



IF THE WALLS COULD SPEAK: WELL, MAYBE THEY DO!

by Bill Fleming

One of the unique features of the Lake Claire neighborhood along with the Land Trust and The Frazer Center Forest is the Watershed Mural. Visible to the thousands of commuters who ply Dekalb Avenue or ride MARTA each day on their way to and from work and school, this 300-foot long painting embellishes our community as it educates and inspires its many viewers. The most recent Atlanta area creation of Cambridge-based muralist David Fichter, the wall is in its seventh year, as it was begun in the Fall of 2005 and dedicated in the Spring of the following year. Along with a small army of fellow professional artists, volunteers, and neighbors, Fichter has created a strikingly beautiful work of art that places our community “on the map.” For it literally is a map, depicting key places as well as the human and physical geography along the courses of the rivers that are divided or have their sources at this point and flow respectively to the Gulf of Mexico or to the Atlantic Ocean. This “sense of place,” along with the way in which the mural portrays historic events and speaks to the importance of conservation of water resources, are essential elements that distinguish this work from a mere wall painting.

However, before any paint ever touched the surface of the

concrete retaining wall that is the artist’s ‘canvas’, there was a great deal of research, activity, planning, community engage-

ment, and fund-raising involved. Though the original inspiration for the work was sparked

Mural cont. p. 6



Part of Watershed Mural with Hands

Are You Prepared for Your CCGPS?

by Boyd Baker

You’re going to hear a lot in coming months about the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards – aka Common Core. These are pretty significant changes to the way our K-12 schools operate and how our children will be prepared for the future.

WHAT ARE THEY?

In the most basic sense, the Common Core Standards (CCS) finally create a roadmap for what the majority of K-12 students across the country will be expected to learn in English Language Arts and Mathematics at each grade level. Can you believe we have never had this in place? Prior to CCS, each state came up with its own standards (ours were the Georgia Performance Standards). As a result, moving from one state to another could mean a loss of learning, or a duplication of learning, depending on each state’s standards. Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas,

Alaska, and Virginia are the only states that have not signed on to the CCS yet.

WHO STARTED ALL THIS?

The National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers led this initiative. Educators and experts in the field developed the standards, and many rounds of feedback were utilized to get input from states and national organizations. In July of 2010 Georgia’s Department of Education adopted the CCGPS. They will be implemented in the 2012-13 school year.

HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

That the new CCGPS differ from the previous Georgia Performance Standards in minor ways is the good news. Because Georgia was ahead of the curve in developing rigorous college- and career-ready standards, our teachers are better prepared

CCGPS cont. p. 6

Lake Claire Fund for Green Spaces

by Robby Handley

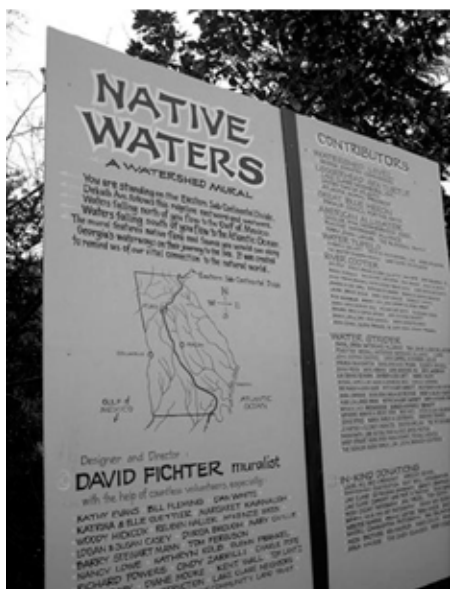
Thanks to the efforts of the Lake Claire Tour of Homes in 2010 and 2011, a fund has been started to benefit the parks and green spaces in the neighborhood. The Lake Claire Neighborhood Association and Friends of Lake Claire Park are currently exploring the idea of a master plan, with the goal being to unify and beautify Lake Claire Park, Harold Avenue Green space, and other connecting green spaces, making them more accessible and user-friendly to the patrons of our little parish.

Your opinions, ideas, and suggestions are more than welcome. The Lake Claire Neighborhood Association will soon be hosting meetings to address all of our friends’ and neighbors’ concerns regarding this project. Also, there will be a need for donations of time and funds to make this enterprise possible. Please check in the Clarion and on the website for information on when these community meetings will be held and to find out when and how you can make a difference. In the mean time, contact me, VP of Environment, at environment@lakeclaire.org. Thank you to all of our friends and neighbors in our lovely Lake Claire.

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Watershed Mural Explanation Panel

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Lake Claire Neighbors

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Visit 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 & a new Facebook page – facebook.com/skilakeclaire.

Clarion Past and Future: Editor's Note

These entries are from The Lake Claire Civic Club, published in 1951:

"April 1928: Road construction machinery went to work cutting out streets, and by June 1, there appeared Lakeshore, Claire, and part of Palifox Drive. Tuxedo Avenue was cut through at a later date.

July 1928: Houses began springing up, and by the end of the year there were approximately twenty new homes in the neighborhood.

June 8, 1929: It was at this time that the Civic Club was formed. Meetings were held, committees were appointed, and pressure brought to bear on both the City and the County for the development of proper sanitary facilities, sewerage, street lights, police, and fire protection.

"Parkways were then systematically planned at a cost of ten cents per front foot. Thus, an owner with a sixty-foot lot received two dogwood trees, two lucidums, and two crepe myrtles, plus having the soil fertilized and grass sown at a total cost of \$6.00.

As the years went on, the section became more fully developed, more homes were built, and our civic club grew in membership and strength. After all, we do have a beautiful neighborhood, well cared for; with friendly home folks as neighbors that make our lives worthwhile."

The above entries and explanation, signed by H.M. Long, First President of the Lake-Claire Civic Organization (1929-1931), came from an old directory found in the home of an elderly Morningside resident, who gave it to Susan Beeching. As many of you know, Susan has been Lake Claire Neighbors President, Secretary, and Editor, during the early 2000s, as well as on the house tour committee in 2000, 2002, and 2004. We don't know when the hyphen was dropped between Lake and Claire; it is possible that the hyphenated

name came from the Lakeshore-Claire streetcar line, shortened to Lake-Claire.

Forward to the present, I hope you will submit articles and ideas for the Clarion. It's your neighborhood newspaper, and we want it to be interesting and fun. I especially hope that children will contribute to the column, Lake Claire Kids' Corner, which you'll find on pages 8 and 9 Girls, not to mention Girl Scouts, took over this month – come on, both boys and girls, let us hear from you. And since April 22 is Earth Day, stories and ideas about the environment would be quite welcome for next month's issue. Send articles and suggestions to editor@lakeclaire.org by March 15 -- and the 15th of each month.

Sincerely, Beth

LETTER TO THE EDITOR RE: Shoplifting in the Neighborhood: Parents please view our tape

Dear Candler Park and Lake Claire Neighbors:

Unfortunately, we have some rather disturbing news to report regarding a recent rash of shoplifting we've discovered at the Candler Park Market.

Last week on Wednesday February 1, our morning manager caught a young man with his pockets stuffed to the brim with candy, chips, and other easily hidden items. The individual we caught is part of the regular morning group of high-school students, who assemble in front of the market as they wait for the school bus. This group regularly comes into the store to "shop" before the bus arrives. The young man in question is (was) a "regular customer" in the store.

Our morning shifts are not heavily staffed at the market

since, business is usually slow, which made it relatively easy for someone to take and conceal items without being seen – particularly because others were in the process of being checked out. Therefore, we wondered how long this type of theft has been going on and reviewed our security video tapes. To our shock, we found that **the same group of kids was doing this DAILY** for the past several weeks. We went all the way back to the middle of January and found the same pattern on a daily basis. We are deeply disappointed that this has happened – particularly given that these kids all belong to our neighborhood!

As a result, we are no longer allowing these high-schoolers to enter the store in the mornings. Furthermore, if they want to be allowed access to the store at anytime in the future, we will require that they bring their parents to the store, so we can put names and phone numbers to faces.

Obviously, those who perpetrated these thefts will not be very eager to bring their parents to the store, given that we know who they are now.

Therefore, if you are interested in viewing the security tape to identify personally the thieves, we will be happy to show you, at your earliest convenience. For now, we do not plan on taking any further actions in this

matter, but going forward, we intend to report any new theft incidents to APD for full prosecution.

Again, we are very sorry to have to report this activity to the neighborhood, but we felt it was important that parents among us know what has happened so that we might be able to take corrective action before it's too late.

Thanks,
 Dirk Botterbosch

****Update as we go to press:**
 Dirk said that the "main" child came by with his mother last weekend to apologize, and they are discussing community service efforts. Other young people who were involved will hopefully come forward, and parents are encouraged to view the tapes. Dirk kindly will keep the identities between himself and the families involved.**

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LAKE CLAIRE'S SECRET GARDEN

by Mike Daly

"I like God's finest whispers."

These are the unlikely poetic words of a 13-year-old girl with Down Syndrome. It is a seven-syllable turn of phrase that I have carried with me and drawn upon for many years. I came upon it during an Early Childhood Development class while reading a study concerning language and children with Down Syndrome. The study cited examples of children using computers to overcome language barriers, and this phrase, drawn from a silent child and expressed through a CPU, leapt off the page and left an indelible mark on my brain. Good writing often does.

Thoughts of God's finest whispers came again to my mind during a recent early morning walk through the Frazer Forest. I was making my way on my first visit to the Frazer Center. Perhaps the imagery was carried on the breeze that blew through the old growth limbs that embrace the woods, rustling the fallen leaves that currently carpet the 39-acre former estate. More likely they were brought to mind by the sing-song sounds of children at play that filtered through the trees from the Center's courtyard.

As a newcomer to Lake Claire, I had heard about the Frazer Center but knew little about it outside of the uncertain descriptions afforded to me by my neighbors. Some said it was a school, some had never heard of it, others suggested it was a center for children with disabilities, but no one was quite sure, and only two of my neighbors had actually ventured down Ridgewood to visit the forest and the adjoining Cator Woolford Gardens. My own first foray into the area came at the behest of Terri from Donna Van Gogh's, who, upon learning I was new to the neighborhood, drew a very helpful map for me on a piece of scrap paper of places that I "must visit!"

