



The ISCA Hanukkah celebration and Christmas Tree Lighting held on December 8th.

February 2013
800+ Homes

www.iscaonline.com

Indian Spring News

General Meeting, March 18 • Taste of Indian Spring, April 22 (tentative date)

Another Holiday Season Gone by Stephanie Helsing

Well now that the lights have finally come down off the ISCA tree, the ornaments have been packed up and people in the neighborhood are contemplating what fabulous new things to do to their houses, it is time for me to say thank you. Once again we were able to host a great Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 8th. Thank you again to the Graef-Anderson, Tiller, Stuart-Caplan and Fisher-Valentine families for generously opening their homes to friends and neighbors. All homes reported good turnout and I know that almost 100 people came to pick up maps and house guides. The homes were all beautifully done and offered a lot of variety and many ideas to those in the neighborhood who are contemplating getting work done on their homes. I am looking forward to next Holiday House Tour! [There are two albums of photos from the house tour at iscaonline.com]

December 15th, the last day of Hanukkah and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting was as always an anticipated and well attended affair. While the horror of the previous days' killings in Newtown Connecticut weighed heavily on us, we acknowledged that the need to keep things stable and familiar for our own children was vital. In that spirit we held a moment of silence to honor and remember those lost in this tragedy and to thank the heavens for the safety and security of our own children and friends.

ISCA president Evan Glass also spoke to the gatherers before we started the festivities. This year our Menorah lighting and Hanukkah celebration was led by Rob and Deb Levy with help from their little ones Samantha and Jordan. The wind was not cooperating so they also got assistance from Spencer Helsing and James Lindstrom. Once the story of Hanukkah had been told and the Menorahs were lit, we sang many traditional songs, drank hot chocolate and ate great cookies and treats supplied by our tremendously generous neighbors.

continued on page 3

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, Membership Chair) or **use Paypal at iscaonline.com**

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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.

Save the Date!

March 18
General Meeting

April 22
(tentative date)
Taste of Indian Spring

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Evan Glass, September 2012

Silver Spring is a border town located across the street from the nation's capital. Many of our neighbors work for the federal government or have jobs that provide support, advice or advocate for government policies. This devoted focus on what happens in the White House or the Capitol sometimes diverts our attention from important issues closer to home.



Did you know that in the days before President Barack Obama started his second term the Maryland General Assembly started its 433rd legislative session? The General Assembly – comprised of the House of Delegates and the Senate – meets in Annapolis for 90 days and is tasked with approving a state budget and other laws.

Residents of Indian Spring live in District 20, which is one of 47 legislative districts in the state. Our elected representatives, considered by many as the most progressive leaders in the state, are senator Jamie Raskin and delegates Sheila Hixson, Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur.

Thousands of bills are written every year by the state's 47 senators and 141 delegates, but getting a bill to become law is sometimes an arduous task (the Schoolhouse Rocks song "I'm Just a Bill" pertains to Annapolis too). Below are some of the high profile issues being pursued by our elected officials.

- Death penalty repeal
- Transgender equality
- Fracking ban
- Gun safety
- Creation of offshore wind power farms
- Transportation funding

Organizations that support or oppose these legislative goals usually organize "lobbying days" in Annapolis so that lawmakers hear directly from constituents. If you feel passionately about these topics or others, please contact our leaders and share your views.

Your neighbor,
Evan Glass 

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

Holiday Season *cont. from page 1*

by Stephanie Helsing (AKA, the Christmas Tree lady)

The tree that was so generously donated by Jim and Suzy Finelli of "Binghamton landscape" is now so large that it can't be lit by lay people any longer. I want to thank Justin Jaques of "Jacques Home Improvement" located in Woodmoor who donated his time and expertise to ISCA once again to beautifully and professionally drape the tree in her many dozens of lights. The image of the enormous tree all lit up, with the Menorahs burning in front of it, gave many of the adults present a sense that we are all doing our best to teach our children the true meaning of compassion, understanding and tolerance in a turbulent world. It does indeed take a village, or in our case a small neighborhood called Indian Spring! So from the bottom of my heart I want to thank all of you for your continued support of these small, but important ISCA traditions. 🌀

