



## Happy 2018, from the Clarion!

### Hark! The Harold Angels Sing!

by Kris Wellen

It was revelry in B Minor in Lake Claire on December 11 as the Harold Angels took to the streets to sing festive favorites for the third year in a row. Standards such as “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and “Dreidel, Dreidel” could be heard up and down neighborhood streets as carolers old and young belted out seasonal stan-

dards. As always, Josh Golden led us on the guitar, and this year he had a backup band made up of tambourines, maracas, and kazoos. Joining Josh were his lovely family, plus the Spiveys, the DeRoodes, the Krebs, the Weirderts, the Wellens, and others. The Harold Angels wish you and yours a happy new year!



### Lake Claire Holiday Party Great Success

A crowd of 80+ enjoyed food, fun, and conviviality with neighbors old and new on Thursday evening, December 14. All had a great time and fantastic food at the annual Lake Claire Christmas/holiday party. A great addition to the traditional fanfare was folk musician Joseph Reed; folks also acknowledged missing the Niensens' contributions—our DJ Myles for many years and the girls' Irish dancing. We hope they are staying warm in Massachusetts! Our Lake

Claire president Joe Agee thanked everyone who had contributed to Lake Claire's successes in 2017—and wished Kathie Ryan, who always does a lot for this party behind the scenes, a happy birthday.

Everyone went away full on Thursday night. As always, Lake Claire provided the lasagnas, beverages, and cake, and neighbors brought delicious and creative side dishes and bread, and some who read the Clarion, desserts. Please see the evidence

### A Hop, Skip, and Jump from Lake Claire Little 5's Findley Plaza

by Emily Taff

After the hearing about plans to revamp Findley Plaza, I got to thinking about the history of this spit of land we consider the center of Little Five Points today. Until the early 1980s, Findley Plaza was no more than a triangular median caught in the off-center connection of a sixth spoke (McLendon Avenue) to the five-point junction of Seminole, Moreland, and Euclid Avenues that give Little Five Points its name. By the 1970s, roads had widened and traffic dominated the area, which had once been a vibrant and extensive commercial shopping district. However, even as a commercial district, Little Five Points was relatively young. In the 1880s the area was mostly made up of large estates, with a private school on Moreland and a stone church, the Church of the Epiphany, which stood at today's Findley Plaza,

the business center of the area along the Georgia Railroad to the south. Kelly Jordan of Candler Park wrote about the area in 1977: “In 1898, all of Little Five Points east of Moreland (DeKalb County) became part of the City of Edgewood, which encompassed all of Candler Park. The rest of the Little Five Points area lacked any running water, gas, or sewers, which prevented most development. ... in 1908, all that is Little Five Points went to the City of Atlanta, represented by its councilman Judge John Candler. Almost immediately, streets were paved, sidewalks laid, water and sewer pipes installed. These improvements, coupled with the expanded street car lines on Euclid, McLendon, and Moreland, generated an immediate boom as the old estates were subdivided for suburban homes.”

The rattling of passing streetcars, it is said, caused the priest to pause in his sermons. The new streetcar lines also shifted the focus of development away from the railroad, and demand for commercial service around Little Five Points increased. An image of the Church of the Epiphany from 1914 shows residences still lining Euclid by the church (Criminal Records, etc., today), but this was about to change. In the 1920s, the city's first zoning ordinance designated Little Five Points as a commercial area—precipitating the

**Cont. on p. 5**

### Lake Claire Talent Abounds

Lake Claire is chock-full of talent of all kinds. We have great writers, poets, artists, musicians, cooks, you name it. From Boyd Baker's writing (and chili!), to Bill Fleming's music, the actors on Tuxedo, Stephen Wing's poetry (see Page 8), and more. In December, as always at this time of year, many of Lake Claire's artists and crafters, of all ages, displayed and sold their wares at the **Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair**. This year, Lake Claire Neighbors partnered with Mary Lin Elementary to host

the fair, and a share of the artists' proceeds helps both of us support local charities and community work. Attendees caught up with friends and enjoyed the handmade jewelry, soaps, ceramics, scarves, pottery, hand-painted Christmas and other ornaments from gourds (including Lou the Emu), bourbon vanilla, and more. Artists contributed cookies and cakes. Mary Lin's Choir sang beautifully. And that was only in the one hour that I (your faithful editor) attended! It was a full day and one to

remember. **Please see the pictures on Page 6, and the note to art buyers on Page 10.**

Thanks to all who helped (hopefully, all mentioned here): Pen and Andrew Sherwood, Julie Roseman, 4th and 5th grade Mary Lin Chorus and the PTA; Miriam Herbers, Kathie Ryan, Joe Agee, Annsley Klehr, Ann Mauney, Alison Amoroso, Ann Marra, Diane Moore, Dorothy Dabbs, Galit Levitin, Jaya Tuschak, Kristin Giordano, Melanie Levs, Richard Powers, Seth Roseman, all the artists,

and for publicizing, Nancy Dorsner (website) and Beth Damon (Clarion). And, thanks to Sharon Pomeranz and Sara Gottlieb, who donated their total sales to LCN. Special thanks to Kimberly Hays de Muga and Christina Hopkins of the Frazer Center for providing a warm atmosphere and great location. **Quite a team effort.**

