



Kayakers completing the first stretch of paddling, landing on the southern shore of Lake Jocassee

Exploring the Legacy of the Atomic Age on the Savannah River Watershed

by Stephen Wing

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Atomic Age, in March of 2015 Nuclear Watch South launched the Source-to-Sea Savannah River Pilgrimage. Its purpose was to highlight the many toxic and radioactive threats to the river, designated the third most polluted

in the nation. Veteran paddlers Bob Brooksher and Jesse Steele joined NWS board member (and Jesse's mother) Joanne Steele to journey by kayak from the river's western headwaters in the Georgia mountains all the way to Tybee Island. They were accompanied by Riverdog,

Bob's companion on many previous adventures.

During high school and college, back in the 20th century, I visited the Boundary Waters Canoe Area every summer to paddle and portage the beautiful glacier-carved lakes on the Ca-

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Food Options While Maintaining Distance

A great little restaurant just opened a few weeks ago in Oakhurst that I was going to recommend, but along with many other restaurants, it has just closed temporarily; as of Clarion press time it is open for take-out and delivery. It is Paolino (the catering arm is Saba, the restaurant Saba having recently closed in Emory Village). Most of the former Saba's signature dishes and more are available for delivery from Postmates online at paolinoitalianrestaurant.pizzamico.com/. Check out Postmates, which offers "no-contact delivery." As of Clarion printing, Paolino Restaurant also offers the

option of pick-up at the restaurant, 350 Mead Rd., Decatur, GA 30030 (right in the heart of Oakhurst). If you would prefer the delivery to be made by the owner or one of the staff, you may contact the owner directly at shane@saba-restaurant.com. And, if you wish to order more substantial amounts of delicious food to stock up, you can visit the catering website at www.saba-restaurant.com/order-catering#/. They also offer a no-contact drop-off of items, if you prefer to use them directly, vs. **Postmates**.

Another nearby restaurant is Sun in my Belly. They are currently offering delivery for anyone within 2 miles of

Kirkwood, curbside pickup for the rest of the city. They also note, in conjunction with the mayor announcing permission for alcohol-to-go, that they are happy to deliver cocktails.

With dine-in options being down in restaurants as much as 75%, local restaurants need our support. Grubhub has offered to delay their revenue to increase the restaurants' cash flow, allowing them to pay their employees and help weather this situation. To provide additional financial relief for drivers and restaurants, they have created a community relief fund; contributions to the fund

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Gather Wisely

There is really only one story this month in this and every newspaper, and we all know what that is. We are in uncharted territory. But social distancing does not need to mean social isolation. Gathering wisely means, for example, meeting your neighbors who are not ill, preferably outside. This is beautiful weather; it is a perfect time to reach out to those who live alone and include them. Sit on the porch if it is big enough, meet in the street, or take a walk. Just be very careful about how we gather, and do so with intention. A surprising number of people with a wide array of health conditions—including diagnoses as common as asthma—should be more cautious than usual. But most Americans shouldn't necessarily be isolated at this point, experts say. Instead, some risk assessment, both on an individual level and a societal level, is going to be required.

The latest (3rd week of March) CDC advisory stated that "large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to

new communities. Examples of large events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies. These events can be planned not only by organizations and communities but also by individuals. Therefore, the CDC recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States.

Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. When feasible, organizers could modify events to be virtual.

This recommendation does not apply to the day-to-day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses. This recommendation is made in an attempt to reduce introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus.

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COVID-19 Precautions include Georgia Presidential Primary Delay

You have likely heard that the Georgia Presidential Primary is delayed until May 19, due to the corona virus scare. Previously scheduled for March 24, the Primary is delayed until May, the same date as the regular primary for a U.S. Senate seat and many other offices, elections officials stated. "Events are moving rapidly, and Georgia's highest priority is protecting the health of our poll

workers, their families, and the community at large," officials announced.

More than 279,000 Georgians cast ballots during two weeks of early voting. The delay of the presidential

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 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.

April Calendar

All entries are given with this disclaimer: *Check websites before you go, in case of cancellations due to COVID-19. These items are as of March 18, our deadline. This includes checking lakeclaire.org for our neighborhood meeting.* The Alliance Theatre has suspended performances for the remainder of the season. The Theatrical Outfit is closed as of now; Actor's Express ditto. All City Winery performances are cancelled until further notice. The Frazer Center is closed for 2 weeks, effective March 15 (please check website for further info). And for our own Land Trust activities, the same, check www.lcclt.org.

1-11 Actor's Express had to cancel *The Brothers Size*, a powerful play that magnifies the struggle for freedom. From the Academy Award-winning writer of *Moonlight!* www.actors-express.com/ (As of press-time, cancelled, but please check.)

1-27 *The Light*, a roller coaster journey of laughter, romance, and despair that uncovers how the power of radical love can be a healing beacon of light. At Clarion press time, Horizon Theatre is operating as scheduled. (www.horizontheatre.com/covid-19-new-coronavirus-statement/)

8, 15, 22 & 29 DeKalb History Center outside activities that are great for cabin fever. Architectural Walking Tours of Historic Decatur. April 8, 12 noon–1:30 p.m.; April 15, 5:30–7 p.m.; April 22, 12 noon–1:30 p.m.; April 29, 12 noon–1:30 p.m. Member tix \$5, non-member \$10. 404-373-1088 ext 20, howard@dekalbhistory.org.

19 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. (Remember, check website before going, just in case.)

21 DeKalb County Lunch & Learn, Dr. Lynn Tinley speaking on the Donaldson-Bannister Farm located in Dunwoody, and discussing the link between the farm settlement and the current day development of Dunwoody. 404-373-1088 ext 24; selem@dekalbhistory.org; www.dekalbhistory.org

22 **Earth Day!** Check websites but these may be happening: www.eventbrite.com/d/ga--atlanta/earth-day-events/ or www.atlanta.net/Blog/19-Ways-to-Celebrate-Earth-Day-in-Atlanta/

22 to May 31 Theatrical Outfit cancelled *Cotton Patch Gospel* as of now, but check website for updates of it being back on. www.theatricaloutfit.org/visit/public-health-statement/

LIST OF VIRTUAL CONCERTS BY DATE

As more festivals, performances, and concerts are canceled due to the coronavirus shutdown, musicians of all stripes and sizes are taking to social and streaming platforms to play live for their fans. This includes a vast array of music, from opera to rock to Americana to folk, and more. Some will require registration or a subscription, but most will be free, often with digital tip jars and opportunities to support artists directly by buying music and merchandise. This link is a "living document," which will be kept updated until it is no longer needed: www.npr.org/2020/03/17/816504058/a-list-of-live-virtual-concerts-to-watch-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown.

