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Indian Spring News

General Meeting – Monday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.

What is going on behind activities at the Silver Spring Town Center? What's planned for City Place Mall? What will the Transit Center include? How about the new library downtown? What businesses have been the most successful? Get your own questions about development in Downtown Silver Spring answered at our next ISCA General Meeting, Monday, May 16th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Indian Spring Recreation Center. Our guests, Jennifer Nettles of Foulger-Pratt, and the Silver Spring Regional Center's Director, Reemberto Rodriguez, will give us the latest news and tell us how the new budget will affect plans. ☞

From Africa to Indian Spring: A Neighbor's Literary Journey

by William Thomas

Biltmore Drive resident Susi Wyss's recently published debut, a novel-in-stories called *The Civilized World* (Holt Paperbacks), has garnered critical recognition from *O, The Oprah Magazine* and many other outlets. The stories are set in five African countries and a D.C. suburb much like Indian Spring. Susi grew up in the D.C. area, but lived in the Ivory Coast for three years as a child. As an adult, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer and worked in the international health field, traveling to and living in more than a dozen African countries, for almost 20 years. Currently on a book tour and working on a second book, she took time to answer some questions about her path to being published and her sources of inspiration.

continued on page 4

Indian Spring Citizens Association

Membership Application and Renewal

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Save the Date!

May 16
General Meeting
(late June or July)
Independence
Day Parade and
Festival

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jill Ortman-Fouse, May 2011

If you were not able to attend the “Taste of Indian Spring” this year, you missed out on a great event! Allegra Tasaki was at the helm of an amazingly well-organized evening. All of the wonderful volunteers, in multiple capacities, contributed to carrying out a very smoothly run and tasty dinner. Sharing this meal together is one way we foster the bonds of our community. In a very disconnected and increasingly technical world, an old-fashioned potluck allows us to connect or reconnect with our neighbors.



I recently saw a comedy about a group of people posting horrible comments on someone's blog. Although their remarks were searing, the individuals themselves were just goof balls—their identities hidden by the anonymity of Internet communication. There is no substitute for talking to people face to face and getting to know a bit about them before one makes judgments—one more reason our annual celebrations help make us tighter as a community. There are people in our neighborhood we've learned through our interactions that we can depend on—good people watching out for each other.

One positive use of technology for communication is our neighborhood listserv. It helps us stay connected when we are busy and during the cold months when we don't see each other much outside. Some have said it is like the proverbial backyard fence where you can find out the latest happenings. What were those sirens about? What about those strange animal noises we've been hearing at night? Is everyone okay from the storm? Yet, it also can provide anonymity that can be the downfall of a productive exchange of information.

We have over 865 members on our neighborhood listserv now. Surprised? That's more households than we have in Indian Spring. Who else is on our listserv? People who've moved but want to stay in touch; neighbors living in surrounding areas who have heard about our wonderful neighborhood and find the listserv useful; community leaders, law enforcement, and the media, who want to keep informed.

All in all, we have an extremely respectful listserv. Out of almost 1,000 members, the percentage of people that crosses the boundaries of courtesy is actually minute.

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WEB SITE: iscaonline.com (includes services recommendations, and photo albums). We are also on Facebook under Indian Spring Citizens Association

**EMAIL GROUP (LISTSERV):
To subscribe: iscaonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To send messages: iscaonline@yahoogroups.com**

** If interested in vacant VP, Social Committee position, please contact Jill Ortman-Fouse at president@iscaonline.com*

Presidents Column

continued from page 2

But when we do have listserv altercations, it affects many members to the degree that they consider quitting the listserv. In surveying neighbors over the past year to check who is on and who is off, I have heard repeatedly that people don't have time or tolerance for rudeness. They are on, or were on, the listserv to be informed. They did not sign up for situations when communication breaks down into insults.

Our neighborhood is much like a family. We may live our lives differently, but we live in close proximity to each other, so we all need to make an effort to be accommodating of our differences to get along.

And we all have an Uncle Bob or Aunt Betty who say some things at the family get-togethers just to get a rise out of someone. They enjoy stirring the pot. And some people enjoy watching the show.

