

2014 to 2015: Exciting School News

Local Schools Working Together Secure \$3 Million U.S. DOE Grant

by Lynn Nomad

We're excited to report news of a program that has the potential to impact the education of up to 2300 students in our region while also influencing educational theory on a far greater scale.

In case you missed the late December Atlanta Journal-Constitution article on this topic, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently announced the highest-rated applications for the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3) 2014 competition, aimed at develop-

ing innovative approaches to improving student achievement and replicating effective strategies across the country. Twenty-six proposals were selected from among 434 applications and the families and educators of the **Atlanta Public School system** were thrilled to learn that a **teacher-training program developed at the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School (ANCS)** was one of the twenty-six! The program is called the

Cont. on p. 3

Lake Claire Resident Boyd Baker Continues Good Gracious Variety Show

"It's a guaranteed good night out. That's about it," is how Boyd Baker describes the *Good Gracious* variety show he created. "I wanted to do two things: 1) bring back the variety show format where you get a bit of this and a bit of surprise and 2) celebrate the talented and creative folks in Atlanta and the South. We're of-

ten laughed off as rednecks, but there is an amazing pool of talented artists and ideas that come out of the South," he continues.

This will be the third in what Baker hopes to be a pretty regular series of shows at the Variety Playhouse. The lineup for the **Saturday, January 10** show

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Paying 2015 Dues

If you are a Lake Claire resident, your payment of dues helps us help you. Dues are voluntary and reasonable. Suggested annual membership dues are \$20/

household; of course more is appreciated! You may pay your dues at any time of the year, but The Clarion recommends paying right now while it's on your mind...by

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A Nigerian on the 'Dorf

by Sue Strauss

Ask Dora Odia what she does when she has free time, and it's likely she'll respond the way your average 17-year-old responds: she'll tell you she likes to watch Tyler Perry movies, listen to music, and rest.

But Dora is not your average high-school junior. Theodora – her given name – has made some very definitive life plans. During our recent conversation, she told me she expects to attend the University of Oregon, where she will study to become a sports physical therapist. She has not yet applied, but she knows she will need a strong GPA with solid results on her SAT in order to get in.



Dora Odia, photo by Callie Kaiser, both "on the 'Dorf"

Did I mention she's also planning to play basketball? At 5'11", that is not difficult to imagine. In fact, her athletic skills are what brought her to Atlanta and to our Lake Claire neighborhood to live

Cont. on p. 8

CSM Changes the Face of Homelessness

As many of us know, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries (CSM), located in Lake Claire at McLendon and Connecticut, 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.

For the newspaper's December issue, many Clifton guests helped us to sort Clarions into delivery bundles and insert a Clifton fundraising letter into each Clarion. If you missed the December fundraising appeal, and/or wanted to give and did not yet, we encour-

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THE **CLARION** IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

Lake Claire Party Great Success
See the evidence on pages 6-7.

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The Clarion is published monthly. The deadline for advertising and editorial consideration is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words or fewer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not those of Lake Claire Neighbors, Officers, or the Clarion Staff.

Cover banner photo by Sarah Coburn

The newspaper's current and past issues are available online at <http://lakeclaire.org/clarion/>

JANUARY

1 through Jan. 3. holiday model train show at the Botanical Gardens and Garden Lights/Holiday Nights. <http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/events-classes/events/garden-lights>.

1 through Jan. 4 Last few days to ride the **Macy's Pink Pig** at Lenox Square - <http://crossroadsnews.com/news/2014/oct/31/macys-pink-pig-rides-herald-holidays/>

3 Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Donation requested.

10 *3rd Good Gracious Show!!!* 8pm See article page 1, and get your tickets now. Not to be missed.

10-11 Literacy Alliance monthly sale, 884 Lake Ave, Inman Park, Noon to 5:00 p.m., 2nd weekend each month - lauralhauser1@yahoo.com.

13 Sierra Club monthly meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave @ East Lake Drive, 7pm. See <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

16 & the 3rd Thursday of every month Lake Claire Neighbors Meeting, The Rose Room at The Frazer Center, 7 p.m. socialize, pizza (*thanks, Savage*); 7:15 meeting start – about one hour.

17 Land Trust Drum Circle, dark until 11 p.m. Please walk, bike, or carpool. Donation requested.

23 The Waffle Palace returns to the Horizon Theatre. Funny play by Larry Larson and Eddie Levi Lee, <http://www.horizontheatre.com/plays/mainstage/>

Calendar deadline for FEBRUARY CLARION: JANUARY 15 to editor@lakeclaire.org. The Clarion is your newspaper, so we hope for your ideas/submissions.

