



Winning Neighborhood Hanging Banner

As announced over the last several months, Lake Claire needed a new design for our neighborhood hanging banner, and we received some beautiful designs. Thank you again to all who contributed, *both this time and last time* when the call went out in the Clarion, on the website, and at meetings.

Attendees at the holiday party voted for the banners, and in a very close contest, three of the eight entries were the top winners. In a run-off of the three, Leslie Hodges' design, shown here, was the clear winner. As promised, Leslie wins a free business card size ad in the Clarion for six months.

Leslie and her husband Danny Waggoner have lived on Southland Terrace since 1977. Les-

lie is a graphic artist. She said in her artist's statement for the banner contest, "We feel lucky to live in area blessed with so many big beautiful trees, lovely homes and diverse wild life."

"On our street, we have often been treated to the 'who-cooks-for-you' mating call of the Barred Owls. Once I was startled awake in the middle of the night by this haunting sound from an owl near our bedroom window. It was loud! A few years ago, I sat on the grass with neighbors in their backyard and gazed at one of these creatures as it perched on a low limb, and it observed us just as intently."

"The cat in the illustration is our beloved 'Kitty.' He is a pampered and contented indoor kitty-cat, but he has a keen interest

in the birds and other animals outside. His favorite observation post is our screened-in front porch, but for the banner, I chose to put him in an attic window similar to many in the neighborhood."

When we spoke, Leslie mentioned that when they bought the house in 1977, they met neighbors who have become lifelong friends. She said, "We were present for their weddings and baby showers. Then, we watched those kids grow up to be fine young men and women in what seemed like the blink of an eye. Now, with the passage of time, we have gotten to know new neighbors. The cycle continues as we watch *their* children arrive and grow just as quickly."

Cont. on p. 9



Fantastic Holiday Party

Kudos to everyone who helped with our Annual LCN dinner party this past December 12! A big time was had by all -- with nobody going away hungry or dry. The banner competition ended with a dramatic flourish -- and the new hanging banner for the neighborhood.

Special thanks to **Kathie Ryan**, who spent **many hours** putting it all together, and to **Miriam Herbers** for buying and



Delicious Cake at Christmas Dinner

bringing the lasagnas. Thank you to Beth Damon and Dan White for preparing the banners and setting up the hanging banner competition; to Pen Sher-

Cont. on p. 7

Mary Lin Daisies Earn Their Petals

by Heidi Hill

Mary Lin Elementary has a new Daisy Scout troop, made up of kindergarten girls from Lake Claire, Candler Park, and Inman Park, and if you haven't seen them around the neighborhood in their blue Daisy uniforms, you soon will! The girls have been working hard to earn their Daisy petals by learning about community workers, doing service projects, and showing kindness to their neighbors, families, and fellow Daisies. In the month of January, they will be going door-to-door in the neighborhood (with their parents) selling Girl Scout cookies, which will help them learn about setting goals, earning money, and talking to people in their community.

Since they became Daisies in October, the girls have earned five of their ten petals. In November, they earned their Gerri petal (geranium) by visiting our neighborhood Fire Station (#12 on DeKalb Avenue) and learning about what it means—and why it's important—to respect authority. When we visited the

station, "C Shift" Lieutenant Sherwin Brown gave us a fantastic tour. He kept fifteen five- and six-year-old girls (and their parents and siblings) engaged and entertained—no small feat!—as he led us through the station, giving us information and bits of trivia along the way. The girls had many questions, and he was happy to answer them all. Almost nothing was off-limits—the girls got to see where the fire-

Cont. on p. 5

Clarion shout-out to Myles Nielsen

Myles, thank you for your yearly Christmas extravaganza on Hardendorf. As I write this on an evening near the end of December, I just returned from parking my car across the street from your house and tuning to 89.1 for the light-o-rama. Whether we celebrate Christmas, another holiday in December, or just look forward to a new year's beginning and better weather, Myles has created a wonderful Christmas tradition for all of us to look forward to each year in Lake Claire. —Ed.



The Nielsen Home Light-O-Rama, which Myles engineers each year

Highlights of this issue

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- 9** Monthly Gardening Column
- 11** Lake Claire Land Trust
- 12** Kids' Corner

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Cover banner art by Lore Ruttan, from Hawthorne Winter King

EDITOR'S NOTE for 2014:

This is a great time to think back on the accomplishments of Lake Claire -- and to think ahead to the projects and plans we hope to achieve or initiate in the coming years. The new executive committee will be meeting early in the year to discuss what worked and what didn't, what we want to do as a neighborhood, and how we can best work together in the coming year.

I am delighted to continue to edit the Clarion as the secular new year begins. After many years of writing for the paper and distributing the paper on several streets since the early 1990s, it has been my pleasure to step up my volunteer neighborhood participation in this manner. It is a

labor of love. This month marks the second anniversary of the column I started for children on the last page, "Kids' Corner." I hope kids will continue to send in contributions. They have been fantastic. Reading some of the past columns; I feel certain that these will be the first efforts of some future writers and artists. If you are new to Lake Claire, do go back and read the past columns on the website (<http://www.lakeclaire.org/wpsite/clarion/clarion-archives/>). There, you will find pdfs of the Clarion newspaper and its predecessor newsletter "Neighbors," back to 2000. Our publication has been edited, written, and distributed to homes, businesses, and churches

in the area, by volunteer neighbors since **1991**.

