



Girl Scout Founder's Day Celebrated at the Land Trust

The Phoenix Rising Service Unit of Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta celebrated Founder Juliette Gordon Low's birthday at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust on October 28. Low was born on October 31, 1860 so the celebration was Halloween-themed, and attendees were encouraged to come in costume. An estimated 120 people representing 65 (!) troops turned out for the festivities. They enjoyed games, face painting, a hula hoop contest, and, of course, s'mores.

"Our service unit was thrilled to be able to get together in-person for our founder's day after a two-year hiatus," said event organizer Teresha Freckleton-Petite. "To see so many smiling faces and hear the laughter was incredibly special."

Juliette Gordon Low sold her pearl necklace to fund the first Girl Scout troop in the United States. She believed that girls could do anything boys could do. Girl Scouts is about building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

How Can I Help? A Day In The Life of a Animal Shelter Volunteer

by Scott McLane

How can you contribute to the well-being of the animals being cared for at the DeKalb County Animal Shelter? There is certainly a role, no matter how seemingly small, for any and everyone... and every role is important. To illustrate I've combined my weeks volunteering adventures into one "Day In the Life."

Started the morning by picking up Turkey from the shelter clinic for his orthopedic consult appointment about his 2 broken front legs. We hoped to avoid amputation or euthanasia—a dog can live happily as a tripod, but not on just 2 legs. There is often a need simply to transport an animal between one of our partner veterinarians and the shelter, or vice versa.

I returned Turkey to the shelter about noon and noticed the back parking lot is full of broken animal crates, so I spent an hour breaking them down and loading them into my truck to recycle the metal. I slid over to check the play yard gates and adjusted two of them for safe operation. No 'maintenance' position is funded for the shelter, and many simple maintenance needs fall through the cracks or are not supported by DeKalb County, so a volunteer with any level of 'handiness' and some basic tools are more than welcomed by the staff.

On my way in to walk dogs I saw that the laundry room could use some

Cont. on p. 5

Exclusive Interview with Co-Owner of Live Music Venue/Bar Venkman's

(Closed, but perhaps not permanently)

by Beth Damon

Venkman's closed on November 28, after seven years at its space on Ralph McGill in the Old Fourth Ward. As many in Lake Claire are aware, Venkman's is co-owned by Lake Claire's own Peter Olson of Leonardo. The venue has featured an eclectic variety of live music, curated by Olson and his partner Nicholas Niespodziani. They are also the creative masterminds behind *Please-Rock* and the frontmen of the *Yacht Rock Revue*. Venkman's custom stage, pristine sound system, and variety of ticketed and free shows, have featured performers ranging from local upstarts to national stars. From rock and roll to bluegrass, soul to salsa, country swing to live performances of classic albums – the only music you didn't hear at Venkman's is "the same old, same old," I believe.

The property is now owned by New City Properties, which plans to build something new there, including possibly a new version of Venkman's as an anchor tenant. Plans are still unclear, but there will be a stair-stepped apartment building and retail complex nearby, as part of a "12-acre, modernist mini-city," along the East-side Beltline and Fourth Ward Park. Peter Olson recently shared these words with me:

"Before moving to Atlanta, I visited a friend that had moved here shortly after high school. Over the course of a mildly warm week in December of 2000, my friend Jeremy



Read took me and my band mate, Nick Niespodziani, on a local venue tour of Atlanta. We witnessed an eclectic array of musical genres performed in a neighborhoods throughout the city; rock bands at Smith's Olde Bar in Midtown, 10 High Club in Virginia Highland, rockabilly at the Star Bar in Little Five Points, indie rock at The Earl, and hip hop at Echo Lounge (the latter two in East Atlanta), as well as cover bands at CJs Landing in Buckhead and singer-songwriters at Eddie's Attic in Decatur. What impressed me most about the experience were the crowds of people at each show. Atlanta's support of an active and thriving local music scene was inspiring.

I moved to Atlanta a year later.

Venkman's was a vision culminated from experiences at music venues around the country. Our staff always worked hard to execute the V experience of live music and outstanding hospitality, alongside great food and

Cont. on p. 9

Project Update on Dekalb Avenue

The City of Atlanta's Department of Transportation and Watershed Management continue to work to deliver safety improvements in the Dekalb Avenue corridor, according to both DOT and Watershed Management. Crews are continuing drainage improvement work in the Krog Street Tunnel. However, the contractor has advised of a possible

delay for the full resurfacing of the street, which as we know has numerous dangerous potholes, based on personnel availability and the approaching winter temperatures. The City is working with the contractor on a revised schedule, which is not announced as of the Clarion's going to press November 28.



Dear Lake Claire Friends,

As you read this note, Thanksgiving is a not-so-distant memory, twinkling lights have begun to appear all around Lake Claire, and our hearts at Clifton are full of gratitude. It has been another great year at Clifton—our volunteers have returned, the men of Clifton have made great progress, and except for one brief intrusion, the unwelcome virus has stayed away. We are truly grateful!

You and your neighbors in Lake Claire continue to be a huge part of our success in very special ways:

- * Lake Claire neighbor Bryan Davis, who serves as your representative on the Clifton Board of Directors, single-handedly dragged our IT into the 21st century!

- * Bee Bordeaux is a constant presence at Clifton, sorting food donations, preparing sandwiches and lunch bags for our guests, and keeping the fridge/freezer organized. Since we serve nearly 50 meals per day, this is quite a feat!

