



The Jesters Team

## Midtown High School Jesters Hosted Carter/King Speech and Debate Tournament

by Abby Hyken and Stacy Edelstein Hyken

On Saturday, January 7, the Midtown High School speech and debate team, the Jesters, hosted the first in-person Carter/King Speech and Debate Tournament since 2019. Now in its fourteenth year, the Carter/King Tournament was first held in 2009 at Midtown High (at that time Grady High School). The Tournament is the main fundraiser for the team.

The Jesters were especially excited to host the Carter/King Tournament this year, as 2023 represents the 40th year of speech and debate at the school. In honor of this milestone,

the Jesters are running a fundraiser campaign called “40 x 40” to raise money so that the team can travel to both in-state and out-of-state tournaments and provide scholarships to keep speech and debate accessible to all students at Midtown High School.

On January 7, the Midtown Jesters welcomed about 120 high school students from around Georgia to compete at the tournament in various speech categories such as impromptu, extemporaneous, humorous interpretation, and dramatic interpretation. Students also com-

peted in Lincoln-Douglas debate (one-on-one) and Public Forum debate (two-on-two), both at the novice and varsity levels.

The Carter/King Tournament is named to honor former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter, as well as Yolanda King, a daughter of Dr. Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King, who attended the high school in the 1970s. While the Carter/King Tournament was held for many years, this was the first time the tournament has taken place in-person since the pandemic. As a re-

sult, all of the Jesters who had hosted the tournament in person have now graduated, and their parents who helped run the tournament no longer have children at the school. Fortunately, the debate team parents who helped host the tournament for many years were more than happy to share their notes and insights with current Jesters’ parents as to how the tournament was run in years past. The Midtown students also had an opportunity to learn how to plan and host an in-person tournament. Students were assigned a multitude of jobs, from

## Atlanta’s Downtown Connector: Bury It or Demolish It?

by Kevin H. Posey

In 1952, the first section of an expressway that would split the heart of Atlanta opened. It was designed in the 1940s to connect the growing suburbs to the north with those in the south, while providing a fast way around congested streets in bustling districts like Five Points. Eventually, it would serve as the route for Interstates 75 and 85 through the city. This expressway was Atlanta’s Downtown Connector.

Construction of the highway displaced businesses along multiple streets between Georgia Tech and Midtown. In some cases, whole streets were eliminated to make way for the project. More ominously, the route targeted predominantly Black neighborhoods, a tactic that was common in an era that was intensely

racist. In fact, the governor of Georgia at the time of the ribbon-cutting, Carl Sanders, campaigned on a platform that called for continued racial segregation.

Among the neighborhoods destroyed was the Sweet Auburn District, an area that was once the most prosperous predominantly Black commercial district in the United States. It was the neighborhood where Martin Luther King, Jr., grew up and began preaching at Old Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Mechanicsville, so named because of the population of railroad workers who lived there, was virtually obliterated. An interchange on the Downtown Connector with Interstate 20 built in the early 1960s took out the northern section, while the Atlanta-

Fulton County Stadium would nearly finish it off a few years later.

In the 1980s, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) embarked on a massive highway expansion project that would further nibble away at the remains of these once-prosperous neighborhoods. The “Freeing the Freeways Program” would take the Downtown Connector from six through-lanes to twelve, then ultimately to fourteen lanes just prior to the 1996 Olympics. This last expansion was via HOV lanes that were squeezed in by narrowing the existing lanes. Today, those who live in the remnants of these neighborhoods must inhale the staggering pollution emanating from the continuous traf-

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### Important Notes to Lake Claire:

(1) **A plea from dog owners/lovers:** Please do not put glass in our recycling bins. In the last weeks of January, after the recycling trucks went through (at least South of McLendon on “state” streets), glass shards were literally all over the streets. Places to recycle glass include the Dekalb Farmer’s Market and CHaRM on Hill Street.

(2) **If you like the Lake Claire Arts Fair as an outside walking event,** consider volunteering for next year; we have specific deadline-related tasks (e.g., arranging sponsors, seeking host homes). There are many moving parts to this effort. More hands needed! Email [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

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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.*

## February Events

Many events at the Land Trust (see Page 11) and lotsa live music (Page 10)!

**1–19** Theatrical Outfit presents *The White Chip*. High humor from Dad's Garage founding member, a hilarious/honest look at sobriety, "from first sip to first love." Details: [www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/the-white-chip/](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/the-white-chip/) Starring TOM KEY! Support live theatre in Atlanta!

**1–28** Actor's Express Theatre Company presents *Urinetown the Musical!!* A co-production with Oglethorpe University Theatre, it will take place at Oglethorpe. If you missed it on Broadway, here is your chance to catch it here! Details/purchase tix: [actors-express.com/event-list/](http://actors-express.com/event-list/) Support live theatre in Atlanta!

**2** Anne-Sophie Mutter and Mutter Virtuosi, an Emory Schwartz Center 20th Anniversary Celebration, 8 p.m., part of the Candler Concert Series. Tix/info about this and other programs at [schwartz.emory.edu/](http://schwartz.emory.edu/). (Emory students discounted)

**7** Naan Stop to-go Indian Food—Support Mary Lin PTA with delicious food. See article this page for ordering instructions and details.

**9** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., "Black Church Music: A Soul-Stirring History," part of the 2023 Black History Month Celebration with Dekalb History Center. Great program of gospel music and riveting talks about the role Black Church music has played in Ga. social and political arenas. Lunch included with ticket purchase. See [dekalbhistory.org/programs/2023-black-history-month-celebration/](http://dekalbhistory.org/programs/2023-black-history-month-celebration/).

**9–11** Emory Schwartz Center Artist-in-Residence Program. Feb. 9, 2:30, lecture/demonstration with Warren Wolf | Free | No tickets required. Friday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., Warren Wolf and the Emory Jazz Fest All-Stars | Tickets \$30, Emory Students \$10. Saturday, Feb. 11 at 11:30 a.m., Jazz Clinic | Tharp Rehearsal Hall | Free | No tickets required. Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m., Emory Big Band with Gary Motley Trio and members of the Emory University Symphony Orchestra | Free | Tickets required in advance. Many more programs at Emory, for more info: [schwartz.emory.edu](http://schwartz.emory.edu), and [www.trumba.com/events-calendar/eastern-time/arts-at-emory-music](http://www.trumba.com/events-calendar/eastern-time/arts-at-emory-music).

