

Indian Spring News

INDIAN SPRING CLAIMS ONE OF THE COUNTY'S TOP TEACHERS

By Jay P. Goldman

Indian Spring resident Josephine Luster is the sort of classroom teacher every parent yearns for – someone who cares deeply about her students, personalizes the instruction to the greatest extent possible and finds ways outside of the classroom to spark student interests and foster a love of being in school.

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ANNUAL TASTE OF INDIAN SPRING SET FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23

By Ann Horton

The date for the annual Taste of Indian Spring has been set for Thursday, April 23, 2015, starting at 6:30 p.m. Once again, we are pleased to hold the event

at Highland View Elementary School, located at 9010 Providence Avenue, Silver Spring. We can promise a great evening, with lots of fun food to sample from many

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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 Check at 9609 Hastings Drive
(Monica Bridgewater, Membership Chair)

or

Go Online. use PayPal at
iscaonline.com (+ service fee)

Name(s): _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Street Address: _____ Silver Spring, MD 20901

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

If you are not sure of your membership status you can e-mail **Monica Bridgewater**, mo.bridgewater@gmail.com, 301-588-1785, and she will give you the answer.

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continued from page 1

local restaurants and the opportunity to visit with our neighbors and meet new ones.

We have just started to recruit restaurants and will let you know later via the listserv as to which restaurants will be participating. Our goal is to have at least 8-12 restaurants (similar to the numbers participating in previous years), with a variety of different types. If you have any connections at our local restaurants or other questions, please contact Tony Hausner thausner@gmail.com

We are striving to make this event as green as possible, so please try to bring your own cups, plates, utensils and a re-usable water bottle to the event. For those of you who don't, we will have a limited supply of eco-friendly supplies to make your experience fun and guilt free!

As is our community tradition, all attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share. We recommend that last names beginning with A-I bring salads, J-N bring side dishes, and O-Z provide desserts, but feel free to switch categories if you have a favorite family recipe you would like to share.

We will be on the lookout for help to ensure the success of the event. Please get involved as a volunteer in one of the following areas (and please feel free to participate in several areas or for multiple shifts!):

- Restaurant Pick-Up: Go to specified restaurants to pick up the food on the afternoon of the event.
- Set-Up: Help arrange tables, put out supplies, etc.
- Food Service: Help serve all the delicious food to keep the line moving.
- Clean Up: Help leave the school as we found it.

Only a small amount of time per person. Please go to the signup genius form at the following link. Thanks to Chris Clark who helped setup this form.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DAEAF22A7FF2-taste>

Please email a planning committee member (see above) if you have ideas about making the event eco-friendly, restaurant suggestions, or an offer to help. With generous and early help from volunteers, we can make this event truly wonderful! Please mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there. ★



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 Flyers · Postcards
 Invitations · Posters · Letterheads
 Envelopes · Menus
 Carbonless Forms · Business Cards
 Programs
 Mailing Services

2426 Linden Lane Suite 1R
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 301-608-1925
 301-608-1919 fax
orders@digiprintconn.com

*Digiprint does a great job of printing
 the ISCA newsletters!*

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.



Just Listed and Open for Business!

The Tamara Kucik Team is open for business. And when your house is on the market with our team, your home will be open for business, too. We do more open houses than our top 3 competitors combined!

Our listings sell for an average of **3% more** than the competition. Our listings sell **twice as fast** as the competition's. We sell more, because we do more.

Selling more Indian Spring homes than our top two competitors combined.

OUR FEATURED NEIGHBORHOOD LISTINGS



JUST LISTED

126 Hamilton Ave.

Upscale, custom-build 5BR/4BA Craftsman. \$829,000.



JUST LISTED

9705 Lawndale Dr.

Superb renovation and expansion. 3BR/2.5BA. Do not Miss! \$599,900.



JUST LISTED

205 Franklin Ave.

Sunny, renovated 3BR/3BA Tudor with upscale kitchen. \$499,000.



COMING SOON

9514 Caroline Ave.

Coming Soon! Exceptional, expanded 4BR/3.5BA Colonial. Pristine!



COMING SOON

9 Lauer Ter.

Coming Soon! Super cute 4BR/2BA Cape. Renovated throughout.



COMING SOON

9214 Whitney St.

4BR/2.5BA Cape with screened in porch and fully finished basement.

