

A Tip of the Toque to Richard Haimes

by Anne Haimes

Lake Claire is a wonderful place for walking, and many of us roam regularly from Clifton to Ridgecrest, Ponce to DeKalb. A familiar sight on our sidewalks for years was Anne and Richard Haimes along with Charlie, their Collie mix. Sadly, Richard passed away this past November. In tribute to this beloved neighbor whose passion and eventual profession were in the culinary arts, Anne agreed to write about Richard for this month's Creatives feature. – Jane

Though I had been with Richard since the late 1960s and always admired how comfortable he was in any social situation and how easily he made and kept friends, it seemed to me that his popularity grew even more when he became a pastry chef. Then, he was always the center of attention at events. Whether walking into a party, joining a street potluck, or bringing a snack to our daughter's soccer game, all eyes were on Richard as soon as he entered. Of course, people liked him because he was open, friendly, and had a great sense of humor—but they were also drawn

to delicious treats he had brought! The most popular of these was the Sarah Bernhardt, an almond cookie base with a piped-on tower of chocolate whipped cream, frozen, and then coated in chocolate. There were many other favorites too: chocolate truffle whipped cream cakes, puff pastries, buttercream cakes, chocolate coated strawberries, and in the summer, flan served with fresh fruit and whipped cream. This was Richard, the pastry chef.

Being a chef was a second career for Richard, one that followed a decade in social services. In 1967 he

quit college and joined Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), wanting to make a difference in people's lives. The program was new, having just been established in 1965. It was referred to in those early days as the "Domestic Peace Corps." Richard was assigned to my hometown of Gainesville, Florida, as a community organizer. He earned \$44.00 a week and lived in the community he served, becoming a familiar figure known as "coach" in the neighborhood. On any given day he might be found directing a family to available services, discussing future options



Richard Haimes,
January 1946 - November 2024

with a high school student, accompanying a community member called to appear in court, or strategizing with residents on needed community improvements. He recruited University of Florida students to work with community youth. Evenings were full of

Cont. on p. 9

Protect our Trees

by Frank Williams

We live in a neighborhood with 20+ species of birds. Lake Claire is unique in this regard and for its natural beauty owing to the natural tree canopy, particularly in the state street area bordering the Land Trust. But this tree canopy is under duress from developers making a profit from tearing down the tree canopy to build gigantic houses for huge profits.

One developer alone has destroyed at least 70 large shade trees in our neighborhood in the past 4–5 years, which has had an enormous impact on the avian community. For example, one used to hear owls almost nightly in our neighborhood—now it is a rare occurrence. Since top predators are a bellwether for the ecological health of a region, this means that smaller birds have also been greatly reduced in numbers—if this trend continues, we could wake up one morning to a silent spring with no birds visible or

audible. There are many other repercussions from the destruction of healthy trees. It creates conditions that contribute to flooding our yards, crawlspaces, and basements, because developers/builders typically replace backyards with impervious surfaces (i.e., concrete). The old-growth urban forest, which drinks untold gallons of water during rainstorms, helps protect against flooding. Also, removing the trees leads to air pollution, which can cause asthmatic symptoms in our children, among other dire circumstances.

City Arborist Division/Tree Ordinance: How do we save our tree canopy from destruction, when it involves fighting million-dollar businesses? We do have a weapon—although not always effective, it is a road block to developers—that is the City tree ordinance. The Arborist Di-

Cont. on p. 3

Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

by Beth Damon

This continues our series on residents who have lived in more than one home in Lake Claire. It has been interesting and fun to hear these folks' stories. I hope you've been enjoying them as much as I have. This month we feature Ann Shirra.

After growing up in California and living in Texas and Ohio, Ann Shirra moved to Atlanta in 1977 as a VISTA Volunteer. She landed at a cheap apartment at the Pendleton in Inman Park. "It was a great location to take the bus to GSU to finish my Masters in Public Administration," Ann remembers. She also had the pleasure of interning at MARTA as they completed the east-west train line. Ann reflected, "A 15-cent fare was great!"

Ann then moved to Lake Claire, to a duplex at 1779 McLendon in 1982, this time working in Development at Zoo Atlanta. When she began her career in workforce development at the Atlanta Regional Commission, she

and her husband were able to buy the duplex in 1986. They enjoyed the DIY projects and lived in both sides, which became a necessity when their daughter Jane was born in 1990. Jane attended Mary Lin, Inman Middle, and Midtown HS before heading to a degree at UGA. She now lives nearby in Decatur.

Ann was a leader of Girl Scout Troop 3996 which met at Mary Lin. A highlight was a Women's Walk of the neighborhood to meet women-owned businesses and organizations. The troop walked from Mary Lin to interview the owner of Candler Park Flowers, learned about life as a woman minister at Epworth United Methodist Church (now the Neighborhood Church), and ended up having a hot biscuit and hearing about business from Delia Champion of Flying Biscuit. Several Troop 3996 alumnae

Cont. on p. 8

Lake Claire Officers

President: Joe Agee, president@lakeclaire.org

VP Finance & Treasurer:

Jay Severa, treasurer@lakeclaire.org

VP Planning & NPU Rep:

Carol Holliday, npu@lakeclaire.orgVP Zoning: Beth Grashof, zoning@lakeclaire.org

VP Environment: Melissa Pressman,

environment@lakeclaire.orgVP Safety: Deanne Uroic, safety@lakeclaire.orgVP Communications: Nancy Dorsner, comm@lakeclaire.orgVP Fun(d)raising: Pen Sherwood, fun@lakeclaire.orgEducation Chair: Annsley Klehr, education@lakeclaire.org.

Clarion Staff

Editor: Beth Damon, editor@lakeclaire.orgAdvertising: Pat Del Rey,
advertising@lakeclaire.orgDistribution: Alicia McGill,
distribution@lakeclaire.orgLayout: Véronique Perrot,
layout@lakeclaire.orgContact Lake Claire Neighbors at PO Box 5942,
Atlanta, GA 31107, 404-236-9526 or
www.lakeclaire.org.

The Clarion is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors, Officers, or the Clarion Staff. Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

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

Calendar for March

In addition to these items, please see the variety of neighborhood events on the Land Trust calendar, Page 15, and a listing of live music in Atlanta on Page 13. .

1 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.

1-2 *The Lehman Trilogy's* last two days. Evening performance March 1, 7:30 p.m., and the closing performance is 2:30–5:30 p.m. (Sunday matinee) at the Theatrical Outfit, jointly produced with The Bremen Museum. Your illustrious editor saw it last month, and I highly recommend it. www.theatricaloutfit.org/lehman-trilogy/

1–16 *Bust*, on the Coca-Cola Stage (warning: strobe lights, haze, adult depictions), ground-breaking world premiere by Lileana Blain-Cruz. Info/tix: www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/bust

6 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., DeKalb History Center, 2nd floor, 101 E Court Square, “Hops at the History Center,” info howard@dekalbhistory.org, free to attend! Drink tickets available.

11 **Mary Lin Dine-Out.** Come to Sweet Auburn for a Mary Lin dine-out this month. Be sure to mention Mary Lin; see details in article below. For info, contact Aviva Berman, avivaberman@gmail.com.

13 Dekalb History Center presents “Displaced but not Erased,” the forgotten history of Beacon Hill, a once-thriving Black community in Decatur. Info howard@dekalbhistory.org. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dekalb History Center, free.

14 Horizon Theatre opening *I Carry Your Heart With Me*, running through April 5. Tix/info: www.horizontheatre.com/

15 Fiddler’s Green Coffeehouse, always the 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m. \$10 (members \$8). This month: (1) Mark Stuart and (2) The Irish Brothers. Presented by Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music (AAFM). For more details about the musicians, music schedule for the balance of the year, and other info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/

20 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting** is the third Thursday of each month. Lake Claire Neighbors is continuing hybrid meetings, both in-person at the Frazer Center and virtual, on Zoom. See lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom info.

