



30+ Years in Lake Claire From Tie-dye to Khaki: Dr. Patricia Emerson

Every neighborhood has its own rhythm and personality. I began this series because I wanted our Lake Claire neighborhood experiences to be enriched by the perspectives of the longtime residents – and to help you to picture how wonderful the neighborhood has been over the last quarter century and more. I started the series interviewing friends and neighbors. As I broadened the pool of subjects to other people I found myself being enriched by the range of people I interviewed, those who grew up in the neighborhood and remained in their childhood homes (such as Kathie Ryan and the late Rita Treon), talented musicians living quietly under our noses (e.g., Bill Fleming and today's subject, Patricia Emerson), those who moved here in the '70s and raised their families (past columns have featured Susan Beeching, Marilyn Schertz, and Doug Barlow), 30-somethings who grew up here (e.g., Lorna Mauney-Brodek featured in 2013), and many more.

Dr. Patricia Deane Griffin Emerson moved to Lake Claire in August 1983, into her passive solar home on Gordon Avenue with

heat-pump backup, designed by Kelly Jordan (whom some may know played a huge part in the revitalization of Little 5 Points in the '70s). The house is allergy controlled with tile floors



Patsy Deane Griffin Emerson (R) 7th grade graduation, Oakhurst, with friend Judith Echols Hearden, in front of Patricia's home on W. Hill Street in 1947

and other passive-solar features, is a roomy one-story home, and

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Arts and Community Collide in L5P

Have you heard about Little Five Arts Alive? L5AA is a project formed from a partnership between Horizon Theatre Company and the L5P Community Improvement District (CID). It's supported by a grant from ArtPlace America.

On the weekends starting this month, through November, theatre artists, dancers, musicians, circus artists, community groups, church choirs, and acts of all sorts will animate the outdoor spaces of L5P. The two major areas utilized will be Findley Plaza, at the corner of Euclid and Moreland, and Davis Plaza, between

the Clothing Warehouse and the Corner Tavern.

By combining ideas from the surrounding neighborhoods, local arts organizations, and L5P businesses, the goal is to enliven and strengthen the area while spotlighting the tremendous arts community we have in our area and in Atlanta. This is the brainchild of Horizon Theatre founder Lisa Adler. Support from Candler Park resident Don Bender, as well as the rest of the CID, has made this audacious dream a reality. **Lake Claire resident Boyd Baker** and theatre-maker

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Good Eats: *Spice to Table* and *La Calavera* —Clarion Corrections

by Beth Damon

This is an official apology from the Clarion for some mistakes last time in the article on restaurant owners on Gordon Avenue—I was given wrong information, including *Spice to Table's* chef/owner's name, which should have been ASHA GOMEZ. Suggestion—let's all make up for it by going soon to *Spice to Table*, on Auburn Avenue, for breakfast or lunch (open daily until 3

p.m.). And try *La Calavera* on E. College near Sam's Crossing for delicious breads and pastries – what we printed had nothing to do with owner Eric Arillo's life (he never wanted to be an engineer—he was always a natural-born baker). These are two talented cooks, who along with their partners, are a great Lake Claire resource; let's visit their eateries soon. Apologies, y'all!

Blast From the Past: Some History of Lake Claire

Clarion Special Report

Approximately a third of Lake Claire is the old estate of General John Brown Gordon. His estate was a significant contributing factor to the early eastward growth of Atlanta as early as the 1880s. In 1871, the Gordons acquired 86.5 acres from John Kirkpatrick, one of the heirs of the original 1100-acre Kirkpatrick plantation. They named this Atlanta estate "Sutherland" (see box on Page 9), the surname of Mrs. Gordon's maternal grandmother, and built their first house there.

The Sutherland Estate's acreage covered the core of what is now Lake Claire (and originally included part of Kirkwood). Sutherland was, roughly, north of DeKalb Avenue, east of the back yards of Mathews and Ridgewood, south of and below Ponce de Leon, and west of the back yards of Claire Drive, sloping over to Howard Circle and DeKalb Place. The Gordons built their home on a knoll which was alongside the Decatur Wagon Road, just north of the Georgia Railroad (now the site of the Horizon School and the Lake Claire Pool). The original house was totally destroyed by fire in 1897 and was replaced

by a house with a virtually identical floor plan but with a more ornate exterior.

Numerous stories of fascinating visitors and guests along with evenings of piano playing and singing are referred to in accounts by Gordon descendants. (The Gordons' larger farm, "Beachwood," was in Taylor County, on the Flint River, near LaGrange.)

As for the General, as you know if you have ever viewed the stat-

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

APRIL showers us with...

...great *exhibits* all month—check out the Michael C. Carlos Museum; one of many exhibits worth making the effort to see is “Doorway to an Enlightened World—The Tibetan Shrine”; *plays*—check out *The Horizon* (www.horizontheatre.com); and Spring has sprung—visit the Botanical Gardens (atlantabg.org)—full of blooming tulips and daffs right now. **AND every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday starting in April: Little Five Points – Arts Live! – See article Page 1.**

It's also School Library and National Poetry month!

2 Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle (only one this month), sunset to 11:00 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend!

6, 9 & 10 Atlanta Braves! Catch a game while they're still at Turner Field.

8 DeKalb History Center invites you to a Civil War Walking tour of downtown Decatur. 3-4 pm, meet at Historic Courthouse, 101 E. Court Sq., in the lobby. www.dekalbhistory.org to register.

