



Happy 2020, from the Clarion!

Both Sides Now—New Mural in Lake Claire CoHousing

by Sara Gottlieb

Anyone who has driven along DeKalb Avenue along the southern border of Lake Claire has admired the Watershed Mural, painted by Boston artist David Fichter and 100 volunteers. The mural depicts and celebrates an amazing topographic feature of the neighborhood, the subcontinental divide, which splits the Atlantic Ocean bound Altamaha River watershed from the Gulf of Mexico bound Chattahoochee River watershed.

Now, thanks to Atlanta artist Angie Jerez, there is another mural on the other side of the wall, less visible to passers-by, but there to be enjoyed by those who make the effort. Earlier this year, CoHousing was advised by an engineer to remove six large trees whose roots were threatening the structural integrity of the wall. We mourned the loss of those trees—

their shade, the habitat they provided for birds, and their beauty in contrast to the hard lines, noise, and pollution from traffic along DeKalb Avenue.

The CoHousing community made a plan and set a budget to “beautify” the space by re-planting more appropriate trees, shrubs, and perennials. Around the same time, Angie made contact with a CoHousing member about painting a mural on the graffiti-covered part of the wall that runs perpendicular to the watershed mural between the Land Trust and CoHousing. We hope to secure a grant for Angie to complete a mural in that space sometime in the future. In the meantime, CoHousing members contributed extra funds to add a mural to the wall opposite the watershed mural where the trees were slated to be cut; Angie provided a mock-up



of the design she felt would fit the space, and CoHousing approved it!

As summer dragged on, the trees came down. Re-planting during the heat wave and drought that persisted into October was not an option. Luckily, around the time of the Trees Atlanta plant sale, rain and cooler temperatures appeared in the

forecast, so we purchased the native plants envisioned in a landscape designed with assistance from neighbor Leah Pine: American fringetree, serviceberry, flowering dogwood, blueberry, red buckeye, muhlygrass, purple coneflower, and coreopsis. All of these plants provide food for people

Cont. on p. 7

Annual Lighting of Leonardo

by Boyd Baker

The Annual Lighting of Leonardo took a turn this year. Where we've had a potluck in a home for the past six or so years, we decided to make it a bit more festive by lighting some fires and having a dessert swap in the Bliss front yard. The weather cooperated nicely as it was just cool enough to appreciate the two fires—but not so much the smoke. Only the fires and streetlights illuminated the night.

After 30 minutes of dessert snacking, we took the obligatory annual kid photo to memorialize the holiday gathering. Then it was off to walk the street, beginning with our Marlbrook neighbors. At each house, we'd stop, the kids would count down from five, the homeowners would turn on their holiday lights, and we'd all cheer wildly—even if the only lights were on a 6-inch tall tree. Thus began another holiday season and continued the tradition of winding down another year of life on Leonardo.



Important Recycle Notice

In case you don't know, the City of Atlanta does not currently recycle glass. **Please do not put glass in your recycling container.** There is too much danger it will spill on the street, regardless of whether they recycle it (mixed reports of this). **Please** take glass to the Dekalb Farmers Market or to the bins in the parking lot between the Edgewood Kroger & Target. Glass is included on the City list because they want it in the future when there is a market for it again. Meanwhile, they crush it and add to the dump! And people, pets, and bike tires are the unintended victims.

THE CLARION IS PRINTED
ON RECYCLED PAPER.

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

January Calendar

4 & 18 Drum Circle at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, 8-11 p.m. Walk/bike/carpool to the Arizona dead-end. And see lots of info every month on the Land Trust on the Clarion's penultimate page (this time, Page 15).

6 Students return to school; please drive carefully.

6 to February 12 Mary Lin Pre-K Lottery. apsprekapplication.com.

8 to February 18 Actor's Express Theatre Company presents *Fun Home*, the wholly original Tony Award-winning musical about what happens when you finally see your parents through grown-up eyes. Based on Alison Bechdel's bestselling graphic memoir of the same name. www.actors-express.com

9 to February 9 *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. If you missed this at the Horizon Theatre, it is well worth driving to Lawrenceville, where it will be at Aurora Theatre. A co-production of Aurora Theatre and Horizon Theatre, it is the winner of seven 2013 Olivier Awards and five 2015 Tony Awards, including Best Play. It's about a 15-year-old boy on the spectrum who likes math, outer space, and looking after his pet rat Toby; he finds himself at the center of a mystery. Wrongfully accused of murdering his neighbor's dog, Christopher's investigation to find the real culprit uncovers a an adventure that turns his whole world upside-down. www.auroratheatre.com/productions-and-programs/view/the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-the-night-time.

11 Atlanta Public Schools' Technology and Innovation Competition. Open to students in grades 3 through 12. Also need judges. See apstic.weebly.com.

12 4 p.m.—free screening of film about voter suppression in Stacey Abrams' race; see page 13 for details.

16 Lake Claire Neighbors monthly meeting—and every 3rd Thursday, in the Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting. **Pizza provided free from Savage (THANKS, SAVAGE).** Minutes always on the website, and when room, in the Clarion.

18 Lake Claire Land Trust Community Work Day, 2 to 5 p.m. Note—Winter Hours! Pizza and drum circle follow. See info on the Land Trust every month, this time on Page 15 of the Clarion, or go to the LCLTC website. The Work Day is always followed by the Drum Circle, which begins at 8 p.m. (see January 4, above.)