SUPPORT THESE GROUPS IF POSSIBLE

If you are able, during these uncertain times, there are several groups worthy of support. *The Giving Kitchen* is the charitable arm of Staplehouse. They support people in the service industry when they need it. Most often you'll see situations of medical emergencies, but I also saw them help out when a server was mugged and his bicycle—his only form of transportation—was stolen from him. This is a great organization to support even when there isn't a corona-economic crisis. *Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless* and *The Atlanta Community Food Bank* both need help at this time. Please remember to check and see if your business matches your contribution, making dollars go twice as far. I know there are plenty of other worthwhile organizations who are doing what they can to help. Thank you. ♥

NOTE RE LAND TRUST SPRING PEACE & LOVE FEST

The Land Trust has decided to cancel our beloved Spring Peace & Love Fest planned for May 2. We will continue to monitor the pandemic and keep you updated about this summer's events, via our website, LCCLT.org, our Facebook page, the May Clarion, and our email list.

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A Condensed History of the Grady Cluster 1872 – 2020

by Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire Education Chair and Mary Lin Representative to Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS)

Over the last decade and a half, the physical composition of the Grady Cluster has gone through major changes—from school consolidations to new building constructions and renovations. Despite this physical transformation, the Grady Cluster has managed to continue not just its existence, but has also become a high-performing cluster. If all of this history had not occurred, our Grady Cluster would not be what it is today. **No one can predict the future, but we can make educated speculations based on the Cluster's history.**

In 1872, Boys High School, (which eventually became Henry W. Grady High School), was the first of two high schools created by Atlanta Public Schools (APS). Almost 40 years later, the technical department of Boys High branched off and was called Tech High. In 1924, the Boys High building moved to its current location in the wing of the campus now facing Charles Allen Drive. It has been renovated three times—in 1950, 1987, and 2004. The Samuel Martin Inman building was also opened in 1924 as an elementary school (K-7) at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Park Drive. In 1928, Morningside (also K-7) and Mary Lin Elementary Schools opened to service a growing population on the eastern side of Atlanta. Mary Lin at that time was a feeder school for Bass High School, which was located on Euclid Avenue in Little Five Points. In 1947, Tech High merged with Boys High to form Grady High School. Morningside and Inman both fed into Grady, which at that time, served 8th-12th grade students and had a separate wing for the 8th graders.

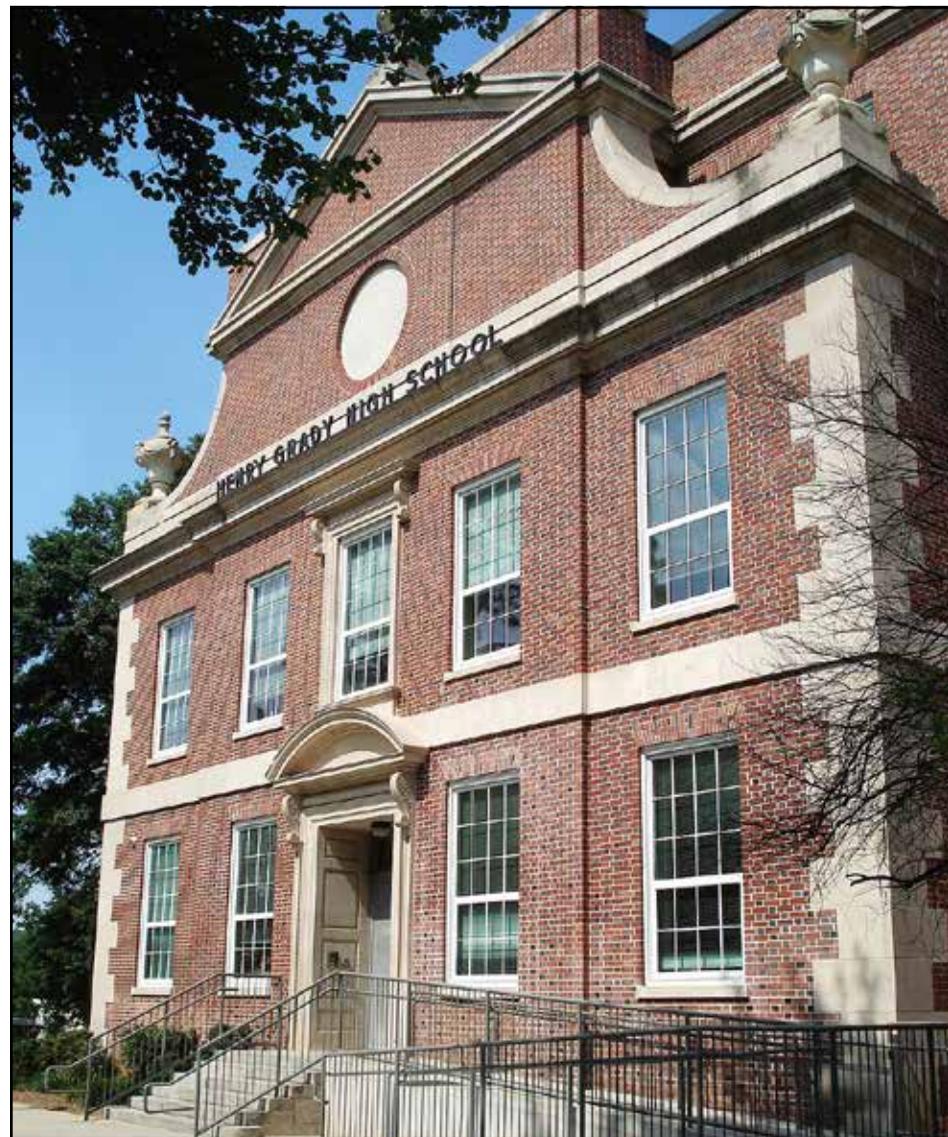
In 1961, the Grady Cluster schools were majority white Christian, and about one of three students at Grady was Jewish. There were just two African American students in Grady's first integrated 8th grade class in 1964. In 1971, the United States Supreme Court unanimously upheld bussing programs being used to integrate public schools. The ruling began a decade of white flight to the suburbs. In 1973, the City of Atlanta and the NAACP settled 15 years of litigation by agreeing that in lieu of large-scale busing, the city would hire an African-American superintendent and staff. In 1968, 38% of APS students were white. By 1974, this number had dropped to 15%. By 1986, only 7% of APS students were white.

CINS was formed in 1978 by a group of Morningside moms banding together to integrate their neighborhood school. The students at Morn-

ingside at that time were predominantly African-Americans from other areas of the city. These CINS moms worked hard to create relationships and friendships that would keep the cultures of the schools intact. Little could they have imagined what the demographics would look like today in 2020.

