



Midtown High School's Sweeney Todd Returns from the Grave

by Jack Morris

Some kids learn English and Math at school. I learned how to cut people's throats and menace an audience. I had the horror (honor?) of playing Sweeney Todd in Midtown High School's Spring 2025 musical. Sondheim is, well, in a word, challenging, but we pulled it off.

The sad tale begins way back in 2020, when Midtown was two weeks away from presenting the spring musical *Sweeney Todd*. But a little virus

called Covid-19, which had a much higher death count than Sweeney Todd yet has zero Broadway musicals written about it, decided to shut the world down. Weeks stretched to months, and the show was never performed. Fast forward to 2025, Midtown Theatre teacher Jake Dreiling finally got his revenge and remounted the show. Speaking of revenge, Sweeney is full of it. Sweeney

Cont. on p. 8

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. As a 35-year LC resident, I'm so pleased—and not very surprised—that there are so many folks who are committed to staying in Lake Claire. It has been fun meeting them, albeit often virtually, and I hope you've been enjoying reading about them as much as I have enjoyed continuing the series. This month's article features Michael and Leah Hill.

In 2021 Michael and Leah were renting a 110-year-old house in Cabbagetown. In February of that year, they found out they were expecting their first child, whose due date was November 9. Their goal was to find their first home to buy and move in before he arrived.

They started looking, sharing that "we had always loved the eastside of Atlanta because of the character of the

neighborhoods—and all the trees! We were mostly looking in Lake Claire/Candler Park, Ormewood Park, and Oakhurst/Decatur."

After two offers fell through over that summer, they knew they needed to land something quickly in order to get settled in before November 9. In August, 443 Ridgewood Road came on the market, and they loved it. "The street was amazing," Michael told me, "and the house checked many of our boxes... back porch/deck, nice backyard, recently updated kitchen, a spot for the nursery very close to the owners' suite, and a spot for a home office," fortuitous since Michael works mostly from home. They were so excited when their offer was accepted!

The then-owners asked for an extended closing date because they were working on a new build that was not

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Burning Books: New Work + More Work by W. Chester Old

by Jane Branscomb

It's a three-fer! Through May 17, neighbors can experience the work of this month's featured Lake Claire creative, Chester Old, meet the artist himself, and explore the striking residence he shares with husband Steven Bennett (see *Lived in 2+ Homes in Lake Claire*, May 2024, at lakeclaire.org). The couple are hosting Chester's immersive exhibition "New Work + More Work" in the former brick church on McLendon Avenue that comprises their living, studio, and office spaces.

The childhood origins of Chester's artistic sensibilities echo throughout his work. He grew up on a horse farm outside of Atlanta, his nearest sibling in age being four years older. So, Chester was mostly on his own with his imagination and the material world around him for company. A junk heap in a far corner of the family's property was one of his favorite haunts. The rusting appliances, old rubber parts, bicycle wheels and other detritus captivated him, inspiring his creation of sculptural and functional pieces that today would be seen as folk or outsider art.

Once, for example, he found a spool of copper tubing. He held the outside with his foot while pulling up from the middle. Delighting in the snaky spiral that resulted, he decided to make it into a lamp. After laboriously feeding electrical wire through the tube, he attached an old socket, screwed in a bulb, and plugged it in: Voila! It lit up! "But then I touched it, and ZZZT!" The shock ran through his arm. After high school Ches-



Chester with works from his Blindfolds Series

ter studied ceramics and printmaking at Penland School of Craft. He opened a pottery for production tableware at the age of 19. Later he returned to school to expand and hone his talents, earning a BFA with honors in sculpture, video, and drawing from Atlanta College of Art (now SCAD). His interests encompass psychology, particularly psychological resilience, the human condition, and the symbolism in certain everyday objects. And always, materials. "I have this huge love for materials," Chester says, "and odd materials, and unusual uses of materials."

The current exhibit includes several series of altered books, a recurring for-

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors Officers, or the Clarion staff.

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 May

Some important and fun events, and see Land Trust stuff on P. 15.

1–17 Chester Old's Exhibit in his unique home studio (see article Page 1). Amazing opportunity for Lake Claire. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment, 1933 McLendon Avenue, Unit A. On-street parking. 404-259-9413, www.WChesterOld.com.

3 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.

9 The Alliance – opening on the Coca-Cola Stage: *Millions*. Inspired by Frank Cottrell Boyce's beloved novel and film, *Millions* is a heartwarming new musical about two brothers, their newly widowed father, a train robber, and (possibly) a miracle. Runs through June 15. Info/tix: www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/millions

15 **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. Sign up for neighborhood mailings and the Zoom link at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/.

17 Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse, always the 3rd Saturday, 7 p.m. \$10 (members \$8). This month: (1) **Blackfoot Daisy**, and (2) **Atlanta Mandolin Orchestra**. 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/

19 **Mary Lin Dine-Out**. Come to **Moxie Burger** this month. More than burgers! This is the last ML Dine-Out for the school year. Please mention Mary Lin, and 10% goes back to the ML PTA. For more info, contact Aviva Berman, avivaberman@gmail.com. Please spread the word!

23 Horizon Theatre opening of *Laugh in Spanish*, by Alexis Scheer. Humor, heart, and cultural exploration. A must-see, Horizon is a treasure of our extended neighborhood. Runs through June 22. Info/tix: www.horizontheatre.com/plays/laughs-in-spanish/

24 Lake Claire Park Work Day, 9 a.m. to noon. Park work days are the 4th Saturdays (5/24, 6/28, 7/26, 8/23, 9/27, 10/25, 11/22), 9 a.m.–noon. Contact

Judy Hammack, Friends of Lake Claire Park, at flcpark@lakeclaire.org for info, or just walk down to the park and join in the fun.

Early June

4 *Young John Lewis* starts at the Theatrical Outfit. Info at www.theatricaloutfit.org/

7 Frazer Forest Volunteer Workday with Trees Atlanta. For more details, see May 3 above.

8 Save the Date! Land Trust Annual Open House & Potluck, Sunday, June 8. See details P. 15.

Reminder: Send any calendar items for the whole summer by May 15–16. The June issue is the Summer (June-July-August) issue, so the hard-working volunteers of the Clarion staff get a little break.



