



## June 11, 2-5 p.m.: Lake Claire Centennial Celebration Come on out and eat BBQ!!

**Who:** Lake Claire Neighbors and friends

**What:** It's the THIRD ANNUAL Lake Claire Centennial Celebration. Barbecue (and veggie options), Kids' and Family Activities, membership tables

**When:** Sunday, June 11, from 2 until 5 p.m.

**Where:** the beautiful Frazer Center Gardens and Pavilion

**Why:** To celebrate again the centennial of our beloved in-town oasis, Lake Claire!!!

**The BBQ:** David Gelin, who lives in Lake Claire, will sell the BBQ lunches. His team will start smoking their pork and chicken on-site early on the day of the event. There will be quarter chicken plates, pulled pork plates, and beef and veggie hot dog plates. The sides are coleslaw and baked beans with or without meat. Dessert is free fresh-cut watermelon. Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) will provide lemonade and water. You will need to bring cash.

**Kids' and Family Activities:** Miss Ladybug and her helpers, co-sponsored by LCN and the Lake Claire Land Trust (LCLT), will provide activities for the kids, including face-painting, bubbles, and games with prizes. There will also be a scavenger hunt with prizes for kids of all ages.

**The Welcome Tables:** Sign in to be eligible for several drawings; prizes will include LCN merchandise. Tee-shirts, hats, banners

and Ski LC bumper stickers will be on sale, and you can also pay your LC dues (\$20) if you haven't done so in 2017 yet. Bring your checkbook, cash, or use PayPal for credit card payments. Lake Claire Land Trust will also have a table so that you can become a sponsor (\$10) or purchase LT merchandise.

Centennial Sponsors: Candler Park Market, BOND Credit Union, and Cynthia Baer Real Estate.

*Since the June/July Clarion is delivered around the first week of June, this may be the last Clarion you'll see before the BBQ. So, please mark your calendars now, and we hope to see you there at what has become a signature LC event!*



Lake Claire enjoying last year's Celebration

## Reminder Lake Claire Gardeners!

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust is signing up garden plots for the 2017 growing season, annual fee for rental of a plot at \$40. Special arrangements can be made for sweat equity by contact with the Garden Committee Coordinator (Sara Gottlieb, [sara.gottlieb@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gottlieb@gmail.com)). Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Designated "Giving Plots" are available at no charge (for volunteer groups and individuals who will tend the gardens and dedicate the harvest to feed the hungry through established agencies such as the Clifton Ministries Shelter and *Plant a Row*). Please contact Sara to sign up or with questions.

## Publishing My Book

by Maya Abboushi

I never seriously entertained the idea of getting *Middle South* published. The novel grew out of a love of writing and a hobby I enjoyed in between birthing and raising three children. It took me years to write the story because I was doing it for myself. It was therapeutic to sit in a coffee shop alone with my computer. After I finished it, I half-heartedly sent out a few query letters to literary agencies. More often than not, the response I received was that the agency was not looking at unpublished authors. So I let it go, happy that I even finished writing a novel.

When my youngest child started school, I realized that I needed to be an example to my kids. I needed to show them that they could be anyone they chose to be, that they could accomplish anything. At the very least, I needed to make a valiant effort to get

this book published. When I finally found my publisher, it was an exhilarating, but also terrifying feeling. The thought of having my work out there to be judged was something I'd grappled with for a long time, but I realized it was more important for me to show my children that I was proud of myself.

*Middle South* is a novel about a young Lebanese-American woman named Layla who is trying to strike a balance between being raised by Lebanese, Muslim parents and living and dating in Atlanta. She's recently moved out of her parents' home in the Atlanta suburbs and into an apartment in the city to assert her independence. Her job and social life leave her little time to think about marriage much to the chagrin of her family.

I hope the reader comes away with a better sense of life in the Middle East, spe-



cifically, Beirut. More importantly, I would like to think that the book shows a different perspective that what is generally shown in the media. Above all else, the novel is meant to be light and funny, so I hope the reader laughs out loud.

I moved to Lake Claire with my family six years ago, right before I had my third child. I feel so lucky to have landed on this tiny spot in the universe, and I never want to leave.

## Movie to be Filmed in Lake Claire of Gordon Residents

"The Deep Green Gardens of Gordon Avenue" is about longtime Lake Claire residents Teri Stewart and Iris Hale. A Kickstarter campaign will kick off on May 30, to raise finishing funds for a feature-length documentary film about Teri and Iris. Documentary filmmaker Jennifer Hall Lee directs the film, "The Deep Green Gardens of Gordon Avenue." This is a personal story about them, Lee says, "but it is also about the power we have over our own lives and the future of our communities."

At the corner of Gordon Avenue and Dekalb is a corner lot that had been part of the historic Sutherland estate and has long been a home to numerous trees, wildlife, and one famous pecan tree that Teri named "Granmaw Gordon." Teri, Iris, and many neighbors fought tirelessly to save this green space, and in the process they uncovered interesting facts about

a remarkable family whose intriguing history stretches back to the Civil War.

The film shows us the importance of saving the natural spaces that still exist in our expanding urban neighborhoods. It explores how our communities are still connected to our history and that preserving these green

**Cont. on p. 9.**

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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

*The Clarion Newspaper (and its predecessor Neighbors Monthly Newsletter and its predecessor Lake Claire Neighbors Flyer) has been written, edited, and distributed by volunteers since 1989.*

## MAY

**5** and every Friday in May through May 26—DeKalb History Center, “High Noon History,” a 30-minute tour beginning on the south steps of the historic DeKalb Courthouse. See [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org)

**5-7** Shaky Beats Festival, Centennial Olympic Park, [www.shakybeatsfestival.com](http://www.shakybeatsfestival.com).

**6 & 20** Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle—Sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring friends! Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust’s gift to our community, but your donations help keep them going.

**6-7** Chastain Art Festival presented by Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces, [chastainparkartsfestival.com](http://chastainparkartsfestival.com).

**6** Candler Park Day School, 2-4 p.m., see article at right.

**6** Candler Park Free Movies/Picnic (or “Flick-Nic”), Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them!—bring your food, drink, sheet to sit on, blanket for cold. Movies start at dusk; come early to get good seats but if you bring chairs please do not set up in front of folks on blankets. No cell phones or smoking.

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

**13** 3rd annual Food, Clothing & Shelter Fest. See article on p. 11.

**13-June 11** Actors Express, a great theatre company, presenting “Father Comes Home From the Wars” [www.actors-express.com/plays](http://www.actors-express.com/plays)

**17** Mary Lin monthly dine-out at our favorite kids-always-eat-free Flying Biscuit, 3rd Wednesday of every month. Simply show up for dinner and **mention Mary Lin**, and Flying Biscuit’s management will generously donate 5% of your ticket to the Mary Lin Education Foundation.

