

Silver Spring Village



Village Vibe

March/April 2022
Volume 9, Number 2

Leadership View: Finding Community

When I was still working, an already retired neighbor of mine, Claire Maklan, mentioned in passing that a “village” was forming. I would ask her what she was up to and she would just say, “We’re planning a village.” I thought, “Huh?” Turns out she was one of our founders who spent a couple of years thinking through how to set up this great organization. By the time I retired in the fall of 2013, Silver Spring Village had been launched. I heard about its services and its various social activities. I already had a social life; I didn’t need to go to events and restaurants with people I didn’t know. But I thought it could be helpful if I ever needed a ride to the doctor. So, I signed up to be a member, and, because I like volunteering, I signed up for that too.

Since then, I have indeed gotten a few rides to the doctor, but I was totally wrong about my social life. I didn’t realize how small my circle of friends would be once I stopped working and no longer had kids in school (or even nearby). It turns out that through the Village you can find all sorts of friends, fun, and purpose. Yes, the services are there when you need a friendly volunteer; I am sure I will appreciate this as time passes. In the meantime, however, you can get to know all sorts of people that you might not otherwise meet. You can see people on a regular basis through shared interests in, say, playing poker, creating things to donate, considering how to support local causes, editing a newsletter, and running errands and driving other people places (just to name some of my own Village activities). You can also meet people through the wide array of one-time events—talks, tours, demonstrations, meals in local eateries, and lots more. I now have scores more friends than I ever had when I started retirement. I am grateful to the Village for that and for also showing all of us how we can build a community of people who enjoy each other’s company and also know how to help and support each other. To all those who founded us, thank you.



Getting together at Max’s Kosher Cafe—photo by Karen Fierst

—Connie Raab, President

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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 March:

- Members: 246 (97 full, 149 associate; includes 6 reduced cost memberships)
- Volunteers: 120

Volunteer hours

- January: 409
- February: 324
- March: 485

Volunteer help January-March

- 130 one-way rides
- 113 friendly calls and visits
- 48 sessions of tech help
- 56 household assistance

Events

- January: 57
- February: 72
- March: 80

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Doug Gaddis, *Executive Director*

Vanessa Ripps, *Director of Volunteer Services*

Will Tiwari, *Operations Manager*

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Membership—Claire Maklan
Programs—Gary Klauber

Vibe Editors

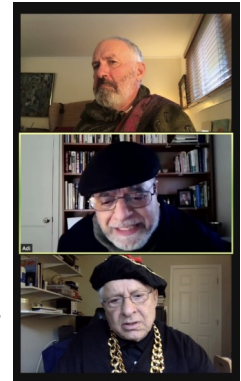
Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Interest Group Sampler

In the last issue of the *Vibe* we described five of our interest groups, activities that are created and led by Village members, and that constitute many of the more than 50 events we offer each month. (Most of the others are planned by our Programs Committee.) Here we provide descriptions of five more of these member-initiated groups.

Note: Participation in most interest groups is limited to Village members, but individuals considering joining the Village may contact the office and ask to attend a session to try it out. (Please contact us a few days in advance.)

- **Act Out!:** This group meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 3:00 pm to read plays and have fun. Roles are assigned to as many attendees as possible ahead of time. Then we get busy and read the parts aloud, currently via Zoom. Sometimes we add a little color with costume pieces. We have read everything from classic Greek and Shakespearean plays to Japanese Noh lyric drama, and from Kabuki theatre to Agatha Christie's famous murder mystery, *The Mousetrap*. The lead is Jeanne Adams at jeannesterz@gmail.com.
- **Friday Lunch:** You never know who will come to lunch on Fridays at 12:30 pm at the Sligo Creek Golf Club's patio grill, but good conversation is guaranteed. The grill offers freshly cooked burgers and sandwiches at a reasonable price. It is located at 9701 Sligo Creek Parkway and there is free parking. Reservations aren't required. Just come to enjoy a bite and some fresh air. The lead for this group is Jane Newhagen at key-westbird@yahoo.com.
- **Playwriting:** The playwriting group, which started in February 2021, currently meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 1:30 pm. Jeanne Adams, the only member with prior playwriting experience, says she has been impressed time and again by the work invented by these artists. So, don't be timid—the playwriting group could be a fun thing to try! And plan to find out more about this group by attending the Zoom session on April 27, when members of ActOut! will read our playwrights' work. The lead is Jeanne Adams at jeannesterz@gmail.com.
- **Poker Dawgs:** The Poker Dawgs play low-stakes poker for fun. We socialize and enjoy light refreshments. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 4 pm. We talked by Zoom but didn't play during the pandemic. Now we are back to getting together in person and playing a variety of poker games. The leads are Laurie Ekstrand at ekstrand99@gmail.com and Joe Anderson at janderson8812@verizon.net.



