



## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# Bridge of Flowers

*Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts*



**2025 was a year of renewal and celebration as the Bridge of Flowers reopened following major structural repairs.**

The formal reopening took place in mid-July instead of the usual April 1 date to accommodate final touches to the project. Despite the three-month delay, 25,000 visitors signed the guest book and walked through the Bridge's new gates and onto its refurbished path.

The closure had been hard on everyone. Still, it was uplifting to watch the cracked and greying exterior on the arches give way to a gleaming white surface. Equally gratifying was the spirit of generosity evident among all who worked on this major restoration, from engineers and contractors to the many volunteers, including our Blossom Brigade, who cheerfully pitched in early in June to return to the Bridge hundreds of plantings they had previously moved offsite.

It did indeed "take a village" to make all this happen—as well as the inspiring leadership of Head Gardener Carol DeLorenzo and Assistant Gardener Elliston Bingham, whose accomplishments were recognized with an "Unsung Heroes" award from the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

The Bridge of Flowers Committee also played a central role in the project's success, consulting with engineers and contractors and making decisions about the many new or improved features added to the Bridge: safety railings; a beautiful wrought iron memorial stand and arbor fashioned by Morrell Metalsmiths; additional "bump out" areas on the path to provide greater access to the view and more turnaround space for wheelchairs; and a lovely stone rose compass designed and crafted by Justin Bardwell of CountryScape to delineate the mid-river border between the towns of Shelburne and Buckland.

"Now, couples who get married on the Bridge will know which town they were married in!" said Shelburne Town Clerk Joe Judd.

While juggling all these moving parts, the Committee also managed to hold several vital fundraising events, including the popular Bridge of Flowers Plant Sale in May. Although this year's sale was a scaled-back version, it "came off without a hitch," according to Committee Chair Annette Szpila, and drew a sellout crowd despite inclement weather.

In August, an estimated 500 art enthusiasts turned out for the third annual Bridge of Flowers Art Exhibit and Sale, which featured 200 works by 70 local and regional artists, including paintings, drawings, photographs, and mixed media pieces. Artists generously donated a sizeable portion of their proceeds to the Bridge. Due to the strong showing, a fourth exhibit is being planned for August 2026.

The new Bridge of Flowers T-shirts are proving popular among Bridge fans, as evidenced by brisk sales. T-shirts are available for purchase on the Bridge's website: [www.bridgeofflowersmass.org](http://www.bridgeofflowersmass.org).

"All of these fundraising efforts," Szpila said, "led by the extraordinary generosity of our Friends and other donors, make it possible for us to sustain the Bridge as one of the most cherished and most visited sites in New England."

This year, the Committee also joined in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club, which established the flowering bridge in 1929.

On a brilliant August day, villagers from both sides of the river gathered at the Bridge to recognize its reopening with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony. They were joined by local and state officials as well as representatives from the engineering firm Tighe & Bond and contractor Northern Construction. Speakers thanked the Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development for funding the restoration and hailed the spirit of partnership that had characterized the entire process.

In late December, a garland of tiny white lights encircling the Bridge's new lampposts and railings celebrated the onset of the holiday season and work well done in 2025.



## Gifts in Memory of

John M. Atwater  
Joe Babcock  
Candae B. Bath  
Jane S. Burnett  
Joyce Burnett  
Bea & George Cevasco  
Margaret E. Folgman  
Adeline Fortier  
Rosemary Hayes  
Cynthia Jarvis  
Mildred Johnson  
Edward G. Keefe  
Shirley E. Kelley  
Daniel Laliberté  
Marion London  
Dexter Burt Lyman  
Milly March  
Jennie Michalak

Valerie Milewski  
Kip Moeller  
Yvonne Montmeat  
Tish Murphy  
Ellen Rose O'Brien  
Gail D. Ojala  
Dr. Richard Parmett  
Steven D. Pell  
Barbara J. Purinton  
James Richardson  
Margalee Riggan  
Susie Robbins  
Lillian Glushien Rush  
Hattie O. Salter  
Millie Scannell  
Evelyn Schempp  
Skip & Marie Spinney  
Mal Versage

