

Patsy Williams, Editor

October 2009

This Month's Meeting

Thursday October 8, 2009

Fabulous Photos of Famous Rose Gardens Christa Kaiser

7:30 pm Garden Center Hermann Park

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Dream Come True

Fabulous Photos of Famous Rose Gardens

Our speaker this month, **Christa Kaiser**, will take us on a tour of her favorite rose gardens around the world. Her travels abroad have taken her to a number of remarkable rose gardens, and also to private local gardens of Rosarians in our area. Christa's photos include some from famous gardens in the Paris, France; Konrad Adenauer's homestead in Roendorf, Germany; and, of course, gardens of Rosarians in Houston.

Christa's hobby of "roses and gardening" has remained her life-long passion. She is a Master Gardener at the Texas Cooperative Extension, Precinct 2 Satellite, Genoa Red Bluff Road, where she is in charge of the rose beds.

Consulting Rosarian for October is Mary Fulgham. Bring your rose questions. The roses are getting prettier.

Feature of the Month: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora Bouquet, 7 or more roses, any variety or combination of varieties, one bloom per stem without side bud(s), in a container furnished by the exhibitor.

SPECIAL: 7:00 pm, Beginner's Corner by Donald Burger: Tips from a Non-Exhibitor on How to Enter Your First Rose Show

Have you registered for the convention? Do so now.

What Good Rosarians Are Doing in October

October is again upon us, with cooler weather, larger rose blooms, and work in the garden becoming more enjoyable. Fall rains finally come, and everything greens up again.

Healthy plants are very important

Disease free plants produce better roses. A preventive fungicide spray program is always easier than trying to eradicate blackspot. Spray with Funginex every seven days. If your choice is another product, that is OK, as long as you use it.

Eradicating Blackspot

Prevention, of course, is always easier than trying to cure the disease. But, it is not too late to get blackspot under control so that your bushes go into winter disease-free. Spray your bushes at five-day intervals for three weeks, and you should then gain control of the fungus; this amounts to four sprayings during this time frame. Spray with:

Funginex (Ortho Rose & Garden Disease Control) @ 1 Tablespoon/gallon, (or your other favorite fungicide), mixed with Fore or Mancozeb, etc., @ 1 Tbs/gal. The combined spray mixture will both help to eradicate blackspot and protect any new growth. Always water before you spray with any chemicals.

Begin your spraying on the bottom sides of the leaves, and then spray the top sides; much of the top surface will already have been covered as you sprayed the bottom surfaces. I like to take it a bush at the time. First, spray the bottoms of the leaves, and then turn your spray wand over and come back down the bush, spraying the top surfaces. Complete surface coverage of both tops and bottoms of leaves, with a contact fungicide, is needed for control of fungus.

After blackspot is under control, spray every seven days with a preventive fungicide.

Use soluble fertilizer ONLY

Your last dry (granular) fertilizer should have been applied no later than the first week in September, but you can still apply a soluble

fertilizer, such as our own Houston Rose Society's "28-14-10 Rose Fertilizer", or Miraclegro, or fish emulsion, or Super Bloom, etc. It is safe to use these, per label recommendations, until about mid-October. All fertilizers should be discontinued thereafter. Soluble fertilizers should be applied to the soil, not on the foliage; fertilizers such as this will cause foliar burn in our area. It just doesn't get cool enough to prevent it. Liquid fertilizer is available to the plant almost immediately, allowing the plant a quick meal.

Finger prune to encourage show blooms.

As the District Show approaches, there are ways to make better specimens, and also better blooms for you to bring inside and enjoy.

To make a better floribunda spray, snap its center bud off as soon as you can. The remainder of the buds will grow closer together, making a better inflorescence, thus, a better specimen.

To encourage a hybrid tea, all side buds need to be removed as early as possible, to prevent scarring, and allowing more food to go to the remaining bloom.

Recap: Remove side buds for a single bloom; center bud, for a spray.

Leave blooms on the plant after mid-October. Cut a few for the house, some for sharing and some for the show. Leave the rest on the bush, signaling to the plant that it is time to slow down and not produce lush new growth that might freeze, because there isn't time for it to harden off before winter. This is done for the plants' benefit. You will still get enough blooms to enjoy. Fall is in the air, and large blooms with more brilliant colors are on the way. October is a time of being able to really enjoy your roses.

