Ginny White

Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society
Karen T.S. Gubert

Temecula Valley Rose Society
Audry Nelson

Tinseltown Rose Society
Dean Murakami

Tucson Rose Society
Shirley Dattilo

Ventura Rose Society
James Delahanty

AZ West Valley Rose Society
Nelson Mitchell

Criteria For Selecting the Bronze Medal Winner

1. Each Society, Chapter or Affiliate, in good standing with the American Rose Society, may annually award the American Rose Society Bronze Medal for Outstanding and Meritorious Service at the Local Society level.

2. The recipient must be a full or associate member of the American Rose Society and an active member of the local society for no less than three years. Local Society membership must be verified by the Local Society.

3. If the selective recipient passes away prior to the medal being presented, the medal may be awarded posthumously to the deceased recipient’s spouse or a member of his/her immediate family.

4. The current President of the Local Society is not eligible for this award. Furthermore, this award must not be offered as a prize in any rose competition, or for any one project.

5. The Executive Committee or Board of the Local Society will nominate the candidates. The members of the Executive Committee or Board will vote by secret ballot. The President will tally the votes. A majority vote will be required for awarding the medal. The result must be kept confidential by all members involved.

6. No award is required in any year.

7. Each Society can only award the Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service once to a member.

8. This is a Local Society award and must be administered and controlled by the Local Executive Committee or Local Board. This award will not require involvement from the District, Regional or ARS Board.

9. The Medal used for this Award shall be the standard American Rose Society Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service and may be procured from the ARS Executive Director. The cost of the Medal shall be borne by the Society making the award.

10. The Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service may be awarded jointly to husband/wife teams if, in the opinion of the Local Executive Committee or Board, they are deserving of the award and meet the requirements. In such case, two medals would be appropriate for presentation. Adopted by ARS Board of Directors, Spring 1993, Revised 1994.
Jim Delahanty was awarded the Bronze Medal from the Ventura County Rose Society. He has been a member of the ARS for 10 years, a member of VCRS for six years, and a Consulting Rosarian for over four years. He has served two years on the VCRS Board of Directors, and has been elected president of the society for 2003.

Nona Welsch was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Rose Society of Glendale, AZ. She has been a member of ARS since the mid 1980's, Charter Member of RSG, and has held many offices with RSG. She is a CR, Horticulture Judge, soon-to-be an arrangement judge, past President, past Rose Show Chair, and has held many other offices.

Joe Foraker was awarded the Bronze Medal from the Rose Society of Saddleback Mountain. Joe established the rose garden at the UCI Campus, near Barclay Theater, and the rose garden at the Mission Viejo City Library. He also founded the annual “hands-on” pruning clinic at UCI. He has been the 1st Vice President in charge of Programs for two years.

Norm Nelson was awarded the ARS Bronze Medal by the Los Angeles Rose Society. This honor recognized his many years of unselfish, dedicated service and exceptional support with monthly raffles, rose show placements and special events assistance.

Karen T. S. Gubert was awarded the Bronze Honor Medal by the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society. Karen has served in many capacities during her six years of membership with the society, including two years as an enthusiastic Vice President of Membership, two years as a Director, Chairman of Security and Chairman of Clerks at our rose show. Karen has worked hard to become a CR.

Ginny White received the ARS Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to the Santa Barbara Rose Society. She joined the Society in the early 90’s, and has been President for 4 years, Show Chair for 2 years and is always sharing her love of the rose with society members.

Miriam Yoder was awarded the Bronze Medal by the East County Rose Society. She has been a very active member of ECRS for over 15 years. She is a Consulting Rosarian, Horticulture Judge, soon-to-be an arrangement judge, past President, past Rose Show Chair, and has held many other offices.

Denise Pulley is a two-term past president of Orange County Rose Society, Chairperson for the 2002 District Convention and a CR. She is a constant promoter of both OCRS and ARS. She was instrumental with establishing OCRS’s connection with the Green Scene at Cal State Fullerton.

Henry R. McCarty was awarded the Bronze Honor Medal by the Desert Rose Society. He has served 18 years as a Consulting Rosarian, as co-chairman of the rose show for the past six years, past president, director, newsletter editor, and apprentice Arrangement Judge. Henry is always willing to share his knowledge and love of roses.

Loren Zeldin was awarded the Bronze Medal from the San Fernando Valley Rose Society. He has been an enthusiastic member for many years, participating in all activities. He grows over 500 roses and provides tours of his garden. He willingly shares his knowledge and is a true asset to the rose society.

