



A Silver Spring
International Middle
School (SSI)
community service
project

Jan. 2010
800+ Homes

www.iscaonline.com

Indian Spring News

ISCA Holiday House Tour

Allegra Tasaki

THE ISCA HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR was quite a success! There were about 30 families who toured the neighborhood's showcase of homes on display. It was a perfect day for getting outside in the snow globe atmosphere to enjoy winter's natural beauty and the warm and welcoming company of our neighbors.

A very special thank you goes out to all eight homeowner/families who opened their hearts and homes by volunteering to host this year's Tour. It's sharing like this that makes life worth living in Indian Spring! We are so fortunate that they were willing to participate and offer ideas for decorating and remodeling.

Our participating families included *Jennifer Chambers and Joe Kowal, Erika Shugart and Joe Brzostowski, Holly Rothrock and Mark Grovic, Stephanie Peterson and Gregg Brown, Maria del Carmen Cossu and Gerardo Ayzanoa, Sage Russell and Jeffrey Mason, and Kelly and Bob Wood.*

Finally, thank you to all the neighbors who took off their shoes and took the Tour! Our Tour hosts very much appreciated your consideration for their homes during inclement weather as well as your kind compliments about their homes.

We hope to see you all again in 2011!—*Allegra Tasaki, 2009 ISCA Holiday House Tour Organizer.* *

Indian Spring Citizens Association

Membership Application and Renewal

Dues are \$15 per household • Please Join or Renew Now • Dues cover 12 months from receipt

Send Check to ISCA • P.O. Box 3724 • Silver Spring, MD 20918-3724

Or drop off at 200 East Indian Spring Drive (c/o Phyllis Zusman, Treasurer) or **use Paypal at iscaonline.com**

Name(s): _____ Phone: () - Date: / /

Street Address: _____ Silver Spring, MD

Email: _____

If you are not sure of your membership status you can e-mail Phyllis, fzusman@erols.com or call, 301-587-9063, and she will give you the answer.

Holiday Celebration

Stephanie Helsing, "Christmas Tree Lady"

ON DECEMBER 13TH AT 5:00 PM we hosted the annual lighting of the "ISCA" Christmas tree that was thoughtfully donated by Jim and Suzy Finelli of Binghampton Landscape.

This year, as always, we had cocoa and coffee to keep us warm while we read about Hanukkah and sang some holiday songs.

NEW THIS YEAR, we collected items to send to the 212th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control) serving near Mosul, Iraq, as well as local serviceman Lt. Col Brian Scott and the 425th Special Troops Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division serving near Gardez, Afghanistan.

The following is the list of items that was requested.

- Socks
- ChapStick®
- Wash cloths
- Tampons in various sizes (They are not used or sold in most Arab Countries.)
- Bar soap

- Men's STICK deodorant (These work better in the Afghan/Iraq climate than the aerosol.)
- Snacks of all types (cereal bars, Rice Krispie Treats, nuts, cheese crackers)
- Cookies, peanut butter crackers, Ramen Noodles, Slim Jims, gum and hard candies (No chocolate bars please!)
- Fruit and pudding cups
- Tuna lunch kits
- Individual bags of chips and crackers
- Blank cards
- Children's books (They are read by the soldiers while being video taped, and then sent home to their families.)

We will most likely get pictures of the soldiers opening and/or using your thoughtful donations. These will be posted on the list serve and in the newsletter.

THANK YOU ISCA FOR YOUR TIME AND CONTRIBUTIONS. As always I am proud to be part of such a supportive community. ✨

EDITOR'S NOTE: As mentioned last month, we will be including interviews with notable members of our community. We would welcome suggestions for further persons to be interviewed; please send to thausner@gmail.com, or call him at 301-587-6943. We would also welcome students willing to serve as reporters for student service credits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(This section is for announcements about new neighbors, births, deaths, weddings, graduations, etc. Send announcements to thausner@gmail.com).*

Welcome to James Burkett of East Indian Spring Drive who has moved into our neighborhood. James has an ad on the last page of this newsletter.