18 The 35th Annual MLK Celebration, "King's Vision: Humanity Tied in a Single Garment of Destiny." Maloof Auditorium, Decatur. files.constant-contact.com/3d1f2ebe001/707b5395-13f5-4421-9393-36bcf2515c50.pdf

20 MLK Jr. Service Day—School is out—hopefully, find Volunteer Opportunities. See article Page 5, including helping in Lake Claire Park. Also, after volunteering take in some other activities, such as the MLK March and Rally, see www.facebook.com/events/500389480449872/; MLK Day for Children at the Children's Museum of Atlanta: childrensmuseumatlanta.org/event/martin-luther-king-jr-s-birthday/; and finally, the MLK 5K "Let Freedom Ring," mlkday5k.com. FREE entrance to all National Parks on this day!

21 to February 16 Alliance Theatre, Coca-Cola Stage, *Maybe Happy Ending*, recommended for ages 13+ (see details Page 6), and on the Hertz Stage, next play starts Feb 14, *Seize the King*. alliancetheatre.org.

22 to February 16 Theatrical Outfit presents *Slow Food*, www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/slow-food, directed by Ryan Oliveti. "Everything (and nothing) is on the table in this zesty comedy about painfully slow service."

CALENDAR NOTES:

Horizon Theatre 2020 Season not announced as of press time.

February 2 Annual Women's Tea, for Lake Claire Women. Please join Betsy Hoddinott and her friends on Sunday, February 2, 2-5 p.m., for an afternoon of tea, treats, and talk. Please bring your favorite pastry or tea sandwich, and your smile. Hats and gloves encouraged! 1759 Indiana Avenue. Also—what else is on that day..hmmm...at least not in Atlanta this year!

Send calendar entries for the February Clarion by January 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org. I'd love to make this calendar relevant for YOU—send ideas!!

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Message From the President of Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

by Joe Agee

Dear Neighbors,

There are many ways to get dated as we go along in life. Not too long ago, when I approached the checkout counter at Publix, a young cashier said something that wasn't quite clear. After my asking "What?" she yelled out, "Do you want the senior citizen discount?" I should have said, but didn't, why don't you say it a little louder so that everyone in the store can hear? However, I didn't turn down the discount and walked out in a fairly good mood despite her voice still ringing in my ears. Hey, 5% is 5%! More specifically about my age: in 1973, and thanks to the G.I. bill, came the opportunity to buy a house in Lake Claire, that happily continues to be my home.

Now, you're probably wondering where all this is going. From some of my previous messages, you may have gathered that I'm fascinated with the ironies of history and how things can morph in a lot of unanticipated ways. So, here is a past scenario of this type that I actually lived through. In my last contribution to the Clarion, I highlighted many things that make Lake Claire a great place to live, along with some history about how the neighborhood narrowly escaped being carved up by a major road in the early '80s ("The Road"). I forgot to mention that it would have gone just a few yards away from Mary Lin Elementary before taking the bottom part of Candler Park. However, as the Spanish saying goes, *No hay mal que por bien no venga*; Nothing bad ever happens without something good coming out of it. As a result of the final settlement, what once was a large swath of vacant, unsightly, and dangerous piece of land running from I-85/75 to Candler Park became the beautiful Freedom Park, while the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance was created to restore fully and keep up one of the most picturesque landscapes in Atlanta—and maybe in the country. A less obvious but just as important outcome was the creation or upgrading of neighborhood organizations in the immediate area that are now directly associated with the City of Atlanta's NPU system, which allows for crucial public input into matters such as variances and zoning requests along with other activities involving the City's various departments. In this last regard, there is a long list of items that include traffic control, parks, crime prevention, education, and more.

O.k., that's the technical part which, of course, was no small deal.



On the other hand, I like to think that because of steadfast opposition to The Road, Lake Claire was also able to become something of an oasis in one of the most rapidly developing metropolitan areas in the country. My experience involved seeing the impact on a solid middle class and self-sufficient community that was suffering the loss of residents who were looking for what they thought would be a much higher quality of life in the suburbs. What happened turned out to be very unexpected. The resulting drop in housing prices provided an opportunity for people who have been described as "urban pioneers" to buy their first homes with the specific intent of creating a wholesome and diverse environment at a time when many major cities in the country also had declining urban populations. It was a time of concerted activism and hope for a better future. I firmly believe this spirit is still with us in spite of the obvious gentrification and inevitable rise in property values and taxes. Fortunately, it only takes a trip to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, the Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, the Kashi Urban Yoga Institute, or the Frazer Center to reinforce this feeling.

This is the sentiment and vision I'd like to project for the neighborhood as we move into the third decade of this century! Happy New Year!

P.S. Don't forget your \$20 neighborhood annual dues to help us carry out our work to preserve the progressive character of our neighborhood as well as supporting our local and surrounding institutions!

Keeping An Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Security Report

by Miriam Herbers

Hello, Neighbors,

I am following Cecily Stevens as the neighborhood safety liaison. Thank you, Cecily, for helping me get started. I have lived on Arizona Avenue since before my hair was gray, and I know so well what a wonderful community we have. My adult daughters rode their bikes here, went to school here, and have fond memories of growing up in Lake Claire. Besides reporting crime, I would like to hear from you about what other things you would like me to do to keep you informed and safe. One thing I plan is another CPR course. Last year, the class was well received, and I have heard from some that another opportunity to learn this life-saving information would be appreciated.

