



## December 7: Long-awaited Lake Claire Holiday Fair/Walking Tour



If you've gotten this newspaper in time, our fantastic annual holiday gift sale is within a few days. On December 7, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the south side of Lake Claire, the artists, crafters, and cooks/bakers of all ages

will sell their handcrafted items. We ended up with over 100 participants! Be sure to come hungry!—fantastic food trucks (and music) this year. Please see Sponsors' logos on Page 16 here, and utilize their services.

See the amazing myriad of arts, crafts, food, and music, by scanning the QR code, here and on the yard-signs throughout the neighborhood, or come for a printed map from our info both that day, at 1778 Delaware.

We look forward to another great event!

**IF you get this paper after December 7**, we hope you attended and enjoyed the Fair. Pictures to come in the January issue.

## Colorful Kelly Karim

by Jane Branscomb

I picked up Kelly Karim at her home on Southerland Terrace. "You're dressed right for coming to my house," she sang as I approached, "in purple!" The house is indeed purple, just one of the ways Kelly brings color into the world; we were meeting to discuss her painting. But first I asked about another: a vibrant Mexican restaurant I enjoyed years ago in Inman Park called Tapatio. I told her I remembered her busily running things in front while also waiting tables. How did Tapatio come to be, I asked. "One day, my then-husband rolled over in bed and said, 'Let's start a restaurant.' I said, 'OK,' and within a month we had opened." She was 21.



*Iris Warrior, by Kelly Karim*

Kelly returned to college after several years at Tapatio, majoring in psychology. Her experience in the restaurant made her a far better student than she had been before, Kelly noted. But she balked when she had to take an art class to complete her degree. "Art, to me, has always been personal. I was mad to have to take it for a grade! I hemmed and hawed and complained... but I loved it!"

After graduating she went back for

more art instruction, first delving into silversmithing and small sculpture. Her professor saw that she had trouble representing perspective and pressed her to take a class to work on that. Kelly described learning to draw perspective as a painful, frustrating ordeal. Though she improved considerably, to this day she gives herself a pass on having it perfect. But the real blessing of that class was being put in front of a canvas. "The minute I started painting I fell in love with it!" she exclaims.

The paintings in the show were inspired in part by Kelly's mother. "She

**Cont. on p. 8**

## Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

This continues our series on Lake Claire folks who have lived in two or more homes in our LC 'hood. Some people downsized, some upsized, and it has been so interesting—and so much fun—hearing these folks' stories. This month's article features Ruth Dinkins and Bob Carr.

In March of 1993, Ruth Dinkins and Bob Carr bought their home at 2049 McLendon. "To put it mildly," Ruth said, "the house needed work." They renovated the kitchen, a bathroom, and made many other needed improvements, living in the house with their toddler while the work was underway. They put the refrigerator and a microwave in the living room, while much of the rest of the downstairs was screened off for remodeling. Once that work was done, they settled in, and life continued for a busy working couple with a small child, soon joined by another youngster. Bob and Ruth also fell in love with the neighborhood.

In November of 1994, two days before Thanksgiving, the house was full to the brim. Ruth's parents, her brother and sister-in-law, and their six-month-old baby, were all visiting. Early in the



*Bob walking from 1808 to 2049 McLendon*

morning, they smelled smoke and soon realized that the house was on fire. Everyone (six adults, a three-year old and two six month old babies) got out of the house before the firefighters arrived. The dog and one of the two cats were safely put into the family minivan. The other cat, Della, was found alive, though a bit damp and very scared, many hours later, after the fire was put out. After all the chaos and destruction

**Cont. on p. 9**

## CINS Hosts Student Device Discussion Panel

by Daniel Hyken

Following the implementation of the new Personal Electronic Device (PED) policy at Midtown High School for the 2024-25 school year, the Council of Intown Neighborhoods (CINS) and Schools hosted a discussion panel for parents, staff, and students to review

the effects of the policy. The discussion panel included several APS and Midtown administrators along with two Midtown students. It also included guest speaker Dr. Noriel Lim from the Emory University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

The meeting led with Dr. Lim's presentation, explaining that one of the most important developments happening during adolescence is in the brain. During this time, the brain is developing and adolescents start their process of identity formation. Lim said

that social media use during this time can exploit adolescent brain development, which can lead to issues of mental health.

The presentation continued by dis-

**Cont. on p. 5**

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## Calendar for November

In addition to these, please see the variety of neighborhood events at the Land Trust (P. 14 this time) and live music in Atlanta on P. 13.

**1–24** Alliance Theatre, *A Christmas Carol*, Coca-Cola Stage, stunning adaptation, featuring a magical set design and striking costumes. Described as “high art of the season...a nostalgic feast for the eye.” [www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/a-christmas-carol](http://www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/a-christmas-carol)

**1–15** Alliance Theatre, Hertz Stage, *Business Ideas*, award-winning comedy about getting rich (or not), and whether money really buys happiness—one cup of coffee at a time. [www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/business-ideas](http://www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/business-ideas)

**1–24** Theatrical Outfit—*A Christmas Story*, beloved Christmas story live on stage for a night filled with madcap humor, iconic characters, and the true warmth of the holiday season. [www.theatricaloutfit.org/christmas-story](http://www.theatricaloutfit.org/christmas-story)

**6/7** Actor’s Express – *Frosty Follies with the Candybox Revue*, glitzy saucy, audacious brand of satirical burlesque. [actors-express.com/](http://actors-express.com/)

**7** Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. Help restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Space is limited; pre-register at [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events).

**7–31** Horizon Theatre presents *Madeline’s Xmas*, info/tix at [www.horizontheatre.com/plays/family-series/madelines-christmas/](http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/family-series/madelines-christmas/)

**13** *Elf* in Candler Park (part of Fall Movie Nights sponsored by Cynthia Baer). Movie starts at sunset, pre-movie fun ahead of that. This is the last one for this season

**14** Frazer Center “Winter Wonders in the Garden,” 4:30–7 p.m., Cator Woolford Gardens. Take a festive stroll through the gardens! Enjoy the beautiful winter blooms and special decor while sipping cocoa. Photo opportunities—including one with a **very** special visitor! Entry is free, but donations are welcomed. [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events).

**18** 4–8 p.m. Dine-Out with Mary Lin at Chipotle in Emory Village. Mention Mary Lin and PTA gets 25% (!) of proceeds!

**19** No Neighborhood meeting this month. Next meeting: 16 January 2025

**21** Fiddler’s Green (every 3rd Saturday), at the First Existentialist in Candler Park. December’s featured artists will be **Redwine Jam** (Atlanta-based folk music trio comprised of Chris and Carol Moser and Brenda Lloyd, performing a wide range of tunes), and **Balalaika Fantasie** (five musicians who draw their inspiration from their life-long passion for Slavic folk music and their diverse cultural backgrounds). [aaffm.org/aaffm-events/](http://aaffm.org/aaffm-events/)

## Lake Claire Leadership

The annual Lake Claire Neighbors (LCN) Executive Committee elections took place in November. The officers for the next year were elected: Joe Agee, President; Beth Grashof, Zoning; Carol Holliday, Planning and NPU; Nancy Dorsner, Communications; Pen Sherwood, Fundraising; Deanne Uroic, Safety, Melissa Pressman, Environment; Treasurer, Jay Severa.

