



Rose Lore



Volume 3 Number 7

Bulletin for the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society

September 2020

Mary Van Vlack, Editor

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Officers & Board

- Pres – LeRoy Brady
- VP-Programs - Maggie Holloway
- Treasurer - Bud Morrison
- Membership - Carole Holkenbrink
- Recording Secretary - Yvonne Morrison
- Corresponding Secretary - Cathy Thiel
- Members at-large:
 - Helen Baird
 - Cheryl Doan
 - Linda Ahlborn
 - Lynn Twitchell (past president)
 - James Racinowski

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting will be this Thursday, 9/10 at 7 pm - we have so much catching up to do! Our program will include our election of officers and board, a presentation by Mike Jepsen and Steve Sheard on rescuing our poor roses from this record breaking summer, and some time with our residents experts, Sherman Weekes and Pat Thiel, for assistance in using Zoom.

Beginning this month and continuing until we can resume meeting in person, we will be holding our meetings using Zoom, a popular virtual meeting program provided through the generous assistance of Sherman Weekes. Zoom can be used on a desktop or laptop computer or tablet with access to the internet or by smart phone. If you have not used it before, you might want to download the program ahead of time at zoom.us. The link to join the Zoom Meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4770043990>

The Meeting ID: 477 004 3990

More help and information will be coming shortly.

We won't be having a raffle at this meeting (maybe sometime in the future), but the good news is that you can choose your own refreshments and enjoy them throughout the meeting.

ANNUAL ELECTION – DEFERRED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Some months ago the MEVRS Nominations Committee, consisting of Carla Roberts, Lynn Twichell, and Bud Morrison, prepared a slate of candidates for the 2020-21 officers and board members. They are as follows:

- President - Maggie Holloway
- Vice President – Lynn Twichell
- Treasurer – Bud Morrison
- Membership – Carole Holkenbrink
- Recording Secretary – Sherman Weekes
- Corresponding Secretary – Cathy Thiel
- Past President – LeRoy Brady
- Members at Large – James Racinowski
 Cheryl Doan
 Yvonne Morrison
 Pat Thiel

Since we were unable to meet as usual at Mesa Community College, our election and installation of new officers was delayed, but now that we will be meeting via Zoom, we can proceed. The slate of candidates is presented here, the vote will be held at our September meeting and the new board will be installed in October.

DUES ARE DUE? NO, THEY'RE OVERDUE!

With everything so different this year, the one thing that has not changed is the ongoing expenses of MEVRS. There have been very few checks arriving for payment of annual dues. If you have not mailed yours, kindly do it now.

Payments to: MEVRS, P.O. Box 40394 Mesa, AZ 85274

MESA EAST VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS \$25.00.
ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE BY JUNE 1. NO DISCOUNTS FOR LATE PAYMENTS.
PAYMENTS BY CHECK PAYABLE TO MEVRS, MAIL TO THIS ADDRESS:
MEVRS/MEMBERSHIP P.O. BOX 40394
MESA, ARIZONA 85274-0394

DATE _____ NEW _____ *GIFT* _____ RENEWAL _____ AMOUNT PAID \$ _____
CASH _____ CHECK# _____
NAME TAG \$10 ADDITIONAL _____
NAMES: _____ TELEPHONE # _____
STREET ADDRESS _____ CELL _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

IN THE GARDEN

MARYLOU COFFMAN -
LEROY BRADY,
GARDEN CURATORS



'Scentimental'

This month we will tour Section Two of the Rose Garden. These are the first, original eleven beds laid out and planted in the garden. The first roses were planted in 1997. These beds, A through K, have some of the oldest roses planted in the garden. Some of them are out of commerce and are very hard to find. We have enjoyed these roses now for over twenty years.

Lynn Twitchell and Cheryl Doan are the captains of the Section Two. The first bed features red and white roses. The first roses, 'Scentimental', are planted at each end of the bed at the west end at the entrance and were planted in 1997. They are just as beautiful as when we first planted them. This bed also contains, 'Mr. Lincoln', 'Taboo', 'White Majesty', 'Neil Diamond', 'Kardinal', 'Honor', 'Opening Night' and 'White Drift', just to name a few.



