

# PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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Save the Dates!

in the park

## Summertime in the McGovern Centennial Gardens



Vibrant blooms, cheerful birdsong, and the soothing sound of cascading water make the McGovern Centennial Gardens a perfect spot for a summertime escape. As the gardens begin their second summer in Hermann Park, roses and wisteria vines continue to climb trellises to create scenic archways as new plants are being introduced.

A new feature for visitors to the McGovern Centennial Gardens' Family Garden will be a beehive. Brought to us by William Sikkema, a graduate student in the Chemistry Department at Rice University, the resident bees will be a wonderful addition to a garden full of pollinator-plants. The Flow Hive is a new technology that will allow honey to be drained directly into a container. From the hive, the bees will pass through a clear tube and then fly above the Family Garden, avoiding most human contact.

New fruit trees have been added in the Family Garden including avocado and Cherry of the Rio Grande; blackberry and blueberry bushes; and a wide variety of flowers that attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. Butterflies and birds are drawn to plants and water features throughout the McGovern Centennial Gardens creating great opportunities for birdwatchers and photographers. Red-shouldered hawks, screech owls, warblers, blue jays and a variety of other birds have been spotted in the Gardens.

Continued on page 3

[hermannpark.org](http://hermannpark.org)



**HATS IN THE PARK**  
see pages 4-5

**MISSION**  
Hermann Park Conservancy is a citizens' organization dedicated to the stewardship and improvement of Hermann Park—today and for generations to come.





Barry Hunsaker and honoree Linda Hunsaker

It is fun to watch the spring flowers bloom throughout the Park – but their colors are no match for the festive hats at the annual *Hats in the Park* luncheon. This year, it was our privilege to honor a long-time friend of Hermann Park Conservancy, Linda Hunsaker, whose love for Hermann Park dates back to her childhood. She has been a member of the executive committee for eight of her ten years on the Conservancy board and has served on the visitor services and board engagement committees. Linda worked behind the scenes to help make our centennial-year *Evening in the Park* gala a magical night and served as co-chair of the Centennial Events fundraising committee.

Linda has a special place in her heart for children, helping to raise the funds needed to build a playground in Hermann Park. She founded the local non-profit, B-E-A-R (Be a Resource), improving the lives of children in the CPS system.

We appreciate the time and knowledge that Linda has shared with the Conservancy, but most of all, we appreciate her kindness. Whether she's delivering food to the office when she knows that we can't get out for lunch or loaning a special hat to a staff member for *Hats in the Park*, Linda is a good friend to us and to our community.



John and Sara Lindsey and Doreen Stoller at *Evening in the Park*.

Although I could never get her to wear a hat, Sara Houstoun Lindsey also loved spring in Hermann Park. We lost an extraordinary friend on February 16, 2016 when she passed away. Sara had a strong sense of duty to improve her community, and spent a lifetime making Houston a more beautiful place. She and John, her husband of nearly 70 years, gave a gift to Hermann Park Conservancy to finish the remarkable transformation of the Heart of the Park at a time when there was very little private investment in public parks. The Sara H. and John H. Lindsey Plaza serves as a tribute to their generosity.

Sara's connection to Hermann Park goes back decades. She once described a scavenger hunt in high school in which students were asked to find watermelon seeds (during the winter). Sara and John had the smart idea to check for seeds in Hermann Park. They searched under picnic tables with a flashlight that night, found the seeds, and won the contest. Sara's love for Hermann Park continued throughout her life. While the world is a little less fun with the loss of Sara, her life has left a legacy of beauty. The Heart of the Park reflects her expansive spirit and warm heart.

*Doreen*

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director

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Children listen to a story about ponds read by a volunteer in the Family Garden.

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 Hinda Simon  
 Lisa and Scott Slaney  
 The Southampton Group  
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 Traci and Kris Westbrook

*continued from page 1*

Also new to the Family Garden is story hour. Every Friday morning at 10 a.m., picture stories are read by staff or volunteers under the Brown Foundation Learning Pavilion followed by simple activities for children, a bug hunt, chalk drawings, or planting a seed to take home.

For more information about the gardens, go to [hermannpark.org/gardens](http://hermannpark.org/gardens). To volunteer, contact **Kimina Jamison** at [kjamison@hermannpark.org](mailto:kjamison@hermannpark.org).

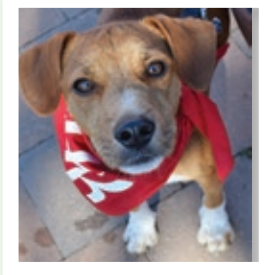


Clutch leads the way at the Dog Walk.



Not all dogs were on foot.

## Happy Tails on the Hermann Park Trail



A pup poses for his close-up.

