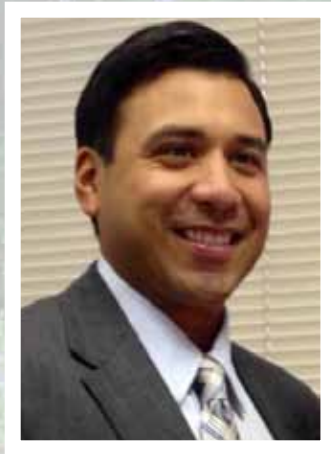


Landa Gardens Conservancy



Annual Report 2016



*Landa
Gardens
Conservancy
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Directors
2016*

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Daniela Serna
Jill Torbert
Ann Van Pelt
Julie Van Zandt
Katharine Welder
Steven F. Willson
Megan Rice Yager

Dear Friends of Landa Gardens Conservancy,

What an exciting year 2016 has proven to be! Seventy years ago Mr. Landa donated this historic estate as a tribute to Mrs. Landa and her legacy of service and leadership. True to the Landas' legacy, the Landa Gardens Conservancy resolves to continue Mr. Landa's tribute with the help of our wonderfully supportive community.

So, thank you! Thank you for ensuring Landa will be a beautiful public space that is also a fun and safe scenic retreat. The Conservancy's success in 2016 was driven by the incredible dedication of volunteers, patrons, sustaining donors and event sponsors. We are so grateful for your time and generosity!

As has been done for several years, the Landa Gardens Conservancy has made a contribution of \$40,000 to the Landa Gardens Conservancy endowment. The Landa Gardens Conservancy raises funds each year to support the annual maintenance of the grounds. The endowment will help support the Conservancy's efforts during times of increased maintenance expenses and unforeseen maintenance conditions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I convey our grateful appreciation to the original Board members, former Board members, volunteers, committee members, sustaining donors and all of those who supported May Month and Landa Nights in 2016.

I would especially like to thank Past President and current Board member Emily Jones. Emily continues to support all aspects of the Conservancy with a vigorous dedication to service and leadership for Landa. I would also like to thank Sally Sohn, Mari Pickering, and Tashya Riggs for their exceptional work throughout this year.

We look forward to another successful year in 2017!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Garcia'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Mark Garcia
President, LGC Board of Directors



Maintenance Report

by Bill Baine

"Nature surrounds us, from parks and backyards to streets and alleyways. Next time you go out for a walk, tread gently and remember that we are both inhabitants and stewards of nature in our neighborhoods." - David Suzuki

2016 will be remembered for many changes locally, nationally and across the world. However, one constant has been the grounds of the Landa Library and its continued rise in the local community as a meeting and gathering place. It is a place where both children and adults gather in a peaceful environment that lets children be children and adults escape from the hostilities of everyday life. We are proud that our work at Landa provides many people with a place to learn, share and play surrounded by green grass, shade and beautiful plants and flowers.

The anticipated dry summer never materialized and Landa looked better than ever this year. We experienced periodic but regular rainfall and the trees, grass and plants thrived. Consequently, foot traffic and activities on the grounds increased in volume and the wear and tear, especially in the areas around the playground and on the north side of the property, remains visible. We have continued difficulty finding the right balance to allow the grassy areas to fill in.

Consistent with our "Go Green Initiative", we are in year three of the organic landscape maintenance program on the

grounds and the results are apparent. The reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers and the use of organic fertilizer has revived the natural biology of the soil and we have received many compliments on our efforts. The "great lawn", the grassy circle south of the main entrance to the library, was scraped, leveled and new grass installed to eliminate undulations and is safer for the young soccer teams and others who play games, picnic and generally horse around in that area. We also replaced the existing lighting with energy efficient technology that was not previously available and made improvements to the locations of the lighting to improve nighttime visibility while maintaining the aesthetics consistent with the nature of the grounds.

We send a heartfelt thanks to those who have volunteered and contributed to the success of our maintenance program this past year. We cannot accomplish our goals without your assistance and we recognize that there are many demands on your time and money. We are thankful you have chosen to support the Conservancy.

