

Lake Claire Co-Housing Community

by Kay Kuck



Photo by Tom Zarrilli

Lake Claire Cohousing Community is now in its sixteenth year in Lake Claire, at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and DeKalb Avenue. Our retaining wall features David Fitcher's *Native Waters, A Watershed Mural*, so look for us next time you are traveling past the mural along DeKalb Avenue. *Lake Claire Co-Housing continues on Page 6*

Local Girl Scouts Launch Cookie Sales

by Sophia Fasano



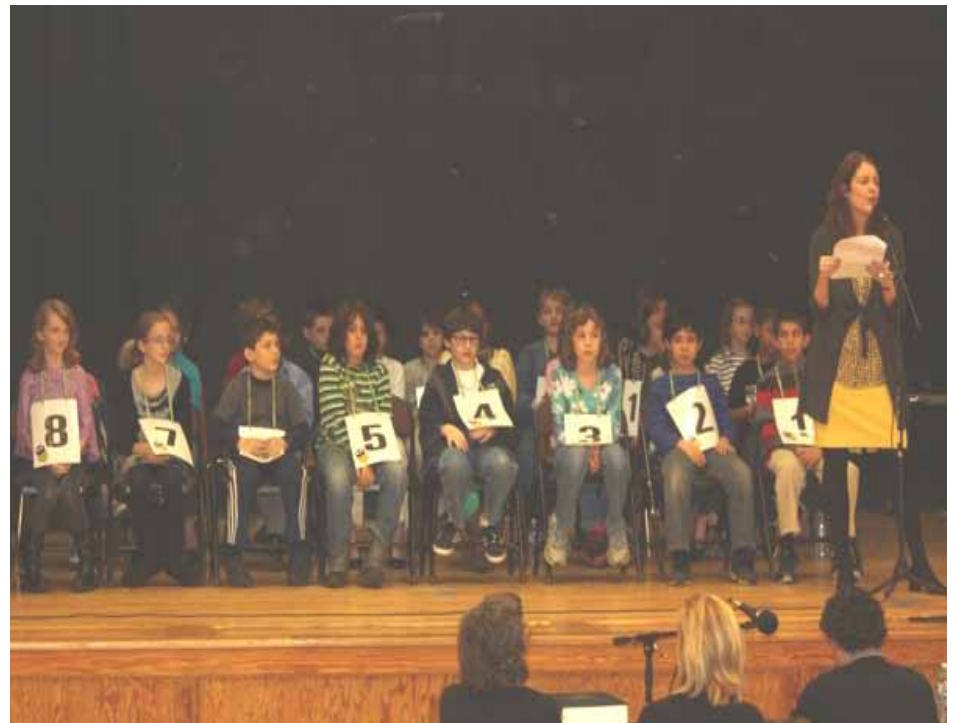
Here is Troop 10577 and other girl scouts – see Kids' Corner article and more pictures of Lake Claire's girl scouts and brownies on the back page!

Love and Marriage in Lake Claire

Congratulations from the Clarion staff to Ann Shirra and Scooter McLane, longtime Lake Claire residents. We wish you much happiness!! To come in a future Clarion: the romantic story of Ann and Scooter meeting each other after years of living just a few blocks apart.

Mary Lin Spelling Bee Returns

by Boyd Baker



It's been a few years since Mary Lin Elementary had a spelling bee. Parent Gary Capelouto used to organize one within the school, but it ended when Gary's kids left the school. Annis Barry in Candler Park felt that Spelling Bees are an American institution that needed to return. "Bees provide a link to the past. Spelling contests have been around since the time of the one-room schoolhouse," says Barry.

Since the school administration didn't want the Bee to interfere with the school day, Barry worked with volunteers to create a PTA event on Thursday, Jan. 17. Buzzy (R) for Pain Relief painless shot helper sponsored the event, and MoJo's Pizza in Oakhurst donated dinner for the 6 p.m. event. With 23 students in both 4th and 5th grade signing up for the competition, the Mary Lin Auditorium hummed with about 150 parents and kids --all hoping his or her friend or family member would win.

The first round was a practice round so the contestants could get over their jitters and practice spelling in front of the mic and crowd. They learned to ask word callers to repeat the words or ask for it to be used in a sentence to ensure they knew the word to be spelled. Then the fun began.

Mary-Lin Spelling Bee continues on Page 4



(L-R) Neil Barry, Theo Weimar, Mylan Lowe

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February: Mark Your Calenders



February, the shortest month and the only month with fewer than 30 days, has 28 days this year (29 in leap years). It is National National Awareness Month Awareness Month! It is also LGBT History Month in the UK, Black History Month, national bird-feeding month, and others. Birth flower: violet, birthstone: amethyst. The third week is "International Flirting Week."

1-24 "Fly" at the Theatrical Outfit. About African-American Army Air Corps fighters. More detail and ticket prices: <http://www.theatricaloutfit.org/shows/fly>

1 now playing through March 17 at the Horizon in L5P, The Waffle Palace: Smothered, Covered, and Scattered 24/7/365, by Larry Larson and Edie Levi Lee. Info www.horizontheatre.com

2 Friends of the Decatur Library book sale, 9 am to 3 pm, on the lower level of the Decatur Library. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction and children's books, as well as DVDs and CDs, will be offered for sale at low prices starting at \$.50. Proceeds benefit the programs and collections of the Decatur Library. Admission is free. Donations of gently used books are always welcome at the library front desk.

2 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030

2 Decatur Old House Fair, all day, at the Decatur Courtyard Marriott Conference Center. The Old House Fair is an all-day showcase of seminars, exhibitors, and hands-on workshops for old-house owners. For information, contact Regina Brewer at regina.brewer@decaturga.com or call (404) 371-8386.

2 Land Trust benefit at the E-Church, 8 p.m. See Page 11 for more details. Music by Bill Fleming and friends. \$10 donation will help to electrify the Land Trust and keep the light shining.

2 and 16 Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Be considerate to our neighbors.

3 2-5 p.m. Women's Tea for Lake Claire women only, 1759 Indiana Avenue, bring a dessert or hors d'œuvre to share (see article in the Centerfold). And it's Beth's (your illustrious editor's) birthday. And, oh yes, there is another little event that night, too, on TV, 6:30 p.m., on NBC.