8-10 Atlanta Dogwood Festival, 80th annual! Music, artists' market including high school art exhibition, more. Family-friendly entertainment—www.dogwood.org

10 Spring Community Work Day at LC Land Trust! 1:00-5:00 p.m. Free pizza. See p. 11

12 The Sierra Club, 2nd Tuesdays, sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta

16 LCLT Peace & Love Spring Fest, see details Page 11

20 Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit, 3rd Wednesday of each month

21 Lake Claire monthly meeting—and every 3rd Thursday, in the Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. Pizza provided free from Savage (**THANKS, SAVAGE!**)

22 Chag Sameach. Erev Pesach v Shabbat, first seder.

22 Earth Day! Let's recycle!

22-24 Nearby Druid Hills—Tour of Homes & Gardens and artists' market, druidhillstour.org

22 through May 1 New Orleans Jazz Fest!—great lineup—www.nojazzfest.com

23-24 11th Annual Atlanta Arab Festival. Enjoy a week-end filled with Arabic flavors, sights and sounds. Great music and food every time/don't miss the Arabic coffee. www.alifinstitute.org/index.php/events-programs/atlanta-arab-festival

MAY 1: Mary Lin Rocket Run!—the Sunday of the Inman Park Festival weekend. The 5K starts at 9 a.m., and the 1-mile starts at 10 a.m.

Send calendar entries for the APRIL 2016 Clarion by APRIL 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org****

Save the Date: June 5!

Mark your calendars for another LCN/LCLT BBQ in the Cator Woolford Gardens this year. David Gelin and his partner will do the BBQ again, and we have Miss Ladybug lined up to entertain the kids. She likes to have

a couple of volunteer helpers, so see if you can find some. If you have any ideas you're willing to share/coordinate let us know. Last year the silent auction made over \$600.

Mosquito Control Helps Reduce the Risk of Zika and West Nile Virus Infections

by James Hill

Spring and summer are approaching, and in Georgia it's not complete without lots of heat, lots of humidity, and lots of **mosquitoes**. Mosquito-borne diseases are on a comeback. Although there is very little you can do about the heat and humidity, there are a few simple steps that you can take to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home.

West Nile Virus was active in the mosquito population of DeKalb County in 2015. Adding that to the potential of the Zika virus spreading to Georgia this summer, we are increasingly at risk of mosquito-borne disease. The potential spread of the Zika virus to Georgia is especially of concern for pregnant women because of the Zika virus's link to microcephaly.

Each of us can do his or her part by getting back to basics on mosquito control, in order to reduce the primary means of transmission of these viruses. Lake Claire residents can help

reduce the mosquito population in our neighborhood by reducing mosquito breeding sites on our own properties. According to Juanette Willis, a mosquito expert with the DeKalb County Board of Health, “The best way to eliminate mosquitoes is to get rid of the places they can breed. By simply eliminating the stagnant water around your home, you will have an enormous impact on the mosquito population.” The most common breeding sites include bird baths, clogged gutters, unused wading pools, bottle caps, buckets, flower pots, and pet dishes—any water holding containers, even very small containers. By scrubbing and replacing the water in things like bird baths and pet dishes **at least twice a week**, you can prevent thousands of mosquitoes from being born. Typically the types of mosquitos that spread these viruses travel a mile or less, so by taking action as a community, we can significantly reduce the mosquito population in our neighborhood.

F • O • C • U • S O • N E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

Atlanta Public School Turnaround Strategy

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

Since the 2014-2015 school year, the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) have been trying to raise achievement and consolidate schools with smaller populations so that money isn't being wasted in keeping these schools open, but instead, reinvested into the students. This latest initiative is called the **Turnaround Strategy**.

The Turnaround Strategy is the strategy APS is using to help turn around underperforming schools, to reorganization of APS as a district (specifically looking at underperforming schools), and to better allocate funds where they are needed. The Turnaround Strategy is mainly focused on the schools identified by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) as eligible for the state's proposed takeover called the Opportunity School District (OSD). Of the 26 schools in APS deemed eligible by GaDOE, APS has chosen to focus on the Washington, Carver, and Douglass Clusters.

How are these underperforming schools chosen? College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) which has four assessed components: achievement, progress, gap, and challenge. Schools that performed for three consecutive years under 60 are eligible for the proposed OSD. A high-risk school is one that has performed two out of the three consecutive years at below 60. As a reference, schools that performed with a CCRPI score of 75 for three consecutive years are considered strong performing schools.

Interesting Fact: 44 out of 73 (60%) of APS schools are OSD eligible or at high risk. Of those schools, 11 out of 14 safe/strong schools are within the Grady and North Atlanta Cluster.

In the blue box at right is a list of the guiding principles that APS uses to help make decisions and recommendations when looking at different clusters across the district:

In addition to these guiding principles, APS will address the academic and social emotion needs of these students through tutoring; additional math and

reading specialists; extended learning time; Spring break academies; recruitment of school leadership that specializes in turning schools around; targeted professional development for teachers; and implementing social/emotional learning curriculum in schools.

So, what does this look like?

(1) Partnerships: APS began looking for potential partnerships with organizations that have had extensive experience in turning around underperforming schools. As a result The Kindezi Schools, Purpose Built Schools, a partner organization to

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Improve, through direct and/or indirect means:
 - The quality of instruction provided to students
 - Students' experience in school, increasing their engagement and hope
- Help low-performing schools to make significant progress in both the short term (next 18 months) and long term
- Demonstrate to the state APS's commitment and ability to improve the quality of students' outcomes and educational experience, thereby reducing the likelihood of OSD takeover
- Increase equity in the system
- Include families, communities, and staff as partners
- Be sensitive to differences in communities' and schools' assets, needs, and current situation
- Offer a balance of proven strategies and innovative solutions
- Be determined and implemented based on an open and transparent process
- Include a plan for implementation that is sustained, sufficiently resourced, and high-quality

Charles R. Drew Charter School, and Rensselaerville Institute's School Turnaround are the three finalists.

