



## What's with Mary Lin?

By Boyd Baker



*Mary Lin Elementary Entrance Hall*

All the uproar, hubbub, playground rumors, and angst surrounding the recent Atlanta Public Schools plans possibly to rezone, and/or close, schools has taken some of the shine off the apple that is our neighborhood's gem – Mary Lin Elementary. Over 80 years ago, Lin Elementary (named after our first principal Mary Jane Lin) opened its doors to educate and help prepare local students for life.

Today, many moved into Mary Lin's neighborhoods specifically for the stellar staff

and grand achievements of the school, but things haven't always been so wonderful. Like any urban school, there have been ups and downs. Whether folks moving in/out of the city, economic changes, or shifting demographics, Mary Lin has been at times a struggling, low-performing, underutilized facility and a shining, busting-at-the-seams example of the best Atlanta Public Schools has to offer.

Around 600 students, from kindergarten to 5th grade, *Mary Lin cont. p. 10*

## THIRTY+ (!) YEARS in Lovely LAKE CLAIRE: From Tie-Die to Khaki Part 8

By Beth Damon, resident "only" since 1990

This series is about Lake Claire from the perspective of its longtime residents. I feature residents who have lived here thirty years or so, sharing their memories and thoughts on changes they have experienced --and similarities they see-- in our neighborhood in the last 30-odd years. I hope to hear from and feature many more of you.

In this installment, I feature Brian Otis and Michele Moody, who live a stone's throw from my house – on Arizona Avenue at the "T" where it meets Delaware Avenue.

Brian Otis is a broker for natural foods, who sells to Sevana-nda, Whole Foods, and Rainbow Grocery, as well as all over the Southeast. He worked into that



*Front of Otis/Moody home 1992*

*Thirty Years cont. p. 11*

## Lake Claire Neighbors and Atlanta Public School Redistricting

By Sarah Wynn

On Saturday, December 10, Lake Claire Neighbors held a special meeting to discuss proposed options set forth by the Atlanta Public School demographers to address school redistricting.

The Frazer Center generously hosted the meeting on very short notice, setting up the atrium and providing their adult dining room for childcare. Many thanks to Trace Haythorne, Ken Tarczewski, and their colleagues for working so quickly and efficiently to help Lake Claire hold this important meeting. Thanks also to Farah Waleed and Caitlin

Lochrige for providing childcare during the meeting.

Sherry Neal prepared the agenda and very capably facilitated the three-hour discussion that was attended by over seventy-five people. Thanks also go to Boyd Baker, Alicia McGill, Jeff Shaw, Mary Jo Bryan, Tom Chapel, Dan Wright, Alison Amoroso, Annie D'Agostino, Peg Ziegler, Katie Brady, and others who helped with content and getting the meeting and childcare organized.

An open letter from Lake Claire Neighbors to our community is

the result of the discussion and votes taken at the special meeting. This can be read at [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org).

The redistricting process is moving forward at a fast pace. In late January the next round of proposals from the demographers will be released. Included will be two proposals that take into account feedback from the public and factors other than past and present school capacity and enrollment. To stay informed, check out the following Web sites: [www.atlantak12.ga.us/Page/413](http://www.atlantak12.ga.us/Page/413), [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org), [www.30307schools.org](http://www.30307schools.org), [www.cinsatlanta.org](http://www.cinsatlanta.org), [www.bigtent.com/groups/apsrezoning](http://www.bigtent.com/groups/apsrezoning). Join the Lake Claire Parents' Yahoo Group at [groups.yahoo.com/group/lakeclaireparents/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lakeclaireparents/)

And again, many, many thanks to Sherry Neal for her hours and hours of work!

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### Lake Claire Neighbors

P.O. Box 5942 Atlanta, GA 31107  
 (404) 236-9526

Visit [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org) to sign up for the newscasts—timely updates on happenings in Lake Claire!

**Don't Forget: Lake Claire Has a Website!**  
[www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org)

## Editor's Note:

I am delighted to start editing the Clarion this month. I have been writing articles for the paper for many years, have been distributing for many years on some streets, and in the past I co-coordinated the paper's distribution. I have lived in my home in Lake Claire for over 20 years.

Our Distribution Coordinator will be resigning in May. If anyone has an interest in this, please write to Katie at distribution@lakeclaire.org or to me at editor@lakeclaire.org.

Please continue to send submissions to editor@lakeclaire.org. We always welcome your contributions, including unsolicited articles and letters to the editor. I especially hope that kids will contribute to the new column, Kids' Corner, that I've started with this issue on Page 12. Finally, let me take the opportunity to express appreciation to Leslie Slavich for her service as the editor. She has been a fantastic editor, but with Baby #2, she needs to turn more attention to home and job. I hope she will contribute to the paper whenever she can. Again, THANK YOU, LESLIE!

- Beth

## Thank You, Officers

*Lake Claire Neighbors donated \$100 to provide Thanksgiving dinner to the on duty Zone 6 officers and staff on Thanksgiving Day. Many thanks to our neighbors in Virginia Highland, Piedmont Heights, and Kirkwood for organizing this special annual event for those who serve and protect us.*

Good evening all,

I want to give you all a rundown on this Thanksgiving dinner project for our men and women of Zone 6. First of all, thanks to the volunteers who showed up at Zone headquarters to serve our very grateful police. Many were really taken aback at having dinner served to them. Deputy Chief Propes (relaxed and out of

uniform in blue jeans) and Officer Pat Apoian (and his family) were also dinner guests.