3 and 17 – the day after each drum circle. "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day at the Land Trust (2-5 pm) – volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

7 Atlanta Public School System Spelling Bee at Gideon Elementary; Theo Weimar will represent Mary Lin Elementary.

7 7-9 p.m. – Feast of Aphrodite: explores the sensual side of herbs, from the kitchen to the boudoir. Women only, 18+. \$55. Reservations required. "Leave your inhibitions at the door." See http://www.theherb-kitchen.com/The_Herb_Kitchen/Feast_of_Aphrodite.html

7 -9, and 14-16, and more days – DAD's GARAGE Theatre Company showing "Scandal M*A*S*H-ganistan" – read all about it at <http://www.dadsgarage.com/Shows/Season-18/Improv-18/Scandal.aspx>. Thursdays are real cheap (see how cheap at the website.)

13 Have A Heart: A Benefit for Animal Action Rescue. Yappy Hour~ Live Music ~ Gourmet Dinner ~ Fabulous Silent Auction. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$45 (includes beer & wine) Sun In My Belly, Decatur – www.suninmybelly.com. Opportunity to share with your community. Thanks for your time and consideration. Allison Hughes, Foster Mom & Volunteer with Animal Action Rescue

15 Call for Proposals, for the Georgia Historic Preservation Conference & Statewide Historic Preservation Commission Training. Apr 26 & 27, Milledgeville, Georgia. See www.georgiashpo.org/conferences.

15 - 28: Registration for Spring/Summer 2013 Decatur Consignment Sale at First Baptist Church of Decatur. The sale dates will be March 8-9. Complete information - <http://www.decaturchurchconsignment.com>

16 - May, Frida & Diego Exhibit at The High Museum. ("Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Passion, Politics, and Painting")

16 & 17 Land Trust drum circle, Feb. 2 & 16, and Volunteer work day Feb. 3 & 17 (see 2-3 above)

17 "Dream in Green" gala celebrating completion of the Olmsted Linear Park. Fernbank Museum, 7-10 p.m., information jralston@atlantaregional.com

21 and the third Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m.

22 Fernbank Science Center "Science Night Out," presents "LEGO Mindstorm Robotics," for 3rd-6th graders, 6-9 p.m. \$10/person. <http://www.fernbank.edu/sciencenightout.html>

Send calendar items for MARCH Clarion by FEBRUARY 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org

2012 was the hottest year ever recorded in the continental United States.

Meanwhile, drought conditions continued to affect a large chunk of the 48 states. The portion of the country experiencing exceptional drought, the worst level of drought, doubled in August to 6%, the National Climatic Data Center reported. Overall, 39% of the country was in severe to extreme drought, "indicating that the drought has intensified," it said. Only the droughts of the 1930s and 1950s have been worse.

You can reach Talla at: newsletter@lakeclaire.org and Cindy at layout@lakeclaire.org - Editor

Thirty-Plus (!) Years in Lake Claire – From Tie-Die to Khaki

Part Fifteen: Lorna Mauney-Brodek

by Beth Damon

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



Present-day Lorna



The crowd with whom Lorna hung out when growing up in Lake Claire

*Top Row: Desiree Cross, Unknown, Karen Mauney-Brodek, Rose Holbrook, Kim Augliere
Bottom Row: Jennifer Barlow, Deirdre Thomas, Keisha Thomas, Lorna Mauney-Brodek, Tia Umberger*

In this installment, I highlight Lorna Mauney-Brodek. Lorna grew up on Hardendorf Avenue. Her parents, Ted Brodek and Ann Mauney, bought their current house in 1973, where they raised Lorna and her sister, Karen. Lorna is a community herbalist with a clinical herbal practice in East Atlanta. She encourages the use of locally abundant plant medicine as a vital part of the healing process, teaching plant identification and herbal medicine-making in Atlanta and around the southeast. Lorna is a graduate of Southwest School for Botanical Medicine, The BotanoLogos School, and she completed her clinical herbal internship at the Blue Ridge School of Herbal Medicine and Appalachian School for Holistic Herbalism. She coordinates the Harriet Tubman Soul Foot Clinic, providing foot care and holistic herbal healing to our friends on the street. Her recent project, The Herb Bus, launched last month, is a traveling botanical free clinic, making rounds to provide herbal care and basic first aid to underserved populations. Lorna serves on the board of the Georgia Herbalists Guild, an organization that honors diversity in herbalism while promoting the practice of botanical medicine.

Much of Lorna's herb work supports organizations dedicated to promoting diversity, environmental responsibility, and social justice. Growing up "americana," her health practices reflect the abundantly diverse influences of these lands to blend western medical herbalism, traditional chinese five phase, ayurveda, and southern folk. Early barefoot adventures in the Appalachian foothills and global wanderings, with tent-packing parents Ted and Ann, led to the more formal trainings in plant medicine noted above.

I asked Lorna to tell me some of what she remembers about her childhood in Lake Claire, and her story emerged...

"My family has been residents of the Dorf for quite some time. Before they bought their current house, number 555 (or Triple Nickle as my dad likes to call it), they rented a bit further down the block. They simply rolled the fridge right across the street.

"As a kid, the neighborhood was just an amazing bundle of interesting people, beautiful land, and plenty of adventures to be had. Growing up in Lake Claire felt like the perfect mix of country and urban-- running around barefoot in the woods, climbing trees, progressive politics, block parties, home brewing, and great music. I treasure the values I learned from being immersed in such a world view. When the road (Jimmy Carter Parkway) threatened to run clear through Candler Park and only a matter of feet from Mary Lin Elementary, I remember making my first protest sign at about age six. It said "Save not Pave," and who knew that I was fighting for what would become my life's work as an herbalist.

"When I finally moved away, it was a harsh realization to discover that our kind of community was in the minority—not everyone cares about environmental and social justice and lives these values by creating barter systems and potluck circles, electing openly homosexual councilmembers, chaining themselves to trees to save them from destruction, or creating public radio stations, newspapers, cooperative health food stores, and credit unions."