It has been almost three years since I started the column "30 Years Plus in Lake Claire: From Tie-Dye to Khaki," in 2011. In this occasional feature, longtime residents of Lake Claire share memories and thoughts on the differences—and similarities—they see in our neighborhood in the last 30-odd years. I hope to feature many more of you. (Please contact me at editor@lakeclaire.org.)

Many thanks to the rest of the Clarion team, without whom production of the Clarion would be impossible. In particular, Sarah Wynn has been managing the distribution since May 2012,

not skipping a beat when people have resigned or were unable to deliver because of life's happenings. Erik Rühling and Pat Del Rey took over the volunteer jobs of Layout and Advertising Coordinators respectively during 2013.

Of course, we always appreciate our advertisers, and I hope you will strongly consider using their products and services. And as always, thank you to our team of delivery volunteers, the "Clarion Carriers," who bring the newspapers to Lake Claire porches through sun and rain – and even some occasional sleet and snow. **Happy 2014, everyone!**
 --Beth

JANUARY

1 – 24 Lekotek Toy Drive, see article on page 12 for details.

3 *Jerusalem* opens at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History's IMAX theatre; a breathtaking new film that explores on a grand scale the intersection of science, history and religion in this ancient, enigmatic place. Info at www.fernbankmuseum.org and 404.929.6300.

4 & 18 Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

10 – 11 Dad's Garage Theatre Company presents: Scott Adsit from 30 Rock! Tickets on sale now. Dad's Garage has moved around the corner (conveniently located in Little 5). Improv classes and more. Check out <http://www.dadsgarage.com/>

15 Hot Tuna and Leon Russell at the Variety. See more to come at <http://www.variety-playhouse.com/>

16 & the third Thursday of every month - Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, 7:15 meeting start. Pizza from Savage (thanks, Savage). Agenda on the website, as are past meetings' minutes.

17 The Horizon re-opens "The Book Club Play," popular comedy from 2013, by Karen Zacarias. <http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/the-book-club-play/>

18 Land Trust Drum Circle; see January 4.

18 The Grapes, at the Variety. See rest of the schedule: <http://www.variety-playhouse.com/>

20 MLK Day Tree Plantings by Trees Atlanta, in Kirkwood, Old 4th Ward, others. See <http://treesatlanta.org/calendar/2014-01/>

24 – 25 Trees Atlanta "Beltline Arboretum Walking Tours" See website noted under 20th.

AND COMING IN EARLY FEBRUARY

2 "Compassionate Cities/Kind Neighborhoods" Atlanta launch Sunday afternoon, at the Carter Center. See article on page 3.

3 Test to see if anyone is reading this. My birthday. Write editor@lakeclaire.org if you want to wish me happy birthday on Feb. 3.

8 Land Trust Groundhog Day Dance (1st Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive)

8 Decatur Old House Fair /info about exhibiting: regina.brewer@decaturga.com or 404-371-8386. Yearly hands-on workshops, exhibits, and useful information for old house owners. Preserving the old while bringing in the new.

8 The Friends of the Decatur Library book sale from 9 am to 3 pm, lower level of the Decatur Library. Thousands of gently used fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, plus DVDs and CDs, for sale at low prices starting at 50 cents. Donations of gently used books welcome at 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030

Send calendar items for the FEBRUARY Clarion by January 15, 2013, to editor@lakeclaire.org

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries: Changing the Face of Homelessness

by Beth Damon

Located in Lake Claire at McLendon and Connecticut, and open 365 days a year, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM) is the oldest house-of-worship shelter operating in Atlanta. It is a nonprofit organization that nurtures men seeking to overcome homelessness. The staff, volunteers, board of directors, and guests invite you to become

acquainted with the ministry, which provides not only food and shelter, but counseling and case management that involve teaching self-respect and other transitional skills to lead toward self-sufficiency. Miriam Herbers, Sarah Wynn, and I joined guests one night last month to sort Clarions into delivery bundles and insert a Clifton fundraising letter

into each Clarion. What a fun few hours it was, sitting around with the men over conversation and jokes – and stuffing and sorting the newspapers together.

I encourage everyone to consider making a donation to CSM, which may be done through Paypal on their website, [http://](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com/)



CSM Guests Helping with Clarion Bundling

www.cliftonsanctuary.com/ or to donate time or items (check out the website for suggestions).



CSM Guests Caroling at Candler Park Market

CSM's Annual Caroling Tradition

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries' guests and friends continued their yearly Christmas tradition of caroling in Lake Claire as a way to give something back to the Lake Claire community. Each year, men housed at the shelter choose a few nights in December to gather on the corner of Connecticut

and McLendon and sing Christmas carols. All neighbors are invited to drop by and share in the Holiday cheer. This year the event took place December 12, 13, and 14. Due to the frosty temperatures, the first two nights were held on the deck near the entrance to Clifton Sanctuary. Neighbors that braved the elements were rewarded with festive camaraderie and hot cider waiting inside.

