



## 2018 Lake Claire Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair: Another Success!

Just in time for the holidays the 2018 Lake Claire Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair took place on Saturday, December 1. Arts and crafts lovers enjoyed finding unique pieces made exclusively by creative friends and neighbors. The proof is in the pudding, oops, no, on the page—Page 7.

Thanks to Julie Roseman and Annsley Klehr for organizing. Thanks also to Joe Agee (President LCN), Miriam Herbers (for selling Land Trust T-shirts), Pen Sherwood (selling LCN gear), Eileen O'Neill (Treasurer, LCN), Frazer Center (for hosting), and to our sponsors: BOND Community Federal Credit Union and Georgia Plumbing Company. There were live performanc-

es by Mr. Jonathan Marvel, the Mary Lin Advanced Chorus, and the Ukeladies. Other volunteers included Kathie Ryan, Anjie Woodworth, Judy Berger, Melanie Levs, and others—you know who you are. It takes a village! It was such a fun day! The snacks were good, too. Please support our sponsors who support our community efforts; the contact info for Georgia Plumbing Co. is: 6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Building 3, Suite 250, Atlanta, Georgia 30328—Phone number: 770-773-0212. And you know where to find BOND Community Federal Credit Union! Thanks to everyone who helped and who attended and supported the artists.

**Go to p. 7 for more pictures.**



## 2018 Chilinaro

The first Saturday in November was the date of Leonardo Avenue's 2018 neighborly chili cook-off known as Chilinaro. This year's event, the 11th to the best of anyone's memory, was one of the most competitive in years. With about a dozen chili entries, sides, and desserts, there was plenty of food to go around

for the 50-plus neighbors in attendance.

Winners were judged by popularity. Awards were given for Best Chili, Best Side, Best Dessert, and Best Presentation. The picture above is of all in attendance. This year's winners are featured on page 6. They were Lesley Carlisle & Andrew Alexan-

der (Best Chili), and Amelia & Sadie Stevens (Best Dessert) on the back row. Mia & Jordan Miller (Best Presentation) and Seija, Synnove, & Naven Olson (Best Side), on the front row, rounded out the awards. Congrats to all the winners and to Leonardo for its street initiatives.

**See the winners' picture on Page 6**

## A Frazer Family's Journey

by Dina Shadwell

Carol Anderson and her sons, Aaron and Drew, found Frazer Center's Adult Program in 2012. But they almost didn't. The brothers are in their thirties now, but when Aaron was 18 months old, he lost his verbal skills. The family was living in Ohio at the time, and Carol set out on a mission to find out what was happening to her son. After a battery of tests, Aaron was diagnosed with autism. Once Drew was born, Carol's radar was already up, so when she realized Drew was not developing language skills at all, she didn't hesitate to find early intervention for him. Drew had speech, play, occupational, and physical therapies, and he attended a private pre-k for children with autism. Drew developed verbal

skills, while Aaron remains non-verbal.

The brothers have worked out their arrangement: Aaron uses some sign language and other non-verbal cues to communicate what he wants, and Drew helps Aaron get ready each morning and night, packs his lunch, and plays the role of protector for his older brother. After some career moves, the family came to Atlanta. Carol wanted to do all she could to ensure a smooth transition, so she sent information to set up Medicaid support services through the State of Georgia. After hearing nothing, she re-sent the information and moved to Atlanta so she could report for her new job. Dr. Carol Anderson is a professor, historian, author, and Chair of African Ameri-

can Studies at Emory University.

She continued the struggle to get support for her sons. "Georgia doesn't have the money," she was told. For 3 years her sons went without support services. She watched Aaron regress from lack of engagement. She fought and struggled, and she nearly reached her wit's end, starting to think she would have to leave Georgia just to get some help for her sons. Eventually, she spoke to the right person at the right time, and Aaron and Drew finally received their Medicaid waiver. Then began the search for a program that would suit both the brothers. Many places didn't quite feel right. Last on their list was the Frazer Center. As Carol drove up the long for-

ested driveway, she thought, "This isn't real. Wow, what a place!" They toured the facility, and Aaron was smiling, giggling, skipping, and happy. Drew said, "Yeah, this is it."

A big part of the Frazer's Adult Program mission is community engagement. That means providing opportunities for the participants to leave the Center and get involved with activities of interest to them. Part of Aaron's regression during his three years without support involved transportation. He became averse to getting in a van, bus, or four-door car and was dependent on his mother to take him anywhere. The Frazer staff immediately began working with Aaron to get him used to various forms of transportation so he

could participate in outings. "That might sound like a little thing," says Carol, "but it's a life-changer." Drew settled into Frazer's Supported Employment Program and eventually landed a job. One key element of the Frazer Center program is helping employers understand each individual's strengths and vulnerabilities. They work with employers to create an environment that allows the strengths to flourish. Drew mastered the required skills for his job, took pride in his work, and loved the independence it gave him. Drew is

