



Pictures by Debbie Livingston

Thanks for Attending Lake Claire’s Walking Crafts Fair

by Beth Damon

At the time I write this, I have some Zoom menorah lightings planned for a couple of the nights of Chanukah, and my book club members watched me light the candles another night. By the time the newspaper comes out, Christmas and Kwanzaa will also have passed. So many of us had to give up holiday traditions in 2020—but also, and thankfully, many of us have made new traditions. One of these will likely be our Lake Claire Crafts/Holi-

day Fair, which we put on last month as a Walking Tour/Porch Fest.

Neither virus nor politics dampened the spirit of Lake Claire! The crafters, neighbors, and food vendors created community in the way that has attracted people to our neighborhood for many years. In the middle of the ongoing pandemic in which many people have been living in various forms of isolation for the last nine months, it was invigorating to see so many friends and neighbors inter-

acting safely, enjoying music, food, and exhibiting and buying beautiful arts and crafts.

Thanks again to our generous sponsors, without whom we could not have done this: **Cynthia Baer, John Morgan, BOND Community Federal Credit Union, Hill Manufacturing Company, and our own Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN).** Thank you to all the artists who took the time to display their wares so beautifully; thanks to Hill

Manufacturing Company and Cynthia Baer for keeping us sanitized; to John Morgan for sponsoring even though we neglected to ask until after the written materials were printed; to Neighborhood Church for providing free hot chocolate and games for kids (such a big hit); to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM) for providing their parking lot and free hot cider; to the Troxell family and

Cont. on pp. 6 & 7

Lights—and Reflections

by Melanie Bliss

The 13th annual Lighting of Leonardo was held Sunday evening, December 13. Until last year, this event would begin with an indoor gathering of Leonardo and nearby Marlbrook neighbors for dinner, drinks, and desserts. Afterwards, we migrated outside to walk from house to house and ceremoniously count down as participating neighbors turned on their outdoor holiday lights one-by-one to collective “oohs and ahhs.” No matter if the lights were a single string draped across a railing or a festive array that rivals the Griswold infamous home—every house was celebrated and cheered.

Last year we moved the gathering totally outdoors (we were ahead of our time, I suppose!), due to the sheer number of participants, in-

cluding small children running wild with holiday exuberance. And this year, well, you know. Masks, social distanced, no eating, no carols. We didn’t even try to take a group picture. However, we had more houses participating than ever before. We had a “treats swap,” and we upheld our tradition of contributing towards a nonprofit—this year we donated non-perishables to Intown Collaborative Ministries Food Pantry. And the holiday lights still went on! They still shone brightly! The people still cheered! The kids still ran around, and laughed, and experienced the magic of this special tradition! And for that, we were grateful.

On a personal note, this was a year

Cont. on p. 9

If It Weren’t for my Yoga Practice... I’d be in the Looney Bin!

by Frani Green

Yes, it’s true! My yoga practice has kept me OUT of the looney bin in many ways.

When I started teaching yoga back in 1994, I became pregnant. The hormone changes alone could have drug me into the clinic, but as I became more aware of my body and breath, a change came over me! I was able to control my breathing, which led me to controlling my way of being. I was able to calm my nerves, stabilize my breathing patterns, and relax my monkey mind. The asanas (postures or movements) allowed my body to open, release tension in my back and hips and created space in my body. After the baby was born, my practice was there to hold me when there

were sleepless nights, colicky nights, trouble nursing, and more hormonal changes.

As life went on I realized that my teaching was also helping others on their journeys in life. From new moms, new dads, to new jobs, marriages, divorces, deaths, illnesses, EVERYTHING life offers and throws on our paths. Now, in particular, Covid and the accompanying isolation has turned many of our lives upside down. Yoga is a powerful tool to deal

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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.

January Calendar

1-31 The Alliance Theatre started *Knock, Knock, the Sounds of Winter* in mid December. Written & directed by Samantha Provenzano & Olivia Aston Bosworth, original music and sound design by Multiband Studios, apartment design by Acheson Walsh Studios. For children and their grown-ups. Streaming, \$10. alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/knock-knock-the-sounds-of-winter

4 **This is MONDAY before the Senate runoff!** The Black Lives Matter peaceful vigils that started after the racist murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd have still been happening on Friday evenings at Clifton & Ponce de Leon, 4:15-5 p.m. (changed to earlier hours in order to be finished by dark). On Fridays leading up to Jan. 5, voting was understandably a big theme. The group will gather on Monday, Jan. 4, at 4:15 p.m. to encourage voting Jan. 5. It may continue on Fridays, we don't know as of Clarion press time. If so: Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29. For confirmation, email me at editor@lakeclaire.org.

