

# Meet Your Newly Elected LCN Treasurer, Jim Rockaway

Meet Lake Claire Neighbors new Treasurer! Jim Rockaway of Southerland Terrace graduated from the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business with a BBA in Accounting and received his MBA from the Georgia State University J. Mack Robinson College of Business. He has been a Georgia licensed CPA for more than 20 years. His professional experience includes public, private, and non-profit accounting.

Jim is currently the Director of Finance for an organization that specializes in medical education. He and his lovely wife Sara moved to Lake Claire in 2010 after falling in love with their fixer-upper contemporary house -- and the neighborhood itself. Since



that time the Rockaway family has volunteered for the neighborhood in many capacities.

When not counting beans, Jim can often be found chasing after their 5 (yes, five) children (14-year-old triplets Ben, Jake, and Sam; 4-year-old Ralph; and 3-month-old Violet).

Jim is looking forward to working with Lake Claire Neighbors to grow the membership base and the reach of services provided to our community.

Thanks to Jim for volunteering!

# Andrew Sherwood, Outgoing LCN Treasurer

Andrew Sherwood, who is stepping down as Treasurer, served LCN since 2013. He and his wife Pen are planning to move to the countryside to enjoy peace and quiet away from city bustle -- leaf blowers included! (See Pen's ar-

***Cont. on p.8***

# Leaf Blower Follow-up

by Mike Johnston

I'm sensitive to noise. Not on purpose—it's just the way I am. Can't help it.

Most human beings, I can attest with bitter certainty, are utterly insensitive to noise pollution. Not one in ten people are annoyed by the intrusive cacophony that surrounds us, and those

**Cont. on p.2**

# Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Thanks Lake Claire

by Leslie Prince

Just today, another Lake Claire neighbor dropped off extra food from a group meal he had attended. There was enough to feed our guests for at least one if not two complete meals. What a huge gift! This is just one example of the kindness that our Lake Claire neighbors show to the men of Clifton on a daily basis.

Lots of transformation has taken place in our little corner of Lake Claire this year. Men have landed jobs, found their own housing, and completed college degrees. We have welcomed our brave veterans and given them a place to heal. **Please read our greeting that is an insert in this edition of The Clarion and learn more...** and we hope you'll feel compelled to participate in the great work going on at Clifton.

And come join us in our reindeer games -- Christmas caroling at the corner of Connecticut and McLendon at 7:00 p.m. on **December 16, 17, and 18.** And then come warm up inside and enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate!

# Editor's Note and 2015 Thank Yous

*In the rush of meeting production deadlines, I didn't thank everyone I meant to thank last month. So, I want to thank:*

...Boyd Baker (Leonardo), Elizabeth Knowlton (Arizona), Kathie Ryan (Harold), Sue Strauss (Hardendorf), Carol Vander-schaaf (Indiana), and Stephen Wing (Arizona), regular contributors:

...“Clarion carriers,” some of whom have been volunteering with the Clarion for many years, and who the first week of every month make a valiant effort to get the paper on your porch within a week of its being printed and distributed;

...our advertising coordinator  
Pat Del Rey, our delivery man-

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## Highlights of this issue

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THE **CLARION** IS PRINTED  
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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

# DECEMBER—lots of fun stuff for kids (and adult kids)!

**1-31** Georgia State Parks' many events: [gastateparks.org/calendar#sd=12/01/2015](http://gastateparks.org/calendar#sd=12/01/2015)

**1-31** Horizon Theatre presents *The Santaland Diaries* by David Sedaris (17<sup>th</sup> smash year), and December 5-31—*Madeline's Christmas*. Check [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com) for times

**5** with apologies, L. C. Land Trust Holiday Arts & Craft Sale is **cancelled** (previously announced for Dec. 5). Drum Circle tonight and Dec. 21—Sunset to 11 pm – walk, bike, bring friends!

**5 & 12 & 19** Fernbank, Winter Wonderland Celebration, 10 a.m. [www.fernbankmuseum.org](http://www.fernbankmuseum.org)

**6** Chanukah begins at sundown and lasts 8 days and nights. Yay, very separate from Christmas this year. *Chag Sameach* from the Clarion!

**6** Atlanta Beltline Eastside 10k ([beltline.org/programs/better-you/running-series/2014-eastside-10k/](http://beltline.org/programs/better-you/running-series/2014-eastside-10k/))

**8** Upcoming 2015/2016 School Tour dates: Dec. 8, January 12, February 9, March 8, at Mary Lin. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. Please check in at the school office upon arrival. No reservations required!

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

**13** Fernbank Forest Guided Walk

**16-18** Clifton Sanctuary Annual Caroling (see article Page 1) hope you can come! (It's always fun to stop there if walking home from the Annual Lake Claire potluck dinner.) Corner of Clifton @ Connecticut or inside the shelter if there is inclement weather..

**17** Annual Lake Claire Holiday potluck, Frazer Center Atrium (see details on Page 1) (no business meeting in December; starting again in January, our monthly meeting is 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!))

**19** Drum Circle, sunset to 11:00 pm. Please walk, bike or carpool. Bring a friend!

**20** Clifton Sanctuary (CSM) annual Christmas Party—Lake Claire is invited. See Page 1.

**26** ..through January 1: Kwanza, A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture. *Matunda ya kwanza*.

**31** Underground Atlanta Peach Drop ([www.peachdrop.com](http://www.peachdrop.com)) (Editor's note—go to the Peach Drop website—the countdown until the peach drops has already begun!)

