



Karen Phillips: What's Underneath

by Jane Branscomb

Encountering her gentle voice and elegant hands, you wouldn't be wrong to cast Karen Phillips as an artist. What might surprise you is that she began her career as a computer programmer. Despite a vivid childhood imagination, she gravitated toward science and did not consider herself creative as a child. She grew up in Los Angeles, for a few years in the suburb of Altadena at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. Gazing up at the mountains, she recalls, "I always imagined that there were dinosaurs underneath. What would happen if they came to life? What would it look like?" In high school her favorite class was biology. "We got to dissect lots and lots of things. I was just fascinated by it!" Once she eventually found her way to painting, a theme in her work became imagining and exploring "what's underneath things."

Computer programming did not hold her interest for long, so Karen returned to school for a business degree. Still nothing clicked. Then she found a life coach who, after conducting some assessments, pronounced her creative. "I thought no, no way. I am not creative." Nevertheless, she took a step in that direction, studying and making a successful career switch to graphic design.

This was still in the business world: "not really super creative," but she continued to silence the "little whisper" in her ear insisting, "You know, you really should go and pursue fine art." Only when she found herself laid up with a back injury, unable to work or do much of anything else, did she finally pull out some paints she had lying around from her graphic design studies and begin to



Karen with Dog Nina in her Home Studio

give it a go. "I bought a book on painting, but when I opened it, I just looked at it thinking, I don't know what any of this is." Even so, she bought some of the recommended paints, laid the book aside, and set about exploring on her own.

After a time, still painting and still unable to work, Karen moved to Georgia to stay with her father in Stone Mountain. "He took me around to see all the homes I could afford here," she says. "But what really made me want to stay is that people were more polite here. I remember waiting to exit a gas station, and someone actually stopped for me. And another time I was out

Cont. on p. 7



The Mythology of Robotaxis

by Kevin H. Posey

If you follow the tech and transportation industries like I do, you have almost certainly seen articles about the latest developments in self-driving cars, particularly robotaxis. These autonomous vehicles are touted as being the best solutions for traffic congestion, transportation efficiency, and public safety. Unfortunately, this is nonsense.

Let's start with the myth that they alleviate traffic congestion. Perhaps you've seen them all over the neighborhood: white cars covered by weird apparatus meandering along with nobody at the wheel. These are from Waymo, a company developed by Google's parent, Alphabet, to address the need to take an Uber without a chatty driver. The problem is that these robotaxis are

typically devoid of passengers, too.

If a car is moving in the street, it is traffic. It hardly matters who or what is driving the car, because it takes up space. Who would argue that congestion is lessened in Manhattan by the presence of taxis? They ARE the congestion. So far, New York's only success at reducing traffic has come about via its new congestion zone tolls, which have made it safer to walk and bike, while also reducing pollution.

Well, if autonomous vehicles don't reduce traffic, perhaps the claim that they are more cost efficient than traditional transit options, like buses or subways, isn't a myth? Let's look at Las Vegas, where you can see Tesla's

Cont. on p. 10

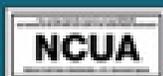
Recycle trucks are consistently leaving shards of glass on the streets. Poor doggies on walks! Folks, please consider taking your glass to the Farmer's Market, to CHaRM, or elsewhere, and not leaving it in recycle bins in Lake Claire.

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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 February

Plus, see Land Trust calendar on P. 11.

7 “Arts & Crafts and Open House,” 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 416 Lakeshore Drive. See ad page 5.

19 **The Lake Claire monthly neighborhood meeting - third Thursday.** Lake Claire Neighbors has hybrid meetings, in-person at the Frazer Center and virtual on Zoom. See lakeclaire.org for updates and Zoom info. Join neighborhood mailings and get Zoom link at lakeclaire.org/resources/newscast-sign-up/.

21 Fiddler’s Green Coffeehouse (3rd Saturdays), 7 p.m. \$10 at door (members \$8). Doors open at 6:30. Musicians: Rupert Wates, a New York-based singer/songwriter, and Chasing the Light, an Atlanta-based band with their “Songs of Love & Fateful Encounters.” Musician details, music schedule, other info: aaffm.org/aaffm-events/. The new president of AAFFM is Claire Avenue resident Linda Hoopes; she has a Substack to share news about the Atlanta folk music scene; subscribe at atlantafolk.substack.com.