## Gifts in Honor of

Carol DeLorenzo  
Angus & Laurel Dun  
Pam Kelleher  
Kiera & Jonathan Leitner  
David Schochet & Sue Reid  
Mary Scannell  
Patty Smythe

## FRIENDS

### New England Aster (gifts of \$500+)

Christopher Bagg  
Blackmer Insurance Agency  
Richard & Ellie Binns, Blooming Inn  
Carl's Four Season Yardscape Services LLC  
Julia Carroll, Worn at the Edges  
Andrew R. Ferguson  
David Freitas  
John & Barbara Hurley  
Joseph's Coat  
Joy Knohr

Linda & Silas Kopf  
Judith & Robert Lawler  
Arnold Levinson  
Ann Lofquist  
Peter & Eva Otten  
Krunal Patel  
Russ & Cheri Snow  
Kip & Carol Washer  
Nikki & Bob Welsh

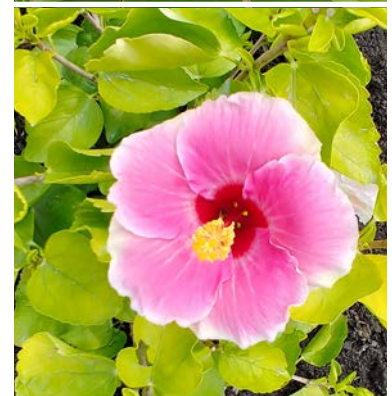
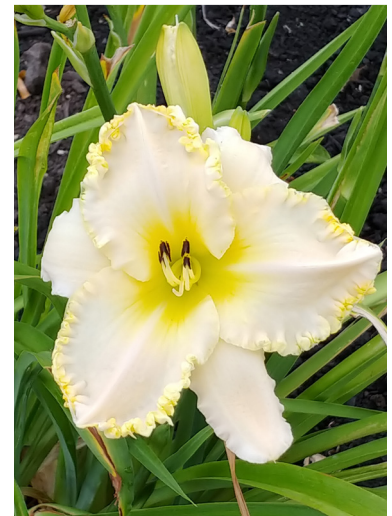
### Gardener's Circle (gifts of \$250-499)

Carol Bolduc  
Dave Weiland & Virginia Brown  
Anne Buchanan  
Shauna Stokes & Joel Chew  
Chia Collins & Michael Cohen  
Lisa & Charles Cornish  
Paul Hollings & MaryAnn Dalton  
Davenport's Mobil Station  
JoAnne Denehy  
Christine Ermenc  
Andrea & Steven Frank  
Greenfield Co-op Bank  
Dr. Greg & Mrs. Grillone  
Happy Trails Liquor Store  
David Hayes & June Blaise  
Hannah Harvester  
Michael Herr  
Keystone Market  
LaPierre's Media Marketing  
Raymond & Carmela Lanza-Weil

Ms. Susan Bissell & Sharron Laplante, MD  
Pat & Henry Leuchtman  
John MacDonald  
Joan MacIver  
Andrea Gilmore & Kristina Madsen  
Virginia Neill  
Kim & Tim Paige  
Palmeri Electric LLC  
Raymond & Melanie Poudrier  
Ellen & Scott Purinton  
J. S. Rae General Contractor  
Vic Sloan & Sue Rees  
Kim Sebrey  
Josh & Johanna Weinstein  
West End Pub  
Carolyn Wheeler, Wheel-View Farm  
Deborah & Guy Wheeler, Foxbrook Farm  
Don & Marcia Wheeler  
Stephen Wicks & Judith Wombell

For additional information about the garden or to join the *Friends of the Bridge* (with a gift of \$25 or more) visit our website:

[bridgeofflowersmass.org](http://bridgeofflowersmass.org)