For the first time since this tradition started, the third night of

caroling was held at the Candler Park Market. This proved quite successful, as people coming and going to the market joined the fun. It is wonderful to hear the happy voices ringing out over several blocks. For me it is fun each year as I walk home from the Lake Claire Christmas dinner, and as I get about halfway down Ridgewood Road, to hear the carols ringing out, and then continue to hear them all the way home.

Compassionate Cities, Kind Neighborhoods

by Karina Hatcher

A group of Lake Claire neighbors, including some board members of the LCNA and councilwoman (District 5 Representative) Natalie Archibong, gathered together on December 1 to have a conversation about **Compassionate Atlanta**, a grass roots movement that seeks to create awareness about the benefits of compassionate action.

This movement is rooted in the conviction that community transformation begins when the public conversation shifts. Two examples: The Civil Rights movement changed the conversation from segregation to equal rights and more recently to the quest for LGBTQ equality. Shifts in both conversations continue to transform how we live together.

Compassion awareness and compassionate action are conversation changers. Compassionate cities focus on violence preven-

tion, raise consciousness about bullying, and develop strategies to reduce homelessness and hunger. Compassionate cities consciously seek to build bridges in a polarized society. Compassionate cities are not governed by fear or hate. Compassionate cities celebrate kindness.

A little history and the wish for a better world

In November 2007, author Karen Armstrong became the recipient of the TED prize. TED (the acronym for Technology, Entertainment, Design), a private nonprofit organization best known for its superb conferences on "ideas worth spreading," gives awards each year to people whom they think have made a difference but who, with their help, could make even more of an impact. Winners have included Bill Clinton, the scientist E. O. Wilson, and the British chef Jamie

Oliver. The recipient is given \$100,000 but, more important, is granted a wish for a better world.

Armstrong's wish was the creation of the Charter For Compassion, inspired by the Golden Rule (treat all others as you wish to be treated yourself). Compassionate Atlanta's is to have the City of Atlanta named a Compassionate City under the auspices of the Compassion Action Network International. To be considered "compassionate" a city must affirm the Charter for Compassion. Once affirmed, Compassionate Atlanta will serve as a catalyst for compassionate action throughout the city of Atlanta by encouraging and facilitating activities, events, and other initiatives that allow people from all walks of life to get involved.

Immediate first steps in Lake Claire

Compassionate Atlanta is

holding its next conversation at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Participants will be a mix of Lake Claire neighbors and guests at the shelter. This global campaign has its seed planted in Lake Claire, where the dialogue has started and will hopefully evolve into on-going compassionate action between neighbors. The official Atlanta launch will take place on Sunday afternoon, February 2, at the Carter Center. (There is limited space, so early registration is encouraged. We anticipate - and hope for - over 200 people.) To learn more about this growing global movement full of local possibilities, contact Bob Thompson, rvthompson@mindspring.com or Karina Hatcher, karina.compassionateatl@gmail.com

For more resources visit: www.compassionateatl.com, www.charterforcompassion.org

Attention a neighbor with an hour or two to volunteer

Seeking help for a small project for the Clarion. Great for someone who has been wishing to help the neighborhood, but might not have time for a regular commitment. Please contact editor@lakeclaire.org. One two-hour commitment would help us greatly – we're maxed out, and we need you!!

Recycling Tips

by Valencia Hudson

Atlanta's goal is to become a top-tier recycling city and divert 90% of municipal solid waste by 2020. In order to do this, the City encourages all residents to participate in the city's curbside recycling program, CARTLANTA.

The Department of Public Works wants to ensure that all residents are a part of the effort to recycle more and protect our recycling stream from contamination.

Here are a few tips:

- Do not put food, yard trimmings, clothing, shoes, garbage, plastic bags, or Styrofoam in the recycling carts (special mention: no pizza boxes);

- Keep bins clean & dry! Rinse out all food containers
- Keep your cart lid closed.

Valencia Hudson is the Public Safety Liaison for Councilmember Natalyn Archibong



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BOBBY'S DATE WITH JENNY WAS GOING JUST SWELL...



...UNTIL THE INCIDENT.



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I've helped people put down (and pick up) roots in and around 30307 for years. I'm a Mary Lin and Grady High mom and personally rooted in Lake Claire. As an Intown homeowner and Realtor® with deep roots in our community, I know how to help you find the right home and market your home to sell.

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Mary Lin Daisies

(continued from Page 1)

fighters eat and sleep (a highlight!), were able to climb into the ladder truck and look around, and were each able to shoot the fire hose. Through it all, the Daisies learned that these firefighters work hard to keep them safe, and that they are not only

valued community workers, but neighbors too. The Daisies were buzzing with excitement as they left, and they followed up their visit by making thank-you cards for the firefighters, earning their Gloria petal (morning glory) for respecting themselves and others.

