

# Hillsborough Beautification Foundation

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## *Celebrate May! Returns to Its Roots – May 6<sup>th</sup>*



*Celebrate May!* comes full circle this spring as the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation's annual garden party returns to its first ever venue on Brewer Drive. Phyllis and Scott Bedford will host this year's twelfth annual event to be held Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Guests will enjoy walking through paths set on over an acre of manicured gardens amidst many "garden rooms," a trademark of the original landscape architect, Thomas Church. Over 15 specialty boutiques will feature exclusive items for the home, garden, kitchen and self. Visitors will enjoy coffee, tea and pastries while shopping and strolling through the featured garden.

The Bedford's home was built in 1915 and was originally part of the 80 acre site of St. Matthew's Military School for Boys. The tall Monterey Cypress trees that pass through the Bedford's property (near the guest house) originally lined the back property of the school. The school was closed in 1915 and the property was sold to create the "Brewer Tract" subdivision.

Thomas Church, known for his seamless arrangement of classical and modern movement in landscape architecture, left his mark on the Bedford garden. He created an axial passage centered on the main focal point of the home's exterior. The passage begins with a formal garden, surrounded with original brickwork centered around Ligustrum hedges. The path

extends through an allée of flowering cherry trees that terminate at a handcrafted, curved bench backed with tall evergreens.

The Bedford's extensive reconstruction of the house and garden allowed them to add a second axial connection perpendicular to the original one. They added a dramatic staircase with curved steps that connect the newly renovated guest house to the landscaped garden rooms. The grounds can perhaps be best viewed from the top of those stairs, observing the pool and its adjacent lawn, formal garden and ultimately, the magnificent, sprawling lawn.

The garden's specialty plants include a *Fagus sylvatica* "Tricolor" tree and an *Acer griseum* tree along the entry driveway. *Magnolia denudata* was planted at the service gate. *Rhododendron Forsterianum* and *McNabi* with their white blooms, highlight the path leading to the arched gate at the garden's impressive entry.

The morning will include the presentation of HBF's 2011 Community Volunteer Award. This honor recognizes an individual whose efforts to beautify our community deserve special distinction. This year, HBF is pleased to honor Lennie Gotcher for her leadership and tireless work on the Harvest Garden.

Please reserve the first Friday in May to join your friends and neighbors at *Celebrate May!* For additional information or to make reservations, call 650-829-5159 or email [CelebrateMay@comcast.net](mailto:CelebrateMay@comcast.net).

## From the President

There was a time some years ago when a few of us volunteers wondered, “Will HBF run out of traffic islands to spruce up?” After a decade of working with HBF and six years serving as a Trustee, I now realize such a day will never come. As with any garden, there is always something that needs repair, restoration or replacement. Every gardener knows that a garden is not an outcome as much as it is a process – and that process is never truly finished.

Since we began in 1998, HBF has taken on much more than just traffic islands. Currently, HBF has active projects on all four Hillsborough school campuses, and a community garden that flourishes on a once-vacant lot. Meanwhile, our maintenance team works non-stop to ensure that every one of our completed projects are cared for and monitored.

Having pulled off another great Light Up the Town in December, HBF’s Development Committee is focused on a terrific Celebrate May! (just weeks away). And the Projects Committee is tackling a never-ending list of potential projects in town. As with our own home gardens, the more we look around, the more we see that needs attention.

From start to finish, projects like these take a lot of time – in part because HBF doesn’t operate in a vacuum. We collaborate with the Town, the School District and the community to understand the history and rationale behind current locations, and then we design and obtain approval for appropriate modifications, have the plans installed, and finally, oversee the project’s maintenance.

This will be the first spring for our Harvest Garden, and we’re looking forward to a bountiful yield. As I look back on my years with HBF, the metaphor of the Harvest Garden is hard to avoid. With thoughtful and caring attention from dozens of interested community members, it is clear, the result is not an end, but a beginning.

It’s been a pleasure and honor for me to be part of HBF, and I’m grateful for the opportunity it has provided me to serve our community. Thank you for your ongoing support; we couldn’t do any of this without you.

*-Libby Hulsey*

*“A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever.”...Richard Briers.*



## 2011 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD TO LENNIE GOTCHER

Each year Hillsborough Beautification Foundation honors a member of our community who has shown extraordinary dedication, creativity or energy to enhance and beautify the Town of Hillsborough.

Lennie Gotcher receives this award for her diligence and determination in transforming a vacant lot into what is now the flourishing Harvest Garden. This community garden provides fresh vegetables to shelters for the homeless and is planted, maintained and harvested solely by volunteers. The garden has beautified an unsightly vacant lot, provided education and involvement for our residents, including school children, all while achieving its primary goal of providing for those in need. Committee members Ruth Wisnom and Donna Abrahamson stated, “Without question, Lennie worked tirelessly to establish the garden, while simultaneously influencing others and leading a great group of volunteers.” Among Lennie’s numerous volunteer leadership positions, she served as President of the Board of Trustees of HBF for two years. We are proud to honor her as HBF’s Community Volunteer of 2011.



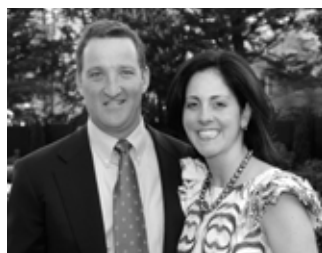
Phyllis & Scott Bedford with Lynda & John Marren



Brenda & Charles Schembri



Marshall & Peg Shambarger



Hosts Ted & Stacey Dobos

## MAJOR DONOR PARTY

On the evening of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation Development Committee hosted a cocktail party at Rosecourt, the beautiful historic home of Stacey and Ted Dobos.