Master Plan Committee Report

by Ann Van Pelt

The governing body of the Landa Gardens Conservancy is made up of

a remarkable group of Board members who are totally dedicated to maintaining in perpetuity the beautiful grounds that surround Landa Library. We have only that one goal. Therefore we want to be sure that we never lose sight of it.

As the Master Plan Committee we help preserve the vision of the original landscaping design for the grounds as you see them today. This plan was a gift to the Conservancy and to the community by Dave Shows, landscape architect. His design lives on through his partner Sam Allen and we are grateful for his continued help.

We are an advisory committee for the Board of Directors. All proposals concerning the grounds come to us for discussion. We carefully study each one and then refer back to our original plan to see how it fits our mission. We then report our thoughts to the entire board.

As the beautiful grounds mature, this past year we were asked to advise on several maintenance issues and tree trimming. They included the need to redo the entire lawn in the great circle and to add additional plantings to some of the beds needing attention. We also had a meeting with Tim Jackson of Davey Trees to discuss oak wilt and any possible effects it might have on the incredible oak trees on the grounds of Landa. We reported to the board that we were relieved to hear from Mr. Jackson that our exposure is very slight.

The library staff had a concern about the lack of lighting in some areas of the grounds. Jill Torbert brought forward recommendations for additional lighting and repair and replacement of existing lighting. The Master Plan Committee reviewed the plans and recommended to the Board that they accept the proposal. The work was completed early last summer.

Master Plan Committee Members are: Ann Van Pelt, Chair; Emily Jones, Immediate Past President of the Landa Gardens Conservancy; Mari Pickering, Secretary of the Board; Lynn Boyd III, Past President; Jill Torbert, Past President; Bill Baine, Chairman of the Maintenance Committee; Sally Sohn, Treasurer of the Landa Gardens Conservancy; Julie Van Zant, Board member; Ann Newman, former Board member; and Sam Allen of Shows and Allen Landscape Architects.



May Month is for Hannah's Kids

by Julie Van Zandt

Crisscross applesauce, a father sits on the Landa parlor floor singing to his child. His eyes are transfixed upon dad's face; infant mouth the shape of an O. It's May Month again and entertainer Owen Duggan was playing guitar and singing as part of this Landa Gardens Conservancy annual event. The families were listening, dancing and some, like this father, were singing the harmony line. Joy and music filled Hannah and Harry Landa's living room and all of us were, for a moment, their children.

The Conservancy's May Month 2016 series once again entertained young and old with legos, stories, song, theatre and palattas. The event remained free and open to the public thanks to the Conservancy's generous supporters including corporations, a school and individual donors. The first Saturday was a LEGO Mother's Day craft. Miss Anastasia's Storytime, singer/songwriter Owen Duggan, and the Magik Children's Theatre were the remaining three May weekends, respectively. Every Saturday morning in May at the Landa, you can count on an entertaining time!

Some of Landas' more mature kids also gather during the month of May on a weekday evening. Unfortunately, rain forced the Conservancy to cancel the Thursday, May 19th Cocktail Party in the Garden. Added in 2015, this Conservancy event features KRTU jazz, a food truck and a complimentary cocktail.

Like the evening event, this month of Saturday mornings is run entirely by volunteers and would not happen without them or the generous sponsors who return each year. Thank you to 2016 May Month chair Celina Montoya for another month of fun.

Thankfully, the Landa Library and its grounds are a hive of activity year round. This community strengthens and honors Hannah's bequest.

So join the fun next May. All Landa Garden Conservancy events are held at the faux-bois tree house, Valero Energy Pavilion. Activities are held rain or shine and start promptly at 10 a.m. See you at Landa!



May Month Sponsors

Title Sponsor

Presidio Title

Underwriters

Tashya and Lane Riggs
Tesoro Corporation

Banner

Lynn A. Boyd, III

LEGO Event

Celina Montoya and Luke Girdley
Vicki and John Boyce

Storytime with Miss Anastasia

Ann Van Pelt
Sally and Bob Sohn

Cocktail Party in the Garden

Laura and Don McDonald
Emily and Brad Jones

Owen Duggan

Security Service FCU
Alane Honigblum

Magik Children's Theatre

Jill Torbet and Vincent Johnson
Keystone School

"We love the Landa Playground for so many reasons, and I think I will always measure my children's ages by how far they can climb the giant oak tree. It's a magical place that represents what a perfect childhood should look like: friends, books and nature."