Following her advice, I eventually found myself walking past the Center and through a quiet, old growth hardwood forest before arriving at the Cator Woolford Gardens. The Gardens were in late autumn bloom, and all but deserted save for a mother and child who were enjoying a solitary picnic in the sun. The Gardens and the Center are quietly tucked away in a hollow bordered by Ponce De Leon on the northern end, with Harold Avenue and Lakeshore Drive flanking the western and eastern boundaries of the forest, and

Marlbrook Drive to the south. The Gardens were originally created for Cator Woolford, one of the principle founders of Retail Credit Company (now Equifax, Inc.) and, according to The Frazer Center's promotional literature, were redesigned in 1996 as a series of outdoor "rooms." It really is a lovely place to wander, and if you haven't visited I highly suggest taking a sunny afternoon stroll to smell the roses. While you are there, and if the season is right, you can also smell narcissi, rhododendrons, laurel, daffodils, and azaleas, some of which are

Secret Garden cont. p. 16

The Clarion Final Four Questions for Frazer Center Executive Director Trace Hayburn

What role do you believe The Frazer Center plays in the community? We are a resource and an advocate: as a resource, we provide services, a venue for folks to gather, and beautiful grounds for community members to enjoy the outdoors. As an advocate, our very existence and the services we provide (and the way we provide them) speak to the kind of inclusive community that is at the heart of our mission.

What about the Frazer Center makes you most proud? Our people and the way they embody and enact our mission: The Frazer Center is an inclusive community where people at all levels of ability and disability gather, learn and flourish together.

What are the Center's future plans/initiatives? Because we care so deeply for the forest, we are essentially land locked. We are investing a lot of time and energy to help our adults become more meaningfully engaged in the community in work and volunteer activities. We are also working to demonstrate how our children and adults are receiving best practices from our wonderful staff. We hope to build our capital and operational reserves so that we can explore new and research-based ways of expanding the educational, advocacy, and research efforts that are integral to our strategic plan.

What would you like Clarion readers to know about The Frazer Center? We are pleased to be an integral part of the larger neighborhood. We love being in Lake Claire and Druid Hills and are working on developing opportunities for our neighbors to learn more about us.

Connecting With Clifton: Meet Peter Hunstiger, Food Coordinator

by Sarah Wynn

The Clarion (TC): How did you come to be involved with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM)?

Peter Hunstiger (PH): I became involved with CSM on September 17, 2004, after waiting two weeks for a bed to open up. I was granted admittance to Clifton after being on the streets for four years.

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

PH: All of it! Interacting with people donating food from gardens, businesses, churches, and individuals. Working with our guests on a daily basis, serving food and doing service for the shelter. Creating meals from donated food, matching vegetables, starches, and proteins, to make healthy and delicious meals daily. It is like working from a mystery basket as to what I will get, and then combining it with other foods to make

nate the goods and needs that are seen on our marquee at the corner of McLendon and Connecticut. Your time and personal talents that will help our guests to grow and reclaim their lives. By giving, it not only gives personal satisfaction, but enables our neighbors better to understand the issues our guests and CSM struggle with.

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

PH: Clifton has been serving homeless men for 31 years. Taking men in from the cold so they didn't freeze to death! No other shelter gives men hair cuts weekly, clothes washed, beds to sleep in (not on a mat or on the floor), weekly NA, AA, and bible study, toastmasters twice a month, and the services of the Georgia Law Center monthly.



Peter Hunstiger (2nd from L) and former CSM Guests who now Volunteer. Photo-Sara Wynn

the wonderful meals our guests eat daily.

TC: What's the hardest part of your job?

PH: Not having the resources to buy the ingredients to complete the dishes I'd like to make from donated foods to serve our guests.

TC: What do you like about living and working in Lake Claire?

PH: The neighborhood is wonderful. Neighbors are always stopping by to drop off supplies, food, and paper goods. It is a very loving neighborhood where everyone knows their neighbors and helps one another. Our neighbors have become our partners in growing vegetables and herbs for us. The young children have organized can food drives to donate to us on MLK Day. Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops from Mary Lin School have donated cookies for bag lunches and food for snacks and dinner. This community is full of love.

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

PH: Neighbors can support Clifton by continuing generously to do-

Homelessness is not just from substance abuse. The homeless situation has completely changed due to our slumping economy. Often we are now serving men who are experiencing homelessness for the first time.

TC: What's your favorite restaurant in Atlanta?

PH: The Dining Room at the Ritz Carlton!

TC: What's your favorite dish to prepare for yourself?

PH: My favorite dish to prepare is hard to say! I love cooking, so to single one dish is hard. I love a good Reuben, herb roasted chips, smoked turkey, or any marinated or grilled food (steak, ribs, brisket, or pork butts). I love it all!

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



Mark Your Calendars

March

1-April: Avenue Q at Horizon Theatre. Contact marketing@horizontheatre.com for information.

1 - April: Fernbank Presents Georgia Natural: Photographs by Diane Kirkland, Showcasing the Natural Beauty of Georgia.

3, 10, & 11: Neighborhood Girl Scout cookie booths. Saturday, March 3, Candler Park Market 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, March 10, Starbucks in Little 5 Points, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Sunday, March 11, Great Clips, Edgewood, 1 - 3 p.m.

5: Fernbank Museum hosts Homeschool Day. Hands-on Learning Adventures Several programs, including an IMAX film. Information at web.admin@fernbankmuseum.org

5: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Organic Care Symposium is back! Atlanta Botanical Garden, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, or for ways for volunteers to engage more with the BeltLine project, see Events.BeltLine.org

10: Good Growth Dekalb, Walk to Say No to the Proposed Walmart at Suburban Plaza. Join the Outreach Walk at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 10 (to walk to downtown Decatur, distributing flyers to passersby, gather at 10 a.m. at Suburban Plaza). More info: www.goodGrowthDeKalb.org

11: and the second Sunday of every month. Dinner is served!—to the men in the Clifton Men's Shelter. Join the North Ave. Presbyterian Church, kids from the United Methodist Children's Home, neighbors, and others, to serve dinner/share a meal – and your smile. Great to hear their interesting stories of life. 369 Connecticut Avenue in Lake Claire, corner of Connecticut and McLendon, at 5:30 p.m.

11: The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance will hold its annual fundraiser in support of the parks on Ponce De Leon, 7 to 10 p.m. Created at the turn of the century and designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted, these parks form a green corridor from Atlanta to Decatur and border Lake Claire to the south. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and jazz will be served in abundance. The event will be held at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Cost of the event is \$100 per person or \$175 per couple. For more information, call 404 377 5361.

15: (and every 3rd Thursday) Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., Frazer Center Atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue (enter at the Lake Claire side at the end of Ridgewood Road)

23: DeKalb History Center Annual Meeting and Silent Auction, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, March 23, at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 East Court Square, Decatur. Please consider donating goods. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and music while bidding on fantastic items. Call 404-373-1088, ext. 26, or e-mail Stacey at roudebush@dekalbhistory.org

24-29: Rhea Lana's of Decatur / Druid Hills spring children's and maternity consignment sale at North Dekalb Mall. Consignors receive 70%-80% of their sales. Opportunities to get passes into the pre-sale. Information: decatur.rhealana.com

26: Atlanta Botanical Gardens 11th Annual Parks & Garden Greenspace Conf. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information at parkpride@parkpride.org

31: Movie in the park (Lake Claire Park). Being planned as of this Clarion issue coming out, so save the date, and look online at www.lakeclaire.org for details. Fundraiser for Lake Claire.

April

4:through May 13. Alliance Theatre ROCK-N-Blues with Stephen King and John Mellencamp's World Premiere: Ghost Brothers of Darkland County at the Alliance Theatre April 4 - May 13, 2012. We can offer a special neighbors discount for a group of 10+ and a backstage tour on select dates. Ticket prices range \$50-80, please call or e-mail Quidana Bosman, quidana.bosman@woodruffcenter.org or 404-733-4605.

8: 2nd Sunday of the month – serve dinner to Clifton Men's Shelter (see March 11)

19: (and every 3rd Thursday) Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., Frazer Center Atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue (enter at the Lake Claire side at the end of Ridgewood Road)

19-22: The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation "Spring Ramble" (a statewide preservation conference), Roswell, Georgia, April 19-22. www.georgiitrust.org for details.

21: "I Love My Pet Chickens," Dahlonga Poultry Day (rain date 28th), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Buy chicks, eggs for eating or hatching, supplies, feed, coops, and more. Hamburgers, hotdogs, funnel cakes. "How to" classes. Vendors reserve spot by April 7. Info: 706-867-8160.

28: Atlanta BeltLine Running Series – 2nd Annual Northside 5K, Saturday, April 28. Atlanta Police and Fire personnel in friendly competition. For more info: Jennifer Jezyk 404-483-8150.

May

15: Frazer Center 11th Annual Golf Classic at Historic East Lake Golf Club, 10 a.m.. Info from Sherri Breunig, Frazer Center, sbreunig@thefrazercenter.org

17: (and 3rd Thursday every month) Lake Claire Neighbors meeting, 7 p.m., Frazer Center Atrium, 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Send calendar items for April by March 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org.

Lake Claire Safety Report - Weeks 2 - 5

(Safety reports are taken from the Police logs.)

Other Larceny

McLendon Ave at Clifton, Friday, 1/27 (0908-0917)

Location: parking lot of Candler Park Market

Victim is Imperial Trading, 2005 Chevrolet Express Van

Victim advised he parked his vehicle in the parking lot of the market. He advised he entered the location delivering boxes of cigarettes. He advised during the time he was inside someone entered his delivery truck by breaking the rear latch with a heavy object and stole listed property. A small pocket knife was found on the ground near the truck. There was a camera at the location, but the incident was not captured on tape due to the positioning of the truck (facing away from the camera).

Damaged: Rear locking latch

Taken: 155 cartons of cigarettes (\$6200)

Our Zone Six officers:

Effective at the end of last month, Major Dalton became Deputy Chief Dalton and now commands the Criminal Investigation Division. Captain Moore became Major Moore and will transfer to the office of the Chief. Congratulations Deputy Chief Dalton and Major Moore. Thanks for all of your great work in Zone 6.

Major Keith Meadow, Major Crimes, has become the new Zone 6 Commander, and Capt. Van Hobbs the Assistant Zone Commander. Major Meadows is capable and knowledgeable and knows Zone 6 well.

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

by Elizabeth Knowlton

On April 1 the dogwoods and azaleas are blooming. Tulips open. Atlanta is ablaze. It is our finest hour with weather and flowers at their peak. And we gardeners are still working hard. We stand in the sunshine and breathe warm, fresh air, neither too hot nor too cold. We look at all the beauty and kneel and stoop and crawl and bend (at the knees!) and stand again to drink in all the glory.

