



Photos by Sara Gottlieb

Lake Claire's Watershed Mural

by Beth Damon

I am cautiously optimistic that we have good news regarding our famous mural. Councilwoman Bahktari's office is considering providing some amount of monetary support to assist Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) in repairing this important community asset. This is thanks to an idea by Sara Gottlieb, who decided to contact elected officials out of a longtime worry about the mural's gradual decline. Sara noted that she lives in Lake Claire CoHousing, whose parking lot retaining wall is the mural's surface. She raised the issue of the mural's recent deterioration, and as sometimes happens when public artwork is in poor condition, it has started to accumulate graffiti. LCN Presi-

dent Joe Agee has pointed out that there are LCN funds earmarked for the repair, left over from the original project, and that Kathy Evans has suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to take on the needed repairs.

In May of last year, Richard Powers wrote an article for the Clarion, noting that for twelve years, he has picked up trash, mowed grass, pruned trees, and the like, along DeKalb Avenue beneath the block-long retaining wall and mural. He also pointed out that the graffiti was surely inspired by the deteriorating mural's abandoned appearance of

Cont. on p. 6

Traffic Change Affecting Lake Claire & Druid Hills

The neighborhood association of Druid Hills (Druid Hills Civic Association/DHCA) worked with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for reductions in vehicular speed on Ponce de Leon to improve overall safety, to include several conceptual changes for Ponce at key intersections that lead through Druid Hills. GDOT shared several options with the DHCA neighbors, including potential changes to the Ponce intersections at East Lake Rd, Ponce de Leon Manor, at the Scott Blvd split, and at Ridgecrest. And, as many have noticed by now, in February GDOT placed yellow plastic poles at Ridgecrest/Ponce. These prohibit turning left from

Ponce onto Ridgecrest, and turning left from Ridgecrest onto Ponce. If this diagram that GDOT shared with DHCA is accurate (which the Clarion obtained on the DHCA website, see Page 7), the ultimate change at Ridgecrest will include a "right-in-right-out island" at the intersection.

Certainly the changes do improve overall safety, but we also can't help but comparing Ponce safety with Dekalb Ave. safety—and we wish that the powers-that-be acted as quickly regarding DeKalb Ave. speeds and safety concerns that LC and other impacted neighborhoods experience every day on DeKalb.

Cont. on p. 7

Redistricting on the table for Midtown High School

by Patrick McGrath

On Wednesday, February 15, APS released new capacity numbers for Midtown HS that placed it in the red overcapacity zone for the next three years. The released numbers reduce the capacity of Midtown HS from 1700 students to 1525 students and the core classrooms from 68 to 61. Consequently, these changes have triggered action in the next three months that will include re-

districting scenarios effective for August 2024.

On March 9, 6 p.m., at the Inman Auditorium, APS Facilities will release 2–3 scenarios to relieve overcrowding at Midtown HS. No information has been shared about potential redistricting scenarios, although redistricting of Mary Lin Elementary outside of the Midtown Cluster is a possibility. Community

and outreach meetings will be held between April 11–13 and April 17–21 to solicit feedback on these scenarios before a single scenario will be presented to the APS Board of Education on May 1.

The Mary Lin Elementary PTA has released a letter opposing redistricting of Mary Lin Elementary, requesting additional time to consider proposed scenarios before a decision

is made.

The Candler Park Neighborhood Association has also released a position statement opposing any redistricting plans, as capacity and projected enrollment numbers have fluctuated wildly over the previous ten years. APS has released documents and recordings of Zoom meetings that can be found at www.atlantapublicschools.us/redistricting.

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Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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

March Calendar

Many events at the Land Trust (see Page 11) and lotsa live music (Page 9)! And see Mary Lin dine-out article below.

1 Dine in or take-out with Osteria, and support Mary Lin PTA. See article this page.

1–5 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. alliancetheatre.org

1–Apr 1 The Alliance Theatre, 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. Support live theatre in Atlanta!

2–26 Actors Express presents *Oh, To be Pure Again*, by Kira Rockwell. It will resonate with anyone who has ever had to question what they've been taught in order to become their authentic selves. Info and tix at actors-express.com/play-page-oh-to-be-pure-again-2/.

3–Apr 2 The Horizon Theatre presents *Kim's Convenience*. I watched the series on Netflix that was based on this, and it was excellent. It is a co-production with the Aurora, so it's been playing there in February to great reviews. Mr. Kim, a Korean immigrant, dispenses fatherly wisdom, history lessons, and potato chips from his Toronto convenience store counter in an up-and-coming neighborhood. Info/tix: www.horizontheatre.com/plays/kims-convenience/.

4 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore & maintain our neighborhood old-growth forest. Pre-registration required/Space is limited, at frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

5 Lecture/Meeting with author/peace activist Medea Benjamin, discussing the war in Ukraine, 1:30 p.m. (light lunch at 12:45), at Friends Meetinghouse. See details in the article on Page 3.

9 ATLDOT (Atlanta Dept of Transportation) Meeting/Town Hall to discuss DEKALB AVENUE probs, 5:30–7 p.m., Israel Baptist Church, 2071 Hosea Williams Drive, S.E., Atlanta GA 30317. **PLEASE mark your calendars. See article Page 1. They scheduled this in spite of conflicts, including the district-wide APS meeting noted below and Candler Park's pub crawl.**

9 APS Meeting regarding possible redistricting options, 6 p.m. See details in article Page 1.

9 Candler Park Pub Crawl—Kickoff at Hudson Grill, 7:30 p.m. with 2 llamas. First fifty tickets are \$10, tix \$15 after that. Beer games at Brewhouse, 8:30 p.m. A surprise activity at Yacht Club at 9:30 p.m. candlerpark.org/pubcrawl/

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 dif-

ferent 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/

14, 28 Frazer Center Walking Club with the Land Trust, 1–2 p.m. Join members of the Frazer Center's adult program on a leisurely walk from the Frazer Center to the Land Trust and back, every other Tuesday.