These fifteen girls have already learned so much about being a part of a group and helping others. From visiting a senior living facility (to deliver holiday cards and cookies and sing carols) to a planned visit to a pet shelter, they are coming up with wonder-

ful ways to give back and play a bigger role in their community. Please keep an eye out for them in January, and consider helping them meet their cookie sales goal!

NOTE: Our excellent fire station, #12 in Candler Park, is collecting donations through the Atlanta Fire Foundation (www.atlff.org). If you want to donate, click on the "Donations" tab and make sure to indicate "For Fire Station 12" in the comment section. Captain George Howell and all the firefighters at "our" station thank



Mary Lin's Daisy Troop #14547 with the Atlanta Fire Department's Station #12 C Shift.



Esther Williams, a Daisy, shoots the fire hose with the help of a C Shift firefighter.

you!

Heidi (McLendon Avenue) is co-leader of Daisy Troop #14547 with Tamar Williams (Harold Avenue). Their daughters, Claudia and Esther, are Daisies and kindergartners at Mary Lin.

Gluten-Free during the Holidays

by Anne Steib

With the winter holidays behind us, and Valentine's day next month, a lot of us have spent time in the kitchen baking for friends and family. However, these days not all recipes work for everyone. It seems like there are more and more people discovering they have food allergies and/or intolerances. One of the most common terms we hear about today is "gluten-free." We hear about it on TV shows, see recipes in mainstream magazines, and see it on restaurant menus, including our very own Flying Biscuit, which now marks a 'GF'

on all of their gluten-free items. Candler Park Market is now carrying gluten-free bread in their deli from the Decatur gluten-free bakery Pure Knead. Having celiac myself, I wanted to jump up and down when I saw this. Yay! I must eat gluten-free, I have no choice if I want to stay healthy, but at the same time, I also love baking, and don't want to give up on creating delicious baked goods for others and myself.

After much trial and error, I have learned it is completely possible to make baked items that are just as good, and many times even better than their gluten-

filled counterparts. Holidays favorites can still be enjoyed by everyone. And no one will know the gluten is missing in these gluten-free White Velvet Cutout Cookies, which are perfect recipe to make **heart cookies for Valentine's Day** for your family and loved ones. These will melt in your mouth. This recipe can easily be cut in half, and you will still have plenty of dough to make lots of fun cookie shapes. These make a great gift for friends and teachers.

This recipe can also

be made with regular flour if you do not need to worry about anyone who needs to eat gluten-free.

For more gluten-free recipes, visit Anne's blog, *Gluten-Free Musings* at www.glutenfreemusings.com. Anne also works as a gluten-free consultant for individuals who are newly diagnosed, or have family members who have been diagnosed, and navigating their way around the gluten-free lifestyle.

Gluten-Free White Velvet Cutout Cookies

2 cups butter, softened
1 package (8oz) cream cheese, softened (use the bar, not the whipped kind)
2 cups sugar
2 egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla
4-1/2 cups GF flour mix (I use Glutino Gluten-Free Pantry All Purpose Baking Mix (Kroger and Whole Foods))

- In a mixing bowl cream together the butter and cream cheese until light and fluffy;

- Add sugar, egg yolks and vanilla; mix well. Gradually add flour;

- Cover and chill 2 hours or until firm.

- Roll out onto a (gluten-free) floured surface to 1/4" thickness. I rolled mine between two sheets of lightly floured plastic

wrap. Because this makes such a large amount of batter, you may want to keep what you are not rolling in the fridge to keep cool until you are ready to roll.

- Cut with cookie cutters.

- Place on cookie sheets about 1" apart, these will not have much spread.

- Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes or until set (barely browned... these will mostly still look white).

- Cool 5 minutes on the cookie sheet, then place on wire rack. And decorate!

For the frosting, I did a simple buttercream frosting:

3 1/2 cups powdered sugar, divided

4 tablespoons butter, softened

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

3-4 tablespoons milk

food coloring as desired

- Combine 1 1/2 cups of the sugar, vanilla and 3 tablespoons of milk in a bowl and blend until smooth;

- Gradually add the remaining sugar and blend until light and fluffy. Add the remaining milk if you would like it thinner; Separate into different bowls for different colors of frosting, and add food coloring.

See picture of the valentine cookies on page 12.



Biscuits and Bellyrubs, by Anna Trodglén

Another Successful Land Trust Holiday Craft Fair!

by Miriam Herbers

I have finally learned not to worry if the craft sale will be a success, because it always is – in more ways than one. From the point of view of raising funds for the Land Trust, more money was raised than ever before. We are grateful for that and to the peo-

ple who contributed their time, effort, and wonderful artwork. We owe special thanks to our relatively new neighbor **Elizabeth Sullivan**, who let us take over her home and fill it with tables loaded with arts and crafts.

