



# Rose Lore



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Mary Van Vlcek, Editor

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## JUNE MEETING

Our next meeting will be on 6/9 at 7pm in the MCC Library. We'll have a Zoom session as well for those unable to attend in-person.

With summer looming, we all want to know that yet-to-be uncovered secret to successfully bring our roses through the summer heat. For our June meeting, we will have a panel of our most seasoned rose experts available to answer your burning questions on rose care, and to tell us all about what steps they take to guide their roses through our unbearable heat. We hope to have a lively discussion, so please come ready to share your great ideas with everyone, to ask your rose care questions, or just to sit back and learn.

Of course, we will have refreshments, a raffle, and opportunities to ask the experts and connect with rosy friends!

For those joining us on Zoom, we will have a moderator to repeat information so you won't miss anything! Here is the link (same as always):

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

The Meeting ID: 477 004 3990

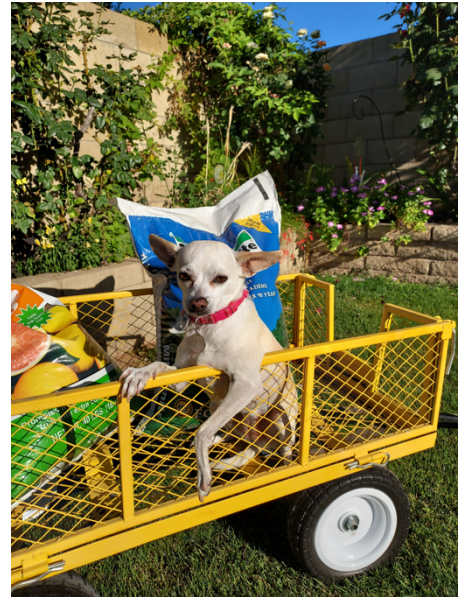
# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY HELEN BAIRD

Letter from the desk of Mia Baird (the Chihuahua):

I hope you are all are enjoying the warm weather. It is finally getting warm enough for me. You do realize that I am a Mexican Chihuahua, so I love the heat. I have noticed the roses do not seem to like the heat as much as I do. Well, I need to tell you about my adventure for the month.

Mom had her gorilla wagon out with fertilizer in it. I tried to get a ride in the wagon, but mom said no - I had to get out of the wagon. She said that I might get hurt, so I just walked with her as she did the monthly fertilizing of the roses. I did notice that she has reduced the amount of fertilizer to one-half of what she normally does per each bush. She says that she will do the one-half portion for about the next two to four months depending on when we get monsoon rains. I was disappointed - I really did want to get a ride in the wagon!



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE ROSE WORLD

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Kathy Umlauf, Tempe

**ARS NEWSLETTER AWARD SEASON NEWS CONTINUES.** Last month we announced that the ARS Newsletter Competition Committee has awarded the Bronze Medal for Smaller Local Rose Societies to our newsletter for 2021. In addition, as you may have seen in *The American Rose*, your editor received an Award of Merit for one of her articles.

**ON THE SUBJECT OF *ROSE LORE*,** your editor has asked for more contributors to step up with local articles and material of interest and several have indicated willingness to contribute. This is for folks who don't want to write anything – what would you like to know? What topics would you like to see covered in future issues? You can let us know at [marywv@gmail.com](mailto:marywv@gmail.com).

**IN CASE YOU DID NOT NOTICE THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER,** it has arrived. Rosey activities have diminished – The Phoenix Rose Society and The Rose Society of Glendale are on summer hiatus and many more people are on vacation or heading for their summer retreats. We, the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society, will continue to meet, our CRs will continue to be available for rose help, and the Mesa Rose Garden will continue to need our loyal Deadheaders. Don't make yourself too scarce!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE FOR MEETINGS

# MEET OUR MEMBERS – SHERMAN WEEKS

BY STEVE SHEARD



**Steve:** When and how did you become interested in growing roses?

Sherman: In November 2012 Linda Ahlborn invited my wife, Euphemia, and me to attend the monthly meeting of the MEVRS. At that meeting, we were given a rose plant named ‘Don Juan’. The next day we planted ‘Don Juan’ in our garden. Within a couple of months, ‘Queen Elizabeth’, ‘Mr. Lincoln’, ‘Peace’, ‘New Zealand’, ‘Broadway’, and ‘Oregold’ joined ‘Don Juan’ in the garden. We were motivated by the MCC rose garden and the encouragement we received from selected members of the MEVRS rosarians. We quickly got hooked on growing roses and within a couple years we had a significant rose collection.