Shirley Dattilo is the Rose Society of Tucson 2002 Bronze Medal recipient. She is a Consulting Rosarian and past President. She has shared her skills on rose drying by writing articles and speaking at rose society and garden clubs throughout Arizona.
The chart at the right sets forth my annual five-year running summary of the top exhibition roses in Southern California, incorporating the results of the 2002 exhibition season.

In the large rose category, ‘Moonstone’ moved into the top position. ‘Crystalline’, which had lost its position last year as the top exhibition rose after seven consecutive years at the top, held on to 2nd place. Last year’s top exhibition rose, ‘Natasha Monet’ fell to third. ‘Signature’ moved up one position to 4th place, while ‘Gemin’ and ‘Veterans’ Honor’ continued their upward climb, moving into 5th and 6th place respectively.

The biggest upward move was recorded by ‘Kardinal’, which went from 14th to 8th place. Last year ‘Kardinal’ had recorded a decline of four positions. There were two newcomers to the list, ‘Cajun Moon’ and ‘Crowd Pleaser’, which weighed in at the bottom. They replaced ‘Plum Crazy’ and ‘Silverado’ recorded a decline of four positions. There were two top exhibition roses entered by Southern California exhibitors in National Shows. Six points are awarded to a rose placed in the principal challenge classes of the District and National shows.

On the downside ‘Hot Tamale’ and ‘June Laver’ both lost four positions. ‘Amber Star’ was new to the list, while ‘Heartbreaker’ re-emerged at the bottom. ‘X-Rated’, ‘Jean Kenneally’ and ‘Silverado’ recorded a decline of four positions. ‘Touch of Class’ dropped from the list. ‘Crystalline’, with 29 points, led the 2002 scoring, followed by ‘Gemini’ with 27, ‘Cajun Moon’ with 24 and ‘Moonstone’ with 22 points. Six other roses recorded double figures, led by ‘Veterans’ Honor’ and ‘Signature’, both with 19 points.

In the miniatures, ‘Fairhope’ had another strong year and continued in first place for the ninth consecutive year. ‘Behold’ and ‘Miss Flippins’ retained their 2nd and 3rd place positions. ‘Glowing Amber’ moved into the 4th position pushing ‘Irresistible’ into 5th place. ‘Sam Trivitt’, in its third year on the list, moved up six places from 12th to 6th. The biggest upward move, however, was recorded by ‘Dancing Flame’, which came from nowhere to debut in 10th place.

Points are awarded to roses staged in the principal challenge classes of the District and National shows. Six points are awarded to roses entered by Southern California exhibitors in National Shows. Six points are awarded to a roser placed in the principal challenge classes of the District and National shows.
SOIL CRITTERS:
BRINGING THE EARTH TO LIFE

By Steve Jones

Most people are not aware that there are literally millions of “critters” in each gram of soil, which equates to about a good pinch of soil. These “critters” are bacteria, actinomycetes, fungi, yeasts, protozoa, algae, and nematodes. They are microscopic organisms that live in the soil. It sounds terrible, but we exist today because of them. They are what give the soil life, which is necessary to grow plants, the backbone of our existence.

Each has a unique function and they exist in most soils. For sterile soils, or ones with low activity, you can actually replenish these bugs, but it is not cheap, and they will do so naturally in the right conditions which will be discussed later in this article.

**Bacteria** are the most common microorganism. They are found in the top foot or so of soil, and survive most conditions. Of all micro-organisms, bacteria comprise about 70 percent of the total. There are approximately 3 to 20 million bacteria in that gram of soil. Bacteria are important because they feed on organic matter, help with decomposition to return nutrients to the soil, assist in the reactions of materials which will make them available to the plant, especially nitrogen, and fix nitrogen from the air. Without bacteria, plants could not absorb nitrogen, and therefore will not survive. Most of these bacteria are harmless to humans.

**Actinomycetes** are rod-shaped bacteria that are saprophytes, those who live off, or gain nutrients from decaying matter. The antibiotic Actinomycin is obtained from these soil bacteria. There are about 1 to 20 million actinomycetes per gram of soil which makes up about 13 percent of the total soil organisms. Their main function is to help with the decomposition process and in the process, liberate carbon, nitrogen and ammonia, and help form humus.