Schools continued to evolve. Inman Elementary became Inman Middle School. Moreland Elementary closed, leaving all students in the Inman Park catchment area to attend Mary Lin; several other elementary schools closed their doors; by the mid-1980s, Grady High, Inman Middle, and Morningside were all growing in population as intown Atlanta housing prices started to increase. And around this time, 200 white students from Morningside and 200 African American students from CW Hill were bussed to each other's schools. CINS and APS created magnet schools, Grady High School becoming a Communications Magnet. By having 12 intown schools with a special focus, these magnet programs allowed schools to draw students not just from their catchment, giving the schools more stability to encourage those in catchment to return to their schools. The struggling Inman Middle and new Walden Middle Schools aligned their curricula with Grady's. Verbal SAT scores between 1986 and 1990 saw an increase of 72 points, contributing to Grady's recognition as a Georgia School of Excellence in 1991 and again in 1995.

As demographics were changing, so too were the educational philosophies of the intown parents. These parents were looking for an alternative to traditional education, and so began the founding of several of the cooperative nursery schools, some of which still thrive. The charter schools movement of 1995 was birthed out of these cooperative school ideologies—namely, a desire for more parent involvement and hands-on learning opportunities. In 1997, though Grady's communication magnet program seemed to be successful, its principal, Dr. Vincent Murray, to think outside the box and meet the needs of all students, began looking at charter school options. There appeared a clear division among color and class lines; those African-American families whose children were not in the magnet program worried that the rest of the school would be underfunded and did not support the charter. The African-American population made up about 2/3s of Grady's population. As a result of this deep divide, during



the following school year, Mr. Murray started an initiative on discrimination training, stating in a letter to the faculty, "Individually we are different; together we are Grady." Grady's magnet program continued to thrive, reaching 400 students by 2004-2005 and saw SAT scores for both math and verbal increase from 1998-2005 by about 100 points. Meanwhile, in 1999, intown families worried about their schools' capacity as Mary Lin and Morningside began to outgrow their spaces.

Gentrification of the schools brought more families with children back into the City, creating a new host of issues—overcrowding. Morningside enrollment neared 1,000 students

by 2007 and opened a kindergarten annex to alleviate congestion. John Hope and CW Hill merged, while Springdale Park Elementary School was formed from the neighborhoods of Poncey-Highland, Virginia Highland, Druid Hills, and Midtown. As Atlanta began preparing for the Olympics, it demolished Atlanta's public housing complexes, Techwood/Clark Howell Homes, U-Rescue Vista, and John Hope Homes, changing the demographics of those neighborhoods, causing the opposite issue—under-enrollment. Just one year later, Mary Lin acquired eight double-wide portable classrooms on its playground (which would eventually be removed) **Cont. on p. 7**

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 among the first to pay in 2020.

Folks who paid since the last issue are Jesse Sammons, LVA Breedveld, Brooke Seals, Patricia Grindo, Chris Campbell, Diane Luddington, Michael Glennon, and Brian Kirk.

Please specify when you pay dues if you do **not** wish to be listed in the 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!



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Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (*aka* Carol Vanderschaaf)

Springtime is here! The birds are singing, the blossoms are bursting, and the insects are buzzing. Flora Fauna is not going to put her head in the sand but will keep her head up high and burst into song. What a wonderful world we live in!

All over the 'hood there reports of owls and wild flowers and colorful cedar waxwings. There is so much more to think about than the blaring bad news. Let's take a cue from Wordsworth, (and my friend Ann M., who reminded me of these lines):

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales
and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the
trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the
breeze."

Lydia R. on McLendon said, "Anyone feeling a touch more anxious these days? I know I am. Highly recommend finding yourself a patch of green space and a pair of binoculars. I've spent the last hour watching the birds in my backyard. It's business as usual for them right now, and they've calmed me right down. The barred owl showed up right on cue at 7:45 p.m., and bonus (!!) a pair of bluebirds has been scoping out our birdhouse all week."

Beth D. on Delaware has heard the familiar "who cooks for you" (call of the barred owl) several times this month at sundown, and it sometimes gets the dogs barking and excited. She says happily, "Ah, nature at its best, both owls and dogs!"

The mysterious M. also reports a pair of barred owls, perching together at the Land Trust, one quite larger than the other (the female). The breeding season for these owls is from mid-January to mid-May, peaking in March. So, watch for those little ones.

My dog walker reports a barred owl pair in Ansley Park. They are welcome in all neighborhoods! The reasons are many, not in the least that owls are a great help in keeping many rodents, etc., under control. But do keep your small pets supervised in the presence of these beasts.

Frank W. reports that he has seen four hawks and one owl over the past few weeks. "One of the hawks I saw after a drop-off at Mary Lin, which flew by at such speed, about 9 meters away, that it was both surprisingly and awe-inspiring. The owl I saw was on Arizona at sunset. He arose from the dusk horizon like a vampire. I also heard a 'conversation'



Barred owl

between what sounded place like a screech owl and barn owl a few days ago—perhaps these two were evicted when the enormous and magnificent magnolia tree was cut down a few weeks ago on Arizona to build a new gigantic house in its place—of course, I much preferred the beautiful tree as did the owls living there." (As would FF.) As mentioned last month

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Hello—Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

April birthdays

April 2, Tyler Bliss, Leonardo, turns 12
April 6, Bridgette Maddux turns 10. Harold Ave.
April 10, Kelly Crutcher, Hardendorf
April 12, Aarini Kakkar, Southerland Terrace
April 15, Jim Wilson, Delaware Avenue
April 17, Joe Agee, Harold, our esteemed LCN President
April 18, Deacon Baker, Leonardo, turns 19 (that means Boyd is really old!)
April 19, Emily Allen, Harold
April 21, Jamie McGill, Delaware Ave., turns 17
April 23, Dan Geller, Marlbrook
April 27, Claudia Restler, Lakeshore Drive
April 28, Sara McGill, turns 15, Delaware, AND Kevin Restler, Lakeshore Dr.
April 30, Beth van Arkel, Southerland Terrace

Safe Journey

March 11 - Alice Bliss, Gordon Avenue, passed away at the age of 95. See article below.

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

Sad News: Long-time Resident of Gordon Avenue

by Beth Damon

Alice Bliss, born in Atlanta in 1925, a resident of Gordon Avenue since 1976, and a Southern Gothic author, passed away on Wednesday, March 11.

The obituary (in the AJC on March 15) noted that Alice had been a teacher and lover of rescue animals. She had taught school in a variety of schools, including twice in Appalachia. She self-published a series of novels exploring the relationship between her mother and herself. In younger years,

Alice taught music composition and was an organist and choir member with a long list of churches, including her most recent and home church of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Decatur, Georgia.

I interviewed Alice for my Clarion series "Thirty-Plus Years in Lake Claire" in September 2011. She spoke with me on her porch, with eight cats and a rescue dog hovering at the screen door, and she proudly



Alice Bliss at Clarion interview in 2011 on her Gordon Avenue porch.



