



Village Vibe

November/December 2016
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As We See It: Occupying, Supporting “Elderhood”

I (Peggy) just returned from the 2016 National Village Gathering in Columbus, Ohio, where more than 270 Village leaders from across the U.S. got together to share their respective Village experiences, lessons learned, and visions for the future. In the rush of addressing the daily needs of our members and the organizational needs of our Village, we often lose sight of the fact that we are part of a movement to **occupy elderhood**. “Elders” (a term suggested as an alternative to “seniors,” “senior citizens,” etc.) want to remain in our homes and community as we age. To accomplish this, we have created neighborhood Villages by building volunteer corps that provide needed services and by developing innovative programs to enable elders to remain connected to others and the community.

The return from this conference was on the heels of gearing up for our annual appeal that will kick off on #GivingTuesday, which this year is on November 29th. Maintaining and expanding our services and programs take financial resources. Many of you may not realize that our member dues cover less than half of our operating expenses. We try to keep our dues affordable and offer scholarships where needed so that we can open the Village to all elders living in 20910 and close-in neighborhoods.

Please note: This year one of our generous supporters has agreed to match new gifts, both entirely new donations as well as increases in donations over last year, up to a total of \$3,000. New dollars that you donate to Silver Spring Village between now and December 31, 2016, will be matched!

Our generation has spoken: we have voted in favor of taking charge of our lives and aging in place! Please help us make it happen and give generously this year. Thank you in advance for your support.

—Peggy Gervasi, President, and
Debbie Billet-Roumell, Executive Director

For Your Holiday To Do List?

- ☒ Give the gift of a Village membership to a relative, friend, or neighbor.
- ☒ Lower your taxes and do your heart good with a tax-deductible donation to the Village.



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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 October

- Members: 141 (66 full, 75 associate)
- Volunteers: 95

Volunteer hours

- August: 750
- September: 886

Volunteer help in Aug./Sept.

- 64 rides
- 87 friendly calls and visits
- 62 home assistance requests filled, including changing light bulbs, providing technology help, preparing meals, watering plants, weeding, recycling, pet care, paperwork, and organizing
- Office telephone crew: 264 hours

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Board of Directors

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

Executive Director

Debbie Billet-Roumell

Program Administrator

Vanessa Ripps

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 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Darren Vieira
 Membership—Anne McHenry
 Programs—Gary Klauber
 Volunteer Services—Vanessa Ripps

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Welcome to our newest board member, Vern McLendon!

Events Sampler

Members have been discussing current events and books, playing games (chess, Scrabble, bridge), having coffee and restaurant meals, seeing classic movies, and hearing speakers on climate change, caregiving, satellites, and more. The event described below was part of our SPARKLE series, which the Village cosponsors with Silver Spring Town Center, Inc.

In October, Professor Mark Leone of the University of Maryland Archaeology Department gave a tour of a special exhibit at the University of Maryland Hornbake Library. His engaging presentation explored Frederick Douglass' birthplace and life on the eastern shore of Maryland through artifacts found at Wye House, including tools, symbolic items and cookbooks, all of which provide insights into the lives of those who worked and lived there. Professor Leone has been director of Archeology in Annapolis since 1981, where his work continues to serve the needs of historic preservation through the scientific and scholarly work of undergraduates and doctoral students in the department under his direction.



Prof. Leone describing artifacts to Village members—photo by Lisa Rosenthal

Upcoming: Patient Advocacy, Pictures, Holidays

- *Fight for the Living: Why Every Hospital Patient Needs an Advocate.* Bonnie Friedman will discuss tips, tools, advice and strategies to help make you a successful patient advocate. Her expertise is based on more than 24 years of advocating for her husband through 14 separate hospitalizations, including several life-and-death experiences. SPARKLE program. Wednesday, November 9, at 2:00 pm, Silver Spring Civic Building. Open to the public.
- *Visual Representations of George Washington in History.* William C. diGiacomantonio, Chief Historian, United States Capitol Historical Society, will discuss some of the many ways that George Washington has been presented visually from 1772 to the present day. Tuesday, November 29, at 2:00 pm, Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce office, located in the Lee Building, 8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 203. Village members only.
- *Holiday Happenings for Members*
 - * *Art-Making Workshop*, Friday, December 9, at 1:00 pm, CREATE Arts Center, 816 Thayer Avenue.
 - * *Holiday Party.* Details to follow on this potluck celebration on Sunday, December 11, 2-4 pm, at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center, 2450 Lyttonville Road.
 - * *Cookie Bake*, Friday, December 16, at 1 pm at a member's home, and *Cookie Swap*, Sunday, December 18, at 2 pm, iStar Coffee.

To RSVP, email programs@silverspringvillage.org or call (301) 503-7401.

Booking It

Participants in the most recent Thursday Afternoon Book Group discussed the interweaving lives of characters in *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. In intermittent flashbacks, the book focusses on two people growing up in France and Germany whose lives intersect after the 1944 siege of St. Malo. On November 10 we will discuss short stories by Alice Munro in her book, *Dear Life*. New voices welcome.

—Carolyn Lauer

Our Yearly Thank You Party

A record 100 people turned out for our annual Volunteer and Member Appreciation Celebration on September 25. People were able to meet, mingle, and hear about the Village and each other. We presented the first Roberta Gosier Award (see page 4) and held a raffle. A fun time was had by all. The event was sponsored by United Therapeutics, which provided venue space, food, and drink. These businesses provided door prizes: AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center (four movie tickets), Courtyard by Marriott (two free nights), Levine School of Music (four performance tickets), McGinty's Public House (gift card), Snider's Super Food (gift card), and Strosniders Hardware (gift card).