**Cont. on p. 10**

**THE CLARION  
IS PRINTED ON  
RECYCLED PAPER.**



**Lake Claire Officers for 2018**

President: Joe Agee, [president@lakeclaire.org](mailto:president@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Finance & Treasurer:  
 Eileen O'Neill, [treasurer@lakeclaire.org](mailto:treasurer@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Planning & NPU Rep:  
 Carol Holliday, [npu@lakeclaire.org](mailto:npu@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Zoning: Robin Singer, [zoning@lakeclaire.org](mailto:zoning@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Environment: Melissa Pressman,  
[environment@lakeclaire.org](mailto:environment@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Safety: Ann Mauney, [safety@lakeclaire.org](mailto:safety@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Communications: Nancy Dorsner, [comm@lakeclaire.org](mailto:comm@lakeclaire.org)  
 VP Fun(d)raising: Pen Sherwood, [fun@lakeclaire.org](mailto:fun@lakeclaire.org)  
 Education Chair: Annsley Klehr, [education@lakeclaire.org](mailto:education@lakeclaire.org)

**Clarion Staff**

Editor: Beth Damon, [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org)  
 Advertising: Pat Del Rey,  
[advertising@lakeclaire.org](mailto:advertising@lakeclaire.org)  
 Distribution: Monique Mikrut,  
[distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org)  
 Layout: Véronique Perrot, [layout@lakeclaire.org](mailto:layout@lakeclaire.org)  
 Contact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942,  
 Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or  
[www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org).

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

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

## December Calendar

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. December 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!

**1-9** *Knead*, at the Alliance; last night is December 9. Alliance Theatre, by and starring our own Lake Claire resident Mary Lynn Owen. If you get this in time, go! Amazing, wonderful play. [alliancetheatre.org/production/2018-19/knead](http://alliancetheatre.org/production/2018-19/knead)

**1-23** Theatrical Outfit, *Miss Bennett—Xmas at Pemberly*, info and tix at [www.theatricaloutfit.org](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org)

**1-30** Horizon Theatre—Season ended in October. The rest of the year, plays for the Xmas season, including *Madeline's Christmas* and *Waffle Palace Christmas* ([www.horizontheatre.com/blog/waffle-palace-christmas/](http://www.horizontheatre.com/blog/waffle-palace-christmas/))

**8** Inman Frosty 5-K. One of the smoothest 5K races you'll find in Atlanta, AND it's along the Beltline. Info: [inmanfrosty5k.blogspot.com](http://inmanfrosty5k.blogspot.com)

**12** Opening of DeKalb History Center Authors' Program—doors open 5:30. First author: Andre Joseph Gallant, *The Revival of the Southern Oyster*. Books available. \$10/members \$5, at the Historic Courthouse.

**13** **2018 Lake Claire Annual Xmas/Holiday Potluck.** Per tradition this pot-luck gathering replaces the December neighborhood meeting. Vegetarian and meat lasagnas, cake, and beverages are provided. Neighbors, please bring sides, salads. Location: Atrium at the Frazer Center. 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.** Let's Parteeeee!!!! Next meeting = next year—Thursday, January 17.

**14-23** *Libby at the Express*—The legendary Libby Whittemore returns to Actors Express. Annual holiday show: *Ho, Ho, Home for the Holidays*, more info: [www.actors-express.com](http://www.actors-express.com). Season returns January 26

**15** Gingerbread House Decorating, with Cynthia Baer, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta (E Church), 470 Candler Park Drive. Must RSVP # of children attending. Each registered child will receive his or her own gingerbread house ready to decorate. Children must be accompanied by an adult. You can drop in anytime during the time. [Team@cynthiabaer.org](mailto:Team@cynthiabaer.org)

**15** Drum Circle, 8 to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Bring a friend! Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust's gift to Lake Claire, your donations help keep it going.

**15** Land Trust Community Work Day, 2 to 5 pm. Pizza and drum circle follow. Note new winter hours!

### \*31\* New Year's Eve

**DeKalb History Holiday Party, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.** at the Historic Courthouse, 2nd floor, features a professional DJ playing all your favorite dance hits. Admission includes delicious appetizers from Gotta Have It Catering, two drink tickets, a dance floor with DJ, sodas, a champagne toast at midnight, and holiday party favors. \$60/\$45 member/\$15 under 21—Tickets are available at the DeKalb History Center offices or online at [www.dekalbhistory.org](http://www.dekalbhistory.org).

**New Year's Eve with Ruby Velle and the Soulphonics, at Venkman's** (restaurant, bar and live music venue. Creative comfort food classics are paired nightly with the eclectic live music lineup curated by Nicholas Niespodziani and (Lake Claire's own) Peter Olson of the Yacht Rock Revue. Tix \$30-70—see [www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/new-years-eve/](http://www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/new-years-eve/)

**Peach Drop 2018**, new venue Woodruff Park—details not confirmed as of going to press. See [www.newyearsevelive.net/cities/atlanta-georgia.html](http://www.newyearsevelive.net/cities/atlanta-georgia.html)

**The Roots at the Roxy. 9 p.m. until...** See [www.atlanta.net/events/detail/the-roots-at-coca-cola-roxy-atlanta-new-year-s-eve/117729/](http://www.atlanta.net/events/detail/the-roots-at-coca-cola-roxy-atlanta-new-year-s-eve/117729/)

**The Fox—Widespread Panic** (12/29, 12/30, 12/30), for info: [shelby.moody@foxtheatre.org](mailto:shelby.moody@foxtheatre.org)

**MORE stuff!**—see [www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/new-years-eve](http://www.atlanta.net/events/seasonal/new-years-eve)



Volunteers at CSM from the Omni Hotel



CSM Outing to Baseball Game (see page 3)





CLIFTON  
SANCTUARY  
MINISTRIES

December 1, 2018

Dear Friends:

**Who let winter back in the door???** As we write this, a cold dreary rain falls outside -- and has been for what seems like 3 months. In reality, it has been 3 days. But inside the little church upon on the hill in Lake Claire, it is bright and warm ... and men are finding employment, learning how to live sober and be good neighbors.

