

Silver Spring Village



Village Vibe

July/August 2022
Volume 9, Number 4

Leadership View: Summer, Survey, New Fiscal Year

I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and the opportunity to meet outside and in person. I'm personally looking forward to seeing more of you as well as attending several family reunions after a two-year hiatus.

Members: Please look for the annual member survey in your email (or, for some of you, regular mail) in July and take a few minutes to complete it. This is your Village, so your input is very important. One member benefit I especially like is the Village chat room (our listserv) because I learn about other resources and events. Another thing that makes our Village special is that members take the initiative to run interest groups and get together (see photo). Thank you! If you ever want to share one of your interests, just give staff a call and they'll guide you on starting a group or hosting an event.

At our June meeting, the Village Board approved the budget for the new fiscal year (begins July 1) with the hope that we can reinstate some of our pre-pandemic large in-person events, including a fall picnic and winter holiday party. We also elected officers and welcomed new Board members Laurie Ekstrand and Beverly Lunsford. Laurie is a former senior executive with the Government Accountability Office with extensive skills in research, analysis, and communication. Beverly is a retired nurse, most recently serving on the faculty of George Washington University and as Director of the GW Center for Aging, Health, and Humanities.

Our new officers are myself as President, Cheryl Gardner as Vice President, Katherine Anderson as Treasurer, and Connie Raab as Secretary. The Board also celebrated our outgoing President, Connie Raab, who led the Board through the difficult pandemic years with passion and grace, and Carolyn Lauer who served as Secretary and initiated several programs. I hope you will join me in thanking these folks for their dedication to the Village.



—Sue Decker, President

The Friday lunch group at the Squirrel Shack of Sligo golf course—Jane Newhagen, front, right, runs the group and got the picture taken

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Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit membership organization started in 2013 that helps our members to stay engaged in their community and continue to live at home with support from neighbors and friends.

Village Stats

Totals as of end of June

- Members: 249 (106 full, 143 associate)
- Volunteers: 120

Volunteer hours

- April: 498
- May: 548

Volunteer help April/May

- 157 one-way rides
- 108 friendly calls and visits
- 24 sessions of tech help
- 74 household assistance

Events

- April: 70
- May: 66

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Doug Gaddis, *Executive Director*

Vanessa Ripps, *Director of Volunteer Services*

Will Tiwari, *Operations Manager*

Board of Directors—as of July 1, 2022

Sue Decker, *President*

Cheryl Gardner, *Vice President*

Katherine Anderson, *Treasurer*

Connie Raab, *Secretary*

Laurie Ekstrand

Jim Gormally

Dion Hamilton

Carolyn Lauer

Beverly Lunsford

Gail McDonald

Joe Reinhard

Darren Vieira

Jacqueline Wallen

Committee Chairs

Finance—Katherine Anderson

Governance—Martine Brizius

Membership—Claire Maklan

Programs—Gary Klauber

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Event Sampler: Getting Out and About Again

The Village continues a busy social schedule of roughly 70 events a month to choose from! Some continue to be lively Zoom interactions. Some are “hybrids,” that is, a combination of people in the room and on Zoom. We do hold in-person events outside, like the monthly lunch featured in the photo on page 1, an early June blues picnic, and the weekly walk in Sligo Creek Park. We are carefully resuming in-door, in-person events as well and, when necessary, continuing to mask up. No matter how we get together, there are many fun, friendly events for Village members to choose from. Some examples follow.



Jonny Grave—photo by Beverly Moss

In early June, we gathered on a sunny afternoon at the Koiner Farm for the last SPARKLE event of the season and the first event of the 2022 Silver Spring Blues Week. The performer was Jonny Grave, a guitarist, songwriter, singer, bandleader, teacher, musical historian, and photojournalist from Washington, D.C.

Our own creativity shows up in many forms. For example, in April we had a Playwrights Present evening, at which Villagers performed scenes from original works written by members of our playwriting group: Rick Foucheux, Tom Diaz, Bill Schauman, and Jeanne Adams. The group's next presentation will be in August.