No wonder great religious holy days are in spring. And that is the key for gardeners, whether atheist or believer, on when to plant. Even the person who does nothing more than buy a large tomato plant at Lowe's knows not to stick it in the ground until after April 1 — or Easter. We ask ourselves "Why Easter?" because it is a moveable feast. For the answer, look to the moon. Both Easter and Passover are determined by reference to the moon's phases. By using Easter as your planting date, you avoid one of those common last freezes on the full moon. This year the April full moon is on the 6th (when Passover begins), and Easter falls April 8.

This reminds me to suggest you keep a record of your garden: what you plant and when, how well it does, what you harvest, something about the weather. It is not only useful but also interesting to have these notes in subsequent years because nobody's plot will be exactly like yours. In the past five years my highest high temperature on April 6 has been 89 (2010) and my lowest low has been 42 (2011). In September 2008 I measured only .2" rain in my garden, while in 2009 that same month brought 20.6", the most I have ever mentioned.

If you followed the instructions in my last three columns, your beds and seedlings are ready for planting. Perhaps you have onions and cole plants out there already. Do not forget the hardening off process I described last month. Now is the time to begin transplanting the tomatoes as well as continuing to direct seed radishes, beets, carrots, lettuce, chard, and potatoes. And you can start your beans also, bush and pole (if you erect something on which they can climb). I put my corn seedlings out in their peat pots too. When you plant a peat pot, be sure to break off all the peat above its soil line, crumble the bottom of the pot, and water it well.

It is not too late to go on growing tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers indoors. And all three welcome the protection of a cloche or cold frame outside when you are ready to move them. A simple cloche can be made by taking a gallon plastic jug, cutting off the bottom, and pushing it into the ground over your plant. Removing the jug's cap allows hot air to escape out the top during the day; screwing it back on protects the plant if frost threatens at night.

When you transplant your flower seedlings or put in purchased annuals, be sure to leave enough room for the plants as they grow. Most flowers need at least 9-12 inches. Larger species, like giant zinnias, spreading verbena, nicotiana, hollyhocks, rudbeckia, pelargiums, gomphrena, dahlias, cosmos, and cleome, will need more room. Now is the time



Elizabeth Knowlton's Back yard

to sow the last two flowers directly into the soil, keeping the area moist and protected from animals until the seedlings are up. Morning glory seeds can be sown now too; place them in hot tap water and let them soak all night (but no longer) before planting as their seed coat is very hard.

I am assuming that your soil is already amended. If not, check my last column for ideas about fertilizer. If you use fast-acting chemicals (not my advice), follow the directions exactly, and wear gloves when applying. Speaking of gloves, I never could make myself wear them until they invented a breathable nylon knit liner with a nitrile coating on the palms and fingers, which enables one to keep hands fairly dry and clean while still able to feel the plants, a miracle to me. These are not gloves for heavy work but for the delicate seed planting, transplanting, weeding, bug squashing, and picking that is the mainstay of gardening.

As soon as your plants are in the ground or your seedlings have

emerged, mulch. You can scarcely have too much, several inches being recommended. Mulch will make your compost last longer, prevent clay soils from compacting during downpours, keep looser soil where you want it, and way cut down on weeding. I generally use wheat straw for the vegetable beds and shredded leaves for the flowers. See why I was yammering about saving your leaves last year? They just melt away in our heat, so you will constantly be adding to them. I do not recommend wood chips as they are too coarse for most annuals and perennials, but shredded bark can be used over soaker hoses and around even small plants. Just remember that woody material will deplete your soil of nitrogen for a while as it breaks down. And while we are on the subject of mulch, never, never use it against the trunks or stems of woody plants (shrubs and trees) as it allows rodents and insects to invade the bark invisibly. Unlike soft-stemmed plants, trees are harmed by having soil or mulch pushed up against them above the natural soil line. Use mulch several inches away from trunks all the way out to drip lines.

If you do get weeds, here is your chance to really commune with your plants, on your hands and knees as intended. You can examine seedlings for injury, bugs, and disease while you are down there at eye level. The exercise is good for you. And the weeds can go to the compost pile. I will urge you, however, never to work bent over at the waist and to avoid squatting unless you are under 30 and have never had any knee problems. Any kind of pad or material can give you something to kneel on while you work. Frankly, I would have had to give up most of gardening 20 years ago if I had not discovered Easy Kneelers (found online and in garden supply catalogs), which give you a small padded platform and, even more important, metal bars on each side for pushing yourself up from the ground. It can also be flipped to form a small seat.

Many people are unclear about when to prune their shrubs. An easy rule of thumb is that if the bushes flower in the spring, do not prune then as you will be cutting off the buds. Wait until immediately after bloom to give the plant its annual haircut. Shrubs that bloom later can generally tolerate an early

pruning. If you watch carefully, you will see that new shoots spring from your cuts and that flower buds form on many of these for the late-blooming bushes. Of course you can always check the Internet for specific information on a plant.

If you planted bulbs last fall or inherited some when you moved into your house, these will have been blooming since January and are now finished or fading. Next year's flower depends on the energy gathered by the foliage and bulb right now. Do not cut off the leaves of narcissus (daffodils, jonquils) but let them wither away, messy as that may be. A nice ploy is to interplant them with daylilies so that their emerging foliage will cover the dying narcissus. Tulips are at their peak from March to April but generally do not come back in the South, so I do not bother feeding them, just replant each fall. If this is too much trouble or money for you, consider enjoying them at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens or in your neighbors' gardens.

DO YOUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: RECYCLE!

New Recycling Center Aims to Ease Landfill Issues

The Keep Atlanta Beautiful Community Recycling Center is open the second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the former Walden Middle School, 320 Irwin Street, in the Old Fourth Ward. The Center accepts household electronics, office equipment, and Styrofoam (with the exception of foam peanuts and insulation material). Free, secure paper shredding is available. The Center does not accept large household appliances, mercury-containing devices, hazardous chemicals, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, or bio-waste. For more information and lists of items accepted, check out www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org.

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CCGPS cont. from p. 1

than many for coming changes. Still, teachers will see a difference in standards. Sometimes the difference will be revealed in content being taught either a grade earlier or a grade later. Sometimes the difference will be in the number of standards required for student achievement.

Educators will need to modify how and what they teach, but, overall, they should be minor adjustments as many of the GPS were integrated into the CCGPS (90% of GPS matched CCGPS). Each state will have to do some additional work to make the standards complete for their needs (obviously Georgia History will be integrated only in this state). Each state can decide on an additional 15% of content to add to the CCS.

The CCGPS focus on ELA and Math, as well as 6th-12th literacy in Science, Social Studies/History, and Technical Subjects. What about these other standards? Through emphasizing "literacy" in those content areas by way of ELA, the CCS hopes to boost student knowledge. At the same time, that's why each state has flexibility to add 15% to their standards. Folks are working on these other areas to develop national standards. Georgia is one of 20 states helping to develop K-12 science standards. The first draft of the Next Generation Science Standards should be released in April 2012.

IS THIS A NATIONAL CURRICULUM?

Many get confused in this area. Standards are just goals for what students should learn. Curriculum is how information is taught and that is left up to each state to determine. Since this whole effort is state-led, the Federal government has no influence in these standards or this policy. That's why you have a few states that have yet to adopt CCS.

WHY ARE THESE GOOD?

- Students attending Duke University will have the same base knowledge as students attending UGA or Yale.

- Workers entering the job force will have similar mastery of skills nationwide.

- Educators can securely be hired by school districts across the country knowing they are prepared to teach content.

- Purchases of instructional resources and textbooks should benefit from cost savings of consistent material.

WHAT'S NEXT?

There is a lot of work ahead. Teachers have been given the new standards but training is ongoing on how to best develop lesson plans to cover the CCGPS. Next year, 2012-13, will be a transition year in embedding these new standards. If you were to move say Algebra from 7th to 6th grade, you would not expect the base knowledge to instantly be there for 6th graders to succeed. That's why this upcoming year will be especially challenging.

In 2013-14, the CCGPS will be fully implemented and, hopefully, teachers and students will be done with all transitions.

In 2014-15, Common Assessments will enter the picture. There are two national organizations, PARCC and Smarter Balance, developing CCS assessments for states. Georgia is with the majority of states in using PARCC. These Common Assessments will be similar to each state taking the same test to prove student mastery. Much like the SAT and ACT are national tests, the Common Assessments will aim to compare achievement of students, educators, and schools to other states.

Why are there two groups developing the assessments instead of one? Ask the Georgia Dept. of Ed. Not everything in this process is simple or perfectly aligned.

Atlanta Public Schools are working very hard to get all of these changes in place in a timely manner. At the same time, they are trying to train all teachers and administrators for next year's implementation AND working to resolve the challenges of future assessments. Those Common Assessments will be computer-adaptive tests. This means 1) they will be done on a computer – no more "erasure" issues and 2) will be specialized to each student's ability by changing the difficulty of the test depending on a student's answers. If you know anything about the technology within a major urban school district, you can imagine

how difficult this piece of the puzzle is.

In the end, the Common Core and Common Assessments are a great move forward in trying to insure our children get a quality education. How many bumps in the road we hit is yet to be determined. The key is to PAY ATTENTION because the next couple of years will require our diligence to make sure that everything goes as good as possible.

Resources:

Common Core State Standards Initiative: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

GA Dept. of Ed: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/CCGPS.aspx>

Achieve/Next Generation Science Standards: <http://achievethecore.org/standards-0>

PARCC Common Assessments: <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>

Mural cont. from p. 1



Bikers in front of Watershed Mural

by Fichter's Mystic River mural project in Summerville, Massachusetts, the fact that our community sits astride the divide of two great watersheds was voiced by neighbor Kathy Evans, who gave the project its focus with the idea that "clean water begins here." The plan was given a hearty endorsement by members of the Lake Claire Co-housing Community, who gave the nod to the use of their retaining wall for the mural. From that point, like streams themselves, invitations flowed out to other residents of Lake Claire and adjoining communities such as Candler Park, Kirkwood, Edgewood, and East Lake to provide information, and to share visions and ideas of what the wall should and could look like. Government agencies such as MARTA and the DeKalb Arts Council were approached for their support and blessing. Presentations were given at churches, community centers, and schools, and rapidly the proj-

ect began to cascade.

Enduring frigid temperatures, brutal heat, the roar of automobiles, the squeal of trains, and the lack of adequate scaffolding at one point, artists, students and their teachers, neighbors, and even volunteers from well outside the community, came to lend a hand, mix paint, wield a brush, clean up and set up for the next day. Others brought pictures, collected data from Georgia's natural and human history, provided food and drink and feedback. And the mural sprang to life.