Welcome to Deanne Uroic, Safety VP, and Jay Severa, Financial VP/Treasurer; the other officers stayed the same.

## Welcome Our New VPs

by Beth Damon

Welcome to Deanne Uroic, our new VP of Safety. She and her husband Igor have lived in Lake Claire since the end of 2013. They are now living in their second house in Lake Claire, so I plan to hit her up for my series on residents living in multiple houses in LC. Their daughter, Sabina, was born in 2014, and she is now a 5th grader at Mary Lin. In November, Sabina was the featured writer for the Clarion Kids Corner, and previously she was a winner of the monthly contest! Their older child is their son, who lives in France and visits at the holidays. Deanne loves to cook, read, and listen to music. She is currently the Treasurer of the Mary Lin Education Foundation, and she

volunteers for Pounce De Leon, a cat rescue organization.

Last month, we welcomed our new treasurer, Jay Severa, on Lakeshore Avenue, who finished up the treasurer term and now has been elected. Jay is retired; his prior work experience as an actuary makes him very familiar with financial matters. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, FurKids, and now LCN. Jay and his wife, Erica, enjoy walking the neighborhood and dining out at good restaurants. Jay and Erica have lived in LC for 17 years.

Both of these VP positions are among those that take work and dedication, so we welcome them and thank them for their service to Lake Claire.

## Dine-out to Support the Mary Lin PTA

Please support Mary Lin PTA and the generous local restaurants in this column each month, and have delicious food while doing so! See above, Nov. 18, for details. Please support this important effort—contact Aviva Berman, [avivaberman@gmail.com](mailto:avivaberman@gmail.com), for info.





Dear Lake Claire Friends,

You are amazing! The board and staff at Clifton have been meeting this fall to develop our 3-year strategic plan. Throughout our conversations, a common theme has emerged—one that isn't surprising, but one we want to celebrate—we have the best neighbors!

You ensure that our refrigerators and freezers are full, that our guests have great clothes to choose from in the clothes closet, and they feel your love and support each time you walk through the door. You see our needs of the month on our yard-sign, and you purchase one of everything. You are amazing!

This has been a great year for our guests... we have many guests who have found employment and are now living on their own. We have guests who continue to fight each day to maintain their sobriety. We have guests who are receiving regular medical care, both physical care and mental health care. And it wouldn't have been possible without you.

Last month, Clifton celebrated our 45th anniversary. Think about it: every very night of every year (except during our fire reconstruction in 2005) since November 1, 1979, men who are homeless have slept in what was once the church sanctuary of Clifton Presbyterian Church. Tens of thousands of men have been kept warm, fed, and loved... and that wouldn't have happened without you and your unwavering support. We couldn't be more grateful.

Another common theme has come out of our strategic planning efforts—where did this year go, and can you believe we're already planning for 2025? As you begin to make your holiday and year-end plans, we hope you will once again add support for the men of Clifton to your giving plan.

We spend approximately \$1,900 per year to serve each guest. We hope you'll consider investing in one of the men we serve, maybe for a week, a month, or a year. The men will obviously be better for it, our community will be better for it, and so will you. You can make a year-end donation online at [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com), mail a check in the enclosed envelope, or bring it to Clifton and visit. In any case, we invite you to stop in and say hello. Transformation takes a village, and we are certainly glad that you are part of our village!

We hope you have a joyful holiday season and are looking forward to a wonderful 2025.

With gratitude,  
Leslie

Leslie Prince, Chair  
CSM Board of Directors





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## Student Device Discussion Panel

*Continued from page 1.*

cussing the role that phones play in the context of learning, where students turn to their phones when they are bored or not motivated in class. Dr. Lim said that phones are not all bad, as they can be useful tools for communication, information, and more, which are equally vital to adolescent development.

The meeting turned next to the PED policy at Midtown: students' phones are locked in fabric Yondr pouches for the entirety of the school day, unlocked by magnets at dismissal. Additionally, the policy prohibits all personal devices, including AirPods, personal laptops, and smart watches.

Dr. Cheryl Nahmias, Student Support Program Specialist at Midtown, provided insight into the reasoning for the policy, explaining that this spring, Midtown went through the process of Cognia Accreditation, where schools are evaluated by quality and effectiveness. This process, plus surveys, found that the most important issue for teachers was student cell phones. This led Midtown to develop their Theory of Action, to address the impact of cell phones on the learning environment. Other members of the school community explained that the policy was created based on input and feedback from Midtown parents. Dr. Ken Zeff, APS Board of Education District 3 Representative, explained that the policy's formation was unique, allowing Midtown to find its own path forward. Zeff said that this style of input and solution is a great tool that can be used to better the entire district.

Dr. Nahmias and Midtown Principal Dr. Betsy Bockman explained that the Midtown Foundation, PTO, and PTSO are involved to help pay for the Yondr pouches and other costs. Teachers appreciate the policy and see more student engagement from students, Bockman said. Bockman acknowledged that the cost was a very large issue, which was covered by Midtown's Foundation. She noted that the level of student discipline and altercations are down, attributed to students not having their phones.

Midtown senior Neelam Parsons and junior Julia Barton represented student voices on the panel. Parsons said that the effects of the policy are undeniable; he has seen more of his peers focused on their work in class and engaging with people. He noted, "Looking at it statistically, it is working, but I think that there is no way to tell until

we have multiple grades with multiple data points," Barton explained that Gen Z is reliant on their phones and use them for so much these days. "I have to just go into this with an open mind," Barton said. Once students returned to school, Barton said that she agreed, people talk more with their peers; she believes the policy has brought an incredible change to Midtown.

When the panelists were asked if there were any valid issues against the policy, Parsons noted students not being able to contact their parents in an emergency or not feeling safe in school without access to their phones, especially with the issues of school shootings and school violence. Bockman gave the example of a previous lockdown situation this April, where students did not use their phones for good reasons, and she felt this fear for safety does not warrant students to need their phones.

Many students use personal computers for after-school activities such as clubs and jobs; these computers are not even allowed into the school building. Students and parents alike have expressed their grievances with this part of the policy, feeling that it is unwarranted and keeps students from reaching their maximum potential in after-school activities. Clubs (e.g., the Midtown Jesters Speech and Debate team and the G3 robotics club) necessitate students using their PCs for research, which are blocked on the school-provided Chromebooks, or to use software that is unavailable or blocked on the Chromebooks.