Because we did not receive checks from some neighborhoods til dinner day that day or afterwards - we carefully monitored spending to the funds we had on hand at the time of ordering. Total expenses for serving all three shifts on 11/23 came to \$926.21, and we still were able to serve wonderful barbecue turkey and ham dinners with many side dishes and desserts. We ended up collecting \$1570 from 15 neighborhood associations - so there was \$643.79 left. After asking Major Dalton as to what we could get for Zone 6 from the remaining funds - he stated they needed a new printer that was not in their budget. We have purchased an HP printer from Amazon (unfortunately the style they wanted was not carried by any local Zone 6 brick and mortar store). This bill will be \$614.63 - still leaving a balance of about \$29.00. I'll wait until I make sure the printer is shipped safely, and that balance will be given to the Atlanta Police Foundation.

Thanks to these neighborhood groups for chipping in -

Organized Neighbors of Edgewood, Piedmont Heights Civic Association, South Atlantans for Neighborhood Development, Reynoldstown Civic Improvement League, Morningside Lenox Park Civic Association, East Lake Neighbors Community Association, Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association, Poncey Highland Neighborhood Association, Lake Claire Neighbors, Kirkwood Neighbors Association, Virginia Highland Civic Association, Inman Park Neighborhood Association, Lindridge Martin Manor Neighborhood Association, and East Atlanta Community Association

Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong also contributed and brought by baked ham for the dinner.

This was a real community effort in the old Zone 6 and we thank you all for your participa-

tion. Please pass this thank you on to all members of your neighborhood organization. We were able to give something back to our men and women in APD uniforms for two holidays.

John Wolfinger - Virginia Highland

Susan Kanellos - Piedmont

## THE FRAZER CENTER: take time to smell the roses



Our longtime Lake Claire resident/neighbor The Frazer Center was founded in 1949 as the Cerebral Palsy School Clinic. It became the Rehabilitation and Education for Adults and Children, Inc. (REACH) in 1989, and in 1999, was named The Frazer Center in 1999 in honor of Mrs. James N. Frazer, one of the founders of The Cerebral Palsy School Clinic. The Frazer Center is bordered by Ponce de Leon, Ridgecrest, and Harold Avenues. It has served children and adults with disabilities for sixty years. The Center welcomes ALL children, regard-

less of ability, to experience the benefits of inclusion-based services for young children with disabilities, their typical peers, and families, in a child development setting. The Center offers services to children between the ages of six weeks and five years. About 30 percent of the children enrolled have special needs. The goal is maximizing the potential of each individual, whether they are developing typically or they have developmental disabilities.

The Frazer Center is known to be one of Georgia's premier inclusion-based program focused on developmental disabilities of young children, working year-round with students to enrich early development, enhance their capacity to learn, and improve quality of life. Frazer Center also provides many community services, and it is one of the valuable assets of Lake Claire. Their longtime relationship with Lake Claire includes hosting our LCN meetings and our holiday party each month. And many of us walk our dogs in the acreage of their Cator Woolford Gardens and Frazer Forest, where they maintain paths throughout. Ambling through the woodsy property, one forgets that it is in the middle of a city.



*Stop to rest on the Frazer Bench  
 Photo Credit: Damon*



# Mark Your Calendars

## January

**2:** Born to be Wild at the IMAX® Theatre (continuting through the month)

**19:** (AND THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH) – LCN MONTHLY MEETING

**21:** Atlanta Community Food Bank presents “The Incredible Edible Grow-it-Yourself Fruit Tree, Vine, and Berry Bush Sale,” 10 a.m. until noon at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, 970 Jefferson Street, Atlanta, GA 30318. Pre-Sale is on-line now! – [www.atlanta-localfood.org](http://www.atlanta-localfood.org).

## February

**18:** The Decatur Old House Fair returns (see details in article page 4)

## Safety Report

### November Weeks 46-49

BY Kathie Ryan

#### Auto Theft

1828 New York Ave NE 11/14 (19:00) 11/15 (19:00)

Not stated

Victim lives at location

2000 Acura Integra, GA Tag# BIM1160

Victim advised he parked his vehicle at location, and when he returned it was gone. Vehicle placed on system as stolen.

282 Sutherland Ter NE 11/16 (20:00) 11/17 (06:00)

Street

Victim lives on Sutherland Ter

1996 Ford Ranger, GA Tag# BQ7A96

Victim advised he parked his vehicle at location, and when he returned it was gone. No glass located on the ground where vehicle was parked. Vehicle placed on system as stolen.

#### Burglary

305 Connecticut Ave NE 11/14 (17:00) 11/15 (15:00)

Apartment

Side door kicked in

Someone kicked in side door to location and stole listed property.

Taken: I-pad, docking station

Prints recovered

Burks

- On November 16, 2011 assigned the case.
- On November 16, 2011 I called victim to follow- up on the case. Victim stated he spoke with his neighbors about the burglary, and nobody saw or heard anything. Victim also advised that he does not have any surveillance cameras attached to his residence. Victim could not provide a serial number for his stolen I-Pad.
- On November 17, 2011 I canvassed the area nothing further to add.
- Case inactive.

305 Connecticut Ave NE 11/29/2011 (08:40-08:45) Tuesday

Residence

Front door kicked in

Police responded to alarm call at location and found the front door kicked in. Victim arrived on scene and advised listed property was stolen. Victim also stated the apartment in the rear of the residence was broken into recently (case# 113191570).

Taken: Flat screen TV, laptop, watch

#### Theft from Auto

1794 Marlbrook Dr NE 11/13/2011 (22:00-22:04) Sun Eve

Street

Victim lives in Decatur, GA

Toyota Highlander

Witness advised she heard a loud bang and saw suspect riding away from location on a bicycle with a purse around his neck. Suspect broke out the rear driver's side window of vehicle. Witness stated she would not be able to identify suspect because it was too dark.

Taken: Purse w/ \$45, debit card, check book, wallet, cell phone

Suspect: B/M, teen, gray hoodie

Prints not attempted

Unable to ID suspect locked the window when he was there working on the property last. Listed property was returned to the victim.