At one point, Fichter counted over four dozen people on ladders, scaffolding, atop the wall, and on the grassy verge next to the road all engaged in creating the wall.

The 'unveiling' of the mural nearly seven years ago was marked by the setting off of a confetti cannon and a blast that had not been heard since the Battle of Atlanta. DeKalb Avenue was partially closed for the first time

for non-accident related causes since the Braves won the World Series. The event brought out a diverse throng numbering in the hundreds, most of whom had worked directly on the project at some point, reflecting both the commitment and variety of the neighborhood.

Recently, Fichter returned to Atlanta, invited by Georgia State University as well as members of Sevananda who are engaged in planning for possible future murals. In between meetings, the muralist took time to cover up some 'tags' on both the wall at Seven Stages Theatre in Little Five Points and on the Watershed Mural. As the buzz of rush hour traffic engulfed us, I became aware of how ironic it is that this soft-spoken artist could transform a blank and silent wall into something that speaks so loudly to our neighborhood's sense of place, awareness of the past, and mindfulness of purpose.

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News from the Land Trust



What the Land Trust Means to Me by Big Lou the Emu: Part 2

(See February issue for Part 1.)



Things have changed around here since the old days when my enclosure included the big pond and the plants grew thick and wild. My buddies the goats and I were semi-wild critters ourselves, and it was much harder to socialize with my human visitors through the fence.

I'll never forget the day a few years back when Dawn Aura lured me into her upper yard with some food and closed the lower gate. Then the neighbors gathered and tore down all the fences. I watched in fascination as one fellow climbed into a big noisy machine and started moving the dirt around. He enlarged the old pond, dug a new smaller one, and transformed my overgrown pasture and the surrounding back yards into the beautiful terraced landscape you see today. Then the neighbors put the fences back up.

My pals the goats were long gone by then. I tried to tell them they were going to get in trouble if they kept squeezing through the fence to snack on

the various delicacies that grow in our human neighbors' yards. But they wouldn't listen. One day a truck came and took them away. I'm sure they went to a great home, but I still miss those ornery goats from time to time.

Various flocks of chickens have come and gone on both sides of the big pond over the years. I miss their clucking and crowing. These days, I have a couple of male mallard ducks to keep me company. They talk a lot, but don't have much to say that's interesting to a flightless land bird. They love swimming around in the little pond we share, and I like to watch them.

Speaking of company, Dawn and Wing must have thought I was lonely, because one day they brought a large crate down to their back gate and released another emu into my enclosure. A male, if you can believe it! I've never been so upset. I pecked him mercilessly until they separated us, and before long that young emu was off to another home. It would have been different if he was a she, of course, but that would have meant a whole flock of little emus to raise.

I'm not really lonely, but every so often I get in a melancholy mood and find a nice round rock to sit on. To a human it

might sound silly, but it comforts me. You see, among us emus, the tradition is that after the female lays her egg, and the male sits on it to keep it warm until it hatches. It's a very civilized custom, I'm sure you'll agree.

All in all, I have a comfortable life here, in spite of the occasional ice and snow. I just grow an extra-thick coat of feathers when I feel the cold weather coming – a skill I strongly recommend you practice if you spend time outdoors in the winter – and Dawn piles some extra straw in my new shelter. She brings me two meals a day, rain, shine, or snow, with help from Miriam or Danielle or other neighbors when she can't do it herself.

Every so often I get bored and stop eating my regular food, so Dawn tries something different. At the moment I get brown rice, lentils, and vegetables, with a salad of lettuce, greens, and grapes, plus popcorn or sometimes corn chips. I never did care for the "emu chow" Dawn bought once or twice from the animal feed store. I credit my good diet for keeping me in good health all these years.

When I remember my relatives on emu ranches who eat nothing but emu chow and end up as emu burgers or emu oil, I feel pretty lucky to live here in Lake Claire. But still, I wonder sometimes. Would I have been happier roaming the Australian outback, foraging for wild food and running away from predators? Having regular meals and

a nice straw bed might not be all that great compared to a life of freedom in the outback among my own kind.

And, whenever I hear a quavery little voice call, "Big!" or "Lou!" or even just "Emu!" I remember why I'm content to live here so far from my wild relatives. The humans need me. I'm living here as an ambassador from all the wild creatures of this planet, reminding the humans that they don't live in this beautiful world all by themselves. I am helping both kinds of creatures by bridging the gap between us. In the long run, my life here in Lake Claire could help all of us survive, and I feel privileged to serve. Especially when snacks are involved.

Emus: Where They Come From

Emus are from Australia. They can run up to 40 miles an hour and live up to 30 years. Big Lou is about 20 years old. The Land Trust contributes a small monthly stipend for his care, but donations from Lou's admirers are greatly appreciated. Contact Dawn at dawnaura12@gmail.com or 404-378-6815, or send your donation via Paypal at www.LCCLT.org or via check to "LCCLT" at P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107. Be sure to mark your donation "emu."

Sorry, everyone, Big Lou appreciates the many offers he has received, but he is not available for public speaking engagements.

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LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



This is the third of what I hope is a fun series and a way for young readers to participate. In January and February, two boys contributed. This month's articles are written by nine-year-old Stella Nielsen and ten-year-old Cate Crutcher (with a little help from mom). Children who are artists instead of writers are welcome to submit drawings, jokes, puzzles. Be creative! Please contribute! --Editor

My Life in Lake Claire

By Stella Nielsen

My name is Stella Nielsen. If you know me, I probably know your dog. I really enjoy dogs and like learning their names as they walk by with their owners. Here are some of the things that I like to do: knit, sew, draw, sing, Irish Dance, and swim. I'm homeschooled and take classes at "LEAD". LEAD stands for Learners and Educators in Atlanta and Decatur. It's a home-school group that holds classes in Decatur. My best friends are Vivvy Carson and Jane Hunter (who moved to New Orleans). I have a little sister named Esther who is almost 3, and I have an older brother named Myles who is 12.

I have two dogs. They are both pugs one is named Professor Withers (male) and the other is named Lady Crumpet (female). They are brother and sister dogs. I used to have another dog named Buttercup, but she died when I got home from New Orleans. I miss her. Also, we have 4 cats. In the past, we have fostered small dogs such as Boston Terriers and Pugs. The group we worked with is SEPRA (Southeast Pug Rescue).

One of the big things I do is Irish dance. I started when I was 6 years old. Now I have been dancing for three years. I take lessons at the Drake School of Irish Dance. In Irish dance you have to keep your arms at your sides all the time. You mostly move your feet and legs to perform the dances. There are two types of shoes that you wear when you do Irish Dance: Hard shoes (also called Treble Shoes) and soft shoes (also called Ghillies). Hard shoes are made of wood and leather. They are very loud when you tap them on the floor. But soft shoes are very quiet.

An Irish Dance competition is called a "Feis". I go to about 4 or 5 feises a year. I also dance in a dance troupe called "Atlanta Irish Dance Troupe." We dance for groups

around St. Patrick's Day and in Celtic Christmas. We also march in the St. Patrick's Day parade downtown. One of my favorite dance troupe performances is for "Celtic Christmas," which has been in Atlanta for about 19 years. Also, I love to dance with the band at the Marlay house. The Marlay House is an Irish Pub in Decatur that has a band play every Tuesday night. They are really nice, and I have lots of fun dancing with them.

For sports, I love to swim and now do it year round. Last year was my first year on the Lake Claire Wahoo! team. I also help assist the soccer coach at our homeschool group with little kids.

In addition to sports, I really like to knit, sew, and draw. Right now I am knitting a gnome. I got a sewing machine for Christmas. I like to sew doll clothes and regular clothes too. When I draw, I draw people wearing different fashions. I really enjoy designing different kinds of dresses and outfits.

I've lived in Lake Claire for seven years now. The Candler Park Fall Fest is one of my favorite activities in Lake Claire. When I go there I get my hair colored and make sand art in a bottle. It's great to have Lake Claire Pool in walking distance. I swim there a lot during the summer. Sometimes my Dad and I go for a bike ride on Freedom Parkway. My neighbors in Lake Claire are really nice, and I'm so glad that we live here.

Stella




Stella Nielsen



Stella, with sister Esther, at a Feis





STELLA with siblings Myles 12 (L) and Esther 2 (R)



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Girl Scout Cookies...MORE than Cookies!

by Cate Crutcher

Hi, I am Cate, and I have lived in Lake Claire all of my life (10 years). I live on Hardendorf. I am a Girl Scout and go to Mary Lin. Our troop is selling cookies and we really appreciate the support from our neighbors. This year we are also doing a "Gift of Caring" program for refugees living in Atlanta. We will deliver donated cookies to an organization called RRISA (Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta). They help refugees coming from far away countries to start a new life in America, & many families only live about 15 minutes away from Lake Claire! Please help us share this American tradition as a way to welcome the refugees to our country. (And enjoy cookies!)



Girl Scouts Cate Crutcher, Sofia, and Olivia (all Lake Claire Residents)

Another thing you should know about Girl Scouts is that we are celebrating our 100th birthday on March 12, 2012. It all started right here in Georgia...when Juliette Gordon Low (nicknamed "Daisy" like my dog's name!) had the idea to start a group just for girls. This group has grown to become the largest girl-serving organization in the world. There is a special new cookie to celebrate this event called "Savannah Smiles." It's a crunchy bite-sized powdered lemon cookie, and I really like it!



Juliette Low

When you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you are buying MORE than cookies! Funds raised from cookie sales help provide affordable camps and activities for girls all around metro Atlanta, where girls build skills, go camping, and participate in service projects (I really want to go camping!).

There is also a free cookie finder app available on your phone

to help you find local booth sales. We have seven Girl Scout troops at Mary Lin, so look for cookie sales all over our area from through mid March, or visit the internet for booth dates and locations at: <http://cookielocator.littlebrownie.com/>

Neighborhood Booth Sales near Lake Claire:

Sat, Mar 3 - Candler Park Market 11am-3pm

Sat, Mar 10 - Starbucks (L5P) 9am-11am

Sun, Mar 11 - Great Clips (Edge-wood) 1pm-3pm

Here is some information my mom (and troop leader!) thought you might find interesting.

Girl Scouting's success speaks for itself. Two-thirds of our nation's most accomplished women in public service, business, science, education, the arts, and community life were Girl Scouts. And virtually every female astronaut who has flown in space got her start here. Mae Jemison, the first African

American woman in space, was a Girl Scout. So was Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court of the United States. Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust, the first female president of Harvard University, and Katie Couric, the first woman to anchor a network evening newscast, both began their careers in Girl Scouting. And 50 million other former Girl Scouts have their own success stories to tell.