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

**19-June 25** Horizon Theatre (Little 5 Pts), “How to Use a Knife.” [www.horizontheatre.com/plays/mainstage](http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/mainstage)

**29** Memorial Day Music at the Lake Claire Land Trust 5-10 p.m. featuring popular local band Webster. See p. 11.

**Saturdays in May** Decatur Concerts on the Square.

**June 11** BBQ!!!! SEE PAGE 1, TOP ARTICLE.

Send calendar entries for the **JUNE/JULY** (double issue, no July issue) Clarion by **May 15** to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)

## Candler Park Day School

by Arin Aynes

Candler Park Day School at the New Church is proud to invite you to our first parent-led fundraiser, Spring Fest! Join us on Saturday, May 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Atlanta’s famous Mr. Michael of the Learning Groove will kick off this family event with an interactive music concert. Children, teachers, and parents can sing, dance, laugh, and wiggle as Mr.

Michael gets silly with his guitar! Bouncy houses, yummy food, King of Pops, games, music, and a raffle. More details in last month’s Clarion, which if you don’t still have it, you can get online.

For more information, contact Arin Aynes ([arinaynes@gmail.com](mailto:arinaynes@gmail.com)) or Kendra Longchamps ([klongchamps@netdividuals.com](mailto:klongchamps@netdividuals.com)).

## Taxes, Darn Taxes

by Robert Bryan Davis,

Lake Claire Liaison to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

“Born. Pay taxes. Die.” They say we only have to do these three things in life. But truthfully, the middle one is a choice. You can choose not to pay taxes. You might just be shoving the responsibility down the road, but you can choose not to pay taxes. Especially, if the government can’t catch up to you. Maybe it’s just a saying.

Last week I was attending the computer room at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on my regular Tuesday night there. We don’t do anything structured. I work in the computer industry, and I start each session with an offer to help anyone who needs it; otherwise, I will just be available if anyone needs me in his work. In many of the sessions, I am a bump on the proverbial log unless someone is having trouble with his machine or website or resume.

So I hear a lot of conversations.

Last week there were three of us, two of the CSM guests and myself. And what were they talking about? Paying their taxes. Two recently homeless men talking about paying their taxes.

Now, their conversation struck me as important. It shouted out to me. One really powerful guy won’t show the public his tax returns, and one of these men was sharing with the other that if you go over to Greenbriar Mall, there is an outfit that will help you get your tax return in, on time, correct, for free.

I said it in the last Clarion, but I’ll say it again: Thank you, Lake Claire, for not building a wall. It appears that homeless people worry about paying taxes, too. Just like you and I. Contributing members of society. Helping folks to better themselves is a better use of tax money than building a wall. Thanks again, Lake Claire.



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# Spotlight on Mary Lin's Outdoor Classroom

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair

**What is an Outdoor Classroom?** An Outdoor Classroom, fondly referred to as an OC, is an outdoor learning space where cross-curricular, teachable moments happen. In order to nurture the whole child, we have to make learning accessible to all students, not just inside a classroom. An outdoor classroom is ideal for when students might be studying bees and pollination, and making observations. Other students might be experimenting and testing soil, making predictions, and growing plants. Perhaps another group is writing poetry using their five senses, and yet another, sculpting models of an animal they are observing. At the very least, they will learn that food is not just from the grocery store or Amazon. The OC is a place of creativity and endless tangible moments for students to learn and grow.

**What does the research suggest?** Not only has research shown that children de-stress and learn better in outdoor environments, but also that academic performance increases and attention spans increase. The Children and Nature Network (C&NN) have compiled several studies; one shows that daily exposure to the outdoors increases ability to focus (Nancy Wells, 2000), and another shows being in the outdoors led to higher levels of concentration in children ages 7-12 with ADHD (Faber

Taylor & Kuo, 2008). American Institutes for Research (AIR) reported that children in outdoor education programs rated higher in conflict resolution and cooperation skills. This same study also showed that students raised their science test scores by 26 points. Needless to say, outdoor education is of great benefit to our children.

**What's the latest scoop on Mary Lin's Outdoor Classroom?** With over a year and a half of planning, Joan Piccalo with JP Designs has put together this video of what the first Phase of Mary Lin's Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden will look like. Check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93IeUAFX9B8&feature=youtu.be>.

**OC tentative timeline:**  
 March 17: APS removed the trees;  
 Week of April 10: Mary Lin K-2nd grade planting in beds;  
 Week of April 24: Mary Lin 3rd-5th grade planting in beds (first day of Construction: April 24);  
 May 1: work day with Captain Planet and Mary Lin to build raised garden beds;  
 Middle to End of May: probable end to Construction (new Learning Garden is finished and turned over for the summer to the OC Maintenance Team).  
 The OC has been getting a facelift with the hard work of Boy Scout Ben

Shipp, who is working on his Eagle Scout Project under the supervision of Lake Claire neighbor and Eagle Scout Leader Michael Baer. He organized two workdays and fixed up the old amphitheater and its benches by removing and replacing wood, and giving the chalkboard a good cleaning. Ben and a group of volunteers built four picnic tables for the habitat area and laid mulch. *Thank you so much, Ben and Troop 101!!*

The Mary Lin Annual Spring Garden Clean-Up took place on Saturday, March 25. Our amazing volunteers cleaned up and cleaned out our Mary Lin Garden beds, which are now ready for students to plant Spring vegetables. The Garden Club planted a few vegetables and herbs to kick off the season.

**How can I get involved in the Outdoor Classroom either up close or from afar?** If you are looking for ways to help out our Lake Claire community, our environment, and/or Mary Lin Elementary, then you have arrived at the perfect place. You can be a hands-on volunteer, a volunteer from afar, or give a donation whether it be in-kind or monetary. Hands-on Volunteering includes workdays and garden club. (Contact Andy Woodworth, Garden Club Chair [andy.woodworth@gmail.com](mailto:andy.woodworth@gmail.com) or 404-759-3826. Parents and **Cont. on p. 9.**

Programs for kids aged 3-14:

## Passports Explore Camp and Brain Juice Makers Camp

by Pat Del Rey

I had the very special opportunity to visit Shirah Frazier in Kirkwood and witness her program in a church on Hosea Williams, very close to the intersection of Rocky Ford. This is very convenient to our neighborhood of Lake Claire. Look for her two ads in this issue of the Clarion. While I was there, Shirah told me about her recent Moroccan program for her participants. They met people from Morocco and engaged in a special program to introduce the kids to Moroccan culture. They also drank delicious Moroccan tea. Shirah founded the Language International Kids Educational Services (LIKES) in 2013. She is an experienced Georgia Certified Educator (15 years) whose out-of-the-box style of teaching and creativity has led her to design two exciting and unique programs for kids. LIKES is the parent company for the Passports Explore Camp and Brain Juice Makers Space Makers Camp. LIKES offers after school programming, school break camps, and several summer camps through their Passport Explorer Camps and Brain Juice Kids Maker Space Program.

