

SPRING 2024

# INSIDE THE DOMES



Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

2023 ADMISSIONS: 258,730  
GOAL FOR 2024: 300,000!



BILINGUAL PROGRAMMING AT  
THE DOMES: PAGE 3



LOCAL STUDENT MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE: PAGE 4

LET US BE  
YOUR BREAK  
FROM  
WINTER!



SMALL SPACE GARDENING:  
PAGE 6



ART IN THE GREEN  
APRIL 27-28: BACK COVER



# NEWS FROM THE DOMES



Welcome to Spring (well, almost). We have many exciting updates for you, but before we get into the details, let us say thanks to each of you for being a member!

We have 4,950 members as of today. When we hit our goal of 5,000, we will be sure to send a celebratory email. Want to help us reach this important milestone? Gift memberships make a great Mother's Day gift! MilwaukeeDomes.org/membership

## Membership

- ♦ The member lane remains open through the Train Show. Remember to watch for the sign, which is an indication to skip the line.

## Education

- ♦ So many wonderful workshops and activities for people of all ages. Be sure to

read about the Spring Family Fun Quest on page 7.

- ♦ Be sure to welcome our newest educator, Sergio Magaña. Read more on page 3. ¡Bienvenido, Sergio!

## Plants and Facility

- ♦ The Train Show, Toyblox: Tiny Toy Towns, will continue through March 17, 2024. Don't miss this opportunity to see 600-feet of train tracks winding through beautiful plants!
- ♦ Friends of the Domes made two recent investments in lighting at The Domes. The Tropical Dome project was finished earlier this year. The Show Dome project begins in the Spring. These installations will provide better lighting for the gardens, especially during evening

events. Our members and donors make these projects possible, so thank you!

## Events

- ♦ Art in the Green is coming soon, April 27-28, 2024. See page 8 for more details. As always, Art in the Green is free for members!

## Future of The Domes Project

- ♦ We are making great progress moving the Friends' vision forward. Need a reminder of what our plan entails? Visit our website, MilwaukeeDomes.org/vision.
- ♦ One fun way to support the work we are doing is by purchasing a Tropical Dome candle in the gift shop. Made by Milwaukee Candle Company just for The Domes, it is an amazing scent you will want to bring home! ■

## Welcome Sergio, Our Newest Educator

Many schools and youth organizations on the South Side of Milwaukee, and particularly in the neighborhood surrounding The Domes, have a large Spanish-speaking population. In 2023, Friends of the Domes added a Spanish-English bilingual educator, Sergio Magaña.

We now offer a wide range of bilingual program offerings, including school field trips, adult and older adult workshops, bilingual Storytime, and the popular Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) annual celebration.

This area of programming enables us to reach new audiences, and supports equity, one of the two core pillars of Friends of the Domes (the other is wellness).

A few words from Sergio Magaña, Bilingual Interpretive Educator:

*I am honored to be a part of this endeavor. Bilingual education is important in so many ways, and I speak from personal experience. Having a topic explained in my native language helped me to engage with the content and retain my cultural roots. In a global society, having the ability to be multilingual and multicultural is invaluable and I am so excited we can provide that experience at The Domes in combination with an appreciation for nature and environmental awareness. Muchas gracias por esta oportunidad, espero verlos pronto. ■*



Sergio Magaña during a school field trip in the Tropical Dome.

## Help Support Our Rescues!

In addition to our unique, thriving plant collection, The Domes is also home to a variety of rescue animals. These animals make The Domes an ecosystem, rather than just a greenhouse. Three doves call the Desert Dome their home: Khalil, Fazil and Shafi. These lovely birds are Eurasian Collared-Doves and, just like the plants, they depend on your kindness.

Please donate to our rescue animal fund. Scan the QR code or go to MilwaukeeDomes.org/animals. ■



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit MilwaukeeDomes.org for details and to register.

**Story Time in the Lobby**  
Every Wednesday, 10AM (no registration required)

**Finding Balance Through Plants & Meditation**  
March 13, 5:15-6:30PM

**Spring Family Fun Fest**  
March 27, 9AM-12PM

**Design Your Own Incense Class**  
April 6, 3:00-4:30PM

**Houseplant Hospital: Entering Growing Season**  
April 13, 2:30-4:00PM

**Art in the Green**  
April 27-28, 9AM-4PM

**Growing & Thriving**  
May 9, 1-3PM; June 15, 1-3PM; July 14, 10AM-12PM

**Growing & Thriving (Bilingual Spanish/English)**  
Oct 17, 1-3PM

**Orchid Show**  
Sept 14-15, 9AM-4PM

**Grooving Under Glass**  
Sept 26, 6-9PM

**Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)**  
Oct 25, 6-9PM

## Show Dome Shows

Show Dome closed between shows.

**Train Show**  
**Toyblox: Tiny Toy Towns**  
Now through March 17

**Spring Show**  
**Abstracting Georgia O'Keeffe**  
March 30—May 27

**Summer Show**  
June 8—Sept 8



# Making Connections Through the Education Center

Friends of the Domes is a Corporate Work Study Partner of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. Tona, a senior at Cristo Rey, works in the Education Center. Here are some of his thoughts about The Domes.