Alice Bliss' drawing of Clifton @ McLendon

showed me some flyers she published in her youth for Gordon Avenue that she called "The Broad sides," with short vignettes of interest to the residents. These demonstrated her sense of humor; e.g., one of the entries read, "Neighbor's Tools Stolen: Tools were taken from the front porch of Iris Hale and Terri Stewart on Gordon Avenue sometime last Thursday. Since tools don't walk, presumably they were removed. Too bad, Iris and Terri."

Alice prided herself on being a Renaissance woman; in addition to her writings and her music; she proudly showed me examples of her art (see her drawing on this page of McLendon at Clifton Avenue). Rest in peace, "safe journey," Alice Bliss.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Update

by Lori White

Dear Neighbors: As we are sure you have noticed driving by Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, we have plowed some of the land in preparation for a garden we will be planting. Fresh fruits and veggies for our guests will be available right outside our doors! We are in the beginning stages of preparing the garden, so if you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact me at lori@cliftonsanctuary.com.

In the midst of this coronavirus scare, please remember us with your food and monetary donations. Some items we are in need of at the moment include lunch meats (not ham), snack-size chip bags, small bottles of water, dinner meals, bleach, and antibacterial hand soap. For the time being we are being safe and having our guests stay in at the shelter over the next couple of weeks. Our volunteers are continuing to drop meals off at our front door, but we are suspending volunteers from coming in and serving at the shelter during this time.

As you can imagine, having 30 men hunkered down at the shelter



can be challenging. A lot of you have been asking how you can help during this time so in addition to the things above, if you have any book or game donations that you could drop off to help keep folks entertained, that would be great.

Thank you for walking beside us and helping to serve our guests during this time. We pray for protection and provision for each of you. We will keep you posted. We appreciate you all and love our Lake Claire neighbors!

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

by Miriam Herbers

Since the holidays, 5-6 car break-ins have occurred every month. There is really no more to say about not leaving anything that appears to be valuable visible in cars, so I am not going to list the transactions every month unless I hear that y'all want to know. (Write to editor@lakeclaire.org.)

A heartening response was received for people wanting to learn or renew CPR. Believing, as I do, that everyone should have an understanding of what to do if you ever find yourself in a position of being able to save a life, I was very pleased. At this writing, the date has been established, but I am sure you will understand if the church feels it is in the best interest of safety to cancel at this time. I have a list of those who expressed interest, and I will be in touch.

At the February LCN meeting a question was asked about home security cameras. The officer stated if you see someone on your camera

who does not commit a crime but is on your porch or property giving the appearance of being suspicious, the police want to see the video. The person may not have committed a crime on your property, but she or he might have done so somewhere else.

About 911: Always call 911. When the operator answers you can say this is not an emergency if it is not. The call is counted when funding time rolls around. I am sure everyone understands triage and that real emergencies will be answered first. Calling in a car break-in, for example, may not be the priority, but it will be answered eventually.

Hand washing: soap and water is the first preference. If not available, hand sanitizer should be used. Unfortunately, it is often used incorrectly. Use enough to wet the whole hand front and back, and rub until hands are dry. Drying your hands is important. Stay well, everybody!



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Available for Adoption

by Haley Walker, Volunteer Coordinator, and Kris Byron, Volunteer & Foster Parent, PAWS Atlanta



Cindy Lou Who is a six-year old beautiful girl who loves Christmas! What cat doesn't love a good string of garland to play with? She loves people but sometimes channels her inner Grinch and gets a little moody. She might do best in a home as a single pet, although if the cat is right, she could be persuaded to change her mind. Cindy Lou Who loves to sunbathe and will sit in a well-lit window for hours just watching the birds



fly by. She is an easygoing girl longing for her forever home. She would love to meet you and welcomes you to visit her in the PAWS cottage!

Approximately 9 years old, **Fireman Aaron**—shown above in a stylized photo—is a sweet and charming older gentleman. He is currently living in a foster home with several other small dogs. His foster dad describes him as “a lovable cuddle bug”



and “a chill laidback little fellow.” He lets you know when he needs to go potty but also when he wants his dinner! He enjoys healthy snacks like frozen green beans.

This well-behaved little guy has diabetes so any adopter will need to be comfortable giving him two shots of insulin a day and will need to watch what he eats to keep him healthy. You can follow him on his own Instagram page @de_adventures_of_fireman_aaron (yes, Aaron's name is spelled differently here).

On the right above, this beautiful girl's name is **Taylor Swift**. She has the perfect demeanor. She is up for a hike, walk, or run if that is what you are into, but she's also been able to hang on the couch with you. Here are some of her other stats: She LOVES other dogs. She is 65 pounds of pure cuteness. She is ALWAYS down for a cuddle. She is house-trained and knows basic commands. One of her foster moms says: “I love this girl with all of my heart and truly think she is the most perfect dog I have ever been around.”

To meet Cindy Lou Who, go to PAWS Atlanta (5287 Covington Highway, Decatur) or contact PAWS Atlanta at 770-593-1155 or info@pawsatlanta.org. To meet Fireman Aaron or Taylor Swift, email foster@pawsatlanta.org so the foster coordinator can arrange a visit with him and/or her.

Editor's Note: Every weekend Kris Byron, Ross Rubenstein, and other Lake Claire volunteers go to walk dogs amidst tall pines on trails on four

History of the Grady Cluster

Continued from Page 3

with a school renovation/expansion in 2015), and The Intown Academy opened in CW Hill's building.

Intown charter schools began expanding and opening at a rapid pace. In 1999, Centennial Academy opened in Downtown Atlanta as a neighborhood zoned charter school, meaning that the students in that zone MUST attend the charter school (despite the capacity the building could actually hold) except for those grandfathered into their current schools. It began as a K-5 and converted to a K-8 charter school in 2014, adding one middle grade per year. Kindezi (Old Fourth Ward) followed suit in 2015 as a cluster charter school. Meanwhile, Grady remained a magnet school until the Gates Foundation donated a large sum of money to create “small schools.” Consequently, Grady was transformed into four small learning communities (SLCs). The intown students could choose from these SLCs (Communications and Journalism Academy, Public Policy and Justice Academy, Business and Entrepreneurship Academy, and Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Academy).

Continuing gentrification of intown neighborhoods and resulting overcrowding has prompted the much-needed recent changes in the Grady Cluster. Howard Middle School, which was Howard Elementary School (1923-1948) and then Howard High School (until 1976), has been go-

ing through a major renovation and expansion. In the Fall of 2020, it will replace Inman Middle School as the middle school for the Grady Cluster. (Kindezi O4W and Centennial Academy both have middle schools that will feed into Grady). At that same time, Morningside Elementary will move to the Inman campus for two years while its campus is renovated and updated. Springdale Park, which is currently over-capacity, will likely have a Kindergarten annex starting in the following academic year. Grady will also be undergoing a \$39.5 million renovation until the summer of 2021: additional classrooms, security upgrades, renovations of the gym, auditorium, performing arts department, media center, and cafeteria. This will increase Grady's capacity, with enough seats projected for the next ten years. Overcrowding will continue to be an ongoing issue as families continue to flock to intown neighborhoods; the history of the Grady Cluster above will hopefully help inform APS and its families and neighborhoods, so that together we can work towards creating long-term solutions.