From the point of view of watch-

ing neighbors work together to set up, move furniture, clean up, move furniture back again, hang out visiting afterward, drinking chai tea, and eating cookies, while discussing their various crafts and how certain things were made, then the reward is

unsurpassed and cannot be measured in money.

I said that 2013 would be my last year coordinating the Craft Fair – not because I don't enjoy it, as I do find happiness in working on projects with neighbors who

Cont. on p. 11



New Year's GREETINGS
FROM YOUR ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBER
Natalyn Mosby Archibong



May you have Love,
Peace and Joy throughout
The coming New Year.

Natalyn

NATALYN M. ARCHIBONG District 5 Councilmember, Atlanta City Council
Atlanta City Hall, 55 Trinity Street, SW, Suite 2900, Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 330-6048

LCN Party, cont. from p. 1

wood, for wonderful decorations, including the lovely and creative table centerpieces. And, I might add, the delicious veggie Massaman curry. Thanks to Sara and Jim Rockaway for staffing the welcome table, signing folks in for hours, and counting ballots; to Myles Nielsen for the music (for the umptieth year in a row, as he grows taller and taller),

and to him and his mom Lucy for set-up and clean-up. Thanks to Joella Vitek and Peg Ziegler for coming early to help with set up; to Sarah Wynn and others for folding chairs and cleaning up at the end; to Nancy Dorsner for assisting with the voting; and of course, to Joe Agee for being MC. Andrew Sherwood, Treasurer, thank you for making sure we paid for it all! Thank you to anyone we may have forgotten, and in particular, we always ap-

preciate our neighbor the Frazer Center for hosting in the Atrium. They have been long-term friends of Lake Claire. In sum, the party was a wonderful team effort.

In addition to holding a delicious, convivial dinner with over 70 attendees, we also received dues for 2014 in advance from six families and raised \$44 in cash towards donations to our local police and fire departments. Clearly, our new fundraising

team is off to a good start!

As Joe Agee said (with a twinkle in his eye that I thought was not unlike Santa's), "Barring an unexpected apocalypse or new asteroid, it looks like we're ready to launch another year. Have a peaceful and productive holiday season, everyone."



Joe Agee announcing the LCN banner winning entry



Partiers (note centerpiece on table, designed by Pen, in Santa suit)



Kathie Ryan, Beth Damon, Sarah Wynn, Carol Holiday, enjoying party



Lasagnas, meat, veggie, and vegan



Dominic and Nancy Dorsner and other partiers



Esther Nielsen enjoying the party



The Rockaways

Keeping An Eye on the Crime – And the Time

Lake Claire Security Report, November 3-23, 2013

(compiled from APD Reports)

Auto Theft

(attempted) 2000 block Palifox Dr. 11/18/13

2005 silver Dodge Caravan parked on street

Damage: driver side door lock and ignition broken Prints obtained

Burglary

300 block Nelms Ave. 11/11/13 Damage: glass door was broken

Taken: keys to vehicle, vehicle, laptop Prints obtained

200 block Casson St. 11/12/13

no sign of forced entry/paint chipped a little at front door

Taken: jewelry box and jewelry

Theft from Auto

1600 block McLendon Ave. 11/20/13 parked on street

Prints obtained Damage: rear passenger side window broken out

Taken: laptop, Touch pad

Security Tip: Do not advertise that you have new electronics in your home by placing the cardboard packaging on the curb. Break it down and place it in your recycle bin for pickup.

Contact APD by dialing 911 for every incidence of crime. Dial 404-658-6666 if using a cell phone to avoid delays in our Atlanta-in-DeKalb location. Tell the operator you're in APD's **Zone 6, Beat 608**. For up to date neighborhood security reports, join: lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahoo.com.

Burglary versus Robbery

by Duncan Cottrell, The Entry Enforcer

Too often a neighbor returns home from work and finds his or her front door kicked in and the TV and jewelry missing. "I've been robbed!" someone might exclaim. However, in the official definition of the term, he or she has been burgled.

Robbery is the taking of money or goods in the possession of another, from his or her person or immediate presence, by force or intimidation. It is a crime against *a person*. Robbery is a felony (crime punishable by a term in state or federal prison).

Burglary is the crime of breaking and en-

tering into a structure for the purpose of committing a crime. No great force is needed if the entry is unauthorized; (pushing open a door or slipping through an open window is sufficient). It is described as a crime against *property*.

Originally under English Common Law, burglary was limited to entry in residences at night, but it has been expanded to all criminal entries into any building, or even into a vehicle.

There are effective ways to prevent burglary through doors or windows. I

offer a free home security consultation; please call (404)289-6960.



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New LC Banner, cont. from p. 1

Leslie has have worked a graphic designer out of a studio in her home since 1988. "That suits me just fine," Leslie told me, "as I get to spend my days doing what I love, in the place that I am the most comfortable

in the whole world. Seeing so much talent from our neighborhood expressed in all the entries for the competition, I am pleased and happy that mine was selected. I hope folks in our community enjoy it."

Congratulations to Leslie, and again thanks to all of the artists

who contributed. We will be highlighting them in future issues of the Clarion and hope to utilize designs for other things, such as our cloth bags.