-Angela Rabke



Marketing Report

by Celina Montoya

The digital footprint of Landa Gardens Conservancy continued to grow this year as we expanded our development onto Amazon Smile, utilizing their platform to bring awareness to LGC and raise funds for our mission.

We also gained footing in our local community through two distinct efforts: our "I Support Landa!" yard sign campaign allowed our community supporters to show their spirit and over 100 signs were sold and displayed throughout the neighborhood. Our partnership with Monte Vista Historical Association brought a renovation to the planter. Through the Association, we were able to benefit from a guided tour and lunch event that celebrated the unique tile-work of the neighborhood, which can also be found on the grounds at Landa. Proceeds from the event are being used to restore an artful and unique planter at Landa.

Our grounds hosted many distinct groups this year including Green Spaces Alliance, Junior League of San Antonio, Mom's Group, Girl Scouts, and many more! While our cocktail event may have been rained out we continued to receive support from our neighbors at KRTU 91.7 FM. Finally, we remain a proud community partner of Texas Public Radio and their community initiatives.

If you haven't already we encourage you to "like" us on Facebook and stay up-to-date through our website: www.landagardens.org.

Landa Gardens Conservancy Green Campaign

by Lynn Boyd and Ann Van Pelt

It is hard to remember how the grounds looked at Landa Library before the total renovation by the Landa Gardens Conservancy. On May 1, 2008, the conservancy re-opened the grounds after one year of total renovation. Now the plantings have matured and there are other issues to be addressed.

The Green Campaign was initiated with these goals:

—To improve the watering of the

gardens and to add more drought tolerant plants and shrubs;
 —To make sure that no chemicals or pesticides are used on the gardens;
 —To sow sustainable grasses;
 —To take advantage of advances of newer illumination technology and to install LED lighting.

From money raised for this project so far, we have replaced and repaired the lighting on the grounds with LED lighting for energy efficiency and increased illumination. Additional funds have gone to organic fertilization. We also have been able to add drip irrigation to the beds around the great lawn.

We are grateful for all of the do-

nations to this project as we continue to help fund improvements to our beautiful gardens. We are truly thankful for your support.

"One of the joys of my daughter Olivia's early childhood was our weekly visit to Landa Library for story time. It brought music and a sense of community to her life and gave parents a chance to bond in a warm, friendly environment. I'm so thankful that Landa Library made that experience possible for us."

-Gilbert Garcia



by Heather de Rojas and Amy Garcia

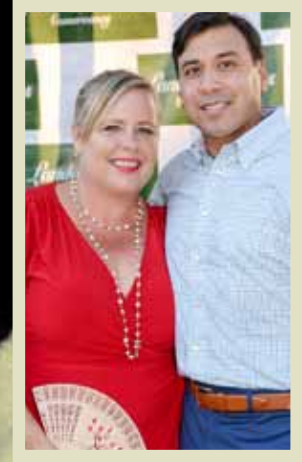
The Landa Gardens Conservancy held its annual Landa Nights event on Friday, September 23, 2016. It was a beautiful evening celebrated on the great lawn of Landa Library on a wonderfully cool evening.

Landa Nights welcomed over 250 guests who were greeted with strawberry mojito signature cocktails, floral painted fans, and stainless steel hand-held garden shovels as party favors underwritten by H-E-B. Page Barteau Catering offered a three-course feast, and guests danced the night away to jazz played by Big Brown Banjo band.

The Landa Gardens Conservancy board and the Landa Nights event committee would like to recognize Valero Energy Foundation as the Title Sponsor. The evening helped raise over \$54,000 that will be used to maintain the grounds of Landa. The grounds at Landa Library are a place for our community to enjoy year-round, so the monies raised at this event will be used towards keeping the area safe, beautiful, and growing.