**Fungus** is among us. It is true, in the air, water, plants, and in the soil. Fungus helps break down organic matter. There are between 5,000 to one million fungi per gram of soil which is about 3 percent of the total organisms in soil. The most important fungi are the mycorrhizae. These fungi collect on the roots of the plants and form a symbiosis relationship with the plant, where they “live” off each other without harm to either host. The fungus lives off nutrients in the plant, and provides greater surface area for the plant to absorb water, air, and nutrients. You can purchase mycorrhizae for poor soils, however, it is not cheap and they will form naturally.

**Yeasts** are present in minor amounts in the soil, from 1,000 to one million per gram of soil. They are generally found around the plant root areas. Their actual function is unknown.

**Protozoa** are the regulators of the bacteria population. They are present in all soils and there are less than 1/2 million of them in most soils.

**Algae** are present in about the same levels as the protozoa. They are generally in the top portions of the soil and assist in fixation of nitrogen in the air.

**Nematodes** are basically small worms. Some are good and others bad. In Florida, a type of nematode invades rose plants, therefore roses are grafted onto Fortuniana rootstock which is resistant to nematodes. However, most soils have good nematodes. They also assist in the breakdown of organic material and they help keep down populations of grubs and termites. There are 10 to 5,000 nematodes per gram of soil.

The ideal soil should contain about 5 percent or more of organic matter. The importance of organic matter is to increase soil organisms, thus making soil more plant friendly, and help grow better roses. With low organic matter soils, bacteria and earthworm activities are poor, and with that, the plant will not have enough nutrients available for growth. If you have a low organic matter composition, add more compost to the top 4-6 inches of the soil. To go from a 2 percent to 5 percent organic mixture in your soil, you need to add about 2,000 pounds of compost per 1,000 square feet and work it into the top 4-6 inches of the soil. 2,000 pounds of compost is about 2 cubic yards, which is about two tractor scoops from a local soil company.

When you add more organic material to the soil, you will also raise the pH of the soil, in other words, more acidic. This is good for our area since we tend to have slightly basic soil. To find out what you have in your soil, do a soil test. The first is pretty easy. Scrape off your mulch cover and take soil samples from different parts of your rose bed. Take a small handful and place in a large jar with a lid. Add water to about 3/4 full, and shake vigorously. The soil particles will drop out depending on the size, rocks, then sand, then silt, then clay, then organic material. The organic material may also float. You can get an approximate idea of how much organic matter is in your soil.

The best test is to send a soil sample to a lab for full analysis. A full test will tell you everything about your soil including levels of nutrients and pH. Most labs will analyze it for rose growing and tell you how much of what to add to your soil, if necessary. A full analysis will run around $25 per sample. It is worth the price.

This article is an American Rose Society Award of Merit winner. Originally published in the February 1998 issue of “Rose Ecstasy,” bulletin of the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, Kitty Belendez, Editor.
MARY LOU COFFMAN wrote the schedule for the upcoming District Rose Show in Mesa, AZ on April 11, 2003. There are a couple of modern design classes that have been specified in the schedule: a Transparency Design and a Hanging Design. In order to increase the number of entries and for the arrangers to understand these designs, the following information is provided.

SECTION A
Pacific Southwest District Challenge Arrangements
(Open Only To ARS Members
Residing in the Pacific Southwest District)

John and Dorothy Van Barneveld
Arrangement Trophy
Class 1. Dreams
A modern transparency design using arranger-grown roses.

According to Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements:

Transparency. A three-dimensional design where some components are seen through other transparent components. Naturally transparent materials may be flower cluster, trimmed foliage or artfully placed plant material. “See through” manufactured materials are often used.

Transparency designs must include see-through element(s), which permit some components to be viewed through others. Some other natural transparent plant materials: skeletonized foliage, branches, sea fans, open weave grasses, gypsophila (baby’s breath), etc.

Transparent man-made materials: acrylic, glass, mesh, screening, open-weave fabric, grillwork, etc. Planes and forms are juxtaposed by overlapping, giving a three-dimensional effect of depth and space. The only plant material restriction is that the roses must be arranger-grown. The other plant materials may be fresh or dried or a combination of the two. Remember that this is a creative design, so look around and see what you can see through to incorporate into a design!

SECTION C – ARTIST’S
Class 5. It Came from Outer Space
A hanging design. Free moving design using a frame or other suspension.

According to Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements:

Hanging Design. Free moving design using frame or other suspension.

