

# PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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**PARK TO PARK RUN**  
see page 3

## MISSION

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



## New Park Programs

KIPP Krew, a co-ed dance company from KIPP Houston High School, performs a modern street dance in the Performances in the Park series.

## in the park

Hermann Park Conservancy recently developed two programs to connect with the community and enhance the visitor experience.

This fall, the Conservancy's Visitor Services department launched its 1st Annual Student Performances in the Park series. The program offers entertainment to the public while giving area children a venue to showcase their talents. So far, Park visitors have been charmed by elementary, middle, and high school groups specializing in orchestra, performance strings, drum lines, dance, cheerleading, theater, and vocals.

All performances are free of charge and take place in Lake Plaza between Kinder Station and the Houston Zoo entrance. The program took off in November and December to rave reviews, and will start up again in February.



Volunteer Jerry McMorow is ready to educate visitors about the wonders of Hermann Park. The docent booth is set up on select Saturdays in Lake Plaza by Kinder Station.

In December, the Conservancy's Volunteer and Education department introduced its pilot Park docents program. Thanks to the service of trained volunteer docents, this program provides visitors with information about the many things to do and see in the Park. Docents also engage visitors with details about its nearly 100-year-old history and interesting facts related to varied subjects, from the Park's bird and wildlife habitat to its tree and plant species.

On select Saturday afternoons, docents are available to answer questions in Lake Plaza, as well as lead free walking tours around McGovern Lake. While on the tour, participants can learn about the Park's unique features and sites, including the bird islands, the new Texas tallgrass prairie, the Japanese Garden, the Jones Reflection Pool and Molly Ann Smith Plaza (home to the Pioneer Monument), and the new Lake Picnic Area.

Please visit [www.hermannpark.org](http://www.hermannpark.org) for updated performance information and the docent program schedule. Performance series information is also available on the Conservancy's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HermannPark](http://www.facebook.com/HermannPark).

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

from the executive director

In many ways, Hermann Park is the heart of Houston. For 97 years, the Park has helped raise us, inspire us, and bring us together as a community. As you read through this issue, you'll be reminded of how the Park has become part of our DNA, stringing together generations of families, as well as uniting a city.

For the cherished moments it provides, the Park is held forever dear in the hearts of Houstonians. Just look to the Duncan family on page 4 or the legacy of Bill Coats on page 6 to see this philosophy in action.

Hermann Park Conservancy is pleased to celebrate the special significance the Park holds for so many. From helping donors pick out benches or picnic tables to dedicate to loved ones, to ensuring a priceless first ride for an excited child on the Hermann Park Railroad, or even advising anxious callers on where they might propose (we are partial to The Tiffany Bridge, for the record), the Conservancy staff is proud to help honor memories and generate new ones every day. Through community outreach initiatives like the student performance series featured on the cover, and improvements including the addition of 21 picnic tables in the Lake Picnic Area described on page 5, there are more ways than ever to enjoy your Park.



The Conservancy staff understands just how magical the Park can be — the team recently celebrated the marriage of two of its own — LaTonya Dilworth, Visitor Services assistant director, and Michael Scott, past maintenance manager. Pictured with the happy couple at the Garden Center are Barbara Jo Harwell, Meghan Miller, Doreen Stoller, and Dan Piette.



We are inspired by your stories of what makes the Park special to you and your family, and by your commitment to support it for others to enjoy. Hermann Park is what it is today because of those who love and care for it. On behalf of Hermann Park Conservancy, thank you for being part of our family.

See you in the Park!

*Doreen*

DONORS

**Grand Gateway**

**\$600,000**

In memory of Genevieve Lykes Duncan  
Susan and Cameron Duncan  
F. Bowie Duncan  
Genny L. Duncan

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In memory of Bill Coats

**In Kind**

Linda and Barry Hunsaker

**Garden Center**

**\$20,000**

The Anchorage Foundation, Inc.

## 7th Annual Park to Park Run



Kevin Dewhurst

Participants warm up with a few stretches before the 1-K Kids' Run!