Watch for insects.



Thrips are probably our number one problem. Thrips ruin the blooms, causing them to turn



brown and look bruised. Thrips are best controlled by spraving ONLY the buds and blooms with an insecticide such as Orthene or a product containing acephate. (Orthene is being taken off the market, so we are having to find other products that will do the job.) A spritzer bottle will do a good job and will not waste a lot of chemical. A controlled spraying will also help to prevent killing the "good" insects, which make our gardens more friendly.



Corn ear worms, caterpillars, etc., drill holes in the blooms and

eat the bloom from the inside out; a good bloom is quickly devastated. Sevin dust, dusted onto the buds, will help to alleviate this problem. I try to watch a little closer at this time of year, and kill them before they do much damage. A clear egg is laid underneath a leaflet by the corn-ear worm moth. As the egg hatches, the worm crawls up the stem and drills a hole into the bud. Check more closely for unwanted "foreignsubstance" near the buds, and remove. Watch also for leaves which are eaten from the bottom side.



Leaf cutter bees are the makers of those round "hole punch"-type holes.

These critters do a number on the foliage, making unsightly holes, but not otherwise harming a plant. There really isn't a good preventive for this. Tolerance is best. They also seem to pick on more fragrant foliage. Who knows why? If you have a good solution, let me know, and I'll pass it along.



Grasshoppers and katydids

Larger and more-plentiful than ever are our hopping enemies. Catching them is by far the best control, but

you will have to watch for them because they camouflage themselves to look like the foliage of the plant.

Cucumber beetles

Pay special attention to the "green lady bug look-alike." The green ones damage your blooms; they eat holes in the petals. If you are spraying the buds and blooms for thrips, you will probably kill this pest also. If all else fails, you can always squish them between your fingers.

Lacewings

While walking through the garden I have recently seen many Lacewings. These are "good guys." The larval stage feeds on aphids, mealy bugs, scale insects, mites, caterpillar eggs, small earworms, and other small softbodied insects. Do not kill "good guys." The adult female lays each oval egg at the end of a thin, hairlike stalk attached to the surface of a leaf or twig; this helps keep the cannibalistic young from eating each other as they hatch.

Water is still important for good roses.

With fall rains, we are prone to think that the roses will have enough water. While this might be the case for a day or so, it will not hold true for very long. The object is to have a continually moist soil.

Mulch for winter.

Be sure that your rose beds have a good layer of mulch as winter approaches. Mulch is a blanket that protects tender feeder roots from a harsh winter's freeze. Since you never know when a freeze could occur, get ahead of the weather, and make it an enjoyable event.

Evaluate the performance of beds and bushes.

Fall is always a good time to stroll the garden and pay close attention to how each bush is performing. Many of our gardens are max-ed out. There is no more space to build a new rose bed or to plant a new bush; a bush will have to be removed to plant another.

It's not too early to begin plans for next year. Will there be a new rose bed? We are all faced with this dilemma every year. Sometimes the answer is no, sometimes, yes. A rose bed that is made in the fall or winter will have time to 'mellow' before it is time to plant roses.

There are new varieties introduced every year. There is always a "must have" variety or two; or, you might have one of which you would like to have another bush of the same variety. One of the training presentations in our SCD Convention teaches how to propagate roses. Now we have a reason for our strolling the garden and evaluating. Is there one that hasn't given you the satisfaction which you expected?

There always is, in my garden! This one will be a candidate for "shovel-pruning" (digging up and disposing).

A sick, non-productive bush takes as much time, spray, and fertilizer as a healthy bush. The choice as to whether or not to keep a bush lies entirely at your discretion.

Order rose catalogs.

Whether you intend to order by mail or to buy from a local nursery, catalogs make good reading during the winter months. They can also help you identify varieties which you might like to have in your garden.

Editor's note: Mail order prices have increased greatly in the last few years. The prices in our local nurseries are about the same as those by mail, and you get a plant in a pot and already growing. At least you can see what you are buying.

Enjoy the fruits of your labor. Roses are meant to be enjoyed. There is more pleasure in having them in the house because they last longer and the colors are exquisite.