**Cont. on p. 8**

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*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.*

## January 2018

### Fun Facts About January

The Romans named this month January after "Janus," the God of Gateways. Janus had two heads so could look back at the old year and forward towards the new year at the same time! The Anglo-Saxons called January "Wulfmonath," because it was the month that hungry wolves came scavenging at people's doors. The birthstone is the garnet; the flower is the carnation. January is National Braille Literacy Month, National Hobby Month, National Soup Month, and National Blood Donor Month. So, do your hobbies, drink soup, and give blood.

**1 - 6** Still time to see Christmas Lights: (1) at Callaway Gardens. Began Nov 17, ends Jan. 6. A giant holiday light and sound show, with eight million lights, 15 scenes, a Christmas village, and Santa Claus at Callaway Gardens. (2)—closer to home at the Botanical Gardens—high-tech displays, trains, etc.

**1 - 4** Atlanta Public Schools - break - Students Return January 8!

**1 - 31** Georgia State Parks' many events: [explore.gastateparks.org/events](http://explore.gastateparks.org/events)

**6 & 20** Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend, and spread the word! See Land Trust stuff on Page 11.

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

**13** MLK Celebration in Decatur, 10-11:30 a.m.—[www.dekalb-countyga.gov/event/33-annual-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-celebration](http://www.dekalb-countyga.gov/event/33-annual-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-celebration)

**14** 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)

**15** Martin Luther King's birthday. March and rally assembles at 1:15 p.m. on Peachtree Street, and the march begins at 1:45 p.m. to the King Center. Free. Also see Jan. 13, more events for MLK Day in Decatur at same website.

**18 - Feb. 17** Actor's Express (west Midtown): *Angels in America*—Sex, religion, and politics collide with history in Tony Kushner's sweeping epic set at the onset of the AIDS epidemic. I (editor) attend all the plays at Actor's Express and Horizon. If you have other favorite theatres, please let me know to cover them here.

**20** Land Trust Community Work Day, 3-6 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow.

**20 - 21** Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5. Indoor arts festival (preview party Jan. 19, 6-9 p.m.) Callanwolde Arts Festival features 86 fine artists, demonstrations, live acoustic music, and gourmet food trucks at 980 Briarcliff Rd. Get tix at the door.

**Calendar entries for the Feb. 2018 Clarion by Jan. 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org**

## Are You Faster Than a Cub Scout?

### by Cub Scout Pack 586

Lake Claire's local Cub Scout pack announced that not only are they opening their ranks to girls in 2018, but that they are also opening one of their premier events, **the Pinewood Derby**, to everyone in the community. Cub Scouts have long built and painted little cars from pine blocks and then raced them down a track. Pack 586 decided that the fun shouldn't just be limited to boys in elementary school. They created a "FundRacer," to be held on the evening of February 9, in the Fellowship Hall of the Neighborhood Church on McLendon Ave.

There will be three trophies handed out at the event: (1) The winner of the race that follows the Cub Scout rules; (2) the winner of the race limited only by the laws of gravity; and (3) the winner of the "Past-Raced Cars" (dig around in parents' attics and basements for these wonderful artifacts of childhood).

Pack 586 has a three-year-old, metal, four-lane track with a computerized timing system that was purchased with funds raised in popcorn sales. The previous track was donated to another pack in the city. Last year's winner of the Pack 586 Derby, Jack Morris, raced a very simple yellow block. Jack said he paid more attention to the car's center of gravity and weight than to the paint job. Jack's car flew down the 40-foot track in just over three seconds. Both boys, Nathaniel Wellen and Jack Morris, the Atlanta Area Council Phoenix District champion (see photo) will also have their cars entered in the scout rules race.

Scouts from Pack 586 will be selling the derby kits for 20 dollars in the neighborhood starting in December. The derby kits contain a block of wood, four nails, and four wheels.

From those simple items a race car and dreams of glory are created. The scouts who sell the winning cars in the community races will also get a prize. More information about the race can be found on Pack 586's website: [www.atlantacubscouts.com](http://www.atlantacubscouts.com).



*Nathaniel Wellen, then 8 years-old, won the Atlanta Area Council Phoenix District race with his car named "The Big Orange Chew Toy," with an average racing time of 3.150 seconds.*



*Jack Morris—last year's winner*

## \* \* \* EDUCATION MATTERS \* \* \*

### How to Get the Most Out of Your College Tour

by Lindsay Fried

It's that time of year again! Parents of high school juniors are getting headaches trying to figure out how to fit the complicated and time-consuming process of applying to college into their already busy schedules. That's where Independent Educational Consultants (IECs), like Simply Admissions, come in. An IEC is a private college advisor that is not affiliated with any college or high school. We give you support throughout the college admissions process by providing expert advice and skills. At Simply Admissions, our clients receive customized college plans and use professional college planning tools to make their lives easier and less stressful.