Midtown parent Jenifer Keenan has adamantly advocated that the Midtown administration amend the policy to allow personal laptops at Midtown. Keenan has continued to hold Midtown accountable after her daughter's MacBook was confiscated for just trying to bring it into the school. Her daughter required the computer for her after-school commitment with Midtown's newspaper, *The Southerner*. And, as it stands now, Midtown's policy prohibiting the possession of personal laptops is actually in violation of APS policy.

"The second clause of the Midtown policy is not limited to the use of laptops or other larger PEDs—it applies to the possession as well," Keenan said. "The Midtown Yonder/cell phone policy is consistent with the APS policy because it allows students to possess their cell phones, headphones, Apple

## Winter Wonders with Frazer Center and Cator Woolford Gardens

by Dina Shadwell

Frazer Center is thrilled to invite our Lake Claire and Candler Park neighbors to **Winter Wonders in the Garden** on Saturday, December 14. Cator Woolford Gardens will be decked in lights and decor celebrating winter holidays worldwide, and neighbors are welcome to stroll through any time between 4:30 and 7 p.m. Enjoy the beautiful winter blooms while sipping a cup of cocoa. There will be multiple photo opportunities, including one with a **very special visitor**. Entry is free, but donations are welcomed. We look forward to sharing good cheer with our community!

Would you like to spread that good cheer even farther? You can help ensure that Frazer Center's adult participants with developmental disabilities feel the warmth and joy of the season with our Holiday Wish List. Frazer's Adult Services staff has communicated with each individual in our program to create this special wish list, tailored to the unique preferences and needs of each individual—many of whom might not otherwise have access to holiday gifts. It's our way of showing appreciation for the people we serve, making sure they feel included, valued, and celebrated during this special time of year. YOU can help create holiday

watches, and other small PEDs that can fit in the Yondr pouch. The policy prohibiting the possession of personal laptops and other larger PEDs, however, violates this APS policy."

Keenan continued discussion about Midtown's inadequate response to the issue of PCs, noting that Administrators insist on maintaining their argument that students do not need their laptops for after-school activities. Anything that requires a PC should be brought up so that it can be made accessible, they affirm. Bockman explained that this also is an equity issue, as students with personal laptops are able to do better than those without them. Currently, Midtown has made no changes to allow personal laptops for use in after school activities.

"Students have indicated they want to use their personal laptops for after-school activities," Keenan said. "Midtown, however, has not provided a method for students to access their laptops for after-school activities; the correct inquiry should be whether stu-



*Frazer Center Direct Support Professional, Steve Bonacci (L), and adult participant, Gregory Montford, share a laugh*

magic for Frazer's adult participants by purchasing one of the personalized gifts, which our staff will wrap and deliver to each individual during our Adult Services holiday party on December 12. For more information about Frazer's wish list for our adult participants, visit: [frazercenter.org/about-us/news](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/news). For more information about Winter Wonders in the Garden, visit [frazercenter.org/about-us/events](http://frazercenter.org/about-us/events).



dents want to use their personal devices, not whether they need to, because: 1) the APS policy allows for the possession of laptops and 2) the APS policy only forbids the **use of PEDs during the instructional day.**"

Nahmias' and Bockman's response to Keenan was that they had given club sponsors the option to pick up their members' laptops each morning and store them in their classrooms for use during after school activities. Understandably, these teachers have said that they do not want the burden of picking up and storing so many laptops every day. But even if teachers agreed to do so, it would still not meet the APS policy that allows students to keep PEDs in their possession. Keenan argues that the necessary solution is clear and simple: to let students keep laptops during the day.

"Rather than trying to put the burden on teachers to pick up laptops, or students to prove why they need their

**Cont. on p. 7**





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# Adoptable Dogs on the Urgent/ At Risk List

by Scott McLane

**ALL OF THESE GREAT DOGS ARE ON THE URGENT/AT RISK LIST AT THE DEKALB COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER, AS OF NOVEMBER 15.**

**Jakela** was adopted out as a fat puppy in June, and he was back at the shelter on November 2 as a slightly skinny stray. Her adopters did not respond to the shelter's communications. In playgroup with other dogs, Jakela has been friendly and soft. She loves meeting new people and this soft-hearted pup is ready to bring lots of happiness to a loving home

**Natalia** is precious! She's a dark-brown short stack with a white stripe on her face. She's a mixed breed pup with a boxer-like face and a curved tail. 100% cute. Weighing less than 50 lbs., she's the perfect size to pick up or to be in your lap getting cuddles and pets, which she just loves. She does very well one-on-one with other dogs, but does not enjoy groups of dogs. Wiggly, smiley, friendly, adorable.

**Khaleel** is a young, handsome pup. He has pretty butterscotch coloring and is quite the looker. He's also friendly, playful, and affectionate. Khaleel is soft, interactive, friendly, and playful with other dogs in playgroup, is easy to leash and handle. He loves playing

with toys and was curious about a kiddie pool but didn't know what to make of it so he didn't jump in. He likes pets, gives kisses, and he can't wait for a home of his own.

**Sloth** is a cute sweet boy who is so easy and chill, he'd make a perfect addition to just about any household. He walks well on leash and enjoys a little sniffing and exploring followed by coming over for some pets and a good cuddle session. He enjoys playing with other dogs (very friendly and interactive) and is a favorite among playgroup volunteers. He was fine meeting a kid. He's 3 years old and weighs 47 lbs.

**Tyrone** is still a baby a little over 1-yr old; his owner died in June, and he has been at Dekalb County Animal Services since then, now finding himself at risk for euthanasia. Tyrone is a black mouth cur mix, living up to the love-bug reputation! He leans in for pets/kisses from everyone, is house-trained and knows sit and down. He walks well on the leash and comes to playgroup regularly. He did great meeting other dogs on the leash. Tyrone has been comfort-



Jakela



Natalia



Khaleel



Sloth



Blossom



Foxy Roxy



Tyrone



Mireille

able around cats, is great in the car, and takes treats gently.

Meet **Mirelle!** If you like low-riding momma dogs, this stout-legged sweetie is your girl! Mirelle is VERY people-friendly; she adorably comes for pets and literally sits on your feet. She is dog-friendly, a regular at playgroup, and did great meeting a cat. Very treat-motivated, she'd be easy to train. She has low to medium energy. Mirelle takes treats gently, and although she is not a huge fan of getting in the car, once in she just sits quietly. Come meet this cutie petootie!

**Blossom** is a sweet senior, 9 years old but spry for her age. She has pretty coloring, weighs only 40 lbs, and is easy to walk. She's friendly with other dogs, just a little bossy and tends to correct

them (She can't help that, it's her age.) Volunteers find her to be sweet and friendly, a perfect manageable size, and it is clear that she misses her family. She'd love to retire in a good home to replace the one she lost. Please have a heart for an oldie but goodie, and bring her to her furever home!

**Foxy Roxy** impresses everyone she meets with her sweet affectionate personality and overall cuteness. She's young, only 1½, and a compact 41 lbs. She knows 'sit' and takes treats gently. She loves toys and has an adorable hop when she has a toy in her mouth, plus gets along with other dogs. She comes to life when she's out in the play-yard, wagging her tail the entire time she's playing fetch. Foxy Roxy is a delightful little pup looking for a home..

## Student Device Discussion Panel

*Continued from page 5.*

laptops, the school should simply allow students to keep laptops in their backpacks, lockers and/or in manila envelopes during the day and only permit the usage of laptops outside of the instructional day," Keenan said.

*If you missed Daniel's first article*

*about the Midtown PED Policy, please see the October issue, lakeclaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/clarion-oct-2024-for-the-web.pdf. Daniel is a journalism student, in the 10th grade at Midtown High. He is on the Jesters debate team in JV public forum, and he is an officer for the Latin club. ~Ed..*



## Colorful Kelly Karim

*Continued from page 1.*



*Kelly Karim with two of her “liberated flowers” paintings*

worked in computers and consulting all over the world, but her great love is flowers. She’s even getting a Masters in Ikebana floral arranging! She’s 81, and she’s doing exactly what she wanted to do and exactly what she loves,” Kelly beamed.

All of the paintings in the show depict flowers. They are luminous gouaches, lively, bold, surreal. All evoke a story or feeling, some more literally than others. Kelly shows me her “Iris Warrior.” A female figure emerges from the shapes of the flowers, speaking to Kelly of femininity along with great strength. “I treat each piece as that moment, and really connect to it and let it speak to me. When I start something, it’s usually completely different than I imagined it by the end.”

One group of ethereal, floating poppies Kelly calls her “liberated flowers.” Like her mother, she explains, they reveal “a strength, and this exploration

that’s wonderful and free.” The idea of liberated flowers is “not having to be connected to anything except who you are.”

Another painting features poppies and daisies. “My mom’s name is Shirley, and that’s the Shirley poppy. My grandmother’s name is Daisy. You have to have Shirley poppies and daisies if you’re going to have a garden in my family!” It’s a southern gardening thing, apparently, to include plant varieties that reference family members.

Several paintings have a striking background, a dark sky densely flecked with yellow sparks. She traces this to a magical experience at a beach in the Yucatan of suddenly looking up and seeing “a meteor shower beyond what I’d ever seen.”

Kelly fell in love with Mexico on her first visit at 19 and regularly spends time there. Last year she led a painting retreat for a small group of women to



*My Love*



*Mujer con Frutas*



*Artist’s hands*

Izamal and Merida. They sought inspiration from other artists in museums and small galleries and from nature, visiting various cenotes (underground caverns with pools of fresh water). They also found inspiration in chance encounters, once, for example, stumbling upon an array of flowers placed in the street in an ordered design.

As for many artists, the joy for Kelly is in the creating; she would gladly have someone else manage the business side. Still, she’s come up with some inventive marketing approaches. During Covid (she painted a remarkable 70 paintings during the first year of the pandemic), she printed magnetic business cards featuring several of her paintings and plastered them all over her car with a sign saying, “Take One.” She also staged what she dubbed a “Picket Fence Gallery” in her front yard for passers-by to enjoy.

The marketing approach she finds most rewarding and productive, though, is when an interested buyer comes to her house. Based on their need and style, she brings out several paintings, a few of which they might take home. “I usually make three or four sales when I do that,” she says. For the Lake Claire holiday artist market this year, she’ll have some smaller works available for purchase and invite visitors to come to a showing at her home afterward to see other, larger works.

If you miss that, you can see a selection of Kelly’s paintings online at [KellyKarim.net](http://KellyKarim.net). You can also use the contact form there to request a viewing.

*Editor’s note: On December 7 at the holiday fair, Kelly will be at 1759 Delaware Avenue, on the corner of Dela-*



*Poppy*



*Pitaya – Flower of the Dragon Fruit*

*ware/Arizona. This article is part of the Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individuals. Contact Jane-Branscomb@gmail.com to suggest that someone to be featured or to volunteer to write for the series.*



## More than One Lake Claire House

*Continued from page 1.*



*2049 McLendon today*



*2049 McLendon in 1993*

of that day, finding Della alive made everything feel less catastrophic and, as they settled down to Thanksgiving dinner at a nearby friend's house a couple of days later, they felt they had a LOT to be thankful for.

The house had to be completely rebuilt (all but the brick and subfloor), a process that took about eight months. Luckily, a house further up McLendon was available to be rented during that time, which meant the family was able to be nearby during the reconstruction process. 1808 McLendon became their home during that time, and the walk down and then back up the hill between the two houses became a very well-traveled route.

Following that dramatic period of time, life at 2049 McLendon moved into a normal busy routine of life with two growing children. The cats lived long lives, various dogs joined the household over time. Ruth's parents moved into the house next door for about ten years. The children grew up and moved away, but Bob and Ruth's roots in Lake Claire had grown deep. They decided



*2049 McLendon after fire*

that they wanted to, once again, renovate 2049 and make it possible for them to live there into the foreseeable future. From early fall 2023 to late summer 2024, big-time construction was in the works, creating a zero-step entry into the back of the house, as well as a walk-in shower, and many other home improvements. After being out of the house nearly a year, they are happily settling back in now, and you can regularly see them on their daily walks through the neighborhood.

Thank you so much, Ruth and Bob, for spending the time to tell your story

## Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

The past few weeks have been hard for me and members of my family, my friends, my co-workers, my fellow Co-Housers, and the broader community. Happiness and well-being are best nurtured when our inner values are reflected by our own actions, the actions of those around us, and in the broader world, and that is not where we find ourselves in the current moment. We have a lot of uncertainty about what will happen next, and some certainty that what will happen is going to be pretty terrible.

The primary way that I find balance and grounding when things are like this is to be outside and attuned to the natural world around me as much as possible. Although nature can some-

times powerfully remind us that it can be unpredictable and terrible, the vast majority of the time, we can depend on many things and delight in them: sunrises and sunsets, the changing colors and falling of leaves, collecting of nuts by squirrels, migrating birds, and the shortening of the days from fall into winter.

Sometimes, I don't even have to go outside to be enchanted by nature. The other day, a pair of bluebirds was flitting around a hole in a box elder tree just outside the window behind the computer monitor where I work during the day. The prospect of them choosing the hole for a nest completely distract-

*Cont. on p. 11*



*Grasshopper*



*1808 McLendon in 1995*

and adding to the previous residents' stories.