It is always a great pleasure to see new enthusiastic benefactors who are eager to provide significant support for our upcoming projects. Old friends and new shared an evening of camaraderie.

This annual event is celebrated in honor of Founding Friends and Major Donors (\$1000 and above) who have given so generously and consistently each year to HBF.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Dobos for their generosity and hospitality.

## LIGHT UP THE TOWN!



Emcee Howard Love flanked by co-chairs Patricia Foster and Ann Girard, and Joni Amaroli



Light Up the Town High School Volunteers Daphne Foster, Clare McLaughlin, Teddy Foster and Tatianna Diaz



Daffodil Planting-Rain or Shine Every Fall



### EMAIL THE GREEN LINE

Have you noticed a water leak at an HBF project site?  
Or worse, seen dying plants? Let us know!

#### Be Part of the Solution!

Email The Green Line at [pw@hillsborough.net](mailto:pw@hillsborough.net)

## PROJECT UPDATES

### Harvest Garden

As Harvest Garden approaches its first anniversary, volunteers have spent close to 300 hours in the garden and have donated over 400 pounds of fresh, organic produce to several homeless shelters. Winter activities included:

- Q Planting fava beans to provide a natural source of nitrogen to the soil.
- Q Building a worm bed to start vermicomposting. The red wiggler worms eat their weight in garden scraps every day and produce “black gold”; organic compost for the 18 raised beds.
- Q Planting of 4 fruit trees including Fuji and Gravenstein apples, Comice pear and Santa Rosa plum. These trees were part of the original plan for the garden and will produce crops in the next 3 to 5 years.

HBF is solely responsible for maintaining the Harvest Garden. This year, volunteers will be selling tomato and basil seedlings at *Celebrate May!* to help support the garden. Volunteers are always welcome to lend a helping hand.

Community members are invited to take an active financial role in supporting the garden by sponsoring a raised bed for an annual gift of \$250. Sponsorship benefits include one basket of fresh vegetables and a handmade sign with your family's name.

### The Island Is Taking Shape

You may have noticed work crews on the island at the intersection of Eucalyptus and New Place Road. This site, at 6800 square feet, is one of the largest islands in Hillsborough and was last updated by the Hillsborough Garden Club in 1998. It is currently undergoing a transformation because the irrigation had become ineffective, the plants outlived their beauty, and most importantly, there were serious safety concerns because of the lack of visibility for both pedestrians and auto traffic. During the initial work and transplanting process the contractor discovered that the roots of one large tree were entangled in several pipes. Removal of the tree and roots corrected the problem. The stately Alder tree remains on the site as the focal point of the island and will be complemented by 24 beautiful Akebono cherry trees. The project was designed with careful attention to water “run off” and will include low, evergreen plantings around the base of the trees and five new benches.

There is still an opportunity to support HBF and this project with a donation of \$10,000 to fund a bench. If interested, please call 829-5159.

### HBF Will Not Be Stumped

Recently, 17 unhealthy Eucalyptus trees on Ralston Avenue were removed due to safety concerns, but the large unattractive stumps remained. HBF provided additional funding to remove these unsightly stumps.

### Ongoing Beautification & Maintenance

Maintenance is always a priority for HBF and a significant component of our annual expenditures. Please let us know if you see any of our projects in need of attention by calling 829-5159. HBF has a team of members who regularly inspect all islands and projects. HBF would like to hear from you with suggestions of areas that need a little beautification.

## HBF Board of Trustees

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Treasurer, Sally Farr  
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Elizabeth Jenson	

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Judy Swanson, *Ex Officio, Hillsborough Garden Club*  
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## Honorary Founding Trustees

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## Development Committee

Chair Emeritus, Ruth Wisnom	Christian Huebner
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Lennie Gotcher	Cheryl Westmont
Maryellie Johnson	Leslie Wilson
Anne Longworth	

## HBF INVITES YOU TO

# Celebrate May!

May 6<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Forty Five Dollars

Comfortable walking shoes a must!

To request an invitation please call 650-829-5159

or email [CelebrateMay@comcast.net](mailto:CelebrateMay@comcast.net)

Don't miss the opportunity to bid on several silent auction items. These opportunities sold out quickly last year!

Artwork by Harumi Nakano

## Thank you to our generous Celebrate May! Sponsors

Anne Riley & Associates	Light Resources
Artistic Millworks	Mark S. Heine Construction
Borel Private Bank and Trust	Martin Ragno & Associates
Christian Huebner Interiors	Mike Amaroli, Coldwell Banker
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Coldwell Banker	Swimming Pool Perfections
Kerns Fine Jewelry	Terra Ferma Landscapes
Kurt Mortenson Services	The Studio Shop

## Celebrate May! Specialty Boutiques

Blue Pagoda Pearls  
designs by Desarie  
Ecogirl  
Judy's Buckles & Baubles  
Kicks  
Kiki Bean and BedHead Pajamas  
Lobird Stationery  
Maison de Belles Choses  
m&m Bling  
Mon Amie  
Narsai's Specialty Foods  
Oliver Frank - Landscapia / Local Honey  
Polka Dogs  
Scout Totes and Toss Travel Accessories  
Toffee Talk - Little Pieces of Conversation, CJ's Toffee & Toppings  
UB Chic

## HBF's Website...

learn more about our history, projects, and volunteer opportunities. You can also use the website to make your online donation.



[www.HillsboroughBeautificationFoundation.org](http://www.HillsboroughBeautificationFoundation.org)