By Tonatiuh Hernández-Cristerna

Whether you're a resident of Milwaukee County or just visiting, Mitchell Park Domes is a wonderful place to spend time. The Domes is a living museum with beautiful scenery and educational opportunities. Families love the play area in the Education Center and all of the opportunities to learn about and connect to nature. Parents appreciate the care and consideration we take to help kids learn to appreciate the outdoors.

The Education Center is run by Ms. Erica (Education Director), Mr. Pete (Lead Interpretive Educator), and Mr. Sergio (the new Bilingual Interpretive Educator). They design activities and education programs focused

on connecting families to all of The Domes. Ms. Erica describes it as, "a chance to be hands-on in a place where most of the plants are hands off."

The team introduces new activities four times a year aligned to Wisconsin's seasons. There is even a cart of plants for people to touch!

The Ed Center offers bilingual programs as well. Our book nooks feature books about camping and nature in both English and Spanish. Storytimes occur every Wednesday in The



Domes lobby. The last Wednesday of every month, storytime is presented in both Spanish and English.

If you're looking for a rewarding experience with your family, come to The Domes Education Center. You won't find another place like it. ■

# GIFTS UNDER GLASS

## We'll Get You Gardening!

Springtime means gardening! Gifts Under Glass gift shop has helpful gardening books, tools, planters, plants, and even tools and toys to get kids outside and gardening!

Did our "For The Love of Nature" article inspire you to try small space gardening? Are you already a master gardener? Are the kids buzzing about fairy gardens? We have just what you need!

Members always receive a 10% discount and the joy of knowing that every purchase helps support Friends of the Domes as we work to ensure a future for our conservatory. ■



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: HANNA PAUL

By Hanna Paul, Volunteer Extraordinaire

My first visit to The Domes was on a below zero, wintery February day when the sun was shining through the windows. I truly experienced what a gem the Mitchell Park Domes is to Milwaukee. I couldn't believe I had not visited before and immediately researched how to get involved.

For 2 years, I have been volunteering in the Education Center once a month. My passion for The Domes has grown as I witness wonderful points of connection between families, strangers, and even people on dates.

Over time, I connected with the Friends of the Domes leadership team. The Executive Director, Christa, invited me to be a co-chair of this year's Elegant

Auction. I was a bit intimidated by the task, but was assured that I was a great fit, so I said yes. I enjoyed networking and reaching out to local and regional businesses to donate items for the auction. It showed me how treasured The Domes is to our community and has been such a fulfilling way to make an impact on my community.

I am passionate about making the world a better place. Listening to the news can make it feel difficult to understand how anyone could make a difference. Volunteering is a great way to give back and impact my micro-community. Knowing my attendance allows for over 300 individuals to experience the education center feels great!

For information about volunteering, visit [MilwaukeeDomes.org](https://MilwaukeeDomes.org). Click "Get Involved" then click "Volunteer". ■



Elegant Auction Co-Chair, Hanna Paul (right), at the event on February 10, 2024. Pictured next to her is Co-Chair Pat Habanek. The event raised more than \$90,000 to support the mission of Friends of the Domes.

## A Permanent Honor for a Special Loved One

Looking for a special way to honor a loved one? For \$200, you can have a custom message engraved on a paver that will become a permanent part of the walkway in the Show Dome.

Purchase for Mother's Day before March 31, 2024. (Note: we cannot guarantee installation will be complete by any specific date.) Order forms available in the gift shop or online (go to [MilwaukeeDomes.org](https://MilwaukeeDomes.org), click "Get Involved", then click "Purchase a Paver") or use your smartphone to scan the QR code. ■





# FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

## Ideas for Small Space Gardening

*By Justine Miller;  
Horticulturist, Desert  
Dome*

Gardens can take many forms, from expansive plantings to a single patio pot. You don't need a huge space to grow a variety of plants. All you need is imagination and an interest in gardening.

Containers are a great way to display many types of plants in combination. Group a few pots of varied sizes to provide visual interest, with taller pots in the back. Just make sure to be intentional about your container selection. Creating a grouping with too many different container styles or colors will take the attention away from the plants.