Leslie, Danny, and Kitty

January into February in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

This is the month to remind yourself where sunlight will fall in your garden next summer. As I instructed last year, go out into your garden the night of the full moon, January 15, 2014, if it is fairly clear, to see where the shadows of trees and shrubs fall. I think I had the times switched though: if it is 11 p.m. when you do this, it will show you where shadows will appear at mid-day on July 15. Even allowing for leafless branches this time of year, you can get a good idea where areas of shade and sun will be at the brightest time of day.

Last August we traveled to Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, who in his late 60s wrote, "But though an old man, I am but a young gardener." So true. We walked there four hours and barely scratched the surface. I am hoping to receive *A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden* by Peter Hatch (with a forward by Alice Waters, no less) for Christmas. Jefferson's crops did not even meet his own demands (from their own gardens slaves sold his kitchen the staples needed), but his experiments were those of all gardening enthusiasts.

Last month I urged you to inventory your seeds and order new ones from catalogs or online (or both). Many of our garden problems come from not starting early enough. I can think of only one year when frost threatened in late April. Even with cool wet weather, I harvested my first tomato on June 16 (OK, it was a cherry tomato—the first Bella Rosa on June 26) and could have done so much earlier if I had bothered to set up my wall o'waters in February or March (<http://www.wall-o-water.com/index.html>). These are manufactured in Montana where they really need them. I could probably put my tomatoes out in January using these handy, plastic walls of tubes that you fill with

water. During the day they heat up from the sun, and at night they release heat into their centers where the plants grow. You can pin the tops closed in case of snow or very cold weather because at this point your tomato plants are very small. Tomatoes are so easy to germinate. They practically seed themselves.

Do check out your lighting sys-

tem. I have sometimes had success planting zinnia seeds outdoors in April, but there is so much to do that month that often the time passes when they are best sown. Once they germinate and have several leaves, in February or March, then pot each up carefully, as with all seedlings, holding one leaf in your left hand (if you are

just a couple of inches under fluorescent lights.

Finish "cleaning" up the yard, disposing of old nightshade and squash foliage in yard waste containers for pick up. Turn compost, and add finished compost to your beds, covering any bare soil with straw or shredded leaves or bark (eschewing cypress bark of whatever color—

http://www2.southeastern.edu/orgs/pbrp/redesign_documents/PBUpdate1_cypress.pdf, for more information). If you still have your Christmas tree, lop off the boughs to use on your perennial beds where they will provide cover from frosts and prevent soil heaving.

Did you keep a garden record last year? Never too late to begin. Especially make notes of flowers and shrubs you like in other gardens. When you see them in flower is not the time to plant. Order spring-flowering bulbs in the summer, perennials in the fall. So often I have killed perennials by planting in a spring that then very often runs too dry or hot for them. Don't be afraid to move or plant shrubs in the winter though as long as you prepare the new hole first, leave as much of the root ball intact as possible, and water in well.

We have had a cooler November and December, as I write; but for all I know, species crocus and snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) may be in bloom as you read. Crocus 'Snow Bunting' is usually the first of mine to appear along the street bed on Delaware. Snowdrops (not snowflakes) open first in my front garden, later in a shaded side bed. As soon as their flowering is over, carefully dig up the bulb and foliage intact and separate them for a free increase of your stock. Planting under trees or shrubs gives them the summer dryness that they need.

Elizabeth's e-mail address is knowltonew@earthlink.net.



Seedlings in pots, on shelf with indoor lighting system
-- by Carole Damon

tem before you start seedlings, however. If you have a greenhouse or sunroom (with sun from several sides and even above) or cold frame, then you do not need artificial light. But even a south facing window will probably not provide the sun you need to keep the plants stocky. If this is so, a shelf or two of florescent lights will suffice. This is the time of year to buy new "bulbs" and clean up your growing area. You can buy expensive grow lights or use one warm and one cool one together.

And try some flowers too, especially if you have never before grown yours from seed. I advise planting all flower seeds indoors, in pots covered with plastic wrap to keep them moist until the moment when you see the green. Most flower seeds are tiny, eas-

ily washed away in rains. I have right-handed) and gently working the root end free with a tiny stick, like a popsicle stick or the small wooden plant labels I buy. Make a little hole with the stick in the 6-pack or the peat containers or the yogurt cup you have filled with potting soil, anything with good drainage. Ease the seedling into the hole, and pat the soil gently around it with same implement. Water well. Seedlings with those soft stems are vulnerable to breakage, but they are also extremely flexible about how deeply their stems are buried. Cover up to the first leaves at least, maybe deeper. They will thrive, and many plants will additionally root from the buried stems (most famously, the tomatoes). Place your seedlings very close to the lighting, right up against a window or (better)

SCHOOL STUFF

Henry Grady High

See more detail on the website (<http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Domain/3087>)

- 80 Students Earn AP Scholar Awards.
- Grady Knights Girls water polo team attained 3rd place in Georgia High School Water Polo Association State Championships, in just its second season.

