

Silver Spring Village



Village Vibe

July/August 2019
Volume 6, Number 4

Leadership View: Giving for Tomorrow

About eight years ago, a few neighbors in Silver Spring had a vision for the community in which engaged, caring neighbors look out for each other and help their older neighbors thrive. This vision gave birth to Silver Spring Village in 2013, and it continues to inspire our journey. The Village has built an amazing network of neighbors helping neighbors that enables older adults to remain in the community and stay engaged. The Village now has more than 200 members, over 100 volunteers, and great potential to do more.

The values that guide the Village include respect for seniors and their wish to be independent; appreciation of cultural diversity; responsibility to our neighbors and community; commitment to quality service; and kindness, compassion, and hard work.

So many of you have contributed generously to our annual appeals, but we also must plan to sustain the Village for the long run. Giving today for tomorrow through a legacy gift helps to ensure that the Village will be here for future generations. There are numerous ways to make a legacy gift, including making a bequest in your will of stocks or other assets, naming Silver Spring Village as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, an individual retirement account or annuity, or an insurance policy.

A legacy gift enables the Village of today to remain an integral part of the Silver Spring community for decades to come. When you think about your estate planning, think about the tremendous impact that you can have on the lives of individuals and families. Talk to your attorney or estate planner about how to make a legacy gift. We invite you to complete our online [Legacy Gift Form](#) to make a commitment.

You can help pass down the values embedded in the Village to the next generation. You can help make the Village vibrant for tomorrow. There is no better time to start than now.

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

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GREATER WASHINGTON

Read more about this important designation on page 4.

Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit membership organization started in 2013 to help older residents living in or near zip code 20910. We strive to enable our members to stay engaged in their community and continue to live at home with support from neighbors and friends.

Progress Report

Totals as of end of June

- Members: 220 (97 full, 123 associate)
- Volunteers: 120

Volunteer hours

- April: 647
- May: 710

Volunteer help in April/May

- 270 rides
- 43 friendly calls and visits
- 73 other requests filled including tech support, errand running, medical note taking, preparing and delivering meals, household repairs, and other tasks
- Telephone crew hours: 264

Silver Spring Village, Inc. Board of Directors

Peggy Gervasi, *President*
 Connie Raab, *Vice President*
 Leslie Hansley, *Secretary*
 Katherine Anderson, *Treasurer*
 Martine Brizius
 Sue Decker
 Cheryl Gardner
 Minnedore Green
 Claire Maklan
 Anne McHenry
 Vern McLendon
 Mary Ann Zimmerman

Staff

Debbie Billet-Roumell, *Executive Director*
 Vanessa Ripps, *Director of Volunteer Services*
 Ana Carrion, *Operations Manager*

Committee Chairs

Development—
 Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Katherine Anderson
 Membership—Claire Maklan
 Programs—Gary Klauber
 Board Recruitment and
 Nominating—Martine Brizius

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

SPARKLE Programs: A Newsman, Fun at the Farm, Ideas for the Fall

A newsman: On May 8, Silver Spring Village members, volunteers, and others attended a SPARKLE presentation in which Bob Levey, former columnist for *The Washington Post*, wove a colorful tapestry of his career in journalism, radio, and television. Bob educated the audience about becoming the first hire of Ben Bradlee, Executive Editor of *The Washington Post*, and working during the paper's golden days. He also talked about his post-career interests, including writing fiction. It did not take long for Bob to win over the audience! Not only was he entertaining and informative, he also addressed a slew of questions about his career, his new novel (*Larry Felder, Candidate*), and whether or not he believes the future of news will be reported based on facts, opinions, or fake news.

Fun at the farm: June 12 was a great day for a SPARKLE picnic at Koiner Farm! The day was bright, sunny, and inviting, as members of Silver Spring Village, Silver Spring Town Center, Inc., and other residents of the surrounding community visited the Koiner Farm. This urban farm, quietly tucked away near downtown Silver Spring, has become an historic landmark. It is now managed and maintained by the Charles Koiner Center for Urban Farming, a local land trust. Kate Medina, co-founder of the Center, and farm owner Lynn Koiner joined the visitors to talk about the history of the farm. Lynn's father, the late Charlie Koiner, had been farming his one-acre plot near downtown Silver Spring for more than 40 years before he passed away this past January at age 98. Those unfamiliar with the Koiner Farm learned a lot from the stories about Charlie and the farm. They also learned about the Center's mission to "manage and preserve urban farms that inspire the next generation of sustainable food innovators through hands-on, farm-based education." If you want to experience hands-on farming education or wish to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables, visit Koiner Farm. For more information, please see the website <https://www.ckcfarming.org/>.