**10–Mar. 5** The Alliance Theatre presents (on the Coca-Cola Stage) *The Hot Wings King*. A fierce new comedy about the risks and rewards of being yourself. And starting March 1, on the Hertz stage, *The Many Wondrous Realities of Jasmine Starr-Kidd*. Details and tix for both, and info about all other productions, at [alliancetheatre.org](http://alliancetheatre.org). Support live theatre in Atlanta!

**11** Lena's Place Coffeehouse, 8–10 p.m., variety of singer/songwriters. A coffeehouse in the Central Congregational United Church of Christ (Central UCC), the 2nd Saturday of the month. \$5 donation goes to a different local charity each month. Charities are listed on the calendar page along with the performers for that month at [www.central-ucc.org/music-and-arts/lenas-place/](http://www.central-ucc.org/music-and-arts/lenas-place/)

**14–16** Yummy food from Speakcheesy. Support Mary Lin PTA with delicious food. See article this page.

**16** Live from Lake Claire! The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting (via Zoom) is the third Thursday of each month. [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) for updates and Zoom link.

**21** Dekalb History Center, book launch, Lynn Cullen's *The Woman with the Cure*. Details [dekalbhistory.org/public-programs-dekalb-history-center/](http://dekalbhistory.org/public-programs-dekalb-history-center/).

**27–Mar. 1** Dine in or take-out with Osteria, and support Mary Lin PTA. See article below.

## Dekalb Avenue Update

by Beth Damon

Lake Claire and the other impacted neighborhoods have waited patiently for the Atlanta Department of Transportation (ATLDOT) to fulfill their promises regarding DeKalb Avenue. For many years, they have promised DeKalb Avenue safety improvements, including Krog Street drainage improvements, street resurfacing, and improved rules/traffic direction(s) for the middle turn lane, "the suicide lane." ATLDOT said in the summer that it would begin on the eastern part of the corridor (Ridgecrest) in "late September to early October." They then changed it to "will be completed Winter 2022." Neighbors who contact them con-

tinue to get mixed answers or no answers.

Recently, our Atlanta City Council (District 5) Representative, Liliانا Bakhtari, contacted ATLDOT and got them to agree to a town-hall meeting with the public. Councilwoman Bakhtari reported that ATLDOT promised this will happen in February, but as of the Clarion's going to press, a date has not been set. Keep a lookout on the Lake Claire website ([lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org)), the Lake Claire/Candler Park Facebook page, and on NextDoor. We hope finally to see some progress and to get honest answers, and we are so pleased that Councilwoman Bakhtari is assisting.

## Support Mary Lin PTA Dine-Outs

by Sarah Perlin

Please support Mary Lin PTA, these generous local restaurants, AND, of course, have delicious food while doing so! (Editor's note: Yummy! We'll always have these on the calendar page in the Clarion!)

**Tuesday, February 7:** Naan Stop—delicious family meals with a convenient pick-up location on Arizona Avenue. 20% comes back to the PTA thanks to Naan Stop and Joan Arkins Realty. Place order by February 6 at [naanstop-mary-lin.square.site/](http://naanstop-mary-lin.square.site/) for pick-up Feb. 7.

**Tuesday–Thrusday, Feb. 14–16:** Speakcheesy. Swing by their ghost kitchen in 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](http://www.eatsspeakcheesy.com), click "Order from Our Ghost Kitchen," then click the *FoodBooking.com* button. Be sure to enter in the secret password "Grill the Love," or "Mary Lin," in the comment section when you check out.

**February 27–March 1:** Osteria 832—Dine in or take-out and 25% of your order will generously be donated back to the PTA! Enjoy delicious pizza, pasta, and more Italian fare. [www.osteria832.com](http://www.osteria832.com).



## Harold Hanukkah Hang

by Aviva Berman

Harold Ave celebrated its 3rd annual “Hanukkah Hang” on the 2nd night of Chanukah, this past December 19. Rabbi Jordan Braunig (Jewish Chaplain at Emory University) led the group in lighting the menorah and saying blessings. Everybody sang traditional songs, played dreidel, and enjoyed traditional foods—latkes

and sufganiyot.

*Editor’s note: Chag sameach, belatedly! Clarion didn’t have room for this last month, which would have been timely.*

*Fellow Lake Claire folks, keep us apprised of your activities; watch out, Leos, Harold and Hardendorf Avenues may be pulling ahead of you!*



## Two Stories and Fingers Crossed

by Scott McLane

There is a continual influx of dogs and cats to LifeLine’s Dekalb Shelter with sad stories, some harder to accept/fathom/understand than others. Let’s face it, we would **all** be happy if shelters were unnecessary and we didn’t have any stories to tell at all, but . . . here are two of those sad, but hopeful, stories—for a happy ending yet to be determined.

**Golden Boy** came to the Dekalb Shelter in early May, removed from a home by ACO for neglect. **His collar was embedded in his neck!** Despite this abuse, staff reported he was sweet and easy to work with for all his surgical procedures. And for a while this sunny disposition continued. When he went to temporary foster with his original finders he remained a “big, friendly, goofy” boy who just wanted to be loved and give kisses. **But, here is what living in a 4’x5’ kennel, getting walked only every 3rd or 4th day,** did to this anxious boy: “He’s becoming increasingly stressed and overstimulated, especially when being removed from his kennel, causing him to bite at volunteer/staff leashes and clothes.” And that is what I experienced with this love muffin. But, once I got him away from his 20 sq. ft. of hell -- very challenging even for veteran volunteers and staff-- all he wanted to do was sit in my lap, with the hope that the torture would end. He is in our home as a foster, for now, with the hope that time to decompress and a little professional training will alter his current path toward euthanasia. Fingers crossed for an angel to appear in Golden Boy’s life.

