



## Village Vibe

March/April 2017  
Volume 4, No. 2

### As We See It: Swinging Into Spring

The Village is in full swing! There are so many good things to report, and behind every good thing is someone hard at work to make it happen. So, first off, thank you to everyone who works tirelessly to make our Village shine! Here's what we're excited about:

1. We are able to offer our programs and services to more seniors every day—as of the end of February, we have 157 members and over 100 other local seniors attend out community-wide programs!
2. The breadth of our programs is growing and attendance is rising. Since the beginning of the year we “sold out” two fireside wine and cheese gatherings, a session on mindfulness, and a presentation about a Jewish hospital in Berlin that outlasted the Nazis. Some 25 of our members and volunteers received computer training from tech-savvy teenagers as part of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service, 35 came out for a talk on “passion and purpose,” and 25 attended a presentation on African-American history in Silver Spring.
3. Our member-initiated interest groups are thriving and meeting regularly. The groups include chess, “getting to know you,” Scrabble, walking, food, poker, and more.
4. We are training a new group of volunteers and offering a refresher to current volunteers who have not been active. Call the office for more information.
5. We are involved in an exciting pilot program with Habitat for Humanity for those with limited incomes. If you know anyone living in 20910 who would benefit from home repairs to improve accessibility and safety, please let us know so we can tell them about the program and how to qualify.
6. This year's annual campaign raised over \$24,000, more than double last year. Thank you so much to our donors for your generosity!

Let us know your questions, comments, and suggestions. It's your Village, and we want to meet and exceed your expectations!

—Peggy Gervasi, President, and  
Debbie Billet-Roumell, Executive Director



Getting teen tech help—photo  
by Claire Maklan

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#### Mission of the Village

To build and sustain a supportive network of neighbors helping neighbors remain in their own homes and be engaged in the community as they age.

Using a combination of volunteer and professional services and referrals, the Village provides a variety of services, as well as opportunities for social engagement. Participation by a diverse mix of residents within the Village's defined geographic area enhances the quality of life for the entire community.

Like other Villages in the U.S. and abroad, our network aims to support individuals and to strengthen the community in which they live.

## Progress Report

### Totals as of the end of February

- Members: 157 (72 full, 85 associate)
- Volunteers: 95

### Volunteer hours

- December: 881
- January: 734

### Volunteer help in Dec./Jan.

- 79 rides
- 102 friendly calls and visits
- 70 home assistance requests, including helping with a transfer chair, recycling, running errands, doing paperwork, organizing, providing technology support, fixing leaky faucets, and changing light bulbs
- Telephone crew: 246 hours

## Events Sampler

Lots going on with the Village! Besides events described on page 1, in the past couple of months we learned about staying safe online, discussed current events and two books, went to two art museums, wrote poetry, and gathered for coffee, lunch, and dinner. If you want to regularly play games, walk, talk about current events, or see and talk about movies, join us! There's plenty more to do in March and April; see pages 3 and 4.



Walking with the Mall Kats in Ellsworth Place Mall—photo by Leslie Hansley



Considering mindfulness—photo by Claire Maklan



Visiting the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, including the Frog Prince by Phillip Ratner—photos by Marty Fagin.



## Silver Spring Village, Inc.

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Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Visit us at [www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage](https://www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage)

## Getting to Know You

Socializing is fun—and good for your health. To help our members build new social connections, Village member and volunteer Cynna Janus started and facilitates a set of “getting to know you” groups. At present, four groups each meet once a month to discuss a selected topic or question. One all-women group has been meeting for 2 years and has talked about travel, favorite memories, the impact of holidays, and possessions that bring joy. One of the three coed groups has met for more than a year and has talked about “otherness,” aging, Myers-Briggs profiles, the election, and the Academy awards. Another coed group will next be talking about resilience in one's life. The fourth group has just started, and is recruiting members (the other groups are full). For more information about these groups, you may contact Cynna at (301) 920-0010 or [cjbcci@rcn.com](mailto:cjbcci@rcn.com).