For those who have taken CINS' Grady Cluster Overcrowding Survey, you have added your vision to that of the advocates, dedicated parents, and organizations that over a century and a half, brought us to where we are today. Your voice in this survey will

help to create a better place for all students. Stay-tuned for survey results in the near future, or feel free to reach out to CINS (www.cinsatlanta.org). A special thank you to Elizabeth Henry, Alfred Berstein, and Herbert Gerson for their contribution of information. This article would not have been possible without Elizabeth

Lake Claire Cat Looking for Home

by Dawn Aura

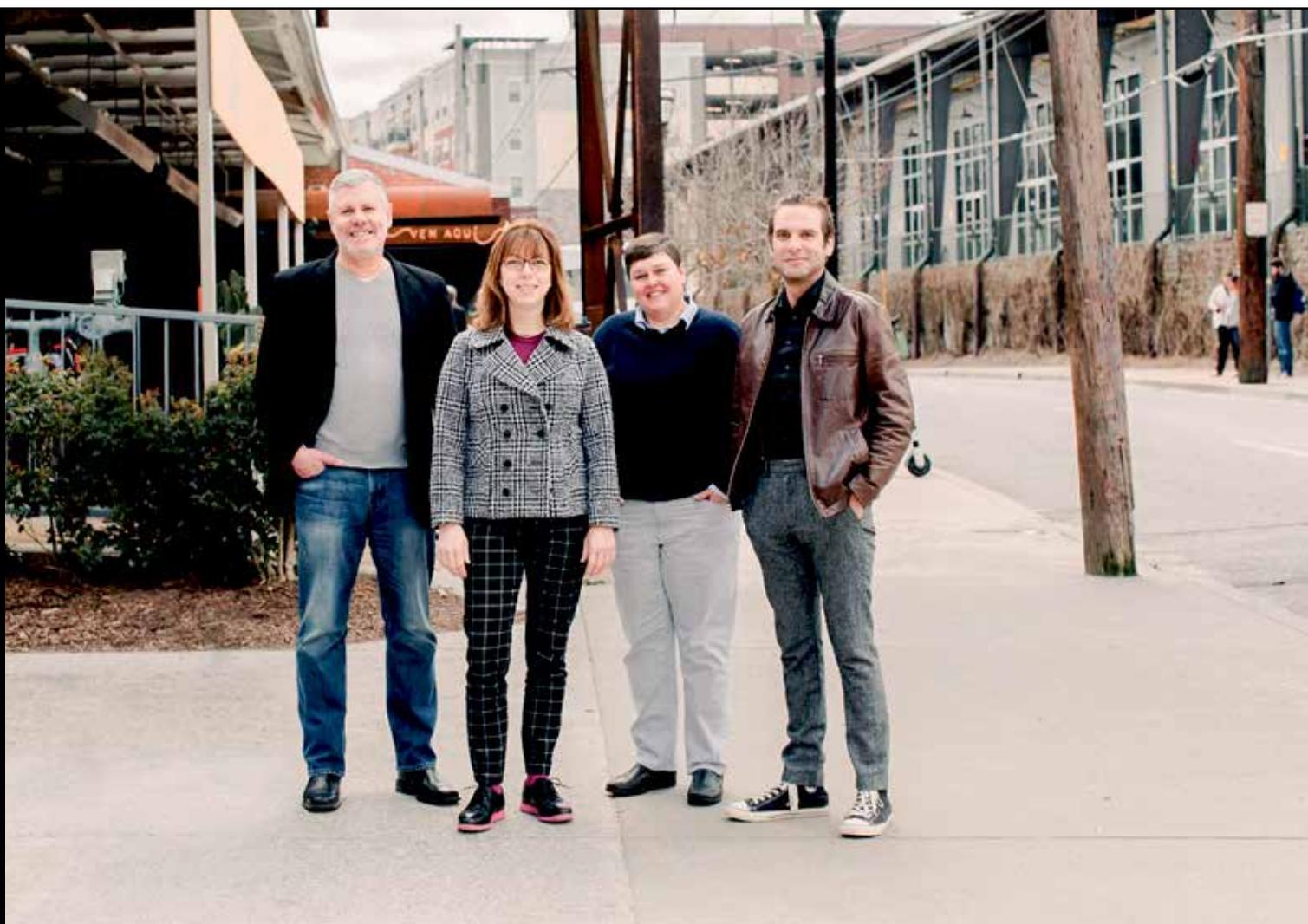
Adorable, friendly adolescent kitten, injured but doing fine now in a foster home in Lake Claire. Sweet and playful grey tabby. For indoor home. Great with litter box. 10 months old, neutered, chipped, feline leukemia/AIDS negative. Good with dogs or a young cat playmate. Contact me at 678-643-5671 or dawnaura12@gmail.com.



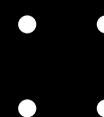
acres of land on Covington Highway. PAWS Atlanta is Atlanta's oldest no-kill shelter. They always need more volunteers to help out, and they would love to see more Lake Claire residents become PAWS volunteers. RIGHT NOW, HOWEVER, PAWS is closed to the public because of the COVID-19 virus, but you can drop off donations at 430 Leonardo Ave., N.E. Also, PAWS would LOVE more animals to go to foster homes right now; two of the three animals featured are currently in foster homes and most definitely available for adoption. Please feel free to reach out to krisbyron1@gmail.com or ross.rubenstein@gmail.com to find out more about PAWS Atlanta, and check www.pawsatlanta.org for their reopening after the current COVID-19 precautions.

Henry's History of the Grady Cluster in her dissertation, *Halting White Flight: Atlanta's Second Civil Rights Movement*.

Editor's note—this article had to be slightly edited for space reasons, including eliminating the footnotes. Contact me for the full article to be emailed to you.



COMPASS



Should You Stay or Should You Go Now?

The most common questions I receive from past clients, neighbors, friends, and family are:

1

COVID-19: How is this going to affect me buying or selling?

2

Should we stay in our home and renovate, or should we move?

3

Where can we spend the least, to gain the best return?

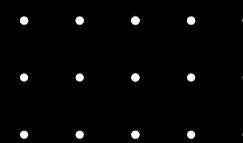
4

Do you know professionals who can help with the work?

5

If we sell, can we find a home within our budget?

Often people ask if they should stay in their current home and renovate, or if they should sell their home and buy a new one. In the current market, it is sometimes better to renovate. Our job is to provide the best advice to help you make your home ownership decisions. We're happy to come out, sale or not.