Odds and Ends.

This has certainly been a year of unforeseen happenings. After Hurricane Ike last year we have learned a lot. Ike put a lot of stress on our plants, homes and us. Then came an unusually hot and dry summer like we haven't seen before. Water was essential to everything. Many plants died. It seemed to be easier to stay inside in the cool than to venture outside. Many parts of town had little to no rain all summer. Those that got rain, got too much. Then came the chilli thrips! Boy, have they done a number on many gardens this year! We are all hoping that we never see them again. That is probably not gong to happen. Others have experienced to effects of deer and roses while others have had to deal with rabbits, etc. We have all had our problems this year.

I hope that you have a better experience this fall!





How THE ROSE-ETTE Gets to You

The **Rose-Ette** is taken, camera ready, to our printer every month. The printer prints the pages, your Editor picks them up and, with the help of volunteers, collates the various pages, folds, tapes and labels according to Zip Codes. They are then put in trays, forms filled out, and taken to the downtown Post Office Bulk Mailing Section.

The newsletters with Houston Zip Codes are handled there. All other Zip Codes are then sent to North Houston (a distribution center for all our mail), sorted according to other Area Distribution Centers (ADCs), and sent on their merry way towards those addresses.

Since the newsletter is mailed bulk mail, there is no forwarding done if you should happen to change your address. It is YOUR responsibility to check the label on the front of this newsletter and, if there are any changes, to notify the editor. All <u>NINE</u> zip code digits are needed for Bulk Mail. The PO claims that you will get it faster by using them (who knows?).

We need volunteers to help the editor get the newsletter ready to mail. We begin at 9:00 am on a Wednesday 15 days before the next meeting. If you would like to help us, please give me a call, and I will tell you when the next time will be. Call Patsy @ 713-944-3437. We work hard, but we discuss roses and other subjects that might arise. The assembly is done at my house. Lunch is covered dish.

A special Thank You to my helpers for the past few years: Bernice Wallace, Manel Perera and Baxter Williams. These folks have made my job easier.

So, as you can see, the newsletter is put together by volunteers. This is not a service that we pay to have done. Come, join the "crew." Patsy Williams, Editor 713-944-3437



HRS Library Corner By Maria Trevino

At our last meeting, Robin Hough asked if the library had the

updated edition of *The Ultimate Rose Book.* We did not. This caught my interest, so I searched it out and acquired a copy for the library. This book was originally written by Stirling Macoby, who has since passed away, and this new and expanded edition is edited by rose expert, Dr. Tommy Cairns. Dr. Cairns is a past president of the American Rose Society and the World Federation Rose Societies.

The Ultimate Rose Book is a large book. At 10 x 13 inches, it is not a volume that you can easily read in bed or take with you to buy roses, but it is well worth its size. Every rose that is reviewed is photographed. That's over 1,500 roses - 300 more roses than the first edition.

The book is divided into four sections: (1) Wild Roses, (2) Old Garden Roses, (3) Modern Roses and (4) Miniatures and Mini-Floras. There is a little history about each rose, its cultivar name, parentage, the breeder, its growth habit, whether it is fragrant, whether it is a repeat bloomer, and whether it is disease resistant or whether it is prone to blackspot or mildew. What is nice is that besides the cultivar name, any other name by which the rose has been known is listed. The index also lists the original name under which the rose was released and references the current name for the rose. It makes it easy to find a rose when you just can't remember the "official" name.

The book is interspersed with interesting stories about roses. "The Power of Red Roses" chapter details the evolution of the red rose. In the chapter on "The Rose in India" you will learn the roses are among the flowers that bloom in marble on the walls of the Taj Mahal. There are chapters on fragrant roses, and the continuing search for a blue rose. Broad topics like planting, pruning, propagating and caring for roses are also included.

No rose book would be complete without lists. And this book has some very informative ones such as thornless roses, fragrant roses, roses for hedges, and roses for cutting. A directory of the best known rose breeders and their creations, and eight public gardens around the world, are highlighted.

Check out this book. It is eye-candy for rosarians. I even used it to make a list of roses that I hope to add to our garden (once I find the space).



