



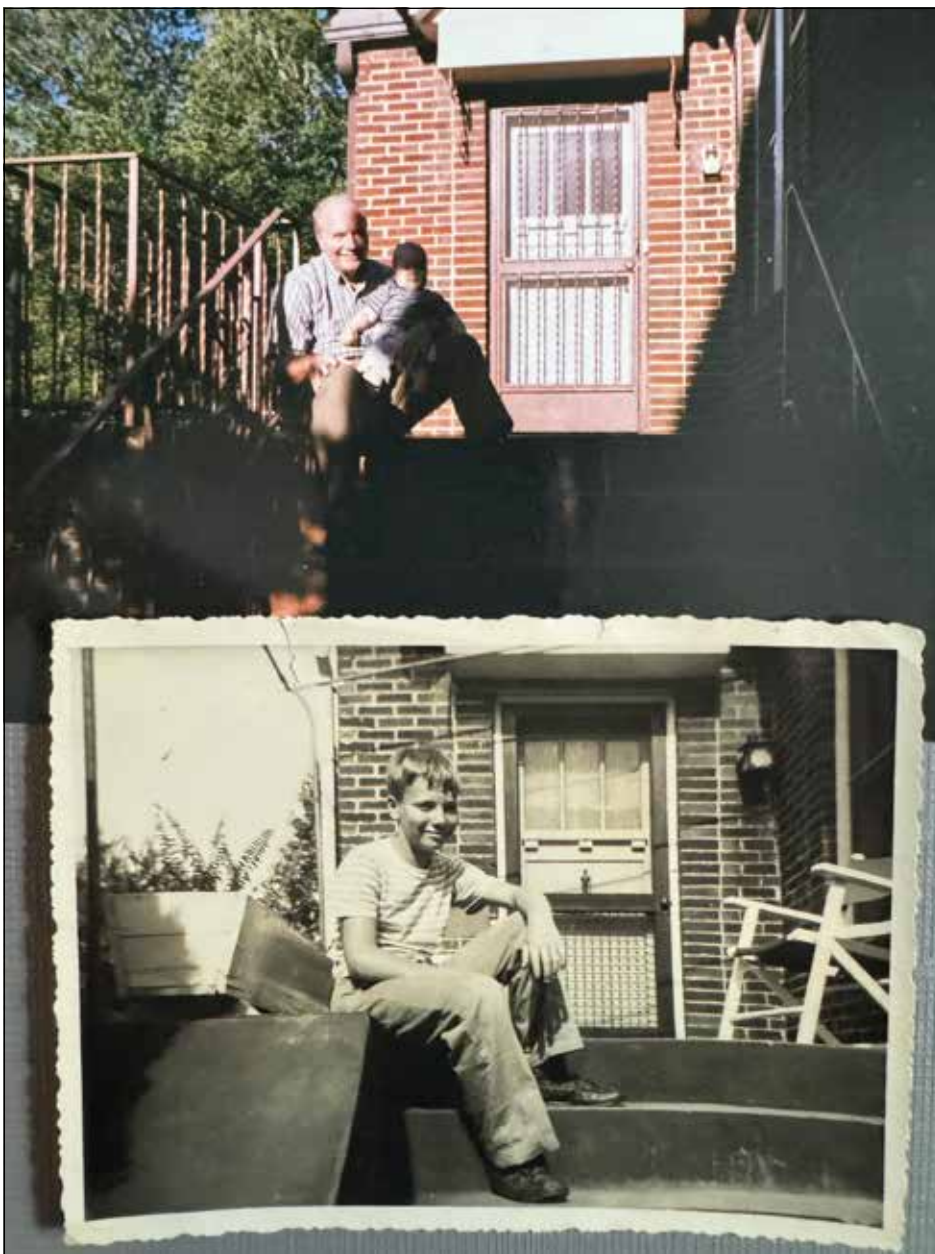
Lived in 2+ Homes in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

This continues the series on Lake Claire neighbors who have lived in two or more homes in Lake Claire, downsizing, upsizing, buying after previously renting, many possibilities; the commonality is the priority of staying in Lake Claire, universally recognized as a unique neighborhood. This month's article features two Lake Claire couples, Larry and Rebecca Dowd on Tuxedo, and Steven Bennett and Chester Old on McLendon.

Chester and Steven are in their third Lake Claire home over the past 35 years! Their first LC home was in the mid to late '80s, at 2107 Palifox. They bought the small duplex that they renovated, and they then lived in the larger unit. In 2002, they built the low, modern house with lap pool and courtyard at 410 Lakeshore (pictured on Page 9). Chester is an artist

Cont. on p. 7



Larry Dowd's Dad in front of his house on Palifox in the 1940s, ...and in SAME spot about 20 years ago with his grandson



Eclipsed sun in the darkened sky with glow on the horizon (Photo by Wade Harrison; see details in Wild in Lake Claire, Page 5.)

Committed to his Craft: Steve Johnson builds Flamenco Guitars

by Stell Simonton

Down in the basement of his house on Ridgewood Road, surrounded by woodworking tools and posters of flamenco dancers, Steve Johnson pulls a bottle of Golden Grain alcohol out of a metal cabinet. He sets it on his workbench. He is not preparing to take a shot.

Instead, he pours the Golden Grain into a container of shellac, mixes the two, and then carefully applies a coat to the smoothly sanded face of the guitar he's building. This French polish protects the delicate

Cont. on p. 8

Election Law Overhaul Passes in the Final Hours of the 2024 Session

by Saira Draiper

The 2024 session came to a close at the end of March. Sine Die!

Democrats, allies, and advocates held our breath as the clock counted down to midnight. Many pieces of odious legislation hung over our heads, including bills targeting trans youth, the so-called Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act (which would have allowed individuals to ignore

anti-discrimination laws under the guise of religious freedom), and a bill that would have allowed for a monument to Clarence Thomas at the Capitol. In the end, these bills didn't make it to the floor for a vote. As a reminder of our posture, with Democrats in the minority in the

Cont. on p. 7

Parents, please note:

A complete renovation of the Candler Park Playground began Monday, April 15, and will last until July 15. During that time, the playground will be fenced off and closed. A grand re-opening will be held this summer.

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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.

May

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

- 1 Mary Lin Dine-Out at *Chef Wang's* on Memorial, see details in article on the right.
- 3 Callanwolde's Spring Concert, Ruby Velle; info and tix at callanwolde.org/events/.
- 4 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta! 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore/maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Pre-register/Space limited, frazercenter.org/about-us/events.
- 5 Mary Lin Dine-Out at *The Daily*, mention Mary Lin, see details in article on the right.
- 13 Mary Lin Dine-Out at *Moxie Burger*, mention Mary Lin, and 10% will go back to Mary Lin's PTA. In Inman Park, 100 Hurt Street.
- 18 Fiddler's Green (every 3rd Saturday at the E Church). See article below.
- 21 7:15 p.m. Lake Claire Neighbors meeting. Potentially hybrid, Zoom & Frazer Center Rose Room, 1815 S. Ponce. See lakeclaire.org for info on whether meeting is hybrid and/or Zoom link. Always 3rd Thursday.
- 21 Please get out and vote if you didn't already early-vote! (See Pg 3, regarding candidates' answers on animal welfare issues.)

Woodland Gardens Events

See www.woodlandsgarden.org/ for more details on any of these events.

