

P.O.Box 33002  
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Check out the Friends' website: [www.fogp.org](http://www.fogp.org)



**FRIENDS OF GARFIELD PARK INC**

P.O.Box 33002  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
Phone: (317) 789-6009  
Fax: (317) 789-0578  
(located at: 2505 Conservatory Drive)

## Membership Investment Application

Participants receive FOGP newsletter and invitations to FOGP events

I would like to be included as an annual member:

*Circle Membership Type*

Single - \$20 Senior/Student - \$10 Family - \$30 Corporate - \$300

One time gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Check enclosed    Credit card

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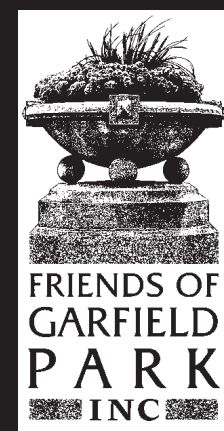
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Friends of Garfield Park is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue code (12/2006)*



### Mission Statement

The mission of the Friends of Garfield Park, Inc. is to ensure the preservation and continuation of the public benefits of Garfield Park through enhanced funding, the application of effective advocacy and expanded stewardship.

The Promenade is published by the Friends of Garfield Park, Inc.

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# The Promenade

Winter 2006-2007

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

Volume 8 No. 2

## Garfield Park We Remember Celebrating 125 Years of History and Memories

**Michael Rogers**

Garfield Park, Indianapolis's oldest park, has reached a milestone. It is now 125 years old and we will be celebrating. Over that long history, the park has become the centerpiece of the south side community and culture.

So many people over many generations have contributed to its beauty and heritage, creating a storehouse of memories and legacies.

The history is colorful and unique in our city, and a source of pride for those who have been a part of it over the years.

The Garfield Park Arts Center will celebrate those 125 years of memories starting December 9th with a community driven exhibit of

art, photographs and park memorabilia. A Grand Opening Reception on Saturday, December 9th, from 6:00pm - 9:00pm will kick off the celebration with a "walk down memory lane". This will be a holiday reunion, a homecoming of neighbors and friends who are and have been part of the south side community and the Garfield Park family.

Share a festive atmosphere of holiday music and treats. It will be an opportunity for people to come and trade stories about the park and the people who have lived around the park.

We can come together around the inviting fireplaces of the Arts Center for "fireside

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## "BRICKS for the BRIDGE"

Over the years the Sunken Gardens have provided a sense of pride for Garfield Park. Located in the city's oldest park, the Sunken Gardens were opened in 1916. Through the Friends of Garfield Park's "Bricks for the Bridge" initiative, we are raising funds to connect the Sunken Gardens to the MacAllister Center/Arts Center through the building of a new bridge over Bean Creek.

One way you can assist our fund-raising is to have a brick engraved with a special message – for a 100% tax-deductible contribution. These bricks, to be placed in the plaza between the Conservatory and Sunken Gardens, are a perfect way to honor and memorialize friends and family! This unique gift can recognize a wedding, anniversary, birthday, holiday gift and makes a meaningful way to remember deceased loved ones. You may have as many bricks engraved as you wish – for only \$80 each. Bricks will be ordered and installed quarterly. For information contact: [info@fogp.org](mailto:info@fogp.org) or 789-6009.

## Over the Garden Gate

By Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

All-America Selections celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007 by naming five well-known plants as All-America Classics.

The not-for-profit education organization was founded in 1932 to evaluate new varieties of seed-grown flowers and vegetables. These All America Classics are readily available at garden centers, through mail-order catalogs and on-line merchants.

- **'Big Beef'** (*Lycopersicon*) met the need for a large, disease resistant, early, beefsteak tomato when it was introduced in 1994. It led the way in bringing those traits to other tomatoes using old-fashion breeding techniques.

- **'Ideal Violet'** (*Dianthus*) brought improved heat tolerance to a garden favorite when introduced in 1992. A cross between China pink and sweet William dianthus, this annual is quite cold tolerant, making it a colorful addition to the early spring or fall garden.



Classic beauty: 'Majestic Giants Mix' pansy has very large flowers on short plants. Photos courtesy All-America Selections

- **'Ultra Crimson Star'** petunia (*Petunia*) earned the honor for its consistent formation of a white star on a crimson background. Introduced in 1988, the flowers get about 4-inches wide on plants that bloom all summer with no need for pinching or pruning.
- **'Majestic Giants Mix'** pansy (*Viola x wittrockiana*) was introduced in 1966. Although, the plants are only about 8 inches tall, the flowers get about 4-inches wide.
- **'Wave® Purple'** petunia was truly a breeding breakthrough when it was introduced in 1995. With a spread of 3 to 4 feet and 6 inch flowers, Wave introduced the notion of an annual ground cover to the gardening world.

For more information, visit the AAS Web site: [www.all-americaelections.org](http://www.all-americaelections.org).

FOGP board member Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp is an Advanced Master Gardener, regional director of Garden Writers Association, coauthor of "The Indiana Gardener's Guide" and a regular contributor to "Too Many Cooks!" on WICR-FM (88.7). © The Hoosier Gardener

## New Manager for Conservatory and Gardens

Michael Rogers

We welcome Fritz Nerding as the new manager of the Conservatory and Sunken Gardens. Fritz has been serving as interim manager since September. He brings an extensive background of experience to the job and looks forward to taking the facilities forward in the coming year.