Ideas for the fall: Monthly SPARKLE events will resume in September 2019. If you have any suggestions for future events, please submit them to the Executive Director and volunteer SPARKLE Coordinator via info@silverspringvillage.org.

Hail and Farewell: Changes to the Board

The Village's Board of Directors is listed at left as of July 1. Congratulations to our three new Board members: Katherine Anderson, Cheryl Gardner, and Connie Raab. We thank Sue Decker and Anne McHenry for serving as treasurer and vice president, respectively. We are also grateful for the work of Gary Klauber and Darren Vieira as they end their service on the Board (but not their involvement with the Village).

Member Profile: Reemberto Rodriguez

Reemberto Rodriguez is the Director for Silver Spring Regional Area. As one of the five regional service directors in the County, he oversees policy development and the delivery of public services in Silver Spring. Reemberto, who was appointed to this position in 2009, directs operations at the Civic Building and works closely with residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and faith communities in the area to help represent local priorities and create a thriving and inclusive Silver Spring.



Reemberto Rodriguez—photo from Inside MC, Montgomery College

Although Reemberto holds a mighty impressive title, when you speak with him, it is evident that this is a man who is interested in hearing the stories of the people and making this a more cohesive community.

Reemberto and his wife are members of the Village. He has been a booster of our mission since the Village's inception. In fact, he remembers early kitchen meetings as we were striving to become a reality. The Village concept was already up and running elsewhere, such as in Chevy Chase, but the founding vision of our Village was to reach out to an entire zip code, instead of limiting ourselves to a town. Reemberto loved this wider concept and decided to do whatever he could to help.

Reemberto is originally from Cuba where he lived quite near the Bay of Pigs. He and his family moved here from Atlanta and have lived in our area for the past 15 years.

Reemberto is aware that life must encompass more than a 7-day-a-week work schedule, but for him the line blurs between life and labor. He loves what he does and finds people's stories endlessly interesting. He enjoys photography. He is also passionate about all things Cuban. This is a man who has not forgotten his origins.

Members Recognized for Public Service

The local nonprofit Montgomery County Civic Federation recently recognized the Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee, including three Village members. The "Civic Fed" recognized the committee "for their work for racial reconciliation and preservation of elements of this historic bridge to educate future generations about segregation in Montgomery County's history." County Executive Marc Elrich (at the podium) presented the award June 13. Members Charlotte Coffield,



Joel Teitelbaum, and Patricia Tyson are (from left) fourth, sixth, and seventh in this picture.

Photo by Wendy Brown.

A Village of Many Talents

The Village recently held its first Performing Talent Salon, conceived and led by member Jeanne Adams. Chuck and Denise Sherer opened their home for this event and Lynne Ebner provided a table full of nibbles. Once the show started, enthusiastic applause greeted each performer. Our master of ceremonies, Cecilia de Kanga, deftly introduced each act. We heard a quartet consisting of Minnedore Green, Lynne Ebner, Rick Foucheux, and Peggy Gervasi (shown below), and soloists Lois McBride and Minnedore Green. Lois and Greg McBride read original poems and Claire Maklan read a favorite of the poetry group. Lynne Ebner and Carol Lite told humorous personal stories. Jay Elvove played guitar and sang. And, finally, Rick Foucheux and Jeanne Adams performed monologues. The event was a huge success on all fronts! Members: Don't worry if you missed it, we are already planning another!



Four singers—photo by Claire Maklan

Events Sampler

Several dozen events were held this past two months, indoors and out. Above: members puzzling over...a puzzle.



Photo by Janet Swope

Dozens of members got together to swap plants, seeds, fertilizer, tools, and gardening ideas and hints. Girl Scouts from Troop 497 were grateful to be able to gather small plants for their "Silver Award" project involving assisted living and other care facilities here in 20910.