'White Drift'



'Mr. Lincoln'

Across the plaza is Bed A, along the wall. It features some of the newer climbers, as well as one of the oldest climbers: 'Fourth of July', 'Tropical Lightning' and 'Sally Holmes.' It also contains the beautiful red 'Olympiad,' 'Crystalline', a pure white gem, 'Columbus', 'Escapade', a single lavender rose and 'Heart of Gold.'

At the end of the wall is Bed B. There you will find the gorgeous 'Ingrid Bergman,' 'In The Mood,' 'Love's Promise' and 'Helmut Schmidt.' This is a yellow hybrid tea from 1979.



'Night Owl'



'Ingrid Bergman'



'Ring of Fire'

The next area is Bed C. The pergola was donated to the garden by the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs and private individual donations. The climber, 'Night Owl', covers this pergola. It is very fragrant with a purple bloom. Inside the pergola are four benches. The benches and pergola were designed by Joe Tyler, noted metal artist. Mr. Tyler also designed the small Conservatory Bus Stop shelter.

On the East side of the pergola are forty "Ring of Fire" roses, a brilliant orange Hybrid Tea. These roses were donated to the garden by the hybridizer, Chris Greenwood from California and planted in 2919.



'Altissimo'

Next is Bed D, along this wall are the climbers, 'Berries 'n' Cream' and 'Altissimo.' In this bed, you will find 'Abbaye de Cluny', 'Crimson Lace', 'Charles Aznavour', 'Maggie Barry' and two of the older roses. Camara, from 1979, is a bright red hybrid tea and 'Alec's Red', a medium red hybridized in 1971. These roses are as beautiful today as when we planted them in 1997.



'Angel Face'

Bed G is the original Lavender bed, with all roses being lavender and different shade of purple. It contains some of the oldest roses in the garden, 'Angel Face', hybridized in 1969, 'Heirloom', in 1971, 'Blue Girl,' in 1964, 'Lady X', in 1965. All still growing strong along side some of the more modern additions, 'Barbra Streisand', 'Twilight Zone', 'Neptune', 'Stainless Steel', 'Playgirl' and 'Intrigue'; as a bonus, all of these roses are very fragrant.

In Bed E, we have planted 40 of the deep yellow grandiflora rose, 'South Africa.' This bed is planted in honor of Mesa Community College's fiftieth anniversary.

Bed F is one of the test gardens with roses planted and evaluated for two years. The north end of the test garden has 'Black Magic' and the east side several other roses including the beautiful 'Paris d'Yves St. Laurent,' a hybrid tea and florist rose.



'Twilight Zone'



'Home Run'

Bed H is primarily orange roses. Some of the roses in this bed are 'Sarabande' (1957), 'Sheila's Perfume', so fragrant you'll remember, 'Imperatrice Farah,' Last, we have Bed I that contains the miniature roses, 'Adam's Smile', 'Center Gold', 'Rainbow's End', 'Dazzler', 'Gizmo' and 'Little Artist.'

Bed K is north side of the entrance and has the fragrant 'Bolero', 'All American Magic', and 'Home Run'. These are just a few of the roses in this section of the garden.

The garden will be open sometime this fall, so take a stroll outside and enjoy the garden. Stop and smell the roses

ROSE OF THE MONTH – OLIVIA ROSE AUSTIN

Ed. Note: *It is high time we revived this tradition, each month featuring a special rose that you may want to know more about. If you have a rose you would like to nominate for next month, please send the name and why you think it is terrific to marywv@gmail.com.*

Olivia Rose Austin (not to be confused with the miniature Olivia Rose) is just an exceptionally nice addition to the many varieties of David Austin Roses. Michael Marriott,



the technical manager of David Austin, states that the shrub rose 'Olivia Rose Austin' took 9-10 years to develop from the original cross and is the result of a



cross of two unnamed seedlings. Further, it received a five-year field trial in the UK before it was introduced there in 2014 and in the US in 2016. It was named after the daughter of David Austin Junior and granddaughter of David Austin Senior.