20 Actors Express begins the production *Topdog/Underdog*. Winner, Pulitzer prize for drama, Tony Award for best revival. “What is

brotherhood, if not the union of love and rivalry?” Info and tix: actors-express.com/play-page-topdog-underdog/

22 Lake Claire Park Work Day, 9 a.m. to noon. 4th Saturday of every month. Contact flcpark@lakeclaire.org for info.

29 Collegium Vocale’s Platinum Jubilee Concert, celebrating their 70th (!) anniversary, with a performance of Puccini’s *Messa di Gloria* with orchestra. 8 p.m., Glenn Memorial Auditorium, free parking in adjoining deck “Lowergate South,” 1651 North Decatur Road. Info tix: www.eventbrite.com/e/platinum-jubilee-concert-tickets-1129752122009?aff=oddtcreator. Talented community chorus including Lake Claire participation!

29 Alliance Theatre’s Hertz Stage, Opening night of *The Reservoir*, best enjoyed by audiences 16 and older. (Addresses issues related to addiction, illness, and end of life.) Runs until May 4. Info/tix: www.alliance-theatre.org/production/2024-25/the-reservoir

Early April

5 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta, 9 a.m.–noon. See Feb. 1 for details.

12 Gather in the Gardens, VIP Reception: 5 p.m., main event: 6 p.m., Cator Woolford Gardens & Estate House. Support a great mission—Frazer’s inclusion programs for adults & children with and without developmental disabilities. Info: www.frazercenter.org/about-us/events/gather-in-the-gardens-2025.

12 **Lake Claire Land Trust’s Peace & Love Fest.** Get ready for Spring’s coming-out party, with food, drink, artists’ market, and live music on the Land Trust stage! See other LT events on Page 15.

Dine-outs to Support Mary Lin PTA

Please support Mary Lin PTA and generous local restaurants who participate in this program throughout the school year, AND have delicious food while doing so!

This month: Dine at Sweet Auburn BBQ on North Highland Avenue on March 11. Kids eat free, and

15% of your bill will go back to ML PTA. Simply put your receipt in the fishbowl next to the cash register, and they will tabulate.

For more information, contact Aviva Berman, avivaberman@gmail.com. Please save the date, and spread the word.

Gardening for Nonconformists

by Kevin H. Posey

You've seen them all over your neighborhood: the dull, manicured yards that look like miniature golf courses, only without the dinosaurs and windmills. The expanses of neatly mowed grass and trimmed hedges are identical, so that no single yard stands out. All of the flowers are annuals confined to a pot; if they somehow escape captivity, they won't escape the grasp of the next season. It is conformity so extreme that you have to wonder if a hive mind has taken over

the neighborhood.

The occupants of the houses surrounded by this surreal expanse of featureless green seldom take a direct role in the maintenance of their grounds. Like wannabe lords and ladies of a small cluster of downmarket Downton Abbeys, they turn over that task to staff. More specifically, they hire yard services and exterminators to keep rebellious plantings and in-

Cont. on p. 11



Frazer Center Invites Neighbors to “Gather in the Gardens” for an Evening of Community and Inclusion

by Dina Shadwell

Frazer Center, a longtime champion of inclusion for people with disabilities, invites our Lake Claire neighbors to our annual fundraising gala, **Gather in the Gardens**, on **Saturday, April 12**, at the historic **Cator Woolford Gardens**.

This special evening is an opportunity for community members to come together in support of Frazer Center's mission to foster inclusion and opportunity for people of all abilities. For over 76 years, Frazer Center has provided high-quality early education for children of all abilities, including early intervention services for those at risk of developmental delays—as well as employment and enrichment opportunities for adults with disabilities.

Guests of Gather in the Gardens will enjoy a catered dinner, signa-

ture cocktail, beer, wine, spirits, live entertainment, a silent auction, and more fun ways to bid and win.

New This Year!

Tour the elegant **1920s Cator Woolford Estate House** during a pre-event VIP Cocktail Hour. Guests will learn about the history of the house and its connection to Frazer Center's mission. The reception will also be a chance to meet **Frazer Center's new CEO, DeAnna Julian**, and connect with fellow supporters.

Neighbors are encouraged to join this inspiring evening in support of a more inclusive Atlanta. **Tickets and more information about the event and sponsorship opportunities** are available at frazercenter.org/about-us/events/gather-in-the-gardens-2025.

Protect our Trees

Continued from page 1.

vision is charged with protecting the City's tree canopy on private property throughout the City of Atlanta. Removal of trees requires a building permit (though often, developers ignore it and consider a fine to be a part of doing business). Under the rules of the ordinance, it costs \$75 to put forward a complaint with the City about a healthy tree designated for removal. If the developer has not obtained a permit, or if the city arborist thinks that there may have been another transgression of the tree ordinance, the case will go before a group of citizens, developers, and city officials to be heard. Although rarely do citizens protesting the removal of trees actually win such cases, it has been my experience that some developers are willing to negotiate—for example, keeping this tree if that tree can be removed in exchange for the complaint being removed. Developers do not like their schedules postponed, and although they know that we will probably lose, time is money and they would prefer to move on schedule, and therefore settle with us, saving some of the trees.

The best way to go about protesting potential tree removal is to get an arborist unaffiliated with the city to look at the developer's plans. Often if plans can be varied just a bit, a tree can be saved. Other potential avenues of success include trees that are located in setback areas of properties where development should not take place legally. These border trees or trees that are on two properties are prime targets for us to do our work. Even filing the petition is doing good work—and if in the end you do hear the tree cutters and the chipper, at least you know you did what you could.

As a resident of one of the state streets, I have noted much of this activity on New York, Arizona, and now on Indiana Avenues, as well as other locations in the Lake Claire neighborhood (and Iverson in Candler Park has been particularly soured). In addition to developers, however, private residents have taken down

about 20 trees in our neighborhood in the past 4–5 years, presumably to get more sun to plant tomatoes and flower gardens. I wish people would consider utilizing plots at the Land Trust that are available for such purposes. I realize that residents have strong feelings about personal property rights, including their right to cut down trees on their own properties. However, the air is communal, and the beauty of our neighborhood (or lack thereof) is available for all. I see us all as stewards of this region that we must protect—otherwise the charming character and southern charm of our streets will be lost forever.

Are you considering cutting down your large oak? Maybe consider pruning it instead. One neighbor cut off half the tree but left the lowest branches, and the tree is no taller than the house now and still provides shade and habitat as well as beauty—this is preferable to cutting down a tree to its stump. Still not convinced and want to cut down that large oak or maple in your front or back yard? I have a solution—you could plant another six-foot tree of a similar species about 10 to 15 feet away from the one you want to cut down, then wait 20-25 years for the replacement tree to be close in height; then you can cut down the original tree, and I promise I won't complain. But I do not mean to be flippant. I speak from my heart. Every large tree that is destroyed damages the ecology of the entire area, contributing to runoff, air pollution, and eliminating the carbon sequestration and animal habitat that these 2-ton living organisms provide. What we have is precious.

Please join me in protesting the wholesale destruction of our urban canopy by talking to developers and expressing our concern of the killing of large trees through the mechanisms available to us through the Atlanta Tree Ordinance. (And if you want to get in touch about this, please write editor@lakeclaire.org, and Beth will give me your contact info.)

If you have lived in more than one residence in Lake Claire, write to editor@lakeclaire.org to be included in the series on P. 1.



LAKE CLAIRE REAL ESTATE



NEW LISTING! 4BR, ONLY \$595K!

4 BR | 3.5 BA | 2160 SQ FT | 2-CAR GARAGE

ANOTHER HOME UNDER CONTRACT!



Unlock your real estate dreams this year!

🔑 John Morgan, Managing Broker and Founding Partner of Park Realty, has been a trusted expert in the dynamic world of Atlanta real estate since 2007.

🏡 John specializes in helping people buy and sell homes, townhouses, condos, and investment properties across metro Atlanta. He is a committed client advocate focused on maximizing your return on investment and understanding your priorities.

🏢 As the only locally-owned real estate company in the neighborhood, Park Realty offers a boutique experience and unmatched local insight. John has been an intown Atlanta resident since 1993 and a Candler Park/Lake Claire homeowner since 2000, so he knows the community inside out.

🏠 John also manages several of his own rental properties (long- and short-term rentals, including Airbnbs), giving him a unique investor's perspective.

🤝 In this complex and changing market, John's well-honed negotiating experience ensures you get the best outcomes possible in every transaction.