**Support is needed for LifeLine’s New Midtown facility.** This winter a canine flu epidemic has swept through shelters nationally, landing in Atlanta around Christmas. In an effort to divert intake to spaces without canine flu outbreaks, and relieve some of the severe overcrowding, Lifeline has found and secured sections of the former Atlanta Humane Society building at Howell Mill and 10th Street! This location is up and running as an intake facility and as an adoption location. Considering that the shelter staff is already strapped with dealing with canine flu and overcrowding, volunteers are helping with cleaning, enrichment, and adoptions.

As always, donations, both monetary and supplies, are needed. Please visit [www.lifelineanimal.org/](http://www.lifelineanimal.org/) to make your contribution.

*Editor’s Note: Obviously, if you follow this monthly column, you know that the need for support for the animals in our city continues to be at a critical high. There are many ways communities like ours can help make a difference for the animals that were lost, have been surrendered, or have otherwise found their way into animal shelters. Even if you can only foster for a few weeks, it makes a huge difference. Consider becoming a monthly donor to support the ongoing work and programs LifeLine provides in the shelters, community, and through the clinics, to help keep people and pets together. Animals bring such joy and comfort into our homes and lives. ~Beth*

**Remy**, 35 lb., was found wandering the streets in June as a 3-month old pup with a severely injured right eye, which was eventually sewn over, as the only humane solution the shelter could afford. Due to her size and age she was put in the “puppy room,” three walls of stacked 3’x2’ kennels. In contradiction to her unpredictable behavior with her original finder, volunteers eventually found her to be “a sweet adorable girl, belly-rub addict, and good with other dogs”. Sadly, Remy’s coping mechanism for her small quarters and having one eye was **to constantly spin in her kennel 24/7!** Not sustainable. Eventually, one of the core group of “angel” volunteers couldn’t take it any longer, and took Remy in as a foster, where she is now the belly-rub addict she was meant to be. Fingers crossed for an angel to appear in her life as well.



Remy

As you know, Clarion newspapers are delivered by volunteers to your porch each month. The Clarion could use more help with a delivery route. Papers must be delivered to porches the last week of the month or first week of the following month, and that is the only time commitment involved. Great way to “get your steps,” and high school students can get their community credit; it is important to stick to the schedule, but whenever there is a problem, we can help you. Please contact Alicia, the delivery manager, at [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org) if interested, or if you need more info. Help is appreciated!  
Also contact Alicia if you live in Lake Claire and aren’t getting a paper or if there is any other problem.

## Clifton Sanctuary Ministries' New Food Coordinator

by Lori White



Here is a bit about Amy.

Amy is an avid cook and enjoys traveling and learning new culinary techniques and making new friends along the way. When Amy isn't in her kitchen cooking, she can be found horseback riding, or hanging around with her son and their three dogs. Each summer Amy and her son travel to a different country for an extended stay, where Amy picks up new culinary styles and techniques to bring back and share with the community.

We are so excited to welcome our new Food Coordinator, Amy Eckles. This position is so vital to Clifton, as this person makes sure that all meals are provided for our guests, and that all the food donations that come in are processed and used accordingly.

Amy is excited to share her love of cooking with the community at Clifton Sanctuary! If you also share a love for the culinary arts, please come volunteer in the kitchen, and meet Amy!

### Classified:

**SA Electrical Services** is a small company based here in the Lake Claire neighborhood, serving metro Atlanta for over twenty years. We are still going strong, and we look forward to the opportunity to serve your electrical needs, big or small. Excellent neighborhood references upon request. Contact: [mail@saelectric.net](mailto:mail@saelectric.net), 404-731-6415.

## Thinking About Spring Planting?



Nandina is one of the most common ornamental plants in our area. It's marketed under many names, including sometimes "heavenly bamboo," but it is neither heavenly nor bamboo. It is a highly invasive and poisonous domestic plant that can kill animals. It owes its popularity to the beautiful red berries that remain through winter. This trait makes the toxic berries even more dangerous. In winter, most berries become more scarce and birds that depend on fruit

gravitate toward the plentiful and attractive berries of nandina plants. Native birds aren't the only ones that suffer: raccoons, cats, and livestock can also become extremely sick after eating nandina berries and leaves.

If you have nandina plants, please destroy them, or, at the very least, cut off the berries to avoid unintentionally poisoning your wild neighbors. If you're the crafty type, the berries can be brought indoors and repurposed for crafts and decor.



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## Midtown High School Jesters

*Continued from page 1.*



*Left to Right: Mario Herrera, Jesters' coach; Sharon Bray, a Jesters parent and Booster Board Member; Stacy and Ed Hyken, parents and this year's Tournament Chairs.*

concessions duty to floor monitors.

Junior Madeline Brandhorst is this year's team manager. "I think the tournament went really well," Brandhorst said. "A lot of people on the team were willing to do little odd jobs so that all of the rounds started on time, and if any issue arose, someone was on it immediately."

The Carter/King Tournament had previously earned a reputation as the tournament with outstanding food and hospitality. To keep this reputation intact, the Jesters Parents reached out to many of the restaurants which had previously donated food to be served to the judges and volunteers during the tournament. About twenty local restaurants donated a variety of food for the Jesters to serve at the tournament. Food ranged from soups, sandwiches and salads from local favorites Flying Biscuit and Candler Park Market, to Indian food from Naan Stop, cheese steaks from Woody's, and delicious burgers and wings from Midway Pub, owned by another Midtown HS parent.

To keep the judges alert and caffeinated, copious amounts of coffee were needed, and local businesses stepped up to donate coffee. The big hit of the day was the "bubble" tea sold in the afternoon by Highland Dreamery, a new dessert shop located across from the school, which shared a portion of its proceeds with the Jesters to help support the team.

In addition, many parent volunteers helped to pick up the food and coffee donations and man the judges' lounge all day. Other parent volun-

teers sold food and snacks to the competitors from other schools. Parents were excited to volunteer in-person to help run the tournament and have the opportunity to meet other debate team parents, which had previously been hindered during Covid.

Aside from parent volunteers who were experiencing the tournament for the first time, Mario Herrera, the Jesters' coach, was especially excited to host the tournament in-person again. "I am so grateful to the community for always supporting the team and the tournament," Herrera said. "We were able to host an event that was attended by hundreds of students who engaged in great competition while at the same time showcasing the community we live in. It was an awesome time."

