



Start Marketing Yesterday: Build Your Dream with a Time Machine

by Boyd Baker

“Because that’s the way it’s always been done,” is probably the worst position you should ever take in life. Did Muhammad Ali think that way? How about Lady Gaga or Jackson Pollock?

None of them decided to follow the pack, and they did ok in their exploits...their business. Don’t fool yourself. These folks were marketing geniuses because they didn’t do what’s always been done. They chose to act differently, look different, or approach their craft differently. Partly because it may have been all they knew to do, but, at some point, they ignored the naysayers and stuck to their guns to forge their own paths.

Whether you are hoping to write a children’s book, open a yoga studio, or build the next rival to Apple, you need to start yesterday. What?! Yep, I said YESTERDAY. Before you dive into the process, permits, and deadlines of your business, you need to start with the most important aspect—your customers. The best way to gather more fans craving your work is to engage with them BEFORE you actually have your product done.

This sounds counterintuitive, I know, but hear me out and maybe you’ll agree. Traditional method says, “Build a better mousetrap, and

the world will beat a path to your door.” Rarely does this ever happen because you at home with your super awesome mousetrap are unknown to the world. Now, marketing can have a negative connotation, and you might think it smacks of smarmy salesmanship—and it can. Good marketing leaves all the negative behind and doubles down on creating something of value for those you care about. Good marketing is remarkable, as in “so good that folks ‘remark’ on how awesome it is.”

If you are a fan of thought leader Seth Godin, you may understand this a bit better than most. Seth talks about tribes and engagement and giving as elemental parts of a successful enterprise. The unselfish work of trying to create something that benefits the world, even if it’s a mousetrap, will resonate with people. Today, thanks to the internet and social media, you can go out and gather “fans/friends/followers” while in your pajamas, never leaving your house. Are they truly fans or friends? Maybe not, but you have earned their attention; so don’t squander it.

Your friends, family, roommates, classmates, work buddies, teammates, and church family are your tribe. They know you, want you to do well, and are willing to help you reach your goals—if you ask them. Just the act of putting your dream into the world by announcing it to folks is a terrifying but major step. Because, as we all know, once you’ve actually verbalized it, the game is on. Now it’s time either to put up or shut up. Folks LOVE seeing somebody they know create something from nothing.

So, before you go about lining up your bank loans and your logo design, spend time with your tribe. Do the really scary work of telling them your audacious plans. Listen to their input. Ask for their support. You’ll be amazed at who will come out of the woodwork to help you succeed. It’s hard to be vulnerable and ask for help. Whether it’s guidance

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Gas Stations and Redevelopment

by Kevin H. Posey

In a post-carbon world, gas stations may no longer serve a useful function. In countries with a rapidly growing adoption of electric vehicles, such as Norway, passenger fuel sales have already peaked (Bullard, 2021). This is forcing station owners to reconsider their business models. For example, even though the market penetration of new electric vehicles in the U.K. is only 7%, stations are moving toward becoming full convenience stores with refueling facilities assuming a lower importance (Rowlatt, 2021). Convenience stores are not the only option for station owners shifting away from the petrol-centric business model. In Washington, D.C., for example, the owners of a station used it primarily as a restaurant that happened to sell gas. The cost of the location was cheaper than attempting to secure a full-size restaurant location in the city’s hot real estate market (Wax, 2011). However, in many cases, the full demolition and redevelopment of station sites is the most profitable way forward. In Washington’s Georgetown neighborhood, a station was to be removed to make way for an 8-unit apartment building (Goldchain, 2021). In New York’s Manhattan borough, a station in the SoHo neighborhood was to be replaced with a luxury office building. In the latter case, a gasoline desert resulted in a four square mile area that affected legions of taxi drivers in the vicinity (Nir, 2016). Gas deserts are cropping up in other high-density areas, such as San Francisco. Between 2010 and 2014,



The author outside Universal Joint, a gas station that’s now a restaurant

23 service stations were replaced by housing developments (Mills, 2014).

To counter this trend, some cities have resorted to enacting laws that ban conversion of gas stations to any other use. D.C. has such a law, which a developer alleged interfered with his attempts to sell the site of a Shell station (Austermuhle, 2018). A court found that certain amendments to the law caused a potential conflict with the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states that “private property [shall not] be taken for public use, without just compensation (United States District Court for the District of Columbia, 2018).” While dense communities may lament the loss of gas stations, less populated areas are seeing an increase in their number. Seattle’s stations are disappearing thanks to citywide upzoning that has made their parcels much more valuable for tall, dense developments. Yet, surrounding communities in King County are experiencing the opposite condition, with new stations popping up seemingly everywhere (Brasuell, 2018). In the

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From Security VP

by Miriam Herbers

Regarding Dekalb Avenue improvements, there is nothing new on the website as of this issue going to print in Feb., though I noticed that the center lane was X’d out going in both directions. I thought that might be part of the plan to get people out of the habit of driving in that lane other than to turn, but now the Xs are randomly on in one direc-

tion or the other. Bottom line: Continue to pay attention, and be careful.

The other thing to report is that some innovative criminals have been putting fake parking citations on cars. The City of Atlanta has provided these tips to keep in mind when

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Lake Claire Officers

President: Joe Agee, president@lakeclaire.org

VP Finance & Treasurer:

Eileen O'Neill, treasurer@lakeclaire.org

VP Planning & NPU Rep:

Carol Holliday, npu@lakeclaire.orgVP Zoning: Beth Grashof, zoning@lakeclaire.orgVP Environment: Melissa Pressman,
environment@lakeclaire.orgVP Safety: Miriam Herbers, safety@lakeclaire.orgVP Communications: Nancy Dorsner, comm@lakeclaire.orgVP Fun(d)raising: Pen Sherwood, fun@lakeclaire.orgEducation Chair: Annsley Klehr, education@lakeclaire.org

Clarion Staff

Editor: Beth Damon, editor@lakeclaire.orgAdvertising: Pat Del Rey,
advertising@lakeclaire.orgDistribution: Alicia McGill,
distribution@lakeclaire.orgLayout: Véronique Perrot, layout@lakeclaire.orgContact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942,
Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or
www.lakeclaire.org.

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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.

March Calendar

Please check Page 10 for Lake Claire Land Trust events, and Page 9 for LIVE MUSIC.