Sun, May 5: Music in the Garden 2–4 p.m.;

Sat, May 11: Forest Bathing Walk 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., and "Music, Art, and Poetry" 2–4 p.m.;

Sun, May 26: Watercolor Workshop 3–5 p.m.;

Every Fri at 10 a.m.: Nature Tot Walk with Liana. Sign up at the link above;

Every Wed at 9 a.m.: Volunteer Project.;

and June 8: Foraging Walk at 10 a.m. with Morgan of Flourish and Flora.

Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse

Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse's monthly concert series features traditional music, singer-songwriters, poetry, and storytelling. **May 18**, the featured musicians will be Mark Dvorak (a modern day troubadour performing, writing, and recording, who has been called a folk singer's folk singer with an encyclopedic knowledge of traditional songs) and Blackfoot Daisy (a trio that plays original, Americana music).

Presented by Atlanta Area Friends of FolkMusic (AAFFM). \$10/\$8 AAFFM and 1st E. Congregational members. Cash/check at door. More info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events, 404-444-2334.

Mary Lin Dine-Outs

by Aviva Berman

These are the last Mary Lin dine-outs for this school year. Thanks, everyone, for participating and supporting Mary Lin.

- April 30 & May 1, *Chef Wang's* on Memorial: 25% back to the PTA (mention Mary Lin);
- May 5, *The Daily*, 100 Hurt Street in Inman Park: 15% back to the PTA when you mention Mary Lin;
- May 13, *Moxie Burger* on Dekalb Avenue at Clifton: 10% back to the PTA when you mention Mary Lin. Check in out! Delish burgers include Impossible Burgers, other veggie burgers. And great beer!

Classified:

Pet Sitting and Dog Walking:

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.

Electrician:

SA Electrical Services is a small company based in the Lake Claire neighborhood, serving metro Atlanta for over 20 years. We're still going strong and look forward to the opportunity to serve your electrical needs, big or small.

Contact: mail@saelectric.net, Ph. 404-731-6415.



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THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

Book Review: Stephen Wing's *Washed in the Hurricane*

by Genella Brown

I found Stephen Wing's most recent publication, *Washed in the Hurricane: Poems for an Endangered Paradise*, a treasure to be treasured. Through an uncommon devotion and dedication to observing the natural world over the last 40 years, Wing compiles a work that accomplishes many things. Its observations are at times startlingly delicate, his words bringing a soft light to illuminate that which is small, precious, and easily overlooked. Observations that are satisfying to savor and reflect on over time. Diametrically, his work makes impactful observations on climate change that are tremendously important to Look-Straight-At, even if the truth of the observation causes discomfort for the reader. The final section provides both important context for modern readers who may not have had exposure to basic shaministic concepts and practices, and also observations on modern day eco-poetry that literally had me



The cover photo of Brooklynn Long, age 5, was taken at the Land Trust by Andrea Zoppo, our Ms. Ladybug. Brooklynn is now 10 and an award-winning nature poet at her school.

laughing out loud. I highly recommend this book!

An Important Election for Dekalb County Animal Welfare

by Scott McLane

Dekalb County will be effectively electing our next CEO in the Democratic Primary on May 21. (The general election is November 5.) DeKalb is the sole county in Georgia with an elected CEO form of government, instead of a County Manager appointed by the Commission. Last fall, a charter review commission voted in support of changing this.

This election is important for animal welfare advocates because there is one candidate, Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, who has consistently been more proactive. Larry Johnson has been most resistant to changing the culture around backyard breeding and stricter spay/neuter laws. Steve Bradshaw seems to recognize the problem, but he is conservative in his approach to getting to the root of the problem. To be fair, Ms. Johnson has the least relevant experience for the position of CEO, but appears to be the least ingrained in the system and most open-minded about solutions. Below, I have highlighted each candidate's forum responses regarding animal welfare.

LARRY JOHNSON (D) (www.LJCEO.com)

* Sponsored legislation to create Animal Advisory Board

* Admits current shelter was inadequate upon opening at 2017

* Building bridges and collaboration are important. Political double speak.

* Make sure people who can't afford neutering/spaying are not punished for that. What he didn't mention was that Lifeline hands out free spay/neuter coupons biannually to residents for free spay neutering. He has missed opportunities to advocate for more spay/neuter policies.

STEPHEN (STEVE) BRADSHAW (D) (www.believeinsteve24.com)

* Supports expanding current shelter.

* Shepherded Commission's commitment of Dekalb as a no-kill shelter at the urging of Advocates

* Allocated discretionary funds to defray cost of adoptions.

* Pointed out that the \$7.5 million allocated in SPLOSTII for an expanded shelter is not coming for a while, but did not provide a solution.

* Supports Lifeline efforts at his quarterly community breakfast by providing free microchipping and education on spay/neutering.

The Food Commune

Every once in a while, the Clarion has covered The Food Commune including a feature on the founder, Pam Noud.

This Spring, the Food Commune continues to welcome members, but at a new location, 368 Candler Road. The organization defines itself as "a freegan food co-op, that rescues food and helps feed our community." Their core concept is becoming more popular as U.S. inflation has reached a cumulative 19% during the last 36 months. Traditional grocery purveyors provide the majority of most people's food, at pricing that has been increasing even faster than in other industries. Grocery store receipts are almost shocking. In contrast, The Food Commune provides food at substantial savings, with the thrift-store model, sourcing quality foods that that might otherwise become food waste. Families who could not otherwise make ends meet have money left over to put toward housing, education, etc.

Charity work represents a good portion of the operation. There are no off-putting required membership fees. Instead, for increments of only \$10 donations, The Food Commune provides a variety of selections that include fresh produce, ugly produce, European bakery bread, and a mix of



other donated and rescued food. At the new location this year, the offerings are larger than ever. Now, this Spring, when you attend The Food Commune, you make your food selections from:

* our 14 peripheral tables of produce,

* our 9 center tables stacked up with pantry items,

* Phil's set-up of health supplements outside the shed,

* our 2 refrigerators chock-full inside the shed, ... and, of course....

* our Free Section across on the other side of the driveway."

So much to choose from, all at 50-90% off retail prices!

When: Saturdays 1-6 p.m. | **Where:** 368 Candler Rd, Atlanta, GA 30317 | **FB page:** FoodCommune | **Website:** www.foodcommune.org.



Jariago at the Dekalb Animal Shelter

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON (D) (campaign@lorraineforchange.com, www.lorrainefordekalbceo.com)

* "I don't think we can wait 3 years for SPLOSTII \$7.5 money to become available so I will propose floating a bond based on expected revenue to get shovels in the dirt much sooner."

* Co-sponsored backyard breeding ordinance which is currently under review.

* Co-sponsored an external audit of current animal services.

* Believes it is important to help

citizens with free animal services. Believes citizens are generally unaware that the shelter cost to house an animal is almost as great as the cost to house a jail inmate.

Some Positive Movement for Dekalb Animal Welfare

Commissioner Michelle Long-Spears announced that DeKalb County has passed an ordinance allowing DeKalb to request "cost of care" from defendants who prolong their animal abuse/neglect cases while the impounded abused dog victims remain in the shelter – sometimes for years. This is major victory for Advocates for DeKalb Animals and Dekalb taxpayers.

Commissioner Long-Spears will also be using the advances/successes in animal welfare made in Athens/Clarke County, led by UGA law professor Lisa Milot, as an example to guide Dekalb County going forward.

Athens/Clarke Counties' success has come by introducing:

- 1) Mandatory spay/neuter of animals that come back into the shelter;
- 2) Breeding regulation;
- 3) Huge free spay/neuter program targeting heat maps areas in their county.

Last, but not least: GET OUT AND VOTE ON MAY 21!!!