**Steve:** Tell me about your garden. How did you choose your roses? How many do you have?

Sherman: Roses are grown in my backyard garden. My garden includes vegetables, fruit trees, ornamentals, and roses. Our roses, numbering about 120, occupy the largest portion of our garden. Most are grown in the ground with about 25 plants in pots and fabric bags. My roses are heavily mulched, and drip irrigated. The rose section of my garden is divided into four areas. The first is along the West facing block wall. This area has about eight climbers and consists of about 50 plants. The second is against the east-facing side of our home. This area has our oldest plants and is watered by individual micro sprinklers. Because of its location bordering our patio, we chose to cover the soil there with decorated gravel. We have never lost a plant in this area. The third and most recently

established area is on the north side of our home and separates the vegetable garden from our fruit trees. In this area, I grow mainly minifloras and a few miniatures. In the final area our roses are grown in pots that are situated on pavers. This is also where we normally keep our roses in bags that will be transferred to the ground in the fall.

I purchase plants from several sources based on our needs and our established criteria. These sources include local box stores, local nurseries, catalogs, and the MEVRS annual auction. I select roses based on recommendations from fellow rosarians, the information I pick up in our society meetings, observing what grows well in fellow rosarian gardens and the MCC community garden. I do not have a preferred source but rather look for opportunities to purchase healthy plants that I need. For example, in March 2022 my neighbor told me that she had just purchased two tree roses from the ACE hardware near my house. I went to the store and found not only were the plants healthy, but they were also about half the price that they are normally sold for elsewhere. That was





an opportunity and I picked up three healthy five-foot tree roses. I have had similar experiences at other retail centers.

**Steve:** What future do you have for your garden?

Sherman: Last year we shaded most of our roses during the summer and were able to significantly reduce the number of plants that we usually lose during the summer months. We plan on building a shade structure that can be easily erected and taken down when necessary. I would like to add overhead sprinklers during the summer. We also would like to add some height to our garden by adding trellises, arches, and more climbers. We also plan on removing most of the black poly tubing in our garden and replacing it with PVC and adding commercial grade manifolds. This would help to reduce the number of leaks in the garden and have a positive effect on our water bill.

**Steve:** What are your major challenges growing roses?

Sherman: Where I live in the city of Maricopa, domestic water is very expensive and I have a pretty large water bill throughout the year. It is a challenge to keep my roses alive during the summer months. Last year I introduced shade cloth and that was a big help. Another challenge is discipline. That is learning to limit myself to keeping the number of roses to an amount that I can effectively manage. There are so many nice roses and varieties that I would love to have, however, I know that in my current situation I can only successfully manage about 150 plants.

**Steve:** What is your favorite rose, or which are your favorites?

Sherman: That is a tough one. It depends on what is in bloom at the time. Here are a few: 'Dick Clark', 'Betty Boop', 'Firefighter', 'Sexy Remy', 'Tangerine Skies', 'Don Juan', 'Ebb Tide', 'Julia Child', 'Blaze', 'Love', 'Hot Chocolate', 'Fragrant Cloud', 'Soaring to Glory' and 'Roxanne Veranda'.

**Steve:** How did you learn about MEVRS and how long have you been a member?

Sherman: I learned about MEVRs through Linda Ahlborn. I joined the society in December 2012 so that I could learn more about growing roses. I joined the society because I wanted to learn how best to take care of roses and have access to quality information.

**Steve:** What other interests do you have?

Professionally, I buy, sell and manage real estate. I love growing food crops including vegetables and enjoy encouraging others to do so. I love talking about roses and encouraging my neighbors to grow roses.



There is a small group of us in Maricopa who are growing roses and I hope one day that we will be able to become a formal group. I started playing the guitar just before COVID started and I am really enjoying it. Travelling is very high on the list of things I enjoy doing and whenever I travel, I like touring various gardens. Did I mention golf? Yes, my game is lousy, but I play as often as my schedule would allow.

Steve: [Your household? Family- spouse or partner, kids, pets?](#)

Sherman. Euphemia and I met at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. We recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. We have a daughter and two sons. Our daughter lives in the UK and both our sons live in Pennsylvania. We have two granddaughters in the UK and two in Pennsylvania. After we lost our last dog in 2017, we decided not to raise any more pets because our schedule is not pet friendly.

Photos by Sherman Weeks



## SUMMER TRAVEL IDEA – INCLUDE A VISIT TO A ROSE GARDEN OR TWO

BY MARY VAN VLACK

By now you may realize that travelling is one of my favorite activities, after growing and showing roses and photography, of course. It is my husband's favorite thing to do, a bit before the roses. So, naturally, whenever we prepare for a trip, we look for rose gardens we might visit along the way. Realizing that many of our members have planned trips for the summer, I thought I'd share what I know about finding and visiting gardens around the U.S. Maybe sometime we'll persuade someone else to write about visiting international gardens.