Editor's Note 2015

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

I am delighted to continue to edit the Clarion as this secular new year begins. It is a labor of love. This month marks the third year of the column I started for children on the last page, "Kids' Corner." These young contributors have been fantastic. Reading some of the past columns; I feel certain that these will be the first efforts of 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/wp-site/clarion/clarion-archives/>). At this link you will find pdfs of the Clarion newspaper and its predecessor newsletter "Neighbors," back to 2000. Our neighborhood publication has been edited, written, and distributed to homes, businesses, and churches in the

area, by volunteers, **since 1991.**

About five years ago I started the column "30 Years Plus in Lake Claire: From Tie-Dye to Khaki," creatively named by Sharon Doochin on Harold Avenue. In this occasional feature, longtime residents of Lake Claire share memories and their 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: Erik Rühling, Pat Del Rey, and Alicia McGill, the Layout, Advertising, and Distribution Coordinators.

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 straight to Lake Claire porches through sun and rain – and even some occasional sleet and snow. **Happy 2015, everyone!** --Beth



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S • C • H • O • O • L

\$3 Million U.S. DOE Grant*continued from page 1*

Collaboration and Reflection to Enhance Atlanta Teacher Effectiveness (CREATE), and it will target improvements in math and science teacher effectiveness and retention by building teacher capacity to be reflective practitioners who collaborate in authentic ways.

This \$3 million, 5-year grant will fund two cohorts (of 18 and 28 new K-8 math and science teachers, respectively) to engage a three-year “residency” program, modeled after a medical residency. The program will employ innovative professional development strategies including a multi-layered support system of mentors, teacher professional learning communities called Critical Friends Groups, and mindfulness training. The teacher residents will begin their training for a year at ANCS, Fred A. Toomer Elementary, or Wesley International Academy,

after which they may stay on at their school of origin or move to another participating school in the Maynard Jackson cluster in southeast Atlanta. Stipends will be offered to further incentivize remaining in these local urban schools.

The CREATE program is a collaboration of multiple organizations, including 1) Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School; 2) Georgia State University’s College of Education (GSU COE), a college focused on preparing teachers for urban settings; 3) the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC), a partnership uniting the Georgia Institute of Technology with educational groups, schools, corporations, and opinion leaders throughout the state of Georgia; 4) the School Reform Initiative (SRI),

*Cont. on p. 9***Our New Education Liaison**

by Beth Damon

Welcome to Annsley Klehr, Lake Claire’s new Education Liaison. She is originally from Atlanta, having grown up off of Moores Mill Road. She met her now husband after college, another Atlanta native, and she followed him to Philadelphia, where he attended law school. Last March, 10 years later, married, and with two kids, they moved back to Atlanta, searching for a neighborhood that Annsley said “really matched who we are.”

Annsley continued, “We wanted a community-oriented place where education was important as was walkability. Lake Claire

is the perfect place for us! By the end of July 2014, we were moving into our first home, on Hardendorf Avenue.” Their daughter, Layla, is a Kindergartener at Mary Lin, and son, Sawyer, is 16 months old.

Annsley has always been passionate about education, so by the time she graduated from col-

lege, she realized she belonged in elementary-aged, progressive education. She has been a classroom teacher off and on both here in Atlanta and in Philadelphia for over 10 years. She has also worked administratively for both schools and summer camps. Her undergrad degree is in early

childhood and elementary education from Washington University in St. Louis, and her Master’s in Education is from the University of Pennsylvania. She continued to sub after having her first child, but left teaching full-time to be home with her kids.

Annsley says that when she is not hanging out with the kids (or friends and family), you can find her volunteering for the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness, playing tennis, Appalachian clogging with Fiddlekicks, or crafting. She will be giving the Clarion regular updates, the first of which is on the right. Thank you, and welcome to Lake Claire, Annsley; we feel lucky to have you.

*Annsley Klehr and Sawyer*

S • T • U • F • F

Public School Roundup

by Boyd Baker

Mary Lin Elementary. As noted earlier on this page, big changes are coming to Mary Lin both inside and out. At the Principal’s Coffee in December Associate Superintendent for the Grady Cluster David White told the audience that the news of Dr. Mitchell’s resignation was not totally unexpected as they’d discussed Dr. Mitchell’s future goals in the past. Dr. Mitchell did Mary Lin a favor in announcing when he did. Now APS has plenty of time to search for a suitable replacement.

APS HR Head Pam Hall will be taking input from teachers and parents and expects their participation in the hiring process that will start in February. Questionnaires will be distributed to get a sense of what traits the Mary Lin community would like in their next leader. APS will vet the first round of applicants. Then a committee made up of members from the PTA, Local School Council, Teacher of the Year, and a principal from another Grady cluster elementary school will interview

*Cont. on p. 5***Update on Mary Lin Elementary School**

by Annsley Klehr

As we wind down 2014 and begin 2015, there have been a number of changes at Mary Lin.

Construction Changes:

Traffic patterns and parking at Mary Lin will change after the new year due to continued construction on the school. As of January 6, the entrance to the school, traffic circle and parking lot will be fenced off for renovation. (The main entrance will be at the back of the building as will the office, near the cafeteria.) The carpool driveway will move to the north side of the school at the former back parking lot entrance, which has been expanded to a two-lane driveway. The main entrance to the school will be at the back of the building near the cafeteria, new addition and new traffic circle. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Mitchell at bdmitchell@atlanta.k12.ga.us (404) 802-8850.