This design must be suspended in space by using a frame or other suspension. The frame need not be square or rectangle; it could be any shape – round, oblong, triangle, etc. Other suspension could be anything that has an arm or aperture that extends outward to hold the hanging design. The free-hanging design is created to move freely in air currents of the staging area. Suspended from a hook, within a frame or other suspension by wire or heavy-duty filament. For best viewing, the design should be hung at eye level or slightly above. It may consist of two or more designs used together to create a single, unified design and may have one or more moving parts. The only plant material restriction is that the roses must be fresh and outdoor garden grown. It would be well advised to experiment with your hanging design before taking it to the show to make sure that it will really hang!

The Mesa District Show also has Court of Etiquette Classes:

SECTION O – COURT OF ETIQUETTE

(Table Designs: The design components must include fresh roses and may include other fresh and/or treated plant materials.)

Class 26. Golden Anniversary
A functional, semi-formal table for two for an evening dinner, with a decorative unit. To be staged on a 30” round table provided by the rose society. Please do not display any flatware. Reservations must be made with show chairman prior to the show.

Class 27. Golden Celebration
A semi-formal exhibition table, with a decorative unit, to be staged in an area no larger than 30” wide by 30” deep. Please do not display any flatware. Exhibitor must provide their own free-standing background. Reservations must be made with show chairman prior to the show.

SECTION P – MINI COURT OF ETIQUETTE

(The design components must include fresh roses and may include other fresh and/or treated plant materials.)

Class 28. Barbie Doll
A functional breakfast tray for one, with a decorative unit. Do not display any flatware. Reservations must be made with the show chairman prior to the show.

A couple of tips about Court of Etiquette:
A functional table is an exhibit arranged for the service of food. The decorative unit (flower arrangement) should be no larger than one-third of the total area. One should be able to see over the decorative unit if seated! Don’t get carried away with too many components. Simplicity is better than clutter. The table must be for two and there are no restrictions as to the type of design. It could be modern, traditional or oriental manner. Items should be placed in such a manner that they could be easily used or picked-up without knocking one of the other items over, i.e. place cup handles so that you do not have

Continued on page 9
to turn the cups around to pick them up. Don’t put small glasses behind large glasses. Look at your placement to make sure that everything is functional!

An exhibition table is an artistic display. It is totally non-practical, but it is a display of elements suggestive of serving a meal. Basic requirements are a dish for food, a vessel for drinking and a rose arrangement. Any other components are elective. Exhibition tables are not functional but allow that dishes may be stacked, more than one napkin used, and glassware and other appointments may be grouped or presented in creative ways – more a fantasy interpretation than just serving a meal.

Mini-Court of Etiquette: The decorative unit must use miniature roses and must not exceed 10 inches in height, width or depth. All the other components should be in proportion and scale to the decorative unit. The last edition of the Pacific Southwest Rose had an article about trays. Please refer to that article. (The same article will be in the Winter Edition of the Rose Arranger’s Bulletin.) All the information applies to Mini-Court of Etiquette with one exception – the size of the decorative unit. For all the arrangers traveling to Mesa – it is easy to transport the miniature dishes!

If you have any other questions about the District Rose Show Schedule or any other arrangement questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you would like to judge the Mesa Show, please contact me at (505) 345-1344, or e-mail kreg@swcp.com. Remember, I expect all the Judges to enter the Judges’ Classes. Even if your roses are not blooming, there are always extra roses in the prep room. Looking forward to seeing all the great arrangements in Mesa!

**Society Gems**

**Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society** awarded Life Membership to Steve Jones in honor of his founding the club 10 years ago … **Los Angeles Rose Society** bestowed President-Emeritus as well as Life Membership to Kitty Belendez in honor of her 17 years of dedication to LARS … **Pacific Rose Society** had another successful rose auction with Chris Greenwood coordinating the event by getting 500 bareroot donations from commercial rose growers, and Cal Hayes as the auctioneer … **Ventura Rose Society** also held their annual rose auction in January with Bob Martin flying in from Arizona to serve as their auctioneer … **Desert Rose Society** will have Vincent Gioia as their guest speaker in March. Vincent is ARS past-president (1984-86) and is a retired patent attorney … **Mesa-East Valley Rose Society** is busy preparing for the Pacific Southwest District convention … **Rose Society of Glendale** (AZ) will hold the first rose show of the 2003 season on April 5th … **San Fernando Valley Rose Society** held their annual public pruning seminar at Sepulveda Gardens on January 4th … **Orange County Rose Society** hosted their annual pruning demo at the UC Irvine Chancellor’s Garden … **San Diego Rose Society** hosted their 5th Annual Rose Care Seminar on November 30th and had a record-breaking attendance of 191 enthusiastic rosarians … **Scottsdale Rose Society** reports that Arveda Larson won the “Ray Allen Education Award,” and Shirley Datillo was presented with the “Rosa Gallica Award” for outstanding contributions toward the advancement of roses in Arizona. Both were presented at the Arizona Rose Societies Annual Banquet hosted by the **Tucson Rose Society**.
Golden Celebration  Continued from page 3

