



Coming December 14:

## Annual Neighborhood Holiday Party

Only a few weeks left of 2017...how did that happen? And believe it or not, December is "Hi, Neighbor Month." (I'm not kidding.) So come to connect with your neighbors at the annual December holiday party. Come for conviviality, chow, good cheer, and to catch-up with folks you haven't seen in a while or relax with those with whom you've been working and playing throughout the year. Our December tradition is to have this pot-luck gathering and no neighborhood meeting. Vegetarian and meat lasagnas, and beverages, are provided by LCN, and we ask neighbors to bring sides, desserts, and salads. As always, the party will be in the Atrium at the Frazer Center, who has graciously hosted our monthly meetings and get-togethers again all year. In addition to neighbors' contributions and lasagnas, beverages will include wine. Bonus this year: Joseph Reed, a great local folk rock singer, will perform some Christmas songs.

Please remember that the Ridgewood gate to the



Frazer Center will probably be closed to vehicles (open to pedestrians), so if you drive in from Lake Claire, you'll enter/exit on Ponce de Leon. Finally, please note that

*the party is the second Thursday, not the customary third Thursday of the month.*

We hope to see you there, **6:30-8:30 p.m.**

## Things Change—Reflection at Year's End

by Boyd Baker

One thing I've noticed more than ever is how much things change. When I walk down my street, I remember where tall oaks or hickory trees once stood. For some reason, my brain never really considered trees to be ephemeral. They were supposed to be the bedrock of our landscape. As I've lived on the same street for almost 15 years, I realize things change.

Having a brick-and-mortar business gives you a similar perspective. You start a business to create something special—something you're passionate about—and you have this image that it will last forever. The reality is that most businesses fail. Sometimes it's just that somebody's not really very good at business, and other times it's just that you were ahead or behind the popular curve. As soon as I opened Wondershop, all the closing businesses stood out as I drove through the city. Places I really liked and places I never visited were shuttered

or turned over to new businesses. How did I not see this before? Life is change.

*Then it hit me. They're just like trees.* Some grow into mighty oaks that last almost a hundred years (like Mary Mac's or Coca-Cola), and others are cut down in the prime of their lives (like Cameli's on Ponce, the Masquerade, or Donna Van Gogh's). Often we don't know the reason why. Was it death of an owner? Embezzlement? Mean landlord? All we know is we're left with change, and we don't like it. But then we quickly forget.

Remember the uproar about WRAS radio station losing daytime programming at Georgia State? People were livid. That was a change folks had time to work up a head of steam about. Of course, they didn't take the station completely off the air, they just shifted the hours the students could run the station. And now we benefit from two NPR stations, with different programming. So

*Cont. on p. 3*

## Lake Claire Halloween Party

On Sunday, November 5, many Lake Clarions enjoyed one of Lake Claire's signature parties of the year, the Annual Lake Claire Halloween Parade and Party. (It had been scheduled the week before, but as noted in the last issue, the weather "rained on our parade.") Lake Claire kids and adults paraded from Marlbrook/Ridgewood and ended in Lake Claire Park, where the party was one of the best we remember. In addition to the creative costumes by adult and kids alike, a highlight was the costume contest, pictures of which are herein (see Centerfold, pp. 6-7). Martin Steib was amazing at run-

ning the costume contest (is he a standup comedian?!). He had non-stop hilarious commentary. One of the Clarion's favorite of many creative family costumes was the Mother of Dragons (c.f., Game of Thrones) with 3 little dragons. As an example of Steib's hilarity as the contest host, he addressed one of her children who was fussy, saying, "don't cry, little one, you might win next year!" Steve Raimonde on Lakeshore lead the parade as the Stay Puft Marshmallow man, then pulled a Superman and changed in a phone booth to a real estate agent to hand out gift bags and fill balloons. Lake Claire Parents Group, with volun-

teer leaders Matt Stacy and Ellen Jaimet, organized the event this year. Sponsors included Lake Claire Neighbors, Park Realty, Neal & Wright, Tapestry Church, Neighborhood Church, Cynthia Baer, and Keller Knapp Realty's Achieve with Steve (Raimonde). If we've missed any sponsor or volunteer, you know who you are, those who helped in a myriad of ways at the party and behind the scenes. A real example of it "taking a village," this was once again a great event. Thanks to everyone who helped make this wonderful Lake Claire event *super-spooktacular*. (And please see the pictures on Pages 6-7.)

## Frazer Center VIP Visit

by Dina Shadwell

At the Frazer Center, we have many scrapbooks and photos from our 68-year history, but recently we were lucky enough to meet a bit of living history when we received a visit from one of the very first students ever to attend.

Charlie Ledbetter grew up in College Park and now lives at Christian City Novalescent Center in Union City. He remembers the old church basement that was the original home of the Frazer Center, then known as the Cerebral Palsy Center. He also remembers when the

pavilion in the Cator Woolford Gardens was a workshop where he would spend so much of his time with his friends and teachers. For many years, that workshop was a place where people with cerebral palsy could develop a trade and engage in entrepreneurship. Charlie's job was to sand wooden candles that were sold as decorative pieces for wall sconces.

