Danny David, vice president of the Hermann Park Conservancy board, presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the Grand Gateway renovation project on a sunny (and hot!) morning in August. Members of the media and friends of Hermann Park gathered as special guests spoke about what the project means to them. Council Member Wanda Adams remarked that Hermann Park and the Museum District are “the heart of District D” and spoke of the improvements for pedestrians that will come from this project. She also noted the joy young kids — and those young at heart — feel when they come to this area. Houston Parks and Recreation Department director Joe Turner said in his remarks that this project is only the beginning of a larger goal to connect Hermann Park to Buffalo Bayou Park and downtown Houston and thanked SWA Group, lead architect on this project, for their work. TxDOT’s Teri Kaplan, instrumental in securing the $3 million in federal funds that helped make this project possible, spoke of the importance of beautifying and improving this historic main axis that connects the museums, the Park, Rice University, and the Medical Center. Warwick Towers resident, longtime Conservancy board member, and project supporter Tommy Lott (aka “The Godfather” of this project, according to Danny) remembered when he and a group of fellow Warwick Towers residents formed the Neighbors of Hermann Park over 25 years ago which later merged with other groups to become Hermann Park Conservancy.

Continued on page 3
This year’s Evening in the Park gala, Havana: A Night in White Linen, had guests dressed in their brightest summer whites for the Cuban theme. The energetic chairs planned a spectacular evening of dining and dancing that was enjoyed by close to 500 guests and raised critical operating funds for the Conservancy. A certain couple not in attendance made quite an impact as well; during dinner Centennial Campaign co-chairs Phoebe Tudor and Sanford Criner stepped up to the mic to announce that Jim Flores surprised his wife Cherie with a $5 million birthday gift to name the new Centennial Gardens entry pavilion the “Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion.” The fact that Jim and Cherie Flores were not there in person did not stop the crowd from applauding this remarkable gift. Cherie, an accomplished rosarian, camellia specialist and avid vegetable gardener, has been a member of the Garden Center Advisory Board for over seven years and has been involved in the Gardens’ fundraising campaign since its inception. We are thrilled that Jim decided to surprise his wife and mother of their four children with such a generous gift to Hermann Park and can’t thank them enough for all their support.

With the magnificent gift from Jim and Cherie, the Conservancy is closer to the $30 million goal for the McGovern Centennial Gardens. The Conservancy’s largest project, the Centennial Gardens will completely transform the existing 15-acre Houston Garden Center site into an enchanting new attraction for the Park’s six million annual visitors. Aimed for completion in October 2014—during the Park’s centennial year—the Gardens will nearly complete the Park’s Master Plan laid out by Laurie Olin in 1995 and originally envisioned by early Park planners nearly 100 years ago. The Conservancy will break ground on the project September 18 at 1 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center site. Please contact us if you would like to help us finish this historic project by making a gift to the Centennial Gardens and join us at the groundbreaking.

See you in the Park,

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director

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

Donors

Centennial Gardens
$1,000,000–$5,000,000
Cherie and Jim Flores
$250,000–$999,999
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
$100,000–$249,999
Marathon Oil Company
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Mithoff Family Charitable Foundation
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Y. Ping Sun and David W. Leebron
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Dedication of Ann’s Arbor in Centennial Gardens
In honor of Ann Kennedy
Marianna and Chris Brewster
Janet Caldwell
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Elizabeth and Jason Love – In honor of Kristen Buck

Evening in the Park Gala
All gifts in honor of chairs Melissa and Michael Mithoff, Heidi and Marcus Smith, and honorary chairs Shelby Hodge and Shafik I. Rifaat

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Sue Trammell Whitfield
Kim and Chuck Yates

$5,000–$9,999
Chinhui and Eddie Allen
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Grand Gateway Groundbreaking
Continued from page 1

Tommy said he was thrilled to be at the groundbreaking and said of the Neighbors group, “we had a vision, but that vision was nothing compared to what the Conservancy has accomplished.”

Representing longtime Park supporters the Duncan family, board member Christopher Lykes Knapp spoke of this project’s role in knitting together the fabric of the community.

He talked about his family’s love of Hermann Park that goes back generations and recalled his Great Aunt Genevieve—serendipitously born the same year as the Park—who grew up coming here and later brought her children here. His Great Aunt will be honored with one of the gardens in the Grand Gateway donated by her children, Cameron (Carn), Genny, and Bowie in her memory.