In My Garden By Robin Hough

Well, temperatures have moderated, and even a small drop meant larger blooms than those that had baked all day in our above-average temperatures. Now I am

keeping an eye on things in anticipation of the South Central District Rose Show the end of October. As I walk the garden I am evaluating the bushes. As the show is on the 24th of October, I need blooms absolutely *no later* than the 23rd. If I didn't have the beginnings of small buds on a bush by the 1st of October, then I knew not to count on having blooms from that bush for the show. It's no use hoping for something that's just not going to happen!

As I evaluate things, I am disbudding (finger pruning) bushes. On those I want to produce one-bloom-per-stem specimens, I'm pinching off the unwanted side growth. Doing this early on will prevent having an unsightly scar where the removal took place. On those bushes that tend to produce sprays, I'm removing the larger center bud. The outer buds will fill in, and the stem from the middle bud will just dry up and fall off, leaving no scar at all.

Of course, I am maintaining my regular spray schedule in order to prevent blackspot and thrips damage. If you think these things aren't so noticeable in your yard, just know that they are magnified many times over on the show table in front of judges!

I will apply a couple of liquid feedings to perk up things during the last couple of weeks before the show. These will include fertilizer with a high middle number, fish emulsion, liquid seaweed, Sprint 330 (iron), and a few "secret" ingredients. Hopefully I will gain larger blooms with good foliage, color, and stems than otherwise. The biggest help will be having cooler nights to allow the blooms to develop slower and allow me to work in the garden more comfortably.

Hope to see you all at the South Central District Rose Show on October 24!

EarthKind Educational Opportunities

October will be a busy month in terms of educational programs available to our members and friends around the state. On Saturday, October 17, 2009, a oneday EarthKind Symposium will be held at the Victoria 4-H Activity Center, 259 Bachelor Drive, Victoria, Texas. The \$65 registration fee must be received by October 1st and includes lunch, an EarthKind Handbook and a 2-gallon rose bush. To register or for more information see <u>www.vcmga.org</u>.

Also, on Wednesday through Friday, October 7 - 9, 2009, the Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association is sponsoring the annual, Advanced EarthKind Training Course. This multiday program provides the most up-todate advances in horticulture and rose growing that is available in Texas. To register or for more information contact Steve Chaney (SAChaney@ag.tamu.edu or 817/884-1946).

Any Houston-area members wishing to attend either of these programs are welcome to ride with Gaye Hammond, one of the speakers at both events. Contact Gaye at 281/458-6116 or <u>gayeh@LPM-triallaw.com</u> to make arrangements.

GRAHAM THOMAS - 2009 HALL OF FAME WINNER!

By Gaye Hammond, Consulting Rosarian



David Austin's English Rose, Graham Thomas, joins an elite group of roses, recognized around the world as the best of the best. Induction into the World Federation of

Roses Hall of Fame is perhaps the world's highest honor that a rose can receive. In addition to Graham Thomas, only 13 other roses over the last 33 years have been so recognized.

Introduced in 1983, Graham Thomas, has wonderfully plump cup-shaped blooms that are an unusually rich pure yellow with golden overtones. The richness of the color is not often found in Old Garden Roses and is ever more rare in modern roses. This rose makes an excellent landscape specimen with a mature size of five feet high and four feet wide. In addition to its unique color, the heady strong tea fragrance puts Graham Thomas on every gardener's "must have" list.

According to Mark Chamblee, Texas' only licensed propagator of David Austin roses, "Graham Thomas has always been one of the most popular of the David Austin Roses. It has good disease resistance and can be used as a manageable climber or large weeping shrub."

Own-root Graham Thomas roses are available locally at The Arbor Gate (281-351-8851) and by mail order from Chamblee's Rose Nursery (800-256-7673).

It's Late

By Baxter Williams, Master Rosarian

The cold (at least, cool) weather will soon be upon us, and cold weather rose care is very different than that for hot weather. Let's think about both for a few paragraphs.

Your hot weather rose care should have concentrated on keeping your plants healthy. Preventive maintenance would include regular application of fungicides to *keep the leaves on the bushes*, deep watering to prevent desiccation, and regular inspection to discover harmful insects. It's no different than personal care - wash hands to prevent contracting swine flu, drinking plenty of water to stay hydrated and flush away wastes, eat right, and observation to make sure problems are addressed in a timely manner.