Taken: Tools, auto parts

481 Harold Ave NE 11/16 (16:00) 11/17 (10:00)

Driveway

Victim lives at location

2009 Subaru Impreza

Someone broke out driver's side window and stole listed property.

Taken: GPS

Prints attempted

Unable to ID suspect

#### Robbery

1634 McLendon Ave NE 11/20/2011 (17:24) Sun Eve

Parking lot (Fellini's)

Victim 1: W/F, 21 YOA, lives in Decatur, GA

Victim 3: W/F, 21 YOA, lives in Decatur, GA

Weapon: Handgun

Victim's advised suspect approached and asked for directions. They told suspect they didn't know what he was talking about, and suspect pulled out a black handgun and demanded the phone. Suspect took the phone and fled on foot. No video surveillance at location.

Taken: Cell phone

Suspect: B/M, 6'00" 165lbs

#### Out of Town – Special Patrol Request

If you plan to be out of town and would like to request a special patrol, please contact APD, Zone 6, 2025 Hosea L. Williams Dr., SE, (404) 371-5002 (phone), or (404) 378-6554 (fax).

## Atlanta's E911 service enhanced

Two new services for the Atlanta Police Department's E911 Communications Unit were announced Thursday: The Smart911 system and the Everbridge emergency and incident notification system.

The Smart911 system allows residents to create a “household safety profile” with information that 911 call takers and dispatchers can relay to police, firefighters and EMTs responding to emergencies. Residents can provide whatever information about their households that they choose to share, including names, ages, photos, medical conditions, pets, and household layouts. Free profiles can be created at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)

“Every second counts, and the more information we have, the more effective we'll be when we arrive on scene,” Atlanta Fire Rescue Department Chief Kelvin Cochran said in a recent news release. Information is protected and can't be accessed unless a 911 call is made. The Everbridge emergency and incident notification system will give officials the ability to deliver targeted, time-sensitive public safety alerts through automated telephone calls, texts, emails and more. Residents can set their notification preferences on a citizen alert page at the [atlantapd.org](http://atlantapd.org) website.

“These improvements to our world-class E911 Center will help us better serve the citizens of Atlanta,” Atlanta Police Chief George Turner said. City officials said the programs will be paid for out of the general fund, so there will be no additional cost to taxpayers.

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## Get it Straight Before You Renovate

By Steve Goff

Interest rates are at historical lows. Time to buy that beautiful old house you've had your eye on and renovate, right? Here is my advice for anyone thinking about renovating existing or buying a house to renovate right now.

Intown ain't the 'burbs. If you want a "seamless" addition in an old, intown neighborhood, stick with a contractor with an intown address. More often than not, the house renovated with a contractor from Cumming is going to look like a 1-story house from Cumming landed on your 1920's bungalow. You want renovations to look like they have always been there. Little things are important. Are there window grilles on the original house, but not on the addition? Is the exterior window trim on the original house 5" wide but the renovation contractor puts windows on the addition with 2" wide brick mold trim? If anyone can take a quick look at your home and tell that it has been remodeled, then it's not seamless.

Get on the same page – and save headaches. Sit down with the renovation contractor and go over the quote, line item by line item. This may take hours, but you'll both be much happier for it. The important thing is to get a clear plan so that all contractors understand expectations. I've sat with a client for four hours going over a quote. It's not unreasonable to ask. Quotes should list the specification of work and material intended for that job. Go over all the details: What scope of work is being done to the existing, non-affected part of the house (will it be painted and the hardwoods refinished in these areas?) What are the allowances for plumbing fixtures, tile material, tile patterns (some patterns are more labor intensive and cost more), granite countertops, shower doors, etc.?

Compare contractors fairly. For some, renovation is like buying a laptop. You know you want

more, but don't truly understand what the specs mean, so it's hard to tell one from another. Some homeowners just want more space, a cheap price, and that's it. You won't sweat the details and you'll take the lowest bid. If that's not you, then you really need to know what everyone is providing.

It's important for the homeowner to make an "apples to apples" comparison of contractors' bids to eliminate the dreaded "that's not what I expected" once the job starts. As a contractor, nothing is more aggravating than losing a job only to drive by 6 months later and notice, "those materials are a lot cheaper than I had in my proposal." Take a shower door for example. You might not notice early on in the bid process that one contractor has a "framed" unit and the other has a "frameless" unit. That's easily a difference of \$1,000. The list may go on: natural stone versus ceramic tile, copper water piping versus CPVC, "select" grade hardwood floors versus "common" grade. I think you can see how one contractor can be \$20,000 less and you don't get what you expected. When you do ask for changes, he may end up charging you as much, or more, than the contractor you liked but thought was too expensive AND it will take longer!

Knowing what you want and communicating it clearly – sometimes with pictures – is key. Contractors aren't mind-readers and you're paying them. Make sure you get the best value for your money.

I have owned Intown Revival Construction and been a Candler Park resident for over nine years; I specialize in remodeling older, intown homes. If you have any questions or ideas for future articles, contact me at 404.386.7688 or [steven@intownrevival.com](mailto:steven@intownrevival.com).

## Restoring and renovating Older Homes: The Decatur Old House Fair Returns with Some New Twists

By Kelly Cheek

The 4th annual Decatur Old House fair is coming on February 18 at the newly renovated Courtyard Marriott and Conference Center, and we've mixed things up – because, like your historic house, the fair is a work in progress!

We are excited to announce that Jodi Marks, HGTV personality and co-host of Today's Homeowner on 11Alive, will be a guest speaker. She'll be presenting "Fun projects to Enhance your Home," with lots of great advice and giveaways.

And, just in time for the spring, Roger Moss, exterior paint color specialist, and author of Paint in America, Century of Color, or Victorian Exterior Decoration will be a guest speaker, and we will be taking reservations for people to have a one on one consultation with Mr. Moss on selecting paint colors for their house. Don't buy your paint until you've attended this seminar!