Vote by
May 21

RE-ELECT
Saira Draper
STATE HOUSE 90



- Civil Rights Lawyer
- Voting & Elections Expert
- Democratic Party "Rising Star"



<https://linktr.ee/votesaira>

To my Lake Claire neighbors,

It's been my honor to serve as your state representative. I'd love to earn your vote in my campaign for re-election.

Early voting begins April 29. Use the QR code to find voting locations, times, and more information.

Wild in Lake Claire: Eclipse Edition

by Sara Gottlieb

If you weren't living under a rock in early April, then by now you know there was a total solar eclipse across a large swath of North America, from the Pacific coast of Mexico to Newfoundland by way of the middle section of the United States and into New England. While it wasn't possible to view the total eclipse in Lake Claire, many folks here took advantage of the opportunity to view the partial eclipse, and they found delight in doing so. Others, including my husband and me, traveled long distances and enjoyed great adventures in our quest to experience a few minutes of totality.

Meredith W watched the eclipse from Arabia Mountain. The top was pretty crowded, but she found a quiet place on the rock near the lake. In addition to the celestial spectacle, Meredith remarked that so many plants were blooming—*Diamorpha*, native azaleas, crossvine, spiderwort, and many more. The mountain laurel was getting ready to bloom and will be spectacular there within a week or two. She also saw an Eastern fence lizard and two water snakes. Meredith described it as a pretty great day, all in all. In other news from Meredith, she has authored her debut novel called *This Animal Body*. If you enjoy reading this column and are looking for some nature-themed fiction for your summer reading list, you can pre-order the book now! (Contact me directly for her name, since I leave off surnames here.)

Debbie L and David T viewed the eclipse from their front porch on Marlbrook Drive. David made a pin-hole viewing box, and Debbie unearthed their eclipse glasses from 2017. They enjoyed safe viewing of the eclipse as well as the patterns it created here on earth (see photos

from Debbie, below and right).

Sage B, who is a student at Georgia State University, joined throngs of other students on campus in downtown Atlanta, where eclipse-viewing glasses were being handed out, and the Physics & Astronomy department had set up telescopes equipped for close-up viewing of the sun. Sage reported that fellow Art Dept. students were casting crescent-shaped shadows and projections of the moon-eaten sun onto sheets of paper (see photos from Sage, below and right).

Tom C traveled to Texas with extended family to experience the total solar eclipse outside of Austin on Lake LBJ, which was in the path of totality. Tom describes the experience as equally amazing to the 2017 one he experienced in north Georgia, especially the point at which the world goes totally dark. He did notice the lakeside fauna (ducks, mostly) acting weird, but admits, it may have been his imagination. The one thing he saw that he missed last time was that as the moon swallowed up more and more of the sun, the shadows on the sidewalk—especially the ones from the trees—took on a crescent shape. And as in 2017, there were crowds of people—this time on both shores of Lake LBJ. At the moment of totality, they/we all let out an (instinctive) shout!

As promised in my last column, I will share a short version of the travel adventure my husband Wade and I took in our quest to see this second total eclipse (the first being at his family's SC homestead in 2017). Our rented RV proved a fun and flexible house on wheels that allowed us to make last-minute plans to where cloud-cover forecasts were predicting the clearest skies within a 100-mile radius of our base-camp at Reelfoot



GSU students – photo by Sage B.



Debbie L and David T



Sara G. Selfie at base camp

Lake State Park in Tennessee. That ended up being at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in Puxico, MO (neither of which I knew existed just two hours before we arrived there). The stories of nature and human interaction with it and each other that we encountered on our way to and from our ultimate destination could fill a whole column.

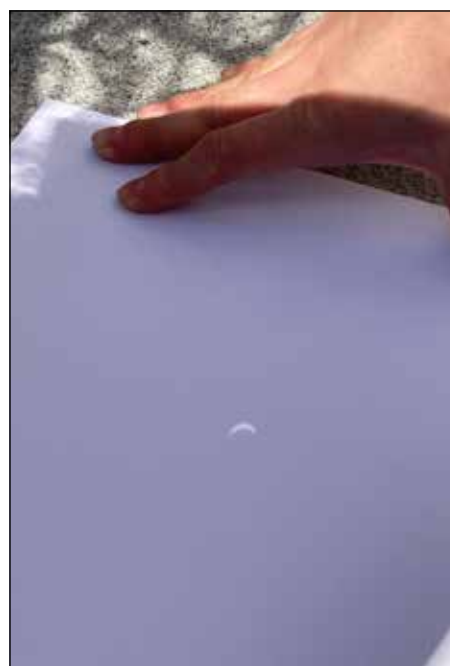
Once we arrived at the Refuge, which was already occupied by many more people than I imagine they normally see on a Monday morning in April, we walked several trails to find the ideal viewing location. This ended up being on a dike which had

been built in the early 1900s by lumber companies attempting to drain the swampy land. We set up camp chairs in the shade (see photo above) and partook of a picnic lunch while watching birds—the most interesting ones being yellow-breasted chat and scarlet tanager. In our vicinity, besides us, there was only a 3-generation family with 2 young children. As the eclipse got underway, and we observed the moon taking an ever-growing bite out of the sun through our eclipse glasses, Wade projected the image onto his shadow through his binoculars. We started noticing the light getting progressively more “weird,” but not significantly darker until the sun was almost completely blocked by the moon. The birds had actually gotten rather quiet in the hour leading up to the eclipse as the day grew hot, but the temperature started dropping steadily until just a few minutes before totality when it must have dropped at least 10-15 degrees. I pulled on a long-sleeved shirt.

Then, totality began, with hollers from the adults and the children exclaiming, “I don't like this game anymore!” Even though we all knew what was coming, and had experienced it before, there is still something uncanny, slightly disconcerting, and truly awe-inspiring about that moment when the sun disappears fully behind the moon. Because we were



Debbie's and David's Steamer Patterns



GSU Art Dept – projection on paper – photo by Sage B.

Cont. on p. 11



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Election Law Overhaul Passes in the Final Hours

Continued from page 1.



House and Senate, we don't have the votes to stop legislation we don't agree with.

There seemed to be much conflict between Republicans in the House and Senate who must coordinate to get bills passed. So, while that meant some of the bills we were most against never made it to a vote, it also meant positive legislation didn't make it either. One piece of bad legislation that did get through—and will have major ramifications—is Senate Bill 189. SB 189 is the biggest overhaul of election laws since Republicans rammed through Senate Bill 202 in 2021. It goes without saying that election bills have heightened significance right now given the upcoming presidential election and Georgia's battleground status.

In my April article in the Clarion, where I outlined the potential bad election bills that could pass in the final days of the legislative session, I made this prediction about how it would go down:

"Waiting until the last few days of session to reveal the omnibus election bill, and ramming it through, is a strategy for evading scrutiny and minimizing outcry. I predict the omnibus election bill will be lengthy, contain many unrelated provisions, and will be released hours before the committee will take a vote on it. There will be little time to scour the document for hidden mines that can damage the system that currently exists."

And that's exactly what happened. A never-before-seen version of the bill was released from the House Rules Committee around 9 p.m. on the last day of session, and it was brought to the house floor at 10 p.m. Though SB 189 does multiple bad things, the most significant is it paves the way for even more mass voter challenges, and makes it more likely that meritless challenges will

kick eligible voters off the voter rolls. As a reminder, since 2020, bad actors have been filing bad faith voter challenges against Georgia voters by the thousands. Bad faith, mass challenges are harmful because they confuse voters and force election administrators to divert significant time and resources from their regular work.

