

# The Village View



Winter 2020

## Celebrating Books, Friends, and Diversity

by Beverly Moss

photos by Richard Marcus

January 19th was a clear and dry winter's day. This made it ideal for holding KMV's second book swap at the Kemp Mill Elementary School. Guests were greeted at our reception table where they could get a bookmark specially designed by our neighbor Julia Miller and take our 2020 "neighborhood bingo" game to win a \$25 gift certificate.



The room was filled with books ranging from science fiction and mysteries to travel, hobbies and biographies. Tables were stacked with novels, a large selection of children's books, and even an array of CDs and videos were there for the picking.

In association with Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, a special program entitled "The Way We Were" was convened as part of this year's event. The program's theme celebrated our community's long-term ethnic and racial diversity. Beverly Moss (KMV Events Committee member) acted as the discussion facilitator for a panel that included neighbors Lou Avrutick, Andrea Chamblee, and Barbara Marcus (KMV Vice President and Events Committee Chair). Lou discussed his time in the early years of Kemp Mill Estates and got a lively conversation going with remembrances and stories shared between the panelists and the audience, including longtime residents Janet and Fred Stollnitz and Debi Furst. Andrea shared anecdotes about

some of the famous people who have lived in our community, while Barbara talked about Jack Kay who built our homes in the 1950s and 1960s and gave our neighborhood its distinctive, "space age" look. She also handed around a picture of Jack Kay and his business partner from the 1950s. Neighbors brought up fun facts about how people formed lasting friendships, got around to do their shopping, and enjoyed local recreation.

Many laughs were shared as audience members talked about open front doors, unlocked cars, kids playing in the streets and welcome wagon visits to new residents. We discussed the challenges some African American home buyers faced when wanting to join one of the Kemp Mill pool clubs. This particular situation was resolved by the community coming



together to foster inclusivity, resulting in open access to all members of Kemp Mill Estates and their guests. It was one of those pivotal moments when the neighborhood was confronted with a tough decision that could have gone either way and it opted for diversity and inclusion. The panel discussion wrapped up with participants sharing what they loved best about living here and how much Kemp Mill remains a great place to live and thrive.

### INSIDE

FROM THE PRESIDENT	page 2
PEOPLE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD	page 3

What's brewing in the Housing Market? Ask your Realtor, Adam Bashein with RE/MAX Realty Group  
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### **Our Mission**

The Kemp Mill Village works to sustain and enrich the lives of residents of Kemp Mill with special attention to people aging in place and those with disabilities, through a network of neighbors providing supportive services and programs designed to improve the quality of life for individuals, families and the community at large.

### **Our Vision**

We envision a neighborhood in which all people are safe, socially engaged, and able to thrive in their own homes, confident that they are valued members of their community.

### **Our Values**

- **Community:** We foster a neighborhood that brings people together.
- **Dignity:** Our members are worthy of honor and esteem.
- **Independence:** Our members are in charge of their own lives.
- **Privacy:** Personal matters should be kept personal.
- **Inclusion:** We welcome everyone regardless of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, citizenship status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.
- **Reliability:** Our members can count on us.
- **Expertise:** We have the knowledge and skills to provide the assistance our members need and request.
- **Accountability:** We are responsible to our members, volunteers, donors and the community at large.
- **Transparency:** Our business is the community's business.
- **Generosity:** Our volunteers and donors gladly share their time and resources with others.



## *From the President*

by Alan L. Breitler

According to Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." There are opportunities to volunteer with a number of civic and religious organizations in our community. Kemp Mill Village also offers opportunities to serve.

### *What makes Kemp Mill Village unique?*

We serve our neighbors in Kemp Mill regardless of their personal characteristics, practices or beliefs. We provide member services for a wide array of purposes from social gatherings to medical appointments to meeting a friend for lunch. We will visit members at home if they want company, call them regularly if they want someone to talk to, deliver prescriptions or groceries, and help with household tasks.

### *How many neighbors need our services?*

We currently have 59 full and associate members and expect that number to double in the near future because the Kemp Mill Village service area has a higher percentage of people over 55 (30.5%) than Montgomery County as a whole (24.7%) or zip code 20902 (23.3%). Many seniors do not drive, and many have mobility problems and need rides, grocery/prescription deliveries, and help with household tasks to stay in their homes (age in place) rather than go into assisted living facilities.