In addition, we are offering a series of "short bite" seminars that will be thirty minutes long. Topics include Aging in Place, Chimneys and Masonry 101, Electrical 101, Plumbing 101, Working with the Building Inspector, Doorway and Window Reinforcement, and others still in the works.



Decatur Old House Fair, photo: Gabrielle Dean

Lots of advice in a nice, short format. Traditional seminars include the popular Researching Your Old House (bring a picture of your house; we'll tell you the style!), Storm Windows, and a landscape seminar. We also have our wonderful hands-on workshop on Wood Window Restoration offered in both the morning and afternoon.

It's going to be a GREAT event and you know you won't want to miss it! Tickets are only \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Go to [www.decaturoldhousefair.com](http://www.decaturoldhousefair.com) for information on where to buy the tickets and updated information on the seminars. For additional information, please contact Regina Brewer at [regina.brewer@decaturga.com](mailto:regina.brewer@decaturga.com).

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## CLIFTON NEWS

## Connecting With Clifton – Meet Erik Mjorud, Board President

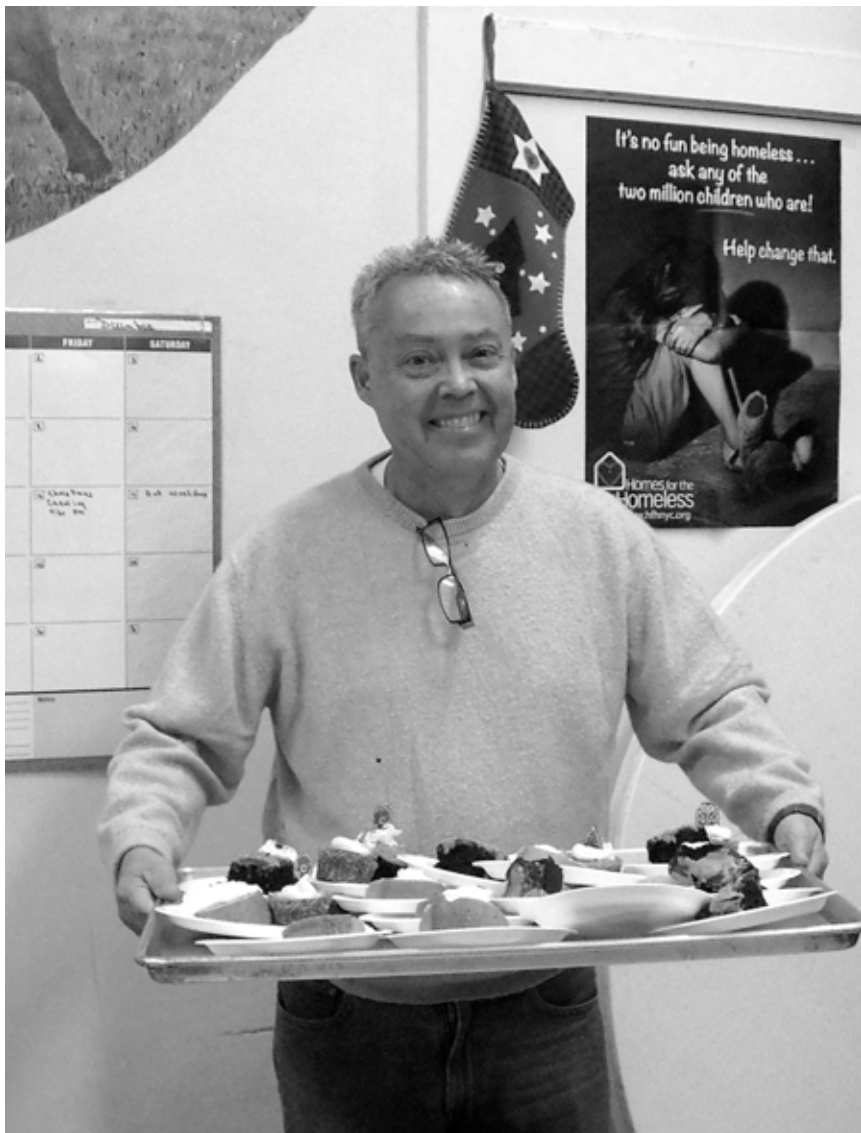
By Sarah Wynn



*Erik Mjorud has volunteered at Clifton Sanctuary for 10 years and is currently serving as the president of the board. He is a member of the Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville and owns the American Eagle Moving Company.*

The Clarion: How did you come to be involved with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries?

Erik Mjorud: Prior to coming to Atlanta, I lived in Los Angeles, where I saw many homeless people living on the streets. Quite honestly, I was always afraid of them and always considered them to be panhandlers and addicts. One day, a young woman about eighteen years old knocked on my door and asked me where she could find Mrs. Jones, who had promised her some new clothes. Based upon her shabby appearance, I assumed she was homeless. I, however, was taken by her gentle nature and, although I didn't know Mrs. Jones, proceeded to walk the neighborhood in hopes of finding her. During that time, "Lilly" told me about her life and how she had been abandoned as a child of six to live on her own on the streets of Los Angeles.



She had fed herself from the remnants of food thrown away at restaurants and slept under the freeway underpasses. She had no formal education and reminded me of a timid, but kind alley cat. Recently, an auto mechanic had offered her a place to sleep in exchange for 'favors'. She showed me cigarette burns that scarred her arms that she said were "symbols of his love for her." I told her that this was not love and that she needed to move on. She smiled kindly, but didn't seem to understand. We didn't find Mrs. Jones, but, upon returning to my house, I brought her out a warm meal and a bag of clothes I had earmarked for Goodwill. I went back into the house for more food "to go," but she disappeared, and I never saw her again. I hope someday I will see her again and that she has found someone to really love her.