If you would like to donate to support the Jesters, please use this link: [midtownjesters.org/40-for-40/](http://midtownjesters.org/40-for-40/).

*Editor's note: The Hykens are Lake Claire residents, and Abby is the Comment Associate Managing Editor at the Midtown Southerner. She is a junior and a third-year writer for the Southerner. She is a member of Midtown's public forum debate team, and she is excited to write for the Southerner this year, and for the Clarion here.*

*Abby has been an occasional Clarion writer for several years, having started on the kids' page as a child. Ed and Stacy Hyken co-chaired the Carter/King Tournament.*

## Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

I have found myself traveling with much greater frequency lately—almost as much as I had been pre-Covid pandemic. This is not to say we are post-pandemic, but travel does seem more possible for those of us who are privileged with strong health, up-to-date vaccinations, and disposable income. My most recent trip was to Jackson, Wyoming, to attend the wedding of a family member. Although I had been dreading having to be in a part of the world with notoriously cold winters, I found the cold to be bearable (with sufficient outerwear)—and the landscape and wildlife to be breathtaking (photo to the right). My husband and I took a guided "safari" with a trained naturalist, who took us to the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park, where we got amazing views of elk, bighorn sheep, bald eagles, moose, coyotes, bison, northern shrikes, and a natural hot spring. Grizzly bears are one of the few wild creatures that are harder to see in winter in that part of the world (because they are hibernating). As much as I enjoy my garden and the local wildlife in Lake Claire, there is nothing like traveling to new (to me) places and seeing local (to them) plants and animals in their native habitats. I'm already thinking about a trip back to Wyoming in spring to view the wildflowers bloom, and maybe even a grizzly bear.

Wade reports multiple close encounters with a hawk, probably the same bird each time, in the vicinity of Lake Claire Co-Housing. He insists there is reasonable doubt as to its species, whether red-tailed hawk or a red-shouldered hawk being difficult to determine, as it seems to be a juvenile—lacking both red tail and red shoulders but otherwise having characteristics of both. On New Year's Eve, this bird indulged close encounters with both Wade and Sage as it perched both on and nearby the gate to Co-Housing's west courtyard. The hawk seemed to be watching for small prey, ignoring both a nearby squirrel and the tangles of un-coiffed hair on both their heads, finally attacking a worm on the ground. Another memorable sighting occurred almost two weeks later, as the same hawk perched on the summit of the weathervane in the adjacent backyard, as if surveying the landscape on which the stage, tents, and equipment for local band **Reasonable Doubt's** WILD record-release party had just been taken down. Per usual, it eventually retired to ground-level, flailing after worms, bugs, or other small crea-



tures, leaving its predatory prowess, like its species, in.... reasonable doubt.

Meredith writes that one of her most unusual sightings recently was a screech owl in Emory's Lullwater Preserve. He was a red morph, his ears and top half of his head just sticking out of a tree hollow. She has continued to see lots of deer, mostly groups of either does or bucks. The bucks still have their antlers. Meredith has been watching a thrasher in her yard as well as a friendly phoebe who sometimes follows her around the yard as she works, and she had a group of cedar waxwings visit the yard recently as well. Unfortunately it was privet that had attracted them (though she's gotten rid of some, there is still a lot), but they were beautiful to watch.

Ilene S has seen large mixed flocks of red winged blackbirds and rusty blackbirds alongside robins. They are easy to spot in the Olmstead Parks on Ponce de Leon. Also, several yellow rumped warblers, both house and purple finches, and what she thinks was a kinglet, though she couldn't see the top of its head so was unable to tell if it was golden crowned or ruby.

Miriam H reports that while working in her yard one warm morning she had a darling phoebe follow her around. It came within 2 feet of where she was and kept that distance wherever she moved. Perhaps the yard work stirred up some good insects.

As I work to turn my attention to the task of planning my spring garden, my mind wanders back to the experience of seeing the western wildlife. Terry Tempest Williams wrote,

"Privilege is what we inherit by our status as *Homo sapiens* living on this planet. This is the privilege of imagination. What we choose to do with our privilege as a species is up to each of us."

**Cont. on p. 7**



**Cynthia's Average Listing in 30307**

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## Frazer Center is 74 Years Strong!

by Dina Shadwell

It all started when one mother said, “No.” *No, thank you, I do not wish to put my daughter with cerebral palsy into an institution.*

In 1948, institutionalizing people with disabilities was considered a best practice. But Anne Lane wanted to give her daughter Anita a more inclusive life. Rather than sequestering her away, Anne wanted her daughter to live and thrive among her family and community. But options for Anita were minimal. Anne was forging a path that the experts weren’t. So she corralled her network to gather resources, and in 1949 the Cerebral Palsy Center opened in the basement of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church on Peachtree Street. The organization has changed names over the decades, from the Cerebral Palsy Center to REACH (Rehabilitation and Education for Adults and Children, Inc.) to the Frazer Center, but the vision has remained constant: to offer research-based education, vocational support, and therapeutic intervention to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

In 1952, the 39-acre Cator Woolford estate in Lake Claire was acquired, and the Cerebral Palsy Center moved into the Estate House. As the organization expanded, plans for a new facility on the property were developed, and in 1961, the Cerebral Palsy Center moved up the hill into

the Lane Building—Frazer’s current location. In 1975, a new law was passed to ensure that children with disabilities received a free public education, spurring the Cerebral Palsy Center to create two programs—one for children under five, and one for adults over 17—bookending the public school system. In 1989, a new wing was dedicated for the Adult Services department. By 1994, the organization made a shift toward inclusion by enrolling children without disabilities into the early education program for the first time.

The organization became the Frazer Center in 1999, and, to this day, continues to find innovative ways to make “inclusion” a way of life rather than just a buzzword. From our inclusion nature-based early education curriculum to our refugee intern program to our supported employment and community access programs, Frazer carries the torch that Anne and Anita Lane lit 74 years ago.