💛 John puts relationships first. If you're ready for a seamless and neighborly real estate experience, contact John today! 🏡🌟

RECENTLY SOLD ↘



622 HAROLD AVE
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$875,000

SOLD PRE-MARKET
FOR 50K OVER
LIST PRICE



2112 PALIFOX DR
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$730,000

SOLD FOR 30K OVER
LIST PRICE IN 5 DAYS



337 CLIFTON RD
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$700,000

SOLD FOR 15K OVER
LIST PRICE IN 4 DAYS



1792 DEKALB AVE
ATLANTA GA 30307
\$601,000

SOLD FOR 16K OVER
LIST PRICE, HIGHEST
PRICE IN COMPLEX
EVER

✉ JMORGAN@PARKREALTYATLANTA.COM

☎ 770.655.9423

📍 1651 MCLENDON AVE, ATLANTA GA 30307



Keeping Gun Safety Front and Center in the Aftermath of the Apalachee School Shooting

by Saira Draper

I'm sure you remember the day last September when you heard of the tragic shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder.

Two 14-year-olds and two teachers are dead because a troubled student allegedly brought an assault-style rifle, a Christmas gift from his father, to school.

It was the deadliest school shooting in Georgia history.

Since I joined the legislature, common sense gun safety has been one of my top priorities. There is a direct line between the increase in gun violence in our communities and the decades-long Republican effort to loosen gun regulations and increase access to firearms. And Republicans have been uncompromising in their position to refuse to consider gun safety legislation.

For a moment I thought the Apalachee school shooting would change some hearts and minds on the need for common sense gun safety measures. In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, even the Speaker of the House suggested room for movement on red flag laws— laws that would permit individuals to submit a petition for the temporary removal of firearms from a person who poses a danger to themselves or others. Had red flag laws been in place in Georgia, the Apalachee tragedy might have been prevented. But I was wrong that Apalachee would move Republicans on gun safety.

This session, Governor Kemp, Speaker of the House Burns, and Lieutenant Governor Jones have all

Cont. on p. 11

Advocates for Dekalb Animals Continue to Move the Needle

by Scott McLane

...but Intake continues to swell for The Dekalb Animal Shelter.

We're proud to share a huge moment for Advocates for DeKalb Animals—we filed our first-ever amicus brief (a friend-of-the-court brief) in a long-term DeKalb court case involving two very deserving dogs: Coco Bean and Shadow Girl. We are grateful beyond words to have the legal expertise of Tara Borelli, Carl Charles, Amanda Kay Seals, and Bondurant Mixson & Elmore. This brief would not have been possible without their hard work and support.

For three years, Coco Bean and Shadow Girl have been living in the back of the shelter, sharing a kennel, largely ignored, and labeled as "Dangerous Animals" (DA). But here is how staff and volunteers describe them:

"Coco Bean and Shadow Girl both possess a gentle and loving demeanor, playful and outgoing, always eager for human attention and interaction with other dogs. They have consistently demonstrated positive interactions with staff and volun-

teers, remaining easy to handle and well-behaved in a variety of situations. After almost three years in the shelter, it is rare for dogs to maintain such stable and positive temperaments. They have both shown incredible resilience, maintaining their affectionate calm and friendly personalities. Both are housebroken, and Coco Bean has even allowed nail trimming without a muzzle."

This bonded pair have endured so much, with little attention and hope for their future. Despite their label, there is strong evidence to suggest that Coco Bean and Shadow Girl may not even be the dogs involved in the attack they were accused of.

Our amicus brief, filed just in time for their cost-of-care hearing in front of Judge Kimberly Anderson, tells their story and paints a detailed picture of the struggles they've faced, with both life before the shelter and life in the shelter. We're greatly relieved to share that the outcome we hoped for was reached: Coco Bean and Shadow Girl are one step closer to freedom. Here's where it stands:



Cub Scouts and Friends Brave the Cold for MLK Day Service Project

by Chad Durham

Despite the sub-freezing frigid temperatures on Monday, January 20, members of Cub Scout Pack 586, along with some dedicated neighborhood volunteers, braved the cold to participate in a meaningful MLK Day service project at Lake Claire Park. The group focused their efforts on improving the entry path from the Marlbrook entrance.

With gloved hands and bundled in warm layers, the Scouts and volunteers diligently spread woodchips along the path to help control erosion and also maintain a welcoming and comfortable walking surface. They also trimmed back overgrown foliage, ensuring that the path remains clear and accessible for all who use it. For a finishing aesthetic touch, the volunteer team used extra wood stumps to line the entryway.

This important project would not have been possible without the generous support of Lake Claire resident, Gordon Hilbun and his family. For several years, the Hilbuns have coordinated this service project, do-

nating the necessary supplies and providing invaluable guidance to the Scouts.

The work of the Hilbuns, Pack 586, and other community partners is a testament to the spirit of MLK Day, a day dedicated to service and community building. By giving back to the neighborhood, these young Scouts and volunteers are learning the importance of civic engagement and the power of collective action in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Cub Scout Pack 586, the Hilbun family, and all the volunteers who participated in this valuable service project. Their efforts have made a tangible difference in our community and have helped to beautify one of our most treasured green spaces.

Editor's note: Adding the Clarion's thank you to Cub Scout Pack 586, the Hilbuns, and the volunteers. Also, please note that Chad's son, Ryder, wrote about this for the Kids' Page; see Page 16 for his perspective.

The court ruled on the cost of care petition, with a judgment of \$21,000. The owner now faces a decision: either surrender the dogs or pay the fees if found guilty in the criminal case in April. This is the second cost-of-care decision in as many months. The State Court in the Daylan Lovett Cost Lawsuit ordered Lovett to pay \$71,280 into the Court's registry for the costs of impoundment and care of 15 dogs impounded since 2023. We

are hopeful that this owner will surrender them, meaning Coco Bean and Shadow Girl will finally be released once the court order goes through! It will be left to the discretion of the shelter whether to help them find an adoptive or foster home or a rescue commitment.

We believe these wonderful dogs deserve a chance at a new life—one

Cont. on p. 13

**12 months 0%
2.0% transfer fee**

Credit Card Balance Transfers

**A max of 75% of the total credit limit
may be used for balance transfer.
Conditional on credit approval.**

Your Neighborhood financial institution.



433 Moreland Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307





Sara and her mom – Roger Williams Park Botanical Garden (2023)

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

First, I want to express my gratitude to Meredith Walters for writing last month’s Wild column in my absence. At the time I would normally be collecting nature observations from neighbors, I was at my 89-year-old mother’s bedside in hospice in Providence, RI. She passed away on January 11 following a frighteningly fast decline, even as she lingered in a strange, liminal state between life and death for nearly a full week.

For this column, I’ll be reflecting on her life as a keen observer of the natural world, a scientist, teacher, and committed conservationist. There was almost no possibility I would grow to adulthood without an appreciation for the wild world around us, and I owe to her my ability (figuratively) to ground myself by just digging into the ground or by observing what’s growing from it.



Mom’s greenhouse in Pittsburgh (1972)

My mother was born and grew up in New York City, a place I intensely dislike, in part because it feels so thoroughly disconnected from nature—all concrete and very little of anything green outside of Central Park. But she found her way to a love of nature—plants specifically, and ferns in particular—in her telling via a field trip during a class at City College of New York to the New Jersey Pine Barrens. There, she saw a *Schizaea*, commonly known as curly-grass fern, and was entranced by it. She went on to earn her Ph.D. at Harvard University, where she researched plant hormones (she LOVED talking about the sex lives of plants, and delighted in shocking anyone who would listen to her talk about the many creative ways plants reproduce).

She became a teacher, and she mentored other teachers, especially in how to design lab exercises that demonstrated all manner of biological phenomena. For many years, she maintained a collection of pure-bred mutant fruit flies in test tubes in our house, and I learned how to segregate the flies by sex to keep them from breeding before it was time to run a cross-breeding experiment in one of her classes on genetics. I can’t say that I always took to the lessons she tried to teach me, and I thought her obsession with plants was kind of weird.