Here is what has been reported* to the police between November 15 and December 11:

11/18 Lakeshore Drive—larceny from vehicle, Tuxedo Ave.—Larceny from vehicle

11/19 Arizona Ave.—Larceny from vehicle

11/21 Claire Dr.—Burglary with forced entry into a residence, Tuxedo Ave.—Burglary with forced

entry into a residence

11/23 Claire Dr.—larceny from Vehicle, Harold Ave.—larceny from residence

11/28 Marlbrook Ave.—larceny from vehicle

11/29 Palifox Dr.—auto theft

12/3 Arizona Ave.—larceny from vehicle

12/7 Connecticut Ave.—larceny from vehicle

12/10 Hardendorf Ave.—burglary with forced entry into a residence, Marlbrook Ave.—Burglary with forced entry into a residence

Seven larcenies from cars is still too many, but this is down from 15 in the last reporting period. We must do better at keeping anything that hints of value out of sight, whether you chose to keep your car locked or not. Keep up the good work! Let's get the number down to zero. The forced entries into homes are more alarming.

*Please report all crimes to APD so that they know where and when to increase patrols. The more people who join Candler Park Lake Claire Patrol results in more hours of patrols.

Successful Neighborhood Arts and Crafts Sale

On December 14, Lake Claire held its annual holiday arts and crafts fair, with a portion of the proceeds going to Mary Lin Elementary School and Lake Claire Neighbors. Warm thanks to the Frazer Center for allowing us to use the Atrium and to Cynthia Baer and Bond Community Federal Credit Union for their generous sponsorship to cover administrative expenses. Thanks to the Mary Lin Advanced Chorus and The Real Ukuladies of Atlanta, who performed at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m, respectively. Attendance was amazing, continuously, throughout the day. A big thanks to all neighbors and friends who came to support our local artists and crafters. This year's date of December 14 was about a week later than usual; if you have opinions on that, please feel free to let us know, but it was set because of the Frazer Center availability.

The show included intricately painted gourds, jewelry, funky and playful sculptures, elaborate textile designs, oil paintings, hand-made soaps, ceramic vases, vanilla essences, home-made organic salsa, and much more. Many young crafters took part and enjoyed good success. We encourage more young artists and crafters to participate next year!

This was another example of it "taking a village." Many thanks to organizer Julie Roseman, who worked tirelessly on this, as well as others (whose names I am not listing out of fear of leaving someone out; people volunteered in various capacities from setting and clearing up the site to counting the money afterwards, so thanks are due to all, and you know who you are). A great deal of work is involved in making the event a success and fun experience. Please see a sampling of the fun, featured on Page 9.



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Happy New Year 2020! Now here we go stepping lightly to the next decade of our little earth. Time for those resolutions to be made by all we laddies and lassies and other gender folksies. I call all good, and mediocre and evil persons to take a stand.

Let I, Flora Fauna, give you a little context for your deed. I have picked the internet far and near to provide such information to you. The history of making New Year's resolutions is traditionally believed to go back all the way to 153 B.C., when Janus, a mythical king of Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. A two-faced god, Janus was able to look back on events of the past and also look forward to events of the future. Because of this, Janus was regarded as the ancient symbol for resolutions. The Romans also named the first month, January, after Janus since he was considered "the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances." Here are some resolution factoids:

Before the first month of the year has even come to an end, most people have given up on their annual commitments to themselves. Research conducted by Strava, the social network for athletes, has discovered that Saturday, January 12 is the fateful day of resolutions when most resolutionists stop trying. Roughly 55 per cent of New Year's resolutions were health-related, such as exercising more, eating healthier, and getting out of financial debt, according to the science journal *The Personality and Social Psychology*. Ever wonder what the top resolutions are? Well according to *GoSkills.com* here they are: Lose weight; Get organized; Learn a new skill or hobby; Live life to the fullest; Save more money / spend less money; Quit smoking; Spend more time with family and friends; Travel more; Read more; Exercise more. Note that none of these relate specifically to the environment... (even while Venice is drowning), but our illustrious editor always enjoys my ramblings. However, here are some environmental friendly resolutions from *Biofriendly Planet Magazine*:

Grow your own. Healthier and chemical free; Get an electric vehicle or make sure your present car does not have harmful emissions, or take public transportation a couple of days a week; Be more aware of your water usage as a way of eventually cutting down; Involve your whole household in energy conservation; Spend more time outdoors. You'll come to appreciate nature and the environment more; Donate items you don't need or use. If you haven't used something in

six months donate it; Volunteer; Use natural cleaning products; Decide to make at least one energy efficient change to your home this year; Buy less/use less!

So with all of this in my head, I decided to jump start my environment resolutions a little early to be really ready on the big day. Three friends (Yes, I, Flora Fauna, have friends) and I went out to celebrate a birthday. The birthday girl's first choice to dine was unexpectedly noisy, so we wandered down the small plaza to an Ethiopian restaurant, which was pleasantly quiet. When the plastic straws were brought out with our glasses of water all four of us demurred. Our waitress, Maya, seemed to give us a sympathetic nod as though she was apologetic at having to having to offer such an object.

Then when the delicious meal was over it was doggy bag time. Fortunately, only one of us had leftovers, and she was presented with a creepy black Styrofoam container. It came to mind the idea of buying my own take-home container. I got this idea from another friend who religiously carries her own foldable take home container and pulls it out whenever it is needed. I must admit the self-righteous part of FF is always green (environmentally friendly of course) with envy.

In closing, Flora Fauna wishes you all strength in keeping a few of your resolutions. At least you can refuse plastic straws when you go out to eat and drink from a glass! And if you would, please let me know how things go for your via my able assistant cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net. She is much less rigid and more accepting than I.

