

The Council Report

2013 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MAURICE J. TREBACH, *Chairman*
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Vice Chairman*
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*
ALVAN M. MORRIS, *Treasurer*
LEONARD J. GRANT, *Historian*
JOHN MERTENS, *Parliamentarian*

How Wonderful Is 100!

Melanie Rose White, Mayor

When the gurus at American Greetings target their audience, I'm convinced they have a person like me in mind. I love to send cards—for birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, you name it. The flashier the card, the better. My mom said I was born loving glitter! Nowadays so many people remember their friends on Facebook, but can't be bothered to mail a card. It's a wonderful feeling to know that people care enough to forward a digital message, but nothing compares to the joy of holding and re-reading a real card, long after that special occasion has passed.

On birthday cards, I almost always write something like "Have a great day and a terrific year ahead." It's not because I'm too lazy to dream up a different greeting for each recipient—it's just that I think birthdays are as much about the future as they are the present or past. It's the same with centennials.

Our village celebrates its Centennial this year, and the Center program directors are busy planning many events and activities to commemorate this milestone. When you think about our community turning 100 years old, it's easy to start thinking about the past. What was life like in 1914? What is different? What has stayed the same?

As tempting as it is to reminisce, a centennial, like a birthday, is a perfect time to think about the future. How can we promote the power of 100 years? What have we learned from the past? What lessons do we want to remember as we move forward?

As you look at the Centennial photo exhibit at the Center, it's easy to see how our community has changed physically over the years. Which resident in 1914 ever thought an ornate fountain and park benches would take the place of peach orchards? Did Colonel McAuliffe ever imagine his charming home becoming the site of

a dramatic highrise? As I write these comments, the Village Council is in the process of redesigning two of our parks to accommodate a growing number of younger residents. I hope that these new greenspaces will continue to reflect the unique nature of Friendship Heights—a hallmark of our community for the last century.

Over the years, changes have come inside the Village Center, too. The Center is the heart of our community, and that's why it's displayed so prominently on our Centennial banner. Compare the activities in the Village newsletter in the 1980s with this month's edition, and you'll see how our programming has changed. When the Center opened in 1986, programs were sparsely attended and it took a while to determine what appealed to a community as diverse as ours. It seems hard to believe now, but it was difficult then to get folks to take a bus trip. Compare those early, tentative days with 2013 when an enthusiastic group of residents journeyed across the

Atlantic aboard the Queen Mary 2 on the trip of a lifetime.

As we begin our second century, it's a challenge to envision what changes the future will bring. I do know that with the guidance of the talented and dedicated Village Staff, any changes will reflect the needs and wishes of those who live and work in our village.

None of the services in our community are possible without your tax dollar. Please read the Treasurer's Report by Dr. Alvan Morris on page

5 where you'll see that this is the **ninth consecutive year that the proposed tax rate is 4¢ per \$100—the lowest our Charter allows!** We're lucky in Friendship Heights to have the financial resources to plan for the future in a calm and deliberate manner that considers every aspect of life in our urban community.

On behalf of the Council, I wish you a happy and productive 2014. Please take some time during this banner year to celebrate the Centennial and to think about the future of our community. It's our 100th birthday—a perfect opportunity to look back and plan ahead.



Mayor White honors centenarian and volunteer Marianne Cook on Community Day.

2013 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

Following the death of Village Council member Leonard “Chip” Mudd at the end of 2012, the Council filled the vacant seat by appointing John Mertens in March. Mr. Mertens represents the Village on the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD) Advisory Committee and has served on the Community Advisory Committee. He also serves as Chief Election Judge for the County at our precinct.

In May, Mr. Mertens and the other six Village Council incumbents were unanimously re-elected for two years. Each Council member serves as an officer: Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Maurice Trebach, Chairman; Robert Schwarzbart, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Demetra Harris, Secretary; Alvan Morris, Treasurer; Leonard Grant, Historian, and John Mertens, Parliamentarian.

We rely on a large number of volunteers from the community to help us at the Village Center every day. My special thanks to them and to our wonderful staff.