—Jo Gipson, Candler Park Resident since 1995; Realtor since 2002



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Julie Beaty
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Gather Wisely

Continued from Page 1

This recommendation is not intended to supersede the advice of local public health officials.”

Importantly, open-air socialization while maintaining distance **maintains human community**. This is an important part of survival, **just as avoiding illness is—knowing that your community is still around you is crucial to mental health**. People can be with each other in a safe manner. Certainly and obviously, if one is in a high risk group, one should absolutely follow one’s guts. But this crisis does not have to mean avoiding talking to your neighbors, not walking your dog, riding your bike, and the like.

Fresh air and sunshine are great ways to boost both your mood and your immune system. Gathering with others eases a sense of isolation, as well as keeps us connected; it can be one way we can check-in with others regarding any needs they or we may have. Many do have social media as a way to connect, but face-to-face (within a safe distance) is much better; and some elderly folks do not have social media. Everyone has a comfort level... let’s not bash each

other over our differences. We’re all ultimately in this together. Let’s support one another when we can.

When you come home from walking, biking, etc., disinfect and wash your hands, as recommended, while singing your favorite song—or “happy birthday,” twice! Avoid close contact in crowds, as authorities advise. Just balance what could develop into mass panic with a little bit of rationality!

#gatherwisely #bringhandsanitizer

The Clarion hopes everyone stays safe and well. See www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/03/should-i-avoid-crowds-because-coronavirus/607420/; and CDC guidelines are at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/, which are updated frequently. Thank you to McKenzie Wren for the idea for this article, including the title. McKenzie helps communities create culture on purpose—finds ways to come together in community, even while practicing physical distancing in this particular era! Also, see page 2, regarding virtual concerts, for enjoyment while at home. ~Ed.

Presidential Primary Delay

Continued from Page 1

primary was an extraordinary step for state election officials concerned that crowds could gather at polling places and spread the disease caused by coronavirus, which has sickened at least 66 Georgians and killed one. Health authorities have advised people to avoid large gatherings, and as you likely know by now, everything from schools to national sporting events have already been canceled. Gov. Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency in the state late in March. Besides Georgia’s significant role in picking the Democratic Party nominee, the presidential primary was also the first statewide test of a new \$104 million voting system, which adds paper ballots to elections for the first time since 2002.

On May 19, voters will pick their candidates on touch screens and may then review printed-out paper ballots before depositing them into scanning machines.

Kemp and others have urged elderly people to steer clear of public gatherings to avoid the disease, and elections supervisors worried that poll sites would pose a risk to Georgia poll workers, who are on average 70 years old. About 300 had already said they would no longer be able to work.

Some candidates are worried that the public health risk will still be raging by late May, forcing more complications and another potential delay. Carolyn Bourdeaux, a Democrat competing for a suburban U.S. House seat, called on state officials to administer the May 19 election by mail if the coronavirus outbreak grows worse. She was echoed by a half-dozen other candidates, including Stacey Evans, the former gubernatorial contender now running for an Atlanta-based Georgia House seat.

“What Georgia really needs is a robust, easy-to-access vote-by-mail program,” said Evans. “Because, while we all hope that the situation with the coronavirus will have improved by May 19, or April 27 when early voting would begin, we really don’t know for sure.” In the past, Georgia held its presidential primary in early March with other “Super Tuesday” states, but the date had been pushed to March 24 to give officials more time to install thousands of touch screen voting machines that will be used for the first time.

The delay means the May 19 primary election will now include votes for president, U.S. Senate and U.S. House, along with state and local of-

Food Options While Maintaining Distance

Continued from Page 1

will go to charitable organizations that support drivers and restaurants impacted by coronavirus, they have announced. Added safety features include drivers’ calling/texting when they arrive to drop off orders.

Here is a link to restaurants offering curbside pickup and delivery, which is continually being updated:

atlanta.eater.com/2020/3/13/21178168/atlanta-restaurants-offering-curbside-pick-up-food-delivery.

Our hearts go out to everyone who has been impacted by this worldwide crisis. We encourage neighbors to support restaurants during this time of closings and loss of business, and as well to support the organizations discussed on Page 2, “Support These Groups,” and other individuals and businesses in need. The effects on small businesses are obviously very real and distressing, and these are ways we can help while also enjoying delicious food.

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from Page 5

in FF’s column, I was also visited a few times in March and February by a flock of cedar waxwings who came to my backyard to sample the privet berries—maybe it’s the same flock, numbering about 20 birds.

And speaking of waxwings, Miriam H. had an unexpected flock of waxwings come through her yard long after she thought she’d missed their migration. On 3/19, Alicia & Tom M. (on the night of their wedding anniversary) caught sight of an owl on a low branch hanging out for a long time in front of their home on Delaware (long enough to take pictures and have a nice outdoor visit with Beth D.); they and BD have heard a cacophony of owls in the space between their houses almost daily, lately.

Last weekend, Bernard S. went with Dorothy D. on a three moun-

tains hike organized by Monadnock Madness. There was a geologist and a botanist (sometime park ranger). Bernard sent along a picture of a trout lily (“I think that’s what it’s called.”) “We went up and down Stone Mountain, Arabia, and Panola”.

Bernard wishes that we all stay well and keep the viruses away!

Last but not least, Ilene S. tells us that she has had those “same old” red-winged blackbirds as well as red-tailed and Cooper’s hawks as well as a couple of turkey vultures (know as TVs in the birding world).

Well, that’s the world as we know it right now. Let’s enjoy its beauty while we can! And if anyone out there wants to share his or her sightings with the rest of the ‘hood, please contact my assistant, cvanderschaaf@bellsouth.net.



nces. Voting rights activists applauded the move as a tough but necessary decision. The head of Fair Fight, the group Stacey Abrams launched to promote ballot access, said the delay will help stoke turnout and prove Georgia is a “pivotal battleground state.”

“Moving the presidential primary to May 19 will allow even more Georgians to participate,” said Lauren Groh-Wargo, the organization’s director, “and Fair Fight will be watching to ensure that every vote is properly counted.”

April into May in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

So you have installed a raised bed filled with fertile, well-draining soil in full sun; and now your children are looking up at you, confident that together you will produce real food. It is early April, a last frost is unlikely after the month's full moon on the 7th, and actually there has been no frost at all since February 22.

Yes, frost dates are important all over the USA. Frankly, however, we are more likely to lose a crop in Atlanta to heat, drought, insects, or rodents than to cold. I did not even bother to cover the cage over my broccoli and kale this winter. Safe from the depredations of squirrels, chipmunks, and possums, they were harvested several times. If fresh lettuce seed, pressed into soil but not covered, has germinated, then it is time to direct-seed almost any vegetables but tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.