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PHOTO CONTEST

Submission: April 25-May 8
 Winners Announced: May 19
4 Categories (Prize for each):
 Professional | Adult Hobbyist 19+
 Teen (13-18) | Youth (under 13)

Submit entries: freedompark.org starting April 25. Winners receive framed prints of their photos, to be displayed first at the Carter Library.

THE CLARION IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

A Homage to the Little Free Library And a Request

by McKenzie Wren

I love Little Free Libraries—hereinafter called LFLs—truly, madly, deeply. If I were a bumper sticker person, mine would say, “I brake for Little Free Libraries.” I am a voracious reader, and the arrival of numerous LFLs around the city and even the country has been such a boon to my reading. I never know what I will find. I love having my reading be guided by whatever is available.

The movement started in 2009 when Todd Bol built the first LFL in Hudson, Wisconsin, as a tribute to his mother, a teacher and book lover. Bol and his partner, Rick Brooks, launched Little Free Library as a nonprofit organization in 2012. I have no idea when I first heard about it, but I was instantly a devotee. No idea what year mine went in - maybe 2013. Maybe earlier. It initially was installed on the very robust stump of our dearly departed White Oak tree on New York Ave. I have been maintaining it ever since. I actually use the word “maintaining” lightly because mine is desperately in need of a paint job, and it is also far too frequently filled with bug droppings and the occasional wasp! Many years ago now, the stump rotted enough that the library was unstable and we moved it to its current location. Along with occasionally brushing out



the bugs, I've replaced the door, the roof, and done other general maintenance on the little house. I have been asking the now-22-year-old to paint it for at least a year. (Maybe he'll read this and feel sufficiently shamed into finally painting it!)

In Lake Claire, a very cursory scan of the LFL map shows around seven, including the two Free Little Art Galleries; one on Arizona and one on Ridge-

Cont. on p. 11

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

It's been a while since I've written anything for the Clarion, and I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the Clarion itself.

Along with the continual “Wild in Lake Claire,” “Kids' Corner,” reports from elected officials, and features on our local institutions (e.g., Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, the Lake Claire Land Trust, the Frazer Center, the schools, the Lake Claire Candler Park Security Patrol, and the Freedom Park Conservancy), I've greatly enjoyed articles about creative residents who make up our unique neighborhood.

All of these features have been so interesting, and I realize that these things don't magically appear without someone conceiving of the ideas, finding writers, contacting our local elected officials for their reports, and putting many hours into finding fresh material, sending reminders, and the like. I also realize that it takes planning and time to ensure that the papers come out in a timely manner at the beginning of each month. My sincere thanks to our editor, Beth Damon, for fifteen years of dedicated volunteer service to the neighborhood, highlighting its activities and our wide range of passionate commitments (from saving animals and trees to maintaining a land trust, to fighting highways and improving the traffic on our own main streets, McLendon and

Dekalb), and finding and maintaining relationships with the writers who explore the exceptional character of Lake Claire's residents. With features such as “Living in Multiple Lake Claire Homes,” “Lived in Lake Claire 30+ years,” and our neighborhood events including individual streets' celebrations, live music, theatre, and more, we have an excellent, eclectic, and unique monthly newspaper.

I appreciate the professionalism, care, ethical standards, and community spirit that Beth has poured into this newspaper for so long and consistently. She is aided by the volunteer writers (of all ages!), along with Pat Del Rey, advertising, Véronique Perrot, layout, and Alicia McGill, distribution, who do crucial work to keep the Clarion running and directly available to the neighborhood at a time when many neighborhood newspapers have fallen by the wayside.

And let's not forget our advertisers, without whom the costs of publishing the Clarion would not be possible. These include the BOND Community Credit Union; Abbadabba's; the law firm of Neal and Wright; and realtors Cynthia Baer, John Morgan, Steve Raimonde, and Sherry Warner. Thank you to all of these.

~Joe Agee,
President,

Lake Claire Neighbors, Inc.

The Joy of Bike Transportation in Lake Claire

by Frank Williams

We are lucky that the City of Atlanta has become committed to creating a safe and enjoyable network of bicycle infrastructure, including its various greenways, bike lanes, and the prominent Atlanta Beltline. Several excellent bike paths are easily accessible from Lake Claire that I take all the time.

The most beautiful of the bike paths is the Freedom Bike Path that starts at the golf course of Candler Park and continues all the way into downtown. There is only a single block where road

travel is necessary (Jackson), and a bike lane exists there too, although it is not demarcated like the rest of the path is. Since I work downtown, it is quite easy to travel by bike—first from Candler Park, past Moreland Avenue and through Inman Park, then through the Old Fourth Ward. Once I hit Jackson, one block after Boulevard, I turn right for a block and resume on the next leg of the bike path that traverses the neighborhoods bordering downtown, until I cross the connector -- all on dedicated

bike paths separated from the traffic. The path then goes past Piedmont and up to Peachtree Center Avenue by the Marriott Hotel, where the bike path becomes a two-lane partition of the road.

Another excellent route from Lake Claire also begins at the Candler Park Golf Course and continues through Inman Park. There is a fork in the bike lane before the overpass that demarcates Inman Park from the Old Fourth Ward. The right goes downtown, and the left goes down the hill and merges

with the Beltline. Taking a right at the bottom of the hill brings one directly to Piedmont Park—no traffic, no parking problems. To the left, it is possible to ride to DeKalb Avenue, and through the Krog Street tunnel, the Beltline continues south and east.

My doctor is on Peachtree Avenue which is easily accessible via the Bike Path, then the Beltline and a quick ride down 10th Street brings one right to

Cont. on p. 11

A Tip of the Toque to Richard Haimes

by Anne Haimes

This article, part of Jane Branscomb's series on creative talent in LC, is reprinted from March. It is slightly edited for space. Please see the full original, with more pictures, at lakeclaire.org/clarion-march-2025/.

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 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 meetings of the neighborhood association and other groups.