This series started in February of this year, and there have been one or more in every issue since then; if you've not seen them, please go [lake-claire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/](http://lake-claire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/). And perhaps now, it's \*your\* turn.

Please share your love of Lake Claire in more than one home; contact me at [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org). You don't have to be a writer, you may bullet-point your details or meet with one of us for an interview and not write anything. Let's keep this going!



## Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household. Pay at [lakeclaire.org](http://lakeclaire.org) via the PayPal link, OR with the old-fashioned check in the mail, to Jay Severa, Treasurer, Lake Claire Neighbors, P.O. Box 5942, Atlanta Georgia, 31107. Since the last Clarion, the following folks paid dues:

Ana Collins	Anne Bourne	Anna Karwata
Jay Severa	Judy Hammack	Michael Hill
Ruth Dinkins	Deanne Uroic	Thomas Hardy
Sharon Pomeranz	Patricia Grindo	Chris Campbell
Lisa Holloway	Joel Roache	
Bethanie Grashof	Jennifer Lund	

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## Wild

*Continued from page 9.*

ed me from whatever Zoom call I happened to be on, and I have no regrets about that!

On a walk in Frazer Forest a few weeks ago, I saw a twig suspended by some spider web threads that had a mantid ootheca (egg case) attached to it (see my photo at right). After photographing it, I secured the twig in a branch of a small tree. While doing a bit of cleanup in one of my native plant beds, I noticed a very large (4 inches long) grasshopper eyeing me suspiciously from a milkweed leaf (photo page 9). It barely budged while I took its photo.

Meredith reported that a hermit thrush is back in her yard for the colder season, singing his super sweet, single-note calls. At least a couple of ruby-crowned kinglets have returned as well. She loves seeing them bounce about in the branches. Rutting season has started, and there are lots of deer to see at Lullwater Preserve. Meredith saw a doe running hard across a hillside the other day, full-out open-mouthed panting. A beautiful buck was not far behind her. Recently, a doe was looking much less disturbed by a large buck eating acorns nearby. It made Meredith wonder about the difference—if some females just don't like certain males, or if all the males have to go through the process of winning the females over.

Meredith still has a few asters blooming in her yard, though they're almost finished. She's also been appreciating the deep purple of the beautyberry and bright red of the winterberry. Soon, though, we'll only have the colorful foliage to admire, and then that too will be gone.

B.S. says he has nothing special to report except that a strange insect (see his photo below) that landed on his



*Praying mantis egg case*

truck reminded him of a fascinating exhibit at Fernbank Museum called "armored animals." [Sara notes: The bug that B.S. saw and photographed is an assassin bug, but fear not, they are harmless to humans and not even a particular pest on any of our plants.]

Frank W saw a very large bird of prey twice in his yard. It had a wingspan of four or five feet. Frank suspects the backyard is part of its hunting ground. He also saw an owl recently, which flew right over his head, and when he looked up, it was flying over Arizona Avenue. Speaking of birds of prey, another one, this time a hawk, nearly flew in front of Frank on the bike path. In addition, he saw a little bunny run across Clifton at dusk. But his most interesting sighting was a woodpecker in his yard, making a call that sounded like barking. Frank had never heard of a woodpecker making such a call, so he was quite surprised to hear it. Speaking of noisy birds, a flock of robins with several other species came into his backyard the other day; Frank hopes they come back soon.

I have written before that autumn and winter are not my favorite times of the year. Even the changing colors



*Pawpaw tree (Asimina triloba)*



of leaves on the trees only serves to remind me that they will soon be bare, the days will be short, and the temperatures cold. But I was still delighted when I found the largest of my pawpaw trees at the Land Trust starting to change colors (see my picture); leaves of these trees start changing colors later than most of the other trees, and they change from the top of the tree first, slowly changing all the way to the bottom before dropping their leaves.

With that picture of the beautiful yellow pawpaw tree, I'll leave you with this beautiful quote from Rumi:

"Sorrow prepares you for joy. It violently sweeps everything out of your house, so that new joy can find space to enter. It shakes the yellow leaves from the bough of your heart, so that fresh, green leaves can grow in their place. It pulls up the rotten roots, so that new roots hidden beneath have room to grow. Whatever sorrow shakes from your heart, far better things will take their place."

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

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

### Happy Birthday to:

- Dec. 4 Drew Pittman, happy 9th birthday! (Marlbrook)
- Dec. 7 Jeff Debell, Harold Avenue
- Dec. 10 Happy b'day, Tim Kline, Leonardo Avenue
- Dec. 12 Henry Allen—Happy 12! Harold Avenue
- Dec. 13 Happy b'day to Laura Tanguturi, Harold Avenue
- Dec. 17 Happy b'day to Dawn Aura, Clarkston just recently, but honorary member of Arizona Avenue
- Dec. 19 Happy b'day to Elliott Williams, Howard Circle
- Dec 24 Happy day to Darby Bashaw, Hardendorf
- Dec. 26 Happy 12th birthday to Cabot Williams, Howard Circle.
- Dec. 31 Cara Haycak Tobin, Hardendorf
- Dec. 31 Robert Frank, Hardendorf
- (Belatedly, HB to Arden Joiner, Claire Drive, who turned 11 on Nov. 12.)

Take a minute and send January events to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org) by Dec. 18-ish.

## NEED CLARION VOLUNTEERS!

We can always use volunteer delivery folks for placing monthly\* Clarions on neighbors' porches. Great way to help the neighborhood, to get steps, and (high schoolers) to earn community credit. Time-sensitive delivery is the last week of each month.\* (Even when we have enough volunteers for current routes, we need back-ups for

when regular volunteers can't deliver by the first week of month for any reason.)

Email Alicia at [distribution@lakeclaire.org](mailto:distribution@lakeclaire.org).

(\*Monthly except no Clarion in July & August.)



*Assassin bug*



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## 🎵 Live Music! 🎵

by Beth Damon

Here's the music coming up that we know as of press time. Thanks to my friend Lorie Flacker for the bulk of the research; I only tweak a little. Please support live music and our local venues! And if this Clarion comes in time for December 7, come to hear music in Lake Claire at our Arts Fair, south of McLendon (scan yard signs to get addresses). Enjoy!