Once I got to Atlanta a few months later, I realized that I needed to follow up on this encounter by opening myself up to those persons

who really needed my help the most. I was no longer afraid to talk with persons seemingly on the edge and to hear their stories. I heard about a program that my church, Pleasant Hill Presbyterian, participated in, in which they needed people to serve meals to 30 homeless men once a month. In the program you even got to sit down and share the meal with a "new friend" and to hear his story. Ten years later, I'm still here and love to hear the stories, especially those with the many happy endings that Clifton Sanctuary Ministries continues to yield.

Thank you "Lilly," for your inspiration.

TC: What part of your volunteer position do you enjoy the most?

EM: I enjoy serving the meals and offering the blessing to the guests the most.

TC: What's the most challenging part of your role?

EM: The most challenging part of my role on the board is in helping to make sure that there are enough funds available to make all ends meet. Financial times are challenging in the non-profit business.

TC: Tell us something you've learned from the guests at Clifton.

EM: I've learned that anyone can become homeless. I've met persons from many walks of life (professors, immigrants and many professionals) who, due to a wide variety of circumstances, have fallen on the hardest of times.

TC: In what ways can Lake Claire neighbors support Clifton Sanctuary?

EM: The Lake Claire neighbors can simply continue their excellent support of our ministry by accepting us as the neighbors God calls us all to be.

TC: What would you like neighbors to know about Clifton and/or homelessness, that they might not know?

EM: I would like them to know that their CSM neighbors are friendly folks who are there to support the neighborhood in any way we can.

TC: What do you enjoy doing when you're not volunteering at Clifton or running your company, American Eagle Movers?

EM: I love to travel and do mission work around the world.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries is a nonprofit organization at 369 Connecticut Avenue that provides shelter and nurture to men seeking to overcome homelessness. To donate or learn more, visit [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com) or call Prince Davies-Venn for information at (404) 373-3253, ext. 7.

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## LAKE CLAIRE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE FRAZER CENTER

Lake Claire neighbors celebrated with dinner and conviviality Thursday night, December 15. Genise Spenle and Kathy Evans organized a wonderful celebration, and it was well attended. Since many of us communicate via e-mail much of the time, we welcomed the opportunity to get together, share a meal, and celebrate. As usual, we met in the Frazer Center Atrium, and we thank the Frazer Center for their continued hospitality.

Here are some highlights:



*Serving line*



*Activities for the younger set*



*Party DJ "Rapmaster Miles"*



*Genise Spenle*



*Dan White pouring wine*



*The dinner scene*





Latha Wright

## Next LCN Meeting

### Thursday January 19

Lake Claire Neighbors meets every third Thursday of the month at the Frazer Center. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are open to all. Sign up for the newscast at [www.lakeclaire.org](http://www.lakeclaire.org) to get the meeting agenda.



Sherry Neal and Buddy Wright



Party KIDS



Peg Ziegler, APD Zone 6 Beat 608 Police Officers, and Beth Damon



Party in Frazer Atrium; Sarah Wynn, Dan Curl, Dan White, Susan Casey

Photo Credits: K. Evans, S. Wynn, & B. Damon



## News from the Land Trust



### WHAT THE LAND TRUST MEANS TO ME

- Stephen Wing

"What the Land Trust Means to Me" asks the question: How many different ways can a community greenspace serve its community? It is open to submissions from anyone who loves the Land Trust. Contact me or send your contribution at swing1027@gmail.com. Below is Michael Corley's interpretation of the theme:

#### What the Land Trust Means to Me: My Great, Great, Great Grandfather

by Michael 'Wash' Corley



A long time ago, my great, great, great grandfather, "Wash" Cawyer walked the mail to the Creek and Cherokee Indian villages on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. He walked the mail from Decatur to Allatoona, probably along the very ridge trail we now call the Land Trust. That

is deeply meaningful to me. I think about "Wash" and those Indians when I walk and work out on the Land Trust. I first moved to Lake Claire in 1977. My first child was born at 148 Ivy Place in January '78. After relocating first to Decatur, then to East Atlanta, I returned to Lake Claire in 1982. After a year on Lakeshore, I landed in a basement studio apartment on Marlbrook, facing the back yard and the Frazer Forest beyond. Child number two was born there in 1985, and number three was on the way in '86 when we migrated to Grant Park into a house that could accommodate the five of us.

I moved back into Lake Claire in February 2002 to live at 280 Arizona, Charlie Pope's house, right next to the Land Trust. Since then, I have had the great good fortune to share my skills in helping to build the stage, the grill, the pavilion, the Peace Garden, Soulshine and The Hearth, the renovation of the pond -- as well as helping to organize performers for musical benefits to support the Land Trust, mulching trails so they're safe, double-digging garden beds, trucking in leaves for compost to teach people how to make dirt, rounding up the recycling bins for our weekly pickup . . . It's pretty safe to say the Land Trust means a great deal to me. I knew when I first set foot on the ground here that I belonged here. It's been a pretty soulful ten years. On a slightly larger scale, over the course of the years since first arriving in Lake Claire, this neighborhood has truly become home to me. With children born on each side of McLendon, and having moved in and out of the 'hood six times, I really appreciate what we have here -- great people all around what I call "five acres of paradise, five minutes from downtown Atlanta."

There was an old saying back in the Seventies: "Old hippies don't die, they move just outside Little Five Points." I'd say the Land Trust exemplifies that. We celebrated a quarter century of Land Trust history in 2011. Wow! Look at us now! 2012. Good medicine here, and more to come . . . at the LCCLT.

### UPCOMING AT THE LAND TRUST – and JOIN THE LOGO CONTEST

by Stephen Wing

SUNDAY, JAN. 8 and 22, 2:00-5:00 pm ~ "Keep the Trust" volunteer work days. Pizza will be served. Volunteers will also receive a free Drum Circle pass.

REMEMBER, the Land Trust LOGO CONTEST deadline is Feb. 15, 2012, and the winning design will be unveiled on March 1. Mail your entries to LCCLT, P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107, or email to communications@LCCLT.org.