## Silver Trowel (gifts of \$100–249)

Patricia Adams  
Heather Alexander  
Allie & Rowain  
Dinah Barthelmiss  
Sam & Marie Bartlett  
Amy Barry  
Susan Barry  
Baystate Perennial Farm  
Phil Billitz  
Marlene Borer  
Cynthia Brown  
Daniel & Phyllis Brown  
Lisa Cain  
Nancy Carroll  
Yani Counelis  
Mark & Phyllis Cerel  
Sherry Clark  
Constance Clarke  
David Close & Gail  
Chapman Close  
Mike Chovenec & Rick Connor  
Christopher Coveney  
Karen Croot  
Deborah Decoigne  
Kathleen Dillaire  
Nancy L. Dole Books &  
Ephemera  
Ron & Karen Dobosz  
Ken & Nancy Eisenstein  
April Engle  
Karen Fairbrother  
Cheryl Faufaw

Maureen Flaherty  
Allen W. Fletcher  
Judy Fogg  
Donald & Margaret Freeman  
Susan Gelotte  
Sharon Glazer  
Jeff & Lorrie Grass  
Gail Hanlon  
Giselle Harrington  
The Hydefrosts  
Rita Jaros  
Ted Sicker & Ron Kelter  
Mary Robertson &  
Steven Kostka  
Deb & Rick Lane  
Henry Liegel  
Marion & Peter London  
Ellen & Ron Louie  
Tom & Gail Lucia  
John Maclean  
Mary Walsh Martel  
Sarah Marquesen  
Lorraine & Jerry McCarthy  
Karen McGuire  
Belden Merims  
MaryAnn Milewski  
Wanda Mooney  
Kare O. Moore  
Maureen Moore  
Vanda & Tom Mullins  
Jessica Murrow  
Sarah Neelon



Sylvia & Keith Orcutt  
Jon & Marilyn Osgood  
Elizabeth Otis  
Margaret Payne  
Carol Perman  
Jim & Margaret Perry  
Margaret Phelps  
Priscilla Phelps  
Tom Picardi  
Maureen Pike  
Frank Priscaro  
Greg Cangialosi &  
Deborah Ploof  
Roberta Potter  
Ruth Shulman Pullen  
Regina Purinton  
Jean & Larry Rankin  
David & Melissa Roberts  
Ronald Roberts  
Nina Rossi  
Barbara & Bob Ruchames  
Georgia & Chuck Russo  
Meaghan Schwelm  
Ms. Sarah Saville Shaffer  
Sheila Simon

Shelburne Coffee Roasters  
Andree Duval & Randy Shipe  
Steven Shulda  
Peter & Carol Slack  
Bill & Sylvia Smith  
Joanne Soroka  
Patricia Stevenson  
Jody Stewart  
John Svehlak  
Alan Swedlund  
Annette Szpila  
Ho & Marti Taft-Ferguson  
John & Sherry Taylor  
Joyce & William Taylor  
Sally & Walt Tejan  
Robyn & Ira Transport  
Steve & Patty Upton  
Wandering Moon  
Ellen Weeks  
Tom & Ann Weisse  
Marie & Steve Welch  
Prudence Wholey  
Karen Winkler  
Nancy & Joe Woods  
Deborah Woodsome

## Green Thumb (gifts of \$25–99)

Gordon Alexander  
Marla Allisan  
Carol Angus  
Lois Barber  
Jacqui Goodman &  
Norman Beebe  
Wes Slate & Georgia Bills  
Olivia & William Blumer  
Carolyn Bruso  
Kate Clarke  
Betsy Corner  
Jean Cumings  
Cathrine Daly  
Sarah Davenport  
Penny DeGeorges  
Delta Sand & Gravel, Inc.  
Terri Doherty  
Janice Dompke  
Angus Dun  
Barbara Edsall  
Ellen Eller  
Iris J. Evans  
Lois Feldman  
Nan & Bob Fischlein  
Flanders Law Offices  
Dick & Shirley Floyd  
Polly French  
Marcia Greig-Williams