**The men of Clifton have enjoyed a great year.** Our HomeAid renovation project was successfully completed; this year, we cleaned and painted the kitchen, refurbished and/or replaced our appliances, and we added new cabinets to keep our kitchenware clean and neatly tucked away. If you haven't recently driven by **Joe's Place**, our transitional living home across the street on Ivy Place, please do so. You will see new windows, a new stairwell and decking upstairs, and a fresh paint job. Our home looks really fabulous!

We had some really fun times this year, too. The summer provided many youth groups who came from all across the country to share a meal and great conversation with our guests. They learned what our neighbors in Lake Claire already know: the Clifton men are fun to be with, and many of them can tell a great story - and a few tall tales.

The Fox Sports South bus was a frequent visitor at Clifton. The employees at Fox Sport South rode over to hang out with us, tended to our lawn, and helped with a few indoor tasks. The bus came back in September, picked up all our guests and staff, and took us to SunTrust Park for a wonderful evening of baseball. It was a true summer highlight for our guests.

As hard as we try to work ourselves out of a job, we still have work to do; the demand for our services is steady and constant. We are adding new partner agencies each month, who refer men to us, knowing that they will be well cared for, emotionally and spiritually supported, and given the opportunity to transform their lives.

**None of this would be possible without the support we receive from you, our Lake Claire neighbors -- the best neighbors in the world!** Even though our sign was taken out by a falling tree (we are still working on getting it replaced -- anybody know of a good sign company?), you still continue to drop off paper products, coffee, milk, and cereal. You come and serve meals and make lunch bags. **AND** you provide financial support. **We couldn't do this work without you -- our fantastic partners in transformation!** We hope you will invest in the lives of the men of Clifton and add them to your holiday gift list. Please drop a check in the mail using the enclosed envelope, or contribute on our website at [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com).

With gratitude,

*Leslie*

Leslie Prince  
CSM Board of Directors

*Alice*

Alice Jenkins  
Executive Director





Cynthia's Average Listing in 30307

**10 Days on Market**

**101% of List Price**

Call Today to Sell at the Highest Price in the Least Amount of Time

**678-358-3369**



**Cynthia Baer**  
 Broker, Associate  
 Cynthia@CynthiaBaer.com  
 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.  
 Suite 100  
 Decatur, GA 30030





## Fostering Atlanta's Homeless Pets in Lake Claire

by Kris Byron and Ross Rubenstein

As any of the neighbors on our street can attest, we have a random string of dogs and cats living with us at our house on Leonardo Avenue. In fact, since we began fostering for LifeLine Animal Project's DeKalb County Animal Services in March, we have had 15 different dogs and cats living with us—10 dogs and 5 cats. As we write, we have one foster dog and two foster kittens—the rest have been adopted! We get asked lots of questions about fostering. Here we'll answer some of the common questions.

**Why do you foster?** Fostering is a crucial volunteer activity. When we bring home animals to care for, we free up space in the shelter for other homeless animals. Just to give a sense of the problem with homeless animals in Atlanta, the DeKalb shelter alone has 500 dogs and 200 cats currently housed at their facility in Chamblee!

**What do you do as fosters?** When we bring home dogs from the shelter, we start by allowing them to decompress from their time in the stressful shelter environment. We also start training them—we get them house-trained and crate-trained, and we teach them basic commands (such as sit, stay, drop it, no) and sometimes fun commands (such as shake or high five). We also start marketing them to find them the perfect forever home. We take them lots of places wearing a harness that says "adopt me." We also hand out flyers or business cards about them. We also use social media—posting them on NextDoor and Facebook.

When we foster kittens, our focus is on helping them grow and thrive so that they can get to an adoptable weight (two pounds). We also ensure they are well-socialized—that they enjoy being held and loved on. Then we help get them adopted—and those efforts are focused on social media.

**How do you choose which animals to foster?** Sometimes we bring home dogs that are too scared in the shelter but that might thrive in a home setting. Sometimes we help those who need a quiet place to recuperate from medical treatment. Sometimes we just choose our favorites that we have met by volunteering at the shelter.

For kittens, we take home ones that are weaned but just need time to grow and stay healthy (and kittens can do that better outside of the shelter than in it).

**Is that dog a pit bull?** This is probably one of the most common questions we get (along with other



*Sugar Smack and Booberry, Foster Kitties*

related questions like "What kind of dog is that?"). Much to other people's chagrin, there is no short answer to this question! First, pit bull is not a breed—it is a generic term used to describe many dogs that just look a certain way—or example, those with short hair and sometimes stocky builds. There are up to 20 different distinct breeds that are often called "pit bull" breeds, but some of these are not even actual breeds in that they do not come from closed gene pools (the definition of what it means to be a breed).

Second, most dogs that enter shelters are mutts—so, in all likelihood, our foster dog is not a purebred anything. Recently, LifeLine Animal Project and adopters from LifeLine have completed DNA tests on dogs that are or were previously in its care and the results are fascinating! Most of the dogs are mutts in the truest sense of the word—amalgamations of lots of different dog breeds and often include no "pit bull" breeds.

