

# Silver Spring Village



## Village Vibe

March/April 2018  
Volume 5, Number 2

### Leadership View: A Ride Is More Than a Ride

The most popular service provided by Silver Spring Village volunteers is giving our members rides to their doctors, exercise classes, shopping, Village events, or wherever they need to go. In 2017, we provided more than 1,000 rides.

While this is an impressive number, it's easy to underestimate its full significance. Some may even question the need for this service, given the availability of Metro Access, taxis, and ride-sharing apps. It's my view that our Village will continue to provide this important service, even if driverless cars become reality.

What's far less obvious is that we aren't merely matching up drivers and passengers. For one thing, our volunteers will meet members at the door, take them where they need to go, stay if necessary, and make sure they get home. The other thing is that we are making new connections between people who were previously strangers. If you're one of our Village's volunteer drivers, you already know this fact. At a recent celebration honoring our volunteer drivers, many shared that they are no longer giving a ride to a member—but to a friend. The conversations between driver and passenger, especially over several rides, have built bonds of genuine friendship.

Our Village would not exist if it weren't for the dedication and generosity of our 100 volunteers. While we are indebted to them, the volunteers know that they are not entirely selfless. At the recent memorial for our late Village member Dwight Wilson, Judith Hartman was one of four Village volunteers who eulogized Dwight's extraordinary life. She was one of a dozen or more Village volunteers who had helped Dwight and his family during the last three years. Speaking after Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, civil rights leader Vernon Jordan, and others, Judith concluded her eulogy with the following: *"I always left with more than I brought."*

Thank you, Judith, for your eloquent, succinct tribute to Dwight Wilson, and thank you to all of our volunteers.

—Tony Sarmiento, President

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Getting a little "tech help" with a tablet on Martin Luther King Day of Service—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 February

- Members: 187 (88 full, 99 associate)
- Volunteers: 100

### Volunteer hours

- December: 821
- January: 800

### Volunteer help in December/January

- 114 rides
- 80 friendly calls and visits
- 61 requests filled including errands, medical note taking, technology help, meals, decluttering, and organizing
- Telephone crew hours: 246

## Silver Spring Village, Inc.

### Board of Directors

Tony Sarmiento, *President*  
 Peggy Gervasi, *Vice President*  
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 Sue Decker, *Treasurer*  
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Debbie Billet-Roumell

### Director of Volunteer Services

Vanessa Ripps

### Committee Chairs

Development—  
 Mary Ann Zimmerman  
 Finance—Sue Decker  
 Membership—  
 Anne McHenry  
 Programs—Gary Klauber

### Vibe Editors

Connie Raab  
 Erica Summers

## Men's Brunches Launched

The Village held its first-ever men's brunch in late January. At the start, 19 men introduced themselves to the full group, then divided into smaller discussions at each of three tables. The conversations were enthusiastic, covered a wide range of topics, and lasted for two



Sharing issues and ideas—photo by Tony Sarmiento

hours. A second meeting was held in late February; monthly meetings are planned (see calendar). A reflection that emerged from the discussions, according to Vern McLendon, the Village board member responsible for launching the Men's Brunch: things that make us happy in middle age don't necessarily make us happy in retirement.

—Tony Sarmiento

## Come to the Movies with Us

Interested in seeing movies with a group of Village members and others? Our film lovers group will meet at the AFI Silver most Wednesday evenings in March and April. After purchasing tickets (\$10 for seniors, \$13 general admission), we meet at 6:15 inside AFI near the snack bar (outside Theater 3). The movies start at 6:30. Most weeks, those who wish also get together at 5:00 for a pre-movie happy hour at a nearby restaurant (see calendar, page 4). Here are the upcoming movies the film lovers are planning to see:



- March 7 — *The Shape of Water* (2017)
- March 21 — *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938)
- March 28 — *The Bird with the Crystal Plumage* (1970)
- April 11 — *La Grande Bouffe* (1973)
- April 18 — *Moonrise Kingdom* (2012)
- April 25 — *Stagecoach* (1939)

Everyone is welcome to stay after the movie to participate in a discussion led by Montgomery College film professor, David Rothman. This activity is open to the public.



