

Lived in 2+ Homes in Lake Claire

This continues our series on Lake Claire folks who have lived in two or more homes in our LC 'hood. Some people downsized, some up-sized, and it will be fun to discover other reasons they have had for moving, though we know why they wanted to stay in Lake Claire, of course. This month's article features Linda Maynard, the McGill family, Ann Mauney, and Janie Branscomb/Sam Collier. In three of the four moves, there is a common theme of moving next door, a few doors down, or across the street.

Linda Maynard's first Lake Claire residence was a rental house on Gordon Avenue in 1978. She said that after landing, she began exploring her surroundings and gravitated towards L5P, subsequently moving to Candler Park. At that time, Linda noted, Sevananda was in an old grocery store on Euclid and was used as a Piggly Wiggly store in the film "Driving Miss Daisy." (See right.) Linda continued, "When I discovered the

Emory-Grady bus route, I got closer to the route by moving over to Inman Park. This was not the deluxe rental we might picture today in Inman Park: there was duct tape to keep the freezer door closed and cramming in three roommates to share the costs in a two-bedroom duplex. Finally, when my Grady stint wrapped up, I could afford a step-up in housing; through friends, I learned of a Lake Claire rental house on Delaware Avenue, built in 1918. The house owner was an elderly man who after a short introduction, handed me the keys, no lease, but with a room where he needed to keep his beautiful antique furniture. The house was in extremely bad condition. For example, one room had sheets of plastic taped over the ceiling to catch rain. These were the days of small ceramic gas heaters in old fireplaces, but the house was bitter cold all winter long. I slugged it out for a year, and then I was tipped off by a neighbor that another neighbor had made an offer on the house



to buy it out from under me. What a great tip because I sure didn't want to move, having gained a foothold back in Lake Claire; so I made a counter offer and bought the house. Over the next 10+ years, I spent weekends working on the house, from the crawlspace up to the roof. I became skilled in plaster repair, laying tile, tearing down all the sagging plaster ceilings, repointing the foundation bricks, and the list goes

in Lake Claire. Residents that live in the Atlanta suburbs are surprised to hear of our quiet neighborhood (even with houses very close together), walking in the streets with so little traffic, basketball nets set up in the street, the Land Trust to visit with garden space to rent, and a 5-min walk to the corner shops and restaurants. The perks are many, and I am thankful to have landed in Lake Claire so many years ago."

Election Bill Updates from your State Representative

by Saira Draper

The Georgia Legislature considers many important issues over the course of the 40 days that it meets, but none is more important than voting rights. After all, voting is foundational. In order to see our values reflected in policy, we must be able to elect candidates who represent our values, so we must be able to cast a ballot that counts. In this month's column, I want to highlight some bills in my slate of pro-democracy, pro-voter legislation. Next month, I'll turn the focus to the anti-voter bills I am fighting against.

One bill I introduced last year, HB 559, never made it to the House floor even though it had bipartisan support and was voted unanimously out of committee. The reality of the Georgia General Assembly is that it is rare for any bill sponsored by a Democrat to get final passage and the governor's signature. Many good bills are unlikely to pass in their original

form. HB 559 got new life this year when a GOP member introduced an identical version of it in the Senate.

The bill would allow parents with children 5 years or younger in tow to skip to the front of the line to vote. This is a common-sense extension of a policy we already have in place for voters who are physically disabled or over the age of 75. The idea for this bill came from my personal experience; in 2022, I had two of my three children with me when I went to vote. Between pleas for snacks and refrains of "are we done yet?," I feared we would have to abandon our mission. As a society, we want people in all stages of life to vote. Taking the wait time guessing game out of voting for parents of infants and toddlers makes it easier for them to engage in the civic process.

The Senate version of my bill is

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Joseph and Jamie McGill, 2004.

on (see photo p. 8). I quickly learned which neighbors had which tools—along with their wealth of *This Old House* advice. So many memories of those days: Cumberland Island trips with neighbors; the aforementioned give-and-take of loaning and borrowing, both objects and knowledge; and, importantly, the security of looking out for one another, especially when a cat burglar was making the rounds

Just about twenty years later, in the spring of 1995, **Tom and Alicia McGill** decided to buy their first home. They began looking in Lake Claire. The market was **hot!** Every time they expressed interest in a house, the house went under contract. So, after some crying, Alicia said, they resigned to expand

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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

(Plus, please see Page 15 for Land Trust events and Page 13 for live music in Atlanta.)

2 Frazer Forest Work Day, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Pre-registration required. Space is limited. frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

11–18 Mary Lin Dine-Outs 5 days at The Dinner Shoppe, ready-to-go meals and casseroles. Order here: www.thedinnershoppe.com/march; in the “Fundraiser” field, type MLES for 10% to go back to Mary Lin’s PTA.

16 Fiddler’s Green (every 3rd Saturday at the E Church). See article to the right.

21 7:15 p.m. Exciting! Lake Claire meetings are “hybrid,” i.e., simultaneously in-person and on Zoom. Frazer Center Rose Room, 1815 S. Ponce, & contact lakeclaire.org for Zoom link. The 3rd Thursday.

22 Alanna Royale, part of Callanwolde’s Spring Concerts, others are 4/5 Phillip Scales, 4/19, Russell Cook, 5/3, Ruby Velle; see callanwolde.org/events/.

24 Candler Park Easter Egg Hunt, see details in box at right. Registration link: candlerpark.org/egghunt

31 Lake Claire Land Trust Community Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic. See details about this and all other Land Trust events, Page 15.

Clarion Interview with Candler Park/Lake Claire Security Patrol (CPLC)

The Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods jointly started the CPLC Security Patrol in 2016 to enhance the safety and overall quality of life in the Lake Claire and Candler Park neighborhoods, providing an added measure of policing on top of the service provided by the City of Atlanta Police Department. Recently we spoke with Sharon Pomeranz, one of the CPLC Security Patrol board members, about the program’s current progress.

Clarion: Who runs the Security Patrol?

SP: The CPLC Security Patrol is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation that is governed by a volunteer Board of

Directors consisting of Lake Claire and Candler Park neighbors. Each Board member typically serves a 2-year term.

Clarion: Who staffs the CPLC Security Patrol?

SP: The Patrol officers and the supervising officer are off-duty Atlanta Police Department (APD) officers. They conduct patrols during their off-duty hours in a marked vehicle provided by the Patrol. You might see our Patrol vehicle out and about in the neighborhood.

Clarion: Why should Lake Claire residents join the Patrol?

SP: Everyone! The number of hours the Patrol can operate depends

Fiddler’s Green Coffeehouse

You may have noticed Fiddler’s Green Coffeehouse here & in other recent issues. This monthly coffeehouse concert series features concerts of traditional music, singer-songwriters, poetry, and storytelling, on third Saturdays. This month, Fiddler’s Green presents **Jeff Silver & Pat Walsh** and **The Irish Brothers**, 7 p.m., 1st Existentialist Church, 470 Candler Park Dr. Singer/songwriter Jeff Silver has composed for musical theater, advertising, corporate projects, and modern dance. His song Forget About Love appeared on Mark Wills’ gold-selling album Permanently. Pat Walsh has a rich chordal palette, shifting time signatures, literate lyrics, and a strong melodic sense. He has two independent albums, has performed and recorded with Grammy

nominees, and has opened for musical giants such as Kris Kristofferson, Billy Joel, and Todd Rundgren. The Irish Brothers are Atlanta’s leading performers carrying on the legacy of class Irish folk singers such as The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem. Sandy “Sandyman” Flynn and “Captain” George Hergen draw from their Irish heritage for material, from traditional Irish ballads to original songs of love, drinking, revolution, and redemption. Presented by Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music (AAFFM). Minimum Admission: \$10 general, \$8 AAFFM and 1st E. Congregational members; additional contributions appreciated. Cash/check at door. More info: www.aaffm.org (AAFFM Events), 404-444-2334. (AAFFM is a non-profit organization.)



Classified:

Your friendly neighborhood pet sitter: Longtime Lake Claire resident now accepting new clients. Pet sitting (dog, cat, and exotics) and dog walking. Former vet tech and now 18+ years of pet sitting experience. References from your neighbors available. I offer a free meet & greet. **And \$10 off the first visit if you mention the Clarion.** Tina Smith, 404 247 0914.

on the number of members. The more members, the more hours the Patrol can operate. We need new members to keep the Patrol operational and to replace members we have lost due to attrition and people moving out of the neighborhood. We need you to keep the Patrol going!

Clarion: How can people join the Patrol?

SP: Joining is easy when you go to the CPLC Security Patrol website: cplcpatrol.com. Membership is currently \$250/year for single-family homes (\$100/year for seniors 65 and up). Condo associations and town-

homes should contact the Patrol for information at CPLCpatrol@gmail.com.

