



Fall Newsletter

2021

OUR VISION

A WORLD CLASS ROSE GARDEN
WHERE THE COMMUNITY CAN ENJOY
AND LEARN ABOUT ROSES.

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Click Here
to visit
our new
Rose Library website!



Maria Coughlin, Luncheon
Chair Extraordinaire



Betsy Beasley, new KCRS Treasurer
Vickie Riffle,
Gina Pulliam and **JoEllen Wurth**



Passing of the Presidential Gavel from
Martha Comment to **Kandi McCasland**



Cyndy Price with Rosarian and new
KCRS Vice President **Laura Dickinson**



Amy Embry and **Susan Bubba**



Judy Penner with her shears



Heather Paxton and **Joe Vaughan**

2021 Annual Luncheon

By *Martha Comment*

Our 2021 Annual Meeting and Luncheon was held at **Indian Hills Country Club**, and how we loved being together after a long year of not seeing each other.

It was a time to catch up and also to honor those we couldn't meet to recognize in 2020 because of COVID. We gave a rose and talked about each one who had retired from the board. We really miss **Devan Hartnett** and **Cyndy Price**.

Then we elected our new 2021-2023 Board officers: **Kandi McCasland**, President, **Laura Dickinson**, Vice President, **John Riley**, Secretary, and **Vicki Riffle**, Treasurer. And we welcomed new board members **Barbara McCause**, and **Vicki Riffle**. We know the new team will lead us well.

The most important and heartfelt part of the Luncheon program honored retiring Loose Park Director **Judy Penner**.

After earning a degree in Horticulture from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Judy worked briefly in another public park before joining the Loose Park team as a

Landscape Technician. She is leaving 34 years later as Park Director, senior Rosarian and an expert on roses.

She has taught so many of us how to care for roses - when to spray, when to use fertilizer or bug killer, and when to prune and cut back for the winter. During her tenure, she introduced many improvements and innovations that helped the garden grow into an internationally recognized rose garden and world treasure.

Judy's son **Tucker Penner** made a video about her for the occasion that shared photos of Judy the teenager, the college student, the young bride to husband, Dave, and also documented her long park career.

Lauren English presented Judy with French shears framed with a notation on the back, "In case of an emergency, break glass!" She also received the **American Rose Society Bronze Award** for her dedication to the Rose Garden, which she helped make so beautiful - with her characteristic style and grace and friendliness. She will be missed.



Board Development Chair
Joan Sherman

Joan Sherman wanted to plant a rose garden at her home. So she joined the KCRS to learn how to grow and care for roses. "And then I fell in love with the Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden because it fills such a vital role in Kansas City. I began to view the garden as an almost spiritual place, a way to support the community, a sunny spot to relax and read or reflect on life, to get married or to celebrate life's events through photos in that beautiful setting, a place to learn and more. People join KCRS for many reasons," she adds, "from learning about rose care to becoming a groomer or supporting the garden through *Love is a Rose*."

From 1999 - 2008, Joan served in almost every position on the Board of Directors. During that time, she was instrumental in revamping the by-laws and redesigning the Society's logo to attract younger audiences, which is why we now have the Rosebuds! And under her leadership, the society also addressed the garden's serious drainage problems and raised funds for the garden's 2007-08 restoration. She rejoined the board in 2016 as Chair of the Development Committee, and her current role is to help recruit new community-oriented members as future leaders in the organization.

Joan received a B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science from St. Louis University. She was Chief of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratories at Washington University/Barnes Hospital and earned her MBA. She was then recruited by pharmaceutical company Marion Laboratories in Kansas City where she eventually became Sr. Director of Medical Education worldwide before leaving to form her own consulting firm.

Joan's daughter Lauren and her step-siblings have given Joan seven grandchildren. "My step-children are like my own children," she adds. "We have a wonderful relationship. I'm so lucky!"

And so are we to have a member like Joan Sherman!

Get To Know Our Board

By Margie Paxton

These Board Member profiles are designed to help you know - and maybe join - them!



President
Kandi McCasland

Incoming KCRS President **Kandi McCasland** was first recruited to serve on the board in 2001. "I told **Sandy Campuzano** I couldn't do it because I had 5-month-old twins at home, and she said, "Bring them!" So, she did. "The first year everyone on the Board took turns taking them for walks out of the room when they became fussy. It was like a family," she adds.