Charlie's brother Sammy

*Cont. on p. 4*

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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.*

## December 2017

December is the month with the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the longest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. December starts on the same day of the week as September every year and ends on the same day as April every year. December's birthstone is the blue turquoise or zircon, as well as tanzanite. In addition to December being "Hi, Neighbor" month, as noted previously, it is "Read-a-New-Book" month; and, of special interest to some might be that if a girl raps at a henhouse door on Christmas Eve, and a rooster crows, she will marry within the year. We have many backyard chicken enterprises in Lake Claire, so be advised!

**1-31 Horizon Theatre (L5P)**—David Sedaris' *Santaland Diaries*, and *Madeline's Xmas*, Dec. 2-3. [www.horizontheatre.com](http://www.horizontheatre.com)

**1-3 Actor's Express** (west Midtown)—*Cardboard Piano*, a powerful new drama, [www.actors-express.com/plays/cardboard-piano](http://www.actors-express.com/plays/cardboard-piano). It was amazing. (Starting in January, *Angels in America*)

**2** Annual Arts and Crafts Fair—great place for your Xmas gifts! 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Frazer Center Atrium, info [mvherbers@yahoo.com](mailto:mvherbers@yahoo.com) or [aprilstar64@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilstar64@yahoo.com).

**2 & 16** Lake Claire Land Trust Drum Circle, sunset to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike or carpool. Bring a friend, and spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust's gift to our community, but your donations help keep it going.

**14** No Lake Claire monthly meeting/LET'S PARTY (SEE INFO P.1).

**16** Land Trust Community Work Day, 3-6 p.m. Join our community! Just show up to help. Pizza and drum circle follow.

**16** Annual Inman Middle Frosty 5K, 9 a.m. \$25 per runner, while students get a discount and teachers run for FREE. Register at *Active*. com or go to [www.InmanFrosty5K.com](http://www.InmanFrosty5K.com) for more details.

**31** Things to do in Atlanta New Year's Eve and Winter Festivals: [www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/new-years-eve/](http://www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/new-years-eve/)

Send calendar entries for JANUARY 2018 Clarion by December 9 to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)

## Street Party on Hardendorf

Hardendorf had an impromptu street party for all Dorf residents, which several attendees reported as being amazing—great food, conviviality, and music. Members of the local jam band Webster performed, and a good time was had by all. P.S., Lake Claire has Dorfs, Leos, any other streets with nicknames?

## LCN Newly Elected EC



At the end of November, we hold the annual election of officers for the Lake Claire Neighbors Executive Committee. The 2018 board is above in the masthead.

Pictured here are (L-R): Ann Mauney—VP Safety, Robin Singer—VP Zoning, Pen Sherwood—VP Fundraising, Eileen O'Neill—VP Finance/Treasurer, Joe Agee—President, Carol Holliday—VP Planning, and Education Liaison Annsley Klehr (missing Nancy Dorsner—VP

Communications, Melissa Pressman—VP Environment).

Thanks to all of these and to all the Clarion staff and volunteers, all of whom are willing to volunteer their time for the neighborhood. A special thank you to the outgoing officers, **Sara Rockaway (Fundraising) and Jim Rockaway (Finance), for your hard work. I know they will continue be involved in the neighborhood in a myriad of ways. Thanks to everyone!**

## Frosty 5K Almost Here (Dec. 16)

The annual Inman Middle Frosty 5K will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 16, at 9 a.m.** This beautiful (flat) fun run is great for anyone who wants to stroll along the Beltline, race with his or her favorite teachers, or just enjoy a jog in the perfect Atlanta weather. It starts at the school, runs the Beltline from Monroe to skate park, then returns to the school along Ponce de Leon Place at the Field of Dreams.

Boyd Baker's first recollection of the race was when Candler Park resident Eric Dusenbury was organiz-

ing it—maybe 10 years ago or longer. It has become a great community event, sponsored by the Inman PTA, where health and education collide in a good way.

Cost is still just \$25 per runner, while students get a discount and teachers run for FREE. There are t-shirts and high fives all around at the finish line. Come out and support your local school and meet some new friends. **Register at *Active.com* or go to [www.InmanFrosty5K.com](http://www.InmanFrosty5K.com) for more details.**



## Reflection

*Continued from Page 1*

that was a change but not the death of an entity. Either way, life went on.


Same thing happens in our social worlds. I remember a really cool Writers in the Round series they did for three years at the Variety Playhouse. It was truly incredible to see four musicians just on chairs with four mics for an evening. Most memorable one I saw was with Guy Clark, Joe Ely, Lyle Lovett, and Sonny Landreth I think. I loved that annual event, and then it didn't happen. There was no big news flash—not even an announcement. Just happened that the following year, nothing ever happened. Probably took me a year and a half before something in my brain bubbled up and said, “What ever happened to that songwriter’s showcase?” Life went on.