Editor's note: Nearby Saba in Emory Village has great paper straws and compostable take-away containers of all sizes! Support restaurants who care about the environment! Delicious food and drink, too, including Taco Fridays and a great tequila bar. Let me or FF know of other restaurants!

Thanks for Paying Your Neighborhood Dues

Lake Claire suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire Banners are \$45; a package deal of dues/banner is only \$60! Join these neighbors who are the first to pay in 2020!

Kyle Gallo, Alicia & Tom McGill, Terri Rushin and Angie Love, Katie Gass, Amy Reilly, Sapna Bamrah



MLK Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'" Here are just two of many volunteer opportunities around Atlanta. Another suggestion is to help in our own Lake Claire Park, where folks will gather from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and there is usually fun afterwards with apple cider and

cookies for your hard work. There is also Hands-On Atlanta—for information, contact www.handsonatlanta.org/mlk. To volunteer to help the elderly in Decatur (home repairs, do yard work, help with logistics, or assist in other ways), please try www.mlkserviceproject.com. You can email sponsor@mlkserviceproject.com.

From Trees Atlanta

Newsflash: We just received word that Matt Westmoreland, Post 2 At-Large member of the Atlanta City Council, will be taking over as chair of the Community Development and Human Services (CDHS) Committee in January. Matt wrote in an email this morning that "the tree ordinance rewrite is one of my top priorities" in his new role.

We said last month, "Help plant trees this holiday season." If you missed giving someone a gift, there

is no time limit! For only \$25 you can plant a tree in honor of him, her, or they. Go to: www.treesatlanta.org/support-us/holiday-giving/

Well, your editor added the "they." Flora Fauna and I are nothing if not timely, progressive, and flexible, albeit "Boomers," and "they" as a singular pronoun is Merriam-Webster's word of the year, based on a 313% increase in 2019 in look-ups on the company's search site.

Hello—Safe Journey—Skiing in and around Lake Claire

January Birthdays

- 3 – Leah Braun, Claire Drive, turns 14
- 3 – Lisa Morris, Sutherland Places
- 5 – Dave Kaiser, Hardendorf Avenue
- 9 -- Reese Kruskamp, Clifton Road, 4 this year
- 12 – Tamar Williams, Harold Avenue
- 12 – Tiffany Mawhinney, Howard Circle
- 15 – Sophie Oren, Leonardo, turns five
- 16 – Theo Emanuel, Marlbrook, turns five
- 18 – Cynthia Baer, Gordon Avenue, thanks for your continuous support
- 19 – Genise Spence, Arizona Avenue
- 28 – Tom McGill, Delaware—Happy birthday, my friend

Life-cycle events to editor@lakeclaire.org by January 15 for February issue. Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC 'hood.

newspaper. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, 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!

Alliance Theatre—Award-Winning New Musical

by Beth Damon

This looks like a show not-to-be-missed. Playing January 21-February 16, Bill Aronson and Hue Park wrote it in two versions—English-language and Korean-language—it premiered in Seoul in 2016, where it won six Korean Musical Awards including the awards for Best Book, Lyrics, and Music. The Alliance production is the English-language version's premiere.

Set in the not-too-distant future in Seoul, two obsolete helper-bots are living an isolated existence in a robots-only housing complex on the

edge of the city. Oliver is waiting expectantly for his former owner to come looking for him, and Claire is just ... waiting. When the two discover each other in the hall, they have a surprising connection that challenges what they believe is possible for themselves, relationships, and love. Looking past our era of technology-driven detachment, this award-winning musical celebrates a magical and bittersweet reawakening to the things that make us human. Sounds intriguing!

Volunteers Deliver *The Clarion*

A vital part of our newspaper being brought to you each month are the "Clarion Carriers," the delivery teams who faithfully deliver this newspaper the old-fashioned way—in person, to your porch! Consider filling in for one of them who might need help on those steep driveways, or backup during a vacation, illness, or just "life getting

in the way." It's really one of the easiest ways we can all build closer ties to those around us. If you are looking for a way to help and might like to deliver Clarions to porches while 'getting in your steps,' please contact me or Monique at editor@lakeclaire.org or distribution@lakeclaire.org. —Editor



Reminder:
Holidays over/
School is in session!
Drive safely.
Look out for your neighbors,
especially the little ones
walking to and from school.

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Photo by Margaret Witten

Another Mural!

Has anyone seen a new mural at the East Lake MARTA Station?

Living Walls and MARTA Artbound came together to fund an artist to promote neighborhood/community. They chose Argentinean street artist Nico Escalada (nicknamed “Ever”) to paint two murals on the East Lake MARTA station. Ever met with neighbors to determine what to depict in the mural so as to cover places and things that were important to folks in the neighborhood. He paints murals that cushion social criticism in a flurry of bright colors, dreamy, cloud-like forms, and whimsical characters.

They chose Escalada to paint two murals on the East Lake MARTA station. Ever paints murals that cushion social criticism in a flurry of bright colors, dreamy, cloud-like forms, and whimsical characters. In unfamiliar places, in addition to interviewing neighbors, he observes social phenomena around him. He likes to include historical figures and places, and in the case of this project, he includes Hosea Williams (who raised his family in East Lake), the DeKalb Farmers

Market (which did not pay for the advertising!), items from neighborhood gardens, local churches (Thankful Baptist), etc. Note that in the mural the top book is a bible, but MARTA wouldn’t allow religious item to be detailed. Every image in the mural relates to a conversation, experience, or a story told to the artist by someone in the neighborhoods of Oakhurst, East Lake, Decatur, or Oakhurst.