As high school juniors and a few motivated sophomores are starting to ascend on college campuses, I thought it might be a good time to remind families what to look for while on a college tour. At Simply Admissions, we give our clients a lengthy list of things to do, questions to ask, and places to see, which includes:

#### Take a campus tour

- Look at how the campus is maintained.
- Your tour guide will usually be a current student—be sure to take advantage of your time with him

or her! Find out what current students like best about the school. What do they dislike? Why did they choose this college? What do they do on weekends?

#### Attend a group informational session

- Find out if the college offers any informational sessions for the specific school or major you're interested in. Some colleges will even allow you to sit in on a class or stay overnight with a current student.
- An admissions officer will usually be the one leading the information session. She or he can answer more technical questions, such as; are all students guaranteed housing? What is the average financial aid package for freshman?

#### Explore the neighborhood surrounding campus

- Be sure to visit the college town before heading home! Ask for a local restaurant recommendation from a current student.
- Find out how the public transportation works. How far is the campus from the airport? Does the college offer any shuttles?

The most important thing to ask yourself while walking through campus is, can you see yourself there? After all, this will be your home for the next four years!

*Lindsay received her BBA from the University of Miami and a Certificate in Independent Educational Consulting from the University of California, Irvine. She is a current member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA), Georgia College Counseling Association (GCCA), and Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC). You may reach her at [lindsay@simplyadmissions.com](mailto:lindsay@simplyadmissions.com), and get more info at [www.simplyadmissions.com](http://www.simplyadmissions.com).*

### Atlanta Board of Education Election Results

by Annsley Klehr

Lake Claire will have new Atlanta Board of Education leadership. Michelle Olympiadis won in a run-off against Adzua Agyapon, which was Matt Westmoreland's seat in District 3. Michelle is the PTA president at Morningside and a passionate advocate for public education.

As far as our at-large positions, Cynthia Brisco Brown, Seat 8, held her seat against Charlie Stadtlander. And Kandis Wood Jackson won in the December run-off, as well for Courtney English's Seat 7.

Stay-tuned to see how new leadership impacts this new ABOE!

Visit the website below to see a map of the districts and boundaries: [www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/42/BOEDistrictsMar21.pdf](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/42/BOEDistrictsMar21.pdf)




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### Mission Accomplished! Mary Lin Education Foundation Raises \$125,000

by Lindsay Hill (Chair, MLEF)

For the second year in a row, the Mary Lin Education Foundation (MLEF) launched an ambitious parent-led fall fundraising campaign, The Rocket Fuel Fund, to ensure the school's administration and staff have the first-rate resources they need to help every Mary Lin "Rocket" reach for the stars.

The "95 Days to Raise \$95,000" Rocket Fuel Fund campaign launched at the Open House prior to the first day of school and closed on October 30. After 370 donations ranging from \$1 to \$2500 came in from parents, staff, grandparents, friends, and community members, the fund raised \$125,000 to fund curriculum enrichment, professional development, updated technology, and special projects not covered by APS.

"On behalf of the ML staff, I would like to thank our families, staff, and community members who donated," said Principal Sharyn Briscoe. "These funds give us flexibility to offer our teachers the best professional learning opportunities and the most cutting-edge tools. We are so grateful for the support we receive as we work with our most precious natural resource, our children."

Some people ask why a high performing school needs an annual giving campaign. While we are fortunate to live where we do, Mary Lin is one of six APS schools that do not receive "Title 1 funding"—significant funds allocated to

schools in which 40% or more of students qualify as disadvantaged. At non Title 1 schools, it is left to the parent community—through a PTA/PTO, Foundation, or both—to bring in additional funds for "wish list" resources and projects (e.g., new phonics curriculum, build-out of an outdoor classroom). Funds raised by the MLEF are prioritized and awarded based on a rigorous grant submission and approval process.

In the words of one 3rd grade teacher, "APS tells us what to teach. The Mary Lin Foundation helps provide the rigorous professional development we need to grow as teachers." Among the funding priorities for this

year: an onsite summer training in the Orton Gillingham reading method for up to 20 Mary Lin teachers, professional development opportunities to help meet the district's goal of ensuring academic growth for every student regardless of ability, and updated technology. By combining its legendary parent involvement and historically strong PTA with a robust, fully supported foundation, Mary Lin will continue to offer a top-notch elementary education here in our beloved community; Mary Lin is currently among the top three highest-performing elementary schools in APS. While our campaign push ended on October 30, the MLEF accepts donations year-round. Please visit [www.marylinfooundation.org](http://www.marylinfooundation.org).