Starting in the fall of 2016, Purpose Built Schools will assume responsibility for Thomasville Heights. It will be a one-year contract, and if the school shows progress, Purpose Built Schools will have an option for 13 renewable years. The money APS would use to run this school will be given to Purpose Built Schools to use as they see fit. In the fall of 2017, Purpose Built Schools will assume responsibility for Slater Elementary School and Price Middle School, and in the fall of 2018 it will also take on Carver High School. Beginning in the fall of 2017, Kindezi will take responsibility for Gideons Elementary School with a one-year renewable contract with the option for 4 additional consecutive years. There is also a \$16.5

8th Annual Rocket Run Blasts Off Sunday, May 1, at Inman Park Festival

by Eric Goldberg

Come out **May 1**, and run a beautiful course the Sunday morning of Inman Park Festival—and support Mary Lin, and its students and community. The funds raised through the Rocket Run will support the Outdoor Classroom as well as fund the ongoing work of the Foundation to help Mary Lin Elementary School achieve its educational goals. To register for the race, go to the Rocket Run website: www.rocketrun.org.



rocketrun.org. 5K Start Time: 9:00 a.m.; 1-Mile Rocket Blast for Kids: 9:45 a.m.

Race Start and End Point: Freedom Park on Euclid Avenue across from Waverly Way in Inman Park

Washington Cluster: Bethune Elementary School will close.; A new innovative K-8 Science Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) academy will open in the former Kennedy Middle School; Kennedy Middle School will undergo a facility improvement this summer of close to \$2 million from current SPLOST funds. A \$10 million larger scale renovation is planned with the 2017 SPLOST; Connally Elementary School will merge with Venetian Hills Elementary with all students attending Connally due to under enrollment at both campuses. Connally will undergo improvements this summer with the hope for a \$23.5 million budget under SPLOST 2017; Venetian Hills is being considered for an early childhood center; The residents of the English Avenue neighborhood, who currently attend schools in the Grady Cluster, will be grandfathered in to staying in the Grady Cluster; however, those students yet to enroll in the Grady Cluster will be redistricted to the Washington Cluster.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to ask me, Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair, anzoid@yahoo.com, or our Board of Education member, Matt Westmoreland: mwestmoreland@atlanta.k12.ga.us.

million proposal for renovations for Gideons Elementary.

Rensselaerville Institute will provide support and professional development to existing principals and teaching staff of up to ten schools (that have not been selected yet).

(2) Cluster Reorganizations:

Carver Cluster: Carver High School will be taken over by Purpose Built Schools in the fall of 2018.

Douglass Cluster: Grove Park Intermediate School will merge with Woodson Primary School on the Grove Park campus since both schools are significantly under-enrolled; The 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is hoping to be used for up to \$18.5 million in renovations to Grove Park; Woodson will potentially become an early childhood center.

Trash Talk

by Roger Swift

Back in the day, our neighborhood garbage collection was done via shared back alleyways located to the rear of Lake Claire and Candler Park homes. The alleys served not only to conceal unsightly garbage, but also where cars were stored and utilities were placed. This practice left pleasing home fronts dedicated to sidewalks and porches for friendly neighbor socializing.

Several decades ago, a transition was made to the current collection policy along the curb using wheeled Herby Curbies. Regretfully, many residents now consistently fail to remove their carts in a timely manner, if at all. On a recent Friday afternoon, there were no fewer than 22 Herby Curbies strewn along Harold Avenue, left from the previous Monday pick-up day. Along with recycle carts, that totals 44 large and unsightly containers left on the public right-of-way on just a single street in Lake Claire.

Residents may not know that a City of Atlanta ordinance requires: "Containers shall not be placed at the curbside before 7 a.m. on the day preceding the collection day and shall be removed from the curbside before 7 p.m. on the collection day." Violations of the ordinance are subject to citations. The containers should be moved removed from the street out of civic pride. Our neighborhood has so much for which to be proud. A recent Clarion submission suggested that each resident contribute to beautifying and distinguishing Lake Claire by planting yellow daffodils between the sidewalks and curbs along our streets. I suggest we also remove the trash cans from our streets.



Thanks for Paying 2016 Neighborhood Dues

Some recent dues payers are Sue McAvoy, Donald Brash, Annsley Klehr, Ben and Patricia Farmer, Janie Wright, Joe Agee, Susan Jacobson, James and Andrea Hill, McGill on Lakeshore, Lane Fuller, Kathy Ryan (vs Kathie Ryan), Jim & Sara Rockaway, Véronique Perrot, Victor Breedveld, and Jeffrey Rosenberg. If we have missed anyone who paid his or her dues who hasn't been featured in another Clarion, please be sure to let us know at editor@lakeclaire.org. We are happy to include you in the newspaper in a future month. Your moment of fame! See your name in print by paying your dues! Seriously, we all want to support our many wonderful neighborhood initiatives, including green spaces, worthy organizations, fun events... *How to Pay?*—Mail a check to Lake Claire Neighbors, c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, or go to www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm. Help keep neighborhood coffers in the black. If you haven't, and if you are able, please pay \$20 yearly dues. Just like with National Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. And remember, you can receive a Lake Claire Banner package deal for \$50.00 if combined with annual dues!



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30+ Years in Lake Claire —Dr. Patricia Emerson

Continued from page 1

minimizes energy costs due to the thick walls. On a recent Sunday, I sat with Patricia in her comfortable, open-design living room, the angles calculated so that the summer sun ends at the window sills, and winter sun floods the room. And I do mean comfortable and inviting. Full of kids' playspaces (Patricia is a nanny and a "chosen" grandmother), unique art, and books.