## Celebrating in Style

Here Village volunteers, members, and friends enjoy a great meal and an 80th birthday.

Photo taken at K Town Bistro

## Theater, Anyone?

Village theater lovers are seeing all the plays performed at Silver Spring Stage during the 2017-2018 season. For the theater's 50th anniversary, Silver Spring Stage is featuring eight stand-out plays from their past seasons. For evening performances, Villagers also meet beforehand for dinner across the street at



Enjoying an informal post-play discussion with the cast—photo by Ben Lin

Red Maple. The next two plays on the schedule are *All in the Timing* by David Ives on March 10<sup>th</sup> and the *Curious Case of the Watson Intelligence* on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The first is a hilarious collection of one-acts and the second is a Sherlock Holmes-style mystery by playwright Madeleine George. Later in the season we will see two other classics: *A Delicate Balance* by Edward Albee, the Tony award-winning play about a dysfunctional family and their "visitors," and *The House of Blue Leaves* by John Guarre, a comedy set in New York. If you want to sit with the Village crowd, get your tickets by the deadline stated on our website. Recently, the group also went to *Hobson's Choice* at Quotidian Theatre in Bethesda. The group sat in a reserved block of seats and participated in a talk-back afterwards with the actors and producers about the play. *Hobson's Choice* was the first English play to be written about a non-elite class and it features "uppity" women at the time of the suffrage movement. We plan to add Roundhouse and other theaters to the group's lineup soon. The Village website's calendar will post details as plays are added.

—Jeanne Adams

## Book Group Update

*The Underground Railroad* is not an easy read. I was challenged to continue reading after the first 10 pages due to the brutality. I was a quarter of the way into the text and wrote the following to our Thursday Afternoon Book Club listserv: "I can only say, steel yourself and read on. I am being pulled ever deeper into the world created by Colson Whitehead in this narrative of two slaves running from the inhumanity of a Georgia plantation." In re-setting the Underground Railroad as a stone and mortar engineering feat, Whitehead uses the tracks, the stations, the "railway cars," the clay earth, and stone zooming past the escapees to tell his true-to-life saga of runaway slaves. Our February discussion, attended by 14 people (including some newcomers, whom we always welcome), was led by public group member Sandy Adams. What a fine job she did, engaging all. Maybe more of you will consider reading *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie for our March 8 meeting. This book was recommended by a librarian who helps us put together our reading list. Copies are on reserve at the Silver Spring Library (behind the check-out counter this time). Lots of us remark each month how the reading list has helped us branch out in our personal selections, often opening up avenues never-before considered likely choices. Get radical! Read with us! Open to the public.

—Carolyn Lauer

## Events Sampler

Our many recent events and activities included seeing art at local galleries, learning how to use LinkedIn, playing lots of card and board games (new: canasta and mah jongg), seeing plays and movies, talking about books and current events, improving how we use technology, enjoying coffee, meals, and ice cream, and lots more. A full page of possibilities for our members appears on page 4. Thinking about joining us?



See page 5.  
Need a ride?  
We can do that too.

Experiencing art close up at Adah Rose Gallery—photo by Ed Lee



Intently and intentionally working on mindfulness together—photo by Marilyn Bate



Enjoying a "fireplace party" and each other's company—photo by Gary Klauber

## 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 are at right (e.g., book group, Charity Stitchers, current events discussion, and poetry). Those that meet more often are listed below.

