



## Lake Claire 8th Grader: First-Place Poetry Prize and Viral YouTube Performance



A poem by a resident of Lake Claire Co-housing that was part of a school poetry competition in May at Paideia has gone viral in the wake of recent police shootings. Royce Mann, 14, an eighth grader at Paideia, wrote and delivered his slam poem, “White Boy Privilege,” for which he won the first-place prize. Royce’s poem was a plea, from the perspective of a young white man going to a private school, to let everyone share his privileges.

The video of the performance of the poem has now been viewed by more than 8 million people (!) on YouTube. Royce’s performance of his poem, which contains some language that might be deemed “PG-13,” can be found, along with the written words, at

[tinyurl.com/hp3onym](http://tinyurl.com/hp3onym). Sadly, but not unexpectedly, there has been quite a bit of hate speech in YouTube comments, including some who took the time to go to several YouTube postings of the poem and repeat the same vitriolic remarks maligning Royce and his parents. But Royce has remained positive. He has been interviewed by several news organizations with whom he shared his perspectives and why he wrote the poem.

Royce explained to a CNN interviewer that there are people “who deny that white privilege and male privilege exist. I’m just trying to be truthful,” he told the interviewer. “I’m not a hero of this movement or anything. There are definitely a lot of people who’ve done a lot more than I have. I’m just trying to do my part.”

In a late July interview with Ana Kasparian, Ben Makiewicz, and Kenny Hamilton, hosts of *The Young Turks*, Royce said, “I’m just asking people who see something that is wrong, such as discrimination, to speak up.” *The Young Turks* noted that Royce is so well-spoken and aware that they want to hire him. I believe they meant it seriously; his poem

and performance is extremely impressive, not just because he manages to describe what it means to be privileged, but because he does it with a clarity and nuance that is rarely seen in heated conversations about race. Many *adults* have trouble admitting that they have privilege, or that they benefit from privilege, yet Royce says, “I know it wasn’t we eighth-grade white boys who created this system. But we profit from it every day. We don’t notice these privileges, because they don’t come in the form of things we gain, but rather the lack of injustices that we endure.”

To see someone at his age who is self-aware and who understands the issues so well is inspiring, to say the least. The poem is so incisive and on-point that some assumed his parents had helped him. Royce’s parents confirmed that the poem was completely written by Royce. His mother, Sheri Mann Stewart, said, “It was totally his thing. I thought he might get some mixed reactions, but we never wanted to discourage him from doing it.”

“White Boy Privilege” is a powerful and important poem, and Lake Claire is proud of Royce. Way to go, Royce!

## A Note from Our ‘Prez’

Dear Neighbors,

I hope everybody has fully digested the great BBQ from the 2nd Lake Claire Centennial Celebration at the Frazer Center’s Woolford Gardens and is now enjoying the rest of the, albeit unusually dry and hot, summer. In the meantime, a lot has been going on about the variance request for 545 Hardendorf Avenue. Please look at the following as sort of Basic Zoning 101: a good example of the importance of paying attention to how the process works when new construction near you is proposed for which a variance is required.

At our regular June Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, the representatives for the new owner of the property presented plans for two separate structures, since the City’s Office of Planning approved the site as two lots. The City appears to have reversed itself, since a former potential buyer was told there could only be one house on the property. The reason stated was that the current home, built in 1947, straddles both lots, which in effect made it one. This matter is still under dispute. However, the variance itself only concerned the planned structure at the corner of Hardendorf Avenue and Harriet Avenue, and the request was to reduce the side setback toward Harriet, putting the new structure closer to the street. Many nearby residents came to

*Cont. on p. 4.*

### OMISSION AND THANK YOU:

In the Clarion article on the BBQ last time, the list of those who donated silent auction items did not include Betsy Hoddinott and Miriam Herbers, who donated making a mosaic street number plaque, nor did it thank Bernard Spenle, who donated a handmade large marquetry cutting board. Thank you Betsy, Miriam, and Bernard, so sorry for the omission, and thanks again to everyone who contributed to making our annual centennial such a fun and successful event.

## 5th Annual No Nukes Y’all JAMboree, Sat., August 27

by Glenn Carroll

The solar-powered days of August are here —time for Nuclear Watch South to head for the Lake Claire Community Land Trust for our 5th annual No Nukes Y’all JAMboree! Reggae Powerhouse, the Natti Love Joys, and the rockin’ Ex-P.A.N.D. Band will set the beat for all true believers to Rock the Bomb and Give Peace a Dance under Atlanta summer skies on Saturday, August 27.

The summer of 2016 finds renewable energy’s lower prices and rapid deployment overtaking nuclear and coal power in the marketplace as 13 U.S. reactor shutdowns have been announced

in the past three years. Georgia trails behind the rest of the nation, however, mired in an ill-advised nuclear project that isn’t going so well.

Originally planned to be put into service this year on April Fool’s Day (*really!*), the Vogtle 3 and 4 reactors near Augusta are still only 30% finished. The price, **which Georgia residential and small business ratepayers are paying up front through an unprecedented 10% nuclear tax on their power bills**, has soared at least \$2 billion over budget. (Watch for CWIP, “Construction Work in Progress,” or “Nuclear Con-

*Cont. on p. 10*

### Highlights of this issue

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The Clarion is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors, Officers, or the Clarion Staff.

Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

## August

**1-28** Horizon's Hit Musical, "Da Kink is Da Bomb" – sold-out musical sensation now playing to sold-out crowds. [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com)

**6-7** and every weekend in May (through Nov)—Little Five Points Alive. Musicians, dancers, artists, etc. See [www.littlefivepointsalive.com](http://www.littlefivepointsalive.com).

**6 & 20** Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring friends!

**6 & 20** Candler Park Movie Nights (Aug 6, "Oz the Great & Powerful," and Aug 20 "Big Hero 6"). Movies start at dark, are free! Bring your own blankets or low chairs, food & drink. Write for info: [FriendsofCandlerPark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofCandlerPark@gmail.com)

**9** The Sierra Club, 2nd Tuesdays, [sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta)

**10** Meeting of Urban Design Commission. The Commission nominates and regulates buildings and districts which are designated as Historic Buildings or Sites, Landmark Buildings or Sites, Conservation Districts, Historic Districts, or Landmark Districts. The Commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 4:00 pm, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 55 Trinity Avenue, SW. See Joe Agee's article on page 1. **The public is welcome to attend and is given the opportunity to speak in support of or in opposition to items on the agenda.**

**10** Classes at Dad's Garage Theatre. See [www.dadsgarage.com/Classes](http://www.dadsgarage.com/Classes)

**14** Sunflower Snack Attack! At the Lake Claire Land Trust. Families! See article on Page 10

**17** Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit, 3rd Wednesday of every month.

**18** 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!**)

**20** The DeKalb History Center invites you to attend a symposium entitled Civil War Reconstruction in DeKalb and Atlanta, presentations and a discussion about conditions in Atlanta and DeKalb county after the war. Featured speakers are Dr. Wendy Venet and Dr. Glenn Eskew of Georgia State University. Get more information/register at [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org)

**27** 5th annual No Nukes Y'All JAMboree. See article Page 1, 7-11 p.m. at the Lake Claire Land Trust. (Note: date on Land Trust calendar postcard is slightly off.)