Where will visitors and parents be able to park? The upper back parking lot is reserved for teachers and staff only. The front lower parking lot adjacent to the driveway is for staff, parents, and visitors. Parents may park in the lower/front lot after 8:00 a.m. in the morning. There will be limited parking on Candler Park Drive on either side of the street from the school to North Avenue. Please respect no parking signs. Mary Lin anticipates the completion of the renovations by July of 2015. (To read more, please visit: <http://www.marylinelementary.com>)

Leadership Changes:

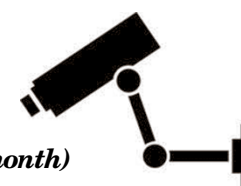
Along with construction changes, there will be a change in leadership at Mary Lin after the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year. On December 4, 2014, Mary Lin’s principal, Dr. Brian Mitchell, informed the Mary Lin community of his resignation, which will take effect on June 30, 2015. Dr. Mitchell has served the Mary Lin community as both a teacher and administrator since 1995. David White, the APS Associate Superintendent for Elementary Schools, said in an e-mail that his office will do everything they can to support Dr. Mitchell and the Mary Lin team through a successful spring semester.

The district’s Principal Selection Process for spring 2015 is undergoing review and revision by the APS Human Resources division. More details on this process in the Public School Roundup below.

As of July, APS also has a new superintendent, Meria Carstarphen, who previously served in Austin, Texas, from 2009 to 2014. As superintendent of the Austin Independent School District, her skills were crucial in improving graduation rates and reducing dropout rates. She believes this was achieved by focusing on the whole child, the social and emotional learning that takes place in a classroom, along with an equal emphasis on the arts. Dr. Carstarphen intentionally steered the district away from focusing on high-stakes testing.

Keep An Eye on the Crime and the Time:

Lake Claire Security Report, November 9 – December 6, 2014



Compiled from Atlanta Police Department (APD) Report (their notices are regularly a little behind, plus the Clarion comes out once a month)

Aggravated Assault

200 block Casson Street 11/18/14 Domestic altercation with physical injuries, resulting in the arrest of a juvenile for battery.

Burglary

400 block Ridgewood Rd 11/15/14 Taken: nothing; prints taken. Upon arriving home the resident found an unknown male crawling out of the back window of his house; the suspect then drove out of the driveway in a small, red compact car.

400 block Clifton Rd 12/6/14 Taken: nothing (attempt only) Resident heard knocking at his door, heard the glass break as he walked towards it, but found no one outside.

Theft from Auto

300 block Clifton Rd 11/21/14 day Parked on street. Taken: purse, cards. Damage: front driver side window broken

CRIME REPORTING: To contact APD dial 911 from your home phone for incidences of crime or suspicious behavior. It is better to dial 404-658-6666 when using a cell phone. Tell the operator you're in **APD's Zone 6, Beat 608** if your location does not automatically come up on the operator's screen. Good idea to give a callback #. For up-to-date security info join lakeclaireneighborhoodwatch@yahogroups.com. **For your cellphone: Edgewood Retail District's 24-hour security number: -- 678-618-2308**

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Public School Roundup

continued from page 3

and give their input. A decision in the spring will allow the new principal to transition in over the summer.

At the same time that administration is changing, the renovation continues. As you read this, the new wing should be open for business and everyone from the opposite end of the school (main office, gymnasium, and library) will be relocated while that end gets a facelift. They say everything is on target to have the school renovation completed this summer and open when the kids return in the fall. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

Inman Middle

December was a good month for the Inman Eagles as they won both the Academic Bowl AND Math Team competition for Atlanta Public Schools. A renovation to add additional classrooms should also begin in early 2015. If you want to see the proposed plans, go to <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/cms/lib/GA01000924/Centricity/Domain/4657/Inman%20MS%20-%20Project%20Overview%2011%2024%202014.pdf>.

A club you don't hear much about at Inman is **the Robotics Club**. There are about 30 students under the guidance of Coach David Boardman and Assistant Coach Sally Rowe. The Robo Eagles learn to build and program the Lego Mindstorms



The team (in order closest to the camera to farthest away): Alek Bruckman, Zoe Franklin, Zevin White, Trace Henry, Ismail Massar, Kaya Pope, Matilda Law, Connor Lowery-North; Not pictured: Henry Nguyen, Harry Rowe

EV3 and NXT. A team of 8-10 students can enter to compete in the Georgia Tech sponsored Georgia First Lego League. December's regional competition against 29 other teams was held at Grady High School (which also has a pretty good Robotics Club). The Robo Eagles did quite well and received the "Gracious Professionalism" award, and they just got the news that they're advancing to State! They will go to the Super Regionals, which will take place at Columbus State University. Last year's team made it to the Super Regionals, and we are thrilled that this team was so successful. Learn more about the robotics competition at <https://flcismc.gatech.edu>.