5 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Friday, March 25, 8–11 a.m. and 12:30–3:30 p.m. Time to prep for perennial planting! Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. 3 separate opportunities. Pre-registration required. Space is limited. frazercenter.org/about-us/events

11–27 The Alliance Theatre's Coca-Cola Stage, bring the family: *Bina's Six Apples*. See article to the right.

12 Saturday night at 2 a.m.—Time to change all the clocks to Spring Forward!! (“Lose” an hour of sleep, gain an hour of daylight!)

16–Apr. 17 Horizon Theatre presents *The Light*. A surprise proposal takes an unexpected turn that upends the world of Genesis and Rashad, forcing them to confront a secret from the past. (Check website to make sure no change and buy tix. As of press time, in person). www.horizontheatre.com.

17 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 and Zoom links at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/.

18 Great music at Emory all month, not enough space to list here. See in particular the Cooke Noontime Concert at noon on 3/18, and the Kittel and Co. concert (part of the Emerson series) at 8 p.m. on 3/18. For other music arts.emory.edu/, and schwartz.emory.edu/events-tickets/candler-concert-series/index.html#anchor2021. The Emory Chamber Music Society sponsors the Bach Lunch Series, Cooke Noontime Series, and other fine music; keep up with offerings at chambermusicsociety.emory.edu/concerts/index.html.

24–Apr. 17 Actors Express season opener, *Intimate Apparel*. In 1905 New York, an independent woman named Esther creates beautiful lingerie for clients. actors-express.com

25 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta. Two chances to help prep for perennials. See details under March 5 above.

30–Apr. 24 Theatrical Outfit presents *Wolf at the End of the Block*. In a world where nothing is as it seems, a resident of the Rightlynd neighborhood of Chicago seeks justice after a mysterious, late-night attack at a boarded-up bar. In the next 48 hours, the neighborhood digs deep into escalating mystery, working against time to separate fact from fiction. www.theatricaloutfit.org/.

Alliance Theatre Produces Inspiring World Premiere for All Ages

Bring the family to see BINA'S SIX APPLES in March!

by Kathleen Covington

The Alliance Theatre is thrilled to present the inspiring world premiere play, *Bina's Six Apples*, on the Coca-Cola Stage from March 11 through 27. This co-production with Children's Theatre Company concluded its run in Minnesota earlier this month to much critical acclaim. The Twin Cities Pioneer Press described *Bina's Six Apples* as “excellent...brimming with heart.” The Star Tribune called it “[a] must-see... sweet, soulful, and ripe with symbolism,” and Talkin' Broadway called it “beautiful... an affecting show that reaches pre-teens as well as old timers...it deserves to be seen by everyone on both ends and in-between.”

By award-winning playwright Lloyd Suh and inspired by his own family's experiences, *Bina's Six Apples* tells the story of Bina, a 10-year-old girl who is separated from her family when they are forced to flee their home during the conflict of the Korean War. Left with just six apples from her family's orchard, Bina must rely upon her apples and their important legacy as she begins to discover the power of her own resilience. Often mesmerizing, always

heartwarming, Bina will discover that she's not the only one on a difficult quest for a place to call home. Against those odds and with the help of her six apples, Bina embarks upon a journey of revelation, self-discovery, and survival.

“*Bina's Six Apples* is rooted in family lore. It is inspired by my parents, in what they experienced as children during the Korean War, but it is equally inspired by my kids—not just in the remarkable differences in how they're growing up, but in the similarities, too,” said playwright Lloyd Suh. “My greatest ambition for the play is that it speaks to both generations: their emotions, their imaginations, their sense of discovery and journey towards empathy. The play was written for young audiences, of course—but also for their parents and grandparents.” For more information, visit the Alliance's website, www.alliance-theatre.org/binasapples.

Kathleen Covington is the Director of Marketing & Communications for the Alliance Theatre and a proud resident of Lake Claire since 2010.
~Editor



Clifton Sanctuary Ministries Seeks Help

Dear Lake Claire Neighbors,

Spring is right around the corner, and we are hoping to harvest another wonderful garden. Last season, Susan Moss O'Donnell and Boy Scout Troop 101 headed up the garden project and did a wonderful job. We had fresh fruits, herbs, and vegetables to serve our guests. Lots of neighbor volunteers also jumped in and enjoyed working in the garden. This season we are looking for someone else to head up the project. Some staples we are hoping to grow are zucchini, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, and green beans. There is always a lot of interest in helping in the garden, and we need someone to spearhead the efforts. We also have all of the seeds to be planted and the soil is ready to go. If you or a group you know of would be interested in organizing the planting this spring, please let me know. As always, thanks for being such great neighbors.

~Blessings, Lori White



Ricky H. with some bounty from the garden

To volunteer or get more details, write to Lori White at lori@clifton-sanctuary.com or text or call 470-289-8052. ~Ed.

Gato Pop-up: Brave Wojtek

by Beatrice Wan

A bear might not be what you'd expect a pop-up to be named after, but that's exactly the case with **Brave Wojtek** (pronounced "voy-tick"). However, Wojtek wasn't just any bear, he was a bear in the Polish Army that fought in WWII. An orphaned bear whose mother had been shot by hunters, the bear was adopted at a young age, and raised among soldiers, thus growing a liking for cigarettes and beer. Wojtek was officially enlisted and performed in the war, eventually promoted to corporal and retired at the Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland. For all his contributions, Wojtek is considered a war hero for Poland, and thus, the namesake of Brave Wojtek.

The mastermind behind Brave Wojtek is Matt Reeves. Unsurprisingly, Matt is of Polish descent and has worked in the Atlanta food industry for some time, beginning with F&H Food Trading Group (Little Alley Steak, Salt Factory), then joining One Eared Stag, where he worked for five years. A pop-up wasn't a departure from his background, but Reeves started Brave Wojtek during Covid as a means of survival. Money was tight, and he relied on his family recipes to make bulk amounts of food when funds were running low. Making these recipes he had cooked with his grandmother and even great-grandmother led to the conception of Brave Wojtek, which launched in



Bigos (stewed sauerkraut, kielbasa and beef shoulder with prunes, wild mushrooms, and spices)

October of 2021, when the weather was cooler and more suitable for Polish food.