- **Grady High School** was named one of the **Top 20 High Schools** in the State of Georgia by *US News and World Report*. The ranking was based on schools' student to teacher ratio, rate of

college readiness, and students' proficiency in math and English. According to a recent U.S. News report, **Grady High School** is among America's best high schools, **ranking 19th in the state of Georgia and No. 1,204 in the nation**

(out of 4877 schools). The ranking earned Grady a silver medal. The report calculated values based on student performance on state exit exams and internationally available exams on college-level coursework.

Inman Middle School

From the website <http://inman-middleschool.org/>

The Georgia Department of Education has named Inman Middle School a 2013 Reward School in the category of Highest Performing Schools. This distinction recognizes Title I schools with the highest student performance on statewide exams over three years. Way to go, Inman!

Two Inman Traditions took place in mid December – the annual Christmas Tree Fund-raiser and the Frosty 5K. The weather in Atlanta may be unpredictable, but it always gets frosty for the Inman Frosty 5K, which returned on Saturday, December 14. The run started at Inman Middle School and continued on the Beltline before weaving through the streets of the Virginia Highland neighborhood to end near John Howell Park. Runners and walkers of all ages had a ball.

Note from the Editor: I hope this year to hear from Inman and Grady students and parents, so that I can keep up with school news in ways other than reading the website. We welcome materials from all the schools that our Lake Claire children attend, our public schools and other schools. Please keep the Clarion in mind and tell us your school's news.

Epworth Classes: "Candler Park Arts Center at Epworth UMC", 1561 McLendon Ave, now offers classes in the visual arts, music and crafts for all ages and all ability levels. Pottery, drawing, painting, sewing, children's art, guitar lessons, and voice. See <http://candlerparkartscenter.com> or contact Page Ferriss at arts@epworthcandlerpark.org for further information.

Happy New Year 2014!

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Nov. 16, 2013
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Please join us for coffee and donuts! RSVPs requested but not required. RSVP at info@nealandwright.com.

All free seminars are held at the Neal & Wright LLC office conveniently located in Downtown Decatur. Visit us online for directions and more information.

We're in the neighborhood!

Personal and Business Classifieds

CANDLER PARK YARD CREW:

Yard cleanup, rake and bag, pruning/trimming.

References available: Matt, 679-754-1095.

Experienced teacher will tutor language arts in your home or hers. Certification in English, ESOL, and music with experience teaching K-12 in public, private and home schools.

Terri Evans - 404-217-1961.

Craft Fair cont. from p. 6

love living here as much as I do – but because I think it should be passed on to someone else. However, I am feeling greedy right

now, and I enjoy this opportunity too much to give it up quite yet. A friend and neighbor has volunteered to help next year, and discussions have already begun about finding another venue that

will be large enough to match our continued growth. You can get your 2014 calendar out right now and mark **December 6** as the date for next year. Any suggestions for improving it are wel-

come.

Thanks to everyone who shopped the Craft Fair to support the Land Trust and our talented neighborhood artists.

First-Ever Land Trust Board Retreat!

by Stephen Wing



The Land Trust Board of Directors

On the last weekend of September, 2013, the Land Trust Board of Directors held its first Board Retreat in Asheville, North Carolina, at the invitation of former neighbors Doug and Janet Barlow. As you see in the photo, attendance was way over 100% - less than half were actual Board members. We put up tents in the

Barlows' large and well-gardened back yard. We feasted, partied, and did some long-overdue "visioning" about the long-term future of the Land Trust. On Sunday morning we held our September Board meeting to deal with more immediate concerns, and came home. Many thanks to the Barlows and all the dedicated Land Trust supporters who made the trip.

VISIONS FOR THE LAND TRUST (recorded during Visioning portion of 2013 Board retreat)

- Collaborate with other private nonprofit greenspaces in city & region
- Balance our appeal to neighbors and visitors from further away

- Help other community greenspaces get started
- Solar array on the hillside under the deck, selling extra electricity to the grid
- More grants, each including a stipend for grant writer
- Elder cohousing structure on Nelms corner
- Extra produce for Clifton Sanctuary
- Fruit and nut trees
- Focus on eliminating debt
- "Geo-caching" (a treasure hunting game using GPS to find hidden containers)
- Label all our trees
- Hire a caretaker, possibly with lodging as part of remuneration
- Agricultural water meter.
- Model "green living" through the LT.
- Increase role as education-



al resource

- "Beautify" Dekalb Ave. hill
- Address parking issues for events
- Upgrade the tool shed
- Replace weeds with native plants

Upcoming at the Land Trust . . .

Saturday, Jan. 4 and 18 – Land Trust drum circle, dark until midnight. Please walk, bike or carpool. Donation requested.

Saturday, Feb. 8 – Groundhog Day Dance at the 1st Existential-

ist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr.