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## Little 5's Findley Plaza

Continued from page 1



development of the one-story commercial buildings that still stand today. A 1928 map shows that not only were the homes on Euclid gone, but the quaint stone church was replaced by, you guessed it, a gas station. The church congregation relocated up Seminole, and we believe it is the same Church of the Epiphany that stands today at East Lake and Ponce de Leon.

The commercial district thrived for decades, but gradually deteriorated as demands of the automobile increased in the mid-20th century. Streets were widened, and the gas station was eventually squeezed off the triangular island. In the 1960s, the impending highway just north of Little Five Points brought further deterioration as

tion. Community organizations such as BOND, and neighborhood groups for Lake Claire (LCN) and Candler Park (CPNO) were organizing. In 1976 a redesign concept was put out for the Little Five Points Business District which included the closing off of Seminole and Euclid on both sides of Moreland. It was received with mixed feelings throughout the community, but a portion of the plan finally came to fruition, and in 1984 Findley Plaza and Davis Plaza at



the end of Seminole were dedicated. In a nod to the importance of the local community, Findley Plaza was named for the Findley family (who had operated Findley Hardware at 451-453 Moreland Avenue). They had done business on Moreland for over 50 years and were active members in the business community throughout decades of change.



property values all around plummeted. Meanwhile, intown neighborhoods like Inman Park, Candler Park, and Lake Claire, were seeing a grassroots revival. Resident activists vigorously protested the highway and dedicated themselves to community preservation and revitaliza-

\* The adjoining Gregory L Davis Plaza was named in memory of Atlanta Police Department Officer Gregory Lavance Davis, who was shot and killed in Lake Claire when he stopped a man on a bicycle to question him about a series of nighttime burglaries in our area. Unbeknownst to Officer Davis, the suspect was also the prime suspect in the murder of a woman three nights earlier. He shot Officer Davis in the chest, fatally wounding him. At the time the agency did

Interestingly, the design of Findley Plaza on the 1976 plan (see image) looks remarkably similar to the proposals mentioned recently: an open center, a decorative bit of pavement, and trees at the edges. In their quest for a design in Findley Plaza, the committee may not have to look far!

not issue bullet-proof vests. "He was the man among men when it came to police work," said Major Goss, who worked with the officer since the Zone 6 precinct opened in 1983. "He's one of the most dedicated officers I've had the pleasure of commanding. He put 150 percent into everything he did." Officer Davis moved to Atlanta from Quitman in south Georgia with his family in 1958, his mother said. His two daughters were ages 13 and 17 at the time. ~ Editor.

## Little 5 Loses a Fixture: Charis Books

by Beth Damon

*Charis Books and More*, which has been a central fixture in Little Five Points since November 1974, will move to Decatur this year. Not just a treasure for Atlanta and Georgia, Charis is one of the oldest independent feminist bookstores in the country. Its rich history has been interwoven with its customers, staff, partners, and supporters, as well as the feminist and lesbian feminist movements for its 43 years. In the first years of the store, it became quickly popular among members of lesbian-feminist communities and others who identified with the progressive neighborhood values and a women-owned store run by lesbians and featuring lesbian-feminist books. Today they also specialize in diverse and unique children's books, feminist and cultural studies, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer fiction and non-fiction books. It is a store where people talk about books and ideas; a place where people are treated with respect no matter their backgrounds: progressive, radical, anti-war, anti-hate, anything in between.

When walking in the door, you feel valued and welcome by a knowledgeable staff ready to help you. The store is small, and the book selection not as large as bigger stores, but the variety is extensive with regular book rotation so you'll always find something new. Charis is deeply committed to the community and offers a wide range of events and programs and hosts regular writing and read-

ing groups, speakers, events, readings, lectures, and visits by special guest authors. Linda Bryant, Charis's Founder, said in 2009, "In November, 2009 we will turn 35. We are still here because we mean so many things to so many different people. As always, we need to hear what you are thinking. We need your questions, your visions, your dreams. We have a rich history, our present is as complicated as life is, and our future is in your hands."

Fast-forward 9 years: the new location is directly across from the Agnes Scott College campus at 184 South Candler Street in a freestanding, Victorian-style house. It will have space for Charis to expand the scope of its current program offerings and will be fully ADA accessible; it has a back yard, a large, free, parking lot, additional accessible parking spots, and has closer access to MARTA trains and bus service.

Elizabeth Anderson, executive director of the bookstore's nonprofit arm, Charis Circle, said in an email, "We will continue to be the Charis Books and Charis Circle that you know and love, continue to be a home for independent and marginalized voices, and a popular education center for intersectional feminist justice. We are working with an architect to make the space both functional and beautiful; a feminist gathering ground where we can plan and dream, celebrate and scheme, for the long haul."