ISCA Officers

PRESIDENT

Walter Gottlieb
president@iscaonline.com

VP, SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Celeste Raker-Dillen

VP, CIVIC AFFAIRS

Eileen Fisher

SECRETARY

Allegra Tasaki

TREASURER

Elizabeth Magin

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CHAIR

Tony Hausner

AGING IN PLACE CHAIR

Bob Tiller

WEBSITE ORGANIZERS

Tony Hausner
Matt Stocker

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Phyllis Zusman

NEWSLETTER MANAGER

Tony Hausner

LAYOUT COORDINATORS

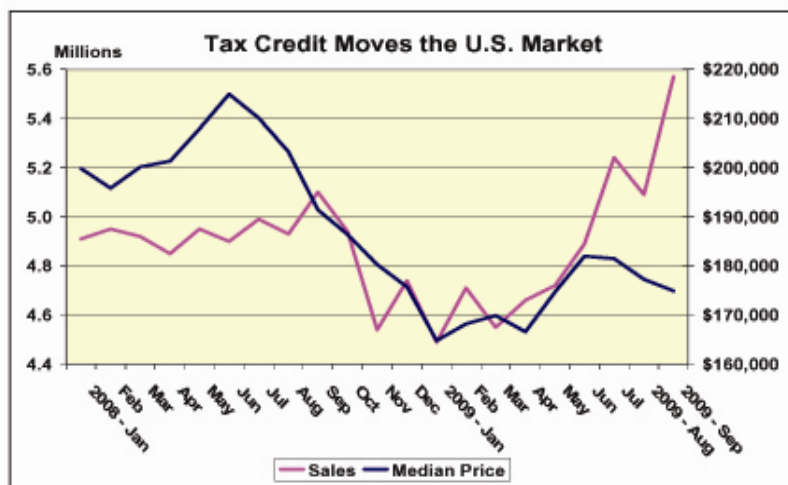
Ali Breen
Audrey Cowgill



TAMARA KUCIK
READY. SET. SOLD!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR? YES IT IS!

Washington area prices rose for the 9th month in a row this past December. New contracts were up 42% over this same time in 2008 and were nearly even with the relatively strong market of November 2006. Gentlemen and gentlewomen, we are on the move!



Source: MRIS



Serious about selling in 2010? Call today for a complimentary and absolutely hassle-free assessment of your home. You'll also get free tips on readying your home to get top dollar.

This real estate front will be moving through quickly and when the interest rates hit 6% as they are predicted to do this year, the credits expire, and the premium inventory of the early Spring market disappears — so will the buyers. So be ready — arm yourself with Silver Spring's #1 Realtor.

Call me today at **301-580-5002** or email me at :

tamara@tamara4homes.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



#1 WC & AN Miller Agent - \$35m sold in 2009
HGTV's Silver Spring real estate expert
Top 12 Long and Foster's 14,000 Agents
#1 Silver Spring Realtor 2008 and 2009
301-580-5002 cell 202-966-1400 office

W.C. & A.N.
MILLER
REALTORS®
A Long & Foster® Co.



This is not meant to solicit property if it is listed with another broker. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

www.tamara4homes.com

Help Reopen the Old Blair Auditorium!

Ann Collins

The Old Blair Auditorium Project needs your help.

As you are aware, a group of Montgomery County parents and volunteers has been working for more than a decade seeking support and funding to renovate the auditorium at the original Blair High School site on Wayne Ave. in Silver Spring. The “Stickley Auditorium” was a true community resource for decades. It hosted many, many programs enjoyed by families in Montgomery County and throughout the region. MCPS decided not to refurbish the facility when Blair moved to Four Corners some 10 years ago. Today it continues to sit between two schools—deteriorating more and more each day. The frustration is this facility could have been in use—and generating revenue for the county (for taxpayers!)—for all those many years!

We are at a point where we must get County Executive Ike Leggett to put the auditorium project into the FY 2011 CIP (construction program). The state has committed a \$600,000 bond bill for many years as an incentive—it’s a matching grant essentially—that

will likely not be renewed if we do not get the project into the county’s CIP. It will take much more to turn the facility into something we all can be proud of. But we need to make this first step to show the county and MCPS are serious about this project. From there we can start working on grants and other donations from the private sector.

After many years of effort, an architect was chosen to look at the auditorium and how it could be renovated in a way to best serve not only Silver Spring International Middle School and Sligo Creek Elementary, but the entire community. The renovated auditorium, as conceived now, would be first and foremost a true community resource—preserved as an 800 seat (approximately) auditorium, with additional classroom space, afterschool and a wide range of other programs. Community groups would have access to a large performance facility at reasonable cost—something they don’t have in Montgomery County now. Our students at both schools will have their own performance and activity space as well. The bottom line—a renovated “Old Blair” Auditorium will be a wonderful community resource serving families who have children attending both Blair and Northwood.