Our neighborhoods and schools are no different. There are traditions and expectations but they don't always last. For some people the Halloween Panic on Page seems like it's been there forever, but it hasn't. It just sprouted up because someone special had an idea, and folks were willing to put forth the effort to make it happen. Same goes for what's now called the Candler Park Flicknic movie series every summer. It's been going for 10 years, I believe. All because one person had an idea and convinced others to jump in and create something special. Lake Claire has the Halloween Parade (see pp. 6-7) that crept into our lives thanks to some dedicated folks. How long will these events last?



Schools are constantly evolving because they churn lives through them. Kids, parents, and teachers are constantly changing. Where one teacher is super-excited about creating an Outdoor Garden Classroom (see last issue of the Clarion), s/he may leave, and then all the energy and program fades away. Inman has had, on and off, a 6th grade overnight trip to Rock Eagle 4-H. On and off because different teachers and principals support and plan the event depending on their time and interests.

Ten years ago Mary Lin didn't have a Linapalooza, Small Tall Ball (see



CLIFTON  
SANCTUARY  
MINISTRIES

December 1, 2017

Dear Lake Claire Friends:

What a great year it's been! Our years are always fantastic at Clifton - when you get to see lives be transformed on a daily basis, times are always good. This year has provided us some real highlights, though.

We've had a lot of great moments... lots of celebrations for men who have gained employment and moved into their own homes! Celebrations for men who have, for the first time in years, found sobriety! And celebrations for men who have reunited with their families after many years of hard times and hurt feelings! You may insert a big happy-faced emoji here!

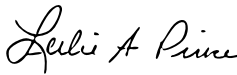
One of our favorite celebrations, though, is when our neighbors come to serve a meal and spend time with our guests. In last month's Lake Claire Clarion, Sara McGill wrote about the meal that she and her Girl Scout Cadet Troup 13553 were planning to make and serve at Clifton. In follow up to her article, we'd like to report that their meal was a true hit! The guests and the Girl Scouts had a great evening together just hanging out and being neighbors.

As you may know, we have spent this year in renovation mode, thanks to the outstanding work of Home Aid, the non-profit arm of The Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association. So, this holiday season, we are enjoying a newly re-modeled gathering space, updated offices, as well as a facelift to the exterior of our building - we have a new paint job! If you haven't stopped by recently, we certainly invite you to do so. We're not finished yet, but it just looks great!!!! We'll be hosting an open house sometime in early 2018 - stay tuned for dates and details.


There continues to be high demand for the services we offer to men who are working diligently to overcome homelessness. With the recent closing of two homeless shelters, our work became even more important. Because we are not a walk-in shelter, meaning our guests must meet established criteria to be accepted into the program, our staff has been working diligently with our partner agencies to find just the right men for Clifton - those who truly want to transform their lives.

We are so grateful for the support that we receive from our neighbors, whether in the form of a meal prepared and served by awesome Girl Scouts or a financial contribution made by awesome adults. It truly does take a village, and we're so thankful that our village is right here in Lake Claire. Thank you for all that you do to contribute to the success of the men we serve; we hope you'll consider making Clifton a part of your holiday gift list!

With gratitude,



Leslie A. Prince, Chair  
CSM Board of Directors



Alice J. Jenkins  
Executive Director

picture), Olympics, Holiday program, Linsanity, Rocket Run, or even a Spelling Bee. Dedicated people, usually parents with admin/teacher support, put forth a lot of effort to create these soulful family traditions. Now, a tradition is different than a business or a tree, but it must be fed to survive just the same. Traditions change over time but, in general, they create memorable experiences that can be the touchstones of our children's youth. Few are involved in each and every event but there is

usually something for everyone.

Can you imagine what our intown life would be like without all the wonderful events and traditions that insane dreamers have brought into our lives over the years? I dare say there'd be a whole lot less community and fellowship between neighbors. These special moments are our “big oaks,” and we get to decide whether they stay or go. If we support and care for them, chances are they'll stick around. If we don't, change is gonna come.

Please use enclosed  
envelope for  
a donation,  
or go to the website  
[www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com)

# Frazer Center

*Continued from Page 1*

lives in Manhattan and visits Charlie every few weeks. Sammy, who is 16 years younger than Charlie, remembers riding with their father every afternoon to pick up Charlie from the workshop. He is now Charlie's guardian and says his brother "has become such a blessing." When Charlie told Sammy he wanted to see his old workshop, Sammy didn't hesitate to make the arrangements.

Joining the brothers on their tour of the Frazer Center was Gloria Williams who has worked with Charlie for the past 14 years. She was delighted finally to see the school she had heard so much about and to peruse archival photographs. "Oh my heavenly stars! There's Charlie!" Sammy would exclaim as he recognized his brother in several pictures. As Charlie looked at the photos, he remembered meeting Ed Sullivan and Yvonne "Lillian Munster" De Carlo when they were in Atlanta to help raise money for the Cerebral Palsy Center. They reminisced about the square dances that took place in the atrium. Sammy was a little boy and recalls the dancers in wheelchairs and sneaking down the hall to explore the classrooms.