One girl can make a difference; girls together can change the world.

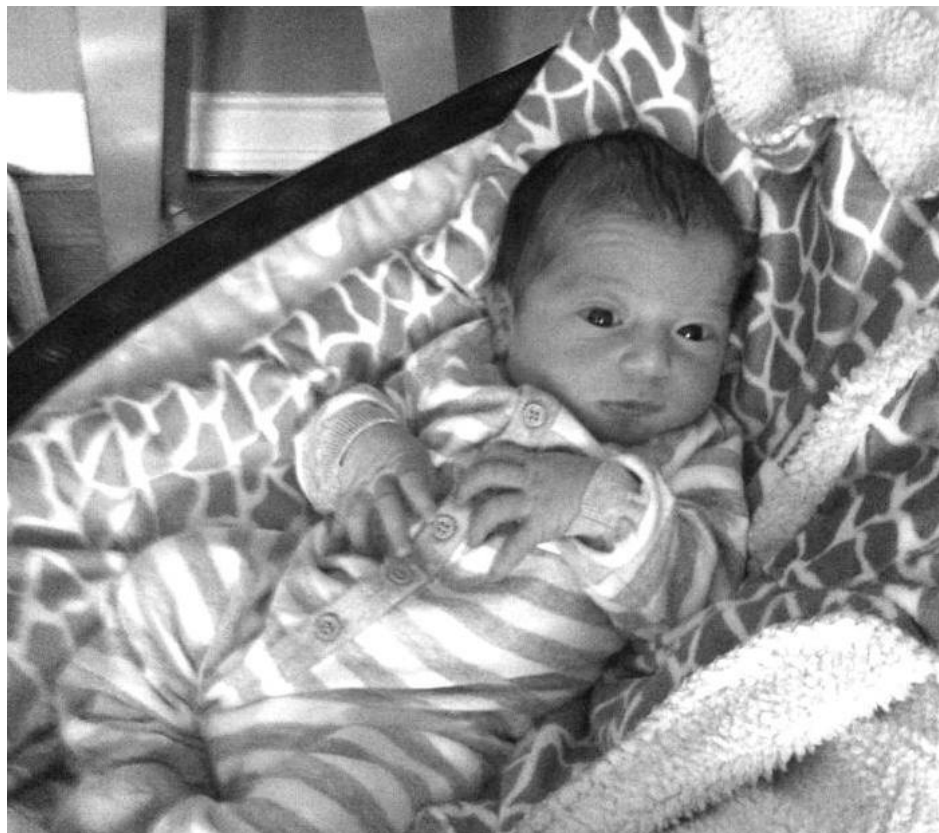
Also, Girl Scout Cookies have no high fructose corn syrup, no trans fats or artificial colors.

Cate Crutcher, and mom Kelly Crutcher (Chair of the Mary Lin Education Foundation) live on Hardendorf.

Newest Lake Claire Resident

by Sharon Doochin

We have a beautiful and happy addition to Harold Avenue. Born Wednesday, 2/18 – Baby Boy Landon James to Lake Claire parents P.J. and Kimberly Javaheri – 19", 7 lbs, 14 ozs. Welcome, Landon, and congratulations, Kimberly and P.J.



Biscuits and Bellyrubs



The cartoonist for the Biscuits and Bellyrubs series is Anna Trodgen. Anna grew up on East Lake Road, on the edge of Lake Claire, and she is a life-long Atlanta resident. She studied drawing and painting at Georgia State University, and she enjoys cartooning and painting pet portraits. Look for her at the dog shows. Lake Claire fans can see her greeting cards and prints at Donna Van Gogh's. Anna lives in East Atlanta Village with her husband Dugan, three little terriers, and a Black Cat.

Get a Remodeling Contractor Involved Before You Buy

by Steve Goff

If you are thinking about buying a house that needs some renovations, get a contractor to review the house before you buy. The tricky part may be finding one that you can trust and give you an honest opinion, not a self-serving one. Most people have friends who have been through the remodeling experience, so ask around. Some contractors will tell you anything in attempt to get a job. I've talked more than a couple people out of making home purchases, and a few that didn't heed my advice sometimes regretted it.

Time is of the essence when it comes to home buying, so the contractor needs to give you a price quickly. These prices are usually provided in a range, as that's all that can be expected at this stage. However, it should give you good insight to factor into your buying decision. The contractor should serve as a mix between a home inspector and an architect, playing the home inspector role as they identify major problems such as foundations, building envelope, mechanical systems, etc. This is usually a quick review, but is all valuable information. Most contractors aren't architects, but they should be able to visualize such things as if the sunroom addition you desire will work with the existing roof line, or if the needed attic space works best under a gable or shed dormer.

You probably only have so much money to spend to make your home purchase and your renovations. If you don't have a clue what this collective dol-

lar amount will be before you purchase the house, you are taking a big gamble. Involving a licensed contractor early in the home buying process will help ensure that you are within your comfort range. That knowledge will come in handy when you are sitting at the closing table signing your life away.

Steve is the Owner of Intown Revival Construction (www.intownrevival.com) and a Candler Park resident for over nine years. He says: "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."

Saving Energy with Programmable Thermostats

by Chris Carroll

Q. Can setting back your thermostat when you are not home really save energy? Doesn't it use just as much energy to warm the house back up when you come back?

A. The US Dept of Energy says that adjusting your thermostat when you are not home (or asleep in bed) is one of the best ways to save energy. Why? You use the most energy in your home when there is the greatest difference between the indoor temperature and the outdoor temperature. That's because heat moves from hot to cold, and you use the most energy when there is greater transfer. Heating your home to 72 degrees for the 8 hours you are at work uses LOTS more energy than warming up your home quickly by turning up the thermostat when you walk in the door.

The DOE recommends a programmable thermostat, which you program to

turn down the temperature based on your schedule, and turn on the furnace so the house is toasty at the time you typically get home. (The thermostat also adjusts the AC in the summer.)

There is even a nifty tool on the DOE web site that calculates exactly how much you might save. Search "programmable thermostat calculator" at the Energy Star web site and it allows you to use Atlanta area utility rates, and figure the savings from different temperatures. A typical example shows that a total savings of \$1,300 over the life of a programmable thermostat if you adjust heat temperatures by 8 degrees and cooling temps by 4 degrees.

In addition to dollars saved, in this example, you would also be removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere equivalent to two acres of forest.

Chris Carroll, EcoBroker, owns Atlanta Intown Real Estate Services.

ATLANTA BOY CHOIR – IN LAKE CLAIRE'S BACK YARD

The Atlanta Boy Choir is located at 1215 South Ponce de Leon Avenue, just west of The Frazer Center and Paideia. Atlanta has been home to a performing boy choir since the Atlanta Boys Choir was founded as part of the music program in the Atlanta City School System in 1946. That early boy choir gave annual Christmas and Spring concerts at the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium and was composed of "boys with unchanged voices." In 1953, another boy choir, known as the Atlanta Boy Choir, was founded by George Crawford. That choir met at the Peachtree Road Christian Church. When Mr. Crawford relocated to Alabama, parents of the members of that early choir

formed a new choir and chose Fletcher Wolfe as the founding director. That choir was incorporated as the Atlanta Boy Choir, Inc., in November 1959. Fletcher Wolfe continued to conduct the choir until the fall of 2001, when he retired, and David White was hired to replace him. In the summer of 2009 Fletcher Wolfe returned from retirement to conduct the choir on a temporary basis. Under his direction, the choir added a new men's group to the choir made up largely of former boy choir alumni who had sung under Fletcher Wolfe's direction as young boys.

Over more than 50 years, the Atlanta Boy Choir established a reputation for being one of the world's finest boy choirs, known for its diversity of members and broad repertoire which includes choral masterworks of such early composers as Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and Claudio Monteverdi, as well as contemporary composers and original works. The choir has performed across North America and Europe. In 1989, the choir won a Grammy award for its performance of Britten's War Requiem with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The choir has been featured on television, radio, and participated in solos and backups on many recordings. The choir has also released albums under their own name including There Will Be Joy (2007), Dancing Day (2006), Garden of Beauty (2005) and In Excelsis (2004).

The Atlanta Boy Choir and the Alumni Choir completed a successful tour of Italy this summer that included performances at the Vatican, St. Francis of Assisi and Sulmona. The choir is currently preparing for the upcoming season and tour of Alaska. Fletcher Wolfe has agreed to remain as temporary artistic director for the foreseeable future. Does your son need to be heard? Get information at 404-378-0064 or <http://www.atlantaboychoir.org>.

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THIRTY+ (!) YEARS in Lovely LAKE CLAIRE: From Tie-Dye to Khaki Part Ten: Bill Fleming

By Beth Damon, resident "only" since 1990

In June 1980, Bill Fleming moved to Atlanta from California with girlfriend, pedal steel, and all worldly possessions in a Volvo

what they were doing. Bill Reed said, "We are celebrating the Solstice, why don't you join us".... and they did.



Fleming (L) 2011 Expand Band at 5 Spot

station wagon. He was searching for community and wanting to go "back to the land."

While doing laundry in Emory Village, Bill saw an ad for a bungalow on Matthews Street. Then several things pointed him toward the 'hood:

1) After looking at the house, he picked up a hitchhiker on McLendon who was headed to the Rainbow Gathering. She said this was the coolest area of town and that they should move in. Bill said "I haven't seen her since, but she was spot on!"

2) He saw Jerry 'Free Hugs' Taylor juggling on Moreland Avenue in front of his shop, 'We ain't mad with nobody.'

3) He walked up to a group of people gathered on the steps of the Old Stone Church (Existentialist Church) and asked them



Fleming MID-80s, in Somerville, Mass., singing an agitprop lesson

Bill's then girlfriend actually found the house he lives in now. She was out walking the dogs and came back and announced, "Well, I found our house." That's when Bill met Jerry Collette, "a beautiful soul who had moved to Harold Avenue back in the 70's. Recently divorced, Jerry was a free spirit who eschewed the drudgery of corporate America and instead hybridized day lilies for a living, planted a beautiful garden, built a bridge over the stream, put in a wood stove for heat, and kissed the gas company good-bye!"