Send calendar entries for the September 2016 Clarion by AUGUST 15 to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)

## LC Neighbor Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Bryan Davis

Good morning, Lake Claire. Hot summer days. Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is steaming along this summer. In the last couple of months, we have had some great groups visiting us from a local church, Mount Bethel United Methodist Church. The church brings young people in from all over the country for mission work, and they have chosen our group as one of their stops. We have had folks from Tennessee, North and South Carolina with us of late. They will be with us several times a week throughout the summer. The groups come by, and we tell them a bit about Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, and they help serve dinner to our guests. The groups often bring the supper with them that they serve.

Several weeks ago I was in attendance when one of the Mount Bethel groups visited us. We had a question/answer period, after we watched a short movie about Clifton Sanctuary Ministries ([vimeo.com/174441423](http://vimeo.com/174441423)). The young folks asked the Clifton guests to tell their stories. You can't listen to these stories without impact. While listening, it struck me how much we are all connected with each other. Nowadays, we seem to listen to each other's stories on Facebook, the news, the radio, the Internet. We live lives filled with disembodied voices. But when you listen to someone's story body-to-body, his or her story comes alive. It becomes real. We make a connection.

Thank you to Tyler and Stephanie Baxter of Lake Claire. Recently Tyler and Stephanie donated a washer and drier to Clifton (see picture). Fantastic! And thank you. The Baxters are relatively new to the neighborhood, having moved here in January. Thank you to Mark and Amy Clement of Candler Park, as well. They lent us the trailer to deliver the donated washer and drier. It takes two villages sometimes.

As always, thank you Lake Claire, for supporting Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. BTW, if you buy anything via Amazon, please make it a habit of using this link: [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Choose Clifton Sanctuary Ministries as the charity you wish to support, and then make your purchase. Amazon will share part of your purchase price with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. It is an easy way to support CSM. See you around the neighborhood.

*Bryan Davis is Lake Claire's Representative to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.*



Tyler Baxter

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

## Mary Lin Elementary— Reaching for the Stars

“Launching our first Annual Mary Lin Rocket Fuel Fund”

by Kim Meyer

Mary Lin Elementary, home of the Rockets, blasted off on **August 3** to start the 2016-2017 school year! Mary Lin serves approximately 500 families with 600+ students in the Lake Claire, Candler Park, Inman Park and Little 5 Points neighborhoods.

Mary Lin was recently renovated to increase capacity for our growing student population. Also, our Mary Lin Education Foundation, PTA, individual donors, and business sponsors united to fund a beautiful new playground which was completed last spring and is now being thoroughly enjoyed by our students.

**Title 1** is the federal program that provides funding to local school districts to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. Title 1 funding is a significant dollar amount given to schools, but only available to schools where 40% of the students qualify as disadvantaged. Mary Lin is one of six schools in APS that does not receive Title 1 Federal funding. Thus, it is essential that parent and community donations at non-Title 1 schools such as Lin fill the sizeable deficit. Historically, other schools in this category (Morningside and SPARK included) have been out-fundraising Lin—let's change this. To be certain EVERY Lin student thrives in the classroom and EVERY teacher has the necessary resources,

the Mary Lin Education Foundation (MLEF) is launching the first annual **Rocket Fuel Fund!** We ask our community to help “FILL THE FUEL TANK” so that our Rockets can soar to galactic new heights!

**What IS the annual Rocket Fuel Fund?** The MLEF and the Mary Lin PTA are working together to achieve a balanced fundraising effort that supports both significant long term education enrichment goals AND the more immediate enrichment needs experienced within each school year. The Rocket Fuel Fund will serve as our one major request for financial support this school year to support teacher professional development, curriculum enrichment resources, technology enhancements, and other long term projects. Mary Lin's PTA will lead additional smaller-scale fundraising efforts that center around family involvement and an experience for their investment (i.e., Dine Outs and Spirit Wear). These PTA fundraisers support visiting artists, in-school field trips, Science Night, Spelling Bee, and other traditional events sponsored by PTA during the immediate school year.

**Don't YOU want to be a Rocket booster? What's in it for you or your business?** You don't have to be a Mary Lin parent to  
*Cont. on p. 8.*

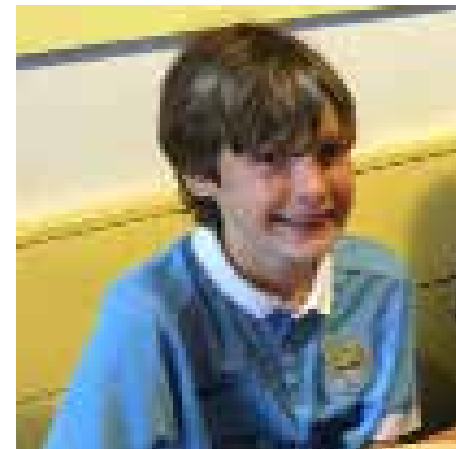
## Useful Back-to-School Advice

by Deacon Baker

**The first year of high school** is and can be a very intimidating experience. I went into freshman year at Grady High School feeling a bit nervous, but mostly excited. I was glad to be moving on from the ordinary classes in middle school and to the more exciting and in-depth classes at Grady. I was very nervous about riding the bus to high school. I was also anxious and timid about lunch, transitions, and my schedule.

First and foremost, I was seriously freaked out about riding the bus with kids that could drive—and vote. I thought the kids were going to be mean and intimidating like the high school students on television. I thought they were going to try to jump me or even just look at me funny. On the first day of school, however, I realized that none of the kids at the bus stop cared about the freshmen. They left us alone. I also recognized most of them from riding the bus in sixth grade, so it was actually better that they were there, and it calmed me down.

**Secondly, I was not looking forward to lunch.** I thought that I would have to sit alone, and all the upperclassmen would try to take my lunch and other silly stuff like that. When the first day of school came around, I realized that most of my friends had the same lunch period as I. At Grady, there are three lunch periods. Each period is determined by what class you had and on the floor that class was on. You



will understand classrooms and the school layout on the first day of school. I was lucky enough to have friends in my lunch periods. You will definitely have at least one friend at your lunchtime.