When my brother and I were children, our parents took us camping all over the place in their 1974 VW Westphalia camper bus. We hiked in national parks, state parks, Nature Conservancy and Audubon preserves; we paddled canoes on the



Walkway to Joe’s Place Repaved

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)

by Lori White

In the past year, Joe’s Place has undergone some extensive exterior renovations. Here is a bit about Joe’s Place. Joe’s Place, located across the street from CSM’s main campus, is a long-term (12–24 months) transitional house where seven men live, each with their own room, who have made significant progress toward becoming self-sufficient. All men who live at Joe’s Place must first go through CSM’s Night Hospitality Program. They may require additional time, counseling, and support, including financial management and budgeting skills, as well as other skills required for successful independent living. While at Joe’s Place, guests continue to receive Case Management and have access to the resources CSM provides in our Night Hospitality Program.

Thanks to a substantial grant from the Fraser Parker Foundation and Eastminster Presbyterian Church,

we have been able to implement vital exterior improvements that have provided a more green, ecofriendly, safer space for both the guests and neighbors surrounding Joe’s Place. Drainage issues have been corrected that help to manage and redirect the water flow outside of the building away from Joe’s Place and the surrounding neighbors’ yards. Trees have been removed that were a hazard leaning over our neighbors’ houses. And, the driveway and retaining wall structures were replaced with porous concrete and Grass Pave. We are hoping to finish up in the next couple of months with creating a small lawn, which will be used as overflow for off-street parking and planting a small garden space.

We hope you have noticed the improvements made at Joe’s Place. We love being your neighbors and being a part of this great community!

Great Lakes and whitewater rafted on the Youghiogheny River, and we rode the Chi-Cheemaun ferry to Manitoulin Island—even though my mom got seasick just crossing a bridge and could not swim. Mom insisted my brother and I become strong swimmers, and we were both completely drawn to the ocean: he studied oceanography and I studied marine fisheries ecology.

When we kids got older, mom and dad started traveling around the world with other botanists to study ferns in China, New Zealand, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Trinidad & Tobago, and Great Britain. Mom

brought home cuttings, divisions, and spores of ferns to grow in her yard, which eventually boasted over 185 species of ferns from all over the world. She traded these materials with friends she met on these trips and through membership in the American Fern Society and Hardy Fern Foundation.

Mom never stopped being fascinated by nature, wanting to be surrounded by plants, mosses, and lichens, and teaching other people how to observe nature and care for it. She developed half a dozen educa-

Cont. on p. 8

Wild in Lake Claire

Continued from page 7.

tional programs at the assisted living facility where she spent the last five years of her life. She maintained gardens outside the facility and kept potted plants in her apartment and all around the building watered, fed, and cared for. And she continued to write scholarly articles about ferns and climate change, which I helped her to edit and finalize, right up to six months before she passed.

A number of things made it clear that my mother's life was coming to an end, but one that really surprised me was that she stopped taking care of her plants and didn't even ask for someone else to take that over. She just seemed to forget they existed, something I never thought would happen. Mom never did forget I existed; on the last morning she was communicative; my brother told her I was on my way (she had forbidden this, not wanting me to see her in that state) and she responded, "Well, Sara always does what she wants to."

I would say that is mostly true since what I want to do nearly all the time is mess around in the garden and go for walks or bike rides to interesting places where I'm sure to find familiar and new plants, animals, and fungi. Alas, my other responsibilities often get in the way, but I'm fortunate to be able to spend as much time as I do communing with the natural world in ways that honor my mom and feed my soul.

"There's a story behind everything. How a picture got on a wall. How a scar got on your face. Sometimes the



Sara's mom at Roger Williams Park Botanical Garden (2023)

stories are simple, and sometimes they are hard and heartbreaking. But behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin."

— Mitch Albom, *For One More Day*

This column will return next month with the usual wildlife observations from Lake Claire and beyond!



Sara's mom's greenhouse, Pittsburgh (2017)



William (Scott's son) and Janet walk to their wedding in Ann & Scott's backyard during Covid.



Scott and Ann in front of their home on Arizona

Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

Continued from page 1.

still live in the neighborhood.

Ann became single, and she began dating while Jane was in middle school. Since dating was daunting, she made a plan to go out with 100 guys with no expectations, no pressure. (Ann said that a spreadsheet was maintained but that it's a story for another day!) In 2009, she had just finished with date #66 and found interest on an online dating site with a man who was separated, obsessed with the Beatles, and coached kids' soccer. "Not necessarily promising," said Ann, "but you never know." A first meeting was arranged at La Fonda on McLendon. It turns out the date was with Scott McLane, who had lived on Arizona Avenue just twelve houses away from Ann for over 20 years! They had never met, although Ann and Jane had walked to the Land Trust many times. Scott's two sons and Ann's daughter had gone to different schools. Scott was a community stalwart who helped found the Lake Claire Community Land Trust,

create the Arizona Avenue soccer fields, and was a long-time supporter of The Atlanta School.

They married at Eddie's Attic in 2013, and Ann moved to Scott's home at 312 Arizona Avenue, now home of the neighborhood Free Little Art Gallery. Ann is a Master Gardener, and her garden has earned a City Forest Certification from Trees Atlanta.

Ann feels lucky to have a wonderful blended Lake Claire family. Scott's first wife Debbie Livingston was featured in my very first 2+ house article in February 2024 – see lake-claire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/. Ann and Debbie consider themselves 'sisters-in-law' and play Scrabble with a neighborhood group weekly. Family birthdays and holidays are celebrated together, and Debbie is a bonus daughter to Ann's 93-year old dad, who lives nearby.

Ann and Scott love their vibrant, tree-lined neighborhood and are thrilled to be part of the Lake Claire Community.



Ann's previous home on McLendon

A Tip of the Toque

Continued from page 1.

meetings of the neighborhood association and other groups.

Richard and I met during this time, when I was taking a break from my studies and had a job at the University of Florida Library. Over the next few years we both returned to school. I went back to the U of F to finish my journalism degree, and when he completed his VISTA service Richard returned to Long Island University to finish college. Later he worked as a supervisor of VISTA programs in Appalachia. I was still finishing college when he took his first supervisor position in North Carolina. We were married by the time he moved to a VISTA program in Tennessee. In both places, he supervised volunteers as they worked to help communities organize and achieve objectives like lobbying local governments to provide food stamps or adequate medical care.

When the Tennessee VISTA project ended, we traded in our cars for a van that we outfitted with a bed and took a six-month camping trip up the coast from Key West to Nova Scotia. Then in 1973 we moved to Atlanta, where Richard had job contacts. We settled on Sterling Street in Candler Park, adding a daughter to our family, then moved to Claire Drive in Lake Claire in 1990. Richard first worked with communities served by Save the Children. He also worked with senior citizens' groups through an information and referral agency and Senior Citizens Services of Metro Atlanta.

All the while, he was honing his skills as a home cook, wanting to replicate the delicious meals his mother prepared. She was an outstanding cook and one who delighted in sharing her recipes. He also loved to try new restaurants and cuisines and added many dishes to his list of specialties. Whether trying new restaurants in Atlanta or on his travels, Richard cultivated an appreciation for a wide variety of food—from meat-and-three country cooking, deli food and pizza in New York City and bistros in Paris, to the many cuisines available on Buford Highway in Atlanta. He enjoyed all aspects of cooking, creating meals, and dining. He enjoyed experimenting with new recipes and always brought something special to neighborhood potlucks. He learned how to make French ba-

quettes and took a Chinese cooking class at a popular restaurant.

Eventually, Richard decided to make a change. He left his position with Hospice Atlanta and applied to the restaurant program at the New School in New York City. This intensive program gave students practical experience in the kitchen and front-of-house as well as classes in restaurant management, food preparation, and menu planning. After graduating he took a position at the Commerce Club in Atlanta. He then had an opportunity to apprentice with a pastry chef, and the rest, as they say, is history. He had found his calling. He was drawn to the clear-cut specifications, careful, precise measurements, and exacting processes involved in pastry-making.