PREPARING FOR THE VILLAGE'S CENTENNIAL

Led by Council member Leonard Grant, the Village Centennial Committee met throughout the year in preparation for our community's 100th anniversary in 2014. Committee members Ron Irion, Alfred Muller, Stephanie Olshan, Rachael Schacherer, and Joel Williams worked closely with Village staff and Mayor Melanie

White. The Committee developed a number of projects, including banners to be displayed on Village streetlight poles; new custom street identification signs; a book about the history of the Village (due in the spring); wall displays at the Village Center featuring photos, maps, and memorabilia; a series of programs throughout the Centennial on different aspects of our history; and Centennial-themed special events, such as Community Day

on April 13 and our July 4 celebration. Check our newsletter for program information and updates during this special year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In April and October we again participated in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This very successful program, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration, addresses a vital public safety and health issue. Montgomery County Police officers came to the Center to collect and safely dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs. The much-appreciated shredding truck service also continued. Check our newsletter for an announcement of the next shredding date in spring 2014.

The Village continues to be well-represented on the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee. Council member Len Grant completed his final term and was succeeded by Rachael Schacherer, a resident who also is one of the lead organizers of the Taste of Friendship Heights

Village of
Friendship Heights
Celebrates
100 YEARS



Village Council members (seated left to right): Elizabeth Harris, Maurice Trebach, Leonard Grant. Standing left to right: Alvan Morris, Melanie White, John Mertens, Robert Schwarzbart.



Mayor Melanie White honors Council Chairman Maurice Trebach. *Photo by Joel Williams*

and serves on our Community Advisory Committee and Centennial Committee. The TMD advises the County on a range of traffic and transportation issues, including pedestrian safety.

Council member Bob Schwarzbart continued to serve as a residential representative on the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, a 19-member group that advises the Montgomery County Executive and County Council on a range of local issues.

Our email alert group receives regular messages about our website updates and special program and community announcements. If you have not yet signed up, send an email to jmansfield@friendshipheightsmd.gov.



Mayor Melanie White was honored by Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown at the MML Conference in Ocean City.



Council member Alvan Morris (center) with Maryland Delegate Susan Lee and Senator Brian Frosh.

Photo by Joel Williams

The Village continued its active involvement with the Maryland Municipal League, attending meetings with the County Executive, County Council, and Maryland legislators. In June, Mayor Melanie White received special recognition at MML's annual convention in Ocean City for her 20 years of service as a municipal official. I serve as Treasurer of the Montgomery County Chapter.

VILLAGE HONORS RESIDENTS

The Council continued its tradition of recognizing Village residents for their contributions to the community. Marianne Cook was honored at our Community Day celebration with a resolution adopted by the Council and a plaque honoring her as the first Village Centenarian Volunteer. Marianne entertains guests with her piano playing at our Tuesday Tea program every week. At our July 4 celebration, Mayor Melanie White presented Maurice Trebach with a plaque in recognition of his service as Chairman of the Village Council for the past 10 years. Council member Alvan Morris received the Elizabeth Scull Outstanding Community Service Award, along with proclamations from our state delegates and senator.

The Council also presented Community Service Awards to Village residents Helen Vamvas and Lee Farber.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

In June the Council approved the concept of installing playgrounds in Willoughby Park and Page Park and hired a designer. The plan is to install playground equipment in the lower grassy oval in Willoughby Park for kids ages

five and younger. Playground equipment in Page Park would be for older children. The Council then held a community forum in September, with a large number of residents expressing their views. More feedback was received at subsequent Council meetings and via email and letters, and the process continues into 2014.

WSSC continued working on a comprehensive water main replacement project on Willard Avenue from River Road to Wisconsin Avenue. The work is expected to continue through the spring of 2014, including the replacement of a large section of pipe under Friendship Boulevard between Willard and North Park Avenues. We will keep residents informed as we hear updates on WSSC's progress.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH COUNTY AND STATE



Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas Manger

The Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue, now in its 17th year of operation, is a successful partnership between the Village and the Montgomery County Police Department's Bethesda District, headed by Captain David Falcinelli. The facility provides increased police presence and

visibility in the community.