In mid-June, jewelry lovers gathered to swap jewelry pieces, repair broken ones, and get some tips on making something new and stunning! Hosted by Lynne Ebner and Jeanne Adams, we were fortunate to have the added expertise of Cecilia de Kanga and Beverly Moss. Both did repairs and instilled joy in the happy recipients. Additionally, we had many nice pieces left over to donate to Wider Circle. We will be holding more jewelry events in the future!



Fun, beads, and more—photo by Jeanne Adams

We also love to go out and enjoy each other's company as well as local cuisine, either regularly or on a one-time basis. For example, every Friday Jane Newhagen arranges for Villagers to gather at the Squirrel Shack at Sligo Golf Course for an outdoor lunch. Once a month we celebrate birthdays at one of four local ice cream shops. And recently Leslie Hansley organized a nice evening out at the new J. Hollinger's Waterman's Chophouse in downtown Silver Spring.



Food and friends at J. Hollinger's—photo courtesy of Leslie Hansley

Don't get out much?
Join us!

Book Group 2022-23: A List, an Invitation

Please join us for the Silver Spring Book Group, jointly sponsored by Silver Spring Village and the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee (Silver Spring) Library for adults who love books! We enjoy thought-provoking discussions that delve more deeply into our readings. The group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 3:00-4:30 and is open to Village members, other library patrons, and members of the public. We currently meet on Zoom but are working closely with our librarian to return to meeting at the library as soon as possible. Please contact Sarah Letnes at sletnes@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.



The book schedule for the next twelve months is:

- **July 18: “Homegoing” by Yaa Gyasi**—Two half-sisters are born into two different tribal villages in 18th century Ghana. One is married off to an Englishman, while the other is sold into slavery in the United States. This award-winning book follows the descendants of these two women over the next 200 years.
- **August 11: “Nine Nasty Words: English in the Gutter, Then, Now, and Forever” by John McWhorter**—A preeminent linguist examines the evolution of some of the most notorious profanities in English and discusses what gives these taboo words such power.
- **September 8: “What’s Mine and Yours” by Naima Coster**—This multigenerational story features two single mothers in North Carolina who are trying to ensure a better life for their children. A busing initiative to integrate the schools causes their lives to collide in ways that neither mother is prepared for.
- **October 13: “She Come by It Natural: Dolly Parton” by Sarah Smarsh**—This tribute is an in-depth examination into gender and class as viewed through the life of a beloved country singer whose songs embody feminism for working class women.
- **November 10: “The Sentence” by Louise Erdrich**—The Pulitzer Prize winning writer’s latest novel is a ghost story set in a Native American bookstore in a Minneapolis dealing with both the pandemic and the murder of local resident George Floyd.
- **December 8: “Bookshop on the Corner” by Jenny Colgan**—The main character in this book is a down-sized librarian determined to make a new life for herself by starting over with a bookmobile. This novel celebrates the power of books to bring people together.
- **January 12: “Five-Carat Soul” by James McBride**—This collection of stories by an award-winning author was described by the New York Times as a “set of brilliant miniatures” that explore the ways we learn from the world and the people around us.
- **February 9: “The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared” by Jonas Jonasson**—On his 100th birthday, Allan Karlsson escapes his nursing home and embarks on a funny and unexpected journey.

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Continued from left

- **March 9: “A Woman of No Importance” by Sonia Purnell**—This is the the story of Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite whom the Gestapo considered to be “the most dangerous of all Allied spies.”
- **April 13: “When All Is Said” by Anne Griffin**—At the bar of a grand hotel in a small Irish town, 84-year-old Maurice Hannigan makes a toast to each of five key people in his life.
- **May 11: “The Bookish Life of Nina Hill” by Abbi Waxman**. A bookworm with a happy and well-organized life, she converses with her cat and uses her competitive trivia skills. However, events force her out of her comfortable shell.
- **June 15: “The Parable of the Talents” by Octavia Butler**—This 1998 novel, set in a futuristic America, has had a resurgence recently because of its many plot elements that seem to have predicted our current circumstances, including the election of an ultraconservative president who vows to “make America great again.”