Anne Lane did not settle for status quo, and neither does Frazer Center. Our mission of fostering inclusive communities guides our every move and motivates us to create more and more opportunities for people *with and without disabilities* to gather, learn, and flourish. And with the support of our community, our inclusive future is bright.

## Wild

Continued from page 5.



Sage with Hawk; photo by Wade Harrison



Photo by Wade Harrison



### Lake Claire Merchandise

Lake Claire in collaboration with the FineArtAmerica offers a way to buy neighborhood items online, including our Lake Claire banner (pictured here).

“Humility is born in wilderness. We are not protecting grizzlies from extinction; they are protecting us from the extinction of experience as we engage with a world beyond ourselves. The very presence of a grizzly returns us to an ecology of awe. We tremble at what appears to be a dream yet

stands before us on two legs and roars.”

~Terry Tempest Williams, *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks*

If you’d like to report a wildlife sighting for inclusion in a future column, please email me at [sara.gottlieb@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gottlieb@gmail.com).

# Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Pay at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) via the link OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Eileen O'Neill, Treasurer, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. Since the last Clarion, the following folks paid dues:

- Sam Bereford
- Debra Livingston
- Chad Durham
- Deanne Uroic
- Marilyn Schertz
- Donald Brash
- Steven Bennet and Chester Old
- Dawn Aura



## Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

### *Hello Birthday People:*

- 1 – Linda Maynard, Delaware Ave. (We miss your presence, your wit, your kindnesses, tons and tons.)
- 2 – Isla Roberts (Happy 10), Claire Drive; Daniel Babinslei, Harold Ave.; and Luke Mawson-Puckhaber, happy 11, Palifax Drive.
- 3 – Beth Damon, your illustrious and dedicated longtime Clarion editor (over 10 years, but who's counting), Delaware Ave. 70 is the new 50 or something like that/Fill in the appropriate number for yourself!
- 4–5 – Ann Shirra (2/4) and Scooter MacLane (2/5) (+♥♥♥♥anniversary 2012 ♥♥♥♥), Arizona Avenue
- 6 – Happy b'day to Jennifer Ruddell, Hardendorf
- 9 – Amelia Roberts (happy 14), Claire Drive; Anne Weldert, Harold Ave.
- 14 – Gillian Landgraff, Harold Avenue
- 16 – Joanna Babinslei, Harold Avenue
- 17 – Ava Capps, Harold Avenue, happy 14
- 18 – Ben Farmer, Hardendorf Ave.
- 24 – Eamon, Emmett, & Brigitte McNulty—17 years old & 17th year in L.C.
- 27 – Lucien DeMan, happy 8, Harold Ave.
- 27 – Esther Williams, rock star, happy 14!—Connections on 3 Lake Claire streets—lives on Harold, proud grandma on Delaware, and Daddy is on Indiana.

**Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the March issue, by February 18**



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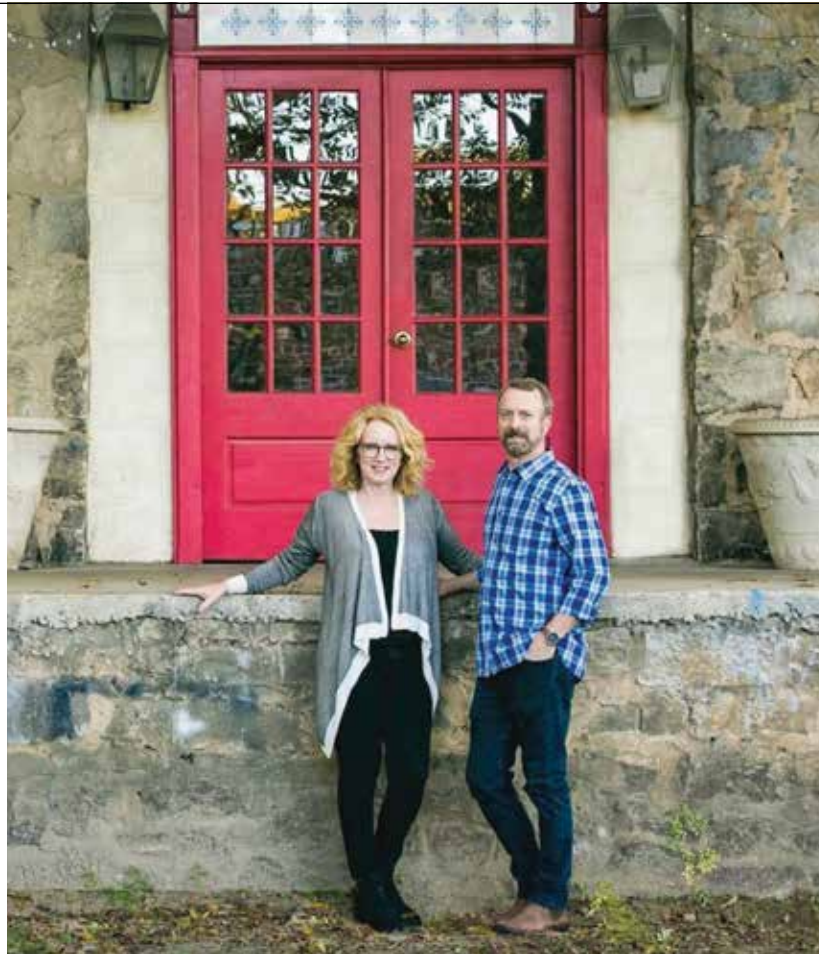
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## Downtown Connector

*Continued from page 1.*

fic jams on this highway. The separation of areas to the east from areas to the west resembles that of a broad river, though it is far less scenic than even the most polluted waterway.

To mitigate this scar on Atlanta's urban fabric, two freeway cap proposals are being pushed by local business groups. One is in Midtown Atlanta, a formerly moribund area just north of downtown. The other is on the east side of downtown. In Midtown, the cap is proposed to extend from roughly the North Avenue interchange north to the 17th Street interchange. It bears the rather unwieldy moniker "Midtown Connector Transportation Improvement Project (MCTIP)." Its supporters include the Midtown Alliance, Midtown Improvement District, and Propel Atlanta, a coalition representing local cyclist and pedestrian concerns.