I propose that we try to err on the side of keeping our listserv a highly efficient means of sharing information about activities families might be interested in, recycling our wares by selling them or giving them to our neighbors, helping out people in times of need, and much more.

Let's not use it as a forum to attack people. Happily, our listserv has been venom-free lately—and I think the majority of members greatly appreciate that.

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

New Neighbors and birth announcement

Congratulations to Bahia Akerele and Edward Neufville III who moved to the 200 block of Granville Drive last September. They had a new baby born 1-24-11, Edward W Neufville,IV.

Now, if you haven't joined the listserv because you already get hundreds of emails a day, as many of you do, consider subscribing to the Digest version, which provides a summary of the emails, as opposed to posting them in real time. If there are select members whose posts you would rather not see, simply block the names of those senders.

The listserv is the least expensive, most environmentally friendly, and fastest way for your ISCA Board to get time-sensitive information out to the neighborhood. It is the ideal tool for emergencies, postponement of events, and reminders. If you haven't joined, give it a try. If you are a member, thank you for being thoughtful and considerate. Together we can maintain the integrity of one of the best listservs in Silver Spring.

FYI, we will not have any ISCA general meetings over the summer (but we will be in touch via the listserv), and we do look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Indian Spring Independence Day parade. See you at the May 16 meeting! 

Crime Report

from Joyce Stocker

Crimes Reported to Montgomery County Police from Indian Spring according to Crimereports.com. Between 3/28/11 – 4/25/11:

3/31	TFV	9500 block Saybrook
4/01	TFV	9500 block Saybrook
4/11	B&E	200 block Granville
4/12	TFV	9800 block Hastings
4/13	TOV	9400 block Saybrook
4/19	TOV	9900 block Moss
4/22	B&E	9600 block Garwood
4/24	TOV	200 block Granville
4/25	B&E	300 block Univ Blvd E

Code: TFV--theft from vehicle, TOV--theft of vehicle, B&E--breaking and entering

This is a high number of incidents. Please report all crimes, no matter how minor, to the police and to the listserv.

A Neighbor's Literary Journey *cont. from page 1*
by William Thomas

How long have you been writing, and how did you reach the point at which your first book is being published nationwide?

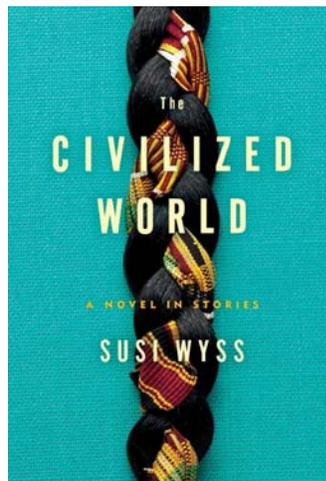
I wrote a lot while growing up, but once I got started with my career in international health, I was traveling and working so much I didn't have time to write. For 15 years the idea of writing fiction didn't even occur to me, until—while I was stationed in the Ivory Coast—I started feeling the need to put to paper my impressions of Africa. When I returned to the U.S., I enrolled in a part-time writing program and studied fiction while working full-time. It was clear after I graduated with my master's degree that I would never be able to complete a book-length manuscript with my crazy work and travel schedule, so I gave myself the gift of time off; it ended up taking me two years to write *The Civilized World*. Getting the manuscript published was basically a matter of finding an agent who had the attention of the publishing houses.

How long have you lived in Indian Spring? Would you say it's a good environment for writers?

I bought my house eight years ago, and it's been an ideal writing environment, giving me a quiet and peaceful space to write. When I quit my job and stopped traveling, one of the first things I did was get a dog: a mid-sized hybrid named Abi. I spent my mornings writing and then took Abi for a midday walk along the creek that runs parallel to Long Branch Parkway. Those walks were wonderful for ruminating over the book and trying to untangle plotlines—and the woods even ended up serving as the setting for a scene in the book.

How did it feel to get the initial positive reviews, especially getting selected as one of the "10 Titles to Pick Up Now" in the April issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*?