Collette appointed himself cultural minister for the neighborhood and had an open-door policy for all his neighbors to come by anytime for social libations and good conversation. Bill remembers his easy laugh and words of wisdom even to this day. And though Jerry loved Lake Claire, it was his dream to set out on a trip around the world. So, he sold Bill the house for \$58,000 and the three lots next to it for \$10 apiece with only two conditions. One was that they would carry on the tradition of being the center for neighborhood social life (i.e., throw lots of parties) and two, if they found the buried treasure on the lot, they had to share it with him. Bill feels they have done him proud on the former over the years here with the Chili/Cornbread Cook-off, Block Party, Basement jams, Funky Home Tours, and numerous weddings and soirees of all kinds, but he has yet to set eyes on the booty - unless the treasure Jerry was talking about was really the wealth inherent in the beautiful

Thirty Years cont. p. 12

One+ Year in Lake Claire: It was Meant To Be

by Sharon Doochin

After meeting with Andrew & Pen Sherwood, I couldn't help but feel as if I had a history lesson in true love. The Sherwoods moved to Lake Claire (Harold Avenue) just about one year ago, on New Years Eve 2010, and brought with them history, art, and love. I was greeted with a warm welcome, a huge hug, & a wonderful spread for "Tea Time." Instantly I knew I was going to hear a journey that most of us only dream of having.

Andrew began by telling his tale of a most interesting heritage that is written in history books. He is a native of Sutton, Coldfield, England, born to an English father and a Scottish mother. His father's history dates back to 1575, thus the history lesson. Speaking with a thick British accent, he began the history of his ancestors. The town of Sutton Coldfield, is a town mentioned in Shakespeare's King Henry IV,

24' chandelier, walnut paneling, surrounded with huge famous painting. From Vienna he went to Berlin, and subsequently he landed in Atlanta.

Andrew lived in Lake Claire in a "former life," -- on Gordon Avenue with his first wife for about ten years from 1986, and he remembers watching Sylvia's flame-swallowing shows in the old Atomic Café (presently part of the space occupied by the Flying Biscuit). He remembers the occasional free breakfasts in exchange for helping make coffee when the regular coffee makers failed to show up. He also has wonderful memories of volunteering as an Associate Envoy with the French Olympic delegation in 1996. For several years he has served as Chairman of the North Georgia District Export Council. After twenty-five years, he plans to retire from both positions later this year and help his



Pen and Andrew Sherman Traditional Wedding

Part I.

Andrew was educated at Glenalmond College in Scotland (which he strongly suspects was used by JK Rowling as model for Hogwarts Academy in the Harry Potter stories) and Lincoln College in Oxford. With a love for travel, Andrew was determined to find an employer to pay him to work as he traveled the world. He became an export manager for Micromeritics, an Asian-Pacific company that specializes in scientific instruments that measure nano sized technology. He began living in Vienna, Austria, at a monastery, in a room 30'x30' square, that included a

wife Pen develop her art business, while continuing his freelance translation service from French and German to English.

As we were talking I found myself holding a piece of the Berlin Wall and admiring some beautiful art work. The art work turned out to be painted by Pen, Andrew's new bride. Pen is from Thailand. She is of Chinese descent, born in Bangkok, and is a self-taught artist who finds art and music to be "oxygen to the soul." She says, "I enjoy creating various styles of art using different media, forms and categories. My art reflects the rhythms of

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Thirty Years cont. from p. 11

ful woods and the lovely people surrounding them here in Lake Claire.

Bill has now been in his house, with some renovations involved, for 32 years. Three decades swinging by the stream. And though he has lived in Central America, Southern Africa, and Western Europe during this time, he always keeps coming back to Lake Claire. "It's the people," Bill explained, "those who are dug in, and the constant parade of new faces, a function of the city, exciting new energy from outside...people who, like myself some 30-odd years ago, decided to stop their drifting and settle in here for a spell -- bring their own unique perspectives and experiences to this pot luck that I think characterizes our neighborhood- you might call it diversity within a certain unity."



Expand Band at 5 Spot

Bill supposed that it was the whole experience around the fight over the Parkway ("the Exprez way," as some called it in the mid-80s), when the DOT was pushing forward with plans for a major thoroughfare right through the community, and the neighborhoods, particularly Candler Park, Inman Park, and Lake Claire, were pushing back just as hard. This brought people of all backgrounds and politics together in a way like no other. To stand up to the well-oiled

machine of state and corporate power, side by side with your neighbors, creates a bond and a sense of place that is hard to describe, Bill said, and even more difficult to discount. He thinks about that time and those folks a lot -- especially when he takes a walk in the park that was almost a parkway.

I asked Bill about the changes he has noticed over the years. In the three decades he has lived on Harold, he answered, there are two especially big changes. First, the preponderance of families with young children... "where did all these kids come from?!" And second, the shift in the occupational profile of those on the street from artists, civil servants, and retirees, to health professionals and academics. He says that Harold Avenue must have more degrees than a thermometer these days, and then points out that he is guilty on both counts here of going-with-the-flow. In the latter part of the last millennium, Bill met and partnered with Jacquelyn Howard, who, he said, has transformed the house and him too, in a good way.

Bill and Jacquelyn have two children, Selena and Aliza, ages 17 and 10, respectively. Nowadays, says Bill, the hoots of the barred owls in the bamboo mix in with the laughter and shouts of the children at play in the woods, as well as the whirr and slap of skateboards in the street. And as for what he does with his time while not sitting and listening to this lively chorus is teach geography at Georgia State. Interestingly, notes Bill, this is the first time in his working life that he is able to ride his bike or take public transit to work. It is also encouraging to see so many others from this neck of the woods that

do the same thing. Not that the bike lanes are overcrowded or you can't find a space at the rack to lock up, he said -- "alas, this isn't Amsterdam" -- but there is no question that more people are choosing the planet-friendly alternative to the car(bon), and that gives Bill hope for our collective future.

And, Bill continued, there have been other changes. Many more people, more houses, more traffic, more taxes, more more. "I wonder sometimes if with all this more if there hasn't been some lessening of the quality of life here. It does seem like I don't have as much time for my neighbors as I used to. You can't just sit around in the street talking too long before a car speeds by and you have to get out the way, or somebody's cell phone will demand attention. But then I think about all the performers and touring musicians who show up here needing a place to stay and how, even now, my neighbors are right there to offer up their spare bedrooms, places at their dinner tables, space in their own busy lives for the likes of The San Francisco Mime Troupe, Boston's Underground Railway Theatre, Bread and Puppets of Glover, Vermont, The Veterans Peace Convoy, The Moscow Red Circus (no, not really)."

Bill looks to the Frazer Forest and its beautiful trees still stretching into the sky; he hears the sound of drums on the evening breeze carried from the Land Trust as it has for over two decades; he appreciates the myriad of activities that his neighbors are engaged in for the community, such as yoga sessions, sheltering and feeding homeless folks, free movies in the park, parades, street parties, home tours and neighborhood meet-

ings that people have been working to make happen for as long as he's been here, and he realizes why, though he may occasionally roam far and wide for another 30 years, he will always call Lake Claire "home."

A Word from the Fundraising Chairs

by Allyson McCarthy and

Mary Williams



Thank you to all the Lake Claire residents who have donated time and money for past fundraising events. A special thank you goes out to Cynthia Baer, who headed fundraising last year and did a wonderful job.

Fundraising for Lake Claire keeps Lake Claire Neighbors in the black to offer monetary support to neighborhood events, periodic charitable donations within Lake Claire, and miscellaneous costs such as street sign toppers - and "support our schools" stickers and shirts. The largest fundraising event in the last two years, the Lake Claire Tour of Homes and Gardens, profited, with the majority of the money allocated to start a Lake Claire Green Space fund.

Our 2012 goals for fundraising still include raising money for Lake Claire Neighbors, to support general neighborhood needs, and we should continue to increase the Green Space fund.

With the green spaces in Lake Claire, the park, the land adjacent to the park, the Harold Avenue Green Space, the Bike Path entrance point, roundabouts, parking bumps, and the path to Sutherland Place, we have many ways to experience Lake Claire.

But, we need your support! We generated a list of potential fundraising activities and events for this year that include traditions such as the Halloween parade, with a twist, a wine tasting and silent auction, and a best picture pet contest. Next month, we have a movie in the park planned. So, save the date March 31, and look online at www.lakeclaire.org for more information and ticket donations.

Please contact us to head up an event, volunteer, or to donate goods and services.

We welcome your input and suggestions, but we can only succeed with your participation. Contact fun@lakeclaire.org.

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LAKE CLAIRE POSITION STATEMENT ROUND 2

Submitted by Sherry Neal

We, the Lake Claire community, thank the demographers, Board of Education, and APS administration for listening to many of the concerns raised by APS communities about the redistricting process. While Option A clearly does not answer the concerns of all communities, we support elements of this option and prefer it to Option B for the reasons set forth below. In a spirit of ongoing dialog, we ask that you continue to invest in the success of the Mary Lin, Inman, and Grady communities by:

- a) Keeping Mary Lin K-5;
- b) Providing the SPLOST-funded addition/renovation of Mary Lin; and
- c) Maintaining Mary Lin's current feeder pattern with Inman Middle & Grady High.

KEEPING MARY LIN K-5 IS INVESTING IN SUCCESS.

- Mary Lin is one of the top performing schools in the city, and is in the top 10% of elementary schools state-wide.
- Mary Lin's environment of excellence is the result of an overwhelming commitment by Mary Lin communities to APS and to our community school. Candler Park and Lake Claire have been part of the Mary Lin community since 1929; Inman Park joined the community almost a generation ago. Very few school-aged children in the Mary Lin communities attend private schools. Of those children attending APS schools, 96% attend Mary Lin, not schools in other zones, and not charters.
- Parents continuously roll up their sleeves to maintain the environment of excellence at Mary Lin, volunteering thousands of hours to the school each year and supporting the school through the PTA and the community-funded Mary Lin Education Foundation.
- Splitting the Kirkwood neighborhood to use Toomer to relieve over-crowding at Mary Lin and to avoid spending SPLOST funds at Mary Lin would be an inefficient allocation of resources, especially when a renovation will still be needed at Mary Lin. Staffing and instructional changes, increased numbers of crossing guards, duplicated or extended bus routes, and more would be funded through operating funds in the face of a \$60 million deficit when SPLOST funds are already allocated to Mary Lin.
- Splitting Mary Lin and Toomer into grade centers would result in a loss of walkability for half of the student population at each center, when we value the long-term health benefits of walking and biking for our children.

ADDING CAPACITY AT MARY LIN IS A "PROMISE KEPT."

- Lake Claire and the rest of the Mary Lin community voted twice to support SPLOST.
- SPLOST III and SPLOST IV allocated funds to Mary Lin for renovation and addition.