Grady High School

Academic Pathways are some-

thing that confuse folks new to Grady High School. Well, things may get a little more awkward. Principal Timothy Guiney (pronounced GUY-nee) said in December that they are looking to add more pathways for students in 2015. You can think of these pathways as "majors" for high school. Essentially, a freshman chooses a pathway (Communication & Journalism, Law & Investigation, Business & Marketing, or Biomedical Science & Engineering) in his or her first semester and will then take one class within that pathway each semester until graduation. This gives him or her a deeper understanding of a possible career pathway. Students who realize their chosen pathways aren't for them can apply to change in their sophomore year.

In order to serve the Grady community better, APS has been getting feedback from parents and students to learn if there may be additional pathways worth adding to the program. Nothing's been finalized but it looks like there could be new Fine Arts, World Languages, and Advanced Academic pathways added for 2015-16.

In response to this, Grady administration is deciding on a better operational structure to support the students. When there were only 4 pathways and 4 grade levels, support was pretty logical. Administrators represented all grades for that pathway. With the addition of three more pathways, student support



Inman Robotics Team Member with their EV3 Robot

gets more complex. Mr. Guiney told a crowd of 8th grade parents at Inman in December that they are looking at the possibility of "looping" counselors and administrators by grade level. That would mean a 9th grade student would have the same administrators work with him or her for the four years at Grady regardless of pathway. This allows for a deeper connection and understanding between students and staff.

This spring there will be ample opportunity for students and parents to visit Grady High and learn more – even if they are considering transferring from a private school or an APS charter school. Contact gradynextstep@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP for one of the scheduled open houses.

2/25/15: 6:30-8pm Parents & 8th Graders Welcome

4/18/15: 10-11:30am Grady Tour

4/21/15: 5-6:30pm Grady Tour

5/2/15: 10-11:30am Grady Tour

Hello...Safe Journey – Skiing in and around Lake Claire



January Birthdays:

- 3 – Leah Braun, Claire Dr, turns 10–the Big One-‘Oh’!
- 3 – Lisa Morris, Sutherland Place
- 5 – Dave Kaiser, Hardendorf
- 12 – Tamar Williams, Harold
- 12 – Tiffany Mawhinney, Howard Circle
- 13 – Anneliese Rühling, Leonardo, will be three
- 15 – Sophie Oren, Leonardo, turns one!
- 16 – Theo Emanuel, Marlbrook, turns one!

- 18 – Cynthia Baer, Gordon Ave and Pat Del Rey, Harold
- 19 – Genise Spence, Arizona Ave
- 20 – Melanie Bliss, Leonardo
- 21 – Anders Cooper, Leonardo, turns four
- 21 – Amelia Stevens will be 7, Leonardo
- 22 – Cate Crutcher, Hardendorf - to be 13 (teenager!!!)
- 24 – Susan Beeching, Connecticut Ave
- 24 – Mike Baer, Gordon Ave - he'll be 21!

Belated birthdays from December... Laura Tanguturi 12/13 (new resident of Harold Ave, welcome!); Colleen Golden 12/13 and Josh Golden 12/17 (Harold Ave); Elliott Williams, 12/19 and Cabot Williams, 12/26 (age 3) (Howard Circle); Steve Raimonde 12/28, Ridgewood, 12/31. Cara Haycak Tobin.

*Please help us make this feature inclusive! Send life cycle events/important rights of passage, etc. to editor@lakeclaire.org. **Deadline JANUARY 15 for the FEBRUARY newspaper.***

Good Gracious Variety Show

continued from page 1

includes musical guests Little Country Giants and Lilac Wine, info on the Atlanta Streetcar Project, comedy from Dad's Garage Improv, poet Ashlie Robertson, filmmaker David Lewis, People's Feel Good Food, and more. Said Baker recently, "My goal is to create a *Southern Home Companion* that is the kind of show

you can take your kids, parents, or out-of-town guests to. Mainly, it's something that will always delight and inspire."

The January 10 show begins

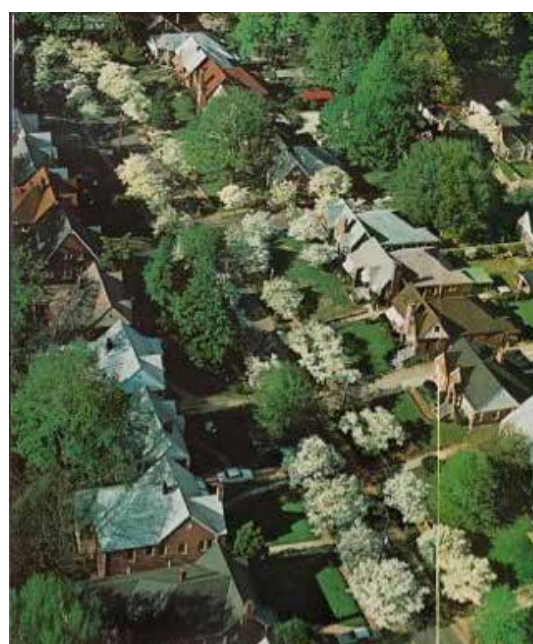
at 8 p.m. and is open to all ages. Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased at the Variety Playhouse box office or www.GoodGraciousShow.com.