28 7:30 p.m. 1st Existentialist Church, 470 Candler Park Dr. *The Strange Case of Lady Liberty*, storytelling with Barry Stewart Mann & Deborah Strahorn, unknown racial controversy of the Statue of Liberty. Info: 404-484-9446.

Early March

7 The almost-Spring return of monthly Frazer Forest volunteer workdays with Trees Atlanta. 9 a.m.–noon, helping to restore and maintain our beloved neighborhood old-growth forest. Space limited, pre-registration required at frazercenter.org/about-us/events. See frazercenter.org/about-us/events.

Wild in Lake Claire

by Sara Gottlieb

The winter months can seem bleak for nature-watchers, but the relative lack of color in the landscape means there is special delight when a bright visitor makes an appearance. A gorgeous Baltimore oriole has been visiting my backyard for several weeks, every time I refresh my offering of grape jelly in the oriole feeder. I’m pretty sure this one male specimen is continually returning to enjoy his sweet treat, and I’ve been able to capture some decent footage of him on my trailcam (and photo on page 6).

Several times over the last couple of weeks, there has been quite a commotion in my backyard neighbor’s yard caused by a pair of red-tailed hawks. I



Bernard’s acorn (Quercus lyrata)

noticed one on a high-up tree limb visible from my office window, and then another one landed next to it. Later, the pair were wheeling around in the sky over our yards calling loudly and stirring up the rest of the birds and squirrels.

Bernard S was recently in Dallas, TX, where he felt it seemed as if ev-

Cont. on p. 6

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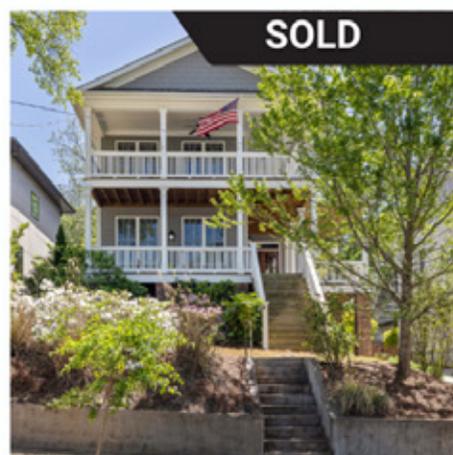
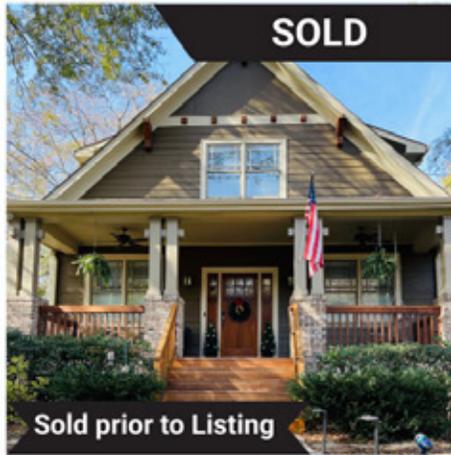
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“We hired John to sell our house in the Lake Claire neighborhood, and it was a great decision. He made every effort to make the process quick, easy, and profitable. And he’s a pleasure to work with. In negotiations, he strikes a perfect balance of affability, fairness, and respect for all parties involved, while never forgetting that his goal is to get the best possible outcome for his clients. His marketing plan left no stone unturned to ensure that our house received the widest possible exposure and was presented in the best possible light. He truly loves houses and matching them with owners they are truly suited for. I would recommend him to both buyers and sellers without hesitation.”

“We just sold our Lake Claire home with John and it was such a great experience. We followed his advice to get the house looking its best and it ended up selling above asking AS IS. John knows the area better than anyone and put runs such a classy operation, you really can’t go wrong. Plus you’ll end the experience as friends.”