We are now in a period of transitions into cooler weather. What will change, weather - wise? Several things.

Temperatures will moderate, then drop. As the ground temperatures slide downward, the bushes will grow more slowly. In all honesty, this is a good thing. Summer's heat accelerates development of the buds, causing them to open before becoming the sizes you experienced in the spring. I don't know about you, but I really like those large blooms in April and October.

The fall rains will come. The only variable will be the amount. At this point you should continue to apply water using your watering system, until you are sure that rainfall has been adequate. Check, by using a trowel to dig down to the root zone. A recent speaker gave us methods to use to catch and use rainwater for irrigating our plants, which saves money (after you have paid for the system) and reduces the load on the municipal water plant. Note: Rainwater is not potable (drinkable), unless you have treated it (by adequate filtering and use of bactericides). But the dust off of the roof and the pollutants washed from the atmosphere are seldom harmful to roses. And there will be less daylight each day until January 22nd. Less daylight also means slower growth and therefore, longer time on the bushes for buds and larger blooms.

So, what shall we do? Keep 'em sprayed, keep 'em watered, keep 'em "de-bugged" (pluck them off, or wash them off, or kill them with insecticide, if you must), and keep 'em fed.

It's a little late to do much feeding, but it should be continued until mid-October. But NOT using granulars or slow-release types, but rather using soluble fertilizers. A liquid fertilizer will quickly enter the rose plant, excesses being washed out by the rains. Slow-release types encourage growth continuing into the frosts. Those frosts, and early freezes, can kill new growths.

Don't cut many blooms after Halloween, which would also encourage new growth, but also don't stop enjoying your roses and sharing them with others. Bring on the cool weather blooms!

Thank Heaven for New Members By Baxter Williams

With clouded wits the Rosarian sits And ponders o'er the Article He must create, and not be late, But so far...not a particle.

The Editor's words are now twice-heard, And desperation grows For what to say. Mustn't delay. What subject? Who knows?

What to say? Something new? I mustn't be a bore. No matter what, I'm pretty sure It's all been said before.

I tried to duck, but it's just my luck, And although there's no reason to fear,

I'll re-write what's been re-written, again. There are a lot of **new members** this year!

2010 Award of Excellence Winners

Daddy Frank - miniflora, dr, Robbie Tucker, tall, exhibition form

First and Foremost - miniflora, dp, Frank Benardella, tall, exhibition form

Magic Show - miniature, m, Frank Benardella, medium, exhibition form

Spirit Dance - miniflora, or, Christian Bedard, medium

2010 Miniature Hall of Fame Honorees

'Gourmet Popcorn'

This miniature rose is a sport of 'Popcorn' and was discovered by Luis Desamero. This rose is a pure white semi-double miniature with dark green foliage.

'Luis Desamero'

This miniature rose was hybridized by Dee Bennett. This rose is pastel yellow with a slight fruity fragrance. Dee named the rose in honor of her friend Luis Desamero, a fellow honoree recognized this year.

'Tiffany Lynn"

This Mini-Flora was also hybridized by Nelson Jolly. This rose has large blooms with pink edges that blend with white in the center.

Miniature Hall of Fame History

The American Rose Society established the designation in 1999 for those miniatures that have stood the test of time in commerce for at least 20 years. Since that time, there have been 24 honorees. Please more information, high resolution photos and a complete list of recipients, please visit the media section at <u>www.ars.org</u>.

ARS Offers Trial Membership

The American Rose Society is now offering a four-month trial membership for only \$10 to anyone who is interested in becoming members of our organization. Most ARS members are home gardeners who enjoy growing roses and want to expand their knowledge of rose culture.

- Free advice from Consulting Rosarians. The ARS Consulting Rosarians program connects members with expert rosarians that provide free assistance with your rose questions.
- 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 four quarterly bulletins, a \$45 value. Previously available by subscription only, the *Mini/Mini-Flora Bulletin, Old Garden Rose & Shrub Gazette, Rose Arrangers' Bulletin,* and *Rose Exhibitors' Forum* are all now available online for free to all ARS members.
- 2 issues of American Rose magazine, \$16 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. View a free issue online at www.ars.org.
- **Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.** The ARS Member Benefit Partner program offers discounts at 14 merchants with new partners being added continuously.
- A four-month trial membership is valued at \$86 for only \$10!