It was a beautiful, cool morning on Saturday, October 16, 2010—a perfect scenario for the 7th Annual Park to Park Run benefiting Hermann Park

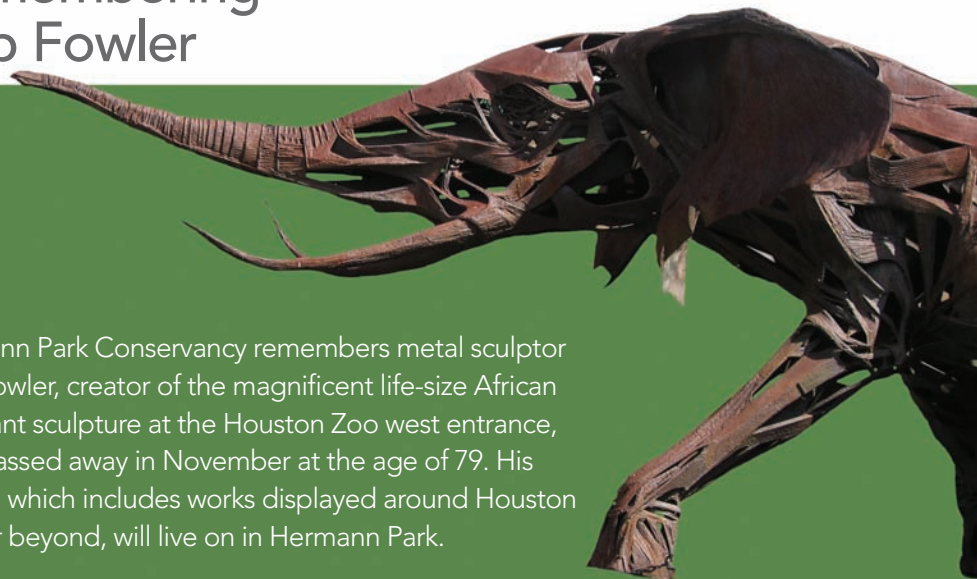
Conservancy. The multi-phased event began at 8am when runners took off from Discovery Green along the five-mile route to Hermann Park, where a crowd of supporters manned the finish line. Next came the Family Walk in Hermann Park, followed by the always-adorable Kids' Run for the little ones.

All three routes ended at Molly Ann Smith Plaza, between the Jones Reflection Pool and McGovern Lake, where an impressive post-race party featured music, refreshments (including fresh fruit, bagels, water, and cold beer), raffle prizes, massage therapists for the runners, and an awards ceremony.

The Run was truly a community celebration, with around 800 participants and over 100 volunteers from across Houston, plus family members, friends, and Park neighbors out to enjoy the festivities. The Conservancy is immensely grateful to Park to Park Run coordinator Mindy Campbell, race director Jack McClintic, and race chair Scott Dorfman, as well as to the corporate sponsors, participants, and volunteers who helped gross over \$40,000 for Hermann Park and ensured a fun event for all!

## Remembering Bob Fowler

Hermann Park Conservancy remembers metal sculptor Bob Fowler, creator of the magnificent life-size African Elephant sculpture at the Houston Zoo west entrance, who passed away in November at the age of 79. His legacy, which includes works displayed around Houston and far beyond, will live on in Hermann Park.



## From Generation to Generation

It began in 1925 when James and Genevieve Lykes moved to Houston from Galveston. Shadyside's beautiful trees first drew them to the newly designed neighborhood, located across Main Street from Hermann Park. Like the Park, the neighborhood had recently been laid out by landscape architect George Kessler. It was largely Kessler's vision that produced so much of what we now know and appreciate as Houston's Museum District — then called its "cradle of culture" — of which Hermann Park and Rice University were among its earliest institutions. James and Genevieve's five children grew up playing on Remington Lane, and these children would later bring their children and grandchildren to play there. It was Shadyside and its proximity to Hermann Park that marked the beginning of a deeply-rooted, multigenerational relationship between the Park and the extended Lykes, Knapp, Duncan, and Fondren families.

Ken Coffman



Christopher L. Knapp and Lynda and David Underwood at the 2008 *Evening in the Park* gala, where the Lykes Knapp family was honored for its extraordinary commitment to Hermann Park

Letitia Lykes, granddaughter of James and Genevieve, married David Knapp, who with his father, Alfred, a co-founder of Fannin Bank, were among early corporate advocates of aggressive tree planting in Houston. As an active member of the South Main Center Association, it was Fannin Bank that was responsible for extending the majestic Live Oaks on the Main Street edge of Hermann Park from University Blvd. to Holcombe in the early 1970s. David Knapp's sister, Lynda, married David Underwood, longtime chairman of the Texas Medical Center. The Underwoods and their Fondren family cousins were founding supporters of Hermann Park Conservancy (then Friends of Hermann Park) and have been integral to the restoration of Hermann Park, both individually and through grants made by the Fondren Foundation.

