

PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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in the park

Dogs Have Their Day in Hermann Park



HATS IN THE PARK
see pages 4-5



On Saturday, March 30, over 250 participants and their furry friends gathered in Hermann Park for the 1st Annual

The Dog Walk sponsored by the Houston Rockets and benefiting Hermann Park Conservancy. This new event featured a picturesque 1-mile walk around McGovern Lake and the Jones Reflection Pool and an after party at Lake Plaza with Rockets mascot Clutch "The Rockets Bear," Houston



went home with a ticket to a Rockets game, a commemorative t-shirt, a doggie daycare DVD, and a hand-baked dog treat from Phoenicia. One lucky walker even came home with a new pet adopted after meeting at the walk. Proceeds from *The Dog Walk* benefit the planned two-acre Hermann Park dog park to be located along Brays Bayou. We look forward to working with the Houston Rockets to bring back this event year-after-year.

SPCA, Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, Phoenicia Specialty Foods, Budweiser, and more. While not all dogs loved Clutch, they did love exploring the Park and playing in the fountains at Molly Ann Smith Plaza. All walkers



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



www.hermannpark.org



The McNair Foundation table included Debra Strait; Melissa Reichert; Ruth McNair Smith; Holly Smith, Foundation grants administrator; Marci Alvis; Austin Alvis; and Joanie Haley, Foundation executive director.

On Tuesday, March 5, at the 6th annual *Hats in the Park* luncheon we honored the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation for their longtime commitment to Hermann Park. For nearly a decade, the McNair Foundation has supported Hermann Park Conservancy, most recently with a major gift to the Centennial Gardens project.

We were delighted to have Mayor Annise Parker on hand to introduce the Foundation. Mayor Parker spoke of the Foundation's commitment to programs throughout Houston including their support of religious and educational causes and the establishment of the McNair Scholars Program which supports medical research in the fields of juvenile diabetes, breast and pancreatic cancer, and the neurosciences, all causes that are close to the hearts of the founders.

Holly Smith and Joanie Haley from the Foundation attended the luncheon to accept the award. In Holly's gracious remarks, she shared her favorite memory of the Park. Holly recalled receiving pet ducks as a child and raising them until the ducks outgrew her backyard. Realizing they would be better off in a park, Holly and her mom brought the ducks to live out their golden years at Hermann Park. Returning to the Park several months later, Holly and her mom were delighted to have two familiar-looking ducks following them around during their visit. When Hermann Park board chair Ann Kennedy took the stage after Holly's



Doreen Stoller (left) and *Hats in the Park* co-chairman Kim Tutchter (right) with Holly Smith (center) from the McNair Foundation.

remarks, she noted that Holly and her family were not the first to release former pets into the Park—though they may be the first to admit it!

We are thrilled to have the support of community organizations such as the McNair Foundation, and greatly appreciate their support of the Park and the Centennial. Aimed for completion in late 2014, the Centennial Gardens will transform the current Garden Center site into an eight-acre jewel in the center of Houston offering Park visitors an interactive family garden, rose garden, sculpture promenade, and a 29' garden mount! Hats off to the McNair Foundation for their continued commitment to Hermann Park.

See you in the Park,

Doreen

Doreen Stoller
Executive Director

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Centennial Gardens

\$100,000 – \$249,999

Allison and Troy Thacker

\$50,000 – \$99,999

The George and Mary Josephine

Hamman Foundation

Linda and Barry Hunsaker

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Sissy and Denny Kempner III – In honor

of Cece Fowler and Sanford Criner

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Joseph Goerner – In memory of

Katherine Goerner

Steven E. Goerner – In memory of

Katherine Goerner

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Centennial Campaign

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Centennial Sponsorships

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Kristen Buck

Grand Gateway

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General Contributions**

\$1,000 – \$4,999

The Larsen Family Charitable Fund

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James O. Barth

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Carlyn Sue Hardwick

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Kerry and George Gerachis

Letty Knapp – In memory of Ray Bailey

Jan and David Redford – In memory of

Lamar Gregory Neale

In Kind

GSI Environmental Inc.