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As a Riderwood Preferred Realtor, The Tamara Kucik Team is ready to help you make the transition to a relaxing, maintenance-free home for a happy and healthy retirement. If you are considering making the move to a retirement community, we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

OUR RECENT NEIGHBORHOOD SALES



CONTRACT

9628 Lawndale Dr.
 Stunning 3BR/2BA Colonial with upscale features. \$525,000.



CONTRACT

113 Granville Dr.
Under Contract in just 7 days!
 4BR/3BA brick Cape. \$543,000.



MULTIPLE OFFERS!

9413 Caroline Ave.
 Fabulous, expanded country cottage with 3BR/2BA. \$419,900.



CONTRACT IN 5 DAYS!

101 Hamilton Ave.
 Renovated and expanded 4BR, 3BA country cape. \$579,000.



CONTRACT IN 5 DAYS!

9331 Caroline Ave.
 Exceptional 3BR/2BA Colonial. Multiple offers! \$475,000.



MULTIPLE OFFERS!

9505 Evergreen St.
 3BR/1BA Cape with upscale KIT and updates throughout! \$399,900.

TASTE OF INDIAN SPRING AND ISCA MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Magin, ISCA Treasurer

The Indian Spring Citizens Association's Annual Taste of Indian Spring will be here before we know it. It is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 23 at Highland View Elementary School at 6:30 p.m. (see related article in this newsletter), but you need to be a member of ISCA to enjoy that wonderful event.



ENJOY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
\$15.00/year

Newsletter, Fall Fest,
 the Taste of Indian Spring,
 and more

There are approximately 800 homes within Indian Spring; all receive this newsletter. We currently have about 150 families who are members, a decline from previous years. For \$15.00 a year (\$16 if you use PayPal), you receive the benefit of the newsletter, Fall Fest, the Taste of Indian Spring, and more ways to enjoy our neighborhood.

The following is a list of paid-up members. If your dues are not current, you can pay at the Taste of Indian Spring, but it's easier and faster to make your dues payment before then, to avoid a line. Use the coupon on page 1, or make your payment online via PayPal at iscaonline.com. If you still have a question regarding your membership status after looking through the list below, contact Monica Bridgewater (Membership Chairperson) at mo.bridgewater@gmail.com or 301-588-1785. You can also send a check to ISCA, P.O. Box 3724, Silver Spring, MD 20918-3724

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PAID THRU
Acosta	Carlos & Ann-Marie	12/15/2015
Adamson	Vickie & David	3/31/2016
Ahuja/Vantassel	Vinita/Kelly	6/1/2015
Aley/Harris	William/Dan .	6/1/2016
Arbacher	Judith	5/1/2015
Aronson/Clifford	Scott & Allison	7/30/2015
Atwell	Adam & Meghan	5/30/2015
Balmer	Cathy & Arthur	12/1/2015
Barry	Dave	6/1/2015
Barry/Lea	Denis/Deborah	4/15/2015
Berry	Janet & Charlie	10/31/2015
Blaine	Margaret/Charlene	10/15/2015
Bonnette	Richard, Joanne & Olivia	5/30/2015
Boyar	Jay & Gail	9/1/2015
Boynton	John & Jessica	10/15/2015
Brangan/Remy	Normandy/Russell	10/31/2015



The HelpMeRhonda Team Presents:

SENIOR MOVE MANAGEMENT

For Seniors, moving can be an overwhelming experience, both financially and emotionally. Seniors may be moving for the first time in many years and likely to their final home. The logistics, the finances, and the emotions brought out in this type of move are challenging and stressful. HelpMeRhonda has partnered with a team of professionals to orchestrate a seamless transition from home to home.

READY?

Congratulations! You have decided to make the move to a new home. Now, you need a realtor to sell your property. Call Rhonda from the HelpMeRhonda team for an in-home consultation including recommendations on pricing, necessary improvements, and curb appeal. She will act not only as your realtor, but as your “Senior Move Manager” and together, you will develop a moving plan with a timeline. Rhonda will help you prepare your home for the market while also assisting in the process of searching for your new home (if not already found).

SET?

Time to get organized! If you are downsizing you will have a lot to go through, which can be overwhelming. The professionals at Orchestrated Moves LLC, our partner, will help you tackle the organization and downsizing needed to help make your new home as warm and comfortable as your current home. We will help find the right and responsible destinations for items you choose not to keep, whether by sending to family members, finding a venue for the sale of the items, or donating to worthy (tax-deductible) charities. We will ensure everything moving with you is well organized, labeled, and professionally packed. Professional cleaning services can also be arranged for both homes.

GO!

Moving day is here, and our partner Poch Moving will provide all moving services. Your treasured belongings will be wrapped, packed, and handled with respect and TLC. The Poch professional team of strong movers will place all of the furniture just as you'd planned it to be set up. In your new home, your boxes will be unpacked, your kitchen will be set up, beds will be made, and clothes will be hung so you are ready to start living!

Contact us today for your free consultation!
301-326-6401/rhondamortensen1@gmail.com



Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
Bethesda Gateway Office: 301-907-7600
www.helpmerhondarealestate.com

PAID-UP ISCA MEMBERS AS OF AUGUST 15, 2014

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PAID THRU	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PAID THRU
Brundage	Patty & Stephen	10/31/2015	Harlen	Kevin & Sarah	12/15/2016
Bryce	Beverly	5/1/2015	Hartnett	Johnette T.	1/1/2018
Bugala	Catherine & Paul	10/31/2015	Hausner	Tony & Toba	1/15/2018
Bullock	Ann & Robert	9/15/2016	Heard	Maria & Brian	10/1/2016
Cahan	Jules & Phylis	4/1/2016	Heliotis	Alexandra	10/1/2015
Calabria	Matt	1/31/2017	Hess/Freedman	Mary Ann & Dan	11/1/2015
Caplen/Stuart	Natasha/Patrick	5/30/2015	Hettinger/Duffy	Zach & Meagan	5/30/2016
Caro	Deborah	4/15/2015	Hodges & Chesson	Justin & Sara	12/15/2015
Chang	Linda & William	10/1/2015	Hoelman	Melinda & Louis	11/1/2015
Collins/Huang	Ann/Chris	11/1/2016	Hoffman / Sina	Marc / Barbara	10/31/2015
Colucci	Abigail & Jamie	10/31/2015	Holland	Jennifer & Bruce	3/31/2017
Cotterill	Philip & Sarah	5/1/2016	Hoskinson	Carolyn, Jim, Jack & Ryan	11/1/2015
Cress	Amy	10/15/2015	Howells	Bill & Terry	12/1/2015
Cuesta / Beltran	Alfonso / Amaya	10/31/2015	Hulsebus/Rose	Sage/Jon	10/31/2015
D'Avy / Rao	Jeff / Sheila	10/31/2015	Hunter	Elizabeth	10/15/2015
DeLuca	Isabel & Carmine	1/31/2017	Janus	Cynthia	10/1/2016
Dooley	Elizabeth & Sean	7/30/2015	Jenkins	Shawn & family	5/15/2015
Dyer	Kate & Will	10/31/2015	Jordan	Diane & Stewart	8/1/2017
Ebert/Krafts	Tina & Andrew	11/1/2015	Kay	Peggy & Fred	11/1/2015
Elinoff	Jason & Lori	12/1/2015	Kleinman/Spitzer	Becky & Michael	5/30/2015
Flanary	Robin & Neale	6/1/2015	Koehler/Carick	Laurie & Carla	10/15/2015
Franck	Don	10/15/2016	Kravis	Laura & Jonathan	7/1/2015
Freestone	Jane	1/31/2016	Kruhm/Edgley	Gail & Jerry	5/15/2015
Frye	Mary Anne & Don	11/15/2015	Kutzer/Monaghan	Carol & Ed	6/1/2015
Gallagher	Jeffrey & Vivien	1/1/2016	Lamb	Dale & Lauren	5/30/2015
Ganzel/Schneider	Penny & Edwin	5/30/2015	Landers/Denniston	Kathleen/Alan	2/15/2016
Gavin	Marie & Robert	10/1/2015	Lanigan	Kate	4/15/2015
Gottesman/Kuehn	Laura & David	2/15/2017	Leistra & Rigby	Andrea & Jane	10/1/2016
Gottlieb/Miller	Arlene & Chaz	11/1/2015	Levy	Deborah/Robert	9/15/2016
Griggs	Mayra/Shan	10/1/2016	Linstrom	Ann & Tom	10/31/2015
Guse/Shelton	Brian/Theran	10/1/2015	Lira	Romel	1/1/2016
Hall	John & Mary	6/1/2015	Locraft	Mark and Monika	9/30/2016
Hanna/Srinivasan	Nancy & Suresh	2/28/2017	MacDonald	John & Carol	11/15/2018