Richard's food service career going forward ran the gamut from managing a pastry shop to working for caterers and restaurants and launching his own catering business. With each experience, he honed his skills. At one restaurant that hosted weddings, he developed a specialty in wedding cakes. Another extravagant treat he perfected was the Croquembouche, a towering, cone-shaped dessert made of amaretto-flavored cream puffs bound together by spun caramel. This was a favorite catering order during the Christmas party season. At one point in his career, Richard was a pastry chef in the Coca-Cola Company's corporate kitchens. While he generally worked in the main kitchen, the executive chef often asked Richard to make his flan for special meetings and events. Once CEO Roberto Goizueta tasted Richard's flan, he asked that it be a standard menu item for meetings he hosted.

Richard and the food he made, not just pastries but special dinners too, were central elements of our daughter Amanda's life. At three and four she sometimes tagged along to the restaurant where she got to watch him make many-tiered wedding cakes. In her soccer years he brought unique snacks like chocolate covered strawberries to games. He delighted in creating cakes for her birthday parties and, of course, the one that was the dessert centerpiece at her wedding. His gifts continued into the next generation with special snacks for our first grandson. Amanda re-



Richard and Anne with Amanda, son-in-law, and first grandson: the Haimes family in 2023. Another grandson was added since!

calls Richard often telling her, "Some people eat to live; I live to eat."

Richard did not stop making pastries when he retired. He treasured being a friend, father, and grandfather and loved nothing more than making pastries for family and friends' special occasions or bringing delectable contributions to social events. If you didn't have an opportunity to sample one of Richard's pastries, perhaps you chatted with him as he and I and, until recently, our dog, walked through Lake Claire. He took great delight in this neighbor-

hood and loved interacting with everyone he encountered.

Editor's note: This article is part of Jane Branscomb's Lake Claire Creatives series about neighbors whom you might not know are talented individuals, whether accomplished amateurs or consummate professionals. Contact her at JaneBranscomb@gmail.com (JaneBranscomb at gmail dot com). to suggest that someone be featured or to volunteer to write for the series.



Richard & Anne lighting the Menorah with their grandson



**Your Neighborhood Expert
with 22 Homes Sold
in 30307 during 2023**

MOVING OR PUTTING DOWN ROOTS?



REACH OUT FOR INSIGHT AND
ADVICE ON NAVIGATING TODAY'S
REAL ESTATE MARKET

678-358-3369



Cynthia Baer
Broker, Associate

#1 Agent for Keller Williams Realty
Metro Atlanta 2023 (volume & units)
#1 Dekalb Board of Realtors 2023

 [cynthiabaer30307](#)  cynthia@cynthiabaer.com

 [cynthiabaer.com](#)  [Around 30307
with Cynthia Baer](#)

KW METRO ATLANTA
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY



Rep. Draper Legislation Efforts

Continued from page 5.

said school safety is a priority, but they ignore the gun issue completely. How can they tell Georgians they are taking school shootings seriously when they fail to acknowledge the root of the problem?

Their hypocrisy was on full display in early February when House Republicans called a press conference to boast about their signature piece of school safety legislation, House Bill 268. They said the 50-page bill would “ensure a tragedy like what we witnessed in Apalachee never happens again in this state.”

House Bill 268 would create a statewide database to track student mental health histories, develop an app so students could anonymously report other students they find threatening, and require school districts to create safety management plans. It would also provide funds for metal detectors, school resource officers, and the like. The bill would also make it a felony to threaten to kill someone at school, which is already a crime.

That is their idea of a “comprehensive school safety package.”

From a purely political perspective, it’s surprising we are at this impasse. The polling shows Republicans are out of sync with the majority of Georgians on the gun safety issue. Most Georgians, regardless of political party, want change, especially after the Apalachee shooting. Other red and purple states have taken modest steps; even Florida has imposed a three-day waiting period before someone can purchase a gun.

Guns are the number one killer of children in our country. They are more deadly than car crashes and more deadly than cancer. It seems like every day there is a new article in the paper about a child who has been shot. If we had a way to prevent children from getting cancer, wouldn’t we? And we already impose many regulations to make cars safer, beginning with onerous car seat requirements for children.

And before you argue that the right to own a gun is protected in the Constitution, remember that we regulate constitutional rights all the time.

Democrats are pushing a number of modest, common-sense reforms that if enacted would save children’s lives. House Bill 1 would require the owner of a firearm to secure it safely

if a minor also lives in the residence. House Bill 3 would require a universal background check whenever anyone sells a gun, not just licensed dealers. And House Bill 63 would require anyone who owns an assault rifle have sufficient liability insurance.

Apps and watch lists will not protect our children in their classrooms and on school playgrounds.

There’s still time for this legislative session to add gun safety bills to the school safety package. Join me in keeping the need for gun reform front and center in the conversation.

Editor’s Note: Saira Draper is the State Representative for House District 90, which includes Lake Claire. Thank you, Saira, for taking the time to keep us informed, and for your work.

And in the Georgia Senate, as the Clarion was getting ready to go to print, Republican lawmakers introduced another version of a sales tax holiday on firearms, ammunition, and other firearm-related accessories. Senate Bill 47 would create a two-week period every year through July 2030, to let Georgians buy guns, ammo, etc., without having to pay sales taxes. Senator Nan Orrock called the bill’s supporters “tone deaf” for pushing the bill now, just months after the deadly shooting at Apalachee High School. No surprise, sadly, the bill passed the Chamber on Party lines, sending it over to the House of Representatives for the next step in the process, echoing how a previous version of the bill proceeded through the legislature last year.

Gardening for Nonconformists

Continued from page 3.

sects in check with poisons and leaf-blowers powered by engines built for NASCAR.

The layout of the grounds is also outsourced. Landscape architects and installation crews put the same plantings in yard after yard, using the same template over and over. The shrubbery goes in front, the tree to the side, and the grass everywhere else. It is understandable, for creativity is hard, and it involves risk. Why pitch a radical design or unusual plants if you know clients typically pick one of three different shrubs on one of four templates?

But perhaps, just perhaps, you want to do something different. **Where should you start?**

First, downgrade the lawn’s priority. Plant some trees that are appropriate for our climate—Trees Atlanta can be a great resource for this. It is also a good idea to go for perennials that will come back year after year. But, don’t plant anything thirsty, unless you have a water feature that doesn’t need constant replenishing.

On that subject, the runoff from your roof is a resource. Use it! Install rainbarrels on your downspouts to save water for irrigation and fill your water features. With a bit of cleverness, you can direct excess runoff directly into water features.

Whatever you plant, add variety. Otherwise, a lethal plant disease or insect infestation could wipe out what you plant. Plus, mixing things up can create a bloom season that can last year-round in Atlanta. Use native plants, as these can withstand our horrendous weather. Just pay

attention to their soil, lighting, and moisture needs. Don’t do something daft like plant a native azalea in a shady, muddy bog.

As for herbicides, just don’t. To keep down broadleaf weeds, try corn gluten. This is a nontoxic, organic, preemergent that can be applied without risking very nasty impacts on your health and the environment. Bags of this are available online and at really good garden centers (so, probably not Home Depot).

Insecticides are also a no-no. The pest control companies may tell you that their mosquito spray is based on natural ingredients, but it kills far more than mosquitos: bees, butterflies, fireflies... **everything.** Plus, if someone gets careless with the sprayer, your neighbor, or rather your neighbor’s lawyer, may have something to say about it. Use mosquito dunks for water features and granules for damp areas. These contain bacteria which attack mosquito larva. This makes it a lot safer for use where there are other insects, frogs, pets, and, of course, people, and in the summer perhaps, children’s feet.

Turning to the subject of leafblowers, it’s best to remember that a lot of your neighbors work from home now. Don’t be a jerk by having someone blow each individual leaf around your yard for over an hour using something that sounds like the afterburner on a fighter jet. If you must blow leaves, use a battery-powered leafblower or a battery-powered lawnmower to chop up the leaves and enrich the soil. These are quieter and cleaner than the fossil fuel versions, but just as effective. If you must use a yard service, only use one that embraces these quieter, more sustainable devices.

Above all, be an individual. Don’t feel pressured to do the exact same thing that your neighbors are doing. If your neighbor opts for a wildflower meadow, plant fruit trees. If the house across the street has a fountain worthy of Versailles, plant succulents, and save big on your water bill. Plenty of design ideas and guides are out there in the world, so be creative— while it’s still legal.