Please know that we’re not asking for donations—but rather for a few minutes of your time to write the County Executive and Council to let them know this is important—that the auditorium project needs to be in the 2011 CIP. Tough budget times or not, this is important—something that can really make a difference for our students and our community. A true source of pride in Montgomery County!

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Stuart Moore

President, Board of Directors

Old Blair Auditorium Project

www.oldblairauditorium.org

888-OLD-BLAIR (888-653-2524)

Mindful
Decluttering & Organizing

If Your Clutter

- Makes you feel tired or overwhelmed
- Limits your decision making ability
- Causes you to miss appointments
- Prevents you from finding things & leads to unnecessary purchases
- Negatively affects relationships & keeps you from inviting friends to visit

Take Control Now!
Call Pam at 301-270-0969
clutterfreenow@rcn.com • www.clutterfreenow.net

Declutter your space ~ Free your spirit

continued on page 9



HONESTY • INTEGRITY • DEPENDABILITY • RESULTS!

#1 NORTHGATE REALTY AGENT

SILVER SPRING TOP PRODUCER

AND YOUR INDIAN SPRING NEIGHBOR SINCE 1993

*Happy Holidays
From Tom Hanson Homes*



*And all of our
2009 Clients!*

Tom's Impressive 2009 Stats!

- *Average Sales Price = \$445,363*
- *Average Days on Market = 69*
- *List Price to Sales Price = 97.1%*
- *Listings Sold = 100%*
- *Satisfied Clients = 100%*



2 Wisconsin Circle, Suite 700
Chevy Chase, Maryland
20815
(301) 585-3440



TOM HANSON
Realtor® MD • VA • DC
(301) 996-9634 direct
Tom@TomHansonHomes.com

1% of my commission is donated to Habitat for Humanity!



WWW.TOMHANSONHOMES.COM

Silver Spring International Middle School (SSI) News

Stephanie Helsing and Katie Ryan (Co-Pres, SSI PTSA)

HARLEM WIZARDS COME BACK FOR MORE AT SSI!

Silver Spring International Middle School (SSI) has been invited to once again host "The Harlem Wizards" basketball team. For those of you who have never heard of them, this is a trick hoops team that is connected to the Harlem Globetrotters. They will run a two-hour long fun-filled program that will include a basketball game and live entertainment. It will be held at the SSI Field House on Friday, January 15th at 7:00PM.

The Wizards will be taking on a team made up of SSI students, staff and parents. Clearly we aim to win... If you would like to see how much fun this event was last year, former SSI parent Susie Shaffer took some photos and you can view them as individual pictures or a slideshow at: <http://albums.phanfare.com/4544575/3479112>

Information about ticket sales and prices will be available after the holiday.

ALL volunteers and their families get priority seating at the game.

If you are interested in testing your mettle against these tricksters or volunteering to be a part of this great event in another way please contact Stephanie Helsing at: nizwa328@rcn.com

SEE YOU THERE!

Shepherd's Table Grateful for SSI Community Service Project

Shepherd's Table located in downtown Silver Spring were the recipients of over 45 stuffed backpacks, countless extra toiletries, blankets, towels, and various other items as a result of the hard work of a number of SSI (Silver Spring International Middle School) and HVES families.

After a week and a half of collecting items, on Saturday, November 21st, 20 or so students arrived at

SSI at 3:00 pm to sort through the donations and see what we had to work with. They were excited to start and even more excited to find out whose First period class would be getting the coveted pizza party for bringing in the most of their designated donation items.

Once everything was counted and sorted the students then split into teams and worked together to fill the backpacks with the necessary items from the list that Shepherd's Table provided. After this was done and it was determined that we had 45 full backpacks



SSI community service project participants

and lots of extra stuff, there was a discussion about how to make this even more successful next year and how they felt about doing this project. They expressed a feeling of happiness knowing that these backpacks would be given to people less fortunate than themselves on Christmas Eve and pride that they

were able to do what seemed like an overwhelming project in the beginning.

As for next year, look out and keep your ear to the ground in November because they plan on tripling the number of stuffed backpacks! To do this they planned to get the word out to more students by making posters and banners to hang in school, setting up tables to talk with the other students about how important this project is and even calling (lobbying) for people to get involved. I know that Shepherd's table was grateful and the PTSA was just plain proud!

*Special thanks to SSI Principal Ms. Parcan who opened the school for us on her "off time," Ms. Pilgrim (teacher at SSI) and her Mentoring group and Ms. Terry Daluz, a Shepherd's table volunteer, whose idea for this project put us all on a mission to do the best we could. **

Northwood High School Report

Jay Goldman

N EIGHBORHOOD BRAGGING RIGHTS will be up for grabs on the hardwood in January when Northwood and Montgomery Blair square off in both girls and boys basketball.