Charlie spent over 50 years at Frazer. Back in 1949, it was standard practice for doctors to recommend that parents send any child born with a developmental disability to an institution. Sammy gives credit to his parents for making an alternative choice to give his brother a more inclusive, fulfilling life where he could make friends, have an occupation, and contribute to his community. Charlie is 76 years old now and still loves interacting with others. Whenever Sammy visits Charlie at his home, all the other residents and staff wave and speak to Charlie. Sammy has dubbed him "The Mayor of Christian City."

We at Frazer are honored to know The Mayor, and we welcome this VIP back to his old stomping grounds anytime he likes.



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

### December Birthdays:

- Dec. 7 Jeff Debell, Harold Avenue, and Adam Masarek, Delaware Avenue
- Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Avenue
- Dec. 12 "12/12/12"—Happy 4!!!!—Harold Avenue
- Dec. 13 Happy b'day to Laura Tanguturi and Colleen Golden (both on Harold)
- Dec. 17 Happy b'day to Dawn Aura (Arizona Ave.) & Josh Golden (Harold)
- Dec. 19 Happy b'day to Elliott Williams, Howard Cir.
- Dec. 26 Happy 5th b'day to Cabot Williams, Howard Cir.
- Dec. 31 Happy b'day Cara Haycak Tobin, Hardendorf

**Happy Anniversary:** 12/8/15 Craig and Emily Allen (Harold)

Send us stuff for **next year!**—([editor@lakeclair.org](mailto:editor@lakeclair.org)) by DECEMBER 9.



Frazer Alum Charlie Ledbetter, Then (above) and Now (left)



Violin/Viola Lessons & Orchestra: Retired APS strings teacher. 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. Info on the lessons or the orchestra, Lynn Farnham 404/377-6310

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

## Mary Lin in Plastic Recycle Challenge!

by Julie Roseman

In November, Mary Lin Elementary participated in the APS 2017 Plastic Bag and Plastic Film Challenge. Last year, we won first place and received a check for \$350 that was used for the Outdoor Classroom and Learning Garden. The winning school that collects the most bags will receive an earth friendly composite material bench donated by Trex. As of Clarion going to press, winner is still to be determined!

From October 30 to November 10, students and families dropped off their plastic bags and plastic film recyclables in designated containers in front of school. We collected enough to fill 60 large trash bags!

Plastic film is essentially plastic bags and packaging. Such items include newspaper sleeves, bread bags, cereal liners, product wrap, food storage bags, produce bags, grocery bags, ice bags, dry cleaning bags, pellet bags, case overwrap, packaging air pillows, salt bags, and LDPE/HDPE films. All had to be clean and dry to be accepted.

Live Thrive Atlanta's Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM), in collaboration with Atlanta Public Schools, and the City of Atlanta - Mayor's Office of Resilience, partnered to bring the 2017 Plastic Film Challenge to APS schools in honor of America Recycles Day on November 15th!

Mary Lin students celebrated America Recycles Day by participating in Waste Free Wednesday dur-



Zoe Bulloch, first grader at Mary Lin, proudly showing off her waste free lunch

ing lunch. We encouraged parents to send in lunch without any disposable products. Parents volunteered to oversee lunch shifts and help the kids sort their waste/recyclables. The students were excited and many were proud to show off their waste free lunches and learn more about recycling.

Did you know that much of the trash we generate comes from the packaging on the food we buy, and lunch foods are no exception? In fact, it has been estimated that on average a school-age child using a disposable lunch generates 67 pounds of waste per school year. That equates to 18,760 pounds of lunch waste for just one average-size elementary school.



**Reminder: School is in session!**

Drive safely. Look out for your neighbors, especially the little ones coming to and from school.

## Exciting New Initiatives Empowering Inman Students

by Kim Meyer

At Inman Middle School, every Eagle deserves the opportunity to take flight and soar. The Inman Middle School Foundation focuses on supporting the Systems & Resources and Talent Management elements of Inman's Strategic Plan in furtherance of its mission to provide a stable, long-term funding source for the people, programs and technology that will help to make Inman the best middle school—public or private—in Georgia. By investing in instructional technology and teacher training, the Foundation is significantly enhancing the educational experience for students across all grade levels.

The Foundation creates an innovative and engaging learning environment by funding the latest in instructional equipment and technology for Inman teachers. The centerpiece of this effort is the Foundation's transformative "1:1 Initiative" to provide every Inman student with a dedicated, state-of-the-art Chromebook laptop in the classroom. The intent is to (1) revolutionize the Inman educational experience and enable teachers across all grade levels to interact with their students in new and engaging ways while delivering real-time, differentiated instruction based on individual student needs and abilities; (2) provide Inman educators with a world of new curriculum possibilities through cutting-edge instructional platforms such as Google Classroom; and (3) significantly reduce need for expensive (and heavy!) textbooks. The Foundation has purchased more than 180 Chromebooks.

The Educational Advisory Foundation supplies skilled and experienced outside educators who work one-on-one or in small groups to provide

intensive instruction for Inman students requiring extra attention. The program effectively reduces class sizes and allows Inman teachers to continue teaching all students at an appropriate pace. The Foundation is committed to continuing and expanding this program. Please visit [www.educationaladvisoryfoundation.org](http://www.educationaladvisoryfoundation.org) to learn more about EAF.