Thank you to the Landa Nights committee members: Alane Honigblum, Nicole McClane, Pam Morgan, Denise Mosser, Carla Nelson, Tashya Riggs, Daniela Serna, Emily Sytsma, Steven F. Willson, Megan Rice Yager, and Julie Van Zandt. A special thank you to Holly Basing for designing the gorgeous centerpieces.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Landa Nights!





*Please save the date to friendraise and fundraise for the Landa Gardens Conservancy at our annual Landa Nights 2017 to be held on **Thursday, October 5th** (please note the new weekday date) on the Landa grounds. We look forward to welcoming our past donors and hoping to have new ones join us, too!*



Table Sponsors

Live Oak

Valero Energy Foundation

Pecan

The John and Florence Newman Foundation

South Texas Money Management

Texas Mountain Laurel

Emilie and Bill Baine

Jefferson Bank

Texas Redbud

Suzie and Mike Bacon

Vicki and John Boyce

Lynn A. Boyd III

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Emily and Brad Jones / Megan and Brian Yager

Christine and Paul Mayer

McClane / Mosser / Stone / Swaney / Sytsma

Celina Montoya and Luke Girdley

Pam Morgan and Bill Kerr

Catherine Payer and Ben Vaughan

Daniela and Antonio Serna, IV /

Katharine and Ray Welder

Jill Torbert and Vincent Johnson

Ann Van Pelt / Realtor, Phyllis

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Kathleen T. McCusker

Tashya and Lane Riggs

San Antonio Gastroenterology

Associates, P.A.

Security Service Federal Credit Union

Elizabeth Wilde



Helping Here.





Why Work in the Garden?

by Jill Torbert

This year we decided to ask the community garden volunteers why they participated in the garden. Here are some of the responses.

Sally Sohn said that she had been a bed wetter (a team of volunteers watering the grounds during the drought) but this was her first year to water the garden. Sally spent her time at the community garden not only enjoying being outside in the garden, but as an opportunity to learn the names of some of the plants that are labeled. "Learning their names and seeing if I remembered them each time I returned made it seem like going to re-visit friends."

Michele Giddens, who has been involved with the Landa Community Garden since its inception stated that she enjoys the camaraderie among the garden volunteers. Michele often takes her seven-year old daughter to Landa to water or weed during the afternoon and loves engaging in a conversation with visitors to Landa Library who stop by. For Michele, volunteering at the garden has allowed her to maintain friendships and make new ones. It has also provided a wonderful opportunity for her daughter to give back to the community in which she lives.

Jane Jacobs wrote that she volunteers because she was asked. Secondly, she enjoys the garden. "If everyone plays a part in the garden's maintenance, the load doesn't fall on just one or two people."

Vicki Boyce finds it a joy to care for the long-term and seasonal growth in the community garden. Chatting with people walking by offers the opportunity to tell them about Landa Gardens Conservancy.

Joan Miller, Landa's volunteer garden manager, claims that her greatest reward from volunteering at the garden has been connecting to our community - both in Monte Vista, but also with the staff of Green Space Alliance and members of other community gardens. Growing a network of friends and acquaintances is always a reward. Whenever Joan is at the garden to water or putter a bit, she enjoys watching people come into the garden to see what's blooming and observing children looking for lizards. Finding butterfly larvae and pollinators among the plants makes Joan smile too.

Of course, as garden manager, Joan is always looking for ways to improve the garden. One of the beds is designated for vegetables, but they are difficult to get established and require a great deal of attention. Perhaps a fresh crop of volunteers can plant some new ideas!

Whether you are interested in making new friends, learning about plants, or just spending time outdoors, gardening can satisfy the soul. Come join us. We would love to share the garden with you!



Through the Efforts of Many

by Jill Torbert

The tile on the former fountain, now a planter, on the east side of the Landa Library has been restored to its former glory. Although this project had been on the Landa Gardens Conservancy's wish list for many years, it was because Susan Toomey Frost, who lives in Monte Vista, took charge and rallied the community, that it was accomplished. Susan has a long and deep interest in preserving the tile work in San Antonio. She has written a book about tiles, *Colors on his Clay*, so it was a natural fit for her to be involved in neighborhood project. Upon hearing about Susan's inter-

est in restoring the tile at Landa, the four entities that share a common interest in Landa — San Antonio Public Library, Monte Vista Historical Association, San Antonio Public Library Foundation and Landa Gardens Conservancy — joined together to support Susan's efforts to raise the necessary funds for the tile project.