Clarion: Any other information residents should know?

SP: More information is available on our website: cplcpatrol.com or by emailing the Patrol at CPLCpatrol@gmail.com. One of the perks of being a member of the Patrol is the ability to request a vacation patrol when you are going to be out of town. If requested, an officer will periodically monitor the member’s residence

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ML Owen, *Knead*, photo by Greg Mooney

Mixing, Kneading, Shaping, Sharing: Mary Lynn Owen

by Gillian Grable

I first met actor, playwright, and educator Mary Lynn Owen (*MaryLynnOwen.com*) and her husband, Rob Cleveland, thirty years ago. They were holding their twin babies in their arms at a neighborhood potluck on Tuxedo Avenue where we live. Mary Lynn describes Lake Claire as a hotbed of creativity—the yards, the gardens, the potlucks, and parades. You may have passed Mary Lynn walking along the sidewalk practicing her lines for a play. I have seen her in her one-woman play, *Knead*, and *A Christmas Carol*, and marveled at her ability to inhabit a role. The highlights of her acting career are *Knead*, *Wit*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and as *The Stage Manager* in *Our Town*—all plays, she notes, in which the woman has a strong voice as well as vulnerability and woundedness.

“I didn’t really act until college,”

Mary Lynn recalls. “Some part of me knew that theatre would give me permission to be all of myself, that I could give life to everything—the other-worldly, the seductive, the antagonistic, the formidable—that the theatre could contain all of me; I’d get to be bigger. This was important, especially having grown up in small towns with a Methodist preacher father and a Cuban American mother who was trying to fit into Southern culture.”

Describing how *Knead* came about, Mary Lynn says, “I wasn’t setting out to write a play; but I was processing the events of my life, and my friend David suggested that this was a play. He said, ‘What if you make bread in the play?’ Something clicked!”

Mary Lynn learned how to write a

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Nature-based Summer Camp at Frazer Center

by Dina Shadwell

If you’re looking for some fun outdoor opportunities for your rising kindergartener or first-grader, Frazer Center’s nature-based camp is back for eight weekly sessions. This camp is an off-shoot of Frazer’s nature-based curriculum developed in partnership with Georgia State University. Kim Corson, Frazer’s Nature-based Curriculum Coordinator and former teacher with Frazer, returns as camp director.

Following the principles of nature-based learning, Frazer’s new summer camp is “emergent,” meaning the teachers and counselors assess the skills, needs, and interests of the group of children in each camp session. Camp activities will come from a combination of teacher-led inclusive lessons, and child-led exploration. Local occurrences will help shape daily activities, and campers will spend about half of every day outside, exploring and learning in

Frazer Forest.

Research on nature-based learning is a growing field, and certain benefits continue to emerge from studies, such as increased critical thinking and problem-solving skills, increased resilience, increased executive functioning, and reduced stress. Frazer’s nature-based summer camp will be a fun experience that stimulates campers’ curiosity about the natural world that surrounds them—hopefully, for a lifetime!

Sign up your rising kindergartener and first-grader for one to eight weeks. Registration is now open. Dates: May 28 – July 19, 2024; Hours: 8: a.m.–5 p.m.; \$385/week. Fees for holiday weeks are prorated.

To register, or for more information, visit frazercenter.org/child-development-program/summer-camps OR email Kim Corson at k.corson@frazercenter.org.

Mary Lin Update

by Patrick McGrath

The Mary Lin Education Foundation (MLEF) has kicked off their annual fundraising campaign with a big goal in mind. Over the next two years, the MLEF hopes to raise \$150,000 to dedicate to their new Multi-Year Habitat Plan (www.marylinfoundation.org/rocket-launch-day).

At a special Principal’s Coffee on Friday, February 2, Todd Fuller, MLEF Trustee for Special Campaigns and Principal of HGOR Landscaping, described the pro bono development of a master plan for transforming 1.1 acres of outdoor space at Mary Lin into the largest contiguous outdoor space at Mary Lin to support STEAM and project-based learning. This space, near the current outdoor gardens and chicken coops, is currently a “muddy field” littered with a number of safety issues that prevent the use of this space for children at

the school. The multiyear plan would correct current issues with the space and then create a functional, ADA compliant set of individual zones for learning. In the first year of the plan, some of the immediate issues with the space will be corrected. This work was started around Thanksgiving of last year, with workers removing invasive exotics and overgrown native plants and lifting the tree canopy to improve visibility, air circulation, and drainage. Additional work is planned to remove large boulders that litter the area as well as old fencing that breaks up the space. Drainage issues will also be corrected to create a bioretention area that will include habitats for animals and pollinators. Once these issues are corrected, individual areas will be created including areas for classroom learning, passive play, active play, experiments,

and observations. This renovation is expected to cost over \$150,000. If you are interested in supporting this project, please consider donating to the MLEF (secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/DZgenSjXsSfg_fO-cixFfEw).

Stephanie Schumacher, the head of STEAM at Mary Lin, described at this meeting how these renovation efforts tie into STEAM learning and work for STEAM certification for Mary Lin through the Department of Education. She is seeking to create a STEAM Advisory Board of parents, teachers, and community members to help bolster this program at Mary Lin.

An audio recording from the meeting, for those who missed it: (www.atlantapublicschools.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/1525/habitat.m4a) and slides

(docs.google.com/presentation/d/11h3dZd_ptyDNfYBDUyUW05-vE67qLNIOqqYaGcjVmGA/edit#slide=id.g118e3993b0c_0_421)

Finally, to continue the theme of STEAM, the results are in, and Mary Lin dominated the district science fair! First place winners will move on to the state fair in March.

First Place Winners:

- Garreth Wallace
- Rowan Moore
- Willa Kruskamp
- Naomi Goldberg
- Emerson Honeywell

Second Place Winners:

- Charles Berry
- Bradley Gonyeau

A special shout-out to Max Wetzel, who was sick and could not compete in the District Fair. A big congratulations to all of those that competed.

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Leonardi Gras 2024

by Lucas Gosdin

An unseasonably warm Saturday afternoon makes for a perfect neighborhood garden party. As the obvious pun probably led you to guess, Leonardi Gras has become an annual tradition celebrating Mardi Gras on Leonardo Avenue. The parade and party is in its third year and keeps getting better.

The parade starts on Marlbrook Drive and quickly turns the corner going the two-block length of Leonardo. If you are like I am and walk out the front door two minutes after 3 p.m., you might have missed the front of the pack. While it could hold the record for the world's least-attended parade, there's a great reason for it:

everyone wants to be in it! The spectacle included costumed families, decorated wagons bearing little ones, and, of course, colorful beads to wear and throw. Some standout floats included King Kong with the NYC skyline (the Waugh family) and Moana with an erupting volcano that said, "We Lava Leonardi Gras" (the James family). Kids from all over the greater Lake Claire neighborhood showed up to take part in the festivities making it bigger and better than ever!

This year, the Harkeys of South Leonardo hosted the party, complete with extensive decorations, tents,

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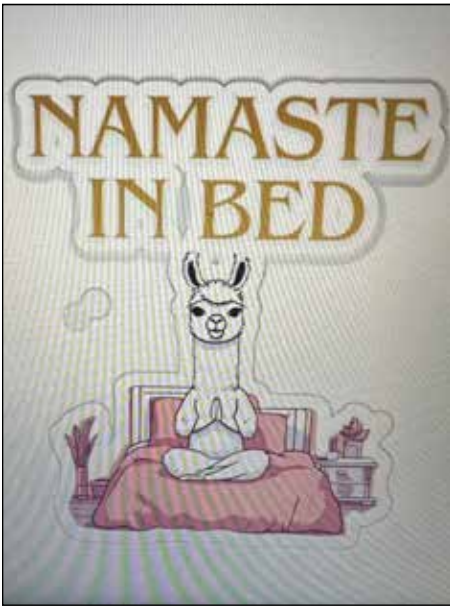
Namaste in Bed!

by Frani Green

Many people come to yoga to relax, stretch, breathe, and feel better. When I ask my students what they want to work on each class, the majority of them request to work on their backs. Sore back, tight backs, strained, it goes on and on.

One of the best ways that I know to assist yourself in reaching those goals can begin before you get out of bed each morning! (except of course if you must go to the bathroom)

Here's what to do: STAY IN BED! Lying on your back, pull your knees into your chest, and rock side-to-side for a few minutes. Every so often, take a breath, and when you exhale, lift your head to your knees, and then inhale back down. Next, straighten one leg down, inhale, and then with the exhale, lift your head up to your knee, and then switch sides. Do that several times, as well. And to finish, pull both knees back into your chest, open your arms wide like a "T" and do



several spinal twists, dropping both knees side to side. Keep both knees to one side, turn your head in the opposite direction, and take some really long deep breaths, Then switch sides.