8 Playing through Feb. 28, the Alliance Theatre presents *Sit-In*, which sounds like it's not to-be-missed! By Atlanta's renowned bestselling author, playwright, and Civil Rights Activist **Pearl Cleage**, the Alliance production is in collaboration with the High Museum of Art's *Picture the Dream* exhibition. The story creates dynamic history, moving through the real-life context of where we were then, the major forces that shaped the movement, and where we could be headed today. See details on the actors and production at alliancetheatre.org/production/2020-21/sit.

19 MLK Day. Even with Covid, it is possible to help, e.g., www.atlanta-onthecheap.com/mlk-day-events-in-atlanta/. See Page 8 for ideas.

21 Live from Lake Claire (via Zoom)! Lake Claire monthly meeting. lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom information. Always the third Thursday of the month. Keep informed—sign up for mailings at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/.

FEBRUARY NOTE: Betsy Hoddinott has advised that the **Annual Women's Tea for Lake Claire Women**, regrettably, is cancelled this year.



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Yoga Practice

Continued from Page 1



with the isolation and uncertainty, as well as to maintain physical well-being and connection with others. This way of life and practice is always there to ease you into balance and awareness. From there, your world becomes a better place. I am here to guide you into this space.

Join me to create a new place for your way to stay OUT of the looney bin! I teach on Zoom from home on Mondays at noon–1 p. m., Tuesdays at 6:45–7:45 a.m., Thursdays at 6–7 p.m. (contact me at franigreen@bell-south.net or check out my Facebook page “Yoga with Frani” to join these classes). I also teach on live stream from KashiAtlanta on Wednesdays 10–11:15 a.m. (sign up and pay at www.kashiatlanta.org).

Peace & Namaste,
Frani

Dear Neighbors,

By now most everyone in the neighborhood was either at the Lake Claire (Walking Tour) Holiday Crafts Fair or has heard about it. On Saturday, December 5 there was music, food on porches or in commercial trucks, and large amounts of arts and crafts items for sale in front of the artists' homes. All this while visitors responsibly wore masks and socially distanced themselves. The creators of this wildly successful event were our own editor of the Clarion, Beth Damon, and Annsley Klehr, who also doubles as the Lake Claire Neighbors Education Chair. Of course there were many others involved, and you can see their names and get more details from the article on Page 1 and posts on NextDoor and Facebook.

It was definitely a needed respite from the months of restricted living conditions because of the ongoing pandemic, not to mention the recent election process also ongoing due to the unprecedented controversy about its basic validity. We are truly living in bizarre times! And now, ironically, because of Georgia's unique runoff system developed shortly after passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, our state is the scene of the most significant Senate races in US history. Go figure.

In my first message after the pandemic struck, I mentioned some of the ways people were coping with the initial lockdown. Although many, especially those with families, developed creative and life-affirming strategies in the midst of home schooling and greater closeness in general, some single people as I am chose less than enlightening ways to keep sane—such as binge-watching TV and surfing the net. In my case it was '50s and

'60s television reruns. Yet the experience wasn't as totally mindless as it might appear. O.k., titles like *Dennis the Menace*, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, and *My Favorite Martian*, don't evoke high levels of transcendent values; however, there were others such as *The Twilight Zone*, *Perry Mason*, and even *The Andy Griffith Show*, that carried me back to a simpler time when, in spite of the Cold War dangers, segregation still the law in many states, and the looming war in Southeast Asia, there was a sense of general values that people seemed to share. These included confidence in the political system regardless of who won, belief that the American experiment of democracy was a shining light to the rest of the world, and that we should all work together to make a better world.

Fast forward to the present. Not only are we still living with a general lockdown and virus cases increasing every day, but the political and social foundations that have characterized the past seem to have gotten turned upside down. The only comparison I can think of is the time of our Civil War, when one side rejected the then current system of politics and wanted out because it didn't fit its view of the world. In an important way, we are still afflicted with this distorted vision since it really didn't end. Almost immediately after the bloodiest conflict in our history to end slavery, Jim Crow laws began dominating the South, although they wouldn't have been possible without the direct acquiescence of the North, while other areas of the country were hardly accommodating to African Americans and other ethnicities either. Sadly, it took nearly 100 years for any major



improvement to come about with the Civil Rights Act, although definite issues still remain, and now some are actually talking about succession again.

How all this will play out is difficult if not impossible to say. But don't worry, I'm not going to end a message that will take us into the new year without some optimism for the future. There are signs of hope for 2021 as effective vaccines for Covid 19 have just been approved, and I remain confident there is still enough of the 1950s'–60s' belief in reason and empathy for our fellow human beings around to carry us through these tumultuous times. Not to mention that Lake Claire has recently made its own statement about staying positive during a very difficult period!

Warm regards,
Joe Agee, President,
Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

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!

Grady Name Change

The full Atlanta Board of Education met in mid December, and they unanimously decided to change the name of Henry Grady High School to Midtown High School, which is what the public and students favored.