- * Colm Mulcahy is a frequent flier on the volunteer and meal calendar. Our guests would definitely be hungry without Colm's yummy meals!

- * Lawson Crutcher completed his Eagle Scout project at Clifton by refurbishing the foot garden. Please stop by and spend some time in the garden—a great reminder of those who have been guests at Clifton over the years.

It would be impossible to name every neighbor who has contributed to Clifton this year, but we want you to know how much every volunteer hour, kind word of encouragement, roll of paper towels, and monetary donation mean to us. Because of your support, men who have no other place to turn, but are working toward better lives, have slept in our sanctuary every night of every year for the past 43 years. There is no other neighborhood in Atlanta that can make such a fantastic claim!

We hope that, once again, you will include Clifton Sanctuary Ministries in your year-end giving. An envelope is attached here. Together, we can all do what none of us can do alone – be a real part of real lives being transformed. Please feel free to stop by and listen to their stories. And stay for dinner – Colm's cooking!

Wishing you the happiest of holidays . . .

Leslie Prince
Leslie Prince, Chair
CSM Board of Directors

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.org

VP 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

The Clarion is published

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

Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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

December Calendar

(Note—there is no neighborhood meeting this month, and Frazer Center has no volunteer Saturday this month. Please see Page 11 for more details on Lake Claire Community Land Trust events.)

1 Breaking news! Dad's Garage and Horizon Theatre Surprise Holiday Show! Though Dec. 23, an improvised holiday movie live onstage, created by Amber Nash and Topher Payne. Rotating cast of 3 veteran improvisors from Dad's Garage and a daily guest Horizon actor, creating a unique performance every night! No two shows will be the same! **Witty and whimsical, this will be just the dose of holiday hilarity you need!** Tix at tickets.horizontheatre.com/events.

1 Still an "open run" as of December Clarion going to press. *Designing Women* is a new comedy by the creator of the tv series. The women of Sugarbaker's are now tackling 21st century challenges with wit, pluck, and style. Presidents and pandemics are hot conversation points. The house of Sugarbaker may be divided this election season, but these Southern, smart, and sassy designing women prove that nothing truly unites us like laughter. Your illustrious editor saw this at the end of October, and it is hilarious, very well acted and directed; I highly recommend it, regardless of if you know the TV series. ~ B.D. See: www.horizontheatre.com/plays/designing-women/.

1 Alliance Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol*, through December 24. Coca-Cola Stage. See www.alliancetheatre.org for more offerings. Next show starts in February.

3 **Lake Claire Annual Arts & Crafts Sale—arts and crafts, interspersed with scrumptious food and music, throughout the streets of Lake Claire! See centerfold of the November issue for most participating addresses. Updated list/map will be available at every address that day. Rain date is Dec. 4. See November issue for lots of details (online at: lakeclaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/clarion-nov-2022-for-the-web.pdf)**

3 Land Trust - Slow-Flow Yoga, 9-10 a.m. \$15/person (10% to LCCLT). Class is inside, space is limited, pre-register at LCCLT.org/new-events. (See more detail Page 11.) Finishes in time to attend LC Arts Sale!

3 Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m., \$5, Rain date: Sat. Dec. 17

1, 10 Inman Park United Methodist Church *Jesus & The Beatles* holiday show, free but donations requested for the Stewart Center—nonprofit supporting strong communities in southwest Atlanta. Inman Park UMC, 1015 Edgewood Ave. in Inman Park. Story of Jesus' birth in Beatles songs. More info at www.inmanparkumc.org/jesus-and-the-beatles.

6, 20 Walking Club, Land Trust with the Frazer Center, 1–2 p.m. Walk from the Frazer Center to the Land Trust and back, with members of the Center's program for disabled adults. Ongoing/alternate Tuesdays.

7–23 Alliance Theatre presents *A Gift of Love with Adam McNight* on the Hertz Stage. An evening with this acclaimed musician (back-up vocalist and studio musician for Elton John, CeeLo Green, Train, Stevie Wonder, B.B. King, Diana Ross, Gloria Estefan, Bonnie Raitt, Zac Brown Band, and more) on a musical journey of uplifting original songs, R&B classics, and holiday favorites. Info/tix: www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2022-23/a-gift-of-love-with-adam-l-mcknight

8 Land Trust Board meeting, 7–8 p.m. All are welcome! info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link.

11 Land Trust—S'mores for All & Story Time with Ms. Ladybug, 3–5 p.m. (See article P. 11.)

16 Land Trust—Caroling & Hot Chocolate with Girl & Boy Scouts, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Join local Scout troops for hot chocolate (to go) at the Land Trust before caroling around the immediate area. If you can't join in, come outside your house to cheer on the kids when you hear them.

17 Land Trust Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. Pizza follows. Rain date: Sat. Dec. 24.

18–26 Chanukah. Chag Sameach.

26 through January 1: Kawanzaa.

31 The Annual Peach Drop will return for the 2023 New Year's celebration after a three-year hiatus due to Cov, according to Clarion sources. City officials have approved funding for the 30+year-old event. The city will hold the festival at the Underground Atlanta venue. Live Nation will provide talent. The Peach Drop traditionally drew in crowds from 65,000 to 100,000! Admission to the festival is free. The mayor's office said they will release more information about the event in the coming weeks.