Andrea and Bill White

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Patricia Katz – In honor of Erica and Daniel Buchalter's wedding
 Becky Naser – In memory of Norma Jean Shore O'Neill
 Kitty and Peter Quinn – In memory of Lily Eng Chu
 Lois Y. Taber – In honor of Carolyn Robertson
 Duane Watkins – In memory of Lamar Gregory Neale

Japanese Garden**\$1,000 – \$4,999**

The Japanese Association of Greater Houston (JAGH)

\$100 – \$499

Midori and Akihiro Mochizuki

Membership**Conductor's Circle (\$2,500)**

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Platinum (\$500)

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 Jane Anderson Curtis and Bill Curtis
 Harriet and Joe Foster
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Volunteers Help with Reforestation on Arbor Day



Volunteers and Conservancy Gardener Chris Gray (pictured in the middle photo) plant trees from the Apache Foundation.

Arbor Day 2013 was celebrated in Hermann Park on a cool day at the end of January when 300 young trees were planted throughout Lake Picnic Area on the north side of McGovern Lake. Apache Foundation generously donated the trees to help reforest the 8-acre site which suffered mature tree loss due to both Hurricane Ike in 2008 and the extreme drought of 2011. Several species of native trees were planted to mimic a natural forest, including oak, loblolly pine, bald cypress, cedar elm, wax

myrtle and magnolia. Volunteers, including many families, participated in the planting effort, doing everything from digging holes for trees to watering and mulching. As Park users visit Lake Picnic Area in the coming years, they can watch the trees grow from saplings to young trees to maturity. Lake Picnic Area, refurbished with new drainage, irrigation, picnic tables, grills, and swings, accommodates picnickers from all over the Houston region on a first come, first served basis.

Urban Green Members Lend a Hand in the Park



Urban Green volunteers work to keep the Jones Greenway, the unofficial entrance to Lake Plaza and Hermann Park, looking its best.

On Saturday, February 16, an enthusiastic group of Urban Green members spent a perfectly crisp and sunny morning volunteering to help keep Hermann Park looking beautiful. Urban Green members grabbed gloves, shovels, and other tools and listened as Diane Kerr, Hermann Park Conservancy manager of volunteer programs, reminded everyone of the importance of volunteerism—and getting your hands dirty every once in a while! Chris Gray, HPC gardener, led the group to the first task of the day: clearing out invasive plants from around the oat grass in the Mary Gibbs and Jesse H. Jones Greenway. Gray captured the

importance of volunteerism saying, “pulling out all of the invasive plants myself would take a week, at least. Today the task was completed in a matter of hours.” After working hard, volunteers gathered on the terrace at Pinewood Cafe to enjoy the day and a much deserved frosty beverage.

Urban Green is the Conservancy's young professionals' membership group. Through a variety of events both social and educational, Urban Green strives to inspire new generations of Park supporters. For more information or to join, visit www.hermannpark.org.

CHAPEAUX
2013 Hats in the Park

Spring is in the air! The Conservancy's 6th annual springtime fundraiser *Hats in the Park* was held on Tuesday, March 5, at the Park's historic clubhouse. All things French were enjoyed in the spirit of the theme *Chapeaux* — French for "hats" — including a 14-foot tall Eiffel Tower, champagne, petit macarons, and fine fashion.

Chaired by Ellie Francisco and Kim Tutcher, guests were encouraged to wear their spring best, with hats of course, and guests did not disappoint with fascinators, top hats, and wide-brimmed versions all on display! Mayor Annise Parker introduced the event's honoree, the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, represented by Holly Smith and Joanie Haley. While accepting the honor, Smith told a touching—and funny—story of coming to the Park as a child.