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Updates on our 4-legged Friends

by Scott McLane

On January 12, there were 445 dogs in the shelter, which is only 30 under humane capacity. It is the lowest number of dogs in the shelter since our miracle week in January 2023 when 340 dogs left the shelter in five days. No one really knows why, but intake has slowed ever so slightly at the time of year when adoptions and fosters typically see an uptick. Perhaps the increased community outreach and support for pet owners combined with the mammoth effort by volunteers and Lifeline to advocate for at-risk dogs is starting to have the desired effect. I hope to provide annual statistics in the next (March/April) Clarion.

Shelter Updates

★ As of January 19, the shelter has had to make the agonizing decision to euthanize dogs for space for only two dogs in the past 20 weeks.

★ Increased staffing has been allocated for the “Pet Neighborhood,” (new indoor/outdoor kennels), but hiring is quite challenging, and the county has been slow actually to provide the \$\$\$. Dogs are being moved into the units incrementally, as is safe. Efficient management of the units is more problematic because they are separated from the main building.

★ With the ending of the print ver-



sion of the AJC, the shelter has lost a valuable resource which used to line the metal “shoreline” kennels used in many pet areas. For those of you who still receive other publications (including the Clarion after you read it), please drop newspapers off on my front porch at 312 Arizona Ave (even if it looks too cluttered, lol). And let me know if you have other sources of newspapers.

Advocates for Dekalb Animals (AfDA) Annual Update

Another year down and, yes, definitely some progress in animal welfare in DeKalb County. Is it enough? No, but we are moving forward. Here is where we are:

★ The County FINALLY finished and opened the overflow units at the shelter (now rebranded as “The Pet

Namaste in Bed

by Frani Green

Happy Winter! The time of going inward, into our hibernation period where we seek warmth, stillness, and comfort. I find that during this time of year my yoga practice changes in ways such that my body takes more time to open up. It is important to listen deeply to how your body responds to movement and breath. Notice when you awaken each day what your body tells you. Are you feeling stiffer than usual? There are some really good ways to loosen up your body even before you

get out of bed. Lying on your back, pull your knees into your chest, open your arms wide like a T, and drop your knees side-to-side to open up the lower back and your hips. Do this several times, and then pull your knees back into your chest and squeeze into a little ball, lifting your head up toward your knees, and do that several times. Continue to open the arms wide and drop the knee side-by-side several more times. Feel how your body begins to awaken. Stay warm, yogis!

Neighborhood”). We believe this area should not be used for warehousing more dogs, but instead recapture the functions that were shut down in the main building to accommodate more animals.

★ Also, in The Pet Neighborhood, there are plans and money proposed to build walking trails, play yards, and a soccer field for the neighborhood kids who have been playing in a patch of dirt for years.

★ The litter registry went into effect January 1, and the County has been working to educate residents. We are concerned about enforcement, so this is something we will be watching this year. If you report a litter of pups, kittens, or rabbits to Animal Control, please remember to get a case number and retain as much information as you have so that we can work together to monitor the effectiveness of the new ordinance.

★ The transient sales ban (sidewalk sales of pets) is also in effect. We want to find a good reporting mechanism for citizens to use to report violations. If you see or report a suspected transient sale, again, please retain as much information (and photos) as you can for follow-up purposes.

★ Cities such as Chamblee, Doraville, Dunwoody, and Brookhaven are also adopting these County laws. We have our work cut for us in the other cities to get them on board—Tucker looks promising.

★ Our court case numbers have stayed fairly low compared to previous

highs, but there have been no new cost-of-care petitions filed since April 2025. We would like to see this improve with some diligence on the part of the Law Department and some automatic legal mechanisms to free up these dogs sooner.

★ Dekalb County’s Solicitor General: Donna Coleman-Stribling, solicitorinfo@dekalbcountyga.gov, (404) 371-2201. Please email her office to advocate your support of more appropriate, timely, and aggressive prosecution of animal abusers in Dekalb County.

What is our hope for 2026?

★ That the County will make real progress in providing **affordable access to spay and neuter** surgery to the families that need it.

★ That there will be a plan to have an **expert analysis of the needs for effective animal welfare** in our County.

★ That we will see **better animal law enforcement with higher levels of training**. A weak spot now is that as the State passes laws (which they have done on transient sales), these laws can only be enforced by POST certified officers. [POST = Peace Officer Standards Training]

Our County government

★ For the most part, our **elected officials are supportive** of our animal welfare initiatives, **but we must stay diligent** in keeping them focused on progress.

