Kites Fill the Sky at Second Annual Hermann Park Kite Festival

Soaring sharks, mighty superheroes and even a few princesses could be seen high above Hermann Park during the second annual Hermann Park Kite Festival on Sunday, March 29. Thousands flocked to Miller Hill and the Jones Reflection Pool to test their kite-flying skills and just to have fun. The free event brought friends and family together on a perfect, breezy day in Hermann Park.

Some brought their favorite kite along while others piloted free kites handed out by H-E-B and United Airlines. For those looking to buy a new one, Captain Rick of S.H.A.R.K. offered a fantastic array of kites in all shapes and sizes. When taking a break from kite flying, kids could try their hand at kite making with the help of the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art. Youngsters were delighted to dance to party music amid floating bubbles provided by Bubble Parties Texas. Face painting was a big hit with the little ones, as well. Stilt walkers dressed in spectacular, colorful costumes posed for pictures with festival-goers throughout the day as a DJ provided music.

Continued on page 3
Spring in the air in Hermann Park! Cherry blossoms, vibrant azaleas and delicate wisteria blossoms have brought an explosion of color to the Japanese Garden. Daffodils and tulips were some of the first blooms to welcome the season in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Smiles are everywhere as visitors explore the new Gardens and snap photos in front of the fountains. Watching a little boy take his first wobbly steps on the Centennial Green and seeing a child mesmerized by the water cascading down The Mount are sights to remember.

2014 was an extraordinary year of centennial celebrations and 2015 is shaping up to be another special year at the Park. Sweethearts enjoyed our romantic Valentine’s Day “Dinner and a Cruise” and even dogs had their day during the Hermann Park Dog Walk on April 4. In late March, moms, dads and children watched with delight as their kites soared high above the Park during the Hermann Park Kite Festival. It was a perfect day for families to make memories.

The Conservancy’s annual Hats in the Park fundraiser on March 3 took place in the McGovern Centennial Gardens for the first time. Almost 400 guests in magnificent hats gathered to support the Conservancy’s programs and to honor a great friend and long-time Park neighbor, Kathrine G. McGovern. Mrs. McGovern and the John P. McGovern Foundation have been generous supporters of capital projects, reforestation programs and special events in Hermann Park. We are grateful for her commitment to the Park and are thankful to everyone who supported Hats in the Park.

The Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and the Celebration Garden are becoming important settings for family occasions. Two new event coordinators, Melissa Clark and Lavada Varner, have joined the Conservancy team to assist venue manager, Linda Black, during events. With the waterfall spilling playfully down the front of The Mount and the beautiful fountains and flower gardens as a backdrop, it’s a new era for entertaining in our city.

I hope that each of you will experience the joy of spring in Hermann Park whether you discover a new favorite place in the McGovern Centennial Gardens, enjoy dinner on Pinewood Cafe’s terrace or pedal a boat across McGovern Lake.

We look forward to seeing you in the Park!