Before the ceremonial shovels were raised, Danny David, with his family in the audience, thanked those who will be working hard over the next nine months to make this project a reality. He then joked, “no offense to Sam Houston, but if anyone deserves a bronze in Hermann Park, it’s (Conservancy executive director) Doreen Stoller, for her dedication to the Park.”

Many thanks to all of the individuals and corporations who helped make this project possible: TxDOT, June and Tommy Lott, Steppie Holsclaw, The Cullen Foundation, The Elkins Foundation, CenterPoint Energy, Ethan Beeson, Fawzi Abou-Hossa, and all of the residents of the Warwick Towers.
The Conservancy Welcomes New Board Members

1. **David L. Benson** is one of our original board members and has returned to serve on the board once again. He is the Director of Programs and Special Projects in the Office of the Commissioner at Harris County Precinct One. He also serves on the board of the Homeless Coalition of Harris County and is a decorated Vietnam veteran.

2. **Russell D. Brightwell** is a partner in TPRB Advertising. Having returned home to Houston after a number of years in New York and London, he fully appreciates the importance of this historical green “heart” of our city.

3. **Valerie Palmquist Dieterich** is a Managing Director at Studley where she focuses on solving the corporate real estate needs of her clients. She married Tracy Dieterich in 2011. Both are avid travelers and are well on their way to visiting 100 countries.

4. **Rebecca Mark-Jusbasche** is an independent investment executive, focusing on energy technology, water and agricultural projects. She has more than 30 years’ experience in creating and leading infrastructure development projects around the globe. She holds an MBA from Harvard, a B.A. in Psychology and a Master’s in International Management from Baylor.

5. **Ryan McCord** joined McCord Development, Inc. in 2003 and has served as President since 2008. McCord is the owner and manager of the 4,000 acre Generation Park development in Houston. He holds a B.E. in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University and serves as Chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership’s Real Estate Advisory Committee and on the Advisory Board to Yellowstone Academy.

6. **Linsay Radcliffe** has lived in Houston for 10 years, spending most of her time at Hermann Park feeding the ducks, rolling down the hill at Miller Outdoor Theatre and riding the train with her three-year old son, Owen, and four-month-old daughter, Ryan. Linsay is married to Jeremy Radcliffe.

7. **Holly A.N. Smith** was born and raised in Houston and is the oldest grandchild of Robert and Janice McNair. Holly has been with The Robert & Janice McNair Foundation since 2011 managing and coordinating grants and support for local non-profit organizations. She earned a Bachelor of the Arts in Communication from St. Edwards University.
Job Shadow Program Engages Students in Nature and Conservation

This summer, 24 teens took part in Hermann Park Conservancy’s Job Shadow Program under the guidance of manager of volunteer programs, Diane Kerr. The goal of the program is to teach students about careers in public land management as well as the gardening skills needed to maintain Hermann Park.

One participant said, “Volunteering in this program was like nothing I have ever done before and it opened my eyes and helped me develop a connection to what was going on past the glowing screens of my electronics.”

Conservation and Maintenance in the Park

Springtime in Hermann Park saw the continued maintenance of trees in the Jones Reflection Pool allees and on Lake Plaza. A dozen previously stressed trees along the oak allees were treated with their quarterly restorative drink of compost tea, resulting in the fullest flush of foliage seen since the drought of 2011. Additionally, several live oaks on Lake Plaza and the tree grove in front of Kinder Station, as well as the premier post oak on the Plaza, were fed with essential nutrients to keep them growing and glowing. A special duo had their roots invigorated with a tree spade, fertilizer and mulch to relieve the compacted conditions around their critical root zones.

Due to only sporadic rainfall this spring, all trees in irrigated areas are being watered extra-long, while trees off the system are seeing the familiar big black 1,600-gallon water truck daily to supplement the meager amount of rain that has fallen. A 250-gallon tank is being used to water those trees in tighter spaces, while the Conservancy’s maintenance staff and community service volunteers are busy hand watering newly-planted saplings by hose or from the 50-gallon tank on the back of a golf cart.