I took the lead for the Democratic Caucus speaking against the bill. Even though we don't have the votes to stop legislation, speaking against the bill is vital. We can't allow Republicans to frame the issues. We have to call out the misrepresentations and present the truth for the benefit of the public and the press. An uncontested narrative eventually sets in as fact.

Republicans argue that easing voter challenges helps keep the voter rolls "clean" of ineligible voters. They also say it's necessary to stop voter fraud and bring confidence back to our elections. In response, I pointed out that we already have processes in place to keep our voter rolls clean. Mass voter challenges are not a tool to clean our (already clean) voter rolls; rather, they are designed to inject chaos in the election process. And finally, bad actors are openly planning to use the mass challenge process to disrupt the 2024 election.

You likely haven't heard of "Eagle AI," but you will as we approach the November election. This organization, which was created in the wake of the 2020 election and supported by Trump acolytes like Cleta Mitchell and others, is developing software to streamline the voter challenge process. With a few clicks of a mouse, any bad actor will be easily able to assemble and submit thousands of voter challenges in their county.

Voter challenges—already a problem—will grow exponentially with the roll out of Eagle AI. And SB 189 is like adding kerosene onto that fire.

We should have passed legislation to curb this bad behavior. Instead, the Georgia GOP invites it with open arms and continues to happily placate the election deniers behind it all. SB 189 also included a section designed to hurt President Biden's chances in Georgia by making it easier for third-party candidates like Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Cornel West to get on the ballot. Under SB 189, third party candidates can be on the Georgia Ballot if they are also on the ballot in at least 20 other states or territories; under current law, third party candidates have to collect 7,500 signatures on a petition to be on Georgia's ballot.

WARNING

Do not advertise FREE ANIMALS!



This plea is not about profit or ownership. It is about value and responsibility.

It is about SAFETY!

ALWAYS CHARGE A FEE! GET REFERENCES, E.G., VET REFERENCES.

Free ads can lead to neglect, starvation, abuse, torture, lab testing, hunting, and killing animals. Please be careful! Every life matters.

Please do NOT Advertise Free Animals

Please do not offer a pet for free. Many people do not realize what could happen to pets from people who haven't paid a fee. There are those who will pretend to love your pet and offer a good home, but in reality will use your pet as a "bait" animal for dog fights. Others will sell him or her to a lab, or she/he could be used for satanic rituals (in particular, black cats). Smaller pets often become snake food.

There are often times when a family member passes away and no one in the family can take the pet. Those family members have good intentions in trying to find the pet a good home. But, there are many animal abusers,

and some of them are very good at fooling people. Please, always ask for a rehoming fee, and please be careful. Of course, it is crucial for animals to be adopted and fostered, which we discuss in the Clarion every issue, but this graphic says it all about people advertising to "re-home" a pet for free. The sad and awful truth is that this really does happen, and requiring a few very basic steps during the rehoming process—a reasonable fee, a vet reference, and a home visit—does so much to protect animals in vulnerable situations. Please help to educate well-meaning people about how we as neighbors can better support the animals in our community.

Adding third party candidates to the ballot are all part of the GOP's strategy to shave off votes wherever they can. Recall that Joe Biden won Georgia by less than 12,000 votes. What is really telling is how this language had never been introduced in any other bill and had not been vetted by the committee process. We saw it for the first time in the late hours of the last day of the session.

There is one piece of silver lining in all this. As of the writing of this article, Governor Kemp still hasn't

signed SB 189 into law. I believe there are several reasons why he might want to veto the bill (and they have nothing to do with the reasons Democrats want the bill to die). He has 40 days from the end of the session to make a decision.

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.

Steve Johnson builds Flamenco Guitars

Continued from page 1.

wood as the guitar takes shape and eventually creates a hard lustrous surface. When he's finished—and if the guitar “turns out to be good,” as he puts it—a Spanish musician in Miami wants to buy it.

Steve loves the work of guitar-building, but he's quick to say he is no professional. What he has done is take a leap into a complex craft. And he has advice for anyone considering such a challenge: “The biggest part of it is the first step.” Getting started can seem daunting. But just work through the process step-by-step, he advises.

Now, when he disappears into his basement workshop, time vanishes. “It's a deep level of focus. I can be here all day,” he says. Years ago, when he was a teenager, Steve saw a public TV show about Spanish guitar building. He knew he wanted to do it, but he grew up without getting much experience in woodworking. As a young adult, he worked as a rough-neck on offshore oil rigs in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. He gained engineering skills on the job, mentored by the rig's chief engineer and mechanic, and eventually became a chief engineer at Sonat Offshore Drilling himself. He was also a jazz enthusiast and loved to listen to jazz guitar. Sometime in the 1980s, he came across an album that featured the flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucia, *Friday Night in San Francisco*. He was struck by Paco's technique.

Flamenco music and dance originated in Spain and is closely associated with gypsies, or Romani people. Flamenco is intense, dramatic, and tragic. “It's very deep... The lyrics are poetic, very profound,” Steve says. “They can sound harsh at first, so this is not for everyone.” The guitar accompaniment is “the essence of

what the Spanish guitar is all about,” he says.

Eventually, Steve moved to Atlanta and got a job as a building inspector. He was interested in playing guitar and happened to learn about flamenco class sessions in Decatur led by dancer Julie Galle Baggenstoss, known as Julie Moon. Professional flamenco guitarist Jean Pierre Verbist led the musicians. Steve attended the sessions and learned a lot. Then one day another musician, Ron Dennis, dropped by the class with a guitar he had made. “He invited me to come over to his house and build a guitar,” Steve says. “I learned through him. It opened the door.” Steve began making his first guitar in 2015 and, under Ron Dennis' tutelage, worked on it for several years. “I accidentally built a very good guitar,” he says. Professional musicians said the sound was good, and the guitar played well. “I was very gratified,” Steve says.

Meeting and working with Ron set Steve on a path he'd always wanted to follow. But now, working on his second instrument, the pressure is on. “I'm still at the stage of building skill and developing processes,” he says. When he retired in 2022 from his job as chief building inspector for the City of Atlanta, he had more time to devote to the project.

His first step in making the guitar was to make the neck of the instrument. Steve used Spanish cedar for this section and shaped the wood with a spokeshave and other hand tools. He does 70 percent of his guitar-building with hand tools. The top is made from German spruce, the back and sides from Spanish cypress. Two pieces cut from the same piece of wood are “book matched,” joined in the center with glue. The joined



Steve and Guitar (photo by Stell Simonton)

plates are thinned to achieve a flexibility that will produce a good sound, usually 2.5 to 2 mm.

“It's done by feel, also known as luck and magic,” he says with a smile.

He cut the top and back into the classic “hourglass” guitar shape and reinforced them with strips of wood called braces that resist string tension and further control tone. Then he bent the sides using a heated bending form. The species of wood determines the sound of the instrument. Flamenco guitar has a characteristic sharp sound that can be heard over the sound of the dancers. “Traditional flamenco guitar has a bright, almost raspy sound,” Steve says.

The building process hasn't always gone smoothly. While working on his first guitar, he put some pieces together in the wrong position. Luckily, he'd used hot hide glue, and his neighbor Stephanie Voss, a professional violin builder, helped him undo and correct the assembly. “To me it was a disaster. To Stephanie it was a simple fix.” he says.

Overall, Steve has not been daunted. “I'm working toward developing a consistent building process



Wall of Steve's Workshop (photo by Stell Simonton)

to get good results,” he says. From the day years ago when he first saw a guitar being put together on TV, he has known what he wanted to do. “I've known for a long time that sort of stuff interested me... I found my place.”