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Mobile Office is a convenient, reliable, and popular service in the Village. The bus is scheduled every month and parks on Friendship Boulevard, next to the Village Center,



MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2014 (Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.):
January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 19, June 23



MVA Mobile Office staff Donald Clark, Kathy Wiederock, and Sandy Bathurst are an efficient, friendly team. Not pictured is Rea Dimler, who greets customers as they arrive.

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All of the services provided at the MVA Express Offices are available on the bus, including renewing driver's licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing MD photo identifications, obtaining disability placards, and returning tags.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: VILLAGE CENTER LIBRARY

Village resident volunteers Tobi Esler and Ken Niles manage the Village Center library. The Center receives numerous donations of books, so Tobi and Ken stay busy keeping the shelves organized and inviting. We also maintain a number of popular magazine and newspaper subscriptions.

You can visit the library during the Village Center's open hours (seven days a week). Stop by anytime and pick up



Tobi Esler and Ken Niles take good care of our Village Center library.

a book or read your favorite newspaper or magazine. Check out the small shelf near the entrance for the latest additions to our collection. Thanks to Tobi and Ken for doing a great job!

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvan Morris

There is an old adage that has several versions: "Take care of the nickels, and the dollars will take care of themselves." That philosophy has served us well in Friendship Heights.

From FY07 through FY09 we added more than \$1,600,000 to Village reserves while keeping property taxes (the only extra tax that Village residents pay) at the lowest level possible. In FY10 and FY11 we ran deficits totaling \$128,546—our first deficits in many, many years,



but much lower than expected. We watched our expenses very carefully and it made a difference.

Then, in FY12, and continuing through FY13, we ran surpluses. Nearly \$700,000 over

the two years and far better than our projections. Income tax revenues were back up! Now in FY14, we expect income tax to be down again. Our budgeted surplus of over \$155,000 now looks like it will be closer to \$14,000, and that could disappear if we have significant snow storms. The moral is that, at least in these crazy economic times, we cannot get too confident and we have to remain careful. We also continue to maintain substantial reserves and remain debt free.

For FY15 we are expecting a nearly break-even scenario with an expected surplus of around \$18,000. ***The property tax rate will remain 4¢ per \$100, the lowest rate allowed by our charter, for the ninth consecutive year.*** We will continue to celebrate our Centennial, and all services will remain intact. We will also continue to take care of the nickels.

The proposed Village budget for FY15 follows, along with an explanation of the various categories. As always, the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, and the footnotes at the end should be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories. Public hearings will be held on the proposed FY15 budget in February and March.

REVENUES

For FY15, income taxes are budgeted at \$1,028,000 which is the same amount we are expecting to receive in FY14. Properties in the Village were reassessed this year. While the amount of increases varied, we are anticipating an overall increase in revenue of 10%. Most other income sources are projected to remain the same, including Gas/highway tax and Municipal Revenue sharing which continue to be political hot buttons. Village Center rental income has dropped a bit. Consider using the Center for your next event!

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category is being increased 2% over the FY14 budget.

Public Safety: No increase projected.

Public Works: Again, per contract, the cost of the bus will rise in FY15. Our bus contractor does, however, expect to add a new, accessible backup bus. "Village-scape" reflects the lower cost of the flower baskets.

Health/Education/Social Services: No increase projected.

Recreation & Parks: Our Centennial celebration will continue throughout 2014. Additional money has again been included in the "Center special events" category for expenses related to this special celebration. "Landscaping contract" reflects additional enhancements (allowed by savings in "Village-scape").

Capital Improvements Fund:

This year the Village bought



a number of new chairs for the auditorium and has initiated work with a consultant to plan new playgrounds. At this point no decisions on additional capital improvements have been made by the Council. Funds will be transferred to the Capital Improvements Fund as necessary.