In girls varsity basketball, Blair visits Northwood on Friday, Jan. 22 for a 7 p.m. tipoff. The boys contest between Northwood and Blair takes place on the latter's court at the same time and day.

The two schools had their anticipated duel cancelled by the December snow storm. The two schools do not face each other in a dual meet in swimming and diving or indoor track, the other varsity winter sports.

One other item of note: Northwood is one of only 68 schools nationwide (and three in Maryland) to earn the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award for exemplary performance in the classroom by both its boys and girls varsity soccer teams during the 2008-09 academic year. To qualify for the award, the teams must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the entire academic year. The team GPA is determined by adding every player's GPA, then dividing by the number of players. The awards were announced in December. *

International Youth (and a local one!) "Unite for Climate"

ISCA Represented at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference

Becca Arbacher

W ITH FOCUS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASING, one of ISCA's own played an integral role in the international discussions. Becca Arbacher, a sophomore in the Math/Science/Computer Science Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School, was selected as one of four high school students from the entire country to represent the U.S. at the recent UNICEF sponsored 2009 Children's Climate Forum in Copenhagen, Denmark. She reports back to us after her extraordinary experience.

The UNICEF Children's Climate Forum was held November 27 through December 4 in Copenhagen as a precursor to the COP15, the UN Climate Change Conference. The forum brought together more than 160 students aged 14 to 17 from 44 different countries to collaborate and discuss current issues surrounding climate change, as well as represent their country's work to curb climate change.

I first learned of this extraordinary opportunity through a posting on a Girl Scout listserv. The application process included: the submission of essays on personal qualifications; details on one's research

and experience in the area of climate change and environmental activism; and the rationale for one's desire to participate. My interest in climate change stemmed from an 8th grade Science Fair project on the greenhouse effect, which was a part of my Magnet Capstone Project at the Takoma Park Middle School Magnet. I also presented the project at the American Meteorological Society's Washington Chapter competition and the American Society of Naval Engineers' Annual Conference. The project research and subsequent outreach prepared me well for the international UNICEF experience.

continued on page 11

	The Courtyard by Marriott
	<i>Silver Spring-Downtown</i> 8506 Fenton Street Silver Spring, MD 20910 301-589-4844 www.marriott.com/wassv
Proud sponsors and host hotel to the Harlem Wizards who are participating in an event for Silver Spring International Middle School on January 15.	

Homeschooling

Randy Shay

"DO YOUR KIDS HAVE THE DAY OFF from school today?" This is a question I have heard many times over years when I have been out and about in the community with my children during traditional school hours. I am always curious to see the reaction we get when I tell them that we homeschool. I've gotten everything from a look of disgust to a puzzled shake of the head coupled with a look that clearly says, "Oh, you're one of those people," to a barrage of questions from those who are curious, and everything in between.

Homeschooling has been gaining in popularity for years, with over 1.5 million students estimated by the U.S. Dept. of Education to be homeschooling in the United States in 2007 (the most recent year for which I could dig up the numbers), which, according to the report, represents 2.9% of school-aged students in the U.S., up from 2.2% in 2003. This area certainly has its fair share of homeschoolers. I am aware of at 6 other families in Indian Spring alone who are, or have, homeschooled their children.

The two most common questions I get about homeschooling are "Why?" and "What about socialization?"

The answer to the first question is going to be different for every family. For us it was the fact that we had a bright child with a November birthday who'd already had 2 years of nursery school and, while he was academically ready for kindergarten at age 4-3/4, he was not socially or emotionally ready. Homeschooling was our solution to the problem. Our original plan was to do it for a year to give him some time to mature, then send him off to Highland View for first grade. What we never counted on was how much we would like it. Thirteen years later, here we are, still homeschooling! As my next two sons reached school age, they also enrolled in Shay Academy (my light-hearted name for our educational pursuits). My children have never been forced to homeschool. They have always had the option to attend school, if that is what they preferred. One of them briefly expressed interest in giving school a try the next year, until he realized how early he'd have to

continued on page 10

Environmental Column

Joyce Stocker

LAST YEAR we were given permission by the the ISCA Board to occasionally submit an environmental article on the listserv or in the newsletter.



Here's the latest.