Fritz has a degree in Natural Resources from Ball State, where he helped maintain the Wheeler Orchid Collection. He served an internship at Eagle Creek Park and then became a Park Ranger there before serving four years as Naturalist at the Eagle Creek Nature Center. He managed the Glens Valley Nature Park for about four years. In those positions, he worked extensively with school programs, interacting with thousands of school children a year. Fritz is a certified Park and Recreation Professional by the National Park and Recreation Association, and also a certified Interpretive Guide by the National Association of Interpretation. His capabilities and interest in nature are deep-rooted. His grandfather, Carl Nerding developed the Southview Drive Rock Garden.

His other grandfather, Ernst Michel, was a professional horticulturist, being the head grounds keeper for J. K. Lilly at Oldfields, which became the location of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Fritz has had wildland fire fighting training and has led a yearly wildflower pilgrimage to the Smokey Mountains. He is a bird watcher and has also worked with the Amos

Butler Audubon group to help raise funds to preserve rain forest lands in Panama. He works to help rescue wildflowers and native plants from newly developing lands around Indiana, and considers his special interest to be native trees and Orchids. You can see that his devotion to nature is strong and focused.

Work is underway to focus the Conservatory and Gardens mission statement and the development of new programs. Repair work on the waterfalls in the Conservatory and structural repairs to the building are complete. Work on replacing plants and deciding what species of plants the Conservatory wants to be considered an expert is underway, as is planting of bulbs in the Gardens.

Planning for a new perennial garden and a Lilly garden is underway. New animal displays are anticipated, starting with the Aquarium Club installing a 125 gallon aquarium.

Two new Environmental Education Coordinators are on board to help Fritz, and we want to recognize them. Amy Dirks has a degree in Horticultural Education from Purdue, and Elizabeth Bennett brings a degree from Franklin College in Biology to the team.

This seems to be a capable group that the FOGP can work with to keep these unique and historic facilities a vital part of our Garfield Park culture. Welcome to Fritz, Amy and Elizabeth.

## Holiday Events at the Conservatory

The Garfield Park Conservatory will be celebrating the holiday season with their annual **Poinsettia Show**. Hundreds of these festive flowers will be presented in a display throughout the conservatory's gazebo room. This show will run through December 15 and will be open 10AM-5PM. Admission to the show will be \$2 per adult, \$1 per senior or youth, or \$5 for the whole family. On Saturday, December 9, the conservatory, along with the Burrello Family Center, will host **Holiday Family Day**. Santa Claus will be at the Conservatory for photos, and there will be a holiday craft for children to make. Admission to this event will be free. On Friday, December 15, will be open from 7-9PM for a festive **Holiday Tea Open House**. This is an annual event where families, friends and couples are able to escape the winter weather and enjoy an evening in the warmth of the conservatory. We

will have a number of holiday treats and warm drinks for visitors to relax and enjoy. This is a perfect way to escape the season's hustle and bustle for a nice evening out. This event requires registration and costs \$4 per person or \$10 for the whole family (this includes admission to the conservatory). Don't miss the beauty of the conservatory this holiday season! Beginning this January we will be starting a **Tai Chi Exercise Group** in the tranquil soundings of the gazebo room on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Tai Chi, sometimes called "moving meditation", is a repetitive slow motion routine to teach awareness of one's own balance. Tai Chi is a popular morning activity in China where all ages come together to improve their health and longevity by reaching a state of deep relaxation. Make plans now spend some time at the Conservatory this Season. Happy Holidays.

## Happenings at the Burrello Family Center

The following programs will be available to our patrons this winter and spring:

- Spring Basketball League (3-5 yr., 6-9 yr., and 10-13 yr.) starting in April 2007. Registration begins on Feb. 5, 2007.
- For the more mature: Morning aerobics is offered on Monday, Wed. and Fri. 9:30 am – 10:30 am
- A new program for those with arthritis will be offered on Tue. and Thu.
- A free aerobics program, "Indy in Motion," is being offered by the Marion County Board of Health on Mon., Wed. and Fri. 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm.
- Beginning and advanced Spanish classes are offered on Wednesday evenings for those who would like to learn a second language.

**For more information on the above please call 327-7227**

## Garfield Park We Remember Celebrating 125 Years of History and Memories

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chats", and add to the lore and the story of our park. It's amazing how many people come back to the park after many years and bring with them fond memories of past experiences which have been important to them. This will be an opportunity to save and share those stories for the future to treasure. "Garfield Park We Remember" can introduce new generations and new neighbors to the community heritage and importance the park plays in our every day lives, and help instill a spirit of support and stewardship to keep it vital into the future. Friends of Garfield Park has become part of that heritage and urges all of our "Friends" to be a part of this program to help celebrate those 125 years.

The FOGP is sponsoring the exhibits which will run through February 28th. In January, part of the program will be the Second Annual Creative Native Art Competition 2007, engaging the arts

community to create their individual "masterpieces" in various mediums over a two day period at the Art Center. Prizes for "Best of Show" in three categories, based on three themes relating to Garfield Park, will be awarded and art will be on display at the Art Center until the end of February. Last January, the first Creative Native Competition was a great success as the first preview event at the Arts Center. Fifty-two local artists participated in a great sense of camaraderie, offering a chance for anyone to come and watch them work. The Friends of Garfield Park sponsored the prizes for the competition and will do the same for the coming competition, scheduled January 20th and 21st. Along with Indiana Business Bank and First Class Lawn and Landscape Co.

It's time to celebrate and be proud. **Happy Birthday Garfield Park!**

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