DATE	BAND	LOCATION
Sun.–Mon., Dec 1–2	Kristian Bush	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, December 1	Melody Trucks	Moonshadow
Wednesday, December 4	The Front Bottoms	Tabernacle
Wednesday, December 4	Thomas Rhett, Riley Green	the Eastern
Thursday, December 5	The Wood Brothers/ Katie Pruitt	The Eastern
Thursday, December 5	Preservation Hall Jazz Band	Variety Playhouse
Thursday, December 5	Tishamingo	Smiths Olde Bar
Friday, December 6	Drivin'N'Cryin'	Variety Playhouse
Friday, December 6	Magnolia Express	Napoleons
Friday, December 6	Nero Simon and the Sunsetters/MCDC	Westside Motor Lounge
SAT., DEC. 7, 10:30a–4:30p	Many groups! Lake Claire Arts Fest	Lake Claire/south of McLendon
Saturday, December 7	Cowboy Bebop Live	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, December 8	Alicia Witt	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, December 8	Atlanta Rhythm Section	Buckhead Theatre
Sunday, December 8	Robert Earl Keen	Variety Playhouse
December 9-12	Usher	State Farm Arena
Wednesday, December 11	Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Evening	Roxy
December 11–12	Mike Cooley	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, December 12	David Ryan Harris	Smiths Olde Bar
Thursday, December 12	Sugarland/Little Big Town	Gas South
Friday, December 13	Leslie Odom Jr	ASO
Friday, December 13	Darrell Scott	Eddie's Attic
Friday, December 13	Herb Alpert & Lani Hall	Buckhead Theatre
Friday, December 13	Magnolia Express	Cowboys and Caviar
December 14–15	The Hot Toddlers	Napoleons
Saturday, December 14	Spafford	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, December 15	Sweet Melissa & the Ramblin Men	Terminal West
Tuesday, December 17	John Legend	Fox Theatre
Wednesday, December 18	The Jesus Lizard	Variety Playhouse
Wednesday, December 18	Becky Shaw & Allen Broyles	Eddie's Attic
Friday, December 20	Shakey Graves	Variety Playhouse
Friday, December 20	Hive Mind	Aisle 5
Saturday, December 21	Suki Waterhouse	The Eastern
Saturday, December 21	Pylon Reenactment Society	The Garden Club
Saturday, December 21	Tab Benoit/Jessie Dayton	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, December 22	Holiday Hootenanny	Variety Playhouse
Sunday, December 22	Samara Joy	Fox Theatre
Friday, December 27	The Glitch Mob	Terminal West
Saturday, December 28	Susto	Terminal West
December 30–31	Daily Bread	The Eastern
Tuesday, December 31	The Stews	Variety Playhouse
Tuesday, December 31	Moon Taxi	Tabernacle
Tuesday, December 31	Zac Brown Band	State Farm Arena
Tuesday, December 31	Big Freedia	City Winery
Tuesday, December 31	Michelle Malone	Eddie's Attic
Friday, Jan. 3, 2025	Sarah Potenza	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025	The Band Who Fell to Earth- Bowie	The Garden Club
Friday, Jan. 10, 2025	Mike Kinnebrew	Eddie's Attic
Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025	Smells Like Nirvana	Vinyl
Friday, Jan. 17, 2025	Tinsley Ellis	City Winery
Friday, Jan. 17, 2025	Magic City Hippies	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025	Electric Avenue	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025	Fulton Lee	The Loft
Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025	Cloud Cult	Vinyl
Friday, Jan. 24, 2025	Hot Tuna	Variety Playhouse
Friday, Jan. 24, 2025	Trampled By Turtles	Tabernacle
Friday, Jan. 24, 2025	Steve Martin/Martin Short/ Steep Canyon Rangers	Fox Theatre
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025	Carbon Leaf	Terminal West
Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025	Iris Dement	City Winery
Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025	Hippo Campus	The Eastern
Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025	Canyonland	Napoleons
Friday, Jan. 31, 2025	Eddie 9V	Terminal West
Friday, Jan. 31, 2025	Phantogram	Tabernacle
Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025	The Sundogs- Tom Petty Show	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025	Rubblebucket	Terminal West
Thursday, Feb. 1	Grizfolk	Alter at Masquerade
Monday, Feb. 3, 2025	Mary J Blige	State Farm Arena
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025	Carsie Blanton	Smiths Olde Bar

## Neighborhood History:

### Early Land Ownership and Street Names in the Lake Claire area

After the Trail of Tears and Europeans claiming ownership, the original Henry County was created in 1821. It was later subdivided into several counties, one of which was Dekalb (1822, which included what later became Fulton). By 1853, Atlanta's prominence as an emerging city had been established, and the need for a new County seat (which was within a day's ride by horseback for a larger percentage of the population) became apparent. At that time, Dekalb was divided into two parts, mainly following the survey boundary between the 14th and 15th land Districts. The west side of Moreland Avenue (then and now) is in the 14th District, Fulton County, while the east side is in the 15th district, Dekalb County.

The earliest European surveying of Georgia counties created land Districts, each one typically being 81 square miles and containing 256 Landlots, each approximately 202.5 acres. Portions of six different Landlots make up Lake Claire. Some info for tracing the ownership history of those is available at the Dekalb Historical Society and is noted here.

Between 1822 and 1851, names associated with the six different Landlots during different periods include Caty Bailey (1822), James Hagerdy, William Fain sold to Joseph Pitts (1843), and Frederick Foster sold to Andrew Reid (1850). A noteworthy sale included the east half of Landlot 239 from Joseph Pitts to **Cabel McLendon** in 1862 (the eastern north-south boundary of 239 runs between Harold and Leonardo). Mr. McLendon had already acquired a large portion of Landlot 210, immediately south of 239. So, at the time, he became one of only two landowners of the current Lake Claire. Eventually, parcels owned by Cabel McLendon are transferred to Lula Mell (in the vicinity of Mell Avenue in Candler Park).

Also noteworthy is the record of James Kirkpatrick, who had acquired Landlots 211, 212, 238, 237, one half of 243, and 70 acres of 244 (over 1000 total acres) during a period of time before his death in 1851. Except for Cabel McLendon's parcel, Kirkpatrick owned **all** of the land in Lake Claire and more. By 1860, all of his land had been transferred to Kirkpatrick male heirs. Another Civil War battle map shows a Kirkpatrick residence in the

vicinity of the Decatur Wagon Road (DeKalb Avenue) and Durand Mill Road (Ridgecrest).

The Kirkpatrick heirs eventually sold 86.5 acres of land to General John Brown Gordon in 1871, which became his Atlanta estate "Sutherland." J.B. Gordon had a brother who had married "a McLendon of Atlanta," so there may be some familial connection which resulted in Gordon's selection of a location so close to the McLendon homestead. Kirkpatricks also sold land to the East Atlanta Land Company, which became the eastern portion of the Olmsted Parks. They also sold property to the Brooks family (Brooks Avenue, in Candler Park), part of which was subdivided and eventually became a land donation by Asa Candler in 1925 for use as the park "Candler Park." They sold land to Colonel **Howard** in the vicinity of Howard Circle (the former Lt. Governor of Georgia, Pierre Howard, is a direct descendant of Colonel Howard).