It seems, lately, that many people are deciding to reduce, or stop, eating meat—for reasons of health, budget, the cruelty of factory farming or because of the cost to the environment (See recent *Washington Post* editorial "Belying up to Environmentalism.") In addition, the "locovore" movement seems to be spreading. I just finished Barbara Kingsolver's book, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" and found it very thought provoking, challenging and entertaining. Hopefully, the members of the ISCA garden club will want to read this book. Many ISCAites may be inspired to raise at least a few vegetables in their gardens.

continued on page 13

Old Blair, *continued from page 4*

Sample letter:

Subject line: It's time to make renovation of Old Blair Auditorium a top priority!

Dear [Councilmember _____]:

Please make funding for the renovation of the Old Blair Auditorium in Silver Spring a high priority on the county's "to do" list for 2011.

The auditorium is Silver Spring's forgotten treasure. I care about this project and want to see the auditorium reopened SOON! It has enormous potential to benefit the greater Silver Spring area and Montgomery County as a whole. As currently proposed, it would serve as both a true community resource, as well as a performing arts space and a much needed auditorium for Silgo Creek Elementary and Silver Spring International Middle School.

I'm pleased that funds allocated by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) helped develop a number of alternatives for the auditorium's renovation and I hope that that will set the stage for a larger MCPS commitment in the future.

I realize that county funds are needed to cover the bulk of renovation costs for this county-owned facility. But we have \$600,000 in a state matching grant awaiting county action. If the county does not commit to this project, that money will go somewhere else—to someone else's project in the state. I know we're in tough financial times, but showing the project is viable and in the CIP will ensure the county receives the bond money—and possibly more in the future. It will also enable the OBA group to find grants and other private funds to help with the renovation costs.

Many citizens have worked tirelessly for nearly a decade to reopen the auditorium to benefit the local community and provide opportunities for at-risk youth and other children. With each passing year, not only do more children graduate and miss this opportunity but the facility falls into more serious disrepair.

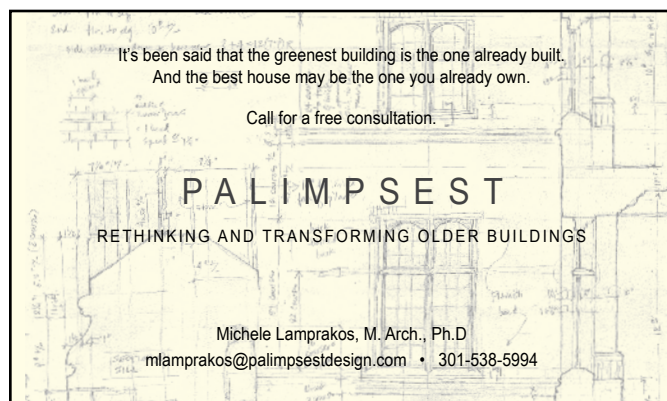
The facility will provide a much-needed AFFORDABLE rental facility for the many Montgomery County-based performing groups and groups from outside the county who are currently taking their major productions to D.C. or elsewhere for lack of adequate space here in our county. This is lost income for Montgomery County.

Arts education and arts-based after-school programs at the auditorium can offer a key means of engaging youth, helping stem the tide of violence and gang activity and boosting academic performance. And the auditorium will contribute to Silver Spring's renaissance, as it's located just a few blocks from the downtown and can help attract customers to area restaurants and other businesses.

Please make it a priority to provide the needed county funds to bring the Old Blair Auditorium back to life by adding it to the 2011 CIP! Thank you for your attention and help.

Sincerely,

[Your name here] *



It's been said that the greenest building is the one already built.
And the best house may be the one you already own.

Call for a free consultation.

PALIMPEST
RETHINKING AND TRANSFORMING OLDER BUILDINGS

Michele Lamprakos, M. Arch., Ph.D.
mlamprakos@palimpsestdesign.com • 301-538-5994



CARL RUTAN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
Carl Rutan

Auto—Home—Business—Life

9912 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

(301) 681-0200 • Fax: (301) 681-8877

carlrutan@verizon.net www.carlrutaninsurance.com

Homeschooling, *continued from page 8*

be up and out of the house each morning to catch the bus. Being a teenager, I guess that extra hour or two in bed in the morning was a stronger lure for him than his curiosity about school!

As for the second question, the one about socialization, it is the biggest question for non-homeschoolers, and, from what I can tell, the biggest non-issue for the homeschoolers themselves. There is a joke in the homeschooling community that says that socialization is a problem. There is so much socializing going on that it's hard to find time for the academics! I'll tell you a bit about what homeschooling has looked like for us, and you can judge for yourself on whether my children have adequate opportunity to socialize.