As covered in the Clarion, the AJC, and other newspapers, the purpose was to sever connections with the 19th century white supremacist Henry W. Grady. The move ends months of debate, including disagreement from some alumni. But Board Chairman Jason Esteves said the time had come to distance both Grady and Joseph Brown Middle School from the two racist men's legacies. Atlanta Public Schools is one of several metro districts to take a closer look in recent months at whom their buildings honor.



The change will become effective this year, and the Class of 2021 will be the last class with the Grady name on their diplomas.

Recycle Your Holiday Waste!

by Michelle Simard

Please consider recycling your holiday waste this year by bringing your items to CHaRM (The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials). CHaRM is a permanent drop-off facility that aims to improve our environmental health by encouraging reuse and diverting thousands of pounds of household hazardous waste, bulky trash, and other hard to recycle items from Metro-Atlanta landfills and water systems. CHaRM is located a short drive away in Grant Park and accepts a wide range of items. Bring items such as old electronics, Christmas tree lights, Styrofoam, plastic packaging, food-grade glass, batteries, old household items, and much more.

You can also bring your live Christmas trees through January 23.

CHaRM participates in “Bring One for the Chipper,” a tree recycling program that chips trees into mulch. Recycling your Christmas trees keeps them out of our landfills, thus saving precious landfill space. Before bringing your trees to CHaRM, residents are asked to remove electric lights, tinsel, and ornaments from their trees, and make sure they have not been flocked, or sprayed with fake snow made from artificial materials.

Visit livethrive.org/charm/ for the full list of items accepted by CHaRM and to schedule an appointment to drop off your recyclables. There is a small fee for some items, but most items are free to drop off. CHaRM is located at 1110 Hill Street, S.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30315.



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Rest In Peace & Love, Norman Glassman

by Stephen Wing

On Nov. 9, we lost our longtime neighbor Norman Glassman. After a long battle with a slow-growing brain tumor, Norman decided to end his treatment in July 2019. From that point on, he gracefully coasted out his remaining time, enjoying the tranquil surroundings of his beloved Amata with a beatific smile. His passing was peaceful, attended to the end by his son Noah, his dedicated friend and caregiver, Gene Burdette, and a loving community of neighbors, family and friends.

Norman contributed much to making Lake Claire what it is today. Although the Lake Claire Community Land Trust was a community effort from the start, Norman played a central role. Along with his equally visionary partner, Marilyn Rosenberg, who passed away two years ago, it was Norman who saw most clearly what the kudzu-covered mound of clay at the end of Arizona Avenue could become. That was partly because his own adjoining property,



Amata, was equally smothered with kudzu when he first laid eyes on it, and the hard work of clearing it sharpened his vision of what might grow there instead.

We all owe Norman a debt of gratitude for his visionary leadership, his hands-on efforts to manifest what he saw, his commitment to building community, his humor, optimism, and generosity. The next issue of the *Clarion* will include a special tribute to Norman and remembrances of his life from neighbors and friends. Contributions can be emailed to Noah at nglassman1@gmail.com.

How 2020 Changed Animal Shelters

by Heather Friedman

This year has been a whirlwind of changes. In spite of being separated from friends and family, we found ways to embrace the new reality by cherishing outdoor socially distant visits, relishing a slower pace, and enjoying more time outdoors. COVID-19 had an unusual and profound impact across the nation on animals, too, especially those who were living in shelters.

At the onset of COVID-19, when the threats of city-wide shutdowns were imminent, animal shelters across the nation reached out to their communities for help. In Atlanta, within days of that plea for assistance, over 1,100 animals from the DeKalb and Fulton County animal shelters were fostered or adopted. The results were life-changing, not only for the animals now in homes, but for the humans who found a unique source of comfort in the form of a furry friend. Pets brought companionship and solace to many children who could no longer see their classmates. And families welcomed the chance to walk a dog outdoors and get a break from the indoor quarantine (and each other!).

With the majority of animals now living in foster homes, LifeLine Ani-

mal Project, who manages the Fulton and DeKalb county shelters, became part of a larger movement towards community sheltering, where more animals live in foster homes rather than shelters. This shift created new opportunities for communities like ours to support each other and help more animals as well. Here are some ways we can continue to help keep pets and people together and to ensure homeless pets find homes faster.

- **Adopt a pet from a foster home.** Foster parents provide more information about a pet's personality, so you can find the best fit for your family.

- If you find a stray animal, **sign up with LifeLine to become a "Friendly Finder,"** and foster until their stray hold is up, or until you find the owner or an adopter. If you can't foster, become an Animal Advocate and help reunite pets with their families by posting in your neighborhood and on social media.

- In the face of evictions, many families are looking for temporary fosters to care for their pets until they land on their feet. Join *911Fos-*

Cont. on p. 11

Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna (aka Carol Vanderschaaf)

Well, as I write this we are in the middle of December moving on to that dreaded January 5, when we will see the way the USA will be going for the next four years. Little old Georgia holds the keys to the kingdom. Wow, who'd a thought it, y'all? But let's not linger on that ...too heavy to ponder. Let's just concentrate on our sweet little 'hood. So, to begin....