DON'T FORGET! It's time to renew your Land Trust membership or join if you haven't yet. We are a tax-deductible 501(c)3 nonprofit. For more information, or to join online, click on the link at the top of our home page, www.LCCLT.org. Become a "Caretaker" of our urban paradise! Land Trust Membership runs through the calendar year; join now for 2012.


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Front (L-R) Richard Powers, Stephen Wing, Bernard Spenle, Brynan Hadaway (non-profit consultant), Jack Bedford. Back: Charlie Pope, Chris McKenna, Bob Sattlemeyer.



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## PREPARING YOUR GARDEN FOR FEBRUARY

By Elizabeth Knowlton

OK, now it IS January (even though I have to write this thing in December), and you have gathered your pots and gotten some germinating mix (should have no fertilizer in it). The seed catalogs from Park Seed, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Vermont Bean Seed Company, Stokes Seeds, Thompson & Morgan (great flower seeds), and Totally Tomatoes have arrived at my house; and I imagine the rest will trickle in by the time you read this. I was in Sevananda in Little Five Points the other day, and they had a nice selection of flower and vegetable seeds at reasonable prices (which of course do not seem reasonable to someone my age), – packed for 2012. But keep in mind that Totally Tomatoes, for instance, offers almost 300 kinds of tomato seeds and that they are kept at proper temperature and humidity until shipped.

In addition to the seeds I listed last month that you could start in January, there are many more that should be started indoors in February and that you could seek out and purchase now. I usually start broccoli and cabbage seeds around Feb. 7 and the other cole crops then too; but truthfully some of these things, like collards and kale, do better started in the fall here. And that goes for spinach too. Sorry. Both lettuce and peas can be sowed directly outdoors, but lettuce is a good crop to start in a pot, transplant on to six-packs, and then have ready to pop into the ground wherever there is a space in early spring. For seeds like peas that are hard to transplant, you can start them in peat pots or peat strips, available locally or in seed catalogs. Otherwise the seeds and also onion sets go right into the ground in mid-February.

Some of this depends on how much space you have indoors. Last month I described a set of moveable shelves with florescent lights fastened to the underside of each. Fill these with either expensive "grow" lights or one warm and one cool bulb that will provide the range of wavelengths needed for plants. You CAN grow plants on a sunny window-sill, but that works for only a few items because the plants must be right up against the window glass to get enough light. As I said before, place seedlings only an inch or two below your florescent bulbs. You can control conditions more easily indoors also, keeping the moderate temperatures needed for starting and growing on seedlings.

The majority of flower seeds are started in February, and there are so many that I will just list

a few of my favorites: ageratum, calendula, dahlia, globe amaranth, marigold, nicotiana, petunia, salvia (do not miss Lady in Red), strawflower, and zinnia. Again, some of these and also cosmos, cleome, morning glory, and nasturtium can be direct-seeded into the ground in April. But long ago I found that I had much better success with most flowers if I started them indoors because the seeds are so small. Another Southern trick is that some flow-



*Knowlton's moveable shelves with florescent lights*

ers are best started outdoors in October. Sweet peas are one as the spring-sowed plants are never as successful. That reminds me of Barbara Pleasant's wonderful books, *The Handbook of Southern Vegetable Gardening* and *Warm-Climate Gardening*. They don't give you as much information as the Bibles I mentioned last month but have details that Southerners need. If a seed packet or catalog does not answer your questions, turn to one of these books or a trusted website.

All this talk about "into the ground" may be making you nervous. What ground? Where? Yes, preparation should be started in February because March and April in Atlanta are a gardener's hell as far as work to be done (and also the most beautiful months as far as viewing is concerned). 1) Read the books I have recommended. 2) Find a sunny spot for your garden bed(s). In our leafy neighborhoods, that is hard. If you go

outside around midnight on Jan. 9 when the moon is full and look where shadows fall in your yard, that is where shadows will fall about 1 PM (correcting for daylight savings) on July 9 next summer. 3) Choose a time when the soil is not so wet it sticks to your boots, dig or rototill it up (removing sod to the compost area), incorporating fresh compost if possible, cover the area with wheat straw, and then NEVER walk on it again. If the beds are no more than four foot wide, you can reach in from all sides and will have room enough for all you can manage at first anyway. I have

a lot of old boards around the beds that can be used as stepping stones when I can't reach some areas. A surprise treat for you first time gardeners is that everything will grow wonderfully in this soil,

much better than in our old gardens because your soil contains all those micro-ingredients that are so hard to replace. The last new bed I dug, the okra was so tall the first year that we needed ladders to harvest it. Double-digging has gone out of favor. Even yearly turning over the soil is frowned on now as long as you keep adding compost and mulching. I have so many tree and shrub roots growing into my beds that I need to redig each year, but improved soil makes that easy.

An example of a fantastic garden in our area may be seen on the south side of Mansfield Ave., within hearing of Little Five Points. The whole front yard is the garden, in full sun in summer and receiving several hours now despite the house's shadow. In mid-December, peas were still curling up a trellis; and full-sized pepper plants, growing in joint compound buckets, were covered with multi-colored fruit. Above them PCV pipes curved over the area, ready for clear plastic sheeting in case of hard frosts.

Now, I hope you have those compost areas coming along even if they are nothing more than a pile. I still see you-all putting leaves out on the curb, a giant NO-NO. Bury all the vegetable kitchen scraps in the pile. Keep your pile moist if it does not rain every week. A little depression in the top will catch rainwater. The pile should be as close to a cubic yard as possible (that's a yard in all directions—even this English major knows that), and a wire cage to enclose it is helpful. If you bagged your leaves in something that does not disintegrate, you will be able to store them out of sight and then drag them wherever all year. I will admit that I order Super Hot Compost Starter from Gardener's Supply and layer this every foot or so in the winter; it has worked much better than compost starter purchased locally. With live garden supplies (like seeds and additives), you really cannot know how long they have been sitting in a hot store.