PAID-UP ISCA MEMBERS AS OF AUGUST 15, 2014

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PAID THRU	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PAID THRU
Magin/Denenberg	Elizabeth/Ray	2/15/2016	Schelle	Sharon & David	1/1/2016
Magno	Linda	11/15/2015	Schieck	Karen & Tony	2/28/2016
Manier	Mollie	5/30/2015	Shaw	Suzanne & Frank	9/30/2015
Marks/Klimaski	Katharyn & James	6/15/2016	Shawer	Amy & Tariq	5/1/2015
McCann	S. Tony & JoAnn	11/15/2015	Shay	Randy & Dave	5/15/2015
McDonagh	Virginia	12/1/2015	Sheridan	Jamie & Joe	10/15/2013
McFarland/Stivison	Tobi/Suzannah	3/15/2017	Shiffer/Campbell	Rebecca & Robert	11/1/2016
McGuire	Elsie & John	11/1/2016	Shindel/Romer-Friedman	Cory & Peter	11/1/2015
McLean	Naomi R.	4/30/2015	Siegelbaum	Jill	5/1/2015
McVey-Finney	Nathaniel & Stephanie	10/31/2015	Simmons	Richard	7/15/2015
Meyer/Weeks	Katherine & Jim	2/15/2012	Simons	John & Phyllis	9/15/2015
Milici/Tebor	Jennifer/Michelle	12/15/2015	Siniawsky/Sutter	Beth & Doug	10/31/2015
Minarik	Nicholas	12/1/2016	Sousa / Broder	Andy / Caroline	10/31/2015
Moats	Sue & Chuck	7/15/2015	Spokane/Focarazzo	Abbe/Lauren	12/15/2016
Morrison	Anita/William	5/1/2017	Stephan	Kathleen & Robert	11/15/2015
Nasser	Michael & Hayat	2/29/2016	Summers/Shoop	Laureen& Earl	10/31/2015
Neri / Raymond	Judy / Jill	1/31/2016	Taylor/Serrano	Christine & Jose	4/1/2015
Ogden	Neil	5/1/2015	Tilson	Rich	10/1/2016
Oriol/Andrews	Steve/Dare	10/1/2015	Torres-Rivera	Sahra	2/28/2017
Parachini	Elaine & Lawrence	12/1/2015	Underwood	Janis	12/15/2015
Parrent	Tony & Mary Ann	10/1/2015	Wallace/Vink	Kim & Robin	10/31/2016
Pelz/Butler	Mary & Michael	8/15/2016	Warburton	Karen	4/15/2015
Quarm	Mary & Brian	2/15/2016	Wehrwein	Mary & Chuck	10/1/2015
Reese/Zaczkiewicz	Jeffrey & Marion	9/15/2015	Wertz	Pamela & Erik	11/1/2015
Reisert	James	1/31/2017	Whelan	Greg & Emma	10/31/2015
Reser/Swope	David/Dom	4/1/2015	Whitehead	Jason & Liz	2/15/2016
Ropeik/Shauer	Larry & Janet	10/15/2018	Wilamowski	Dorothy & Edward	6/1/2015
Rose	Bernice	11/1/2015	Wilcox/Craig	Hilary / Michael	3/15/2016
Roule	Trifin & Jeannie	10/1/2016	Williams	Elizabeth & Family	5/30/2015
Russell/Mason	Sage & Jeff	12/15/2015	Willis	Stephanie	7/1/2013
Ryan	Katie & Leo	5/30/2015	Wilson	David & Sue	11/1/2015
Sahli	Nancy	2/15/2016	Winfield	Frank & Dorothy	7/1/2015
Salon/Goldman	Rebecca & Jay	11/1/2015	Woodhams	Jim & Marca	5/15/2015
Sapp	Patricia & Philip	10/1/2015	Woods	Dorothy & Kent	1/31/2016
Sargen	Joshua & Meghan	12/15/2015	Zusman	Phyllis & Fred	1/31/2016

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And clearly Luster's colleagues admire the same set of appealing professional characteristics in the 13-year veteran of elementary school teaching. In March, she was named one of three finalists for the 2015-16 Teacher of the Year award in Montgomery County

Those colleagues at Chevy Chase Elementary School, where Luster is a 5th grade teacher in the Highly Gifted Center, nominated her for the Teacher of the Year recognition, according to Principal Jody Smith. "In one staff member's words, 'I want to be her as I

spending her first four years as a teacher in Prince George's County. She holds national board certification in reading and language arts and oversees the after-school program, leads the homework and cheerleading clubs and mentors new teachers at her school.

A New Jersey native, she earned a B.S. in elementary education from University of Maryland and a master's in curriculum and instruction from McDaniel College.

Smith, the principal at Chevy Chase ES, is clearly an admirer, saying Luster "provides rigorous instruction through incorporating teaching strategies that showcase student learning. She gives students an opportunity to select reading text from several choices and gives a variety of choices highlighting the strategy of multiple intelligences. As a result, students are vested in what they are reading and how they show mastery of understanding."

Luster's expertise can be seen especially in her work with students after school, the principal says. She provides skill support to at-risk students through the homework club, developing strong personal relationships with students and building confidence schoolwide.

"When walking by her classroom, it would not be unusual to see 20 or more



Indian Spring resident Josephine Luster with a student at Chevy Chase ES, where she teaches gifted 5th graders. Photo by Jill Ortman-Fouse

and a recipient of the Veteran Teacher Award by the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund, which carries a \$1,000 prize.

As the finalist representing elementary school teachers, she will be honored on April 21 in a ceremony at the Fillmore in Silver Spring where the county's Teacher of the Year will be named.

grow in my profession. Her passion shows on the faces of her students every day.' This is from one of the new teachers she works with on her team," Smith said.

Luster, who has lived with her husband John and dog Clyde on Wire Avenue for the past 2½ years, has worked at Chevy Chase ES for nine years after

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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, I recommend going online.



Josephine Luster, center, accepts the Marian Greenblatt Award at a ceremony attended by her principal and several members of the Greenblatt family. Photo by Jill Ortman-Fouse

parent visitors listening intently to presentations such as literature circles, original plays, writing pieces, debates and personal essays,” Smith says. “Mrs. Luster is a master of Promethean and Google Chrome book technology and incorporates student involvement in all curricular areas.” (Her class website, which is updated continuously, can be found at <https://sites.google.com/a/mcpsmd.net/luster/home>.)

Luster was interviewed for the ISCA newsletter in late March. Her edited responses follow.

Q. What do you like about living in Indian Spring?

Luster: I’ve truly enjoyed

getting to know people in the neighborhood. Everyone is so friendly! People say hello to one another and will stop to chat and ask how you’re doing.

Q. What was your reaction becoming one of three finalists for MCPS Teacher of the Year and winning the Greenblatt Master Teacher Award?

Luster: I am very flattered. I think this award represents the hard work and dedication of all educators. Having met the Greenblatt family, it is an honor for me to be associated with Dr. Marian Greenblatt, the ultimate professional educator, whose dedication to students and higher expectations is so inspiring!

Q. Do you model your teaching after the practices of a particular teacher you had growing up?

Luster: I had so many teachers that I admired. I remember every teacher I ever had and they have all influenced me in a positive way. My experience in elementary school was especially memorable. I try to capture the warmth and kindness of Mrs. McQuinn, my 2nd grade teacher. I emulate the creativity of Mrs. Gooditis, my 5th grade teacher. I also attempt to provide the challenge and rigor from my gifted and talented teacher, Mrs. Locandro.

Q. What do you consider the greatest challenge for you in your current teaching assignment?

Luster: Time. My students have an insatiable desire to learn. Ideally, I would be able to

meet the demands of the curriculum, meet my students' needs for more rigor and spend more time conferencing with students on writing projects. However, my students have so many questions and such a variety of interests, that we can be short on time. I've found that interest-based projects and technology help, but I would love to have more time with my class!

Q. Why is it important today to offer a separate program for students who qualify as gifted and talented academically?

Luster: All students deserve to be challenged in a way that maximizes their potential, instills a love of learning and encourages intellectual risk-taking. That requires an appropriate level of engaging instruction at a pace appropriate to the learner, in a like-minded peer group.

Elizabeth Magin

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Q. How do you know you are teaching effectively when dealing with such a highly able group of students?