December Holiday Party Another Success

Yet again, many neighbors enjoyed one of our neighborhood's signature events of the year, the annual Holiday Party/Christmas dinner. A crowd of 75-80 enjoyed food, fun, and conviviality with neighbors old and new.

In addition to holding a delicious, convivial dinner for over 70 attendees, we also received dues for 2015 in advance from five families as well as a new Lake Claire banner order, for a total of \$135. Police and fire personnel weren't able to attend this year, but we sent them gift certificates.

Special thanks to Kathie Ryan, who put in an enormous amount of time getting everything together, and to Miriam Herbers, who got the lasagna; Genise and Bernard Spence for coming early and staying late to help set up and take down; to Andrew and



Blast From the Past - 1969

With thanks to Bob Schreiber

This picture shows **Claire Drive and Palifox in 1969**. This photograph was published in the February 1969 edition of National Geographic, with the following verbiage:

"Milky way of flowering dogwoods shimmer above Claire Drive near Emory University; each April hundreds of residential streets burst into bloom. Celebrating the spectacle of spring, Atlanta stages a week-long Dogwood Festival, including evening tours past lighted trees and homes, concerts, fashion shows, benefit balls, and a parade."



Pen Sherwood for staffing the sign-in table (and to Pen for the creative table centerpieces); and, of course, much gratitude to the Nielsens -- Lucy, Myles, Stella, and Esther for providing wonder-

ful music and entertainment.

Thanks to Natalyn Archibong for her continued support of Lake Claire and all its activities.

Finally, thank you, Jen Hawthorne and the staff of the Frazier Center, for their generosity in providing the space for our dinner and the support in setting up the tables and chairs and the clean-up afterwards. They have been longterm friends of Lake Claire, and the party wouldn't have happened without them!



An Artist Pen Sherwood Table Centerpiece



Myles Nielsen, Our D.J.*

*A Clarion "shout-out" to Myles, for his annual Christmas lights that are synchronized to music – a fantastic and creative display on Hardendorf; we hope you had the opportunity to see it, and we hope he does it again next year.





All photos-B. Damon

A Nigerian on the 'Dorf

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with long-time residents Jean Bean and Teresa Gibreal. Jean is Dora's aunt.

Dora is from Lagos, Nigeria. She came to Atlanta to attend Basketball camp at the Greenforest-McCalep Christian Academy in Decatur last year. She attended camp for one week and, as it turns out, she liked Greenforest, and the Academy liked her. So she decided to continue her studies and basketball training there, which meant leaving everyone and everything she knew back home behind her.

I asked Dora what made her decide that was the right thing to do, especially given her young age. She said, "If I want to achieve what I want to achieve, it was better to stay here than to be at home."

Definitive indeed. And very courageous.

Home is where the Challenges Are

Lagos, Nigeria is a West African city that has experienced the world's largest population surge in recent decades. Today's Lagos boasts a population of 20 million people, up from about 2 million just 40 years ago.

It is also a city of contradictions. The divide between the super-rich and very poor is pervasive. Although considered the region's commercial powerhouse and one of the fastest-growing cities in the world – thanks to an oil boom and an expanding economy – decades of ineffective government control have left the city's infrastructure in dire need of attention. A June 2014 edition of *Fortune* noted that electricity is in critically short supply. Lagos generates just 2,000 megawatts of electricity – less than half of what's available for a single block in Midtown Manhattan – and every household and store must depend on diesel generators for power.

Dora agrees that these things make life in Lagos challenging. When I asked her what she likes about living in Atlanta, she quietly tells me that life is easier. "Transportation, electricity... Atlanta's traffic is nothing compared to Lagos'. And, we have to rely on generators for our power at home. Not like here."

But she's also quick to point out that life is a little more relaxed in Lagos than here in Atlanta.

"Back home we can stay up until 'like,' 12 a.m. We sit around outside and talk. But here we can't do that. Here we have to go to bed; we have school the next morning."

I asked her why this was possible; she had to attend school at home – yes? Dora told me that, "Back home we come from school at 3 p.m., then rest for two hours before we practice (basketball). Then we shower and do homework." After that the teens are free to hang out.

"But here we have school, then practice, and then we go home. There is no time to rest or to stay out," Dora says longingly.

I couldn't help but look at Teresa after this exchange. She smiled and said, "Oh, we're pretty hard on her."

At times, she does miss her friends and family. But with Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, Dora is always just a swipe away from those closest to her. And, she does plan to go back to Lagos sometime in the next year. In the meantime, she will be travelling to Ohio to visit her brother, Churchill, and nephew, Ethan, over the Christmas Holiday. Except for the possibility of snow, she seemed very excited about the trip.

Dora came clean and admitted there is one thing from home she longs for: the food. "It's very different here," she said. Her favorite dish from back home? Groundnut soup. "I don't know how to make it," confesses Dora. "But I really like it. It is good."