Support Mary Lin

by Sarah Perlin

Please support our Mary Lin PTA and these generous local restaurants, AND, of course, have delicious food while doing so!

- **Naan Stop—Tue., Dec. 7**—Order (naanstop-mary-lin-pta-fundraiser-102771.square.site/) by 8 p.m. on 12/6 and pick up on Arizona Avenue in Lake Claire between 4:45 and 5:45 p.m. 20% will come back to Mary Lin thanks to Naan Stop & Joan Arkins Realty.

- **Speakcheesy: Tue.–Thu., Dec. 13–15.** Swing by their ghost kitchen in the Neighborhood Church for tasty, melty grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato basil bisque, and more! Speakcheesy is generously donating 25% of your order back to the Mary Lin PTA. To order, go to www.eatsspeakcheesy.com, select "Order from Our Ghost Kitchen," then select FoodBooking.com. Be sure to enter in the secret password "Grill the Love" in the Add Details section when you check out.

- **January:** Dragon Bowl in Emory Village, **January 9–11!** They are giving back 25% to Mary Lin, so be sure to mention the name.

Save these dates, and spread the word!



Cynthia's Average Listing in 30307
6 Days on Market
104% Sales to List Price

MOVING OR PUTTING DOWN ROOTS?

REACH OUT TODAY FOR INSIGHT AND
 ADVICE ON NAVIGATING TODAY'S
 REAL ESTATE MARKET

678-358-3369



Cynthia Baer
 Broker, Associate

#1 Agent for Keller Williams Realty
 Metro Atlanta 2021 (volume & units)
 #3 Dekalb Board of Realtors 2021

[cynthiabaer30307](#) cynthia@cynthiabaer.com

cynthiabaer.com [Around 30307 with Cynthia Baer](#)



Real Estate and Politics Don't Mix

by Kevin Posey

I was once asked in an interview for a D.C. media outlet whether expressing political opinions was a good idea when it comes to real estate. My response was an emphatic no.

Sellers should never have political signs up or partisan memorabilia on view, unless they actually want to screen out an entire segment of the buyers. Making people mad doesn't sell houses. I further cautioned that real estate agents have to work with all sorts of people. This requires masking their own political beliefs so that nobody in a transaction are offended. Angry people don't make deals. For example, if an agent were to show up at an open house wearing a button that supported Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in a neighborhood that voted 90% for Republican Brian Kemp, the reaction of the showing agent or the seller (who shouldn't be there, but you never know) might not be very favorable.

This is why it is extraordinary that the National Association of REALTORS® (the NAR) was recently disclosed as one of the top 10 entities that contributed to the Republican Party in the recent midterms. The organization that is supposed to represent agents has effectively tainted their constituents with a partisan brand. Consider that many Democrats have accused Republican candidates of:

1. Undermining confidence in U.S. elections and democracy through election denialism;

2. Inciting violence against elected leaders of the other party, as in the case of the January 6 attack on

the Capitol, or making jokes about attacks on these leaders' families, as in the case of the attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of Nancy Pelosi;

3. Denying women the right to control their own bodies by appointing the Supreme Court justices who overturned Roe vs. Wade, followed by attempts to pass abortion bans;

4. Making it easier for violent, disturbed individuals to arm themselves—via lax gun restrictions or bans on any restrictions at all—and attack churches, schools, and other public gathering places.

How does the NAR propose to serve their dues-paying agents by effectively infuriating roughly half of the population of the U.S.? As exit polls have shown, many of these now-angry voters live in the urban areas that are the most lucrative markets. This is not to say that the NAR should sponsor a skybox at the next Democratic National Convention. That would be madness. Like any organization that serves a broad variety of people with vastly different opinions, they simply need to stay out of politics.

It is worth noting that realtors are not required to contribute to NAR's political action fund. They should refuse to do so until a more savvy leadership team takes over and avoids toxic partisan stances, no matter what party is involved.

Kevin Posey is a Lake Claire resident and frequent Clarion contributor, whose writing focuses on transportation and urban development issues.

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Most of my notable nature observations of late were made during a 2-week trip to British Columbia in October. I had never been to that part of the world before, so when the opportunity arose, thanks to a conference I help organize every two years (delayed twice due to the Covid pandemic), I jumped at the chance to add a full week of vacation on the front end with my husband.

We flew to Vancouver, then ferry-hopped across the Gulf Islands, before arriving in Victoria on Vancouver Island for my meeting. Highlights included a 9-nautical mile sea kayaking trip guided by a fellow with an interest in geology, who described the ancient processes giving rise to the widespread conglomerate boulders along the coastlines of the islands throughout the Salish Sea. We saw sea lions, seals, dolphins (there are SEVEN SPECIES of dolphin there!), bald eagles, and Columbian black-tailed deer. We were scolded by belted kingfishers defending their territories in coastal inlets dotted with tidal pools. The trees towering over us were dominated by Douglas fir, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, western hemlock, the gorgeously barked arbutus, and in a few protected places, the rare Garry oak. (See picture on Page 6.)