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Tina Smith, 404-247-0914

Wild

Continued from page 3.

everything was oversized. Bernard was in a park, and an oak tree of average size dropped the biggest acorn he had ever seen (photo on page 3). A friend identified it as *Quercus lyrata*, or overcup oak, a bottomland species native to the coastal plain from eastern Texas to Delaware and inland in the Mississippi valley.

Meredith W has been enjoying the winter visitors in her yard—ruby-crowned kinglets, hermit thrushes, white-throated sparrows, and flocks of red-winged blackbirds. On a walk on a warm day, Meredith saw a lot of movement on a nearby tree and went to check it out. Dozens of ladybugs were crawling all over the thick bark of a tulip tree, and she was curious as to why they were all flocking there. There were a lot of small holes in the bark, and Meredith wondered if the ladybugs were overwintering in the gaps and had emerged all together to take advantage of the rare winter warmth.

On a non-wildlife note, many of Meredith's new chickens had their first molts late this year, and it's challenging to keep a flock of partly bald hens warm when temperatures dip below freezing. On the coldest nights, she has been bringing the ladies inside to sleep. Meredith finds it interesting that their bodies would choose the coldest time of year to upgrade their feathers.

A couple of new contributors shared some mammal observations. Yogi P



Ethan's raccoon

shared an opossum sighting near the McLendon and Howard Ave roundabout during a morning walk in October. The animal was super sweet and let Yogi snap a picture (shown below). Ethan D recently heard a noise up on his roof, and when he went outside to investigate, he found a raccoon climbing a tree next to his house on Nelms (photo above).

The City seems to be remiss in its responsibility for picking up yard waste lately, which has emphasized the visibility of bags full of leaves set out by the curb (e.g., photo at right) by homeowners who have blown or raked leaves from their yards as fall came to an end. Seeing this always makes me sad, because insect larvae, reptiles and amphibians, and even small mammals de-



Yogi's possum



Sara's Baltimore Oriole

pend on fallen leaves for shelter during winter. Birds in the spring rely on those food sources for their growing broods of babies, which we delight in seeing without thinking about our role in supporting or making their lives harder.

Here's a thought to contemplate, rather than raking or blowing leaves into bags: "Does a leaf, when it falls from the tree in winter, feel defeated by the cold? The tree says to the leaf: That's the cycle of life. You may think you're

going to die, but you live on in me. It's thanks to you that I'm alive, because I can breathe. It's also thanks to you that I have felt loved, because I was able to give shade to the weary traveler. Your sap is in my sap; we are one thing." ~ Paulo Coelho

If you'd like to report a wildlife sighting for inclusion in a future column, please submit it here: bit.ly/WildInLakeClaire.



Artist Karen Phillips

Continued from page 1.

walking, and a man pulled up next to me in a pickup truck. I thought, uh oh, this may be dangerous. But he was a neighbor; he rolled down his window and said, 'I just wanted to say hi.' Wow! Everyone was very friendly and waved hello."

Karen nurtured her skills over the years with the support of groups like the Artist Conference Network, Women's Caucus for Art, and Norcross Gallery. She met her husband Wayne Darcey through a friend in one of those groups, moving into his Lake Claire home in 2005. She also attended workshops and classes that opened up new techniques and possibilities. Now she teaches workshops herself, and she has had paintings in shows around Georgia and the Southeast.

Karen identifies her painting style as intuitive abstract. "I don't plan anything; it's just what happens" as she applies acrylic paint, water soluble wax pastels, paper, cloth, graphite, and other materials to paper, canvas, or wood panels. Her first series of paintings was of mountain-like forms with all manner of shapes and artifacts beneath them. She named the series "Underneath," not realizing at first the connection to her childhood imaginings.



Leap, 40x30, mixed media on canvas

Figures only entered Karen's paintings after her research on *Ancestry.com* sparked her Ancestors Project. All of her forebears had lived in the South until relatives on both sides left the harsh social and economic realities of Jim Crow in search of a better life. They were part of the Great Migration, the movement of roughly five million African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North, Midwest, and West between 1910 and 1970. In her family's case, a maternal great-grandmother moved from Texas to Louisiana and then to California. Her father joined the Army as his way out of Memphis, later landing in California, where he met Karen's mother. Karen showed me a painting that spoke of "going other places to see if you can have a better life." It is titled, "Breaking Free."