The Oprah nod was a huge honor, and pre-publication reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist* were a big boost, especially because I initially had no idea how people would respond to the book. Now that it's out in stores, the best part has been individual people telling me how much they enjoyed it. Just today, as I walked Abi, a neighbor stopped me to tell me she'd stayed up late into the night to finish it, and she had a slew of thoughtful questions. Maybe writers eventually get used to it, but I'm still kind of in awe at the notion that people are reading my words and getting pulled into a world that I created.



Indian Spring resident and author Susi Wyss

You've been compared by reviewers to Alexander McCall Smith (*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series) and Elizabeth Strout (*Olive Kitteredge*). Was that something you expected?

Not at all. When I wrote *The Civilized World*, I wasn't trying to emulate anyone. But I love the Mma Ramotswe series, and I think Elizabeth Strout's work is wonderfully crafted, so I'm flattered by the comparisons. Now that some time has lapsed since I wrote the book, I can see how my African characters and depiction of day-to-day life echo the world Alexander McCall Smith writes about, and how the interlocking story structure and literary writing style resonates with that of *Olive Kitteredge*. Of course, I still think my book is unique and different in its own way.

You're in the midst of a book tour in support of *The Civilized World*. How is that going?

So far it's been great because I've been on my home turf—I've read at Politics and Prose, The Ivy Bookshop in Baltimore, and Barnes and Noble in Bethesda. I'll soon be heading out to places where I don't know as many people, so I'll have to be prepared for smaller turnouts. Still, it's amazing to be able to get direct feedback from readers about the book.

What is your advice to aspiring writers in the community, young and old?

My advice is to write about something that matters to you. When I write for the sake of getting something published, it ends up being dull and lifeless. But when I write about things that matter to me—like the Africans who've inspired me by their own amazing stories, or some kernel of truth about life I've learned over the years—the writing almost takes on a life of its own. That's the best feeling a writer can have. 

THE POWER OF A STRONG WEB

by Julio Orellana, Executive Director, YMCA Silver Spring

Have you noticed that conversations today are often about cell phones, Palm Pilots, Blackberries, Skype, Facebook, Twitter, and other digital gadgets and social networking issues?

Cyberspace consciousness has replaced the weather as the social convention for breaking the ice.

“Connectivity”—being caught in the Web of the digital—is the truth of our times

We all know that everything is connected to everything else today; that is a cliché of modern science. But how does it affect our behavior? What out of “everything” is important? How is it related to “everything else?”

The world today is also different. The physical mixing of people of different faiths without regard to national and institutional boundaries is evolving. Cell phones and pagers, the Internet and the wireless world are new in future-shaping ways.

In YMCA work, a moment’s reflection will suggest what is precisely the relatedness of connectivity that is of interest. And membership is the aspect of relationship that might most intrigue us. Through membership comes the sense of belonging, the possibility of intimacy, the identity shaped by interaction, the support we need to succeed in reaching our goals.

Links are the nature and character of connectivity. By understanding links, we can increase our appreciation of membership, friendship, community, and organization. This may sound mechanistic, but there is an orderliness to it that is typical of the laws of nature. Our proverbs and literature and lives are full of the human impact of physical realities.

Intimacy grows deepest in proximity; membership is strongest with interaction; discipline requires repetition. The organic and dynamic interact with the mechanical and static.

The YMCA is the perfect place to come and connect with other members. Strengthen your body, mind, and spirit here. With many wellness classes, an indoor and outdoor pool, exercise equipment, field, and gym, the YMCA is the perfect place to meet your friends and interact with your neighbors in person.

This summer we invite you to be part of our programs and activities.

Welcome to the YMCA Silver Spring! 