As the Program Director for LIKES, Shirah is purpose-driven



to offer these learning experiences to children (from 3 to 14 years old) and their families, from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm and aftercare from 3:30 to 6:30pm.

**The Passport Explore camp** is an internationally themed day camp that gives kids an exciting learning experience beyond their world via language, food, music, landmarks, festivals, flag & map study, geographical locations, and virtual tours.

**Brain Juice Kids Makers Space Camp** is a program that is on the cutting edge of the new Makers Movements. The atmosphere of this

**Cont. on p. 6.**



Ben Shipp



Volunteer Scouts from Troop 101

### ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY OR SERVICE IN THE CLARION

Promote your business in the Lake Claire neighborhood and the CP/LC business district. Go to our website for pricing information, or contact our advertising coordinator at [advertising@lakeclaire.org](mailto:advertising@lakeclaire.org). Thank you

## May into June in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

*“... you are gardening against the clock. [Spring] has an indefinite beginning, with some things planted while frost lingers and others after it's gone, but it has a very definite end. In warm climates, three consecutive days of temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit and warm nights send an irresistible signal to many plants, telling them to change their ways and get on with reproduction. Lettuce bolts, spinach turns bitter, . . .”*

*Warm Climate Gardening*, by Barbara Pleasant, Storey Communications, Inc., (Pownal, VT: 1993), pp. 37-38.

In 1984 when Pleasant published her inimitable *Handbook of Southern Gardening*, she defined spring as March to mid-May; by 1993 she had redefined it as March to April. Whether you believe in global warming or not, it is clear that May is now early summer and that there are many seeds and plants to get into the ground before heat-check brings fruiting to a temporary stop. Sow basil, beans, field peas, corn, cucumbers, melons, okra, and pumpkins. Get the eggplant and pepper plants and the sweet potato slips you have purchased or raised into the ground, along with any tomatoes you did not plant in April. No need for frost protection now.

Pull out cool weather crops still in the ground, amend the soil with compost, and put in the hot weather plants and seeds. Some items, like chard and collards, may make it through the summer; but don't do as I do, hanging on to everything until the last minute. Make a plan before or as you plant so that you don't dig up new seedlings and can rotate crops from year to year. Whatever you do, don't forget to mulch with wheat straw, shredded leaves, pine straw, or mini-bark, depending on the crop. Not only will it cut down on watering, but the mulch will eventually become crumbly soil.

Already temperatures were running in the 80s in April. We did get four inches of rain on April 5 (the most at one time since December 2015), but spring tends to be dry here compared with winter

and some summers. Decide how you will keep your garden watered, and invest in soaker hoses, watering cans, water barrels, and sprinklers as needed. Although the latter are the most wasteful, they have the advantage of watering large areas quickly and of getting some oxygen into and chlorine out of the water as it flies through the air. I top off my pond once a week this way if it has not rained. Use sprinklers early in the day so that plants are not left wet at nightfall. I use soaker hoses on long flower beds but find the set-up too complicated for vegetable beds that are always changing. Do cover these permanently situated hoses with mini-bark or leaves to make them last longer. Maybe you have young children who can share hand-watering with you from smaller watering cans. Water deeply about once a week at soil level, avoiding foliage, more during the midst of summer. A little light daily sprinkling is both useless and expensive.

Plants are like pets and children although more self-sufficient. You don't set them out there and then ignore them for a week. No matter what your schedule, take the time every day to stroll around, carrying coffee or wine depending on the time of day, and look at your plants. Although a few spots or blemishes are as normal as freckles, be on the lookout for wilting, peculiar growths, large numbers of insects, and other such strangers. A knowledgeable neighbor, the Internet, or a book can help you distinguish between

benign visitors and spreading diseases. Try to attract beneficial insects and birds to your garden by providing food with flowers and bushes. Start with simple remedies before rushing out to buy the chemical that is covered with labels warning you of its dangers.

This was a wretched spring for tulips. I think only half of the 650 I planted made it to bloom what with rodents eating what came out of the ground and many failing to bud because of the warm winter. The good news is that all the narcissus made a good show and will of course come back next year. Remember not to cut down foliage until it browns. Now the bulb catalogs are arriving, and I urge you to order early and specify delivery in November. More winters like the last one may make pre-chilling of tulips for ten weeks necessary.

There have been some sweet surprises this spring despite the azalea being zapped by the March frost. *Nierembergia Purple Robe* and *nicotiana Bella*, planted out last year too late to bloom, came through the winter and flowered in April. Snapdragons from last year are huge and ready to open. And the sweet peas, although struggling in April heat, are lovely. So when you run late and have no time to transplant seedlings in the correct season, tuck them in somewhere this fall, and see what they will do.

Contact Elizabeth with your questions/comments at [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). ~Beth

## Get Your Flowers, Learn to Bellydance, and Walk to Work

Ever wonder what's behind that mysterious door next to the bellydancing studio at Oakdale and McLendon across from Paper Ghost Studio? Well, it was a recording studio but it is now home to Wondershop—neighborhood co-working in Candler Park.

Co-working is the latest trend in business working geared to freelancers, contract workers, and startup businesses. Instead of professionals trying to perch at local coffee shops where space is limited and things can get noisy, they rent space at a co-working location. This allows them to have a reliable place to get work done, network, and avoid large overhead costs. Wondershop brings that concept deep into the neighborhood for those who'd prefer a closer, healthier walking/biking commute to work each day. Different co-working spaces offer differ-

ent amenities. Wondershop on McLendon will have space for monthly dedicated desks, monthly hot desks (8 visits per month), and even virtual memberships for folks needing a mailing address and meeting space. Amenities of Wondershop include free wifi, printing, coffee/tea, conference room, and best of all—walk-to-work location. Lake Claire resident Boyd Baker came up with this hyper local concept and hopes to use the common space after hours for private events, how-to classes, and whatever other creative activities the neighborhood desires, so please reach out with your ideas. “I want the space to connect neighbors professionally to network and also give folks a space where they can connect socially,” says Baker. More info can be found at [www.Wondershop-ATL.com](http://www.Wondershop-ATL.com) and on Facebook.