"While Lake Claire is still strongly colored by these values, the neighborhood has certainly changed... what is now Fellini's used to be a chop shop of sorts. I remember my dad walked by one day, and they were selling my bike that had been stolen only days before. But there were also treasures at the McLendon-Clifton intersection, like Sylvia's Atomic Café (now the Flying Biscuit) and Suzy's Hard Time Café (now Gato Bizco). Suzy was like a second mom for many of us, and we would stop in for hot chocolate before going to school.

"Probably the biggest changes are the demographics and the cost of living. The hard work this working class neighborhood put in, making it a great place to live certainly paid off, but it also came at a price. Property values skyrocketed; the public housing was either torn down or converted to condos. When I grew up I couldn't afford to stay in the neighborhood, and so I moved further south to the Eastland-Skyhaven Neighborhood, which is sandwiched between Grant Park and East Atlanta. In many ways this area reminds me of what Lake Claire and Candler Park were back in the day— a mixed neighborhood filled with young, progressive, and creative folks without a lot of money, but tons of heart.

"I still spend a lot of time in my old 'hood, leading medicinal plant walks in the Frazer Woods, enjoying the festivals in Candler Park, or just strolling around with my dad. There is a vibrant and vital outdoor life that is unique to Lake Claire, which hopefully will remain for many years to come."

Do you know of an interesting neighbor you'd like to see featured in this series? E-mail your suggestions to editor@lakeclaire.org.



Keeping An Eye on the Crime – And the Time Lake Claire Security Report Weeks 49-51

Theft from Auto

500 block Hardendorf Ave. 12/16-17/12 23:00-08:00 parked on street

Damage: rear passenger window broken Taken: GPS system

600 block Clifton Road 12/19/12 22:10-22:15

Taken: credit cards Note: stolen cards were found on Hardendorf Ave. on 12/24/12

Please be sure to report ANY crime event to the Atlanta Police even if there is no damage or theft involved. APD can only help us if they know what's going on. Also, join the neighborhood watch, lakeclaireneighborhood-watch@yahoo.com, to receive timely safety updates from neighbors or at least to post your incident without joining.

Mary-Lin Spelling Bee Continues from page 1

For 40 minutes the competitors performed gallantly, spelling words both easy and challenging. At the beginning were words like “superstar” and “family,” and they soon progressed to challenges like “intuitive” and “provincial.” Slowly, the field narrowed with each incorrectly spelled word being recognized with the sharp ring of a bell - DING! That sound would be followed by applause as the audience supported the efforts of each student as he or she left the stage. This was one competition where kids hoped no one clapped for them.

And then there were two: Neil Barry and Theo Weimar. The air in the auditorium got thick with anticipation. Mrs. Barry announced to the crowd how the Georgia Association of Educator rule determine the Bee to proceed. If Contestant A misspells his word, Contestant B must spell it correctly AND then spell another word correctly. If that person can't, the competition continues. If he or she can, that s/he is the winner.

When Neil Barry barely misspelled “empirical,” Theo had the chance to win. By spelling that word correctly as well as a second word, “fantastically,” he was declared the winner. In the end, the top three student spellers were Theo, Neil, and Mylan Lowe, but all of the contestants were great sports and future competitors. Theo Weimar will represent Mary Lin Elementary on February 7 at Gideon Elementary during the Atlanta Public School System Bee. Wish him the best of luck if you see him!

You do not realize the importance of a good sound system until you attend a Spelling Bee. Martin Steib volunteered his time and expertise to ensure the students could all be heard clearly, as could the judges (Mary Jo Bryan, Susan Shaw, and Mike Weiss) and word callers (Wendy Baker and Halle Griffie). Many thanks go out to Annis, Peggy Edwards, Kelly Crutcher, the PTA, and all the volunteers and sponsors who made this night a really special one for all the families and kids. Looking forward to next year already.

New Volunteers on the Clarion Staff: Talia Williams and Cindy Zarrilli

Thank you to Jeanne Marie St. Romain, Advertising Coordinator, for your untold hours of work for the Clarion – and the neighborhood. This is a vital position for the neighborhood, since the advertising money is what pays for the Clarion, and we often turn a profit for the neighborhood.

Thank you to Illustrator Dr. Lore Ruttan, who has been our layout artist, in the true sense of the word artist: notable is the creative banner art that featured her unique botanical style focusing on detail (my favorite is the hummingbird); Lake Claire kids have grown to love searching for her honeybees. Please continue to contact Lore for your design needs at lmruttan@gmail.com.

Talia Williams has volunteered to take over the advertising position; she worked with Jeanne on this month's issue and will begin on her own with the March issue. Talia and her husband have just moved to Palifox and are happy to be part of the Lake Claire community. The couple agrees that the Lake Claire neighborhood is one of the best parts about their move to Atlanta. Talia says she looks forward to working with the newspaper while getting to know the people and the area.

Welcome to Cindy Zarrilli, a longtime resident of Hardendorf Avenue, who has wanted to be more involved with the neighborhood and has graciously volunteered to be our new layout artist. This issue was her first, and obviously, she has jumped right in. Cindy was a graphic designer for CNN for twenty years, and she is excited to join the Clarion team. Thank you and welcome, Talia and Cindy.

And again, thank you so much, Lore and Jeanne.

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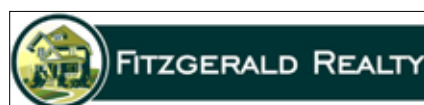
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Create Mayberry One Step at a Time

by Boyd Baker

Everybody wants to live in that perfect Andy-Griffith-Leave-It-To-Beaver neighborhood where you know all your neighbors, say “hi” to Ed the Mailman, and have your kids play in the street. So did Andy and the Cleavers just luck out and buy in just the right place? Or did they work to make their neighborhood what they wanted?