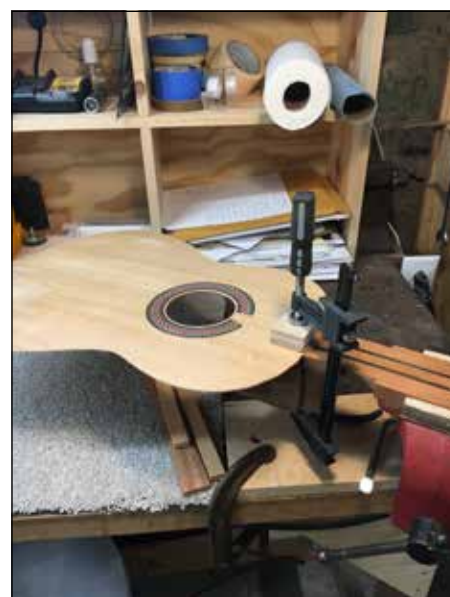
This article is part of the “Lake Claire Creatives” series, about creative individuals from diverse fields, who you may not have known were neighbors. Contact JaneBranscomb@gmail.com to recommend someone to be featured or to volunteer to write a piece for the series.



Guitar back, in its jig for gluing (photo by Steve Johnson)



Guitar Interior View (photo by Steve Johnson)



Attaching the Guitar Top (photo by Steve Johnson)



Multiple Lake Claire Homes

Continued from page 1.



Chester and Steven, 2nd home, 410 Lakeshore

and designer, whose artwork can be found in the permanent collection of MOCA GA and other collections. Steven served as VP of Operations for Jane Fonda for 15 years and retired in 2014. They sold the Lakeshore house when they started spending half their time in Costa Rica.

In late 2020, Steven and Chester were happy to return to Lake Claire. They bought their current home on McLendon from their friend Jan, in order to live full-time in LC again. Walking my dogs in the 'hood, I was always curious about the condos on McLendon that were converted from a former 1950s church about 20 years ago. That is where Steven and Chester's current home is, in the largest of the three condos in that interesting-looking church.

The aforementioned friend Jan is Jan Clausen, who has the firm CCI Design (www.ccidesign.net). Her specialty is design of interiors of hotels and spas across the world. She designed all three of the condos, and theirs has a lovely dipping pool in a private courtyard. I was fascinated to see both the inside of their home



Chester and Steven inside their current (McLendon) home

and the courtyard pool when I visited recently and took the two pictures of them here. The church itself has an interesting history. It was built in 1951. The walls are about eighteen inches thick, and it was structured to be built up, though it never was. Perhaps it was intended that the church have a new sanctuary, upstairs, and maybe attendance began to dwindle. Another of the many interesting facts about the church is that it was built in the shape of a crucifix. Steven and Chester's unit is at the "foot" of the cross.

In any case, Jan bought it in the early 2000s, and she converted it to the three condos. The condo is breathtaking, and though they said Jan was responsible, I beg to differ; their art and furnishings are welcoming and comfortable. Back when we had a Tour of Homes in the 'hood, it was featured at least once on the Lake Claire Tour of Homes; two previous houses of Chester's and Steven's (Palifox, Lakeshore) were also featured on LC Home Tours. They also served on the home tour committee at one point.

Steven and Chester have also owned houses and lived in other 30307 neighborhoods (Candler Park, Edgewood). They enjoy traveling, gardening, and the arts. When I asked about what has drawn them to Lake Claire lo these many years, they said, "We love the friendly vibe, the diversity, and the green neighborhood of Lake Claire." They are very happy living in Lake Claire.

Larry and Rebecca purchased a home on Palifox in 1998 and lived there until 2008. In 2008, they built a new home on Tuxedo Avenue, and they live there currently, directly behind their house on Palifox. But there is much more to Larry's Lake Claire history: both of his grandparents had



Chester and Steven in the courtyard of their home



Larry Dowd's Dad with his first car, parked off Ponce de Leon

homes in Lake Claire that were purchased in the **1930s**. His mother's parents purchased one of the first houses on Tuxedo Avenue, and his father's parents had a house on Palifox.

"My grandparents, Charles and Susie MacGregor, lived at 2028 Tuxedo Avenue for over 50 years (I think he paid around \$3k for the house) and were founding members of Epworth Methodist Church. I have photos of it being built. My grandfather Charles "Mac" McGregor was an elder and taught Sunday school there for years. My grandmother, Susie MacGregor, had 3 sisters who all lived in walking distance of each other. One lived on McLendon, and the other two lived on Clifton and Hardendorf (I have photos of those houses also). [Editor's note: we didn't have room for these many wonderful pictures that Larry has; it could take up the whole newspaper. What a history in Lake Claire!] My grandfather Mac mentioned that he would watch mules help dig out basements in Lake Claire and that their fireplace was built with stone from Stone Mountain."

Larry's grandparents would take the trolley that went down Ponce de Leon to go downtown. Larry continued, "My parents both went to Mary Lin and Bass High School (a few years apart), but did not meet until after college (my mom went to Agnes Scott



Larry Dowd's Dad—Mary Lin Class 1939



Larry and his Daughter

and Dad went to Georgia Tech). My dad worked at the gas station where La Fonda is now and then worked as an Usher at the theatre that became The Variety Playhouse and as an Usher at the Fox in college. My mother's parents (the MacGregors) lived on Tuxedo, until my grandmother went to assisted living in the late 1980s. My brother and I lived in her house for a few years after that." Then, after Larry and Rebecca were married, they bought the Palifox home and then built the Tuxedo Avenue home directly behind it, mentioned at the beginning of the article.

Larry's paternal grandparents were Alton and Margaret Dowd, who lived on Palifox. See the photo on Page 1 of his dad on the front steps. Their

Cont. on p. 11



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Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 5.

a mere five miles from the eclipse centerline, the totality lasted over four minutes, which gave us plenty of time to take it all in. I spent a lot of time looking at the fully eclipsed sun through binoculars, something I hadn't thought to do in 2017. It was amazing to see the bright corona of the sun, and even more astounding were the bright red loops of plasma clearly visible in several spots on the lower edge of the sun. Wade took a great photo of the eclipsed sun showing the darkened sky and glow on the horizon all around us (see photo by Wade H. on Page 1).

As the totality ended, the weird light returned and then got steadily brighter. The birds started singing more than they had been when we had arrived several hours earlier—thinking it morning again! We stayed a bit longer, watching as the

moon-bite grew smaller and smaller on the opposite edge of the sun, and then we packed up our temporary outpost and hiked back to the RV for the long trek home, satisfied by our successful and thrilling adventure. All my photos (many of which would not fit here) and videos, including a time-lapse of the eclipse itself, can be viewed here: flic.kr/s/aHBqjBkZyt.

For a taste of the experience of totality, I recommend watching this recording of the NASA livestream (bit.ly/4d88LC2). And if your interest has been piqued, then start making plans for the next great North American Eclipse in 2045, which will be visible from southwest Georgia!

If you have a nature observation you'd like to share, please send it to sara.gottlieb@gmail.com.

Multiple Lake Claire Homes

Continued from page 9.

son, Larry's dad, attended Mary Lin, then Bass High School, before going to Georgia Tech. He played on the Bass High School football team, and they would practice on the field in Little 5 Points that is behind the Variety Playhouse. In Larry's extensive photo collection, there are photos of them with leather helmets with no face masks.