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**How?** Mail a check for \$20 to Lake Claire Neighbors, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta, GA 31107, OR go to [www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm](http://www.lakeclaire.org/lcn/members.htm)

**Why?** Help your neighborhood association clean up greenspaces, install signs, support initiatives, have great parties, and support deserving causes

Thanks to Lake Claire neighbors who  
have already paid 2017 dues

## Simple Steps to Reduce Mosquitos Around Your Home

by James Hill

Summer in Georgia is not complete without lots of heat, lots of humidity, and lots of mosquitoes. 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, and as highlighted in last month's Clarion, **without using harmful chemicals.**

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, for which they need standing water. By simply eliminating the stagnant water around your home, you will have an enormous impact on the mosquito population."

The most common mosquito breeding sites include bird baths, clogged gutters, unused wading pools, bottle caps, buckets, flower pots,



and pet dishes. By scrubbing and replacing the water bird baths and pet dishes at least twice a week, you can prevent thousands of mosquitoes from being born. Mosquito borne diseases are on a comeback, even in Georgia. The mosquitoes which could potentially carry the Zika virus lay their eggs on the sides of containers, just above the water line, whereas the mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus lay their eggs on the water surface. This is why it is important to scrub containers that would be ideal

breeding sites for mosquitos.

Residents can also purchase "mosquito dunks" and "mosquito bits" at hardware stores and *Amazon.com*, to put in ponds, bird baths, and other areas with standing water. These products are biological mosquito control, are environmentally friendly and kill mosquitos before they're able to bite.

Since there is no way to completely wipe out mosquitoes, there are some simple things that you can do for protection like using mosquito repellent and wearing light-colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks. There is a mosquito prevention checklist on the DeKalb County Board of Health website to help you do your own assessment of your property to protect yourself, your family and your neighbors and reduce the mosquito population in our neighborhood. ([www.dekalbhealth.net](http://www.dekalbhealth.net) and by phone at 404-508-7871)

## Carpenter Bees in the Neighborhood

As there is much discussion of carpenter bees on NextDoor, and though Flora Fauna may tell us more next month, we are adding our two cents with some facts—and opinions.

Carpenter bees overwinter as adults, often inside old nest tunnels, emerging in April and May.

They are large, black and yellow bees frequently seen in spring hovering around the eaves of a house or the underside of a deck or porch rail. They

are most often mistaken for bumble bees, but differ in that they have black shiny tail sections. The carpenter bee is so-called because of its habit of excavating tunnels in wood with its strong jaws. The round half-inch diameter entrance holes are

usually found on the underside of a board. A tell-tale trace of coarse sawdust is often found on the surface beneath the hole. Wooden decks, overhangs, and other exposed wood on houses are prime targets. They don't like painted and treated wood. And the bees do not consume the wood as food, as



do carpenter ants and termites. They excavate tunnels for nesting sites.

The Clarion and the LC residents who posted on NextDoor **in favor of bees** hope that most people will seek a solution that doesn't involve either killing bees or putting more pesticides into our environment. I hope before anyone begins to **Cont. on p. 7.**

## Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

This month's "Wild" will be in bits and pieces, or perhaps it should be said to be in bites and crises. Several issues that bug folks in the neighborhood have been brought to my attention. Two of them are gnats and bees. But if these are gnat a problem for you, then read on to the last couple of paragraphs where you might find things more relatable, that is if pesticides, dead bees, and living and dead beavers are more to your liking.

First, let's get those pesky gnats out of the way. Gnats, that's nats, not gu-nats, are also known as fruit flies, vinegar flies, or no-see-ums, and are tiny black insects much smaller than those peskier mosquitoes. Gnat facts: they have a life cycle of four months, and a female can lay up to 300 eggs in her lifetime. Gnats like to breed and live where there is fungus and moisture. That lucky combination can come from a number of sources like over-ripe fruit, plants that are overwatered, or indoor compost savings.

The best way to rid of gnats yourself is to find the breeding grounds and get rid of them. This is hard to do. And remember, while you're on the hunt that 100s of cute little baby gnats are being born with you in mind. Well,

I shouldn't say that, as gnats don't actually bite, but just like to annoy. Forgive me, gu-nats, for spreading false news about you.

Since it may take a long time to find the source of the teenie ones, conventional wisdom suggest that you take some measures while you look. First, put your fruit in the fridge; second, don't overwater your plants; third, empty the excess water in the trays under your plants; fourth, put your compost outside. Another thing that you can do, as suggested by my neighbor the gnat whisperer, is to enlist the help of fly paper, hanging it around your house and putting strips in your potted plants. You can also place ice over the surface of the soil of your indoor plant or—in extreme cases substitute cracked glass for ice on your potted plants.

Now, onto news in the neighborhood: Miriam H. on Arizona reports that she continues to work with the Smithsonian on their bird study. Here is her report on the recent activity. "Clay started at 7:15 (in Miriam's back yard) by setting up the nets but rain cut the usual four-hour stint short. Nonetheless we banded, weighed, measured wingspan and tail length, and checked for sex

on a Robin, Carolina Wren, and a female Cardinal..... two days later he and I walked around the neighborhood looking for those birds and banded birds from previous years, but it is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Clay has a very good ear and could identify so many bird songs. He plays a musical instrument and can identify the notes. It was fun walking with him. Later this year another group will be back checking catbirds. Last year radio transmitters were placed on the ones in my yard. Catbirds haven't arrived yet, so I don't know when the next investigators will arrive. The catbirds love the elderberry bushes around the pond."

Meta L., our Candler Park correspondent, reports that the birds are back around the pond in the Candler Park golf course: Goldfinches, Rough-winged Swallows, Chimney Swifts, and many warblers, possibly one a Black and White. Live mammals continue at the pond. Meta has seen both a beaver and an otter in the last month. The beaver sightings at this pond are very much in contrast to the beaver removal, i.e., killings, behind a residence on Lakeshore Drive in Lake Claire.

Ilene S. reports that rab-

bits have been sighted in her neighborhood again. She also has been hearing Barred Owls. Genise S. (no relation) reports from Indiana Ave., that "the barred owls have been going to town with their who-cooks-for-you hoots."

And a brief reminder about pesticides and bees as reported by Leah Pine, guest columnist in last month's *Wild*. "Much of the loss (of bees) is attributed to agricultural monocultures and mass pesticides spraying or impregnated in the plants themselves. Cities and residential sites (like Atlanta and Lake Claire) can provide much needed habitat and protection for these invaluable species, but **not if we are spraying for mosquitoes.**" You can read Leah's article in her blog: [www.leahpine.com/spraying](http://www.leahpine.com/spraying), and see this month's article on page 5 on humane ways to protect your home from mosquitos without pesticides.