### *How well does Kemp Mill serve our seniors?*

According to SeniorScore,<sup>TM</sup> an indicator of how well a specific location accommodates the comfort and needs of senior citizens, the Senior Score for the 20902 zip code (73) is lower than that for Silver Spring (75) or the State of Maryland (78). With a lower Senior Score than our zip code or state, and a higher percentage of senior citizens over 55, and with predicted demographic changes that will increase the percentage of seniors in Kemp Mill, our neighborhood is in great need of volunteers committed to helping seniors in Kemp Mill.

### *How can you become a volunteer?*

All Kemp Mill Village volunteers have a background check, and volunteer drivers have an additional DMV check, both of which are free of cost to the volunteer. All volunteers attend a training session (about an hour), and all certified volunteers are covered by an insurance policy paid for by Kemp Mill Village.

### *Our neighbors need your help!*

If you can spare 30 minutes a week for a home visit, a few phone calls, or to pick up a prescription and deliver it in the neighborhood, please consider volunteering with Kemp Mill Village. Call our toll-free number (1-833-KMV-20902) and join the volunteers who have provided 261 services since February 2019!

# People in Our Neighborhood

by Karen Fierst



One of the goals of Kemp Mill Village is to open doors to help us get to know one another. With that in mind, we are introducing a "People in Our Neighborhood" column. For our inaugural column, I'd like you to meet **Reverend Dr. Sterling King Jr. and Dr. Rosalyn Cain King.**

I had the honor of meeting and interviewing the Kings in their home in February. Although we are all longtime residents of Kemp Mill, our paths had never crossed. It was interesting learning a bit about their family.

Sterling King Jr. is originally from Marianna, Arkansas. Rosalyn Cain King grew up in New York City. The couple met and married while attending university in California. Dr. King received her undergraduate degree in Pharmacy from Duquesne University, master's in public health from UCLA, a doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Southern California and a pharmacist's license in California. Rev. King received his doctorate in health services administration with a minor in socio-technical systems from the graduate school of management at UCLA. In 1976, Rev. King was invited to join the faculty of Howard University's School of Business, and shortly thereafter the Kings moved to an apartment in Glenmont. Rev. King taught at Howard for 34 years, and ultimately became the chair of Howard's Department of Management.

When the Kings started house hunting, they sought a safe and friendly neighborhood with good schools, near shopping and public transportation. Dr. King had heard about Kemp Mill, and decided to check it out by knocking on doors and stopping people in the supermarket to ask questions. Persuaded, they bought their home in 1979, 41 years ago.

The Kings' daughter Kristin started school at Glenallan Elementary, and their son Aaron attended Howard University's pre-school. Kristin

then attended E. Brooke Lee Middle School and graduated from Kennedy High School in 1985. The Kings decided to send Aaron to Catholic schools—he attended St. Andrew's and graduated from Good Counsel before attending university—because they thought it was important that he attend a school with a diverse faculty. Aaron now lives in Alexandria with his family. Tragically, Kristin developed a brain tumor and passed away at the age of 21 during her junior year at Howard University.



Shortly after arriving in Maryland, the Kings joined Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Rockville.

Rev. King has the distinction of having been an early Peace Corps volunteer, posted in the Philippines. He is also a trained pastor, and served as the minister at Macedonia Baptist Church in Bethesda for 28 years. Rev. King

has been active in numerous organizations focusing on civil rights, social justice and community leadership, among them the NAACP, the Black Ministers' Conference of Montgomery County and more.

Dr. King was recruited by Charles R. Drew University to work for the State Department's USAID Africa Bureau. Later, she was asked to establish a Washington presence for Drew by creating what became its International Health Institute. When Drew University moved its Institute back to California, Dr. King affiliated with Howard University's School of Continuing Education. She founded and managed its Office of International Programs/PACE CENTER until her retirement in 2008. After she retired, Dr. King volunteered for many years with the Kemp Mill Civic Association.

The Kings stepped up as Founders of the KMV because they like the idea of neighbors helping neighbors, and they hope the Village framework will be able to provide services to help them age in place.



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