

Steven Brown

Steven Brown breathed new life into the "other side of 43rd". His creativity and vision produced the cozy, welcoming space that is Tilia. He has given the neighborhood award-winning, James Beard nominated, cutting-edge gastronomy within walking distance of home. (That is, if you have the patience to wait for a table at his always- packed neighborhood eatery!)

Steven was the energy behind bringing a farmers' market to Linden Hills, assembling people and skills to bring it to fruition. Now the neighborhood enjoys a vibrant market and community meeting place every Sunday from June through October.

He also showcases the neighborhood to people far and wide with the Tilia Augtoberfest block party, held each August, which brings in new customers for the other businesses, and new admirers to the lakes and housing stock. Steven has generously donated a portion of the Augtoberfest admission proceeds to neighborhood entities. This year the Linden Hills Business Association and the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council benefited from his generosity. Thank you, Steven!

Tom Neiman

For thirty years Tom Neiman has asked parents to refrain from cartwheeling with giddy excitement after dropping their kids off at the Super Summer Program at Southwest High School. Apart from giving parents a break (which is worthy of an award itself), he and his team have offered intriguing, active and stimulating classes for kids from preschool through junior high. Once the kids age out of the program, many are offered jobs as assistants and teachers. When asked one year why they don't take online registrations, Tom replied, "Because I want to hire teenagers so they can learn customer service and organizational skills." Working for 30 years with 100 young staff and almost a thousand hyper kids in an un-airconditioned building is also deserving of an award!

In addition to the famous Super Summer Program, Tom has headed the Green Team at Southwest High School for many years, empowering students to run meetings, give presentations and choose projects that reflect THEIR interests -not Southwest's, or Tom Neiman's interests.

He also heads "Study Buddies," a tutoring program successful on many levels, which pairs Southwest High School students with grade school students from Lake Harriet School for one hour weekly tutoring and mentoring sessions. Some of the Southwest participants spoke at a LHiNC meeting earlier this week, where it became evident that the high school students themselves are enriched through the opportunity to become role models to a younger set of students.

Tom also works with student volunteers to pull off massive community events like the annual sock hop, moonlit bike ride and Halloween party. The students are given roles and goals and he guides very gently from the background. The kids totally flourish as they see they've been entrusted with something so important.

For these deeds and so many more, we thank Tom and offer him this Linden Hills Treasure award.

Martha Schaefer

Martha Schaefer moved to Beard Ave S in Linden Hills in 1954. For the next 60 years she was more than a neighbor, she was a "family member" and friend to hundreds of residents especially on Beard, Abbott, Chowen and Drew Avenues. She was a caregiver to so many, helping with children of working parents, caring for pets (she could be seen walking 4 different dogs in a day none of which were her own), taking care of homes whose owners were out of town, watering plants inside and out, picking up mail and packages, being there for the repair or delivery man, etc. She loved and cared for people, animals, plants, flowers and the environment. Her faith was strong and she lived it daily.

On June 14th this summer, Martha went to heaven, just 3 months before her 91st birthday. Last year over 140 family, friends and neighbors attended her 90th birthday celebration. Her funeral and burial was also attended by as many or more even, including her mail carrier and lawn care man. She passed on still having nearly a dozen sets of keys to neighbors' homes.

She was truly beloved and admired for her daily acts of service to so many, her humility, her gratitude for anything and everything. Her passing is an incredible loss to the neighborhood.

For all of these virtues and acts of kindness, Martha Schaefer, has been nominated, posthumously, for a Linden Hills Treasure award.