We talked about Patricia's life and in particular her life in Lake Claire over the past 33 years, and though we just met, I felt I'd known her for years. She remembers when the "Sutherland Subdivision" (Gordon Avenue, Oxford Avenue, and Sutherland Terrace) used to have a little newsletter and knew each other and kept each other apprised of goings-on. She used to be involved in LCN and other neighborhood activities, but at 80+ she has found that life goes better with early evenings. And that is also why she just retired this year as a violin player with the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra.

Growing up, Patricia (aka Pat-sy, see picture on page 1) attended the Oakhurst School and later Decatur Girls' High School. She took beginning violin lessons at age 12 in seventh grade because

the high school needed more string players; they recruited students such as Patricia who were interested and talented. Patricia says with a wry smile, "Don't be too impressed; there were no auditions back then." She started learning on her father's \$5 Sears & Roebuck violin. Fast forward a few years, and after marriage at age 18, she played with the Atlanta Civic Orchestra and the Holy Trinity Orchestra.

And now, fast forward yet again. Dr. Emerson has three grown children (one is a musician; they all play instruments). She has a Ph.D. in Psychology and is retired from being a clinical psychologist in the Georgia Mental Health Hospital system. After retirement, she joined the Emory Orchestra, the Agnes Scott Orchestra, and in 2001, the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra. They recently honored her 15-year musical career with them, and they look forward to having her as a continuing ACSO volunteer.

There are not a huge number of people who have lived in Lake Claire as long as Patricia Emerson has, but among them are other Gordon residents Terri Stewart, Iris Hale, Stuart Lecroy, and Alice Bliss.

by Beth Damon (26 years in LC)



Emerson (left) with author B. Damon

Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Psst, psst, over here in the bushes. I need to ask you: how wild do you want to be in Lake Claire? Oh, excuse me, I meant, "how wild do you want Lake Claire to be?"

I don't want to influence your answer, but I do want to confide a few things to you. I don't want to bore you with the downward spiral of our planet nor the declining populations of our flora and fauna. We all know that. All I want to do is mention some things that we, the top predator, can do to help things out. OK, those who are willing to take their heads

versity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) did a study which found that 16.5% of bird and mammal pollinators (including bats, marsupials, monkeys, lemurs, and rodents) and 40% of insect pollinators (bees and butterflies) are **threatened with extinction**. The main causes of this are pesticide use, habitat loss, climate change, and industrial agricultural practices. Oh, oh, I feel my head going into the sand. I didn't mean to talk about all this... but, back to the point and hurry!!!! There is not much time (or space) left.



Lake Claire yard is Audubon-certified wildlife habitat

out of the sand, read on (and let's get out of the bushes)!

Well, here it is: PLANT GARDENS FOR POLLINATORS! Extra, extra, read all about it. Let's get our hands dirty.

Most birds, butterflies, bees, wasps, and other pollinators require habitats that provide food, water, shelter, and a place to raise young. Such habitats work best with native plants and no pesticides. A garden like this can be a messy proposition, but that's what helps it to work. Is your head still out of the sand?

To the point: If we plant right, we can do (at least) two things: Help save the pollinators and stop the need for pesticides. Recently, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodi-

A pollinator garden can be a beautiful spot with lots of colorful flowers and creatures. Annuals such as cosmos, zinnias, and sunflowers can attract pollinators quickly. Plant nectar and pollen-producing species, some interspersed with your vegetables. All this, in addition to attracting pollinators, will also attract beneficial insects, i.e., those that eat the bugs you'd otherwise use pesticides to get rid of. Let some things go to flower, as beneficial insects will love that. Keep the soil covered with organic matter. Most beneficial bugs don't care for dust. There is so much more to know. Take a look at www.finegardening.com/attractingbeneficial-insects.

Cont. on p. 8

Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, January 24 - February 13 (3 weeks)



Safety on Dekalb Avenue

Auto Theft

300 block Southerland Pl., January 25, from street: 2008 White Ford/EC1, containing landscaping equipment

Other Larceny

1900 block DeKalb Ave., January 28, from school, iPhone 6 stolen

Note: victim's phone was taken when she left the classroom leaving the phone on her desk.

1700 block DeKalb Ave., February 7, from residence – AC unit stolen.

Note: neighbor notified victim that unit was missing from the back of the residence.

That's all, folks! Help make our neighborhood even safer by joining the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol at www.cplcpatrol.com. Edgewood Retail District's 24 hour security number: 678-618-2308. Join www.nextdoor.com/join to receive up to date security information from your neighbors. Regarding 311 non-emergency calls (street lights out, sidewalk issues, potholes, etc.): Call 311 from a land line or 404-546-0311 from a cell phone..

While waiting to turn left onto Arizona from Dekalb Ave, a Lake Claire resident was almost involved in two major accidents due to carelessness and impatience. In both cases, drivers got into the reversible ("suicide") lane to pass the car ahead taking a left; in both cases, head-on accidents were avoided, but barely. We are ALL in a hurry, especially during rush hour, but please take caution at the intersections with DeKalb. It takes longer to be involved in an accident (and 'on-purpose' in these instances) than it does to wait through another light. (Longer conversation on this with many other examples of accidents and near-accidents have been discussed on [NextDoor.com/Lake Claire](http://NextDoor.com/LakeClaire))

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Book
Naked Online is
 written by former
 LC residents;
 see page 10.

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Arts and Community Collide in L5P

Continued from page 1

Rachel Parish are the co-managers of this 9-month project.