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

**Canasta**, March 6, 20 and April 3, 17, in a member's home, 1-3 pm (all levels)

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

**Getting to Know You**, March 1, 7 and April 5, 13, in a member's home, 2-4 pm

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

**Mall Katz Walking**, every Mon., Wed. and Fri., Ellsworth Place, 10:30-11:30 am

**Memoir Writing Group**, March 5, 19 and April 9, 23, in a member's home, 10-11:30 am

**Poker Dawgs**, March 7, 21 and April 4, 18, in a member's home, 5-6:30 pm

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

### MARCH

Fri., March 2 – **Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana**, Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 8 pm

Sat., March 3 – **Two Art Exhibits, Strathmore Mansion**, 11 am,\* followed by **Lunch, China Garden**

Wed., March 7 – **The Shape of Water**, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm\*

Thurs., March 8 – **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie), 2-3:30 pm\*

Fri., March 9 – **Current Events Discussion**, Coffield Recreation Center, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., March 10 – **Pre-Theater Dinner, Red Maple**, 5:30 pm

Sat., March 10 – **It's All in the Timing**, Silver Spring Stage, 8 pm\*

Sun., March 11 – **Board Game Afternoon, Tastee Diner**, 4-7 pm

Mon., March 12 – **Charity Stitchers**, in a member's home, 1-3 pm

Wed., March 14 – **Pi/Pie Day**

Wed., March 14 – **Swedish Cleaning (Decluttering)**, SPARKLE Program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-3:30 pm\*

Thurs., March 15 – **Poetry Group**, in a member's home, 10:30 am-noon

Fri., March 16 – **Storytelling by Cricket Parmalee**, in storyteller's home, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., March 17 – **St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour, McGinty's Public House**, 5:30 pm

Mon., March 19 – **Reading to Children and Adults**, Easter Seals Building, 11-11:30 am

Tues., March 20 – **Volunteer at Shepherd's Table**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm (must RSVP)

Wed., March 21 – **Pre-Movie Happy Hour, La Malinche**, 5-6 pm

Wed., March 21 – **The Adventures of Robin Hood**, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm\*

Thurs., March 22 – **Candy Making, Velatis**, 3-4 pm

Fri., March 23 – **Birthday Ice Cream Social, sweetFrog**, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., March 24 – **The Rhythm Future Quartet**, Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 8-10:30 pm\*

Tues., March 27 – **Techno Club**, Coffield Recreation Center, 11:45 am-1:15 pm\*

Wed., March 28 – **Pre-Movie Happy Hour, Lebanese Taverna**, 5-6 pm

Wed., March 28 – **The Bird With the Crystal Plumage**, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm\*

Sat., March 31 – **Men's Brunch**, Courtyard by Marriott, 9-11 am

### APRIL

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

Wed., April 11 – **Topic TBD, SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-3:30 pm\*

Wed., April 11 – **Pre-Movie Happy Hour, Hen Quarter**, 5-6 pm

Wed., April 11 – **La Grande Bouffe**, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm\*

Thurs., April 12 – **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*The Trespasser*, Tana French), 2-3:30 pm\*

Fri., April 13 – **Current Events Discussion**, Coffield Recreation Center, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., April 14 – **Tea, NaTra's Tea**, 2-3:30 pm

Sun., April 15 – **Board Game Afternoon**, Tastee Diner, 4-7 pm

Mon., April 16 – **Dinner, Parkway Deli**, 5 pm

Wed., April 18 – **Pre-Movie Happy Hour, Thai at Silver Spring**, 5-6 pm

Wed., April 18 – **Moonrise Kingdom**, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm\*

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

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

Sat., April 21 – **Pre-Theater Dinner, Red Maple**, 5:30 pm

Sat., April 21 – **Curious Case of the Watson Intelligence**, Silver Spring Stage, 8 pm\*

Mon., April 23 – **Reading to Children and Adults**, Easter Seals Building, 11-11:30 am

Tues., April 24 – **Volunteer at Shepherd's Table**, 11:30 am-1:30 pm (must RSVP)

Tues., April 24 – **Techno Club**, Coffield Recreation Center, 11:45 am-1:15 pm\*

Wed., April 25 – **Pre-Movie Happy Hour, Nando's Peri Peri**, 5 pm

Wed., April 25 – **Stagecoach**, AFI Silver Theater, 6:15 pm\*

Fri., April 27 – **Birthday Ice Cream Social, Tropical Ice Cream Café**, 2-3:30 pm

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

Mon., April 30 – **Walk Through McCrillis Gardens**, 11 am, followed by **lunch** (nearby, TBD)

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



Pondering her next move—photo by Claire Maklan



## Learning a New Game

One of our newest groups focuses on playing mah jongg. What else can you learn by joining the Village?