Larry himself coached his son's and daughter's soccer teams and practiced on the same fields. His dad also spent time playing at Lake Claire Park, had the Lake Claire paper route (he complained about biking up the hill on Claire Drive), worked in the gas station where LaFonda is, and then ushered at the movie theatre in L5P.

Larry's parents, Tony and Suzanne Dowd, both went to Mary Lin and Bass High School (now Bass Lofts), two years apart in school. They were married in 1958 at Epworth Methodist Church in Candler Park. As noted previously, after his grandparents passed away in the 1980s, Larry and his brother lived in their house at 2028 Tuxedo Avenue. In the 1980s-90s, Larry played golf at Candler Park and also played on an amateur soccer team that played on the field behind the swimming pool. They were sponsored by Good Ole Days, a bar that was where the Brewhouse is now. When the Brewhouse opened in 1997, Larry met with the owner, and he agreed to sponsor their soccer team, if, said Larry, "we would meet there after games on

Sunday afternoons (it turned out to be very profitable for them to have 18 guys each week). Our team jersey is still hanging in the Brewhouse with the professional jerseys. I remember Fellini's as a kind of hippie pizza place with a cooler of beer; you would tell the server how much you thought you owed! Also, I remember when the Flying Biscuit opened and when Mr. Lee purchased the Candler Park Market (I was impressed when his son started stocking the wide variety of wines)."

Larry and Rebecca's love of the neighborhood and schools, led to their purchasing the house at 2021 Palifox (four houses down from where his dad grew up) in 1998. Their house and many of the houses in Lake Claire would have a bedroom with a separate outside entrance. His dad had told them that growing up during and after the depression, many families would rent out a room. There was also an alley in back of the house, as in other LC homes, that was used by the milkman to make deliveries.

When their kids were young, Rebecca would spend time with them at Lake Claire Park. Their kids both went to Mary Lin, and as noted at the beginning, they built their new/current house at 2024 Tuxedo Ave in 2008.

Summing up, Larry said, "We have a Tuxedo neighbor in his 90s who still lives down the street and knew my grandparents. There is so much history here, adding to our love of our house and 'hood. And Tuxedo



Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

May birthdays:

- 2 Layla Klehr, turned 15, Hardendorf Ave.
- 3 Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue
- 4 Jennifer Hubert, Harold Avenue
- 9 Vivian Baker, Claire Drive, turned 9! And several adults: Bob Caine, Leonardo, Reece Barclay on Hardendorf; and Linda Hoopes on Claire Drive, my music buddy.
- 11 Adler Waugh, turned 13, Leonardo
- 16 Peter Olson, Leonardo
- 18 Liz Baker, Claire Drive; Jett Friedman, Delaware Ave, turned 12
- 19 Joseph McGill, parents on Arizona Avenue
- 20 Aiden Rogers, Ridgecrest
- 23 Mayla Carper, Leonardo, turned 11
- 24 Cara Yang, turned 11, McLendon Avenue
- 27 Edie Haggerty, Harold, turned 12
- 28 Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, frequent Clarion contributor, turned 14

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the Summer (June/July/August) issue by May 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. Since the MARCH 2024 Clarion, the following person paid dues:

Matthew Woehrmann

Add your name to his and others' from this year by paying the next Clarion!

Interested in Working on the Clarion?

As is noted on the banner on Page 2, the Clarion has what is typically called a "skeleton staff," all volunteers. Our entire staff is the editor and the three folks who do the layout in the newspaper software, manage the advertising, and manage the delivery process with the cadre of route volunteers. We have several neighbors who write frequently for the paper, including Keith Posey and regular columnists, e.g., Wing, who writes (and coordinates others to write) the Land Trust page, Sara who writes "Wild in Lake Claire," Scott on Lifeline and animal welfare matters, news from The Frazer Cen-

ter, and news from Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

More writers are always welcome, so if there is an element of neighborhood news that you find missing or feel would be interesting, and you would be willing to write about it, please let me know. (This is how the current series on "Lake Claire Creatives" came into being.) Also, if there are folks who would like to try their hands at editing, I would like you to do that for one month (and I'd walk you through all the things), with the possibility of increasing the frequency if you and I deem it a fit.

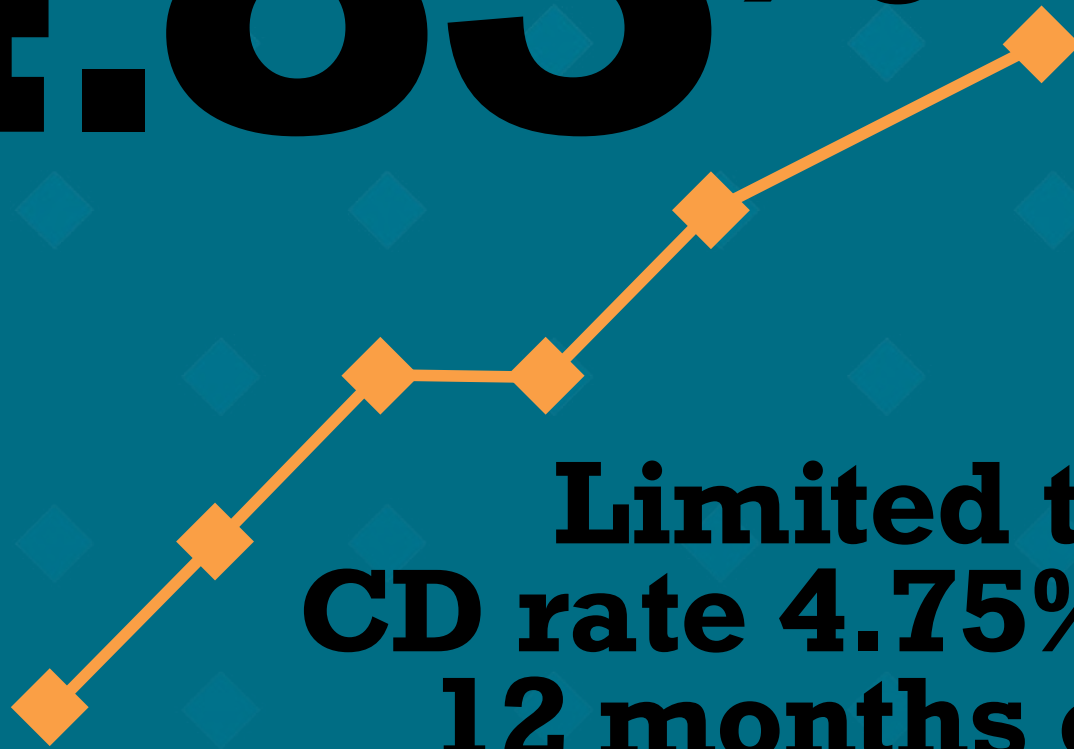
is a great street with regular street parties."

Stay tuned for more personal histories in future issues. If you have lived in more than one house in Lake Claire, I'd love to include you. This series

complements my former series "30+ Years in Lake Claire," some of whom, like Larry, were 2nd generation owners in the 'hood, in or near houses they grew up in, and I welcome anyone who fits that category, too; please contact me at editor@lakeclaire.org. B.

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♪ Support Live Music! ♪

by Beth Damon

This is as of Clarion press time, which is two weeks before its publication; check venues to confirm. Thanks to my friend Lorie Flacker for compiling the bulk of this. Let me know at editor@lakeclaire.org if my inclusions in the Clarion of live music, plays, and other events, are of interest to you, or if you have additions for the next issue.

Please support live music and our local venues!