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

### January Birthdays:

- 3 – Leah Braun, Claire Drive, turns 12
- 3 – Lisa Morris, Sutherland Places
- 5 – Dave Kaiser, Hardendorf Avenue
- 12 – Tamar Williams, Harold Avenue
- 12 – Tiffany Mawhinney, Howard Circle
- 15 – Sophie Oren, Leonardo, turns three
- 16 – Theo Emanuel, Marlbrook, turns three
- 18 Cynthia Baer, Gordon Avenue
- 19 – Genise Spence, Arizona Avenue
- 28 – Tom McGill, Delaware Ave. Happy birthday to my friend and neighbor

Send us stuff—birthdays and other life cycle changes for February—help make this series inclusive (editor@lakeclaire.org) by JANUARY 15.

# Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale



# 2nd and 3rd Place Winners of the Kids' Page Contest



2nd Place Winner Emma Sullivan and her daddy



3rd Place Winners Dalton and Darcy Troxell-Cappello

# Lake Claire Neighbors Holiday Party



*Joe Agee, President, with Kathie Ryan*

*Bee Nguyen our new State Rep*

## Lake Claire Talent Abounds

*Continued from page 1*

As we said, we are lucky to have so much talent in our neighborhood. If you missed it, check out the story on our actors and directors on Tuxedo, in the October issue, page 1 ([lakeclaire.org/2017/10/11/october-2017-clarion](http://lakeclaire.org/2017/10/11/october-2017-clarion)). And then, there is poetry. Many of us miss our daily dose of The Writer's Almanac on NPR.

One of Stephen Wing's poems is at right

*Wing is also the author of an eco-comic novel, Free Ralph!, two books of poetry (including Crossing the Expressway: Poems from the Open Road, where this poem also appeared), and a series of chapbooks. Visit him at StephenWing.com to read more of his writings. To purchase his work, contact him through the website. ~Editor*

### A New Creation After Rain

by Stephen Wing

Somebody's ruined Bible  
was my sign:  
open to the first page  
of Creation,  
welded to a wet mass  
of inseparable  
Testaments, waiting there  
at the milepost  
I'd already chosen for my first  
rest (like  
the drifted debris of that old  
flood, washed up  
on the highway's mud shoulder—)  
I swung down  
my load and leaned it there,  
turned back  
to the traffic and struck  
my old stance,  
looking up only once and  
around  
for a rainbow.

And speaking of hummingbirds (page 9) this is excerpted from a "Wild in Lake Claire" article by Carol from 2016:

## Wildlife Habitat Garden

by Carol Vanderschaaf, *aka* Flora Fauna

Getting a good wildlife habitat garden together can be as easy or as complicated as you want it to be. I like simple, so I would say just pick one, two, or three plants you'd like to start with. Find flora which have nectar or seeds and berries that will attract fauna likeable to you. You know, the 'flora-fauna connection'—love those words—kind of like the name of an old-time personality whom Meryl Streep might play in a movie.

If I were to start a garden today I'd probably start with Butterfly Weed, (*Asclepias tuberosa*), a host plant for the Monarch Butterfly. Monarchs migrate through all of Georgia in the spring and the fall. I know no reminder is needed about the plight of this beautiful creature. Butterfly Weed is the only plant that can act

as its host. Plant only this native species, or you might do more harm than good. And pulleeze don't get it mixed up with the Butterfly Bush. The latter will *attract* butterflies but doesn't act as a host for any butterfly. : it is not a Georgia native!

I would plant several Cardinal Flowers for hummingbirds, as the birds love their nectar and their color. I too, like the latter, haven't tried the former.

For berries for the birds, I'd plant some blueberries and let my volunteer mulberry trees grow. Another hint if you can stand it: let some pokeweed grow to maturity. Birds love those purple berries (and their purple poop will let you know where they hang out in your garden).



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## The Garden January into February

by Elizabeth Knowlton

January is a great time to think about gardening.

- 1) Get some kind of desk calendar or notebook to begin making daily notations about your garden and what you are doing in it.
- 2) Test your seeds the way I recently suggested, wrapping ten in a moist paper towel, sealing it in a plastic bag, and placing it in a warm place; if five germinate, you know you will have 50% germination and so forth.
- 3) Use a source such as the *Market Bulletin* (below) to get yourself some really decomposed horse manure and spread it around everywhere you want things to grow.
- 4) If you have not limed your vegetable beds, do so now, just not where you want to plant potatoes for the next two years.

It is not too early to seed cabbage, leeks, and onions in pots indoors, using germinating mix, covering them with plastic or glass until they germinate in a warm place, then removing the cover and placing the seedlings only an inch or two under fluorescent lights. Once there are two real leaves, you can pot up each seedling in six-packs or yogurt cups with punched holes, filled with potting mix. Continue to keep them under bright lights, and water gently. Follow the same procedures for flower seeds, many too small to survive if you sow them outside in the spring. Be sure to note instructions not to cover with soil the seeds that need light to germinate.

Each year I remind you to see where you will have sun in July by going outdoors at midnight on the full moon, January 1, if you read this in time. Where you see the shadows of trees and buildings is where you will have shade on July 1 at 1 p.m. (allowing for daylight savings).