• Mary Lin last had a major renovation in 1994, almost 20 years ago.

• The entire 4th and 5th grades attend school in trailers; we have outgrown our space; and some areas of the current building need repair or updating.

• Mary Lin has never received SPLOST funds. Out of 58 currently open elementary schools, Mary Lin is 1 of 7 that have received no SPLOST funding.

• We have been told for years that the project has been merely delayed and will still take place.

PRESERVING OUR CHILDREN'S SAFE & EASY ACCESS TO THEIR SCHOOLS IS A TOP PRIORITY.

- Children attending APS schools must have safe, efficient access to their schools.
- The CSX railroad corridor and MARTA line are a barrier to safe, efficient access due to limited north-south access points from Boulevard to the eastern City of Atlanta boundary line due to:
 - Tunnel-like crossings at Krog Street, Whiteford/Oakdale, and Rocky Ford;
 - Major thoroughfares with elevated intersections at Boulevard and Moreland; and
 - No access across DeKalb Avenue at Arizona.
- DeKalb Avenue is a uniquely dangerous major thoroughfare with three narrow lanes that cannot be expanded and a center "suicide lane" with signals that periodically malfunction.
- Utilizing the existing resources of the Beltline and Path to route children to school is an efficient use of existing resources.

ADDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE GRADY CLUSTER IS INVESTING IN SUCCESS.

- The current Inman and Grady communities each have created and maintained an environment of excellence, resulting in demand that may exceed capacity if appropriate infrastructure is not maintained.
- APS is committed to and should create and maintain consistent feeder patterns for the Grady Cluster.
- APS must provide infrastructure necessary to handle current and future student populations.
- Enrollment projections show that new middle school facilities are needed in the Grady Cluster. APS should consider creative alternatives (like a 5th-6th Annex or 6th-Grade Academy or a K-8 model like that requested by Centennial Place), not removal of students from the cluster, to address overcrowding.
- SPLOST dollars should be spent where there is current need, not just anticipated need.
- APS should make certain that administrative transfers are allowed only at schools with space for all in-zone students, and we applaud the Superintendent's promise of an audit of administrative transfers.

We appreciate your continued consideration of our concerns as you work to create school zones that maximize the opportunity for every child to obtain a quality education. Thank you!

--signed "The Lake Claire Community"

The School Redistricting in APS: One thing you can do


by Mary Jo Bryan

There has been and continues to be much discussion about school redistricting in APS. There is a quick and easy thing you can do; even if you do not have school-age children and/or attend APS schools, you have a stake in this. Consider signing the "Renew Grady Cluster" petition at <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/renewedgradycluster>. This is a cross-neighborhood grassroots effort. APS Superintendent Erroll Davis says he supports grouping schools by cluster, and this petition supports a cohesive Grady cluster, which would consist of Grady High School, Inman Middle School, and Mary Lin, as well as Morningside, Springdale Park, and Hope-Hill elementary schools. The approach presented is 90% consistent with the Lake Claire Neighbors' principles. It advocates for a defined Grady Cluster that includes Mary Lin, and we think that's important. Again, responses are permitted from each adult in the household. In the notes section, please identify yourself as a Lake Claire resident.


In the petition comments section, be sure to mention Mary Lin's expansion, and the need to think about alternative grade configurations as a shared solution for the Grady cluster. The cluster's elementary schools are overcrowded. And Inman Middle is or will be soon. APS needs to know of our support for expanding Mary Lin. Meanwhile, as noted in the Lake Claire position statement in this issue of the Clarion, a neighborhood task force is looking at innovative solutions such as a cross-cluster 5/6 or 6th grade academy; APS needs to see our interest in a full range of creative solutions.

Good schools have been a major part of making Lake Claire and the other neighborhoods the vital, thriving neighborhoods that they are

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One + Year cont. from p. 11

my surroundings, ideas, environments and music as well as my Buddhist philosophy. I am particularly interested in functional art, that is, art which serves a role in everyday life." Pen has been in the United States since December 1999. She did not know what to expect when she arrived, in open-toed shoes and summer clothes, to New York City in the dead of winter; she had never experienced winter before, for where she came from, she says, they only had three seasons..."Hot, Hotter, Hottest!"



Sharon Doochin (L) and Pen Sherwood (R) at Lake Claire Xmas Party December 2011

Very quickly, she went shopping for warmer wear and started her American adventure.

Pen and Andrew were first introduced by a mutual friend in Thailand and began their relationship over cyberspace -- as pen-pals (no pun intended). That was in Bangkok on Valentine's Day in 1999. They subsequently went in separate directions until a lucky accident - hitting the wrong button on an e-mail address list - brought them back together again in the U.S...ten years later. Cyberspace had worked its miracle once more.

Wanting to be an artist, Pen had put her ambitions on hold when her family's chemical business failed during tough economical times in the mid-1980s. Instead she became a top-level executive secretary in Thailand, earning enough to raise four younger siblings and put them through college one by one. She came to New York to study art, but unfortunately the uncle who was sponsoring her studies passed away a few months later. While learning English at Baruch College in Manhattan, she supported herself working in a Thai restaurant, among other various jobs. She landed a position as a caretaker for a wealthy

elderly lady in a big house in the Hamptons, who passed away six years later. The son asked her to stay on and take care of the house, leaving her time to develop her artistic skills for the next two years. During that time she volunteered and acted at Vajiradhammadi Temple in Centereach, N.Y. Pen and Andrew were later to be married at that same temple.

With a 26-year difference between them, Pen said it took her a while to convince Andrew that their marriage was meant to be. They were married this past

zazzle.com/aprilstar64.

With Andrew's English-Scottish background and being a world traveler, he felt it was the universe telling him to take the leap with Pen. With Pen's determination and artistic ways, she's in heaven. Even though her grandparents had emigrated from China two generations before she was born, she says she is really "Chinese made in Thailand." Andrew's three sons and five grandchildren live in the U.K., but love visiting Atlanta, so we can expect to hear more British accents on Harold Avenue in the future. Meanwhile they love Lake Claire and feel very much at home here and plan to spend the rest of their lives enjoying and adding to the diverse and friendly spirit of the community. As Pen says, "I am now living happily with my husband in our lovely home together with birds, butterflies, squirrels, and other backyard wildlife in Lake Claire." It was just meant to be!

Marmalade: One of Many of Stories by Andrew Sherwood of Harold Avenue

Andrew told me several interesting stories about his family lineage. This is one of them. With the name Sherwood, he spoke of Robin Hood days, and then told the story of "marmalade." Many British families trace their ancestry back for hundreds of

Her mother, Andrew's maternal grandmother, descended from the family of Mary Seton, one of six young girls named Mary who were chosen as ladies-in-waiting to Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots.

Through this connection the family knows the origin of the word "marmalade." As a young girl, Mary started her short and tragic reign as Queen of Scotland in the Palace of Holyrood House, then as now a cold, damp building in a cold, damp city. During one of her first winters there, Mary caught a fever, probably flu, took to her bed, refused all food, and was clearly wasting away. In desperation, her worried ladies-in-waiting sought out the chef she had brought with her from France and begged him to do something.

In their halting French they explained "Madame Marie est malade - que pouvons-nous faire?" (Mistress Mary is sick, what can we do?). The chef exclaimed, "Marie malade? Mais alors, je sais exactement quoi faire!" (Mary sick? But I know just what to do!)

Quickly whipping up a concoction of bitter orange peel, lemon juice, sugar and water, he turned this into a jam or compote and told the girls: "Toast some bread on the fire, spread this compote on it and give it to my Lady. She will eat it and recover." Which they did. And it worked. From



Pen and Andrew's Traditional Thai Wedding

years, and Andrew's is no exception. His English father's family was farming in the County of Stafford at the time of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Andrew's Scottish mother was a Napier. Her father descended directly from John Napier of Merchiston, who in 1614 invented what his friends and neighbors jokingly described as "Napier's Bones," an early form of pocket calculator for use in connection with his other discovery, logarithms.

that day on the miracle-working jam became known as the cure for "Marie Malade," eventually shortened to "Marmalade." In Lady Antonia Fraser's biography of Mary Stuart, this story is described as apocryphal. However, Andrew's Grandmother Napier was a tough old Scotswoman who could never abide falsehood, so when she told this tale to her grandchildren, they understood (and understand) it as the absolute truth.

April, 2011. Not only did they get married, they had two ceremonies, a traditional American one and the next day a traditional Thai ceremony at the Buddhist temple where she had assisted the Abbott during her volunteering. At the first ceremony, the Irish American judge told Pen she had a choice, "You can put the ring on his finger or through his nose"... she choose the finger. The next day, the Abbott told Andrew to remember that "one woman under one roof = peace, more than one = no peace" ... words we should all remember.

Buddhists believe in spreading the spirit of loving kindness, and this is clearly evident in their marriage and Pen's artistic style. Her passion is abstract painting using oils, watercolors, and Chinese brush, but she also enjoys producing functional art from mailboxes to greeting cards. Her works were shown at an Asian-American Cultural Association Exhibition as well as at several charity shows in New York.

Today Pen's work can be seen at Donna Van Goghs and was recently seen at the Lake Claire Community Land Trust sale. You can also see more of her art at <http://janpen-thamma.artistwebsites.com>, and www.

Water, Stone, Schoolin' & Healin'

by Bryan Davis

Jill & I moved into Lake Claire in 2005 with our two children, four cats, and a dog. Since then the family has morphed a bit - two cats died, we inherited two more cats, bought a dog, added some fish, and built two cat houses out back when Tip and Doc started marking their territory to greet the new arrivals and have enjoyed every minute here in the neighborhood. I believe it was a year after we had moved in when Jill and I asked each other - "When did you know this was our house that we would create our lives in?" We both answered the same thing. When we stepped out of the car with our real estate agent, a magnificent hawk was gliding overhead and making herself known to us with

both taken the opportunity to be chaperones on field trips, attending the Small and Tall Ball, book fairs, and other functions at Mary Lin. Like our experience when we stepped out of the real estate agent's car, we fell in love with Mary Lin just about when our feet touched the pavement at the old school. The parents are involved, the staff is engaged, and our children feel at home, as do we at Mary Lin. We, as a neighborhood, need to keep this Mary Lin tradition of excellence, and make sure we constantly nurture it.

I am an actor, active in the Atlanta community for 20+ years (<http://robertbryandavis.nowcasting.com>). I formed a production company, JibJam Pro-



her piercing call. Now I don't believe in signs, but I do believe in my gut. And both our guts said, this is it, right when our feet hit the ground. The hawk just confirmed it for us both!