Beyond the wild inhabitants of the area, I was struck by the wide footprint of colonialism. Although our own history of stealing the land from the indigenous people is every bit as violent and widespread as Canada's, the ongoing imperial presence of the British monarchy there somehow

makes it more palpable. I felt this in Australia, too. Most driveways on the islands were adorned with orange garments in tribute to the children from indigenous communities taken to "residential schools," where (at best) they were separated from their families and culture and (at worst) died under undocumented circumstances and buried far from their ancestral lands. The reckoning and reconciliation needed in all the colonized lands of the world will not be easy nor fast.

Back at home, I have been enjoying the late-blooming plants in the garden, including a profusion of purple and white asters. On the frequently above-normal warm days through November, I have seen a variety of bees taking advantage of these blooms. One afternoon during the passage of Tropical Depression Nicole through Atlanta, I even saw a lone monarch butterfly hanging onto a Cleome (spider flower) that was still blooming. (See picture Page 7.) Hopefully, that monarch high-tailed it south quickly before the freezing temperatures moved in.

Ilene S reported being at Legacy Park in Decatur and saw what looked to be a Cooper's hawk take flight from the ground and fly directly over her head by about 3 feet. In Lake Claire she saw a red-shouldered hawk pounce on something and lift it up into a tree. More exciting than those sightings, Ilene was canvassing in Gresham Park when she saw what she initially thought might be

Cont. on p. 6

How Can I Help? A Day In The Life of a Animal Shelter Volunteer

Continued from page 1.

attention, so I spent an hour just doing laundry. Feeding 600 dogs twice a day is quite an undertaking. Of course, this means the metal bowls need to be run through the commercial dishwasher twice a day, also. Since this is in the same room as the washers and dryers, I moved over and sent a couple of hundred bowls through the machine.

I've also signed up for a 2-hour slot as a "dispatcher," which is to greet folks as they come in and place their information in the database. This frees up staff to attend to the hundreds of other items on their to-do list.

The "puppy room" is comprised of 3 banks of metal 2'x3'x3' kennels which are stacked 2 high along 3 walls. I decided I had an extra hour, so I helped the staff member cleaning

these kennels by filling water bowls and replacing the newspapers that are used for bedding.

I ended my day with 2 hours of walking dogs, dogs who haven't been out of their 4'x5' kennels for five, six, or seven (!) days. And was rewarded with smiles and kisses and hugs, and the satisfaction of replacing despair and anxiety with comfort and exhilaration.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of the volunteer opportunities, but simply my attempt to illustrate that anyone can have an important volunteer role contributing to the welfare of our 4-legged friends.

Please consider going to lifeline-animal.org/volunteer/ to sign up for a 2-hour volunteer class. This is not a commitment, but simply a start, by 'placing your toes in the water,' to



Formerly the conference room at the DeKalb County Animal Shelter

gauge what temperature of commitment may be right for you. And then, should you find yourself with a free day or wake up one morning and feel inspired to mozy over to the shelter in Chamblee for a few hours, you will already have the "keys" to the shelter

in your pocket. I guarantee that you will not regret it.

... and, if volunteering is not in the cards, donating/fostering/adopting—or just getting the word out—are all essential to Lifeline's important work. Thank You!

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 5.

part of the Great Hawk Migration, but turned out to be the vulture migration. At least a hundred and fifty birds, a mixed group of black and turkey vultures were passing overhead, and she watched as they circled in three separate groups, one behind the other, riding the thermals to a higher flight path.

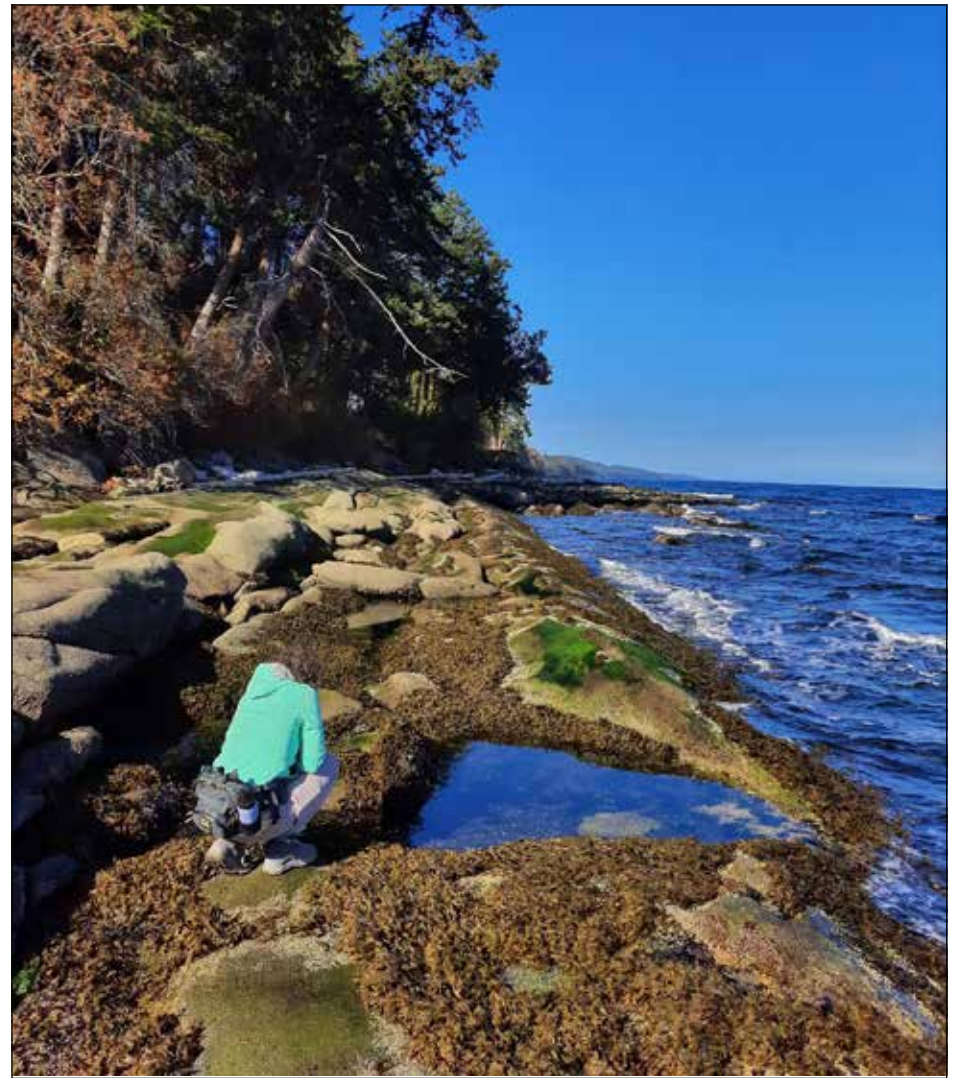
Meredith writes that this is one of the most satisfying times to be in her yard. Over the last couple of years, she spent many sweaty hours removing invasive plants from her back-