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director

McGovern Centennial Gardens
$10,000 – $24,999
Isabel and Danny David
Margaret L. Kripke and Isaiah J. Fidler – In honor of our 40th anniversary
The Radoff Family Foundation
William Schull
$5,000 – $9,999
Carolyn and James Robertson
$1,000 – $4,999
Johnny Steele – In honor of Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion
In Kind
Abbott-Ipco, Inc.
United Airlines
Centennial Campaign
$100 – $499
Zach Russell
Japanese Garden
$25,000 – $49,999
The Baxter Trust
$1,000 – $4,999
Akemi Saito – In honor of Mr. Kunio Miinami
In Kind
Greenleaf Nursery Company
Kite Festival
$15,000 – $24,999
H-E-B
$2,500 – $4,999
The Loyd Charitable Foundation
Phoebe and Bobby Tudor
Paul-David Van Atta
$1,000 – $2,499
Kristen and David Buck
Val and Martial Burguiéres
Emily and Steve Dalicandro
Jennifer and Jon Daly
Genna and Jon Evans
Morgan and Patrick Garvey
Cobie and Jeff Jorgensen
Carol and Dan Price
Kim and Chris Reichert
Carolyn and James Robertson
Mary Elizabeth Sand and Nils Hugo
Stephanie and Gerald Willinger
$500 – $999
Ayrshire Corporation/Billy Burge
Kristin Berger
Kirsty Bradshaw
Divya and Chris Brown
Susie and Sanford Criner
Valerie Dieterich
Gece and Mack Fowler
Jennifer Harkins
Linda and Barry Hunsaker
Melissa Juneau
Ann Kennedy and Geoffrey Walker
Eileen Lawal – In honor of Paul-David Van Atta
Christine Liang Wang
Tommy W. Lott
Precious and Ore Owodunni
Connie Pfeiffer
David Enrique Ruiz
Brittany Sakowitz Kushner
Lorie Sheffy
Mary Wallace
Joe Weikerth – In honor of Mayor Bob Lanier  
$100 – $499  
Gracie and Bob Cavnar  
Dean Putterman  
Kara and Dax Sanders  
In Kind  
Clearpoint Model Yacht Club  
Define Mind & Body  
Houston First Corporation  
JAKEAE  
Saint Arnold Brewing Company  
S.H.A.R.K.  
Soccer Shots  
TPRB Advertising  
United Airlines  
Annual Fund/General Fundraising  
$10,000 – $24,999  
Anne Schlumberger  
$1,000 – $4,999  
Tellepsen  
$500 – $999  
Michele Thompson and Bob Yekovich  
$100 – $499  
Annie and Campbell Eifler  
Bruce G. Garrison  
Alice Gates and Wayne Wilner  
Dorene and Frank Herzog  
Shelby Hodge and Shafik Rifaat  
Kathy and Tom Lord  
Maria Modelska  
Carol and Clifford Pearson  
Shell and Motiva Employee Giving Program  
Ed Smith  
David R. Swenson  
Gail Taber  
Nancy and Peter Thompson  
Garden Conservancy Fund  
$100 – $499  
Karen and Rick Bell – In memory of Sue Hardwick  
Membership  
Platinum ($500 – $2,499)  
Elizabeth and Howard Ayers  
John Middleton  
Gold ($250 – $499)  
Mary and Marcel Barone  
Kristi Beer and Steve Redding  
Kristy and Chris Bradshaw  
Susan and Major Bradshaw  
Virginia and Frank Burge  
Leslie and William Coe  
Helen Winkler Fosdick  
Louise and Larry Glenn  
Elizabeth and Dash Kohlihausen  
Laura and Andrew Malek  
Mary Lynn and Steve Marks  
Norbert Choucroun Trust  
Hinda Simon  
Alicia Smith and Henry Flores  
Christine and David M. Underwood, Jr.  
Centennial $100 – $249  
Anonymous (2)  
Charles E. Armstrong – In honor of Houston’s Gay (GLBTQ) Community  
Mary F. Baker  
Karen and Howard Batt  
Louise and Charles Berry

continued from page 1

Riders on the Hermann Park train got a unique look at the high-flying kites as they rode the rails through the festival site. Even pedal boaters afloat on McGovern Lake got a glimpse of the kite-filled sky overhead. Many in the crowd enjoyed delicious treats from six food trucks while some families set up their own grills. On the performance stage, lively entertainment ranged from magic acts to mariachi music. Chairs Morgan Garvey and Paul-David Van Atta created a magical day for Houstonians. We are grateful to Morgan and Paul-David as well as the festival host committee and sponsors H-E-B, United Airlines and Waste Management. We appreciate the dedication of Mindy Campbell who coordinated the event for the Conservancy. Thank you to the Saint Arnold Brewing Company and to all who were a part of this special day in Hermann Park.