Girl Scouts explaining their house plant project—photo by Mae Novak

The Village has nearly 20 member-led interest groups. The newest is a Friday night monthly Performing Arts Salon to view and discuss DVDs over dessert and coffee. Another will visit gardens, discuss gardening tips, and share plants.

Live in Silver Spring? Seeking friends and fun? Want to be part of a thriving community older adults? The Village is available to you via membership, volunteer, and donor opportunities. Go to our website (below) or give us a call to find out all about it.

Upcoming Community Events

The Village calendar of events includes something for everyone almost every day—educational talks, social gatherings, discussion groups, walks, and almost 20 interest groups. While many are for members only, the events listed below are also open to the public. Join us! To see the full calendar of events, go to our website, www.silverspringvillage.org. (Members can login to see full details.)

- Thursday, July 11, 2 pm — **Afternoon Book Group**. Join us to discuss *Speak No Evil*, author Uzodinma Iweala's prize-winning novel, which focuses on 18-year-old Niru, the child of affluent Nigerians living in a suburb of Washington, D.C., as he goes through the difficult process of coming out to his conservative immigrant parents. At the Silver Spring Library.
- Thursday, July 25, 11:45 am — **Techno Club**. Participants help each other improve, learn, practice, and expand their use and knowledge of smart phones, tablets, and laptop computers. At the Coffield Recreation Center.
- Thursday, August 8, 2 pm — **Afternoon Book Group**. At the August meeting, we will discuss *The Sympathizer*, the best-selling debut novel by Viet Thanh Nguyen. This historical spy novel is a first-person narrative of an unnamed half-French, half-Vietnamese, conflicted communist agent during the fall of Saigon and his subsequent life, first in refugee camps and later in the United States. At the Silver Spring Library.
- Thursday, August 22, 11:30 am — **Techno Club**. See July 25. At the Coffield Recreation Center.

Silver Spring Village is "One of the Best Nonprofits"

We are very proud to announce that the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington has selected Silver Spring Village for inclusion in its class of "best nonprofits" for 2019-20. The Catalogue is the region's only locally focused guide to giving and volunteering. Its highly competitive selection process considers the needs each organization addresses, the quality of its programs to meet those needs, its leadership and staffing, and evidence of its impact. In addition, a team of financial reviewers from a local accounting firm assesses each organization's financial soundness.

According to Matt Gayer, Director of Community and Nonprofit Development at the Catalogue for Philanthropy, "People want to get involved in their community—they want to make a difference, close to home. Based on our rigorous review process, we believe that Silver Spring Village is one of the best community-based nonprofits in the region."

Village President Peggy Gervasi said, "I am thrilled that our hard work for seniors in the Silver Spring community has been recognized. The Catalogue believes in the power of small nonprofits to spark big change. And they believe Silver Spring Village will continue to further positive change, working each day to lift up, strengthen, and enrich our local community."

Donors can be confident that Silver Spring Village is worthy of support and assured that their gift will be used every day to enrich our community. Thank you to all of our supporters and to the Catalogue for recognizing our role in enriching the lives of seniors in Silver Spring.

Are You Ready for REAL ID?

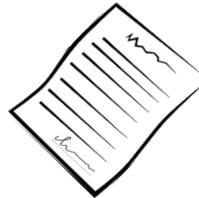
REAL ID is almost here! Do you know what that even means? REAL ID is a federal law that was enacted in 2005 in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. This law establishes new security requirements for state driver's licenses and identification cards. About a year from now—after October 1, 2020—everyone who wants to take a commercial airline for a domestic flight or who wants to enter a federal government building will have to have a driver's license or personal identification card that complies with these new requirements.

In order to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, you need to personally go to a branch of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. You cannot do this online. You need to show the MVA three types of documents. (You do not have to give them copies; you just need to show the documents to them.) The documents required are:

1. One proof of age and identity (such as your official birth certificate or passport)
2. One proof of social security (such as your original social security card or a W-2 form or SS-1099 form with all nine digits showing)
3. Two proofs of Maryland residency (such as utility bills or bank account statements sent to your Maryland address)

For residents age 65 or older who do not have a passport and cannot find a copy of their birth certificate, there are some special exceptions. For example, such residents can bring a copy of a Social Security Benefits statement and one of the following: a hospital birth certificate, a baptismal certificate, a U.S. Census Record of Birth, or a Veteran ID card. Or you can go to <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/> for information on how to obtain a copy of your official birth certificate.