Reeves is known for making pierogies, a type of filled dough dumpling. Most popular is a sour cream dumpling with potato, cheese, and onions, though he offers different fillings—such as sauerkraut and mushrooms, and lemon pepper chicken. Another favorite item is the "Iron Curtain" hot dog—a smoked kielbasa sausage wrapped in bacon topped with Russian dressing, cabbage slaw, creme fraiche, and caviar. These dishes highlight exactly what Reeves hopes to do with his pop-up, innovate and provide a twist on Polish classics.

In addition to hosting pop-ups regularly on Mondays at Woodward

Lucky 13, Or Why Ann and Scott and 13 Dogs Were Meant to Be

by Scott McLane

Let's just say that my life has never been about convention or stereotype. So I'm not surprised that some of the luckiest times of my life have involved the number 13. Starting in 1978 (6 x 13 = 78) when I found this budding neighborhood of hippies and long time residents on Arizona Avenue (13 letters btw).

More recently, when Ann Shirra and I (married in 2013) began volunteering at the DeKalb County Animal Services (DCAS) on November 13, we did not know what a significant role this organization would come to take in our lives.

LifeLine Animal Project is an organization established in 2001 that runs the DeKalb and Fulton animal shelters. In 2017, LifeLine achieved its goal of becoming a no-kill shelter, which it has since maintained through unbelievably trying times. The long overdue facility in Chamblee was built in 2017 to house 221 dogs. This month over 450 dogs are sheltered there. The Herculean efforts of staff and unwavering volunteers have maintained a safe and somewhat sane environment for animals who—through no fault of their own—have been abandoned, lost, and/or mistreated.

So begins the story of the week that Ann Shirra and Scott McLane found a way to house 13 dogs. Fostering is a very important component of LifeLine's ability to function as a no-kill facility. They can do this in great part due to the supporting folks who are willing to home an animal without officially adopting. It was under this condition in November that Ann and I took in 5-year-old Grace, suffering from Addison's disease, as a 'fospice' to give her a safe space in her last days. Long story short, within a month we were the proud fosters of a healthy happy couch potato who enjoyed her daily backyard sunbath with her 'sisters' Eleanor and Hannah.

and Park (5–9 p.m.), he also facilitates different pop-ups each week, as he believes this community is the new face of the emerging restaurant scene. More and more, Atlanta pop-ups are becoming full time brick and mortars, enriching Atlanta's food scene. Reeves has even worked with Mighty Hans at his Taiwanese breakfast pop-up at Gato (see last month's Clarion), opening his eyes to Candler Park and Lake Claire, what he calls "really excellent neighborhoods." Specifically, he noted that the folks here have "an interest in



Scott and Daffodili

Christmastime came with these 3 happy pups and our feeling gifted by the universe with this opportunity to give back. I had begun eschewing work in favor of walking dogs and helping with repairs at the shelter 3 to 4 days a week. I noticed a momma dog and 9 puppies in the rear area of the shelter where recent intakes are housed. A plea went out to foster Daffodili and her 9 puppies temporarily—outside the shelter until they could go to rescue on January 7. Ann somehow fell under my spell when I said, "It's just 6 days," and we became the naive fosters of **13 DOGS**.

For 6 days our lives revolved around feeding, cleaning, walking, and nurturing 13 dogs. Doable, but not a lifestyle we would wish to maintain. On Day 7, I drove Daffodili and her 9 pups to the rescue van to join 50 other cats and dogs for a trip to Connecticut. Unfortunately, Daffodili was not happy with the crowded menagerie, so she has returned to us for training and recovery from motherhood before she finds her forever family.

But, luckily, YOU don't have to suffer from triskaidekaphobia, or its inverse, to help animals in our community. Contact LifeLine at www.lifelineanimal.org to adopt one of these loving pets. Or volunteer to walk dogs, care for cats, help with social media, or yes, foster a dog or cat. **But not 13!**

trying new things and have been nothing but supportive to the pop-up community."

While the exact future of Brave Wojtek remains to be seen, for now, Reeves is happy to provide Atlantans access to Polish cuisine while also giving a place for those of Eastern European heritage to enjoy their regional food. When he's not running Brave Wojtek or working at Octopus Bar and Dead End Drinks, Reeves enjoys traveling, hoping to go to

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Wild in Lake Claire

by Flora Fauna, aka Carol Vanderschaaf

We were in the middle of February as I started this Wild column for March. It's difficult to focus on nature with so many loud things going on in the world. I'm thinking of the crisis in Ukraine as well as the truckers blockade in Canada, not to mention Adele wowing her fans in London with a pole dance. As the song in *Threepenny Opera* goes, "where we all be on Declaration Day?" Well, I take comfort in this: I was living in New York City during the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962. President Kennedy announced the blockade around Cuba. Khrushchev and the Russians were supposedly building bombs in Cuba, only 90 miles from the American Coast, and this had to be stopped. New York seemed the most likely target for Russian bombs. Should we all take to the streets and flee to our home states (in my case to New Jersey)? Then if there were no bombs, we would have missed work, and maybe lose our jobs. Most of us chose to stay, including my partner from South Carolina (a long way to flee). And sure enough, we woke up safe and sound (as one could be) in our beds on East 4th Street in the big and still standing NYC. Let's hope the same happens this time round! Now let us get round to happenings in the 'hood, before any crisis comes.

Miriam H. notes she has been see-

ing the female red-winged blackbirds at her feeder with the males. She thinks they don't travel together very much. They are beautiful in their own right, she said, and says that some people bring in their feeders when the redwing blackbirds arrive because the little birds are scared away, but Miriam likes them and knows the little ones will come back. It's also the time of year where she tries to tell the difference between house finches and purple finches.

Similarly, Ms. Dorothy D. on McLendon reports that her backyard was filled with **male** red winged blackbirds. "The boys are back," said she. She went on to point out that they make quite a fuss and that it's nice to hear them chattering all over the neighborhood. She continues to hear barred owls and occasionally sees a hawk soaring overhead. (*Editor's note: see separate Hawk story on P. 7!*)

Cher B., who walks my little dog Nattie, reports that she has many barred owls in her yard, and that they don't seem to be afraid of her. She can walk up to about 4 feet of one, and it doesn't move. BTW, Cher is about 5'6" tall.