Miriam H. reports, "I do not have anything 'wild,' as I generally do not like winter and being cold; but I do love the way the trees look without leaves. They remind me of arteries, veins, and capillaries. A friend said that is the nurse in me." Bernard S. writes. "I was happily reminded a few days ago that we are in the middle of the oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) season. There are actually some almost all year around, but they are easier to see right now. They usually grow on trees, mostly down trees, and they make a delicious appetizer sauted in butter with garlic. A friend, Mark Collins, showed me a new mushroom, the inonotus. It's

a hard-shelf fungus and according to him, it grows mostly on oaks. Finally, I saw a cute possum in a tree in Miriam's driveway (pictured on Page 11)!" Frank W. says, "Although I did not see Red Pants recently [his "pet" squirrel], I did see a large bird of prey, likely an owl but possibly a hawk, with a 5-foot wingspan. When it flew its body moved up and down with the force of the wings. I saw 2 brilliantly blue blue jays this month, plus it was wonderful listening to the Carolina wren songs a few weeks ago." Jonathan P. reported on NextDoor that a coyote got into his yard and killed some of his chickens. He notes that he has a 6-foot fence around his yard! David P., also on ND, saw two "HUGE" coyotes in his yard, which he watched summit his neighbor's 5-foot fence into their yard.

A note on garter snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*): Eva B. and Genise S. both found non-poisonous garter

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Keeping an Eye on the Crime and the Time: Lake Claire Report Nov.–Dec.

by Miriam Herbers

A review of APD crime reports for Lake Claire in Beat 608 of Zone 6 revealed just one report between November 1 and December 9. It was a larceny to a car. According to postings on NextDoor, there may be more, but if the incident is not reported it is not counted. Remember funding for 911 is related to the number of calls. If you are interested in seeing for yourself, you can go to at the interactive map at NexisLexis community crime map at www.communitycrimemap.com.

This is good news for our neighborhood, but with holidays upon us we must continue to keep nothing in our cars, whether you chose to leave your car locked or not. Remind visitors, too.

Package thievery from porches is reported a lot in our surrounding neighborhoods. If you are expecting a package and cannot be home to receive it, try asking a neighbor to bring it inside for you. Most delivery companies let you know when to expect delivery. If that is not possible, have your packages delivered to the Candler Park Market at 1642 McLendon Avenue. I checked with them today, and they are quite willing to provide this service. You will need positive ID. The phone number is 404-373-9787.

Joining CPLC patrol is another way to help maintain this good safety record. Having random patrols of off-duty officers adds extra eyes around the neighborhood, and hopefully, will prevent crime before it happens. Maybe you have noticed the white CRV with the CPLC logo on the door driving around the neighborhood. Join at www.CPLCpatrol.com.

It has been the custom of LCN to present the police officers of zone six with a gift card to the Candler Park Market to express our gratitude for their, often, thankless work. Firefighters from Station house 12 received a gift card to Savage Pizza. Thank you to these men and women for protecting our neighborhood.

The biggest safety issue of this season is staying healthy and safe from the COVID-19 virus. Many of us are suffering from isolation fatigue and long to celebrate again with family and friends. But we know we must continue to wear masks when not able to distance, at least 6 feet from each other, use hand sanitizer when away from soap and water, and avoid groups. 2021 offers hope so we need to hang in there and get through this. Checking daily statistics can be found at www.dph.georgia.gov/covid-19.

Lake Claire's Walking Crafts Fair

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Miller Wood for giving homes to our porta-potties; Shari Obrentz for helping to source materials; Julie Roseman for her day-of-point-person services; Jill Stanley for the posters reminding people to maintain social distance; Debbie Livingston for capturing the essence of the day in photographs (see Page 1 as well as this centerfold); our non-artist hosts who allowed folks from adjoining neighbors to participate; all of the musicians for filling the streets with magical sounds; and to anyone else I've neglected to mention. Annsley Klehr and I spent hours putting together the many moving parts, but there is no way we could have done it without all of these people, and most importantly, it would not have been a success without all of you who took that leap of faith to come out during Covid. We would love to hear from anyone who attended. Please see the feedback form on **Page 7**.

Finally, Annsley and I are so pleased that through vendor sales, Lake Claire was able to contribute to our Mary Lin Elementary School. 10% of vendors' profits went to the school, towards excellent programming and much needed supplies in classrooms. **Drum roll: Lake Claire donated \$3200+ to Mary Lin!**





Feedback Form

Attendees of the Crafts Fair, please feel free to answer these questions and send to editor@lakeclaire.org and education@lakeclaire.org. Name, email address, and note whether you were a musician, artist, musician, or attendee. Would you be attending the crafts fair in the future? Do you prefer this year's walking-tour version, or, post-Covid, return to the Frazer Center as in the past? What did you think of the balance of arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, and music? What did you think of the spacing in the 'hood/locations? (Do you think it would be better in a more concentrated area or spread further throughout Lake Claire, or other?) Please elaborate. What did you like? What did you dislike? Anything else you want us to know?