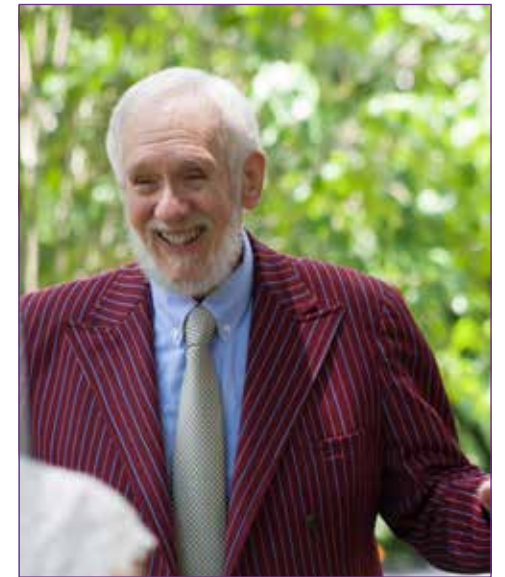
Richard and I met during this time, when I was taking a break from my studies and had a job at the University of Florida Library. Over the next few years we both returned to school. I went back to the U of F to finish my journalism degree, and when he completed his VISTA service Richard returned to Long 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 baguettes and took a Chinese cooking class at a popular restaurant.

Eventually, Richard decided to make a change that led to 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 Croque-mouche, 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



*Richard Haimes,
January 1946 – November 2024*

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 recalls 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 neighborhood and loved interacting with everyone he encountered.

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

Over the last few days, my backyard has been visited by several very charismatic blue jays. I actually watched one alight on my fence, then make its hawk-mimicking call before flying to my bird feeder. They are quite good at sounding just like a red-shouldered hawk, another bird that's common in our urban greenspaces. My guess is they make this call before visiting a bird feeder to warn off other birds from the buffet. Just now, I was watching one of these birds sit on a branch and make its much more soothing one-note whistle over and over.

I've been noting significant activity of a variety of hawks around the neighborhood lately. Before the trees leafed out, I was able to observe a large stick nest in a pecan tree over my neighbor's house that was visited frequently by a hawk I couldn't identify at first. It had a streamlined, "bullet" shape and narrow tail, so I was sure it wasn't a red-shouldered or red-tailed hawk. Then, I saw that bird, and another one that looked quite different, land on my neighbor's fence together to rest for a while. On closer inspection and a little bird identification sleuthing, I determined it was an adult and a juvenile Cooper's hawk. I assume the juvenile had fledged from the nest I had been watching.

Another hawk observation I enjoyed was in the company of my husband and several gardeners at the Land Trust while we were doing some early-season garden plot prep. A beautiful red-shouldered hawk



Red-shouldered hawk



Little brown jugs (Hexastylis sp.)

dered hawk flew down from one of the giant oak trees and landed on a bamboo fence near where we were working (see photo by Nadia B.). It was not at all interested in us, and sat on its perch, looking all around for some prey before eventually flying off again.

At the other end of the spectrum from big, charismatic birds, I've been enjoying looking down at the forest floor to see some of the often overlooked life that abounds there. On a drizzly day in March, I attended a morel hunting workshop with Eliza Crofts in Deepdene Park. At least 15 people joined in to learn where to look for morels during the brief period in spring when they fruit, usually near the base of mature tulip poplar trees near streams. We did find a small stand of the mushrooms and then went off on our own to hunt for more. I haven't found any morels on my own, despite looking in several places that fit the bill for their habitat. One side-benefit of mushroom hunting in early spring is that looking closely at the ground means you will be treated with sightings of spring ephemeral flowers, including yellow trillium and little brown jug or hexastylis (see photo above).

Meredith W went for wildflower walks with her mother for her birthday and saw lots of beautiful bloodroot in Hahn Woods as well as *Diamorpha* and other wildflowers at Arabia Mountain. She has been seeing signs of baby season—squirrels have been raiding her cardboard pile, crows are picking up the pine straw, and she even saw a titmouse gathering material for a nest. One day,



Snapping turtle

Meredith saw a great blue heron open her wings and "yell" at a passing red-tailed hawk. She wondered if the heron might have babies nearby that she was protecting.

A few weeks after finding the otter tracks at Lullwater Preserve she mentioned in the last Wild column, Meredith was beyond excited to see the same type of tracks in the sandbar at the side of the creek in her yard. It was thrilling to have an otter visit her home and to be able to know they were there even though she wasn't there to see it in the flesh. Finally, Meredith saw a snapping turtle up close with the most amazing eyes (see photo above).

Miriam H has been enjoying watching the turtles at the LakeClaire Community Land Trust pond with her granddaughter. She has fun asking her and other visitors to count them to help keep track of the number. It takes a little patience, but they counted 10 with one baby one week. That number is about the same as last year so it makes Miriam think they're doing ok there.

My neighbor in CoHousing, Sara B., reported that her cat found a baby bunny nest in the front yard. Butterfly (the cat) will be kept inside so she doesn't find the nest again. Sara had never seen a bunny in the city, so she was shocked by this discovery. She snapped a few

photos of the cute little babies tucked away in their nest (sorry we didn't have room), and later she reported that they had all gone.

One final sign of spring I observed was the first monarch butterfly of the year, flitting against the siding of my neighbor's house on a warm day recently. It has been several years since I've seen any monarch eggs or caterpillars on my milkweed, but I try to stay optimistic every year that my small contributions to creating habitat for these amazing, vulnerable migratory species will help make a difference. It's not all that different from hoping that our calls to public officials speaking out against budget cuts, mass firings, loosening of environmental protections, and sale of our public lands, will help stem the tide. If we each engage in small acts that declare our love of wilderness, we can make a difference. As Edward Abbey wrote, "The love of wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the earth, the earth which bore us and sustains us, the only paradise we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need, if only we had the eyes to see."

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



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How Can I Help? A Day in The Life of an Animal Shelter Volunteer

(A replay with updates of my Dec 2023 Clarion article)

by Scott McLane

How can you contribute to the well-being of the animals being cared for at the DeKalb County Animal Shelter? There is a role, no matter how small, for anyone and everyone... and every role is important. Staff or experienced volunteers will give you guidance with any role that you are most comfortable with. To illustrate the many volunteer options, I have combined my weeks volunteering adventures into one "Day In the Life."

I'll start by saying I am a "dog" person and thus will focus on that aspect of volunteering, but the Dekalb County Animal Shelter (DCAS) houses up to 100 cats, and "cat" folk are welcomed and needed. We are a diverse community—lol.

I begin my morning by picking up Turkey (the dog) from the shelter clinic for his orthopedic consult appointment about his two broken front legs. We hoped to avoid amputation or euthanasia- a dog can live happily as a tripod, but not on just 2 legs. There is often a need simply to transport an animal between one of our partner veterinarians and the shelter, or vice versa.