We love that so many of our Lake Claire neighbors have yard signs denouncing racism and xenophobia. The sentiment behind these signs is that we should treat all humans as individuals. That we shouldn't judge people based on how they look or where they come from. We similarly would ask that people treat dogs this same way—dogs are individuals. You cannot know what a dog is like just by seeing the length of its coat or the size of its head. So you will often here us answer the question "What kind of dog is that?" with the only answer that matters: "This is a 100% purebred sweetheart."

**Is your dog vicious? Will your dog bite me?** (Yes, we get asked these questions.) We are not careless—we are not fostering animals

**Cont. on p. 10**

## Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

It's beginning to look a lot like winter everywhere you go. Christmas songs began in the middle of October and then went on in earnest in the middle of November. All the holidays are coming up: Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Eid Milad Un Nab, Bodhi Day, Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucia Day, Las Posadas, the Winter Solstice, and last but not least, Festivus, the holiday for the rest of us.

And we all know the drill for many people: buy, buy, buy, and buy some more! Score as many points by buying as much as you can for as many as you can, and call it the spirit of Christmas. Forty-six million turkeys are eaten at Thanksgiving, 46 million at Christmas, and 90 million at Easter. Wow, what a feast! I'm sure Lake Claire will be doing its share of buying and eating and, these days, filling their yards with those jolly blow-up Santas. I thought I'd left them behind in New Jersey many years ago, but now New Jersey has followed me to the land of cotton.

Well, let's get on to flora and fauna happenings in our little neighborhood—and in my yard. I'd given up my seed feeders last month because of an invasion of a neighbor whose name starts with R. And the omnipresent one whose name starts with S. I paid for a **no-kill** service to come in and throw the varmints out. That done, I did put a little suet out. I was pleasantly surprised to have a Golden-crowned Kinglet (a tiny winter resident), a Downy Woodpecker, and a White-breasted Nuthatch come by. Then a big gangly Brown Thrasher wore herself out trying to get a bite. I felt so sorry for her that the next day I put a little seed in my more accessible seed feeder. Well, you know the story... the next time I

looked outside there was a big squirrel sitting in the middle of the feeder gorging herself. But all was not lost. I yelled "squirrel!" to my little dog Nattie, we both charged to the back door, and she give chase. That scenario was repeated several more times. Fortunately, she never catches one, but the activity adds up to one short walk.

In early November, Meta L., our star Candler Park reporter and photographer, saw a Wood Duck pair on Candler Park pond. If there were a nest box there we might have a beautiful ducky family. She also wrote with the news flash that "Hooded Mergansers are back at Lullwater!"

Andrew F. reports that his only wildlife encounter was with a rat who was camping outside his home.. He/she disappeared when the temperature dropped... where can it be camping now?

I do have some fauna news from neighborhood travelers. Barcelona is full of pigeons, and Jaipur, India's streets are crowded with cows, while the trees are alive with monkeys.

Now a little bit of flora. Bernard S. went out mushroom hunting recently. He found some puffballs which wound up in his frying pan with leftovers that night. Yummy! Bernard couldn't find any oyster mushrooms, and the season for chanterelles, from Bernard's experience, is over.

Brynan H. forwarded a post to me from Nextdoor, an autumn reminder about the value of not raking our leaves up, up, and away. If you mulch them and leave them on the grass, the tiny leaf fragments can add nutrients to the ground and do some weed control on your lawn. In addition, many of

**Cont. on p. 9**



*Wood Ducks on Candler Park Beaver Pond, by Amy Stout*





*This is a picture of the winners of 2018 Chilinaro (back row: Lesley Carlisle & Andrew Alexander, Amelia & Sadie Stevens; first row: Mia & Jordan Miller, plus Seija, Synnove, and Naven Olson. (See details on Page 1.)*



**PARK  
REALTY**  
JOHN MORGAN

# Putting People Before Sales



## YOUR LISTING HERE

**Now in the heart of our neighborhood  
to serve you better than ever!**

Come visit us at  
1651 McLendon Ave NE,  
across from Candler Park Market

*Call for a free pre-selling  
consultation and market analysis*

**JOHN MORGAN**  
Phone: 770-655-9423  
Email: [jmorgan@parkrealtyatlanta.com](mailto:jmorgan@parkrealtyatlanta.com)

 Like our facebook page for more information about neighborhood events and other exciting news:  
<https://www.facebook.com/parkrealtyatlanta/>





**NEW LLC**  
 Neal & Wright  
 Your Family... Your Business... Your Firm!

125 E. Trinity Place, Suite 300  
 Decatur, GA 30030  
 (404) 257-6494  
 www.ncalandwright.com

Sherry Neal, J.D.      Dan Wright, J.D.  
 Sherry@ncalandwright.com      Dan@ncalandwright.com

Jodi Greenberg, J.D.  
 Jodi@ncalandwright.com

- \* Adoption
- \* Commercial Real Estate
- \* Wills & Estate Planning
- \* Corporate & LLC Formation
- \* Other Business Legal Services




Photos by Beth Damon (all but this one)