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

18 Collegium Vocale performs *So I'll Sing with my Voice*, Kevin Hibbard Conductor, at Emory's Glenn Memorial Methodist Church. 8 p.m. CV is the second-oldest community chorus in the Atlanta area, and it was organized in 1955 by faculty members of Emory University. Info/Tix: cvchorus.org/. Streaming tickets also available if you cannot attend in person.

22 Sundown, Ramadan begins; a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.

24 Dekalb History Center, Prom/Spring Fling: An Historic Night to Remember, 7–10 p.m. You are invited to dress up in your version of Adult Prom finery - celebrating any decade. Silent Auction, great food, see: dekalbhistory.org/public-programs-dekalb-history-center/special-programs/ Donations are needed ahead of time for the silent auction, see the link for details.

26 12:30 p.m.—Annual Candler Park Egg Hunt. See complete details in article Page 4

29 Theatrical Outfit production begins, *Tiny Beautiful Things*. Based on the New York Times bestselling book by Cheryl Strayed, it explores her time as an anonymous advice columnist, "Dear Sugar." It is playing through April 23. Info/tix at www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/tiny-beautiful-things/.

Support Mary Lin PTA Dine-Outs!

Please support Mary Lin PTA, these generous local restaurants, AND, of course, have delicious food while doing so! **Mar 1**—Osteria 832 (25% coming back to Mary Lin—be sure to mention Mary Lin) www.osteria832.com; **Mar 13–15**—Doc Chey's Morningside and Grant Park locations (25% coming back to Mary Lin—be sure to mention Mary Lin); **Mar 21–23**—Speakcheesy. To order, go to www.eatspeakcheesy.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; and last, **Mar 28**—Naan Stop—with 20% coming back to Mary Lin thanks to Naan Stop and Joan Arkins Realty—order by 3/27 naanstop-mary-lin.square.site/.

Thanks!!

THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

March 5 Event with Medea Benjamin

by Ann Mauney

Author and peace activist Medea Benjamin will speak about the war in Ukraine on Sunday, March 5, 1:30 p.m., at the Atlanta Friends Meeting-house, 701 W. Howard Ave., in Decatur. A light lunch will be served at 12:45 p.m. Benjamin will speak about her new book, *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, co-authored with Nicolas J.S. Davies, focusing on the background of the war and its terrible costs: 100,000+ deaths, hunger of millions globally that are lacking basics of wheat and corn, and the threat of nuclear war. She questions U.S. priorities: the commitment of \$100 billion to Ukraine and \$850 billion to military spending, when here at home, 600,000 have no shelter, 6 million can't afford rent, and 30 million don't have enough food.

Convinced there will be no military victory, Benjamin believes a ceasefire and negotiations are desperately needed. She joins over 1000 faith leaders, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Jim Wallis, and Rabbi Michael Lerner, who have urged our government to take a leadership role in supporting diplomacy to end the war. She condemns the Russian invasion as a criminal violation of international law but also points to U.S.

and NATO policies contributing to the conflict. Aware of divergent perspectives on the war, she looks forward to engaging in dialogue about the global crisis we all face.

The speaking event, part of a 50-city book tour, will be hosted by the Social Concerns Committee of the Atlanta Friends Meeting and sponsored by Atlantans for Peace in Ukraine. Following the program, she will sign copies of her book which will be available for purchase. For more information, contact Ann Mauney, 404-630-8910, annmauney555@aol.com.

Editor's Note: I encourage people to attend. I have followed Ms. Benjamin for many years, since she ran for U.S. Senate in 2000 on the Green Party ticket and stood up for a myriad of important issues over the years including labor rights, humanitarian treatment of Palestinians, and the Mother's Day Call for Peace. In 2010 she received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize, and in 2012, the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation's Peace Prize. She serves on the advisory boards of Progressive Democrats of America and Healthcare Now. I feel certain this talk on March 5 will be fascinating and a special opportunity.

Frazer Center: Building Relationship Across Differences

by Dina Shadwell

Each year the Westminster Lower School (pre-first through fifth grade) chooses an overarching theme for their students to focus on. "Building Relationship Across Differences" is the current theme, and that's what brought together one fifth grade class with Frazer Center's adult participants. Westminster is a private school in Buckhead with a commitment of "creating an educational experience where bright, curious, motivated students who are nurtured by challenge can grow into leaders of conscience." Fifth graders are required to take a leadership and philanthropy course called Catapult in which they learn such things as how to work together and support each other, how to have conversations with adults, and general leadership skills. As part of the class, each fifth-grade homeroom partners with a community organization. "The primary goal," says Catapult instructor Stacy Chalmers, "is to generate exposure. The more opportunities they



have to partner with people in the community, the better citizens they become." This year's fifth graders are learning specifically about building relationships with people with disabilities, so Stacy reached out to Frazer Center to see what possibilities we could create from partnering together.

Tonja Holder, Frazer's Vice President of Development, visited Westminster to talk to the class about her experiences of working with people with disabilities. She answered the students' questions, and they brain-

Cont. on p. 9

From Lake Claire Neighbors President

Dear Neighbors,

After reading the last edition of the Clarion, I was a little upset. There was information about the need to support animal shelters, what's happening or not happening on DeKalb Avenue, what might happen to the Downtown Connector, the recognition of residents' birthdays (age discreetly excluded for the adults), updates for local organizations and school activities (Clifton Ministries, The Frazer Center, the Land Trust, and Mary Lin Elementary), spring planting, wildlife in the area, S'mores with Ms. Ladybug, and a thank you to those who have paid dues for the month. Also included was the ongoing special section devoted to kids, and, finally, a welcome note to new residents that summarized all of the above. **The problem is that it didn't leave much for me to say!**

Fortunately, the aforementioned welcome note, penned by the editor, Beth Damon, did leave something to comment on, but before getting to that, let me share what my real point is: our local newspaper does an outstanding job of informing the neighborhood about itself, to include activities, updates on important legislation impacting Lake Claire and surrounding areas, and interesting articles by current and sometimes former residents. Equally important, it emphasizes what makes Lake Claire the unique place that it is, which is why many people want to live here in the first place. This concerns diversity, inclusiveness, environmentally friendly events at the Land Trust, and the great work of our local institutions that are dedicated to serving children with disabilities and homeless men who are trying to merge back into the workforce. And let's not forget the annual Halloween Parade that has almost as many adults dressed up in costume as it does kids! Hard to say who has more fun. Then there's the annual Lake Claire Arts and Crafts Fair, headed up by Beth Damon and Annsley Klehr, Education Chair, that features the many artists and craftspeople in our neighborhood who can display their works on the front porch or lawn along with musicians performing at various places, and food trucks located in the middle of it—all making for an unforgettable outdoor happening. There are often celebrations on individual streets. These wonderful events are all featured in the Clarion with many photographs giving live action shots of neighbors enjoying themselves.