You are now ready to face your day with a nice open spine.

Blessings to All/Namaste,
Frani
franigreen@bellsouth.net

Panda Bear

by Scott McLane

This is the story of Panda Bear, who remained in Lifeline's care for over a year before landing in his Garden of Eden in the home of Josh and Alecia in Oakhurst. But it is also the story of hundreds of adoptable dogs that pass through—or remain for months/years in—the Dekalb County Animal Shelter. Each is unique, but connected by the threads of both abandonment AND hope.

Panda Bear arrived at the shelter as a stray from Enforcement in January 2023. He was shy but easy to handle during his intake exam. After being at the shelter for a little over a week, Panda Bear was adopted. He was then returned a week later for being destructive and having separation anxiety when left alone. During a dog assessment in August, he was noted as "being hyper, doing well with confident females, and taking all corrections from the other dog." In September, Panda Bear went to a foster and was reported as not being comfortable with the foster's dog. The foster noted that "Panda Bear was friendly toward people, showed mild resource guarding, and appeared house- and crate-trained." Upon his return to the shelter, Panda Bear was paired with another dog in his kennel, but has since been in multiple fights.

But, most of Panda's 394 days in



Lifeline's care were spent in a 4 x 5 ft. kennel, getting moved once a day for an hour to another kennel while his kennel was cleaned. If he was lucky, he was taken by a volunteer to one of the shelter's woodchip-covered play yards for 15 MINUTES every 4th or 5th day to romp and cuddle, exuding an endearing zest for life. The fact that Panda maintained this joy despite his "imprisonment" for 95.5 hours out of 96 just spoke to why he soon became something I looked forward to every day that I made the 30-minute drive to the shelter in Chamblee to volunteer. However, I also knew that I had to prepare myself for a sad ending to our relation-

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Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

by Lori White

We are excited about all the partnerships that worked together to make our latest guest's move into his new home a success to be celebrated. Khalid was a model guest at Clifton for six months. While going through our Night Hospitality Program, Khalid worked with Clifton's Case Manager, Richard Cook, who is a member of the Intown Cares team. Through another connection at Church of the Common Ground, Richard found out about the opportunity for Khalid to move into Atlanta's new tiny home property called The Melody. Once Khalid got the go-ahead to move into his apartment, Morningside Presbyterian Church provided him with a "Welcome Home" basket with all kinds of essentials that Khalid will need in his new home. And, our Food Coordinator, Amy Eckles, and volunteer, Bee Bordeaux, made sure he had plenty of food from Clifton's food pantry to make sure his pantry and refrigerator were stocked.

It is so special to see so many individuals and organizations pull

together to help launch Khalid into this new chapter of his life. It takes a village, and we are so honored to be a part of this beautiful work. A success story, for sure.





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Election Bill Updates

Continued from page 1.

moving fast. SB 411 was introduced Jan. 26 and was heard by the Senate Ethics committee a few days later. In an uplifting moment, moms and dads gave remarks in favor of the bill, and some even brought their little ones with them to testify. Committee support was unanimous. If the bill clears the Senate and moves to the House, I will do all I can to see that it is adopted. It's good legislation regardless of who sponsors it.

My slate of election bills also includes legislation that would offer additional protection to poll workers and election staff, HB 1118. Since the 2020 election, harassment and threats of violence directed at election workers has gone through the roof. Ruby Freeman and Shaye Moss, now national heroes of democracy, were relentlessly targeted just for doing their jobs in Fulton County. Election officials are quitting at record rates all across the state, and with them goes the experience and institutional knowledge needed to run elections smoothly. If my bill becomes law, the category of election workers who receive protection would be expanded, and their personal information would be safeguarded.

Another bill I've introduced would curb the number of mass, meritless voter challenges that have plagued our counties since 2020. In the weeks before the 2021 Senate runoffs for Warnock and Ossoff, bad actors weaponized the voter challenge process to bring over 360,000 bad-faith challenges against Georgia voters. Counties were mired in processing election challenges during the critical period before a statewide election of highest national significance. Under HB 1254, the challenger would have to pay the reasonable cost of the county to research, process, and execute voter challenges. It mirrors the language in the Georgia Open Records Act, which essentially says people are entitled to records, but must pay the reasonable costs associated with collecting and producing them. This would dissuade frivolous challenges while still allowing for good faith, legitimate challenges.

Next is my bill that would create a ballot initiative and referendum process in Georgia at the state level, the Representative Democracy Enforcement Act. I stand with the majority of Georgians who want to expand Medicaid, protect abortion access, pass common-sense gun safety laws, and use an independent redistricting commission to draw political maps. Our "representative democracy" is broken when my GOP colleagues ignore the will of the people, refusing to



Rep. Draper voting with her kids

take action on these matters. Whereas other states allow for citizen-led ballot initiatives and referendums that give the people a process by which to amend, add, or repeal state laws, Georgia does not. The Representative Democracy Enforcement Act would give Georgia citizens an avenue to make their voices heard.

HB 419 is my runoff reform bill that seeks to decrease the number of costly and burdensome elections in Georgia, the only state in the country that has runoffs after the primary and the general election. Most states require a plurality of votes to win vs. Georgia requiring at least 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff. In 2020 and 2022 we had runoffs in critical elections that came at a time when many of us were fatigued after long election cycles, with costs to taxpayers in the millions. HB 419 lowers the runoff threshold from 50% to 45% for general elections. If no candidate reaches 45%, there would still be a runoff. As a practical matter, dropping the runoff threshold to 45% means that a non-viable third candidate could still take a few percentage points of the vote, but that in itself would not force a runoff between two viable candidates. Had this policy been in place over the last 30 years, we would have avoided all regular election runoffs. And in most cases, the outcome of who won the election would not have changed -- generally speaking, the highest vote-getter in the general election goes on to win the runoff. There is almost always a dip in voter turnout between the general election and the runoff; so, while a runoff winner does technically receive over 50% of the vote of the runoff voters, that vote number is generally less than 50% of those who participated in the general election-- sometimes drastically so. Election administrators support this bill. It has been stagnant this year; there

Panda Bear

Continued from page 5.

ship—something that now comes with the territory all too often.

Thus, on February 7 this email about Panda, and several other dogs, was sent out to those volunteers who had chosen to be notified about the almost daily euthanasias that the shelter has been forced to perform due to overcrowding: "Due to these behaviors in the shelter and home, in addition to our current space constraints, we can no longer house this dog in the shelter, and he will be humanely euthanized on February 14, at 11:30 a.m."

And as always, when this email was sent, a phalanx of passionate volunteers rallied to post pleas with positive useful information and photos of Panda on our Facebook/Nextdoor/Instagram pages, praying for a miracle. On February 11 our prayers were answered. Josh and Alecia, who had lost their boxer in the fall, saw a Nextdoor repost and immediately knew that this was their moment to step-up to save a life AND bring some 4-legged love back into their lives! Two days later Panda left the shelter, 16 hours before my feared sad ending, for his new life, surrounded by the joy he breathes!

A footnote: Many dogs continue to

be saved in just this way, hours and even minutes before their scheduled euthanasias by the unyielding passion and commitment of Lifeline, and its volunteers, with their core value to save lives. We can all contribute by spreading the word, just as Panda's life was saved by a simple repost. Doing our part can be as simple as that, and what a reward you will reap.

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 have been lost, 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. If you cannot foster, please 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. Or, as Scott says, at least post/re-post. Speaking as someone who just adopted an additional rescue this past November, I say again that animals bring such joy and comfort into our homes and lives. ~Beth

may be renewed interest after what I predict will be low-turnout, costly runoffs this December.

Finally, I want to remind you that we have an election coming up. Georgia's Presidential Preferential Primary is March 12. If you aren't already registered, it's too late for this election, but do register now in order to participate in the many other elections happening this year, including the May primary. Information about polling locations and hours can be found on my website, sairadraper.com/vote. Georgia's is an open primary state, meaning voters don't register by party. You can request either a Democratic or Republican

ballot at the polls. Even though the nominees for each party are almost settled, a total of 14 candidates will be on the ballot this March.

If you have any questions about voting, the bills discussed above, or anything else that's happening at the Capitol, please reach out. I also invite you to join me for any of the town halls I'm hosting, including Neighborhood Church (3/14), Bessie Brannham (3/16), and Callanwolde (3/6).

Saira Draper is an attorney, voting rights expert, and the State Representative for Georgia House District 90. Thank you for taking the time to keep Lake Claire informed, Rep. Draper, and thank you for all you do.