Julio Orellana, Executive Director
YMCA Silver Spring
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

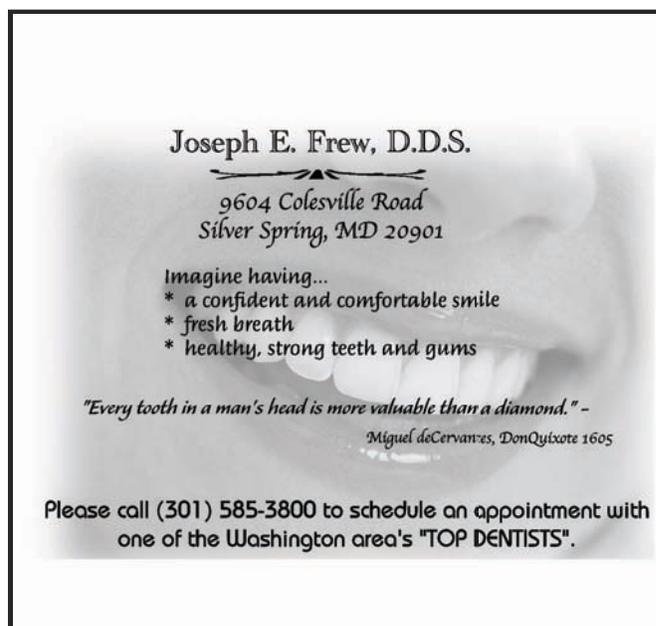


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Editor's note: The newsletter is printed in black and white to save on costs. A color version is online at iscaonline.com; so if you want to see any photos, ads, etc. in color, we recommend going online. Photos from neighborhood events can be found in our online photo gallery.



Joseph E. Frew, D.D.S.

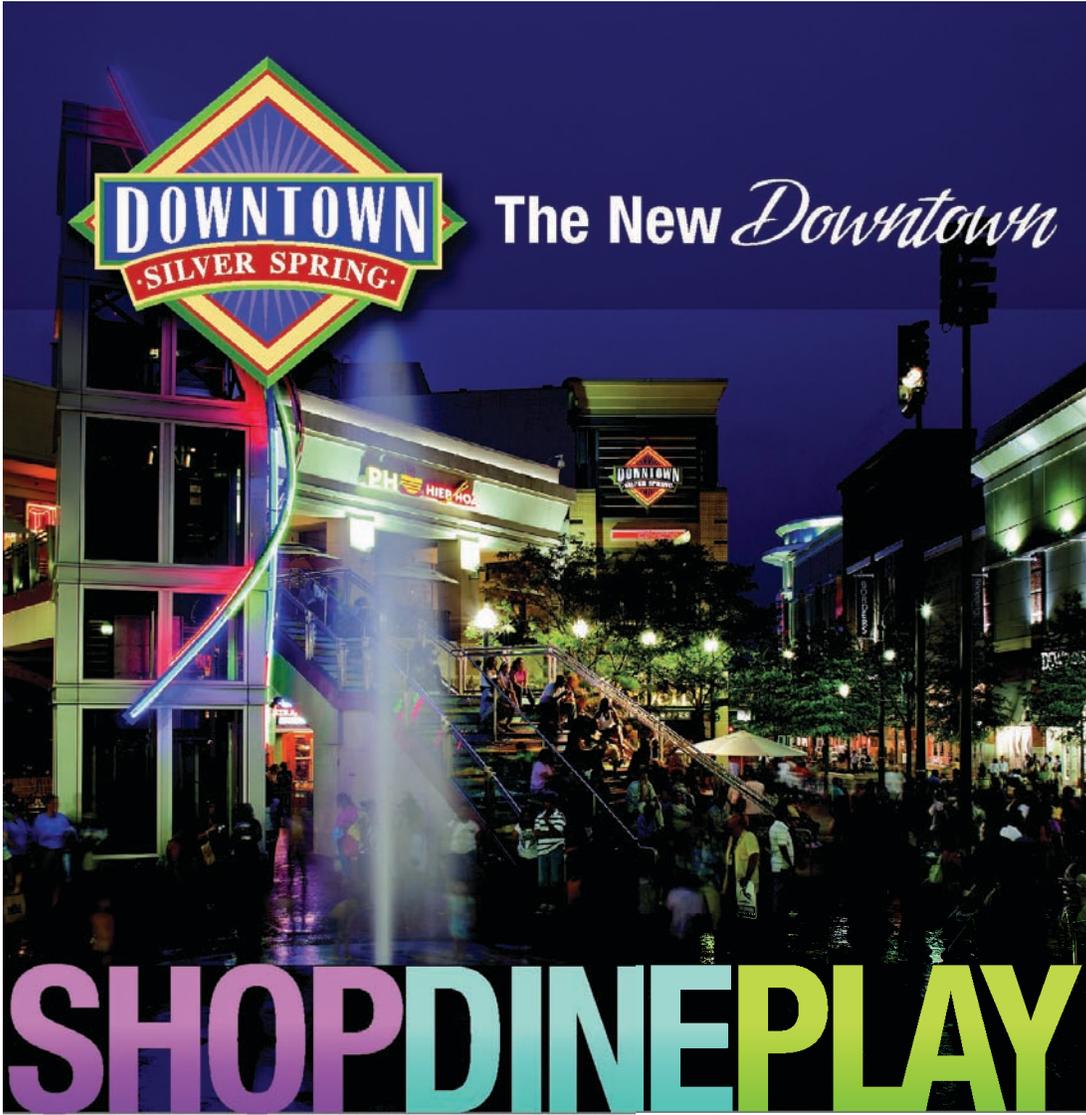
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Editor's Note: Joyce Stocker has indicated
that she would be glad to facilitate the
reporting of burned out street lights to
PEPCO. Send an email to comit89@aol.com