Thinking about those ancestors, Karen says, "I started wondering about what kind of dreams they had for their lives, given their circumstances and where they were living. You know, when you're a kid you think, I'm going to be a pilot, or a fireman, or an explorer. So, I wondered, what did my ancestors dream about when they were children, and how did their environment encourage or hinder their aspirations?"

"I can only imagine what these dreams were," Karen writes of the series, "and it is through my paintings that I create abstract expressions of my ancestors and their dreams. I collage bits of paper and cloth I inherited from women on my mother's side of the family, to create texture. Intertwined with layers of paint are marks that speak of whispered hopes and dreams, travel to new places, and generations of families."

One painting is titled, "She Carries Her Dreams with Her." She explains, "Wherever you go, you carry your dreams with you. You could be sitting on a bus, thinking about where you want to go; or even deeper, what do I want my life to be?" Other paintings have titles like "Leap," "Soul Search," "Wonder," and "Hitting the Road With His Dreams."



Wonder, 12x12, mixed media on panel

Reflecting her belief that everyone is creative and her experience disregarding her own "little whisper," Karen has posted videos on a YouTube channel (@KarenPhillipsArt) with easy exercises to encourage experimentation and moving beyond internal barriers. The blogs on her website (*KarenPhillipsArt.com*) follow personal experiences and insights with questions to nudge readers' self-reflection.

Watch the Clarion calendar for notice of Karen's next show nearby!

Editor's Note: All of the photos on this page are by the artist. The photo on page one is by the author.

This article is part of Jane'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 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, see lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/, starting with February 2024.

Congrats on this column's one-year anniversary, Jane Branscomb, and thank you for your dedication.



She Carries Her Dreams with Her, 48x36, mixed media on canvas

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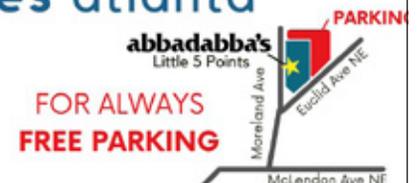
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The Mythology of Robotaxis

Continued from page 1.

version of a robotaxi rolling through a tunnel. The Vegas Loop, built by Elon Musk's Boring Company, at a price of over \$25 million per mile, is a pricey bit of flashy infrastructure that allows the company's five-passenger Model Y cars to shuttle underground among eight stations.

It is an outgrowth of Musk's stated belief that building tunnels under streets will reduce congestion. I should note here that Elon Musk doesn't accept the well-proven concept of Induced Demand, which says that adding more road space induces more traffic and is ultimately self-defeating. But who am I to take issue with the genius behind DOGE?

Alas, while the Vegas Loop's construction costs are one-third the cost per mile of building a subway in similar conditions, a subway car can carry twenty times more passengers per vehicle. A mere bus can fit ten times more passengers than Musk's underground robotaxis and run quickly and unimpeded in cheap, dedicated lanes on surface streets. The Vegas Loop's parade of Teslas can only go 35 MPH, which is hardly rapid transit.

It should therefore come as no surprise that traffic congestion on the Strip remains nightmarish. Plus, as it is an Elon Musk project, safety has taken a backseat during construction, with multiple incidents of chemical contamination and injuries to workers. One hopes that operations will be less hazardous.

This segues into the final myth about self-driving cars and robotaxis—that they are somehow safer than cars driven by humans. Not long ago, Waymo released a study that purported to show that their vehicles were much safer than human-operated ones. The study was paid for by Waymo and conducted by Waymo employees, because worrying about researcher bias is for losers, evidently.

A more rigorous, and frankly valid, take on Waymo's safety was just published by Bloomberg/CityLab writer David Zipper in an article entitled, We

Still Don't Know If Robotaxis Are Safer Than Human Drivers. Waymo is criticized for limiting how much information it releases on its safety failures, which is unsurprising for a tech company whose founders operate by the maxim, "Move fast and break things."

As tightly controlled as Waymo's data releases are, Zipper notes that their vehicles have been known to plow into floodwaters, simply shut down due to a power outage, and pull into incidents where the police have drawn their guns. Given the recent shootings committed by ICE officers in Portland and Minneapolis, this is a real threat to the public.