Susan organized a day-long fundraiser, *Azulejos & Enchiladas*, last August, that began with a luncheon at La Fonda, where everyone had a delicious meal. During lunch, Cappy Lawton and Chris Waters Dunn regaled the crowd with tribulations of their experiences writing *Enchiladas Aztec to Tex Mex*, a cookbook. After lunch, at Trinity University's William Knox Holt Center, Susan gave a lecture on the tiles that are found in Monte Vista homes, beautifully documented with her photographs. The afternoon ended with a tour of homes with gorgeous tiles on the floors, stair risers, walls and tables. The event was an overwhelming success, raising the funds to purchase and install new tiles at Landa that replicate the original tiles. Everyone enjoyed the day!

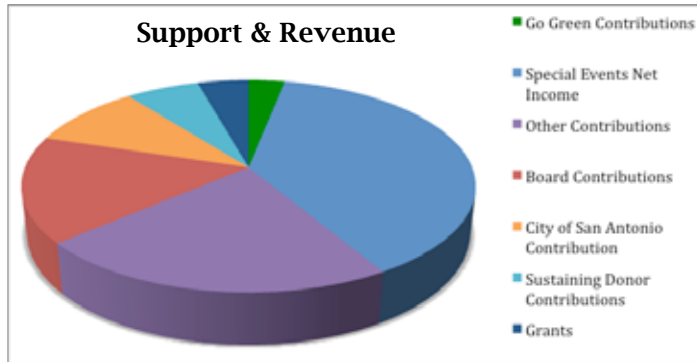
Landa Gardens Conservancy is grateful to the entities that partnered with it on this project: San Antonio Public Library, Monte Vista Historical Association, and San Antonio Public Library Foundation. Each organization graciously provided talent and resources to ensure the success of the tile project. Special recognition must be paid to Susan Toomey Frost, Cappy Lawton, Trinity University Press, Trinity University President Danny Anderson and his wife Kimberly Anderson, Gloria Kemper, and John and Lisa Weissler. A special thank you goes to Ramiro Salazar, Director of the San Antonio Public Library, and his staff, who always work for the success of Landa Gardens. Finally, kudos to Dolly Holmes, now President of Monte Vista Historical Association, who provided an enormous amount of organizational skill which made the multi-venue event run smoothly.

Sponsors of

Azulejos & Enchiladas were:

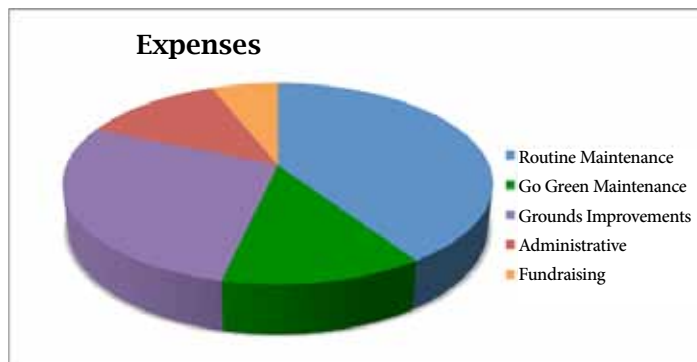
J&R Tile, Inc; The John and Florence Newman Foundation; Colleen Casey, Realtor with Phyllis Browning Company; Eugenia and Lawrence A. Bertetti Foundation; Ann Van Pelt; Redondo Tile; Trinity University Press; Travis Tile and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

Landa Gardens Conservancy 2016 Financial Activity



Support & Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Go Green Contributions | *\$4,750 |
| Special Events Net Income | \$59,760 |
| Other Contributions | \$34,427 |
| Board Contributions | \$25,200 |
| City of San Antonio Contribution | \$15,000 |
| Sustaining Donor Contributions | \$9,625 |
| <u>Grants</u> | <u>\$6,711</u> |
| TOTAL Support & Revenue | \$155,473 |