Once again, the Village's strong financial condition, combined with careful management, has enabled us to keep services intact and the tax rate at the lowest possible level allowed by our charter.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY2015

REVENUES:	Actual FY13	Budget FY14	Est.Actual FY14	Budget FY15
Property tax ¹	\$506,501	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$550,000
Income tax ²	1,222,626	1,200,000	1,028,000	1,028,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	82,625	82,000	82,625	82,000
Gas/highway tax ⁴	11,938	12,000	35,000	12,000
Parking violation income ⁵	296,057	300,000	300,000	300,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	48,000	49,320	48,000	50,793
Interest income ⁶	12,282	12,000	12,000	12,000
Village Center rental income	25,533	20,000	10,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	17,224	15,000	15,000	15,000
Newsletter ad income	38,421	40,000	40,000	40,000
Village Center program/misc income ⁸	6,672	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,267,879	\$2,237,320	\$2,077,625	\$2,111,793
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY13	Budget FY14	Est.Actual FY14	Budget FY15
General Government				
1 Elections	\$3,580	\$0	0	\$5,000
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	10,029	10,000	10,000	11,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	7,196	9,000	9,000	9,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	20,634	20,000	20,000	20,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	5,900	10,000	7,000	10,000
2F Village Council reports	2,835	3,000	3,000	3,000
3A Salaries ¹²	597,327	620,575	620,575	639,192
3B Health and Life Insurance ¹³	104,540	115,000	110,000	115,000
3C F.I.C.A.	46,436	48,400	48,400	49,852
3E Retirement Contribution ¹⁴	45,342	48,400	48,400	49,852
4A Xerox copiers	763	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	15,108	12,000	12,000	12,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	3,045	3,000	3,000	3,000
5C Bldg/General liability insurance ¹⁵	29,430	28,740	28,740	22,883
6 Telephone and utilities	28,903	45,000	45,000	45,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	15,094	17,000	17,000	17,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	12,114	15,000	15,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	0	0	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	3,642	5,000	5,000	5,000
8E Computer equip/supplies	2,969	3,000	3,000	3,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	12,863	20,000	20,000	20,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	110,432	118,000	115,000	120,000
Total General Government	\$1,079,982	\$1,154,015	\$1,143,015	\$1,177,679
Public Safety				
9A Security Patrol contract	\$79,257	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	2,917	4,000	4,000	4,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,400
Total Public Safety	\$92,574	\$104,400	\$104,400	\$104,400

Public Works	Actual FY13	Budget FY14	Est.Actual FY14	Budget FY15
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$419,585	\$432,000	\$432,000	\$445,000
11A Street maintenance	0	0	0	0
11B Sidewalk maintenance	4,520	5,000	5,000	5,000
11C Snow removal	15,289	35,000	35,000	35,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	0	0	0
12A Waste collection ²²	16,891	17,000	17,000	17,000
12B Recycling	3,233	3,000	3,000	3,000
13 Street lighting	17,942	20,000	20,000	20,000
14 Street signs	972	1,000	1,000	1,000
15 Trees	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
16 Villagescape ²³	15,463	30,000	15,000	15,000
Total Public Works	\$493,895	\$545,000	\$530,000	\$543,000
Health/Education/Social Serv.				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	9,032	12,000	12,000	12,000
17C Housing Program ²⁵	2,050	0	0	0
17D Scholarship Program ²⁶	0	0	0	0
Total Health/Education/Social Serv.	\$11,082	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	1,103	2,000	2,000	2,000
18D Musicians' fees	18,414	20,000	20,000	20,000
18E Instructors' fees	(1,892)	0	0	0
18F Trip fees	(8)	0	0	0
18G Art/theme shows	452	3,000	3,000	3,000
18I Consumable supplies	5,983	5,000	6,000	6,000
18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners	8,068	10,000	10,000	10,000
18M Center special events ²⁷	35,841	65,000	65,000	50,000
19 Reading Room Materials	1,875	4,000	4,000	4,000
20C Village newsletter	34,393	40,000	35,000	35,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity	1,185	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	2,626	7,000	7,000	7,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint.	13,513	15,000	15,000	15,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint.	265	3,000	3,000	3,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint	0	0	0	0
21G Art fund	0	3,000	0	3,000
23 Landscaping contract	83,647	75,000	90,000	85,000
24 Arborist contract	18,956	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$224,421	\$266,000	\$274,000	\$257,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,901,954	\$2,081,415	\$2,063,415	\$2,094,079
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$365,925	\$155,905	\$14,210	\$17,714
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,267,879	\$2,237,320	\$2,077,625	\$2,111,793
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$4,789,290	\$4,945,195	\$4,803,500	\$4,821,214
CAP.IMPROV. FUND BALANCE²⁸	\$36,343	\$36,298	\$5,735	\$5,755
OPEB TRUST FUND RESERVE²⁹	\$137,332	\$94,673	\$94,673	\$38,473