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

Congratulations to Andrew Christie and Kristen Bratten on the birth of their son, Tiernan John Christie, on January 16. 🌀

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. 🌀



*Fisher-Valentine house on the tour
photo credit: Tony Hausner*

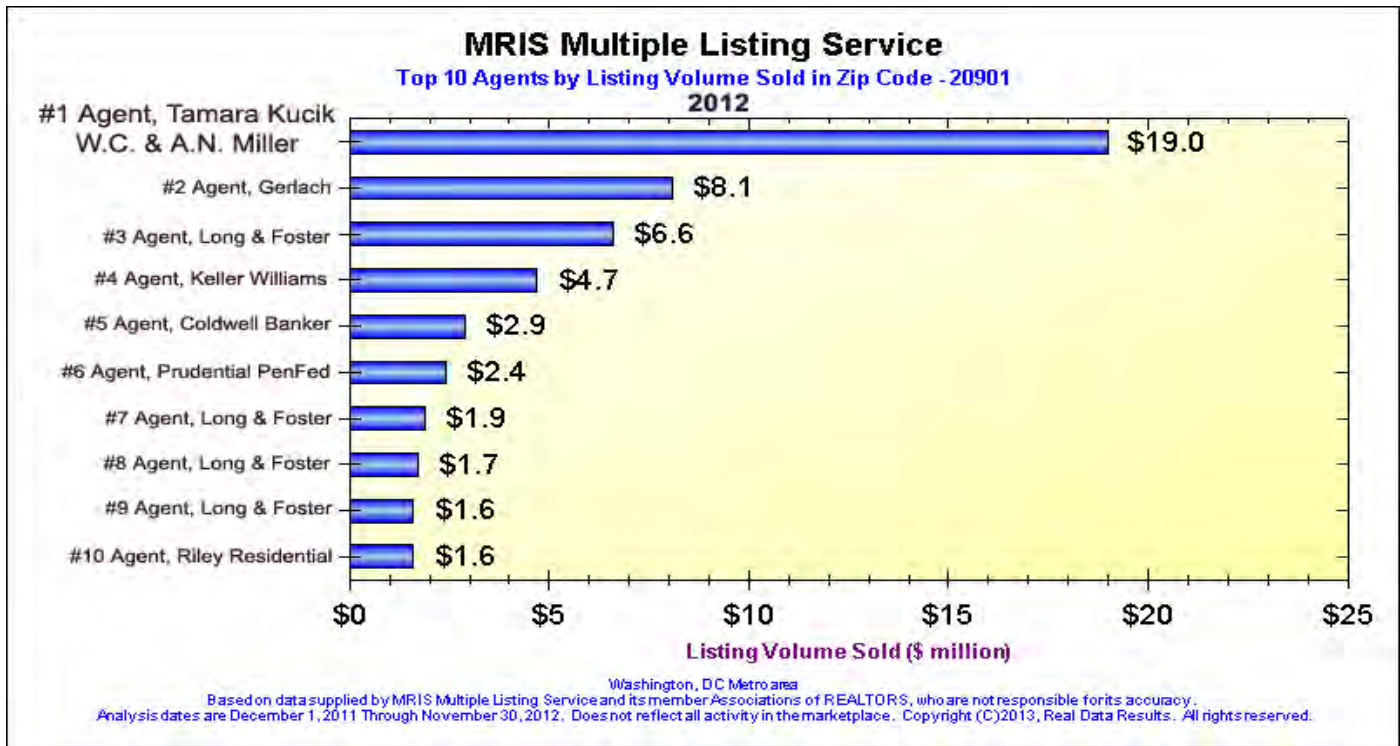
Editor's note: The newsletter is printed in black and white to save on costs. A color version is online at iscaonline.com; so if you want to see any photos, ads, etc. in color, we recommend going online. 🌀



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The outcome with the sale of our home speaks for itself, however I believe that it was Tamara's expertise in marketing, pricing and timing. Tamara is well connected and in touch with the market allowing her great success in selling homes.