Beth also mentions the meetings of the Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc. (LCN) that take place every third



Thursday of the month, except for December. Not only do they provide a great way to see people you already know but also those you haven't had the opportunity to meet yet. They help to experience the "vibe" of the neighborhood that can go from some gossip to, in a more technical vein, substantive matters concerning variance and zoning requests that stem from the LCN's role in the Neighborhood Planning Units; NPUs include all of the City of Atlanta, to allow comment on new construction. There are 25 NPUs in Atlanta, and Lake Claire belongs to NPU-N that encompasses several surrounding neighborhoods.

In this regard, what I can add is the importance of following the guidelines specifically outlined on the LCN website for making an application for a variance or zoning request. At the top of the main page of the LCN's website, you will see a link for "Zoning," which explains the process, starting with the City's Planning Department to get a building permit. If it requires a variance or rezoning approval, the application is sent to the NPU that then informs the neighborhood in which the property is located. Next, this application is presented at a neighborhood meeting, where a recommendation to approve or not approve is voted on and then sent on the NPU that makes another recommendation. Please understand that these recommendations are non-binding and that the process ends at the City's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) or the Zoning Review Board (ZRB) for a final determination. This can sometimes be a daunting affair, but it does help to ensure that any new construction or addition to an existing home conforms to the current zoning code and/or doesn't have a negative impact on surrounding neighbors or to the neighborhood in general.

To end this message, let me encourage all residents to pay the voluntary dues of \$20 per year that allow the LCN to continue representing Lake Claire and providing support to all its residents, and as well contribute to Clifton Ministries, the police, firefighters, our greenspaces, Lake Claire Community Land Trust, and other worthy causes.

~ Joe Agee, President,
Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

Buy Lake Claire Merchandise



Lake Claire in collaboration with the FineArtAmerica offers a way to buy neighborhood items online, including our Lake Claire banner (pictured), the 'Ski Lake Claire,' logo, and the '30307 Not Just a Zip Code' logo. Coffee mugs, clothing, face masks, etc. See Shop and Support tab at the top of the LCN website lakeclaire.org. Hanging banners and bumper stickers will continue to be ordered directly from LCN via cash, check, or PayPal. Any questions, contact fun@lakeclaire.org.



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, 404-731-6415.

Easter Egg Hunt Set for March 26

by Whitney Riggs

Candler Park's annual neighborhood Egg Hunt will be held in in the park on Sunday, March 26. The Hunt starts at 12:30 p.m. sharp, but please come early to play! Kids ages 0-11 can hunt for candy-filled eggs. Additional lucky winners who find the golden eggs will get a special prize. Thanks to Candler Park Market for being a generous and wonderful

neighbor and donating thousands of pieces of candy for the event.

This event is made possible by volunteer support. If you would like to help make the day a success for our local kiddos, please contact Natalie Anderson at andersonnatalierose@gmail.com to register to set-up and hide eggs before the hunt. We look forward to seeing you March 26!

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

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

Scott Long
Melanie Bliss
Jeffery Rosenberg
Josh Dagostino
Miriam Herbers
Matthew Tichenor
Rachel Weinthal
David Garbarino
Jenny Arnold
Sarah Connors

Helen Wills
Patrick McGrath
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Golden Boy

Reversal of Fortune! You came when we called!

... And updates on Remy and Golden Boy...

by Scott McLane

On January 24, Nic Hemenway, Lifeline Volunteer coordinator, sent out the following email to all Lifeline volunteers and fosters: "We wanted to let you know that as of January 23, there are 593 dogs at the DeKalb County shelter. As you all know, the shelter has been operating at a critical capacity for the last year. We must find homes for at least 150 dogs in the next seven days. If we can't get more dogs out of the shelter, we will have to euthanize due to lack of space. This is a difficult decision we have had to make, and it is not something that we have had to do since 2018. We are heartbroken that we are out of options to ensure the well-being and safety of the dogs, staff, and you all."

Over the next couple of days, the message was spread by all the local networks and every social media platform in Georgia. What happened next was nothing short of a miracle. When the Dekalb Animal Shelter next opened on Thursday January 26, there was a line of adopters circling around the parking lot. This line continued all day, well past the 7 p.m. closing bell, with the last employee leaving at 10:30 p.m.! **Adopters were waiting 4 and 5 hours to save just one more dog!** 79 dogs left the building that day. And it didn't stop. Friday another 70 dogs, Saturday 79 dogs, Sunday 75, etc. By the end of the critical seven-day period, 345 dogs had left the building! This was Nic's follow up email of February 6:

"We put a call out to save lives, and you showed up in our greatest hour of need to help find homeless pets loving places of their own, outside of our shelter walls. Because of you: DCAS

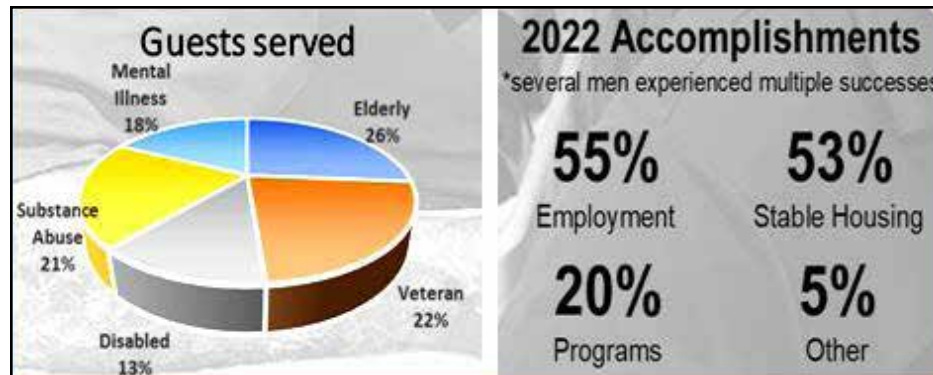
sent out 373 dogs to adopters, fosters, and rescues! That's more than double what we had hoped for. As of the end of day Tuesday, the current dog population at the DCAS facility is 312 (started at 593)! This is a huge success, and we thank you so much for helping us get the word out to so many and for supporting our staff and helping so many dogs get out the door. We had an immensely successful lifesaving rescue!"