## REAL:

### A Rewarding Opportunity for Members and Volunteers



The Reading & Educating to Advance Lives (REAL) program offers a fun and rewarding volunteer opportunity: read to children and engage them via games and puzzles to boost early literacy while their parents visit County offices of the Department of Health and Human Services. **Where:** 8630 Fenton Street and 8818 Georgia Avenue. **When:** Flexible 2-hour time slots. **Note:** Volunteers are required to obtain clearance and a badge from the County's security office.

If interested, contact Debbie Billet-Roumell via [301-503-7401](tel:3015037401) for more information. REAL is part of the Interages Program of the Jewish Council on Aging, in partnership with Montgomery County.

## Catch a Flick with our Film Lovers

Interested in seeing movies with a group of like-minded Village members and others? Join the film lovers group, which will meet at AFI most Wednesday evenings in March and April. After purchasing tickets (\$10 for people age 65 and older), people meet at 6:15 inside AFI near the snack bar (outside Theater 3). The movies start at 6:30. Those who wish also meet beforehand at 5:00 for a premovie happy hour at Not Your Average Joe's at the corner of Fenton and Colesville. Here are the upcoming movies the film lovers are planning to see:

- March 8 — *Little Men* (2016)
- March 22 — *Out of the Past* (1947)
- March 29 — *Ace in the Hole* (1951)
- April 5 — *Singin' in the Rain* (1952)
- April 12 — *Duck Soup* (1933)
- April 19 — *Lonely Are the Brave* (1962)
- April 26 — *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962)

Film viewers are welcome to stay after the movie to participate in a discussion led by Montgomery College film professor, David Rothman. The film lovers group is open to the public.



## How to . . .

**...become a member:** Residents of zip code 20910 are eligible for full or associate membership. Persons living close to, but outside 20910, are considered for full membership on a case-by-case basis. Associate membership is open to all applicants regardless of place of residence. All members can attend events, get discounts from local businesses, receive a subscription to *Washington Consumers' Checkbook*, access our information service, and get referrals to professionals. Full members can also receive services from our volunteers such as transportation, indoor and outdoor household help, technology support, friendly visits, and check-ins. Membership dues cover only part of our operating expenses and are: Full: \$350/individual or \$450/couple; Associate: \$150/individual or \$250/couple. Reduced-cost full memberships are also available. For more information, please contact Debbie Billet-Roumell at (240) 200-4290 or [executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org).

**...volunteer:** People age 18 or older who support our "age in place" mission are invited to serve as volunteers. Volunteers are not required to be members of the Village (though they are welcome to join, and many do). They need to complete an interest form and application, and have a background check. Training is provided. All applicants must be officially accepted and enrolled by the Volunteer Coordinator before performing tasks for the Village. All sorts of skills and interests are welcome.

**...donate:** To keep our Village strong, we need funding from organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants. Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted. Donations are tax-deductible, as permitted by law. Checks should be made to Silver Spring Village and mailed to Silver Spring Village, PO Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907, or donations by credit card can be made online via the [donations page](#) on our website. Consider the Village in your will, in memorial donations, or in someone's honor. We would love to hear from local businesses that might contribute or provide in-kind contributions or discounts to our members. Contact us!

## Events Calendar

Check our website for any changes.

\*Open to the public.

### ONGOING EVENTS

- Scrabble**, Mondays, **Parkway Deli**, 3-5 pm
- Poker Dawgs**, Tuesdays, members' homes, 5-7 pm
- Beginner's Chess**, Wednesdays, **Kefa Café**, 2-3:30 pm
- Mall Kats Walking**, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, **Ellsworth Place Mall**, 10:30-11:05 am