See the website: [www.events12.com/atlanta/december/](http://www.events12.com/atlanta/december/)—MANY other fun Christmas and winter activities for kids and adults.

*Upcoming:*

**Mark your January 2016 calendar for the next GOOD GRACIOUS SHOW (#6), on Saturday, 1/23/16, at the Plaza Theatre on Ponce de Leon Avenue.** Conceived and produced by our own Leonardo Avenue's Boyd Baker, if you have not been to one of these variety shows, (or if you have), Good Gracious Show is not to be missed. Get the latest updates and podcasts at [www.goodgraciousshow.com](http://www.goodgraciousshow.com).

\*\*\*\*Calendar entries for January 2016 Clarion by DECEMBER 15 to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)\*\*\*\*

## Lake Claire Annual Elections for 2016

The annual election for the officers of Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) for 2016 took place at the monthly meeting at the end of November. (See listing on the masthead on Page 2 for all the names, which are the same as before except that Andrew Sherwood stepped down as treasurer, and our new treasurer is Jim Rockaway). Thanks to Andrew

for your work for the neighborhood, and welcome, Jim (thanks for volunteering); and thanks to everyone else for your continued service.

**As a reminder, there is no business meeting in December; this month's meeting as always is replaced by the annual party (see invitation on Page 1 for details).**

## Leaf Blower Follow-up

*Continued from page 1*

of us who do care are so outnumbered that we don't count.

All kinds of intrusive annoying noises plague me, but the very worst offender at this time of year is the dreaded leaf blower. I'm good with words, but I am at a loss to express my loathing of leaf blowers. The very nethermost region of Dante's hell has only two occupants—whoever it was who inflicted leaf blowers on the world, and the guy who decided that back-up beepers on heavy construction equipment should be audible from three



miles away. The two of them deserve whatever torments perdition can inflict.

*The next level up contains those who have loud conversations in public on cell phones. —Editor*



# Lake Claire Abounds with Talent—of all ages.

This month we feature two talented folks, Hardendorf pre-teen Edith Stubbs, who has just published her first book, and former Lake Claire resident Victor Johnson, who has just released his 4th CD.



Edith-Amelia.

## A Book is Born

by Boyd Baker

It all started on a boat. When 11-year old Edith Stubbs' parents would take her on vacation, that meant time spent on the water. A vivid imagination serves a child well, especially on a rainy day when you live on a boat. "I just started writing little stories about hedgehogs when I was nine, because I love hedgehogs," says Edith. "My dad would help me put them online. I thought I'd share with friends and family." But that little hedgehog had a bigger plan in store for Edith.

As the writing bug proved to be more than a temporary time-waster, Edith and Thomas, her father, realized that maybe these stories would make a good book. What young kid wouldn't love a story about a crazy, jumping hedgehog? So with her father's help, they researched what it would take. They settled on Bea-

ver Pond Press, as these folks "felt right" and helped Edith and her parents understand the process fully. "They were very helpful with content tweaks and giving us insight into the structure

"What good is a hedgehog anyway?" thought Amelia sadly.

"I'm not cute, or cuddly, or useful.

The others all say  
I am crazy and pointy  
and don't want to play anymore.  
All I can do is spike things!"

The little hedgehog sighed.  
How would she ever get to sleep?

—excerpt from  
**Amelia the Crazy, Jumping Hedgehog**

of children's books," says Edith's mother, Susannah. While Edith refined her story (over 11 drafts!), they searched for an editor and illustrator. By using

the website *Fiverr.com* they were able to find excellent support. Susannah adds, "We shared Edith's vision with three different illustrators. They all had a unique take on the Hedgehog Amelia, but Marie Muravski really connected with the tale. She even suggested that she create stuffed animal hedgehogs for the story." Their collaboration took place through online messages since Marie lives in Siberia.

**Cont. on p. 8**



Victor on the Metolius River in Sisters, Oregon.

## From Lake Claire to Bend, Oregon

by Beth Damon

Former Lake Claire resident and Atlanta musician, Victor Johnson, moved to Bend in 2014, accepting a full-time position teaching music and drama at a non-profit preschool. A year later, one of the things that has come out of that move is a compelling new CD, *Beautiful Things*. Several of the songs were inspired by victims of heart-breaking tragedies, including the lead track, *The Road to Savannah*, written for Atlanta musician/activist Frank Barham.

"Although I did not know Frank personally," Victor said, "when I read about his death, I was devastated. He had been on such an incredible journey, that to end in the way that it did, was simply unfathomable." Barham, who lived with his wife in nearby Kirkwood, was on a 302-mile wheelchair trip to Savannah, to give a fundraising concert to raise money for people who need wheelchairs. The van accompanying him was hit by a tractor trailer, bursting into flames, killing both Frank and Margaret Kargbo, an advocate for the

Atlanta arts who traveled with him, just 30 miles from their destination. Victor wrote the song a week later. He wanted to honor Barham and inspire others not to impose limitations on themselves. Two other songs introduced themselves in a similar manner—*Rain Makes the Flowers Grow*, written for a child from Sandy Hook Elementary School, and *Black Sun*, written to honor the victims who died at AME Emanuel Church in Charleston.

"I had been following the organization, *The Ana Grace Project*, for the past couple of years, a non-profit started to honor the memory of the child, Ana Grace. I had listened to her father's (jazz saxophonist Jimmy Greene) CD, *Beautiful Life*; I was deeply moved and wanted to write a song that expressed the love a parent has for his or her child, a love that is so incredibly strong."