The blooms are pretty pink, medium to large in size, up to 3.5" across, cupped and very full, up to 90 petals. The flowers have a medium to strong, fruity fragrance and it blooms in flushes throughout the season. The plants are healthy and medium sized, 3 - 4.5' tall and 2 - 3.5' wide with glossy, dark green foliage. It has excellent disease resistance and will grow in USDA zones 5a through 10a. The breeder states that it is suitable for growing in mixed borders, pots and containers and hedges and will tolerate full sun to part shade.

It has been receiving lots of positive attention and accolades recently and has a preliminary RIR rating of 8.2. As you may have noticed, it has received the 2020 ARS Members' Choice Award (based on RIR ratings), the 2020 Members' Choice Fragrance Award, and the James Alexander Gamble Fragrance Medal. Quite a showing for this pretty, pink shrub rose!



HOME IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GARDEN – IN A TIME OF COVID 19

BY MARY VAN VLACK



Introduction

You probably won't be in the least bit surprised when I tell you that gardening has been deemed one of the healthiest ways you can spend your time in this year of masks, "social distancing," and "stay safe at home." It's good for the body (up to a point), off the couch, away from the computer and TV, and outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine, soaking up some vitamin D, and getting a little exercise; it's also great for our moods, our mental and spiritual well-being. Really, what can be better than growing delicious fruits and vegetables and

creating great beauty with roses and other flowers, helping us feel we're creating something positive in our broken and battered world? Well, apparently some people think that going to bars without masks, gathering up close with friends and strangers and over-imbibing in expensive drinks is better. But not us – we're rosarians!

So I want to support and encourage your healthy habits in the garden with a series of articles over the next few months on the subject of improving our gardens and especially our collections of roses. Yes, our collections. I do find that the more time I spend in my rose garden, the more I notice things I could, should, and absolutely must do to make it a better place, and you probably find this to be true as well. I'll share what little I know on the subject, do some research, and ask the experts. Feel free to contribute your thoughts, experiences, and points of disagreement. I happen to know that quite a few of you have some great ideas to share!

Part 2 Making Space for Roses

At this time of year, the end of summer, I usually begin thinking about acquiring roses, adding to or replacing, maintaining my beds as they are or expanding. All of that.

When we moved to our 'new-to-us' smaller house with the much smaller yard, we moved the roses in containers and left behind all the ones in the ground. They stayed in their pots while we settled into the inside and planned and prepared new beds, mostly raised beds where we wanted to garden. Some of those roses are still in their pots several years later because my 'wish list' roses took charge of the new, raised beds.



One area by the front door required digging and conquering a healthy crop of asparagus fern and other areas required removing a grapefruit tree, a half-dozen hot pink bougainvilleas with trunks 10" and more in diameter, and (gasp) a little kumquat tree/bush. Let me explain. We can't eat much grapefruit anymore or would have to give up our statins and we discovered we really do not care for kumquats. As for the bougainvillea, we like it well enough, but we grew it at our old house where it froze at the top of the roof every year, a messy, thorny pruning job. And people grow it all over our neighborhood where we can enjoy it without taking care of it. Nancy next door has a beautiful lavender one the grows over the 8' wall between us and the folks down the street have several white ones, so we removed ours with no regrets.



I promised myself that with so much less space for roses, I would engage in tough love, not only removing dead plants but those that simply did not fulfill my expectations. I've heard lots of rosarians talk about doing just that; they call it 'shovel pruning', digging up a live rose bush just to replace it with something else that may still not please them. We have never been very good at that shovel pruning thing. Once, after looking at 'Medallion' struggling along, blooms the color of baby poop, trying to prune just one surviving cane year after year, I dug it up and tossed it in the wheelbarrow. My husband wandered by, saw it and asked, "What are you doing with that?" Next thing I knew he had potted it up and moved it in with the potted minis. A few years later we put it out at our pre-moving yard sale, still with just one cane, and someone actually bought it, asking only if the bloom was a nice color. I was so embarrassed!

I do realize that many of the new roses coming out now have much improved resistance to diseases and pest infestations while offering more scent. It's just that I'm much more successful at allowing Mother Nature to decide which roses should be replaced. She really doles out the tough love! This has not been the only summer when I have lost roses to the heat and, frankly, no matter how pretty that rose was in the picture or in someone else's garden, if it can't take the heat in my garden, maybe I should replace it with something else. Usually we don't lose roses to powdery mildew, spider mites, or even thrips, but any of these can really weaken out plants, reducing their chances of survival one the heat of summer takes its



toll. As you can see, quite a few of my rose purchases, my opportunities to work off my wish list, have been provided by Mother Nature herself. But if you don't want to put up with a mildew magnet or a rose down to its last cane, well, there's your opportunity to make a change. Just get out your shovel.