The hawks, the owls ... the raccoons and the possums ... are still singing their songs and we know with certainty that we could not have chosen a better place to live. I was out skipping stones on Lake Claire in our early days in the neighborhood. It was great to find our home. What I didn't know was the quality of our local elementary school. Now that was the chocolate sauce on my peppermint ice cream!

If you have children and send them to Mary Lin Elementary, you know how fortunate we are to have such a great school in the neighborhood. I grew up here in Atlanta. I never imagined that I would be a house dad for half the work week when I grew up. It is a joy to wait on the sidewalk waiting for the school bus to drop our children off from school. Another small pleasure in Lake Claire. Jill and I have

productions, in January of 2012. The stage play, *Faith Healer*, by Bryan Friel, is our first production. The play runs February 15 through March 24. Go to <http://www.jibjam.org> to purchase tickets to see *Faith Healer*. When you purchase tickets, enter the promo code - "Mary Lin". JibJam will donate up to \$5 of the ticket price to Mary Lin Elementary School, depending on the day of the performance. The show will be performed at The First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta (the Old Stone Church), just down the road from Mary Lin Elementary, 470 Candler Park Drive. Mary Lin has chosen to apply funds to Arts Programs.

The *Faith Healer* production was born in Haiti. In November of 2010, I began approaching actors and directors about mounting the show *Faith Healer*, by Brian Friel. I purchased Haitian art to sell at an upcoming production, hoping to cultivate relationships with Haitian visual artists as well, hoping to create

Faith Healer cont. p. 16

Jai Shanti: My Yoga Home in Lake Claire

by Michele Moody

I have been practicing yoga for over 30 years in our area, from Lake Claire to Virginia Highlands, Little 5 Points, Inman Park, Cabbage Town, Decatur, and even Buckhead. You could say, I am a believer/devotee of yoga: everything from Hot Yoga to Yin Yoga, Hatha Yoga, to Ayengar Yoga. Over the years there have been many variations of yoga introduced, some resonated; others did not. I noticed some studios had a particular slant towards spiritual/religious qualities, and others leaned solely into an athletic style.

On the day I walked into Jai Shanti Yoga and took a class with William Hufschmidt, I knew that I had found my yoga home. Jai Shanti opened on April 20, 2003, under the loving presence of William Hufschmidt. He offered a space and a teaching style that had the qualities I mentioned, but without seeming too much of any one of those qualities. Like a good pot of soup, just the right flavors.

There was not a single time when I left Jai Shanti that I did not feel better than when I arrived. Jai Shanti has authentic heart, a space that continued to grow and meet the needs of members of its community. The teachers are exceptional, personable, considerate, fun, and most of all knowledgeable. I couldn't begin to bear the thought of losing my Yoga Home. A place of sanctuary, a place where all the necessary ingredients came together to deliver deep satisfaction, while nourishing my body, breath, and my soul.

When, eight years later, I got the news of the possibility of Jai Shanti's closing, I had a deep sinking feeling. Late last year, shortly after the word of Jai Shanti's impending closing, local resident and veteran massage therapist, Faith Walker, was searching for a professional change in direction. She embraced the opportunity to purchase JSY. With over two decades of body and energy

healing work as her foundation, the long-time resident of the Inman/Candler Park neighborhoods sensed instant energy and enthusiasm with this endeavor. In that moment of courageous decision, Faith embarked upon a reinvigorating career course: to hold space for and help grow this vibrant yoga and healing community known as Jai Shanti Yoga.

I am ever so grateful to Faith and others who had the courage and vision to see the value that Jai Shanti brings to our neighborhood and for keeping the studio alive. My hope is that they will continue to infuse Jai Shanti with new vision and that we as a community value and support this truly unique studio that has the capacity to enrich our lives, body, mind, and spirit.

In the years since JSY's birth, William has cultivated a powerful and supportive community, which will continue to grow under Faith's guidance. William continues to offer Thai Yoga Therapy sessions and direct Pranakriya Yoga programs and trainings in Atlanta. Under the new ownership, Jai Shanti Yoga continues to offer a full schedule of yoga classes for all levels of practitioners and host exceptional programs and trainings to inspire people on their yoga paths. Faith also envisions offerings and programs to include other forms of creative and expressive healing arts such as dance and music.

You can find William at www.yogawithwilliam.com. Whether you're an "old faithful" of JSY, if it's been a while since you've visited the studio, or you are brand new to the space (2nd class free for new students!), Jai Shanti joyfully welcomes you to the mat! Their full schedule and studio information can be found at www.jaishantiyoga.com. JSY is conveniently located on the corner of Brooks and Dekalb Avenues in Candler Park, just one block from Lake Claire.

Thank you, William, for your energy and creation, and for bringing your love of yoga and teaching to fruition into the heart of Candler Park and Lake Claire.

Next LCN Meeting

Thursday March 15

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 to get the meeting agenda.

Faith Healer cont. from p. 15

a relationship between artists here in Atlanta with Haitian visual artists. I was determined to make the theatre production a reality after this second trip, and somehow connect my experiences in Haiti with my love of the craft of acting. What I didn't expect to do was actually to start a production company – JibJam. Soon after my return from Haiti, I learned some news about the NGO that made me decide not to support it any longer – thus the change for JibJam to support the Atlanta Public Schools that serve our neighborhood. We are “bringing it local.”

When purchasing tickets to Faith Healer, you may use promo codes “Mary Lin,” “Inman,” or “Grady.” JibJam will donate up to \$1,000 each to the schools. Audience members can also support the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern and The Academy Theater by using the codes “Tavern,” or “Academy.” I am currently working on offering a deal to all public school teachers, police and fire personnel. Water, Stone, Schoolin' & Healin'. Okay. I have covered my title. See you at the Faith Healer. And see you around the neighborhood.

Bryan Davis and his wife Jill, are Lake Claire residents (Tuxedo Avenue), who have generously supported and volunteered at Mary Lin over the last few years since their twins started Kindergarten in 2009.

Secret Garden cont. from p. 3

original to the estate.

While the Frazer Center's grounds are open for all to enjoy, the Center itself was still a mystery to me; which is why I recently found myself taking my own sunny morning stroll through the gentle quiet of the Frazer Forest toward the active hum of The Frazer Center's front doors. There I would be met by Trace Hayburn, the Executive Director, and Sherri Breunig, the Center's Communications and Marketing Associate, who were kind enough to welcome The Clarion to help shine a light upon, and reintroduce Clarion readers to, a longtime neighbor.

The first thing I learned is that The Frazer Center is a not-for-profit organization that has been operating for over sixty years. Its mission, according to Mr. Hayburn, is to service infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and adults with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Down syndrome, sickle cell anemia, autism spectrum disorders, and other genetic disorders. On any given day, 160 children and 90 adults (whom they refer to as clients) gather at Frazer, and are served by a staff of 95.

The second thing I learned is that I needed to pay attention and watch where I was going! At the Frazer Center, adults and children are constantly on the

move. As we walked through the halls I encountered clusters of bodies in motion – some in wheel chairs, some with walkers -- teachers holding hands and toddlers holding onto knee-high wall rails. They moved in classrooms and in between classes and, as Mr. Hayburn pointed out, they moved with a purpose that is by design. “For the children, we know they learn best by engaging their environment. While their rooms are center-based and filled with bright colors, our facility and grounds offer so many more opportunities for leaning through play and exploration. In a similar way, our adults have goals that help them continue to engage in the activities they love while also developing or building upon capacities they have for independent living. Rather than gathering all of these folks into rooms for day care, we seek to focus on the developmental potential of every individual, recognizing every person as a valuable member of society.”

The third thing I learned was that 70% of the preschoolers at Frazer have no disability, and that the school hosts inclusion classes in which these general education students and special needs students are taught side by side.

Mia and Sam

It's mid-afternoon in Inman Park, and Sam and Mia Prausnitz-Weinbaum are sharing an after-school snack and fragmented memories of their Pre-K days at Frazer. Six-year old Sam fondly recalls his teacher Ms. Aaron and his Pre-K obsession with flags. “I can still remember how to draw the Chinese flag,” he boasted proudly as his sister finished the last of her enchilada.

Mia and Sam are among the hundreds of general education students that have called the Frazer Center home. Mia, who is nine, said she would recommend Frazer “because it's super fun and the teachers are nice to you and, like with Sam, they teach you awesome stuff.”

Her mother Cindy was more specific: “We chose the Frazer Center for two reasons – the first was their whole inclusion philosophy of putting typically developing kids in classes along with kids with special needs; which also meant they had a bunch of resources. My first child, Hannah, started there when she was 6-weeks-old...The other thing was that when we were looking at schools,

one place that we looked was the Montessori school, which was quiet and focused, while Frazer, when we first were looking, was much more fun.”

It Takes a Village to Tend the Garden

As we made our way through Frazer's adult classrooms, Mr. Hayburn and Ms. Breunig greeted adult clients, staff, and student volunteers, many of whom come from nearby Emory University and Agnes Scott College. “Our volunteers play an important role,” Mr. Hayburn added, as we entered Frazer's outdoor courtyard space. In addition to the support volunteers provide in the classroom, “we care for 39 acres. While we have one grounds keeper, we rely heavily on volunteers to help maintain the beauty and sustainability of the grounds.”

The tour concluded back at Mr. Hayburn's office which overlooks the courtyard busy with teachers monitoring preschoolers exploring on foot and by tricycle. It was an enviable office view complimented by natural light filtered through glass smudged with tiny nose and hand prints. “It's my favorite part of working in here,” Ms. Breunig remarked, referring to the propensity of the children to frequently press their hands and faces against the glass to extend a greeting or to satisfy a curiosity. As we watched the children at play, no curiosity seekers greeted us at the window, but the sounds of their play managed to penetrate.

It sounded like whispers.

ATLANTA'S HOMELESS NEED YOUR BLANKETS

No matter what time of year it is, homeless shelters need blankets, towels, and bedding. Donations of such goods year-round avoid shortages in the winter months, when they are needed most. There are many ways to donate, but one is with a local antique dealer, Metropolitan Artifacts. They collect these goods throughout the year and deliver them to area homeless shelters. Items are accepted in any condition. You can donate new or used blankets, towels, bedding, coats, scarves, gloves, pillows, and even those mini hotel toiletries that you've been saving. They are located at 4783 Peachtree Road in Chamblee, just south of Lowe's. If you have questions or need directions, call 770-986-0007. Items are accepted Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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