Victor wrote *Black Sun* to redirect attention to the victims. "Facebook was filled with debates about the Confederate flag, the alleged manifesto from the

**Cont. on p.10**



## The Clarion Keeps An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report, September 26 - October 31 (5 weeks)

### Auto Theft

200 block Connecticut Ave. 9/29, from city street. 2013 silver Toyota (also stolen wallet containing license, cards, cash and keys)

### Other Larceny

400 block Sutherland Pl, 10/24 (within 2 weeks), Landscape equipment including mower and edgers from under deck

### Robbery

1800 block DeKalb Ave. 10/28, commercial incident: Courtesy Cleaners. Suspect: b/m, early 20s, black hat, black hoodie, blue jeans, white shoes, black revolver. The suspect produced a gun and demanded the money from the register. The clerk handed him the cash; the robber grabbed several rolls of coins from a box. Then the robber asked for the clerk's wallet, but left before receiving it. Video surveillance shows the suspect entering the store from Mathews Ave. and leaving in the same direction into the Lake Claire neighborhood.

### Theft from Auto

1800 block McLendon Ave. 10/20, parked on street, Damage: radio. Truck was unlocked, nothing missing

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**911 emergency calls  
(to report crime or suspicious  
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Many areas of the City of Atlanta in DeKalb County are affected by cell towers that may direct 911 calls to DeKalb County instead of Atlanta. If you call 911 from a cell phone and DeKalb Police answers, say you're in the city of Atlanta, give your address and wait to be transferred. From a land line you call dial 911. You can store the 10-digit Atlanta Police Emergency number in your cell phone: 404-658-6666. If you choose to use it, give your location first because that number does not reveal your phone number and in case of disconnection the police will know where to respond.

**311 non-emergency calls  
(street lights out, sidewalk issues, potholes,  
etc.):**

Call 311 from a land line or 404-546-0311 from a cell phone.

## The Candler Park/Lake Claire Patrol

The Candler Park/Lake Claire Patrol (CPLC Patrol) has officially started patrolling. Thanks to the overwhelming support from both neighborhoods, the first CPLC Patrol took place in early October. Our police liaison, Sergeant Gruen, has been a fantastic help in coordinating the patrol schedule and has shown dedication to making sure the CPLC Patrol is a success. The patrol is staffed by Atlanta Police Officers Klein,

Trotta, Smith, Palazzolo, and Howard.

If you have not signed up for membership yet or are interested in a business sponsorship, please visit [CPLCPatrol.com](http://CPLCPatrol.com). We have now surpassed our goal of 350 members for our first year! Due to our membership size, we are already looking into adding an additional 12-16 hours of patrolling per month. The more members we get, the more patrol hours we can fund.

If you haven't joined, please consider doing so.

Thanks to all of our Lake Claire (and Candler Park) neighbors who have joined the CPLC Patrol, and to our sponsors: Candler Park Market, Fox Brothers BBQ, Red Level Renovations, Cynthia Baer, BOND Credit Union, and Epworth Church.

For more information and membership details, please visit [www.cplcpatrol.com](http://www.cplcpatrol.com).

## Editor's 2015 Thank Yous

### *Continued from page 1*

ager Alicia McGill (with Michael, Sara, Jamie, and Joseph McGill), and to our layout artist team (mother/daughter) Véronique Perrot and Roshan Antia;

...artists/photographers Gretchen Connell, Anna Trodglén, Lore Ruttan, Sarah Coburn

...all the young readers who have contributed to the Kids' Corner page;

...Leslie Hodges, for the Lake Claire banner

...Savage Pizza, The Candler Park Market, and all of our advertisers. Have some Savage pizza, a favorite sandwich at the CP Market, and use our advertisers' services.

...Valencia Hudson, the Public Safety Liaison for Councilmember Archibong, who regularly attends our monthly meetings. Thank you, Valencia, for consistently being so helpful to Lake Claire.

This is a great time to think back on the accomplishments of Lake Claire—and to think ahead to what we hope to achieve or initiate in the coming years. The executive committee meets early in the year to discuss what worked and what didn't, what we want to do as a neighborhood, and how best to work together in the coming year.

I am delighted to continue to edit the Clarion as this secular new year begins. It is a labor of love. This month marks the fourth year of the column I started for children on the last page, "Kids' Corner." These young contributors have been fantastic. Reading some of the past columns; I feel certain that these will be the first efforts of future writers and artists. If you are new to Lake Claire, do go back and read the past columns on the website ([www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives](http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives)).

About five years ago I started the column "30 Years Plus in Lake Claire: From Tie-Dye to Khaki," creatively named by Sharon Doochin. In this occasional feature, longtime residents of Lake Claire share memories and their thoughts on the differences—and similarities—they see in our neighborhood in the last 30-odd years. I hope to feature many more of you (*please contact me at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)*).

With apologies to whomever else I may have forgotten to thank, thank you, and have a wonderful year-end, any holiday you celebrate, and bringing in of 2016.

Warmly, Beth Damon

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# Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Possums on my mind. I've had a few up-close encounters with opossums, and they haven't been fun.

When I bought my first house on Southerland Terrace, it'd been unoccupied for some time and not in great shape. A friend's child who visited said it would be a wonderful house for a Halloween party.

The floors were laid out like an M.C. Escher painting, the tiled bathroom had a big crack down the middle of the floor, and an old and very suspect refrigerator sat in one of the two kitchens. This is where I met (to use the informal address) the possum. I had one dog and three cats who be-

came very interested in the back of the frig. C r e e p y scratches began coming from that area, and then when one cat peeked its head

back there a terrible hiss responded. I knew who that was – a possum—argh!