What will you plant? If you are a rank beginner, and it is still early April, I suggest radishes and lettuce, followed by bush beans. If you have more experience, add carrots, beets, and turnips to the list, remembering that mixing sharp sand into those planting areas assists the root vegetables. Don't forget Swiss chard, collards, and potato sets. If experienced and curious, can you produce enough parsnips for the Thanksgiving table? Do select food that your family will eat.

Some plants grow well in rows, like pole beans and peas, especially if they need to twine up strung netting or a pole. Almost any vegetable can be sown in the square foot method, allowing the number of seeds to be determined by the eventual size of the plant (16 radishes, 9 beans, 4 lettuces, or a single cabbage). When

I grew many tomato plants, I began with two-ft. holes that I filled with manure, weeds, and minerals to create enough fertilizer for months of growth.

Do not plant seeds too deeply. Read the packets. Well do I remember a row of beans another woman and I planted at a North Carolina commune in the 1970s. Mine all sprouted, while her half of the row remained empty. Unbeknownst to me, my then partner, never having gardened before, had buried her seeds six inches down. Do press the soil firmly with hand or board, but do not stamp on it. Now is the time to install any supports and protective fences, cages, or coverings if necessary. Gently spray the area with water unless rain is predicted. Do wait to mulch until the seeds have germinated.

Of course, many vegetables can be purchased as seedlings, but do not rob new gardeners of the delight of seeing the small brown seed suddenly send up a green stalk or tendril. And just as flowers can flourish with vegetables, so are vegetables striking in ornamental beds. Picture frilly kale, red-leafed beets, Bright Lights chard, blue cabbages, or Red Rubin basil, in contrast to or matching annuals and perennials.

Marigolds, zinnias, sunflowers, salvia, cleome, cosmos, melampodium, nicotiana, and tithonia are some of the easier direct-seed annuals. If nervous about the small flower seeds surviving spring downpours, you can sow them indoors in pots. Transplant into separate cells for easier dispersal around your property. Experiment. Under plant lights this year, I

have tomatoes and eggplants as well as some old browallia flower seeds sprouted.

Don't forget to keep records of what you do and what is happening in your garden each season. Even if it is just in a weekly desk calendar, you can note things like temperature, sunshine, and rainfall. Sometimes I make a note of plants blooming in other gardens or world events that intrude upon gardening life. Special garden journals allow you to record money spent on your hobby, seeds sown, perennials, and other plants

purchased. There is usually space for diagramming this year's vegetable and flower beds.

My neighbor Joseph has turned over my vegetable beds, and garden peas have sprouted. My friend Jane and I have taken our annual blood-root walk to Deepdene, and the trillium that a fellow dancer once dug up from under some kudzu for me has reappeared under our holly; perhaps if reminded, I will write about planting spring ephemerals later this year. Rejoice in April, the most beautiful Atlanta month in the year!

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Amanda Shipley, PT, DPT, MTC



Tessa Elliott, PT, DPT, COMT

COVID-19 Request

by April Greenberg

The Women's Community Kitchen (WCK) feeds homeless, sheltered, and subsidized housing women and their children who are food insecure, 5 days a week. Sadly, COVID-19 means our volunteer groups who bring the prepared food daily for lunches are cancelling. Children who received free lunches at school have joined their mothers and grandmothers at our kitchen. Volunteers cancelling means we don't have the meals that volunteers signed up to prepare and bring in to serve. We did not have enough food rescue in our freezer to make it past this week. The women are scared of the virus and feel a little safer when they come to our community kitchen, where we educate them, feed them, and provide them

with a bit of dignity. How Can You Help? Kroger, Publix, and Trader Joes Gift Cards will allow us to buy enough to make simple meals such as soup, cornbread, black-eyed peas, and sandwiches with canned meats, meals such as a skeleton crew can prepare and serve. If delivering, you need not go in any further than the security desk at the entrance to drop the card. Our kitchen is behind Grace Methodist Church on Ponce, and our parking lot is the first right off Ponce onto Charles Allen Blvd., then take first right into parking lot. Or send to: Action Ministries Women's Community Kitchen 458 Ponce De Leon Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30308. The other option is to email April Greenberg, agreenberg@actionministries.net.

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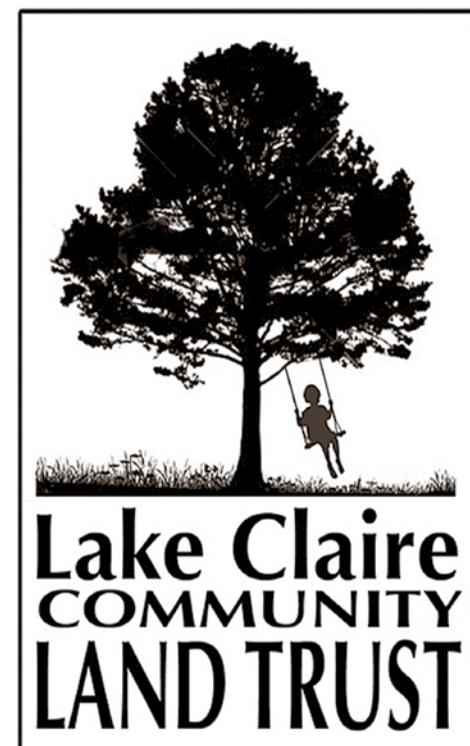
Special Invitation: The Land Trust Invites You to Stay Home!

Welcome to our calendar of canceled events! These include the drum circles, work days, and all children's birthday parties, at least through May. Regretfully, the Easter egg hunt must also be canceled, as the Vatican has declined our request to postpone Easter. Most of all, we regret canceling our beloved Spring Peace & Love Fest on May 2. Unfortunately this represents not only a loss of fun, but also a loss of funds for maintenance and other needs of the

Land Trust. If the health crisis has not hit you financially, please consider making a donation large or small via Paypal at our website (scroll to the bottom of any page). Another way you can support us is through AmazonSmile, a website operated by *Amazon.com* with all the same products and prices, but we receive 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products.

The Land Trust is still open to visitors during daylight hours. However, since doorknobs, faucets, and flush

handles are potentially hazardous, our restroom is locked until further notice. Please practice social distancing, and radiate extra kindness and care to any and all. If it is safe to gather and dance together by July, we'll see you at Jerry Jam. Watch for updates via email, Facebook, or *www.LCCLT.org* (where you can sign up for our email list). Please remember, any crisis is an opportunity to evolve. Here's wishing you health and long life from the Land Trust!



Atomic Age and the Savannah River Watershed

Continued from Page 1

nadian border. That experience of untouched wilderness still feeds my commitment as an environmentalist and a board member with Nuclear Watch South. So the Savannah River pilgrimage called to me from a deep place inside. Unfortunately at the time I was working full-time and could not participate.