Sara G. reports a lot of activity at their backyard bird feeder in CoHousing this winter. She shared, "One very exciting sighting was a



black and white warbler, which cannot be mistaken for anything else. It practically has zebra stripes! I noticed one creeping around the base of a pecan tree next to our feeders while on the phone with my mother and was so excited, I almost hung up on her. Black and white warblers are not common in Atlanta yards at any time, and even less so in winter when they are normally in more tropical climates, such as south Florida, Mexico, and South America. They are early spring arrivals for breeding season, however, so keep your eye out for this beautiful bird."

Echoing other observers of blackbirds, Sara continued, "Another eye-catching bird occurrence this past

month has been the mobs of red-winged blackbirds all over the neighborhood. I have seen flocks of dozens or even hundreds of these birds in trees and shrubs, and occasionally on lawns or on drifts of leaves by the side of the road. Red-winged blackbirds usually prefer the edges of ponds, but around Atlanta, they seem to be more tolerant of a variety of foraging habitats. I even saw a very handsome one on my bird feeder this week - unmistakable with its red epaulet. (See picture this page.) They make quite a racket so even if you don't see them, you will hear them. Their random squawking and

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Frazer Launches Refugee Intern Program

by Dina Shadwell

"Things like this are what makes Frazer special," said one parent with a child in Frazer Center's early education program, referring to Frazer's latest initiative, a refugee intern program in partnership with the Refugee Women's Network (RWN). The 16-week pilot program provides training for Afghan refugees to build careers in early childhood education and is possible largely thanks to STABLE grant funding from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), designed to help stabilize the early childhood workforce in Georgia.

Even before the pandemic hit, the early childhood education sector across the country was experiencing staffing shortages as fewer people were seeking careers in early education. The pandemic turned those shortages into a crisis. This crisis led to Frazer Center's living wage increase to \$15/hour, which resulted in more teachers being hired in the past few months. Nevertheless, the pool of applicants for open positions remains

shallow. In order to ensure Frazer has enough well-trained staff members to provide the services parents need, and to prevent our hard-working teachers from being stretched thin, Frazer joined forces with the Refugee Women's Network, and the pilot intern program was formed.

Eight women from Afghanistan are now temporary employees of Frazer Center for the duration of sixteen weeks. They must meet the same standards as employees of any licensed child care center in Georgia, as well as adhere to Frazer Center's own personnel policies. The interns receive training from Frazer Center staff and spend a portion of their time in Frazer Center classrooms. A DECAL-approved instructor also provides training in health and safety as well as the training necessary for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. The interns will be assisted with completing the portfolios and applications required to obtain their CDA credential. All the interns speak some English,

with varying levels of proficiency. As part of the program, the Refugee Women's Network provides an interpreter, and the interns receive ESL (English as a Second Language) instruction, focused on building fluency and familiarity with vocabulary necessary in an early childhood center. During the second eight weeks of the program, the interns are in the classrooms most of the day, receiving coaching from the CDA instructor and Frazer's staff. Throughout the sixteen weeks, the Refugee Women's Network and Frazer Center are working together to provide child-care for the interns' children, either at Frazer or in their own community. RWN is also providing cultural competency training to Frazer's staff as well as the interns, individual support, and other assistance to ensure the success of the interns and the internship program. At the end of the sixteen weeks, interns who have successfully completed the program and received a satisfactory evaluation will be eligible for full time employ-



Najla, one of Frazer's interns, in the classroom

ment at Frazer Center as positions are available.

Frazer CEO Paige McKay Kubik says, "We are thrilled to have these amazing women participate in what we see as just the beginning of Frazer's inclusion training programs. We couldn't dream of a better win/win situation, and we are confident that the presence and perspectives of these interns will only enrich our classroom environment."

If you are interested in supporting Frazer's Refugee Intern Program, email Development Director Tonja Holder at t.holder@frazercenter.org. To learn more about the Refugee Women's Network, visit refugeewomensnetworkinc.org.

From Security VP

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be viewed and paid online at ATL-PLUSMOBILITY.com. Compare the two in the pictures below. If you have any questions regarding a citation contact (888) 266-1360



Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

March Birthdays:

March 3 – Judy Langford and Robin Singer, both on Harold Avenue
 March 6 – Dalton Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, 14
 March 8 – Kai Nathaniel, Lakeshore Avenue, turns 12
 March 9 – Jonathan Cook, Leonardo (& welcome to Lake Claire!)
 March 13 – Ada Covington, happy 8!! Hardendorf Avenue
 March 14 – Jennie Caine, Leonardo
 March 20 – Kaia Wiltsee, turns 13
 March 23 – David Damon, Forrest Hills. Important volunteer role of providing emotional support for the editor, 60 years or so.
 March 29 – Victoria Weldert – Happy 7!!
 March 30 – Darcy Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, turns 11!
 March 31 – James Crutcher, Hardendorf, and Carol Vanderschaff (she's WILD!), Indiana.

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the APRIL issue by March 18.



Building your Dream

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or money, it can be very difficult to admit that you don't have all the answers or resources. That's ok. People appreciate honesty. Most will jump on board to do what they can to help when they see the real you.

Too often, we believe we need to "show no weakness" and "fake it 'til we make it," but that's not what resonates with your customers. Naked truth will do more for you than any expensive suit or showy display. Sure, there are folks who pull off this showmanship, but realize that it may not be your forte. Just as in love, being open and leading with your heart will always win out. Then, if your dreams don't come true, no one looks at you and demands that you tell them why your grand projections didn't come to be.

It has taken me way too long to learn these lessons, and I've been a serial entrepreneur my whole life. Only when I'm open and honest and bring my friends into my dream world have I had true success. For me, success doesn't equate to dollars --but it could. My latest adventure is opening a bakery cafe that builds community. I decided to be vulnerable and start a Kickstarter campaign. I'm horrible at asking for help, and asking for money is right there next to getting a root canal for me. But the campaign wasn't really about the money. Sure it would come in handy, but setting up that campaign helped me decide what and how my business should be created. Most importantly, it forced me to realize whom it was for and why.