Well, I believe I, Flora Fauna, have said or preached enough so I'll sign off for now. But like General MacArthur or Arnold Schwarzenegger, though not as heavily armed, I will be bahck. And next time I'll be going into beetail, oh, I meant detail, about Carpenter bees. Get your hard hats on!

Please, everyone, please consider **NOT spraying your yard or having a company spray your yard for mosquitoes.** Insecticides are toxic to a wide variety of wildlife, including beneficial insects, songbirds, fish, and bees. Please see article on Page 5 of April's Clarion for more detail, available on the website if your paper has been recycled. Please, let's fight against the mainstream gut reaction to kill everything that is a nuisance, from harmless but pesky carpenter bees to mosquitos; thoughtful, humane options exist. -Editor

## Camp Programs

continued from page 3.

program is designed with the spirit of invention in mind. Facilitated by Makers Educators, campers are self-inspired to explore, design, create, and build with a purpose! Kids do various activities from 3D printing, wearable electronics, Tapigami, and much MORE!!! I saw the results of 3D printing, which were very interesting. I had not actually seen objects that were created by 3D printing before.

During the school year, the after-school programming serves schools in and around the East Atlanta, Kirkwood, and Lake Claire areas. Other offerings are included but



are not limited to monthly Parent's Night Out (PNO) dates, and Language and Academic tutoring. In the summer they offer several summer camp experiences. You can check out their websites to find out details and sign your kids up for these exciting programs at: [www.languageinternationalkids.com](http://www.languageinternationalkids.com) (click on Passport Explorer Camp) and [www.brainjuicekids.com](http://www.brainjuicekids.com). You may also call Shirah for more information at 770-421-5264(LANG) or 678-860-9010. Shirah told me that LIKES believes in fun-filled educational experiences that spark creativity, ignite innovation, and give kids an experience beyond their world.

You may schedule a visit at their location: 2071 Hosea Williams Drive, Suite 27, located inside the Israel Missionary Baptist Church (not affiliated with the church). When pulling into the parking lot drive toward the right

side in the back of the church, and look for the orange door on the left, just after the white picket fence ends.

I was very impressed with Shirah and her programs. I highly recom-

mend a visit. Using a 3D printer was a high point in my visit as was meeting Shirah, who exudes her excitement and dedication to kids.

**WORLD TOUR Summer Camp**  
[www.languageinternationalkids.com](http://www.languageinternationalkids.com)  
**Phone: 770-421-LANG (5264)**  
 Suite 27 • 2071 Hosea L. Williams Dr. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30317  
[www.facebook.com/brainjuicemakes/?pnref=lhc](https://www.facebook.com/brainjuicemakes/?pnref=lhc)

## Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues

**Lake Claire dues payers since last time:** Indaue Mello, Cynthia Gatton, David Campbell, LVA Bredvold, James Hill, Brian Kirk, Brian Smith, Pat del Rey, Jeffery Rosenberg, and Angela Rhoton.

**Thanks, all of you.** We appreciate your support of our many wonderful neighborhood initiatives. Lake Claire

annual dues are \$20/year per household – and just like with National Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. A Lake Claire Banner package deal is only \$50 if combined with annual dues! You may pay your dues at any time of the year, but the Clarion recommends paying at the first of the year...that is, now—and

in exchange, we put your name in print! If we have missed anyone who paid your dues and hasn't been noted in the Clarion, we are happy to include you next time. Pay by PayPal at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) or the old-fashioned check in the mail, to LCN, Attn: Jim Rockaway, Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.



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## Little Five Arts Alive!

We are thrilled to share the news with Lake Claire that Little Five Arts Alive (LFAA) is returning to Little Five Points April through November.

LFAA has a great schedule of performers in both plazas (Findley & Davis) each weekend for the first four weeks. Building on the success of the 2016 program, the free weekly series of outdoor arts events returns to the heart of Little Five Points. Arts will enliven the L5P plazas (at the corner of Euclid and Moreland Avenues) every Saturday and Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning running through November 5.

This year's programming will again highlight a wide variety of artists—music, dance, theatre, visual arts, crafts, circus, performance art, and more. There will be many surprises for Little Five Points neighbors and visitors, including chances to be both spectators and participants. You might listen to a great band or duet, try your hand at a graffiti wall, chalk sidewalk art, or get an impromptu salsa lesson. **New this year**, you can sit, watch, nosh, and sip, at tables on Findley Plaza with food and

drink service provided by The Porter Beer Bar, 4-9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. And the plazas are getting a facelift with some new plantings and yarn through a beautification project courtesy of a Little Five Alive, a community organization made up of neighborhood representatives and members of the L5P Business Association.

**Each month, one Spotlight Weekend is featured** with a theme that artists and partners will use as their jumping off point. On the second Sunday of each month, Little Five Arts Alive will provide local artists the opportunity to sell their works through a curated creative Little Five Arts Alive Artist Market.

Opening Weekend was April 22-23, and LFAA celebrated Record Store Day on Saturday as the spotlight theme for the weekend was the Atlanta Music Scene. Sound artist Meredith Kooi and Bucky Dome came to Findley Plaza, where Kooi set up shop with her hyper-local radio show, which was broadcasted only in the L5P plaza area. Exciting times are ahead all summer and through the fall. **Here is the schedule for May:**

## Background on Little Five Arts Alive:

Little Five Arts Alive is a project formed from a partnership between **Horizon Theatre Company** and the Little Five Points Community Improvement District, and supported by a grant from ArtPlace America.

"We will focus on art that connects and celebrates our community, inspires hope and positive change, and is accessible to diverse audiences," said Horizon co-artistic/producing director Lisa Adler, a Little Five Points CID board member. "Our goal is to bring positive artistic energy to the area that can draw pedestrian traffic and create a welcoming, attractive, engaging, walkable arts destination, in which arts, entertainment, dining, and shopping thrive."

Little Five Arts Alive is an example

of a national trend in arts philanthropy and programming known as **Creative Placemaking**—where artists, designers, arts organizations, and local leaders collaborate on innovative projects that help build stronger communities and improve the quality of life for residents. ArtPlace America defines creative placemaking as the use of the arts to "shape the social, physical and economic futures of communities."

*If you have any questions or if you would like to speak with anyone involved with the event, including scheduling interviews or arranging on-site filming, contact Laura Moody, Founder and Chief Connector, 404-621-5677, laura@peachstatecollective.com. ~ Editor*

### The Clarion thanks Eileen O'Neill for uploading the web version of the Clarion each month.

And thanks to all of our delivery volunteers every month, who get your Clarion to your door, like the postal carriers, through rain, snow, and snarling dogs.... Well, through rain and steep hills and crazy schedules might be more fitting!