Luster: Keeping students engaged is the key to effective teaching in any classroom setting. I keep the pace of instruction in response to my students through formal and informal assessment. I motivate students with tasks that encourage creativity and critical thinking. We read texts written at a challenging level, to ensure students continue to increase comprehension skills and build new vocabulary. It's all about fostering each child's love of learning.

Q. Outside of the classroom, what school-based responsibility do you find most fulfilling?

Luster: I am currently coordinating our

school's Stock Market club. It is a blast! I started the club because I was curious about the stock market myself, and in reading *The Westing Game* and teaching about economics in 5th grade, I knew my students were curious too. The students have so much fun researching companies and working in teams for eight weeks to invest a virtual \$100,000 in the online Stock Market Game.

Q. Outside of school duties, what is your favorite avocation or hobby or interest?

Luster: I am a big fan of the show *Top Chef*. It has inspired me to try new foods, recipes and restaurants. I have all of the *Top Chef* cookbooks and I enjoy cooking unique meals with my husband when I am at home. ★



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**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

APRIL
Thursday
23

**Taste of
Indian
Spring**

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



EMAIL GROUP (LISTSERV):

To subscribe:
iscaonline-subscribe@yahoo.com

To send messages:
iscaonline@yahoo.com

WEB SITE:

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

CONGRATULATIONS

to Becky Kleinman and Michael Spitzer of Caroline Ave on the birth of their son Harrison.



ANNOUNCEMENTS This section for announcements about new neighbors, births, deaths, weddings, graduations, etc. Send announcements to thausner@gmail.com
We welcome information on new residents and other special occasions.

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INDIAN SPRING STUDENTS HONORED FOR FILM DOCUMENTARIES

Five students with family connections to Indian Spring were recognized for their entries in a C-SPAN documentary film competition. The winners, picked from student film makers across the nation, were announced in March.

According to the Gazette, this year's contest theme was "The Three Branches and You." Entrants had to tell a story showing how a policy, law or action by the executive, legislative or judicial branch affected an individual or a community.

C-SPAN received more than 2,200 entries from almost 5,000 students nationwide.

The honorees from Indian Spring included Jake Holland, son of Jen and Bruce Holland, who was part of a team that won honorable mention for the film "Education of a Nation." Jake is an 8th grader at Eastern Middle School.

Jake said he and his team chose this topic because of a keen interest "in the academic issues happening in not only our county but also the world. ... I thought that researching the foundation of our lives would be both fun and practical."

As a result of the film documentary, Jake said he learned about the problems facing the nation's public schools. A highlight of the research was interviewing Rep. Chris Van Hollen about his perspective on the needs today of schools, during which he says he learned about Maryland's

plans for upcoming academic changes in the curriculum.

Other award-winning documentaries were produced by these students with an Indian Spring relationship:

- Siena Fouse, daughter of Jill Ortman-Fouse and David Fouse, who was part of three-student team that won third prize for "The Injustice of Mental Health." Siena is in 10th grade at Montgomery Blair HS.
- Zoe McIntosh, daughter of Andrea and Elton McIntosh, won honorable mention for her work on "Debating Equality: The Effects of Executive Order 13672." Zoe is an 8th grader at Eastern.
- Ari Charles, who was part of a team that won honorable mention for "The Purple Line — Keeping Maryland on Track." Ari is a sophomore at Blair HS.

Another honoree with a link to ISCA was Jack Russ, a 10th grader at Blair and a grandson of Linda Holeman, a resident of Caroline Avenue,

The third-place teams won \$750 apiece. The teams with honorable mentions each received \$250.★

We will writeup an article about a number of additional Eastern Middle Students who won awards in the next newsletter issue.

CRIME REPORT

From Joyce Stocker

The following crimes were reported to the Montgomery County Police from the Indian Spring community from March 1 to March 25 2015:

3/17/15	TFV	200 block Granville Dr
	TFV	one block Granville Dr
	TFV	9600 block Granville Dr
3/18/15	TFV	one block Granville Dr

In addition, a young man was observed entering a car on Moss Ave, but ran when neighbors approached him.

Please report all crimes, no matter how minor, to the police and to the listserv. Be sure you lock your vehicles and leave nothing in them.

Montgomery County Police. on-line reporting system is; www.mymcpnews.com/resources/how-to/file-a-report-online-2/



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SILVER SPRING INTERNATIONAL MS: BIG CHANGES, LITTLE TIME

By Lauren Burkett

Silver Spring International Middle School, still known to some in the neighborhood as “the old Blair,” opened in 1999 and now serves as the only middle school in Maryland with an International Baccalaureate/Middle Years Program and both Spanish and French language immersion programs.