Hillside Nursery  
Barbara Hoffman  
Gladys Jarvis  
Hui Jing  
Sally Judd  
Martha Kauppinen  
Cathy Collins &  
Hamid Keramaty  
Lynda & Bill Leitner  
Alex & Amelia Leonardi  
Rick & Doreen Leskowitz  
Eric & Amy Lewanda  
Colleen Lindroos  
Stephanie Gelfan &  
Wolfe Lowenthal  
Sarah Aftab &  
Benjamin Lynn  
Sarah's Mandala  
Peggy March  
Nathalie McCormick  
Cathie McGowan  
Marilyn Mele  
Bill Mish  
Len & Suzanne  
Morse-Fortier  
Faith Moseley  
John O'Brien, O'Brien's  
Nursery

Elaine Parmett  
Paula Parsons  
John Piepul  
Ann Roche  
Laurel & Scott Rollins  
The Roode Family  
Ijod Schroeder  
Laurie Shanks  
Susan Shearer  
Karen Shulda  
Penelope Spearance  
Lisa M. Spinney  
Jean Stawarz  
Randi Stein  
Cathe Geist & Steven  
Sternbach  
Cyndie Stetson  
Dennis & Susan Stetson  
Stone Meadow Farms  
Patricia St. Pierre  
Sugarloaf Nurseries  
Melissa Sweet  
The Taylor family  
Anita Tieman  
Fred & Dolores Turcotte  
Sarah van Leer  
Rocco Vellucci, Benjamin

Redeker, Travis Sullivan  
Gennory Viljanen  
Johanna Weinstein  
Gina & Larry Wells  
The Werners  
Ann Wetherbee





## SAVE THE DATES

### Bridge of Flowers Plant Sale, 2026

**Saturday, May 9**  
**9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon**

Corner of  
Main and Water Streets  
Shelburne Falls, MA

### Art Show & Sale

The date will be announced  
soon—watch our website  
and social media for details.

Shelburne Buckland  
Community Center

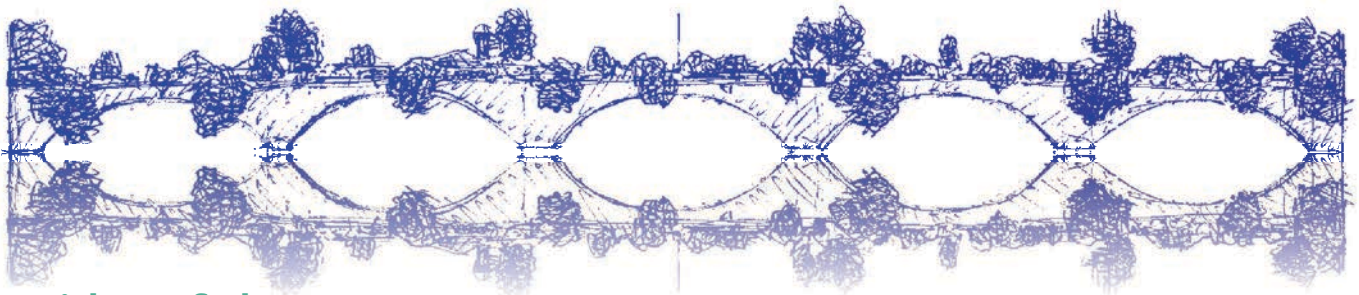


### Bridge of Flowers Committee 2025

Annette Szpila *Chair*  
Lynda Leitner *Co-Chair*  
Virginia Ray *Recording Secretary*  
Peggy March *Treasurer*

Carol Angus  
Ann Lofquist  
Jorie MacLeod  
Laurel Rollins  
Joanne Soroka  
Deborah Wheeler

Carol DeLorenzo *Head Gardener*  
Elliston Bingham *Assistant Gardener*



## Bridge of Flowers

P.O. Box 335, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

[bridgeofflowersmass.org](http://bridgeofflowersmass.org)