

A Gala Celebration at Blithewold
Friday, September 18, 2026



PETALS & PALMS

under the glass canopy

Rebuilding Blithewold's Historic
Palm & Rose Greenhouses



1903 Palm and Rose Greenhouses at Blithewold



Blithewold

Honoree,
Jeff Hirsh



*"I simply cannot imagine Bristol without Blithewold."
~ Jeff Hirsh*

Jeff Hirsh has never been shy about his passion for giving back, or his deep belief that everyone has something to offer the causes they care about most. There's no question that our community is stronger because of it—and because of him.

From his earliest days as owner of the Lobster Pot, when he was first invited to join the board of one of our many important local nonprofits, Jeff has never said 'no.' He offers his time, talent, and treasure in support of children and families through the Bristol YMCA and Bradley Hospital. And he elevates the visibility of everything that makes our charming town—and the Ocean State—so special as part of Explore Bristol, Providence Tourism, and the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority.

Asked what drives his commitment to service, Jeff doesn't hesitate. "I like to be involved with organizations I believe in."

Blithewold is grateful to be among those organizations and to benefit from Jeff's immense selflessness. At every opportunity, he is one of our biggest cheerleaders, highlighting the many things that make Blithewold truly unique and emphasizing there's something here for everyone.

He is a champion of our rich place in American history, our concert series, of tea and scones, and our horticulture programs. He is an advocate for our breathtaking grounds and wants to make sure everyone knows about our summer camp for kids and the magic that is Christmas at Blithewold. But perhaps most importantly, he is a steadfast supporter of each and every person who gives of themselves to ensure Blithewold thrives and remains a place for community.

It is with deep appreciation and admiration that we honor Jeff Hirsh. His unwavering generosity, enthusiastic spirit, and steadfast belief in the power of community embody the very heart of Blithewold. We are proud to recognize all he has done—and continues to do—to help Blithewold and Bristol flourish.

Event Details

A Gala Celebration at Blithewold

Friday, September 18, 2026

5:00–10:00 PM

Caterer: Blackstone Caterers

Band: Decades by DeZyne (performing again after the 2024 Gala)

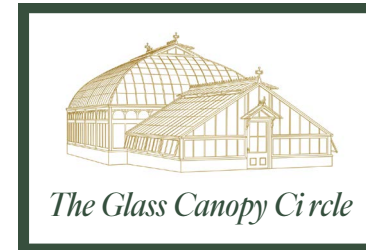
Past Gala Corporate Support

Bank of America Private Bank
BankNewport
Bartlett Tree Experts
Baycoast Bank
BNY Mellon Wealth Management
Bristol Macaroni Company
Bristol Marine
Capital City
C.B. Utility Company

Centreville Bank
Citizens
DaPonte Landscaping
Delta Dental
Gil's Appliances
GZA
John Andrade Insurance
Millard Construction
Murray Outdoor Communications

Navigant Credit Union
Numark Industries
Residential Properties
Sylvan Nursery and the Van Sloun
Foundation
Taco Industries
Tri-Mack
Washington Trust

Benefit Packages for Sponsors & Patrons



\$6,000+

- Premier recognition as Presenting Sponsor
- Table for eight (8) at the Petals & Palms Gala
- Use of the Blithewold Manor for a three-hour social or business occasion for up to 40 guests on a mutually agreeable evening or afternoon
- Listing in the event program and on the event sponsor board
- Fifty (50) tickets to Christmas at Blithewold in December 2026



\$3,500+

- One gala table (6 guests) at the Petals & Palms Gala
- Use of the Blithewold Manor for a three-hour social or business occasion for up to 12 guests on a mutually agreeable midweek evening or afternoon
- Listing in the event program and on the event sponsor board
- Twenty-five (25) tickets to Christmas at Blithewold in December 2026



\$2,500+

- Four (4) tickets to attend the Petals & Palms Gala
- Listing in the event program
- Ten (10) tickets to Christmas at Blithewold in December 2026



\$1,250+

- Two (2) tickets to attend the Petals & Palms Gala
- Listing in the event program
- Eight (8) tickets to Christmas at Blithewold in December 2026



\$325

- Individual Gala Ticket

Fund-A-Need: Rebuilding Blithewold's Historic Palm & Rose Greenhouses



A legacy worth preserving.

Where the existing greenhouse now stands, the Palm and Rose Houses once showcased Mrs. Van Wickle McKee's heirloom roses and exotic palms in breathtaking displays. Their presence helped establish Blithewold as a center of horticultural excellence. Rebuilding them restores a missing chapter of Blithewold's story.

More than greenhouses.

These structures are more than buildings—they are living experiences. When complete, the Palm and Rose Houses will be:

- ~ **Educational hubs** for students, gardeners, and lifelong learners.
- ~ **Community venues** for small weddings, lectures, and seasonal events.
- ~ **Botanical showcases** that expand our rare plant collections.
- ~ **Inspiration points** for glasshouse and garden enthusiasts.
- ~ **Support spaces** for year-round educational programming and horticultural research.

Help us bring these cherished structures back to life. Building both houses together ensures cost-efficiency and preserves the integrity of this historic site. Sponsorship and funds raised during the 2026 gala's special Fund-A-Need will ensure their legacy endures.

Blithewold Manor, Gardens & Arboretum Board of Directors

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* In Memoriam