

Silver Spring Village



Village Vibe

January/February 2015
Volume 2, No. 1

President's View: Starting Strong

We are starting off the new year strong! We recently welcomed our 75th member and trained our 65th volunteer. Fully 97% of our original members renewed. In addition to writing two successful grant applications and acquiring our first corporate supporter (see the "Good news" story on page 4), in the last quarter of 2014, we raised \$6,300 from individuals (as of December 22) who recognize the importance of our work. Thanks to everyone who responded and to the volunteers who planned and managed our fall campaign.

And, thanks to our stronger financial position, the Board of Directors is now fully engaged in the very important and exciting process of hiring our first paid staff member—a part-time Executive Director. This individual will help us build stronger systems and community ties to support long-term sustainability and service. At press time, we are still meeting with some of the 50 skilled individuals who applied for this position. I look forward to introducing the new Executive Director in the next issue of this newsletter.

We're proud of our success in the past months, but by no means complacent. Our work is in front of us! Our goal is to enroll at least 25 more members by June. Please let us know if you can help!

—Claire Maklan

What the Village Does

Training volunteers to serve, providing social outings, helping out, the Village is here for its members.



Role-playing in volunteer training



Enjoying coffee at Kaldi's



Changing a high light bulb

Photos on this page 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 December

- Members: 75 (40 full, 35 associate)
- Volunteers: 65

Volunteer hours

- October: 1,090
- November: 904

Volunteer help Oct./Nov.

- 43 rides
- 80 friendly visits and check-ins
- 18 home-cooked meals delivered
- The office telephone crew put in 238 hours
- Other assistance: computer trouble-shooting, dog walking, yard work, recycling, minor home repairs and many hours carrying out our October anniversary.

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Board of Directors

Claire Maklan, *President*
 Peggy Gervasi, *Vice President*
 Mary Ann Zimmerman, *Secretary*
 Michele Frome, *Treasurer*
 Martine Brizius
 Roberta Gosier
 Gary Klauber
 Anne McHenry
 Mae Novak
 Jacqueline Wallen

Committee Chairs

Membership—Anne McHenry
 Member Benefits—Gary Klauber
 Volunteers—Mae Novak
 Service Providers—Shannah Koss
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Michele Frome
 Communications—Claire Maklan,
 Bruce Rosenthal

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Facebook Administrators

Terry Savage, Nora Onley

SPARKLE Representatives

Cynna Janus, Roberta Gosier

Events Sampler

Members enjoyed a wide range of activities recently. We ran the nutritional gamut this past couple of months, including a SPARKLE program on “Good Nutrition Through Easy Recipes and Simple Cooking” in November



(photo at right by Cynna Janus). In December, member Rosa Greher showed us how to make two traditional Hanukkah treats: latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganyot (jelly donuts—available on every street corner in Israel during Hanukkah) (photo at left by Claire Maklan).

Another SPARKLE program was on “Tapping into Your Dreams—Creating Your Bucket List.” Dr. Sheryl Brissett Chapman led the group in exercises designed to spur the imagination so participants could compile and prioritize what they want to do before they leave the planet (photo above right by Cynna Janus).



As part of a new series (see below), 14 Village members and potential members gathered for an afternoon of refreshments and a chance to watch together a legendary 1985 concert performance from Lincoln Center of Stephen Sondheim’s musical *Follies* (photo above by Peggy Gervasi). Village member and volunteer Cynna Janus, dance librarian, gave a lecture before the video explaining why it was a great performance and why *Follies* is a great musical.

There are lots of fun events on tap for the winter. See the latest events list on page 3 and on our website.

Series Celebrates Great Performances

On October 17, the Village began a series of member events entitled “Great Performances on Video.” Each afternoon session will feature a video of a major musical or dance performance, and a talk by Cynna Janus, former Library of Congress dance librarian who had been stationed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The first session featured Stephen Sondheim’s “Follies in Concert.” On December 19, the series continued with “The Nutcracker” ballet. Future talks and videos will be “La Boheme” on February 20, “The Leopard” on April 17, “Swan Lake” on June 19 and “Broadway’s Lost Treasures,” historic performances of great moments in American musical theater, on August 21.