Girl Scouts' Outing

by Cynthia Zeldin

Girl Scout Troop 19060 visited the State Capitol in February. The troop, comprised of 5th graders from Mary Lin Elementary, toured the building and learned about its history and distinguishing features. State Representative Saira Draper joined the Girl Scouts for the tour and talked with them about the legislative process and what it means to represent our community in the General Assembly.



More than One Lake Claire House

Continued from page 1.



Linda Maynard, 1986, re-glazing windows, with torch in hand, before installation of storm windows

the search to unincorporated Dekalb County, and they bought a 1950s brick ranch on Ridgecrest Court, just off the Lake Claire side of Ridgecrest (which is defined as Druid Hills). In Alicia's words:

"In 2001, our son, Joseph, was born. Then, in 2003, our daughter, Jamie, was born. The Ridgecrest Court house started to feel small. So, we began thinking of renovating/expanding the house or moving into Lake Claire/Candler Park to be even closer to great places to hang out with kids like Lake Claire Park, Candler Park, CPM, Fellini's, La Fonda ...

"On an early Saturday morning walk with the dog and both kids in the double stroller (pictured on Page 1) in the spring of 2004, I saw a for-sale sign going in the ground at 1776 Delaware Avenue. The cute, white, 1915 bungalow with the huge front porch was charming. And it was so close to the Lake Claire Land Trust! The State/Battleship-Streets felt relaxed, small-town, yet urban, and... well, hippy—much different than the suburban feel of Ridgecrest Court, mere blocks away. So, we sold our house on Ridgecrest Ct. to a fabulous family with a new baby (they are still there and have done amazing things to the house and the land; they were the perfect family for that house on Ridgecrest Ct!). We bought 1776 Delaware Avenue. The house was move-in ready, but not for a family with babies and toddlers. So, we added a second set of stairs and did a little more renovation to make the house flow for us. Living through the mess was quite the challenge with crawling babies and all the dust. The house had been heated with coal for decades, and coal residue had seeped into the lath of plaster walls and into every crevice of door hardware. Cutting into the walls released the oily black dust, and it settled EVERYWHERE. And, then there was the sheetrock...

Joseph and Jamie attended pre-K at Mary Lin. Back then, APS pre-K spots were first-come-first-serve, and parents actually camped out a week prior to registration to get their kids enrolled. I was 8 months+ pregnant, with two kids and a dog and cat. I couldn't imagine how we could camp out to get Joseph into pre-K. And, then the rain and cold came, which deterred folks from camping out. I decided to load up the car with kids and the dog and drive by to check out the pre-K line of cars. There were only 18 cars in line for 20 spots! So, we pulled into line in spot #19, Tom and I took turns in the car to keep our place in line, and we registered Joseph for pre-K. Then, that same day, I went into labor and delivered Sara. When it was Jamie's turn to enter pre-K, we pitched-in with the Haller-Wren family (*another family with 2+ LC homes / see February issue*) to rent an RV to camp out on McLendon for a whole week to get kids into pre-K. We celebrated Jamie's 4th birthday outside that RV. The year Sara was eligible for pre-K, the Frazer Center changed their policy from lottery to first-come-first-serve. Tom camped out AGAIN to get her into pre-K there.

Michael was born in 2007. We decided to expand our 3-bedroom and finish out the attic to add another 700 square feet and better accommodate four kids. So, renovation #2 began. And, it was another doozy. This time though, the contractor built steps in the front yard to access the attic from the outside of the house. When almost all the construction was done, the contractor framed out the door from the attic to the main house. So, we only had to deal with a little coal dust and sheetrock dust this time.

By the time Michael was eligible for pre-K, Frazer realized first-come-first-serve would result in dozens of



Alicia McGill with (L-R) Jamie, Joseph, and Sara

30307 parents camping out for many nights, and they went back to the lottery system. Thankfully, Michael got a spot at the Frazer Center. And, our Toco Hills nephews also attended Frazer at the same time! Many afternoons at our house, as a then stay-at-home-mom, we'd have 10 kids from 3 to 11 p.m. running laps from the front door, down the alley, through the backdoor, upstairs, downstairs, in and out, for hours. One time, I crammed NINE kids into the minivan and treated them to Zesto for the \$1 ice creams. As an aside, I usually am a rule-follower; but, when Zesto had a special on ice cream, and it was summer, AND there were 10 kids running mad at our house, well ...

There was one more renovation. The kitchen hadn't been touched since the '80s. One appliance after the other died. The white Formica countertops were pretty gross. Why wait to renovate until you've decided to put the house on the market?! Anyway, in 2015, we did a third renovation.

By 2019, our kids had begun moving out to work or attend college. We realized we didn't need 3,400 square feet, a half-pipe, a tree house, etc., anymore, and having all of that was a burden to maintain. So, we began exploring down-sizing. After a very

brief look into moving out of Atlanta, we decided we needed to keep our home base in Atlanta. And, after a very brief time exploring dividing our house into 2 units, we decided we were not ready to be landlords and decided to down-size. And, after another very brief time exploring other neighborhoods in Atlanta, we decided we needed to stay in Lake Claire or Candler Park. Why would we ever want to leave when we can walk to L5P, Fellini's, La Fonda, CPM, Kroger, Lowes, yoga, MARTA? And our incredible neighbors! Neighbors that are like family—employing our kids for chores, checking in on all of us, guiding us with words and literature, doing good deeds for us, and loving us. So many absolutely wonderful neighbors! How could we leave this caring neighborhood? At this time, coincidentally, our next-door neighbors on the Arizona Avenue side were notified that the age-in-place community they were wait-listed for had an opening. They needed to sell the home they had lived in and loved since 1978. So, instead of downsizing to a condo or selling everything and becoming vagabonds, we ended up buying 361 Arizona and moving a whole 15 feet west.

When we bought this 1890-or-so house on Arizona, we knew we needed to do a significant renovation—one we could not live through. So, we continued to live next door at 1776 Delaware, worked with an architect (Ute Banse who lives in Inman Park and is great at renovating and restoring old homes in 30307), and hired a contractor to enlarge the kitchen, relocate bathrooms, add a back porch, finish the upstairs—many of the ideas inspired by the previous owners' unrealized dreams for the house (and adds your Clarion editor, who lives next door on the other side and saw the ideas unfolding, by the McGills' own creativity and vision, extensive research, visits to floor and tile places, etc.). We expect to be in



Recent picture of the McGills (L-R Jamie, Joseph, Michael, Sara)

Cont. on p. 11

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

A few days after I finished writing my column for the February issue of *The Clarion* (which featured multiple hawk observations from around the 'hood), my husband Wade and I were taking a walk along Terrace Ave on the east side of the Candler Park golf course. I interrupted our conversation to note that I was hearing a bird that sounded like a squeaky toy, which I had remembered him trying to teach me to identify by sound sometime in the previous year. He did not recognize this call, though, so I pulled out the Merlin Bird ID app (merlin.allaboutbirds.org) on my phone, which "listens" to ambient sounds and identifies bird calls based on location and time of year. This bird solidly identified as a Cooper's hawk, which we were able to confirm when the bird finally flew up from the tree and revealed itself. We noticed another hawk flying between trees nearby, likely a red-shouldered hawk. The two raptors seemed to be having some sort of territorial dispute, though it was hard to tell which was the potential interloper.

My regular contributors and several news ones have been very prolific this month, so I'll get right to their observations.

Jane B reported finding owl pellets on her back deck two days in a row. Some may think this is gross, but to her it's exciting to know that while she is sleeping, an owl is perching on her deck railing. The pellets, indigestible parts of the owl's meal (bones, feathers, fur) that its gizzard forms into a tight ball, are regurgitated through its mouth. Gray fuzz and tiny bones suggest this owl has been dining on small rodents like moles or mice.

In the middle of the day in early February, Patricia D observed a massive flock of red-winged blackbirds flying in from the west to settle on-mass in the bare branches of a large tree on Dekalb Ave/Dekalb Place, completely covering it. They chortled loudly for a while, occasionally being flushed out by passersby below, swirling around the treetop in big circles, and coming back to rest again, before they eventually flew off together. Patricia also counted a flock of eight beautiful cedar waxwings, and 2-3 dozen robins, going nuts flying in-and-out from the shelter of adjacent trees to eat the berries. On another bird note, Dawn A shared a photo of a beautiful towhee she observed in her backyard. They can be heard calling around the neighborhood with their distinctive call that sounds like, "Drink your teeeeeee!"

Bernard S was recently in Southern Florida and notes that the flora

and fauna are very different there. Walking on a boardwalk through the mangrove, he ran into two ibises chatting calmly in the middle of the trail. They finally moved when he passed them. Another time, he was waiting in a parking lot when a sandhill crane showed up! That place is full of surprises! [See Bernard's photos of the ibises and crane.]