I returned Turkey to the shelter about noon and noticed the back parking lot is full of broken animal crates, so I spent an hour breaking them down and loading them into my truck to recycle the metal. I slid over to check the play yard gates and adjust two of them for safe operation. No 'maintenance' position is funded for the shelter, and many simple maintenance needs fall through the cracks or are not supported by DeKalb County, so volunteers with any level of 'handiness' and some basic tools are very welcomed by the staff.

One, among many, consequence of housing twice as many animals as the shelter was designed for is having a place to house each dog while its kennel is being cleaned. Lifeline, at its own expense, has had to purchase and install ninety 5'x5'x6' outdoor kennels to which 500



Saratoga

dogs are moved once a day for 2 hours while their kennel is cleaned. Platforms built from pallets and deck boards for the dogs to stand on in these kennels were built by volunteers, as well as corrugated PVC roofs that partially weatherproof these kennels, since they are absolutely necessary come rain or shine.

Every kennel has a 4" high 3'x2' aluminum vinyl Kuranda bed (elevated cot-style bed) for each dog's comfort. Volunteers have taken on the maintenance and replacement of these beds for the last 3 years. I probably spend 10 hours a week on this task and would love to share this task with others.

On my way in to walk dogs, I saw that the laundry room could use some attention, so I spent an hour just doing laundry. Feeding 500 dogs twice a day is quite an undertaking. Of course, this means the metal bowls need to be run through the commercial dishwasher twice a day. Since this is in the same room as the washers and dryers, I moved over and sent a couple of hundred bowls through the machine. I've also signed up for a two-hour slot as a "greeter," which is to direct folks as they come in and place

Cont. on p. 11

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)

by Lori White

Hi Lake Claire friends,

This summer we would love to have you volunteer on our campus! If you are looking for some ways to get involved, we have plenty of opportunities to serve. Here is an idea of ongoing assistance we need:

- Provide a dinner meal for our guests (once, or once monthly!)
- Help organize our clothing closet
- Sort through and keep our pantry items up to date
- Help out our food coordinator pack-

age extra food to give away

- Make sack lunches
- Drive a guest to an appointment
- Offer your talents by leading a class on a given topic/life skill

There are so many ways to get involved. If you are interested in getting plugged in, please email me at lori@cliftonsanctuary.com and let us know what interests you.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our ministry!

Frazer Center Advocating Under the Gold Dome

by Dina Shadwell

Every year when the Georgia General Assembly reconvenes under the gold dome, several disability organizations host Advocacy Days—opportunities for people with disabilities to meet state leaders and advocate for themselves and their communities. Family members, professionals in the disabilities sector, and other advocates are also encouraged to attend.

Frazer CEO DeAnna Julian is well-versed in these advocacy efforts. As a board member and president-elect of SPADD (Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities), she collaborates with other experts to shape disability policy. Advocating at the state capitol is part of her mission to improve the quality of life for the adults Frazer supports—and all Georgians with developmental disabilities. In 2024, DeAnna and fellow advocates successfully pushed for rate increases for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Many services, however, particularly day services that engage individuals in the greater community, a key part of Frazer's work—remain underfunded. Advocacy work continues to ensure all families and individuals have the support and services to live, work, and play in their communities. Another top ad-

vocacy priority for the 2025 session was the creation of an I/DD Commission, bringing together multiple entities and organizations to develop solutions, support new legislation, and allocate funding more effectively. Georgia's similar mental health commission has already demonstrated the impact of this model. This year's advocacy efforts led to the passing of Senate Bill 233 which expanded the mental health commission to include a new "Innovation Commission" representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "This is something we can all get behind," says DeAnna. "It's not a monetary ask. It's—can we create a proactive team to assess I/DD services and drive meaningful improvements." There remains an urgent need to reduce the Medicaid waiver waitlist, which currently leaves over 7,000 Georgians waiting years for critical services. These waivers fund essential supports, such as Frazer's Supportive Employment and Community Access programs, which help individuals with disabilities fully participate in their communities.

How Can YOU Help? Contact CFO DeAnna Julian to find out—d.julian@frazercenter.org. Donations for advocacy efforts: frazercenter.org/give.



Lake Claire Residents Jack Morris & Caroline Connors as Sweeney Todd & Mrs. Lovett

Sweeney Todd at Midtown High

Continued from page 1.

is obsessed with revenge.

We only rehearsed for two months, from mid-January until mid-March, excluding a week of winter break and three days for our statewide theatre conference extravaganza Thescon. But we bonded as a cast over the difficulties. We locked in. Well not like Emmie Snead (Joanna) was locked into Fogg's Asylum. Thanks to Donavan Doyle (Tobias) for getting me a late lunch after our choir's large group performance evaluation and needing to attend a late rehearsal. We also pulled together as a team. Donovan also applied my eye makeup before each show. I helped people snake their microphones through their hair.

There was a lot to learn, and I learned a lot. Thankfully there was very little dance (giving you the side-eye, Chicago). Co-star Caroline Connors (Mrs. Lovett, and fellow Lake Clarian) was off-book by mid February, setting a high bar for the rest of us slackers. Our music director Kevin Hill worked tirelessly to get us to learn the complex and sometimes discordant music. The set was amazing, but as Presley Lindsey (Anthony Hope) says, "and yet there are problems." At first the set was so rickety I was in serious danger of falling. Once I missed my timing, and one of my legs fell into the secret trap door. Another time I ran into

a piece of wood in the dark, causing a big gash. Theatre isn't for the weak.

Then there was the fog. Lots and lots of fog. Fog played a big part in our production. In order to figure out if we would set off a fire alarm, we thoroughly fogged up the auditorium during a tech rehearsal. We may have lung scarring from all that fog. I guess we'll find out in 50 years. I kid you; the fog was safe.

I worked hard to bring realism to the show. I learned how to shave with a straight razor, working my way up from shaving a balloon. There is a video floating around of me actually shaving James Howard (Judge Turpin). He said it was really smooth. I also learned how to bake meat pies, and had fellow cast members over to help me make and dismember one. Still don't quite have the puff pastry down.

Mr. Dreiling made the hard call not to use fake blood, because of the rented costumes. The bloody handprints on the set, the fog, and the oven made up for it. It felt great when the audiences cheered me cutting the victim's throats and sending them down the chute. What is wrong with those people? And did you notice Caroline putting arms into the oven?

But all that revenge and gruesomeness can get heavy. Sweeney balances this nicely with comedy. Caroline did

Burning Books

Continued from page 1.

mat that dates from his college experience. The drawing instructor required students to carry a small sketchbook at all times. While Chester did use the books for drawings and sketches, he also filled them with words, photographs, objects, and bits of material. "I wanted to take them a step further because they were graded. I thought, these books need to speak somehow." In one book, he actually installed a small audio speaker. Some of those college books ("antiques," he says with a laugh) are included in the display.

A contemporary book series was inspired by the banning of LGBTQ-affirming books from school libraries in Texas and elsewhere. Recalling the Nazis' burning of Jewish literature and other materials they deemed subversive, Chester uses a propane torch with a very precise nozzle to alter blank sketchbooks with fire. While his work always tends to have a narrative, storytelling bent, Chester says, the burning books series is probably his most political. But he also finds that the charred pages, and even the ash that falls from them, have their own beauty.

great in songs like *A Little Priest* and *By the Sea*. She even fed me a real sour patch kid on stage during a performance. And thanks for other needed comedic relief from Leo Rose (Pirelli) and Miniya Kote (Beadle Bamford). But perhaps the sanest character in the insanity of Sweeney Todd is The Beggar Woman, played to insane perfection by Livia Bolster. And a big helping of heart from Caroline and Donavan, who were in tears the last time they performed *Not While I'm Around*.

After the performances, we hung out, and often went to get food. Once while I was standing in line, some guy asked me if I had gotten in a fight because my eyes were black. I said, "you should see the other guy." Just kidding, I told him it was makeup from a play.

When the curtain fell for the last time, and after we took our bows, I carefully put my razor back into its box, and

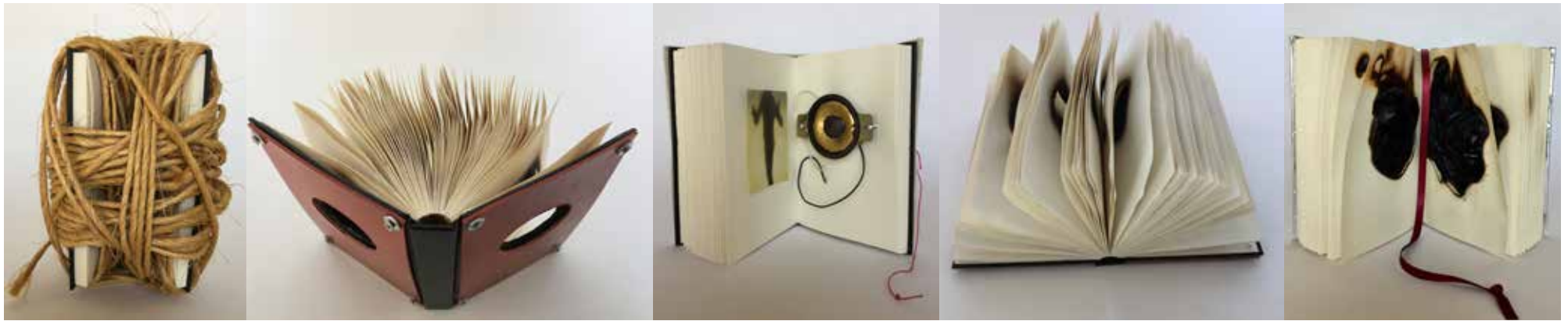
A "library table" displays a series of books clad in unusual materials – felt, foil, unspun lambswool from a weaver-friend – with symbolic objects of content. These are displayed in acrylic cubes that Chester built with aluminum bases and felt feet, allowing viewers to slide and rotate them to examine the books from all sides.

Other everyday objects that have been transformed with different materials and methods include hammers and shovels. I laughed aloud at the sight of a hammer whose handle bristled with small nails. As with the torch, Chester manipulates the chemistry of materials to produce controlled, artistic effects. He sprayed the nails with water to corrode them just so—to age them, creating a second visual dissonance with the new-looking hammer. Another hammer has been wrapped in wire, then rubbed with white plaster. The plaster makes the wire rust and soaks up the color to take on a rich, caramel finish. Other objects are transformed with baling twine from an old spool he found in the mountains

Cont. on p. 9

put the box into the tonsorial parlor's (ok, barbershop's) chest. Lots of great memories in that box. You have to take care of your friends. Safe for the next Sweeney Todd.

Ed's note: Jack is 16 years old, a Junior at Midtown High School who lives on Sutherland Place; his co-star Caroline is a Senior. My friends and I attended the opening night's performance, among parents, grandparents, siblings, and fellow students. We are longtime fans of Sweeney Todd (that I've seen many times on Broadway and elsewhere, and my friends are avid theatre goers who were visiting from New York). We were amazed at this high school production of the iconic play, a challenging play for any actors, much less those doing it part-time with a full plate of school classes and activities. Jack, you guys outdid yourselves, and you all should be extremely proud.



Works from the book series by W. Chester Old, 2020-2025. Photos by the artist.

Burning Books

Continued from page 8.

that has aged to a lustrous golden hue.

The show features work in a wide range of other formats and media, as well. Framed pieces include sequences of shadow portraits and fascinating photographic transfers. For one, Chester attached a tree branch as an extension of his arm and set the camera to capture his silhouette at intervals as he moved through different poses. Lighting from two directions and the acetone transfer process produced intriguing results; and the way Chester displays them pushes the impact further. Framed behind glass, the prints are attached at the top, held off from the backing by spacers so that they flutter slightly, like leaves in a breeze.

There are also sculptural installations that incorporate light and sound, and sleek baskets and lamps (professionally wired, thank you) made from aluminum mesh and plate. Those date from Chester's years producing fine art lighting and home accessories.

Chester has garnered significant recognition for his work, from prestigious commissions and artist residencies to awards and inclusion in permanent collections. He has had solo exhibitions in New York City, Winston-Salem, West Des Moines, and Atlanta; and group exhibitions from Oregon and Louisiana to Virginia and New York.

But this show is unique, and not just because it's right here in our neighborhood. I left my visit feeling that I'd experienced multiple, nesting layers of art. There are the individual pieces

themselves, often juxtaposing disparate parts to create something new and thought-provoking. There is the manner of display for each work, into which Chester has clearly put a great deal of technical skill and artistic care. And there is the space itself, which like Chester's work combines rough and smooth materials—exposed brick and polished wood, iron trusses and etched glass—into a crisp, airy vessel for it all. Don't miss it!

Here are the details: May 1–17, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment, 1933 McLendon Avenue, Unit A. On-street parking. 404-259-9413, www.WChesterOld.com.

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. To read about the other creative Lake Claire residents that Jane has featured in this series, see lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/, go to 2024, and start with February. Finally, please check out Page 4 herein, another in this series, about the late Richard Haimes, reprinted from the March '25 issue because of some circulation issues.

Two+ Homes in Lake Claire

Continued from page 1.

ready, and the Hills agreed, so the house did not become theirs until September 30. They planned to paint the inside before moving in, so they had a scheduled move-in date of Oct 18, to give a good three weeks for preparations before their new son arrived... but... life happens, and "he had other plans; he decided to show up the weekend before the move on Oct 16! So, we were scrambling for sure." Long story short, Michael's parents came down from North Carolina and helped with the move. The family then dealt simultaneously with managing a birth of a firstborn child and a move into a new house.

The Hills lived at 443 Ridgewood for almost two and a half years, loving the neighborhood, the parks, and playgrounds. Being lucky enough to be so close to Frazer Forest and the Lake Claire Park's playground, they frequented them often. They were starting to get to know neighbors better as that became possible with coming out of the pandemic, and at that point they found out their second son would be coming in April of 2024.

Michael said, "I think we knew all along that 443 Ridgewood would be tricky with two or more kids, but we weren't necessarily planning on moving before our second child came; then 451 Clifton came on the market. We loved it too, and the floor plan solved a lot of our problems. especially being able to have both kids on the same floor with us. So, we jumped on it, especially since we knew we wanted to stay in the neighbor-



Benjamin in the rain in front of the Hills' home

hood. It also checked many of our boxes, but in a slightly different way." Now, they enjoy their front porch instead of back, a sweet home office that is actually an ADU [accessory dwelling unit] in the back, and a bigger bedroom for Benjamin, their older son, with the idea that both boys will be in it when Daniel gets a little bigger. And now they enjoy going mostly to CP playground, but they still hit up LC from time to time. They are in walking distance to Benjamin's preschool at Primavera, and they go to CPM "probably more often than we should!" They shared that they are getting to know a whole new set of neighbors while keeping in touch with the old.

Michael and Leah are so happy that they were able to stay in the neighborhood. If they ever outgrow this house, they know that they will be looking to stay in Lake Claire.



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Little Free Libraries

Continued from page 3.

wood. Also, there used to be a Little Free Stick Library for dogs with a picture of the dog who was “branch manager.” I still chuckle about that! Mine is unregistered, and I suspect many others are too. I’m pretty sure I visit at least ten around the neighborhood. LFLs have distinct personalities—some are kid-oriented, some are political, others religious. Some are a mess, and some are meticulously maintained. They also go in waves. I was wondering recently if people aren’t reading books anymore but only reading on their electronic devices because it seems like there have been slim pickings of late. I have a Kindle for travelling, but I am a paper person—I love the feel of the book, of being able to flip pages. Even when I pull out an old book that might have coffee stains, bug poo, or who knows what, I’ll just brush it off and tuck it in my pocket. When I see an old friend, I celebrate. Oh look! A copy of *The Bean Trees*! I love that book! Sometimes I’ll take a well-loved book home and re-read it just for kicks. (For the record, I have probably read *The Bean Trees* about 25 times. It’s a go to. That and the Harry Potter series, which I am embarrassed to say how many times I’ve read the whole series. But I digress.)

LFLs are a bit like thrift shops, in that they require frequent visits, and you just never know what you will find. Sometimes books are there for years. I tend to curate my LFL in order to keep things moving. Usually twice a year or so, I’ll go through and cull the stuff that hasn’t moved. Which brings me to my request. Please think about what you donate. Believe it or not, people don’t want the Viagra booklet. I’m not joking; it was there recently. Don’t get me wrong, I really hope you’re having fun, but people don’t want the wrapped booklet that came with your prescription. They also don’t want your very specific diet and old cookbooks, Norton readers, your tax code manuals, or outdated tech How-To Guides—like *Mastering Windows 95* or *The Complete AOL Handbook*. All of which I have “curated” and removed



from my library. Religious stuff is dicey, but definitely no church pamphlets disguised as books. The things that people love are books you can read! Mysteries, best sellers, new releases, kids’ books, young adult, non-fiction. You know, books. My plea to you is please visit and stock my—and all—LFLs, but please don’t dump your old text books because you’re clearing out your shelves. Many thrift stores have relationships with Better World Books or other resources where those textbooks can find new homes (maybe still not the Viagra book, but, hey, maybe it will help someone). The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) will gladly take your old books. If they are in too bad a shape, CHaRM sends them to Westrock. According to their website “WestRock Industries believes that sustainability is the fiber of their company. Mixed paper and shredded paper collected at CHaRM can be processed five to seven times and made into new boxes.”

LFLs are an amazing community resource, and if this has a bit of an edgy “get off my lawn” grumpy vibe, it’s only because I want to keep reading and sharing great stories, and I can’t do that if the LFLs are filled with *Intermediate Accounting*, 5th Edition! So, read on and share on! And if you feel like painting a mural on my LFL (pictured p. 3), let me know! I’ll be so grateful!

The Joy of Bike Transportation

Continued from page 3.

Peachtree Avenue. I have rain clothes that can be worn during inclement weather, cold weather wear during winter, and sun gear for the hot summer days when the sun is blazing.

I have several bike bags, so it is possible to go grocery shopping via bike. Sevananda can be reached quite easily from the Freedom Bike Path, as can Trader Joe’s, right off the Beltline.

It is a quite thrilling to ride past a very long line of cars—30 vehicles deep or more—waiting at a stop light, inching their way along, while I sail past on two wheels. There is also a good bike path to Decatur which can be picked up on DeKalb and DeKalb Place, which is the continuation of McLendon eastbound, which takes one right to Church street; there, another dedicated bike path awaits to take one to the city center.

Biking is an efficient means of transportation without the use of fossil fuels and even electric bikes (mine is leg-powered for maximum exercise potential). It allows one to observe the beautiful trees and birds abounding in our urban forest. It is excellent exercise—low impact—and I ride slowly to enjoy the scenery—unless I’m late, and then I pick up the pace. I could make it to downtown in 30 minutes but it usually takes about 40—same with Piedmont Park. I believe it is faster than a car—depending on the route, of course. I also have a ‘free’ feeling when on the bike, and often I dream of flying, which is perhaps a direct result of the daily bike rides. I do have a car, and I drive it every once in a while—I fill up my tank every 3-6 months! For the rest of the journeys, I’m on two-wheels, saving the planet one bike ride at a time.

