2010 Annual Report

Significantly, 2010 is the second year of the Friends of the Bridge, and the first time there has been an opportunity for "renewed" support. We thank individuals and businesses who renewed their support and those who appear in this annual list for the first time. Friends of the Bridge, together with volunteers in the garden, play an essential role in renewing the beauty and bloom of the Bridge of Flowers garden each year. Just as volunteers cultivate the soil for a better plant foundation, Friends of the Bridge cultivate the soil of a more secure financial base. Just as volunteers plant annuals to extend the bloom, Friends of the Bridge plant the seeds that extend our financial capacity to renovate aboveground features and provide educational outreach, and just as volunteers support and enrich the work of the Bridge gardeners, so too, do Friends of the Bridge. Here are some of the highlights from 2010, made possible by this support:

• Visitors: People visited the Bridge of Flowers in record numbers again this year - 36,053 people from 50 states and 93 foreign countries signed the visitor books, up roughly 5 ½ percent from last year.
• Structural Issues: For some years now, people have been noticing small cracks in the Bridge itself. This year, the Shelburne Falls Fire District, Bridge of Flowers Preservation, Inc., The Bridge of Flowers Committee, as well as leaders from both towns began the formal process of assessing and evaluating these issues. The road to repair will take time and careful evaluation, and the journey started with willingness and cooperation, experience and expertise.
• Classroom to the Community: Students of all ages appreciated the natural learning environment provided by The Bridge of Flowers. Kindergartners learned how to stimulate plant growth by pruning plants in their classroom and transplanting to the Bridge. Fourth and fifth-graders gained a bit of local history and planted annuals on the Bridge. High School students were responsible for Bridge Dahlias in their early stages. Because we were able to label more plants this year, people can now learn more about the plants on the Bridge.
• Renovation: The sign-in booth on the Shelburne side was replaced by another lovely and functional piece of art by artist-blacksmith Bob Compton. This piece completes the effort to stylistically unite both sign-in booths and the main sign, an idea originally proposed by designer Grey Marchese.

At the end of this season, a new gate was created and installed on the Buckland side by artist John Sendelbach. The gate contains a replica of the #10 Trolley and references the surrounding hills. Businesses and "commuters" particularly appreciated that this fun and functional piece of art allowed some post-season access across the Bridge.

There is a new “rules sign” on the Shelburne side, courtesy of artist Jo-Anne Sherburne. Noticeably more effective in getting visitors to comply with rules, this sign is clearly in keeping with the beauty of the garden since visitors are frequently seen taking pictures of it.
GARDENER’S CIRCLE
($250 and over)

Cafe Martin
Don & Lois Bascom
Greenfield Cooperative Bank
Home Roots
Howell Adams
J.H. Sherburne Fine Art
Cy & Liz Johnson
Keystone Market
LaPierre’s Advertising
Judith & Robert Lawler
Michael Naldrett
John W. Richardson, Attorney at Law
Rising Sun Forge
“The Little Cooking School”
Gloria Schuster
Susan Sharin
The Art Garden
Ward Plumbing & Heating
Clifford & Carol Washer
Robert & Janet Weissman
West End Pub

SILVER TROWEL
($100-$249)

Eleanor Baker
Sam & Marie Bartlett
Peter & Joyce Buell
Patrick & Cynthia Brown
Country Aire Campground
Dogs on the Run
Anders Ferguson & Nancy Edwards
Michael & Susan Garfield-Wright
Joan Greenfield
Greenfield Savings Bank
Lorraine & Hale Johnson
Margaret Jones
Kathleen & Ken Kippenberger
Barbara Kolb & Seymore August
Bill & Lynda Leitner
Marion & Peter London
Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory
MIB Construction
Mildred March & Howard Stockwell
Jeffrey Millar
Robert Miller
Peter & Eva Otten
Palmeri Electric
Pamela Parker
Barb & Mike Parry
Doris Perry
Julie Petty & Dave Reading
Mary Robertson
Stump Sprouts
Gordon & Marion Taylor
Karen Winkler
Deborah Woodsome
Zoar Outdoor, Inc.
GREEN THUMB
($25-$99)

Donald & Elizabeth Ahern
AJ Day Care
Heather Alexander
Shannon Allen & Brian O’Neil
Nancy Argeris
Ashfield Hardware
William Austin
Andrew Baker
Amy & Craig Barry
Janet Binder
Margaret Bolgmann
Gary France
Franklin Community Cooperative
Franklin Land Trust
Donald C. & Margaret H.
Freeman
Winifred Ganshaw
Norman & Phyllis Garland
Gail Gaustad
Janet Glynn
Donald & Penny Graves
Gregory & Diane Grillone
Judy Ann Harlow
Cynthia Hartdegen
George Hartling
Basil & Barbara Hoffman
Hope & Olive
Jennifer Jensen
Sally Judd
Pat & Henry Leuchtman
Liz Kiddler
Frank Kobrick
Lowell Laporte
Nancy Parland and Steve Howland
Nutra Brands, Inc.
Mary Lipton House
Ted McIntosh
Mirick Insurance Agency
Molly Cantor Pottery
Mary Lyon House
Miriam H. & Edward F. Morse
Leonard & Suzanne Morse-Fortier
Janet Mullen & Noah Grunberg
My House B&B
Jean Naldrett
David Neil
Nancy Parland and Steve Howland
Elaine & Richard Parnett
Kevin Parsons & Kathleen Young
Paula Parsons
John Peavey
Theresa Perkins

Deborah Phillips
Arnold Piacentini
Jim Picardi
Elizabeth Radysh
Retired Teachers Association
Joyce Root
Nancy Roman
Mary Sansone
Susan Shearer
Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op
Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters
Steven Shulda
Stillwater Porcelain
Hazel Streeter
Gene & Patricia St. Pierre
William & Jane Trombi
Don & Kathleen Upton
Wandering Moon
Wash ‘N Wire
Josh & Johanna Weinstein
Judy Welborne
Welsh & Associates Accountants
Ann G. Wetherbee
James & Jean Wrynn

*Please let us know of any errors.*
bridgeofflowersmass@gmail.com
When the design talent and exceptional skills of gardeners Carol Delorenzo and Tish Murphy are combined with all the many ways people contribute to this garden, something magic happens on the Bridge of Flowers -- no matter how often you walk across, there is always something new to see. That sense of freshness and renewal was alive and present throughout 2010. Thank you to all who make that possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridge of Flowers Committee, 2010

Judy Lawler and Julie Petty, Co-Chairs
Ellie Baker
Joanie Greenfield
Carolyn Halloran
Judy Harlow
Amelia Heddens
Sarah Heminger
Lynda Leitner
Pat Leuchtman
Peggy March
Maureen Moore
Elaine Parmett
Marion Taylor
Kate Wallen

In 2010, Memorial Gifts were given in memory of: Gertrude (Trudy) Fink, Adeline Fourtier, Susan Gifford, Ronald Harlow, Susan Robbins, and Ruth Shulda.