## December into January in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Since this is a cold month full of celebrating holidays, you might like to take your family or go with a friend to the Atlanta Botanical Garden events, such as “Garden Lights, Holiday Nights,” each night from Nov. 17 through Jan. 6, the garden lit up with LED lights and new displays. You can buy tickets on line, less expensive for weeknights. My preference would be to watch the model trains that run through the garden on these very same days for free. If you want to ride a somewhat larger train on the Great Lawn on weekends, there is a cost. Unfortunately, it is too late for me to tell you about the Reindog Parade, Dec. 1, in these pages—maybe next year. Or, you might just like to wander the garden on a quiet morning, noting that it never looks bare and how they achieve that effect. There are wonderful gardening classes beginning again in the new year, so check out the web page at [atlantabg.org](http://atlantabg.org)

A year ago I ended my garden column with a plea for birds, whose numbers continue to decrease—except, perhaps, for Canada geese. Recently the Audubon Society issued a list of actions we can take in our gardens to help birds. Many of them I am in full agreement with, including: 1) Eliminating

the use of pesticides and herbicides; 2) Providing water, especially in summer; 3) Leaving partially dead branches and piles of brush for nesting and security; 4) Turning off outside lights (or using motion detectors to turn them on as needed) and closing blinds at night to avoid confusing migrating birds; 5) Marking screenless windows with decals according to instructions to avoid bird collisions; 6) Eliminating food coloring and artificial sweeteners from hummingbird feeders; and 7) Growing native plants that provide edible seeds and fruit plus attract local insects protein.

The list also advises against invasive plants. Because bird nests in Lake Claire are frequently built in privet, wild rose vines, honeysuckle, and even (ugh) English ivy, I cannot be too hard-nosed about those plants. In this gentrified neighborhood, yard services often “clean out” most growth at eye-level and high-prune the few mature trees remaining, leaving few places for birds to nest. A little messiness is necessary for actual life.

The first seed catalogs arrived early in November. Look through seeds you have remaining from last year, and check their viability by putting about ten in a damp paper towel, encasing

it in a plastic bag, and placing it in a warm place for a few days. The percentage of seeds that germinate will give you a good idea of whether they are worth saving. If you learn you have a knack for seed-saving, by all means take advantage of it for yourself and friends.

Growing plants from seed is not just for geniuses, and everyone should give it a try. Perhaps begin this spring by planting large seeds like bush beans, zinnias, and marigolds directly into prepared beds once it warms up (April). I almost always direct-seed lettuce, radishes, carrots, beets, and the like in February and March. Their only difficulty is that they are tiny seeds and need to be spaced out as you sow; otherwise, you will have a lot of thinning to do. Although I gave away my specifically seed-saving books, I still have *Park's Success with Seed* (2006), *Gardening with Heirloom Seeds* by Lynn Coulter (2006) [filled with specifics about saving seed], and the *Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Starting from Seed* (1998). Check your library for titles, or read online if you prefer the screen. Flowers and many vegetables that you buy as seedlings can be started indoors, and I repeat directions for them each spring.

Outdoors, whatever you do, cover any bare soil for the winter with mulches of leaves, straw, bark, or stones. I did manage to harvest enough tomatoes for sandwiches in early summer by encasing them in vented plastic boxes as they ripened. By August, though, the squirrels and rats were gnawing into them. Since my cat died last June, rodents have eaten almost anything I have grown: broccoli, tomatoes, corn, peppers, blueberries, even eggplant. Okra and green beans remain the last above-ground vegetables left standing. Perhaps it is too hard to climb an uncaged okra stalk. My plan this year is to cut the blueberry bushes to the ground and give us all a rest, enjoying early lettuce, carrots, potatoes, bush beans, and the okra, and turning over some of the beds to annual flowers. Forty years ago, most Lake Claire back yards were left alone, full of natural foods for wildlife. Dogs ran loose, keeping the squirrels in the trees. Now, neatened yards are barren of sustenance, and animals must turn to whatever is provided by dotty gardeners.

*Elizabeth Knowlton may be reached at [knowltonew@earthlink.net](mailto:knowltonew@earthlink.net). ~Beth*



### Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues!

Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household – but just like with Public Radio, any amount is much appreciated. Lake Claire Banners are \$45, but a package deal including dues and banner is only \$60! Join these neighbors who have paid dues since the last issue:

Kendall Harlicka  
Heather and Dirk Lamb  
Raphael Siebanmann  
Josh & Colleen Golden  
Allyson & Chris Strauss  
Lisa Scheg

Get your name in print! But more important than that, contribute to worthwhile and fun initiatives of your 'hood. Feel free to bring your check to the Christmas party on December 13, when you come to celebrate with all of us! You could be the first to pay 2019 dues! Or, to pay at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org): go to Membership and to the link using PayPal) or with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to LCN, Attn: Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer/VP Finance, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

Thank you to all who have paid dues and/or contributed your time to our great neighborhood, Lake Claire!

For all your  
real estate  
needs...



Sherry Warner

Associate Broker &  
Lake Claire resident

Sherry Warner  
Homes

**COLDWELL  
BANKER**

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

404 784 8848 mobile

404 874 2262 office



[sherry@SherryWarnerHomes.com](mailto:sherry@SherryWarnerHomes.com)

Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC.