The luncheon raised nearly \$240,000, funds that will go towards keeping Hermann Park sparkling as the 2014 Centennial approaches. Many thanks to everyone who supported the luncheon, including event underwriters, raffle ticket buyers, and Tootsies, who, in addition to hosting the *Hats* kick-off event in January, generously donated items for the raffle including a private luncheon and fashion show and a Valentino purse. Other prized raffle items included a custom hat by millinery master, Kokin — perhaps to be worn at next year's *Hats* luncheon! — and a set of moonstone earrings and cuff donated by Bounkit. Congrats to the winners!

Exciting news came near the close of the luncheon when it was announced that the chair of the 2014 *Hats in the Park* luncheon will be Laurie Morian and the honorary chair will be Lynn Wyatt. The Park is honored to have these two supporters at the helm for such an important event.

Hope to see everyone next year!



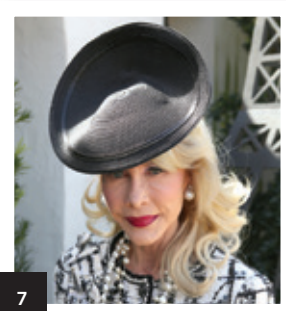
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HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



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1 Chairmen Kim Tutcher and Ellie Francisco 2 Judy Nyquist and Linsay Radcliffe 3 Ann Short and Mary D'Andrea 4 Rachel Solar, Holly Smith, and Ashley Chilivets 5 Martha Finger and Phoebe Tudor 6 Mayor Annise Parker 7 Diane Lokey Farb 8 Pat Breen, Estela Cockrell, Franci Crane, Sis Johnson, and Andrea White 9 Lynn Wyatt, Doreen Stoller, and Laurie Morian 10 Laura Bellows, Ann Kennedy, Mariloli Odum, Ellen Simmons, and Linda Kelly 11 Denise Bush Bahr and Olga Bush 12 Kate Criner Bellin, Susie Criner, and Annie Criner Eifler 13 Nyanza Moore and Bobbie Nau 14 Kathi Rovere and Barbara van Postman 15 Liz Glanville, Rachael Volz, and Audrey Cochran 16 Sandy Godfrey, Y. Ping Sun, and Karen Bradshaw 17 Nancy Littlejohn 18 Todd Fiscus, Joan Schnitzer-Levy, and Ceron 19 Cyndy Garza-Roberts, Ellie Francisco, and Sharon Owens 20 Yvonne Cormier 21 Isabel David and Lindsey Love 22 Sandy Ramirez, Karina Barbieri, Gabriella Dror, and Caroline Kenney 23 Gracie Cavnar and Jana Arnoldy 24 Selina Stanford and Emily Reaser 25 Kate Gibson, Lynn Swanson, Patty Porter, Linda C. Hunsaker, and Karen Rozzell 26 Rini and Edward Ziegler 27 Cynthia Petrello and Rosemarie Johnson



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Valentine's Day "Dinner and a Cruise"



Sherri and Bill Chilivets enjoy a romantic Valentine's Day dinner

For the first time ever, Hermann Park Conservancy hosted a Valentine's Day dinner—complete with pedal boat rides. On this most romantic of evenings, over three dozen couples enjoyed a three-course meal by

Pinewood Cafe and relaxed on the patio overlooking McGovern Lake. After the al fresco dinner, lovebirds continued the celebration with an intimate 30-minute twilight cruise around the lake on Hermann Park's beloved pedal boats happily keeping company with the Park's resident ducks. The evening also included chocolates and a flower for each couple to take home. With the success of this first event, Hermann Park Conservancy is working to plan more special events like this in the future.

Memorial Stone for Terunobu Nakai



Mrs. Toyoko Nakai and Consul-General Jota Yamamoto after the ceremony.

The memorial stone can be found near the Japanese teahouse in the Garden.



A ceremony was held on March 8 to dedicate a memorial stone for esteemed Japanese landscape architect Terunobu Nakai for his contributions to the Japanese Garden. For six years prior to his passing in 2012, Mr. Nakai visited the Garden annually from Japan to oversee the maintenance and renovation of the Garden, developing a close relationship with Conservancy staff in the process and a special affection for Houston.

