



## Village Vibe

January/February 2016  
Volume 3, No. 1

### President's View: Happy New Year!

This is the time of year when we typically take stock of our lives and set our sights on new goals. The Village is no different and as we look back on fiscal year 2015, we are proud of how far we've come: We now have 110 members and 85 volunteers; since July 1, we have provided 160 rides and 135 calls/visits and filled 197 home assistance requests. Our annual appeal for support was successful—see below for some figures.

I also see where we fell a little short—fewer new members than planned, some grant funding we didn't get (but we'll keep trying), and a to-do list that is just too long for the resources available. So, it was particularly nice when our new Executive Director, Debbie Billet-Roumell, provided a newcomer's perspective. She described our dedication, energy, enthusiasm, and progress as “remarkable”—not just direct services to members, but also our work to build a professional, sustainable organization through excellence in performance management, information management, financial management, fundraising, etc. (See story about Debbie on page 4.)

So let me take this opportunity to congratulate **you**—our volunteers, staff, consultants, community partners, donors, directors, and officers—on your “remarkable” accomplishments this year on behalf of our members and our mission. I look forward to working with you on our 2016 goals to build membership, volunteerism, and diversity; to increase programs and resources; to deepen friendships; and, most importantly, to have an even greater impact on our community.

—Peggy Gervasi, President

### Thank you!

Neighbors, friends, and community members heard us when we asked for support in our year-end appeal to help us keep our fellow neighbors “independent, active, connected—at home.” As of December 30, over 50 individuals and couples—members, volunteers, family, and other supporters—had responded with gifts totaling over \$9,500. You are amazing. We will continue to make progress and keep you informed as we move forward in 2016. Bravo!



### In This Issue

- Progress report
- Events sampler
- Book group update
- County Aging Summit
- Village on the “Jumbotron”
- How to join, volunteer, give
- Events calendar
- New Executive Director
- Volunteer corner
- Donation form

### 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: 110 (61 full, 49 associate)
- Volunteers: 85

### Volunteer hours

- October: 979
- November: 951

### Volunteer help Oct./Nov.

- 45 rides
- 50 friendly visits/phone check-ins
- 64 at-home assistance requests filled, including completing paperwork, daily pet care for an ill member, and twice-weekly wheelchair assistance, plus help with recycling and home repairs
- Office telephone crew: 234 hours

Visit us on Facebook -  
[www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage](http://www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage)

## Silver Spring Village, Inc.

### Board of Directors

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

### Executive Director

Debbie Billet-Roumell

### Program Coordinator

Vanessa Ripps

### Committees

Board Development—Tony Sarmiento  
 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal  
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman  
 Finance—Sue Decker  
 Membership—Anne McHenry  
 Programs—Gary Klauber  
 Volunteer Services—Mae Novak

### Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

## Events Sampler

This past couple of months, we had ice cream at Island Tropical and coffee at Kaldi's. We learned how the Silver Spring Library uses technology and how the Folgers collected Shakespeare for their library. Photos show a current events discussion (top) and a session on home improvement (bottom). Members have more than 20 events to choose from in January and February (see page 3). Some of these are open to the public (such as SPARKLE events and book group discussions). Join us!



Photos by Claire Maklan

## Book Group Update

November's discussion of *The Warmth of Other Suns*—a very long book—continued in December. We focused on the character traits of the three main emigres. Our next read is *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, to be discussed on January 14 at 2 pm. Having read this book, two readers stated that they had not enjoyed it, but they want to hear what others think and would certainly come to the discussion. This type of sentiment is exactly why a book group can add new dimensions (sometimes enlightening) to the reading you already do or thought you wouldn't want to do. Copies of *Wolf Hall* are on reserve at the Silver Spring Library reserve counter, near the main checkout counter. Our book group is open to the public. New participants are always welcome.

—Carolyn Lauer

## County Holds Aging Summit, Is Declared an Age-Friendly Community

Several Village board members and volunteers were among the 300 individuals who participated in the "County Executive's Summit on Aging" on December 3. Representatives of nonprofits, health and service organizations, and government agencies had the opportunity to discuss



Village board members and volunteers with County Executive Ike Leggett, second from right—photo courtesy of the Montgomery County Public Information Office



The proclamation was presented to Mr. Leggett by Hank Greenberg, AARP Maryland State Director; Jeanne Anthony, Project Advisor, AARP Livable Communities; and Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil, AARP and UCLA—photo by Tony Sarmiento

issues and priorities related to health and safety, transportation, civic engagement, and other important topics. Their ideas will inform the County's new strategic plan on aging.

The most exciting news of the day was a proclamation declaring that Montgomery County is an "age-friendly community." This designation is part of a national and international initiative by AARP and the World Health Organization. Our Village is proud to play a role in making Silver Spring a "great place to age in place."



## Village Makes the “Jumbotron”!

The Village name, logo, slogan, and website have gotten weeks of large-scale attention in downtown Silver Spring, thanks to Reemberto Rodriguez, director of the Silver Spring Regional Center. The Village’s appearance on the big screen helps us continue to get the word out that we are “helping neighbors age in place.” If the Village can help **you**, let us know.

*Photo by Martine Brizius*

## How to . . .

**...become a member:** Residents throughout the 20910 zip code are eligible. 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 available to qualified applicants. For more info, please contact us online at [membership@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:membership@silverspringvillage.org) or call (301) 503-7401.