For me, as a Lifeline volunteer, this public outpouring of compassion is over-the-top inspiring. The response to Nic's plea lets me know that there is strong support for Lifeline's work and raison d'etre, and that no one wants to return to the medieval shelter days in Dekalb County. A united compassionate community can accomplish anything we set our minds and hearts to. I can't wait for the next miracle!

Follow-up on Remy and Golden Boy:

Remy has her forever home lined up!! She just needs a revision on her eye surgery. This spunky girl showed up to the shelter only a few months old, badly beaten. She lost her eye, and now needs the surgical site revised by a specialist that can completely resolve her pain and swelling. Lifeline volunteers are currently raising the funds to accomplish this!

Golden Boy continues in foster at 312 Arizona Ave.—my place—and is still looking for his forever home. He remains a cuddling love muffin and is making good progress with training. He knows "sit," "down," "leave it," et al. And he is house trained and very treat motivated. Please feel free to get in touch with me at 404-786-0325 if you would like to meet this handsome boy.



Clifton Sanctuary Ministries 2022 Impact Report

by Lori White

As many of our Lake Claire neighbors know, our mission is to provide a transformational environment to homeless men through comprehensive life skills training and counseling that empowers their pursuits of self-sufficiency and independent living. Our programs include AA/NA meetings, health and wellness, computer literacy, empowerment seminars, and Bible studies. In the year 2022, we paid off Joe's Place mortgage; Joe's Place underwent renovations to provide a safer, energy efficient, inviting environment; five new churches and organizations

partnered with our ministry; over 200 volunteers assisted on campus; we welcomed a new food coordinator and administrative assistant; and importantly, we raised funds to begin refurbishment of the sanctuary/dormitory. The length of the guests' stays were 30 to 90 days.

Please see the picture for a breakdown of the guests whom we served in 2022 and a summary of their successes. And last, but not least, with many of you in Lake Claire helping us, this past year we served 16,425 meals!

Joe's Place is Clifton's transitional living program, offering an additional component to men who have demonstrated the ability to live by Clifton's guidelines and are making positive progress in achieving their goals. It offers more independent housing, and a guest who is admitted into Joe's Place house may stay in the program for up to 2 years, during which time, they receive intensive counseling in life-skills management such as budgeting, job skills training, and relationship building. Joe's Place is named for Joe Copping, a member of the Lake Claire community in the 1970s-80s who was homeless. Joe was a very sweet man whose standard answer when asked if he needed anything was simply, "Please pray for me."

CSM Wish List: Think about the amount of toilet paper and paper towels that an average family of four uses. Well, Clifton has the capacity for nine times that amount. Neighborhood donations are their lifeline! If you're headed to the grocery store or your favorite warehouse store, put them on the your shopping list. Here is a list of needed items:

Toilet paper & paper towels; 5 lb roll of ground beef; paper napkins; eggs; liquid laundry detergent; "to go" boxes, plastic containers, tupperware, and the like, for meals; coffee;

fresh fruit & veggies.

Often, the most urgent needs will be posted on the CSM placard facing McLendon on the corner of McLendon and Connecticut in front of their garden. Donations are welcome from organizations, as well; for example, Second Helpings Atlanta, makes a weekly rescued food donation.

You can go to the CSM website and click "Amazon Wish List," and a link will take you directly to an Amazon check-out cart with other needs.

Thank you, neighbors!

Editor's Note: As I said last month, 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 to make a difference for the animals that were lost, have been surrendered, or have otherwise found their way into animal shelters. If you can foster, even 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. Donate at: lifelineanimal.org/donate/. In a past column, Scott advised that if anyone has time to help at LifeLine (and thus relieve a small bit of the suffering in the world), there are myriad ways to contribute that can fit your particular personality and abilities. Animals bring such joy and comfort into our homes and lives. ~Beth

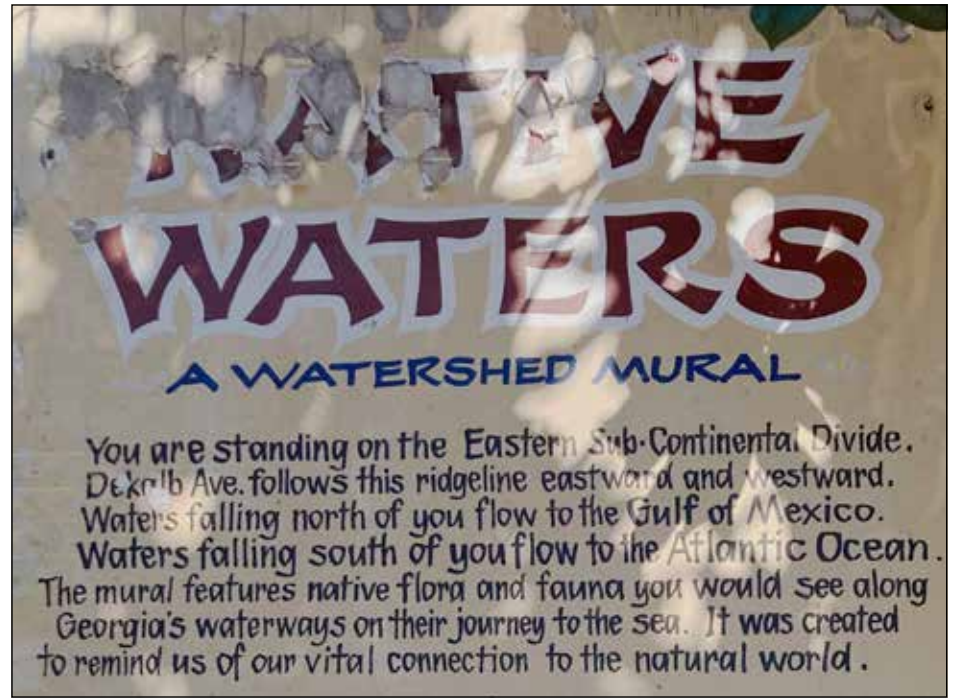
Watershed Mural

Continued from page 1.