Supposedly it is not too late to plant sweet pea seeds outside, which is good because I never did it in October. And do not worry about bulbs coming out of the ground in January because bulbs are rarely harmed by cold weather or snow. Snowdrops and species crocus should be opening any day now. Only when narcissus are about to open will their bent heads freeze at the crook, and I have never seen a tulip ruined by cold. Unfortunately it is a lack of cold weather that is harming many of our once local plants.

“Making it cold when it’s warm—it’s impossible,” said Dario Chavez, a professor in peach research at UGA Griffin, in the front page article in a recent *Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin*. He was referring to the warm winter in 2017 that resulted in a lack of chill hours required for peaches to develop. A “chill hour” in this case is the time when the temperature falls below 45 degrees between October 1 and February 15. Already, winter temperatures were lacking the amount of cold needed for many kinds of peaches, but last year was a disaster (and this was before the late freeze that injured a lot of blossoms) with 2018 looking to be just as bad. Peaches are a valuable Georgia crop in our economy.

For decades I have suggested that we in the city were already in zone eight as far our gardens, unable to raise many perennial flowers that require cooler night temperatures at night even though they can take our hot summer days. And a number of scientific articles blame a gradual move of trees from the Appalachian area to the Ozark Plateau on warmth and decreasing rainfall in the Southeast since the 1980s. I hate the cold

## Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

We appreciate our neighborhood support of many wonderful initiatives, green spaces, donations to our Police and Firefighters, the Frazer Center, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Lake Claire Park, etc. Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household—but just like with Public Radio, any amount is certainly appreciated. A Lake Claire Banner package deal is only \$50 if combined with annual dues! PAY NOW: BE

AMONG THE FIRST TO PAY 2018 DUES!!!!!!

These proactive neighbors paid 2018 dues at the Craft Fair, and thanks:

Amy Atteberry  
Dan Couture  
Frani Green  
Virginia Apperson  
Rachel Patzer  
Kate Crook  
Christine McKenna

### Get your name in print!

Pay by PayPal at lakeclaire.org  
or with the old-fashioned check in the mail,  
to LCN, Attn: Eileen O'Neill,  
Treasurer and VP Finance  
PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

and was happy to leave northern winters behind. Now, I pray for cold as well as rain. For those of us emotionally bound up in our plots and green children, we cannot be easily satisfied by what is for sale at a store.

Hand in hand with an uncertain climate is what we are putting into the air, water, and soil. I have never met a person who did not like hummingbirds, yet they are in decline like peaches. In the last 50 years the rufus hummingbird population, for instance, has declined 62% (information from *Friends of the Earth News-magazine*, Fall 2017). It is good when we have native plants for them, but do you know that many plants you buy have been treated with insecticides, especially neonicotinoids that persist in the plant, soil and water, disrupting the birds’ memories in

the same way they do the bees’ (and are not good for us either)? **So don’t bring those chemicals (neonics) into your garden through either insecticides or plants. (For more on hummingbirds, see facing page)**

I have long enjoyed the china bunny inside the hollow tree at the bottom of Adolphus Street. When the tree was cut down, they left the stump, and soon other animals and miniatures began to join the rabbit. I moved a laughing frog from my mantel to the edge of the stump, but unfortunately he had a fall and broke off his wrist. Imagine my surprise a few weeks ago when I reached Adolphus and Nelms and found that someone had glued my frog’s hand on again. Thank you. Always something to see outdoors here! Walk by and see.



# Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Beth Damon

If you didn't get around to using the envelope stuffed in the last issue to make a contribution to CSM, it is not too late. Please either use the envelope, or go to [www.cliftonsanctuary.com/contribute/volunteer/](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com/contribute/volunteer/) to help Clifton transform lives. You will also see volunteer opportunities. As many of us know about our long-time neighbor, CSM provides short-term (30-60 days) emergency shelter for homeless men aged 35-years and older who are seeking self-sufficiency and independent living. A referral from one of Clifton's partner agencies is required for admittance. Clifton does not accept walk-ins. Clifton partners with a range of metro-Atlanta service organizations and relief agencies to meet its mission of ending homelessness. This includes the Veterans Administrations in a special effort to end homelessness among military veterans. Additionally, Clifton offers a 2-year transitional housing program. Participants in this program are provided with their own rooms in a multi-unit house. A small rental fee and employment is required. During their stays, participants are offered financial & budgeting counseling, life skills coaching, and job training.

Did you wonder how the envelopes got in the Clarions? One night we got together at the Church (what we long-time neighbors call CSM) to do it. See pics. It was so much fun!



**Violin/Viola Lessons & Orchestra:** Lessons with retired APS strings teacher. And the Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra seeks musicians of all ages/levels. Share the love of music/develop skills in a supportive environment. Violin, viola, cello, bass players invited. Lessons or orchestra, Lynn Farnham 404/377-6310

## Advertise in the Clarion

Advertising in the Clarion is an effective, affordable way to reach more than 1,200 households in Lake Claire. Interested businesses and individuals may advertise in two ways: through classified ads and display ads.