Note: We have discontinued our traditional potluck on the 13th of the month due to lack of participation. We have also discontinued the bi-monthly "Keep the Trust" work days on the day after each Drum Circle. Watch this space or our calendar at <http://www.lcclt.org/> for special Community Work Days and potlucks.

continued the bi-monthly "Keep the Trust" work days on the day after each Drum Circle. Watch this space or our calendar at <http://www.lcclt.org/> for special Community Work Days and potlucks.

You can also email us at info@LCCLT.org

to receive email notification of these and other Land

Trust events. Thanks!

New Land Trust Membership Policy, Fall 2013:

Anyone can become a Land Trust Supporter by donating \$10 a year. Donate via [ww.LCCLT.org/stewardship](http://www.LCCLT.org/stewardship); mail a check made out to "LCCLT" c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 5379, Atlanta GA 31107; or donate via the chute in

our bulletin board. Include your e-mail, and we'll add you to our Upcoming Events list. Include your address, and we'll mail you an "I Support the Land Trust" bumper sticker.

2014 Land Trust Event Schedule

Feb. 8 Groundhog Day Dance
April 12 Peace & Love Spring Fest
April 20 Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck
May 4 LCN / LT Neighborhood Picnic
May 24 Memorial Day Street Sale (tentative - anyone inter-

ested in helping?)

July 4 Potluck & Cook-Off
July 26 Jerry Jam
August 23 Nuclear Watch
South No Nukes Y'all Jamboree
Oct. 25 Peace & Love Harvest Fest
Oct. 26 Pumpkin Carving
Dec. 6 Holiday Craft Fair

Don't Put That Used Mattress Out on the Curb!

The Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta

by Stephen Wing

Every time I see a mattress or sofa sitting out in the rain on somebody's curb, I cringe, wishing I hadn't put off informing the world (or at least Lake Claire) about a wonderful organization that puts old furniture to good use. The Furniture Bank of Met-

ro Atlanta will pick up your used furniture and donate it to individuals and families moving out of homelessness, battling HIV/AIDS, or fleeing domestic violence. This is a great service to those of us who cannot manage to haul their furniture to a thrift store. It is even more helpful to those replacing an old bed, as

thrift stores and other nonprofits cannot legally accept mattresses and box springs. The Furniture Bank is the only way to keep used but still usable beds out of the landfill (short of holding your own yard sale).

Their most-needed items: dressers, nightstands, chests, coffee tables, end tables, sofas,

loveseats, kitchen tables and chairs, twin mattresses, and box springs. Visit their website at www.FurnitureBankAtlanta.org to schedule a pickup, find out more about the organization, volunteer or make a financial donation.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



We hope this series is fun and a way for young readers to participate. This month's writer is Zoë Steib, who is a third grader at Mary Lin. Zoë and her parents, Anne and Martin Steib, have lived in Lake Claire three years. They live on Lakeshore Drive. Let's put some of your creativity on this page. Submit articles, poetry, drawings, your

original puzzles, etc., to editor@lakeclaire.org. **Next time: tell us what you like about a new year starting and why you are looking forward to Winter changing to Springtime.... Or choose any other topic of your choice.** Be creative...we'd love to hear from you. But now, let's hear from Zoë...

Holidays in Lake Claire

My favorite thing about living in Lake Claire during the holidays is singing in the Mary Lin Holiday Program and going to parties. My favorite thing about the Holiday Program was singing, eating all of the desserts and making snowflakes at school to decorate for the show. It was fun to practice singing with my friends.

Spending the holidays with my friends is one of my favorite things I do here. I love exchanging presents, example, a friend gives me a present and I give one of them a present. It's fun, at night, to watch holiday movies and shows on my lovely couch, and to eat all of the holiday treats like cookies, candy canes and cakes. They are so, so good.

It's cool when my elf comes and goes to different places, around

the house, when I am sleeping. On Christmas Eve, it is fun to go around and look at all of the decorations in the neighborhood. I also like seeing the holiday decorations at the Botanical Gardens. It is so nice to see my family over the holidays. I love spending time with my family and pets.

-- Zoë, 8 years old

Lekotek Toy Drive, December 9 through January 24

Lekotek is an amazing organization that takes new and gently used toys and modifies them for the use of children with disabilities. All toys welcomed EXCEPT stuffed animals!. This is a perfect way to clear out old toys that you may not play with anymore. If interested in donating please contact Marie Godiers at mgodiers@gmail.com. The donations can be picked up directly from your house!

Please let me know if you have any questions! Thank you for your

time and consideration.

--Marie Godiers, 404-309-1690

Marie is a senior at Grady High School. She and her sister, Elena, started this toy drive at Grady and would like to get the Lake Claire community involved. Hopefully, some people who have gotten new toys would like to contribute to this effort. -- Ed.

Hello...Safe Journey

No birthdays or other life cycle events reported to us this month. To help us continue this feature on neighborhood life cycle events, let us know at editor@lakeclaire.org if you know of any birthdays for the up-

coming month, or any births or deaths or important rights of passage. As space allows, we will include in the newspaper. **Let us know your suggestions by JANUARY 15 for the FEBRUARY CLARION.**



Gluten-free Valentine Cookies, see page 5

happy holidays
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