Ever began the mural at the beginning of November 2019, and MARTA kicked off the holiday season on December 10 by unveiling it. (See www.itsmarta.com/MARTA-ARTBOUND-Seeks-Community-Involvement-East-Lake-Station-Mural.aspx). A Lake Claire neighbor on Ridgecrest, Raymond, hosted the artist during his stay in Atlanta. Check it out!

Thanks to Margaret Witten, Tuxedo Avenue, who discovered the mural for us and met the artist, while strolling the neighborhood. Thank you, Margaret, for providing this information to the Clarion. We always appreciate neighbors' keeping us apprised!



Ever Escalada Painting at East Lake MARTA, Photo by Margaret Witten

New Mural in Lake Claire CoHousing

Continued from Page 1



Initial Sketch for the Mural (Photo by Nadia Behizadeh)

and/or wildlife in addition to being beautiful.

Angie began painting the mural in early November and completed it just after Thanksgiving. When the plants green-up and start blooming in the spring, the color palette will blend in perfectly with the colors An-

gie used in the mural. Angie spoke of her work, saying, “I’m honored to be part of this. It is great to see how a community is open to support art in regular open spaces to give them a better and sometimes unusual look. I really want to say thank to Sara, Nadia, Jose and to the community for

having me, for stopping by and talking during my work, and making me feel like a neighbor.”

The wall perpendicular to the watershed mural between CoHousing and the Land Trust is currently covered in graffiti tags. Wouldn’t a beautiful new mural by this talented

artist be a better reflection on our community’s spirit and values? If you’d like to help raise the funds for this community arts project, please contact the author at sara.gottlieb@gmail.com.

ANNUAL LAKE CLAIRE HOLIDAY PARTY, DECEMBER 12



So glad to see Patricia Emerson (R)—proudly 85!

ANNUAL LAKE CLAIRE ARTS AND CRAFT SALE, DECEMBER 14





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Thank you, Lake Claire, for the way you love on us!! We appreciate the drop-off donations, financial support, and the way you make us feel special by including us in your Holiday dinner celebration!
You are not just neighbors, you are family!!

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Beth Damon

CSM sent us the note above to thank us; if you didn't get around to using the envelope stuffed in the December Clarion to make a contribution, it is not too late. Please either use the envelope from last month, or go to www.cliftonsanctuary.com/contribute/volunteer/. You will see many volunteer opportunities and a button to donate. As many of us know about our long-time neighbor, CSM provides short-term (30-60 days) emergency shelter for homeless men aged 35-years and older who are seeking self-sufficiency and independent living. CSM partners with a range of metro-Atlanta service organizations and relief agencies to meet its mission of ending homelessness. This includes the Veterans Administrations in a special effort to end homelessness among military veterans. Additionally, Clifton offers a 2-year transitional housing program. Participants in this program are provided with their own rooms in a multi-unit house. A small rental fee and employment is required. During their stays, participants are offered financial & budgeting counseling, life skills coaching, and job training. It is the oldest house-of-worship shelter operating in Atlanta, since 1979.

The sign on the corner of McLen-

don and Connecticut always shows the CSM "wish list," in case anyone would like to contribute to that. They can always use such staples as toilet paper, paper towels, safe cleaning products (e.g., Clorox, vinegar), sandwich bags, disposable bowls and plasticware (compostable = all the better), hand soaps, travel-sized toothpaste, etc.

BTW, if you buy anything via Amazon (hah—IF!), please make it a habit to use this link: www.smile.amazon.com. Choose Clifton Sanctuary Ministries as the charity you wish to support, and then make your purchase. Amazon will share part of your purchase price with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. It is an easy way to support CSM, and after the first time, CSM will be your default charity.

Finally, did you wonder how the envelopes got in the Clarions? One night, many of the CSM guests themselves got together with us and stuffed the 1400+newspapers, along with our cards to advertise the Lake Claire Art Sale. Thank you to Julie and Ava Roseman, Joe Agee, and Sue McAvoy for joining me in this fun project and opportunity to meet many of the guys and hear their interesting stories.



Photos by Beth Damon with apology for capturing only a bit of Sue McAvoy



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Free Screening of *Suppressed: The Fight to Vote*

by Rev. Andy Woodworth and Rev. Anjie Woodworth

We cordially invite Lake Claire to be a part of a screening of the short film *Suppressed: The Fight to Vote* on January 12, hosted by Neighborhood Church and The First Existentialist Congregation.

Suppressed: The Fight to Vote is the new documentary by Robert Greenwald (Director of *Outfoxed*, *Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price*, and *Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, & the NRA*). It weaves together personal stories from voters across the state of Georgia to paint an undeniable picture of voter suppression in the 2018 mid-term election, in which Stacey Abrams

fought to become the first Black female governor in the U.S. The issues Georgians faced included polling place closures, voter purges, missing absentee ballots, extreme wait times and a host of voter ID issues—all of which disproportionately prevented many students and people of color from casting their ballots.

In the director's own words: "One of the great creative challenges in making films about social justice issues involves deciding how to use the craft and tools of filmmaking to tell the story effectively. No one wants to see a film that feels like homework, or smacks

of political propaganda. Viewers want to be engaged emotionally, and that means connecting on a human level to the people affected by the issue... in this case, the infuriating state of voting rights in our country today."