The ceremony, emceed by Doreen Stoller, Hermann Park Conservancy executive director, was attended by Mr. Nakai's widow, Mrs. Toyoko Nakai,

landscape gardener Hiroshi Iwasaki, members of the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director Joe Turner, Conservancy staff, and the Honorable Consul-General of Japan in Houston Jota Yamamoto. A tea ceremony was held afterwards in the Garden with a reception that evening at the Japanese Consulate.

Park users can visit the Japanese Garden from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Entrance is always free. To volunteer in the Garden, please contact Diane Kerr at dkerr@hermannpark.org or call 713-524-5876 ext. 332.

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Reforestation and Maintenance

\$25,000 – \$49,999

Apache Corporation

\$1,000 – \$4,999

ExxonMobil Corporation

\$500 – \$999

Gulf Coast Master Naturalist

\$100 – \$499

Lynn and Jary Glazer – In honor of

Carolyn Robertson

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In Kind

Apache Foundation

Tree Conservancy

\$100 – \$499

Bruce G. Garrison – In honor of

Rebecca and Matt Werner

Volunteer Programs

\$100 – \$499

ExxonMobil Corporation

Hats in the Park Luncheon

All gifts in honor of *The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, honoree, and chairmen Ellie Francisco and Kim Tutcher.*

\$15,000 – \$24,999

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Lamar Gregory Neale

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 Megan and Jason Ryan
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The George Hermann Society recognizes donors who have provided for the future of Hermann Park through bequests or life income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.

The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more between January 1 and March 15, 2013, as well as all *Hats in the Park* luncheon donors and George Hermann Society members. Please note that gifts to the *Evening in the Park* gala and *Urban Green* spring event 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.

Keep up with the Conservancy!

 /HermannPark

 @HermannPark

Event Calendar

Urban Green Spring Event

Thursday, May 9, 2013

7 – 10 p.m.

Lake Plaza & McGovern Lake

Theme:

Hula in Hermann Park

Chairs:

Cassie Detering, Megan Kaldis,
 Bridget and Gabe Vick

Advance Tickets

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

For more information, email
 urbangreen@hermannpark.org

Second Saturdays

HPC members are invited to ride the Hermann Park Railroad for free on the second Saturday of each month!

Student Performance Series



Visit www.hermannpark.org for a list of upcoming free performances by Houston-area students.

Visit

www.hermannpark.org for up-to-date event details.



Evening in the Park Gala

Thursday, April 25, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Put on your summer whites for *Havana: A Night in White Linen*. The evening begins with cocktails along the Jones Reflection Pool and Molly Ann Smith Plaza and continues with dinner by A Fare Extraordinaire

beside scenic McGovern Lake. Close down the night with decadent desserts and dancing under the stars. Chairs Melissa and Michael Mithoff, Heidi and Marcus Smith, and honorary chairs Shelby Hodge and Shafik I. Rifaat have planned this special evening to support the Conservancy's mission to improve and maintain Hermann Park. To purchase tickets, or for more information, email events@hermannpark.org or call 713-524-5876 ext. 334.

Centennial Campaign Donor Wall

Don't miss your chance to be a part of Hermann Park's history! Join other Conservancy donors for a once-a-century recognition opportunity on the Centennial Campaign Donor Wall in Lake Plaza at Kinder Station and be a lasting part of Hermann Park's legacy. This special donor wall, which has been on temporary display since 2009, consists of Conservancy donors whose cumulative giving for any purpose totals \$50,000 or more. Want to learn more about the donor wall or just how close you are to qualifying for listing?

Contact 713-524-5876 x339 or
development@hermannpark.org.

contribute today!

Become a
Conservancy
member

Donate to
the Centennial
Campaign

Dedicate a
bench

Plant a tree

Join the
George Hermann
Society

Volunteer in
the Park

 Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink

PARKSIDE / SPRING 2013

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