Reading the play is the thing—photo by Jeanne Adams



Fun and competition at the poker table—photo by Ben Lin

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- **Men's Groups:** Men's Groups provide opportunities for Village men to get together. Since early in 2018, more than a dozen members have convened over breakfast on the last Saturday of the month, either to discuss pre-announced topics or to just talk. This group, led by Chuck Sherer, continues to meet on Zoom. Recently a second group organized by David Maklan has started to meet in person, at present on the second Tuesday of each month. Contacts: chuck.sherer@outlook.com and davidmaklan1@gmail.com.



Coffee and conversation on a Saturday before the pandemic—photo by Tony Sarmiento

Members: Don't see a group you want? Start a new one! (See page 3 of our [January/February issue](#) for the simple steps needed.)

Pi/Pie Day 2022—Our 7th Annual

March 14th—3.14.....—is a special day in our Village. We love to acknowledge Pi (i.e., π , the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter) with pie! And, this year, the choices seemed as infinite as the digits of Pi: cherry, apple, strawberry, key lime, pecan, chocolate pecan, banana cream, cherry cheese, buttermilk, coconut custard, pumpkin, and even gluten-free chocolate cream.

INGREDIENTS:

11 bakers
7 drivers

YIELD:

14 nine-inch pies
890.19 square inches of pie [$(\pi \times r^2 = 3.14 \times 4.5^2) \times 14$]
90 big servings

RESULT:

75 happy Villagers and . . .

An additional 15 slices of pie and 15 slices of homemade cake were delivered to Shepherd's Table, where the man who received them "expressed pure joy," according to our Shepherd's Table lead, Penny Passikoff.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made Pi/Pie Day 2022 a great success. Our bakers were Sylvana Ehrman, Mary Fields, Michele Holzman, Claire Maklan, Mikie Martinez, Anne McHenry, Sarah Nealey, Mae Novak, Fran Sussman, Dalise Toevs, and Beadsie Woo. Delivery drivers were Martine Brizius, Jane Brown, Nancy Horowitz, Susan Janney, Sandy Kemper, Anne McHenry, and Deborah Zuckerman. And special recognition goes to Mae Novak, our original and constant "Pi/Pie Lady," for kicking off and organizing this fun project year after year.

Thank you, Mae, and the bakers and deliverers for all the happiness and love you engender.

New on Our YouTube Channel

A program on multifaceted, creative older women and what inspires them was just posted on our YouTube channel. For the second year, the SPARKLE program focused on "Senior Women in the Arts." This year it featured artist, educator, and choreographer Nilimma Devi; jewelry artist and educator Elaine Robnett-Moore; and fine artist Clare Wilson. It was hosted by mathematical poet JoAnne Growney. Check it out—along with many other offerings—at bit.ly/ssvillage-youtube.

SPARKLE is a collaboration of Silver Spring Town Center and Silver Spring Village.

How to Divide Pi(e)



Choosing from the great bounty of Pi/Pie Day pies and making the first cut, Mae the Pi/Pie Lady at work—photos by Blake Novak.

How to . . .

...join: We offer two levels of membership, Full and Associate. Both levels include invitations to all Village events, exclusive discounts, and access to *Washington Consumers' CHECKBOOK*. Full members (only) can receive volunteer services like transportation, home assistance, tech support, and friendly visits and calls. Full membership is for residents of zip codes 20815 east of Rock Creek Park, 20901, 20902 east of Wheaton Regional Park ("Kemp Mill"), and 20910. 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 email membership@silverspringvillage.org.

...volunteer: We welcome volunteers 18 or older who support our mission of assisting seniors to age in their homes and communities of choice. Whatever your skills or interests, we have a place for you!

Our volunteer program allows you to help as much as you want as often as you want. Potential volunteers can find application materials on our website. We will do a brief interview. After your initial application is approved, you've cleared a simple background check, and you've attended our

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Candidates for County Offices and Issues of Older Adults: April 24, May 1

Silver Spring Village, along with five other senior villages in Montgomery County, is hosting two candidate forums for the public that are specifically geared to issues relating to older adults. Both of the following events will be held in an online webinar format on Zoom.

- **April 24, 4-6 pm:** Forum with all four candidates for County Executive—David Blair, Marc Elrich, Tom Hucker, and Hans Reimer.
- **May 1, 4-6 pm:** Forum featuring seven of nine candidates for County Council At-Large—Gabe Alborno, Brandy Brooks, Evan Glass, Scott Goldberg, Will Jawando, Dwight Patel, and Laurie-Anne Sayles.

All candidates have submitted written statements outlining the three or four issues they believe to be most important to older adults in the County and their proposed policies to address those issues. You can read their statements at <https://bit.ly/3Cp1gVa>.

To attend, you must register by April 21 at <https://bit.ly/3tyDU4>. When you register, you will have an opportunity to suggest questions for the candidates to address at each of the forums.

These events are open to all Montgomery County residents, not just Village members. So, tell your friends and neighbors about this opportunity to meet the candidates and ask them questions on issues they care about as aging adults. And join us on the 24th and 1st.