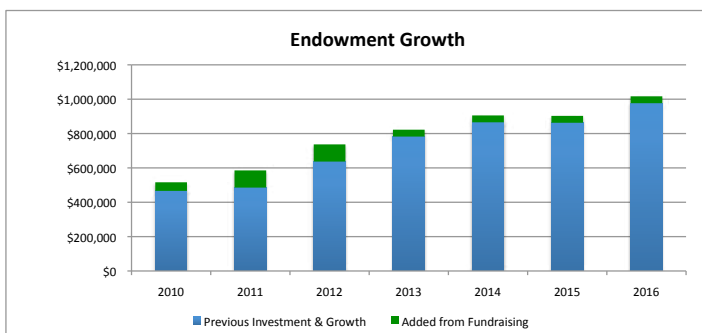


Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Routine Maintenance | \$49,593 |
| Go Green Maintenance | *\$15,716 |
| Grounds Improvements | \$34,054 |
| Administrative | \$15,423 |
| <u>Fundraising</u> | <u>\$7,257</u> |
| TOTAL Expenses | \$122,043 |

NET Operating Income ***\$33,430**

*Net Income reflects \$10,966 that was raised in prior years then spent in 2016 on Go Green projects. Exclusive of all Go Green funds, net income for 2016 was \$44,396.



Endowment Growth

| <u>End of Year Balance</u> | <u>Previous Investment & Growth</u> | <u>Added from Fundraising</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2010 | \$466,215 | \$50,000 | \$516,215 |
| 2011 | \$485,367 | \$100,000 | \$585,367 |
| 2012 | \$636,832 | \$100,000 | \$736,832 |
| 2013 | \$782,417 | \$40,000 | \$822,417 |
| 2014 | \$865,408 | \$40,000 | \$905,408 |
| 2015 | \$862,789 | \$40,000 | \$902,789 |
| 2016 | \$976,650 | \$40,000 | \$1,016,650 |

Development Committee

by Vicki Boyce

2016 was a year of growth not only in the Gardens, but in Landa Gardens Conservancy supporters! In addition to the success of our Landa Nights, a record number of individuals and families now support our treasured grounds as Sustaining Members. These loyal supporters have committed to contribute \$250 or more for five years to the general fund for grounds maintenance. Thank you to all our Sustainers, both returning and new!

These generous donations are what make it possible for the Conservancy to maintain the five acres surrounding Landa Library. The current and future health of the grounds depend on excellent care through fertilization, irrigation, trimming and pruning of the grounds, as well as additional trees, flowers and shrubs.

We invite you to join this valued group of Sustainers and one-time supporters. Every donation is appreciated and important.



Please visit
www.landagardens.org
to become a Sustaining
Donor or to make a
one time gift. We also
encourage honor and
memorial gifts.
Thank you for
supporting Landa
Gardens!

Donors for 2016

\$10,000 and above

City of San Antonio, Central Library
Valero Energy Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Landa Gardens Maintenance
Endowment Fund of S.A.A.F.
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\$25 - \$999

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Trisha Chilcutt
CAROL BRESSLER
Monte Vista Garden Club
OLIVE DAVIS
Monte Vista Garden Club
HOWARD P. JOHNSON
Ann Van Pelt and
John J. McCusker
MARGARET MARIE LESCH
Ann Van Pelt and
John J. McCusker
JEAN YOUNG NORMAN
Susan and Lon Smith
MICHAEL PAYER
Ann Van Pelt and
John J. McCusker
Susan and Ken Nichol

In Honor Of

HENRY AND GEORGE AHL
Nel and Walter Belt
BILL BAINE
John Newman Family
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Marcia and Steven Willson
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Landa Gardens Conservancy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that beautifies and maintains the grounds at Landa Library, a branch of the San Antonio Public Library. The gardens are located at 233 Bushnell, at the corner of Shook and Bushnell. For more information contact us at 210-829-2562 or on the web at: www.landagardens.org