Over the nine years she served on the board, Kandi initiated the Children's Programs, led the *Memory and Friendship Roses* programs, and served as Corresponding Secretary, which included handling all the printed invitations and mailings (before email!) She even got the twins involved in growing roses!

This intrepid woman loves flying with her husband Mark in his 1932 bi-plane. (Think open cockpit, goggles and scarf flying in the wind!) She also loves bugs and spiders. (Yes, really!) Maybe that's because she grew up in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, where her father was general manager; her mother, food and beverage manager. And it's probably why she still loves camping and hiking and riding her two gaited trail horses. She's also an avid gardener and enjoys competing in the Rose Show with the more than 90 roses she grows.

Kandi earned a B.S. in Psychology at the University of Oklahoma, graduated from Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and became a licensed small animal veterinarian. Until the pandemic, she did relief work for clinics around the city when their vets took personal leave. That work tapered off just at the right time for her KCRS re-commitment. "Being Chairman of Wine and Roses was like a second career!" she adds with a smile.

Kandi came back onto the board in November of 2019 and has been our Vice President for the last two years. Now she's taken on the leadership of our organization and for that we salute her - goggles and all!



Honorary Chair **Shirley Herzberg** with outgoing President **Martha Comment** and new KCRS President **Kandi McCasland**



Wine and Roses

By *Kandi McCasland*

The return of our annual **Wine & Roses** fundraiser was a triumphant success, with Chairs **Kandi McCasland** and **Betsy Parker** hitting it out of the park (so to speak)!

It truly met its promise “*Roses for the Senses*” in every respect. The weather was glorious, and the garden has never been more inviting. The scent of our 3,000 Roses was complimented by the music of the **Fountain City String Quartet** drifting across the garden. Delicious rose-themed food and drinks provided by **Local Seasons** and **Top Shelf Catering** delighted our sense of taste. Inviting seating areas were graciously provided by our own **Taylor Smith** and **Golden and Pine** in Prairie Village, and set off by the lovely **Bergamot & Ivy** rose-inspired flower arrangements.

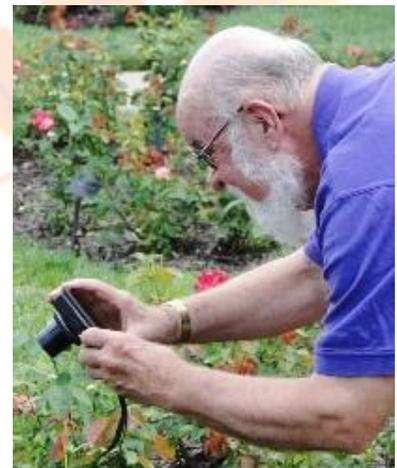
Honorary Chair **Shirley Helzberg**'s gracious and kind remarks to the crowd were a highlight. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and contributed to the success of a truly memorable event.

ARS Honors John Riley and Glenn Hodges

By *Laura Dickinson*



Glen's photograph of Moonstone rose



Congratulations to **John Riley**, new Director of the ARS Central District, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. **Cyndy Price** will join John as new Membership Chair, and **Margie Paxton** is the incoming CDRS Newsletter Editor.

John was awarded the **ARS Silver Medal** at the recent **Central District Conference** held in Colfax, IA. The highest honor bestowed at the district level, it is given for exemplary service in the promotion of the rose and rose gardening.

KCRS member and Master Rosarian **Glenn Hodges**, who could not attend, was given the 2021 **Outstanding Rose Show Judge** award at the Conference.

Congratulations also go to Glenn whose photograph of **Moonstone** was selected for inclusion in the **American Rose Society's 2022 Calendar**. [Click here](#) to order a copy. You'll find Glenn's photo on the August page.

Groomers Celebrate 21 Years!

By Lauren English



Two of the original six groomers: **Melissa Windju** and **Sandy Campuzano**

The annual Groomers Luncheon celebrated our volunteers who logged over 1,000 hours of service this season!

Past President, original groomer and guest speaker **Sandy Campuzano** shared fond memories of the original six groomer and of the Rose Garden's many improvements over the years. Garden Committee member **Martha Negley** was honored for 10 years of service. A record number of green aprons were awarded to new KCRS groomers who clocked more than 15 hours: **Chris Baker, Marsee Bates, Alicia Coleman, Lorna Earnest, Virginia and Roger Emley, Pauline Freeman, Kim Grignon, Patricia Hornbeck, Heather Mellor, David Silverstein, Beverly South, and JoEllen Wurth.**



New Groomer **Alicia Coleman** and the garden both turned 90 this year!