So what does this all mean? Ideally, what has traditionally just been an area that you pass by on your way to a shop, restaurant, or theatre will become an engaging part of the community. Ever been to downtown Asheville? Boulder? New Orleans? Each of those cities has welcomed street performances, buskers, and artists as a way to create something magical that brings life to the streetscapes and businesses. Atlanta isn't known for such street performances, but maybe this is the first piece of a puzzle that will make all of Atlanta more artsy and entertaining.

What kind of acts will there be? The goal is to reflect what the local community wants. Everything from buskers playing music to dance workshops to school choirs to storytellers to professional performers is imag-

ined. Ideally, programs that engage the local community and the folks visiting L5P will be the spark needed to see the plazas in a new light. **Right now submissions are being accepted online at www.LittleFiveArtsAlive.com**, as there are many weekend slots to fill between April and November. Do you have a creative idea? Don't hesitate to submit something.

The mission of Little Five Arts Alive is to provide programming that connects our community, inspires hope and positive change, and is accessible to diverse audiences in and around Little Five Points. Your feedback is always wanted and expected in order to learn what the community wants and aspires L5P to be in the future.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Boyd Baker or Rachel Parish at info@littlefiveartsalive.com.—Ed.

ART FOR PEACE

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VOLUNTEER

Want to have some fun? Drop us a note and we'll find a way for you to help with our wonderful weekends. Whether helping with planning, greeting artists, or spreading the word, we welcome your involvement.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide programming that connects our community, inspires hope and positive change, and is accessible to diverse audiences through a grant from ArtPlace America.

Recent Tree Planting in Lake Claire

On March 26, Lake Claire and Trees Atlanta teamed up to conclude the 2015/2016 planting season, on LC's state streets, DeKalb Avenue, and the Land Trust. Volunteers met Trees Atlanta at 9 a.m. on the Arizona Avenue side of the Lake Claire Land Trust, to learn how and why Trees Atlanta plants trees

in Atlanta, and then they sent us off to beautify our neighborhood. Volunteers joined us from all across Atlanta (see picture of nice Marietta teenagers). Please see www.treesatlanta.org for more information on the organization and its programs.



Trees Atlanta tutorial before working

Nice Teenager Volunteers

April into May in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Because April is such a busy month for Atlanta gardeners, now is a good time to think about our bodies and their parts, unfortunately not as easily replaced as a broken shovel or a dead rose bush. Just as with any physical sport, gardeners need to warm up and wind down before and after working our plots, especially after a winter of less activity. Searching the Internet, I found many back exercises and yoga poses to prepare us for an active season with our plants. The first day of digging up a plot or shoveling compost reminds us to do this.

After over 60 years of gardening, I have developed several ways to continue a beloved hobby despite aging. Far too many people of all ages bend over in the garden instead of kneeling or squatting; however, the knees I inherited from my ancestors were never made for squatting. The problem with kneeling in the garden is not the surface—you can throw down any number of things to kneel on—it is the getting up and down. The side bars of the Easy Kneeler and its progeny enable me not only to garden for hours but also to perform many chores at floor level in our house, kneeling and standing as necessary.



Losing the ability to kneel is very serious. It handicaps you in all areas of life. I have noticed that friends who have knee-replacement surgery, a wonderful operation that many of us will come to eventually, recover only the movements they had at the time of surgery. So dancing Debby can still kneel after her surgery, while others tell me the dire consequences if they try the move they had already lost. I urge all of you to retain your ability to get down near the soil and plants through using whatever tools will help you get there. And do not knock Downward Facing Dog either as a non-kneeling method of rising from the floor.

Spring is definitely here. The first full moon

after the Equinox was March 23, so it should be safe to plant without protection any time in April, giving things time to grow before heat hits at the end of May. Actually, as I write this, the temperature is 83 degrees, but usually April evens out with average highs in the 70s. Be sure that the tender seedlings you have grown indoors get a chance to sit in a part shade situation for a few days before exposing them to full sun in their permanent beds.

In addition to the vegetable seeds listed last month, you can sow Swiss chard, dill, bush beans, corn, and cucumbers directly in your squares or rows. I urge you (and myself) to plant squash as early as possible in an attempt to outgrow the squash borer; if you do not plant it early, I suggest starting plants indoors in mid-July and setting them out in August. A year when I did that got me a nice crop, riddled only with pickleworms, easily flushed by dunking them in a sink full of water. Sometimes birds will pull up early corn sprouts to eat the seed kernels; a loose cover of wire or Reemay will prevent this. I once had a cat who would pull anything that looked like grass. She has gone to her reward.

Direct seed some of your flowers this month, especially cleome, Sara and Heather, but also the large seeds of zinnia, moonflower, tithonia, cosmos, and nasturtium. For the expensive zinnia hybrids, like the Profusion series, I usually start seeds indoors along with marigolds, salvia, vinca, and petunias, but it is getting a little late for some of those who require a long growing season before bloom. Read your seed packets. Speaking of seeds, I had great luck back in February with some flower seeds that were one or two years old. It seems that the foil packets used by Park Seeds and Stokes really do make a difference in germination even in my warm, moist house.

