

# Silver Spring Village



## Village Vibe

July/August 2018  
Volume 5, Number 4

### Leadership View: Five Years!

Last month, the Village held our annual member barbecue party at Meadowbrook Park Recreation Center in Rock Creek Park. In addition to meeting new friends and greeting old ones, we thanked Tony Sarmiento for his service as president during fiscal year 2018.

In his remarks, Tony noted that AARP had just named Silver Spring as number four of the top 10 small livable cities (population 25,000 to 99,999) for people of all ages. AARP rates livability using an index with seven categories: opportunity, engagement, health, housing, neighborhood, transportation, and the environment. For more information see the [AARP livability page](#) as well as the [full report](#).

Our Village is helping to make Silver Spring a great place to live, but we are committed to doing more. As a Village, what can we do to make Silver Spring even more age friendly for YOU and your family? Please send your ideas to [president@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:president@silverspringvillage.org).

As we close the books on *five years of service to the community*, look for a major anniversary celebration in September or October and smaller festivities throughout the year to recognize how far we've come and to ask for your ideas about the future.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to welcome Rosemary Hills resident Minnendore Green as a new member of the Village Board of Directors. Board members who were elected, with me, to our Executive Committee for Fiscal Year 2019 are: Vice President Anne McHenry, Secretary Leslie Hansley, and Treasurer Sue Decker. Thanks to all for your gifts of time and leadership.

—Peggy Gervasi, President, Fiscal Year 2019

### Milestone!

As of July 2, the Village is at 200 members!

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Finding possibilities at the annual plant swap—photo by Claire Maklan

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: 199 (89 full, 110 associate)
- Volunteers: 105

### Volunteer hours

- April 842
- May 780

### Volunteer help in April/May

- 191 rides
- 86 friendly calls and visits
- 52 requests filled, including errands, meals, medical note taking, technology help, de-cluttering, and organizing.
- Telephone crew hours: 258

\*Total as of July 2 is 200 (90 full, 110 associate)

*Note changes in our Board below, effective July 1, 2018.*

### Silver Spring Village, Inc.

#### Board of Directors

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

#### Executive Director

Debbie Billet-Roumell

#### Director of Volunteer Services

Vanessa Ripps

#### Committee Chairs

Development—  
 Mary Ann Zimmerman  
 Finance—Sue Decker  
 Membership—Claire Maklan  
 Programs—Gary Klauber

#### Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

## An African American History Lesson

On a pleasantly warm and brilliantly sunny May day, two vehicles of Villagers headed on a field trip to the African American Civil War Museum in the District of Columbia. This trip was an enthusiastic follow-on to a presentation the museum director, Frank Smith, gave to Village members this past February.

Through photographs, documents, artifacts, and volunteer re-enactors, the museum helps visitors understand the largely unknown role of soldiers who fought for their freedom from slavery during the Civil War. At the museum, Marquette Milton, a Civil War re-enactor, introduced Village members to the exhibits. Later, John Coleman, a Howard University-educated historian, presented a slide show on the history of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act. This law, passed in 1862, immediately emancipated all enslaved persons in Washington, D.C., and the federal government paid D.C. slaveholders \$300 for each person who was freed.

Village members also watched two female re-enactors, Lisa Jacobsen and Village member Pat Tyson, portray lives of two local women from the time of the war: Myrtila Miner, an American educator who established a successful teachers institution for African Americans, and Hallie Quinn Brown, an educator, lecturer, author, reformer, and professor of elocution, who was a founder of the Colored Women's

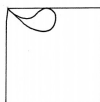
League of Washington, D.C.

Village members also viewed the nearby African American Civil War Memorial. The rousing success of our longest field trip to date bodes well for future excursions.



*Learning about the Civil War with re-enactors and Village members—photo by Martine Brizius*

## Calling All Artists!



The first meet up of the Village artists club took place on Monday, June 18. Although the group was formed mainly for painters, we welcome all types of creative artists. At our first meeting, group members demonstrated a wide variety of artistic skills. For instance, one worked on card-making, another knitted, another drew portraits, and others Zen doodled (see example at left) or painted.

Future meetings will be on the third Wednesday of every month from 2 to 6 pm at a member's home, with a break in August. Are you a member seeking to free your inner artist? Please join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, July 18.