If you have already presented the required documents to the MVA, you probably already have a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card. To check to see if your documents are compliant, you can go to www.mva.maryland.gov/realidlookup. For more information on REAL ID, go to <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/realid/real-id-toolkit.htm>. There is also a helpful fact sheet for seniors at <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/resources/docs/drivers/REAL%20ID%20Senior%20Fact%20Sheet%203%202019%20CN%20FINAL.pdf>.



Thank you to the following contributors to this issue:

- Leon Thornton (SPARKLE)
- Sandy Morris (member profile)
- Cynna Janus (new interest groups)
- Jeanne Adams (talent show and Shakespeare reading)
- Claire Maklan (One of the Best)

Did You Know . . . ?

If you join the Village and your disability prevents you from using rides provided by our volunteers, you can receive up to \$50 a month to cover your other transportation costs.

Shakespeare's Words

We give back to the community and often have a great time doing it.

In May, member Jeanne Adams participated in a Shakespeare reading, raising \$721 for Silver Spring Stage. She said, "I was able to read Henry's grateful victory speeches, the opening witch scene of Macbeth, and the scene with Lady Macbeth/Macbeth wherein they discuss killing Duncan. Oh! And I also got to fall in love with an ass!" Below: the witches of *Macbeth*.



"Double, double, toil and trouble/ Fire burn and cauldron bubble"—lines from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, photo by Patrick Ebner



Member and volunteer roll and stroll—photo by Debbie Billet-Roumell

Celebrating Volunteers

The Village recently held an enthusiastic celebration of our volunteers by holding a late afternoon party at El Golfo Restaurant. Peggy Gervasi, President, welcomed the group. After inviting them to enjoy quesadillas and pupusas, Village Executive Director Debbie Billet-Roumell began with a quote from an adult child of a long-time member, who said “Village volunteers are beyond amazing” and a “comforting, incredibly important lifesaving operation.”

Vanessa Ripps, Director of Volunteer Services, introduced volunteers who spoke about the joys of providing different types of support. Anne Gavin described friendly visits and calls (see page 5, lower right, for a visit that turned into a walk). Katherine Anderson talked about providing rides and how much she learned from members. Debbie Gilbert described bringing meals to a member. Eric Wiemann talked about providing handy man and other home services and the great conversations he has had. Connie Raab ended the program by encouraging volunteers to think about friends and neighbors who might also enjoy volunteering.

Interested? Contact us.



Volunteer Spotlight: Cynna Janus

Cynna Janus retired in 2011 from a long, varied career working in several fields of interest and was looking for something meaningful to do with her newly acquired spare time. She learned about Silver Spring Village early in the Village’s development stages from her friend the late Roberta Gosier, “founding mother” of the Village, and decided to help make the Village a reality. She became one of the founding members.



Cynna Janus—photo by Kathleen Reedy

After the Village started operations, Cynna also began volunteering, providing innumerable valuable services to Village members. She was the first Village coordinator of the SPARKLE program, which she and Lisa Martin from Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. managed for three years. Over the last four years, she has organized and led as many as four concurrent monthly “Getting to Know You” groups and plans annual gatherings of the groups’ alumni. Cynna hosts patio parties, facilitates small group discussions about performing arts, gives garden talks, and hosts the weekly Village canasta group. Cynna also has led outreach efforts, planning coffees to introduce new people to the Village. Currently she is helping with documentation for the Village’s data management system. This, however, is not all the volunteering that Cynna does for the Village. She also gives members rides, answers the Village phone, and pitches in however and wherever needed.

Cynna, thank you for all that you do for Silver Spring Village.

—Vanessa Ripps

A member says

☞ *“I love Silver Spring Village. I have SO many new friends and my schedule is FULL of many fun activities. Our SSV is just the Rx that my doctor prescribed, and it has only GOOD side effects.”*

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. To contribute by credit card, please visit the [donations page](#) on the Village website. If you would like information about how to leave a legacy gift, please contact Sue Decker at (301) 503-7401.

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