**A Word from Inman's Principal, Dr. Kevin Maxwell:** "Continuing to build on Inman's tradition of excellence and taking the school to even greater heights is only possible with your continued support of the Inman Foundation. Your donations provide critical funding that enables our students to have optimal educational experiences and reach their fullest potential. Our highly skilled teachers stay current on research, and Foundation funding permits them to keep their skills up-to-date and to acquire the latest in instructional technology, which is often not covered by APS. Foundation funding allows Inman's APS budget to focus on crucial staffing needs, ensuring that our students are involved in integrated learning activities supporting both academic/emotional security and growth."

**How Can YOU help to achieve these objectives?** ANYONE can donate—friends, families of future Eagles, relatives, alumni, businesses. **Donate before December 31 to take advantage of 2017 tax benefits.** Visit our website today—[www.inmanfoundation.org](http://www.inmanfoundation.org). Your gifts will ensure that our Inman Eagles take flight and soar! Thank you in advance.

...Your Inman Middle School Foundation

## Grady Cluster Principal Forum

by Ellen Mayer, Inman Representative to council of intown neighborhoods and schools (CINS)

The Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) hosted its annual Grady Cluster Principals' Forum at Inman Middle School last month. Participating principals: Betsy Bockman, Grady High School; Kevin Maxwell, Inman Middle School; Carol Santos, Centennial Academy; Maureen Wheeler, Hope-Hill Elementary; Sharyn Briscoe, Mary Lin Elementary; Audrey Sofia-

nos, Morningside Elementary; and Terry Harness, Springdale Park Elementary. Each took a few minutes to give an overview of his/her school, highlight demographic trends, and discuss key initiatives for the 2017-18 school year, then took questions from the audience of about 50 parents. Social and emotional learning, testing, and cluster-wide collaboration were themes. Dr. Maxwell and

Dr. Bockman discussed how they work together to ensure a seamless transition from middle to high school and their commitment to retaining students considering private school. The principals answered questions about the foreign language curriculum and construction of the new Walden Athletic Complex, scheduled for completion in 2018, and the David T. Howard School, to replace Inman

as the Grady cluster middle school in 2019 or 2020. CINS is a nonprofit organization that supports the Grady Cluster of schools through advocacy, investment and community engagement. For more information or to sign up for CINS updates, please visit [www.cinsatlanta.org](http://www.cinsatlanta.org).

# HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTY-NOV. 5



THANKS  
TO ALL  
WHO  
HELPED

# TONS OF CREATIVITY AFOOT...



Adult Costume Contest

Clarion loves Daenerys—mother of dragons



All photos pp. 6-7: Beth Damon



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## The Garden December into January

by Elizabeth Knowlton

The holiday season approaches, and perhaps you want to give a gardener a gift. There is probably no more practical present than a good quality trowel, as I have said many times, one where the metal blade is welded or cast as one piece to the handle, which is most comfortable when made of wood. Another great gift is one of those soft plastic tubs meant for gathering crops or yard waste, the largest size the most useful. Just be sure to store it in a frost-free place for the winter because the plastic will eventually harden and shatter if left to freeze. Nitrile covered gardening gloves will keep your gardener's fingers safe and beautiful while still being able to feel individual seeds and stems, plus they make inexpensive stocking stuffers. And in order to get down close to that weeding and digging, an Easy Kneeler with strong metal sides will facilitate both kneeling and getting up again.

Books are good presents for gardeners small and large. Charis Books (404-524-0304, [www.charisbook-sandmore.com](http://www.charisbook-sandmore.com)) will order any title in print and has delightful children's books about the natural world and messing in the dirt. Although their environmental section for adults is small, I have made great finds there sometimes, especially among used books that sell for half price and have green labels on the spines. Charis will leave Little Five Points in 2018 for Candler Road opposite Agnes Scott, so pay a visit before they move.

There has been a mounting interest

in books about trees every since Martha Stewart took a huge tree book into prison with her in 2004 (and did you notice that she opted to begin serving her time before an appeal in order to make sure she was released in time for spring gardening?). Recently I read good reviews of *The Tree Doctor* by the Prendergasts, \$19.95, a manual for planting and caring for trees; *The Food Forest Handbook* by Frey and Czolba, \$39.95, for those who want to eat off their trees; and *The Long, Long Life of Trees* by Fiona Stafford \$21.99, less a manual and more a tribute to our spiritual connection with trees, which I certainly have with my giant holly.

December is a good time to take stock of your gardening successes and failures in the previous twelve months. As usual my biggest failures come from squirrels, closely followed by chipmunks and possums, eating my crops before I can harvest them. Although netting will keep birds and some of these animals from fruits and berries, squirrels this past summer just chewed through the nets and got all our blueberries except the first few ripened cups. Ditto tomatoes, broccoli, and peppers. This summer I plan to fasten empty plastic boxes, in which pre-washed salad greens and spinach are sold, over individual fruits like tomatoes, using clothes pins. Another deterrent is a water pistol filled with water or vinegar; however, you have to be at home to use this satisfying weapon.