The best time to find a garden and plan a trip there is before you go – doing it on the fly is much harder. This may seem obvious, but since we have done it both ways, I just wanted to say. With the rich internet resources at our fingertips these days, finding the existence of gardens near the places we plan to visit is pretty easy; the hard part may be finding the actual locations, though GPS makes that pretty easy as well.

Following is a list of gardens I want to suggest, state by state, from west to east, mostly in larger cities. We have visited most of them but will be sure to indicate the ones we have missed.

**California.**

San Diego. No doubt many of you have been to the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden in Balboa Park. We've been there several times and highly recommend it. If you visit on a Saturday, you will probably run into a team of deadheaders from the San Diego Rose Society doing their faithful volunteer work. No doubt there are other attractive gardens worth visiting in the area, (after all, this IS California) but this is #1.



Greater Los Angeles. First on my list is The Huntington Gardens at the Huntington Library in San Marino. Tom Carruth, formerly of Weekes Roses, has been curator for several years and has made notable improvements as we have found over several visits. My favorite part is the series of white trellises supporting all sorts of climbers, but there are many more to see. There is an admission fee.

Also near LA is the Pageant of Roses Garden at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier. This is actually a large cemetery, but Dr. Tommy Cairns has been the mover behind the development of the rose garden, which is most impressive.



There are more gardens in northern California, as well. The rose garden in Golden Gate Park comes to mind but alas, I have not visited. Perhaps you can suggest others in the area.



### **Oregon**

Portland is the home of one of the best-known and largest roses gardens in the US, the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. We have visited twice, once in sunshine and once in driving rain. I recommend sunshine! This is where I first fell in love with miniature roses, even though we already had a few at home.

### **Washington**

Roses are well-loved in Washington, but the gardens cannot compete. The rose garden in Woodland Park covers about 2.5 acres with some 3000 roses. I visited once, years ago when we lived there, with a neighbor, selecting varieties for our own home, but don't remember much.

### **New Mexico**

Our friends in the Albuquerque Rose Society tend a very attractive garden, though small, on the grounds of the Tony Hillerman Public Library. Consider getting off I70 for a little break, a walk through a pretty garden with good accessibility.

### **Missouri**

Since I grew up in Missouri and still have numerous family members there, we have visited gardens with roses in both large cities.

**Kansas City.** The Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden in Loose Park is my favorite here with about 3000 plants, 130 varieties, spread over 1.5 acres. Considerable restoration has been done in recent years and in 2018 they received the World Federation of Rose Societies' Award for Garden Excellence.



**St. Louis.** The Missouri Botanical Garden, formerly known as Shaw's Garden, is best known for its waterlilies, geodesic hot house, and Asian-style gardens, but they do maintain a nice rose garden, albeit small.



## Louisiana

Just outside Shreveport LA is the American Rose Center at the headquarters of the American Rose Society. David and I visited some years ago, a few months after the aftermath of a hurricane had blown through, felling many large trees on the property. The garden looked pretty sad, but in the intervening years much has been done to improve the gardens and demonstrate varieties of roses that can withstand their challenging climate. By the way, I hear that the Thiels have been to Shreveport recently and I do hope they will share their experience and pictures with us soon.



## Alabama

There are, I understand, two gardens in Mobile that include roses, but we have only visited Bellingrath Gardens, which includes a rose garden as well as famous and better adapted azaleas. This was some years ago and they (the roses) were suffering greatly from black spot. Hopefully, by now the managers are planting varieties with better disease resistance. If you do happen to be in that area, be sure to stop in Buckatunna, MS, just across the state line, to visit James and Daisy Mills at K & M Nursery.



## South Carolina

The Edisto Memorial Garden in the town (not city) of Orangeburg is one of my favorite gardens to visit. It was a happy discovery when we were planning a trip to Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC. Their website states that they have 5000 plants of 187 varieties, but it felt like many more. There are all classes of roses, but they have especially focused on old garden roses, especially noisettes, and disease-resistant roses. When we visited they did have a bed devoted to the miniflora rose 'Edisto'.



## Washington, DC

While preparing for our recent trip with our grands, I noted the Katherine Dulin Folger Rose Garden tucked in between the Smithsonian 'Castle' and the Hirschorn Museum. We had visited once before but did not make it there this time. In my research I was happy to note that they are now focused on disease-resistance, companion plantings, and development of healthy ecosystems.