The majority of people will never realize a personal goal of creating something. Life overwhelms them. They lack the confidence or support to think they deserve success. Maybe they just have a fear of success, be-



Boyd with Biscuits!

cause once you create something, the hard work is usually ahead of you. By starting yesterday to gather folks to your team, you can manifest your dream. Believe in yourself, and let your world help you do great things. And that Kickstarter thing I mentioned—it became fully funded in less than 7 days!

If you ever need a cheerleader, don't hesitate to give me a shout at boyd@sumowriter.com.

Editor's Note: In case someone in Lake Claire hasn't heard, the Kickstarter refers to Boyd's own dream, "HOWDY ATL: A Biscuithead Cafe," the bakery cafe he is opening this month in Grant Park near Zoo Atlanta. We included more detail in last month's Clarion; see the website howdyATL.com. Check out our innovative neighbor's new place for handmade biscuits, eye-opening coffee, sweet treats, and plant-slant lunches. And thanks, Boyd, for always coming through for the Clarion even while in the middle of scrubbing walls and floors, organizing recipes, hiring staff, chasing permits!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last year two large houses went up on one lot on Arizona Ave. This year the same thing is happening on New York Ave. This is happening all around Lake Claire. Yards are being eaten up by dwellings. I understand these lots were zoned for duplexes a hundred years ago, but back then they were all small apartments in a larger single house. I doubt the city planners had this in mind.

So, I'm thinking as I watch these yards and large old trees disappear, what is the impact? How about the water runoff? These houses take up 90% of the yards that used to:

- Soak up rain;

- Provide greenery, food and shade—habitat—for all kinds of birds, butterflies, caterpillars.

- Provide for a vast underground life of insects, fungi, worms, etc., that will be altered by having a dwelling on top of it.;

- Provide for children to learn about the dirt and planting things in it; it is vitally important for them to be on close terms with their other Mother, Earth, so they will want to take care of it.

The people living in these homes are good folks. But what is the aesthetic and environmental impact of

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Close Encounters of the Hawk Kind

by Sue McAvoy

It was one of those unseasonably sunny and warm February afternoons, the kind of day when you want to lie on your back in the grass and gaze at nature's majesty in the intricate design of tree limbs and the wispy cirrus clouds strolling through the deep blue sky. My task at hand was cutting back the liriope in our front garden beds, and I was quite content in a meditative kind of way. All of a sudden, my reverie was interrupted by something swooshing past my head. When I turned to examine the cause, I spotted a hawk about 15 feet away (yes, close!), who had landed on the ground next to our house with its prey in its talons (see top photo at right). I was concerned that the prey might be a neighbor's small animal until I realized that the hawk had captured a dangerous and wily *stuffed* animal (pictured below) and was attempting to tear into it rather unsuccessfully.

No sooner had I adjusted to this National Geographic moment than our cat Quebby walked up to the scene and halted about five feet from the hawk. The hawk instantly unfurled its wings so as to triple its size (shown in bottom photo at right) and both stood as still as statues, trying to determine which of them was the predator. I felt helpless as to interceding, lamely calling the cat—who paid me no heed. After a few moments, Quebby started slinking away (cat folks will know what this looks like) with his tail all fluffed up. And at that point, the hawk flew up to the electrical wires next to our house. A few minutes later it flew off, I assume in search of a more appetizing meal.

I lamented the hawk's disappointment in a hapless hunting outing, but then acknowledged that things turned out well for the hawk in the end—the toy's stuffing likely would have wreaked havoc with its digestive system. Mother Nature prevailed in the end; and the hawk, the cat, and I moved on in our enjoyment of the idyllic day.

This event occurred on Leonardo Avenue, now known for both Animal Kingdom encounters AND much social revelry.



Please consider stopping using insecticides for mosquitos.

Gato Pop-up

Continued from Page 5

Eastern Europe, Iceland, and Egypt this year. Catch Brave Wojtek at one of his next pop-ups in March, and check his Instagram @bravewojtek for more updates.



Pierogi Ruskie (cheese potato and onion dumplings)

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household, but like with NPR, any amount is appreciated. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, made out to Lake Claire Neighbors, and send to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107.

Since the last Clarion, the following folks paid dues:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Bob and Tim Arko | Daniel Kennedy |
| Mary S. Lamar | Ann Mauney |
| Athanassios Myrisini Mamoli | Eden Smith |
| Bennett Old | Greg Hutcheson |
| Dorothy Dabbs | J. Miller Tobin |
| Debbie Livingston | Jason Thomas |
| Martha Loring | Candy Stewart |
| Melissa Pressman | |



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Redevelopped Gas Stations

Continued from Page 1

San Francisco region, it is the suburban community of Petaluma that is seeing the surge in new gas stations (Kingson, 2021). However, after city staff discovered that multiple stations were within a 5-minute drive of every planned or existing residence in the city limits, new stations were permanently banned by the city council. Pollution fears were the primary

motivation behind the ban effort.

Editor's Note: Closer to home, the Candler Park La Fonda on McLendon at Brooks Avenue was built on the site of an old corner gas station. And, on another note, because of space limitations, I had to eliminate the references referred to in this article. Please write to editor@lake-claire.org if you'd like these.

Upcoming Music!

By Beth Damon

The Clarion is the only neighborhood newspaper offering Atlanta's live music info! As of press time, these

bands will be playing. Check venues for Covid safety rules, and to see any changes/cancellations.