To get to the point, I lied. I really didn't come face-to-face with the possum. My plan was to have him leave the way he came in, behind the refrigerator, without my having to lay eyes on him. I started a scare campaign, banging on the frig and jiggling it around. My dog barked, and my cats meowed. Soon no hisses

came from behind the frig, and no murder was required. I was comfortable in my Halloween house once more.

Now, I know I owe an apology to that possum and all the others who may walk our neighborhood. I wish I could find that old hisser and invite him to the house I live in now. I've learned a lot about that little marsupial and want to share that knowledge with you. As you may remember, we had an article here last December about the possum. I'll try not to repeat the information given there ([www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2014/2014-12.pdf](http://www.lakeclaire.org/clarionarchives/2014/2014-12.pdf), page 7).

Our possum is called the Virginia Opossum. S/he is the only mammal with a pouch found in the USA. This little gal/guy has been around since the dinosaurs walked the earth. There are several reasons for its

survival. It knew how to avoid those big feet, it can eat practically anything, and it has a phenomenal birthrate.

Possums are not the creatures that destroy our gardens. They prefer to eat fruit rotting on the ground, nuts, bugs, insects, birds, bird eggs, mice, and more. One of their favorite delicacies is road-kill, which is why so many end up

*Cont. on p. 9*



*Merry Xmas and Happy holidays from Anna Trodglin.*



## "DUES YOUR PART"

Pay 2016 voluntary neighborhood dues (\$20) at

[www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org)

Thanks for helping to support Lake Claire!

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



*Cora Elisabeth Weeks*



*Congrats:*

... to Elizabeth and Andy Weeks, who have just moved to Leonardo. Welcome to Lake Claire, and welcome to the world, Cora Elisabeth Weeks, born on Nov. 6; she likes sleeping, eating, and crying, says the family. And older daughter Lily loves being a big sister.

*Birthdays:*

Dec. 7 Adam Masarek!! (Delaware)  
Dec. 10 Tim Kline (Leonardo)  
Dec. 13 Laura Tanguturi and Colleen Golden (both on Harold)  
Dec. 17 Dawn Aura (Arizona) & Josh Golden (Harold)

Dec. 19 Elliott Williams (Howard Cir.)  
Dec. 17 Elliott Williams (Howard Cir.)  
Dec. 31 Cara Haycak Tobin

*Send us stuff to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) by DECEMBER 15 for the January Clarion.*



## F • O • C • U • S O • N

## Mary Lin Construction Continues . . .

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Education Chair

On Friday, October 2 in a coffee talk meeting with Board of Education Representative Leslie Grant, Alvah Hardy, Executive Director Facilities Services for the Atlanta Public Schools, came to field questions. With 13 Mary Lin Elementary parents present, heated questions pertaining to frustrations around the Mary Lin construction were fired at Hardy.

The major concerns ranged from deadline completions and safety issues to issues of communication or lack thereof. According to APS, the building committee that was formed to help make design decisions about Mary Lin became obsolete once the design

was completed and construction began. This of course was a source of tension, because there were people attending this meeting who served on the building committee. These committee members and others in the Mary Lin community felt that what has been implemented at Mary Lin was not what they had originally envisioned, i.e., the Mary Lin façade that one sees from Candler Park Drive made of faux rocks.

As a result of this meeting, a new protocol was put in place going forward. Alvah Hardy would be the ONLY point-person from APS Facilities, and Mary Lin Principal Sharyn Briscoe

would still serve as the point-person for Mary Lin.

Since this meeting, Hardy has kept to his word and sends out weekly progress reports. He has requested (from a contractor other than the one Mary Lin is currently using) a cost estimate to install a rock veneer on the part of the retaining walls that are not currently rock. He also met with the architects to figure out how to minimize the amount of handrail along the retaining walls in the front of the school. He confirmed that construction will continue with the 42-inch high guardrail for the top of the front retaining wall with vertical pickets at 6 inches on the center

(similar to the one in the front of the auditorium). Wall plantings on the front retaining wall are continuing.

For the millions of dollars of SPLOST funding that were used to renovate Mary Lin, the sentiment is that these dollars were not used effectively and progress has not been made in a timely fashion. If you have any concerns, feel free to direct them to Alvah Hardy II at Executive Director Facilities Services X3730 or 404-441-5160 (cell number).

And wish for no rain, as that slows down the progress!

## Inman Middle School Wins First Place in the Atlanta Public Schools Academic Bowl

Congrats to the Inman Academic Bowl Team on their big win the 3rd week of November in the APS Academic Bowl! Inman outperformed every school and beat Sutton 195-45. The students will compete at regionals in January.

Jessica Hughes, 8th grade science, is the sponsor. Ms. Hughes and Ms. Butler have been working with Inman's team four days a week during lunch, plus Thursday mornings for several weeks. Great work Eagles!

The Inman Academic Bowl Team is Neil Barry, Bria Brown, Cole Ezeilo, Zoe Franklin, Jay Hammond, Kavi Jakes (Captain), Sarah Likins, Bram Mansbach (Captain), Abby Peters, Charlie Robinson, Kedar Veeraswamy, and Maddie Thorpe.



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# E • D • U • C • A • T • I • O • N

## Mary Lin Playground Update

by Beth Damon

Jane Smith, playground chair and Mary Lin parent, has spent the last year and half learning the ups and downs and ins and outs of installing a playground under the auspices of the Atlanta Public Schools and the desire for a more natural playscape. Smith has been jumping through hurdles to make this playground as close to the original dream as possible. Her dedication is paying off, and construction has begun.