Project Blazing Star is moving along with the Park’s second pocket prairie and demonstration garden in Bayou Parkland which is being well-tended by Blazing Star volunteers each month. These devoted native-plant lovers propagate, plant, weed, water, and edge the prairie beds to provide Park users with a sense of what the state looked like 100 years ago when it was covered by Texas Native Prairie grasses prior to development in southeast Texas.
This year’s Evening in the Park gala on Thursday, April 25, 2013, celebrated all things Cuban thanks to the theme Havana: A Night in White Linen. Chairs Melissa and Michael Mithoff, Heidi and Marcus Smith, and honorary chairs Shelby Hodge and Shafik I. Rifaat held true to the island-inspired theme with Latin touches such as mojitos, cigars, and, for dessert, tropical-flavored paletas. Guests dined on a delicious dinner by A Fare Extraordinaire and danced well into the star-lit evening to tunes spun by DJ Max. The crowd of nearly 500 white-clad party goers celebrated the generous gift from Jim and Cherie Flores and in the process raised over $400,000 to support the Conservancy’s operating budget.

Many thanks to everyone who joined us this year and we look forward to an even more spectacular Centennial Evening in the Park in 2014!

Photos by Priscilla Dickson Photography
HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY
On Thursday, May 9, tiki torches and mai tais transformed Lake Plaza into a Hawaiian luau for Urban Green’s Hula in Hermann Park. Nearly 300 young professionals joined chairs Cassie Detering, Megan Kaldis, and Bridget and Gabe Vick in Hawaiian shirts and flower-print dresses for a tropical evening by McGovern Lake. Guests enjoyed beats by DJ Mav, pedal boat rides, a Smilebooth, and a hotly contested silent auction with prizes such as a surf trip to Spain from Good People Surf. Delicious bites from Chipotle Mexican Grill, Adair Kitchen, BlackFinn American Grille, Molina’s Cantina, and Raising Cane’s were served along with a whole-roasted pig from downtown restaurant Batanga. Guests sipped drinks from Dripping Springs Vodka, Saint Arnold Brewing Company, and Pisco Portón. Thanks to the Urban Green steering committee and chair Brittany Sakowitz, this Hula raised over $13,000 to support the Conservancy. Urban Green is a membership and events group made up of young professionals, primarily in their 20s and 30s, dedicated to the mission of Hermann Park Conservancy. If you’re interested in joining, please email urbangreen@hermannpark.org or visit the Conservancy’s website at hermannpark.org.

Hermann Park Conservancy is excited to host the 10th annual run benefiting Hermann Park. The 2013 Run in the Park will be held on Saturday, November 9 at 8 a.m. in Hermann Park. The scenic 5K course will start in Molly Ann Smith Plaza near the Pioneer Memorial Obelisk and twist and turn along the shaded carriage trails under the Park’s historic live oaks. The event features a 5K Run/Walk, a 1K Kids’ Fun Run, and a post-race party. The 5K run will be chip timed and the overall male and female winners each receive awards.

Early-bird registration is available for only $25 until September 15. Sign up today at hermannpark.org/run_in_the_park.php to support the Park by running (or walking!) in this family-friendly event.

Sunny 99.1 FM is the official radio partner of Run in the Park. For information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Run coordinator Mindy Campbell at mcampbell@hermannpark.org.
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Amy Zolkoski Cann and Taylor Cann – In honor of Margie L. Zolkoski and the late Martin H. Zolkoski
CGG Services (U.S) Inc. – In memory of Lillian Emma Olsen, June 6, 2013
Dominic Walsh Dance Theater – In memory of Phyllis Jean Benton
Houston Museum District Association – In honor of Gwendolyn Goffe
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Hermann Park Happenings

National Medal of Arts Honoree
Laurie Olin, the landscape architect that designed Hermann Park’s master plan, was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2013 in honor of his lifetime achievements in the area of landscape design. Founder of the OLIN Studio in Philadelphia, his master plan for Hermann Park was adopted by Houston City Council and Friends of Hermann Park (now Hermann Park Conservancy) in 1995 and still guides the Conservancy’s improvement efforts today. In addition to Hermann Park, Olin worked on other notable projects, including the revitalization of Bryant Park in New York and the project to redesign the landscaping around the Washington Monument to preserve and protect it after 9/11. View his Master Plan for the Park on the “History & Accomplishments” page of Hermann Park’s website.