Saturday, March 5	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Saturday, March 5	Marc Broussard with Jamie McLean opening	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, March 6	Graham Nash	Variety Playhouse
Thursday, March 10	Ladysmith Black Mambazo	City Winery
Thursday, March 10	Joe Alterman	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, March 10	Pigs on a String	Napoleons
Friday, March 11	The Greyboy Allstars	Variety Playhouse
Friday, March 11	Paul Thorn	City Winery
Friday, March 11	Christone "Kingfish" Ingram	ASO
Saturday, March 12	Kermit Ruffins	City Winery
Saturday, March 12	Michelle Malone	Eddie's Attic
Monday, March 14	The Dear Hunter	Terminal West
Thursday, March 17	Fugees	State Farm Arena
Tuesday, March 15	JOJO	Variety Playhouse
Friday, March 18	Yonder Mountain String Band	Variety Playhouse
Friday, March 18	Crash Test Dummies	City Winery
Saturday, March 19	Hurray for the Riff Raff	Terminal West
Saturday, March 19	Maxwell	State Farm Arena
Saturday, March 19	YOLA	The Eastern
Saturday, March 19	Frankly Scarlet	Moonshadow
Monday, March 21	Walter Trout	City Winery
Sunday, March 20	John Lodge performs classic Moody Blues	City Winery
Tuesday, March 22	BADBANDNOTGOOD	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, March 22	Little Feat	ASO
Wednesday, March 23	Beach House	The Eastern
Thursday, March 24	Bob Dylan	Fox
March 25-26	Mother's Finest	City Winery
Friday, March 25	Buddy Guy	Cobb Energy Center
Friday, March 25	Shovels & Rope	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 26	Will Hoge	Terminal West
Saturday, March 26	Animal Collective	The Eastern
Sunday, March 27	Peach Pit w/ Haley Blais	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, March 27	Tank & the Bangas	Buckhead Theatre
Sunday, March 27	Bad Bunny	State Farm Arena
Sunday, March 27	Tauk	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, March 29	Joywave	Terminal West
Wednesday, March 30	Kaleo	Tabernacle
Wednesday, March 30	Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox	ASO
Thursday, March 31	Dave Mason	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 9	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Saturday, April 9	Bon Iver	Chastain
Saturday, April 23	Amplify Decatur Fest	Decatur Square
April 29-May 1	Shakey Knees Fest	Central Park
April 29-May 1	weetwater 420 fest	Centennial Park
Sunday, May 1	Van Morrison	Ameris Amp

Letter to the Editor

Continued from Page 6

taking away most of the yard space on these lots as teardowns replaced with two large homes with garages become the norm? A large part of Atlanta's beauty and Lake Claire's are their greenspaces, including large yards that are not herbicide-sprayed monocultures. That is one of the

main reasons people want to live in our neighborhood.

Who thinks of environmental impact in this regard? Who thinks of what's truly healthy for humans and all the species that are trying their best to live among us? I think a fair compromise would be to allow one

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from Page 5

chattering is punctuated with a high pitched "conk-a-ree" trill, a sound made by the males. (www.allabout-birds.org/guide/Red-winged_Black-bird/sounds).

Bernard S. wrote from Florida to say, "Wildlife is a little different here. Walking through a neighborhood, we saw an empty lot with some little mounds about 8 to 10" high. Curious, we approached and noticed that there was a hole on top of the closest. When we got close enough, a mini owl (about 5' 6" tall) popped out and looked at us angrily, puffing him/herself. It was a ground owl, the first one I had seen. There were more on another lot, so it must be their habitat. We also saw a manatee, some dolphins, and a variety of birds. There was a banana tree at the place we were staying loaded with fruit. We ate some for breakfast. It is interesting to think that some fruit trees bear their fruits in January."

Frank W. saw about five hawks overhead, including one so large it looked like Batman flying in the sky. He also saw a possum crossing the road on Highland and several swarms of birds that flocked together in various parts of Lake Claire and surrounding areas, including (again) flocks of redwing blackbirds and robins. In just a week, he spotted 100+ redwing black birds on Indiana Ave., 300+ in Cabbagetown, plus 70 robins on Highland Ave near downtown and about 20 from his yard on Indiana.

Illene S. saw lots of hawks flirting on the thermals as the males try to get a female to choose them. She saw a Red Tail hawk that presumably had found a mate for the season because it swooped down on Clifton near S. Ponce, landed on the sidewalk, grabbed a bunch of pine straw, and flew off to pad its nest somewhere near the Druid Hills Country Club. She saw many bluebirds, red winged black birds, cedar wax wings, robins, finches, and a Cooper's hawk, plus a salamander in Frazer Woods.

Last but not least, Meredith W. writes, "I've seen a lot of deer recently, including 11 does in one recent visit to Lullwater Preserve. On a different day there, I saw three

territorial great blue herons chasing off a smaller one as well as the great egret. For a while, every time I saw the egret, she was getting chased off by a heron, but now they seem to have relaxed a bit more recently and are letting her be. At home, I'm happy to hear the cardinals and other birds beginning to sing again. Squirrels have been helping themselves to some cardboard boxes we've been storing next to the house for yard mulching. We see them climbing the pine trees in front with ambitious loads of cardboard that sometimes make it difficult for them to climb. They may be adding insulation to their nests for the remaining cold weather, but since there have been so many more squirrel renovations in recent days, my guess is they're preparing nests for soon-to-come babies. I put out walnuts for the birds and squirrels occasionally, and a very friendly pine warbler has begun coming up to me when I come outside as if asking for nuts. The other day when I put a walnut in my hand and stood very still, he hopped onto my hand and grabbed the nut. I'll miss him when the weather gets warmer and he returns to the treetops."

Well, when this column appears in March, let's hope the world will be here! The first day of spring is Sunday, March 20, at 11:33 a.m. EDT. EDT, BTW, begins on Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m., so be prepared for your clocks to.... *Spring forward!* March 8 is International Women's Day. The month of March is National Women's History month, Social Worker's month and National Celery month as well as many other observances. Have a happy March, whatever you celebrate, and Sara will see you in April.

If you have any wildlife sightings or garden happenings / tips you'd like to share, please contact Sara Gottlieb at sara.gottlieb@gmail.com or Flora Fauna at floweryfauna@gmail.com. Sara and Flora (Carol) alternate the writing of this column, leading toward Flora's gradually passing it on to Sara, with Flora having an occasional guest column.- Ed.

large house and have the remainder stay as a yard. That would take rezoning, and unfortunately zoning is moving in the other direction. But perhaps we should try imagining what this neighborhood is going to look like in the future, and whether that is what we want.

Sincerely,
Dawn Aura



Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

NOTE: The Land Trust Drum Circles and Community Work Days now have "alternate" dates in case of cancellation. **Drum Circles** canceled because of weather or Covid will be re-scheduled for the **3rd Saturday**. **Work Days** canceled because of weather will be re-scheduled for the following weekend, **4th Saturday**. However, these dates have the same criteria for cancellation; check LCCLT.org/new-event or our Land Trust Facebook page before showing up. Thanks!

Sat., March 5: Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m., \$5 donation requested.

Alternate date if canceled: Sat. March 19

Sunday, March 6 & 20: Vinyasa Yoga with Ashley Brooks, 10–11 a.m., \$10/person. Ashleydbrooks@gmail.com or 404-604-9782.