**The most nerve-racking part about high school** for me were the transitions. I knew that there were going to be kids that were much older than I am in the hallways, and I did not want to deal with them. I also knew virtually nothing about where my classes would be. Lucky for me, I went to one of the summer informational sessions where I saw the school and knew the basic layout. *If you don't know the layout of the school, you can ask any teacher in the hall, and he or she will help you.*

When I first got my schedule I was a little skeptical. I didn't know what classes to choose, and I didn't know who would be in them. You have a mandatory P.E. class as well as a mandatory Health class, but other than that, you can choose whatever you want. **In your first year in high school I recommend trying as many different classes as you can.** You can always

*Cont. on p. 8.*

## Community Mainstay Preschool In Search of New Home

by Rebecca Wilson

Druid Hills Preschool (likely known as “DHUMP” to most of you), has served many Lake Claire families (including my own) and thousands of intown families over the years. Any of you who are familiar with this beloved preschool know what a special place it is, but you may or may not know that DHP is in search of a new place to operate in the 2017/18 school year and beyond.

DHP is an established, self-sustaining preschool with a rich 34-year history, a healthy operating budget, a robust enrollment,

long-tenured teachers and administrators, and a generous and involved parent community. We have been in our current location at the corner of Ponce de Leon Ave and Briarcliff Road since 1982, but recent developments regarding the sale of the property (which we do not own) are prompting us to look for a new permanent home (and/or to become an economic partner with the right organization).

Druid Hills Preschool has every intention of continuing to operate at full capacity; thus, we are actively searching for a new

home. Because preschool registration for the following year is typically held in January, we are hoping to have a location secured by the end of 2016, in time to advertise and make any building modifications prior to the start of the 2017/18 school year.

Ideally our new space would meet the following specifications: Indoor space between 4,500 - 10,000 square feet, and a workable outdoor space as nature-based learning and environmental stewardship are integral to our curriculum; Access to teacher parking 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on

weekdays; Access to additional parent parking at pick-up and drop-off times (9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) or ability to run a carpool lane.

There is high demand for quality Pre-K programs in our area. We would like to stay close and continue to serve the families of Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods. If you have leads on spaces or partner organizations that may fit our needs, please contact our preschool Director, Margaret Waterbury at [margaretw@druidhillspreschool.org](mailto:margaretw@druidhillspreschool.org) or 404-295-4120

## From our Prez

*Continued from page 1*

the meeting to express their concerns about safety issues on Harriet, which is a very small street with no sidewalk, and that the proposed design would create a virtual wall—very much out of character with the neighborhood.

The residents are also upset that very little effort had been made to contact them before LCN's meeting. A vote was then taken, with 23 opposed to the variance—and none in favor.

A week later, the same presentation was given at the NPU-N meeting with our representative, Carol Holiday, explaining the neighborhood's opposition, while Cathy Amoroso and Melissa Pressman (our new VP for the Environment), made formal comments about problems with the variance. There were also a

number of Lake Claire residents at the meeting. The NPU board members voted unanimously against the proposed plan.

The next step was the hearing before the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) on July 14. The BZA makes the final decision on variances. It was a grueling session, since the Hardendorf request didn't come up until close to the very end of the meeting. Worse was that the BZA was ruling mostly in favor of the builders, so things didn't look good. Nevertheless, Carol and Melissa gave excellent presentations. Then, unexpectedly, the representative for the variance asked for a deferral in order to meet with the nearby residents to discuss changes that would ameliorate some of the expressed con-

cerns. This is definitely a plus for the neighborhood and shows how persistence can pay off!

Another issue of importance for Lake Claire is the proposed development of the "Tamas" property on the corner of Clifton and Ponce de Leon. Even though the property is officially located in Druid Hills, this development would directly impact the end of Hardendorf Avenue in Lake Claire, with loss of tree canopy, the creation of drainage problems, and other environmental issues. (See the coverage of this in previous Clarions, [lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/](http://lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/), beginning with Sue Strauss' article in June/July 2014, Preserving Olmsted's Tranquility in Our Lake Claire Back Yards). Orig-

nally, the developer proposed a development of 8 to 10 condos that would have devastated a large amount of undeveloped forest land. A new proposal has been made, but fortunately, it appears that it will be deferred until the Aug. 10 meeting of the City's Urban Design Commission. The public is welcome to attend this meeting (see information in the calendar, page 2).

Future Clarions will keep you apprised, as always, of these and other issues. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

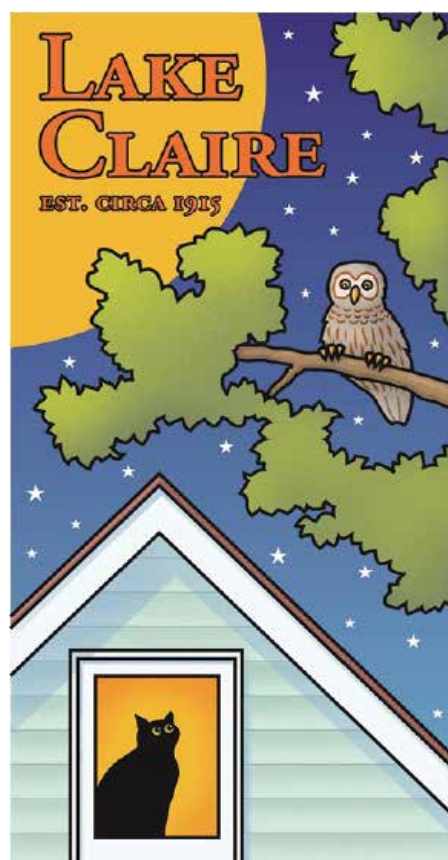
Sincerely,

Joe Agee  
President,  
Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

## Lake Claire Banner

Show your LC pride by displaying the neighborhood banner on your home. The banner is only \$40, but if you pay your \$20 dues, there is a \$5 discount = banners cost \$35. Pictured here next to the banner is the banner artist, Leslie Hodges, with her husband Danny, and Kitty. Kitty is featured in the attic window on the banner, representing similar attic windows in so many LC homes. You can buy the banner at this link, through PayPal ([lakeclaire.org/shop/](http://lakeclaire.org/shop/)), or pay the old-fashioned way, with a check made out to Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc., and a volunteer will come to pick it up and bring

you the banner. The above link will allow you to do it that way, too. And there are other great Lake Claire items! Check out the Lake Claire website.



**Savage provides free pizza to the LCN monthly meetings. Please support this neighborhood resource!**



Visit our website at  
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# Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf



Grey Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

**Smithsonian study in Lake Claire:** Miriam Herbers reports that this summer the Smithsonian has started an exciting new program to chart the migration patterns of the Grey Catbird. The catbird, named after its “meow” call, is a permanent resident here. Atlanta was one of the five cities selected to participate. Only 100 catbirds will be tagged. And Miriam’s back yard on Arizona was one of the yards in Atlanta selected to net and tag the birds and have teeny GPS radios placed on their backs. The radios are invisible and are placed under top feathers strapped on with tiny wires. It may sound harmful, but

Miriam reports that the scientists who do this are “incredibly gentle and appreciative” of the birds.