For the Love of Hoops

Basketball is the central part of Dora's life. The sport is, after all, what brought her here. She hopes her dedication and talent will help her secure a college scholarship and help pave the way to her future. Dora understands this means working extra hard, both in the classroom and on the basketball court.

She also understands it is a competitive process. But that doesn't seem to faze her. "I love basketball. I want to play basketball, go to school, and have a degree."

Who can argue with that kind of passion and focus?

If you want to see Dora and her teammates in action, plan to attend the February 6, 2015 matchup between the Greenforest Eagles and the Paideia Pythons. The game is at Paideia; pregame is 7:00 pm.

Good luck, ladies! I might be biased, but I plan to holler for the Eagles.

CSM Changes the Face of Homelessness

continued from page 1

age making a donation now, which may be done through Paypal on their website, <http://www.clifton-sanctuary.com/>;

or to donate time or items (check out the website for suggestions).

This December, 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. It was a little nippy, but neighbors who braved the elements were rewarded with festive camaraderie and hot cider and snacks.

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Local Schools Working Together Secure \$3 Million U.S. DOE Grant

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a non-profit organization committed to educational excellence and equity through supporting teachers in reflective collaboration and engagement in Critical Friends Groups (CFGs); 5) the Emory-Tibet Partnership at Emory University (ETP) a center focused on mindfulness, which has been shown to increase resilience in the face of workplace stress; and 6) several charter and traditional high-needs public schools within the Maynard Jackson High School “cluster” of the Atlanta Public Schools district.

The director of this project is a Lake Claire resident, Elizabeth Hearn. Elizabeth has worked as the Director of the New Teacher Residency Project at ANCS for the past two years,

and she sees great potential for this CREATE project to strengthen the local teacher workforce. In a recent discussion with *the Clarion*, Elizabeth shared some facts with us about what the research shows:

1. Student performance in language arts and math is positively correlated with the creation of a school culture of collaboration and collegiality.
2. The development of teachers’ “social capital”—the level and type of interaction and collaboration among teachers—has been cited as a significant predictor of student achievement gains above and beyond teacher experience or ability in the

classroom.

3. Two recent national surveys found a majority of teachers reporting that collaboration has a positive impact on student achievement.

Elizabeth describes the program as:

“... a fantastic opportunity to intentionally build a culture of collaboration in schools. When teachers are supported in turning to each other for help, the school feels good. When a teacher is supported in asking tough questions, making himself vulnerable, and admitting he doesn’t know everything, the door is opened for deeper learning. When teachers practice strategies that deepen reflection, increase emotional

awareness and master skills for stabilizing attention, relationships improve and stress is reduced. In the training program we now run at ANCS, veteran educators have reported that mentoring new teachers while engaging CFG and mindfulness programming has breathed new life into their work. This was an unexpected benefit when we began the project in 2012, yet it has had a significant and positively impacted the effectiveness and retention of our teachers. While a lot of challenges lie ahead with this work, I feel confident that we are moving our local schools in a new direction and that is incredibly exciting!”

January into February in the Garden

by Elizabeth Knowlton

Every winter I remind you to replace the bulbs in the fluorescent light set-up you have made to grow seedlings. If you have not done this before, consider installing some shop lights on the underside of an unused bookshelf. If you have room, you can install brackets on a wall and move board shelves, each with a light fixture fastened to its lower side, up and down, depending on the size of growing plants. Our shelves hold four-ft. light fixtures, each long enough to have two plant trays beneath them. Special grow bulbs will provide the correct spectrum of light for plants, but using a “warm” and a “cool” bulb together in one fixture will also work and is cheaper. I replace two of my five bulbs each year. If you write the year at the end of each bulb, it is easy to keep track of which need replacing.

Plot out where you will plant your vegetables, in particular, being sure to rotate the beds so that nightshade plants (like tomatoes) do not go to the same spot each year and that beans and peas get to “fix” the soil with nitrogen in different places. I follow tomatoes with beans, beans with broccoli, and broccoli with corn (each bed also occupied with sister plants). In a separate rotation, I follow potatoes with watermelon, watermelon with squash. In whatever area seems to have room, I plant okra, which is in the hibiscus family, as you

can see by its bloom.

Recently I read an article on soil borne diseases and was so discouraged that I wondered how a new gardener would ever dare garden at all. For most of these pathogens, the article suggested, all one can do is totally replace the soil in your yard. But then I stopped to think how many times my tomatoes had continued to produce new fruit right into November even as the bottoms of

issues, but I don’t think it is necessary for home gardeners to be buying seeds covered with chemicals (Stokes, for instance, offers treated and untreated seeds).

This does not mean one should be *laissez faire* about one’s soil. Continue adding to your compost piles throughout the winter, layering kitchen waste with larger stashes of leaves and dead plants. Turn the piles as they break down, perhaps add-

not add lime where you plan to plant potatoes. To be most effective, lime should be added in the autumn anyway. You can have manure and other organic amendments ready for spring, however.