Wed., March 9: Land Trust board meeting, 7–8 p.m. Info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom link. (Note that we have switched to the 2nd Wed. each month to give Clarion readers more notice.)

Sat., March 19: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. Pizza follows.

Rain date: Sat., March 26

Sun., March 27: Creative Class with Brook Hewitt: Hello Spring! (See article at right.)

All events subject to cancellation depending on weather or Covid. Check LCCLT.org/new-events.

Lake Claire Community Land Trust T-Shirts Still Available!

Colorful 100% cotton tie-dyed shirts with silkscreened LCCLT logo, sizes M to 2XL in men's/ladies' styles (robin's egg blue, \$25), children's sizes almost sold out (bright green, \$15).

Order or info: info@LCCLT.org.

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- L & K - Multiple Offers in Kirkwood | Under Contract \$850,000
- J & J - Multiple Offers in Northcrest | Under Contract \$670,000
- I & T - Multiple Offers in Chamblee | Under Contract \$460,000

Who's next...? Our Current Buyers Could be Searching for Your Home...

- S & P - Lake Claire | Candler Park - Newer Construction up to \$1,300,000
- J & C - Lake Claire | Candler Park | Ormewood Park up to \$1,000,000
- S & A - Decatur | Brookhaven - Townhome up to \$850,000
- J & C - Ormewood | East Atlanta up to \$800,000
- Z & A - Kirkwood | Oakhurst up to \$850,000
- M - East Lake | Decatur up to \$450,000

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COMPASS

Please, Keep This Under Your Wizard Hat...

by Magus Pseudonymus

Shhh! It's a secret. The Lake Claire Community Land Trust has been named "Best of Family Fun" by Atlanta Parent magazine and "Best Off-the-Beaten-Path Tourist Attraction" by Creative Loafing. We have been featured in Communities, the magazine of the intentional communities movement, and in the book *Secret Atlanta: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*. We have over 1,500 "Friends" on Facebook, and almost 6,000 "Likes" and "Follows." But please keep all that to yourself; we don't want anyone to find out how marvelous, fabulous, and stupendous our modest little patch of greenspace actually is. If you're already on to our secret, you're very likely one of the undercover agents who have been passing the word-of-mouth about the Land Trust since its founding 40 years ago. Generations of high-schoolers have met their friends here for unsupervised shenanigans, come back with a date for the drum circle, then returned to introduce their toddlers to the playground and Big Lou, the Emu.

But are you ready to take the conspiracy to the next level? Don't let this get around, but the Land Trust is not as miraculous as it appears. The rumor that the land is protected by a mystical force-field spun by hip-

pie magicians to preserve the spirit of the Sixties is just a smokescreen. Behind it, we're just an ordinary community nonprofit. What makes the Land Trust so magical is the fact that the committee members and work-day volunteers and financial donors who keep it going are all extraordinary people . . . people pretty much like you.

Any urban greenspace is a miracle, given the forces of development and the pressures of finance. What makes ours especially remarkable is that word community in our name—the community of extraordinary people who have adopted it into their families and made it part of their lives, starting with the original founders. Community is an organic extension of nature, the secret of human survival since tribal times, and has been part of the Land Trust vision since the beginning. And just as a tribe can only survive by passing its legacy on as the older generations age, the Land Trust community can only thrive if younger people who enjoy coming here see its value, and decide it's worth giving something back.

You are invited to learn more about a unique community experience. Whether sitting quietly alone to commune with nature or in front

of your computer at an online meeting, whether joining other volunteers for the monthly work day or setting up a monthly Paypal donation, here's a chance to take part in the natural ecology of an urban wonderland. Regardless of age, race, or gender, anyone and everyone is welcome to step into the dance and become the hands and hearts that make the Land Trust such a rare resource. There are so many rewarding ways to get involved: getting your hands in the dirt, organizing outdoor workshops and classes, helping out with the Children's Garden, plugging into social media and communications, sharing your perspective in a board or committee meeting. Contact us at info@LCCLT.org to learn more about how you can help make a positive impact in our community. But don't spread it around. It's a secret, just between you and me and 1,500 friends.



Please see LT
Calender on Page 10.

Hello Spring! Tea Party & Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, March 27, 4–6 p.m.

by Brook Hewitt

Although it seems our winters are getting shorter, I think we all still really look forward to Spring. Spring is the sweet fuzzy newborn of the seasons, and yields so many reasons to smile and fall in love with nature. March is the month where we start to look for signs of Spring. In the Spring we can forage for fun gifts of the natural garden, and even edible ones. Therefore, March is the perfect month to host a "Hello Spring! Tea Party and Scavenger Hunt"! Join me at the Land Trust on March 27 as we say salutations to the "vernal" season, a.k.a. Spring. I will be serving up some tea made from nature, and we will go on a little photo scavenger hunt looking for very specific telltale signs of my second-favorite season. (Summer is my favorite, but I LOVE Spring too!) Participants will even get to print their favorite picture from the scavenger hunt to take home and keep forever! All ages are

welcome—including parents. Masks are encouraged. If you can, please register in advance at www.camera-classforkids.com/other-fun-stuff-i-do (or just show up). The cost is \$10 per kid, but scholarships available. Info: cameraclassforkids@gmail.com.

Here are some fun facts about Spring. Did you know . . .

- Butterflies will start making an appearance in March.
- On the vernal equinox, the sun aligns with the symbols on the Great Sphinx in Egypt.
- March is named after a Roman god, Mars. He was the god of war.
- Spring is a popular topic for poets because of all the fun themes of growth and birth.
- Honeybees are most likely to swarm in the spring. Even though it sounds scary, they are actually at their friendliest when they are swarming.
- Children grow faster in the Spring.
- The first spring flowers are typically dandelions, daffodils, lilacs, lilies, iris and tulips, to name a few.

Ladybug's Farewell

by Andrea Zoppo

Before I visited the Land Trust as a young person, I did not know what community meant. When I was 15, I lived on a busy street with no sidewalks. We did not know our neighbors, and no one ever waved at each other. I was not sure how to navigate this world as a young person, and I did not see many bright spots.