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

## Grady Cluster Data Dig

by Annsley Klehr

On November 11, CINS hosted the Grady Cluster Data Dig in the Mary Lin Elementary School auditorium. Michael LaMont, the executive director of APS Data + Information Group presented the information. The presentation is at: [www.cinsatlanta.org/uploads/3/4/1/1/8/34184947/grady\\_data\\_dig\\_20181107.pdf](http://www.cinsatlanta.org/uploads/3/4/1/1/8/34184947/grady_data_dig_20181107.pdf). The video of the presentation is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=19VNXj8Jwlc&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19VNXj8Jwlc&feature=youtu.be). For a brief recap of the Grady Cluster (Mary Lin Elementary School (ML), Springdale Park Elementary School (SPARK), Morningside Elementary School, Hope Hill Elementary School, Inman Middle School, Grady High School, and our charter schools, Kindezi Old Fourth Ward (O4W) and Centennial, keep reading!

**Enrollment Trends from 2000 to 2017.** Enrollment for the Grady Cluster is at an all-time high since 2000, but when looking at a breakdown of population by race/ethnicity, most groups have seen a steady increase, except for the African American population, which has held stable. Conversely, across the APS, there are fewer students enrolled across the district than there were in 2000.

**The Challenge Index.** This index compares populations in APS and the Grady Cluster by showing free and

reduced lunch students in relation to poverty. The index shows the GA Milestone Scores of 2018 in relation to its trend line. For example: where Drew Charter school showed an increase in performance scores over a four-year span, it also showed a decrease in the amount of students living in poverty when compared to Hope Hill. Hope Hill showed an increase in performance, and the amount of students living in poverty has not changed. Inman and Grady both show that they out-performed the trend line, with Inman being the highest achieving APS middle school.

**The 2018 End of Grade Milestone Results.** The data shown compared the years from 2015 to 2018, the percentage of students who took the milestones that were proficient and above, broken down by grade level. Hope Hill showed a steady increase from 2016 on. Mary Lin showed improvement in all 2017-18, whereas SPARK showed improvement in almost all categories; Morningside's scores were similar both years. Centennial's progress seemed to be grade dependent, and Kindezi O4W only had one year of scores, so there was nothing to compare. Inman's 6th and 8th grade had overall improvement, and Grady saw an increase in the number of students who scored proficient or above.

**Performance Drill Down: Progress.** APS gives students a value from 1-99, depending on how much they grew compared to similarly performing students the previous school year in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math. The scores have been aggregated to show the percentage of students with typical or high growth. These scores help determine the CCRPI (College and Career Readiness Performance Index) score. (To learn more about CCRPI, read the following section). It is important to note that the state average is 65%. Typical growth is seen as being in the 35%-65%, and high growth is the 66% and above. The Grady Cluster 2015-18 showed across the board that its percentage of students making typical or high growth was at least 65% or above, with the exception of 8th grade ELA.

**Performance Drill Down: CCRPI.** The 2016-2017 year differed vastly in its scoring than the 2017-2018. The State of Georgia came up with new weights and categories, which changed the scoring scales. Therefore, we cannot compare raw scores but rather percentages. Each school is scored based on a 100-point index where the Milestones are weighted the most. Since 2014 the CCRPI percentile by school shows Hope Hill having the greatest amount of gain.

Morningside, SPARK, and Lin have all stayed in the high 90s through the years. Compared to the other elementary schools in APS in 2018, Mary Lin achieved 98% in content mastery, 50% in progress, 86% in closing gaps, 99% in readiness, and 96% for the CCRPI. Since 2014, Inman Middle has seen significant growth starting in the 72% and in 2018 finishing in the 93%, receiving 95% in content mastery, 67% in progress, 74% in closing gaps, 90% in readiness. Grady started in the 53% back in 2014 and has steadily raised its score, to the 79% this year: 89% content mastery, 33% progress, 63% closing gaps, 83% readiness, 68% graduation rate. To see more: [ccrpi.gadoe.org/2018/](http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2018/)

**Performance Drill Down: Advanced Placement (AP) Results.** AP courses offer college-level curriculum to high school students, and many colleges will grant course credit to students who earn a certain score (usually 3 or higher) on the five point exam. From 2017 to 2018, APS saw an increase of 191 AP Tests. The total number of students passing tests have also increased by 203. 34% of AP test were passed with a 3, 4, or 5 score in 2018, which is up 3% since 2017. However, the percent of tests passed differs dramatically by race. In 2018, **Cont. on p. 10**



## Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 5

our native creatures, from ground bees to lightning bugs to garden snakes, will winter there. They, in turn, will provide some winter sustenance for the birds.

WARNING, WARNING!!!!. Climate change! Everyone, come with me to get our heads down in the sand 'til the storm passes over. I am, however, compelled by my entity, CT, to use a garden hose to speak the words she

commands. If you want to participate, BYOH. Now, have you ever thought about the environmental footprint of our apparel and footwear? To make a long story short, they account for about for about 8% of our greenhouse gases. The industry uses more than its fair share of water and chemicals. in the manufacturing process. Growing cotton requires lots of pesticides. Polyester and nylon are not biodegrad-

able. Industries outsource their manufacturing to countries where workers make low pay, and regulations regarding resources are scarce. We get cheap prices and so tend to buy more...and the beat goes on.

Well, enough of this fake news. Let's get happy and think about the up-and-coming holidays and the bright brand



new year. Let's make it a good one for all and to all a good night.

Fondly, Flora Fauna

PS: Please contact my assistant [cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net](mailto:cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net) if you have any floral or faunal reports—or if you have any comments on this column.