From tiny paws to giant noses, dogs of all shapes and sizes joined their owners for a morning of fun at the fourth annual *Hermann Park Dog Walk* on March 5. The event was sponsored by the Houston Rockets, who provided a red bandana for each dog and a t-shirt and game ticket for their owner.

The walk kicked-off with a little help from Rockets' mascot, Clutch, high-fiving walkers as they came through the inflatable arch which served as the starting point. New this year was an additional longer route for more active dogs.



Friends enjoyed a party on Lake Plaza following the walk.

After the walk, people mingled among booths sponsored by local groups including BARC and the Houston SPCA, bringing awareness to dog-related issues. Natural Paws was on hand giving out healthy pet treats. Clutch posed for pictures with walk participants while others practiced "doga", doggy yoga, which gave pets and people a chance to relax together. A portion of the proceeds from the walk benefit Hermann Park Conservancy.



## Hats in the Park 2016

Rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 425 guests who gathered in the McGovern Centennial Gardens to support the Conservancy's fashionable springtime fundraiser, *Hats in the Park*. Thanks to the hard work of Michelle Foutch, Blakely Griggs and Joella Mach, the March 8 event raised nearly \$350,000 to support the Conservancy's mission to maintain and improve Hermann Park for millions of visitors each year.

Following champagne at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and lunch on the Centennial Green, there was a short program led by board chair, Danny David, giving the event chairs an opportunity to talk about future plans for improvements in the Park. Doreen Stoller, the Conservancy's executive director, introduced our honoree, Linda Hunsaker, thanking her for her years of enthusiastic service and her passion for improving Hermann Park for all Houstonians. A Monterrey Oak was presented in Linda's honor and will stand in the Park as a tribute to her dedication. Mayor Sylvester Turner, attending his first *Hats in the Park*, congratulated Linda, greeted guests and spoke about the importance of parks to our city.

**Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the luncheon.**

Photos by Priscilla Dickson



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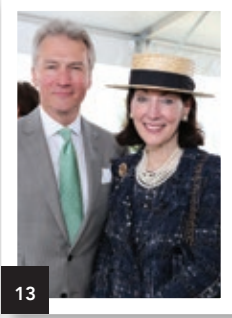
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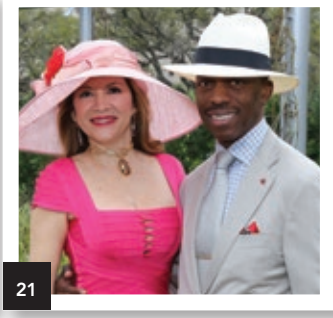
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HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



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1 Chairs Blakely Griggs, Joella Mach and Michelle Foutch 2 Board chair Danny David and Mayor Sylvester Turner 3 Kelly Leonard and honoree Linda Hunsaker 4 Joe Nelson, Ann Kennedy and councilmember David Robinson 5 Franci Neely, Phoebe Tudor and Martha Finger 6 Rini and Edward Ziegler 7 Mary D'Andrea, Anne Kushwaha and Gina Bhatia 8 Doreen Stoller and Cherie Flores 9 2017 Honorees Judy Nyquist and Cece Fowler 10 Vivi Robertson, Divya Brown and Carolyn Robertson 11 Melissa Tuckerman, Blakely Griggs and Brittany O'Brien 12 Vicky Wight and Kelli Blanton 13 Sanford and Susie Criner 14 Sandy Godfrey and Whitney Gordon 15 Holly Alvis and Hannah McNair 16 Jana Arnoldy, Lindley Arnoldy and Ellie Francisco 17 Merle Hunsaker, Jerry Dietrich and Pam Hunsaker 18 Wanda Sparks, June Doadrick and Lindsay Munoz 19 Diane Lokey Farb and Isabel David 20 Lisa McMearn, Dina McMearn and Dee Webb 21 Alex and Astley Blair 22 Leigh Smith, Phoebe Tudor and Divya Brown 23 Consuelo Macpherson, Gretchen McFarland, Ting Bresnahan and Michelle Foutch 24 Valerie Dieterich, Morgan Garvey and Francine Ballard 25 Y. Ping Sun and Susie Criner 26 Beth Wiedower and Kelley Lubanko 27 JC Al-Uqdah, Cabrina Owsley and Sue Sim 28 Cora Bess Meyer and Patricia McDonald 29 Jo Lynn Falgout and Kimberly Falgout





Thousands return for the third annual kite festival.



Twin boys show off their twin kites.



A big sister celebrates her birthday at the kite festival

## Colorful Kites Soar at the Hermann Park Kite Festival

Kids and kites were a winning combination as thousands took part in the third annual *Hermann Park Kite Festival* on Sunday, April 3. Novice and expert kite flyers shared the skies above Miller Hill and the Jones Reflection Pool. A variety of activities kept kids busy on the ground, too.