Miriam’s yard had been part of the spring’s NestWatch program in May, so it was known that catbirds were present. Next spring the Smithsonian scientists will return to retrieve the devices with the hope of learning where these beautiful birds go when they leave Atlanta.

**Deer in the ‘hood:** In a July 6 posting on NextDoor website, Susan Pesterfield from Candler Park wrote, “Has anyone seen deer in Candler Park? After the past 3-4 rainstorms we’ve had during the night, in the morning I have found fresh deer tracks in the North Ave./Oakdale section of Freedom Park. It looks like a fawn, a doe, and a buck are coming through on a diagonal from North to Oakdale to snack on acorns and plants. The buck’s tracks are those of a 3+ year old animal so he probably weighs around 150-200 pounds. The fawn is a silly thing that likes to skid in the sloped mulch and play in the grass.”

**Off topic:** I was fortunate enough to take a trip to Longyearbyen, on the Svalbard archipelago above Norway, which is at latitude 78° North. I was booked on a cruise ship that started there and went north up the west coast of Svalbard. Usually the ship turns back at



a certain point due to pack ice and goes down along the southwestern coast and then back to Longyearbyen, an 11-day trip. On my trip, beginning on July 12, the ship was able to go completely around the northern most point of the archipelago at latitude 80° N and return to Longyearbyen via the east coast and southern mostpoint of Svalbord. The reason this could be done was because there was no pack ice. This was the first time this ship had been able to do this. The moral: global warming is a scary fact.



## Hello...Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

### August Birthdays

- 1 Patricia Emerson, turns 82! (She says, please put the age, as I am so glad to have made it!”)
- 3 Jazz Melodie Sibille, turns 10, Ivy Place (Dear Jazz: please write for Kids’ Corner!)
- 5 Ally Bliss, turns 11 years old, Leonardo (Ally, write some more!)
- 6 Fallou Diouf, pogo stick aficionado, turns 10 years old, Arizona
- 13 Lyriq Gaspard Sibille, turns 4!—Ivy Place
- 15 Anna Landgraff, 14, Harold Avenue
- 16 Peter Belle, 50+, McLendon Ave.
- 18 Mark Haggerty—40-plus, but only barely!!!!!!—Harold Avenue

### August Anniversary

- 2 Melanie and Jason Bliss’ 19th anniversary (congrats!)

Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events / important rights of passage, etc., for the month of SEPTEMBER to editor@lakeclaire.org by Aug. 15 Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC ‘hood.



Happy 82nd to Patricia (on the right, of course) pictured at the LC BBQ

# BOND notes: Financial Advice from Your Local Credit Union

by Chris McPerson



*"I think about my money... and worry."* I hear this in my office all the time. Know what I say to that? **Stop.** Be proactive; let's work together to form short-term and long-term plans of action. I'm available to you at no charge. For now, if you're not already, start using online banking; we call ours *Virtual Branch*,

but wherever you bank, make sure that you log-in often. Online banking is safe, convenient, and very important:

**1. Check your balances & account activity daily.** Just log-in and make sure you don't see anything weird. These are two of the most important minutes of your day, financially-speaking. Even with sophisticated fraud protection provided by your bank or credit union, you're still your own best line of defense. So just do it.

**2. It helps to build good spending habits** by actually learning your current spending habits. Many people who come in for financial counseling, I find, are not keeping track of their monthly expenditures. Once we review them, they're usually pretty surprised by how much they could save by shifting one small thing here or there.

**3. Avoid writing checks.** Ah, checks. People are sure writing a lot of checks still, even with the numerous safer ways to transfer funds to another individual or company. This is fine... if you're okay with giving someone an official document that contains your name, your address, your phone number, your driver's license number (often), and all your checking account information. And no, I don't mean use your debit card willy-nilly instead. There are appropriate solutions for any kind of transaction you wish to make.

It's also easy to forget about checks you've given out if your recipients don't deposit or cash them quickly. BOOM: you're hit with fees from your financial institution because you simply forgot you wrote a check to a lawn service three months ago—and they finally deposited it when

your account didn't have enough to cover the charge... right before you deposited your paycheck. Happens all the time.

Some of you may already be doing these things—awesome! Do you have something else on your mind? Give me a call, or come by and see me! And if you need any help with using online banking, contact your institution. BOND members can call 404-525-0619, ext. 216 or 219. We'll walk you through every step; even how to set up an automatic bill payment.

*Editor's note: Chris is a Certified Financial Counselor at BOND Community Federal Credit Union. Thanks to BOND for all you do for Lake Claire and the Clarion. Financial counseling is free for all BOND members—and membership is free, too. Contact Chris at [chris@bondcu.com](mailto:chris@bondcu.com), 404-525-0619, ext 217*



**BOND COMMUNITY**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



## Ready to put down or pick up roots? I can help.












I've helped people put down (and pick up) roots in and around 30307 for years. I'm a Mary Lin and Grady High mom and personally rooted in Lake Claire. As an Intown homeowner and Realtor® with deep roots in our community, I know how to help you find the right home and market your home to sell.

**Ready to buy?** I'll leverage my intown network to find the right property – and negotiate the best deal for you.

**Ready to sell?** My experience with professional staging, compelling photography, and creative marketing helps sell your home faster and for the highest price.

Contact me, your intown Realtor® and neighbor, when you're ready to put down (or pick up) roots.



-  Lake Claire
-  Candler Park
-  Inman Park
-  Decatur
-  Druid Hills
-  Virginia Highland
-  Morningside
-  Poncey Highland
-  Old Fourth Ward



## Lake Claire's Cynthia Baer

You've likely seen her name and little green leaf logo on a sign, in your mail, or even on the back of your t-shirt, but how well do you know Cynthia Baer? As our neighbor and a top realtor in the neighborhood, she's someone you should know.



Cynthia's kids Mike Baer, 22, William Baer, 20, Addison Baer, 9, (Jessica Baer, 26, not pictured as she's in grad school)

Cynthia and her husband, Michael, moved to Gordon Avenue with three children (they've added one since) fourteen years ago. She knew right away that Lake Claire was "Home." She had always wanted to be part of a real community, but had moved around a lot as a child and rarely spent enough time in one place to do so. She loved getting to know neighbors, especially those who have lived here for many years. She enjoyed the energy and character of the neighborhood.

Cynthia loves to participate within the community. She has served as fundraising chair for Lake Claire Neighbors. She also headed up sponsorships for the last two successful Lake Claire Tour of Homes, which yielded funds for Greenspaces in the neighborhood. You probably even saw her this summer at the Lake Claire Annual Centennial celebration handing out goodies (did you get a Frisbee?) and chatting with neighbors.

