

Celebrating our fifth anniversary

BMAV had to delay celebrating its fifth-year anniversary (November 2016) because of the Covid pandemic, but that made our celebration on May 23 all the more special. Some 80 members and volunteers attended. It was grand seeing so many in person after more than two years of primarily Zoom contact.

BMAV President Jeanne Parker welcomed everyone. She described the beginnings and evolution of the village and emphasized the important role our executive director, Elizabeth Haile, has played in the success of BMAV. Jeanne then presented a new video, “We Are BMAV,” featuring several members and non-member volunteers. (Watch it [here](#).) In her concluding remarks, Jeanne said what was apparent to all: Bethesda Metro Area Village is thriving.

Gail Shearer introduced the book she and others wrote to commemorate the anniversary, “Bethesda Metro Area Village: Five Years Together.” It is replete with BMAV’s history, descriptions of the shared interest groups (lots of photos), members’ reflections on aging well – thoughtful, some serious, some funny – and much more. The books were given to all members and volunteers present. If you didn’t get one and would like a copy, contact Elizabeth at director@bmavillage.org.





The success of our anniversary celebration was due in great measure to the efforts of several BMAV volunteers who helped plan and implement it. Thank you to Jan Bill, MaryLu Carnevale, Bruce Coolidge, Elyse Jacob, Jeanne Parker, Stephanie Sutton, Gail Shearer, Barbara Wiss, and to Diane Goldman for help finding background music for the anniversary video.

Consider becoming a direct service provider volunteer

BMAV has two kinds of volunteers. One kind helps other members keep engaged with their community and stay engaged themselves by helping run our committees, or planning and leading events and shared interest groups. The other kind provides direct services to members through rides, technical assistance (especially with electronic devices), household tasks, and more. In helping other BMAV members, BMAV direct service provider volunteers get to meet and learn about those they are serving and about other volunteers in our community.

Direct service provider volunteer applicants take a 45-minute training session, and undergo online driving record and criminal background checks. You can agree to fill as many or as few of the service requests that Elizabeth sends you as you want. The next volunteer training session,

via Zoom, is on August 3 ([Elizabeth](#) can arrange another time that fits your schedule). [RSVP here](#) for the link. Contact Elizabeth if you have any questions.

Have you been thinking about becoming a full service member?

Do you have questions about how to use your smartphone, smart TV or apps? Do you need lightbulbs or storm windows changed, heavy things carried to or from the car or dug out of your attic? Do you need assistance with garden tasks, watering plants or moving trash cans to the curb while you are away or recover from an illness? If you're a full service BMAV member, volunteers can help and are just a phone call away. Contact [Elizabeth](#) for more information on the full service member application and fees. Reduced cost memberships are available.

What new members are saying about BMAV

I've lived in my Bethesda house 45 years. Being in the Bethesda (Metro Area) Village is the first time that I've felt a sense of community.

-- a longtime Bethesda resident

BMAV is a wonder because it's so social, full of engaging, vibrant, interesting and interested, and kind people. This is what's special for me as a newcomer to Bethesda.

-- a new Bethesda resident

Update on "our" Afghan refugee family

Overall, the Afghan family that some BMAV members have been helping settle into their new life and community since last November is doing well. The newborn is flourishing, and the older son, who begins kindergarten next fall, is enjoying riding his bike, learning to play soccer and going to a summer camp. The parents are both working hard at learning English via Zoom classes and in-person tutors.

If you would like to help, there is a need for more tutors, especially over the summer. The minimum commitment is an hour a week. Contact [Elizabeth Haile](#) if you're interested.

Recent events of interest

Knitting, Needlework and Friends shared interest group met in person on May 3 and May 31 for the first times since March 2020. During the previous two years, they met via Zoom.



Flowers everywhere

Members visited two places of interest in May that were awash with azaleas and garden flowers: McCrillis Gardens, off Fernwood Road in Bethesda, and the Washington, D.C. Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kensington, which was still open to the public.



Biking and kayaking outing

Eight intrepid BMAV outdoorsmen and -women had a fun time biking and/or kayaking on a warm June 13 day on the Potomac River. The two bikers started from Paul's bakery in Bethesda, rode on the Capital Crescent Trail to Fletcher's Cove, where they met the others for an hour of kayaking. The river was quite calm. The group enjoyed an easy paddle, spotting birds, turtles and fishermen. After that, the bikers continued on their way to Georgetown. Member David Moulton, who leads early morning birdwatching walks, did some birding.



Ladies Lunch Out

Thirteen members met on June 23 for a BYO lunch on the lovely screened porch of new member Andy Brown. There was a good mix of longtime and newish BMAV members and much good conversation. The meal concluded with a “I ♥ BMAV” cake that Andy provided.