Frank W reports seeing many flocks of birds over the last two months in Lake Claire and surrounding neighborhoods, consisting of large numbers of red-winged blackbirds, as well as robins and other species including at least two species of dark iridescent birds (perhaps they were European starlings). Frank saw one large flock flying over the railroad along DeKalb Ave. at sunrise between Inman Park and Edgewood, and it must have included as many as 1,000 individuals. He was lucky enough to observe some of this flocking activity in his own backyard, including at his fountain where he usually only sees a few bird visitors at a time. Frank was surprised at how aggressive the red-winged blackbirds were toward each other and how they use their wings to flash their red stripes, which were not always red; some of them were in fact, yellow or orange (Sara notes: male red-winged blackbirds use their red epaulets to defend their territories and attract mates; when moving into another male's territory or when threatened by a predator, they may hide the red patch). Frank also saw several hawks flying overhead in the neighborhood and on the bike path, and he saw a pretty large rabbit on Brooks Ave as it dodged for cover, which made him wonder if the hawks would like to know that intel.

Meredith W was excited to see a pair of white-throated sparrows in her yard. It's nice to see signs of spring in the red maples that are getting ready to bloom, or already flowering in a couple of cases, and in the growing buds on other trees like her black cherry. She also saw a great blue heron chasing a female hooded merganser with a fish. The heron kept at it until the merganser dropped the fish and he was able to eat it. Meredith wasn't sure which bird stole the fish first, but it was an interesting interaction.

Dorothy D fairly often sees a large rabbit in her backyard in the evening or early in the morning. She's even fenced off an overgrown corner of the yard as a rabbit preserve. She has a dog, so she thinks the rabbit spends a lot of time in his quarters, or in somebody else's yard.

Over the next couple of months,



Ibises



Towhee

I'm planning to highlight an extraordinary and rare natural occurrence, a total solar eclipse (www.great-american-eclipse.com/april-8-2024). The 2024 eclipse will be visible over a large swath of the U.S. and Mexico (though not in Georgia, unfortunately) on April 8, and Wade and I are planning a trip to the path of totality in Missouri. Next month, I'll write about our experience observing another total solar eclipse in 2017 in South Carolina, why it motivated me to make an effort to see this one in



Sandhill crane

2024, and a bit about our trip plans. In May, if all goes well, I'll write about our experience in Missouri!

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

Take Action to Protect the Okefenokee

by Sara Gottlieb

You may have noticed a Protect the Okefenokee (Text SWAMP to 52886) yard sign in front of CoHousing in the Arizona Ave cul-de-sac. The purpose is to raise awareness about an ongoing threat to the Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge due to a proposed titanium mine adjacent to the swamp. The Twin Pines mine on Trail Ridge, a geologic formation along the eastern boundary of the swamp, would alter the hydrology of the swamp and risks contaminating

the water people and many animals depend on.

The Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Georgia will soon be nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it is a natural treasure that all Georgians should be proud of and want to protect. The 400,000 acre refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is one of the world's largest

Cont. on p. 11



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More than One Lake Claire House

Continued from page 8.

Lake Claire for the long-haul! And we are thrilled to be next-door neighbors with the young family who now lives in 1776 Delaware Avenue!”

In 1969, **Ted Brodek and Ann Mauney** moved into 572 Hardendorf, a 1920s brick bungalow they rented for \$125 a month! The previous tenant was Thomas Altizer, the “God is dead” theologian teaching at Emory at the time, who posted the house for rent on an Emory bulletin board. What luck, Ann told me. This is how she and Ted happened into Lake Claire and the Little Five Points neighborhoods just as the BOND Credit Union, the Community Star newspaper, and the first Road Fight got started in the early 70s.

In 1974, Ted and Ann bought the house at 555 Hardendorf, rolled their piano and refrigerator across the street, and continued their neighborhood involvement, making life-long friends along the way. Their children, Karen and Lorna, born in 1975 and 1978, went to Mary Lin Elementary, Inman Middle, and Midtown (then Grady) High School and joined them in the second round of the Road Fight when The Powers That Be threatened to build the expressway within 50 feet of Mary Lin.

Life is long, and decades later, Ann and Ted divorced. They each learned that they could be happy living in other places—which is a good thing to know, Ann believes. Yet that old house, built over 100 years ago in 1922, was special to both of them. Ted passed away in 2022; Ann continues to live there, with contentment. Ann told me, “I’m surely the oldest resident on the street—in both senses of that word. Yikes!”



Branscomb/Collier family on front steps at 450 Leonardo, 1999 (Janie, Larson, Chris, Sam)

Lastly for this issue, fruit basket turnover on Leonardo! **Sam Collier and Janie Branscomb** moved from Edgewood to Lake Claire in 1993, angling to send their son and baby-on-the-way to Mary Lin. Only a handful of families with young children lived in the Leonardo-Marlbrook (“Leo-Brook”) neighborhood at the time, but they grew up together and, with some additional households, created neighborhood traditions that would be echoed and amplified later on. There were chimineas and fireworks in the middle of the street for New Year’s Eve—cars parked across each end of Leonardo to block through traffic. There were Fourth of July potlucks, and Easter Egg hunts, and visits with elderly neighbors under the guise of “Sally Foster” (wrapping paper) fundraising sales for Mary Lin.

By the time Sam and Janie’s sons were in their late teens and busy with friends from throughout the Grady Cluster neighborhoods, Leonardo was populated by a new crop of families with young children. These folks, too, enjoyed knowing their neighbors and holding community events: There was Chilinardo at the Bakers’ in the fall; then Lighting of Leonardo at the Jiraks’. The Sammons brought LeoNardi Gras (see page 11), and a group of folks conceived the summertime Sip ‘n Dip. Although they now had an empty nest, Sam and Janie had long nursed ideas for changes to their house at 450 Leo. Both seasoned strategic planners and meeting facilitators, they brought out the white board and zeroed in on must-have and nice-to-have features. They wrote each one on an index card and talked through the stack with Marlbrook architect Audrey Godiers (having heard glowing reviews from her previous Leonardo clients, Magda and Tim Kline). Audrey drew up a beautiful design that met nearly all their objectives (not higher ceilings, which would have meant major demolition). They even sent out the plans for engineering drawings. But then they stalled. The prospect of moving out of their decades-occupied, three-story home and garage; overseeing a long and complicated project while living elsewhere with stuff in storage; eventually moving back in—that was daunting, to say the least!

This was Sam and Janie’s status in 2021 when Kat and Brett Cooper told fellow Leonardans that they were moving to Colorado. Index cards in hand, Sam and Janie strolled up to the open house at 420. It did not take long to see that the house checked all the boxes—even higher ceilings! Intent on staying

Protect the Okefenokee

Continued from page 9.

hydrologically intact swamps that is the source of the Suwannee and St. Mary’s Rivers. Okefenokee is home to a diverse community of species, from alligators to pitcher plants and bald eagles and even endangered species including indigo snakes, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and wood storks. The refuge’s undisturbed peat beds store vast quantities of carbon and are a significant source of information related to global changes over the past 5,000 years.

After a long and tortured process (made more complicated and less effective thanks to Trump-era messing around with the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court’s recent ‘Sackett Decision’ reducing wetland protections), the Georgia Environmental Protection Division issued draft permits allowing the mine to proceed on February 9.

If you are motivated to make comments on the permits, we are now in a 60-day period where GA EPD will be gathering comments until April 9 via email at TwinPines.Comment@dnr.ga.gov; you can also contact our state legislative representatives

(Saira Draper and Elena Parent) about a pending bill (Okefenokee Protection Act, Georgia House Bill 71) that would provide some level of protection for the swamp. Senator Ossoff has also expressed interest and taken action previously in this issue, though it’s less clear what he can do in his federal role now. Brian Kemp could put pressure on legislators to move the state bill through this session (this won’t be relevant in April). The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) is very likely preparing to file a law suit contesting the mining permits and will need money to support the effort.

Here are some more resources for information:

Okefenokee Protection Alliance:
protectokefenokee.org/
georgiarecorder.com/2024/02/13/opponents-of-mine-near-okefenokee-consider-options-to-stop-it-after-state-epd-issued-draft-permits/
www.georgiaconservancy.org/okefenokee/mining
garivers.org/protectokefenokee/

CPLC Security Patrol

Continued from page 2.

during the absence. A request form is available on our website. We are also looking for interested individuals to join the CPLC Security Patrol Board. Interested individuals should email the Patrol to express their interest.

not just in Lake Claire but on their beloved street, they leapt at this ideal solution. While moving was a long process—“one spoon at a time,” as Janie says—there were numerous advantages to carting things only six doors down the street. And once moved in, they were happy to sell 450 Leo to another local family, Rebecca and Jonathan Cook. In further small-town fashion, the Cooks sold their Lake Claire Cohousing home to fellow Arizona Avenue resident Bob Arko. That home is now occupied by folks who had longed to live in cohousing, for whom renting presented a great option. Meanwhile, the Cooks’ realtor from around the corner on Connecticut, Hector Pineyro, was busy building his family’s next home—on Harold, right behind Sam and Janie’s new house—fruit basket turnover, indeed!