Because she's had four children in/go through the Grady Cluster, Cynthia has been highly involved within the schools. She was elected and served the last four years on the Local School Council for Mary Lin Elementary. She's spent countless hours at Mary Lin, Inman, and Grady.

With three Grady High Graduates, and one rising fourth grader at Mary Lin, Cynthia has incredible understanding of and appreciation for our school cluster.

On the real estate side, Cynthia contributes her success to taking care of her clients at the **highest**

**level possible.** She knows what buyers want and works through every detail to make certain that sellers receive the highest price possible while making the process as hassle free as she is able. Her clients rave about their experience in the process. This is not your typical agent who throws a sign in the yard and loads quick cellphone photos to the MLS. Cynthia provides personalized professional service every step of the way, and the results speak for themselves.

Some people are surprised that Cynthia would prefer people to contact her **before** they start preparing for sale. "I've found some clients think they need to spend money on things that won't bring them value. I want to focus sellers on the upgrades or repairs that will give them the biggest return on their investment," Cynthia says. Some clients start working towards preparing to sell a year before they want to move, while others have been amazed that they could be ready in a week. "It really depends on each person and how motivated he or she is to get to the next home. We work with people on **their** timelines, not ours."

The biggest difficulty people are experiencing right now is

lack of inventory. The AJC says Atlanta has the worst home shortage in the nation. Cynthia shared with the Clarion, "If anyone has **ever considered** selling his or her home, **now is the time** to do it. Interest rates are still ridiculously low. Buyers want our neighborhood, and options are extremely limited. She's watched a lot of friends and neighbors adding onto their current homes when they're looking for more space because they see the prices have increased for their step-up home. She said, "it's worth finding out what your home would sell for in today's market before going down the path of renovation. Moving your equity to your next home makes it affordable, often more so than going through the expensive process of renovation." She also said that for those who realize their home is too big or are looking to pay lower property taxes, it's a great time to take that equity and live with less debt.

Just because inventory is scarce, it doesn't mean people aren't able to find their next home. Cynthia works tirelessly to contact friends, neighbors, and



other realtors to dig up the right property for her clients. She's not above writing letters to strangers or knocking on people's doors and just asking them if they had thought about selling in order to find the perfect home for her people. "The most difficult situation for buyers is when they've found a great property and there are multiple offers," Cynthia explains. "I advise my clients how to put their best foot forward while cautioning them not to go



too far just to 'win' the property."

Cynthia genuinely wants to be an asset to the Lake Claire community. In addition to sponsoring events she cares about, she hosts her own events for clients and neighbors. Some neighbors may have enjoyed her Gingerbread House Building party, or her Thanksgiving pie delivery last year. Send her a message at [Team@CynthiaBaer.com](mailto:Team@CynthiaBaer.com) to be added to the Exclusive Event Group. "I have some fun events scheduled around the Candler Park Movie night this year—Hula Hoop Extravaganza starts off the school year. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help out, I can promise, it will be fun," she said.

Utilize Cynthia as a neighborhood resource. Need a great landscaper? Reach out, and she'll share her personal list. If you have a business, network with her. If you're fighting your tax appeal, she's happy to send comps to help you appeal with confidence. If you're thinking about renovating, she'll share info about your current value and future value with you and even discuss what makes most sense when looking for resale down the line. You could not ask for a better advocate than Cynthia Baer.

And finally, if you or someone you know is looking to buy, sell, or invest in real estate—reach out to Cynthia Baer to discuss your needs. You'll find an honest, helpful, professional neighbor on your side.

Call 678-358-3369 or email [Cynthia@CynthiaBaer.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBaer.com). Check out [Around30307](https://www.facebook.com/Around30307) on Facebook

## Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, May 22 - June 11 (3 week period)

**A "shorty" this time – these are the only 2 reported crimes in the period (Larceny from Vehicle).**

1600 block Mc Lendon Ave, 5/26, in parking lot Taken: laptop, iPad, MacBook Air. Damage: rear passenger side window broken

300 block Ivy Place, 6/8, on the street, taken: \$8 cash. Damage: driver side window broken

Help make our neighborhood safer by joining the Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol at [www.cplcpatrol.com](http://www.cplcpatrol.com).



## Back to School Advice/High School

*Continued from page 3*

switch in your sophomore year. Try to get involved in the school by signing up for a club, a sports team, or one of the extracurriculars. See what you might want to do in your upcoming high school years.

**As for studying in high school, it is very important.** You need to study at least for 30 minutes if you want to do really well on the quizzes and tests. You may think that studying is not important, but it really is. The classes at Grady are very fun and educational. You can personalize your schedule, and you can also learn a lot about what you may want to do after high school. Grady is a much different place than Inman or other middle schools. You get treated more like an adult, and teachers do not baby you as much. If you don't turn in an assignment, teachers will just give you a zero and move on. You can end up having very low grades because the teacher does not help you fix your grades. You



**Henry W. Grady**  
High School

have to be in control and check your grades very often if you want to succeed at Grady High School.

The last thing weighing on my mind was

**Freshman Friday.** It is the day when upper classmen haze you. The dreaded day is not as bad as it used to be. Most of the time you will get sprayed with silly string or other things minor like that.

The first week, you will get used to the school. The layout is easier than you think. Most everyone there will be nice and helpful. As long as you are open about the idea of

high school, the better it will treat you. **Good luck!**

*Deacon Baker is a rising 10th grader at Grady High. We are very impressed with your writing, Deacon; please write for the Clarion any time! Writing runs in the family. Please see page 12 for Deacon's sister Keely's advice for back-to-school 6th graders.— Editor*

## Back to School Advice/Middle School

*Continued from page 12*

of your worries. You will know people at your bus stop so you can play and talk. On the bus, just make sure you aren't too rowdy, and be respectful. No need to worry about the older kids who are in 7th and 8th grade, because you never see them and they don't normally see you during school hours. Homework is fairly easy, but you guys will understand soon enough!

Also, you will know at least one person in each class from elementary school. He or she may not have been your friend, but you know someone, so that is good. Don't forget to make

friends so that you have someone to talk to and play with. You will be great!

Get Involved in clubs and sports. Inman has so much to offer, and being in extracurricular activities can help you at Grady as well. These activities can help you make friends.

You meet people from 6th grade who aren't on your team, and people who are in 7th and 8th grade.

Rising 6th graders, don't get too nervous. Just know that all the other kids have butterflies in their stomachs, too!!! I hope you enjoy your time and succeed in 6th grade. Good Luck!



**INMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.

## Mary Lin Stars

*Continued from page 3*

help us reach our goal! If you are a neighbor, friend, relative, or neighborhood business, you CAN make a difference. Every donation counts, no matter the amount. The strength and success of our school promotes the quality of life in our neighborhood in addition to maintaining and increasing property values. Also, when community businesses partner with Mary Lin, it enhances their exposure to our families. Please review our **School Partner** program on our website which provides a win/win package for you and Mary Lin! Lake Claire's Stella Cole, a rising 2nd grader said, "People should give money to Mary Lin because they can use the money to make the playground funner, and the Principal can use the money for the teachers!"