*Cont. on p. 10*

## Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

Lake Claire dues payers since September issue:

Billy Sherrill  
Matthew Chotin  
Ellen Mayer  
Bryson and Brad Smith  
Anne Wright  
Roger Burges  
William Lamb  
Pat del Rey  
Naka Nathaniel  
Aron Cole

Peggy Wyvill  
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## Wild in Lake Claire

by Carol Vanderschaaf

Mistletoe—what is it good for? Well, to many it's good for a kiss or two. But there is so much more to mistletoe. In fact, the more you know it, the less likely you might be to want to kiss under it. Did you know, for example, how mistletoe got its name? (Ignore if you want to keep stealing those kisses). Ancient Anglo-Saxons saw that mistletoe grew in trees where birds defecated. Thus, came the name which in their language meant dung, "mistel," and the word for twig, "tan," thus "dung on a twig." Watch out below!



You also must remember mistletoe are parasites. They can sap the life out of their host trees when their roots penetrate the tree to draw water and needed nutrients. Why does the movie "Alien" come to mind though there apparently has never been a human host.\* Mature mistletoe can grow into masses of stems and branches called "witches brooms" which birds may nest in. Back to Alien again, I imagine Sigourney Weaver striding around with all sorts of birds fluttering in and out of her witches broom.

Please remember too that those innocent white mistletoe berries are toxic to humans (that's us). Though eating a few probably would not be fatal to adults they can be to children and pets. And one more thing, though I think of mistletoe as an ecumenical symbol it does derive from paganism. So, beware.

But let me give mistletoe its due. Mistletoe is of immense value to wildlife and vice versa. Animals

spread the sticky seeds of the plants. The white berries of the plant are eaten by birds, squirrels, porcupines, deer, and elk in the autumn and winter when other foods are scarce. Many birds like to nest in the witches brooms of mistletoe. In fact, a mistletoe infested forest can produce three times more cavity nesting birds than a forest without mistletoe. Three kinds of butterflies in this country depend on mistletoe to survive.

Mistletoe has also been used medicinally, including treating epilepsy and nervous complaints. There is a

study going on in Britain to test the effectiveness of mistletoe in treating colon cancer.

Oh, there is so much more to be told about mistletoe, but I've got to get started on my holiday shopping so let me give you another resource. Believe it or not, there is a Mistletoe State Park here in Georgia, located near Augusta. The park was established in 1972 around the community of Mistletoe. Many hardwoods grow in the area. Back then there was so much mistletoe it could be gathered by the truckload by locals. On December 16 from 5 to 8 p.m., a program on mistletoe will be presented, so if you want to learn more, or still dare to kiss under the mistletoe, pucker up and head on out I-20 east.

So happy Festivus to all and much mistletoe too.

~ Flora Fauna

\* I'm imagining **Stranger Things!**  
—Editor

## Volunteers Deliver The Clarion

Our newspaper is brought to you through the efforts of many—editor, advertising coordinator and advertisers, layout (mother/daughter for most of this year), delivery manager, writers, and—as our final link to readers—those who deliver the papers the old-fashioned way—in person! Consider filling in for someone

who might need help on those steep driveways—or as backup during a vacation or illness. It's an easy way to build closer ties to those around us. If able to deliver/interested in delivering Clarions to porches while 'getting in your steps,' contact me or Monique at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) or [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org). ~Editor

## Lake Claire Cooks: A Vegetarian Holiday Recipe

by Lynn Nomad

Not too long ago, vegetarians didn't feel very welcome at the winter holiday table, staring at a platter of turkey or ham – and working on keeping their potatoes clear of gravy. But now those memories can be ancient history. Over the years, I've collected some yummy vegetarian recipes that put a different spin on traditional Thanksgiving fare. For example, a tofu turkey can be packed with stuffing, basted and baked like a bird for several hours, and served with all the trimmings—gravy, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Anna Thomas's 1970s book, *The Vegetarian Epicure*, is iconic; updated in the '90s and rechristened *The New Vegetarian Epicure*, one of the dishes is a crusty baked polenta, swirled with mashed butternut squash and smoked Gouda cheese. Or, one of my favorites, and a filling vegetarian main-course dish, is **Wild Rice Stuffed Acorn Squash** (recipe adapted from *all-recipes.com*). To make 8 servings: 2 acorn squash, halved and seeded; 1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms; 1 6-oz

package dry cornbread stuffing mix; 1 cup long-grain and wild rice mix; 2 tsp margarine or oil; 2 sprigs chopped fresh sage; 1 diced onion; 2 cups vegetable stock; 1 clove garlic, minced.

**Directions:** Preheat an oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease 2 baking pans, and place the cleaned-out squash, cut sides down, into the pans. Bake in the preheated oven until barely soft to the touch, about 25 minutes. Make the stuffing mix as instructed on the package, and set aside.