## New York

I have also found three rose gardens in New York City, One is the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden in the north Bronx. Smaller gardens are the Cranford Rose Garden in Brooklyn and the Harlem Rose Garden. I have not visited any of them, maybe someday.



In addition to visiting gardens, there are more possibilities for rose-related experiences inside your latest copy of The American Rose. Why not look in on someone else's rose show? When we were in DC we could have, with a little more time, gone to a local rose show in Maryland. Also, your ARS membership entitles you to free admission to gardens around the U.S. and many of those will include roses.

My list just scratches the surface of possibilities. If you have visited some gardens not on my list, please tell me about your experience and send a few pictures. Email to [marywvv@gmail.com](mailto:marywvv@gmail.com) or phone or text to 602-625-6983. That just might be a member's next travel destination.

All photos in this article are by the author. Page 6, top, Grant Rose Garden in Balboa Park, San Diego, middle Huntington Gardens Rose Garden, bottom, Pageant of Roses GaRden, Whittier. Page 7, top International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park, Portland, OR; bottom Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO. Page 8 top wind chime and American Rose Garden, Shreveport, LA, middle, Edisto Memorial Garden, Orangeburg, SC.

	<p><b>JUNE IN THE ROSE GARDEN</b> By Mary Van Vlack</p>
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Summer is here – the temperatures of 114° promised in the coming week tell us that the typical June in the desert has arrived. It is no time to cover inside – we need to get out early every morning to do what we can to help our roses survive. Remember, we have the luxury of retreating indoors in the heat of the day to our jobs, computers, meetings, and other tasks. Our roses, on the other hand, will remain outdoors toughing it out.



**Pay attention.** Most years, the afternoons of June and July post the highest temperatures found in our valley throughout the summer and, for that matter, some of the lowest relative humidity levels. June is not necessarily the most miserable month for people, but it certainly can



be for our gardens. Walk through your garden regularly. Go out early in the morning, even before breakfast, when temperatures are at their coolest. Watch for signs of water problems, too little or too much. Watch for spider mites and for beneficial insects. If you see any pretty (though small) flowers opening up, cut and bring them into the house where they will last a bit longer.

**Water, water, water.** Continue to be generous with the water. Roses growing in containers may need water daily, so if you plan to be away from home for long trips you should consider installing drip tubing, emitters and a timer clock. They are at least as reliable as people we may hire or impose upon to do the job, and if something goes amiss, there is nobody to blame. Roses in the ground need only be watered three to four times a week, but water deeply when you do water, allowing penetration to at least 10 - 12 inches. It may be necessary to water twice on the days you do water to get that penetration without run-off. From now until the summer monsoon, we will

receive very little, if any, rain so the roses are counting on you to provide what they need.

Be sure that your water temperature is not too warm at the time(s) of day when you do water – hot water is not welcome. Also, bear in mind that is possible to over-water, turning your garden into a smelly, anorexic mess which will kill as effectively as no water. Please remember that we are in a time of drought – do not water your paved areas, sidewalks, or street where nothing should grow. A well-planned and installed drip irrigation



system can help you put your water in the right places in sufficient quantity while reducing waste through run-off and excess evaporation. Best not to run your system at night when you will not see leaks and other problems. How often have we driven past nighttime waterworks fountaining up and running off because no one sees the problem?

**Apply mulch.** If you have not already, apply a fresh layer of mulch now. Quit putting it off and just do it. Do not use rocks or those rubber crumbs. Apply a 3-4 inch layer of organic mulch – forest bark, weed-free horse manure, alfalfa pellets, and compost are all excellent choices. Mulch will discourage weeds, shade the roots of the roses, and conserve moisture in your soil. This is an excellent gardening practice for the heat characteristic of our climate. Remove any weeds growing amongst your roses – they compete for water and nutrients while adding nothing beneficial to your garden.

**Deadhead your roses.** Summer deadheading is a bit different from the deadheading we do the rest of the year. Your goals are 1) to preserve as

much foliage as possible, 2) to keep your garden clean and tidy, and 3) to discourage your roses from blooming heavily in the heat, which is a waste of plant energy only to produce poor-quality flowers. In our heat the summer flowers are very small, sometimes off-color, and very short-lived, but still cost the plant considerable energy to produce. Some folks feel it's too hot to work outdoors much anyway, so they just quit deadheading. This does accomplish the first and third goals but not the second. In addition, some varieties, though not all, will then work hard to produce hips with seeds inside them, and this also requires a great deal of plant energy. Another strategy is to cut off the spent flowers only, leaving all the foliage. Either way, the roses will still produce some flowers, but not as many as if you had continued to cut back to the outward-facing five-part leaf.