Here in Atlanta, Waymo has been heavily criticized for allowing its cars to pass school buses while their lights were out and kids were crossing the street. The company hastily released a patch that they claimed would fix this reckless behavior, but in a world of chaotic, unpredictable situations there will always be something that a robotaxi isn't programmed for.

Is it really worth putting people's lives at risk for a transportation mode that doesn't reduce congestion and is very inefficient? Instead of getting fixated on shiny, silly tech, maybe it's time that we finally focused on practical solutions that work.

4-legged Friends

Continued from page 5.

★ There are **three County Commissioners up for re-election in 2026: Nicole Massiah, LaDena Bolts, and Michelle Long-Spears.** Look for more on the elections as the campaigns ramp up. AfDA will send surveys to each of the candidates in each race, as we did in 2024.

Feel free to reach out to us (AfDA — Advocates for DeKalb Animals) at any time, and we will do our best to answer any questions. Please get your friends and neighbors to join us. Our membership numbers contribute to our impact.

Hello – Safe Journey: Skiing in and around Lake Claire

Birthday people:

- 1 –Ella Fisher, Leonardo Avenue, Happy 8th!
- 1 –Linda Maynard, Delaware Ave (this birthday makes you officially old... but still no "grays.")
- 2 –Isla Roberts (Happy 13), Claire Drive; Daniel Babinslei, Harold Ave; and Luke Mawson-Puckhaber, happy 14, Palifox Drive.
- 3 –Beth Damon, your illustrious and dedicated Clarion editor, Delaware Ave. Let's just say there are only no "grays"—with the help of a bottle!
- 4 & 5–Ann Shirra (2/4) and Scott McLane (2/5), Arizona Avenue
- 6 –Happy b'day to Jennifer Ruddell, Hardendorf
- 9 –Amelia Roberts (happy 17), Claire Drive; Anne Weldert, Harold Ave
- 14 –Gillian Landgraff, Harold Avenue
- 16 –Joanna Babinslei, Harold Avenue
- 17 –Ava Capps, Harold Avenue, happy 17
- 18 –Ben Farmer, Hardendorf Ave.
- 27 –Esther Williams, happy 18! –THREE Lake Claire streets—lives on Harold, proud grandma on Delaware, and Daddy on Indiana.

Birthday AND Anniversary month:

- 18 –Ann Shirra and Scott McLane ♥♥anniversary♥♥, Arizona Avenue

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Coming Soon: Seasonal Community Art at LCCLT

A new community art project is coming to the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, and we cannot wait to share it with you. Local artist Sunshine Allard is currently painting a new mural on the historic AT&T building at the entrance to the Land Trust. As part of the design, she has framed out two sections that will be reserved for rotating community artwork, to be refreshed each season.

In the coming weeks, we will be inviting neighbors to submit seasonal art inspired by what the Land Trust means to them, including nature, gardening, sustainability, community, and special memories made here.

For submission details and updates, follow us online: facebook.com/lcclan-dtrust and instagram.com/lakeclaire-communitylandtrust.

Meet the Land Trust Board

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust (LCCLT) was founded by a group of visionary neighbors in 1983 and remains a vital part of neighborhood life in Lake Claire. Starting this month, we are spotlighting the Board members.

Stephen Wing, President: Stephen Wingeier (a.k.a. “Wing”) has lived in Atlanta since 1990 with his wife Dawn and a house full of animals. In 1993, they moved to Arizona Avenue, after discovering the Land Trust. After surviving a bout with cancer, Wing decided to shift his focus closer to home. In spite of a recent relocation to Clarkston, Wing remains active in LC. He joined the Board

in 2008 and currently serves as board president. He is a retired professional recycler, a published poet, and has five books in print. A lifelong activist, he is also active with Nuclear Watch South and writes a monthly blog, “Wingtips.” Learn more at StephenWing.com.

Stay tuned for more spotlights in upcoming issues!

Dear Dog Owner,

What is wrong with letting your dog run free at the Land Trust?