When they were younger, I'd say through elementary school age, I taught all their academics at home. At that age, this typically took about 3 hours a day. We got together with groups of other homeschoolers on a regular basis. Out of a desire to create a social network for my kids, I started a cooperative field trip group when my oldest was in first grade. For the last 12 years, we have gone on about two field trips a month with the dozen or so families in the group. Just last month we went on a day trip up to York, PA to tour the Harley Davidson factory and Wolfgang Candy Factory as well as spending a couple of hours on another day touring the National Cathedral and hearing a brief talk about and performance on their pipe organ (it has almost 11,000 pipes!). This area is incredibly rich as far as field trip opportunities. We've done everything from

programs at many of the museums to going white water rafting. My kids were also in weekly swimming groups, a Homeschool 4-H club that met during the day, and attended countless park gatherings. This was in addition to their years in Takoma Park Soccer.

As my boys approached middle school, I continued to do the bulk of the educating at home, but did spend several years participating in a cooperative science class that had about 15 families, where we worked our way through the JASON Project, a science curriculum put out by National Geographic. As they reached the appropriate age, they each joined Boy Scouts. I hope to have two Eagle scouts in the family by the end of 2010.

By high school, it was clear that they really enjoyed the group learning experience. So school for them became more of a mixture of group classes and learning at home. I've taught high school biology, chemistry, physics labs and a middle school science lab (depending on what my children were studying that year) to small groups at my kitchen table for the last four years. They have attended classes in writing, geography, political science, American law and jurisprudence, and literature that were taught by professional teachers that homeschooling families got together and hired. My oldest has also been taking classes at Montgomery College this year, with those classes counting, not only toward high school, but most, if not all, of these credits will count toward his college degree.

Were there times when I wondered if I was doing the right thing for my children? Was their education going to suffer because of our choice to homeschool? Of course there were. But my oldest son is in the thick of the college application process, and the fact that all four colleges who have responded so far have done so with letters of acceptance and scholarship offers tells me we've done ok.

I realize that homeschooling is not for everyone, but it is a choice that I have never regretted. Like any job, it does take work, but it makes for an interesting and rewarding journey. *

CRIME REPORT: Joyce Stocker

The following crimes from ISCA were reported to the Montgomery County Police between 12/1/09 and 12/26/09.

12/23/09	4:17 pm	YMCA	Theft from vehicle
12/15/09	2:10 pm	9400 Garwood	Theft from vehicle
12/1/09	4:49 pm	9400 Worth	Theft

Climate Conference, *continued from page 7*

One of the purposes of the Children's Climate Forum was the development and adoption of a final resolution with recommendations for world action on climate change. Our declaration was presented to world leaders at the start of the COP15. UNICEF hopes that our student declaration will become a basis of international cooperation, similar to the 1989 Convention of the Rights of the Child. The diversity of the delegates played an important role in shaping the declaration, since many delegates were experiencing the effects of global warming firsthand—such as those in the Maldives—while others—such as the U.S. delegation—were far more removed. The uniqueness of our recommendations was that they were not simply vague and unattainable goals, but viable and practical ideas. We developed strategies that could be easily implemented and would have a significant impact on efforts to stop climate change. I was incredibly excited to see the sophistication and applicability of the ideas developed and discussed during the Forum.

The format of the week long Forum facilitated dialogue and cooperation among the delegates. The schedule was comprised of meetings with all the delegates and also of smaller workshops. The larger sessions were an opportunity for informal collaboration and cultural exchange, as well as providing a means to obtain feedback on ideas developed during the workshops. The workshops were more specialized, with fewer participants. I attended, among others, the Solar Panel workshop, where we built 1.5 volt batteries (equivalent to AA) out of solar panels the size of a business card and used the batteries to power radios.

I also participated in the Carbon Markets workshop, which centered on presentations on the Cap and Trade System and Clean Development Mechanisms (implemented under the Kyoto Protocol to encourage green development and emissions reductions). After the presentations, the delegates discussed ideas for improving the current system. The Kyoto Accord classified countries into two categories based on their economic growth and carbon emissions: those with a highly developed and stable economy and those who were still

developing. This posed problems because countries like China were placed in the developing category, and thus not subject to restrictions and regulations of emissions, yet they were still emitting vast amounts of greenhouse gases. I proposed the establishment of a third or middle category, which would incorporate countries, such as China, that were developing economically but were still emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases. I was gratified and excited that my recommendation was included in the final declaration.

