

Item 4 - Correspondence

From: [Marcie Stickle/Geo French](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Gudelsky CDC: French & Stickle Testimony, Th., 9/24/20, Item # 4
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:45:32 PM
Attachments: [Library PB Hearing Conditional Use French Stickle 9 24 20.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

TO: Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson & Planning Board Members, 9/22/20
FR: George French & Marcie Stickle
RE: Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center
Conditional Use & Preliminary Conservation Plan, Item # 4

George French & Marcie Stickle Testimony
Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center
8901 and 8907 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring
Conditional Use and Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan
Approval with Conditions, Planning Board Hearing, 9/24/20

The Gudelsky Child Development Center at the former Silver Spring Library is an incredible gift to our County in myriad ways. The Foundation and its partners are embarking on energetically carrying out the Planning Staff Approval conditions! Generosity of spirit serving others and the underserved is the heart beat of this loving philanthropic endeavor!

This enterprise has the support of 2 County Executives, the unanimity of Montgomery County Council members, parents of pre-school children, preservationists, and environmentally conscious people in the County.

This initiative is the perfect example of adaptive reuse of an iconic County building, of special architectural merit, and integrated into the rolling green landscape.

Repurposing the former S.S. Library for a premiere Child Development Center is also environmental responsible because "The Greenest Building is the One Already Built," [Architect Carl Elefante], which rescues most of the "embodied energy" used to construct this structure.

We applaud the Gudelsky Foundation, CentroNia, and Moya Design experts for their visionary endeavor!

George French, 510 Albany Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
Marcie Stickle, 8515 Greenwood Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
marcipro@aol.com, 301-587-5955

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From: [Marcie Stickle/Geo French](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [mareardon3@yahoo.com](#); [sshhistory@yahoo.com](#)
Subject: Gudelsky CDC, Silver Spring Historical Society Testimony, Item # 4, 9/24 PB Hearing
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 10:30:23 AM
Attachments: [Gudelsky CDC Silver Spring Historical Society PB Hearing 9 24 20 \(2\).docx](#)

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RE: Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center
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Silver Spring Historical Society Testimony
Presented by Mary Reardon, SSHS Preservation Chair
Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center
8901 and 8907 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring
Conditional Use and Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan
Approval with Conditions, Planning Board Hearing, 9/24/20

Good morning. My name is Mary Reardon. I live in Silver Spring and I'm Preservation Chair of the Silver Spring Historical Society. I am presenting the statement submitted by this organization.

SSHS applauds and enthusiastically supports the philanthropic Martha B. Gudelsky Foundation and its vibrant partners CentroNia and Moya Design as they energetically meet the conditions set forth by the Planning Staff for conditional use of the former S.S. Library as a Child Development Center, and for the Preliminary Conservation Plan, in this their joint visionary magnanimous endeavor, ever in service to others!

Each is the Personification of Service to Others, expressed eloquently in their vision statements!

There is a Continuity and Vitality of Spirit here, a tapestry of historic legacies, arriving at "A Dream Come True" ["Library Pioneer Journal," Sept/Oct 1958]. Gudelsky Foundation joins with child development experts CentroNia, Myrna Peralta, President/CEO; the spirit of leading D.C. original 1957 Library architect, Mo Co Civic Leader, Silver Spring resident Rhees Evans Burket, and now 2020 with superb leading architect Moya Design, Paola Moyer, Founder/CEO, both inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright; utilizing natural materials of stone and brick set into the green rolling landscape! Burket noted this unique Library as one of his Principal Works!

We can envision each and all linking arms, on site, thumbs up, with their dedicated colleagues, proclaiming and resonating with "Let's Move Forward Together" to bring the CDC to fruition!! The Gift That Keeps on Giving! A cornucopia of goodness!

Presented at Hearing by Mary Reardon, [mareardon3@yahoo.com](#)
Silver Spring Historical Society Preservation Chair
Sent in by Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society Advocacy Chair
SSHS, PO Box 1160, Silver Spring, MD 20910-1160, 301-537-1253

Visionary:

Burket's Silver Spring Library, Wright-Inspired: Adaptive Reuse, Stand Alone, Sensitive Incorporation Into New

Development to Protect, Preserve, Honor It

Contributed By: **Marcia L Stickle** Email The

Author: marcipro@aol.com <http://www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationBlogs/ArticleDetail.aspx?id=4979&catid=1> December 2016

Adaptive Reuse! Silver Spring Historical Society enthusiastically supports adaptively reusing our former 1957 Silver Spring Library designed by leading Metro D.C. area architect, Mo Co Civic Leader, and Silver Spring resident Rhees Evans Burket, along with its environmental setting and its parking lots of 2.35 acres to continue to serve the community.