The afternoon film screening will begin at 4 p.m., on Sunday, January 12, at the Neighborhood Church location on McLendon Avenue. The building is now fully wheelchair accessible! There will be ample parking in the church lot or on the street in front of the church on McLendon. Childcare and children's activities will be provided by trained and background-checked staff.

The film is approximately 35 minutes long, and a conversation about the film and the issues it raises will follow the screening. The First Existentialist Congregation and Neighborhood Church are excited to partner together to offer this event to the broader community, not only because Stacey Abrams represented this area in the Georgia House of Representatives, but also because our congregations are united in advocating for social justice as a part of our spiritual practices. Together, we extend a warm invitation to participate in this event.

Featured Pets (Available for Adoption)

by Haley Walker, Volunteer Coordinator, PAWS Atlanta



Diamond

Diamond is a sweet, playful purr-machine, who will stop at nothing to get quick cuddles and long back rubs. She is a domestic short hair mix and is medium sized. At just over 2 years old, Diamond is barely an adult, and has plenty of good kitty years left to spend with her perfect forever family! She currently lives in our PAWS Cat Cottage with lots of other kitties and really seems to enjoy their company. In her previous foster home,

Diamond was around children and would do great in a home with or without children. She would love to meet you and welcomes you to visit her in the cottage!

Quentin, a 3 year old terrier mix, came to PAWS Atlanta when his owner had to move abroad and could not take him along. He is about 50 pounds and loves to be snuggled like a baby! Quentin is an easy companion, who likes walking and hiking but is

not overly active. To this handsome, quirky boy, naps are good but snacks are even better! He seems to be house-trained and walks very nicely beside you when he is on leash. Quentin absolutely adores people and is very eager to be near them. During his time at the Dekalb County animal shelter, he did great in playgroup—but had a special fondness for lady dogs. If you

are interested in Quentin, we invite you to come meet him at PAWS! If you have other dogs, bring them and we will facilitate and introduction to make sure they are a good match.

To meet Diamond or Quentin, go to PAWS Atlanta (5287 Covington Highway, Decatur), or contact PAWS Atlanta at 770-593-1155 or info@pawsatlanta.org.



Quentin

Editor's Note: Last month's issue introduced PAWS Atlanta, where, every weekend, Kris Byron, Russ Rubenstein, and other Lake Claire volunteers go and walk dogs amidst the tall pines on trails on four acres of land on Covington Highway right outside highway 285. PAWS Atlanta is Atlanta's oldest no-kill shelter. They always need more volunteers to help out. Please see details in the December 2019 issue of the Clarion. They would love to see more Lake Claire residents become PAWS volunteers. You can drop off donations at 430 Leonardo Avenue, N.E., anytime. Please feel free to reach out to krisbyron1@gmail.com or ross.rubenstein@gmail.com to find out more about PAWS Atlanta.



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Hootenanny

by Beth Damon

Opening the holiday season on December 18, the 9th Annual "Holiday Hootenanny" came for the second year in a row to the Variety. Featuring our own Bill Fleming (Harold Ave.) on pedal steel guitar, and an amazing list of other performers including Jim Lauderdale (a legend of the bluegrass and Americana scene), Larry Keel, Jason Carter (of the Del McCoury Band), Bobby Miller, and Ike Stubbelfield (another legend, who started his career in 1968 playing keyboards with Motown Review performers such

as the Four Tops, Martha Reeves, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, and Stevie Wonder). Sue McAvoy and I would have been glued to our seats except the music had us dancing in our seats, with the occasional run to dance in the pit. Part of this memorable performance was dedicated to the late great Robert Hunter and part to Johnny Knapp. AND, last but certainly not least, the Hootenanny ticket sales and silent auction benefitted Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. It was a fun and exciting evening!

The Lake Claire Garden: January into February

by Elizabeth Knowlton

As I see it, the Southern gardening season runs from November, with bulb planting into May, when the last plants must be set into the ground before heat. After that you water—and water—and water until your summer water bill is six times the winter one.

If you have not received any seed catalogs, do order a few because they are the easiest medium for overview and scribbling even if you, like I, order on line. I still recommend Seeds n' Such, Park Seed, Johnny's Selected Seeds, and Select Seeds (flowers). The Ace Hardware on North Highland carries most Botanical Interest seeds, also a good brand, for under \$2.

I will never recover from hearing someone say in an awed voice, "Celestine Sibley grew things from seeds!"—as if this were some long-lost secret. Of course the noted journalist (1914-1999) sowed seeds, and you can too. It is now January, time to plant the flower seeds that need 8-12 weeks of growth before being set outdoors: wax begonia, vinca, impatiens, geranium (pelargonium), coleus, and a few others less known. By the time you see six-packs for sale, you will already have yours at home.

Four-inch plastic pots filled with

germinating soil are best for seed starting. I do not recommend kits of attached single cells, most with self-watering features, attractively displayed in ads, as they are impractical for anything but one crop at a time. Also, some are made of materials that soon disintegrate but cannot be recycled, like Styrofoam. Because seeds germinate at different rates, depending on temperature or light, there will be no one time with these kits when you can remove the clear cover or dome that keeps seeds warm and moist. As for self-watering, seeds do not need much water to germinate, and you need to check them daily anyway.