"Because we've had to work with APS, Hogan Construction, and City Parks during the planning process, there have been many delays and twists and turns, but now we are making some real progress!" says Smith.

As of the beginning of November, the old playground equipment had been reinstalled, and now it is just in need of a few replacement items waiting to come in. The new swings and spinners have been installed, but their seats were intentionally left off until Hogan could put down the sod, which is now in. All that is left is for APS to approve their installation and their fall zones as well as ordering mulch to be put down. The replacement items will finish the installa-

tion of the original playground equipment, and by the time this issue is published, the new seats may have been installed.

The playground will feature a slide-hill with a fort and two awesome slides. "Due to APS watering restrictions and our own fear of future erosion problems, we decided to use turf on our slide hill, ensuring playability even after a bout of famous Atlanta rain," Smith mentioned. Slide Mountain is going to be the wildest dream of every child on the playground! The roller slide will be ADA accessible on the side of the hill.

The original idea of the mountain was to have plantings on the hill to keep it from eroding, but APS would not maintain the watering of it. The whole Slide Mountain hill will now be turfed, which will allow the area to be used immediately.

The City of Atlanta Parks still has to approve the removal of one tree that is in the path of the playground. By the time you read this Clarion, Slide Mountain, the

PLAYGROUND MASTER PLAN  
mary lin elementary school \* atlanta ga



ball court, and the paths should be well on their way to being finished. So, with fingers crossed, by the first of the year, this hard-fought-for playground should be completed. "We will still have a few outstanding needs for the playground once the main construction is over," Smith notes, "such as basketball goals for the court, large chess pieces for the life-sized chess set, benches, and

landscaping."

If you would like to sponsor any of these items or donate to the playground efforts, please contact Smith at [jane@appraisalsmith.com](mailto:jane@appraisalsmith.com), or visit the Mary Lin Foundation website at [www.marylinfoundation.org](http://www.marylinfoundation.org).

Thank you so much to Jane Smith and your playground committee!



## Inman Middle Frosty 5K

Inman Middle Frosty 5K is on Saturday, December 12. The run starts/ends at school and travels along the Beltline. This is a community event for the Grady Cluster that supports the teachers and students of Inman Middle. Runners of all ages, sizes, and speed are wel-

come to run with us! Register by mailing in a paper registration before Dec 4—OR, since the Clarion isn't out until first week of December, if you missed the deadline, just sign up at [www.InmanFrosty5k.com](http://www.InmanFrosty5k.com). Support our sponsors—see [inmanfrosty5k.blogspot.com](http://inmanfrosty5k.blogspot.com)

## Mary Lin School Tour Dates

December 8, 2015  
January 12, 2016  
February 9, 2016  
March 8, 2016

All tours begin at 9:30 a.m.  
Please check in at the school office upon arrival.  
No reservations required!



## Personal and Business Classifieds

Tutoring in Lake Claire... Multi-sensory approach including Orton-Gillingham is available for later pre-k through early elementary school. I also work with elementary school aged children in math. For more information contact Kelly at [kellykarim@yahoo.com](mailto:kellykarim@yahoo.com)



# A Book is Born

*Continued from page 3www*

"Now we had the story coming together but we knew we needed about \$5,000 to get the book printed and editors and artists paid," shares Edith. That's where Kickstarter came in handy. Edith and her father made videos and built a campaign to crowdfund the book. The Candler Park Market was kind enough to let Edith and her mother give out tattoos, stickers, and hedgehog-shaped cookies one Saturday to tell people about her upcoming book. "The main idea was to tell folks about the book, but many were kind enough to donate to the Kickstarter campaign. Marie had handstitched some stuffed hedgehogs as rewards for the campaign, and they were a big hit," says Susannah.

Reaching their Kickstarter campaign goals this summer meant that it was full steam ahead on finalizing the artwork and making sure all the story details would be just right. When you're writing a book for kids aged 3-7, you definitely want it to

be memorable. Edith created a fun crime caper where Amelia, a bored, and lonely hedgehog, saves the day. In mid-October the book went to press. As you read this, the book should be available on Amazon with a Kindle version in the works. You can ask for ***Amelia the Crazy, Jumping Hedgehog*** or visit [www.AmeliaTheHedgehog.com](http://www.AmeliaTheHedgehog.com). There you can learn more about the author and what a hedgehog really is.

Edith is a very focused writer these days. When I asked her if she had any advice for new writers, she said, "WRITE. Don't just say it—do it." She's taking her own advice and already has Amelia's next adventure sketched out.

*Please see Page 12, where Edith is this month's featured writer for the Clarion Kids' Corner. There is also a picture of the book cover for Amelia the Crazy, Jumping Hedgehog. Order books before Christmas and get 10% off. Think Christmas gifts! – Ed.*

# Andrew Sherwood

*Continued from page 1*

ticle in last month's issue on leaf blowers.) They have been looking at homes north, south, east, and west of Atlanta, and have not yet made a decision, although, Andrew says, they have an interesting list.

Their cute corner lot cottage on Harold Avenue will be going on the market very soon. Andrew is also stepping down at the end of a two-year term as coordinator of the 70-and-over competitive team of the Atlanta Track Club, but he hopes to continue running with the team in the future. Last year they placed second in their

division in the USA Track & Field Association National Championship Series—and they aim to do the same this year.

Pen plans to continue her ceramic and graphic artwork, and they plan to spend time visiting their far-flung families in Britain, Thailand and Australia.