MLK, Jr. Day 2021, and Beyond

This year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on **Monday, January 18, 2021**. Dr. King lived his life serving others. Following his example, millions of Americans serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, with the goal to bring to life his vision of neighbors working together to build a better future. In spite of Covid, there are several possibilities.

Hands On Atlanta has events on January 18 and throughout January; see www.handsonatlanta.org/upcoming-events for details, including virtual training sessions and other educational opportunities. They feature meaningful (and fun) in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities and socially good (and socially distanced) events.

Georgia State University's MLK Day of Service will bring stu-

dents and others together to serve the community. See gsu.givepulse.com/event/214056-38th-Annual-MLK-Day-of-Service-A-Day-On-Not-A-Day-Off. Both in-person and virtual activities are available.

Georgia Tech Graduate Studies Division is excited to be hosting their 11th MLK Day of Service. The 2021 event has been adjusted to a hybrid format to account for needs of our community partners and GT community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. See grad.gatech.edu/events/mlk-day-service.

The Volunteer Center will host an all-virtual event featuring service projects, a nonprofit fair, children's activities, performances and more. See volunteercentertriad.org/program/martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-service/.



Dues due in 2021!

Lake Claire is open for dues payments, Covid or not. Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Lake Claire banners are \$45; a package deal of dues/banner is only \$60! Since the December Clarion, the following folks paid dues; congrats, early-birds:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Terri Rushing | Anastasia Kerdock |
| Mary Williams | Debbie Livingston |
| Richard Holcomb | Brandy Powell |
| Bernard and Genise Spenle | Patrick McHugh |
| Sara Gottlieb | |

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, Post Office Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. Thank you to all these and others who have paid dues AND contributed your time to our great neighborhood, Lake Claire. **Happy New Year!**



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Lights—and Reflections

Continued from Page 1



of reflection for some of us. The pictures accompanying this article show 2019 (top right) and our first “Lighting” in 2008 (above). These 2008 babies are now teenagers and young adults. Time can be marked by annual gatherings. I saw new parents pushing their infants and preschoolers running excitedly, watching with wide eyes the inflatable Frosties and Santas come to life in front yards. I

remembered the excitement my own children had in those early years. This year they calmly walked with their teenage friends, and I enjoyed the parental peace that comes with age and knowing that I, too, could simply stroll and chat.

I also reflected on the neighbors who have come and gone. The Jiraks, who originated this event, have since moved to another state, and others have as well, including the Veazeys who have started this tradition in their new neighborhood in Texas. Remember the year the Stevens put the lights on the Porta Potty when their house was under construction? Remember when we first met the Olsons at the Lighting, as they had just moved in? Look how Ashley and Jeff’s lights look almost exactly like our friends who lived there previously! The Coopers add a fun inflatable each year. We’ll miss caroling to Miss June, who passed away this year, but Lucas and Justin, who live in that



house now, have brought their A-game to baking. And of course, there was the year my ambitious husband fell off the ladder (no more roof lights for us).

To borrow from *The Polar Express*, a story in which a young boy who believes in Santa continues to hear a bell ring long after no one else

could hear the bell, my hope for my neighbors is that we continue to hear a different type of metaphoric bell each year as we pause to be in community with one another and share in the glow of twinkling lights. This bell is the magic of living amongst one another, season after season, sharing life.

What does Success Look Like for a Clifton Guest?

by Lori White

As neighbors of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM or Clifton), maybe you’ve wondered what goes on at Clifton when a new guest arrives for the first time. Here is some behind-the-scenes information on what a guest experiences when he comes through the doors of our shelter.

It is fair to say that when men arrive at Clifton, they are typically unemployed, unstable, and often feel hopeless. They immediately meet with our Case Manager, who sits down with them and talks about their situations and what goals they would like to accomplish in their lives—they chase hopelessness out the door!

Once we provide for their necessities (a warm bed, food, clothing, showers, laundry, etc.), we can focus on the issues that lie at the root of their homelessness. We offer intensive counseling and casework, health and wellness support, life skills classes, transitional housing, Bible Studies, AA/NA meetings, and computer literacy training. Our guests usually stay with us between 30 and 90 days. The Clifton Model is very effective and operates with a 70% success rate. We define a success to be a guest gaining employment, reunifying with his family, moving into stable housing, and conquering drug/alcohol addictions. Just over the past month, we had three guests

who found gainful employment with Car Auction Employee Management Solutions, SecurAmerica, and First Step Staffing. All three moved into stable and independent housing.