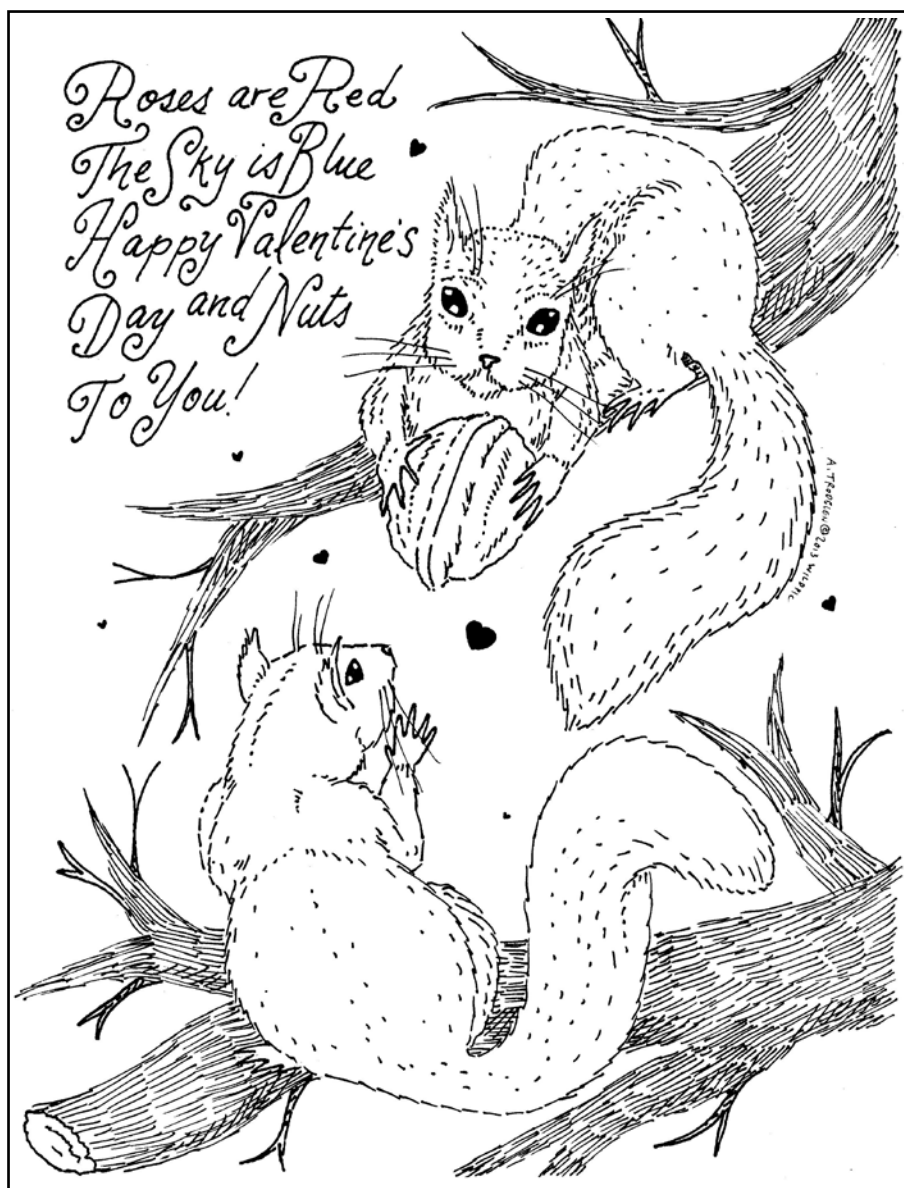
I’m guessing they got lucky and were born at the right time - a simpler time we like to say. Before multiple car families overtook America, folks walked a lot more. They walked to see friends, walked to school, walked to the store, and even went on family walks after dinner. For some, a “morning constitutional” was a daily ritual to start each day in a healthy way.

So where did walking go? Did the comfortability of couches and prevalence of the suburb steal our walking shoes? Or did something cause the mental shift against the daily walk? What about the random hike a few blocks to our corner store? Not really sure. But I do believe that something is out of whack, and it has hurt us all healthwise and communitywise. Once folks, and kids, stopped their daily walks for work, health, play, and chore, we became lethargic. Now we’re known as an overweight nation with bad eating habits (eating is blamed first, exercise - especially for kids - comes in second). At the same time, many people feel disconnected and say they don’t know their neighbors (especially those in sprawling suburbs or apartment complexes). Walking regularly can help in many ways.

Raising my two kids, I learned quickly the value of going for a walk. If they were cranky as infants, a quick saunter down the street pleased them immensely as they felt the bright blue sky and bird songs envelope them. We’d go for daily walks - out of a stroller as soon as possible - and after-dinner walks to bring a certain connection to their neighborhood and the benefits of daily exercise. Now that they’re older, we still walk regularly. Yeah, they do their fair share of zoning out in front of a Wii or tv screen in the afternoons, but that’s usually followed by at least a walk around the block before dinner. Walking with your kids starts a pattern that benefits everyone.

Taking a simple stroll around the neighborhood lets us see neighbors as they come home from work, are digging in their yard, or are going for walks of their own. We learn the latest news of their lives and share ours. Maybe they’re going on vacation - we’ll keep an eye on their house. Sometimes we’ve got a late workday - they can let our dog out in the afternoon. These minor connections bond us as neighbors and build true community.

Continued on page 8



Anna Trodglén draws our *Biscuits and Bellyrubs* series. A life-time Atlanta resident, Anna grew up on the edge of Lake Claire. She lives with her husband Dugan, three terriers, and a black cat. Find Anna’s greeting cards and prints at Donna Van Gogh’s, owned and operated by Lake Claire residents

Walking : A Lost Art

Skiing In and Around Lake Claire ... Recent Happenings and Stuff:

Inman Middle School News

The recent Frosty 5K Fun Run raised almost \$9,000 for the PTA and got almost 500 runners out on a beautiful December morning.

Paula Herrema was recently promoted from Interim Principal to Principal. Inman Middle is in good hands with her.

Mary Lin Elementary News

Building plans are still being discussed between APS, the architects, and the Local School Council project committee. Hopes are to start work this summer without needing to relocate the students. Check the school website, and Principal’s blog, for updates.

School tours for new parents will be held on Feb. 26 & March 26 at 9:30 am.

Kindergarten Roundup (incoming student tour) is on May 7 9-10:30 am

Want to have some FAST FUN in Lake Claire?

Put on your creative, constructive thinking caps, and get ready to race. Coming soon is a super cool soapbox derby in our neighborhood (no motors or pedals allowed). There will be divisions for kids old and young. Check out www.CowabungaDude.org for more details.