**Fertilize.** Some California rosarians do not fertilize at all in the summer, arguing that the nitrogen is not available above 90° and fertilizing only pushes non-productive growth. Many of us believe heavy summer watering will leach away nutrients, so some fertilization is necessary, just not very much at a time. For my roses in the ground I will feed an inorganic “complete” solid fertilizer that releases slowly, such as Arizona Best Rose Food or Organo Rose Food, but I will apply it at half strength about every 5 to 6 weeks. Roses in containers lose their nutrients even more rapidly as we water them daily, so I will give them a tablespoon of the granules every 3-4 weeks. Other people prefer an organic-based fertilizer, and some like Osmocote slow-release product. Be sure that you are applying the micro-nutrients such as iron and sulfur, as well as nitrogen, potassium, and potash. Water your roses well the day before you fertilize, and then



water your product in thoroughly. This is extremely important – the salts in fertilizer can easily burn your plants.



**Control pests and disease.** One of the primary pests on roses in the summer months is spider mites, and these tiny guys can be a serious summer problem for roses, killing the leaves they colonize and defoliating the plant. When the leaf surfaces appear dull or pale, the undersides of the leaves feel sandy or rough, and fine webbing appears on the leaves, the likely cause is spider mites. Spider mites are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than insects and will not respond to insecticides such as Orthene or Merit. The first treatment and prevention is to spray the underside of each plant with a very strong stream of water every morning or at least every two days. If the infestation becomes severe, it must be treated with a miticide such as Avid or Floramite according to the product directions. Usually, more than one application is needed to control the problem. Mites can become resistant to Avid, another reason why pesticides should not be used casually, but only as a last resort.

As we now realize, chilli thrips are a growing threat to our roses. Inform yourself regarding what to look for in terms of damage to leaves, stems, and buds. Treat right way – cut off the areas that show damage and dispose cuttings in the dumpster – do not compost this. Apply a pesticide containing either Spinosad such as in

*Conserve SC* or *Captain Jack's* or Tolfenpyrad as in *Hachi-Hachi* once a week in hot weather until the thrips are under control and then follow with worm castings applied in a layer under the plants or as a tea, dumped into a bucket of water and then aerated before spraying or pouring onto the plants. Chilli thrips thrive in hot weather and with no winter freezes, they do proliferate.

Cutter bees are also very active in our gardens in the summer, but no attempt should be made to control them. These small gray bees (no, not those big black ones) scissor out little circles of leaf, preferring the matte surface, thinner leaves to the glossy, heavy ones; they also have a fondness for bougainvillea bracts. They lay an egg in the center of each circle and then roll it up like a tiny green (or pink) cigar. These are tucked into tiny, protected crevices around our homes. I'm not sure whether the new hatchling eats the rolled leaf, but the adult bees do not. Bees, including wild ones and these cutter bees, are beneficial in our gardens, and while we don't like being stung by honeybees or having our rose bushes cut up, it would be irresponsible to spray for them. Also look for the nifty little eggs for lacewings suspended from the undersides of leaves – these are also beneficial.

**Planting.** Do not plant or transplant roses now.



The author may be reached with questions or comments at [marywvv@gmail.com](mailto:marywvv@gmail.com). All photos by the author.

## CONSULTING ROSARIANS, MEMBERS OF THE MESA-EAST VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY

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### Mesa East Valley Rose Society (MEVRS) - Membership Application

Annual Family or Individual Membership is \$25.00 Yearly.

Annual Dues are due on June 1<sup>st</sup> every year. Optional - Name Badge are \$10.00 each

Payment can be made with Cash, Check or Credit Card at any meeting or by mail

Mailing Address: MEVRS/Membership, P.O. Box 40394, Mesa, AZ 85274-0394

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Name Badge: Yes / No

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: Cash / Check / Credit Card: Visa - Master Card - Discover

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Inquire about American Rose Society (ARS) Membership*

<b>CALENDAR</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
June 9	MEVRS General Meeting	MCC Library and ZOOM
July 7	MEVRS Board Meeting	ZOOM
July 14	MEVRS General Meeting	MCC Library and ZOOM
August 4	MEVRS Board Meeting	ZOOM
August 11	MEVRS General Meeting	MCC Library and ZOOM
November 19	MEVRS Rose Show	MCC





## 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.

### *Four-Month Trial Members receive:*

- 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 three 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.
- Four issues of the online newsletter *Roses & You*, edited by Rita Perwich and full of helpful tips and tools of the rose growing trade.
- Two issues of American Rose magazine, \$20 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.
- 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.
- A four-month trial membership is valued at \$86 for only \$10!

Join Now!

You may [complete our online form](#) or call us at 1-800-637-6534.

