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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Hoboken Historical Museum's 12th Annual Secret Garden Tour Showcases Natural Wonders in Urban Setting

Hoboken, N.J. – May 11, 2009 – Some gardeners manage to pull off minor miracles by creating natural oases in this hardcore urban environment. Gardeners and non-gardeners alike are invited to indulge their curiosity and gather urban gardening tips on the Hoboken Historical Museum's **12th Annual Secret Garden Tour, Sunday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** (Rain date: June 7). More than a dozen residential gardens will open their gates to tour goers to support the Museum's fundraising efforts. The tour is sponsored by Hufnagel Landscaping, with support from Beethoven's Veranda and the 14th Street Garden Center in Jersey City, with assistance from the Hoboken Garden Club.

It's the public's chance to peek behind Hoboken's late-19th and early-20th century row houses, newer condominiums and converted factory buildings into spaces that reveal gardeners' creativity and determination to stay in touch with nature in an urban area. Guided tours depart from the Museum on the half-hour, and last about two hours. Three bonus stops are offered this year. Comfortable shoes are advised.

The Secret Garden Tour includes a wide range of garden designs by both dedicated gardening enthusiasts and professional designers, with clever solutions to such challenging issues as entertaining children and adults, coping with shade, and sheltering koi and frogs. One of this year's gardens was featured in the spring edition of *Palisades* magazine and previously in *Better Homes & Garden* and *The New Jersey Monthly*. It is making a re-appearance on the tour by popular demand. It features Gothic-style ruins seemingly transported intact from the Irish countryside. A striking stained-glass window mimics those of the neighboring church, which inspired this design element. A small

water feature below the window provides a constant, soothing murmur, while a nearby soaking pool provides an exotic getaway in midst of a private backyard.

Other gardens include members of the Hoboken Garden Club and yards designed by top-flight landscape architects. Two gardens incorporate artistic decorations. Optional satellite stops this year give tourgoers a chance to travel to the top of the Palisades cliff above Hoboken via the light-rail elevator and a sneak peek at the rooftop landscape atop the exclusive Garden Street Lofts at 14th and Garden Sts.

Gardening in Hoboken has a rich tradition, as Colonel John Stevens (1749 – 1838), who founded Hoboken, was a garden enthusiast, importing and cultivating new plants from all around the world. He's credited with introducing to America the Chrysanthemum and the Camellia. His gardens were highly regarded as some of the most elaborate and scientifically cultivated of the day.

Tickets are \$20 for Hoboken Historical Museum members and Hoboken Garden Club members, and for tickets purchased in advance; non-members pay \$25 on the day of tour. Children under age 13 admitted free. For advance tickets stop by 1301 Hudson St., or call the Museum at 201-656-2240, option 6. Tickets are also available at several retail locations around town – see posters or visit our website for those locations: www.hobokensecretgardens.com.

Volunteers are also needed; call the Museum at 201-656-2240 for more information, or email volunteer@hobokenmuseum.org.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum's mission is to educate the public about Hoboken's history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 7 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: Photos of select gardens are available; please call 201-683-6935.