The Frazer Center – Ponce Entrance Reopened

Trace Haythorn, Executive Director of The Frazer Center announced that on Monday, January 14, the Ponce entrance reopened to all vehicles. Thanks go to David Radlmann (dad of Harrison) and his team at UrbanEco for their tremendous work on the retrofit of the bridge. The Frazer Center requests that all vendors and large trucks consistently use the Ponce entrance, and that parents and employees make every reasonable effort to enter from Ponce as well.

Thanks to everyone for your patience and courtesy during this project.



Erin Bailie's 6th birthday at the Common House (Ana, Tess, Andy, Erin, Bobby, Betty Jo)



In progress -- before the walks were laid

Lake Claire Co-Housing Continued from page 1

We participated in the Watershed Mural in many ways, including financially and artistically. After the mural committee had many refusals from MARTA and others with walls whom they approached, we gladly agreed to have the mural on our retaining wall. The awesome painting of sea turtles, herons, huge trees, winding streams, and people of all shapes and sizes transformed our once sickly white concrete retaining wall into a work of art

In fact, turning formerly small pieces of land into beautiful architectural living spaces is a cohousing specialty. The mural was a continuation of what we hoped to accomplish, creating beauty. We share the distinction of being Georgia's first cohousing community -- as well as being one of the smallest cohousing communities.

In describing New York City's first co-housing project, a recent New York Times article said that co-housing "speaks to people who want to own apartments but not feel shut off by it, lost in an impersonal city." A front page article in US Today in the 1990s described us as "the commune of the nineties."

The modern theory of cohousing originated in Denmark in the 1960s among groups of families who were dissatisfied with existing housing and communities that they felt did not meet their needs. Bodil Graae wrote a newspaper article titled "Children Should Have One Hundred Parents," spurring a group of 50 families to organize a community project in 1967. This group developed the cohousing project Sættedammen, which is the oldest known modern cohousing community in the world. Another key organizer was Jan Gudmand Høyer, who drew inspiration from his architectural studies at Harvard and interaction with experimental U.S. communities of the era. He published the article "The Missing Link between Utopia and the Dated Single Family House" in 1968, converging a second group.

The Danish term *bofællesskab* (living community) was introduced to North America as cohousing by two American architects, Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett, who visited several cohousing communities and wrote a book about it. The book resonated with some existing and forming communities, such as Sharingwood in Washington state and N Street in California, who embraced the cohousing concept as a crystallization of their communities.

Co-Housing Continues on page 10

Creative Hats Abound at the Annual Women's Tea

See article on page 7

photos pp 6-7 from 2009-2012 Women's Teas, by Beth Damon



Betsy's Amazing Tea Cups





Lake Claire on Super Bowl Day: Women's Tea

by Betsy Hoddinott



"Let's have a women's tea!" It was a warm fall day in 2003, and McKenzie Wren and I were having a conversation about how much fun it is to dress up and go to tea at a fancy hotel. Soon the conversation turned to the possibility of doing our own version of such an elegant event. We decided to wait until after the holidays, picking a date in late January or early February. I had a lot of fancy teacups that I wanted to use, so we decided to do it at my house. Since we did not want to leave anyone off the invitation list accidentally, we decided to invite all the women in the neighborhood. An invitation was printed up and put into neighborhood mailboxes.

Twenty or thirty women showed up, and several commented on how cool it was to have the tea on Super Bowl Sunday. Super Bowl Sunday? McKenzie and I had heard of the Super Bowl, of course, but we did not pay attention to when it was. So a tradition was started: the Women's Tea became an annual event held on Super Bowl Sunday (traditionally the first Sunday in February). Since the tea was always over by 5:00 p.m., there was time for participants to move on to other Super Bowl events. As I said then, "It gives some feminine energy to a very masculine day."

This year is the tenth annual Women's Tea, to be held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, at my house, 1759 Indiana Avenue. The time is 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. A variety of teas are furnished, and each guest is asked to bring a sweet or savory snack to share. Hats and gloves are encouraged. Hats have ranged from a baseball cap (worn with blue jeans) to extravaganzas made from plastic fruit or teacups worn with fancy thrift shop dresses. Women from the Lake Claire neighborhood and their (female) friends are welcome.



Create Mayberry Continues from page 5

What happened to walking to school? Everyone knows the tales of grandparents who walked 3 miles uphill each way to school. Some even walked home for lunch! Used to be, I'd see many families walking to school each morning. We'd all join up on certain key streets on our way to drop them off at Mary Lin. Sometimes we'd walk alongside neighbors before they split off to head toward Paideia. In the afternoon, we'd walk home from school, stop by the Candler Park playground for a bit, and then continue our journey toward homework and chores.


These days the streets are pretty barren, considering the baby boom we've seen recently. I can count on one hand the number of families I see walking to school in the morning. Though many kids are within a 20-minute walk to school, few are seen. We rail against the lack of recess/p.e. in the schools, yet we don't take advantage of the simplest solution by walking rather than driving or riding a bus when we can. For some, a morning walk might help focus their attention on schoolwork while burning off some needed morning energy. To start and end their school day with a walk would help many kids tremendously.

Besides the exercise, learning the streets of the neighborhood and how to get to the homes of friends is valuable. When kids know where friends live, they have extra safe places to go if they should get hurt or need help in a pinch. My parents weren't worried when they said, "Go outside and get the stink blown off you." They were more focused on keeping their blood pressure intact and making sure I got a little sunshine. We'd stay out playing until the parents would scream for us to come in for dinner. Part of the concerns parents today have is because they don't get outside themselves, or see others outside. If more parents and kids walked to school, the park, and the corner store, the community would get stronger. That strength comes from knowing there are neighbors around looking out for each other.



Now being neighborly, having neighbors, and being close friends are three TOTALLY different things. Just like Andy was neighborly with Otis the Drunk, or June was neighborly with Eddie Haskell, you didn't imagine them wanting to spend vast amounts of time together. They were being pleasant, polite, and friendly. Neighbors are those who live near you - whether you like it or not. Like family, you don't get to choose them. I've got many neighbors, and we've got many differing opinions on politics, religion, child-rearing, and college football. Not for one minute do those differences diminish the fact that we've got a lot in common - our community. We may not vacation together, but we answer the call when someone needs help. That's what good neighbors do. By walking you can learn a lot about your neighbors.


