

Photos by Lynda Leitner.

SAVE THE DATE

**BRIDGE OF FLOWERS
PLANT SALE, 2022**

**Saturday, May 14
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Corner of
Main and Water Streets
Shelburne Falls, MA**

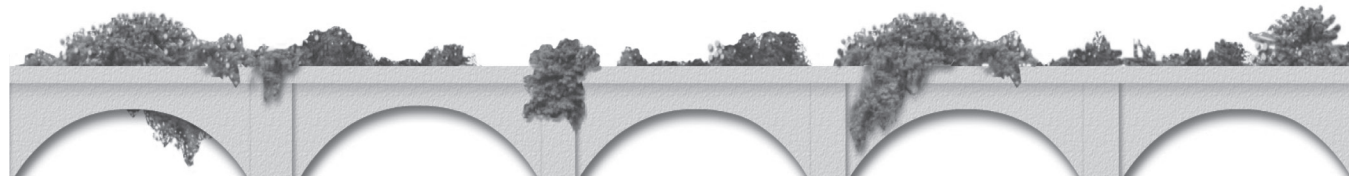
COVID-19 safety guidelines will be observed.

Bridge of Flowers Committee 2021

Annette Szpila – Chair
 Carol Angus, Lynda Leitner – Co-Chairs
 Virginia Ray – Recording Secretary
 Peggy March – Treasurer
 Judy Harlow, Mariana Luz, Jorie MacCleod,
 Laurel Rollins, Joanne Soroka, Marion Taylor

Carol DeLorenzo - Head Gardener
 Elliston Bingham - Assistant Gardener

Bridge of Flowers
 P.O. Box 335
 Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
bridgeofflowersmass.org



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Bridge of Flowers

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



After a rather desolate spring and summer of 2020 at the height of the pandemic, followed by a long dark winter season, the gates of the Bridge of Flowers reopened on June 1, 2021 to resounding cheers. Thanks to the hard work of our gardeners, Carol DeLorenzo and her assistant Elliston Bingham, the beds were bloom-ing brightly with all the brilliant colors of spring, welcoming visitors once again.

A few weeks earlier, in mid-May, the annual plant sale had resumed, and proved a true harbinger of spring. Plant lovers gathered happily, greeting one another on the green as they filled their arms and carts with carefully selected specimens — many dug from the Bridge itself — to add to their gardens. And a gardening-themed tag sale, which replaced the traditional bake sale, debuted to rave reviews.

All in all, the reopening of the Bridge, coupled with a successful plant sale, lifted everyone’s spirits and replenished much-needed income.

During those dark days of the pandemic, the generosity of Friends of the Bridge enabled us to retain our garden-ers, who kept the plants blooming beyond the closed gates well into late October, the result of unseasonably warm fall weather.

The Bridge Committee continued to meet on Zoom and used the “down time” imposed by the closure to update aspects of the Bridge’s website (bridgeofflowersmass.org). In addition to developing a more user-friendly donors’ page, we added a “Gallery of Seasons,” featuring a spectacular series of photos of the Bridge in bloom from spring into fall.

We also entered into an exciting collaboration with Tufts University, initiated by Brian Brenner, a chief engineer for Tighe & Bond and longtime fan of the Bridge, which enabled us to add a new informational dimension to the web-site as well. Brenner, who was teaching a course at Tufts last year entitled “Bridge Design and Rehabilitation,” offered his students a chance to design projects using the Bridge of

Flowers as a case study for various aspects of bridge design or history.

Members of the committee enjoyed working with the students remotely over the course of several months to compile four different kinds of information and instructional resources that are now featured on the Bridge’s website:

- ✿ *STEM Resources for Teachers: All About Bridges*, which offers a wealth of instructional materials for teachers and students at all levels;
- ✿ *Introduction to Bridge Foundations*, an enlightening look at how bridge sites are chosen and what contributes to their longevity;
- ✿ *Iconic Bridges Across New England and Beyond: When, Where, and Why* presents an informed overview of some famous bridges, analyzing elements of their appeal and how and why they have withstood the test of time;
- ✿ *3D Digital Renderings of the Bridge of Flowers* affords some exciting views of the Bridge of Flowers in three-dimensional formats.

As the calendar year of 2021 drew to a close in December, a garland of white lights and snowflakes adorning the Bridge kept it shining brightly as winter settled in, attracting holiday shoppers, who once again strolled merrily about the Village, in the spirit of the season.



**Gifts
in Memory of**

Mary C. Anderson
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OESCO, Inc
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in Honor of**

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Nina Talayco
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(gifts of \$25-99)**

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Ellen Weeks
Gina & Larry Wells
Ann Wetherbee
Marguerite Willis
Hedley Yost

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

*Memorial Gifts are listed on the bulletin board
located at the Buckland side of the bridge.*