**How much should you give to help "FILL THE FUEL TANK"?** We are determined to raise \$85,000. With your help and generosity, we believe this is possible. Every student at Mary Lin deserves the best resources available, and if we raise at least \$135 per student, we can ignite every Rocket's imagination and intellect to his or her fullest potential. However, not every parent can give this amount, so we are offering a range of giving levels, and we encourage parents, relatives, friends, and community members who **can** give more to be as generous as possible. We offer meaningful benefits at each level, including a donor party for individual donors who donate \$500 (the equivalent of one month of private Pre-K tuition) or more to the Rocket Fuel Fund. Your donation is a direct investment in our students' education and Mary Lin's success. You will see a return on investment in enhanced technology, improved teaching methodologies, and access to new programs to strengthen math and reading skills.

Finally, we are grateful for the generous and enduring support of teaching and learning that is crucial to the ongoing academic and financial health of our school. Your gift ensures that Mary Lin can continue to offer an education that celebrates inquiry, creativity, reflection, and innovation.

Please visit our website at [www.marylin-foundation.org](http://www.marylin-foundation.org) for all the details and **donate today!** And of course, all donations are tax deductible.

*Kim is the Mary Lin Education Foundation Chair for the 2016-2017 school year at Mary Lin Elementary.—Editor*



# August into September in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

The most certain thing about a garden is that it is uncertain. Despite a sun that rises each day, night that falls, rain that comes and goes, and seasons that warm and cool, each gardening year is different. 2015 began auspiciously, if I can believe my column written last July, plenty of rain getting things off to a good start. I noted I harvested a good crop of corn. That was not true this year, no matter how much I watered. However, the nightshade bed that I boasted about last year ended up a bust, and I think it was its proximity to a long-gone walnut tree, too many pecan leaves in its compost, and a lack of sun. This year, despite little rain and a quality control issue in my tomato seed-starting (the Premios and Bella Rosas turned out to be Sungold cherry tomatoes), I have already harvested good Cherokee Purples and Celebritys plus a plethora of delicious eggplants, such as Fairy Tale and Orient Express.

But, as you read, it is nearly fall and time for new gardens. If you don't know your land yet, do not disturb it because by next spring there may be some surprises. But if you have watched it for at least a year and now have some hardscaping plans like walls or stairs, autumn is a good time to install them. Don't buy any plants until these projects are finished because they will just be in the way or even killed in the process. Do think carefully about hardscap-

ing projects, though. They are expensive, they disrupt, and do you really want them? Sometimes we are swept away by current fads. If you rarely go outside, do not like heat or cold, and are a magnet for biting insects, who cares if al fresco dining is all

blooms in midsummer and includes the famous 'Annabelle.' It blooms on new wood so may be heavily pruned in late winter. A third type is the mophead (*H. macrophylla*) group that bloom early to midsummer with blue flowers because of our acidic soil.

and also the hardy kiwi. The latter will require at least two plants, male and female, for fertilization. There is also the persimmon tree if you plan to stay in Lake Claire long enough for it to mature. 'Nikita's Gift' is a dwarf persimmon that should fit in your yard. Two kinds of pear trees are worth a try, both the Asian pear and the 'Seckel' pear, neither like your store-bought 'Bartlett,' but, hey, you are growing these yourself! The Chinese jujube tree is another unusual sweet fruit with short shelf life, which is why you have never heard of it; the trees do need sun and can grow 30 ft. high, but drastic pruning does not affect the amount of crop and brings it down to your level. Two very small fruits are the rose hips found on *Rosa rugosa* (for the largest ones) and goji berries, which grow on long canes that can be trained on a trellis or pruned to one main stem. I myself have enjoyed growing pomegranates although a wet winter has sometimes killed the tree. Stark Bros. in Missouri carries many of these fruits.

Prepare your beds for fall vegetables: last chance to sow bush and pole beans, carrots, cucumbers, kale, and squash. If you did not start broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and even tomato plants to put in the ground now, you will need to buy some.

Please let Elizabeth know what happened in your garden this summer, knowltonew@earthlink.net

**The best time to plant a tree  
is 20 years ago.  
The next best time to plant a tree  
is today.  
~ Chinese proverb**

the rage? Forget the patio.

Autumn is a prime time for planting trees and shrubs; although the season is not yet here, you might consider putting in an order online to get exactly the plants you want, set to be delivered in October. A foolproof shrub for this area is the hydrangea, many of which bloom in the summer and in shade, plus do not need much care once they are established. I grow the oakleaf (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) variety that has pyramidal white flowers in late spring that continue to look good when dried. This is a native plant, and the fall foliage is a striking scarlet. A huge shrub originally, it also comes in smaller cultivars such as 'Sike's Dwarf' and my 'Pee Wee.' Another native is the *Hydrangea arborescens* or smooth type that

If you insist on pink blooms, grow something. Like the oakleaf, they need little or no pruning and should be clipped only immediately after bloom. (There is a fourth group, the *paniculata*, but they do better in cooler climates.) The charm of hydrangeas is their ability to bloom without much sun and in a time of year when there are fewer flowering shrubs so do not stress them by planting in a hot spot. And do add mulch and water regularly the first year although I killed my first 'Pee Wee' with too much water.

We know how hard it is to grow fruit in our climate with the exception of strawberries and blueberries. But have you tried figs? Here are some suggestions for an urban orchard of unusual fruits that will survive in Zone 8 (which our city often is): the fig, of course,

## Thanks for Paying Your 2016 Neighborhood Dues

Some recent LC dues payers are Michael Lawrence, Carl Linstrum, Christy Waehner, James Bencina, Michael Glennon, Steven Cywilko, Peter Olsen, Colleen Golden, Michael Daily, Monique Mikrut, Cynthia Gatton, Elizabeth Perry, Joseph Sinkule, Tom and Alicia McGill, Cecily Stevens, Beth and Paul Krebs, Steven and Judith Friedman, and Andy and Mary Elizabeth Sloop.

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 appreciate your

support of 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](http://www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members). Thanks to all of you! And for others, there is still time to help keep neighborhood coffers in the **black**—and become famous in the Clarion!



# LAKE CLAIRE COMMUNITY

All Together Now by Ladybug Events presents:

## Sunflower Snack Attack! —Make it, Taste it, Take it Home

Calm your nerves, muscles, and blood vessels with sunflower seeds! August can be a stressful time with the heat and going back to school. On Sunday, August 14, join Miss Ladybug for a snack-making party in the gazebo next to the play area at the Land Trust! All families are welcome, and you may just show up without reservations.