When we walk we become a more connected (hard to say "Howdy" if everyone's closed into their cars or homes), healthier (exercise and diminished pollution), and happier (don't forget those endorphins and the chance to share a laugh) community.

So consider going for a regular walk, organizing kids on your street to walk to school, or walk to Fernbank or the Frazer Forest sometime. You'll find it's not so bad, and you just might realize Mayberry could be just outside your door.



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February into March

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Now comes the most exhausting of our garden seasons because so much must be done before heat strikes. Last year the temperature rose over 80 degrees for ten days in March, which wreaked havoc among plants. Let us hope for a milder spring this year.

The beds ready, you may direct sow peas (garden, sugar snap, and snow), turnips, potatoes, radishes, carrots, beets, collards, lettuce, Swiss chard, leeks, and parsnips before hot weather. Now is also the time to transplant the hardened-off broccoli seedlings and other cole plants to the outdoors. I find a cold frame with an automatic opener very handy in this climate. When my seedlings have filled the shelves under lights and the southern windows, I move them into the frame located against the south side of the house. For 20 years a Juwel cold frame kept my seedlings warm at night (you can throw an old blanket over it to add more protection) and opened on sunny days to keep them from frying while I was at work. I recently replaced it and noticed that the discarded one disappeared within two hours from the curb.



Indoors, most flowers need to be sown by February. Again, I recommend ageratum, calendula, dahlia, globe amaranth, marigold, nicotiana, petunia, salvia, strawflower, and zinnia seeds. Let me know what worked for you. Also start your mainline tomatoes (early varieties already begun), eggplants, and peppers. I highly recommend the Fairytale eggplant, which I grew last year in a very large pot, for its prodigious output.

How were your tomatoes last year? Here's a recipe for a tomato pit that enables the roots to grow deep and take up all the natural extras you provide. First dig your pit two feet deep if you can—I know, the red clay is like rock here. Break up the bottom and sides a little, fill the pit with water, and mix in a cup of fish emulsion and half a cup tomato fertilizer high in phosphorus and potassium. Let it all sink in; if it does not disappear in a day, then the site is probably not fast draining enough for most vegetables. Next add a good amount of grass clippings, weeds, or any green vegetable material. Cover this with two shovels of manure or compost, a handful of bone meal, and a handful of rock or super phosphate. Mix and dampen. Backfill with good soil from your garden. Mark each pit with a stick, and let them settle all until you are ready to put out your tomato plants, often as early as March if you use wall o'waters.

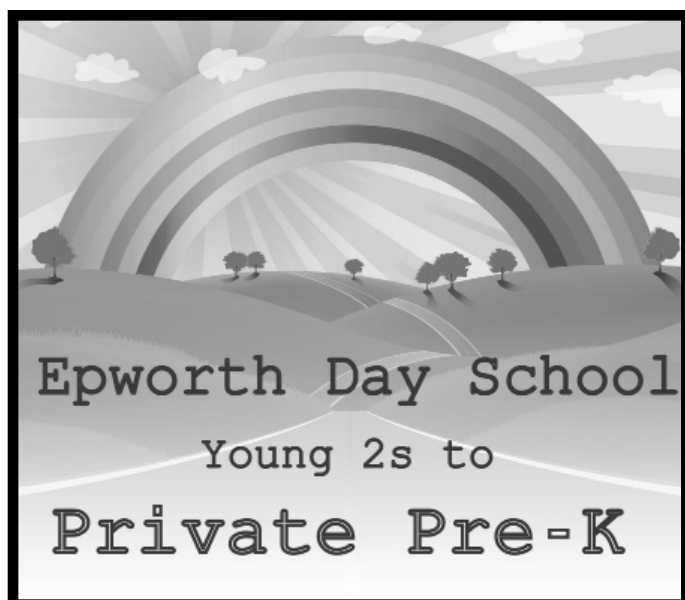
Unfortunately, this is also the month when we must start fighting varmints, mostly squirrels, chipmunks, roof rats, and voles. A dog or hunting cat will help keep them at bay. Sometimes the same row covers that protect your crops from insects will dissuade the animals. Someone made me a frame covered with chicken wire that keeps rodents from eating my cole crops in spring. I have also used large rat traps to kill rats and small possums who gnaw through my blueberry netting. Another option is to trap and move animals if you are opposed to killing them, but they will die regardless when moved to new neighborhoods. There are not many sprays that can be used on food crops. I use purchased red pepper spray religiously, but I think rodents have hotter taste buds than mine. For flowers, I find spraying Ropel or Repels-All will keep squirrels from biting off tulip buds; this adds about \$20 to the already high price of bulbs.

And, oh, those flowers are blooming now: snowdrops, crocus (species and Dutch), narcissus or jonquils, muscari, hyacinths, snowflakes, anemone blanda, iris reticulata, erethonium, the first tulips, the flowering cherry and quince and jasmine, winter hazel, edgeworthia, eleagnus, hellebores, ipheon, iberis, the wild violets, and the purchased pansies. Even though it may still snow, do not fear as these will survive most March weather. And if hard frost threatens once the narcissus has bowed its head, go out and pick every one. The scent inside will intoxicate you. Far better frost than the heat last year that made our spring as fleeting as New England's.

By March, you should have planted new rose bushes and pruned your old ones, taking out dead or crossed canes and cutting others back to outward facing buds. Always be sure your pruners and loppers are clean (a bleach solution will do) and that you paint the cut with Elmer's glue to seal it against rose borers. I find *Rosa mutabilis* to be the easiest and most freely blooming rose of the old sort, five-petaled flowers that change color from bud to newly opened to final bloom. They are still in bloom as I write this Jan. 13 just as my first narcissus February Gold has opened.

Also, despite how busy you will be, consider a trip to another "garden," whether as close as Deepdene's wildflowers or as far as Gibbs' Garden's fields of narcissus in north Georgia.

You may reach Elizabeth at knowltonew@earthlink.net.



To all Friends and Families of the Frazer Center:

Effective immediately, the Ridgewood gate will only be open 7:30am-5:30pm Monday through Friday when the center is open. It will be closed at all other times.

This entrance is meant to be for MARTA Mobility vehicles and emergency vehicles. All other vehicles are expected to use the S. Ponce de Leon entrance. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

I am grateful for the incredible support and encouragement of this community. It is a privilege to spend our days with the children and adults entrusted to our care.