late. Until recently the mural had apparently been seen as a “sacred statement,” even by vandals. Note some the areas that need repair pictured here and on Page 6.

Richard urged that Lake Claire revisit the flora, fauna, and history depicted on Lake Claire’s landmark public artwork, if only to admire what’s left of the river trips and the informative narrative depicted by muralist David Fichter and over 100 volunteers. Dozens of neighbors helped to paint it, and many contributed in other ways, then celebrated

Thankfully, it looks like some action is going to be taken to protect this valuable resource. As of this Clarion going to press, Liliana Bahktiari’s office is waiting for us (Lake Claire) to propose what we would need from them, but no committee has been formed. *That is where YOU could come in.* If any artists or other members of the community are interested, please write to me at editor@lakeclaire.org, and I will pass your name along to the LCN VP spearheading it (which I do not know as of press time); we hope that one of



Photos by Sara Gottlieb

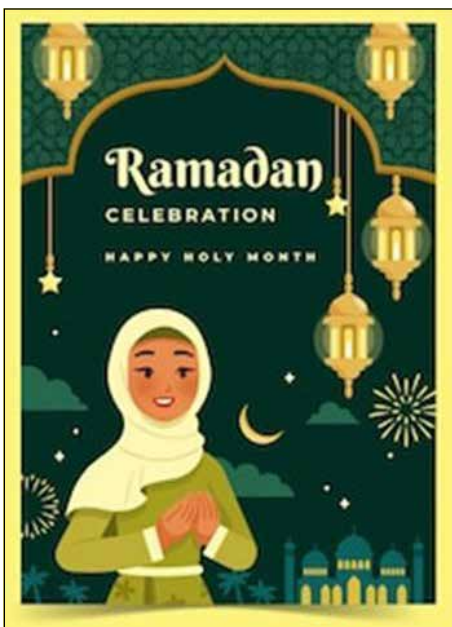
its completion with a party that closed DeKalb Avenue for two hours on Earth Day 2007. Formally titled “Native Waters,” the mural portrays the watersheds of Georgia. The mural is actually situated directly on the Eastern Subcontinental Divide, which runs along DeKalb Avenue, and separates the river systems that lead to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, respectively.

the VPs on the board or someone else who comes forward will be forming a committee of interested Lake Claire citizens to push this important project forward. (Unfortunately, neither Sara nor I have the bandwidth to participate, other than publicizing this in the Clarion.)

To understand the mural's history and value for the future, go online to visit David Fichter’s website (www.davidfichter.com). Better yet, walk

down to the corner of DeKalb and Connecticut Avenue and read the information boards posted there (far right of mural). Then cross the street for a better view and stroll alongside the MARTA tracks, and take in this grand vista from one end to the other.

I hope to report in next month’s Clarion that someone has taken on the task of organizing a new crew of volunteers to restore the Watershed Mural to health. Again, please contact editor@lakeclaire.org.



Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

I write this on Valentine's Day, a holiday I consider overdue for cancellation for its tendency to inspire people to engage in pointless consumerism when there are far better ways to express one's love. I have also just recently returned from a trip to Little Saint Simons Island, one of the most special places in Georgia, if not the world. As one of Georgia's many relatively undeveloped and permanently protected barrier Islands, visitors there are treated to natural delights nearly impossible to see almost anywhere else. I was able to observe great horned owls, oystercatchers, bald eagles, black-capped night herons, and cormorants by the dozen (pictured below).

Meredith reported being excited to find a bat about 10 feet off the ground on a pine tree in her backyard in early February. The bat didn't move when she came up close to investigate. Meredith checked with AWARE to see if the bat might be injured, but they said no, probably just hibernating, so she left it there, where the bat hung out for at least another week. On a sadder note, Meredith reported that a cedar waxwing flew into a window of her house and couldn't fly afterward. She took the bird to Wild Nest Bird Rehab where they found it had a problem with its wing. They didn't think the bird had a fracture, so were going to wait until the following Wednesday when their vet visits to see if they could figure out what it needs. Here are some great resources on preventing bird collisions with windows: www.birdwatchingdaily.com/gear/preventing-bird-window-collisions/15-products-prevent-birds-hitting-windows/. Meredith bought some Collidescape film to cover the windows where the bird hit so it won't happen again.

Wade was out at the compost bins next to the CoHousing parking lot on a sunny morning in February, noticing all the tiny insects swarm-

ing around and out of the bins, and then noticed the insects were also being noticed, and chased, by a pretty little kinglet, perhaps hungrier for the prey than fearful of the large human who had just stirred them up. After standing perfectly still for a few minutes trying to observe the bird as it quickly darted here and there but never far away, Wade found himself chasing it this way and that around the bins hoping (but failing) to get a close-up picture as it paused in the sun, sometimes only 3 feet away. It was a tiny bird with white eye rings, black and white wing bars, an overall olive-yellow complexion, and never any flash of a crown, neither golden nor ruby. Since male kinglets show their colorful crowns when excited, Wade thinks this one was a female ruby-crowned kinglet—or if it was a male, it was a very humble and unexcitable one, who was just very busy!