The Forum also included the chance to work with Danish students, who taught us about Danish culture and the preparation for the COP15. They demonstrated how climate science was integrated into their curriculum, including a lab filled with model cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells and solar panel Legos. It was very illuminating and exciting to see the extent to which Danish commitment to environmentalism and climate change technology was incorporated into the very structure and operations of the school complex. The Danish students also showed us around the city, including famed Tivoli and the zoo!

The conference was an amazing experience overall. I really enjoyed getting to work with other adolescents who have a passion for arresting climate change, and I developed a variety of useful contacts and resources. My work did not end after the conference! Since we've all returned home, I've had the opportunity to continue my work with other delegates. After the final days of the COP15, the COP Response Group convened online to discuss our reaction to the COP15. The Response Group was the result of a group of delegates who wanted to continue working together to make sure their governments were held accountable for proposals made at the COP15. Luke, a delegate from the UK, and I co-authored a press release that was distributed by Lucy Stone, one of the facilitators from the CCF. It was fantastic to be able to work with some of the delegates again and continue the work started at the conference. I'm looking forward to future collaboration with them and others!

For information: www.uniteforclimate.org *

Student Volunteers Clean-up 10,580 Pounds of Trash

Jennifer Chambers

IN OCTOBER, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) and Northwood High School's Technology, Environmental and Systems Sciences Academy were awarded a \$7,500 Community Outreach and Awareness grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to restore 15 acres of Maryland State Highway Administration land and build a nature interpretive trail, the Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail, to educate students and the community about human impacts on the Bay and actions they can take to improve its health.

The first step in the eight month project was to clean-up thousands of pounds of trash on the property adjacent to Northwood. On Sunday, November 22nd, close to 60 volunteers worked for three hours on a beautiful afternoon to remove 10,580 pounds of trash, such as lawn mowers, bikes, sinks, broken car windshields, construction debris, jugs of used automotive oil, and much more, on a valuable wooded corridor for animals and a deciduous ecosystem buffer zone for Sligo Creek and Northwest Branch (both in the Chesapeake Bay watershed). Seventy-five percent of the volunteers were students from Northwood High School and two feeder middle schools.

The MD State Highway Administration bought 15 acres adjacent to Northwood High School for constructing MD Route 193. The property was not constructed on and it stayed mostly unmaintained

for years which enabled people to dump household and automotive items on it. The unmaintained and trashed property has been harming wildlife and polluting the soil and a large vernal pool that directly feeds into Northwest Branch, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Last spring, MD SHA, through citizen advocacy, banked the 15 acres for environmental protection. Eventually, MD SHA will relinquish management to the Department of Natural Resources. Through a memorandum of understanding, PATC and Northwood High School, along with its partners Friends of Sligo Creek and Neighbors of Northwest Branch, will build a nature interpretive trail, connecting it to the Northwest Branch Trail in Northwest Branch Park, and restore a mowed zone into a native plant meadow. Through these actions, the organizations will educate students and neighbors about their impact on the watershed and actions they can implement to improve the health of the watershed and Bay.

Please feel free to talk with any of the point of contacts for each partner:

Northwood High School—Erol Miller,
erol_k_miller@mcpsmd.org, 301-502-2767

PATC—Jennifer Chambers,
jennifer@hikingalong.com

MD SHA—Charles Gischlar,
cgischlar@sha.state.md.us

Friends of Sligo Creek and Neighbors of Northwest Branch—Ed Murtagh,
Edward_b_murtagh@yahoo.com, 202-365-6526. *

Environmental Concerns, *continued from page 8*

A friend sent a *New York Times* column which discusses how Sweden is now labeling food with the amount of Carbon Dioxide produced to grow it--raising livestock is a big offender. They are also re-doing their dietary guidelines to show both nutrients and ingredients as well as environmental impact.

Whatever your reason, if one of your New Year's resolutions is to reduce meat consumption, (or if you just want a vaory winter meal) here is a delicious meatless stew. My teenagers ask for this frequently; my son deemed it "restaurant quality." ✱

Moroccan Vegetable Stew Recipe: Middle Eastern Vegetable

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 medium carrots, cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices
- 1 medium butternut squash (about 1 3/4 pounds) peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 15-to-19 ounce can garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 14 1/2 ounce can stewed tomatoes
- 1/2 cup pitted prunes, chopped (or substitute golden raisins)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 cup couscous
- 1 cup vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro or parsley

DIRECTIONS:

1. In nonstick 12-inch skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add carrots, squash, and onion and cook until golden, about 10 minutes.
2. Stir in garbanzo beans, stewed tomatoes, prunes, cinnamon, salt, crushed red pepper, and 1 1/2 cups water; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 30 minutes or until all vegetables are tender.
3. Meanwhile, prepare couscous as label directs, but use vegetable broth in place of the water called for on the label.
4. Stir cilantro into stew. Spoon stew over couscous to serve.