Beetle contest pin winner **Kim Grignon**

Seasoned groomers who worked at least 15 hours earned a beautiful pink enamel rose pin: **Elaine Adams, Martha Comment, Maria Coughlin, Laura Dickinson, Lauren English, Helga Friess, Mary Funk, Ann Greene, Virginia Hill, Tom Hogan, Johanna and Jim Holswade, Teri James, Jennifer Jensen, Lori Judd, Angela Lefman, Barbara McCanse, Carole Mosher, Martha Negley, Doug Polson, Cyndy Price, Gina Pulliam, Jillian Richwine, Vicki Riffle, Barbara Roche, Robin Rosenbrook, Linda Rostenberg, Susan Sengstacken, Julie Spaeth, Mike Stephenson, Betty Whitcomb, and Melissa Windju.**

Kim Grignon won the first prize Japanese Beetle pin for her jar count guess of 500. There were actually 461. **Heather Mellor**, who placed second with the wildest guess of 25,000 beetles, received a blue velvet beetle, donated by **Katy Hamilton**, groomer and owner of **Shopgirls**.



Garden Committee members **Maria Coughlin, Chair Lauren English, Martha Negley, Judy Penner, who we will miss, and Barbara Roche**

The luncheon also honored retiring **Head Rosarian Judy Penner**, with a dozen pale pink David Autsin roses and a Visa card funded by the 2021 groomers. Judy and her husband will use the gift to visit their adult twins in Los Angeles this winter. Thank you, Judy, for your friendship and many years of dedication to our program.



Jazz in the Roses

By Betsy Parker

Despite the summer-like temperatures early in the day, the Chiefs' home game competition and early COVID uncertainty, it was a perfect **Jazz in the Roses!** The Garden, in full bloom, was a beautiful setting for picnic blankets and relaxing on chairs to listen to the music of **Brian Hicks and the Tectonics**, accompanied by **Ginny Mac** on accordion and vocals and **Emily Frost**, vocalist. **Chuck Haddix** was our MC for the evening. Children were entertained with kits for making tissue paper roses, and a Rosarian was on hand to answer gardening questions.





Consulting Rosarian
LeeAnne Beaumont

Consulting Rosarians

By *Laura Dickinson*

Our **Ask a Rosarian** email helpline was busy this year. Questions included mystery rose identification, recommendations on roses for home gardens, and advice on planting, pruning, fertilizer, pest control, and more. CRs were also available to answer questions at our public events, including the **Rose**

Spring and Fall **Rose Care Workshops** were cancelled this year due to COVID, but we hope to bring them back in 2022. **Judy Penner** and several other CRs have recorded short videos on rose care and interesting stories about roses in the **Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden**. [Click here](#) to see them. Thank you to all our CRs for their dedication to rose garden education: **LeAnne Beaumont, Laura Dickinson, Glenn Hodges, JJ Jensen, Judy Penner** and **John Riley**.

Fall Rose Care



It's time to get your roses ready for winter!

The end of November is usually a good time to "put them to bed."

The crown of tender and grafted roses should be covered with 12-18 inches of mulch or compost. Continue watering about one inch per week until the soil freezes. Most roses die over the winter from dehydration instead of cold temperatures. So if it doesn't rain or snow, try to water once a month on a nice day.

[Click here](#) to learn more on winter prep.

[Click here](#) to visit our new KCRS Rose Library.

Have questions about roses?
Ask a Rosarian at kcrosehelp@gmail.com

Your feedback is our future

By *Linda Rostenberg*

As a member of the Kansas City Rose Society, I've often chatted with a person new to our gang. Those casual conversations always seem to lead to great ways to heighten our profile in our community, region, country, and now the world.

Have you ever met a groomer out in the garden and thought, I should have coffee with him or her --- that one is fun! "*Aha! moments*" happen that way. One day in the park Judy Penner and I started talking about how our roses are so pretty, but the only way to really get the big picture of the garden is from above. That led us to the idea of a drone video of the garden ... which led to a member whose grandson is a videographer which led to a company that assisted us in getting an amazing video made ... which landed us on You Tube, where rose enthusiasts worldwide have seen our video and shared it with rose-impassioned friends!

It just takes one member talking to another to spark something special. Here are some ideas in the hopper today, all from friends in the Rose Society.