Ilene S. went out into her backyard with her dogs Simon and Tracey in the morning in late January, and the dogs quickly spotted a rabbit. A chase ensued, and they circled the yard along the fence until the rabbit spotted an opening near a gate and escaped. Ilene was greatly relieved that it got away from them, but at the same time was pleased that Simon, who was scheduled for surgery the next day, got to have all that fun before he entered a two-week restricted activity period. Ilene also reports continuing to see lots of red-winged blackbirds, several kinglets, and a pair of Eastern towhees. She also heard what might have been sandhill cranes migrating far overhead but couldn't spot them.

Frank W. saw seven geese fly over his house a few months ago and two geese flying over Peachtree Street in Midtown in mid-February. Perhaps one of his most interesting observations was hearing a woodpecker first in the woods near the golf course along the bike path. Next, he heard a



Cormorants roosting on dead trees

Ridgecrest/Ponce & DeKalb Ave. ATLDOT Meeting

Continued from page 1.

Improvements on that street could be said to be limping along, at best. (In comparing the two situations, we note that ATLDOT, not GDOT, is responsible for Dekalb Ave.)

In last month's issue we noted that ATLDOT has long promised safety improvements, including Krog Street drainage improvements, street resurfacing, and improved rules/traffic direction(s) for the middle turn "suicide lane." ATLDOT said this summer that it would begin on the eastern part of the corridor (Ridgecrest at Dekalb) in "late September to early October."

They then changed it to "will be completed Winter 2022." Neighbors who contact them continue to get mixed answers or no answers. Recently, our Atlanta City Council (District 5) Representative, Liliana Bakhtari, contacted ATLDOT and got them to agree to a town-hall meeting with the public, for February, which never happened, but now they have set the date, albeit a date that conflicts with other important meetings: March 9 (see details in the calendar, Page 2). Please come to that meeting to let all of our voices be heard.



Conceptual sketch of Ridgecrest at Ponce de Leon

woodpecker close to the Candler Park playground. Then he saw a woodpecker in his backyard which made him wonder if it's the same one. Frank's other wildlife adventures include seeing a little bunny rabbit at night a few months ago in his yard and a variety of large groups of red-winged blackbirds and some robins including a swarm in mid-February near the golf course which must have had 100 individuals. Frank also saw a large raptor in his backyard on Indiana Ave., and the entire bird community was up in arms (or wings) about it. The blue jay screamed and actually flew at the intruder while the Carolina wrens voiced their complaints but kept their distance. Even a few robins and cardinals joined in the chorus—eventually the giant hawk or owl lighted and left undulating under the weight of its massive body (for a bird). The wingspan must have been >3 feet—much larger than the juvenile hawk he spotted a few days earlier on the bike path in Candler Park.

Bernard was in Southern Florida recently, so most of the flora or fauna he has noticed was there. First, the damage from hurricane Ian was very noticeable, as a lot of houses in Cape Coral still had blue tarps, and he saw many trees broken or down. Bernard also saw for the first time a

lizard about two and a half inches in diameter and over two feet from nose to tip of tail. In a nature preserve, he saw a small grey heron, and some ibis feasting on little fish.

Legend has it that the marshes of Georgia are so well protected relative to the other states on the east coast (despite having only 100 miles of shore, Georgia's marshes comprise over one-third of all the intact marshland on the entire east coast of the U.S.) because legislators of old were inspired by the words of poet Sidney Lanier to pen the Marshland Protection Act in 1970. Lanier wrote in *The Marshes of Glynn*:

*Oh, what is abroad in the
marsh and the terminal sea?*

*Somehow my soul seems sud-
denly free*

*From the weighing of fate and
the sad discussion of sin,*

*By the length and the breadth
and the sweep of the marshes of
Glynn.*

You would do well to express your love to that someone special by sharing with them the rest of this spectacular poem here: poets.org/poem/marshes-glynn.

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

Mary Lin Education Foundation Shares the Love

by Jeannie Becket

February 14 was truly a Day of Love at Mary Lin Elementary. Not only did the kids enjoy the traditional Valentine's dances and parties, the Mary Lin Education Foundation was able to award the teachers with the highest participation numbers in the Rocket Fuel Fundraiser. This year was especially great, because there were TWO ties!

The winners in order were:

- Ms. Dees won SW airline tickets for two passengers to anywhere in the continental U.S.;
- Ms. Hedgecock won a mountain cabin weekend getaway;
- Ms. Guthrie won a Liz Williams art, CaptureAbel photography package and a year's membership to the High Museum of Art;
- Ms. Derrico won a Syed Ahmad art, Nordstrom gift card, Sean's Market gift card;
- Ms. Huff won a Chef's table dinner for four to Amore e Amore;
- Ms. Campbell won Salon Five nail service gift card, Oxford Cleaners dry-cleaning gift card, and an Aurora Coffee gift card;

gift card, Marie Marie haircare gift card, and Sean's Market gift card;

- Ms. Robinson won a Guitar Shed music lessons gift card, Sean's Market gift card, and Oxford Cleaners dry-cleaning gift card;

and finally,
 • Not pictured: The two tied kindergarten teacher assistants also received Sean's Market and Oxford Cleaners gift cards.

Our Rocket Fuel Fund Fundraiser not only exceeded our \$130,000 goal, but we raised a total of \$148,000. Way to go, Rockets! Congratulations to all of our winners. And a huge thanks go to all of our donors, and especially thank you to these local businesses who donated to our fabulous prize packages: Sean's, Guitar Shed, Marie Marie Salon, Amore y Amore, Salon 5, M3 Yoga, Aurora Coffee, CaptureAbel photography, and Oxford Cleaners. Please support the local businesses that support our community.





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Gillespy Group

Frazer Center

Continued from page 3.

stormed about what kinds of activities might be a good fit for everyone. After consulting with Unondus Walker, Frazer's Director of Adult Services, the first gathering happened recently at Westminster. The plan was to work in the garden together, but the weather prohibited it. Plan B drew no complaints—a pizza party with games. The Uno competition was fierce. The giant game of Sorry had a lively circle of participants. And the more shy children and adults managed to find each other for some one-on-one matches of Jenga and Connect Four. The next gathering was a Valentine's party at Frazer Center. Tables were set up with arts and crafts, board games, and Valen-

tine cupcakes. The music inspired impromptu line dancing enjoyed by children, adults, and staff alike.