FOOTNOTES

Revenues

- 1 The special tax rate for the Village of Friendship Heights (not less than 4¢/\$100 nor more than 20¢/\$100 on assessments based on 100% of value), set by the Friendship Heights Village Council, was 4¢/\$100 in FY2014, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2015, which begins July 1, 2014.
- 2 Estimate reflects the portion of the county tax rate returned to the Village from state filings.
- 3 An agreement between the county and municipalities (including special tax districts) requires the county to reimburse special tax districts for a portion of certain expenditures, which currently include park maintenance, health services, and road maintenance.
- 4 This amount is derived from a state formula based on the number of registered vehicles at Village addresses.
- 5 Parking violation income is collected by Montgomery County. The Village revenue share is 75%.
- 6 Interest is from Village funds placed in state approved investments. Interest on the Capital Improvements and OPEB Funds, included in the audit figure, are not included in the budget.
- 7 Permit fees are paid by contractors who occupy public rights-of-way (streets and sidewalks). By law, the fees defray only the reasonable administrative costs of maintaining the permit system and are currently \$250. Certain license fees are also received from the state.
- 8 Includes a percentage of art sales and commission from produce market sales.

Expenditures

- 9 Includes the annual audit and financial statements required by law.
- 10 Includes taking of the minutes for the monthly public Council meetings, postage, and stationery.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues and conferences attended by Council and/or staff.
- 12 Salaries of 5 full-time and 5 part-time employees. (The Center is open seven days a week and four evenings until 9 p.m.) Volunteers provide additional support to staff.
- 13 Covers costs of health insurance, life insurance, and other benefits provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 15 Includes Worker's Comp, Public Officials Liability, Fidelity Bond, and Building/General Liability.
- 16 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and holiday decorations.
- 17 Includes general cleaning products, restroom paper supplies, copier paper, and office supplies.
- 18 Contract for maintenance staff at Village Center. Includes cleaning, minor repairs, setups and takedowns of equipment, street cleaning, and 4602 North Park Police Field Office cleaning.
- 19 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 20 Cost of security vehicle provided by security contractor.
- 21 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance.
- 22 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week. A community shredding service, twice per year, is also included.
- 23 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on streetlight poles.
- 24 Includes cost of 4-part program with Suburban Hospital and other health related services.
- 25 Cooperative program with county and Village landlord for transitional housing for one needy family. This program ended in FY2013.
- 26 To fund educational scholarship(s) or community education. Recipient(s) selected by the Council.
- 27 Cost of four major seasonal events each year. An additional amount has been included this year for Centennial celebrations.
- 28 The Council will be considering enhancements to playground equipment in FY14. No estimate of cost is available at this time.
- 29 Reserve for payments into Montgomery County Trust for retiree health benefits.

2013 Program Report

Jennie Fogarty, Associate Program Director
Anne O'Neil, Associate Program Director

2013 was another busy year at the Village Center! Village residents participated in art, exercise, language, bridge, computer, and photography classes, as well as discussion groups; Scrabble, book, chess, and bridge clubs; movies, a children's art camp, a farmers market, health programs, lectures, concerts, storytelling, and trips. There is something for everyone here.

CLASSES

Two new classes were extremely popular. We were pleased to be able to offer two four-week series of classes on American Songwriters taught by well-known musician and humorist John



"Florence," by Doris Haskel, one of the art instructors at the Center, was featured at Friendship Gallery in November.