Discussing the work of the Village at a local library—photo by Alan Bowser



Strolling in Sligo Creek Park—photo by Cynna Janus

Members say:

- ☞ *“Thank you for all you arrange for. It seems I continually need you and your volunteers’ help. It is hard living alone.”*
- ☞ *“[The volunteer driver] was so nice yesterday. The colonoscopy is another story.”*

How to . . .

...become a member: Residents throughout the 20910 zip code are eligible. All members can attend all 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 less than half of our operating expenses and are: Full: \$350/individual or \$450/couple; Associate: \$150/individual or \$250/couple.

...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. 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!

Visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage

Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

* *Must be member*

ONGOING EVENTS

Village Coffee Hour, every Wednesday in January at Kefa Café; every Wednesday in February at Kaldi’s Coffee Bar, 10-11 am

Walk in Sligo Creek Park, every Thursday in January (except January 1), weather permitting, 1 pm

JANUARY

Tues., Jan. 6—**Happy Hour at McGinty’s**, 4 pm*

Wed., Jan. 14—**Lunch at zpizza**, 12:30 pm*

Wed., Jan. 14—**“Getting Fit,” SPARKLE** program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm

Tues., Jan. 20—**Middle Eastern Lunch at Max’s Kosher Kitchen**, noon*

Sun., Jan. 25—**Souper Sunday**, with talk by Carol Keegan on how to communicate with your doctor, 1:30 pm*

FEBRUARY

Thurs., Feb. 5—**Current Events Discussion Group**, moderated by Robert Werner, 2-4 pm*

Sat., Feb. 7—**Tour of Silver Spring B&O Station**, followed by **Vietnamese Lunch at Lotus Café**, noon*

Wed., Feb. 11—**“Downsizing,” SPARKLE** program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm

Wed., Feb. 11—**Happy Hour at Copper Canyon Grill***

Tues., Feb. 17—**Fire Prevention and Safety Talk** at Silver Spring Fire Station One, 2-4 pm* (snow date Mon., Feb. 23)

Fri., Feb. 20—**“La Boheme,”** Great Performances on Video Series, 2-5pm*

Volunteer Corner: Snowflakes & Volunteers

What do snowflakes have in common? They all start off as moisture, are crystallized, fall on us and need to be shoveled or turned into a great snowman (or snow**person** as my 5-year-old granddaughter tells me!). How are they different? Despite recent research, I still adhere to what I originally learned in school or perhaps from my own grandma—every snowflake is different, unique.

What do a 19-year old student from Cameroon, a 50-year old business owner, and a septuagenarian retired educator have in common? They are all Silver Spring Village volunteers! How are they different? Outside of their ages and unique life experiences, they provide different volunteer support for the Village and its members—by serving as friendly visitors, drivers, committee members, phone answerers, errand-runners, and more.

As you read this, there may be no snowflakes outside, but Village volunteers are out at work or awaiting their next opportunity to serve. Interested in joining a team of great individuals? Contact us at volunteers@silverspringvillage.org, through the website at www.silverspringvillage.org, or by phone at (301) 503-7401.

—Mae Novak, Volunteer Coordinator



Good News to Build Upon

- Silver Spring Village is very happy to announce the award of a one-year \$10,000 grant from The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. This general support funding will be a great help to us in the coming year as we work to become stronger and sustainable. The Cafritz Foundation is committed to building a stronger community for residents of the Washington, DC area through support of programs in arts and humanities, community services, education, health and the environment. We are proud to have their support.
- In other good news, the funding request we submitted to the Montgomery County Executive's Community Collaboration Grants program was also successful. The one-year contract for \$10,000 signed in November will help pay for the consultant who will serve as our part-time Executive Director. Filling this position will enable us to further develop and implement systems and processes for managing and growing our Village.
- We are also happy to acknowledge our first major business supporter, United Therapeutics Corporation (Unither), whose international headquarters is located in downtown Silver Spring. Unither had already showed interest in our activities during our first year by providing in-kind support for special events. In November, they made a generous financial contribution of \$2,500.

It is gratifying that these organizations recognize the value of our work and our potential to do more. As we work to build capacity and our impact in the community, we hope others will follow their lead!

A volunteer says:

☞ *"Thanks for the updates. I continue to be BLOWN AWAY at the progress of this year."*

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 to Silver Spring Village, P.O. Box 8217, Silver Spring MD 20907.

If you would like to contribute by credit card, please visit our website at www.silverspringvillage.org. Silver Spring Village is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization and your contribution is tax-deductible as permitted by law.