At 4:00 p.m., noted national exhibitor John Mattia of Orange, CT will present a program titled “The Quest For Ultimate Beauty,” a digitally illustrated program on exhibiting intended for beginning and intermediate rose exhibitors. In addition, Jeff Wyckoff, Pacific Northwest District Director, will share his program entitled “Floribundas, a Digital Presentation.”

The gala District Awards Banquet will be held Saturday Night in the Convention Center Palo Verde Rooms. The program will include remarks by Dr. Tommy Cairns, President of the American Rose Society, and from Steve Jones, Pacific Southwest District Director. John Mattia will present a special program titled “Digital Art Rose Stories,” which he describes as a “fast-moving digital presentation on how common rose photos when combined with other types of photos are uplifted into works of digital art.”

The Convention will conclude on Sunday morning with the District Breakfast and Meeting in the Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom. During and following the Convention, many other local attractions are available for individuals and groups. These include the adjacent Mesa Amphitheater, which is hosting a Southwest Shakespeare production each night, nearby antique shops, the renowned Mesa Southwest Museum and the Champlin Fighter Aircraft Museum. A pleasant morning drive to the Superstition Mountains can also take you to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park, Arizona’s oldest botanical garden. Visit the Mesa AZ Convention and Visitors Bureau for further ideas and information at www.mesacvb.com.

The Sheraton Mesa Hotel and Centennial Hall Convention Center is located in the heart of the East Valley. It has 273 spacious, newly renovated guestrooms, all of which feature in room movies, dataports, oversized desk, ergonomic chair and other amenities. A special block of rooms has been reserved at the convention rate of $101.00 per night plus applicable taxes. The rate is guaranteed for one to four persons per room. Reservations must be made by Thursday, March 15th for the special convention rate. For reservations, call: 480/898-8300, or toll-free 800/456-6372.

Please visit the District or MEVRS websites for updates and additional information, as well as the “Golden Celebration” Rose Show Schedule. The full schedule may be accessed at the PSWD District website: www.geocities.com/pswdistrict. All updates and the schedule will be posted on the website of the Mesa-East Valley Rose society at www.roses4az-mevrs.org.

For further information, please contact Convention Chair, Dona Inglish at donainglsh@bigplanet.com

PHOTO BY KITTY BELENDEZ

Janet & John Mattia

THE JUDGES GAVEL

By Frank & Cherrie Grasso
District Hort. Judges Co-Chairs

Another new year and another PSWD Convention. We received so many requests to judge the Mesa, Arizona District Convention being held April 10-13, 2003 that we were overwhelmed. We wish to thank you for your prompt response and support and are looking forward to judging this show.

We are still looking for a society that would like to host a Judging Seminar or School. If your society is interested please let us know as soon as possible. Attendance at a Seminar or School every four years is a requirement for all judges to attain their ARS Certification. We presently have a number of judges whose requirements must be met in 2003. We keep a complete record of all judges’ next audit year. If you do not know when your next audit year is due please check with us.

Judges Court:
The answer to the question in the last issue:

How do you judge for the best horticultural entry in a show?

Since there are no written requirements for best horticultural it is up to the hosting society to set forth the requirements for their show. If none are given then a judge can subjectively pick the one they like.

Now for the next question:

Why is it recommended that a written ballot be used when judging the Court of Honor?

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COMBINED ROSE LIST

It’s time to reserve your copy of the 2003 Combined Rose List (CRL) which will be available in March. This 224-page, soft-cover book is compiled and edited by Beverly R. Dobson and Peter Schneider and contains listings of over 11,000 roses and nurseries throughout the world. Information is updated through February 1, 2003 and includes rose registrations, correct classifications, and current North American and overseas nursery sources for all roses in commerce. It’s the best source for hard-to-find roses and tells you exactly where to find them. The CRL is highly recommended as a reference manual for all ARS Rose Judges and Consulting Rosarians. Send $20 check (includes postage) to: Peter Schneider, P. O. Box 677, Mantua, OH 44255. Or you can buy it online at: www.combinedroselist.com
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