

The Children are "Here" With Us Today at this Hearing as They Were Joyfully in Person When County Council Unanimously & Exuberantly Approved Library Site Disposition for The Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center Partnering With CentroNia in 2021!

Testimony by Marcie Stickle, Silver Spring Historical Society Advocacy Chair & George French, SSHS Board Member, Before the County Council, 3/22/22

**In Service to Our Children Who Inspire Us Every Day!
With All Parties Working Together, We Can Cross Over the Finish Line to Fulfillment!**

We thank, appreciate, and cheer all pro-active parties: County Executive Marc Elrich for submitting the \$1,082,000 Supplemental Budget Appropriation Amendment # 22-66 for Ellsworth Drive Sewer and Water Upgrades, to our Honorable Council President Alborno, Vice President Glass, and all Distinguished Council Members, to our ever vigilant T&E Committee which recommends approval, 3/17, to the Department of General Services, which creates and sets Requests for Proposals in motion, and ably stewards, oversees them, and to the Washington Sewer & Sanitation Commission which has the unique expertise to carry out this precise and critical infrastructure work!

We enthusiastically support the County Executive's request for this Supplemental Budget Appropriation and CIP Amendment, and respectfully request the County Council's approval of this Supplemental Appropriation and CIP amendment. We appreciate, and thank you!

This entire pro-active endeavor encompasses, embraces Public Service, Legacy, Adaptive Reuse, Commitment, on behalf of our diverse vibrant Children, their Parents, myriad children are underserved.

Our Children's innate vitality and promise moves us all to serve, work on their behalf!

In 2021, the Children from CentroNia joined us in the Council's Auditorium, celebrating with us the Council's unanimous decision to approve the Library's site's disposition for this visionary endeavor!

All of the interwoven Participating Parties bring with them their vital Public Service & Legacies:

Passionate Humanitarians Martha B. & Homer Gudelsky's Philanthropic Foundation since 1969; County Executive Marc Elrich's long-lived career teaching Elementary School-aged children; Each and all of our County Council Members are ardently dedicated to Children's Issues, most recently promulgating the very first early Child Care & Education Clearinghouse! And the bi-County WSSC itself energetically, physically demanding, serving the Public 104 years, since 1918!

Visionary Public Service & Legacy Background:

Martha B/ & Homer Gudelsky are models for all of us!

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/baltimoresun/name/martha-gudelsky-obituary?id=25615342>

Beatriz "B.B" Otero founded CentroNia in 1986.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/bio/bb_otero.html

President & CEO Myrna Peralto, <https://www.centronia.org/team/myrna-peralta/>

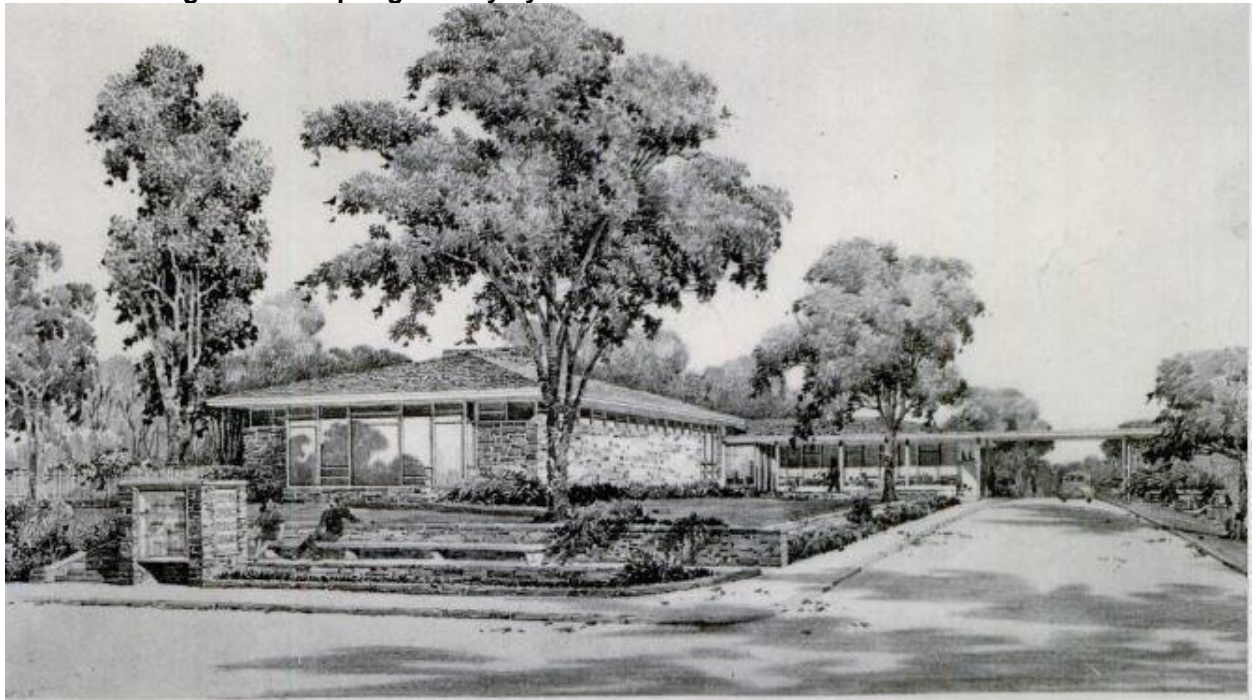
a recipient of YWCA's 2017 Woman of Achievement Award, and other awards:

CentroNia's Mission: "Educating children and youth and strengthening families in a bilingual, multi-cultural environment."

This vital theme of Public Service is conveyed also through our 1957 Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired former Silver Spring Library, constructed of natural materials, Mo Co-quarried fieldstone and brick, set organically into the rolling treed green landscape, in harmony with nature, “Parkitecture” & “Park” embodied here! Carrying forward our unique S.S. tapestry and spirit, eloquent “adaptive reuse” at its finest! Burket considered the S.S. Library one of his primary works!

S.S. Library's superb Leading Architect Rhees Evans Burket was a S.S. & Mo Co Civic Leader, commencing in the 1930s, including as Mo Co Civic Federation President and Vice President, recipient of the MCCF Washington Star Cup for his exemplary work on behalf of the County; actively engaged with the Allied Civic Association Groups; President of the Linden Civic Association; President, Woodside School Parent Teachers Association; and myriad civic roles before during and after WWII.

1954 Rendering of Silver Spring Library by Architect & Civic Leader Rhees Evans Burket



Marcie Stickle, Advocacy Chair, & George French, Board Member,
Silver Spring Historical Society, 301-587-5955, marcipro@aol.com

NOTE: Preservation Maryland and Montgomery Preservation Inc. pro-actively also participated in the County's 2016 Request for Proposals Process, culminating in the thrilling approval of MBGCDC with CentroNia!

<https://www.preservationmaryland.org/>

<https://www.montgomerypreservation.org/>

cc: SSSHS President Jerry A. McCoy
MPI President Eileen McGuckian
MPI Vice President Mary Reardon
Preservation Maryland Communications Director Dana Cohen
Preservation Maryland Immediate Former Communications Director Meagan Baco