Some people have stopped bringing their children here because of loose dogs charging at them or running towards them (that they perceive as charging). Even a friendly dog can be frightening to our littlest community members. Loose dogs have also behaved aggressively toward leashed dogs. And who picks up after yours?

To keep this space open to everyone, **all dogs must be leashed at all times**, regardless of size and temperament. Please respect the rules so that we can remain a family AND a dog-friendly space. If you like to let your dog run free, the Kirkwood Dog Park is located three blocks south on Arizona Avenue, just beyond the soccer field; it is a very easy walk.

Thank you for being a responsible and respectful community member. You and your dog are welcome here any time during daylight hours, as long as you're both responsibly attached.

Peace, love, and understanding,
The Land Trust Board



Upcoming & Ongoing at the Land Trust



Sun., Feb. 1: Fruit Tree Pruning, 2–4 p.m. Help prune the Land Trust fruit trees and learn proper cutting techniques, talk tools, practice on blueberries, figs, service berries, and more! Free class hosted by Lauren Ladov and Atlanta Free School. See flyer this page. Rain date: TBA if needed at www.LCCLT.org/new-events; please check closer to the date.

Sat., Feb. 7: Land Trust Drum Circle, 8–11 p.m. (and every month on the 1st Sat.), \$5 donation requested. No alcohol please. Rain date: **Feb. 21**.

Sun., Feb. 8: Death Café with Denise Johnson, 3–4:30 p.m. in the Gorilla Grill (location for the winter months) (and every month on the 2nd Sunday). All are welcome for a monthly informal conversation about death and dying, with tea, coffee and cake. Free! Donations welcome.

Sun., Feb. 8: LCCLT board meeting, 5–6 p.m. (every month on the 2nd Sunday) in the Gorilla Grill (with the space heater on). All are welcome to sit in and speak up. Come in person or contact us at info@LCCLT.org for Zoom link.

Mon., Feb. 9, 16: Monday Nature Play Group, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (and every Monday except the first Monday of the month). Join this informal gathering at no cost, or make a \$5 donation.

Sun., Feb. 15: The Medicine Cabinet Within, 9–11 a.m. Explore the body from a holistic view and share stories offering healing tough, growing awareness of relationships to disease and health building. Open to all. Donations welcome for the LCCLT.

Sun., Feb. 15: Science for Georgia – Climate Survival Training Monthly Skillshare Meetup 3–5 p.m. Gathering to share skills and knowledge useful for community, climate resilience, and preparedness. Free! Donations welcome.

Sat., Feb. 21: Community Work Day, 1–4 p.m. (and every month on the 3rd Saturday). Bring drinking water and work gloves.

Sat., Feb. 21: Tarot Class with Chakura Kineard of Unfiltered Glitter, 2–3 p.m. Beginners, 3–4 p.m. Advanced, \$25/person (20% goes to LCCLT). Pay in advance via Venmo or CashApp; see LCCLT.org/new-events. Sliding scale available to women of color & LBGTQIA+ community if needed; contact info@LCCLT.org.

Wed., Feb. 25: Land Trust Open Mic 7–9 p.m. at the Land Trust Gorilla Grill. All acoustic and spoken word performers welcome, or just come to listen.

For details and updates, visit www.LCCLT.org/new-events.

Land Trust Notes

* **YOUR EVENT HERE!** If you have knowledge or skills to share in an outdoor setting, get in touch at info@LCCLT.org and let's discuss holding your class, workshop or presentation at the Land Trust!

* The community bulletin board is back open and ready for your community event postings and happenings. Come post your flyers on the new bulletin board!

PRUNING BASICS WITH LAUREN
 Sunday, February 1
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Lake Claire Land Trust

Come help prune the fruit orchard at the Lake Claire Land Trust! Lauren will demonstrate proper cutting techniques, talk tools, and we'll practice on the serviceberries, figs, blueberries and more. In case of rain, this class will be rescheduled for a future date.