Helping Shelter Animals

Continued from page 7.

their information in the database. This frees up staff to attend to the dozens of other items on their to-do list.

I notice that I have an extra hour so I check in at the Adoption Puppies Room. The “puppy room” is comprised of 3 banks of metal 2’x3’x3’ kennels which are stacked 2 high along 3 walls. I help the staff member clean these kennels by filling water bowls and replacing the newspapers that are used for bedding.

And last but not least, I ended my day with the preferred role of most volunteers, i.e., two hours of walking dogs, to be rewarded with doggie smiles and kisses and hugs, and the satisfaction of replacing despair and anxiety with comfort and exhilaration for dogs who haven’t been out of their 4’x5’ kennels for five, six, or, at times seven (!) days.

If you don’t have the time or desire to make the 30-minute drive from Lake Claire to the shelter, there are several different remote volunteer opportunities, such as helping staff catch up with communication with folks who have fos-

tered or adopted an animal, or helping with data analysis. Your particular life skill or interest can find its place at the shelter.

This is not an exhaustive list of volunteer opportunities, but simply my attempt to illustrate that anyone can have an important volunteer role contributing to the welfare of our 4-legged friends. Please consider going to Life-line Animal.org/volunteer/ to sign up for a 2-hour volunteer orientation. This is not a commitment, but simply a start, by ‘placing your toes in the water,’ to gauge what temperature of commitment may be right for you. And then, should you find yourself with a free day or wake up one morning and feel inspired to mosey over to the shelter in Chamblee for a few hours, you will already have the “keys” to the shelter in your pocket. I guarantee that you will not regret it...and, if volunteering is not in the cards, donating/fostering/adopting—or just getting the word out—are all essential to Life-line’s important work. Thank You.



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Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

May birthdays:
2 Layla Klehr, 16, Hardendorf Ave. My goodness, Layla, who was a Clarion kids’ writer for many years.
3 Sarah Wynn, Harold Avenue
4 Jennifer Hubert, Harold Avenue, and Anna Pless Peel, Ridgewood.
9 Vivian Baker, Claire Drive, turned 10! And several adults: Bob Caine, Leonardo, Reece Barclay on Hardendorf; and Linda Hoopes on Claire Drive, who keeps us apprised of Fiddler’s Green every month!
11 Adler Waugh, turned 14, Leonardo
16 Peter Olson, Leonardo
18 Liz Baker, Claire Drive; Jett Friedman, Delaware Ave, turned 13 (again, hard for me to believe!)
19 Joseph McGill, parents on Arizona Avenue
20 Aiden Rogers, Ridgecrest
23 Mayla Carper, Leonardo, turned 12
24 Cara Yang, turned 12, McLendon Avenue
27 Edie Haggerty, Harold, turned 13
28 Sadie Stevens, Leonardo, another former frequent Clarion contributor, turned 15
*Take a minute, and send life cycle events for the **SUMMER** issue by May 18 to editor@lakeclaire.org. That means send June, July, and August stuff! We need **YOUR** help to make this series inclusive of the ‘hood!*

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 since the last issue; thanks to all:
Mary Jo Bryan; Kathy and Robert Watson; Brian Collins; Janice Whitener; Seth Holladay; Noah Glassman; Nicole Hanna; Jane Branscomb/Sam Collier; Patricia Wheeler; Madeline Gunter; Lucas Gosdin/Justin Moorhead.



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Land Trust Notes

Yoga Class with Vada of Unveil, every Saturday (May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31), 11 a.m.–noon, \$10 per person (10% goes to LCCLT). Please register in advance using the link at LCCLT.org/new-events. Walk-ins also welcome!

Backyard Foraging & Herbalism with Jenny Shackelford. Our apologies if you showed up for Jenny's first outing on March 29. Jenny woke up that morning with a raging reaction to the previous day's record pollen count, and spent the day sick in bed. Due to a communication glitch, we failed to post a cancellation announcement. But Jenny will be back on track this and next month, please join her on April 27 or May 25, from 1–2 p.m.

Nature Play Studios programs for kids will continue this month. The Nature Play Group will meet Mondays (May 12, 19, & 26) 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.. Nature Babies classes for tummy babies, lap babies and crawlers will meet every Friday (May 2, 9, 16, and 23), 10:30–11:30 a.m. Nature Toddlers classes for walkers up to 4 years old meet on Wednesdays (May 7, 14, and 21) 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.. Nature Play Classes for mixed ages 3–6 year olds meet on Sundays (May 4 & May 18), 3:30–4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays (May 6, 13, and 20), 4–5 p.m. Cancellations due to weather will be announced at LCCLT.org. Cost: \$5 donation per child (must be accompanied by a parent!). McKenzie's Crochet Class might also return in May. Visit natureplaystudio.com for details.

Save the Date! Annual Open House & Potluck, Sunday, June 8. Join us to celebrate another year of nature and community in the neighborhood. Meet our new Board, socialize with the Land Trust community, get an update on the past year, and help us envision the year ahead. Details will be announced in the June *Clarion*.

Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust

Sat., May 3: Family Drumming Time, 7:30–8 p.m. and **Land Trust Drum Circle**, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested for Drum Circle. No alcohol please. Rain date: May 17. Check LCCLT.org/new-events for updates.

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

Sat., May 10: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, Beginners 2–3 p.m., Advanced 3–4 p.m. \$25/pers. (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; contact info@LCCLT.org.

Sun., May 11: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Gorilla Grill. Denise Johnson of End of Life 101 hosts this monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee and cake. Free; donations welcome.

Sun., May 11: LCCLT board meeting cancelled this month due to schedule conflicts. Join us on **Sunday, June 1, for our annual meeting**, and **Sunday, June 8, for our annual Open House & Picnic**.

Sat., May 24: Community Work Day, 9–noon (Note the unusual date; normally on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves. Note switch to warm-weather hours!

Sun. May 25: Backyard Foraging & Herbalism: A Plant Walk/Talk with Jenny Bailey, 1–2 p.m. (and every month on the last Sunday). Sliding scale, \$10–\$20 (25% goes to LCCLT). New monthly event!

Sun., June 1: LCCLT Monthly Board Meeting & Annual Election, 5–6 p.m. (normally 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 for a Zoom link. Rain location: the Gorilla Grill.