Tracy Haythorn
Executive Director

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Co-Housing continued from page 6

Though most cohousing groups seek to develop multi-generational communities, some focus on creating senior communities. Charles Durrett later wrote a handbook on creating senior cohousing. The first community in the United States to be designed, constructed, and occupied specifically for cohousing is Muir Commons in Davis, California. Architects Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett were responsible for the programming and the design of the site plan, common house, and private houses. There are precedents for cohousing in the 1920s in New York with the cooperative apartment housing with shared facilities and good social interaction.

Growth

Hundreds of cohousing communities exist in Denmark and other countries in northern Europe. There are more than 120 operating communities in the United States with more than 100 others in the planning phases. In Canada, there are nine completed communities, and there are approximately fifteen in the planning/construction process. There are more than 300 cohousing communities in the Netherlands (73 mixed-generation and 231 senior cohousing), with about 60 others in planning or construction phases. There are also communities in Australia, the United Kingdom, and other parts of the world.

Design

Because each cohousing community is planned in its context, a key feature of this model is its flexibility to the needs and values of its residents and the characteristics of the site. Cohousing can be urban, suburban, or rural. The physical form is typically compact, but varies from low-rise apartments to townhouses to clustered detached houses. They tend to keep cars to the periphery, which promotes walking through the community and interacting with neighbors as well as increasing safety for children at play within the community. Shared green space is another characteristic, whether for gardening, play, or places to gather. When more land is available than is needed for the physical structures, the structures are usually clustered closely together, leaving as much of the land as possible "open" for shared use.

This aspect of cohousing directly addresses the growing problem of suburban sprawl.

During a process which can take years, like-minded individuals plan their community. The most important idea in cohousing is designing beautiful compact homes around courtyards which encourage frequent community interactions. Our courtyards here in Lake Claire remind people of a European village, which is not surprising since our architect grew up in France.

Architect Greg Ramsey and his wife Diane Burgoon started holding meetings in the 1990s to get a cohousing community started. They found the perfect location, an acre of land between Connecticut and DeKalb Avenues, across the Arizona Avenue cul de sac from the Land Trust. The site had quite a history, including the proposed SRO (single room occupancy housing structure) that had been roundly defeated by surrounding neighbors.

I (Kay Kuck) had visited Lake Claire to visit my friend Marilyn Rosenberg, one of the original Land Trust trustees. The Land Trust has been so important in our development. We started meeting in former trustee Charlie Pope's house. Most communities hire an architect to plan the community after general consensus has been established as to what the community wants. We were so fortunate to have an architect who not only planned with us the whole four years, but stayed and lived with us.

I feel like I should have gotten an architecture degree after my four years of weekly meetings! The Book of Patterns (the architects' Bible) as well as Katie and Charlie's book Cohousing. A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves became our constant companions as we delved and became totally enamored with the formation of our community. People came and went as the 80-120K price of our houses went up,

as human dramas ensued, and as people realized they didn't really want to live that close to their neighbors!

My own life changed with job instabilities and doubt in the actual possibility of the community causing me to drop out. Special education teacher Betty Jo and I were not in the same financial ballpark as some of the other community members.

Diane insisted that Greg design a way for both of us could stay in the community. Astute design enabling Betty Jo and I to share one of the larger units and allowed both of us to remain as founding members of what has been **an incredible place to be single parents.**

Selling all the units was quite a challenge, but we finally reached this crucial goal, and we immediately had events which almost destroyed our little community. Our developer skipped town, so we had to scramble to find another one. We had trouble finding a bank which would finance our unique idea of housing which a traditional bank couldn't understand. Finally, we found another developer and got a construction loan from Tucker Federal. Usually construction loans are only given to developers with deep pockets, so the uniqueness of our community even extends to the financial.

Cohousing has been one of the best things in my life as the community embraced and assisted me as a single parent in raising my son David. Surrogate father figures, a family for David as I dealt with issues being a single parent, and even the use of connections to provide a volunteer tutor for David's learning disabilities, have been some of the wonderful opportunities David has had.

Speaking of kids, what is growing up in cohousing like for a kid? Erin Bailie, who moved into cohousing when she was three, blew us away as she read her essay about growing up in cohousing, written while a student at

High School. We might include that essay in a future Clarion.

Start talking to the sixteen adults who live here, and you will get everything from the nuts and bolts practicality of sharing woodworking tools to touching emotional stories which will help you realize how deep our emotional bonds are. All is not warm and fuzzy, however. Our repository of stories includes challenging incidents which illustrate the messiness of living in community. Future stories will detail some of our experiences.

Some of the unique features of our community include the constant background noise of trains which literally shake our foundations and provide a constant reminder of their presence, very open design which allows people to know whom you invited for dinner and even what you cooked, and the possibility of sharing a meal with us at one of our community dinners.

Sunday evening dinners must have a reservation (Just ask any member, we love company) or Thursday night vegetarian community dinners. So, Lake Claire, drop by at 7:00 p.m., any Thursday evening. I'm warning you that because of the busyness of our schedules we might not have a cook. Come anyway, and see our community.

Cooking a meal is an example of our chore list; every adult member is expected to do at least seven hours a month. One of our members who is adroit at creating spreadsheets carefully documents our participation in chores. What happens to the slackers? Nothing except understanding for those too busy to participate – accompanied by mild feelings of guilt from those who do have the time. That includes me, since I recently retired. I will close this article so I can sign up to cook a Thursday evening meal.

This is the first of an occasional series. Kay Kuck, who has lived in Lake Claire Cohousing since 1997, is one of the founding members. Her son David was 8 years old when he moved into Cohousing; he is now 24 and works at Camili's in Little Five Points.
—Editor

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From The Land Trust

Is It Spring Yet?

Take a Break from Hibernation at the Groundhog Day Dance, February 2

by Dave Fasano

The Lake Claire Community Land Trust invites you to dance the midwinter blues away at our first-ever Groundhog Day Dance. It's happening on Saturday, February 2, 8:00 p.m. to midnight, at the First Existential Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, 30307. A number of local musicians have agreed to perform to help support and develop the Land Trust's programs, and the music planned for this evening demonstrates that idea in a dramatic way.