Here is some history of other street names. There is Dekalb Avenue circa early 1900s—the original Decatur Wagon Road/Atlanta Road originally meandered across the Georgia Railroad tracks. La France Street is part of the original Wagon Road. **Sutherland Terrace**: (General Gordon's wife, Fanny Rebecca Haralson Gordon, had a maternal grandmother whose surname was Sutherland). **Hampton Terrace**: this was most likely named in memory of the very close and enduring friendship between General Gordon and General Wade Hampton of South Carolina. **Ivy Place**: Mrs. M. Ivy owned several parcels along the east side of the current Ivy Place. Ridgecrest was originally a pre-Civil War road named Durand Mill. **Claire Drive**: Shirley Claire Massell and Sam Massell, former Atlanta Mayor, were the children of one of the three Massell brothers who were the speculators of **Lakeshore Drive** and **Claire Drive**. Lakeshore Drive was the road that passed by "Lake Ponceana" at the intersection of Claire Drive. Eugene **Hardendorf**, Charles T. **Page**, and Mr. **Harold** lend their last names to streets, as did three of Page's daughters: Lula (now **Marlbrook**), **Harriett**, and **Muriel**. Last, Manry **Nelms** was the land speculator of the **Nelms-Adolphus-Arizona** blocks.



## Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .



**Sun., Dec. 1: Yoga class with Vada**, noon–1 p.m. (and every Sunday starting now), \$10 per person. Please register in advance using the link at [LCCLT.org/new-events](http://LCCLT.org/new-events). See article this page.

**Sat., Dec. 7: Lake Claire Holiday Fair & Walking Tour**, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Visit the Land Trust table at 296 Arizona Ave., and get one of our new T-shirts for everyone on your gift list! (or at least yourself.)

**Sat., Dec. 7: Family Drumming**, 7:30–8 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.) with guidance from experienced drummers. *Rain date: Sat. Dec. 21.*

**Sat., Dec. 7: Land Trust Drum Circle**, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please.

*Rain date: Sat. Dec. 21. Check [LCCLT.org/new-events](http://LCCLT.org/new-events) for updates.*

**Sun., Dec. 8: LCCLT board meeting**, 10–11 a.m. (and every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Greenfield. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at [info@LCCLT.org](mailto:info@LCCLT.org) for Zoom link.

Rain location: the Gorilla Grill.

**Sun., Dec. 8: Death Café** with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the amphitheater. Denise Johnson of EOL (End of Life) 101 LLC hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee, and cake. Free, donations welcome.

**Fri., Dec. 13: Sorry: Community Potluck on hiatus until Spring**

**Sat., Dec. 14: “Jingle & Mingle” Holiday Gathering**, 5–8 p.m. \$5 suggested donation per family. See announcement at left.

**Sat., Dec. 21: Community Work Day**, 1–4 p.m. (and every month on the 3rd Sat.). Bring drinking water and work gloves. *Rain date: Dec. 28.*

## What the Land Trust Means To Me

by Diana Powers

Sometimes, when you live in an urban area—buildings, pavement, cars, and screens—there’s so much gray... and not enough green.

But I know of this place—at the end of a cul-de-sac, with a swing hanging from a tall, old tree...

Maybe you’ve heard of it? Hidden fairy houses, Abundant gardens, Dancing barefoot in the sand by a fire late into the night... Maybe you’ve been there?

This is the Land Trust: a green oasis in the heart of the city, so near downtown it surprises some. A deceptively small space, where the love of many is held. This space provides a balance between the serenity of nature and the chaos of urban life, a metaphor for holding both order and disorder of life within its embrace.

This place was my childhood. A safe space that never wavered, a sanctuary I trusted would always be there.

I was born in 1994, as my mother went into labor while sitting in the little gazebo, now known as the Green Field. It was night, and the bullfrogs were croaking their chorus—their song marking the moment I came into the world. This year I celebrated my 30th birthday, and over half my life so far, seventeen years, was spent living on the Land Trust, our backyard flowing seamlessly into this tucked away greenspace

that my father helped create with neighbors and friends nearby. The land shaped me with the values of preservation and care, nourished me with colorful sunset displays, shared meals amongst friends, and challenged me to uphold these values in context of the larger world. The Land Trust became part of me.

These are the memories that live in children’s bones, etched deeply, aging into wisdom. As I grew—so did the trees—the Land Trust grew alongside me. My parents built their lives, and our family, rooted in this place. Though my mother passed three years ago, and my father just last year, I feel their presence in every corner.

They live on in the trees, the sunlight, the colorful flowers, the strong gazebo built by their own hands. In the laughter of children, shared stories amongst neighbors, and drumming that lasts long into the night.

## Come Out to “Jingle & Mingle” This Holiday Season!

by Lisa Vitello

Join us for our first annual Jingle & Mingle Holiday Gathering on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. We’re very excited to present this extravaganza of holiday merriment! We’ll be making ornaments to trim the Land Trust tree, singing carols around the bonfire, and enjoying apple cider and homemade

treats. (Bring a treat to swap with others.) Most importantly, we’ll be building memories with our neighbors and community. We hope to see you there! Festive holiday garb encouraged but not required. \$5 suggested donation per family. Please visit [www.lcclt.org/new-events](http://www.lcclt.org/new-events) for details and updates.

## Weekly Yoga Classes Return to the Land Trust!

Meet Vada, a 200-hr. Registered Yoga Teacher, who brings her special brand of yoga to the Land Trust every Sunday from noon to 1 p.m. Vada is, in her highest expression, a student of nature and a conduit of all that asks to be expressed. Her favorite way of expression is through movement. Through the practice of movement, she finds that we can remove our inhibitions and become the rawest version of ourselves; we can find liberation from the restraints of a society that deems our vast range of expressions as socially unacceptable, and come into our soul selves.

Vada’s mission is to create a space where we feel safe to unveil, safe to untame the wild within. That is exact-

ly what she’ll be offering in the yoga classes held at the Land Trust. Vada’s style of yoga is typically a vinyasa flow that integrates somatic movement and meditation to create a truly holistic approach. These community sessions will be held every Sunday from noon to 1 p.m. at \$10/person. Please join her in liberating through movement!

Please register in advance using the link at [LCCLT.org/new-events](http://LCCLT.org/new-events). Bring your mat, water bottle, and bug spray! All ability levels welcome. Classes will move inside in the case of cold or inclement weather. To learn more about Vada and her offerings of private sessions and herbal consultations, please visit [www.unveilbyvada.com/](http://www.unveilbyvada.com/)

Now, I am part of the board, continuing in the spirit of my parents, carrying on what they began.

Because of this place, I see the world as a beautiful one, filled with hope and opportunity. It shapes how I care for others and view the necessity of building community.

We all deserve a Land Trust. I hope you’ll support us here, or create one in your own neighborhood. Everyone deserves a Land Trust. Despite the challenges, it is worth it—a gift that lives on for generations.