New and Improved!
In late June, Hermann Park Conservancy took over the day-to-day management of Pinewood Cafe in Lake Plaza. Always a popular destination for Park visitors, the Conservancy went right to work hiring a new manager, refining the menu, and implementing a new pager system. In July, Pinewood Cafe held a contest to see who could create the best grilled cheese from our build-your-own grilled cheese menu. The winning combo came from Park visitor Kami and featured pepper jack and provolone cheese, bacon, avocado, jalapeños, cilantro, and tomatoes on wheat. Park visitor 8-year old Joe came up with a winning vegetarian combo featuring falafel. Both sandwiches are now available on the Pinewood menu. Hermann Park Conservancy members now receive 10% off in the Cafe when they present their membership cards. Visit Pinewood Cafe seven days a week in Hermann Park or online at facebook.com/PinewoodCafe or pinewoodcafe.com.

Join Hermann Park Conservancy Today!
Join Hermann Park Conservancy today as a Centennial-level member for $100. Centennial-level members will receive invitations to a special Centennial event, a commemorative Centennial window sticker, a commemorative t-shirt with the Centennial logo, discounts in the Shop and Cafe, and boat and train tickets. Members at the $250 level will also receive a cotton hat with the Centennial logo and members at the $500 level and above will receive a canvas tote. Membership is important to Hermann Park as it helps support daily operations critical to care and maintenance. Please consider joining — or renewing — your membership today at www.hermannpark.org to be a part of this exciting year in Hermann Park’s history!

Vouchers for Centennial Membership items will be mailed. Items will be available for pick up in the Hermann Park Gift Shop on Lake Plaza after October 15, 2013.
Save the Dates! Hermann Park Conservancy Calendar of Events 2013–2014

This is an exciting time at Hermann Park! Fantastic renovations begin this year to celebrate the Park’s centennial in 2014. The Centennial Gardens and Grand Gateway projects, to be completed during the milestone year, will delight visitors with a spectacular array of new landscaping and places to gather. Special events for the community will help to commemorate the Park’s 100th birthday in addition to the Conservancy’s traditional annual events.

2013

Centennial Gardens
Groundbreaking
Wednesday, September 18
1 p.m.

Thomas the Train Event
in Lake Plaza
Saturday, September 21

Hermann Park Night
at Chipotle Mexican Grill
on Kirby
Thursday, September 24
5-8 p.m.

The Museum Experience
with Houston Museum District
Saturday, September 28

2014

Art in the Park
Installations throughout 2014

Hats in the Park Luncheon
Tuesday, March 4, 11:30 a.m.

Grand Gateway
Official Opening
Tuesday, March 18

Hermann Park Kite Festival
Saturday, March 29

Run in the Park
Saturday, November 9, 8 a.m.

Hermann Park Dog Walk
Presented by the Houston Rockets
Saturday, April 5

Urban Green Fall Event
Thursday, November 21,
7–10 p.m.

Evening in the Park
Centennial Gala
Friday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Launch of Hermann Park History Book—Hermann Park: A Century of Community
December

Julia Ideson Library
Exhibition
May 24–July 26

Park to Port Bike Ride
Saturday, September 13

Student Performances in the Park Series
Throughout the 2013-2014 school year

Evening in the Park
Centennial Gala
Friday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Run in the Park
Saturday, November 8, 8 a.m.

Urban Green Fall Event
November

Student Performances in the Park Series
Throughout the 2013-2014 school year

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

Visit
www.hermannpark.org/calendar.php
for details on Hermann Park Conservancy events

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$5,000–$9,999
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Dog Park
$500–$999
Rocket Ball, LTD.

Garden Conservancy
$1,000–$4,999
Lotty Gautschi – In honor of
Karl Gautschi

Japanese Garden
$1,000–$4,999
Japan Business Association of Houston

Urban Green’s
Hula in Hermann Park
$1,000–$4,999
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Bridget and Gabe Vick
In Kind
Adair Kitchen
Alley Theatre
Batanga
BB’s Café
Beime, Maynard, & Parsons, L.L.P.
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$100–$499
Friends of Marvin Ginzel – In memory of Nancy Ginzel
Volunteer Programs
$1,000–$4,999
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)
$100–$499
Shell Oil Company
George Hermann Society
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† May Shelmire Duncan
† Steppie and Robert Holsclaw
‡ David Langworthy
‡ Jackie and Malcolm Mazow
Laura and Brad McWilliams
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Megan and Jason Ryan
John E. Walsh, Jr.
† deceased
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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 March 16 and June 30, 2013, as well as all Evening in the Park gala and Urban Green’s Hula in Hermann Park donors and George Hermann Society members.

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