Summer Vignettes

Tuesday, June 7, was a very special day for our Village. Our first large in-person meeting since COVID was a screening of three 6- to 9-minute films featuring true stories by Village members Rick Foucheux, Pat Tyson, and Bill Schauman. These vignettes are the product of an intergenerational collaboration between the Village, students from Montgomery Blair High School, and Docs In Progress, a nonprofit organization based in Silver Spring that supports documentary film-makers. The three vignettes offered fascinating samples of Villagers' varied personal histories.

The screening was well-attended and enthusiastically received by an audience that included Village members and supportive parents of the Blair students. Also in attendance were the Blair instructor who advised the students, George Mayo, and the Board President of Docs in Progress, Barbara Valentino. The students who created the vignettes each received a certificate of recognition from the Village.

After the screening, Leslie Hansley supplied the appreciative audience with drinks and snacks. It was a fine way to spend a warm summer evening.

You can watch all three of these documentaries on the Village YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/ssvillage-youtube>

Making Things for Members in Need

For a few years, the Village interest group, Stitchers for Good, has knitted, crocheted, and sewed blankets, hats, and other items to donate to local charitable organizations. Now, group members are extending their generosity and talents to make things for Village members (both full and associate) and their immediate families.

Items that the Stitchers can make for members include:

- Comfort or chemo caps of soft fabric or yarn for those with hair loss following chemo treatment or those who get a cold head at night.
- Walker caddies that attach to a walker and that can carry small personal items such as cell phones, keys, medications, glasses, etc.
- Kindness baskets that include a selection of comfort items (e.g., teabags, books including game books, handmade bath scrubbers, chocolate, lotion) for someone coming home from a hospital or rehab stay or otherwise facing some of life's challenges.
- Fidget sleeves/fidget lap blankets that provide tactile stimulation (buttons, sewn-on zippers, elastic, beads, etc.) for members or their loved ones with dementia who become easily agitated.



All items are made to order, using Stitchers' own personal stashes of supplies, and can usually be completed in a couple of weeks or less.

If you are a Village member and are interested in any of these items (either for yourself or for someone in your household), please contact Connie Raab at raabcd@gmail.com or Penny Passikoff at ppassikoff@gmail.com or the Director of Volunteer Services, Vanessa Ripps at vanessa.ripps@silverspringvillage.org

Photos by Penny Passikoff and Connie Raab (items by Penny Passikoff, Connie Raab, and Cecilia de Kanga)

Health Equipment Library

As yet another example of how our members help each other out, one has established a medical equipment lending "library." It includes a variety of walkers, canes, shower seats, etc. to lend to Villagers who need them. A member recently donated two wheelchairs to the library as well—one lightweight and one more standard.

Members can contact Laurie Ekstrand at ekstrand99@gmail.com or (301) 346-3693 to borrow something. Says Laurie "Here's hoping that we all stay healthy and strong, and these things spend a long and lonely life in my garage."

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue, including Sandy Morris (draft of the vignettes article). Clip art in this issue is courtesy of [Creative Commons.org](https://creativecommons.org/).



Things to Know: Planning Tips for the Great Beyond

This is the beginning of a series of helpful tips on planning ahead for your future. Please note this information does not substitute for advice from a lawyer or financial advisor. We know this topic can be uncomfortable but hope that providing a few tips at a time will be beneficial.

The following items can be very helpful to take care of before you or your partner leave the planet (or before one of you becomes incapacitated).

- If you and your partner jointly use a credit card, find out who was the original applicant for that card. If the original applicant dies, the credit card dies as well (that is, as soon as the card company finds out that the person has died). It is therefore a good idea for each partner to have a card in their own name so that a survivor is not left without a credit card at all.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of passwords and make sure your heirs have access to that list. For example, if you have them on a password manager on your computer make sure the appropriate person(s) know the password to get into that file. (This advice is from the book "In Case You Get Hit by a Bus," by Abby Schneiderman and Adam Seifer.)
- Banks have a form that you can fill out to allow an heir immediate access to your accounts after you die. This could allow the designated heir to have access to money to pay immediate expenses before other aspects of the estate are settled. This arrangement goes by the catchy name of "pay-on-death account."