—Jody and Brendan Tuohey, 9519 Evergreen (4 offers, \$15k over list)

We ended up with \$55,000 over asking price and were thrilled with Tamara! It is my feeling that she is very in tune with the market and knows how to get the job done.

—Susan and Todd Stallings, 9224 Mintwood Road



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Table for One

by Ann Horton

After my husband and I left AFI in search of a quick bite to eat, we happened upon La Malinche – a new restaurant right across Colesville Road from AFI in the heart of downtown Silver Spring. La Malinche has only been open 3 months, but provided an unexpected delight of food and drinks on this cold January night.

As explained by our server, “La Malinche” was a woman from the Mexican Gulf Coast, who played a role in the Spanish conquest of Mexico, acting as interpreter, advisor, lover, and intermediary for Hernán Cortés. A dramatic painting of her hangs on the back wall of the restaurant greeting everyone who enters. Accordingly, La Malinche specializes in Spanish and Mexican tapas dishes, or small plates.

My husband and I decided to take seats at the bar (making a more appropriate title of this review “Barstools for Two” instead of “Table for One”). But this proved to be the right decision, since our bartender/server was also co-owner and could give us the history on the restaurant, tell us about the chef’s credentials, and make personal recommendations about what to order.

Once seated at the bar, we immediately noticed large glass jars of beverages – three types of sangria with marinating fruit chunks, a large jar of fresh pineapple

floating in vodka, and a most unusual jar of tequila filled with slices of fresh jalapeno peppers! And I must stop here and report that the two drinks we tried were outstanding – the jalapeno margarita and the pineapple-vodka martini. Truly nothing we had tried before.

For dinner, we ordered per the bartender’s recommendations – Calavo y Limon (garlic-infused guacamole prepared with creamy Calavo avocados), garlicky Gambas a la Cazuela (sautéed shrimp with white wine and garlic), Calamares a la Andaluza (incredibly light and crispy calamari) and Buey al Jerez (grilled steak served with sherry cream mushroom sauce). All of these tapas dishes were uniquely flavored, incredibly tasty, and very pleasing to the palate. In particular, the beef and seafood were fresh and perfectly cooked.

La Malinche’s new Web site shows photos of their tapas plates on their home page (web address provided below) and includes their full menu. Reservations are not required, but can be made – and we made our Valentine’s Dinner reservation the way out the door.

La Malinche is located at 8622 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910. 301-562-8622 and can be found at www.lamalinchetapas.com. Happy hour prices are available daily from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and brunch is served on Saturdays and Sundays.

Send your restaurant suggestions to ahorton@collcomm.org. 

Joseph E. Frew, D.D.S.

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Social Dads

by Daniel Stevens

When my wife and I moved to the Indian Springs community it was somewhat reminiscent of a National Lampoon's cross-country journey in the 21st century. There's certainly a good chance TSA has our faces posted and we're permanently banned from the Oakland [California] airport. I mean we didn't exactly make for good traveling companions with two "carry-on" shih tzu's and an 8-week infant in tow, with stroller and luggage to boot. Add to the stress of a cross country move and first-time parents; buying a new home and changing jobs.

With a little more than two and half years behind us now, plus one more addition to the family, we're able to look back on the entire experience with a calm sense of humor and appreciate how challenging some of the most routine activities can seem with a toddler (or two) in tow. When we came to Maryland, we were not new to the DC area, but were still hundreds of miles from the nearest immediate family member. Without that support mechanism and point of reference, it was a struggle to find the right pediatrician, day care, baby sitter, and child friendly restaurants, which we all still strive to find. Like most parents, we were navigating uncharted territory and eager to meet new friends who could appreciate the importance of a routine nap schedule and 5pm dinner time.

When I first started searching for fellow dads to do stuff with, I was a little surprised to find such a void of resources specifically focused on dads. The community seemed over saturated with mom-groups for working moms, stay-at-home moms, single moms, environmentally-conscience moms, gay moms, moms who eat kale on Thursday's.... you get the point. But where were all the proud papas? I knew they were out there; 21st century dads who were responsible, supportive, and engaged with all the aspects of husbandry and parenting. I had even met some at birthday parties and other social events, but there was no mechanism for us to connect, "hey dude, can I get your number?" Just wasn't appealing. But I wanted to do guy stuff while simultaneously being a dad! I mean BBQs, sporting events, camping, street hockey, pick-up basketball, and even stuff without our kids, but that fits into a kid-friendly (and spouse approved) schedule.