When you go to the nurseries or hardware stores for flowering plants, try something different. I am going to attempt the perennial *Geum* or avens again despite having killed them more than once. Mostly blooming in shades of orange, they are available at the Lazy S's Farm Nursery in Virginia, Bluestone Perennials in Ohio, and the Digging Dog Nursery in California among other places. I am especially looking for more rosy than scarlet shades but know I could not possibly grow *Geum triflorum* or Prairie Smoke, a rosy pink, because it likes the cooler temperatures of zone 6 and a low humidity. I have been warned to stay away from species *chiloense* and *coccineum* as short-lived, especially in our wet winters. However, there is a new group out called the Cocktail Series, and that includes 'Cosmopolitan' (cream and rose) and 'Flames of Passion' (a true non-orange

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 5

For best results, start small and learn along the way. Plant a few milkweed, and then look for Monarch butterflies or their larva on the plant. Plant a variety of nectar and pollinating-producing flowers along the sides of your yard or around your vegetable garden. Put a bird bath in. Put up some feeders. Little by little, year by year you can make your entire yard a pollinator heaven. Eventually, make a mud bath for butterflies—some males of the Swallowtail species love them. Let some of your bushes grow dense enough for birds to nest in them. Put up a birdhouse or a bat house.

The internet is full of resources! Audubon and the National Wildlife Foundation offer certification for wildlife habitats (e.g., picture page 5). Georgia Perimeter College Native Plant Garden (www.gpcnativegarden.org) has native plants for sale and gardens where you can see them.

If we plant enough gardens we might get Lake Claire certified as a **Community Wildlife Habitat**. And if your head is still in the sand, I'm shouting down that this even may make our neighborhood more desirable and keep real estate prices up. Whoops, who said that? I'm heading back into the bushes.

Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

(from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, submitted by Pen Sherwood)

These are directions for making safe hummingbird food:

1. Mix 1 part sugar with 4 parts water, and bring to a boil to kill any bacteria or mold present.
2. Cool mixture, and fill your feeder.
3. Extra sugar water may be stored in a refrigerator.
4. **Red dye should not be added.**

red) that I may try this year. I suspect the kinds best suited to the humid South finish flowering by early summer. This is true of most perennials.

And, alas, the squirrels have made a full recovery this spring from whatever decimated their numbers last year. At times like this I still mourn the demise of Samantha (1981-2001), a cat who never permitted a squirrel's paw to touch ground in our garden.

Please let Elizabeth know of your gardening experiences, albeit knee injuries or plant successes, at knowltonew@earthlink.net. Ed.

Blast from the Past

Continued from page 1

ues which surround the State Capitol building, there is only one of the honored citizens there who is sitting on horseback. That is General John Brown Gordon. The bronze statue, dedicated in 1907, is located on the northwest corner of the Capitol grounds. It was sculpted by Solon H. Borglum, younger brother of Gutzon Borglum (the Stone Mountain and Mount Rushmore sculptor). The General was a very controversial figure in Georgia history, but he was revered by Georgia's citizens and by veterans of the Confederate cause. Born in 1832 in northwest Georgia near Gordon County (so named in honor of someone other than John B.), Gordon attended the University of Georgia Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1853. He became a partner in the firm of (Basil H.) Overby and (Logan E.) Bleckley (eventual Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court and for whom Bleckley County was named in 1912).

Eventually, each of these three lawyers married one of the three daughters of General Hugh A. Haralson (state militia officer and congressman, and for whom Haralson County is named). Gordon married Fanny Rebecca Haralson (from LaGrange, in 1854). When the War broke out, Gordon organized a Georgia militia. Since the corps had adopted a raccoon hat as the only common part of their uniform, they became known as the "Raccoon

Roughs." Gordon was named lieutenant colonel and, after the corps joined the Confederate Army, he was promoted to the rank of Major General, and by the end of the war, he was in charge of one half of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Gordon was one of only two civilians to have risen to such a high rank in the Confederacy and had become a close confidant of Robert E. Lee. Gordon was wounded a total of seven times in the War, five of those wounds occurring in one battle at Sharpsburg (Antietam). After the fifth wound, he fell off of his horse, and accounts indicate that he would have drowned in a pool of his own blood in his hat had not an earlier bullet made a hole in his hat, which allowed the blood to drain from it.

As was common for the wives of officers in those times, Fanny Gordon followed the General's corps to the various battles to which he was assigned. She left their children in the care of relatives so that she could travel freely by his side. Gordon was recommended for promotion to the rank of Lt. General, but the War ended before the promotion was award-



The late Grandma Gordon

ed. After leading the Confederate troops in the surrender procession at Appomattox, he urged his men (paraphrasing) "to bear their trials bravely, go home in peace, obey the laws, rebuild the country, and work for the 'weal' and harmony of the republic."

Upon his return to Atlanta, Gordon opened his law practice again. Between 1873 and 1897 Gordon was elected U.S. Senator three times and served two terms as Governor, each term being two years in length. He was active in the Democratic National Party, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, founded a Presbyterian church in Kirkwood, and was a member of the unofficial gubernatorial "Bourbon Triumvirate" -- along with Alfred Colquitt and Joseph E. Brown (it did not matter which of the three was serving



Hello...Safe Journey— Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Birthdays:

Happy birthday on April 2, Tyler Bliss, Leonardo, turns 8

Happy birthday on April 9, Benton Carper, Leonardo

Happy birthday on April 10, Kelly Crutcher, Hardendorf

Happy birthday on April 12, Aarini Kakkar, Southerland Terrace

Happy birthday on April 15, Jim Wilson (& Leonardo di Vinci), Delaware

SWEET 16 on 16!!!! Happy b'day, Aliza Fleming—VERY sweet and very 16! And on April 16! Cool!

Happy birthday on April 17, Joe Agee, Harold, our esteemed LCN President

Happy birthday on April 18, Deacon Baker, Leonardo, turns 15

Happy birthday on April 19, Emily Allen, Harold (sorry we said last month it

was March! So you get 2 mentions)

Happy birthday on April 21, Jamie McGill, Delaware Ave, turns 13 (Pre-teenhood has officially ended, teenhood has arrived!)