Work time: 15 minutes Total time: 55 minutes

4 servings. Each serving: about 485 calories, 16 g protein, 94 g carbohydrate, 7 g total fat (1 g saturated), 3 mg cholesterol, 1030 grams sodium.

WEB SITE: iscaonline.com (includes services recommendations as well as photo albums)

EMAIL GROUP (LISTSERV):

To subscribe: iscaonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To send messages: iscaonline@yahoogroups.com

Calendar for Downtown Silver Spring

Monday, Jan. 11th:

- 10 Reasons Children Don't Succeed & 11 Things Parents Can Do—7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 16th:

- Farmers Market: (New) All Year!—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 18th:

- Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Tuesday, Jan. 19th:

- Silver Spring Book Discussion—7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 23rd:

- Farmers Market - New (New) All Year!—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Annual Chamber Music Concert (Circa 1800)—8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 27th:

- Bedtime Stories with Mother Goose and Friends—7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30th:

- Farmers Market (New) All Year!—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb 3rd:

- Silver Spring African American Book Club—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb 10th:

- Bedtime Stories with Mother Goose & Friends—7:00 p.m.

From Silver Spring Regional Center

January 11

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Long Branch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch Road, **INFO. 301-565-7300.**

January 20

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, CED Committee, Silver Spring Regional Center, 8435 Georgia Avenue, **INFO. 301-565-7300.**

January 21

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee, Urban District Office, 8110 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, **INFO. 301-565-7300.**

January 25

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Neighborhoods Committee, Silver Spring Regional Center, 8435 Georgia Avenue, **INFO. 301-565-7300.**

January 27

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee, Silver Spring Regional Center, 8435 Georgia Avenue, **INFO. 301-565-7300.**

February 8

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Road, **INFO. 301-565-7300.**



The YMCA is the original social network—a community of people who want to be their best in mind, body and spirit. **Experience the YMCA FREE Guest Day on January 20th, 2010 at our Community Open House.**

And mark your calendar for ISCA WEEK at YMCA Silver Spring, Feb. 14th–Feb. 20th, 2010. Participate in personal/family wellness challenges, pick up a complimentary YMCA gift, and much more. All Indian Spring residents receive ongoing monthly savings on all membership and program fees. For more information, call (301) 585-2120 or visit us at www.ymcadc.org.

Joseph E. Frew, D.D.S.

9604 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Imagine having...

- * a confident and comfortable smile
- * fresh breath
- * healthy, strong teeth and gums

"Every tooth in a man's head is more valuable than a diamond." -

Miguel deCervantes, DonQuixote 1605

Please call (301) 585-3800 to schedule an appointment with one of the Washington area's "TOP DENTISTS".



MUSIC TOGETHER®

THE JOY OF FAMILY MUSIC™

MUSIC TOGETHER MONTGOMERY

*music and movement
for parents and children birth to 4*

www.musictogethermontgomery.com
301-879-6988

Baltimore Society of Model Engineers open house



2-rail O-scale layout - 12x65 feet

Large 2500 sq. ft. permanent display
34 Authentic Railroad Heralds – Train set
raffle – Thomas the Tank Engine models
Unique gift items – K-4 Steam Locomotive
Whistle & Bell – 225 W. Saratoga St,
3rd Floor walk-up Baltimore, MD
410-837-BSME - www.modelengineers.com
77th year – Donations greatly appreciated
Open 1 - 5 pm



HO Scale layout – 12x65 feet

Open Every Sunday in January, and 2nd Sunday of each month except holidays.

Note on 3rd floor, no elevator.

BATHROOM REMODELING

*Bathroom Remodeling
is My Specialty!*

Let my 25 years of experience and pride of workmanship
make your newly remodeled bathroom sparkle!

My goal is your satisfaction and referral of friends.

- Water Heaters
- Sewer & Water Service Replacement
- Furnace & A/C Replacement
- Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling
- Garbage Disposals
- Pinhole Leak Pipe Repairs & Replacement
- Installation of Gaslog & Gas Grills
- Sump Pump Replacement

I will also personally service
all your plumbing, heating and gas fitting needs.

*No job is
too small or large!*

James Burkett
Licensed Master Plumber
301-384-7611