The Clarion featured Pen and Andrew when they first joined the neighborhood several years ago, and as they prepare to move, we know they will be well missed—and we wish them well. Keep in touch!



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"Dashing near the shadow, she  
leapt high into the air  
once more.

Her sharp spikes dug into the  
ceiling, just where  
she wanted them to.  
She was dangling right above  
the thief's head.

"Time to SUPER-wiggle,"  
said Amelia.

Then she wiggled  
once, twice, three times!

She dropped down...  
and landed on top of the thief!  
"Ouch!" cried the thief in shock.

"Woo-hoo!" said Amelia,  
clinging on tightly."

—excerpt from ***Amelia the  
Crazy, Jumping Hedgehog***



# The Garden December into January

by Elizabeth Knowlton

**It is December and time for gifts.** What might your gardener like? Gloves are always useful, and the nitrile-covered gloves are not only my favorite ([thesweethome.com/reviews/the-best-gardening-gloves](http://thesweethome.com/reviews/the-best-gardening-gloves)). They keep my hands warm, dry, and clean yet enable me to feel seeds and tiny stems. Not expensive either. Atlas Nitrile Touch gloves come in a variety of sizes and colors, easy to see in the garden.

**Every gardener needs a good trowel.** Mine came from Smith and Hawken about 30 years ago and is still going strong with its steel blade and wooden handle, just minus the green paint. The company closed in 2009, but similar products can be found on the Internet. Be sure to get one made of steel with the blade inserted into the handle.

**I get many ideas from magazines** devoted to gardening, and a subscription might prove a perfect gift. *Fine Gardening* is now available on tablets, plus nearly every title announces its connection to Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. I gave up on a disappointing regional gardening magazine yet still subscribe to *Fine Gardening* (great articles on long-term testing of various perennials), *Horticulture* (with its annual New Introductions), and the *American Gardener* (new for me from the American Horticultural Society). I also receive two fun magazines: *Country Gardens* (great ideas from real gardens all over the USA even if low on "how to") and *The English Garden* (full of tempting gardens in the capital of the garden world to visit or imitate).

**Perhaps someone wants to become a gardener** but does not know where to begin. Whether your recipient is an adult or a child, start with a pot plus seeds and the proper lightweight soil that does not compact. Anything

can serve as a container as long as it has drainage holes in the bottom. My tomato pots are plastic pickle buckets from a restaurant. It is never too early to begin showing children the delights of growing their own flowers and food, the best time being when they are young and interested in everything.

**I had 245 tulip bulbs** in the ground by November 13 despite a surplus of rain that made planting so different from last fall. In place of rock hard ground



and earth that dribbled away like sand from the bulb digger, there was fully saturated soil. I began with the street beds, kneeling

on pavement, and ended each day covered in mud. I only hope that sunshine continues throughout the month so I can get the rest in the ground.

**Seed catalogs have begun to arrive.** Make this the year move up a step from color by number gardening to planting seeds. Lettuce, carrots, bush beans, and tomatoes are all easy vegetables to try by yourself or with children. Sow marigold, nasturtium, and zinnia seeds in amongst the vegetables or in separate pots. Spend some time looking through the seed catalogs with housemates and make wish lists. Then order on line or by phone before things get busy. Many flowers and vegetables like broccoli or peppers must be sown indoors as early as late January in order to have them ready to plant out at the correct time.

**I am the same messy kind of gardener** as I am a housekeeper. Luckily the living garden is more forgiving than the dead house. Blowzy and wild gardens are just as acceptable to nature as plucked and trimmed ones. Leave any dried stalks with seeds, such as on coneflowers, for the birds. Do not cut back tender

## Wild in Lake Claire

*Continued from page 5*

on the menu themselves.

And regarding the birthrate of possums it's clear that population control is sorely needed, or we'll be out-possumed. Females give birth to as many as 20 babies in a litter. Well, I guess we could too if our newborns were the size of bumblebees. Less than half of those live. They get in the mom's pouch and attach themselves to her nipples in there. They don't become independent until they're 3½ months old. And the critters don't stop at just one litter. They breed from January to November. They do have a high death rate, however. Dogs, raccoon, eagles, coyotes, any wild predator has them on the menu. Possums only live about 2 years in the wild, but can live 4 years on captivity.

Possums like a den that is warm and cozy. They don't usually build them themselves but find place another creature has

vacated. They bring in lots of soft materials, such as insulation, since their fur doesn't keep them warm. They gather up their bundles of grass, dried leaves, and other nest materials by holding these things close to their stomachs with their coiled tails. And speaking of those prehensile tails, except for the very young, possums don't use them to hang from tree branches. Those guys and gals are just too heavy! And one more thing on dens. Possums move from den to den often to avoid predators. One male was tracked to 10 different dens in 5 months.

Possums are as cleans as cats. They groom and bathe themselves regularly and have been seen to stop in the middle of eating to clean themselves up. And they have opposable thumbs as we do, but theirs are on their hind feet.



*"An almond! I thought we'd agreed—nothing extravagant."*

perennials such as lantanas and artemesias until after the last spring frost. Leaves and most of the dead annuals can go right to compost piles that I KNOW you are maintaining. Vacuuming leaves up into plastic bags is the most efficient way to save them in bulk until needed in compost bins or for garden mulch.

**However, a certain level of cleanliness** becomes important if the same beds or containers are used each year. I always cut garden phlox and peony stalks to the ground in November and send them directly to the yard waste bins that we put out on the street. The same goes for dead tomato foliage still clinging to cages and mildewed zinnias. Wash emptied containers with bleach and water, and plan a crop

**Cont. on p. 10**

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Thank you.