If you have done all this, now you can sit down to a glass of port taken with sliced, crisp apple and some artisan Stilton cheese. Nothing better on a Southern winter day. My silent partner has suggested that this column is humorous, but I mean every word.

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Mary Lin cont. from p. 1

are schooled on Candler Park Drive. Depending on how many students are in our 27 home-rooms (a fluid number based on Georgia Department of Education), the capacity is anywhere from 430 to 500+ students. As a result, there are currently thirteen portable classrooms on the back playground. An expansion back in the late 90s created the turnaround and left wing, when seen from the street. Pre-kindergarten classes were taught at Lin for several years, but the classroom was needed for growing enrollment.

Our library (aka Media Center) is wonderfully helmed by Emily Herman. More books circulate through our little elementary school than just about any other school in the system. Reading matters, and our kids know it, and love it. Throughout their school years, students are tested in various ways. STAR is a reading test that helps teachers to understand a student's level and their growth throughout the years. Accelerated Reader is a computer-based program that students use to test themselves, through a simple online multiple choice test, on books they have read. Books in the library are tagged with AR levels so students know which books would be appropriate for them difficulty- and content-wise. The earlier students start reading, and the more parents inspire kids to read, the more their achievement grows.

As a school, Mary Lin provides much of what we remember as kids – and then some. Students have Spanish instruction each day, and Art, Music, and P.E. once a week. Those in grades 4 and 5 will take Chorus, Orchestra (strings), or Band twice a week. Performances twice a year give parents a chance to see their little geniuses and capture their talent in photo and video form.

Before school there is an Art Club and Math Superstars (kids working on fun math) for early risers. After school programs abound, run by outside organizations, in the form of Chess Club, Art Classes, Martial Arts instruction, and Drama Classes.

Though many students walk/ride buses home, there are many who are engaged in "after care" for parents who work outside the home. These programs give kids a place to go and play with others. Some focus more on helping with homework. Each one is different. Bright Minds runs a program within Mary Lin. In addition, there are the Ya-Yas (girls only), Soulshine, Eureka, and various local churches and organizations.

There is so much more to Mary Lin than just the programs

and resources available to students. The real lifeblood – and what makes Mary Lin special – is the amazing staff, classroom teachers, and involved parents. Each year, students move on to middle schools with a solid base of instruction and experiences that they will one day cherish. Our neighborhoods all benefit from this wonderful school home. Ask your kids what they think about the school, talk to a neighbor about his/her experiences, or take one of the kindergarten tours given throughout the year. You'll learn how lucky we – and our kids – are.

## The Council for Intown Neighborhoods and Schools (CINS) Hosts a Community Town Hall

In mid December, CINS hosted a town hall meeting. CINS (the Council for Intown Neighborhoods and Schools) supports and encourages full community involvement, engagement, and input on every issue affecting the schools that feed into the Grady High School cluster (Grady Cluster). CINS also recognizes the need for the public to share directly with elected board representatives their comments and concerns regarding issues impacting children and/or neighborhood schools, including redistricting. District 3 ABOE Representative Ms. Cecily Harsch-Kinnane helped to coordinate the meeting, and Dr. Vin-

cent Murray and Grady High School provided meeting space for the community.

The SRT3 Demographic-Capacity Study presentation, maps, preliminary options, and survey are available at [www.atlantak12.ga.us](http://www.atlantak12.ga.us). Additional feedback and comments can be sent to [APSdemographicstudy@atlantapublicschools.us](mailto:APSdemographicstudy@atlantapublicschools.us). CINS is a not-for-profit organization that has worked for over 33 years to empower public schools in the Grady Cluster while enhancing neighborhoods in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia. CINS' mission is to work with Atlanta Public Schools to foster the development of safe, quality education in the Grady cluster of schools. For more information on CINS and its mission, or to add your name to the e-blast mailing list, visit [www.cinsatlanta.org](http://www.cinsatlanta.org).

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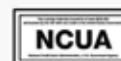
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*Thirt Years cont. from p. 1*

position gradually after working for about ten years at Sevananda, where I first met him when I was on the Sevananda Board in the '80s. Brian hails from upstate New York, was born in Albany, and moved to Atlanta via Florida. He moved to Lake Claire in 1976, to a house on Indiana Avenue at Arizona, with his then wife Callahan McDonough. Their son Zach was born in 1978, and they sold that house a year later and moved to Oxford Place. After they divorced, Brian stayed there until the mid '80s, when he

moved into Michele's house in Inman Park when they were married.

Michele Moody is a licensed acupuncturist practicing traditional Chinese medicine and herbal pharmacology. It is a second career, as previously she was a graphic design artist for 25 years, with a B.A. degree in Visual Arts focusing on graphic design. Michele was born in Bethesda, Maryland, lived in D.C., Norfolk, and then moved to Atlanta in 1960. She lived in Inman Park when she met Brian, and they married in 1988 and lived briefly in her house before they bought

their current home from Debbie and Scooter McLane in June of 1989. For a few months, they rented it back to the McLanes while the latter's home on Arizona was finished. In November, Brian and Michele moved in, and their daughter Rachael was born there (at home) in 1990. Rachael is now 21 and a student at Loyola New Orleans. Growing up in Lake Claire was good for Rachael, including attending Mary Lin School's providing a wonderful educational experience.

Michele is a fanatic knitter (and was knitting furiously during our interview), has been an herbalist for years as a hobby way before she began her second career, and is an avid and wonderful gardener. Brian also gardens, and is a game player, enjoying sudoku, cards, and puzzles. Many times, I have sought gardening ideas from their yard.