RSVP: linktr.ee/freeschoolat



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



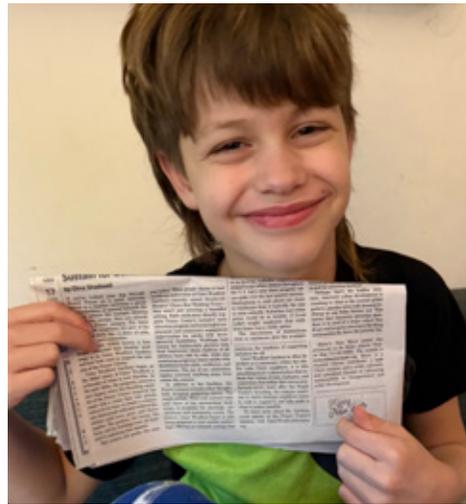
We hope this series is fun and a way for young Clarion writers and artists to participate in our 'hood. This month's featured child is Julian Sanders

with his gorgeous art. He is 6 years old in Kindergarten at Mary Lin Elementary. He lives on Southerland Terrace. Julian loves to draw and is a prolific artist.

Any Lake Claire child who wants to add your creativity to this page, send to editor@lakeclaire.org, by **February 15** for the next (March/April) issue.

Contest Winners

Linc Syfan is our first-place winner this month, the first to find the hidden graphic on Page 8. He is in the 3rd grade at Mary Lin and lives on Harold Avenue. Julian Sanders won the second-place spot; and he won the extra-credit prize by telling us "My favorite activity in January is to play outside." His prize is to be the featured artist this month. (See his art above). Our third-place winner is Ames Yeend, eight years old and also in 3rd grade at Mary Lin. He's on Arizona Avenue. Congrats, Linc, Julian, and Ames!



1st place winner, Linc

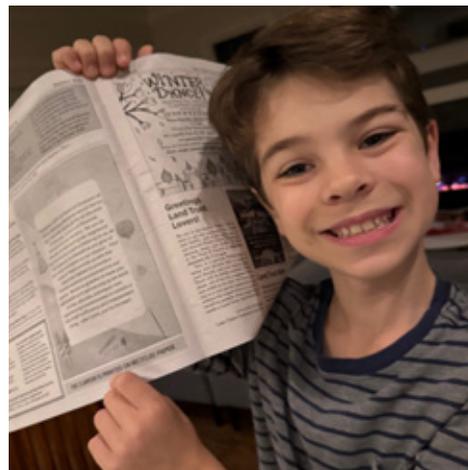


2nd place winner, Julian, and featured artist



Important Editor Disclaimer to Parents: If ever I miss a child who sent an entry, please let me know, I'll fix it in the NEXT issue. Also, please reach out if you need extra newspaper copies, for grandparents to post on refrigerators or otherwise to celebrate the winners' 30 seconds of fame, editor@lakeclaire.org. And of course, the paper is also available for family naches (pride, gratification), online at lakeclaire.org/clarion/clarion-archives/.

Kids: See our new contest here, and make your guess: it's your chance to be famous!



3rd place winner, Ames

New Contest

Who loves February? Find a valentine's day message somewhere in this newspaper. The winner/winners who find it will have their pictures in the next Clarion (March/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 issues in a row. For extra credit, tell us anything you like in February. In my case, it's my birthday month. The extra-credit prize is to be a featured writer/artist in a future Lake Claire Clarion with your original art, poetry, or writing. **The deadline is February 15. Hurry and look; competition is always stiff for this HIGHLY coveted prize.**

Seeking Clarion Deliverers – Including Kids!

We can always use volunteer delivery folks for placing monthly Clarions on neighbors' porches (except no Clarion in July & August). It is a great way to help the neighborhood, to get steps, to teach kids a sense of responsibility and commitment to volunteerism, and (high schoolers) to earn community credit. To the right you see some enthusiastic 3rd graders delivering to the porches of Arizona last month. All of their mothers volunteer for both the girl scouts and the Land Trust; these girls are starting off right!

We strive to have Clarions in neighbors' hands by the first week of the month, so the delivery time is usually a few days before that. Our delivery people are a wonderful team of volunteers, several of whom have been doing this for many years. Even when we have enough volunteers for current routes, we need back-ups for when regular vol-



Bicycle Brigade delivering Clarions (L-R, Goldie Whatley, Zella Mickleson, Betty Whatley and Luna Herbers, all 3rd graders at Mary Lin)

unteers can't deliver by the first week of the month for any reason. Please mail Miriam at distribution@lakeclaire.org with questions or to volunteer.