Why is that a far reaching concept? Men who wear a Bjorn in public, while somewhat comedic, accept it as just a practical part of life. And in the interest of finding these fellow new-age dads and giving them a venue to connect and do dad stuff together, I created District Area Dads (DADs; www.districtareadads.com). So if you're a dad and can relate to anything you've just read, than check out this new group, based right here in Silver Spring. Go ahead and register, create a new event, or just stop by for our kick-off event February 21st, 7pm at Fire Station One to learn what we're all about. Hope to see you around; with or without the Bjorn! ☞



Beckham, our beloved beagle

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text message or email:

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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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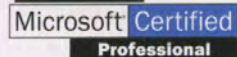
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Mr. Pickles is Doing Great

by Jill Ortman-Fouse

Thanks to everyone in the neighborhood who has checked in on Mr. Pickles and asked how he's holding up. I am happy to report he is absolutely the best dog ever and doing great. Honestly, we never would have picked out a 12-year-old chihuahua with bad teeth. But now we can't believe we were trying to find another home for him. He is healthy, a great eater, does his business efficiently, and keeps our insecure puppy, Layla, company.

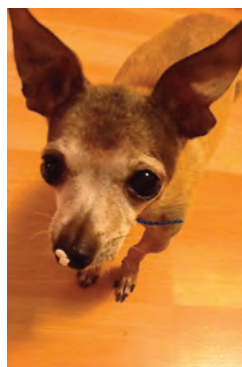
Both dogs sleep with our daughter every night, and they are both snugglers. Layla takes all her cues from Mr. Pickles. If Mr. Pickles starts barking at anything, which he is doing more frequently now since he decided he is in charge of protecting our home, she will start barking too — even when she has no idea what she's barking at. She will even sit and wait for him to start eating his food first. She follows him around and scooches in with him when he goes to sleep in the dog bed. He is very patient with her, as she has a lot more energy than him.

For those of you new to the neighborhood or listserv, this is the back story on Mr. Pickles: Neighborhood dog whisper Ronda Nunnally found an old, muddy Chihuahua running around the field in our neighborhood. He had no tags and smelled. They made some calls and put out notices, but no one claimed the dog. Since Ronda was moving houses, we agreed to look after the dog until the owner was found. We took the dog to the vet, who said the dog was at least 12 years old, had

no chip, multiple health issues and needed to have his teeth pulled because of advanced periodontal disease. The vet said that if we took the dog to the pound — it appeared he had been abandoned — his chance of adoption was extremely low. The bill to take care of his needs was going to be very high, so the neighbors raised hundreds of dollars to pay for his surgery and other tests. Kids even set up lemonade stands to contribute. Yes, we live in an amazingly caring neighborhood. Kindness Animal Hospital was very taken with our neighborhood's kindness towards this old dog, and gave us a very nice discount for Mr. Pickles care. Their business manager, who brings his very old dog in to the office with him every day, came out to meet Mr. Pickles in person, and featured Mr. P on their website.

The plan was to have the dog's health needs taken care of and then give him to another family since we were already adopting a puppy (Layla) from a shelter. But in the meantime, we fell in love with him. And once his teeth were pulled, his horrible halitosis was gone. We adore both of our wonderful adoptees.

On a side note. If you are planning to make a dog a part of your family in the new year, please remember that there are so many abandoned and unwanted dogs who would love to have a home. If you are thinking about getting a dog, please consider visiting a shelter first — we have adopted two dogs from WARL, and other neighbors have adopted from a variety of rescue organizations. Happy new year and thanks again for your gift of love to Mr. Pickles. 🐾



From left to right: Mr. P and Layla cuddling;
Mr. P with rice on his nose;
Siena and Nathan with Mr. P and Layla,





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