# From Lake Claire to Bend, Oregon

*Continued from page 3*

shooter, and the like, but very little about the victims themselves,” So, he said, “*Black Sun* became a testament to their beauty—imagining a black sun rose from the sky, and shone across the world, shining black that was “sweet and wonderful, from sea to shining sea.”

“Often, black is given a bad connotation,” Victor noted, “What if, instead, the blackness was seen as utterly beautiful? Before we can improve this dysfunctional society, we need to have a shift in social consciousness, to one in which all colors are celebrated for their unique beauty. This was part of the dream that MLK Jr. spoke about. Yet we’re in 2015, and sadly, still we have so far to go.”

Victor took the cover photo (shown here), of the sky and trees reflected on a watery surface, while walking along the Metolius River in Sisters, Oregon, not knowing it would end up being the cover photo. “Everything came together kind of magically,” he said. “I saw a photo on Facebook that Kodac Harrison took of a sailboat in the sunset—it fit in exactly with the theme of the music.”



*“Every ship that sets sail; And every child that is born; Must find their own way homeward; Guided by the starlight; Into another morning.”* [excerpt from *Shine on the Water of My Soul*]

Victor believes that the most beautiful things are what we feel in our hearts. “And that the beauty we feel is reflected in nature.” He was inspired by nature 30 years ago, when he began writing songs in earnest. And now he is constantly surrounded by beautiful landscapes. “Once I moved to Oregon, I wrote ten songs in just over two months, inspired by mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, and forests instead of so much pavement and traffic.” A classically trained vocalist, Victor performs on the guitar and piano. He lived in Atlanta for 21 years, where he played in several bands, including Ray’s the Dead,

Webster, Sons of Sons, and Way to Blue. Many of us miss seeing him at the Land Trust, the Moonshadow, and Eddie’s Attic. The new album was recorded in Bend, and there are 14 original songs. For more information, visit [victorsings.com](http://victorsings.com)

# Gardening

*Continued from page 9*

rotation for vegetable beds. Late fall is time to lime vegetable beds except where potatoes will be grown in the next two years.

**By this time last year,** we had our first frost. Do not forget to drain hoses and empty water barrels, storing any plastic garden implements that will fragment in freezing weather. Knock soil out of clay pots so that the contraction and expansion of wet soils will not break them. Leave no bare soil in the beds, covering them with straw or shredded leaves. Then store cages, stakes, containers, and garden furniture.

**And now to end** on my signature crabby note: Sidewalks belong to the people, that is, pedestrians and their pets. Do not pile garden waste on the sidewalks, bagged or loose. Place it on the curb, even if it means parking your car farther from the house. Maybe a neighbor will not mind sharing curb space for yard waste. Whatever! It does not belong on the sidewalks, forcing us to walk in the street.

*Elizabeth would enjoy hearing from you at [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). Thanks to Elizabeth for the useful reminders to empty water barrels, store implements, etc. – Ed.*



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



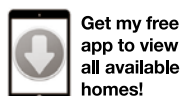
I’ve helped people put down (and pick up) roots in and around 30307 for years. I’m a Mary Lin and Grady High mom and personally rooted in Lake Claire. As an Intown homeowner and Realtor® with deep roots in our community, I know how to help you find the right home and market your home to sell.

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

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

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

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- Inman Park
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# Breaking News!

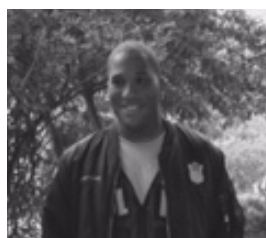
## The Lake Claire Community Land Trust Is Closed at Night!

That's nothing new, but lately some groups of teens have been disrespecting our long-standing rule. One group was caught setting fire to the "Closed at Dark" sign! In response, among other security measures, we have hired an off-duty Atlanta police officer, Desmond Hightower, to walk the land at random times and escort nocturnal trespassers off the property.

If you encounter Officer Hightower during your daytime visits, please introduce yourself and make him feel at home. He may ask your name and write it in his notebook. This helps him keep track of visitors and get acquainted with our community.

"I've served in the Atlanta Police Department for the past 5½ years," he says, "and I'm extremely excited and honored to be able to provide my services to the Land Trust. It

is my goal to enhance a safety presence and provide a sense of security to all working and/or visiting here. I'm always available for an open dialogue, and encourage you all to be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity."



Officer Hightower  
(photo by Miriam Herbers)

Between Officer Hightower's visits, we are also employing founding Trustee and former Board member Richard Powers to patrol the grounds at night. And we have installed the first of several security lights with motion detectors in the areas where our nocturnal visitors tend to congregate.

Our goal in these efforts is not to scare people away, but to prevent any illegal activity and convince our young friends that as much as we welcome them in the daytime, we are serious about closing our gates at night. We all remember doing foolish things

### *Our apologies!*

The Holiday Craft Fair scheduled for **Dec. 5** has been canceled due to several overlapping factors. We'll try again next year!

when we were young, and we don't want anyone to get hurt, especially if the Land Trust might be liable.

The sad thing is that all these security measures cost money—money we would rather spend manifesting our long-term visions for the land. Educational programs, a solar array, a welcome center, part-time staff . . . all of that has to wait while we deal with childish irresponsibility and disrespect. Please spread the word: the Land Trust is closed at dark, except during scheduled events. Thanks for your cooperation.