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Silver Chips Online: Blazers participate in regional Envirothon competition One Blair team qualifies for states

by Anya Gosine, Online Managing, Op/Ed and Food Editor
and Valerie Hu, Staff Writer

Thirty-five teams competed in the regional Envirothon competition at the Montgomery Soil Conservation District.

Students in the Math, Science and Computer Science Magnet participated in an Envirothon competition at the Montgomery Soil Conservation District building in Derwood, MD on Wednesday. Eighteen teams from Blair participated, with team “Fortress 2” placing first out of the total 35 teams in the competition. Richard Montgomery and Poolesville were the other two schools with teams that competed. The Maryland state Envirothon is tentatively scheduled for June 14 and 15 at St. Mary’s College. If these dates do not conflict with the team’s final exam dates, “Fortress 2” will proceed to participate in the competition.

The competition involved both written tests and practical tests taken outdoors. The tests, each out of 100 points, covered five subject areas, which were aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils and estuaries. Instructors summed up the scores from each test to determine the winning teams. The outdoor tests comprised of various stations that required hands-on tasks such as identifying specific types of trees, according to junior Becca Arbacher.

Students’ preparation for the Envirothon consisted mostly of intense studying that started approximately a month ago when they attended a training session held by the competition’s instructors. At the session, students listened to lectures about the different subject areas. Over the course of the past month, teams continued to practice questions and expand their knowledge using various online resources, according to senior Raina Zheng.



photo credit: Chester Lam

Each team from Blair comprised of about five people. Working together was a key aspect for succeeding on the tests, according to Zheng. “People usually like to split up the topics between them so that each member focuses on three topics,” she said. According to junior Alice Mukora, the interdisciplinary nature of environmental science made it all the more important that each team prepare thoroughly. “People can’t just memorize one subject. The different subjects relate,” she said.

For many, past experience at the Envirothon helped them better prepare for this year’s competition. Arbacher participated in the competition for the first time last year and competed with the same team this year. “We got started earlier this year. Everyone [knew] their topics already,” she said. Arbacher’s teammate, junior Sherman Leung, also emphasized their efforts to divide the topics amongst themselves so that they could better support each other. “We wanted to improve on our performance from last year,” he said.

Having participated in the competition before proved to be a key advantage during the tasks. “You start to recognize the people writing the tests and you get a sense of their style,” Arbacher said. While the subject areas of aquatics, wildlife, forestry and soils are consistent every year, estuaries was new this year.

A Blair team works on tree identification as part of the forestry category of the competition.

Though Poolesville and Richard Montgomery were the only two participating schools other than Blair, it in no way took away from the challenge. “A lot of teams were really competitive,” Leung said. Zheng also noted that the time constraints also added a degree of difficulty. “We only had 40 minutes for each test and sometimes that wasn’t enough,” she said.