This extended family group has long set an example of what a tremendous impact multigenerational families can have in civic betterment. Christopher L. Knapp, great-grandson of James and Genevieve, has been the catalyst over the last 15 years for bringing great support, thoughtful ideas, and the generous civic spirit of his family to Hermann Park. Chris and his extended family have

grown with Hermann Park from its beginning and have helped shape it into the wonderful place it is today.

This fall, Hermann Park Conservancy received a major gift in memory of the late Genevieve (Vieve) Lykes Duncan (daughter of the original Shadyside Lykes), who never lost her love of Hermann Park and Houston, despite eventually residing in San Antonio. When Vieve passed away in January 2010, she left Hermann Park a significant bequest to support ongoing care of the Park's garden areas in perpetuity. This followed a similar bequest by her daughter, May Shelmire Duncan, who died in 2007, leaving the Conservancy over \$1 million for its maintenance endowment.

The new donation was made by Vieve's children, Cameron (Cam), Genny, and Bowie, and has been committed to the restoration of the Grand Gateway, Hermann Park's primary entrance axis from the Mecom Fountain to Sam Houston Circle. A garden will be planted here in Vieve's memory as a fitting tribute to her love for artistic beauty and for families beyond her own and their well-being. Cam vividly remembers playing with his siblings at his grandparent's house in Shadyside and always happily visiting Hermann Park.

*continued next page*

## DONORS

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\$100 – \$499

Marcia and Tom Faschingbauer –  
In memory of Marie Kurtz

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**Park to Park Run**

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In the most recent act of generosity from this amazing family, the children of Genevieve Lykes Duncan (1914 – 2010, pictured above) have dedicated a beautiful garden in the Grand Gateway in their mother's memory.

*continued from page 4*

Now the children live in different cities and even states, but the Park remains special to their family—special enough to commemorate their mother here.

These recent contributions join other major gifts made by the Lykes Knapp Family Fund to plant Lykes Grove in the heart of Hermann Park, and the Fondren Foundation, which

has over several years committed over \$1.5 million to projects essential to the restoration of Hermann Park. The Fondren Foundation made possible the creation of a west entrance for the Houston Zoo across from Memorial Hermann and Ben Taub hospitals in the late 1990s (thus opening the Park to the Texas Medical Center, a key objective in Hermann Park's master plan), and was more recently a major donor in the Conservancy's restoration and expansion of Lake Plaza.

The Lykes, Knapp, Duncan, and Fondren families have set a phenomenal example of philanthropic focus passed down through generations. Their support enables our families to make their own special memories in Hermann Park. It is heartening to see the power of extended family groups and their impact on community.

**New Lake Picnic Area**



A winding boardwalk path takes walkers through the trees and across the Hermann Park Railroad tracks.

Park visitors enjoy the new swing set and picnic tables in the shady Lake Picnic Area.



Good news! Phase II of the new Lake Picnic Area has been completed. The project was funded by the City of Houston, designed by White Oak Studio, and built by contractor Gulf Coast Landscape Services, Inc. The eight-acre site, which runs from the Molly Ann Smith Plaza to parking lot "E" behind Miller Outdoor Theatre, has been the scene of ongoing improvements, starting with drainage, concrete paths, and lighting completed in Phase I last year.

Thanks to this latest phase of renovation, the Lake Picnic Area contains new crushed granite paths to guide picnickers to 21 new wooden picnic tables (to be installed soon), several protected woodland areas, a boardwalk to carry pedestrians over the Hermann Park Railroad tracks, as well as a swing set,

barbecue grill, and trash containers. Most of the tables in this site are shaded by mature trees and all are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of these new tables are still available for dedication for a donation of \$5,000. Please contact Meghan Miller, major gifts manager, at [mmiller@hermannpark.org](mailto:mmiller@hermannpark.org) or **713-524-5876 ext. 339** for more information.