Classified business and personal ads are \$3 per line. Personal ads are free to Lake Claire residents, subject to space considerations. See the pricing on display ads at [www.lake-claire.org/wpsite/clarion/advertise-in-the-clarion/](http://www.lake-claire.org/wpsite/clarion/advertise-in-the-clarion/). For more information, write to our advertising editor at [newsletter@lakeclaire.org](mailto:newsletter@lakeclaire.org). You may conveniently pay through PayPal.

## Submit an Article, a Photo, or Art to the Clarion

Articles, photos, and art may be submitted for possible inclusion in the newsletter. Send submissions to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Submissions to the Clarion will be accepted for publication under the following terms:

- Submissions are no more than **500 words** (a longer length must be approved by the editor).
- The editor may edit submissions.
- Submissions may be on any topic of general interest to the neighborhood.

If you are not a writer, I welcome your ideas for articles. Write to [editor@lake-claire.org](mailto:editor@lake-claire.org), or phone me at 404-727-0608.



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## 2018 Family Fun Land Trust Events

Select Sundays, 4-6 p.m.

- February 11: Ladybug's S'more Garden Fun! Variety Show 2018 Kick Off and Dance Party
- March 18: Ladybug Garden Fun! Mosaic Art Project, Spring Planting and Equinox celebration
- May 20: Ladybug Garden Fun! Garden Harvest Party and Faerie Home Construction
- June 10 or 24, tbd Ladybug Garden Fun! Summer Garden Planting, Gnome Land Creation
- August 19: Ladybug Garden Fun! Fall Seed Starting and Snack Attack Play Time!
- Sept: 23: Ladybug Garden Fun! Finish Equinox Mosaic and Celebration!
- Nov 11: Ladybug Garden Fun! Have S'more Garden Show!



## Honoring the Conversation, Part 2 (Read the 1st Part in Last Month's Clarion) Turning a Neighborhood into a Community in Intown Atlanta

by Stephen Wing

“To change the world, you have to change the conversation.”  
—Tom Blue Wolf, Ani-Coosa (Muscogee Creek) Faith Keeper

The young couple who sparked this particular dialogue represent the changing demographics of Lake Claire, which is rapidly gentrifying. Homes that change hands here these days are frequently knocked down to build something bigger. To the new arrivals, the Land Trust is easy to take for granted, a neighborhood park that happens to be privately owned. But unlike a park, as our new neighbors discovered, this tract of greenspace comes with a community, and like every community, over the years it has evolved its own quirky culture.

The house the young couple bought had just been renovated, but they immediately gutted it to make it their own. They also cut down a huge oak that had probably helped to shield

the previous owners from Land Trust noises. To their credit, when their baby arrived and had trouble sleeping through the drum circles, rather than suffering in silence or complaining to the police, they spoke up and joined the conversation.

We tried various sound baffling techniques, limiting our decibel level during festivals, eliminating hoots and cheers and even cowbells from the drum circles. The dialogue continued by phone, text, and email. But in the end, nothing we could offer made them feel at home in their new neighborhood. And for us, the conversation made it clear that the sound of drumming and occasional amplified music was not just ornamental but something vital to our community culture.

When the conversation reached a stalemate and began to repeat itself, the young couple did try calling the police. But Atlanta's sound ordinance is not easy to interpret, and decibel levels are tricky to measure. The police recommended that we do what we were already doing: talk. Our neighbors finally had to recognize that they had bought their house and moved in after checking out the neighborhood, but without investigating the nature of the community that lives here. Rather than try to impose their values on us, they recognized their mistake and graciously bowed out. They sold their house and moved away, a new family moved in who genuinely love the Land Trust and all its noises, and everyone concerned breathed a sigh of relief.

On one level this was a failure on both sides, time and effort gone to waste. It was sad to lose our new neighbors after they had invested so much. But in my opinion, they did the right thing. The purpose of a genuine conversation is not necessarily to agree, but simply to understand each other. Of course, it involves expressing one's own viewpoint, but also a commitment actively to listen, accepting the views of everyone present as equally valid. No contribution to the journey of mutual understanding ever really goes to waste. Uncomfortable situations lead the conversation into new places that enrich us all. Regardless of failures and successes, the conversation goes on.