Society Potpourri

Billy Kniffen gave us a lot to think about as to how and why to collect rainwater. If you were not there, you really missed a treat. Thank you, Billy.

Thanks to Gaye Hammond, Manel Perera and Susan Kelly for the wonderful treats at the meeting.

Grand Prix Results:

Best Fl. - *Playboy* - Earl/Deanna Krause Mini Queen - *Memphis Music* - E/D Krause Court - *Jerry Lynn* - Earl/Deanna Krause *Odessa* - James/Debbie Laperouse *Bees Knees* - Jeniver Lauran *Breath of Spring* - Jeniver Lauran Best Open Mini- *Little Artist* - J/D Laperouse

Best Shrub - Women in Military - E/D Krause Feature -Stages of Bloom - Bees Knees -Jeniver Lauran

South Central District Convention and Show October 23-25, 2009

Many of you have already registered for the convention. We hope that many more of you will register and also help us at the convention and show. With it being here, you will get to meet rosarians from other societies and it is fun to share rose experiences with others. There are programs in the afternoon that you can attend as part of your registration. The roses that you will see will be fabulous. The roses that come from Arkansas and Oklahoma will be huge. It is a fun weekend. Join us!

The show is a great place to make your wish list for next year. You will see beautiful roses.

James Mills from K & M Roses will be with us at the convention. He sells roses grafted on Fortuniana Rootstock. His website is <u>www.kandmroses.com</u>. Visit his website, and see what he has on his list. He will be bringing some for sale, but you may pre-order, and he will bring those with him also.

Wendy Tilley from The Rose Gardener / Harlane. Check out her table at the convention

HRS Events Calendar

Mark your calendar - updates made monthly

- Oct 8 •HRS Meeting Fabulous Photos of Famous Rose Gardens, Christa Kaiser
- Oct 8-10 •Bulb Mart The Garden Club of Houston will hold their 67th Annual Bulb Mart on October 8, 9. and 10, 2009. For further information, including a pre-order form, go to <u>www.gchouston.org.</u> and click the "Bulb & Plant Mart" button at the top.
- Oct 23-25 ■SCD Convention & Rose Show Houston, TX - Hobby Hilton
- Nov 7 HRS Product Pick-up

Rose Product Orders

Don't forget to get your product order in soon. Deadline - has to be post marked by October 10th. Be sure that you will be picking up your order on Nov. 7th or have someone that is picking up for you. Pick up times are 9:30 am-1:00 pm. This is a service that we do for our members. Doors will close at 1:00 pm.

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THE HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with The American Rose Society and dedicated to the cultivation of roses in the Houston area.

MEMBERSHIP is \$15.00 per calendar year, Electronic only \$12.00 January thru December. Mail membership dues to:

> Baxter Williams 2502 Leprechaun Lane Houston, TX 77017-7320 Phone 713-944-3437 bxtwms@att.net

NOTE: <u>Send address changes to this address.</u> HRS mails bulk-rate and **it is NOT forwarded.**

Call a Consulting Rosarian

These Rosarians welcome your rose questions.

Donald Burger / Maria Trevino Denise Cope	Heights SW	713-861-5412 713-771-4841
Elisabeth Duhon	N	713-855-8447
 Mary Fulgham / Randy Keen 	Bel	713-668-4054
William Groth	SW	713-728-1854
Gaye Hammond	NE	281-458-6116
♦ Robin Hough	SE	281-482-8944
John Jons	SE	281-486-7659
Robin Kohler	W	713-935-0329
♦Earl / ♦ Deanna Krause	SE	281-487-3347
James Laperouse	NW	281-469-4056
Jeniver Lauran	S	713-433-2524
Doug Mitchell	S	281-992-9167
Shirley Morgan	W	713-463-6719
John Patterson	Bry/CS	979-690-9630
Mary Walker	Bel	713-665-5073
 Baxter / Patsy Williams 	S	713-944-3437

Master Rosarians

Randall's Remarkable Card for HRS, # 5928