Happy birthday on April 21, Jennifer Meyer-Carper, Leonardo

Happy birthday on April 23, Dan Geller, Marlbrook

Happy birthday on April 28, Sara McGill, top cookie seller in LC, Delaware, turns 11 (the big one-one)

Happy birthday on April 30, Beth van Arkel, Southerland Terrace.

*Please help us make this feature inclusive. Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events / important rights of passage, etc., for the month of MAY—and beyond—send to editor@lakeclaire.org. **Deadline APRIL 15 for the MAY newspaper.***

The spelling "Sutherland" is not a typo—the street signs saying "Southerland" are wrong, according to former Lake Claire neighborhood historian Bob Schreiber.

as Governor; their collective interests always had a voice). And he was heavily involved in the construction of the Georgia Pacific and Western Railroad from Atlanta to Birmingham

There are too many stories regarding General Gordon's activities after the Civil War even to summarize here other than to say that he seems to have been a peacemaker -- of sorts. The General died in 1904 at the age of 72. He was buried in Oakland Cemetery. His wife, Fanny, survived him until her death in 1930 at age 93. The estate was gradually subdivided into the **Sutherland Subdivision** (Gordon Avenue, Oxford Avenue, and Southerland Terrace) and the **Massell Subdivision** (Claire Drive and Lakeshore Drive). The house fell into disrepair after years of neglect and, after failed efforts to save the house for its historical value, it was demolished in 1942. (In more recent memory, neighborhood residents fought to save a 150-year old pecan tree in the Sutherland Subdivision, dubbed "Grandma" Gordon, on the corner of Gordon and Dekalb; see also "Five Rights and What's

Cont. on p. 10

New Book Release

A “must” for those venturing into or already awash in the online dating pool

by Lanette Cousineau

John Cargile and Dee Wagner, my former Lake Claire neighbors on Mathews Avenue, with co-author Kathy Jernigan, recently published their book about online dating relationships, entitled, *Naked Online: A Dozen Ways to Grow from Internet Dating*.

Dee Wagner, a therapist for over 20 years and professional choreographer and dance/drama teacher for over 30 years (including directing the junior high and high school musicals at Paideia), wrote this book to chronicle her unique perspective on the Internet dating journey. Dee met John through an online dating site, and in large part because of her therapeutic understanding as outlined in her book, a long-standing relationship resulted. Together they collaborated with Ms. Jernigan, a former FBI agent, combining their experiences in

computer dating. Many will find a mindful perspective that helps manage the frustration of online relationships.

The title, *Naked Online*, captures the potential online dating has to leave one feeling so naked, so vulnerable that one reverts to primitive defenses as the “out” route. The goal of the book is two-fold: 1) to assist the reader in sorting through relational issues—balancing self and other; and 2) to learn how to stop the desire to control what is beyond one’s control, relaxing reflexes, and giving space for reason.

Take advantage of this valuable insight and healthy approach to tackle the online dating world! Available online on Amazon and on their website which promotes a fuller, richer life, *LustierLife.com*.

Annual Lake Claire Land Trust Easter Egg Hunt Great Success on Sunday, March 27

Once again, the Lake Claire Land Trust held an Easter Egg Hunt and brunch. It was a fun morning for all ages, from hiding the eggs, finding the eggs, to a celebratory brunch.

photos by Danielle Carter



Blast from the Past

Continued from page 9

Left” by Pete Peteet in last month’s Clarion. Grandma Gordon was one of the last remaining trees from the Sutherland Estate, built in the early 1870s by former Georgia Gov. John B. Gordon. See picture page 9.)

During the Lake Claire and surrounding communities’ early years of development, many homes were built in the Queen Anne, East Lake, Arts and Crafts, and Victorian Folk styles, primarily along Howard Street between Howard and College Avenue, as well as in the Sutherland Terrace subdivision built on the site along Gordon Avenue, Oxford Avenue, and Sutherland Terrace just north of DeKalb Avenue. Part of this area was originally part of the Kirkwood neighborhood. The 1970s-era MARTA east rail line severed Sutherland Terrace permanently from the Kirkwood community to the south.

After a few decades of growth, the craftsman-style two-story American Foursquare homes and crafts bungalows became more prominent in Lake Claire. From the 1920s through the close of the 1930s, Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods continued to grow, loved for the convenience to both Atlanta and Decatur. In the thirty years following this period, Lake Claire experienced another surge in development following the Second World War, with the development of smaller houses typical of that period. We have current residents in Lake Claire who can remind us from personal experience of the changes in the years following. Some of these Lake Claire residents, including some who have been here since the 40s and 50s, have been highlighted over the past 5 years in Beth Damon’s “30-Plus Years in Lake Claire” series (such as the one in this issue). For example,

the late Rita Treon (69-year Lake Claire resident) reminisced in the July 2012 issue about the area around her home on McLendon, which in earlier years was picturesque, with “a nice creek running through the property before the parking lot and church were built” near Howard Circle and McLendon.

Today Lake Claire is loved for its green spaces, both public and private. At the heart of the neighborhood sits Lake Claire Park, with its wooded areas and trails, large playing field, young children’s play area, and tennis courts (soon to be renovated—see March 2016 issue). Other parks nearby include Candler Park, Olmsted Linear Park, and Freedom Park. A popular spot for hiking and exploring, the Frazer Forest is a thirty-plus-acre green space in the midst of Lake Claire and the private preserve of The Frazer Center, which for many

years has opened its woodlands to Lake Clarions and other visitors, and its building for Lake Claire Neighbors to use as a meeting and party space. Our neighborhood is also home to the Harold Avenue Greenspace, a City-designated passive green space under the stewardship of Lake Claire Neighbors; and a diverse number of residential gardens, some of which are certified Wildlife Sanctuaries. Many of the homes may be viewed and enjoyed in occasional Lake Claire Home & Garden Tours...meanwhile, walk our neighborhood! -- there is always something new to be discovered in Lake Claire.