If you have suggestions for this series, please email member Laurie Ekstrand, the keeper of the "things to know" tips, at ekstrand99@gmail.com

Have an Extra Set of Wheels?



You can now support the Village by donating your used car, truck, motorcycle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle to the Village. Proceeds from your donated vehicle will support the Village's work to provide volunteer services; arrange social, educational, recreational, and cultural events; and so much more! You may even qualify for a tax deduction; ask your tax advisor about this.

There are four easy ways to donate your unwanted vehicle:

- Visit the Village's website at www.silverspringvillage.org and click on the "Support" menu tab and then the "Vehicle Donations" tab, and submit the online form.
- Fill out an online form at bit.ly/ssv-vehicle-donation.
- Call (855) 527-2232 to speak to a customer service agent. The call center is open Monday-Thursday 8 am-7 pm, Friday 8 am-5 pm, and Saturday 9 am-4 pm.
- Call the Village office at (240) 833-5580 for personalized help.

Membership Dues Increase

In May, the Village's Board of Directors approved an increase in Village membership dues, the first since we opened in the fall of 2013. The increase applies to memberships expiring on or after August 1, 2022, and to new memberships as of July 1. Members who are unsure of their renewal date can find that information in their member account on the Village website or can call the office for assistance.

The new membership rates are: Associate individual \$180, Full individual \$380, and Associate couple \$295, Full couple \$495.

As before, reduced cost memberships (*Full* - \$60, *Associate* - \$25) are available for individuals who qualify.

Give Membership a Try

The Village is recruiting new members in all parts of our service area—zip codes 20815 east of Rock Creek Park, 20901, 20902 east of Wheaton Regional Park ("Kemp Mill"), and 20910.

If you have a friend or neighbor who might be curious about Village life, please let them know about our trial membership program. Trial members get all the benefits of Associate Membership for three months with no upfront cost.

For information, contact Claire Maklan, via membership@silverspringvillage.org or (301) 588-5535.

Helping In and Out

Our volunteers have varied interests, and our members have varied needs for assistance. In two new initiatives, volunteers got special training for helping members inside and outside their homes.

Here is a member who's really pleased with the work of Village gardeners and another

delighted to have help with home organizing. Volunteers have fun, and members love it—this is a win/win! (Sign us up.)



Gardening photo by Rita Namoli
Organizing photo by Connie Raab

Silver Spring Village is a member of these organizations.



Introducing Our New Support Team Program

The mission of Silver Spring Village is to help our members age in place. Sometimes this entails help from our volunteers who provide services such as rides, friendly visits, grocery shopping, light household chores, etc.

And sometimes a member's need for assistance increases suddenly or dramatically because of a short-term or intermediate-term event, such as surgery or illness. Our new Support Team Program is designed to help address these special situations. Our goal is to have three to five experienced, trained volunteers serve as Support Coordinators who work closely with our Director of Volunteer Services and, if warranted in a given situation, build a support team.

If a support team is needed, the Support Coordinator works with the member to identify family members, neighbors, friends, and/or familiar Village volunteers whom they would like to have on their team. The team will provide needed services while the member's situation continues. The Support Coordinator also will be the point of contact between the member and the support team and any service providers from other organizations who may be assisting. The Support Coordinator will keep track of the member's service needs, coordinate with team members to make sure that requests are being fulfilled, and touch base with the member regularly to see how they are doing and to identify additional needs that Village volunteers can provide.

For more information about the Support Team Program contact Vanessa Ripps, Director of Volunteer Services, at (240)833-5584 or vanessa.ripps@silverspringvillage.org.

DONATE NOW—Help Silver Spring Village continue to provide programs and services that strengthen our community while helping neighbors age in place. Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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, 8700 Georgia Ave., Suite 306, Silver Spring MD 20910. 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 Doug Gaddis at (240) 833-5580.

Silver Spring Village, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Maryland corporation. You will receive no goods or services in exchange for this contribution, so it is tax-deductible as allowed by law. A copy of the organization's financial statements may be examined upon written request to Silver Spring Village, 8700 Georgia Ave., Suite 306, Silver Spring MD 20910. Documents required by the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available for the cost of copying and postage from the Secretary of State, 16 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 21061.