Joining the Conservancy is a Win-Win for Hermann Park and Members

Each Hermann Park Conservancy member is part of a team who believes this Park is a treasure for all Houstonians. People join for different reasons. Some want to support urban conservation and wildlife habitat preservation while others join to share the joy they had as children playing in Hermann Park with their own children. Support from all of our members provides vital operating funds which keep the Conservancy’s operations and maintenance programs going strong and helps to buy trees, supplies like gloves and tools, and other equipment needed to care for the Park on a daily basis. Members also have fun! Benefits include free train and pedal boat tickets and access to Member Express Lines for boarding. Free, unlimited train rides for members and their families on the second Saturday of every month please children of all ages. To see the full list of membership levels and benefits, visit hermannpark.org/membership. Or, call us at 713-524-5876 to find out more about membership.  

Skip the long line. Become a member!
Hats in the Park Set Amid McGovern Centennial Garden Scenery

On March 3, the McGovern Centennial Gardens and Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion filled with nearly 400 guests in stunning spring hats and frocks that were perfectly suited for the beautiful new surroundings. Thanks to the hard work of co-chairs Estela Cockrell and Denise Monteleone, and honorary chair Cherie Flores, the event was the most successful Hats in the Park to date raising over $360,000—exceeding the goal by over $120,000. The event honored the Gardens’ namesake, Kathrine McGovern, for her extraordinary support of not only the Centennial Gardens project, but every major improvement and stewardship program in the Park. A short program, led by Conservancy board chair Danny David, highlighted the amazing achievements of the Conservancy, while chairs Estela Cockrell and Denise Monteleone, honoree Kathrine McGovern, and Mayor Annise Parker all shared heartwarming stories about the Park. Conservancy executive director Doreen Stoller presented Mrs. McGovern with a tree that will be planted in the Gardens in her honor.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the luncheon.

Photos by Jenny Antill Photography
Honorary chair Cherie Flores and chairs Estela Cockrell and Denise Monteleone
2016 chairs Joella Mach, Blakely Griggs, and Michelle Foutch
Honoree Kathrine G. McGovern and Mayor Annise Parker
Ann Kennedy, Phoebe Tudor, and Linda Hunsaker
Olivia Flores and Cherie Flores
Lynn Wyatt and Cynthia Petrello
Gracie Cavnar and Susie Criner
Kim Tutcher, Kay Watson, Gaye Kelsey
Lisanne Rogers, Nancy Littlejohn, and Vallette Windham
Laurie Morian and Sima Ladjevardian
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Traci Young and Molly Khalil
Liz Stephanian and Bobbie Nau
Morgan Garvey, Melissa Juneau, and Ting Bresnaham
Karen Mayell and Diane Lokey Farb
Sarah Lamb Larned, Henrietta Alexander, and Jennifer Frazier
Ernest and Janet Cockrell and Estela and David Cockrell
Susan Dunwoody, Kathleen Clarke, and Diane Ofer
Linsay Radcliffe, Danny David, and Allison Thacker
Jennifer Dolman, Claire Thielke, and Divya Brown
Leigh Smith and Leticia Loya
Isabel and Danny David
Cece and Mack Fowler
Rebecca Mark-Jusbasche, Mary Faye Way, and Kristen Nix
Holly Smith and Ashley Appling
Rini and Edward Ziegler
Hundreds of furry paws padded alongside their owner’s feet as the Hermann Park Dog Walk wound around McGovern Lake and the Jones Reflection Pool. The third annual walk, sponsored by the Houston Rockets, kicked off at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 4 after the original March date was rained out. Dogs ranging from Chihuahuas to Great Danes sported red bandanas handed out by the Rockets. Owners received a commemorative T-shirt and a ticket to a Rockets game.

As participants gathered on Lake Plaza, Rockets mascot Clutch posed for photos with dogs and owners. People mingled among booths sponsored by local groups bringing awareness to dog-related issues including rescues and adoptions. Once returning to Lake Plaza, participants enjoyed a post-walk party. A portion of the proceeds from the dog walk will benefit Hermann Park Conservancy.
Stand under the massive Texas granite arch holding the Sam Houston Monument aloft in Hermann Park and you will gain an appreciation for the artistry and strength of sculptor Frank Teich's monuments. Teich (1856–1939), a German immigrant, created the base for the Park's iconic statue. Look straight across the Jones Reflection Pool and you will see another of Teich's creations, the towering Pioneer Monument. A third artwork, a marble statue of Confederate soldier Dick Dowling, shows a different side of his work.