We are always so grateful for our Lake Claire neighbors, who support our mission to help the homeless in our community. You love on us, welcome us, and make us feel right at home in the neighborhood! Clifton is a place for transformation—for our guests, our staff, and our volunteers. The little sanctuary on the hill is indeed a busy place. Thank you, Lake Claire, for partnering with us through in-kind donations, meals, monetary gifts, and volunteer support. Even as we have been on a safety shut-in as precautions of COVID, you have continued to provide for our needs. This is what keeps us going and makes our work possible! We pray you have a new year full of health, joy, and peace.

~ The Board, Staff, and Guests of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

Editor’s Note: If you didn’t make a donation in the envelope inserted into last month’s newspaper, I hope you will still consider it, either utilizing that envelope either by mail or dropping it in the CSM mailbox, OR go online to make a donation at www.cliftonsanctuary.com/donate.



Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

January Birthdays

- 3 – Leah Braun, Claire Drive, turns 15
 - 3 – Lisa Morris, Sutherland Places
 - 5 – Dave Kaiser, Hardendorf Avenue
 - 9 – Reese Kruskamp, Clifton Road, 5 this year
 - 12 – Tamar Williams, Harold Avenue
 - 12 – Tiffany Mawhinney, Howard Circle
 - 15 – Sophie Oren, Leonardo, turns six
 - 16 – Theo Emanuel, Marlbrook, turns six
 - 18 – Cynthia Baer, Gordon Ave., thanks for your continuous support**
 - 18 – Jake Craney, Leonardo
 - 19 – Genise Spenle, Arizona Avenue
 - 21 – Amelia Stevens is turning 13! Finally no longer a pre-teen.
 - 28 – Tom McGill, Delaware—Happy birthday, my friend!
- (And belatedly, happy birthday to Tracy Craney, Leonardo, whose b’day was Dec. 20.)

And Safe Journeys...

Norman Glassman passed away on November 9. Please see article on Page 5 re contributing remembrances of Norm’s life to his son Noah for next month’s Clarion.

“Rocky” Thompson (*aka* Leonard Rockett, or Rocke, pictured above) passed away on November 11. Many will remember Rocke and his wife, Beth, who made a great impact on our neighborhood. Among a myriad of other things he did while in Lake Claire (see obit.), he served for 10 years as volunteer coordinator for Night Hospitality at CSM, and his family would appreciate donations in his honor to them. See www.legacy.com/obituaries/atlanta/obituary.aspx?n=leonard-thompson&pid=197129909.

Send your life-cycle events by January 15 for the February issue to editor@lakeclaire.org. Please help us make this feature inclusive of our LC ‘hood.

The Lake Claire Garden January into February

by Elizabeth Knowlton, knowltonew@earthlink.net

Entranced by *The Hidden Life of Trees*, found at the Land Trust book sale, and authored by German forester Peter Wohlleben, I planned to devote a portion of this column to what I had learned about our largest natural friends. But on December 6, I opened the NY Times Sunday magazine to find a ten-page article called "The Social Life of Trees," which described the same mycorrhizal networks that link so many trees in a forest. Fortunately, like so many articles these days, most of the pages were filled with pictures, with no room to discuss something else that I find as fascinating: large trees have the potential to live about 400 years, and most of their growth takes place in the second quarter of their lives. A forest left to its own devices is full of short saplings growing in deep shade around a parent tree. Unable to photosynthesize more than the bare minimum to stay alive, nourished only by sugars passed through the root systems of larger trees, the saplings grow extremely slowly, producing tiny, tough, woody cells that make them resistant to fungi and storm injury for the rest of their lives.

At some point a large tree will come to the end of its long life and

fall, creating a gap in forest shade. With that sudden, intense sunlight, the stubby saplings take off like teenagers. Of course, there are many dangers in the new environment, so that by the time one or two trees have shot up enough to create sturdy crowns themselves, their siblings have perished in more ways I have room here to describe. We are only a recent species, arriving 270 million years after conifers and 100 million after deciduous trees. During that time, numerous other species have appeared and died away, while trees have managed to survive. As we appreciate the necessity of diversity to planet continuity, remember that our forests are as important for climate control as is our avoidance of fossil fuels.

At least 25 years ago, my neighbor Gabe planted a willow oak for us in our 50 x 25 ft. front yard. Like many Lake Claire lots, ours had two full grown pecans when we bought the house in 1979. One had previously been struck by lightning and needed to be felled. Since these trees on the west side of the house, together with high ceilings, had kept us comfortable each summer, I hoped the oak would prove a good substitute for the damaged pecan. So it has proved.

The new tree has not seemed to suffer at all from its proximity to the older tree, not more than 12 feet on the latter's north side. It helps that the pecan is a light-leafed tree, holding its leaves fewer months than the willow oak, so that there is no lack of sunlight for the "little" tree, now taller than our bungalow, growing too quickly, of course, for old growth perfection. But Lake Claire is not a forest, and our neighborhood is likely to have evolved into apartment blocks anyway in another hundred years if human population continues to grow.