Wed., May 1	1 Night of Queen/Gary Mullen & the Works	ASO
Thursday, May 2	Alan Doyle	City Winery
Thursday, May 2	Interpol	Masquerade
Thursday, May 2	Switchfoot	Masquerade
Friday, May 3	Runaway Gin	The Garden Club
		Wild Heaven
Friday, May 3	Three Dog Night	ASO
Friday, May 3	Oh Jeremiah	Eddie's Attic
Friday, May 3	Ruby Velle & the Soulphonics	Callanwolde
		(final Spring concert)
May 3-5	Shaky Knees	Central Park
May 4-5	Larry Campbell & Teresa Williams	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, May 4	Casting Crowns	The Fox
Saturday, May 4	Pond	Terminal West
Saturday, May 4	All Them Witches	The Earl
Saturday, May 4	Chris Smither	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, May 4	Dinosaur Jr.	Center Stage/The Loft
Saturday, May 4	Snake Oil Med. Show/ CJ Jones & Spirit Bones	559 Terrace Ave
Saturday, May 4	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Saturday, May 4	Arcade Fire	Masquerade
Saturday, May 4	Matt & Kim	Masquerade
Sunday, May 5	Dar Williams	City Winery
Tuesdays (EVERY)	Irish, old-time, more/see editor's note below	The Marlay, Decatur
Tuesday, May 7	Neil Young	Ameris Amp
Tuesday, May 7	Queensryche	Masquerade
Wed., May 8	Nolan Taylor	Terminal West
Wed., May 8	Nellie McKay	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, May 9	Sierra Ferrell	The Eastern
Thursday, May 9	Steeln' Peaches	Smith's Olde Bar
Friday, May 10	Boywithuke	The Eastern
Friday, May 10	Intersellar Echoes	Terminal West
Friday, May 10	Cypress Hill	Tabernacle
Friday, May 10	Heart/Cheap Trick	State Farm Arena
Friday, May 10	ATL Collective Relives Neutral Milk Hotel	Center Stage/The Loft
Friday, May 10	Mike Kinnebrew	Cottage in the Back
Friday, May 10	Diana Ross	Chastain
Saturday, May 11	Sarah Jarosz	Terminal West
Saturday, May 11	Machine Funk (WSP tribute)	Smith's Olde Bar
Saturday, May 11	Dusty Roads	Steady Hand Brewery
Saturday, May 11	Summerdrive	Smith's Olde Bar
Saturday, May 11	The Ain't Sisters	MOMS
Saturday, May 11	Judas Priest	Ameris Amp
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
Monday, May 13	Echo & the Bunnymen	Tabernacle
Tuesday, May 14	Jonathan Butler	City Winery
Tuesday, May 14	Architects/Of Mice & Me	The Eastern
May 14-15	Bad Bunny	State Farm Arena
Wed., May 15	Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears	Aisle 5
Thursday, May 16	George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic	The Eastern
Thursday, May 16	The Polish Ambassador	Terminal West
May 17-18	Billy Pilgram	Eddie's Attic
	(Andrew Hyra/Kristian Bush)	(18th may be sold out)
Saturday, May 18	Grateful Shred & Circles Around the Sun	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, May 18	Kenny Chesney/Zac Brown Band	Mercedes Benz
Saturday, May 18	The Steeldrivers	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, May 18	Thievery Corporation	Tabernacle
Saturday, May 18	Va. Highland Porchfest	Virginia Highland 'hood
Saturday, May 18	Roswell Music Fest	Roswell
Saturday, May 18	Avi Kaplan	City Winery
Saturday, May 18	Allman Betts Band	Buckhead Theatre
Sunday, May 19	Mutlu	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, May 19	Phosphorescent	Terminal West
Monday, May 20	Leo Kottke	Variety Playhouse
Monday, May 20	Real Estate	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, May 26	Canyon Ladies	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, May 26	Cosmic Charlie	Terminal West
Friday, May 31	Squirrel Nut Zippers	FTE
May 31-Jun 1	Megan the Stallion	State Farm Arena
Saturday, June 1	Bird Dog Jubilee/Potch	Terminal West
Saturday, June 1	Perpetual Groove	FTE

Jun 1-2	The Magnetic Fields	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, June 4	Pixies, Modest Mouse, Cat Power	Chastain
Thursday, June 6	Todd Rundgren	Buckhead Theatre
Friday, June 7	Rolling Stones	Mercedes Benz
Friday, June 7	New Orleans Suspects	FTE
Jun 7-8	Tyler Childers	Ameris Amp
Saturday, June 8	X Ambassadors	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, June 8	Shadowgrass	FTE
Monday, June 10	Justin Timberlake	State Farm Arena
Wed., June 12	Dave Matthews Band	Ameris Amp
Thursday, June 13	John Hiatt	Byers Theatre
Friday, June 14	Steve Earle	City Winery
Saturday, June 15	21 Savage	Lakewood Amp
Monday, June 17	Camera Obscura	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, June 18	Santana and Counting Crows	Gas South arena
Jun 20-22	Goose	Fox Theatre
Jun 20-21	Ben Rector & Cody Fry	ASO
Friday, June 21	Outlaw Fest (Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Plant, Krauss, more)	Ameris Amph
Saturday, June 22	Jess Goggans Band	Smith's Olde Bar
Saturday, June 22	Alanis Morissette	Ameris Amph
Tuesday, June 25	Future Islands	The Eastern
Tuesday, June 25	Tuba Skinny	Eddie's Attic
Friday, June 28	Marty Stuart & his Fabulous Superlatives	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, June 29	Of Montreal	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, June 29	Souther Soul Blues Celebration	Chastain
Saturday, June 29	Ryan Adams	Tabernacle
Jun 29-30	Loudon Wainwright	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, June 30	Sarah McLachlan	Chastain
Wed., July 3	The Spill Canvas	Masquerade
Tuesday, July 9	Pedro the Lion	Terminal West
Saturday, July 13	Def Leppard	Truist Park
Wed., July 17	Iration and Pepper	Tabernacle
Saturday, July 20	Tinariwen	Variety Playhouse
Wed., July 31	O.A.R./Fitz and the Tantrums	Chastain

Ed's note: For the first time we have added: Marlay House Band, which has been taking place every Tuesday night at the Marlay House in Decatur, 7:30-9:30 p.m., for the past 15 years! A lively mix of Irish, old-time and more with fiddles, Irish pipes, mandolin, guitar and banjo. Let's check it out!



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Lake Claire

Back-to-the-Basics: Natural Burial Revisited

by Denise Johnson

In recent years, environmentally conscious options like natural (green) burial grounds have reemerged, providing not only viable, cost-effective alternatives to conventional cemeteries, but also reconnecting us to the cycle of life. "From ashes to ashes, dust to dust" has taken on new meaning.

We are fortunate to have at least two exclusively natural burial grounds in Georgia — Honey Creek Woodlands in Conyers, approximately 25 miles from Lake Claire, and Milton Fields Natural Burial Grounds, in Alpharetta. We also have several hybrid burial grounds that are conventional cemeteries offering some natural burial options.

I vividly recall my first visit to Honey Creek, walking across "The Bridge to Grace" and feeling a tingling sensation cascade down my spine. I tried really hard to ignore the sensation, stay grounded in the moment, and open up to new interpretations of being laid to rest. By the time

I left Honey Creek, I knew with a quiet conviction that this sacred ground would ultimately receive my remains. Initially, I didn't understand what resonated so deeply, but when I returned a few months later I understood that unlike a conventional cemetery, this consecrated site didn't vibrate with the sorrow of death's finality, but pulsed with the cycle of life renewed. It is quite possible that I would have had the same experience at any natural burial ground. In retrospect, I realize that returning our bodies to the soil transcends death. Natural burial is more than just an environmentally friendly burial option, it is understanding that even after our physical form ceases, it carries on as part of nature's cycle, birth / death / renewal.