Signing in, celebrating—photos by Claire Maklan

How to . . .

...become a member: Residents of zip code 20910 are eligible for full or associate membership. Persons living close to, but outside 20910, are considered for full membership on a case-by-case basis. Associate membership is open to all applicants regardless of place of residence. 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 also available. For more information, please contact Debbie Billet-Roumell at (240) 200-4290 or executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org.

...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!

Give Us a Try?

Know someone who's curious about the Village who might want to attend one of our events? Please contact Debbie Billet-Roumell at (240) 200-4290 or executivedirector@silverspringvillage.org.

Events Calendar

Check our website for any changes.
*Open to the public.

ONGOING

Scrabble, Mondays (not Dec. 26), Parkway Deli, 3 pm
Beginners Chess, Wednesdays (not Nov. 23, Dec. 28), Kefa Café, 2 pm

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 1 – **Coffee Social Hour at Kaldi's Social House**, 2 pm
Wed., Nov. 2 – **Flower Arranging Workshop and Moroccan soup lunch**, 11:30 am
Thurs., Nov. 3 – **Ice Cream Social at Tropical Ice Cream Café**, 2 pm
Fri., Nov. 4 – **Swap Meet**, 2 pm
Wed., Nov. 9 – **Fight for the Living: Why Every Hospital Patient Needs an Advocate**, SPARKLE program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm, and **Happy Hour at McGinty's Public House**, 3:30 pm*
Wed., Nov. 9 – **Los Olvidados (The Young and the Damned)** and lecture, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm*
Thurs., Nov. 10 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*Dear Life: Stories* by Alice Munro), 2-3:30 pm*
Sat., Nov. 12 – **Waverly Street Gallery, Lunch at Boeeymonger**, noon
Wed., Nov. 16 – **The Royal Tennenbaums** and lecture, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm*
Fri., Nov. 18 – **Happy Hour at Mrs K's**, 5 pm
Mon., Nov. 21 – **Current Events Discussion**, Tastee Diner, 3 pm
Tues., Nov. 29 – **Visual Representations of George Washington in History**, Chamber of Commerce offices, 2 pm
Wed., Nov. 30 – **Dinner at Not Your Average Joe's**, 7 pm

DECEMBER

Tues., Dec. 6 – **Current Events Discussion at iStar Coffee**, 2 pm
Thurs., Dec. 8 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*Murder at the 42nd Street Library* by Con Lehane), 2-3:30 pm*
Fri., Dec. 9 – **Holiday Art-Making Workshop at CREATE Arts Center**, 1 pm
Sun., Dec. 11 – **Holiday Party**, Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center, 2-4 pm
Wed., Dec. 14 – **Do You Snooze, Doze or Nap?**, SPARKLE program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm, and **Happy Hour at A.G. Kitchen**, 3:30 pm*
Thurs., Dec. 15 – **Coffee Social Hour at iStar Coffee**, 2 pm
Fri., Dec. 16 – **Cookie Bake**, 1 pm
Sun., Dec. 18 – **Cookie Swap at iStar Coffee**, 2 pm
Thurs., Dec. 22 – **Lunch at sweetgreen**, noon
Wed., Dec. 28 – **Lunch at La Madeleine**, noon

Well Done!

The annual Roberta Gosier Outstanding Volunteer Service Award was designed to honor and memorialize our first president, and to recognize her contributions to our Village.

This competition is open to all volunteers (except board members) who provide direct services to our members. The volunteer with the most direct service hours in a given fiscal year will win the award.

Jane Brown is the winner for fiscal year 2016. Jane provided 264 service hours, including rides, friendly visits and phone calls, pet care, and more. In appreciation for her amazing service, Jane received an award certificate and a \$150 gift certificate from All Set Restaurant.

We're also happy to recognize four more volunteers: Carroll McKown, John Giblin, Martha Wittman, and Ed Lee—each of whom provided more than 100 service hours to assist Village members in the last fiscal year.



(Left to right) Jane Brown receiving the first Roberta Gosier Award from board member Leslie Hansley and President Peggy Gervasi—photo by Claire Maklan

Be On the Lookout for the FY2016 Annual Report

Thank you to graphic artist Gail Peck for her pro bono design of the report.

Volunteer Corner: Buddying Up

It's that time of year again when the weather is changing from warm to cold. We are well into autumn and winter is right around the corner.

Many of you are already aware of our Storm Buddy Program where full members are matched with volunteers who live close by who can help out in weather-related emergencies. As part of the full member enrollment process a "storm survey" is completed to determine what the needs may be. Once we have this information, we match the member with a volunteer buddy who helps out in a number of ways. When we begin to hear forecasts of snow, ice, tornados, hurricanes, or even heat waves, volunteer storm buddies are asked to reach out to their member buddies to make sure they are prepared for what is being predicted. During the weather emergency, the volunteer buddy might again make a check-in call to confirm that the member buddy has electricity, and is doing okay. After the weather emergency is over, the volunteer buddy checks in again periodically to make sure that all is well with the member buddy.

In the next few weeks, I will be contacting all current storm buddies, both volunteers and members, to confirm that they would like to stay with the program. If you are a full member or a volunteer who would like to be part of this program, please contact me through the office phone, (301) 503-7401, to let me know of your interest.

—Vanessa Ripps, Program Administrator

Members say

- ☞ "I can stay in my apartment and have access to people. I have grown to like the social side of things in addition to direct services. Now I see the education side as important too."
- ☞ "I saw my parents grow older and older in a house full of stuff. A Village would have made a huge difference."

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 fully tax-deductible.