The Midtown cap would provide over 25 acres of much-needed greenspace in a market that does not otherwise support its creation due to land value constraints. It would create connections between Georgia Tech, most of which is on the west side of the route, and major company headquarters to the east, such as NCR, Norfolk Southern, and Anthem Healthcare.

Downtown is advocating for a cap called "The Stitch." This project would bury the northern portion of the Grady Curve, named for the highway's curve around Grady Hospital, Atlanta's only major trauma center. Groups supporting this effort include the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Central Atlanta Progress, and Propel Atlanta.

Burying this portion of the curve would reconnect street grids broken by the expressway and create 14 acres of greenspace. Highway noise

that now echoes through the area would be muffled, and air pollution would be partially filtered. Additionally, the city and state would finally be forced to pay attention to the needs of those who currently live in homeless encampments under virtually every bridge and in every interchange. However, it would not do much to heal the legacy of nearby Sweet Auburn's destruction, and nothing for Mechanicsville, which is even further south.

Both projects are still early in their design and funding stages. Local politicians, who are mostly Democrats, express support, but their financial commitment remains minimal. State politicians, most of whom are Republicans with constituents outside the city, appear to be lukewarm to spending what would be massive amounts on these projects.

The Midtown cap and The Stitch may include measures that would aim to increase capacity, such as ramp alterations and additional lanes. Such measures would likely increase congestion along the route and connecting surface streets, thanks to the well-researched effects of induced demand. GDOT would likely support such efforts to expand capacity, as they floated the idea of double-decking the Downtown Connector several years ago.

One concern that follows efforts to bury or remove freeways is what they can do to property values. Expressways suppress livability, so hiding or eliminating them often boosts the attractiveness of their former routes. Housing costs and property taxes are likely to increase. Fortunately, Atlanta already has experience with mitigating the impacts of infrastructural gentrification, thanks to the Atlanta Beltline. The Atlanta Belt-

## Welcome New Residents of Lake Claire

First, there is no lake in Lake Claire, but it is still loved for its green spaces. At the heart of the neighborhood sits Lake Claire Park, with a large playing field and a young children's play area. A nearby spot for hiking and exploring, the Frazer Forest is a thirty-plus-acre green space in the midst of Lake Claire. Our neighborhood is home to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust at the dead end of Arizona Avenue, which is a public greenspace promoting environmental awareness while hosting unique events, including a Jerry Garcia Jam and a peace and love celebration every year, music jams, gardening opportunities, and bi-weekly drum circles. See Page 11 for current activities. Lake Claire is also home to Harold Avenue Greenspace, a City-designated passive green space under the stewardship of Lake Claire Neighbors.

Lake Claire contains roughly 1,400 households. It adjoins Candler Park that sits on the other side of Clifton Road. Lake Claire has a distinguishing identity that accounts for why many want to live here. We pride ourselves on inclusiveness and diversity of all kinds (including age—a large contingent of residents have lived here 30+ years), as well as care for the environment, and concern for others.

For many years, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on Connecticut Avenue at McLendon Avenue has operated a wonderful program to help homeless men make a successful reentry to the work world and beyond. Kashi Atlanta Urban Yoga Studio is located

on McLendon in Lake Claire. Mary Lin Elementary, considered one of the best primary schools in Atlanta, is located in the adjoining Candler Park, with Lake Claire included in the same APS school district. The Candler Park Market has a delicious deli and a large selection of wines.

For more information and a way to experience the vibe of the neighborhood, you're invited to attend the regular meetings of the Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc. (LCN) held on the third Thursday of every month. A crucially important activity at our meetings involves variance and zoning requests that concern our neighborhood organization's role in the City's Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) process, which allows for input on the impact of construction projects. Last but not least, our unique monthly neighborhood newspaper, the Clarion, is produced by and delivered by volunteers to your door.

LCN dues (\$20/year) are voluntary, but help a great deal in maintaining your neighborhood organization and local institutions. (See [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) to pay.)

Of course, there is much more to be discovered about Lake Claire as time goes on. And even though there is no lake in Lake Claire, that is no reason we shouldn't have "Ski Lake Claire" bumper stickers. You will find those as well as "30307—More than a Lifestyle" stickers, as well as our neighborhood banner for sale (pictured on Page 9) at [lakeclaire.org/shop-support/](http://lakeclaire.org/shop-support/).

**Welcome!**

line is a concrete multiuser path on the site of a ring of abandoned railroads. Its construction has triggered a huge development boom in areas that had been long-neglected. To offset the displacement of residents, an overlay district has been created that mandates the inclusion of affordable units in any residential construction. This model would likely be repeated in the vicinity of any freeway caps.

Simple highway removal has been floated for this route, as it would be far cheaper than burying so many active travel lanes. However, GDOT has demonstrated that they do not accept research and real-world examples of induced demand resulting from highway expansions. Widening roads remains their go-to tactic for congestion reduction throughout the metro Atlanta region. Therefore, it's unlikely that GDOT will accept the flip-side of induced demand research, which is that reducing road capacity can actually lower overall congestion.

That is a shame, because costs are going to be a problem. Early, and probably optimistic, estimates for these caps are tremendous. The Stitch may come in at \$300 million, while the Midtown cap may cost about \$1 billion. Whatever political and bureaucratic headwinds removing a highway like the Downtown Connector will generate are likely to be dwarfed by those swirling around the caps because of their expense.

*Editor's Note: Kevin Posey is a frequent Clarion contributor, a Lake Claire resident, and a writer, advocate, and consultant focused on advancing sustainability in transportation and urban development. This article was first published January 10 by The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU). (They were founded by the folks behind Seaside, Florida.) How timely it is to discuss the racist tactics in the construction of the Downtown Connector, during this month, which is Black History Month.*



# Live Music!

by Beth Damon

This is the music I know about as of time we go to press the 3rd week of January. Please check venues to confirm. Please support/enjoy live music!!