For most participants, Envirothon is an opportunity to open their eyes to the world of environmental science. “It’s really fun to get outside and learn scientific aspects of the natural world,” she said. “You look at forests in an entirely new way – what’s involved, maintaining forests, density – it’s stuff that you never really thought about.”

continued on page 10

Blazers participate in regional Envirothon competition *continued from page 9* by Anya Gosiner and Valerie Hu

Aside from its science aspect, the event was also a bonding experience for all teams. "Though studying is required, you get to hang out with people," Arbacher said. Zheng echoed this sentiment and felt that spending time with the other participants was a valuable part of the day. "We finished all the tests and we got to relax and play some cards and socialize while the instructors tallied up the scores," she said.

Most who participate in Envirothon do so for multiple years, for both the academic and social components. Like Arbacher and Leung, Zheng participated in last year's competition as well as the contest during her freshman year. "I joined because I thought it was going to be fun and interesting, and my sister participated when she was in high school." Senior Cy Neita was another veteran Envirothon participant. "I enjoyed the test last year, and found it interesting to learn about forestry, wildlife, and the ecology of Maryland," he said.

While teams from Blair placed all over the board, all expressed enjoyment for the competition overall. Arbacher expects Envirothon to continue to be a traditional event within the Magnet program. "It's become kind of a cult thing, it's really fun," she said.

<http://silverchips.mbhs.edu/story/10873>

Reprinted with permission from Silver Chips 



photo credit: Chester Lam

Editor's note: As noted previously, we will be including interviews with noted members of our community. We would welcome suggestions for further persons to be interviewed, please send to thausner@gmail.com, 301-587-6943 and we would love to have students to serve as reporters for student service credits.

Northwood High School News by Jay P. Goldman

Honor Society Inductee

Abbey Sauber, daughter of Heidi and James Sauber, was installed in the National Honor Society at Northwood High School on May 3 during a candle-lighting ceremony. Northwood inducted 53 students into the school's chapter, by far the biggest number of new inductees in the five years that Northwood has had a National Honor Society chapter. Abbey, a junior, and the other inductees had to maintain at least a 3.4 GPA and demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, and service.

Upcoming Events

The school's junior-senior prom will take place on Saturday, May 21, at the Silver Spring Civic Center with the AfterProm following from midnight through 5:00 a.m. in Northwood's decorated gymnasium, cafeteria, and hallways. This all-night, alcohol-free and drug-free party is a Northwood tradition, with games of all kinds, lots of prizes, music, and great food. Donations and volunteers always welcome. Contact Mary Abe (mc.abe@verizon.net).

Northwood's annual Senior Athletes Banquet will take place on Wednesday, May 25, at the Silver Spring Civic Center with Mi Rancho catering the affair. The event is run by the Northwood Athletic Boosters. ISCA resident Vicki Kane is the boosters president for the second year.

A Green School

Northwood learned in early May that it has been named a Maryland Green School by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Maryland Green Schools are schools that demonstrate exceptional commitment to environmental issue instruction, professional development, best management practices, and school-community partnerships. Northwood has achieved amazing accomplishments in environmental education, through the curriculum and an array of after-school and weekend activities over the past two years. The school's detailed application is accessible on the Northwood website. ISCA member Jennifer Chambers, who works for the Audubon Naturalist Society as an environmental education specialist for the GreenKids program, helped to coordinate the school's application. 



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Downtown Silver Spring Calendar of Events May/June 2011

SATURDAY, MAY 7th

Pathways 14th Annual Fun/Run Walk, 8:30 a.m.
FENTON STREET MARKET, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
English Conversation Class, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.
Medical Museum Science Cafe, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 8th

Drum Circle, evenings
**Closing: “Glad Men” Theater Production at
Round House, 8:00 p.m.**

MONDAY, MAY 9th

We Talk? Conversation on the Plaza, evenings

TUESDAY, MAY 10th

Exercise on the Plaza, evenings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th

Game Night, evenings
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
**Opening: Betty Mae Kramer Gallery presents,
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday**