Many vegetables can be seeded directly into the garden as soon as weather is right for them, but the nightshade plants (eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes) appreciate growth in a warm place like your house. Others, like broccoli, need a head start indoors to produce before our hot summers. You can start kale and collards indoors too or wait to sow them outside in the fall. Some good seed catalogs are Park Seeds, Johnny’s Selected Seeds, Stokes Seeds, Vermont Bean Seed Company (now in Wisconsin), and Totally Tomatoes (with over 300 varieties of tomato seeds, many peppers, and useful garden supplies). I notice the latter offers a garden planner online that you can use free for 30 days and includes plotting in a variety of styles. The shocker for seeds nowadays is their price, often anywhere from \$2-6.

For years I had only failure with eggplant. Only when I began giving them a seat in the front of my south-facing beds have I had success. Tomatoes tower over them from behind, and peppers stand behind in less direct sun. Naturally they will



Seedlings in pots for indoor shelves, by Carole Damon (1953-2012)

the plants were riddled with disease. New gardens rarely have these problems. If you rotate your vegetables, clean your tools, are cautious about the source of new plants, and plant resistant varieties (why some tomatoes are labeled VFN), you should do fine. Farmers have different economic

ing compost maker to hasten the process in cold weather. You can spade compost into existing beds to have them ready for planting in springtime; however, never dig when soil is wet, especially our clay. Keep beds covered with wheat straw, shredded leaves, pine straw, or shredded bark. Do

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January into February in the Garden

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need more water when weather is dry. Success also comes from forgetting the supermarket size eggplants altogether. Whether you grow Asian varieties (long and thin) like 'Orient Express' and 'Ping Tung' or small tear-shaped ones like 'Nadia,' 'Purple Rain,' or 'Fairytale,' you will be delighted at the taste, never bitter. Eggplant requires 8-10 weeks for plant-out size, so seed them and peppers and tomatoes in early February. Germination is best in a warm spot like a heat mat or the top of a refrigerator. As soon as they are up, place them under those plant lights, really close, not more than four inches away. If you can remember, when the fruit is glossy, press it with your thumb and harvest as soon as the indentation rebounds. If it remains, you have let your eggplant pass its prime.

Remember to start most kinds of flowers, especially the tiny seeded ones, this early also because they take a long

time to get big enough to transplant. Big seeds like sunflowers or the large zinnias can be planted directly in the ground after the last frost.

For beginners, I recommend the following tools: a shovel (works better for me than a spade), trowel, hoe, a lightweight lopper, and hand pruners. Did you clean your old tools yet? Wash hand pruners with soapy water to remove sap residue, dry, and add household or mineral oil to the space between the blade and hook. If the blades are too loose, you can ad-

just the tension with the center screw until the alignment is corrected. Is the blade sharp? Drawing a diamond hand file along the blade, following the existing bevel angle with a few smooth strokes, should be all that is required. Check the flat side to make sure any burrs are removed.

*When strolling through the garden,
If you should chance to see
A ladybug out walking,
Please say "hi" for me!
For ladybugs are good bugs,
They help the garden grow.
They will bring you good luck,
So always say "hello!"
~Author Unknown*



Anna Trodglén draws our Biscuits and Bellyrubs series. A life-time Atlanta resident, Anna grew up on the edge of Lake Claire. Original art, prints, and cards, including signed prints from the Biscuits and Bellyrubs series, and commissioned pet portraits are all available for sale at www.annatrodglén.com.



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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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Another Successful Land Trust Holiday Craft Fair!

Thank You and Happy Holidays! On behalf of the Lake Claire Community Land Trust, we want to thank all artists and helpers for your participation in the 2014 Arts and Crafts holiday fundraiser. This year's proceeds exceeded last year's, making it the most profitable ever. Meeting new people and working with you all is a reward in itself, so earning money for the Land Trust made it extra good.

A special thanks to Elizabeth Sullivan for offering her house.

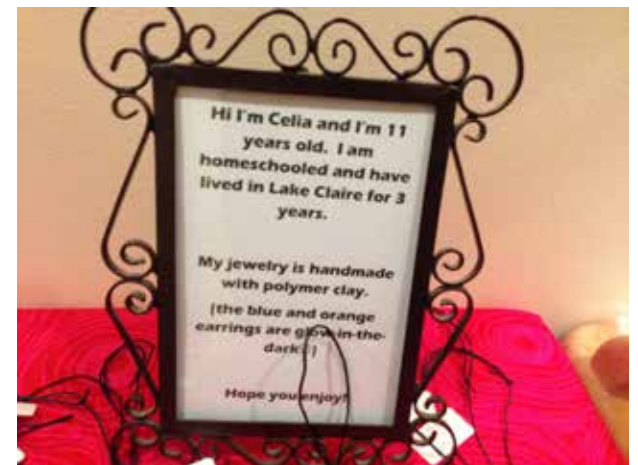
Her generosity and easygoing attitude as we rearranged her furniture and more or less took over her house was impressive. Also, thank you to Janie Wright for the emu gourd ornaments. 100% of the proceeds were designated for Lou's upkeep.