There are numerous other reasons why we might need to dig up and move or add new roses. Over time our yards change. A big tree that provided welcome late afternoon shade may lose many of its branches in a storm or even be uprooted

altogether. Or a useful tree has grown much larger and now provides way too much shade. Or a neighbor may insist on replacing a wooden fence with a block wall painted white that will pump more heat into the area. We might have to re-do our landscape plan because we've put in a pool, made an addition, or persuaded our spouse to get rid of an old car, trailer, or something (space for a new rose bed!). We might decide to finally get rid of our oleanders and put in a raised bed of something that blooms almost year round and isn't quite so toxic or flammable. Of course, that would be roses! Or the teenagers have grown up, finished college, left home and we no longer need space for volleyball.

Sometimes we add roses just because we want more! More! More! More! Growing roses can be pretty addictive – why take care of one when you could have three, why three when a dozen would be nice. Why not enjoy a hundred or more? That is how people end up 100, 2, 3 or even 500 plants. And where can you add more? Almost everywhere, of course. Since you want to landscape your front yard anyway, why not do it with roses? Be attentive to planting in beds right along the street. I once caught a woman out in front with her kitchen shears, helping herself. Only to the red ones, though.



filled in. Space for more roses.

Many people plant their roses in beds along the foundation of their home. There are two cautions for that: Check to be sure you won't have too much reflected heat and be sure to contour the beds so excess water is drained away from the foundation and into your yard. Another area which you may have overlooked is in your side yards. I noticed that when Ryan Regehr began to run out of space in front and back, his roses have begun putting down roots on one side. We visited former PSWD director Hal Reynolds in Palm Springs where he grows about 400 roses, and we saw that he had created a work area on the garage side for rooting cuttings, budding and grafting. Several dozen plants there. On the other side of his house there was a big concrete slab; instead of chopping it out he just filled it with 24" pots of roses on drip emitters. There is always room for a few more rose bushes.

I have also visited many homes on garden tours where they managed to fill the entire back yard with roses, maybe only leaving a little space for walkways. Usually they leave the pool and work around it, although children don't like running into thorny rose bushes when they want to swim and play. When we were house hunting, I told my husband that if we fell for a house with a pool, he should start figuring the cost of having it

And when you really have run out of space to plant more, there are always containers. Roses would generally rather be planted in the ground, but most of all, they want to be taken home and planted in some dirt somewhere. You can set containers along walkways, up steps and even on the driveway – just don't plant your 'Little White Lies' there. It lies – it's not little.



A couple more things I want to mention. When you are replacing or adding more roses, do take the time to improve your soil with sand for drainage if needed and add lots of organic materials. This is also an opportune time to improve your irrigation system. You really need to have a good irrigation system to manage your water use, giving your plants all they need to flourish without wasting it.

All photos by the author

Coming in October – Part 3 Where to buy roses

Asking the Experts

By 'experts' I mean all of us, everyone who grows roses. I need to know this – where do you buy roses? Locally - in which nurseries? By phone, mail and internet – where. Some of you buy often, others only occasionally, but either way, I want to know, and our fellow members want to know. And where have you had the best success?

July - August, Part 1 Building the Essential Wish List . If you missed it and want a copy, let me know at marywv@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

One great thing we have to look forward to this winter is our annual rose auction, so mark the date on your 2021 calendar! We don't know yet if it will be held inside in the MCC Student Center, outside in the public rose garden, outdoors in someone else's rose garden, or on Zoom. We don't know yet whether it will be a live auction, a silent auction, or something else. We don't know whether there will be fewer roses than last year – or more, many, many more. But we do know that creative minds are working on it, it will be on Saturday, February 13, 2021, and it will be wonderful. We'll see you there!



SEPTEMBER IN THE ROSE GARDEN

By Mary Van Vlack, CR

Whew! What a summer!! I've already lost two David Austin rose bushes and have more in very poor condition. I suspect many of you have the same.



