

World Peace Rose Garden at State Capitol needs your vote

Our State Capitol's World Peace Rose Garden has been included in the nationwide nominations for title of "...most beautiful in America," a contest sponsored by the All-American Rose Selections (AARS) organization. Showcasing the official flower of the United States — the rose — the garden has almost 700 bushes of 164 varieties, including 66 AARS winners. The white Peace Pavilion is a salute to our veterans, offering comfort to those touched by war, a sanctuary of peace and inspiration.

To make the garden officially the nation's most beautiful, it needs your vote. T.J. David, our state's rose ambassador, has a website — <http://WorldPeaceRoseGardens.org> which has a 90-second slide show highlighting events and the garden's year-round beauty. Then click on www.rose.org and follow the links and VOTE. Deadline to vote is July 1.

Each year, AARS designates the finest new rose developed that year. These roses are showcased in about 130 accredited public gardens nationwide.

Located next to the California Vietnam Veterans' War Memorial, the site inspired the planting of roses with such names as "Veteran's Honor," "Memorial Day" and, of course, "Mister Lincoln," featured on the cover of this issue of the

HISTORIAN. Over 2,500 bricks bear carvings of messages from school children.

The garden was created in 2003 by David and Sylvia Villalobos who see the "America's Best Rose Garden" contest as a chance to draw worldwide attention to its beauty and the bringing of solace to those touched by war. More than half a million visitors have come to the garden each year since its opening.

They have dedicated other peace gardens in Pacific Palisades (Southern California), Atlanta, Mexico City and Assisi, Italy. They are presently working on projects in Rio de Janeiro, South Vietnam and India.

In 1965, the hybrid tea rose, "Mister Lincoln," received the Award of Excellence and was named one of two top exhibition roses in the United States by AARS. Since then it has remained among the top three exhibition roses on an annual basis...some 45 years. It is a favorite with visitors at the Sacramento World Peace Rose Garden. Make it a goal to visit this beautiful garden. And CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.rose.org BEFORE JULY 1!

(Thanks go to Debbie Arrington, garden editor of The Sacramento Bee, for her information input.)

History Day in California switches to new management

2011 theme — Debate and diplomacy in history: Success, failure and conquest

Starting with the 2010-11 school year, History Day in California will be sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education.

For 25 years, History Day in California's sponsor has been the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Located in Los Angeles, CRF will continue to play a leading role on the new expanded state advisory board.

One of the largest state competitions in the nation, HDinC operates in 34 of the state's 58 counties and includes around 44,000 students each year. CRF and the dedicated county coordinators and volunteer judges have built the program from an initial 10 counties into the exemplary competition it is today.

The elementary student poster category and the website category were pioneered in California. The website category is now part of the national competition. Over the years, California students have performed at the top of the national contest: last year they took home more medals than any other state.

The new sponsor of California's Academic Pentathlon — the Orange County Department of Education — will continue this proud tradition while bringing expanded resources and additional staff to the program. OCDE also will work to expand participation in Northern California. Another new goal is to affiliate with institutions of higher education.

"We are proud of our role in History Day, the dedication and creativity of our staff in building the program, the accomplishments of students and the passion of teachers and parents who support the students," said Michael Lawson, CRF's Chair of the Board.

"We are grateful to the Constitutional Rights Foundation for its leadership over the years. Its commitment and dedicated staff built the state HD program into one of our finest and largest state affiliates," said Cathy Gorn, Executive Director of the national organization.

For the present (for info and/or help) CCHS members' contact continues to be: Lourdes Morales, phone: 213-316-2125; e-mail: lourdes@crf-usa.org; website: www.crf-usa.org

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(Ed. note: Next issue of the HISTORIAN will carry an expanded article on approach to the 2011 theme.)