## Books: On Being Conniving

The Thursday Afternoon Book Group met June 14 to discuss *Rabbit: The Autobiography of Ms. Pat* by Patricia Williams, a book that is funny, disconcerting, provocative, and lots more. We talked about the idea of "being conniving" and whether we thought it is generally positive or negative as a character trait. Our group decided it was a considerable asset to Ms. Pat, a young woman who was left mostly alone to survive, grow up, and care for her kids. A good story with life lessons for all. After turning her life around through grit, determination, and comedy, Ms. Pat now appears professionally on the comedy circuit. (If you Google her name, you can hear one of her very funny monologues.)

The book group is very informal. We meet the second Thursday afternoon of each month. Everyone is welcome—new and returning, Village members and nonmembers alike. No one person in particular leads the discussion; we all come prepared with thoughts and questions to pose to the group. Come and try us out at our next meeting on July 12, when we will discuss *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver.

—Carolyn Lauer



## Events Sampler

Did you know that being social can be good for your health? By that measure, Village members are a healthy lot! This past 2 months we have hiked, swapped plants, seen plays and movies, read books, been to great local restaurants, played games, painted, knitted, played games, celebrated birthdays and volunteers, and discussed books, current events, poems, and philosophy. See page 4 for what we are doing the rest of the summer. Not a member, but want to try us out? Contact us—see bottom of page.



Visiting the Waverly Art Gallery—  
photo by Ed Lee



Enjoying a patio party—photo by Cecilia  
de Kanga



Touring McCrillis Garden—photo by Cecilia de  
Kanga

## Stitching for Good

The "Charity Stitchers" are stitching—knitting, crocheting, and sewing! This group consists of 15 Village members and meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. We chat, stitch, share ideas, and make blankets, quilts, and other items for those in need. Some members are also working on their own longstanding projects. At the June meeting, members brought their first set of finished projects to be donated to local chapters of two nonprofits picked by the members. We admired the blankets and quilts, which were colorful, used interesting patterns and stitches, and, most importantly, were made by caring hands. Since



then, three baby/toddler blankets and two teen blankets have been donated to Comfort Cases, which assembles backpacks and duffel bags of comfort and essential supplies for children in foster care. An additional four blankets for babies, two for children, and two for teens were given to the Linus Project, which works with organizations such as shelters and hospitals. (Photo of the second batch is shown here.) We will continue to make blankets and in the next few months we will add baby hats and hats for active duty soldiers to the products we make. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other Village members and help others at the same time.

Photo by Connie Raab

## Calendar of Events

*\*Open to the public.*

Note: Some events fill up. Most require RSVPs. Members should check our website for details and updates.

### Interest Groups

Groups that meet monthly (such as Charity Stitchers and the poetry group) are included on the right. Those that meet more often are listed below.

**Bridge**, every Tues., in a member's home 2-4 pm, (intermediate-level skills)

**Canasta**, July 3, 17 and Aug. 7, 21, in a member's home, 1 pm

**Chess**, every Thurs., **Kefa Café**, 1:30-3:30 pm (not for beginners)

**Mah Jongg**, every Fri., in a member's home, 1-3 pm

**Memoir Writing**, July 2, 16 and Aug. 6, 20, in a member's home, 10-11:30 am

**Poker Dawgs**, July 11, 25 and Aug. 8, 22, in a member's home, 5-6:30 pm

**Scrabble**, every Mon., **Parkway Deli**, 3-5 pm

### JULY

Mon., July 9 – **Charity Stitchers**, in a member's home, 1-3 pm

Tues., July 10 – **Rock Creek Park Exploration**, 10-11:30 am

Wed., July 11 – **Buffet Dinner, Blue Pearl**, 5:30 pm, followed by a movie (to be selected by those attending dinner)

Thurs., July 12 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver), 2-3:30 pm\*

Fri., July 13 – **Current Events Discussion**, in a member's home, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., July 14 – **Coffee, Tea and More, Takoma Beverage Company**, 2-3:30 pm

Sun., July 15 – **Philosophy Group**, Silver Spring Library, 2-4 pm

Mon., July 16 – **Reading to Children and Adults**, Easter Seals Building, 11-11:30 am

Mon., July 16 – **Dinner, Parkway Deli**, 5:30-7 pm

Tues., July 17 – **Volunteer at Shepherd's Table**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm [must RSVP]

Wed., July 18 – **Find Treasures at Pennyworth Shop**, 11:30 am, followed by lunch at **Mandalay**

Wed., July 18 – **Village Artists Club**, in a members' home, 2-6 pm

Thurs., July 19 – **Poetry Group**, in a member's home, 10:30 am-noon

Fri., July 20 – **Storytelling by Cricket Parmalee**, in storyteller's home, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., July 21 – **Tie-Dye Party**, in a member's home, 1-3 pm

Sun., July 22 – **The House of Blue Leaves**, Silver Spring Stage, 2-4:30 pm\*

Sun., July 22 – **Post-Theater Dinner, Red Maple**, 5-6:30 pm

Wed., July 25 – **Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly and Caterpillar Exhibit, Brookside Gardens**, 11 am- 1 pm\*

Thurs., July 26 – **Techno Club**, Coffield Recreation Center, 11:45 am-1:15 pm\*

Thurs., July 26 – **Birthday Ice Cream Social, Ben & Jerry's**, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., July 28 – **Men's Brunch**, Courtyard by Marriott, 9-11 am

Sun., July 29 – **Piano Recital**, Calvary Lutheran Church, 3-5 pm\*

Mon., July 30 – **Dinner, Sergio Ristorante Italiano**, 6-7:30 pm

### AUGUST

Sat., Aug 4 – **Coffee, Tea & More, Takoma Beverage Company**, 2-3:30 pm

Mon., Aug. 6 – **Dinner, Parkway Deli**, 5:30-7 pm

Wed., Aug. 8 – **Dinner, Vicino Ristorante Italiano**, 6-7 pm

Thurs., Aug. 9 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*The Origin of Others* by Toni Morrison), 2-3:30 pm\*

Fri., Aug. 10 – **Current Events Discussion**, in a member's home, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., Aug. 11, **Deck Party**, at a member's home, 2:30-4:30 pm

Sun., Aug. 12 – **Latin Heritage Fiesta**, Veteran's Plaza, 2-8 pm\* (meet up time to be announced)

Mon., Aug. 13 – **Coffee, Kefa Café**, 11 am-12:30 pm

Mon., Aug. 13 – **Charity Stitchers**, in a member's home, 1-3 pm

Tues., Aug. 14 – **Rock Creek Park Hike**, 10-11:30 am

Wed., Aug. 15 – **Medicare Seminar**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 1:30-3:30 pm\*

Thurs., Aug. 16 – **Poetry Group**, in a member's home, 10:30 am-noon

Fri., Aug. 17 – **Storytelling by Cricket Parmalee**, in storyteller's home, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., Aug. 18 – **Pre-Theater Dinner, Red Maple**, 5:30-7 pm

Sat., Aug. 18 – **One-Act Festival, Silver Spring Stage**, 8-10:30 pm\*

Sun., Aug. 19 – **Philosophy Group**, Silver Spring Library, 2-4 pm

Mon., Aug. 20 – **Reading to Children and Adults**, Easter Seals Building, 11-11:30 am

Tues., Aug. 21 – **Volunteer at Shepherd's Table**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm [must RSVP]

Wed., Aug. 22 – **Lawn Party**, at a member's home, 4-6 pm

Thurs., Aug. 23 – **Techno Club**, Coffield Recreation Center, 11:45 am-1:15 pm\*

Fri., Aug. 24 – **Clue, Outdoor Movie Screening**, Sonny's Green at The Blairs, 8-10 pm\*

Sat., Aug. 25 – **Men's Brunch**, Courtyard by Marriott, 9-11 am

Wed., Aug. 30 – **Mindfulness Group**, in a member's home, 3-4:30 pm

Thurs., Aug. 31 – **Birthday Ice Cream Social, Tropical Ice Cream Café**, 2-3:30 pm

Thanks, Members and Program Committee!



The Village recently held a party for the many members who lead our interest groups, ranging from chess, to poetry, to mindfulness, and much more. These, along with events the Program Committee arranges, add to a rich array of fun things to do.

*Photo of some of the Men's Group by Debbie Billet-Roumell*

*Suggestions for other events and groups are welcome, as are offers from members to host future events.*



## How About BBQ with a Big Side of Friendship?

On June 24, the Village held its annual member get-together at Meadowbrook Park Recreation Center. There were brisk conversations along with brisket and chicken, side dishes, and desserts. A great time was had by more than 60 in attendance.



Enjoying each other's company—photo by Claire Maklan

## How to . . .

**...join:** We offer two levels of membership, full and associate. Both levels include invitations to all Village events, exclusive discounts, *Washington Consumers' Checkbook*, access to our information service, and referrals to professionals. Full members (only) can receive volunteer services like transportation, home repairs, tech support, and friendly visits and calls. Full membership is for residents of zip code 20910 (or nearby). Associate membership is open to all.

Annual dues: *Full* - \$350/individual, \$450/couple; *Associate* - \$150/individual, \$250/couple. Reduced cost memberships (Full: \$60, Associate: \$25) are available for those who qualify. For information, please contact Debbie Billet-Roumell at (240) 200-4290 or [executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org).

To apply, please print and complete a [membership application](#) and mail it with your dues payment to: Silver Spring Village, PO Box 8217, Silver Spring MD 20907. Or send a note indicating interest in membership to [info@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:info@silverspringvillage.org).

**...volunteer:** We welcome applications from anyone 18 or older who supports our “age in place” mission. All sorts of skills and interests are needed. Please start by completing a [volunteer application](#) and an [interest form](#). We will require you to complete a background check, submit references, and attend our training session. All applicants must be officially accepted and enrolled by the Director of Volunteer Services before performing tasks for the Village.

**...support:** To keep our Village strong, we need funding from organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants. Your tax-deductible contribution—in any amount—will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be payable to Silver Spring Village and mailed to Silver Spring Village, PO Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907; or [donate online](#). Also consider donating appreciated stock, including the Village in your will, or making contributions in someone's honor. We also love to hear from local businesses that wish to contribute or provide in-kind contributions or member discounts. Contact us!

## Executive Director's Note: Reaching a Milestone—What Will It Mean to Have 200 Members?

Have you noticed all the new construction and road improvements in Silver Spring? It can take a while to get places and then even longer to find a parking place. The infrastructure is challenged to keep up with the demand.

The Village is working hard to make sure our infrastructure is strong enough to continue to serve our many members. We need to keep pace so that seniors in Silver Spring who want to age in place can enjoy the services and programs that we offer. How can we do this and make sure we don't get stuck looking for “a spot in the parking lot”?

First, we need to continue to recruit and train more volunteers to drive, make friendly visits, provide many other helpful services, and enjoy knowing our members.

Second, we need resources in order to sustain our current level of service and programs and welcome others that want and need to be a part of our community. Membership dues cover less than a third of our operating expenses. We need your help to enable your community to support its seniors. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift today.

Third, we need to continue to enlarge our leadership base.

*Continued on page 6*

*ED note, cont'd from page 5*

base. If you have any ideas for new programs or activities that you would be willing to help organize, please let us know.

Fourth, we need to continue to offer varied and interesting programs (300 this past fiscal year!). Please let us know suggestions for interesting speakers and topics.

Thank you for helping Silver Spring Village be all that it can be.

—Debbie Billet-Roumell



Showing the Village colors—  
photo by Tony Sarmiento.

## Medicare Seminar: Get Your Questions Answered August 15

The Village will host a free Medicare seminar for the public on Wednesday, August 15, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Silver Spring Civic Building. The seminar is being organized by the county, the Jewish Council for the Aging, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and Maryland SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol), a state anti-fraud project. It is funded by the US Administration for Community Living through the state of Maryland.

## Volunteer Corner: Sum...Sum....Summertime Help

What types of services can volunteers provide to full members in the summer besides rides to appointments, technology help, friendly visits/phone calls, and small household repairs?

Our Storm Buddies can be just as active in summer as they are in the winter. What with heat waves, hurricanes, tornadoes, power outages, and rain storms with the possibility of flooding, there are many ways that Storm Buddies can help to make sure full members



are okay. Storm Buddies will call to make sure that members have enough water and other supplies in case of a power outage. They can walk around the home to see if there is damage or flooding after a storm, hurricane or tornado. If you are a full member and would like a Storm Buddy or if you would like to volunteer to be a Storm Buddy, please call the office 301-503-7401 or send an email to [volunteers@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:volunteers@silverspringvillage.org).

During the summer and the rest of the year, volunteers can also help out when a full member goes on vacation by bringing in mail or watering plants. Volunteers can help with some tasks in the yard on a limited basis. Any time full members have a request, they can contact us via email or phone as listed in the previous paragraph and we will try to fill the request. The more notice we get, the better.

—Vanessa Ripps

**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.