Stay tuned for more personal histories next month! If you have lived in more than one house in Lake

Editor’s note: Members receive a yard sign to indicate that the household supports the Patrol—and to help spread the word to criminals that our LC and CP neighborhoods take safety seriously.

Claire, and you’re willing to share your story, please write to editor@lakeclaire.org—and include pictures if you have them. This series complements our former series “30+ Years in Lake Claire,” some of whom were 2nd generation owners in Lake Claire in or near houses they grew up in (e.g., Tina Smith on Connecticut, Rachel Otis on Arizona, Tess Horn on Arizona, Kathie Ryan on Harold), and we welcome anyone who fits that category to be featured here; please get in touch).



Mixing, Kneading, Shaping, Sharing: Mary Lynn Owen

Continued from page 3`.

play by doing it. "My mother's recipe helped me define the structure: Mixing, Kneading, Punching, Shaping, Baking, Cooling, Sharing. I put all my stories up on the wall and began to think about where they fell in relation to the recipe."

Audience members are mystified: Is she really baking bread? (The answer is yes!) "People want to talk with me about family members who broke their hearts, family members they have resolved things with – or not, losses of family members, and their own recipes. The play is about how to bake those losses into Life and share them with others."

Mary Lynn's creative acting process starts in pre-rehearsal. "Every play teaches me how to approach it, the research I need to do, such as study an historical figure, familiarize myself with the time of the play. I study the text, the arc of the character. Then, in rehearsal, I am open to creative ideas, and I commit to what I am doing. Finally, when I am performing, I let go of the rehearsal, and I trust. A play is in the moment, the

trying to resolve something.

"In my writing process, I follow an idea to see where it takes me. I hear a character talking to me who needs to say something—or I am eavesdropping. I might show my draft to one or two people; then I get actors in the room and read it, then a director. Actors commit to the development process." Mary Lynn's advice to other writers? "Follow that voice, that quickening. Observe, listen, and follow."

And the future? "I am going to Cottages at Hedgebrook, a women writers' retreat in Puget Sound. This summer I am doing a musical, and in the fall, I am directing at Theatre Emory."

Brava, Mary Lynn!

This is part of a new "Lake Claire Creatives" series, about creative individuals from diverse fields, who you may not have known were neighbors. Contact JaneBranscomb@gmail.com to recommend someone to be featured or to volunteer to write a piece for the series.

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Leonardi Gras 2024

Continued from page 5.

toys, and a fence to contain two dozen kiddos. There were snacks and drinks to spare, thanks to everyone's contributions, but the delicious hurricanes went fast! If you were too scared of finding the baby in the king cake, you might have enjoyed some other Louisiana favorites like gumbo or muffulettas. Regardless, partygoers went home full of pleasant memories, buzzing on the energy of time spent with cool people.

Mardi Gras was not part of my family traditions, so I had to ask Jesse Sammons—expert in such things thanks to his Louisiana native wife, Rachel—what does one say, happy Mardi Gras? He taught me the French Creole phrase “Laissez les bons temps rouler” or “let the good times roll.” Leonardo neighbors and friends sure know how to have a good time whatever we are celebrating.



Photos by Debbie Livingston



Live Music!

by Beth Damon

Music as of press time. Support live music and our local venues! Enjoy!

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Friday, March 1 | Chatham County Line | The Earl |
| Friday, March 1 | Reedy River String Band | FTE |
| Friday, March 1 | The Aint Sisters (after party) | The Loft |
| March 1-2 | Billy Strings | State Farm Arena |
| Saturday, March 2 | Skydog Gypsy | Aisle 5 |
| Sunday, March 3 | Jon Batiste | Tabernacle |
| March 3 & 5 | Dave Mason's Traffic Jam | City Winery |
| Monday, March 4 | The Kills | Variety Playhouse |
| Wednesday, March 6 | The Sea The Sea | Eddie's Attic |
| Thursday, March 7 | Michelle Malone/Kevin Kinney | Napoleons |
| Friday, March 8 | Get the Led Out | Variety Playhouse |
| Friday, March 8 | JJ Grey & Mofro | The Eastern |
| Friday, March 8 | Yola | Terminal West |
| Saturday, March 9 | Cold War Kids | Buckhead Theatre |
| Saturday, March 9 | Frankly Scarlet | The Garden Room |
| Saturday, March 9 | Sleater-Kinney | The Eastern |
| Saturday, March 9 | The Floozies | Tabernacle |
| Monday, March 11 | Mahalia | Buckhead Theatre |
| Monday, March 11 | Maurice "Mobetta" Brown | City Winery |
| Tuesday, March 12 | Jenny Lewis | The Eastern |
| Wednesday, March 13 | Bikini Trill | Aisle 5 |
| March 12-13 | Josh Ritter | City Winery |
| Thursday, March 14 | Joe Alterman | Eddie's Attic |
| Friday, March 15 | Mystery Cassette | Napoleons |
| Friday, March 15 | Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley | Eddie's Attic |
| Friday, March 15 | Sweet Melissa's Blues Revue | Will Henry's Tavern |
| Friday, March 15 | The Motet w/Isaac Hadden Organ Trio | Terminal West |
| Friday, March 15 | Yacht Rock Schooner- Steely Dan | Variety Playhouse |
| Saturday, March 16 | Guster | The Easter |
| Saturday, March 16 | Hermanos Gutierrez | Variety Playhouse |
| Saturday, March 16 | Hippie Sabotage | Tabernacle |
| Saturday, March 16 | Nero Simon and The Sunsetters | Wild Leap |
| Sunday, March 17 | Magnolia Express | FTE |
| Tuesday, March 19 | Socks in the Frying Pan | City Winery |
| Wednesday, March 20 | Bob Schneider | City Winery |
| Wednesday, March 20 | Nicki Minaj | State Farm Arena |
| Thursday, March 21 | Doom Flamingo | Terminal West |
| Thursday, March 21 | Jeff Sipe Trio | FTE |
| Friday, March 22 | Blue Oyser Cult | The Eastern |
| Saturday, March 23 | Sam Burchfield & The Scoundrels | Terminal West |
| March 23-24 | Brookhaven Fest (Barenaked Ladies, more) | Blackburn Park |
| Sunday, March 24 | Joshua Radin | City Winery |
| Monday, March 25 | Magnolia Express | Moonshadow |
| Tuesday, March 26 | Jake Blount | Eddie's Attic |
| Tuesday, March 26 | Pat Metheny | ASO |
| Wednesday, March 27 | Joe Satriani and Steve Vai | ASO |
| Wednesday, March 27 | Marshall Crenshaw | Eddie's Attic |
| Thursday, March 28 | Kurt Vile and the Violators | Variety Playhouse |
| Thursday, March 28 | Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox | ASO |
| Th-Sun March 28-31 | Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit | Tabernacle |
| Friday, March 29 | Katie Pruitt | Terminal West |
| Friday, March 29 | Peter Karp | Eddie's Attic |
| Friday, March 29 | PHYPHR | Aisle 5 |
| Friday, March 29 | The Dresden Dolls | The Eastern |
| Saturday, March 30 | Blair Crimmins & The Hookers | The Earl |
| Saturday, March 30 | Busta Rhymes | The Roxy |
| Saturday, March 30 | Just Roxie | Eddie's Attic |
| Monday, April 1 | Ledisi | ASO |
| Monday, April 1 | Madonna | State Farm Arena |
| Tuesday, April 2 | Circle Jerks/Descendants | Masquerade-Heaven |
| Wednesday, April 3 | Brothers Osborne | The Roxy |
| Wednesday, April 3 | Kevin Kinney | Eddie's Attic |
| Wednesday, April 3 | The Black Crowes | The Fox |
| Wednesday, April 3 | The Zombies | Variety Playhouse |
| Thursday, April 4 | BoDeans | City Winery |
| Friday, April 5 | Drew Holcomb & the Neighbors | The Eastern |
| Friday, April 5 | Drivin'N'Cryin' | Buckhead Theatre |
| Friday, April 5 | Gr8tful Dude | Oak St Bottle Shop |
| Friday, April 5 | Sugarcane Jane | Eddie's Attic |
| Friday, April 5 | Sweet Melissa's Blues revue | Napoleons |
| Fri/Sat. April 5-6 | Mental Awakening Fest | Westside Motor Lounge |
| Saturday, April 6 | Michelle Malone | Eddie's Attic |
| Saturday, April 6 | the Mountain Goats | The Eastern |
| Monday, April 8 | Magnolia Express | Napoleons |
| Tuesday, April 9 | The Strumbellas | Terminal West |
| Wednesday, April 10 | AJ Lee & Blue Summit | Eddie's Attic |
| Thursday, April 11 | The Verve Pipe | City Winery |
| Friday, April 12 | Martin Barre (Jethro Tull) | City Winery |
| Saturday, April 13 | Amplify Decatur (Melissa Etheridge, more) | Decatur Square |
| Saturday, April 13 | Disco Biscuits | Tabernacle |
| Saturday, April 13 | Griffin House | Eddie's Attic |
| Saturday, April 13 | John Oates | Buckhead Theatre |
| Saturday, April 13 | Magnolia Express | Madlife Patio |
| Saturday, April 13 | Sweet Melissa's Blues Revue | Peace and Love Fest |
| Sunday, April 14 | Adam Ant/English Beat | The Eastern |
| Sunday, April 14 | Cowboy Junkies | Variety Playhouse |
| Monday, April 15 | STRFKR | Variety Playhouse |
| Friday, April 19 | Brandy Clark | Variety Playhouse |
| Friday, April 19 | Ween | the Roxy |
| Saturday, April 20 | Dixie Dregs | Variety Playhouse |
| Saturday, April 20 | The Grapes | MOMS |
| Saturday, April 20 | Tim O'Brien | Eddie's Attic |
| Sat/Sun April 20-21 | 420 Fazz (Beck, Moe, more) | Pullman Yards |
| Sunday, April 21 | New Jazz Underground | Eddie's Attic |
| Monday, April 22 | Laufey | Tabernacle |
| Tuesday, April 23 | Belle & Sebastian | The Eastern |
| Tuesday, April 23 | The Bros. Landreth | Eddie's Attic |
| Wednesday, April 24 | We Three | Terminal West |
| Thursday, April 25 | Leftover Salmon/Infamous Stringdusters | The Eastern |
| Friday, April 26 | Maxwell Street | Napoleons |
| Friday, April 26 | The Teskey Brothers | The Roxy |
| Sunday, April 28 | Ruston Kelly | Terminal West |
| Tuesday, April 30 | Social Distortion and Bad Religion | The Roxy |
| Tuesday, April 30 | The Accidentals | Eddie's Attic |
| Friday, May 3 | Runaway Gin | Garden Club Wild Heaven |
| Friday, May 3 | Three Dog Night | ASO |
| Saturday, May 4 | Casting Crowns | The Fox |
| Sat/Sun, May 4-5 | Larry Campbell & Teresa Williams | Eddie's Attic |
| Wednesday, May 8 | Nolan Taylor | Terminal West |
| Thursday, May 9 | Sierra Ferrell | The Eastern |
| Saturday, May 11 | Sarah Jarosz | Terminal West |
| Saturday, May 11 | Summerdrive | Smith's Olde Bar |
| Sunday, May 12 | Dustbowl Revival | Eddie's Attic |
| Sunday, May 12 | The Decemberists | The Eastern |
| Sunday, May 12 | Tod & Lost Dog Street Band | Variety Playhouse |
| Monday, May 13 | Enter Shikari | Terminal West |
| Fri/Sat May 17-18 | Billy Pilgrim/Andrew Hyra/Kristian Bush | Eddie's Attic |
| Sunday, May 26 | Real Estate | Variety Playhouse |



Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

March b'day people:

March 3—Judy Langford and Robin Singer, both on Harold Avenue

March 6—Dalton Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, 16

March 9—Jonathan Cook, Leonardo

March 13—Ada Covington, the big10!! Hardendorf Avenue

March 14—Jennie Caine, Leonardo

March 19—Frances Koval turns 8! – Clarion winner!!! See Page 16.

March 20—Kaia Wiltsee, turns 15

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 27—Aaron Skrimpson, Southerland Terrace

March 29—Victoria Weldert – Happy 9!

March 30—Darcy Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, turns 13!

March 31—James Crutcher, Hardendorf, and Carol Vanderschaff, Indiana. Anniversaries:

Anniversary:

March 19—Happy Anniversary, McGills! ♥♥ Arizona Ave. and honorary members of Delaware Ave. ♥♥

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the APRIL issue by MARCH 15–18.

Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

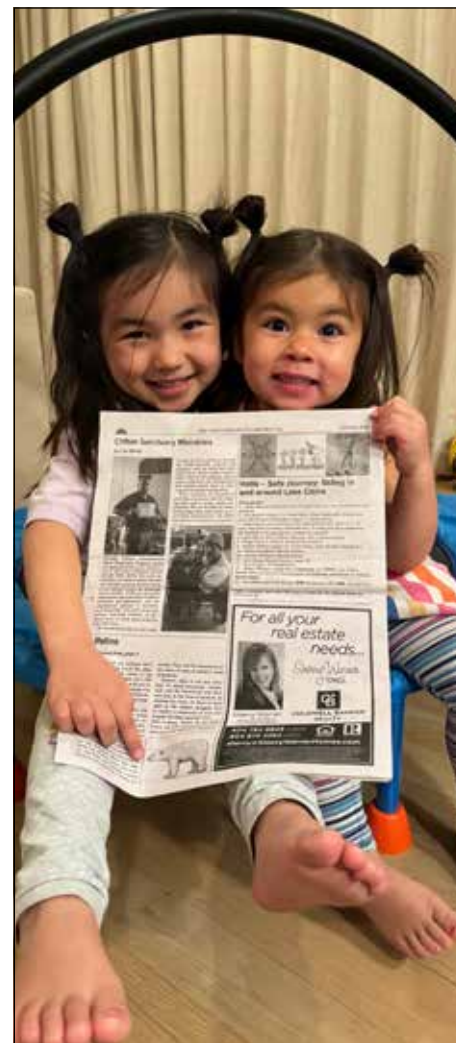
Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household, but as with NPR, any amount is appreciated. Pay at lakeclaire.org via the link **OR** by check in the mail to Treasurer, Lake Claire, PO Box 5942, Atlanta GA 31107. The following folks paid dues since the November 2023 Clarion:

Karl McBryde
Chad Durham
Andrew & Pen Sherwood
Rebecca Chandler
Melissa Urda
Sherry McHenry
Sue McAvoy and Bill McKinnon

New Contest

Hello, kids. this is the new contest that goes with the Kids' Page (see the rest on Page 16). Many religions have special days, and it's important to respect all people and their traditions. You might know more about Easter because of Easter egg hunts, but this month, we also honor Ramadan, the 9th month in the Islamic calendar. Somewhere in this newspaper is a graphic of it. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion.

To win, write editor@lakeclaire.org, identifying the page number, and include your name, age, school, street, and grade, along with a photo. **(Please tell your parents to send large picture files, 1mb+. Any child from Lake Claire is eligible, except that you cannot win two months in a row.)** For extra credit, tell us anything you know about your traditions or traditions other than your own. 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.**



Summer & Willow, tied for 3rd place (see other winners, p. 16).

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Jessica Cole
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Community Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic

by Amber Corbett

It's that time again... we have a March Easter on the horizon for 2024, and the longtime Land Trust tradition is back! On Sunday, March 31, adults will gather at the large gazebo at 9 a.m. to hide the eggs. We ask that you bring pre-stuffed plastic eggs only for the hunt. No one wants smelly eggs lying around into April.

Then, at 10, the kiddos will start their very energetic and quite adorable hunt! Have your cameras ready because they move fast. Afterwards, we will have a picnic together. All forms of real eggs are welcome here, just so you promise to take leftovers home with you. Boiled eggs (dyeing gets you bonus points), egg salad, dev-

iled eggs... all eggs welcome. Please bring re-usable utensils, plates, etc. if possible. What better way to start off your Spring? Join us for fun, family, and community! See y'all there!



Logo Contest Deadline Extended!

Artists and designers of Lake Claire, take note! We have extended the deadline for submitting your designs for a new LCCLT logo to **March 8**. The winning entry will be featured

on our next run of Land Trust T-shirts, to debut at the Spring Peace & Love Fest on April 13. Submit your designs by Friday, March 8 to info@LCCLT.org.