And, don’t be afraid to get your hands dirty. In these troubling times, it will help distract you, even if only briefly.



Neighborhood Dues for Lake Claire

Suggested annual dues are \$20/year per household, but as with NPR, more is always appreciated and will be put to good use Pay at 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. These are the folks who've paid 2025 dues so far; thanks to all:

Jessica Jamison
 Ian Mackenzie
 Deborah Green
 Linda Jackson
HAVE A MOMENT OF FAME IN THE CLARION
 — PAY YOUR 2025 DUES!

CLARION HELP: Available to help deliver Clarions?
 Please email distribution@lakeclaire.org.



Neal & Wright

Your Family... Your Business... Your Firm!

40 Franklin Street
 Suite 100
 Avondale Estates, GA 30002
 (404) 257-6494
www.nealandwright.com

Sherry Neal, J.D. Dan Wright, J.D.
Sherry@nealandwright.com Dan@nealandwright.com
 Jodi Greenberg, J.D. Jessica Cole
Jodi@nealandwright.com Jess@nealandwright.com

- * **Commercial Real Estate**
- * **Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning**
- * **Corporate & LLC Formation**
- * **Other Business Legal Services**



*For all your
 real estate
 needs...*



*Sherry Warner
 Homes*

Sherry Warner
 Associate Broker &
 Lake Claire resident



404 784 8848 mobile
404 482 2293 office



sherry@SherryWarnerHomes.com

Achieve with Steve!

FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS



- EXPERIENCED – \$53M sold since 2022!
- PLUGGED IN!
 - Candler Park FallFest Stage Sponsor
 - Lake Claire Wahoo Sponsor
 - Lake Claire Halloween Parade Sponsor and Parade Leader
 - Coach
 - And yes, former APS School Bus Driver!
- Atlanta REALTORS® Association Consistent TOP PERFORMER!
- TRUSTWORTHY as the day is long!

steve@kellerknapp.com
404.434.1500



Lake Claire | Candler Park New Construction? You bet! Take a look!



2024 New Construction
 McLendon Avenue
Sold!



2025 New Construction
 305 Gordon Avenue
New listing!



2025 New Construction
 1779 Indiana Avenue
Coming soon!

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

March Birthday people:

- March 3—Judy Langford and Robin Singer, both on Harold Avenue
- March 6—Dalton Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, 17
- March 9—Jonathan Cook, Leonardo
- March 10—Summer Barton turns 6 (KIDS CONTEST WINNER THIS MONTH!)
- March 12—Willow Barton turns 4 (ALSO CONTEST WINNER THIS MONTH)
- March 13—Ada Covington, 11! Hardendorf Avenue
- March 14—Jennie Caine, Leonardo
- March 19 – Frances Koval turns 10! – Frequent Clarion winner!!!
- March 20—Kaia Wiltsee, turns 16
- March 23—David Damon, Forrest Hills. Important volunteer role of providing emotional support and delicious vegan food for the Editor. Drop me a note if you saw this, my test of whether anyone reads it.
- March 27 – Aaron Skrimpson, Southerland Terrace
- March 29—Victoria Weldert – Happy 10!
- March 30—Darcy Troxell-Cappello, Almeta, turns 14!
- March 31—James Crutcher, Hardendorf, and Carol Vanderschaff, Indiana.

Anniversaries:

- March 15—Kim McRae & Frank Zamor ♥♥, Delaware Avenue,
- March 19—Happy Anniversary, McGills! ♥♥ Arizona Ave. and honorary members of Delaware Ave.

Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the APRIL issue by MARCH 18 to editor@lakeclaire.org. We need YOUR help to make this series inclusive!

Advocates for Local Animals

Continued from page 5.

where they're loved, cared for, and treated with the kindness they've long been denied. We also want to thank the County Law Department for filing the cost-of-care petition and are hopeful that future cases will be pursued at the onset of the case so that no more dogs have to spend three years in the shelter.

Georgia Pet Coalition Legislation introduced

The Ga Pet Coalition's priority legislation, HB 331, was introduced at the end of February by Representative Beth Camp! The bill prohibits the sale or barter of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits in unregulated and outdoor locations such as parking lots, roadsides, and pop-up flea markets. The bill's intent is to curtail reckless backyard breeding by reducing opportunities for illicit pet sales to occur. A similar measure has been passed as a local ordinance in 11 jurisdictions to date. HB 331 does not impact shelter/rescue adoptions, responsible breeders who comply with laws, and farm animals. Please stay tuned for updates. To sign up for Action Alerts via email: www.gapetcoalition.org.

Shelter updates

As of February 14, the shelter (built for 258 dogs in 2017) housed 552 dogs. Lifeline's target is to reduce this number by 5 each week until the maintenance number of 475 dogs is reached.

Sadly, the numbers of dogs in the shelter have started to rise sharply again. Just two weeks ago our numbers were down to 505 dogs, but the continuous intake of 20 dogs a day combined with slowed outcomes has given us unsustainable numbers again. We continue to find it necessary to humanely euthanize adoptable dogs. **22 dogs were scheduled to be euthanized this week!** Many of these dogs were adopted or fostered at the last minute, but **seven were humanely euthanized.** As of this writing in February, 47 dogs are on the Dekalb "At Risk" list for February 18.

Originally scheduled to be started in September, **ground has finally been broken on the "Pet Neighborhood" overflow buildings** next to the shelter. No new date for completion, originally scheduled for March-May 2025, has been given. It

🎵 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!

DATE	BAND	LOCATION
Saturday, March 1	Shovels & Rope	Terminal West
Saturday, March 1	Wilder Woods	Buckhead Theatre
Saturday, March 1	Papadosio	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 1	Maxwell Street	Napoleons
Sunday, March 2	Run Katie Run/ The Surly Trolls	Eddie's Attic
Tuesday, March 4	Dropkick Murphys	Tabernacle
Tuesday, March 4	Gary Clark Jr	The Eastern
Tuesday, March 4	The String Queens	City Winery*
Wednesday, March 5	Hackensaw Boys	Smiths Olde Bar
Thursday, March 6	The Magic of Motown	Center Stage
Thursday, March 6	Lilly Hiatt	Masquerade Alter
Friday, March 7	Martin Sexton	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 7	Zeds Dead	Roxy
Friday, March 7	Jesse Welles	Terminal West
Saturday, March 8	Bright Eyes	Tabernacle
Saturday, March 8	Joe Bonamassa	Fox Theatre
Saturday, March 8	Get the Led Out	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 8	Moe.	The Eastern
Saturday, March 8	Diggin Dirt and Blue Talk	Aisle 5
Sunday, March 9	Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles	Fox Theatre
Wednesday, March 12	Ani DiFranco	Buckhead Theatre
Thursday, March 13	BJ Barham	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 14	Big Head Todd and the Monsters	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 15	Tommy Richman	Center Stage
Saturday, March 15	Perpetual Groove	Variety Playhouse
Saturday, March 15	Donovan Woods	Vinyl
Saturday, March 15	Josh Joplin	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, March 16	Magnolia Express	FTE
Tuesday, March 18	Deftones with the Mars Volta	State Farm Arena
Wednesday, March 19	K.Flay	Variety Playhouse
Wednesday, March 19	Screaming Orphans	Eddie's Attic
Thursday, March 20	Lunar Vacation	Terminal West
Friday, March 21	The Infamous Stringdusters	FTE
Saturday, March 22	Sam Burchfield	Terminal West
Saturday, March 22	JohnnySwim	Roxy
Sunday, March 23	JoJo	Tabernacle
Sunday, March 23	Nefesh Mountain	Eddie's Attic
Sunday, March 23	Mutlu	Eddie's Attic
Mar 23-24	Gregory Alan Isakkov w/Atlanta Pops	ASO
Tuesday, March 25	Connor Price	The Eastern
Wednesday, March 26	Patterson Hood	Terminal West
Mar 26-27	Mary Gauthier	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 28	Mike Farris	Eddie's Attic
Friday, March 28	AJ Ghent	City Winery*
March 28-29	They Might Be Giants	The Eastern
Saturday, March 29	Jason Isbell	Fox Theatre
Saturday, March 29	The Ain't Sisters	Terminal West
Saturday, March 29	Adam Knight's Buried Alive (PHISH Tribute)/The Grateful Brothers Bros Tribute)	Smiths Olde Bar
Saturday, March 29	Magnolia Express	Mad Life Patio
Sunday, March 30	Angelique Kidjo	ASO
Sunday, March 30	Alan Sparhawk	The EARL
Mar 30-31	Madeleine Peyroux	City Winery*
Wednesday, April 2	Clap Your Hands Say Yeah	Terminal West
Thursday, April 3	BoDeans	City Winery*
Friday, April 4	Southern Culture on the Skids	Star Bar

will be over two years in the making, dating from the Commission approval in the Summer of 2023.