Since our appliances are now energy-saving, we don't have those cozy spots on top of the refrigerator or on the back of the stove anymore. Therefore, I recommend a Hydrofarm heating mat that can hold a plastic tray approximately 22"×12" into which you can fit about ten pots of seeds, each covered with something clear to retain moisture until germination occurs and can then be instantly removed. The same pieces of plastic wrap fastened with a rubber band have served me for years. If seeds require total darkness (read the pack-

et), cover them with foil, and tape your plant label and the date to the pot. Cover the tray with a clear cover, but of course you are checking the tray daily and transferring the pots that have germinated to a few inches to be under lights. I place the heating mat on the top, unlighted shelf, which is the warmest, and move trays of seedlings down the shelves because seedlings need less heat as they grow.

As soon as they have two sets of true leaves (distinct from the food-providing cotyledon part of the seed), they can be "pricked out," by holding the leaves firmly with one hand and levering up the roots with something like a plant label or popsicle stick. Never hold a seedling by the stem. A torn leaf is no big deal; a broken stem is usually a death-blow. The separated seedlings can be lowered into plastic six-packs or small pots made of mixtures of peat, cow manure, and wood fiber filled with potting soil. Your little stick can make a hole for the incoming seedling, and then press soil around the roots before you gently water.

Whether you live alone or with a fussy housekeeper, it is easy to do the sowing and transplanting indoors

if you have something like my Tidy Tray that keeps loose soil and seeds in one place, available in dark green from Lee Valley, even if you must work at the kitchen table. (Lee Valley offers tools for many hobbies at reasonable prices.) You really can do this winter work on a bathroom or kitchen counter with a few shelves holding florescent lights in the corner of the living room. Imagine my pleasure, however, when I finally at age 47 got a mudroom containing its own sink, counter, and shelves of plant lights. Think ahead.

If you are headed to New England this summer, put poet Emily Dickinson's The Homestead, in Amherst, Massachusetts, on your list of gardens to visit. When we toured the house in 2017, the conservancy that Dickinson's father had built for her and her sister in the 1850s had just been restored to the southeast corner (where else!); plans were afoot to fill it with the plants she had described in letters and poems, plus to restore the entire garden east of The Homestead by working with archeobotanists to analyze the soil. See www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org for more information.



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Elders of Our Tribe

by Stephen Wing

November 10, 2019, was not a particularly significant date. It was just the day that worked, chosen by the usual process of figuring out who could be available when. It's not often that people take a break from forging ahead to take a look back, after all, and we didn't want to leave anyone out. The result is the photograph above—a motley gang of old-timers who once bought some land and created a Land Trust in our neighborhood, on the day they gathered at Scooter McLane's house to laugh and remember.

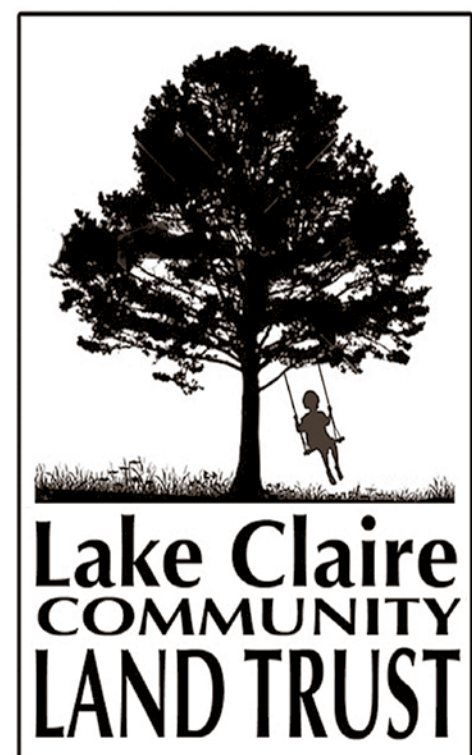
On the table in front of them are some of the looseleaf binders that hold the archives of the Lake Claire Com-

munity Land Trust, old flyers and newsletters and event posters going all the way back to 1981. The photo albums are full of young faces, some of which you might recognize above through the disguise of the decades. Faded snapshots show these folks in the quaint garb of the previous century, building gazebos, digging garden beds, setting up a giant yard sale in the cul-de-sac. No one seems to have snapped a picture at any of the endless meetings where they mapped out their takeover of a series of abandoned lots along Dekalb Ave. and its transformation into paradise.

My wife Dawn and I were latecomers on the scene who somehow got

grandfathered into the photo op. Two much younger men in the picture are originals, however, visible in those photo albums among the kids who ran amok in the background as their parents created an urban treasure.

Front row, left to right: Norman Glassman, Miriam Herbers, Richard Powers. Second row: Scooter McLane. Third row: Daniel Rodriguez, Charlie Pope, Noah Glassman, Genise Spenle, Wing and Dawn, Bernard Spenle. Back row: Dan Salmond. Thank you, trustees, for being the pioneers, for laying out the money, putting in the sweat-equity, and entrusting your legacy to the rest of us. Live long and prosper!



Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust...

Sat. Jan. 4 and 18—Drum Circle, 8 to 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Please help spread the word. The Drum Circles are the Land Trust's gift to our community, but your donations help keep it going.

Sat. Jan. 18—Community Work Day, 2 to 5 p.m. Pizza and drum circle follow.

The Land Trust has new signs! Fancy printed signs at each entrance with the closing time removable for seasonal changes!

Adopt Your Favorite Corner of the Land Trust!