We will grind up sunflower seeds and make Solar Energy Balls to enjoy during the week at school, work, or home. Using a mortar and pestle, this activity is hands-on and fun for ALL ages! Expect silliness, special guests, music, art, and more. We ask for a minimum donation of \$5. All supplies are included.

Snacking on sunflower seeds is a good way to help alleviate stress and elevate the positive vibes because it has high levels of magnesium. Many studies show that magnesium helps reduce the severity of asthma, lower high blood pressure, and prevent migraine headaches, as well as reducing the risk of heart attack and stroke. Sunflower seeds

have many more healthy benefits like preventing cancer, lowering cholesterol, and it is an excellent source of vitamin E.

*All Together Now* is brought to you by the Land Trust Family Project and Ladybug Events. Please consider Miss Ladybug when you plan your next birthday party or family fun event. For more information visit *Ladybugeventsllc.com*.



## 5th Annual No Nukes Y'all JAMboree, Saturday, August 27

*Continued from page 1*

struction Cost Recovery,” on your power bill.) Meanwhile, thanks to its political connections, Georgia Power has parlayed this construction boondoggle into unprecedented high profits for its shareholders and top managers.

Ironically, Georgia doesn't even need the extra energy. Even with the closing of a significant number of coal-fired plants, Georgia Power has power to spare. This phenomenon is playing out across the country as privately owned utilities continue to work with 100-year-old “build it and they will come” business models, which make **Big Money for big players** like Georgia Power. Meanwhile, We the People are doing something right because electricity demand has been flat for almost a decade. Hurray for LED lights and clotheslines!

Nuclear Watch South has kept the inconvenient fact that the Vogtle expansion is not needed in front of the Georgia Public Service Commission and Georgia Power for the past three years. If the immortal words of Gandhi are true—“*First they ignore you. Then they laugh at you. Then they fight you. Then you win*”—we should be winning this one soon!

We will have updates on this issue, and on an issue that strikes closer to home in Lake Claire, the specter of *radioactive waste on the*

*roads and rails*, at the gala No Nukes Y'all JAMboree. Please join Nuclear Watch South and friends on Saturday, August 27, from 7:00 to 11:00 pm. You'll also be able to sign our petition and add your voice to the growing opposition to the CWIP tax. A \$10 donation is requested. Refreshments available. All ages are welcome! Rain or shine. Call Nuclear Watch South, 404-378-4263, e-mail *info@nonukesyall.org*, or visit *www.nonukesyall.org* for more information, to volunteer, or to sign the petition online.

*Glenn Carroll is coordinator of Nuclear Watch South, founded in Lake Claire in 1977 as GANE (Georgians Against Nuclear Energy).*



NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH P.O. BOX 8574 ATLANTA, GA 31108 404-378-4263

## Free the Pathways!

by Richard Powers

Let's **free the pathways** for happier health. Twenty five years ago, the entire Land Trust hill was covered with kudzu, with one lone pecan tree poking through. Broken sidewalks, briars, kudzu, and other flora, folks, and vehicles (“I just park where it's convenient for me”) were obstructions we often had to dodge.

Then the kudzu crept over the Dekalb Ave. sidewalk to the curb. I felt compelled to plunge in and begin controlling the kudzu. Thus began my internship with the Land Trust, the first of many to follow (music-booker, roadie, drum circle maestro, caretaker, event coordinator, etc.). My semi-retirement tasks now include mowing, weed-eating, pruning up to 7 feet high, and maintaining the pathways throughout the Land Trust, then Cohousing, and the mural space and beyond.

I'm happy to do “forest management” and less happy to engage with uncivil acts of folks—night-time trespassers and other ‘disrespecters’ of Land Trust policy. Fostering community ain't always easy or fun, so is it worth it? Absolutely, for many of us. We learn to dance with it and celebrate the positive. What a “long, strange trip” the Land Trust has been. I hope the sharing is uplifting. Next time I write, the origins of the “Kudzu Creep.”

### Land Trust Supporters:

Have you renewed for 2016? Anyone can be a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 a year. Donate via [www.LCCLT.org/stewardship](http://www.LCCLT.org/stewardship); mail a check made out to “LCCLT” c/o Treasurer, 270 Arizona Ave., Atlanta GA 30307; or donate via the chute in our bulletin board. Include your address and we'll mail you an “I Support the Land Trust” bumper sticker. Include your email address, and we'll add you to our email list. (Donation not required to get on this list! Contact [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org).)

# LAND TRUST

## July 4 Celebration

by Debbie Livingston

Every year the Lake Claire Community Land Trust holds a 4th of July cook-off, potluck, and watermelon seed-spitting contest at the Gazebo on the Land Trust. The 2016 theme for the cook-off was FIGS.

Anyone can enter a dish in the contest, and anyone can taste and vote. A \$1.00 donation is requested to obtain a ballot and tasting/voting privileges. This year we had seven entries. The winners: First Place went to June Michael (Spiced Honeyed Figs in Sweet Cheese), the Second Place to Debbie Livingston (Fig Bars), and Véronique Perrot won Third Place honors for her Figues de Pâtissier with Figs.

The tasting and judging was followed by a scrumptious pot luck (we have amazing cooks in our neighborhood!), distribution of award certificates (see photo), and our annual watermelon seed-spitting contest. The seed spitting winners: Elmore Hauk (adult division) and Alex Belle (youth division).

We are in the market for a new Committee Chair for the 2017 July 4 event. If you are interested in working on this fun event with ample support from veteran committee members, please email [debliv54@gmail.com](mailto:debliv54@gmail.com). The Chair will choose the theme, coordinate the advertising and MC the Cook-Off, Pot Luck, and Watermelon Seed-Spitting Contest (or delegate any of these tasks). All forms and planning from prior years are available to the new Chair.

Here are the recipes of the winning entrees:

**First Place: Spiced Honeyed Figs in Sweet Cheese.** (Note from the cook: "I never go by ingredient amounts, I do everything by taste.") Cut the stems off your dried figs, & boil

the figs until tender, season water with orange extract & cinnamon. While those are cooking, mix: Equal amounts of ricotta cheese, and whipped cream cheese. Include the sweetener of your choice, a beaten egg, lemon zest. Pack a greased baking pan with this cheese mixture. Drain your figs, and embed them in the cheese mixture. Drizzle honey on the whole thing. Bake at 325° about 30-40 minutes. Best when served chilled.