Jan 30-Feb. 1	Sheila E and the E-train	City Winery
Friday, Feb. 3	Bruce Springsteen	State Farm Arena
Saturday, Feb. 4	Kenny Wayne Shepherd w/ Samantha Fish ASO	
Saturday, Feb. 4	Arrested Development, Cowboy Mouth, Cracker	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, Feb. 4	Randall Bramblett	Eddie's Attic
Fri-Sun, Feb. 3-5	JRAD	The Eastern
Sunday, Feb. 5	The Wailin' Jennys	City Winery
Sunday, Feb. 5	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Monday, Feb. 6	Squirrel Nut Zippers	City Winery
Wednesday, Feb. 8	Dave Mason	City Winery
Friday, Feb. 10	John Mellencamp	The Fox
Friday, Feb. 10	The Wildflowers	Variety Playhouse
Friday/Sat., Feb 10-11	Big Gigantic	The Eastern
Saturday, Feb. 11	Frankly Scarlet	Smith's Olde Bar
Saturday, Feb. 11	Mavis Staples	Rialto
Saturday, Feb. 11	G. Love & Special Sauce/ Donavon Frankenreiter	Variety Playhouse
Monday, Feb. 13	Fitz and the Tantrums	Buckhead Theatre
Tuesday, Feb. 14	Drew and Ellie Holcomb	ASO
Thursday, Feb. 16	Elle King	Tabernacle
Friday, Feb. 17	The Mavericks	Variety Playhouse
Feb. 17-19	Bobby Weir & Wolf Bros	ASO
Saturday, Feb. 18	Cory Wong feat. Victor Wooten	Tabernacle
Saturday, Feb. 18	Drivin'n'Cryin'	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, Feb. 21	Jorma Kaukonen & David Bromberg	Variety Playhouse
Feb. 21-22	Maggie Rogers	The Eastern
Thursday, Feb. 23	Grateful Shred	Terminal West
Fri/Sat., Feb. 24-25	Peabo Bryson	City Winery
Saturday, Feb. 25	Frankly Scarlet	Napoleons
Saturday, Feb. 25	Amy Ray Band w/ Kevin Kinney opening	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Feb. 25	Colony House	The Eastern
Monday, Feb. 27	Anders Osborne	City Winery
Monday, Feb. 27	The Dandy Warhols	Center Stage
Tuesday, Feb. 28	Crash Test Dummies	City Winery
Friday, March 3	Dawes	Variety Playhouse
Friday, March 3	Emmylou Harris	ASO
Saturday, March 4	Joe Bonamassa	Fox Theatre
Saturday, March 4	Magnolia Express	Rootstock
Monday, March 6	Dropkick Murphys	The Eastern
Wednesday, March 8	Bodeans	City Winery
Thursday, March 9	Canyonland (Michelle Maone)	Napoleons
Thursday, March 9	The Moody Blues' John Lodge	Variety Playhouse
Friday, March 10	Billy Strings	State Farm Arena
Saturday, March 11	They Might be Giants	The Eastern
Saturday, March 11	Regina Spektor (rescheduled)	Tabernacle
Saturday, March 11	Martin Sexton	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, March 11	Sarah Shook & the Disarmers	The Earl
Thursday, March 16	Will hoge/The Wild Feathers	Vinyl
Friday, March 17	Big Head Todd and the Monsters	Variety Playhouse
Friday, March 17	Buddy Guy	ASO
Friday, March 17	Marc Broussard	The Eastern
Friday, March 17	Frankly Scarlet	Moonshadow
Friday, March 17	Griffin House	City Winery
Saturday, March 18	Stephen Marley	Center Stage
Wednesday, March 22	S.G. Goodman	The Earl
Friday, March 24	Webb Wilder	Eddie's Attic
Mar 24-25	MOE	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 25	Magnolia Express	Moonshadow
Saturday, March 25	Michelle Malone	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, March 25	Sierra Hull	Terminal West
Friday, March 31	Loudon Wainwright	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, April 1	Larkin Poe	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, April 1	Bikini Kill	The Eastern
Sunday, April 2	Paul Thorn	City Winery
Saturday, April 8	Scot Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox	ASO
Sunday, April 9	Billy Prine & the Prine Time Band	City Winery

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## February: “Love The Land Trust” Month

Hear ye, hear ye! February is officially “Love the Land Trust” month (so declared by the LCCLT Board). As a non-profit organization, the Land Trust depends on the generosity of our community. We need not only financial support to keep the Land Trust up and running, but also your time and talents. Not sure where to start? Just a few suggestions:

- Become a Land Trust Sustainer with a monthly donation of any amount
- Make a one-time or occasional donation
- Rock a Land Trust t-shirt and tell everyone about us – two designs available!

• Email us to find out what’s needed or provide suggestions: [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org)

• Follow us on social media to see what’s going on: Facebook, Instagram and Next Door

• Subscribe to our newsletter on the website, [LCCLT.org](http://LCCLT.org)

• Attend a class or workshop

• Teach a class or workshop

• Come help out at a Community Work Day, every 3rd Saturday of the month

• Rent a garden plot

• And so, so much more!

The Land Trust was founded as a labor of love and will always remain just that. Spread the love!



## Plant Jonquils, Grow a Land Trust!

Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods will be even prettier when the hundreds of jonquil bulbs sold by the Land Trust start to bloom this spring. An added benefit is that the Land Trust made a little over \$100 through Brent and Becky’s fundraising program for nonprofits called “Bloomin’ Bucks.” It is too late to plant bulbs for spring flowers, but their catalog sales for autumn and winter plants started in mid-January. Catalogs are available, or go online to view their large selection. Here is what to do if you want to support the Land Trust when you order:

\* Go to [www.bloominbucks.com](http://www.bloominbucks.com) (be sure to leave off the “g”).

\* From the pull-down menu select Lake Claire Community Land Trust.

\* Click and you will be immediately sent to the website.

Order anything you like, including books, tools, gift certificates. LCCLT will get 25%. This very generous offer is available throughout the year. As always plants will be mailed in the appropriate planting season for your zone.

## Land Trust February Calendar

Sat., Feb. 4 **Drum Circle**, 8–11 p.m., \$5 donation requested. Rain date: Sat., Feb. 18.