Silver Tsunami: The Era of Aging

by Denise Johnson

Are you familiar with the term "Silver Tsunami"? While it might sound like a cute buzzword, its connotations are both profound and far-reaching. The "Silver Tsunami" refers to the wave of baby boomers—people born from 1946 to 1964—as they reach the age of 65 and beyond. By the year 2030, it is projected that 76.4 million baby boomers will have celebrated their 65th birthday. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, this shift is unprecedented, marking a historic time when individuals aged 65 and older will outnumber those aged 18 and younger. This isn't just a statistic; it's a clarion call.

Personally, it's a big deal because it will directly affect me, my sisters, relatives, friend circles, and clients, just as it will affect you and yours. The sheer volume of baby boomers reaching this threshold in such a short window of time is mind-boggling, and the implications of this age shift will affect every aspect of our society. Most notably the healthcare system, already straining under current demands, faces the daunting task of accommodating an exponentially older population. The prognosis? Without intervention, we're on a collision course with a healthcare crisis, and that's putting it mildly. Yet, I believe there is hope. The Silver Tsunami is approaching whether we like it or not, but I believe we have the power to shape how it impacts our lives.

As an End of Life Doula, Death-care Educator, and Hospice Volunteer, I am not surprised that the majority of my clients are baby boomers and that I have a front-row seat to observe the wide range of challenges they encounter as I navigate

the healthcare and social service systems on their behalf. Witnessing their struggles firsthand has made these issues impossible to ignore, especially as a solo ager, because I'll be in their shoes sooner or later. The intersection of my professional and personal life fuels not only my understanding of the baby boomer dilemma but also my optimism and determination to advocate for our collective ability to confront and mitigate these challenges before we reach an irreversible tipping point.

So how do we turn this ship around before it's too late? As I see it, our first seemingly insurmountable challenge is to engage in meaningful conversations about the reality of our mortality. Having these dreaded conversations is daunting but necessary, and the time to have these conversations is now. As the saying goes, "It's always too soon until it's too late." It is also important to educate ourselves and stay on top of Medicaid and Medicare policies, long-term care options, palliative and hospice care, aging-in-place options, senior support services, innovative medical devices, senior-friendly technology, senior advocacy groups, eldercare networks, elder welfare organizations, etc., that enable us to successfully navigate our 9th inning. On a broader scale, advocating for healthcare reforms and policies that meet our unique needs is crucial. Whether through supporting initiatives that enhance healthcare access, emphasizing preventive care, or funding research for age-related diseases, our voices matter.

Aging gracefully requires a holistic approach to well-being, so adopting healthier lifestyles, staying ac-

Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Sat., Mar. 1: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol, please. *Rain date: Sat. Mar. 15.*

Sat., Mar. 9: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 5:30-7:30 p.m., \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT). First hour for beginners, second hour advanced students. More info: www.unfilteredglitter.com. Please pay in advance via Venmo or CashApp; see LCCLT.org/new-events. Sliding scale available to women of color and LBGTQIA+ community, if needed. Contact info@LCCLT.org.

Sun., Mar. 10: LCCLT board meeting, 10–11 a.m. (2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill. Come in person, or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link. *Fair weather location: picnic table in the Greenfield. Note new meeting time!*

Sun., Mar. 10: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. Gorilla Grill (or outdoors if weather permits). Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 LLC. hosts an informal conversation about death and dying, with hot drinks & snacks. Free. See article this page.

Tue., Mar. 12: NaanStop Indian Food Delivery, 5–5:45 p.m. The Land Trust receives a portion of the proceeds of a meal delivered to Lake Claire by NaanStop family-owned Indian restaurant that supports a different non-profit each month. Feeds four; vegan, vegetable, and meat entrees available. Order by 7 that morning. Visit LCCLT.org/new-events to order.

Tues., Mar. 13: Community Potluck, 6:30 p.m. (and every month on the 13th) in the Gorilla Grill (with the heater on!). Bring your own re-usable dinnerware, and something to share if you can, Label ingredients please.

Sat., Mar. 16: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (3rd Saturdays; in April we switch back to mornings). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Pizza follows. *Rain date: Sat., Mar. 23.* Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

Sun., Mar. 31: Community Easter Egg Hunt, 9 a.m.–noon. See information above.

tive and engaged, gentle exercise, minimizing stress, healing broken relationships, getting adequate rest, and routine wellness check-ups can vastly improve our quality of life and reduce our dependence on healthcare. Aging is inevitable, and death is a feature, not a flaw, of our human experience. Leaning into these truths can inspire a brighter future where dignity, compassion, empathy, and solidarity are not just ideals, but the foundation of our existence. I know it's a big ask, but can we at least talk about it? By openly dis-

cussing our fears, and championing initiatives that support us, I believe we can re-define how we experience aging, death, and dying.

Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 hosts a monthly "Death Café" at the Land Trust, an informal conversation about death and dying, with hot drinks and snacks, at no charge (this month: Sunday, March 10, 3–4:30 p.m.) This might be the month the conversation emerges from the Gorilla Grill into Spring sunshine!



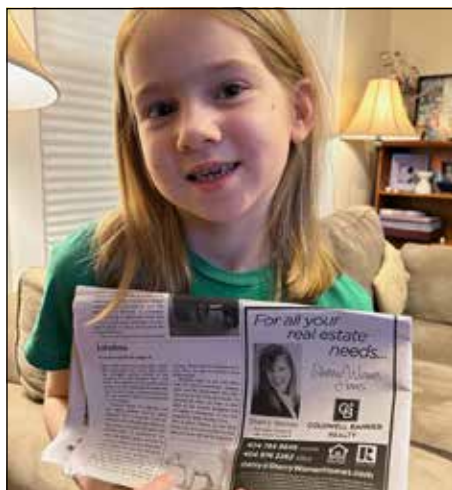
We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers, writers, and artists to participate in our 'hood. Our featured artists this month are Summer and Willow Barton. Summer is 4 years old, and Willow is 2 years old. They are both at Freedom Park Preschool. Summer is in the El Bosque Pre-K class. Willow is in the Libelulas class. They live on Southerland Terrace. They are

our featured artists because they told us their favorite things about February. Summer's favorite thing about February is Lunar New Year, especially the lion dance and chocolate coins in the red envelopes. Willow's favorite February thing is when her daddy picks her up from school on Valentine's Day for a treat and a trip to the bookstore. Both girls (especially Summer) are super artists who

have graced us with their art this month. Thank you, Willow and Summer! 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 APRIL issue.



Summer and Willow Barton, featured artists



Frances Koval, 1st place



Jack Aprati, tied for 3rd place



Carolina Lupo, 2nd place



Genevieve Garrett, tied for 3rd place



Lily Cornell, tied for 3rd place



Ellie & Claire Hanna, tied for 3rd place



Walter Kaiser, tied for 3rd place



Elena Gutierrez, tied for 3rd place, pictured with her sister



Nicolas and Julian Sanders, tied for 3rd place



Hudson Williams, tied for 3rd place



Ames Yeend, tied for 3rd place

Contest Winners

Several wonderful winners found the polar bear for February's International Polar Bear Day in last month's issue. **Frances Koval**, 8 years old as of the 19th of this month, in 2nd grade at Mary Lin, on Hardendorf, came in first! **Carolina Lupo** came in 2nd! She is 4 years old, Freedom Park Preschool, Gordon Avenue. Extra credit to Carolina for telling us that she loves Valentine's Day and made valentines for her entire class.

We had a tie for 3rd place among these: **Elena Gutierrez**, 5 years old, Kindergartener at The Children's School, Casson St, pictured with her sister, whom Elena wanted to include; **Nicolas and Julian Sanders** (Nic in 2nd grade, Hess Academy, and Julian, pre-K, 4 years old, at Freedom Park Preschool. For the extra credit, Nic said he likes the special events at his school in February, and Julian loves Valentine's Day); **Genevieve Garrett**, 5 years old, Clifton Rd, in

Pre-K at Primavera School; **Ellie and Claire Hanna** (Ellie is 7, in first grade at Mary Lin, and Claire is 4 and at Primavera Preschool, Marlbrook); **Jack Aprati**, aged 4, McLendon Ave, at Primavera Preschool; **Hudson Williams**, third grader at Mary Lin, Palifox, who found the picture before school (someone knows priorities!); **Ames Yeend**, 6 yrs old, 1st grade at Mary Lin, Arizona; his Arizona neighbor **Lily Cornell**, with a call-out to her friend Lorelei's February birthday, age 9, in 4th grade at Mary Lin; **Walter Kaiser**, Almeta Ave., age 9, 3rd grade, who told us he loves the Kids' Page; and **Summer and Willow Barton** (featured this month, see details on **page 14**). *Editor disclaimer to parents:* Many winners! If I missed someone, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue.

Do keep reading the Kids' Page; it is the Clarion editor's "baby" and favorite part of the paper! See our new contest on Page 14, and make your guess: it is your chance to be famous!