Melt the margarine or use oil at medium heat in a saucepan, and cook and stir the onion and garlic until the onion is translucent, about 10 minutes. Stir in the mushrooms, and cook and stir until they give up their juice, about 5 more minutes. Add the rice mix and sage, and cook and stir the rice and vegetables until the vegetables begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Pour in the vegetable stock, stir to combine, cover, and reduce heat. Simmer the rice mixture until tender, 30 to 40 minutes.

## Gardening

*Continued from page 9*

Squirrels do learn quickly to flee as soon as they see me.

I lost all my basil in the summer to disease, leaf spot and perhaps fusarium wilt. Jane has warned me about basil disease for years, but I have never lost as many plants. Three Genovese-type (the kind with big leaves everyone wants for cooking) cultivars of basil have been selected for resistance to wilt: Nufar and Aroma One and Two. These are available at Park Seed and Johnny's Selected Seeds, for instance, and perhaps even in your hardware store rack.

Some successes were giant zinnias and Mexican petunias (not a real petunia) planted out on the hot southwestern corner of my street bed, plus the remains of the Japanese anemones I moved from there to a more shaded location did well with the addition of some new plants. The rosa 'Graham Thomas' bloomed its head off all summer, the last blossom opening in early November. A huge castor plant self-seeded outside

my window (still alive 11/15), and the equally large tithonia next to it kept blooming until our first 30s mornings in October.

I got good crops of potatoes, Irish and sweet, broccoli and kale (under cages), eggplant, cherry tomatoes, carrots, and okra. The garlic I planted in October has sprouted and should be ready to eat in late spring—no fear that varmints will eat it. I am happy to say that all the parsley plants I started survived transplanting and will provide for us through the winter. Now if I could just bestir myself to get the broccoli and cauliflower seedlings out there to join the spinach, turnips, and lettuce.

Oftentimes December is a warm, moist period to weed your garden thoroughly before mulching it for winter. Remember to cut and destroy the mildewed stalks of phlox and monarda but leave other dried perennials standing that contain seedpods, ornamental and good for the birds whose populations shrink year by year.



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## Have S'more Garden Fun at the Lake Claire Land Trust!

by Andrea Zoppo aka Miss Ladybug

Sunday Nov. 12, we had our Fall Smore party in celebration of our Ladybug Rocks children's garden. Even with some rain and cool weather, we had a great turnout and wonderful entertainment. It is a joy to share this experience with our community. Many families came from previous events and have helped our garden grow. Garden helper, Kaia harvested a giant Loofah from our garden!

With over 50 in attendance, we enjoyed hot cocoa, coffee, vegan s'mores, and regular s'mores. We welcomed Toy Box Theater all the way from Asheville! Creative pup-

pets, storytelling, and games filled the stage. Mr. Green Thumbs shared an environmental themed sing-along and dance party. This month we are doing invasive plant removal and working to keep the bamboo at Bay with the help of Shades of Green Permaculture, Inc.

Look out for our 2018 schedule of family fun events! We will start off the year with another Smore party and then move to Spring planting, garden mosaic projects, and host fairy home construction parties. All are welcome participate and celebrate!

*Ladybug Events is honored and thrilled to be entering their 4th year of offering family fun educational programming at the LCCLT. In addition to programming, Ladybug Events provides Farm to School programs, afterschool acting classes at Mary Lin Elementary, seasonal camps, and educational and whimsical services for birthday parties, events, and Farmers Markets. To learn more and to sign up for our seasonal newsletter visit [Ladybugeventsllc.com](http://Ladybugeventsllc.com) or email [Missladybug@Ladybugeventsllc.com](mailto:Missladybug@Ladybugeventsllc.com).*



Photos by Jennifer Bennett



### Honoring the Conversation:

## 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

### Part 1

One April evening, a small group of neighbors gathered on a big sunny back porch to begin a conversation. Some of us were meeting for the first time. Others had worked together for years on the board of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust. The topic was the level of sound at the Land Trust's bi-monthly drum circles and occasional music festivals. This had become a point of contention when a young couple moved in directly behind the Land Trust and found us to be an unexpectedly noisy neighbor.

We began the conversation as we begin our monthly board meetings, with the recitation of a blessing, followed by the lighting of a candle and the chime of a bell: "We come together in peace to share our visions, honor our differences, and create community. Let us embrace the notion that the words we speak and the actions we take begin with good intention.

This may help us listen with generous hearts and open minds."

The issue was not resolved that night, but steps toward compromise were made. And something else occurred, something at once magical and mundane. The evening began with neighbors becoming acquaintances, and by the time it ended we knew a little about the minds and hearts behind the faces and the names. By putting conflict to the test of peaceful conversation, we were acting on our commitment to turn a neighborhood into a community.

The conversation continued on a Sunday afternoon in May when a larger gathering convened in the Lake Claire Cohousing Common House, across the cul-de-sac from the Land Trust's main entrance. This time each household on the three surrounding streets received an invitation, and we hired a professional mediator to facilitate. About 25 people came. This was a broader conversation that was long overdue. We heard from neighbors who had been silently putting up with us, formed new relationships, and opened avenues of communication for the future.