Natural burial grounds provide a viable option that is not only better for the environment, but also creates space for contemplating our connection to the earth. When our bodies are returned to the earth, we nour-

ish other forms of life and contribute vital nutrients back into the soil. It allows us to come full circle -- the earth that sustained us throughout life gracefully receives our remains at the end of our life. Natural burial grounds facilitate the process of decomposition as they nourish the environment. This age-old practice avoids modern conventions like embalming chemicals, non-biodegradable containers, headstones, and concrete vaults. Instead, the body is laid to rest in a shroud, quilt, blanket made of natural fiber, or a biodegradable container, becoming part of the living cycle of decay and regeneration.

Perhaps the greatest gift we can give future generations is to minimize our environmental impact and leave a living legacy of renewal. By choosing eco-friendly options, our final farewell can be an act of reciprocity and respect for the earth that sustained our life.

CORRECTION and APOLOGY

Last month, we gave artistic credit to the wrong person for the Peace and Love poster. The credit should have gone to Violet Wren Conway. Apologies to Violet!

Violet Wren Conway was born and raised in Atlanta and spent her much of youth running around the Land Trust.

Violet is now a freelance artist and business owner, who has been designing the Land Trust event flyers for the past two years!

Along with being an honorary bake sale volunteer at Land Trust events, Violet can be found selling her art and fresh squeezed juice as co-owner of Juice! and All That Jazz! You can find her on Instagram @purpgorl or @juiceandallthatjazz. Check out her beautiful art at the Instagram link.

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Community Land Trust



Last month's egg hunt at the Land Trust. Photo by Marcy Cornell.



Peace & Love Spring Fest

April's FUNdraiser was fun, and as they say, a good time was had by all. We so appreciate our community sponsors (listed by category to the right); we couldn't have done it without you, many of whom sponsor so much in the LC 'hood. Our own Friday night jam family (pictured

at top right), "The Land Trust Jam Band with John Carden," opened the show, followed by other fine music. Attendees enjoyed arts and crafts booths, massage tables, face painting, food trucks, and of course our LT bake sale. Thank you to all who helped and all who came out.



Coming Soon to the Land Trust... Nature Play Studio!

by Amber Corbett

We are very excited to have Nature Play Studio offering classes and cultivating curiosity through nature and play this spring at the Land Trust! Owner, Shaun, is an educator, gardener, homesteader, homeschooling momma, and outdoor play enthusiast. She has worked with children for over 20 years in many capacities and is known in her community as "mom to many." Using her creativity, education, and professional background as an architectural designer, Shaun loves to spark curiosity and a joy for learning through play, asking questions, and making connections to the world around us. The spring classes, using the Tinkergarten nature-based curriculum, will focus on creativity, imagining original ideas or solutions to problems and bringing them to life. She'll help kids develop creative mindsets and strategies they can use throughout their lives to invent new things, solve problems, express their ideas and feelings, and to nurture relationships. And all through enriching, outdoor play!



follow a steady progression and are organized into three units of three lessons each: Building Blocks (core processes for creativity), Creative Thinking (exploring divergent thinking and problem solving) and Creative Expression (expressing ideas and feelings through art, music, and movement. Nature Play Studio strives to help children learn more about the world around them through play, hands-on learning, making, creating, and wonder! We will play, work with our hands, ask questions, and discover. Come have fun with us!

For more about Nature Play Studio, please visit www.natureplaystudio.com. Updates, dates, and pricing available soon at www.LCCLT.org.

The core lessons this spring will

Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Please check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates and additions (Clarion goes to press in April), and join our email list under the "Join Us" drop-down menu. We hope to see you soon!

Sat., May 4: Foraging Tour & Picnic, with Morgan Strickland of Flourish & Flora, 2–4:30 p.m. \$55/person for tour + picnic, \$30 for tour only (10% goes to LCCLT). Join Morgan for a seasonal foraging tour, where you'll learn to identify and use 15 edible and medicinal southeastern plants. Pay a little extra to enjoy a wild edibles picnic featuring seasonal dishes and herbal teas of plants discussed during the tour.

Sat., May 4: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. *Rain date: Sat. May 18.*

Sun., May 5: Book Swap, noon–2 p.m. Bring a few of your favorite books to trade, plus a story to tell about what the book meant to you or why you liked it.

Sat., May 11: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 1–3 p.m. \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT). First hour for beginners, second hour advanced students. 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., May 12: LCCLT board meeting, 10–11 a.m. (and every 2nd Sunday) in the Greenfield. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. 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., May 12: Death Café with Denise Johnson & Beth White, 3–4:30 p.m. Land Trust amphitheater. Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 LLC hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with hot drinks and snacks. Free; donation welcome. See article Page 14.

Sat., May 18: Community Work Day, 9–noon. (and every 3rd Saturday). This is your Land Trust too, join us! Bring drinking water and work gloves. Pizza follows. Note switch to summer hours! Rain date: May 25.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER

We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion readers, writers, and artists to participate in our 'hood. Our featured artist this month is Sylvie Breedveld, age 6, in first grade at Mary Lin, who lives on McLendon. Sylvie is fea-

tured because she won the extra-credit prize for last month's Clarion. I'm sure we can guess what is in this picture! Sylvie, we love your art—and your bunny ears!

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 **May 15–18** for the **SUMMER** (June/July/August) issue.

Contest Winners

Frances Koval, age 8, was the first to find the graphic of "April Showers bring May Flowers," in the April issue. She is a 2nd grader at Mary Lin. Liora Berman-Billinkoff came in 2nd. She is age 6, a 1st grader at Mary Lin. There was a tie for third place, among Lily Cornell, Julian Leege, Sylvie Breedveld, Auden Greene, and Ryder Durham. Lily is age 9, in 4th grade at Mary Lin, and lives

on Arizona. Lily won extra credit by saying her favorite thing about May is Mother's Day. Julian is 11 years old, attends Mary Lin, and lives on Lake Claire Court. Sylvie's info is above, as the featured artist. Auden is nine and in 3rd grade at Paideia, and lives on Connecticut. He wins extra credit for telling us, "What I love about May is that it's my little brother's and sister's birthday in May, they're twins, and it's always so cute how they run down the stairs and jump on the couch when they're about to get their presents. And it's just so fun to watch them grow a year older!" Ryder is ten and in 4th grade at Mary Lin, and lives on McLendon. He wins extra credit for telling us in May he loves playing football in Lake Claire Park. Congrats to all 7 winners!

Important Editor Disclaimer to Parents: If ever I miss a child who entered, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue. Also, parents of featured kids, please reach out if you need extra copies, for grandparents to post on refrigerators or otherwise celebrate the winners' 15 seconds of fame.

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



1st place winner, Frances



2nd place winner, Liora



Julian, tied for 3rd place



Lily, tied for 3rd place



Ryder, tied for 3rd place



Auden, tied for 3rd place



Sylvie, Featured Artist and 3rd-place tie winner



By Sylvie Breedveld

New Contest

Hi kids, one thing of note in May is Mother's Day on May 12. Do you have something special for your mom (or moms)? Somewhere in this newspaper is a Mother's Day joke. 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. (Your parents should 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 something special about your mom, grandmom, or Mother's Day. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is MAY 15–18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize.**