

## Silver Spring Village



# Village Vibe

January/February 2017  
Volume 4, No. 1

## As We See It: Our Amazing Board

The 11 members of our board of directors each dedicate, on average, 10 hours a week to operating the Village. In addition to oversight duties, they are involved with everything from developing the calendar of events, to managing finances, developing budgets, meeting with prospective members, starting new interest groups, reviewing grant proposals, developing and analyzing member surveys, hosting events, and developing Village communications. Most board members also provide direct services to members—friendly visits, transportation, household repairs, and more.



Working together—photo by Debbie Billet-Roumell

Their generosity doesn't stop there: They donated over \$6,000 in 2016 to make sure Silver Spring Village is robust and will be here to serve our community long into the future.

What drives our board members? What makes them commit so much time and energy to the Village? Most are inspired by their own parents and grandparents, who either had a Village-like circle of friends and family to support them in their later years, or who did not have such a support network and would have benefitted from an organization like the Village. Some board members have retired from careers spent serving older adults, either directly or through public policy and research organizations. One board member quipped that he joined the board to “make Silver Spring great again.”

Whatever motivates board members, we are extremely grateful for their commitment and their contributions of time, talent, and treasure. Board members are listed on page 2; see page 4 for reflections by a board member.

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

### THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

The preliminary results of our 2016 annual appeal are fantastic! So far, more than 90 members, volunteers, family, and friends have contributed, for a total of \$21,500, which includes a substantial \$3,000 challenge match! We made the match and doubled last year's proceeds. Your generosity will allow us to improve our services and programs and better serve our community.

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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 December

- Members: 151 (69 full, 82 associate)
- Volunteers: 95

### Volunteer hours

- October: 886
- November: 846

### Volunteer help in Oct./Nov.

- 62 rides
- 88 friendly calls and visits
- 50 home assistance requests filled, including short-term pet care, organizing, meal preparation, help with transfer chair, recycling, running errands, paperwork
- Office telephone crew: 234 hours

## Silver Spring Village, Inc.

### Board of Directors

Peggy Gervasi, *President*  
 Claire Maklan, *Vice President*  
 Tony Sarmiento, *Secretary*  
 Darren Vieira, *Treasurer*  
 Martine Brizius  
 Sue Decker  
 Leslie Hansley  
 Gary Klauber  
 Anne McHenry  
 Vern McLendon  
 Mary Ann Zimmerman

### Executive Director

Debbie Billet-Roumell

### Program Administrator

Vanessa Ripps

### Committee Chairs

Board Development—Tony Sarmiento  
 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal  
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman  
 Finance—Darren Vieira  
 Membership—Anne McHenry  
 Programs—Gary Klauber  
 Volunteer Services—Vanessa Ripps

### Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

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

## What Are Your Interests?

Village members have lots of opportunities to come together for social events. After all, being social is both fun and good for your health. We urge members to follow their interests, and sometimes to be daring and try something new. Small groups of members get together on a regular basis—weekly, biweekly, or monthly—for favorite activities. This includes current events discussions, chess, Scrabble, bridge, poker, book group, film lovers, “foodies,” and three “getting to know you” groups. In addition, a new indoor walking group is getting started in January, and a knitting group is on the horizon. Most events appear on our calendar; however, some, like watching a film at the AFI, may be set up on short notice via the member listserv.



Learning when to hold 'em, when to fold 'em—  
 photo by Elzmarie Eckert



Plotting a move—photo by Claire Maklan

Interest groups are energized by members who are especially interested in a topic, but most groups have no fixed membership so participation is always open. “Open” groups include foodies, film lovers, Scrabble, the afternoon book group (in collaboration with the Silver Spring Library), and current events discussions. Interested individuals for groups that have size constraints (e.g., bridge, chess, poker, and getting to know you) should call the Village and will be contacted when there are enough Villagers wanting to form a new group. Nonmembers are welcome to try an interest group one time before joining the group and joining the Village. A new bridge group may form if there is interest.

Of course, we want all our activities to address members’ interests. That’s why we’re always eager for your feedback and suggestions! For information about events, to RSVP, or to offer suggestions, contact us at (301) 503-7401 or [programs@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:programs@silverspringvillage.org). Most events are just for our members, but some are open to the public (see the events calendar on page 3 for information). Nonmembers who want to go to an event or interest group to “try out” the Village should contact Debbie Billet-Roumell at (240) 200-4290 or [executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org).



Finding a surprise prize at  
 our recent swap meet—  
 photo by Claire Maklan

## Upcoming Events: Safety, Hope, Poetry, Purpose

- *ABCs of Staying Safe Online and on the Telephone.* Erin Byrne of TechMoxie will discuss common scams and how to avoid them. SPARKLE program, Wed., Jan. 11, 2:00 pm, Silver Spring Civic Building. Open to the public.
- *Refuge in Hell: How Berlin’s Jewish Hospital Outlasted the Nazis.* Daniel Silver will discuss his book by this name. Tues., Jan. 31, 2-3:30 pm, Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce offices.
- *Poetry Adventure.* Poet JoAnne Growney asks people to bring a favorite poem plus pen and paper. The group will read aloud and do some writing. SPARKLE program, Wed., Feb. 8, 2 pm, Civic Building. Open to the public.
- *Finding Purpose and Passion at Every Age and Stage.* Author and speaker Iris Krasnow will discuss her extensive interviews with people about what matters most in their lives. Thurs., Feb. 16, 2 pm, Easter Seals center.

To RSVP, contact us at [programs@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:programs@silverspringvillage.org) or (301) 503-7401.