Leaving the topic of forests for that of open spaces, begin the gardening season by planning what plants you will grow where. Will the site provide enough sun for most vegetables and many flowers? To see where the sun will fall at midday July 28, go out to your garden on the full moon, Jan. 28, at 11 p.m. If we have clear weather, moonlight will show you the daytime sun and shade areas for six months ahead. Think about succession cropping rather than preparing a huge bed. A square foot or two where you grow lettuce in cool weather can be used for a tomato plant in the summer, and in October you can pull the diseased stalk and plant kale.

Seed catalogs appeared in my mail box by late November, so there is no excuse for not planting leeks, cabbage, and herbs indoors now. I might try sowing onion seed this month; it cannot disappoint me any worse than onion sets. You have, of course, been making compost with all the leaves your neighbors discard. Even a neglected pile of these will quickly disintegrate into a lovely soil additive in our climate.

Despite their battered condition, I have not found better vegetable gardening companions than Barbara Pleasant's *Handbook of Southern Gardening* and an early edition (1981) of Mel Bartholomew's *Square Foot Gardening*. If you can find them, the old TV Victory Garden manuals are good too, as long as you ignore the advice to use chemical pesticides. Involve your families. Seriously, there are few things more successfully shown to children than how to grow things and how to use public transit. Last but not least, neighbor Teri Stewart phoned to correct my November column: spider lilies (*Lycoris radiata*) are edible. I do not doubt her expertise, but the bulbs must be leached before eating, as they contain alkaloids.

We are Beyond Excited to Welcome 2021 and Say Farewell to 2020!

Friends and Neighbors, let's kick off the New Year by selling your home faster and for a higher price. From painting to flooring, Compass Concierge helps transform your home with zero upfront costs and no interest. Give us a call to learn more at 404-932-3006

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Wishing everyone a very happy and prosperous new year!

- Lee and Darlene



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The Land Trust Needs Your Support

Despite what is happening in the world, the Land Trust is still here, still beautiful, still magical—and still in need of your love. Anyone can be a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 a year.

Donate online (www.LCCLT.org/stewardship), mail a check made out to “LCCLT Treasurer,” 270 Arizona Avenue, Atlanta GA 30307; or use the mailbox in the cul-de-sac. Include your

email to be added to our email list; Include your mailing address for a bumper sticker. A donation is not required to get on the email list; sign up at LCCLT.org.

Have You Borrowed Our Garden Tools?

Missing from the Land Trust garden shed:

- wheelbarrow
- road rakes (like heavier steel “hard” garden rakes)
- long-handled five-tine pitchforks

Any of these tools may or may not be marked with “LT,” or yellow paint.

Please return ASAP, *no questions asked!*



Return of Free Magazines at the Land Trust!

Folks who miss picking up slightly out-of-date magazines in the Land Trust restroom will be happy to hear that free magazines are available once more, at the Land Trust stage. The two side walls under the overhanging eaves are now stocked with boxes of *Yoga Journal*, *Buddhadharma*, *Mother Earth News*,

Mountain Astrologer, *Lion’s Roar*, *Parabola*, *Nexus*, and more.

Please maintain a respectful distance if others are browsing at the same time. Land Trust secretary Stephen Wing brings the magazines from his part-time recycling job; thanks for helping to recycle them!

Animal Shelters

Continued from Page 5



Jett from Delaware reading *Dogman* with his rescue dog, Sampson, during COVID-19

terpets.com and be that temporary bridge.

- Become a Lost and Found Assistant and match lost pets with pictures of animals on the LifeLine website, to help reunite lost pets with their loved ones.

- During these tough financial times, people may need a little more help when unexpected medical costs arise. **Donate to the LifeLine Stay**

Together Fund to help provide emergency services.

- **Visit LifeLineAnimal.org** to learn about these programs and more ways you can help animals without ever leaving your home.

While we can’t wait to resume our lives post-Covid, I hope we continue to show up in big and small ways for our communities to help each other, to bring more families together, and

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from Page 5

snakes in their respective gardens under some leaves. Genise reminds us that these are harmless garden snakes and should be left to rest under their leafy covers. Garter snakes can be beneficial to a garden. They eat insects and other pests. They are common in our area, and though protected in Georgia, are not protected throughout most of its range. (See Eva’s picture of the snake to the right.) My friend Melissa B. has had bountiful sightings both in her ‘hood, which is in nearby Midway, and in our area, through which she drives every day. The best sighting in my opinion was a group of indigo buntings which landed in her yard one morning. They are such a beautiful rich blue color. I’ve only seen one once in my yard at my bird bath. Also, while sitting in her car at the corner of Candler and Memorial, Melissa saw a peregrine falcon strike a pigeon, taking his meal to the top of a nearby telephone pole to eat. Yum, yum! And last, from McLendon Ave., Dorothy D. reports when she was talking to her neighbor over the fence, a Cooper’s hawk landed briefly on a branch above them.