Westminster will host the Frazer Center adults a few more times before the end of the school year. "We might have a cooking class together," says Stacy, "and hopefully we'll be able to invite Frazer to a performance here on campus by Full Radius," a dance company that brings together dancers with and without disabilities. Regardless of the activities, we are confident that both the adults and children are expanding their horizons, and we're hopeful that these fifth graders will be instrumental in creating a more inclusive future.



Hello – Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Birthday People:

- March 3—Judy Langford and Robin Singer, both on Harold Avenue
- March 6—Dalton Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, 15
- March 9—Jonathan Cook, Leonardo
- March 13—Ada Covington, happy 9!! Hardendorf Avenue
- March 14—Jennie Caine, Leonardo
- March 20—Kaia Wiltsee, turns 14
- March 23—David Damon, Forrest Hills. Important volunteer role of providing emotional support and delicious vegan food for the editor, 60 years or so.
- March 29—Victoria Weldert – Happy 8!!
- March 30—Darcy Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, turns 12!
- March 31—James Crutcher, Hardendorf, and Carol Vanderschaff, Indiana.

Anniversaries:

- March 19—Happy Anniversary, McGills! Delaware Ave.

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

♪ Live Music! ♪

by Beth Damon

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

Tuesday, February 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
Fri & Sat, 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
Thu & Fri, Mar 30–31	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



How to see more Fireflies and Butterflies this coming Summer

There is no waste in nature, and leaves aren't litter. Many species of butterflies, bees, fireflies, moths, ladybugs, and earthworms find their homes in leaves. If you still have fall leaves remaining, instead of "cleaning up for Spring," try alternatives:

- Rake. It might take a little longer, but healthier for you, your family, your neighbors, the workers and the environment. Put the leaves in your flower beds. Pollinators will love you for it!

- Ask your landscapers to blow less, a lot less. If you feel you must have them blow, ask them to hit the high spots and be done with it. Get used to living with leaves.

- And, please use only battery-operated leaf blowers. Remember, we breathe what they blow! Mow the leaves on your lawn instead of blowing. Corded electric leaf blowers have a high-pitch noise and blast things just as badly as gas leaf blowers. Sweep driveways, patios.

Bagging Leaves: Watching neighbors laboriously stuff their leaves into bags for hauling to the landfill makes me sad. I rake mine up and dump them into a big pile

that turns into nice organic compost for my tomatoes and other goodies. I don't put food scraps and other table detritus in there because it becomes a buffet for the rats... and we don't need any more rats in LC. If you do it, leaves are pretty acidic, so it helps to dump a bag of lime on top of the pile and stir it in. Lime is pretty cheap, harmless, and easy to apply to the pile. When it rains it just percolates. Gardening day brings nice wet rich soil under the pile and pays off in produce. It helps to stir the stuff up with a shovel periodically. Big or small, one of these leaf piles will help your green thumb.

And you know, we at the Clarion are card-carrying tree huggers, so here is a reminder *not* to let those companies come this spring to kill mosquitos!





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Land Trust Coat Drive: “Thank You” Just Doesn’t Seem Enough

by Amber Corbett

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” – Fred Rogers

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust embarked on our 1st Annual Coat Drive in partnership with Blessing Bags of Warmth for the Homeless not knowing what to expect but hoping for the best, like many other endeavors we take on. We are humbled and truly astonished by the generosity and kindness of this community for our unhoused neighbors. As I write this thank you note, the timing we selected to hold our drive is not lost on me. Exactly 94 years ago, on January 15, 1929, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Sweet Auburn, just 6 miles from the Lake Claire neighborhood where the Land Trust is today. Dr. King was a servant leader, prioritizing others and the greater good in everything he did. In his 1963 book *Strength to Love*, he wrote, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Sherri McCoy, the founder of Blessing Bags of Warmth, wakes up every single day with boundless energy and enthusiasm for serving Atlanta’s unhoused community. She feeds them, clothes them, talks to them to find out their needs, listens to their woes and stories, provides them with resources, tells them where warming centers are open, comforts them . . . the list is endless! Sherri went out at 4 a.m. yesterday, though under the weather herself, stating on a Facebook post

“I know I promised I would rest but when temperatures dropped below 35 with a ‘feels like’ of 20, I couldn’t lay in my bed comfortably knowing there were people on the street that could use hand warmers, a blanket or coat, and comforting words.”

Lake Claire, Candler Park, and surrounding neighborhoods: **THANK YOU.** The Land Trust Coat Drive collected approximately 400 pieces of warm clothing, socks, gloves, scarves, blankets, sleeping bags, toiletries and so much more. Among that count is close to 100 coats! It is truly remarkable and the gratitude is bountiful. The accompanying picture is from 9 p.m. on the last day of the drive, after Sherri had already done two other pickups during the week. Thank you to Miriam Herbers and Elizabeth Sullivan for donating their porches as drop-off locations. But the biggest thanks goes to Sherri, who dedicates her life to this outreach. Please continue to support this phenomenal woman and Blessing Bags of Warmth for the Homeless in any way that you can. We’ll do it again next year!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BlessingBagsOfWarmth. Instagram: [@blessingbagsofwarmth](https://www.instagram.com/blessingbagsofwarmth). Website: blessingbagsofwarmth.com/Donations - www.givebutter.com/warmthatl (Venmo, PayPal, Zelle, etc. also available)



Lake Claire COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Please take our survey!
We want your input.



Lake Claire Community Land Trust
<https://linktr.ee/lcclt>

Land Trust March Calendar

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

Tues., Mar. 7 Naanstop Indian food delivery, 5:00-5:45 p.m. 10% of proceeds benefit the Land Trust. The Land Trust receives 10% of the proceeds of a meal delivered to Lake Claire by NaanStop, a family-owned Indian restaurant that supports a different nonprofit each month. Feeds four; vegan & meat entrees available. Order before 8 p.m. Mar. 6, at naanstop-candler-lake-claire-family-meals.square.site.