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

### December Birthdays:

- Dec. 7 Jeff Debell, Harold Avenue  
 Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Ave.  
 Dec. 12 Henry Allen—"12/12/12"—Happy 6!!!!—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 Circle  
 Dec. 26 Happy 6th birthday to Cabot Williams, Howard Circle  
 Dec. 31 Happy b'day Cara Haycak Tobin, Hardendorf

Send us stuff for **next year!**—(editor@lake-claire.org) by **DECEMBER 15.**

## A Frazer Family's Journey

*Continued from page 1*

now volunteering with a non-profit garden and is actively searching for a new job, with the help of Frazer's Supported Employment Specialist. Aaron loves his routine of coming to Frazer every day. As for Carol, in addition to her professorship and chair position at Emory, she is a New York Times bestselling author. With her latest book, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*, she continues her commitment to "help shape the narratives that will make this society more just, equitable, and humane." She adds, "I've got happy, productive children. They're confident and comfortable. They have an engaging routine. Because of Frazer, I can do what I do." She has confidence in her boys' future, and Frazer is honored to be part of that future.

The Frazer Center fosters inclusive communities where children and adults, with and without disabilities, gather, learn, and flourish. Visit [www.fraziercenter.org](http://www.fraziercenter.org).

## Grady Cluster Data Dig

*Continued from page 9*

the percentage of tests passed by white students was 55 percentage points higher than the pass rate for black students, (White 68%, Black 13%).

**Performance Drill Down: Graduation Rates.** Graduation Rates are looked at by the percentage of students who graduate each year after completing 4 years of high school. Based on a cohort of students who start high school at the same time, a 2018 graduation rate of 75% means that 75% of students who started high school in 2014-15 graduated in four years (doesn't count students who transfer). Drew has the highest graduation cohort rate of 2018 at 98.7%. Grady has the fourth highest of 92%, a ½ a percentage point lower than North Atlanta. Look-

## Fostering Homeless Pets in Lake Claire

*Continued from page 5*



*Current Foster, Miss Honeybun Sunshine, Snuggling with Ross*

that are known bite risks (all have no known bite histories). Our foster pups have been uniformly loving and sweet dogs. We stay in touch with all of the families that have adopted our fosters, and they can attest to what wonderful companions they are.

In some ways, however, it makes sense to ask this about any dog. Dogs are animals who are capable of biting. All people should get in the habit of asking permission to pet an animal before doing so—and should learn how to greet an animal politely that they have never met.

**How do you say "good-bye" to your fosters? Aren't you sad when they get adopted?** Yes, of course, we are sad! We have taken these pets into our home—cared for them, loved on them, and gotten to know them. We miss them terribly when they leave—but we know that they are now in a loving forever home, and we now have room to take on another foster! Our job as fosters is to love... and then let go.

**Why should I adopt a dog?** When you go to a breeder, one less home is available for a dog or a cat in Atlanta shelters. With thousands of home-

less pets in Atlanta, we desperately need loving homes for pets in the shelter (or rescue) system. Sadly, given these numbers, when you buy a pet from a breeder, it likely means another one will be killed because there just isn't enough space for all of the homeless animals in Atlanta. While LifeLine Animal Project strives to be no-kill, the county (DeKalb and Fulton) shelters they run are open-admission, which means that they can't turn away animals when they are full (as other shelters in the area can). This is why it is so important that you **adopt, don't shop**. You are saving two lives—the one of the animal you adopt and the one of the animal who will take its place in the shelter.

Since we started volunteering with LifeLine, we have met hundreds of dogs at the shelter and we can attest to how much they just want to spend time with you, to love on you, and to be loved by you.

If you would like more information about fostering or volunteering with LifeLine Animal Project or adopting from a LifeLine shelter, please feel to contact us at [krisbyron1@gmail.com](mailto:krisbyron1@gmail.com) or [ross.rubenstein@gmail.com](mailto:ross.rubenstein@gmail.com).

### News Flash as the Clarion goes to press!

Miss Honeybun Sunshine, KB's & RR's latest foster dog, was just adopted!! She went to a great home in Grant Park—where she has a new foster sibling whom she adores!

2017 than in 2016. APS white and Asian students enroll in college at higher rates than Hispanic and black students. For more information and data analysis, visit: [apsinsights.org](http://apsinsights.org).

Special thanks to Michael LaMont, the executive director of Atlanta Public Schools Data + Information Group, for his presentation and for sharing the data.

*Annsley Klehr is the Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair and the Mary Lin Elementary School Representative to the Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS). ~Editor*



## Our “Miss Ladybug” Honored with National Award

by Stephen Wing

Miss Ladybug, a.k.a. Andrea Zoppo, is known here in the neighborhood for facilitating the Children’s Garden at the Land Trust, for hosting family educational events that blend nature, music, puppetry and art, and for her whimsical children’s birthday parties. But in the wider world, she has become known as a creative and committed “early learning educator.” And last month, she was honored by PBS KIDS, the children’s programming branch of Public Broadcasting Service, as one of 17 Early Learning Champions nationwide.

This brand-new awards program recognizes educators who work at the very earliest stage of learning, from infants to second grade. Andrea was singled out for her work at Little Ones Learning Center in Forest Park, where she initiated the Farm to Early Childhood program. Her classes learn about nature and gardening through creative hands-on experience, just as kids do at her Children’s Garden events at the Land Trust. She also hosts a weekly Garden Club gathering at the Center and works with other teachers there to expand their gardening curricula. The 17 awardees were honored at an awards ceremony on November 16, culminating this year’s annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in Washington, D.C. The next day they met to pool their experiences and expertise at the first annual PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions Summit. Their award includes ongoing opportunities for community building, leadership and professional learning provided by PBS and member stations over the next two years.