Before leaving Germany, Teich studied at the University of Nuremberg and served as an apprentice to noted German sculptor, Johannes Schilling. He honed his skills with impressive projects in several U.S. cities including the Cook County Court House in Chicago, the San Antonio City Hall, the San Antonio National Bank, and the capital building in Austin. Frank Teich purchased a granite quarry near Llano, Texas and founded the Teich Monument Works in 1885. Over the years, he created monuments displayed across Texas and throughout the South; many were tributes to Confederate soldiers.

Teich was commissioned by Enrico Filiberto Cerracchio, the sculptor of Hermann Park's Sam Houston Monument, to create the grand arch that now holds the horse and rider. The monument, made of granite from his Llano quarry, was dedicated in the Park on August 16, 1925. Teich's impressive Pioneer Monument is an obelisk standing tall at the south end of the Jones Reflection Pool. Its dedication in Hermann Park on August 30, 1936, was part of a 100th birthday celebration for the City of Houston. Frank Teich’s marble statue of Dick Dowling, “The Hero of Sabine Pass,” can be seen on Cambridge Street at MacGregor Way. The statue, dedicated on St. Patrick's Day in 1905, was first located in front of City Hall. It was moved to Sam Houston Park in 1939, and in 1958, found its home in Hermann Park.

Frank Teich’s lifelong work brought him the title, “Father of the Texas Granite Industry.” His legacy lives on in Hermann Park with each visitor who pauses to gaze up and admire his monumental creations.
Improvements Planned Ahead of Japanese Garden’s 25th Anniversary

The annual spring visit to Hermann Park’s Japanese Garden by the landscape team from Japan marked the beginning of things to come as we gear up for the garden’s 25th anniversary in 2017. While the garden has always been a beloved and popular destination in Hermann Park, improvements are planned to make it more accessible and add more authentic Japanese-style garden features. A campaign is under way by the Conservancy and the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee to raise funds for an exciting, large-scale restoration project. In addition, the City of Houston has committed over $800,000 to infrastructure projects.

In the early 1990s, the non-profit Japanese Garden, Inc., raised approximately $1.7 million to supplement City of Houston funds to make the garden a reality. In 1992, Houston’s first public Japanese Garden opened in Hermann Park. The 5½-acre garden was designed by renowned Japanese landscape architect, Ken Nakajima. Mr. Nakajima sought to combine existing mature pine and oak trees reflecting the garden’s Texas heritage while representing Japanese influence with large boulders, a waterfall and ponds, flowering shrubs, trees, lotus, stone lanterns and koi.

Now, with the Japanese Garden’s 25th anniversary in sight, the Conservancy is planning to build an additional entrance from the Fannin Street side of the Park near METRORail’s Hermann Park/Rice U stop, making the garden more accessible from the west side. A “dry stream” garden has been designed to add a new dimension to the Japanese Garden. Dry landscape gardening is a classic Japanese tradition dating back centuries and features stones, sand, boulders, and waterless “water features.” The planned beautification projects and infrastructure improvements will further enhance the beauty of this enchanting garden.

Would you like to make a contribution to the Japanese Garden renovation project? Go to hermannpark.org/japanese-garden or call 713-524-5876.
Our featured plant was the first rose in the new Rose Garden to hit its stride and break out in full bloom. The Peggy Martin Rose is a climber which can be found on the central arbors in the south side of the garden. It is thornless with bright green foliage and covered with clusters of bright pink blooms. The Peggy Martin Rose has a compelling history. A found rose from New Orleans, it was the only rose which survived Hurricane Katrina and two weeks of salt water inundation in Peggy Martin’s garden in Plaquemines Parish along the Mississippi River. Peggy Martin herself suffered enormous losses during the storm, both personal and professional, and only this rose and one crinum survived from her garden. Named for Peggy as a tribute to her tenacity throughout the ordeal, the Peggy Martin Rose has been marketed to help raise funds to restore historic gardens of New Orleans.