Michele, Brian and I sat and discussed Lake Claire and what we love about it. The first thing Michele mentioned was how touched she is with the spirit of how we live in Lake Claire. Two nights before, as she walked home from dinner at La Fonda,



*Rachel, Michele, and Brian (summer 2011)*

she heard the Clifton Sanctuary carolers singing. She thought of the relationship that the neighborhood has with the shelter, and how we give to them, and how the singing was a way that the men of the shelter were contributing to the spirit of the neighborhood, a neighborhood where one can safely walk to dinner, and walk home hearing song and greeting neighbors. The next night, as Michele and Brian walked outside, our neighbor Elizabeth (and writer of the gardening articles currently running) mentioned that the Garden Club party was later that night; she told Brian and Michele to come by the gathering, which they did. And yet another night this week, Michele walked to "stitch and bitch." Where else in Atlanta, Michele mused, would we have the diver-



*Brian, Rachael, and Michele 1992*



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# LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



This is the first of what I hope will be a fun new series and a way for young writers to participate. This month's article is written by Joseph McGill, Age 10, lifetime resident of Lake Claire, for three years on Ridgecrest Court and the rest on Delaware Avenue. --Editor

## Lake Claire Neighborhood From a 10-Year Old's Point of View

by Joseph McGill

When I was three, I moved into a big house on Delaware Avenue. Ever since then, I've been feeling lucky to live in Lake Claire. All the good biking hills, the peace, and a lot of my friends live here. We also have a great pool. We get new neighbors a lot. We have two houses for sale on my street right now. Our neighborhood is pretty healthy and keeps getting healthier. Like everybody knows, when we eat good food and do stuff for our brains, we grow up to



*Forget the Trapp Family Singers! Introducing the McGill Family! (Joseph (R) and his siblings Sara, Jamie & Michael (L-R). Note pet guinea pig on piano.*

*Thirty Years cont. from p 11*

sity of experience that we have here.

Discussing changes over the years, Brian discussed the shifting demographics of our neighborhood, and with many younger people moving with with families, there is a refreshing new energy. The longer-term residents have made their own changes. Michele and Brian have done a few renovations in the twenty two years, including knocking out a wall in the downstairs so that the living/dining room is one large comfortable space. Most of the renovations they have made, they said, made the house more livable and functional for their family.

Brian noted that the people who make up this neighborhood are its best asset, including those who are active in the Land Trust and organize the activities. Over

the years, the Otis/Moody family has appreciated the space as great for kids, walking pets, and the activities such as sweats, music events, and a myriad of other public events. Another asset for the neighborhood, noted Brian, is the Lake Claire Co-Housing. Even the nature of the architectural design fosters openness and community – as do the open dinners they have, to which the neighbors are invited to attend for a nominal fee. He mentioned that we are fortunate that we fought successfully the building of a Single Room Occupancy Hotel. (Lake Claire neighbors came together in full force during the SRO controversy in the mid-80s, which is where the Co-Housing is now located. It was one of many zoning battles for which the neighborhood over the years rallied together.) Brian noted that this controversy in the 80s, and the parking on Arizona con-

be a better person. I realized at Halloween some people made good choices by giving out stickers or less candy. I also noticed that we don't have any bullies in our neighborhood. One of my friends in a different neighborhood says he gets bullied a lot. I have slept in other places, and it's kind of hard to sleep with all the cars whizzing by. But not here. It's quiet in Lake Claire.



*Joseph with little brother Michael*

We also live very close to some really good restaurants. The Flying Biscuit is my favorite, then it's Fellinis. Hopefully, I don't think there are any drug dealers here. I wonder if it would be hard to live in a place like North Carolina where my grandparents live. The houses are so far apart from each other. And now for one of my journal entries...

## Day in the Life of a 10 Year Old Kid

Hi. I'm Joseph McGill. I'm just an ordinary boy and I'm going to tell you how an average older brother lives. From the moment I wake up, I feel depressed about waking up at 6:30 and having to go through another day at school. I slowly walk out of bed, go the kitchen, and make myself some cereal. I walk to the table feeling all worn out. I force the cereal into my mouth. When I'm done, I sit outside on the steps, waiting for my carpool to pick me up. It's about 7:30 when they come. Then, I'm at school waiting for it to start. I'm like all kids, all I like about school is recess and PE and other awesome stuff). About seven hours later I get picked up. I ride through the streets, with the sun in my eyes. Soon, I'm finally home. I fix myself some snack and commence my homework. When I am done, I go to the TV room and hang out. Sometimes, I don't get to hang out. Sometimes, I just get a free ticket for getting annoyed by my sister. If you have siblings, you should know what I mean.

trovsey of a few weeks ago, are both examples of how the neighborhood stands up for each other, and how there is a healthy acceptance of each other's concerns without bullying those who don't agree.

Another asset to the neighborhood is Bob Arco: Bob, we agreed, has always been a great presence in the neighborhood, from having many rentals that he keeps at affordable prices and thus attracts folks who would not be able to afford to live here --- to the recycling he does of various items. Both Otis and Moody appreciate the Frazer Center and the Clifton Sanctuary Men's Shelter. Michele also discussed the Candler Park Market improvements, including the lunch bar with healthy selections such as great whole grain breads and fresh foods. Michele is sad that Jai Shanti may close, an amazing neighborhood resource for yoga

and workshops. (As of this writing, there is a chance it may be bought out.) We also discussed how we miss Linda Maynard (Delaware Avenue), who has been living in Greensboro for the last year. In general, Linda, Bob, and many others in Lake Claire, join us to make up a group of many people with different interests, different eccentricities, and different opinions, all of whom mostly mesh.

Reverberating in our conversation and among other conversations with longterm residents with whom I have spoken is that this is a place where neighbors really care about one another and our surroundings. A place where one can express him/herself without intimidation or pretension. As Michele expressed it, in Lake Claire there is such a sense of sweetness – of "heart-ness."