Here is a way for neighbors to get involved with the Land Trust—by adopting a particular area of the Land Trust to maintain. This includes weeding, but also taking on any projects you envision to improve your chosen area, or any needed repairs, in coordination with the Land Trust Grounds Committee. Your area could be large or small, as long as it has definite boundaries. This could be a great way to spend family time or time with close neighbors, with a picnic afterward. Remember, y'all—it takes a village! Help keep your Land Trust beautiful. Contact grounds@LCCLT.org to volunteer or to learn more.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



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

This month's featured writer is **Johanna Heutel**, who wrote about her teacher's weekly word game. Johanna is aged nine and in the 4th grade at Mary Lin. She lives

on Palifox. Johanna is the featured writer because she won the extra-credit prize for November last month, which was to tell us your favorite thing about Thanksgiving. She said, My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is the food. My favorite food is mac and cheese. I hate mashed potatoes."

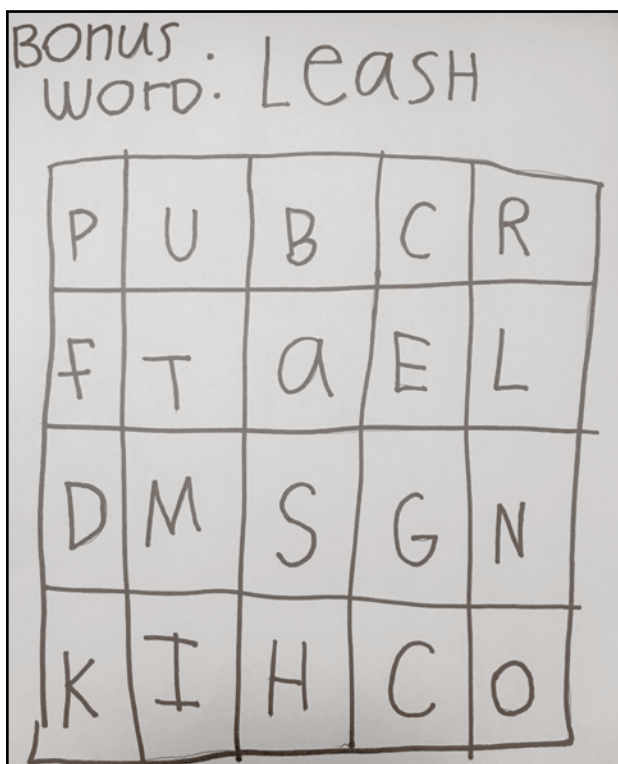
Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages: we want to see your creativity. Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **JANUARY 15**. We hope this is a good start for kids' future writing careers. Congrats, Johanna!



Wordy Wednesday

by Johanna Heutel

Every Wednesday for morning work, my teacher makes us do something called "Wordy Wednesday." It is basically Boggle, except there are no points involved. The rules are simple; you have to find words that are 4 letters or more that touch in order. If you don't understand, you can look up "Boggle rules" online. You can make as many words as you want with the Wordy Wednesday below. I'm one of the best at it in my class, second place below Mrs. Graves (my teacher).



CONTEST WINNERS

This month, Abigail Levs won the prize for finding the hidden graphic. Coming in second, Ian Cambas Stocking found it, and in third place by a hair, Shanthi Acharya found the graphic. Abigail also won extra credit. The extra credit was for telling us a new book you started, or a friend to whom you wrote a letter, because December was "Write a Friend Month" and "Read a New Book Month." For the extra credit, Abby said, "I wrote to my friend Tess over Thanksgiving." (Abby's mom mentioned that Tess lives down the street, but Abby wrote a real letter and mailed it with a stamp!—Good job, Abby, too many people rely on email instead of real letters!)

Abby, Ian, and Shanthi won the contest over a vast number of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. Abby is 6, in kindergarten at Lin, and lives on Harold; Ian is in 6th grade at Inman and lives on Nelms; and Shanthi is a 1st grader at Lin, is 7 years old, and lives on Claire.

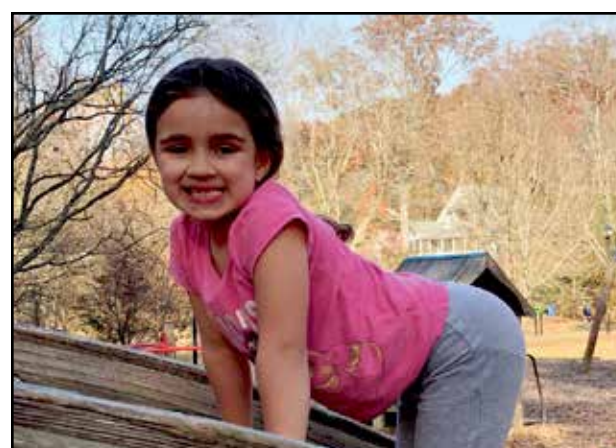
Congrats to all 3 of you!! To all of those kids who didn't win, please do keep playing. We know that competition is stiff. See the new contest at right.



Abby



Ian



Shanthi

NEW CONTEST!

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Georgia in 1929. He was a good student, and he went to college to become a preacher. He went on to become a great speaker and a famous American leader.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the main leaders of the civil rights movement. "Civil rights" are rights that should belong to all of the citizens of the country. The civil rights movement in the 1960s focused mainly on equal rights for African-Americans. Dr. King worked to make things equal for people regardless of their race, or color of their skin. Our hidden graphic this month is a picture of this important American leader. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and you must include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a picture. Ask a parent to take a picture of you, perhaps of you finding the hidden graphic, or doing whatever you like. (Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mg+.) For extra credit, tell us anything else you know about Dr. King, or what you do on MLK Day when school is out. The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. The deadline is JANUARY 15 for the February 2020 issue. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**