Peggy Martin Roses bloom brilliantly in the Rose Garden.

Hermann Park’s Pinewood Cafe is known for its tasty build-your-own grilled cheese sandwiches and refreshing smoothies, but you may not know that the cafe serves many items from Houston area businesses. Pinewood’s menu includes buns made by Sheila Partin’s bakery, fresh brewed coffee and iced tea from Katz Coffee, several flavors of gelato pops from Trentino Gelato and craft beer offerings from Karbach and Saint Arnold. Support Hermann Park Conservancy and these local businesses while enjoying a delicious meal or treat here in the Park. The cafe is located on Lake Plaza near Kinder Train Station and serves daily from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Save the Dates!
Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

Urban Green’s
Spring on the Green
McGovern Centennial Gardens
Thursday, May 7, 2015
7–10 p.m.

Park to Port Bike Ride
Bill Coats Bike Bridge
Saturday, October 3, 2015

Run in the Park
Hermann Park
Saturday, November 14, 2015

Details at
hermannpark.org

facebook.com/HermannPark
instagram.com/HermannPark
twitter.com/HermannPark
hermannparkhouston.wordpress.com

McGovern Centennial Gardens
Ambassador Program

Our new McGovern Centennial Gardens ambassadors offer garden visitors a friendly face and helpful information. Part of our volunteer program, ambassadors greet guests, give directions, share garden etiquette and answer questions about the Gardens. The ambassador program helps to create an enjoyable atmosphere for guests and supports the ongoing care of the beautiful, yet fragile new garden beds.

The ambassadors receive orientation and training to build their knowledge of the Gardens. For anyone interested in becoming a McGovern Centennial Garden ambassador, email volunteer coordinator Kimina Jamison at kjamison@hermannpark.org. Weekend and limited weekday shifts are available and no gardening experience is necessary.

DONORS

Hats in the Park Luncheon, continued
$100 – $499
Marcella Abramowicz
Suzanne and Brian Adams
Francine Ballard
Karina Barbieri
Gayle Bentsen
Helen Berger and David Benson
Kristen Berger
Louise Bland
Anne Brent
Ting Bresnahan
Keri Bridgewater
Divya Brown
Laurette Canizares
Kathleen Clarke
Malinda Crain
Margaret Culbertson
Mary D’Andrea
Peggy and Bert DuPont
Jane and Gus Eifler
Danielle Ellis
Mary Es Beaver
Jacqueline Fair
Evelyn Fasnacht
Leslie Fertitta
Julia and Russell Frankel
Elizabeth M. Galtney
Laura Gibbs
Lynn Glazer
Nancy Hammond
Joyce and Eric Haufler
Diana Hawkins
Laura Laux Higgins
Gayle Hightower
Alison Hogan
G.G. Hsieh
Lauren Hudson
Cynthe Hughes
Jennie Hull
Melissa Juneau
Jennifer Ligums
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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 February 28, 2015, 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.

Volunteers Make Repairs to Patrick Dougherty’s Artwork, Boogie Woogie

Boogie Woogie, the whimsical stickwork hut designed and built by artist Patrick Dougherty with many volunteers in January 2014, was in need of some tender loving care. Our first Art in the Park installation has suffered from the effects of time, weather, and its own popularity. Diane Kerr, the Conservancy’s director of volunteer programs, led a restoration project in March to bring the fairy tale hut back into top shape. Staff and volunteers persevered in rainy, cold and muddy conditions to harvest new sticks and begin to reinforce the structure. On one nice spring day, students from Yes Prep Southwest were on hand to trim and weave the sticks into the structure. Khadijah Birch, one of the student volunteers, remarked while looking up at the artwork, “The ability to build such a structure out of sticks is amazing.” The refurbished Boogie Woogie will continue to delight Park visitors for a second year.