This year I got my chance. In March, marking the 75th anniversary, the pilgrims returned to the Savannah River watershed to complete their pilgrimage, navigating from its eastern headwaters in South Carolina until they intersected their earlier route. Since I had retired at the beginning of the year, I eagerly signed up.

The trip brought back blissful memories, such as the thrill of hearing a loon's cry as we set up our first camp. I had no idea these iconic northern birds wintered down south. But in other ways this was a new experience. I'm 63 now and woefully out of shape, and I found paddling a kayak much harder work than traveling by canoe. Instead of portaging on foot, we loaded the boats on a

trailer and drove to our next "put-in." And though we saw some beautiful scenery, skylines, and wildlife, South Carolina is far more civilized than the pristine North Woods. We visited islands strewn with litter, surfed the wakes of motorboats, and passed miles of luxurious lake houses and mansions with fancy boathouses and docks.

The Savannah is formed by the confluence of Georgia's Chattooga/Tugaloo River system and S.C.'s Seneeca River. Both tributaries have been dammed to form chains of man-made lakes and provide hydroelectric power. On the Georgia side is Plant Vogtle, near Augusta, where two nuclear reactors now under construction—the only remnant of the much-hyped "nuclear renaissance"—are slated to join two existing reactors in a poor, majority-black community. Directly across the river is the 310-square-mile Savannah River Site, a Cold War nuclear weapons plant that is now a hopelessly contaminated nuclear waste dump. These toxic impacts were addressed by the 2015 pilgrimage.

On the South Carolina side is Oconee Nuclear Station, where three reactors sit at the southern end of Lake Keowee. At the lake's northern end, an earthen dam holds back the waters of Lake Jocassee. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission estimates the chances of an earthquake dislodging the dam at 1 in 256. Duke Power claims to have re-engineered the site to channel flood waters away from the backup safety equipment. But if they have underestimated, the resulting tsunami would mean a triple meltdown and catastrophic radiological releases from the spent fuel rods stored there in pools of water (as at every other nuclear plant). The Fukushima disaster in Japan on March 11, 2011, is still spewing radioactive poison nine years later—despite the Japanese government's assurances that the area is safe enough to host some of this summer's Olympic events. But if the pools storing the plant's spent fuel rods had been breached, the disaster would have been exponentially worse.

Our pilgrimage was timed to reach Clemson University on March 11 to

observe Fukushima Day with a public event co-sponsored by the Foothills Sierra Club. The university rowing teams were out in force for spring practice as we arrived. That night we screened an excellent documentary called *Containment* (available on Amazon Prime) about the dangers of nuclear waste, the lack of long-term solutions, and the failure of even short-term proposals for interim storage. Our message was well-received, except for one gentleman who seemed offended to learn that his community might conceivably share the fate of Fukushima.

This discussion was the climax of our journey, as the next day we reached the point where the two tributaries once met, now in the middle of Lake Hartwell, and headed for shore. The work of exposing the past, present, and future legacy of nuclear contamination must continue for literally tens of thousands of years, but I was grateful that I had survived the rigors of the pilgrimage. Riverdog, on the other hand, was ready for more.

Why Nuclear Energy Can't Help Beat Climate Change

Approximately 400 nukes now supply 6% of the world's electricity. But to reduce atmospheric carbon even minimally, that number would have to jump to 20%. Besides allowing the current 400 to exceed their expiration dates indefinitely, that means building 1,600 new plants -- three per month for 40 years. The current estimated window for addressing climate change is ten years, max. But anyone who has been following the construction of two new reactors at Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle has seen their pro-

jected date of completion extended again and again, while cost estimates keep going up. This is typical of every nuclear plant ever built. The average construction period is around 7 years; Vogtle 3 and 4 have taken 10 years so far, and counting.

Known uranium reserves will begin running out by 2025, increasing the price even more. But nukes require another scarce resource: water. Vogtle 3 and 4 will consume as much water every day as Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah combined. About half of it gets returned to

the Savannah River, but at a much higher temperature that is inhospitable to life. Using ocean water means building plants on threatened coastlines, like the one at Fukushima. Meanwhile, all of the ongoing environmental impacts that make nuclear so dangerous remain: poisoned uranium miners; routine radioactive releases; highly toxic waste with no safe solution; risk of meltdown disasters on the scale of Fukushima, etc. So-called "new generation" nukes might indeed be safer. But add development, test-

ing, and manufacturing to the timeline for building new plants, and they can't possibly come online in time to help.

But can I offer a better solution? Sure. Renewables are already far cheaper and faster to bring online. Take the billions of tax dollars that currently subsidize nuclear, add the billions of tax dollars that subsidize fossil fuels, and plow it all into research and development for clean, safe, renewable energy. Let's get busy!



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

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

This month we feature Sari D'Agostino, who is almost 13 years old, in the seventh grade at Inman Middle School, and lives on Connecticut Avenue. Sari found and identified the hidden graphic about Purim

and the Megillah in last month's Clarion, thus winning the extra-credit prize of being featured writer this month. In her article below, she succinctly and expertly explains this holiday that commemorates the Jewish people being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian Empire. GREAT JOB, Sari, and thank you.

Hey there, Lake Claire kids of all ages: We want to see your creativity. Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **APRIL 15** for the MAY 2020 issue of the newspaper. We hope this is a good starting place for kids' future writing careers.



Sari (R) and her friend Caroline Connors

The Significance of Purim

by Sari D'Agostino

Purim is a festival celebrating how the Jews escaped Haman's plan to kill us all. When King Achashverosh picked a new queen for himself, which was Esther, Esther's cousin Mordechai refused to bow down to Haman when he was going through town, holding an idol, because Judaism believes in not having idols, not even of G-d. In return, Haman decided to kill all the Jews.

Esther found out, told the King of the plan, and Haman's plan was shut down.

Today, Jews dress up for Purim and read the Megillah of Esther. Kids and adults scream, stomp, yell, shake uncooked pasta, etc., to drown out the sound of Haman's name. Just another example of a classic Jewish holiday: Someone tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!



St. Patrick's Day Celebrant

This picture shows five-month-old Nova Hatchett of Adolphus Ave., on a St. Patrick's Day shamrock hunt last month. Her brother Morgan, 13, had a goal of finding fifty decorated houses and counted fifty-six on their three-hour walk!

NEW CONTEST!

In April comes Earth Day! Hopefully by April 22, it will be possible to go out and observe it in some normal ways, performing acts of service, including planting trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, and using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches. But if we still need to keep "social distance," you could still honor the day by doing all these things year-round! Our hidden graphic this month is a picture denoting

earth day. The winners get their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send an e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number of the graphic, 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+. They can choose the size on their phones.) For extra credit, tell us anything

you know about Earth Day or what you might do to honor the Earth. 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 APRIL 15 for the MAY 2020 issue. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**