It's official. August was the hottest month ever recorded in Phoenix with an average of 99.1° F, beating out the previous record set just last month of 98.9° F. Before this summer, the highest monthly average was 98.3° F. #azwx



6:08 PM · Aug 31, 2020

This month, instead of illustrations of beautiful roses, I'm using graphics from Channel 12 and the National Weather Service to show the depth of our problem.

As we face September, it is still hot, and enduring this seemingly endless summer requires such patience. We and our roses have all had enough: the children are sort of back in school, virtual vacations are over, the days are growing shorter, Halloween decorations and costumes fill the stores. It's fall – isn't it? Not quite. And until both days and evenings show significant cooling, the roses will not welcome any radical actions from us. Do your best to back off until the daytime highs drop into the 90s consistently and the overnight lows are at least down to the 70s. Still, there are some things you can do for your beleaguered plants.

Pay attention. Walk through your garden regularly. Go out early in the morning before breakfast, when temperatures are coolest. Watch for signs of water problems, for spider mites and chilli thrips, and for beneficial insects. I have often found that after my roses have struggled through an exceptionally hot summer, some will die in September or even early October.

Water, water, water. Continue with your summer water schedule until day and night temperatures drop significantly. As the days grow shorter, check the "start times" on your irrigation system controller so when they run you are awake and can keep an eye out for leaks and broken sprinkler heads. Watering in the heat of the day leads to substantial water loss through evaporation and the possibility of scalding the leaves. Twice a week continue to use your garden hose and water wand to direct a strong spray of water to the undersides and then the tops of leaves, washing away dust and breaking up the colonies of spider mites and such.

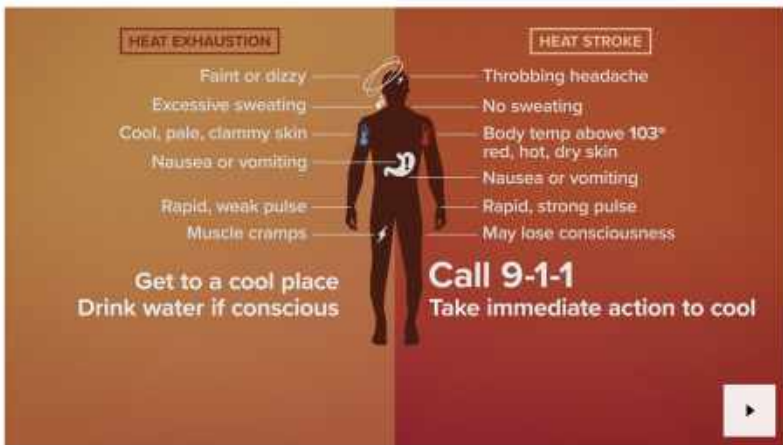


Credit: 12 News

Deadhead your roses? No – wait a bit longer. Do not remove any live leaves, including damaged ones. Your plants are probably losing enough leaves as it is because of the extreme weather. Cutting stimulates growth, which further stresses the plant, so don't do it. Of course, it is always good to cut away any dead canes, cutting back to live wood where a branch occurs or back to the bud union. Also, do remove any suckers, since they take more than they give to the plant. If you want to do more, clean dead leaves and petals and other debris out of your bed and pull all the weeds. Keep clean!!

Fertilize - maybe. If you have not fertilized your roses in six weeks or more, a light application of organic slow-release fertilizer would be in order. Water your roses really well the day before you fertilize, and then water your product in thoroughly. Lay in a supply of Epsom salts and chelated iron to use when the weather cools. All that irrigation tends to leach all the beneficial minerals out of the soil in your beds and containers.

Control pests and disease. I never used to spray for pests or diseases in September, but chilli thrips are forcing me to re-think that. If you find evidence of these awful things, spray the would-be growing tips and would-be buds with spinosad, Ten days to two weeks later you can repeat the spinosad, but if you continue to have problems, switch to Orthene or Merit/imidcloprid. If you use Merit as an in-ground application, you could do that now since it requires several weeks to become effective. The grasshoppers and katydids (built like a grasshopper but solid light green) are not your friends. They will chew holes in buds and make a mess of blooms and leaves. When you go out early in the morning, take your pruners; if you see one of these, they're slow when it's cool, so give them a quick snick with your pruners and solve that problem. Make sure you are not going after any praying mantises – great beneficials.