Shared Events Website for Washington Area Villages

Since very early in the pandemic, when we had to move all our events from in-person gatherings to Zoom, Silver Spring Village has collaborated with other local Villages to make educational events widely available. Our volunteers created and continue to manage the special website where these shared events are listed, and members of any Village can easily register for and "attend" them all. Local (and sometimes nationally known) experts give presentations or lead discussions about a wonderful array of topics. Examples of some April events include "Women and the Supreme Court"; "John Glenn, John Kennedy, & the New Battleground of the Cold War"; "Unleashing Your Hidden Powers to Enhance Your Home Safety"; and "Navigating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Issues Globally." New events are added every week. To see what's available, visit dmvillageevents.org—often!

Upcoming Community Events

The Village calendar of events includes something for everyone almost every day. Attendance at most events are limited to our members, but some, like those below, are also open to the public. Join us! For Zoom links, RSVP to programs@silverspringvillage.org. Visit our website for the full calendar of events.

- Wednesday, April 13, 2 pm—**Agricultural Diversity and Food Security, SPARKLE Program.** Join us via Zoom when Hugo Mogollon, Executive Director of FRESH-FARM, will discuss agricultural diversity and food security. FRESHFARM is the organization that manages most of the farmers' markets in the region, including the farmers' market in Silver Spring.
- Thursday, April 14, 3 pm—**Afternoon Book Group.** At the April meeting, we will discuss *The Mountains Sing*, the first novel written by famous Vietnamese poet Nguyen Phan Que Mai. This epic account spans nearly a century of Vietnam's history of colonization, foreign invasion, and war, by focusing on multiple generations of women in one family.
- Sunday, April 24, 4-6 pm—**County Executive Candidate Forum.** Come hear the candidates for County Executive speak on issues exclusively relating to older adults. See page 4 for more information, including how to register and submit questions.
- Sunday, May 1, 4-6 pm—**County Council At-Large Candidate Forum.** Candidates for this year's election for the County Council at-large seats will participate in a forum dedicated to issues relating to older adults. See page 4 for more information, including how to register and submit questions.
- Wednesday, May 11, 2 pm—**My Burning Man Adventure. SPARKLE Program.** Join us on Zoom to learn about the famed arts festival from nine-time participant Mark Brailsford and get a glimpse of what it takes to build an iconic art installation while living the self-reliant camp life.
- Thursday, May 12, 3 pm—**Afternoon Book Group.** Join us at the May meeting for a discussion of *The Sacrament*, by Olaf Olafsson. In this novel, a nun is forced to face her past when she is asked to investigate rumors of abuse and an unexplained death at a Catholic school.



- Wednesday, June 8—**Koiner Farm Picnic.** Join Village and other Silver Spring friends for an early summer celebration of getting back to normal. 737 Easley Street. Time TBA.
- Thursday, June 9, 3 pm—**Afternoon Book Group.** In June, we will discuss *Deacon King Kong*, a work of historical fiction by award-winning author James McBride. This book traces the story of a 71-year old deacon for a church in the projects of south Brooklyn who gets drunk and shoots a local drug dealer. The book examines the repercussions of the shooting and its effects on the people in this part of New York.

How to, continued from page 6

orientation training, you'll be able to start making a difference in your community.

...support: To keep our Village strong, we need funding from organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants. Your contribution—in any amount—will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be payable to Silver Spring Village and mailed to Silver Spring Village, 8700 Georgia Ave., Suite 306, Silver Spring MD 20910; or donate online via our website. Also consider donating appreciated stock, including the Village in your will or other estate plans, 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!

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.

Volunteer Corner: Getting Started

So, you've been thinking about volunteering with Silver Spring Village, but you wonder what this entails and how to get started. Read on.

We have a simple, but careful, process for bringing on new volunteers. After someone contacts us about volunteering, they are sent a brief application to tell us about themselves and their skills and interests, and to identify two people who can give a reference (usually a former supervisor, for either paid or unpaid work, and someone else who knows them well). The potential volunteer will also undergo a brief telephone interview and then be asked to get a short background check, which can be completed online. If they want to be a volunteer driver, they will be asked for proof of insurance and their driver's license. Their driving history will also be checked.

The next step is that prospective volunteers attend an orientation/training session that covers Silver Spring Village, including its history, mission, and membership. The session also describes the many ways volunteers can help with providing services to Village members. They learn that our volunteers choose how and when they want to help.

How do volunteers know about the various member

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requests? When they log into the Village website, volunteers can see and sign up for services requested by members, and they can "accept" service requests to fulfill. Also, the Director of Volunteer Services sends email messages about pending service requests to all volunteers

To ensure that new volunteers feel confident, they may request a "buddy," an experienced volunteer who can provide guidance or tips. We also hold monthly gatherings for our volunteers. These meetings may include a speaker or may just provide an opportunity to talk to other people who volunteer with Silver Spring Village. We try to have these meetings address a variety of topics that meet the needs and interests of the volunteers.

Interested? Please contact Vanessa Ripps at Vanessa.Ripps@silverspringvillage.org to discuss the possibilities, obtain an application, and learn the date of our next orientation session.



Silver Spring Village is a member of the [Washington Area Villages Exchange](#), the national [Village to Village Network](#), and the [Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce](#).



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.