Eaton. Several computer education classes using iPads were taught by Pam Holland, of TechMoxie. The Center continues to offer art classes for all ages and skill levels—Acrylic or Oil Painting, Still Life Painting, Multi Media, Basic Photography for adults and children, and Portraiture in Pencil and Pastel. In addition, Millie Shott (the Village art curator) again offered a summer

art camp for children.

Exercise classes remain in demand, and we offered a variety of them. This year students were allowed to attend the first class for free. Current exercise classes at the Center include

- Yoga
- Mat Pilates
- Strength Training
- Tai Chi
- Chair Exercise
- Fall Prevention
- Walking Club
- YMCA Fit 4-Ever
- OASIS Resistance Training

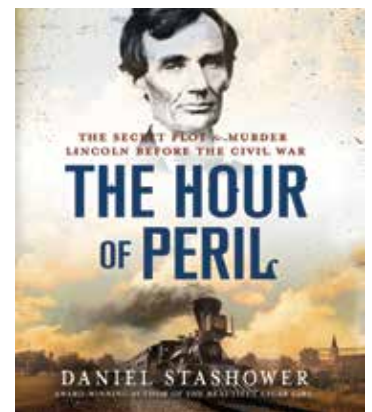


The April art show at the Center featured "Peabody Diagonal" by Judy MacArthur.

Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Yiddish continued. Bridge classes were well-attended and the Village Bridge Club, Chess Group, and Book Club meet regularly. A visiting AU professor, Alejandro Pastori, led a French conversation group and a chess group. Chess is now played every Wednesday at noon and all are welcome.

BOOK SIGNINGS AND LECTURES

Speakers at the Center in 2013 included County Police Chief Thomas Manger; County Council member Nancy Floreen; Aviva Kempner on her making of the film *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*; Rob Bamberger on Louis Armstrong; Judy Scott Feldman on controversial projects on the National Mall; Joan Hart on American artists in France; Linda Kenyon portraying Babe Zaharias; and Carmen Lattimore in a one-woman show about Harriet Tubman; Carol Bessette on two women who were spies during two different American wars; Allan Stypeck on collecting rare books (he also appraised books on another date); Village resident Ambassador William Bodde on three Presidents and their crises; and, Christy Page on the Affordable Care Act. Café Muse, a monthly poetry reading,



Author Daniel Stashower held a booksigning at the Village Center in May.

continued to draw good audiences.

The Boomers group enjoyed several interesting speakers including financial planners Peg Downey and Debbie Gallant, Kerry Hannon on “encore careers,” and Rosa Maymi on entrepreneurship.

Authors who spoke at the Center last year included

- Anne Barton
- Tara Brach
- Veronica Brand
- Richard Breitman
- John Burgess
- Ellen Cassidy
- Peter Clark
- Allan Lichtman
- Cate Lineberry
- Leslie Maitland
- Hedrick Smith
- Daniel Stashower
- Susan Tejada
- Kenneth Walsh

ON THE GO

The grandest trip of the year—perhaps in the Center’s history—was a voyage to England on the Queen Mary 2 in October. Twenty-three passengers enjoyed eight days on the luxurious ship and two nights in London. Day trips closer to home included visits to Fredericksburg, Baltimore, Charles Town, St. Michaels, Lancaster County, and Rehoboth Beach. We also visited the National Gallery, Hillwood, and, the new casino at Arundel Mills. Villagers enjoyed Nationals baseball, performances at the National Theatre and Arena Stage, and lunch at Range.

FOR THE KIDS

The Village Center continued to offer a variety of programs for children, ranging from art to storytelling to splash parties in the park. Among the highlights was a week-long summer art camp for kids. In the fall, Village children enjoyed a hayride, fed farm animals, and picked pumpkins. We also continued our weekly drop-in Village Playtime.



In May we were off to the races at Charles Town.



In July we visited St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore.

Throughout the year, children from toddlers to teens enjoyed musical programs ranging from Hawaiian music and dance to Mariachis de los Compadres to sea shanties by the Washington Revels. Family-friendly movies ranging from *Wreck It Ralph* to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, had special appeal for children. In 2014, look for chances to take classes with your kids, as well as an array of music and cultural events for children.