In a blog post on the Georgia Public Broadcasting website, Mary Anne Lane brags that Miss Ladybug “has a passion for teaching all things related to nature and the outdoors . . . Not only does she have a unique ability to work with children, she also has a gift for sharing the magic of curriculum and lesson-planning with colleagues. Andrea brings excellence in teaching and creativity to the classroom, helping to build a foundation of lifelong learning for her students.”



Ladybug grew up in the Atlanta suburbs and credits regular visits to the Land Trust for helping to preserve her sanity through her high school years. She chose the Land Trust as the site of a sculpture/performance piece that was her senior art project in college. After a stint serving as program director at Oakhurst Community Garden (now the Wylde Center), she struck out on her own with Ladybug Events LLC. Soon afterward she came to the Land Trust board with her proposal for a series of fun educational events for families called *All Together Now*. The following year she started the Children’s Garden, which participating children voted to name “Ladybug Rocks.”

And all this time she was apparently teaching little kids on the side. We are so proud of her.

Note: The Garden’s last program at this end of its second year of family programs was Sunday December 2’s *Have S’More! Children’s Garden Show*. Keep reading these pages next year for Miss Ladybug’s future programs.

## Must-See Play by Lake Claire’s Mary Lynn Owen

by Beth Damon

If you see just one more play this year, it should be “Knead,” at the Alliance’s Hertz Stage. It is an amazing, multi-layered, and nuanced play. The action alternates between the actor baking bread and reminiscing about family and life—its loves and its losses. Mary Lynn is the granddaughter of Cuban immigrants on her Mother’s side, and the challenges of living in America, specifically Snellville, are palpable, one of the many layers woven



into the play. She skillfully intertwines the memory discussion into the making of the bread—which she does in real-time, on stage, so that enticing aromas add a layer to the visual and audio usually experienced in a play. I am an avid theatre-goer, so trust me: this is an exceptional and profound play. The last show is Sunday, December 9, at 2:30 p.m. Info and tickets at: [alliancetheatre.org/production/2018-19/knead](http://alliancetheatre.org/production/2018-19/knead).



### Atlanta Police Department Zone 6 Toy Drive

We are asking for donations of **New and Unwrapped toys.**

We are also accepting **monetary donations and store cards**

to provide for older children’s items. These can be brought to the Zone 6 precinct, or the interested party can call (Officer Sweet at 404-450-4054) and he will meet them and provide a written receipt for their donations.

In the past we have blessed hundreds of families with the gifts that you have provided, and in return you will receive a blessing—for this I am confident in God.

Please reach out if there are any questions that you may have.

**Zone 6 address:  
2025 Hosea L. Williams Drive.**

Thank you!





# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



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

This month Maya and Sofia Briceno of Hardendorf are the featured children, discussing what they love about the holidays, and they also came in 2nd finding

last month's fall tree. The girls both go to Mary Lin. Sofia is 8 and is in second grade; Maya is 5 and is in Kindergarten. Thank you, Sofia and Maya, and happy holidays—keep reading the Clarion and playing the contest!

**Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages:** we want to see **your** creativity. Write about anything that grabs you! Submit your work to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). We hope this is a good start for future writing careers.

## Contest Winners

Lily Cornell was first to find the fall tree in last month's Clarion, page 7. She also got extra credit by telling us her favorite thing about Halloween, which is seeing all the different costumes. The Cornells live on Arizona, Lily is 4 years old, and she goes to Pre-K at the Frazer Center. The second-place winners were sisters Sofia and Maya Briceno. Sofia turned 8 the day she found the graphic (November 7—happy belated, Sofia), and Maya is five, as noted above. They are the featured writers this month. Dalton Troxell-Cappello was our very close third-place winner. Dalton is in the 5th grade at Mary Lin. Coincidentally, he's the princess in the lower-right corner of the Halloween page

where the graphic was! Lily, Sophia & Maya, and Dalton won the contest over the vast numbers of Lake Claire children who participate every month in the Clarion Kids' Page. Keep up the good work and congrats, all of you!!! And to those kids who sent entries in and didn't win, please keep playing!



Dalton Troxell-Cappello

## What we Love About the Holidays

by Sofia and Maya Briceno

"I love the holidays because the family is together. We get to spend time with our grandparents and our aunts. I like giving presents and getting presents too." (Sofia)

"I like eating turkey, and I like singing Christmas songs." (Maya)



Sofia and Maya Briceno

## NEW CONTEST!

December is a month filled with love, humanity, and gift giving events. Just a few examples: December 10 = World Human Rights Day. December 23 is "HumanLight," a Humanist holiday; like Kwanzaa, HumanLight is a modern invention, created to provide a Humanist celebration near Christmas and the northern Hemisphere's winter solstice. December 4 = International Hug Day. Take a moment to find a graphic about Hug Day to become the Clarion prizewinner for January 2019. (And give a family member a hug!) The winner will have his or her photo in the January issue of the newspaper. To win, send an e-mail to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) identifying the page number. For extra credit, tell us what you like about bringing in a new year in Lake Claire, OR your best memory from 2018. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. **Hurry and look;** competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.



Lily Cornell