Many learned to make kites, had their faces painted with colorful designs and watched a magician's act. A DJ and live performances entertained the crowd throughout the day.

Morgan Garvey and Paul-David Van Atta chaired their third successful kite festival along with the support of our kite festival planning committee, host committee, sponsors and volunteers. Thank you to H-E-B, Andrews Kurth LLP, and Mill Creek Residential and to all who were a part of this special day in Hermann Park. We also appreciate the dedication of Mindy Campbell, who coordinates the event annually for the Conservancy.

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## HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY

### Hats in the Park Luncheon

All gifts in honor of Linda Hunsaker, honoree, and chairs Michelle Foutch, Blakely Griggs, and Joella Mach.

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Sylvie Crum  
Isabel and Danny David  
Susan and Edward Davis

HPC's project manager Ethan Beeson with master plan team Chris Matthews, Matthew Urbanski and Jesse Nicholson



## The Conservancy Plans for the Park's Future

The award-winning landscape architecture firm, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA), is creating an updated master plan for Hermann Park which will guide improvements in the Park for the next 20 years. MVVA specializes in planning and designing landscapes that enrich urban areas and engage the imagination. The firm's projects include the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, the renovation of Maggie Daley Park in Chicago, and the landscaping of the grounds of the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas.

Over the next year, the MVVA team will analyze data, meet with community members and develop preliminary concepts. The Conservancy has identified underutilized areas of the Park, particularly

on its edges, including Bayou Parkland and the corner of Fannin and Cambridge Streets, and is considering development plans for these areas to further improve the Park and access to it for millions of visitors each year.

MVVA planners, led by Matt Urbanski and Chris Matthews, recently spent time in the Park in an effort to understand the needs of visitors and partners which operate in and around the Park, especially on busy days. An important goal of the updated master plan is to find sustainable solutions for parking and traffic management while enhancing pedestrian, bike and METRORail access. The Conservancy is thrilled to work with MVVA on this important project.



## Become a Hermann Park Conservancy Member

**Did you know you can become a member of Hermann Park Conservancy?** Membership donations provide vital general operations funding, which keeps the Conservancy's programs and initiatives going strong. Conservancy members receive exciting benefits including free tickets to ride the

Hermann Park Railroad and pedal boats, Member Express boarding lines, free unlimited rides on the train on the second Saturday of every month, a 10% discount in the Conservancy Gift Shop and Pinewood Cafe, and more.

Visit [hermannpark.org/membership](http://hermannpark.org/membership) for more information.



Students planted watermelon seeds in the Family Garden

Mayor Sylvester Turner talks about Houston parks



Teens join in a service project in the Family Garden



## Local Teens Help Kick-off *Let's Move! Outside* Program in Houston

Houston has been selected as one of 50 cities nationwide to participate in the U.S. Department of the Interior's *Let's Move! Outside* program, part of Michelle Obama's initiative to inspire young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors. It also encourages kids to take advantage of the public lands available to them and to become future stewards of the land. The program is funded through a \$5 million national commitment by the American Express Foundation and will be facilitated by the YMCA of Greater Houston.

At a press conference in Hermann Park's McGovern Centennial Gardens on April 7, 2016, Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressman Al Green, Assistant Secretary for Land

and Minerals Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Janice Schneider, and the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Houston, Paul McIntire, introduced the program with the help of area teens. Following the conference, the officials joined the students for a service project in the Family Garden.

Houston was chosen, according to Schneider, because of its commitment to parks and green spaces. "Houston is blessed with amazing public parks and a strong network of public and nonprofit leaders committed to getting kids outdoors, active and connected to nature," she said.

For more information on the initiative, go to [letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside](http://letsmove.gov/lets-move-outside).

## DONORS

### *Hats in the Park Luncheon*

*continued*

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# McGOVERN CENTENNIAL GARDENS

featured plant

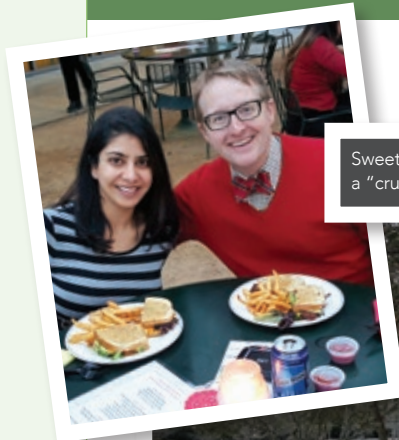


## Longleaf Pine

*Pinus palustris*, or the Longleaf Pine, shapes the character of the Piney Woods of east Texas and northern Louisiana. Even early designs for McGovern Centennial Gardens included an east Texas garden that captured the character of a native pine forest underlain by ferns and palmettos. When you walk the Tudor Family Pine Hill Walk, you will see predominantly Loblolly Pines (*Pinus taeda*) in larger sizes, with medium and quite small Longleaf Pine scattered throughout.