*Editor's note: We can help make a difference for animals who have found their way into shelters, for whatever reason. Even if you can only foster for a few weeks, it makes a **huge** difference for doggies stuck in this environment. Consider becoming a monthly*

donor to support the ongoing work and programs LifeLine provides in the shelters, community, and through their clinics, to help keep people and pets together in loving homes. One of my own doggies, sadly, was an owner surrender, and he is the most loving sweet doggie, albeit with a few "issues." Doggies deserve loving homes, and they bring such joy into our lives. ~Beth

Return of the Land Trust “Open Mic”

Wednesday, March 5, 7 – 9 p.m.

by Stephen Wing

Calling all poets, folk singers, comedians, jugglers, clowns, and acoustic musicians! Join us at the Land Trust amphitheater for the debut of our new monthly Open Mic, hosted by Nick Newell and myself. Come share your talents, or just come to listen and enjoy. All ages invited, amateur or professional, novice or experienced, rehearsed or improvised, all are welcome at our microphone. No amplification except the single amp we provide, please. And please keep it family-friendly, no profanity, violence, or explicit sex! Each performer will get a maximum of five minutes to entertain us – but if we still have

time when we get to the end of the list, we’ll keep going for another round. Sign up when you arrive. It’s never too late or too soon to start your show business career!

And by the way . . . am I the only one old enough to remember the days of the Open “Mike”? Calling a microphone a “mic” looks all right in print, but the poet in me can’t help hearing a printed word in my head, and that one is obviously pronounced “mick.” In my youth, “mike” was a perfectly acceptable nickname for a microphone, but an internet research project I conducted a minute ago turned up myriad “Open Mics” and only one

“Open Mike.” I was also subjected to a suspiciously AI-sounding lecture claiming that “mike” is used only as a nickname for someone named “Michael,” complete with examples of famous “Mikes.”

The one search result that defiantly flaunted the traditional spelling and meaning of “Open Mike” was a website called OpenMike.org, where I was invited to search for Open Mikes in the U.S. and Canada by choosing a state or entering a zip code. When I entered mine, none of the dozen or so “open mics” I’m aware of in metro Atlanta showed up. The only one that did is one I’d never heard of, at Ironmonger Brewery in Marietta. The brewery’s website did not mention an Open Mike, but does brag of having an “axe-throwing range” on the premises, and frequent karaoke nights. But it also notified me that the brewery is “Temporarily

Closed Until Further Notice.”

If Ironmonger Brewery had only held an “Open Mic” instead of an “Open Mike,” perhaps they would still be “the perfect combination of award-winning beer, craft cocktails, axe-throwing, and a vibrant taproom.” Rather than risk their fate, Nick and I are bowing to the forces of linguistic evolution and inviting you to our debut “Open Mic.” I hope to see you there. Especially all you Michaels. Because according to a second internet search I conducted, “Mick” too is a nickname for Michael.

Editor’s Note: If you insisted on “Mike” I wouldn’t have published it (LOL), being “old school” (or a Boomer perhaps); I’ve learned something from your article as I previously thought “Mike” was a completely new thing!

Mulberry Fields Receives New Stormwater Management

by Jennifer Gerndt, Wylde Center Executive Director

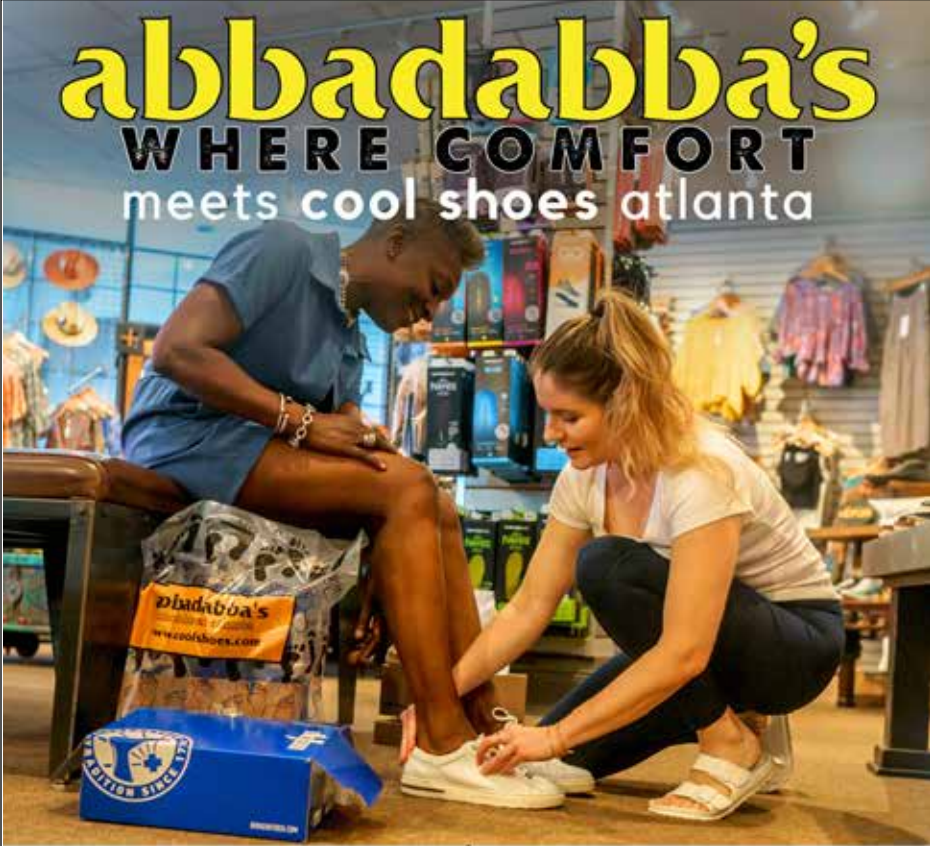
Wylde Center is excited to announce the beginning of the much-anticipated site improvements at the Mulberry Fields Garden. This project, a component of our 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign, focuses on adding drains and rain gardens to mitigate flooding after heavy rainfall.

Mulberry Fields, located at 1301 Iverson Street in Candler Park, is a beautiful urban greenspace and unexpected oasis that is protected from development under Georgia Piedmont Land Trust. The variety of plants and trees at the garden provide a natural habitat for many small wildlife including birds, butterflies, and other important pollinators. If you have been to Mulberry Fields after a summer storm, you know that the slope of the garden creates multiple flood areas that are muddy or not usable. Because we want to provide a space that ensures that the community can stay connected to nature, gardening, and the fantastic goats and chickens, a large-scale solution was determined to be the best route. Wylde Center began fundraising for this and the other capital projects more than two years ago, and we are ready to move all of the planning into execution.

On February 1, the initial steps were taken to prepare the garden for

the impending construction. Garden plot holders and Wylde Center team members removed the garden beds and structures that will interfere with the new plans. Of course, extra care was given to rescue as many plants and planks of wood as possible. The contractors, Plants Creative Landscapes, have added protective fencing around trees and unaffected garden areas, as well as additional signage to help garden visitors stay safe and be informed about the open and closed areas of the garden. For example, the hobbit house and the chicken and goat areas are still open to the public. The driveway entrance also remains open. We ask the public to be mindful of the barriers.