You can see past issues (back to the year 2000) at [lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives](http://lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives) and always view the current issue in color, even if the paper issue is b&w at [lakeclaire.org/clarion/current-issue](http://lakeclaire.org/clarion/current-issue)

Little 5 Arts Alive May 2017 Schedule			
Day	Time	Findley Plaza	Davis Plaza
Sat. May 6	5-6 p.m.	TESSA JOY Singer/Songwriter	KYLE NACHTIGAL Singer/Songwriter
	6-7 p.m.	SALSA ARTE Latin Dance Demo & Instruction	
	7-8 p.m.		
Sun. May 7	5-6 p.m.	GOLD GRIFFITH BAND Funk/R&B Band	BELLE ROUSSE Pop Singer/Songwriter
	6-7 p.m.	WYATT ESPALIN Americana	KING QUIC Street-style Dance
	7-8 p.m.		
Sat. May 13	5-6 p.m.	STEPHEN DUNCAN Blues & Bluegrass	UNKNOWN LYRIC Violin & Guitar Duo
	6-7 p.m.	INTERPLAY ATLANTA Interactive Dance	
	7-8 p.m.	JUAN PARADES and JULIE BAGGENSTOSS	SIMEON FELICIEN Alternative Soul
Sat. May 14	5-6 p.m.	LAUREN PETERSON Performance Art	KEITH CUTS Ukelele Pop
	6-7 p.m.		
	7-8 p.m.	NUBIAN SOUNDS Neo-Funk Soul	TALITHA GABRIEL Singer/Songwriter

## Carpenter Bees

*continued from page 5.*

poison them that you at least try natural solutions (which may be more time consuming, but these are not hornets, so worth it). First, carpenter bees are actually **much, much better pollinators than regular honey bees**. One person on NextDoor: "I used to dislike them drilling into our wood until discovering how useful they are, and now we are willing to put up with a few holes here and there in favor of our hurting planet." Since they are pollinators, it really is not good for the environment—or your landscaping—to kill carpenter bees. All bees are in danger these days, and especially if you are a gardener like I am, you will be happy to see them alight on your fruit trees when they blossom.

Some suggestions on N.D. to get rid of them naturally:

- (1) "Stain or paint outdoor wooden surfaces to discourage bee infestation; spray affected areas with a natural non-synthetic citrus and/or tea tree oil spray; stop the cycle of reproduction by sealing off burrows or galleries that have been vacated."
- (2) "I have had success deterring

them by hanging curling ribbon from the roof overhang in the area. We are losing too many bees and butterflies to the folks who spray their yards 'for mosquitoes'."

(3) "I spray my fence with citrus oil (just boil lemon, lime, and orange peels until the water is halved and put it in a dollar store spray bottle), and it helped...Natural, and no bees harmed!"

(4) "I sprayed the holes and the wood with natural lemon eucalyptus mosquito repellent two days ago. Have not seen them in several days. I don't want to kill them either."

(5) "They can't stand noise. So if you put a boom box by your table they leave."

(6) "Put up a bee house nearby to give the bees a safe, non-destructive place to nest."

Lastly, said one poster: "Don't get rid of 'em. Just give them little hammers, nails, and saws, and put them to work on your back porch."

Seriously, we have to take better care of the world's bees. Please, Lake Claire, let's do our part.



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## Outdoor Classroom

*continued from page 3.*

students welcome!) Or, **Volunteer from Afar** (grant writing, volunteer coordinating, mini-fundraisers). Please contact Julie Roseman, Outdoor Classroom Committee, [juliroseman@yahoo.com](mailto:juliroseman@yahoo.com).

**In-kind Donations and Contributions:** We won't say no to whatever you have to offer! We have plenty of naming opportunities. We will be building everything from planters to cisterns, landscaping, seeds, garden tools, mulch, soil, benches, signage, etc. If you're interested in a monetary contribution, you can make a check out to the *Mary Lin Education Foundation—ear-marked to the Outdoor Classroom*. You can mail it to Annsley Klehr, 482 Hardendorf Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307. If you are interested in an in-kind donation, please email Julie Roseman: [juliroseman@yahoo.com](mailto:juliroseman@yahoo.com).

**Who has helped to make this possible?** The Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom Committee consisting of co-chairs Allison Turner and Tamara Jones, Julie Roseman, Annsley Klehr, and Mary Lin teacher, Gregg Rice; Landscape Architect, Joan Piccolo, without whom the OC could have never made it this far; Sam Heys, Mary Lin parent, who will build/assemble equipment; Donors like Bill Gordon with Georgia Landscape Supply, Mary Lin Education Foundation, Lake Claire Neighborhood Association, and Inman Park

Neighborhood Association.

**Rent a Mary Lin Vegetable Bed For The Summer—Outdoor Classroom Fundraiser!** Need a community garden bed to tend to or plant? Rent one from the Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom!! We have planted beds and unplanted beds available. We have garden vegetable beds to rent to families for the summer. Each bed is already planted with a bed that might include: peppers, eggplant, basil, cucumbers, squash, zinnias, and cosmos. All vegetables will be started as seedlings, but the zinnias and cosmos will be seeded. This is a great way to have fresh organic veggies this summer and to have your children involved with the garden. Don't worry if you will be away part of the summer. 'Garden families' are happy to water for each other. You can even share a bed with another family. Planted Bed rentals are \$75, and unplanted beds are \$60. We will use these funds to help our students learn and grow in the garden during the school year.

First come, first served! Make out your check to "Mary Lin Elementary," write "Summer Garden Bed" in the comment line, and place it in the P.T.A. mailbox marked "GREGG RICE," or deliver to teacher Gregg Rice.

Questions to [grice@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:grice@atlanta.k12.ga.us) OR Mary Lin Garden Club Chair, Andy Woodworth ([andy.woodworth@gmail.com](mailto:andy.woodworth@gmail.com)).

## Minutes of April Lake Claire Neighbors Monthly Meeting:

Pizza (compliments of Savage Pizza) and soft drinks served 15 minutes before the meeting. The Lake Claire Neighbors Association is very grateful to this local business for its generous support.

Guest speakers (Representatives of the City Council, and Atlanta Police Department)

LCN officer reports

**Sgt. Hines APD:** Car break-ins have been our only problems, and few of those.

Valencia Hudson—Natalyn Archibong's Office: Natalyn is running for reelection. Update on camera for LC Park: working to see if we can get the right kind of cable to work for it.