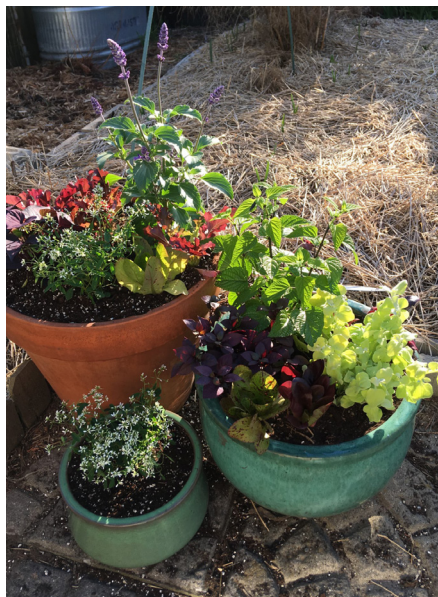
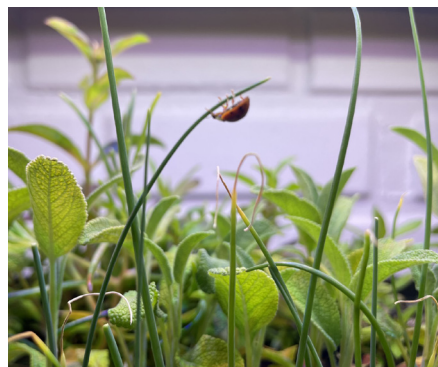
When choosing plants, annuals add dependable, season-long color to container gardens. Perennial flowers and grasses, herbs, vegetables, and even small shrubs and dwarf conifers add color and height.

Tips for selecting plants:

- To keep perennial and woody plants in pots year-round, select species two hardiness zones lower than

yours. Most of southeast Wisconsin is zone 5b, so choose plants that are hardy to zone 3b or lower.

- To incorporate vegetables, select compact varieties or those specifically bred for container growing. 'Tom Thumb' is a common cultivar name for smaller plant selections.



*Herbs in pots are compact, easy and useful. If you have space for bigger pots, combine herbs with other flowers or vegetables. As you get more creative and have a better understanding of the amount of light and availability of water in your space, you may want to explore options for vertical gardening.*

When creating an arrangement in one pot or a grouping, utilize the same design principles that you would for a large landscape planting. The most successful designs will have both variety and repetition, so choose plants with contrasting textures, heights, and colors. However, make sure to have a few of each type of plant, rather than one plant each of completely different species. These simple rules apply to landscapes of any size, so if you have a small plot or space for a pot, you can have a beautiful garden! ■



# FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER

## A Family Fun Fest at The Domes

Join us over spring break for Family Fantasy Quest and travel to a mystical world of fantasy and plants!

On Wed, March 27, 9AM to noon, bring the family for a morning in the realm of fairies, dragons, wizards, and plants. A special program will take place in the lobby at 10:30AM.

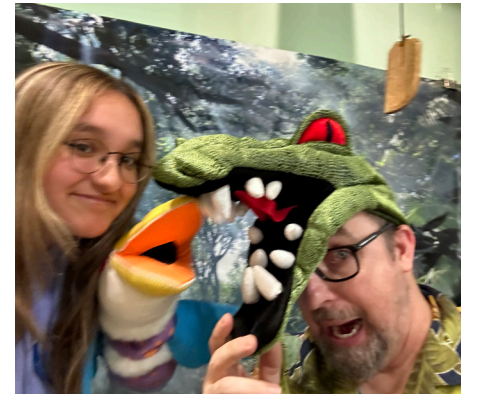
Designed for children ages 3 to 8, activities will include crafts, games, snack, a take-home plant growing activity, a discount in the gift shop, and our whimsical plant collection!

Kids are welcome to dress for their quest—all are welcome, in-

cluding dragons, fairies, knights, wizards, and all fantastical creatures!

Purchase quest kits (one kit per child) at MilwaukeeDomes.org/familyfun or scan the QR code. Cost of the kit does not include admission to The Domes (members always receive free admission). After entering the facility, head to the check-in table to pick up your quest kit.

*Family Fun Fests are a new Friends program to keep kids learning and active during public school breaks. Our first fest, Winter in the Tropics, took place during the last winter break and was a great success! ■*



## Growing and Thriving Workshops

The Education Program hosts this 2-hour workshop that provides the opportunity for participants to dig into their love of nature. This workshop is FREE to people 60 and older who live in the Greater Milwaukee Area (one workshop per participant please). Participants may bring one guest (family member, friend or caregiver) who may also participate in all activities at no charge.

Each workshop includes:

- An educational session on plant care and propagation.

- An opportunity to select a free houseplant and pot to keep. Participants will repot the plant during the workshop.
- A tour of one of the domes.

*Thanks to Bader Philanthropies for providing financial support of this program. Pre-registration is required. See "Upcoming Events" on page 2 for dates. To learn more, visit our website at MilwaukeeDomes.org/olderadults or call (414) 257-5608. ■*







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## ART IN THE GREEN; APRIL 27-28 MILWAUKEE'S FAVORITE ART SHOW RETURNS!

Join us in sunny Greenhouse No. 7 at the Mitchell Park Domes for one of Milwaukee's most popular art shows, Art in the Green. Art and hand-crafted products in a wide variety of mediums as well as local cuisine will be available for purchase at this two-day indoor event, April 27-28, 2024, 9AM-4PM.

Enjoy live entertainment in the Show Dome while taking in the spring floral show, fittingly, a tribute to the nature-loving artist, Georgia O'Keeffe. Admission is free for Friends of the Domes members! For non-members, tickets for Art in the Green are available in advance.

Visit [MilwaukeeDomes.org/AIG](https://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/AIG) or scan the QR code. ■