So that’s the news from our sweet little ‘hood. Let’s hope all stays calm as the election comes upon us. Some questions may be answered, for example, will the residents of the white



house indeed change? Will we have another (un)civil war? Will we all get the vaccines in a timely manner? And the big one: will we have red skies at morning or blue skies all day long?

Whatever happens, Happy New Year to all,

Flora Fauna,
and her devoted secretary, Carol

PS. If you have any wild sightings or garden happenings you’d like to share, please contact the aforementioned very pleasant associate, Carol, at carvans82@gmail.com.

to keep more animals out of the shelters. And though we, and our pets, may be slightly clingier post pandemic, I look forward to everyone emerging from our cocoons as a more beautiful, supportive, and connected community.

Heather Friedman on Delaware is the Chief Marketing Officer at Life-Line Animal Project. ~Ed.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month four children ranging in age opined on our Lake Claire Walking Fest in December. Morgan Hatchett is 13 and lives on Adolphus Avenue, and he was one of our vendors. He is in 8th grade, and he is a lifelong homeschooler. Ame-

lia Stevens is a 13-year old who lives on Leonardo. She is a 7th grader at D.T. Howard Middle School, who attended the fest and whose family hosted artists. William and Robert McLamb are 6 years old, in the first grade at Mary Lin. They live on McLendon and attended the fest with their mom. Thanks to all of you for contributing this month

and to all the Lake Claire children who read and contribute to the Kids' Page each month. Add your creativity to theirs.

Submit your work or your suggestions to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **JANUARY 15** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be the FEBRUARY issue.



Morgan



Amelia



Robert and William

Thoughts on Lake Claire's Arts Fest Walking Tour

by Morgan Hatchett, Amelia Stevens, and Robert and William McLamb

Morgan Hatchett: This year's holiday craft fair was amazing! I absolutely loved having it outdoors. I sold mistletoe, hand-carved wands, and wood burned art, and whenever I ran out on my table, my mom could easily bring more. Because it was outside, I got a lot more customers. The maps

were really fun, too. I really hope we keep doing the craft fair like this. It will also make Christmas shopping for my mom a lot easier!

Amelia Stevens: The Lake Claire Art Festival was a fun, socially distanced gathering, where artists set up in front of houses all throughout the neighborhood and sold their amazing artwork. I had so much fun buying holiday gifts for my friends and family. There were all sorts of handmade crafts such as candles, pottery, wooden crafts, paintings, jewelry, hand-sewn pillows, etc. There was also live music, hot cocoa, and food trucks! It was a beautiful day to be outside, and it was so amazing to get to run into people again! My favorite part of the day was when everyone gathered in my front yard (masked) and listened to a super fun band play. It was so awesome that

some of my friends had a booth right in front of my house, where they sold their candles. The whole day was so much fun, and I really hope it will be a new Lake Claire tradition!

William McLamb: I liked having the yummy hot chocolate and giving Roscoe (our dog) a dog treat. And getting some gingerbread cookies at the end. I love food!

Robert McLamb: I liked the sun craft I saw. I liked the music, and I liked climbing a tree near the hot chocolate truck.

Winner of Jamin' Geography

There were two winners of Sawyer Klehr's Jamin' Geography from last month's Clarion. The first-place winner gets to choose Sawyer's next Jammin' Geography. Winners were Marnix Drexler (1st pl.) and Taylor Lee (2nd). Look out for that in the next issue, with some interesting facts about Sawyer, Marnix & Taylor. Thanks, Sawyer.

CONTEST WINNERS

Jett Friedman found last month's hidden graphic of "good riddance to 2020." He is 8 years old, in the third grade at Mary Lin, and lives on Delaware Avenue. Congrats, Jett, and thanks for participating. You won the contest over a VAST number of Lake Claire kids who participate every month in the contest on the Clarion Kids' Page. Your prize is your picture in the Clarion, and we hope your parents enjoy hanging it on the refrigerator and sending to grandparents! Attention Lake Claire kids--Add your name to the list of winners in the future. To all of those kids who didn't win, please do keep reading this page and keep playing. See our new contest at right..



NEW CONTEST!

Hello, Kids! Somewhere in this newspaper is a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "MLK," as we sometimes refer to him, 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, 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 on equal rights for African-Americans, which was long overdue. Dr. King hoped to make things equal for people regardless of their race or the color of their skin. Our hidden graphic this month is a picture of this important American leader. The winner/winner will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number where you find the graphic, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo of yourself. **(Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+.) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.** For extra credit, tell us anything else you know about Dr. King, or if there is something special you will do on MLK Day even though this year is so different because of Covid. The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is JANUARY 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CLARION
 STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!
 SEND US YOUR IDEAS—ANYTIME!