Then one day I was brought to the Land Trust for a drum circle. I was in total awe. People smiled and said hello to me! This magical space welcomed me in a way that made my heart grow and shine. Before that I felt unimportant, unconnected, and invisible. I began coming to the Land Trust regularly. It was a true haven throughout high school and college, and of course for years after. In some ways I think the Land Trust saved my life. When it comes to feeling connected to a beautiful place and beautiful intentions, the Land Trust showed me what was possible.

My intentions are to embody that welcoming energy in my work and especially with youth. My heart glows as I reflect on the many programs and events where we celebrated, learned, and played. From hilarious stage productions and collaborations with artists of all ages to harvesting loofah and honey...to dancing with fairies on magical treasure hunts... oh, we share so many sparkling memories and stories!

On January 23, I did my last official event at the Land Trust, the first in two years, and the first



S'mores party without my dear Ms. Mel (who is a new mama) and Mr. Greenthumbs. As I built the fire in the heart-shaped pit in preparation, two college students showed up and asked if they could help. Then my friend Ms. Brook arrived, who will be leading family programs now, and we all philosophized about life in that special by-a-fire-at-the Land Trust kind of way. Our new garden guardian Terri Evans came next, and we talked volunteer projects and teared up over the "bunny stump" story. Once the event officially started, the awesome Drew Cohen and his son rocked synths with long-time friend Matt Donald on djembe. Families played along with shakers 'n' bells. It was a truly beautiful time and I was so blessed to see students and families I've missed over the years!! This is community, and I'm grateful to be in it, whether near or far.

I've only moved to Chattanooga, not too far to come back and visit. [#followladybug](#) [#ladybuglove](#) [#communitylove](#).



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



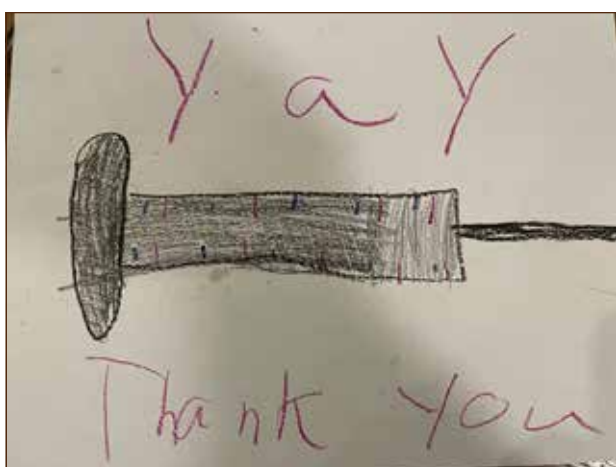
We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month we feature Lily and Owen Schragger and Naomi Robles. The Schraggers won the extra credit prize last month for their MLK activity: making cards and artwork for frontline healthcare workers, and for their prize we feature some of those creations in this month's issue. Please see the four pictures below. Gordon Avenue residents, Lily is eight years old

and in third grade at Mary Lin, and Owen is six and in first grade at Mary Lin. Their neighbor Naomi is also eight and in third grade at Mary Lin.

What gorgeous artwork! Owen made the pop-up card that says, "I hope you get rid of coronavirus." Lily made artwork thanking the healthcare workers for the Covid vaccine, with rainbows to help bring color and cheer to the healthcare workers who have been working long hours and are so very tired.

Lily and Naomi used flowers, berries, and leaves of Lake Claire to make their creative artwork.

Thank you Lily, Owen, and Naomi! What beautiful work and what a wonderful tribute to the healthcare workers. To all the Lake Claire children who read and contribute to the Kids' Page each month, we appreciate you. Add **your** creativity to this page! Submit your work to editor@lake-claire.org, by **MARCH 18** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be APRIL...Hello, Spring!



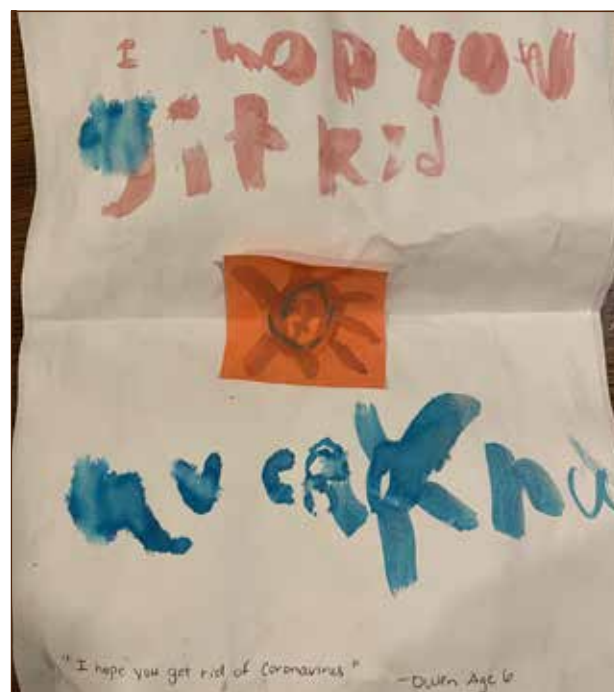
Contest Winners!

We have three winners for this month, who found the Groundhog from February.

First place winner is **Hudson Frank**, who lives on Hardendorf. He is 5½ years old and is in Kindergarten at The Children's School. Second place winner is **Frances Koval**, who lives on Hardendorf and is in Kindergarten at Mary Lin. Third place winner is **Roman Vinciguerra**, 9 years old. He lives on Clifton Road, and he is in 4th grade at Mary Lin. Congrats, Hudson, Frances, and Roman! You won the contest over a VAST number of Lake Claire kids who participated this time. Your prize is your picture in the Clarion. **Attention other Lake Claire kids**—Add your name to the list of winners. To all of those kids who didn't win, **many of you** came so, so close this time. Please do keep reading this page, and keep playing. See our new contest below.



Hudson



Frances

New Contest

MARCH! Flowers are budding, and we are hoping for no freezes that might kill those buds. March has St. Patrick's Day, Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, and Fire Prevention Month. The monthly flower is the daffodil. Daylight Savings Time (DST) starts Sunday, March 13. In honor of that, take a minute to find a cartoon about DST in this issue. The winner/winners will have their pictures in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number where you find it, including your name, age, school, street, and grade, and 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 any holiday in March and what it means to you. 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 MARCH 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**



Roman