CONCERTS

The Wednesday Evening Concert Series continued to feature the best of local and national performers. Audiences enjoyed performances of classical music by Ellen Tenenbaum and Thomas Pandolfi. Fans of the opera enjoyed performances by Antonio Guiliano, while the Friday Morning Music Club highlighted the talents of local teens. Audiences were also treated to vocal performances, including concerts by Seraphim, Eric Byrd, and Barbara Martin. The Landon Symphonette Chamber Ensemble Series continued with performances in January, May, and October.

Throughout the year, jazz performances included concerts by Rick Whitehead and Susan Jones’ Caliente. The Dixie Power Trio featured music ranging from Dixie-



“Vertical Calder #5,” by Lewellyn Berry, a photography instructor at the Center, was on display in Friendship Gallery.



“Key West Sunset” by Claudia Seelig was featured as part of a photography exhibit at Friendship Gallery in January.

land to Broadway to Songs from the Great American Songbook. International sounds scanning the musical globe included performances ranging from Machaya Klezmer, IONA, and Mariachis de Los Compadres. International dance performances ran the gamut from Israeli folk dances from the Kinor Dancers to Hawaiian moves from Hui O Ka Pua ‘Ilima. Rousing performances of klezmer by Jinny Marsh’s Hot Kugel Band and doo-wop by Ray Apollo added to the fun.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Issues of health and health care have always been important at the Center. Pneumonia and flu shots were given by the Visiting Nurse Association in October. Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and nurse consultations, as well as



Noted pianist John Eaton taught a popular series of music classes at the Center.

monthly health lectures. AARP Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled, as always. The speech therapy and aphasia support group, “Express Yourself,” was extended by Suburban for another year. It meets once a month and always has a big crowd. The Vision Support Group, a partnership between the Prevention of Blindness Society and the Village, continued with good speakers and fellowship. Two very special

programs were a Saturday forum on the aging retina in June and a talk by radio personality Ed Walker in December. The University of Maryland’s Cooperative Extension Service continues to provide free health insurance assistance to seniors at the Center.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our special community events—New Year’s Day Open House, Community Day, July 4, and Taste of Friendship Heights—were festive and provided an opportunity to recognize volunteers who have donated their time to the Village.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. This year the Center sponsored three community art shows in connection with special events in the Village: the Fourth of July, the Taste of Friendship Heights in September (“Cuisine Art”), and a Centennial exhibit that began in December. “A Holiday Affair,” an artisan craft fair, took place again in November.

THANK YOU

Many volunteers contribute countless hours to assist with the programs at the Center. Our special thanks to the Village Council, our committees (including the Program Advisory Committee, whose valuable input is always appreciated), volunteers, and staff for their dedicated efforts throughout the year.



In October we took our longest trip yet, a transatlantic voyage aboard the Queen Mary 2.



able at the Center shortly for copying and filing with the IRS. Normal copying charges apply. Call the Center in advance at 301-656-2797 to make sure the form you need is available.

Tax forms have been ordered and should be available at the Center

FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS AT THE CENTER

Photo by Anthony Dillillo



Our annual Taste of Friendship Heights event features food samples from area restaurants. Mi Cocina (at right) was a new participant last year.

THE COMMUNITY ENJOYS A TASTE

Notice of Public Hearings

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-2 of the Montgomery County Code (1984 Edition), notice is hereby given that the Friendship Heights Village Council will conduct public hearings on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, and Monday, March 10, 2014, at 7:45 p.m. in the Village Center, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, in connection with the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014, based on a proposed tax rate of 4¢/\$100 assessed property value. The final tax rate will be determined after the two public hearings. The Village Council will vote to establish the tax rate for FY2014 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2014, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the proposed budget is available at the office of the Friendship Heights Village Council, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Any persons desiring further information may call Julian Mansfield, Village Manager, 301-656-2797, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



The Council Report

The Friendship Heights Village Council

4433 South Park Avenue

Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



2013 Annual Report and FY2015 Proposed Budget



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