Thurs., Mar. 9 Land Trust Board meeting, 7–8 p.m. All welcome! info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link.

Sun., Mar. 12 Slow Vinyasa Flow Yoga with Jess Pfeffer, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Introductory rate: \$15/person (10% to LCCLT). Yoga Alliance-registered yoga teacher/Masters-level mental health therapist. Bring yoga mat or towel and water bottle. In the Greenfield under the trees. Space limited, LCCLT.org/new-events & scroll to Mar. 12 to reserve.

Mon., Mar. 13 Community Potluck Dinner, 6:30 p.m. at the Little Gazebo. Monthly potlucks are back, 13th of each month at the picnic tables in the Greenfield. Bring a dish, beverage or dessert to share and your own plate, cup, and utensils. Join us! (See article this page.)

Tues., Mar. 14, 28 Walking Club with the Frazer Center, 1–2 p.m. Join participants in the Frazer Center’s adult program on a leisurely walk from the Frazer Center to the Land Trust and back, every other Tuesday.

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

Sun., Mar. 19 Lemons & Limes Sensory Yoga for Kids with Najee Rodriguez, 11 a.m.–noon; \$15/kid (10% to LCCLT). Yoga for kids is proven to improve muscle strength and memory and promote emotional stability. Bring yoga mat if you have one, drinking water and clothing to layer (depending on weather). A few loaner yoga mats will be available. Space is limited, LCCLT.org/new-events & scroll to Mar. 19 to reserve (and prepay with Venmo if possible).

Sat., Mar. 25 Spring Sound Bath with Naila E. & Albert, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; \$30/person (59% goes to LCCLT). Certified sound practitioner and a sound and meditation facilitator provide the meditative sounds of crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, chimes, other instruments. Bring a blanket or yoga mat, meet at the Pond Overlook. Advance tix required, LCCLT.org/new-events, scroll to Mar. 25 to prepay. More info: AcrossTheAtlantic7@gmail.com.

Sun., Mar. 26 Lake Claire Literary and Cornbread-Chili Society, 3–5 p.m. An informal discussion sharing your favorite books & learning about books recommended by other participants. Potluck dish or beverage welcome but not required. Meet at the picnic tables in the Greenfield.

Sun., Mar. 26 Creative Class for Kids with Brook Hewitt, 4–6 p.m. Unique offering of photography and mixed media art projects. Drop in any time during the session, make and take home a creative project! Open to all ages and abilities; multi-media art supplies provided. No charge; donations welcome.

Sunday Dinners

by Skye McKinney

Potlucks were a common ritual when I was a kid growing up in Lake Claire. Everyone would bring something to eat or drink to contribute to a shared meal. It was an act of gathering with neighbors that created a bond over food. I moved to Amsterdam in 2018 as an au pair. I quickly lost my sense of belonging and felt isolated in a new country. The next year I started school at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie. The student body at Rietveld is 70% expatriates, and the rest of the class is of Dutch nationality. Through conversation, I realized I was not alone in feeling isolated and far from home.

With a housing crisis in Amsterdam, many students are unable to find stable apartments to live in. I was lucky enough to have a comfortable apartment, so I decided I would

take the opportunity to host what became “Sunday Dinner,” a potluck-style gathering every Sunday evening with an open-door policy. Everyone was welcome, and it provided a space for strangers to mingle and become friends. Sunday Dinners were my method to finding a community in a foreign country. I feel grateful to have grown up surrounded by neighbors who taught me the importance of breaking bread together. The gatherings at the homes around the neighborhood and at the LCCLT taught me the value of making the energy and space to build community intentionally.

Join us as our Community Potluck Suppers at the Land Trust resume this month and continue on the 13th of every month through October, 6:30 p.m. around the picnic tables in

the Greenfield. Bring your own re-usable dinnerware and a dish or beverage to share if you can. Help turn our neighborhood into a community!



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers, writers, and artists to participate. London Alden is our featured writer for the month. London is thirteen years old and in 8th grade at David T. Howard. She lives

on Colebrook Street. Thank you, London, for your writing skills this month and for keeping us apprised in the past about the scouts' activities. To all the Lake Claire children and young adults 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, by **March 15-18** for the next issue of the newspaper, which will be APRIL.

A LOVE-ly Year in Review

by London Alden

Valentine's Day has come and gone, but the memories we'll make at Howard Middle School will stick with us, just like the gum on the backs of our desks. This year was a special one because after years of caution, we were able to freely hug our friends, share special moments, and wish them a happy day.

Last year at this time, most of us were still wearing masks and distancing. We couldn't share our food at school, we couldn't pass out Valentines, and our teachers couldn't give us anything either. A lot of Howard students had different things to say about Valentine's Day this year, and it was fun to learn what some of them enjoyed about the day. I interviewed six students to learn what makes this day special to them.

My question to them: What do you enjoy about Valentine's Day?



London (L) with friend Grace Krauth

Student 1: Time with friends; Student 2: Candy, but I wish we got more, like we did in elementary school; Student 3: Chocolate; Student 4: The year I actually get a Valentine; Student 5: Being with who I love; Student 6: Eating all the Fun Dip I can handle.

Those were some pretty typical responses you might think a middle schooler would say. What was YOUR favorite thing about Valentine's Day this year?

Contest Winner!

The winner this month who spotted W.E.B. Du Bois on a postage stamp on P. 7 in last month's issue, is Carolina Crymes, 3.5 years old, on Gordon Ave. She is at Freedom Park Preschool. Congrats, Carolina! You're the only winner this month! And all, do keep reading the Kids' Page and sending in your guesses. See our new contest below.



Carolina

New Contest

There are many special days in March. One is Ramadan, beginning March 22. Somewhere in this newspaper is a graphic representing Ramadan. To win, identify the page where this important holiday in Islamic culture is pictured. The winner/winners will be pictured in the next Clarion. For extra credit, tell us more about what Ramadan is. Email editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, 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.** The extra-credit prize is that you'll be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is MARCH 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**



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