### MARCH

- Wed., March 1 — **Village Social Hour**, **Kefa Café**, 11 am
- Sat., March 4 — **Fireside Social**, member's home, 4 pm
- Sun., March 5 — **Classical Piano Recital**, Calgary Lutheran Church, 3 pm\*
- Wed., March 8 — **Spark Joy—Keeping the Good Things in Life**, **SPARKLE** Program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm,\* followed by **Happy Hour**, **Copper Canyon Grill**, 3:30-5 pm
- Thurs., March 9 — **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*Being Mortal*, Atul Gawande), 2-3:30 pm\*
- Fri., March 10 — **Current Events**, **iStar Coffee**, 2 pm
- Wed., March 15 — **Village Social Hour**, **Kefa Café**, 11 am
- Thurs., March 16 — **How Local News Is Gathered**, talk by Shomari Stone, Easter Seals building, 11 am\*
- Fri., March 17 — **St Patrick's Day Happy Hour**, **McGinty's**, 4 pm
- Thurs., March 23 — **High Tea**, member's home, 3 pm

### APRIL

- Mon., April 3 — **Fit 4 Function**, **SPARKLE** Program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm\*
- Thurs., April 6 — **History of Lyttonsville**, talk by Charlotte Coffield, member's home, 2 pm
- Fri., April 7 — **Current Events**, **iStar Coffee**, 2 pm
- Sat., April 8 — **Dinner**, **Hen Quarter**, 6 pm
- Thurs., April 13 — **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser), 2-3:30 pm\*
- Tues., April 18 — **Dinner**, **Thai at Silver Spring**, 6 pm

*Continued next page*



Events, continued from page 3

Thurs., April 20 – **Sky Above Clouds: Finding Our Way Through Creativity, Aging and Illness**, talk by Wendy Miller, Holy Cross Senior Source, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., April 22 – **No Grass Yard Tour**, member's home, 2 pm

Thurs., April 27 – **Creative Crafts Council Biennial Exhibition**, Strathmore Mansion, noon, followed by lunch at the Strathmore Music Center

Fri., April 28 – **Patio Party**, member's home, 4 pm

## Home Safety Checks

As you read this article take a moment and look up. Are there smoke alarms in your room? Should there be? Have you been meaning to check your smoke alarms but just haven't had time?

Many of your friends and neighbors in Silver Spring Village know the answers to these important questions. They have had a trained, qualified, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service firefighter come to their home for a free home safety check. You can sign up at [www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe](http://www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe) or call 240-777-2430 for an appointment at a date and time that is convenient for you. The usual home safety check takes less than an hour. For more information please contact Jim Resnick, Program Manager for Senior Outreach and Education, at 240-777-2426 or [james.resnick@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:james.resnick@montgomerycountymd.gov).



Installing a new smoke alarm—  
photo by  
Connie Raab

## Volunteer Corner:

### It's That Time of Year Again: Pi (π) Day!

That's right, March 14, 2017 is Pi Day, in honor of pi (π), which, as some of us may remember from math classes long ago, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter (approximately 3.14). To celebrate, we are reprising last year's Pi Day fun by offering full members a slice of pie, home-baked and delivered on Pi Day. (Full members can also pick up their pie on Clement Road on 3/14, which will save some delivery trips.)

A free slice of home-baked pie—how can you go wrong? Interested members can call their pie orders in to the Village office at 301-503-7401 or email their requests to [volunteers@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:volunteers@silverspringvillage.org). Please specify apple, pumpkin, chocolate, pecan, or cherry, and delivery option. The pi/pie order deadline is Thursday, March 9. Thanks in advance to our talented bakers and to the pie delivery squad.

## Board Member Reflections

*I am an urban planner by training with specialty in social planning. I was keeping files on retirement interests—this [starting a Village] was one. I*



*announced that we were going to start the Village during the WAMU Kojo Nnamdi show broadcast from Silver Spring in 2010. How long was I reading/talking about Villages before my announcement? Two to three years. There is no limit on what the Village can accomplish or the number of people we can reach. [The Village opened September 29, 2013.]*

—Martine Brizius

Photo by Debbie Billet-Roumell

**DONATE NOW—Help Silver Spring Village continue to provide programs and services that strengthen our community while helping neighbors age in place.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: ☐ \$ 500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Silver Spring Village and mail it to Silver Spring Village, P.O. Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907. If you would like to contribute by credit card, please visit the [donations page](#) of the Village website.

Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible.