

## **Reba Booze, Benson High School**

### **What Does Rose Festival Reunion Mean to You?**

As a society, we have lived the last couple of years in almost an “silo” like environment with computers being our only contact with the outside world.

The City of Portland, also known as the City of Roses; The rose symbolizes romance, love, beauty, and courage. Recently, the City of Roses has experienced its fair share of negative publicity. We have been overwhelmed by open homelessness, graffiti, and plain anarchy.

I say all this to say Rose City Reunion in my eyes, means people of every color as in the varied colors of the rose, with their varied meanings, all coming out of the cracked concrete, concrete being the larger society and world. Overtaking the concrete with togetherness and beauty.

At the same time, reclaiming the glory of the original garden, that is the Rose City, that is what it means to me. Furthermore, this provides significance in our local communities, creating a lasting impact for families, and a realm of inclusivity.

I love any occasion that brings back good memories, and joyous feelings. We all can return to good times... a rose truly returns, bring on the festivities!