Sun., Feb. 5 **Garden Planning Workshop** with Lauren Ladov, 2–3:30 p.m.; \$10-\$20/person sliding scale (a portion donated to LCCLT). Learn the basics of garden planning from the Land Trust’s head landscaper. Why planning is important, guidance on crop plans, layouts, timing. Great for gardeners and educators alike. Pre-register and pay in advance, visit [www.LCCLT.org/new-events](http://www.LCCLT.org/new-events).

Thurs., Feb. 9 **Land Trust Board meeting**, 7–8 p.m. All welcome! [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org) for Zoom link.

Sat., Feb. 18 **Community Work Day**, 1–4 p.m. Pizza follows. Rain date: Sat. Feb. 25.

Sat., Feb. 11 **S’mores & Storm Bugs** with Ms. Ladybug, 3–5 p.m. Requested \$15 per family, but no one turned away. Vegan/GF options available. (Postponed from Dec. 11, 2022. See article this page.)

Sat., Feb. 11 **“Dead of Winter” Dance**: see top left box for details.

## S’mores & Storm Bugs with Ms. Ladybug

When forecasts of heavy rains forced Ms. Ladybug, our own Andrea Zoppo, to postpone her Dec. 11 “S’mores and Storm Bugs Story Time” event, she graciously granted us a rain check. But don’t be surprised if it happens again. Her s’mores parties are legendary, but she also plans to read from her first children’s book, which is all about how tiny creatures survive a storm. Talk about tempting the rain! Rather than reprint the same article you read here in December, we scored an exclusive interview with the PBS award-winning children’s educator. She answered our questions during a break in rehearsals at a theatre in her new home town, Chattanooga:

**Stephen Wing (SW):** What have you been up to since your move to Chattanooga?

**AZ:** While I still visit Atlanta about once a month working with schools and organizations, I spend most of my time on our farm on Signal Mountain, gardening, building a home, and making art. When I began coming to Chattanooga regularly in 2020, I connected

with the local PBS station here, WTCL. They connected me with a local artists’ collective, Playful Evolving Monsters. We clicked, and since 2021 we have been creating giant puppet shows and artistic experiences. I’m also working with the Chattanooga YMCA building a program with doctors and chefs to provide food-as-medicine meals for heart patients. In May of 2022 I married Ryan Welch, a grape farmer. On our farm we are creating a venue for workshops events and more. In late 2022 I published my first book, *Storm Bugs*.

**SW:** Is this grape farmer named Welch related to the Welches of grape jelly fame?

**AZ:** Funny you ask. No, his name is not from the grape jelly family. But we do like to make grape jelly from the grapes on our farm, and we do have Concord grapes. So yes, we do make Welch’s grape jelly but it’s not the big, big company. Oh my goodness, fresh grown grapes are so delicious!

**SW:** How did you come to write your first children’s book? Where did you get

the idea, and how did you find the time?

**AZ:** I’ve written a few children’s book stories, but this is the first one I pursued to get published. The idea of “storm bugs” comes directly from my childhood. I was nervous during storms and I wondered what would happen to the little creatures outside braving all the elements. Then during the pandemic I lost most of my work and I found myself with the free time to pursue publishing *Storm Bugs*.

**SW:** How did you meet your illustrator, Jordan Ososki, and what medium did he use to produce those marvelous images?

**AZ:** I met Jordan in high school. I was about 15 or so. We both shared similar views of the world and were drawn to events at the Land Trust as well. I knew when I wrote *Storm Bugs* that he would love to illustrate it. Those pictures were made only with colored pencils – Prismacolor pencils to be exact. No computers were used in the images. Look closely at the pictures and you can see the hand at work, and it is truly remarkable.

**SW:** What do you miss about Atlanta and your work here?

**AZ:** I miss Atlanta. I miss my people, the many parks, the wonderful trails, the diversity, and delicious vegetarian gluten-free food. I miss getting to teach at so many wonderful schools every day of the month. I do still come once a month and teach at a few schools.

**SW:** What drives your passion for teaching children about nature?

**AZ:** Nature is where I feel most connected to everything. It is where I feel excited about wonder and creation. I’m honored to get to share the wonder of nature, of life, with those who love to wonder. Children are close to the Earth in size and understanding. They can see the connection between us and the little creatures, and they love to get excited, like me, about the special little things.

(The program is Saturday, Feb. 11, 3–5 p.m., with a suggested donation of \$15 per family for S’mores supplies; no one turned away. Vegan and GF options available.)



# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



**We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers, writers, and artists to participate.** Marguerite Phelan is our featured writer for the month. She gets to be a featured writer because she won the special-credit prize in the No-

vember 2022 issue! Marguerite is six years old and in the first grade at Mary Lin. (A little bird told me her parents and grandparents are very proud of her budding writing skills!) Thank you, Marguerite! 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! Send contributions to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), by **February 15-18** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be MARCH. Spring is coming.



Marguerite

Max

## Let it Snow!

by Marguerite Phelan

I wish for Snow, I wish for snow!  
 Oh my goodness, I wish for snow!  
 Snow is so sparkly in February!  
 I love Snow!



## Contest Winner!

The winner this month who found Martin Luther King, Jr., in last month's issue, is Max Memberg, five years old, on Sutherland Place. He is in pre-K at Early Emory. Congrats, Max!

And all, do keep reading the Kids' Page, either the physical copy or on a computer or phone! This page is the Clarion editor's "baby" and favorite part of the paper! See our new contest below, and take your chances.

## New Contest (Forget Wordle: play this!)

Hello, Kids! Did you know that February is Black History Month? Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Somewhere in this newspaper is a picture of W.E.B. Du Bois (William Edward Burghardt Du Bois), an African-American writer, teacher, sociologist, and activist whose work transformed the way

that the lives of people of color were seen in American society. He was considered ahead of his time, and he is one of the people recognized in February for Black History Month. Identify the page where this important American leader is pictured, and you win! The winner/winners will be pictured in the next Clarion. Hint: Mr. Du Bois was once featured on a U.S. Postage Stamp.

Send your guess via e-mail to

[editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), identifying the page number where you find the picture, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo of yourself. **(Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+.) Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.** For extra credit, tell us who is the person considered to be "the man behind Black History

Month," or anything else you know about Black History Month. Using Google is allowed, or even encyclopedias. (Do you know what those are?) 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 FEBRUARY 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**