## The Perils of Popularity

# The Land Trust Turns 30 in a Challenging Year

by Stephen Wing

The Land Trust celebrated its 30th anniversary with an extraordinary year. We acquired a street address—270 Arizona Ave.—and installed a city water meter. Landscape architect Leah Pine and other volunteers planted native grasses and flowers along Dekalb Ave. We sponsored Miss Ladybug's series of family programs. We hosted the Food, Clothing, and Shelter Fest, focusing on poverty and homelessness, and SeekerFest, a convergence of yoga, meditation, and spirituality. We also faced our biggest challenge yet: our own ever-expanding popularity.

Three decades ago, according to legend, the Land Trust was founded by a group of "visionary neighbors." But the legend omits to mention that they all didn't share the *same* vision. Some saw it as a neighborhood project, created by and for neighbors. Others saw it as a resource for the wider public. This split was never healed; some Trustees eventually dropped out as visitors began to come from far and wide. To this day we struggle to balance the needs of our neighbors and our growing notoriety, doing our best to embrace both.

The construction of our stage, The Mark, was a turning point. Mark Sanger's original vision was to stage theatrical productions there. But the stage and amphitheater also made it possible to raise needed funds with amplified music. The Peace & Love Festivals brought new volunteers and better funding, but spread our fame all over metro Atlanta and began to replace more neighborly fundraisers like the Memorial Day sale.

The point of no return came when the two big oaks at 290 Arizona Ave.—a world-famous tree-climbing school—had to be cut



down. Our fund drive to purchase the lot fell short, but led to our quest for tax-exempt nonprofit status. As an educational 501(c)3 "public charity," the Land Trust must serve the public, not a single neighborhood or list of members. Those who donate to become "Supporters" can receive no special perks.

To me, it's hard to picture that original small group of neighbors keeping up with the chores and expenses of so much land for so long. Lake Claire has changed radically over three decades, and all of us are aging. Besides, what the Trustees created was so lovely and rare; how could they have kept it just for themselves?

What they created was not just a green-space or a nonprofit, but a community. It began with a group of neighbors with divergent

views, and has grown ever more diverse as people of all sorts converged on our wood-chip trails. Though the land is ostensibly owned by LCCLT, Inc., it really belongs to this broad community. Those who serve on the Board represent the rest by default, just by showing up. Board meetings are open to the community, so anyone who attends has a voice in our decisions.

But community is not a commodity you can acquire just by showing up. It grows as you *keep* showing up, act respectfully and responsibly, contribute in some useful way. Our neighbors contribute by accepting the flow of outsiders as the price of proximity. Our visitors contribute by accepting our stated agreements with the neighbors. Both are part of the weave of our community, enriched and enlarged by each other.

Our nighttime visitors are clearly not yet ready for community. They seem to believe the Land Trust was invented just for them, and they owe nothing in return. That's not their fault; it's just how kids—of any age—behave. We adults do our best to protect them from their own shortsightedness, even if it means hiring a man in a uniform to walk the land. We are stewards not only of this land but of the community itself.

On behalf of the Land Trust, thank you all for your support, especially our neighbors on Arizona and Nelms Avenues. It's been a wonderful year!

*Stephen Wing is the Secretary of LCCLT, Inc. Edited to fit the space. Please look for the longer version of this article at LCCLT.org. —Ed.*





# 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 Edith Stubbs, eleven years old and a resident of

Hardendorf Avenue with her parents and (many) pets. I've mentioned that I feel certain that in this column we are seeing the initial works of talented writers

and artists, and to that point, Edith has already written a wonderful and creative book. Read all about it on Page 3.



Willa Silvis

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

to **WILLA SILVIS**, who won our contest by finding the Hidden Turkey last month, and to second-place winners, sisters **AMELIA AND SADIE STEVENS**.

Willa Silvis is 10 years old and lives on Hardendorf Avenue and attends Mary Lin. She is in the fourth grade in Ms. Baldwin's class. She has a brother named Alexander in first grade. She likes to draw and paint, and enjoys jazz and ballet at Decatur School of Ballet.

Amelia and Sadie Stevens live on Leonardo, but they are currently on Arizona Avenue while their house is being renovated. Amelia is in 2nd grade and Sadie is in Kindergarten at Mary Lin. They have a dog, Ruby, whom they refer to as the third sister. Congrats, Willa, Sadie & Amelia!



Amelia and Sadie Stevens

## WHY I LOVE LAKE CLAIRE

by Edith Stubbs

My name is Edith Stubbs, and I am 11 years old. I live on Hardendorf Avenue with my parents, two dogs, three cats, and two fish. I used to go to Mary Lin, but now I am a homeschooler. I am in 6th Grade. I work at home and do classes at LEAD in Decatur. My favorites are Middle School Composition and Science Lab. I play the cello and take lessons from Barbara Robinson, who lives in Candler Park.

I am a member of Atlanta Junior Roller Derby. We practice each Saturday. It is a fast and exciting sport. I also like swimming, reading, playing video games, and writing. I wrote a book called "Amelia the Crazy Jumping Hedgehog," and it is being published soon.

I have lived in Lake Claire since I was one. I love it here because of all the nice people I get to meet.



Book cover for Edith's Amelia the Crazy, Jumping Hedgehog



Edith Stubbs

## NEW CONTEST:

**Kids:** Somewhere in this issue, find the Kwanzaa graphic. The winner will have your name and picture in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail with the page it is on, to **editor@lakeclaire.org**. 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 Kwanzaa is or explain the graphic, and tell us 3 different holidays that come in December—then you may write or draw something for a subsequent Clarion!) **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.