New shared interest groups

When BMAV started in 2016, we had just two shared interest groups. As time went by, members who had other interests started new groups, such as Aging Well, Film Fans, men's and ladies' lunches out, happy hour, and bridge. Since then, the number of groups has increased to 18. We have two new ones, below, also started by BMAV members. If you come up with an idea for a new group, check with [Elizabeth](#) on timing or logistics, and it's a go!

Walkie-talkies. This new group, started by Nancy Balz, met for the first time on June 7. Members walked the perimeter of Greenwich Forest, enjoying excellent weather and the varied architecture and discovering their common interests and activities. The group ended the walk with a brief visit to Lynn Barclay's back garden "sitting room," with an inviting swing and bench, surrounded by tall trees and mature azaleas.

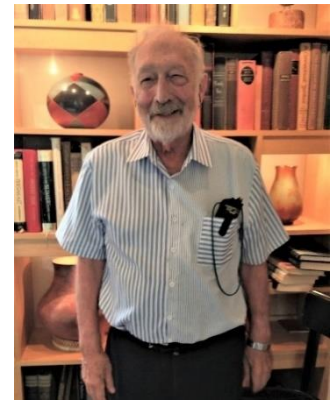
All members are invited to come on these leisurely 35-40-minute walkie-talkies on Tuesdays at 11 am. If it's raining or over 85 degrees, the walk is canceled. The meeting place alternates between Greenwich Forest and Caroline Freeland Park. The next walk is on July 12 in Greenwich Forest. No walkie-talkie in August; they will resume in September. RSVP to [Nancy](#) appreciated, or just show up if you find you can come.

Dining out together. Members Richard and Janet Dante and Reid Detchon are launching a new monthly social activity for BMAV members: dining out together. Once a month, they'll pick a restaurant, send out the word to those interested, and descent *en masse* for a fun meal out to sample new places (or new choices from old places), and to get to know each other better.

Members Richard and Janet Dante and Reid Detchon are launching a new monthly social activity for BMAV members: dining out together. They want the experience to be as flexible as possible – no private room and no fixed menu, but separate checks – just time together to swap eating tips, share plates (if the spirit moves), even swap tables mid-meal if you want, and get to know both longtime and new members. The first dining out event will be at 5:30 on Tuesday, July 19, at PLANTA, the trendy new vegetarian restaurant on Elm Street. It's one of the few spots in Bethesda to get [kind words](#) from Tom Sietsema, the *Washington Post* restaurant critic. RSVP required to [Janet Dante](#), or email her to be added to the group email list.

Interview with member Jerry Hage

Jerry Hage grew up outside Chicago and attended public schools. When he was around 10, he realized he wasn't getting a good education, in part because all the schoolbooks were written by the superintendent of education. To overcome that, he went to the neighborhood library and he read widely. It worked. When his family moved, Jerry attended a high school of such high quality – both the courses and the teachers – that when he went to the University of Wisconsin, he didn't have to crack a book his first year.



Jerry was in the Navy ROTC program at Wisconsin for four and a half years. It paid for his tuition, and in exchange, he served as a commissioned naval officer for three years. He says he was "extremely lucky" in his naval experience. His first assignment was to a ship that did the evaluations on the first surface-to-air missile developed by the Navy. His second ship transported President Eisenhower to Bermuda for a secret meeting with England's Prime Minister MacMillan during the Suez crisis. Afterward, the ship joined the Sixth Fleet for a year and a half, stopping at Mediterranean ports, which Jerry says were "magic." When he got out of the Navy, he traveled for three months in Europe, including Paris, and fell in love with it all -- European culture, museums, arts, and way of living. He vowed that one day he would live in Europe.

Back in the U.S., Jerry earned a Ph.D. in sociology at Columbia University, then taught as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, beginning in 1964. On the personal side, after admiring a bronze statue at a local art show, he had a vision of the woman he would marry. Through the artist and his wife, Jerry learned of Madeleine, a Parisienne, who turned out to be that woman. While still in Madison, he initiated a several-months exchange of letters with her. They met for the first time in Paris in 1965. He drew up a marriage contract before he proposed. In it, he promised that they would live in France for three months a year. Madeleine accepted. In 1966 they got married in Paris and then went to live in the U.S.

Jerry resumed teaching at the University of Wisconsin. Madeleine studied there on a Fulbright scholarship for a year and then taught at a local technical college. Their first acquisition as a married couple was 50 acres in the south of France, with a farmhouse that became a guest house for Madeleine's family and a barn that became Jerry's and Madeleine's abode. They

spent three months there every summer. Jerry calls their home there “a smashing success.” The guest house has been sold, but the barn remains. Jerry plans to go there for two months this summer.