The school, located at Wayne Avenue and Dale Drive, started the 2014-15 school year with 950 students, and this fall’s enrollment is expected to reach 1,030. Approximately 35 Indian Spring students attend SSIMS, and the majority of the students come from Highland View, Sligo Creek and Forest Knolls elementary schools.

What distinguishes SSIMS from other middle schools is a student population that’s just as ethnically diverse as the staff. Students and staff members represent countries such as Mexico, Vietnam, El Salvador and various countries in West Africa.

Indian Spring resident Heather Sauter, president of the SSIMS PTSA, sees her role as encouraging other parents to get behind the school’s efforts to see students excel, and she also wants the Montgomery County school board to recognize some of the unique needs of the school when it comes to budget planning. The

PTSA has requested replacement of plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems within the school to improve the learning environment.

Sauter resides on Lawndale Drive and has two sons at SSIMS and two future middle schoolers who now attend Highland View.

“The willingness of parents to take on tasks at the school has dramatically increased, making it easier for PTSA to sponsor community-building events like the Bike to School Day, International Night and the March Madness Student Teacher Basketball Game and Auction,” Sauter said.

Last year the school’s PTSA membership increased by more than 100 percent, and the school received accolades from Maryland’s PTA for the largest membership increase at any school in the state.

With help from other active parents, the SSIMS PTSA was able to provide every student with \$5 vouchers for use at a local Scholastic Book Fair. Opportunities like these give students of all economic backgrounds the ability to learn. Another initiative that leads



Sarah Morgan (right) is a PTSA officer at Silver Spring International Middle School, where daughter Ellie is a 7th grader.

to students’ future success is the Rising Star Scholarship, annually awarded to one or two hardworking students for achieving great things despite living through circumstances of hardship.

An ongoing project, dating back to the first years of Silver Spring International, is the Old Blair Auditorium Project. The SSIMS PTSA has worked with the project’s leaders to advocate for county and state funds to renovate the school’s auditorium, which was abandoned in 1998.

Another noteworthy characteristic of SSIMS is that nearly a third of all teachers have chosen to work there for five years or longer. One of the most dedicated teachers in the school is Wes Yokoyama, who teaches 7th grade world studies and 8th grade U.S. history. He has been teaching there since fall 2000, one year after the building reopened as a middle school.

An Indian Spring resident, Yokoyama sees the wide variety of elective courses, inclusive

classroom settings and autism resource classes as some of the school's unique traits. He believes the school's Family and Consumer Science cooking class, the Lights Camera Literacy class and Fishertechniks/robotics class contribute to students' preparedness for the real world, high school and beyond.

Yokoyama has a 10th grader, an alumnus of Silver Spring International, now at Montgomery Blair High School. He said his son noticed a major change in the newly mandated Passion Project assignment that all SSIMS' 8th graders complete. When I attended SSIMS, the Passion Project was an optional assignment meant to help students identify and showcase their interests, to potentially discover a future career path. In spring 2011, fewer than 10 students committed

to the Passion Project. I did mine on fashion and for my culminating presentation, I held a mini-fashion show with my friends being the runway models. It was quite the experience and it motivated me to excel in high school.

In addition, during my time at SSIMS I was awarded a certificate for "respect, responsibility and positive relationship building" by the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports committee. Both recognitions made me feel proud to be a SSIMS Jaguar and excited to become a Northwood Gladiator.

Another major Indian Spring supporter of the school is Sarah Morgan, who serves as PTSA executive vice president. A resident of Lawson Place, she works with Sauter to positively impact SSIMS and the Indian Spring neighborhood.

The PTSA, Morgan said, is "working to enhance community spirit by launching 'Jag Swag,' a play based on their mascot, by selling newly designed Jaguar T-shirts and car bumper stickers at upcoming events."

She has one daughter, Ellie, a 7th grader at SSIMS. Morgan says that the head of Real Food for Kids, a wellness movement, recently presented at SSIMS on offering healthy food options in local schools, to inspire others to be concerned for the health of this generation's youth.

Morgan sees personal benefits from her volunteer leadership. "Diving into the SSIMS community through PTSA engagement has been a great way to get connected to this large, diverse school," she said. ★

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