With our best estimates, the project will be complete around mid-March as long as we don’t incur prolonged inclement weather. This timeline aligns the re-opening of the garden with the spring planting season—something we never want anyone to miss! We encourage the community to send questions to me at jennifer@wyldecenter.org. If you would like to contribute to pushing this project over the finish line with new plants and new garden beds, donations are accepted at www.wyldecenter.org/25th-anniversary-capital-campaign-2/. Enjoy the greenspace!



abbadabba's
WHERE COMFORT
meets cool shoes atlanta

LITTLE 5 POINTS
421-B Moreland Ave. NE

BUCKHEAD
4389 Roswell Road

EAST COBB
1255 Johnson Ferry Road

FOR ALWAYS FREE PARKING
Tell the attendant,
“I’m going to Abbadabba’s.”

abbadabba's
Little 5 Points

PARKING

Moreland Ave
Euclid Ave NE
McLendon Ave NE

Upcoming and Ongoing at the Land Trust . . .

Sat., March 1: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. (and every Saturday), \$10 per person (10% goes to LCCLT). Please register in advance at LCCLT.org/new-events. Walk-ins also welcome!

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

Rain date: Sat., March 15. Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

Wed., March 5: Land Trust Open Mic, 7–9 p.m. All acoustic and spoken word performers welcome, or just come to listen. New monthly event! *See article p. 14.*

Sat., March 8: Crochet Class with McKenzie of Nature Play Studio, 10–11 a.m. at the Little Gazebo, for kids ages 10+ and adults. Kids must sign up with a parent or other adult. \$20/person or less if you provide your own materials or sign up for all four classes in March). *See Land Trust Notes for details.*

Sat., March 8: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. *See March 1 for details.*

Sat., March 8: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 1–2 p.m. \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT). 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., March 9: 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.

Sun., March 9: LCCLT board meeting, 5–6 p.m. (and every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill (with the heater on!) or at a picnic table outside, depending on the weather. All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for a Zoom link.

Mon., March 10: Nature Playgroup with Nature Play Studio, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., weather permitting. \$5.00 donation per child (must be accompanied by a parent). Bring bottled water and bug spray. *See Land Trust Notes for details and payment options.*

Sat., March 15: Crochet Class with McKenzie of Nature Play Studio, 10–11 a.m. *See Land Trust Notes.*

Sat., March 15: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. *See March 1 for details.*

Sat., March 15: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (and every month on the 3rd Sat.). Bring drinking water and work gloves. *Rain date: March 22.*

Mon., March 17: Nature Playgroup with Nature Play Studio, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., weather permitting. *See Land Trust Notes.*

Sat., March 22: Crochet Class with McKenzie of Nature Play Studio, 10–11 a.m. *See Land Trust Notes.*

Sat., March 22: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. *See March 1 for details.*

Mon., March 24: Nature Playgroup with Nature Play Studio, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., weather permitting. *See Land Trust Notes.*

Tues., March 25: Naanstop Indian Food Delivery, 5–5:45 p.m. Order by 7 that morning, pick up by 5:45. Visit LCCLT.org/new-events to order. *See Land Trust Notes for details.*

Sat., March 29: Crochet Class with McKenzie of Nature Play Studio, 10–11 a.m. *See Land Trust Notes.*

Sat., March 29: Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, 11 a.m.–noon. *See March 1 for details.*

Sun., March 30 Backyard Foraging & Herbalism: A Plant Walk/Talk with Jenny Shackelford, 1–2 p.m. (and every month on the last Sunday). Sliding scale, \$10-\$20 (25% goes to LCCLT). *See article this page.*

Mon., March 31: Nature Playgroup with Nature Play Studio, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., weather permitting. *See Land Trust Notes.*

PLUS, SAVE THE DATE

Sat., April 12 Peace & Love Fest. Get ready for Spring's coming-out party, with food, drink, artists' market and live music on the Land Trust stage!



Backyard Foraging & Herbalism – A Plant Walk/Talk Around the Land Trust

by Jennifer Shackelford

Hey everyone, my name is Jenny. Stroll with me through the gardens and paths of the Land Trust, and let's talk plants. I am a lifelong native of these foothills and have always had a deep appreciation for the gifts it provides for us. Take a walk with me, and learn about the local wild medicine growing at your feet! I will discuss identification, ethical forag-

ing practices, medicinal benefits, and practical application of local wild forage-ables, as well as providing recipes for making herbal remedies for yourself at home. The class will take place on the last Sunday every month from 1 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10–\$20 on a sliding scale (25% goes to LCCLT). Join us!

LAND TRUST NOTES

(See days & times at left.)

Crochet Classes with McKenzie of Nature Play Studio: Crocheting for kids and adults! All skill levels from beginner to advanced. Kids must take the class with an adult. Minimum age of 10 is recommended (you know your child best). Focus: chains, foundation, single, and double, plus triple chaining if time, and crochet terms and abbreviations to help you read a pattern. Maximum class size: 10. Cost: \$20/person for one class + supplies (less if you sign up for all 4 classes or bring your own supplies). (10% to LCCLT) Register: natureplaystudio.com/products/march-crochet-series-at-lake-claire-community-land-trust

Nature Playgroup with Nature Play Studio: Join us for good old-fashioned play, connection to nature, learning, and community at the Land Trust. We usually have a planned activity where we make, create, and work with our hands. Some activities may be messy, others may need the help of a parent. Drop in and head out whenever you need. Bring bottled water and bug spray. Cost: \$5 donation per child (must be accompanied by a parent!) Important: if the weather looks iffy, check in at www.LCCLT.org to make sure it's happening. You can also use the Playgroup link at LCCLT.org/new-events to make your payment through Venmo or Paypal.

Naanstop Indian Food Delivery. The Land Trust will once more receive a portion of the proceeds of a delicious Indian meal delivered to Lake Claire by NaanStop, a family-owned Indian restaurant that supports a different non-profit each month. Feeds four; vegan, vegetable, and meat entrees available. **Order by 7 that morning, pick up by 5:45.** Visit LCCLT.org/new-events to order.

Every neighborhood needs a Land Trust!
Help support ours at www.lcclt.org/.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion writers and artists to participate in our 'hood. Each month, we feature a writer, poet, or artist. This month, we feature Ryder Durham. He wrote about his Scouts MLK, Jr. Day Service

Project. The family lives on McLendon. Ryder is eleven years old and in the fifth grade. Thank you, Ryder, for your and your friends' dedication to Lake Claire—and volunteerism! (P.S. – Folks, Ryder's dad also wrote about this, on Page 5.)

Any Lake Claire child or young adult who wants to add your creativity to this page, send to *editor@lakeclaire.org*, by **MARCH 15-18** for the **April** issue.



Dedicated Scouts improving LC Park (Ryder is in the black hat.)

MLK, Jr., Day Project

by Ryder Durham

My Cub Scout Pack, a couple of friends, and I mulched the path from Marlbrook to Lake Claire Park. We did this on MLK Day as a volunteer service project. It was very cold that day, but we had fun. What kept us going was knowing that we were do-

ing something good for our neighbors and honoring Martin Luther King.

We could not have done this project without the help of the Hilbun family from start to finish. We hope everyone enjoys the freshly mulched path to the park.

New Contest

Hi kids, we've had some crazy cold weather (for Georgia) this month. But we also have Spring daffodils peeking their heads through the dirt. Find a picture that includes spring flowers in this issue as you look forward to Spring. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (APRIL). 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 what you like about March, or if there is a holiday in March that you celebrate in a special way, e.g., St. Patrick's, Purim, Mardi Gras. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. The deadline is **MARCH 15-18**. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this **HIGHLY** coveted prize.

Contest Winners

We have some great winners this month!! Summer and Willow Barton won First Prize. They both have birthdays this month, Summer turning six, and Willow turning 4. Summer is in Kindergarten at Mary Lin, and Willow is at Freedom Park Preschool. They live on Southerland Terrace.

Coming in 2nd is Madison Clay, age 8, in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin. She lives on Hardendorf.

Millie Bergartt came in a close 3rd! She is 8, in the 2nd grade at Mary Lin, and also lives on Southerland Terrace. Millie won extra credit for answering what she loves about Winter! She said: "I love to celebrate Winter by sledding with my friends!" We hope to hear from her in the future! Everyone: See this month's contest, below left, and make your guess; it's your chance to be famous in a newspaper!



Summer and Willow, 1st place!



Madison, 2nd place



Millie, 3rd place