Once again, Dr. Bill Fleming has agreed to perform, recruiting friends with whom to harmonize and play. Whenever Bill plays, people feel like moving around rhythmically, and Groundhog Day at the "E Church" will be an opportunity to satisfy the need we all have to dance, along with helping our local green spot remain healthy.

Ralph Roddenbery and Tommy Jones, who have performed at the Land Trust in the past, will be returning to give a hand to the Land Trust as it moves to expand its programs supporting the arts, nature, and the community. Ralph and Tommy will be drawing on that deep Southern tradition of "poetry in motion" as the evening progresses

Opening the program will be the Radio Ramblers, including Bob Vinsentin and Gayle Thompson, longtime friends of the Land Trust, and Michael Ellis, Atlanta's legendary Good Morning Blues man. Michael's Friday morning "Good Morning Blues" program, 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. on WRFG (89.3 on the FM dial, and streaming live 24 hours a day at wrfg.org) has long enchanted listeners. Not only does Michael have an encyclopedic knowledge of the genre, but he is an adept practitioner of the musical arts: you do not want to miss his eclectic guitar stylings.



"Community Service" at the Land Trust

by Stephen Wing

Feeling the call of "Community Service"? Or just stuck with it, thanks to a court decision or a requirement for school?

Many people over the years have turned to their friendly neighborhood greenspace to fulfill a mandatory Community Service requirement of one type or the other. As a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Land Trust is qualified to put your skills to work (or lack thereof) and sign off on your paperwork.

At the moment we have quite a variety of opportunities available, including some sit-down indoor projects.

1. Board member Miriam Herbers could use help with her current project, collecting PDF versions of our monthly updates in Clarions of years past.
2. We need someone with the technical know-how and equipment to scan old photos so they can be included in our long-overdue website photo gallery.
3. A letter to potential "Community Business Partners" was mailed out last fall, but still needs follow-up calls. This would involve asking three or four simple questions and logging the responses.
4. Our 2013 membership renewal letters need stuffing and mailing. Land Trust "Caretakers" whose membership is expiring will receive an "I Support the Lake Claire Community Land Trust" bumper sticker to encourage them to renew.
5. Our bulletin board display is desperately in need of an update. The Communication Committee has dwindled to one, so this project keeps slipping down the priority list. But all it needs is one enthusiastic helper to leapfrog to the top.
6. All our regular maintenance needs haven't gone away! Weeds always need pulling, and paths need wood chips to keep the mud at bay.
7. Bremen James, who is developing the Nelms corner for a small urban farming operation, could use assistance building retaining walls and preparing garden beds.
8. Our "Keep the Trust" volunteer work days still take place twice a month, on the day after each drum circle, concluding with free pizza and a drum circle pass for each participant. (Drum circles are first and third Saturdays each month.)

Other tasks are not suitable for Community Service requirements, but still count as Service to our Community. These include helping with our website, putting in your two cents at meetings of our Board of Directors and email us at info@LCCLT.org.

Feb. events

Saturday, Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day Dance at the Existentialist Congregation, 8:00-midnight (Land Trust fundraiser).

Saturday, Feb. 2 and 16 – Land Trust drum circle, dark till midnight. Please walk, bike, or carpool.

Sunday, Feb. 3 and 17 (the day after each drum circle) – "Keep the Trust" Volunteer Work Day, 2:00-5:00 pm. Volunteers get free pizza and a drum circle pass.

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LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. Hey there, Lake Claire kids – Let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. Be creative...we'd love to hear from you.

Local Girl Scouts Launch Cookie Sales

For many years, I have been a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 10577. Other troop members are Gabrielle Songer, Molly Linstrom, Shawn Gillespie, Elena Hubert, Jordan Freeman, Honey Harmon, Jamie McGill, Lily Nevins, Isabella McDonald, Carys Van Atta, and Ellen McClain.

Nearly all of us have gone to Mary Lin Elementary School, or have lived in Lake Claire or Candler Park. We began as Daisies. Then Brownies. Now we are Junior Girl Scouts.

Our troop gets a lot of help from our moms. Lydia O'Neal is our troop leader. Alicia McGill and Darlene Gillespie help her, too. And Jennifer Hubert helps us sell our cookies every year. It is a LOT of work!!

During our time as a troop, we have done many things. We meet about once a month and talk about many things. We play games, sing songs, and do crafts. Last year, we even went to sleep-away camp with other troops around Georgia.

This past fall, our troop went camping together. We slept in tents!! We went hiking to a pond!! We did chores and at night, we ate yummy s'mores.

We are able to pay for these trips and fun things by selling cookies. This month we start selling cookies again! You can buy Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Do-si-Dos, and Savannah Smiles. The cookies are only \$3.50 a box. We are taking orders now. The cookies will arrive in the middle of February.

If you would like to order cookies now, use the Girl Scout cookie locator to find a troop near your house. <http://cookielocator.littlebrownie.com> If you would like to buy from my troop, 10577, please e-mail Elena's mom directly. J_b_hubert@hotmail.com [j-UNDERSCORE-B-UNDERSCORE@HOTMAIL.COM]

Girl Scouts has taught me a lot of about the world and how to be responsible. Most of all, it's taught me how to have a lot of fun with my friends. The End



Sophia Fasano - February 2013
Kids' Corner Writer

Note: Troop 10577 has been together for four years. See picture of the troop on Page 1.



Girl Scout Troop 10577 roasted hot dogs and s'mores, and learned about fire safety on a recent camping trip. Cookie sales support these activities. L-R: Honey Harmon, Gabrielle Songer, Sophia Fasano, Molly Linstrom, and Jamie McGill.



Jamie and Sara McGill selling cookies to Beth Damon



Delaware Sisters (L-R) Brownie Sara McGill and Girl Scout Jamie McGill selling cookies in the 'hood

A New Creation After Rain by Stephen Wing

Somebody's ruined Bible
was my sign:
open to the first page
of Creation,
welded to a wet mass
of inseparable
Testaments, waiting there
at the milepost
I'd already chosen for my first
rest (like
the drifted debris of that old
flood, washed up
on the highway's mud shoulder—)
I swung down
my load and leaned it there,
turned back
to the traffic and struck
my old stance,
looking up only once and
around
for a rainbow.

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