People all over Atlanta know instantly what you mean when you mention "the Land Trust," even if they never heard of a neighborhood called Lake Claire. Technically we are not even a land trust. Our 1.7-acre greenspace contains no housing, just trees and paths, 60-plus garden plots, a playground, a solar-powered well, a Japanese meditation garden, a tiny farmlet, a pond inhabited by a large tribe of frogs and turtles, and one beloved emu. Amid the greenery are two gazebos, a sauna, a restroom, a deck with a view of Atlanta's downtown skyline, a small wood-heated structure for winter gatherings, and a stage and amphitheater. The land is owned by a 501(c)3 nonprofit made up of neighbors, and it is protected from development by a Conservation Easement. It is the result of 30 years of volunteer efforts, a handful of grants, and a multitude of modest donations from neighbors and a wide circle of supporters.

People who move in next door to a high school know they're getting football crowds, stadium lights, school buses, and chattering teens. People who move in next to a city

park know they're getting picnic and playground sounds, soccer or tennis matches, and (in our neighborhood, at least) an annual over-the-top music festival. People who move in next to the Land Trust don't necessarily know what they're getting.

What they're getting, above all, is an opportunity for endless conversation. We aren't City Hall or the school board, just a neighborhood greenspace trying our best to be a good neighbor. For better or worse, becoming a neighbor of the Land Trust sometimes requires joining the conversation and getting drawn into the vortex of community. That's what happened to me when after living down the street for over 10 years—and after surviving a bout with cancer—I decided to trade in my long-distance commitments for a nonprofit endeavor right in my neighborhood.

This ongoing conversation, I slowly realized, is an end in itself: a sort of group spiritual practice that is the true heart of community. It has been going on since well before my time, when a small group of neighbors

*Cont. on p. 12*



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

This month we feature Latha Wright, who is 11 years old, and a sixth grader at Inman Middle School. As we know, in

addition to writing talents obvious here, Latha is a cartoonist (see last several issues). Thanks, Latha, for sharing your work in the Clarion.

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. What did you do during the holidays, or what fun plans do you have to bring in the new year, 2018? We hope to hear from you!

### Holidays Coming Up!!!

by Latha Wright

Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve are all coming up fast! All of them are fun and a good time to spend time with families. On Christmas, people give and get presents, and it symbolizes a lot of importance for Christians. On Hanukkah, which is seven days long, people also give and get presents, and it is a really important holiday for Jews. On New Year's Eve, the countdown to the next year is a huge celebration, and it's traditional to kiss someone at midnight! No one can wait for these fun-filled holidays to arrive!

My family celebrates Christmas and New Year's Eve, some of our traditions are decorating the tree together right before Christmas, going to a party on New Year's Eve, going to the Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences to buy presents near Christmas, seeing Christmas Carol at the Shakespeare Tavern, going to the Lake Claire Holiday Party, seeing the lights at the Botanical Garden, and celebrating Christmas Eve with our family friends, the Esreys! Another thing, my brother and I love decorating the tiny Christmas trees we put in our



Latha (on left) and her friend Darwin Esrey at the Shakespeare Tavern last year to see Christmas Carol

rooms every year! My friend Darwin, my brother, Buddy, and I put on a play each year on Christmas Eve at her house for our family and friends!

I hope you liked this article, and enjoy your holiday, whatever it is you celebrate!

### Contest winner!

Sadie Stevens spotted the hidden graphic last month. Sadie lives on Leonardo, and is in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin. She enjoys soccer, cooking, and being a "mother's helper" for families with younger children. She and her sister Amelia have a dog, Ruby, whom they refer to as the third sister. Congrats and thanks, Sadie!



### December Weather-lore, Beliefs, and Sayings

"If new year's eve night-wind blows south, It betokeneth warmth and growth, If west, much milk and fish in the sea If north, cold and storms there will be, If east, then trees will bear much fruit, If north-east, flee it, man and brute."

Snow on Christmas means Easter will be green.

A mild December precedes a cold snap later in the winter: "A green December fills the graveyard."

A clear star-filled sky on Christmas eve brings good crops in the summer.

One more for the road: "Fog in November, Christmas in December." (wink)

### Community Conversation

Continued from page 11

first began to discuss what might happen to three empty lots the transit authority was using to build a new rail line along Dekalb Ave. It's a conversation that will never reach a final resolution and fall silent, since issues will always arise among neighbors, and in the end community is the only alternative to eternal warfare.

To be continued

This was Part 1 in the Clarion 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 economic novel, Free Ralph!, two books of poetry, and 16 self-published chapbooks, including the "Earth Poetry" series. His original 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.

### NEW CONTEST!

Find the mistletoe in this issue. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org with the page number where you find the picture. For extra credit, mention your favorite thing that happened in 2017 or that you are anticipating for 2018 (Extra credit = your art or writing will be published.) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you can't win two months in a row. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY SECULAR NEW YEAR FROM THE CLARION! STAY SAFE, AND WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2018!!!!

—YOUR CLARION VOLUNTEER STAFF: Beth, Pat, Roshan, Véronique, and Monique