So, what does the Land Trust mean to me? It means hope. It means gathering. It means creating the world we wish to see, day by day, with our own hands, in collaboration with our neighbors and community.

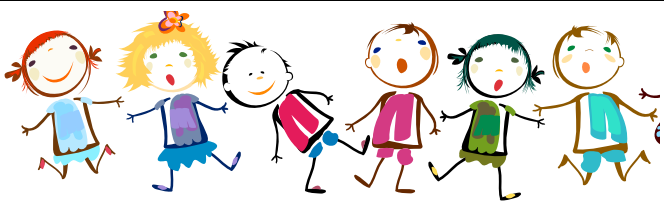
Protect it, preserve it, honor it, celebrate it. Invite others into this magical space. It is a moment of peace. Remember to exhale.

“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home,” Gary Snyder said. Home is where the love is. And love is woven into the Land Trust—in the carefully carved pathways, the thoughtfully placed plants, the hand-painted signs, the open gatherings . . . Little gestures that whisper, “Welcome, you’re home now too.”

This land has been here long before us, and it will be here long after. So in the present, we are grateful. Grateful to be here, grateful to call it home.

*This was written as a poem, but due to space constraints, we had to turn it into paragraphs; it’s still beautiful – Thanks, Diana. ~Editor*





# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion writers and artists to participate in our hood. This month, we have a featured poet! Layla Klehr contributed two of her poems. Layla is a 10th grader at Midtown who lives on Hardendorf. She enjoys reading, writing, singing, and hanging out with her friends; she is interested in politics and leadership. Layla recently got her driving permit and has

been spending time terrorizing (or rather, as she says, "being terrorized by") the neighborhood while learning to drive. She writes for the Midtown High School Literary Magazine, *The Unmasking*. As a child, Layla wrote several times for the Clarion, and I am so happy she contributed these poems this month. Next submissions won't be on the Kids' page, Layla, as I believe you've aged out!

Layla's poem "Anticipating" was inspired by over-hearing a student at Midtown High School get into their first-choice college.

To all the Lake Claire children and young adults who read and contribute to the Kids' Page each month, thank you. Add your creativity to this page! Send contributions to [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org), by **December 15** for the **January** issue.

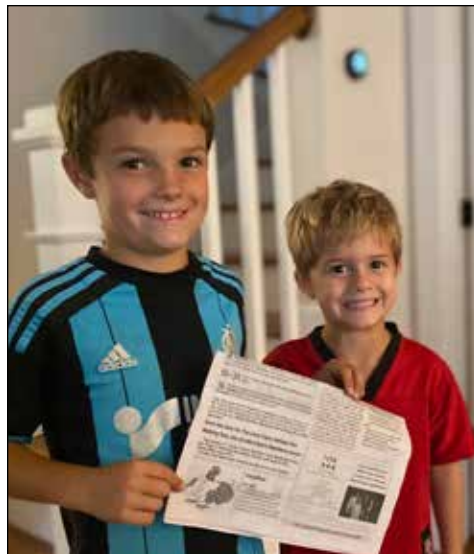
## Contest Winners

Congrats to Jordan and Parker Mit-cham, who came in first place this month! Jordan is eight years old and in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin; Parker is six years old and in the first grade there. They live on Palifox. Nicolas Sanders came in 2nd place. Nic is nine years old, in the third grade at Hess Academy, and from Southerland Terrace. Our third-place winner is Mille Parks. Millie is in first grade at Mary Lin, and the family lives on Harold Avenue. (Millie's sister Cha Cha won last month, and you can check-out Millie and Cha Cha at the neighborhood Arts Fest at 1759 Delaware Avenue, on the Arizona side of the corner—they make cookies and other treats.)

We love the first-time winners and the repeated winners that we see getting older as the years go on. Congrats to Jordan, Parker, Nic, and Millie.

**Important Editor Disclaimer to Parents:** If ever I miss a child who sent an entry, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue. Also, please reach out if you need extra copies, for grandparents to post on refrigerators or otherwise to celebrate the winners' 30 seconds of fame, [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto:editor@lakeclaire.org).

**Kids:** See our new contest below, and make your guess: here is your chance to be **famous!**



1st place winners, Jordan & Parker



2nd place winner, Nic



Layla

## Yellow

by Layla Klehr

I am the happiest when I feel,  
the crisp air as I step outside,  
the warm sun shining on my skin,  
the ocean splashing against  
my feet in my sandals, the  
smell of new books,  
the warmth of my blanket,  
surrounding my body.



3rd place winner, Millie

## Anticipating

by Layla Klehr

I had been waiting,  
Anticipating the email that would  
decide the direction of my future,  
All day.  
I got home,  
Refreshing my email.  
I had a timer set,  
Every two minutes,  
An alarm would go off,  
And I would refresh.  
I was so nervous,  
I felt like I was going to keel over.  
My hands were shaking  
uncontrollably.  
My mom said,  
That the time would pass slower  
if I kept watching,  
So I got up and walked around.  
I listened to music.  
I tried to continue reading a book  
I started,  
But I couldn't focus.  
"Dinner!" my mom called from  
downstairs.  
I slowly started my trek,  
Downstairs for dinner.  
My phone lit up  
I got a new email.  
I opened my phone,  
My family now crowded around me,  
I saw the Harvard email.  
I closed my eyes,  
My hands shaking,  
And opened the email  
"I got in!" I screamed,  
Tears streamed down my face.  
I did it.

## New Contest

Hi kids, who loves December? December is full of holidays, both religious and secular. And speaking of secular, the plant mistletoe is relevant to several cultures, including Norse mythology and the Romans, who associated mistletoe with peace, love, and understanding (we certainly need those) and hung it over doorways to protect the household. Only in the Christian era did mistletoe in the Western world became associated with Christmas as

a fun decoration under which people kiss. Find the picture of the mistletoe in this issue. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (January). To win, write [editor@lakeclaire.org](mailto: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 your favorite thing about Lake Claire in the Fall or favorite thing at your house in the Fall. The extra-credit prize is to be

a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is December 18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**



# Thank you to the Generous Sponsors of the Lake Claire Holiday Fair/Walking Tour!

We would like to thank the sponsors for this year's Fair. Without their generous support, this neighborhood tradition that has become so popular as an outdoor event would not be possible. Since the Covid pandemic in 2020,

many neighborhoods including ours have seen a dwindling of regular activities. This event, that emerged during that time, stands as an exception. Not only do the sponsors' monies allow us to support ourselves, renting porta-

potties, printing yard signs and flyers, etc., but because of their generosity, and requiring artists to donate 10% of proceeds, we are able to make a substantial contribution to public schools —this year, to Midtown High School,

the school that our primary schools feed into. Thank you to these folks—many of whom regularly support other activities, as well. Please support them if you can.