**Fundraising:** June 11: Centennial BBQ & Beer Tasting.

**Zoning:** Variances

**Communications:** Sign up for email list

Centennial info is on Page 1 of the Clarion, and do check the website for last minute changes..

**Announcements and current issues:**

2017 dues reminder—\$20 per household

- Renewal of NPU bylaws: No changes have been made to the bylaws, but we will vote on them to affirm them next month.

- V-17-080: 481 Hardendorf Ave. Applicant seeks a variance from zoning regulations to reduce the required front yard setback from 35 ft. to 19 ft. and reduce the required half-depth front yard setback from 17.5 ft. to 15 ft. in order to construct a porch addition to a single family non-conforming structure. Passed 13 to zero.

- V-17-063, 562 Hardendorf: Applicant seeks variance from the zoning regulations to: 1) exceed the maximum pagement from 33% to 43% in the required front yard; 2) to exceed the maximum lot coverage from 50% to 56%; 3) to exceed 2 retaining walls to 3 in the required front yard. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time. Passed 11 to 2.

Stay informed! To receive occasional e-mails about happenings in, around and concerning Lake Claire, as well as reminders of up-coming meetings, please sign up at [lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up](http://lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up)



Teri (L) and Iris (R)

## Filming in Lake Claire

*continued from page 1.*

spaces are vital to our lives. Director Jennifer Hall Lee is a resident of Los Angeles, but grew up in Little Five Points. Her background is in visual effects for feature films, yet she has persevered in her career as an independent filmmaker. Her last film, "Feminist: Stories from Women's Liberation," is distributed by Women Make Movies, and she has screened it all over the world, including Islamabad, Pakistan.

You can contact Jennifer at [www.jenniferhalllee.com](http://www.jenniferhalllee.com), [jenniferhalllee@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhalllee@gmail.com).



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## 2017 Atlanta Spring & Summer Festivals

- Shakey Knees Music Festival - May 12, 13 & 14th
- Taste Of Highlands - May 13th
- Sweet Auburn Spring Festival - May 13th & 14th
- Kirkwood Spring Fling. 5K & Tour Of Homes - May 20th
- Fire In The Fourth Festival - May 20th
- Grant Park Tour Of Homes - May 21 & 22nd
- Atlanta Jazz Festival - May 26 & 27th
- Brew At The Zoo - May 27th
- Decatur Arts Festival - May 26, 27 & 28th
- Candler Park Food & Music Festival - June 2 & 3rd
- Atlanta Food & Wine Festival - June 1, 2, 3 & 4th
- Virginia Highlands Summerfest - June 3 & 4th
- Atlanta Design Festival - June 2-11th
- Old Fourth Ward Arts Festival - June 24 & 25th
- Peachtree Road Race - July 4th
- Grant Park Summer Shade Festival - Aug 26 & 27th

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## Miss Ladybug's Garden Theatre Camp

Join Miss Ladybug and artist and storyteller Christy Foelsch of Kids go Wild for a week-long environmental theatre adventure camp at the magical Lake Claire Community Land Trust! Five daily sessions the week of June 26, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, will combine storytelling, theater, and nature education.

Drawing on the natural beauty and wonder of the Land Trust, we will learn how to develop ideas and express them in fun and dramatic ways on stage with microphones. On the stage we will explore what it's like to be a bug, a flower, even a gnome or a fairy. During the week we will create awesome props and theatrical skits based on our observations

in the garden, learn new games, share yummy snacks like homemade ice cream, and create an original performance to be shared publicly on Friday at 1:00 pm. Your child will help guide the project and add his or her own flair.

This camp will be so much fun and we are thrilled to share this experience with you. A snack and nutrition activity is included each day. Campers bring their own lunch. The cost is \$200 per child. Camp size is limited, so reserve your spot today.

For more info or to sign up, visit [Ladybugeventsllc.com](http://Ladybugeventsllc.com). Contact Andrea, a.k.a. Miss Ladybug, with questions or concerns at [missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com](mailto:missladybug@ladybugeventsllc.com).



## Hello-Safe Journey Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Please help us make this feature inclusive. Take a minute right now, and send life cycle events/important rights of passage, etc. Deadline MAY 15 for the JUNE/JULY newspaper-DOUBLE issue, there is no separate issue for July ([editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)).

### May Birthdays

- 3 Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue
- 4 Bill Fleming, Harold Avenue and North Georgia
- 4 Jennifer Hubert, Harold Ave
- 5 Jake Landgraff, turns 16
- 6 Lock Rogers, Ridgewood
- 7 Gay Arnieri, Harold
- 9 Bob Caine, getting younger on Leonardo
- 9 Reece Barclay on Hardendorf
- 11 Adler Waugh, turning 6, Leonardo
- 16 Peter Olson, Leonardo
- 18 Jett Friedman, Delaware Avenue, will be 5  
(wow, they grow fast)
- 19 Joseph McGill, Delaware Avenue, will be 16
- 20 Aiden Rogers, Ridgecrest, turns 13
- 23 Mayla Carper, Leonardo, turning 4
- 27 Edie Haggerty, Harold, turns 6
- 28 Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, turning 7

### Graduating!!!!

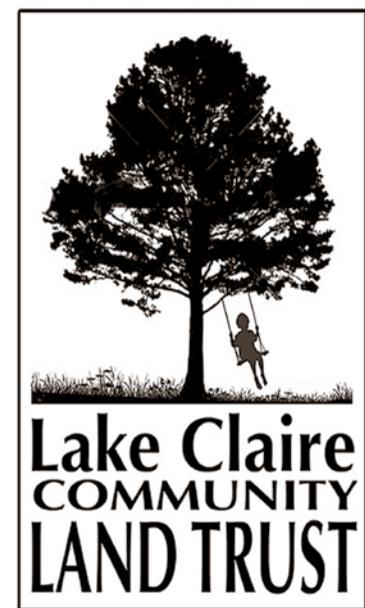
25 Half of the layout team graduates from high school! (the other half watches)

**Congrats to all our Lake Claire graduates!**

## Annual Fun Performance, Saturday, May 27

Webster is a local band with a history of performing in the Lake Claire/Candler Park area. The band formed in 2005 and regularly performs at Candler Park Festivals and the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. It has become an annual tradition for the group to play at the Land Trust, their favorite venue, over Memorial Day weekend with proceeds donated to the non-profit community property. This year Webster and

special guests will perform on Saturday, May 27, starting at 5:00 p.m. and playing into the evening. It is always a fun-filled event with wonderful music and neighbors. Attendees are encouraged to pack a picnic. There is a suggested \$5 donation, and kids are free. If you're in town over the holiday weekend we strongly encourage attending this special night out in our neighborhood's gem, the Land Trust.