Watch for Phase III which will begin the reforestation portion of the area renovation. This phase has been generously supported by KBR. Within the woodland areas defined by posts and cable, irrigation will be installed to support the native understory plantings and trees which will be planted to supplement the existing mature tree canopy.

## Bridge Groundbreaking



HPARD Director Joe Turner, City Council Member Wanda Adams, Mayor Annise Parker, Nancy Manderson, William Coats III, Anne Coats, Edward Manderson, Emily Manderson, and HPC Executive Director Doreen Stoller

On November 10, 2010, Park supporters, public officials, and friends and family of Bill Coats gathered in the Bayou Parkland area of Hermann Park for the groundbreaking of the Bill Coats Bike Bridge, which will arch over Brays Bayou. A Conservancy founder, Bill was a huge advocate for quality of life improvements for all Houstonians.

Mayor Annise Parker; Joe Turner, Houston Parks and Recreation Department Director; Wanda Adams, City Council Member; Mike Alford, Texas Department of Transportation Deputy District Engineer; and others spoke of the tremendous achievement the bridge represents for Houston, and recalled Bill's vital role in making it happen. Along with the trail improvements underway, this signature bridge will promote a healthy, active lifestyle



Anne Coats and William Coats III with a model of the Bill Coats Bike Bridge

by granting convenient pedestrian and bicycle access to the heart of the Park from the east side of the bayou.

Scheduled to open in early 2012, the Bill Coats Bike Bridge has been made possible thanks to a federal bikeways program, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the City of Houston.

## Urban Green's Park Avenue



Park Avenue chairs Pierce Bush, Jennifer Pritchett, Lauren Covey, and Claire and Rick Thielke

New York City came to life during Urban Green's Park Avenue: Green Never Sleeps on Thursday, December 2, 2010. The event took place on the stage of Miller Outdoor Theatre and was chaired by Pierce Bush, Lauren Covey, Jennifer Pritchett, and Claire and Rick Thielke. Thanks to the energetic chairs and Urban Green

steering committee, the Wall Street movie-inspired event raised nearly \$16,000 for the Conservancy and drew a crowd of over 300 young professionals.

Guests dined and mingled among familiar neighborhoods, including Park Avenue, Chinatown, Coney Island, and Little Italy, which were playfully replicated through decorations, food donated by some of Houston's best restaurants, and specialty drinks. Meanwhile, the Wall Street area buzzed with bidders interested in amazing silent auction packages. Throughout the night, DJ MAV's tunes kept the energy high, while Smilebooth gave guests a chance to preserve their memories.

Many generous sponsors helped make this event truly spectacular. For a list of contributors, please see the "Urban Green" section of the donor list in this Parkside issue.

## DONORS

### Urban Green continued

\$100 – \$499

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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 August 1 and December 31, 2010, as well as all George Hermann Society members. Please note that gifts to the *Hats in the Park* luncheon and the *Evening in the Park* gala will be recognized in subsequent issues. 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 listings.

## Upcoming Events



### Hats in the Park Luncheon

Tuesday, March 8

Historic Clubhouse at Hermann Park

Chaired by Franci Neely Crane and Sandy Godfrey

Honoring Ned S. Holmes

Tickets from \$250  
 Tables from \$5,000



### Japan Festival

Saturday and Sunday,  
 April 9-10

Japanese Garden,  
 Jones Reflection Pool, and  
 Molly Ann Smith Plaza  
 in Hermann Park



## A toast to TWO PRINCES



### Evening in the Park Gala

Thursday, April 28

Jones Reflection Pool

Chaired by Isabel David and Judy Nyquist

Honoring Jay Baker and Sanford Criner

Tickets from \$500  
 Tables from \$5,000



*Evening in the Park* honorees Sanford Criner and Jay Baker

Visit [www.hermannpark.org](http://www.hermannpark.org) for up-to-date event details, as well as a list of upcoming shows in the Student Performances in the Park Series and the Park Docents schedule.

## Keep up with the Conservancy on Facebook and Twitter!

Find us at [www.facebook.com/HermannPark](https://www.facebook.com/HermannPark) and [www.twitter.com/HermannPark](https://www.twitter.com/HermannPark)

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Campaign

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bench

Plant a tree

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## PARKSIDE / WINTER 2011

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### Ex-Officio

Joe Turner  
Rick Dewees

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Doreen Stoller

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H. Mallory Caldwell  
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Kara Childress  
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