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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Gather Gardening Tips, Landscaping Ideas on the Hoboken Historical Museum's 13th Annual Secret Garden Tour, Jun. 6

Hoboken, N.J. – May 13, 2010 – Behind Hoboken's brownstones and former factory facades is a world of lush gardens and unusual courtyard spaces, as diverse as the city's residents. Gardeners and non-gardeners alike are invited to indulge their curiosity and pick up urban gardening tips on the Hoboken Historical Museum's 13th **Annual Secret Garden Tour, Sunday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** (Rain date: June 13). Some eight to 10 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 other local gardening centers and 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, as well as some newer condominiums and converted factory buildings, to see how gardeners' creativity and landscapers' skill can integrate nature into an urban setting. Guided tours depart from the Museum on the half-hour, and last about two hours. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of tour. Comfortable shoes and sun protection 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 shallow soil and deep shade. One garden offers a serene, Japanese-inspired design that packs a lot of uses into a small garden, yet maintains a sense of order and spaciousness. Wooden walkways lead up from a bluestone patio across carefully tended planting beds with occasional splashes of color, and a traditional white stone bed. A Buddha keeps watch over the garden, and traditional rice-paper and bamboo panels protect the owners' privacy. Another garden shows the owner's impeccable sense of style and flair for entertaining – an outdoor extension of a home that was on last year's House

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Tour. Other stops on the tour include a garden with Moroccan design elements and the leafy refuge of a shared condo complex courtyard.

Hoboken Historical Museum members and Hoboken Garden Club members may purchase tickets for \$20, and children under the age of 13 are admitted free. For advance tickets, stop by 1301 Hudson St., or call the Museum at 201-656-2240. Tickets are also available at several retail locations around town: Hudson Place Realty, 132 Washington St., Amanda's restaurant, 908 Washington St., and Baskets of Distinction, 1102 Washington St. Visit our website for more information. www.hobokensecretgardens.com.

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

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.

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: A photo of one of this year's gardens is available; please call 201-683-6935.