During the first ten years of their marriage, Jerry and Madeleine spent about half their time in Europe – Paris, London, Munich and the south of France. In 1975, they moved to Paris, where Madeleine got a Ph.D. and taught English as a technical language and other topics at the University of Paris. Jerry became a “kept man.” At the end of three years, it was time to return to the U.S. Madeleine had veto power over where they would live. She wanted to be near a significant French population, such as the Washington, DC area. The position the University of Maryland offered Jerry, chief of the sociology department, seemed the best fit, and they moved to Bethesda.

Madeleine taught in UMD’s French department -- women in 20th century French literature and how to watch French films -- until she retired. Jerry retired from teaching in 2002, and then became a consultant for several major government agencies on the problems of innovation. He is still the director of the Center for Innovation, at UMD. He has written numerous papers and books in his field, including a book that came out in May. Each addresses facets of his life’s two crusades: improving life by making organizations more innovative as a way of introducing change in society, and overcoming social inequality.

Jerry enjoys keeping his family together, keeping in touch with his wife’s family in France, keeping up with friends, making new friends through BMAV and other groups, and creating new ways of relating to others, such as by developing new social groups.

Upcoming events



Registration by members for virtual events is not required. The Zoom link is sent to members by email for each event. For BMAV events that are open to the public, registration instructions for non-members are noted below

LGBTQ + Seniors Group meetings. The Silver Spring and Takoma Park villages invite BMAV and other villages to join sexual and gender minority adults “of a certain age” for conversation, education and community-building in a safe and friendly environment. The group meets every other Tuesday, 4-5 pm, usually via Zoom but sometimes in person. Next meeting is on July 5. For more information, send an email to Doug.Gaddis@silverspringvillage.org.



Home, Health, and Heart: virtual art tour of Walters Art Museum, Tuesday, July 12, 2-3 pm.

Art is an expression of the human experience. Over time, many artists have depicted the experience of poor health, poverty, and lack of housing. These works teach us about the lives of those often removed from history, but also expose the biases of the artists and their cultural milieu.

Led by a docent, you'll take a closer look at art and objects from the Walters Art Museum in this genre and then discuss how artists and the culture of their time shaped those portrayals. Sponsored by Chevy Chase At Home and Bethesda Metro Area Village. Register in advance for the Zoom link [here](#).

Armchair Travelers, In search of birds: the Big Island and the Bay Area, Thursday, July 14, 4-5 pm.

David Cohen, a writer and photographer whose work has appeared in books, magazines, newspapers, and online, will talk about the birds, vistas, and flora he saw in his visits early this year to the Big Island of Hawaii and the Bay Area, and his search for the elusive native Hawaiian honeycreepers. Why are they so hard to find? The answers go to the impact our species has been having on others. David will narrate slides, invite questions, and close with a slideshow to music. You can see his wildlife photos [here](#). Open to friends and neighbors. [RSVP](#) for Zoom link.



Hawaiian honeycreeper

What's the latest on our National Mall? Wednesday, July 20, 1-2 pm.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, once again the National Mall is alive with activity. Visitors from near and far explore our reopened national museums and monuments, stroll the majestic public open space, and participate in First Amendment celebrations and protests. But challenges loom, and solutions are hard to come by. The Smithsonian is seeking locations in DC for two new museums, the National Park Service wants to move large public gatherings off the Mall, and flooding is an existential threat.

What is the future of public activity on the Mall? Join art historian Judy Scott Feldman, chair of the nonprofit National Mall Coalition, to learn about the problems, ongoing efforts to address them, and some solutions proposed by the architects, historians, and planners of the Coalition.

Co-sponsored by Connie Morella Library and Bethesda Metro Area Village. Free and open to the public. Click [here](#) for the link and more information.

BMAV game night, Wednesday, July 27, 4:30-6:30 pm.

BMAV members are invited to a game night at Barbara and Bob Berish's home. Come, find a partner or foursome to play your favorite game. Bring your board game or backgammon, anything you like...or play a game of billiards, darts, or cards. [RSVP](#) required, maximum 12.

**Volunteer service provider orientation, Wednesday, August 3, 12-1 pm.**

Do you want to build a community that values people of all ages? Are you interested in helping your older neighbors? Would you like to donate your time or expertise to help a local nonprofit? If so, become a direct service volunteer for BMAV. In this orientation, Executive Director Elizabeth Haile and BMAV Services Committee Chair Bruce Coolidge will go over the services BMAV offer (rides, friendly visits, in-home assistance with technology or light repairs, vacation checks, snow shoveling and garbage can placement), how requests are made and filled, and answer questions about common scenarios.