Just as it integrates itself into the hilly landscape, it's a perfect fit to serve the community! In "harmony with nature," this "Parkitecture" building and its setting are Burket's legacy gift to Silver Spring and Montgomery County.

One excellent vision for adaptive reuse is as a Children's Center; with immediate access to the adjacent Ellsworth Urban Park and Playground! Kids' Gardens can spring up in the green and treed lawns surrounding Burket's Library. What a hands-on healthy green learning tool for the kids!

Adaptively reusing unique existing community structures preserves OUR Silver Spring's tapestry, unique architecture, our history, our stories, our singular Time Line! Burket notes his S.S. Public Library as a "principal work" in the AIA Directory 1962. The Silver Spring Library was the linchpin of the new County Public Library system established in 1951:

"The formal merger of the S.S. Library and other participating libraries into the County library system took place on July 1, 1951. Takoma Park, Rockville, and Bethesda elected not to join the system initially, although Rockville and Bethesda joined later. The S.S. Library with its two branches and large reference collection, was the linchpin of the new County system.

"A New Library on Colesville Road. The County began planning for a new S.S. Library. Rhees Burket, a local architect, was hired to design the new building. . . . County Library Board unanimously approved the site on Jan. 21, 1954" [Oshel, Bob & Friends of the S.S. Library, "The S.S. Library, 1931-2001: Enriching Lives for 70 Years," P. 8].

Rhees Burket (1899-1963), Silver Spring resident, was a noted architect in the greater D.C. area for his homes, commercial and public buildings, including myriad schools. His Stratford School, Arlington, Va., is on the National Register of Historic Properties, and recently achieved local designation: <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/.../HALRB.STRATFORD...>

Rhees Burket was a Civic Leader: Montgomery County Civic Federation President, 1946-1948, and MCCF Washington Star Cup Recipient, 1947, "for performing most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County."*

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's "organic modernism," "in harmony with nature," his 1957 S.S. Library of stone and glass and brick, integrated into the hilly landscape, was the largest County library at the time. This public building is Burket's legacy to Silver Spring and Montgomery County.

Burket's Mid-Century Modern structure, " 'an architect's dream,' was the phrase used to describe the new S.S. Library when it was given its final inspection last Th. Morning by the County Manager, the County Council, and several members of the County Library Board," The Maryland News, 12/28/1956.

Built on a 200-footwide strip running from Colesville to Ellsworth Drive, on land given by the Hecht Co., "the Building was designed to fit into the naturally landscaped lot which adds to its attractiveness. The few trees that had to be moved to make way for the building were saved and replanted. The many dogwood, blue spruce and beech were undisturbed," The Maryland News, 2/28/1956.

"Rhees Burket, the Architect, went all out on this building. And from the looks of things he had a fairly free hand in design and equipment. . . . if the sign wasn't out front we doubt if you would guess it to be a library. It looks more like a new home built by some Texas oil or ranch man . . . we would suggest you stop by this beautiful building and take advantage of the books and the atmosphere. You will thoroughly enjoy it," Silver Spring Record, 1/26/1957.

"Library Pioneer" Journal in "A Dream Comes True," glowingly describes with photos and floor plan diagram Burket's elegant, light-filled library structure and its conveniences, attached, Sept./Oct. 1958.

Frank Lloyd Wright's "organic modernism," "in harmony with nature," is expressed in Burket's structure with its low horizontal lines, low-pitched hip roofs and projecting eaves to create an integrated-into-the-landscape quality. A massive fieldstone chimney rises at the axis of intersecting roof planes. Library has a cross-shaped open floor plan.

Walls of native uncoursed stoneyhurst stone, a polychrome mica schist, quarried at Seven Locks and River Roads, Montgomery County, appear to undulate in juxtaposition with glass and aluminum framed window walls, awning windows, continuous bands of clerestory windows and red brick walls.

Stone chimney and several stone walls carry through into the interior spaces of the singular structure.

An elegant, very long and wide, approx. 70' X 20', flat-roofed entrance canopy doubles as a carport for auto pick up and drop off point welcoming patrons arriving via the access road. Three large canopy roof openings allow light and moisture into the raised planter beds below.

This building is unique; there is no other community structure of this style in all of S.S.'s CBD, or adjacent.

Looking forward to working together to achieve and celebrate the adaptive reuse of Silver Spring's unique former Library, "in harmony with nature," and its continuing service to the community: Rhees Burket's legacy gift to Silver Spring and Montgomery County! Interior and exterior Photos are available.

Jerry A. McCoy, sshistory@yahoo.com, Marcie Stickle & George French, marcipro@aol.com, 301-585-3817, Silver Spring Historical Society, <https://www.facebook.com/sshistory/>
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