**...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](#) of 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!

### A member says

“After an active life working and volunteering in the community, I was sidelined by health problems. It wasn’t easy to ask others for help. Silver Spring Village filled the gap with kind and capable volunteer support. It is community support that circled back to me in the best possible way, and it gives me peace of mind just to know they are there for me.”

## Events Calendar

Check our website for any changes.  
\*Must be member, \*\*Members can invite potential new members

### JANUARY

- Wed., Jan. 6 – **Social Hour, Kefa Café** in the **Silver Spring Library**, 2 pm\*
- Thurs., Jan. 7 – **Friday Morning Music Club: Student Recital**, **Strathmore**, 11 am
- Mon., Jan. 11 – **Current Events Discussion, Tastee Diner**, 2 pm\*
- Wed., Jan. 13 – **Getting Fit in the New Year SPARKLE** program, **Silver Spring Civic Building**, 2-4 pm\*\*
- Wed., Jan. 13 – **Post-SPARKLE Happy Hour, Adegas**, 4 pm\*\*
- Thurs., Jan. 14 – **Afternoon Book Group**, **Silver Spring Library (Wolf Hall** by Hilary Mantel), 2-3:30 pm\*\*
- Fri., Jan. 16 – **Lunch, Cubano’s**, noon\*
- Wed., Jan. 20 – **Social Hour, Kefa Café** in the **Silver Spring Library**, 2 pm\*
- Fri., Jan. 22 – **Multimedia Presentation: The Universe**, a member’s home, 2 pm\*
- Mon., Jan. 25 – **Dinner at McGinty’s Public House**, 6 pm\*
- Fri., Jan. 29 – **Wine & Cheese Around a Home Fireplace**, 5 pm\*

### FEBRUARY

- Wed., Feb. 3 – **Talk by John Kelly** (*Washington Post*), 2 pm\*
- Fri., Feb. 5 – **Pie Social, Tastee Diner**, 2 pm\*
- Mon., Feb. 8 – **Current Events Discussion, Tastee Diner**, 2 pm (snow day, Feb. 29)\*
- Wed., Feb. 10 – **Pre-SPARKLE Lunch, Asian Bistro**, 12:30 pm\*\*
- Wed., Feb. 10 – **Science Café (“Lunar Oddities”) SPARKLE** program, **Silver Spring Civic Building**, 2-4 pm\*\*
- Thurs., Feb. 11 – **Afternoon Book Group**, **Silver Spring Library (Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel), 2-3:30 pm\*\*
- Sun., Feb. 14 – **Lunch with Prospective Members, Ascension Church**, 12:30-2 pm\*\*
- Tues., Feb. 16 – **Moroccan Cooking Class**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm\*
- Fri., Feb. 20 – **Dinner, Parkway Deli**, 5 pm\*
- Wed., Feb. 24 – **Social Hour, Kaldi’s Coffee Bar**, 2 pm\*
- Sat., Feb. 27 – **Ice Cream Social, Moorenko’s Ice Cream**, 2 pm\*



## Meet Our New Executive Director!

On November 30, we welcomed Debbie Billet-Roumell as our new Executive Director. Debbie has held numerous leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, in a public sector union, and in a government agency. As part of the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, Debbie served as guardian ad litem for low-income, at-risk youth for the past 5 years. She also has worked with Wider Opportunities for Women, Micah House, the National Treasury Employees Union, and the US Office of Special Counsel. Through these experiences she has developed expertise in strategic and program planning, grassroots organizing, resource development, media outreach, fiscal oversight, and volunteer management. Debbie trained as an attorney at the National Law Center of George Washington University and completed the Georgetown Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate Program. She is thrilled to be a part of Silver Spring Village. She reports that the position taps into her heartfelt passion to provide people the option to age in place. Debbie adds that she “marvels that a group of volunteers have created an organization that so profoundly enhances the lives of their neighbors.” She welcomes the opportunity to provide additional leadership so that Silver Spring Village can serve as a model for other communities throughout the country.



Photo by Claire Maklan

## Volunteer Corner: “Oh the Weather Outside Is . . .”

Happy January, all. I’m penning this on the winter solstice, which, as it turns out, is the start of a warming trend this holiday week. Being from the snow belt makes me appreciate **any** mild winter days!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for the wonderful service provided to our Village in 2015. You are the power that makes the Village “go.” Whether working on communications, finance, planning, membership, grants, or programs or providing direct assistance to members, your generous donation of your time makes the Village possible.

Special thanks go out this January to the volunteers who stepped up in response to our recent call for “storm buddies.” Twenty members who requested storm assistance have been assigned buddies, who are meeting with the members to review their storm survey responses and who will provide assistance as needed. We’re still a tad short on snow shovelers, particularly in Woodside, so if you’re looking for additional exercise during the next snowstorm, please call the office or send an email to [volunteers@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:volunteers@silverspringvillage.org).



Finally, volunteers: The annual volunteer program evaluation will be coming your way soon. **Please** help us improve the volunteer experience by completing the form.

—Mae Novak, Chair, Volunteer Services

### Volunteers say

- ☞ “I wish my parents could have had a Village for support—that would have made all the difference in the world.”
- ☞ “Meeting new people AND being able to give back to the community—what a great opportunity!”

**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](#) of the Village website.

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