yard—kudzu, privet, porcelain berry, Japanese stiltgrass and knotweed, monkey grass, honeysuckle, English ivy, and more. This year a carpet of asters and goldenrods sprang up instead of the invasives. The asters were still in bloom in November, and she observed many bees on them, taking advantage of the late-season pollen and nectar when little else is around. The asters look like they're dancing from all the movement of the bees landing and taking off, and it makes her so happy to see. Meredith also reports seeing a banded sphinx caterpillar—maybe the most beautiful caterpillar she's ever seen—and some jewelweed still blossoming despite the earlier cold temps.

Frank W recently saw on his way home on the bike path by the Carter Center a number of crows scolding a big hawk sitting in a tree who remained impervious to the reproach. He also spotted a small woodpecker on the same day in the forest by the Candler Park golf course, and he saw a rabbit dart across Arizona Avenue.

As the last of the leaves fall, the cover crops sprouting in my vegetable garden plots are a reminder that the renewal of next spring is gestat-



Author Sara G. observing the creatures in a tidal pool on Galiano Island

ing all winter at our very feet. As Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote in his epic poem, *Ode to the West Wind*, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

If you'd like to report a wildlife sighting for inclusion in a future column, please email sara.gottlieb@gmail.com.



**PARK
REALTY**
JOHN MORGAN

Putting People Before Sales

YOUR LISTING HERE

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

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

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

JOHN MORGAN
Phone: 404-969-5740
Email: jmorgan@parkrealtyatlanta.com



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



Lake Claire Annual Halloween Parade and Party in the Park



Thank you to Debbie Livingston for these pics



These Land Trust T-shirts are available!!
Please see Page 11 for details on ordering.

LIVE MUSIC!

This is what I know as of sending the Clarion to the printer the last week of November. Please check with venues for confirmation of details. Please support musicians, and enjoy live music!

Mon., Dec. 5	Herb Alpert	Variety Playhouse
Mon., Dec. 5	Joe Alterman Trio	City Winery
Tue., Dec. 6	Foals	The Eastern
Wed., Dec. 7	Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening	Roxy
Thu., Dec. 8	Tab Benoit and The Dirty Dozen	
	Brass Band	Variety Playhouse
Thu., Dec. 8	Scott Metzger	Eddie's Attic
Fri., Dec. 9	Twiddle	Variety Playhouse
Fri., Dec. 9	Barry Richman	Northside Tavern
Fri., Dec. 9	Eric Gales	Buckhead Theatre
Sat., Dec. 10	Jump, Little Children	Terminal West
Sat., Dec. 10	Flacker Bash	
Sun., Dec. 11	The Spill Canvas	Masquerade
Sun., Dec. 11	Jojo Hermann	City Winery
Wed., Dec. 14	Jake Blount	Eddie's Attic
Thu., Dec. 15	REM's 40th anniversary	Roxy
Fri., Dec. 16	Andy Frasco	Terminal West
Fri., Dec. 16	Thievery corporation	Tabernacle
Sat., Dec. 17	Jaon Isbell	The Fox
Sun., Dec. 18	Tdawgs Hootenanny	Variety Playhouse
Dec 22-23	Joe Gransden	Eddie's Attic
Fri., Dec. 23	Hedonistas	Terminal West
Thu., Dec. 29	Mother's Finest	Buckhead Theatre
Dec 29-31	Rainbow Kitten Surprise	The Eastern
Fri., Dec. 30	Mother's Finest	Eddie's Attic
Dec 30-31	Greensky Bluegrass	Tabernacle
Dec 30-31	Umphrey's McGee	Roxy
Dec 30-31	Indigo Girls	ASO
Fri., Dec. 30	Michelle Malone Duo	Eddie's Attic
Sat., Dec. 31	Rumours A Fleetwood Mac Tribute	Variety Playhouse
Sat., Dec. 31	Michelle Malone	Eddie's Attic

For all your
real estate
needs...