Planting. Do not plant or transplant roses now.

Finally, stay cool! And be patient. Just be patient!

Photos courtesy of the National Weather Service and Channel 12 News.

2020 ROSES IN REVIEW

There is still time to participate in the Roses in Review. Following are a few things you should know:

1. This is competitive – we want as many participants as we can get so that the ratings reflect our unique growing conditions
2. You don't have to be a member of ARS or even MEVRS to participate. You just have to grow roses in your home garden.
3. It is very easy, much easier than in the past – the computer program is very slick and quick. Just go to <http://www.rose.org/> and follow the trail to Roses in Review
4. Even if you don't grow any of the roses up for rating, you can still help us out and indicate that.
5. The deadline for entries is September, so procrastinate no longer
6. Consulting Rosarians are especially expected to participate

SYMPATHY CARDS NEEDED

Please send a note or card to Herb Himrich on the loss of his wife, Anita. She passed away on August 31, 2020. They have been long time members of our Rose Society and no doubt he would like to hear from all of us.

Herb Himrich
110 South Forest
Mesa, AZ 85204

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs, Sept 10, 7pm	MEVRS September monthly meeting	Zoom
Thurs, Oct 1	MEVRS Board Meeting	Zoom
Thurs, Oct 8	MEVRS October Meeting	Zoom
Thurs Nov 14, 7pm	MEVRS November meeting	Zoom
Sat Feb 13, 2020	MEVRS Rose Auction	Big Surprise!

JOIN THE ARS!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **5 issues of American Rose magazine, \$40 value.** The only magazine devoted exclusively to roses and rose culture, these bi-monthly, 84-page issues feature informative articles and beautiful color photography for beginners and experienced rose growers alike.
- **1 issue of American Rose Annual, \$15 value.** The November/December issue of *American Rose* features 128 pages of the latest in rose research, growing techniques and tips and more, from writers across the country and abroad.
- **The Handbook for Selecting Roses.** Every year, rosarians from across the country participate in rating the newest roses. From those thousands of reports, we tabulate the ratings and publish the results in this guide.
- **Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just 3 uses.** With the ARS Reciprocal Garden Admission program, members enjoy free or reduced admission to and discounts at hundreds of gardens, conservatories, and arboreta nationwide.
- **Free online access to five quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value.** Previously available by subscription only, the *Mini/Miniflora Bulletin*, *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Journal*, *Singularly Beautiful Roses*, *Rose Arranger's Bulletin*, and *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* are all now available online at no cost to all ARS members.
- **Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.** The ARS Member Benefit Partner program offers discounts at various merchants with new partners being added continuously.
- **Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.** The ARS Consulting Rosarians program connects members with expert rosarians that provide free assistance with your rose questions.



MEMBER BENEFIT PARTNERS

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- Vintage Gardens**
10% discount
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5% discount
- Witherspoon Rose Culture**
FREE rosebush for NEW members (full membership only) & 10% discount

YES! PLEASE BEGIN MY MEMBERSHIP IMMEDIATELY!

Name: _____

*Joint Member's Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ *E-mail: _____

Local Society Affiliation: _____

Check MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

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Annual

- \$49 Individual
- \$62 Joint*
- \$46 Senior (65+)
- \$59 Senior Joint*
- \$54 Canadian
- \$67 Canadian Joint*
- \$10 Youth
- \$59 Foreign

2-year

- \$95 Individual
- \$117 Joint*
- \$89 Senior (65+)
- \$111 Senior Joint*
- \$105 Canadian
- \$127 Can. Joint*
- \$20 Youth
- \$115 Foreign

3-year

- \$140 Individual
- \$170 Joint*
- \$132 Senior (65+)
- \$162 Senior Joint*
- \$155 Canadian
- \$185 Canadian Joint*
- \$30 Youth
- \$170 Foreign

*Joint membership is an individual and one associate residing in the same household. Associates enjoy all the member benefits of ARS but do not receive *American Rose*.

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