**Second Place: Fig Bars** (from King Arthur Flour): The ingredients are 1 3/4 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour; 1/4 cup cornmeal; 3/4 cup granulated sugar; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 3/4 cup (6 ounces) unsalted butter, softened; 1 1/2 cups (8 ounces) diced dried apricots; 1 2/3 cups (8 ounces) diced dried figs; 1/4 cup diced crystallized ginger; 1/2 cup water; 2 teaspoons lemon zest; 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon. Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a food processor, combine the flour, cornmeal, sugar, and salt and pulse. Add the butter and pulse until the ingredients form a wet mixture. Transfer half the mixture to a 9" square pan, and press it evenly across the bottom. Put remaining mixture into a small bowl. Combine the apricots, figs, ginger, and water, and microwave on high for 1 minute. Transfer to a food processor with 1 teaspoon of lemon zest and pulse until the fruit sticks together. Transfer to the pan, and spread it evenly over the crust. Mix the cinnamon and remaining teaspoon of zest into the leftover crust mixture, and crumble it over the fruit in the pan. Bake the bars for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool before serving. Cut into 9 squares. [Note from Debbie: I cut the fig bars into 1-inch squares.]

**Third Place: Figues de Pâ-**

**tissier with Figs**

The "figues de pâtissier" (= "figs from the pastry shop") are French pastries that mimic real figs. They are a variation on the theme of the éclair: choux pastry filled with pastry cream and adorned with a coat of something very sweet and tasty. Éclairs are long while figues are rounded, and éclairs have a coat of coffee or chocolate icing while figues are covered in green almond paste.



Regular figues are completely devoid of figs, but for the cook-off, Véronique added chopped up black mission figs soaked in rum to the pastry cream.

Here are the elements needed to make figues. All the elements can be made a day or two beforehand, and the pastries are baked and assembled the day they are to be served.

1. Choux pastry, aka pâte à choux: use your favorite recipe (mine is either of those in *Rose Beranbaum's Pie and Pastry Bible*), or find one online). Despite what some authorities say, the dough stores fine in the fridge for a few days in a jar with a tight lid;
2. Pastry cream with figs: Véronique uses the Joy of Cooking recipe for the cream; that, too, stores well in a jar in the fridge. Coarsely chop a handful of dried mission figs, and cover them with rum overnight. Keep cream and figs separate until assembling the pastries;
3. Green almond paste: use store-bought almond paste, or make it yourself (it's easy: put 200g (~2 cups) almond flour, 100g (~3/4 c) powdered sugar, 1 tsp almond extract, and 1 small egg white in the bowl



of a food processor; process until paste forms; if the paste is too wet, add more almond flour, a tbsp at a time; add 1-2 drops green food coloring (a little goes a long way), and process until color is uniform; store in the fridge shaped as a log, tightly wrapped in plastic wrap.

On the day you want to eat figues: 1. Bake the choux pastry according to your recipe, in dollops about the size of a walnut (this dough puffs up a lot); let the pastries cool completely before proceeding. Bake only the pastries you plan to eat that day; they don't keep well once baked and assembled; 2. Mix some of the pastry cream with some of the rum-soaked figs, drained, in the proportion that pleases you; 3. Fill each pastry with the filling with a spoon; 4. One at a time, roll out thick slices of the almond paste log between two pieces of parchment paper into a thin sheet (1-2mm (~1/64-1/32 in) thick), and cover each filled pastry with almond paste as best you can.

Final word from Véronique: "Keep your handiwork in the fridge until serving, and enjoy!"





# 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 Keely Baker's article with advice from a veteran middle schooler on starting the 6th grade. Keely is a rising 7th grader at Inman Middle. Keely's brother,

Deacon has written an article on returning to High School. Talent runs in the family, apparently, though their dad is purported to be a "cat juggler" (don't ask). Please see the Education section on Page 3. Hey there, Lake Claire kids, let's hear from more of you—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. And thank you, Keely! Wonderful and useful advice.

## Rising Inman Eagles: Back-to-School Advice for 6th Graders

by Keely Baker

6th grade is hard in the beginning. Let's just say it. It is also very different from elementary school. You are more responsible. You are in a different environment with different teachers. Once you are there, you learn new things, make mistakes, and meet new people. I wish someone would've told me many things, so here are a few tips for rising 6th graders at Inman Middle School.

When you're in 6th grade, you need to make a good first impression. The kids you meet will be with you throughout middle and high school. You will still have kids you knew from elementary school as your friends, but at least try to make new friends. I was scared at first and clung to my old friends, but I got to know

the kids in my class really well, and now we are great friends. So, put yourself out there!

I am going into 7th grade, and when I look back, 6th grade was really fun! Rising 6th graders, please remember never to procrastinate...ever. In 6th grade you get projects...and lots of them. You also have homework from at least one class...every day. It is hard to keep up with it all. Keep track of due dates, and be sure to make time for assignments.

Always, always, always have your agenda. I can't stress this enough. Wherever you are in school, you need to have your agenda. Never ever lose it. This holds all of your bathroom passes (which you have nine of each

quarter. Don't worry about that because you have a bathroom break in your last core class each day. The last quarter, I didn't use any passes, because I went during bathroom breaks.) The agenda also keeps track of all your homework and upcoming events and due dates. Have your agenda at all times!

Don't get caught up in all the drama. It is very chaotic, and it is just ridiculous. Focus on your work and your friends. Don't worry about who-is-dating-whom (yes, people date) or who-fought-whom (yes, kids fight, and the kids who do fight get consequences for their actions. Fights aren't that bad, and they are very rare.) Being away from the drama will help you in the long run.



You are only in 6th grade once, so you should enjoy when you are there! It is not as hard as people always say it is. Once you understand it, it becomes a lot easier. The cafeteria is pretty crazy. You sit by team and sometimes by class. When I was in 6th grade, they let some teams sit in the gym one day and in the cafeteria the next. I don't know how it will run this year. The bus is the least **Cont. on p. 8.**



### \*\*CONGRATULATIONS!\*\*

Brother and sister Tegan and Gideon Derro won the June/July contest and found the hidden Wahoo Swim Team pic. Gideon and Tegan have lived on New York Ave for just over two years with their parents Roger and Jessica. Gideon is looking forward to riding the bus to Mary Lin as a kindergartner this month. Tegan is anxiously awaiting the release of the second grade class lists and learning which friends will be classmates

and who will be her teacher. After months and months of asking, this summer the kids were finally able to adopt two kittens from the Dekalb animal shelter. Autumn and Ginger are super sweet and adjusting to life at the Derros'. When they are not playing with their kittens, Tegan and Gideon enjoy playing soccer, jumping on trampolines, reading, and playing with the neighborhood kids. **Congrats, Tegan and Gideon!**

**NEW CONTEST:**

**Kids:** August is "Get Ready for Kindergarten Month," so it is appropriate that one of our winners this month is a rising Kindergartener, Gideon Derro. August is also "National Goat Cheese Month." Find the picture of a goat somewhere in this issue, and you will be pictured in the next issue. August is ALSO "National Water Quality Month." For the bonus prize, tell us what you do to conserve water. The bonus is having your picture in the Clarion PLUS being a featured writer/artist. 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!