THURSDAY, MAY 12th

Music & More, evenings

SATURDAY, MAY 14th

Teen Health Expo
FENTON STREET MARKET, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
English Conversation Class, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
SoMoCo Orchestra Concert, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 15th

TASTE OF FENTON, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SoMoCo Orchestra Concert, 3:00 p.m.
Drum Circle, evenings

MONDAY, MAY 16th

Can We Talk? Conversation on the Plaza, evenings

TUESDAY, MAY 17th

Exercise on the Plaza, evenings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th

Game Night, evenings
**SSCAB Commercial & Economic Development
Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

THURSDAY, MAY 19th

Music & More, evenings
**Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee,
3:30 p.m.**

SATURDAY, MAY 21st

FENTON STREET MARKET, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
English Conversation Class, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

SATURDAY, MAY 22nd

Drum Circle, evenings

MONDAY, MAY 23rd

Can We Talk? Conversation on the Plaza, evenings
SSCAB Neighborhoods Committee meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 24th

Exercise on the Plaza, evenings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25th

Game Night, evenings
**SSCAB Transportation & Pedestrian Safety Com-
mittee meeting**

THURSDAY, MAY 26th

Music & More, evenings

FRIDAY, MAY 27th

Closing: FREEDOM SCHOOL, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Downtown Silver Spring Calendar of Events May/June 2011

SATURDAY, MAY 28th

FENTON STREET MARKET, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
English Conversation Class, 10:00 am – Noon

SUNDAY, MAY 29th

Drum Circle, evenings

Monday, MAY 30th

Can We Talk? Conversation on the Plaza, evenings

TUESDAY, MAY 31st

Exercise on the Plaza, evenings

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1st

Game Night, evenings

THURSDAY, JUNE 2nd

Music & More, evenings

FRIDAY, JUNE 3rd

Youth Art Fair, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
**Art & Soul Charity Benefit Auction, 6:00
– 10:00 p.m.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 4th

FENTON STREET MARKET, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
English Conversation Class, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

SUNDAY, JUNE 5th

Drum Circle, evenings

MONDAY, JUNE 6th

Can We Talk? Conversation on the Plaza, evenings

TUESDAY, JUNE 7th

Exercise on the Plaza, evenings
Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Committee

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8th

Game Night, evenings
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9th

Music & More, evenings

SATURDAY, JUNE 11th

FENTON STREET MARKET, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
English Conversation Class, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
SoMoCo Orchestra Concert, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12th

Drum Circle, evenings
SoMoCo Orchestra Concert, 3:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 13th

Can We Talk? Conversation on the Plaza, evenings

TUESDAY, JUNE 14th

Exercise on the Plaza, evenings

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15th

Game Night, evenings
**SSCAB Commercial & Economic Development
Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

www.downtownsilverspring.com

Are you a service provider who works full time out of your home in the Indian Spring neighborhood? The ISCA newsletter staff would like to know about you so we can continue our series of profiles titled "ISCA Entrepreneurs at Home." Contact Jay P. Goldman at jgoldman@aasa.org.

Already profiled during the past year: Monica Bridgewater, Iantha Carley, Deborah Levy, Ann Horton and Kendra LaDuca.



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\$400,000



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\$575,000



9103 September Ln.
\$259,900



10208 Carson Pl
\$374,900



1101 Roswell Dr
\$450,000



10608 Edgewood Ave
\$409,900



210 Baden Street
\$500,000



11209 Prelude Drive
\$525,000



9001 Sudbury Rd
\$500,000



305 Penwood Rd
\$539,900
Multiple Offers!



111 Williamsburg
Woodmoor
Sorry — No Advance
Showings



10541 Wheatley
Town of Kensington
Sorry — No Advance
Showings

TAMARA KUCIK'S 2010 TEAM STATS

SELL WITH US!

On average, our homes sold for 98.6% of list price & were on the market for 24 days. Our sellers sold their homes for 2.5% higher than the rest.

BUY WITH US!

Our buyers paid 5% less for their new homes. On average that's 1% less than the rest!



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