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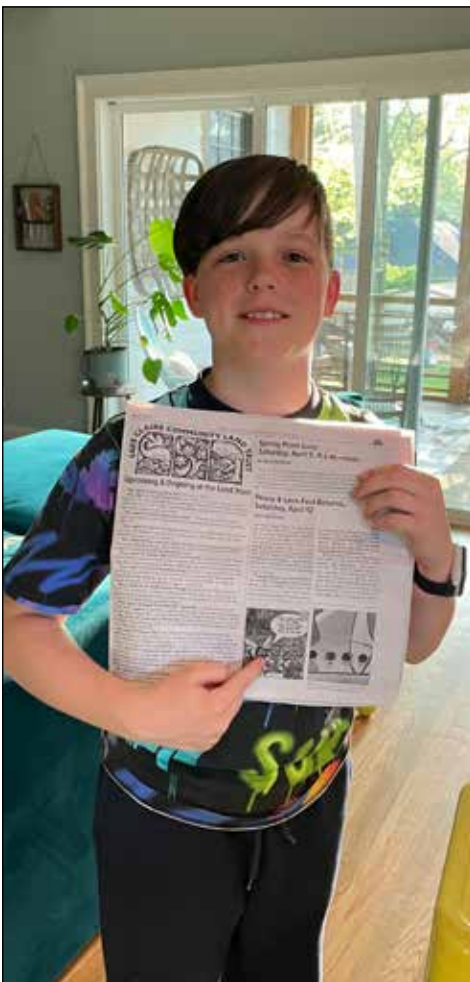
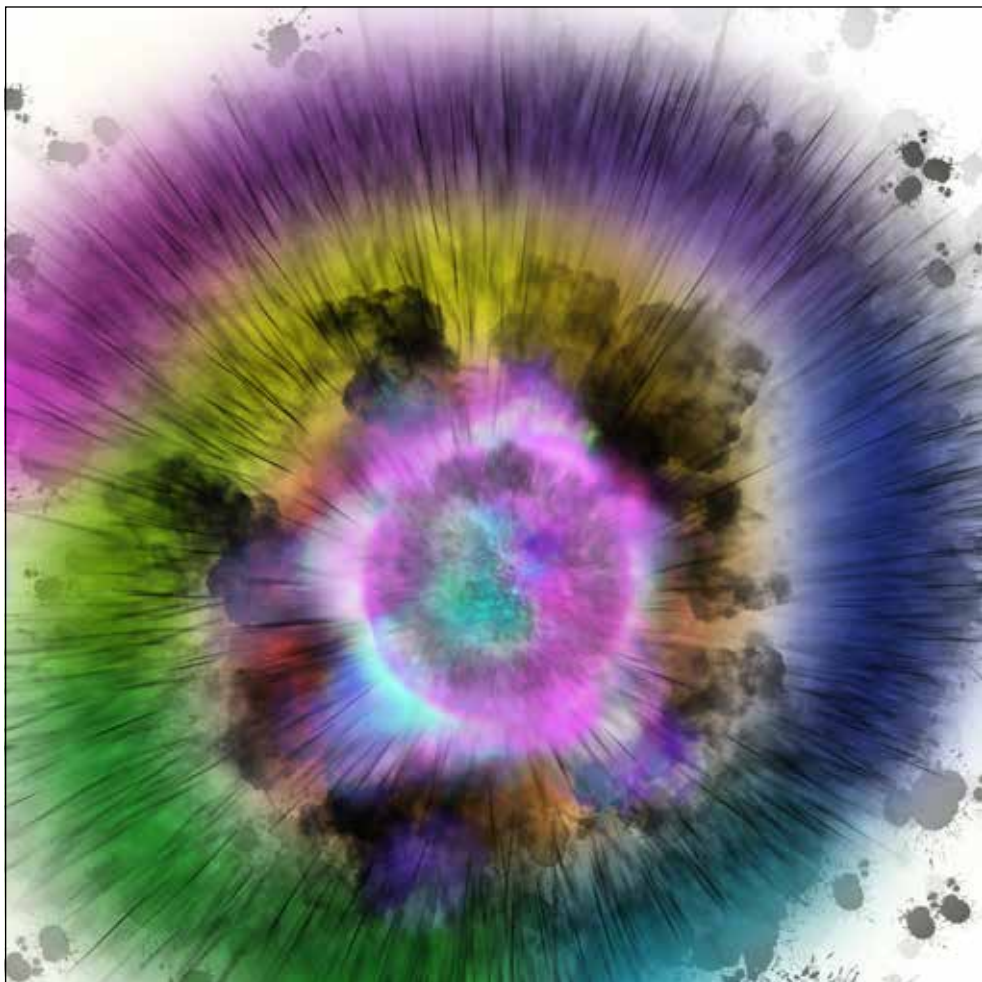
LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



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, our featured artist is Matthew Higgins. He won this honor by winning the extra credit prize

in the Kids' Contest. Matthew is eleven years old, and he attends Mary Lin. He lives on Hardendorf. What gorgeous art from someone eleven years old. Look out, Vincent Van Gogh! We welcome any Lake Claire child or young adult

to add your creativity to this page. This page is Beth the editor's favorite thing I've ever invented, so be sure to participate! Send to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **MAY 15-18** for the **SUMMER** issue.



Matthew, Featured Artist and first-place contest winner!

Contest Winners

We have two great winners this month!! Matthew Higgins won First Place. He is 11, as noted above, and he also won the extra credit prize by telling us this interesting 'bee' fact: Bees create honey as well as wax! So he got to be the featured artist, with his art to the left.

Liora Berman-Billinkoff won Second Place! She lives on Harold Avenue and is in the second grade at Mary Lin. Everyone: See this month's contest below, and make your guess: it's your chance to be famous in a newspaper, and if you win extra credit, you can be our featured writer/artist! (Parents, we think these are the only two winners this month; if we've missed anyone let us know!)



Liora: 2nd place winner!

New Contest

Hi kids, lots of things happen in May! It's so exciting as the weather gets warmer and the flowers bloom. In fact, "May" is likely named after the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants! It also has Mother's Day, but to emphasize importance of mothers or fathers, the hidden graphic is about "parents' day." To win the contest, find the picture. The winner/winners who

find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (SUMMER).

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 your favorite thing about May. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original work. **The deadline is MAY 15-18. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**