- **SIT IN THE ROSE GARDEN WITH A FRIEND.**
As we listened to some amazing classical music at **Wine and Roses** this past September, my friend **Ann Greene** said, "Maybe we should also have an event with beer and music. And I said, Beer Garden! How younger people would love that!"



All of our programs began as an idea someone suggested

- **BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK INSPIRES.**
When I open a special event invitation designed by **Taylor Smith**, I don't want to ever toss it. A recent invitation made me ask him, "Why don't we have this on a T-shirt?" Do we even have a KCRS T-shirt? Not yet! But if we made and wore KCRS T-shirts in the garden, like we wear our aprons and hats, people would stop us and ask questions ... and maybe join us and add more good ideas.
- **WHAT'S BETTER THAN A PERFECT PHOTOGRAPH?**
Lauren English, Greg German, Jillian Richwine, JJ Jensen and others post Rose Garden pix on Facebook and Instagram, reminding their audiences that we are THE place for picturesque selfies! Thanks to our talented photo-bugs, many visitors appreciated our work this season, tried out our new QR coding signs, and learned the history and best handling for all our rose varieties. We become famous - and appreciated!

So tell us - what good idea do you have for us?
We're listening!

A Wonderful Place to Read!

By Betsy Beasley

This was the seventh year we partnered with [The Writers Place](#) to host **Reading in the Roses**, which continues to bring new visitors to the Rose Garden.

Poet and host **Alarie Tennille** always invites extraordinary literary writing talents for these events, which are held three times a year in the Loose Park Garden Center. This year's featured writers included:

- James Bengler, poet
- Al Ortolani, poet
- Melissa Fite Johnson, poet
- Alarie Tennille, poet
- Pat Lawson, short story writer
- Jermaine Thompson, poet

The final Reading in the Roses for this year was held on Saturday, October 23, 2021. After the reading events, the attendees met the writers and other visitors, chatted, asked questions, all of which presented good opportunities to make new friendships. Later, board member and Rosarian **Laura Dickinson** graciously led a group through the Rose Garden, where the roses showed off their beauty.



Poet **Jermaine Thompson**



Poet and host **Alarie Tennille**



Poet **Al Ortolani**



Short story writer **Pat Lawson**

Please Help Welcome Our New Members

Christopher Barker	Laura Jaber
Linda Beatty	Cory Mahin
Wynne Begun	Mary & David Silverstein
Marilyn & Wes Browning	Dawn Simmons & Chris Patterson
Alicia Coleman	Nathan Wall
Lisa & Dave Emerson	Sarah & Scott Walters
Amy & John Felton	JoEllen Wurth
Mallore Hall	Drs. Chris & Jillian Wenburg

Kids' Poetry Contest

By Julia Spaeth

Each spring the winning students of the annual **Rose Prose Poetry Contest** submit their poems, which must include the word "rose" at least once. The winning entries receive a \$50 cash prize, and the judges briefly share why each poem was awarded a prize, which may be their first step to successful writing careers!

Alarie Tennille and other judges from [The Writers Place](#) selected the 2021 winning poetry in grade levels 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8.

This year's winners were **Madeline Male** for her poem "I Love Flowers" (5-6 grade category) and **Mason Renner** for his poem "War of the Roses" (7-8 grade category.) Congratulations to both, who have also won in previous years. Their poems are published on our website at www.kansascityrosesociety.org.



Educating Young Gardeners

By Julia Spaeth

High school students from [Kansas City Academy](#) were the first class to have an educational visit to the garden, and they really enjoyed it! They learned about types of roses and rose growth requirements, worked in the garden with the groomers, took a cutting from a rose plant, and made a terrarium so it could root and grow another plant.

2021 Rosebud Groomers



Rosebuds **Jillian Wenburg, Chris Wenburg, Lauren Thompson, Taylor Smith, Shannon Dougherty**, with Garden Chair **Lauren English**. Not pictured, **Meg Spilker** and **Nichollette Haigler**

The New 2022 KCRS Board

Have a question? Give us a call.

Kandi McCasland	President	816-810-4022
Laura Dickinson	Vice-President	913-449-9377
John Riley	Secretary	913-341-2853
Vicki Riffle	Treasurer	913-485-7148

Betsy Beasley	Jim Holswade	Linda Rostenberg
Martha Comment	Barbara McCanse	Joan Sherman
Maria Coughlin	Betsy Parker	Taylor Smith
Lauren English	Margie Paxton	Julie Spaeth
Ann Greene		Marylou Turner