## Local Farmers and Self-Sustainability Nonprofits Take the Stage!

3rd Annual Food, Clothing & Shelter Festival, May 13  
by Ebrima Ba & Stephen Wing

"Street journalist" and documentary filmmaker Ebrima Ba is returning to Africa this year after making Lake Claire his home for the past few years. While he was here he conceived and produced the documentary *Food, Clothing & Shelter* and its sequel, *The Ripple Effect*, focusing on homelessness, urban agriculture, community and sustainability in Atlanta. The Land Trust is happy to host the annual festival that has grown out of his work. Learn more about *Rootz of Change* and the festival at [www.food-clothingandshelter.org](http://www.food-clothingandshelter.org).

Rootz of Change is hosting the third annual Food, Clothing and Shelter Festival at the Land Trust on Saturday, May 13. Our objective is to create a community event that celebrates agriculture, food, and entertainment. This year participation in the festival is free for local farmers, so you will be able to meet them and sample what they are growing at this time of year. You'll also have a variety of great food to choose from, so plan to have a meal with us.

The main focus of this year's festival will be the farmers themselves, so several of them will be featured speakers, including local urban agriculture visionaries Rashid Nuri of Truly Living Well and Eugene Cooke of Grow Where You Are. Both organizations grow food in disadvantaged neighborhoods and teach the arts of composting, vermiculture,

and organic gardening. You'll also hear local bands and spoken word artists and see a screening of *The Ripple Effect* and new work by Eric "Spurgeon" Brown, editor of both FCS films. Performers confirmed so far include Sarafina Ethereal, Thea Jones, and Automajic.

As a part of the work we complete on a day-to-day basis, Rootz of Change is supporting the work of others in our community. This year we want to "party smart" and invite the crowd to contribute funds and supplies to help the larger community of Atlanta work toward self-sustainability, starting with the women and children. The following organizations are the ones we have identified that most need our support:

**Pearl Academy Math and Science Institute (Atlanta):** This local K-12 African-centered school focuses on agriculture, mathematics, and science. We are supporting them with a school-supply drive. Any school supplies can be donated, from pencils to hardware/gardening gift cards. The children need supplies for school, but the school also needs supplies for the children and the larger projects they complete for experiential learning. We are aiming to receive \$400 in donations to support the school and its hard work holistically to educate our youth.

**Amani Women's Center (Clarkston):** We are supporting our dear friend sister Doris and her initiative to teach the skill of sewing to

refugee women so that they can earn a solid income. Amani Women's Center is empowering African women to design, produce and market eco-friendly artifacts. However, they are in dire need of sewing machines. We would like to raise \$700 so they can purchase 7 sewing machines at \$100 per machine. Donations of working and fairly modern machines are also welcome! Let's find a way to support their work and ensure the women in training have machines they can practice on and utilize to provide for themselves.

**Concrete Jungle (Atlanta):** We are supporting Concrete Jungle and its efforts to procure and plant fruit trees in and around Atlanta. These plantings provide a source of food and nourishment for our brothers and sisters who may not have access to healthy food options. The work they are doing is crucial and if you would like to donate any funds to support their work, know that your gift will feed us all.

Each of these outstanding nonprofits will take a turn on stage to share their work and visions. Thanks to the community and the Land Trust for the opportunity to raise awareness of their efforts, the urban agriculture movement, and the cause of local sustainability in our community. We appreciate all the moral support! "A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not on the branch but on her own wings."

# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. Contributors this month are Layla Klehr and Latha Wright. Latha is 10 years old, in the 5th grade at Mary Lin, and this is the third comic in

her series "Q.T. Kitten." (See past issues for #s 1 and 2.) Layla, age 7½, is in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin, and this is an article from her animal series. We appreciate Layla's and Latha's frequent contributions to the Clarion.

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages—we want to see your creativity. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). We hope to hear from you!

## My Inside-Outside Cat

by Layla Klehr

Hello Readers! My name is Layla Klehr, and today I am starting an animal series. This article is about my inside-outside cat, named Stormy. Stormy is a black cat, and in the light you can sometimes see little bits of darker black tabby stripes. He has a white patch on his neck and a white patch on his tummy. Inside the house Stormy likes to claw the furniture. He claws the furniture, because he wants to sharpen his nails. He cuddles in people's laps and in our beds. His favorite spot is in my daddy's lap. Sometimes cats like to cuddle because the warmth of your body warms up the cat. Be careful! The cat may not want to be petted! If Stormy

doesn't want to be petted he will nip you. Stormy loves to play outside. He likes to hunt bunnies, birds, bugs, and squirrels. He never catches any but sometimes eats an animal that's already dead. He likes to climb trees, and it looks like he gets stuck, but he always makes it down. He loves to hide under the picnic bench and in my brother's stroller. I love Stormy to pieces!



## Contest winners!

CONGRATULATIONS, Jordan, Alessandra, and Daniel!!!

Last month, Jordan Levs got off the school bus and saw his mom reading the new Clarion on their porch. He immediately started looking for the new contest, and found the Lake Claire owl holding the umbrella against April showers. Congrats, Jordan, for coming in first. That's how quick one has to be with this high-demand contest! Alessandra and Daniel Marconi from Lakeshore Drive came in as the close second-place winners.

Jordan Levs is seven years old and a first-grader at Mary Lin; he is proud to have found the owl in the April Clarion! He loves Nerf guns,

dancing, music, and Legos. Jordan (aka Jordy) lives on Harold Avenue with his parents, Melanie and Josh, and big brother Ryan (10) and little sister Abby (3).

Alessandra Marconi is ten years old and a 4th Grader at Fernbank Elementary. Alessandra has a very creative personality and loves to read, write stories, paint, and make crafts. She also plays the piano and saxophone, is part of gymnastics and soccer teams, and is a Junior Girl Scout with Troop 7007. She loves our neighborhood and truly enjoys the beautiful Frazer forest where

she plays and explores with her dear Lake Claire friends. Daniel Marconi is 12 years old and a 6th grader at Druid Hills Middle. He is Alessandra's big brother, best friend, and "partner in crime." He loves soccer and belongs to the Inter Atlanta FC Blues. Daniel is a black belt in Kung Fu and has been doing Scouting for 6 years. He is an avid reader, plays the trumpet, and likes video games, math, and science.

Congrats to all the winners! Anyone of you who wants to write or draw something for another Clarion, write to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

## NEW CONTEST:

Finding something different about May this year, did you know that May 4 is Star Wars Day? May the Fourth Be With You! Find something to do with Star Wars in this Clarion. Identify the character, and you get to be a featured writer in a future Clarion. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) telling us the page number where you find the hidden picture. 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.