Longleaf Pine is easily recognizable for the length of its needles, 10-15" long held in bundles of three. These trees prefer deep sandy soils, and can grow to heights of 125'. The wood of the Longleaf Pine, also known as Yellow Pine, Georgia Pine, and Heart Pine, is useful in many applications due to its strength and durability. The seeds are eaten by as many as 10 species of birds and by many rodents.

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- Jennifer Gravenor – In honor of  
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- Mary Jane Wakefield
- Martha S. Walton
- Andrea and Bill White
- Vicky Wight



Sweethearts enjoy dinner before a "cruise" on McGovern Lake.

## Valentine Sweethearts Enjoy "Dinner and a Cruise"



Couples celebrate Valentine's Day on the Pinewood Cafe terrace.

The weather was perfect on Valentine's night for nearly 40 couples dining on Pinewood Cafe's scenic terrace overlooking McGovern Lake. The Conservancy's third annual "Dinner and a Cruise" brought new and returning guests to enjoy a meal including

an appetizer sampler, choice of entrée, and a dessert. Each couple was given a pair of train tickets and a carnation. After dinner, sweethearts rode pedal boats around McGovern Lake amid colorful reflections of city lights cast on the lake.

## A New Garden Feature for Hermann Park's Japanese Garden

The garden team from Japan, Aya Nakamura Hashimoto, Hiroshi Iwasaki, Taiki Iwasaki and Masataka Kitamura arrived in Hermann Park to guide construction of the Japanese Garden's dry stream garden.



The Japan team finalizes stone placement for a small waterfall in the new dry stream garden, a traditional Japanese garden feature.



Support for the Japanese Garden was presented to the Conservancy at the recent Japanese Festival. Pictured are Justin Cooper, Japanese Festival of Houston; Patsy Yoon Brown, Japan-America Society of Houston; Jay Mochizuki, Mochizuki Cultural Center; Donna Cole, U.S. Japan Council Board of Directors; Yukihiro Honda, JBAH; Doreen Stoller, Hermann Park Conservancy; Shinji Takechi, JAGH; Honorable Tetsuro Amano, Consulate General of Japan in Houston and Gary Nakamura, JAACL

## DONORS

### Hats in the Park Luncheon

*continued*

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Cyvia G. Wolff  
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#### \$100-\$499

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H.L. Gibson – who has planted  
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The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more between January 1 and February 29, 2016, as well as all *Hats in the Park* luncheon donors, Kite Festival donors, and George Hermann Society members. Gifts to the *Evening in the Park* gala will be recognized in the next issue. In compliance with IRS standards, commitments paid over time in installments are recognized once in full at the time of the pledge. Please contact the Conservancy if we inadvertently have not included your name or if you would like to be listed differently in future publications.

## The Cultural Landscape Foundation Conference Comes to Houston

Jane Curtis, the Conservancy's director of horticulture, led a tour in Hermann Park on March 12, 2016 as part of a conference presented by the Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), based in Washington D.C. The non-profit organization is focused on raising awareness of historical landscapes through tours, conferences and books. The event brought landscape architects and design professionals from across the country. Curtis and Matt Urbanski of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, the firm designing an update the Park's master plan, were panelists for a discussion of the evolution of Houston's public spaces. The session kicked off with a review of the significance of Hermann Park and its master plan as the catalyst for major improvement projects. Jane discussed the Park's 100-year



Jane Curtis leads a walking tour in Hermann Park.

history and its early planners as well as the master plan designed in the 1990s to bring many of the original plans to completion. The Houston conference highlighted the landscape architecture that is transforming our city at a scale not seen in the U.S. in a century. TCLF also published a guide, *What's Out There Houston*, to draw attention to significant landscapes in the city. An online version is available on their website: [tclf.org](http://tclf.org).

## Save the Dates!

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events!



**Evening in the Park**  
 Friday, April 29, 2016  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Jones Reflection Pool  
 & Molly Ann Smith Plaza



**Park to Port Bike Ride**  
 Saturday, October 1, 2016  
 Bill Coats Bridge  
 Rolling start beginning  
 at 7 a.m.



**Overboard with Urban Green**  
 Thursday, May 12, 2016  
 Lake Plaza  
 7–10 p.m.



**Run in the Park**  
 Saturday, November 12, 2016  
 Molly Ann Smith Plaza  
 8 a.m.

*Dates and times are subject to change; where date and time not listed, exact time is TBD.*



Details at  
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