Many of you helped with moving the heavy things before and after the show, washing dishes, checking-in artists, checking customers out, keeping items neatly displayed and just jumping in to help when you saw a need. All of

your generous acts are gratefully appreciated.

We especially loved the new children's section this year. Learning at an early age the rewards of contributing is valuable and offers promise for the future of the Land Trust and society. We hope a children's section will become a permanent feature of any future show. Happy Holidays to all of our talented and generous neighbors in Lake Claire!

– Genise Spenle and Miriam Herbers



Jamie Wright's Gourds a Big Hit



great kids' art



more great kids' art



yet more great kids' art

See the on-line version to see these pictures in color, further demonstrating the kids' creativity and the gorgeous gourds.

New membership policy: Please check out www.LCCLT.org/stewardship for details.

Upcoming at the Land Trust . . .

Jan. 3 and 17 – Drum Circle, see calendar Page 2.



LAKE CLAIRE KIDS' CORNER



This month Ally Bliss of Leonardo wrote a review of the Callanwolde Dance troupe production of the Nutcracker that was performed in December at Decatur High School. Ally is a Leo (i.e., Leonardo resident), nine years old, and is in the fourth grade at Mary Lin School.

Callanwolde Dance Ensemble's Production of *The Nutcracker*

by Ally Bliss

The Nutcracker took place at Decatur High School on the 6th and 7th of December. I attended the Saturday evening performance with one of my best friends, Lake Claire resident Maddie Shaw, her sister Sydney Shaw, and our moms. I went to see a good friend of mine perform, Elena D'Agostino, (angel) and was surprised to also see my classmate Sam Prausnitz-Weinbaum (Fritz), both of whom are Mary Lin students. It was a great experience seeing it.

Some notes that I picked up out of the show were as follows: The set was very realistic, the costumes were very well put together, and the dancers were simply *a-maz-ing*! Also, there were absolutely NO mistakes



L-R Ally Bliss, Elena D'Agostino, and Maddie Shaw, all Mary Lin 4th graders and Lake Claire residents

whatsoever, their steps were light and swift, and the make-up was wonderful.

It was so entertaining, I decided to interview Elena to learn more about it.

I first asked her, "How long have you been rehearsing?" Then she answered, "since the beginning of October." I next asked her to tell me a bit about how long she's been dancing and how she feels about it. Elena replied, "I love dancing, dancing is my life. I've been dancing since I was 3." "What made you want to be the angel? Were you assigned to do it?" I asked. "Well, I WAS assigned to do it, but I was glad to be one, because it was the second year older girls were angels." I then asked, "what's it like spending time with the cast?" She responded, "It's really fun because I don't get to see them a lot because most of them are older than I am." Finally, I asked, "What's it like performing in front of an audience?" She replied, "Umm... well at the beginning I'm nervous, and a way to distract me is to look for my friends. Then, I don't get nervous. Once I start to dance, I get excited, not as nervous."

It was a pleasure viewing this performance. I would be very excited to go next year! I suggest that you go, too!



"tbt" Ally (vampire) and Elena (Alice in Wonderland) from 2011 when they were first grade friends!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONTEST WINNERS!

1st prize goes to STELLA COLE, age 5, who is in kindergarten at Mary Lin. She lives on Palifox with her brother Simon, with whom she is very patient, her mom Melanie Bates Cole told the Clarion. Stella has two cats, Dunkin' and Arbor, and she has lived the vast majority of her life in two different houses on Palifox Street.



2nd prize goes to: EMMA SULLIVAN, age 7, Arizona Avenue. This is Emma's first time to submit an entry! She is a 1st grader at Mary Lin, attends Horizons Kids after-school program, and lives with her mom (Shannon) and dad (Patrick). Emma loves art and drawing, reading, playing with Legos, and basketball.

3rd prize goes to DEVYN HLAVEK, 9 years old, who lives on McLendon Avenue. Devyn is in 3rd grade at Mary Lin. She has a dog named Wrigley, and her brother is Aiden. She loves going to the beach, ice skating, and reading.



4th prize goes to ADDISON BAER, 8 years old, Gordon Avenue. She is a 2nd grader at Mary Lin. She lives with her puppy Bella, who is 8 months old, and brothers Mike, 20 (happy birthday this month), and William, 18 (older sister Jessica, 25, lives in Chicago).



In a tight contest, with so many contestants who found the dreidels, we had to cut it off at these four winners! We are sorry that the 23 others couldn't have their names mentioned—Thanks for your interest, and when you find the snowman this month, be sure to e-mail (or have your parents e-mail) quickly!

NEW CONTEST:

HELLO, KIDS: Find a *snowman* hidden in this issue. (I'm sure many of us hope we'll be able to make one this month in Atlanta!) Find it, and you're our winner, and you will have your name and picture noted in the next Clarion. To win, send e-mail to editor@lakeclaire.org with the answer. Any Lake Claire kid is eligible, but you can't win two months in a row. *Hurry and look*; competition is always stiff for this coveted prize. Congratulations and thank you, **Stella, Emma, Devyn, and Addison**.