## Holiday Celebration

About sixty new and “old” Village members had a fine time at our holiday party on December 11th. In addition to an amazing pot luck buffet, everyone enjoyed the music of the Steve Abshire Jazz Quartet, which was provided at no cost to the Village thanks to Washington Performing Arts' "Enriching Experiences Program.”



Enjoying great music and each others' company—photo by Claire Maklan

This event was a great opportunity for members to catch up with old friends and to make some new ones.

## 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 [donation 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!

### Members say

☞ “Thank you so much for a great visit this morning. You always accomplish so much and make it fun (for me).”

☞ “Thank you for all you did today.... especially the cheering up part”

## Events Calendar

Check our website for any changes.  
\*Open to the public.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Scrabble**, every Monday (except Jan. 2, 16; Feb. 13), **Parkway Deli**, 3-5 pm  
**Beginner's Chess**, every Wednesday, **Kefa Café**, 2-4 pm  
**Poker Dawgs**, Jan. 17, 31; Feb. 14, 28, at members' homes, 6-7:30 pm

### JANUARY

Sun., Jan. 1 – **Holiday Concert at Mormon Temple**, 6-8 pm\*  
 Thurs., Jan. 5 – Lunch plus **Mindfulness—What Is It?**, noon-2 pm  
 Fri., Jan. 6 – **Current Events Discussion, iStar Coffee**, 2-3:30 pm  
 Wed., Jan. 11 – **ABCs of Staying Safe Online and on the Telephone, SPARKLE** program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm, followed by **Happy Hour at Not Your Average Joe's**, 3:30-5 pm\*  
 Thurs., Jan. 12 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*: by Michael Lewis), 2-3:30 pm\*  
 Mon. Jan. 16 – **Tech Help from Teens**, Silver Spring Civic Bldg., 10 am-noon  
 Tues., Jan. 17 – **Coffee Social at Kaldi's Social House**, 2-3:30 pm  
 Fri., Jan. 20 – **Dinner, Cubano's**, 6 pm  
 Thurs., Jan. 26 – **Tour of Ratner Museum**, followed by lunch, 11 am-2:30 pm  
 Tues., Jan. 31 – **Author Daniel Silver on Refuge in Hell: How Berlin's Jewish Hospital Outlasted the Nazis**, 2-3:30 pm, Chamber of Commerce offices

### FEBRUARY

Fri., Feb. 3 – **Art Exhibition: La Vie en Bleu**, Strathmore Mansion, 11 am; **lunch after at Far East Restaurant**  
 Wed., Feb. 8 – **Poetry Adventure, SPARKLE** program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm, followed by **Happy Hour at Not Your Average Joe's**, 3:30-5 pm\*  
 Thurs., Feb. 9 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*The Light Between the Oceans* by M.L. Stedman), 2-3:30 pm\*  
 Fri., Feb. 10 – **Current Events Discussion, iStar Coffee**, 2-3:30 pm  
 Sat., Feb. 11 – **Fireside Social**, 4 pm  
 Mon., Feb. 13 – **National video simulcast**. Dr. Atul Gawande discusses the value of community and choice as we grow older, Silver Spring Library, 4 pm\*  
 Thurs., Feb. 16 – **Finding Purpose and Passion at Every Age and Stage**, Easter Seals center, 2 pm then coffee at **iStar Coffee**, 3:15  
 Sat., Feb. 25 – **Dinner at La Malinche**, 5:30 pm

## What Volunteers Do for Members

- Drive them to appointments, events, etc.
- Grocery shop
- Run errands
- Help with light house cleaning
- Make friendly calls and visits
- Help with paperwork
- Assist with organizing and decluttering
- Weed or water plants
- Make small household repairs
- Move things
- Decorate for holidays
- Provide short-term pet care
- Help with technology

## Book Group Update

The group recently hosted Kensington author Con Lehane. We had read Lehane's *Murder at the 42d Street Library*, which provides rich and vivid detail about New York's famous research library and captured this reader's attention with its quick pace. We also heard about the author's approach to characterization and story line, and were entertained by his description of the back-and-forth dynamic between author and publisher/agent regarding what sells. He also shared that his characters often arise from an actual acquaintance, a technique that may explain the vividness of the story line. Our monthly reading adventure is open to all and held on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm in the Silver Spring Library. We welcome your input.

—Carolyn Lauer

## Volunteer Corner: So Much Good To Do

As you can see from this newsletter, Silver Spring Village is having a growth spurt! Our program offerings are filled with variety, the number of interest groups has risen, new services are being offered, and we have had a surge in new members to 151 (with 69 full service). What does this mean? More opportunities for our volunteers to serve!

Right now we have 95 trained volunteers; more are always welcome. As listed on the left, there are multiple ways volunteers help Village members. We offer training to new volunteers, specialized training, and refresher training. We can also pair new or less active volunteers with active volunteers to see how they help people or try out something new. Current volunteers, as well as those interested in volunteering, can call the Village office at (301) 503-7401. (This is also the phone number for members to request services and others to ask questions about the Village.) Many thanks and a happy and healthy new year to all.



## Board Member Reflections



Photo by Claire Maklan

*I wanted to do something different from the career I had retired from. At the same time my parents were getting sickly, but had fantastic support from friends and family in Jamaica. Other people there lack this support. I am happy to be involved in the Village, a very well-run organization. I like social activities, I volunteer with Gary on the program committee, I have made some good friends, and I love Silver Spring. My sister has started a Village-like organization in Jamaica.*

—Leslie Hansley

**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 [donation page](#) on the Village website.

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