Sherry Warner
Homes



Sherry Warner
Associate Broker &
Lake Claire resident

COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

404 784 8848 mobile

404 874 2262 office

sherry@SherryWarnerHomes.com



Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2020 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

Hoping Your Holidays are Filled with Peace, Love and Joy!

21 Years in Atlanta Real Estate and Still Growing!

The Lee And Darlene Team is now
The Gillespy Group

Every success story is a tale of constant
adaption, revision and change.

Our business is growing so we can better serve
our clients...new team name, new team logo and
new team members.

Moving to another city? We also have a
Team of trusted Realtors Nationwide to help
your move from here to there go smoothly.



COMPASS



The Gillespy Group
Your Atlanta Realtors
404.932.3003 | 404.668.6621
leeanddarlene@compass.com



BankSouth
MORTGAGE
Alex Williams | 678.229.8058

First Midtown Homecoming Brings Excitement, New Activities

by Ally Bliss

Midtown High School's first Homecoming Week was full of festivities. Students participated in a spirit week planned by the Student Government Association, a pep rally prior to the football game Friday evening, an alumni barbecue, and a school tour organized by the Athletic Booster Club.

Miss and Mr. Midtown: That evening, students, families, alumni, and faculty poured into the stadium to watch the football game. At half-time, energy and spirits were high with the crowning of the first Miss and Mr. Midtown, seniors Brooke Jones and Avery Geary. "I love that I won," Jones said. "I feel so good. I was really scared because it was a big competition. I'm really proud of myself. I've been wanting to be Miss Midtown since I learned what it was in ninth grade." When Jones first entered Midtown in ninth grade, she had a hard time adjusting socially. Jones decided she would run for Miss Midtown as a way to encourage herself. "I'm doing this for ninth grade Brooke," Jones said. "I'm not going to lie, there was a time in ninth grade when I didn't really have any friends. Being Miss Midtown proves a lot to me and other people." Jones thinks campaigning was the biggest contributor to her success. At the ceremony, Jones was accompanied by her parents, younger brother, and two closest friends. When Jones was crowned, her parents were overjoyed and overwhelmed with pride.

Next to Jones was Geary; though an unopposed candidate for Mr. Midtown, he was still gratified. "I'm nervous, excited and proud," Geary said. "Being Mr. Midtown represents the school in the best way possible, and I feel very fit for that position."

Pep Rally: During two lunches in October, the band, cheerleaders, and Morningside Elementary School chorus performed in a pep rally. Due to Covid-19, students, other than the senior class who had a Homecoming their freshman year, had actually never experienced a homecoming week. Many students were excited to participate in one of the most traditional high school experiences. "The pep rally made me feel great; it made me very energized. I liked how they brought the Morningside kids, and it was just really nice," freshman Kaili Stith said. The cheerleaders performed on the steps, and students gathered to watch. Senior Taylor Ward, cheerleading co-captain, noted she was excited to perform in a pep rally for the first time since freshman

year. "It was good to see all the students get excited and hyped for the game," Ward said. Freshman Alexia Davis enjoyed her first pep rally and said that it boosted energy for the game. The dance and the football game were two weeks apart. The events were more spread out than at other high schools. "In my freshman year there was more of a homecoming weekend, with a game on a Friday and [the dance] on a Saturday," senior Lacey Berreth said. "But it was a good Senior Homecoming."

The football team was also showcased during the pep rally. Junior quarterback Ezekiel Teffere said the pep rally boosted the team's confidence. "This is our game," Teffere said prior to the Knights defeating Druid Hills 16-13 later that evening. "This is what we've been waiting for all season. We've definitely been more focused ... and locked in to make sure we get a good end result. I liked the pep rally because it brought a lot of attention to the football program—and a lot of supporters."

Alumni Events: After the football game, the Midtown Booster Club held the first annual alumni barbecue in the courtyard. Graduates ranging from the '70s to the 2000s attended to see the school and the people with whom they graduated. "It was so fun," Booster Club President Vickie Hunter said. "We've got a group of alumni from late seventies and early eighties that are real tight, and they helped us a lot and really are so excited." Some students from the class of 1979 have stayed in touch and have attended reunions for nearly two decades. Alum Ronnie Hull appreciated returning to the Midtown campus and enjoyed catching up with his classmates. "It's absolutely amazing," Hull said. "We were a really close-knit group. Most of us lived in the same neighborhood, so we attended high school together. After school, we would hang out, and we really bonded. We created a committee, and we've maintained contact for about 16 years." Several alumni expressed pride and school spirit at the barbecue, sharing stories and memories. "Being a [then] Grady alum is great," alumna LaTonya Blount said. "I brag about it [being a Grady/Midtown alum] all the time, and I go places and find more and more of us. When I talk about Grady/Midtown, I always meet people who say, 'I've met other people who went to that same high school.'"

Class of 1983 graduate WT Jackson carries many memories from high school, his favorite being the



Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

December Birthdays

- Dec. 4 Drew Pittman, happy 7th birthday!! (Marlbrook)
- Dec. 7 Jeff Debell, Harold Avenue
- Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Avenue
- Dec. 12 Henry Allen—Happy 10! The big 1-0. - Harold Avenue
- Dec. 13 Happy b'day to Laura Tanguturi, Harold Avenue
- Dec. 17 Happy b'day to Dawn Aura, Arizona Avenue
- Dec. 19 Happy b'day to Elliott Williams, Howard Circle
- Dec. 26 Happy 10th birthday to Cabot Williams, Howard Circle.
Another Big 1-0!
- Dec. 31 Cara Haycak Tobin, Hardendorf
- Dec. 31 Robert Frank, Hardendorf

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the January 2023 (!) issue, by December 18.

Venkman's

Continued from page 1.

classy drinks...without being your grandpa's stuffy dinner theater. We hosted tons of amazing shows on the V stage over the years, and we provided a home for countless memories; from album releases to birthdays to engagements to anniversaries. It was a special place to more than just the owners, the staff, and the musicians. The decor included personal touches from my and my partner's storied past, and contained the blood, sweat, and tears of our families who helped us to construct and adorn the shelves and walls.

talent shows. In addition to the barbecue, the alumni were given a tour of the school. With the addition of the "A" building and other changes to the campus over the years, several alumni were surprised to see the renovated campus. "I did the tour today and I was lost," Jackson said. "It's nice. They really did the school justice. Much of what was here when we were here has been renewed. It looks like a college campus."

LaTonya Blount noted that the barbecue was a great way to reconnect with her former classmates and form new connections with alumni from other classes. "I wanted to catch up with friends," Blount said. "I wanted to see the school because we have a great school! With everything

The closing of Venkman's 1.0 is bittersweet, as we struggled and survived through the COVID-19 pandemic, and will now anxiously take a break as we await the development of the new property. I'm optimistic about the opportunity that lies ahead with New City, and I hope that I'll have the chance to bring Venkman's 2.0 back to its home, right here in Atlanta. See you again soon!"

We hope to see a Venkman's 2.0 back in Atlanta in the not-too-distant future! - Editor

that has been going on in the world, I am still so proud of this school."

Ally Bliss is a Senior at Midtown High, and she is Lifestyle Associate Managing Editor for the Southerner, Midtown High's newspaper. She has been writing for the Southerner for two years and for the Clarion for many year, getting her start on the kids' page. Outside of the Southerner, Ally plays lacrosse and runs cross-country for Midtown. She also loves to go on backpacking trips, listen to music, and spend quality time with friends and family, with whom she lives on Leonardo. Published with permission from The Southerner and slightly edited due to Clarion space considerations.

LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers/writers/artists to participate. This month we have 3 great winners. For the JANUARY 2023 issue, let us know how you liked the December 3 arts fest! To all Lake Claire kids, we appreciate you. Add **your** creativity to this page! Submit your work to editor@lakeclaire.org, by DECEMBER 18 for the January issue of the newspaper

Contest Winners

Hudson Williams won! He is in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin, and lives on Palifox Drive. (And we surely like to thank Margaret W., for delivering Palifox's papers so promptly!)

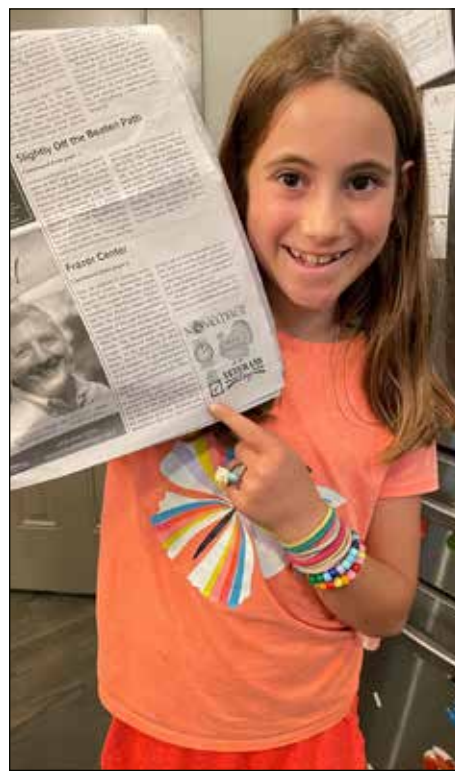
There was a very close tie for 2nd place! Marlo Yonas sent her guess, and within 2 minutes, Sophie Oren sent hers! Marlo is age 7, in 2nd grade at Mary Lin, and lives on McLendon Avenue. Sophie is 8, is in 3rd grade

at Mary Lin, and lives on Ridgewood. Disclaimer: I have a nagging feeling there was a 3rd place winner whom I forgot, with my head swimming with organizational details of the arts fest. IF so, let me know, and I will picture that child next month!

Congrats, Hudson, Marlo, and Sophie! 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 close this time. Please do keep reading this page, and keep playing. See our new contest below

New Contest

There are many celebrations in December, and one for many people is Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa celebrates family, culture, community, and the harvest. The word "Kwanzaa" itself comes from the Kiswahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits [of the harvest]." If YOU find a graphic of Kwanzaa in this issue, you win, and your picture will be featured in the JANUARY Clarion. To enter, e-mail editor@lakeclaire.org identifying the page number, with your name, age, school, street, and grade. Ask a parent to take a picture, perhaps of you finding the hidden graphic. (Please tell parents to send large picture files, 1mb+.) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row. The deadline is DECEMBER 18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize. (For extra credit, discuss any holiday you celebrate in December, and how you celebrate it. The prize is you get to write an article or draw a picture for the next issue.)



Sophie



Hudson



Marlo

Achieve with Steve!

Looking to Buy or Sell a Home?

As an Atlanta REALTORS® consistent TOP PERFORMER, Steve's goal is 100% client satisfaction.

209 Garland Ave - \$1.15M Sold without listing 431 Harold Ave - \$560K Bought before listed 486 Lakeshore Dr - \$625K Sold at 104% of list

404-434-1500
steve@kellerknapp.com

KELLER KNAPP
REAL ESTATE CONSULTING & MARKETING

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

40 Franklin Street
Suite 100
Avondale Estates, GA 30002
(404) 257-6424
www.nealandwright.com

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

Jodi Greenberg, J.D. Nachele Hemphill
Jodi@nealandwright.com Nachele@nealandwright.com

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

SMORES AND STORM BUGS
SUNDAY DEC 11. 3-5PM @ THE LAKE CLAIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Lake Claire COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Storm Bugs

Lake Claire COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Lake Claire
COMMUNITY
LAND TRUST

S'mores for All, and Storm Bugs Story-Time with Ms. Ladybug!

Sunday, Dec. 11, 3–5 p.m. Suggested donation:
\$15 per family for S'mores supplies.

(No one turned away.)

Yay! Our S'more Party is back! We are so excited to reconnect at the very exact center of the known universe, the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, with yummy treats and learning through play, featuring Ms. Ladybug and her new book *Storm Bugs*.

Join author and educator Andrea Zoppo, fondly known as Ms. Ladybug, for a fun-filled time learning about our pollinator friends and what happens to them and other crawlies during a storm. She will guide you with puppets, sound effects, and interactive play. Signed books will be available for purchase. *Storm Bugs* shares a sneak peek under the leaves to see the amazing natural world of our bug friends and more. Fun to read and a total visual delight, you will enjoy each beautiful page and every glimpse of creatures living their lives outside when many of us run inside to avoid the rain. Come find out what happens during a storm; you might be quite surprised.

The interactive *Storm Bugs* book program is from approximately 3–3:30 p.m. S'mores munching will follow. (Vegan and GF options available on request.) If you would like to RSVP and pre-pay to support S'more supply purchasing, send \$15 and your family name and the word

“s'mores” to one of the secure payment options listed in the event description at LCCLT.org/new-events. If you cannot attend but would like to buy a copy of *Storm Bugs* from Ms. Ladybug, Followladybug.com. *Storm Bugs* is printed locally in Georgia on partially recycled paper. If you know organizations and schools that may want a reading (virtual or in-person), please connect them with Ladybug. To keep in the loop, sign up at Followladybug.com. She appreciates your support! (Note: In case you're wondering, Andrea Zoppo, formerly known as Miss Ladybug, has metamorphosed into Ms. Ladybug following her marriage to Ryan Welch, a grape farmer in the Chattanooga area.)



Wearable hugs from the Lake Claire Community Land Trust!

See our new T-shirt designs on Page 7! 100% cotton with silk-screened prints, in unisex sizes. Both shirts are available in adult sizes, and the emu design is also available for kids. Sizes: 4T for kids (\$15, emu design only) and up to 2XL for adults (\$20). Get yours at 290 Arizona Avenue

on December 3 during the Arts Fest (raindate Dec. 4), or visit LCCLT.org for “porch pickup” on other days. Sorry, shipping is not available (yet). Use the “donate” button for Paypal or the QR code for Venmo; specify “T-shirt(s),” with your contact info.

Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Sat. Dec. 3, 9–10 a.m. Slow Flow Yoga with Jess Pfeffer: Morning slow flow yoga session led by Jess Pfeffer. Please bring a yoga mat or towel and a re-usable water bottle. This class will be in our now-heated Gorilla Grill, so space is very limited. Please reserve your spot as soon as possible by visiting LCCLT.org/new-events, scrolling down and clicking on this event. Jess is a Yoga Alliance-registered yoga teacher, Masters-level mental health therapist, and founder of Real Connections. Her mission is to support people's desire to connect to themselves, others, and the community. Learn more at RealConnections.com.

Sat. Dec. 3, Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m., \$5 donation requested. Rain date: Sat. Dec. 17

Tue. Dec. 6 & 20, Walking Club with the Frazer Center, 1–2 p.m. Walk from the Frazer Center to the Land Trust and back with members of the Center's program for disabled adults. Ongoing every other Tuesday.

Thu. Dec. 8, Land Trust Board meeting, 7–8 p.m. All are welcome! Info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link.

Sun. Dec. 11, S'mores for All & Story Time with Ms. Ladybug, 3–5 p.m. (See article above.)

Fri. Dec. 16, Caroling & Hot Chocolate with Girl & Boy Scouts: Fri., Dec. 16, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Join several local Girl and Boy Scout troops for hot chocolate at the Land Trust (to go, of course) before going caroling around the surrounding streets. All neighbors welcome! If you can't join them, come outside your home when they come around to cheer on the kids.

Sat. Dec. 17, Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. Pizza follows. Rain date: Sat, Dec. 24.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY SECULAR NEW YEAR
FROM THE CLARION!
STAY SAFE, AND WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2023!!!!**

Lake Claire
HOLIDAY FAIR
 2022  WALKING TOUR

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



10% of our proceeds are donated to local public schools