*Photo by Martine Brizius*

## 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, 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 [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!

### A member says:

☞ *"Thank you so much for all you did yesterday. I was not expecting we could get so much done . . . You must have had a good influence on me, as I have not been this active in a long while."*

## Executive Director's Note: Great News and a Look to the Future

We are very happy to announce that Silver Spring Village had an extremely successful end-of-year fundraising campaign that ended the calendar year with donations of \$43,000. THANK YOU! We are very grateful to all donors: members, volunteers, board, staff, and members of the community. We extend extra special thanks to two extremely generous anonymous donors who together matched all new donations up to \$6,000. Our donors met and exceeded this challenge.

Annual donations allow us to operate on a year-to-year basis, helping our members remain independent in their own homes and community. In calendar year 2017 we provided over 1,000 rides, over 500 friendly visits and phone calls, and 200 in-home services. We offered over 300 programs for seniors in Silver Spring! It takes a village to ensure we can sustain our valued programs, volunteer corps, and support services. With the end-of-year fundraising effort successful and complete, we are focusing on the long-term growth and stability of the Village.

With a growing population of seniors in our community, and government and grant support that is unpredictable, legacy gifts will help ensure our viability and will underpin our capacity to serve the next generation of seniors without impacting current spending.

*Continued on page 6*

*ED note, cont'd from page 5*

To ensure the Village is available, we ask you to look beyond your own lifetime. A way to do this is by naming Silver Spring Village as a beneficiary in your will. Thank you for considering this request. For more information on how to include Silver Spring Village in your estate plans, please contact our treasurer by calling 301-503-7401.

We appreciate all the support that our community provides the Village. We look forward to continuing our successes and our services in 2018.

—Debbie Billet-Roumell



Working and snacking, the Board's officers enjoy the Parkway Deli—photo by Debbie Billet-Roumell

**Reminder to Members: Order Your Slice of Pie for (March 14) Pi Day!!**

New deadline is March 8. Please send your choice (apple, pecan, chocolate pecan, pumpkin, cherry, or key lime) to [msubjak@juno.com](mailto:msubjak@juno.com) or call the Village phone line and they will forward your request. All members are eligible.



**Volunteer Corner: Services for Members**

What types of services do Silver Spring Village volunteers provide? Driving (as described on page 1 by our President) is the service most people know about, but it is only one of the many ways our volunteers assist our members. For example, did you know that some volunteers have been trained to be medical note takers? They can accompany a member to a medical appointment, help ensure the member's questions get answered, take notes during the appointment, and give a written summary to the member.

And that is not all. Village volunteers make friendly visits to members, spending an hour or more talking, walking, or even having tea. They also make phone calls to check in with members and provide some social time. In addition, volunteers help with paperwork and decluttering, make small repairs like replacing a mailbox or building a small cart, pick up food or medication, help with pet care, and water plants when a member is out of town. Volunteers who are knowledgeable about technology help solve problems with computers, remote controls and other electronic gadgets. And volunteers serve as "storm buddies" to help out when the weather is bad.



For members who want to request volunteer services, we are a "one-stop shop." The member simply needs to contact the Village at 301-503-7401 or [volunteers@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:volunteers@silverspringvillage.org) (whenever possible at least one week in advance). We try our best to fill every request.

If you would like information about becoming a volunteer for our Village please send an email to [volunteers@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:volunteers@silverspringvillage.org) or give us a call.

—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.

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