Thanks to Bob Schreiber for much of the historical information, in August 2012. He was Lake Claire’s NPU representative and involved in the neighborhood for many years.—Editor

Peace & Love SpringFest

Saturday April 16, 2:00-11:00 p.m.

by Frani Green

Greetings beautiful people! We are excited to bring to you our Spring 2016 Peace and Love Festival, benefiting the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, our oasis in our awesome city! We have some wonderful new artists for the Artist's Market, face painting, food and drinks, a raffle and a bake sale, and of course great music to keep you entertained and moving and grooving to some awesome tunes! This is a family event, all ages welcome. (We'll have fresh sand on the sandpile.) Suggested donation: adults \$10, teens \$1, kids under 12 free. **Please keep your critters at home.**



Here's the schedule:

2:00-5:00, Fuiste | My Imaginary Band: We continue to bring our kid/teen bands out as they have grown along with us. (Others TBD)

5:30-7:00, Whiskey Pigs: This band met as a result of Ladies' Rock Camp in 2015 and were members of the She She R's, who performed last year. Whiskey Pigs plays a variety of cover music, mostly '70s and '80s classic rock.

7:00-7:30, Ted Pettus/Cleodus Jeremiah Jones: Insightful Americana, somewhere between John Prine and Dr. John . . . so fun!

7:30-9:00, Tony Levitas and Friends: Tony Levitas is a songwriter, singer, and multi-instrumentalist. He is a native Atlantan and has been in the music business over 30 years, penning dozens of songs. He has been in a number of bands, most notably as lead vocalist, guitarist, and principal songwriter for **Arms Akimbo**, who had several records out and a video which appeared on MTV. Tony writes passionate songs about life, love, loss, yearning, and hope.

9:00-9:30, Sensua Players: Blending traditional and modern elements of West African tribal drumming, the Sensua Players perform with a passionate and spiritual intention.

9:30-11:00 p.m., Lefty Williams Band: Lefty Williams has established a reputation as a great rock guitarist and songwriter. His songs have depth and power, speaking to the heart about life and the experiences we all share. With the release of All In, and a new relationship with Tree Leaf Music, his audience continues to grow. This is Lefty's first time playing for us, we are so honored!

PLEASE respect our Land Trust. Tread lightly. Use recycling and trash containers. Mind your children. Cigarette smoking in only designated areas.

PLEASE Respect our neighbors. Everything we do at the Land Trust depends on their tolerance and good will. Take MARTA, carpool, walk, ride your bike. If you drive, park at Clifton Sanctuary, 369 Connecticut Ave. **Do not park on side streets.** Keep your voices down when leaving.

Invite all your friends! Bring



cash! Have as much fun as possible! Can't wait to see you all there! Love on your heads!

Spring 2016 Community Work Day!

Sunday, April 10, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Help spruce up the land for the Peace & Love SpringFest the following weekend!

We'll be weeding, spreading wood chips on trails, painting picnic tables and chairs, cleaning out the Gorilla Grill, and making the Land Trust glow with good energy for our festival guests.

Pizza will be served when we finish.

Work gloves and drinking water provided.

Remember, YOU are the "community" in our name! More details: info@LCCLT.org.



Metal sculptor Julia Hill (left) and designer Bernard Spenle (center) pose with the beautiful new gate they created for the Lake Claire Land Trust. Braving the cold with them last month are Stephen Wing, David Jockusch, and Brynan Hadaway. Thanks and kudos to Julia and Bernard and to Burges Richardson, who helped with the installation.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month we feature Ethan Rowe and his art. Ethan, age 6, is a first grader in Mrs. Derrico's

class at Mary Lin, and he loves all things Lego, Star Wars, and military! Ethan lives on Nelms with his parents—and no pets—much to his dismay. Hey there, let's hear from more Lake Claire kids—we

want *your creativity* on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. **We'd love to hear from you.**



Ian Cambas - Winner




Ethan Rowe - winner and featured artist



Aarini Kakkar - Winner

Fallou Diouf of Arizona Avenue took the challenge of trying to pogo longer than his bouncing sidekick Michael McGill. He jumped for 27 minutes and 23 seconds. Proud picture here. (Pogo stick rules—adult must witness these exercises! Anyone else want to try his—or her!—luck?? Come on girls, let's hear from you, too.)



Fallou Diouf—New Pogo Champ of LC

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ethan Rowe (see above) and Aarini Kakkar found the rainbow and pot of gold from last month, and Ian Cambas found the leap year graphic from the month before. Ian's Clarion was delivered late, so I'm putting his answer in this month. Ian said, "I think the hidden leap year graphic is on page 6. The carrots on page 5 also remind me of leap year because bunnies eat carrots, and bunnies hop. Leap year day is February 29. If your birthday was on leap year you would only have your birthday every four years but you would still be just as old as your friends your same age!" Great answer, Ian! Ian is in second grade at Mary Lin. He is seven years old and lives on Nelms. Aarini Kakkar, our other winner this month, turns 9 on April 12, is also at Mary Lin, and lives on Southerland Terrace. **Congrats, Ian, Aarini, and Ethan!**



Ethan's rendition of an X-wing fighter from Star Wars—see online version for his (color) original.

NEW CONTEST:

Kids: Two hidden graphics this month! A Passover graphic and an Easter graphic. Find either or both, and we'll put your picture in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org telling us the page number(s) where you found it/them. Extra credit for telling us any one item on a Pesach plate. The extra credit prize is that you can write or draw for a future Clarion. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.