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*This was Part 2 of a 5-part article, written for and published in full in Communities, the quarterly magazine of the international intentional communities movement. It appeared in the Winter 2017 issue, "Urban Communities," and it is reprinted*

*here by permission. Stephen Wing is a poet, activist, and secretary of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. He is the author of an eco-comic novel, Free Ralph!, two books of poetry, and 16 self-published chapbooks, including the Earth Poetry series. His origi-*

*nal bumper stickers travel the world under the name "Gaia-Love Graffiti." He has written for Communities in the past about the Rainbow Family gatherings, which he still attends. His poem about the Land Trust, "In Land We Trust," was published in*

*issue #170, Spring 2016. Read more of his work at StephenWing.com, and go to lakeclaire.org/2017/12/04/december-2017-clarion to read Part 1 of this.*



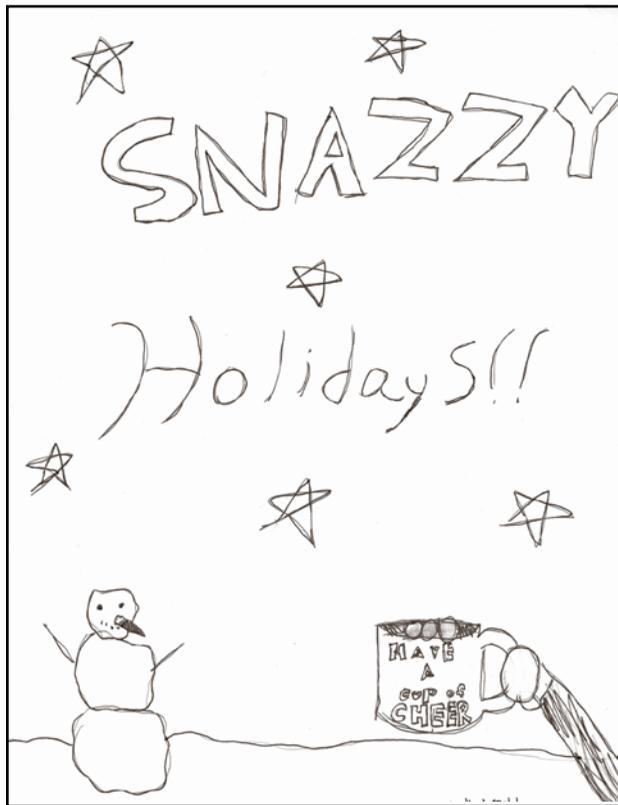
# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

**We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate.**

This month we feature Nathaniel Wellen's article on the snow last month and Latha Wright's artwork. Nathaniel is nine years old and in the third grade at

Mary Lin. He is in Cub Scouts Pack 586 ("Wolf" level) (see article page 2), and his hobbies include art and drums. He lives on Harold Avenue. Latha is 11 and a sixth grader at Inman Middle, a cartoonist and a writer, as evidenced in previous Clarions. Thanks, Nathaniel and Latha!

**Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages**—we want to see your creativity. Write about anything that grabs you! Submit articles, poetry, drawings, etc., to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). What fun plans do you have for 2018? **We hope to hear from you!**



By Latha Wright



Layla finding the mistletoe at the Lake Claire Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale

## \*\*\*Contest Winners!\*\*\*

Layla Klehr was the first to spot the picture of the mistletoe last month while she was taking a break from helping her mom staff a table at the Lake Claire/Mary Lin Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair. Layla is 8 years old and lives on Hardendorf with parents Annsley and Ben and little brother Sawyer, age 4. She is in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin, and she loves to read. Her favorite color is red; she's obsessed with dry erase boards and markers, she loves to sing, and she's also a great writer; we appreciate her contributions to the Clarion (see April 2017).

Coming in second was Emma Sullivan of Arizona Avenue. She is 10 years old and in 4th grade at Mary Lin in Mrs. Graves' and Mr. Barnhart's classes. She enjoys basketball and has been playing since she was 5. She likes reading, TV, art, and animals.

AND in third place, Dalton Troxell-Cappello and Darcy Troxell-Cappello also found the mistletoe. Dalton is 9, and Darcy is 6, and they live on Almeta Avenue. Pictures of second and third place winners are on page 6.

Others sent in entries but named the wrong page or didn't give me your names, so all of you, please try again on this issue! Congrats to Layla, Emma, Darcy and Dalton!



December 9 in Candler Park (close-up photo of Nathaniel is on Page 2)

## Sleds, Snowmen, and Golf Slopes

by Nathaniel Wellen

It was Saturday, December 9. I woke up and looked out my window. Snow covered my whole street! It was on cars and houses. This was the most snow I've seen in my whole life. It was beautiful.

We were so excited we skipped breakfast, got dressed, and ran outside. I saw my friends and their families. We had a snowball fight, and then we all walked to the park.

At the park, there were lots of people. They were on boogie boards, little plastic sleds, and metal

ones, too. There were even kids on snowboards!

I saw my friend Jakob, and we had a sledding race. He won. His family had just finished building a gigantic snowman. Then, we all went over to a new sled hill, the biggest one yet. Mom called it the "Big Bunny Slopes."

When we came home, Dad made us a big pancake breakfast, and I got to open an early Hanukkah gift. Footie pajamas! They were perfect to hang out in on a snowy day.

## NEW CONTEST!

Kids: Somewhere in this issue, find the "I have a dream" photo. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist, who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. In honor of his birthday on January 15, we feature him this month. The winner will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) telling us the page number. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. (Extra credit if you tell us what you know about Martin Luther King and how important he was to the United States of America—then you may write or draw something for a subsequent Clarion!) **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.