Open to all friends and neighbors interested in learning about the village and volunteer-provided services. Current volunteers who would like a refresher are also welcome. [RSVP](#) and application required. Zoom link will be sent to registrants.

Shared interest groups for members

Afghan refugee assistance. Since last fall, several BMAV members have been helping a young Afghan refugee family get settled in Bethesda. There's a current need for one-on-one English tutoring, minimum one hour a week. If you would like to help in this or other ways, contact Elizabeth at director@bmavillage.org and she will put you in contact with the right person in the Afghan refugee assistance group.

Aging well. Each session focuses on an interesting question or topic. Written summaries of members' contributions from these meetings are on the BMAV website in the [Forums](#) section (accessible to members only). The group meets via Zoom monthly on Sundays at 4 pm and will resume in September. Hosted by [Chris Palmer](#).

Armchair travelers. Do you have photos from trips you've taken? Armchair travelers would love to hear about your trips. [Diane Goldman](#) can help with the presentation if you don't know how to screen share; just send her your digital photos ahead of time. Please contact her if you're interested. Our next "trip" is to Hawaii's Big Island and the Bay Area, on July 14 (see item in upcoming events, above.)

Biking. Contact leads [Steve](#) and [Stephanie Sutton](#) and [Elyse Jacob](#) with questions and to learn about pop-up rides.

Birding. [David Moulton](#) hosts birdwatching sessions online and sends email updates with photos and descriptions of birds to keep a lookout for. Contact him to be added to his list.

Book club. Meets monthly on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 pm to recommend and discuss favorite works in any genre. Rather than all reading the same book and discussing one book, the group discusses whatever they have read and enjoyed. Authors occasionally join the Zoom events to discuss their books. Hosted by [Jane Boynton](#). The next meeting is July 12.

Bridge. Meets daily for afternoon games via computer program or in person. If you'd like to join, contact lead [Marilyn Kerst](#) for more information.

Dining Out Together. Meets monthly at a local restaurant for a fun meal out, to sample new places (or new choices from old places), and to get to know each other better. Contact [Janet Dante](#) to be added to the group email list.

Coffee talk. Members meet on the second and fourth Thursday morning by Zoom or in person outside to share tips, activities, and inspiration. Hosted by [Ann Labriola](#) and [Naomi Collins](#).

Film fans. [Diana Kitt](#)'s film group meets monthly on Zoom to shares names of recommended films and to discuss, debate, critique two movies of the month members have selected. In the wake of Ukraine, they have opted for less serious movies. The group now focuses on musicals, dramas, mysteries, historical films, comedies, and all-time faves, no matter the genre. As the group has evolved, it has become more intimate and entertaining. All are welcome.

Gardening. [Ann Labriola](#) hosts a group that meets to share gardening tours, tips, questions and answers. Contact Ann to be added to the email list.

Happy hour. BMAV members meet online or in person for lively conversation and good cheer the first and third Friday afternoons. All topics welcome. Coordinated by [Stephanie Sutton](#), [Susan Gorman](#) and [Barbara Brown](#).

Hardy Hikers. [Ann Bennet](#) leads the BMAV hiking club on monthly weekday morning hikes at locations throughout the metro area.

Knitting, Needlework and Friends. Members of this group work on their own projects or a charity project. This year is "the year of the hats." The group meets primarily in person to share tips, patterns and socialize. All skill levels welcome. Contact [Sandi Ross](#) for more information.

Ladies' Lunch Out. Members meet monthly at noon for lunch, conversation and camaraderie at an area restaurant or a member's home. The next lunch meetups are on Monday, July 25, and Friday, August 26. Hosted by [Lynn Barclay](#).

Men's lunch. [Bob Metzler](#) and [Reid Detchon](#) host lunch and discussion gatherings every other Thursday at 1 pm on Zoom or at area restaurants. Themed discussions are held the first half of

the lunch, and the second half is for catching up. The next lunches are on July 7 (virtual) and July 21 (at a local restaurant).

Walkie-Talkies. [Nancy Balz](#) leads a weekly 11 am Tuesday walk-and-talk group on a leisurely 30-45-minute circuit, starting alternately from Greenwich Forest and Caroline Freeland Park on Arlington Road. The next one is July 12. Meet in Greenwich Forest Triangle at Hampden Lane and Overhill Road. Contact Nancy if you're interested, or just show up.

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Suggestion box

Do you have an idea for an article or a comment about the newsletter? If you do, please email newsletter editor [Lynn Barclay](#).

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