Greetings from Silver Club!

After experiencing a mild winter, the Silver Club team is ready for a great spring.

Our outdoor raised garden has shed its frost and is patiently waiting for our members to begin the planting process.

Lisa Chasse, who started her career at Silver Club as a memory specialist, is now our permanent administrative assistant. Congratulations to Lisa in her new position!

The University of Michigan Friends Gift Shop generously donated funds to purchase a 60” smart TV. Our new equipment will enable us to more easily access the web and greatly enhance our ability to provide engaging and stimulating activities to our members.

The annual Silver Club fundraising campaign is building momentum. Funds from the campaign are important in continuing to provide needed services to our members and their families.

You can give to the Silver Club program by visiting https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#/give/basket/fund/367384.

Have you ever considered volunteering at Silver Club? You might be surprised how we can put even the most unusual talents/skills/interests to work. To find out more about volunteering, call 734-998-9352 for more information.

Sincerely,

Douglas Dault, LMSW
Director, Silver Club Memory Programs

Spring 2016

Therapaws Dogs

Jeanne Kero

The love of an animal seems to melt our hearts and open us up to our sweet and goofy personalities. Therapaws of Michigan, Inc. (Therapaws), a canine-assisted therapy program, is dedicated to promoting and fostering the human-animal bond in therapeutic and educational settings. Individual Therapaws owner-dog teams are assigned to extended care facilities, hospitals, and other care centers for regularly scheduled visits. In March, the Therapaws dogs were brought to Silver Club by owners, Gloria Vanalstine and Connie Jones. Silver Club members got the chance to bond with the dogs, and some even chose to hold and cuddle them. On April 1st, the dogs even got a chance to “strut their stuff” on the cat-walk, or should we say “dog-walk”, as they presented their very own Doggie Fashion Show at Silver Club. In May, Silver Club will be inviting two new therapy dog teams to come visit, Barbara Reed with Bindi, an Australian Shepherd and Margie Hough with Sassy, a Golden Retriever. We can’t wait for more of our furry friends to come visit!
On a Tuesday morning in March, the Elderberry Club (EBC) women hosted a group of 17 preschoolers and five teachers from the Islamic Center of Ann Arbor located next door to the Silver Club. The children were invited to sit on the floor close to Sarah, the guitarist and song leader, who quickly engaged them by singing a welcoming song. Shyly at first the children gradually began to join in and soon enjoyed the hand motions that accompanied the song. When the children sang “hello” in many different languages, we all learned the Arabic greeting, assalaamo-alaiikum – a new word for EBC members, staff, and volunteers. Delicious snacks prepared by EBC members (frosted graham crackers decorated with goldfish) followed the songfest along with lemonade. As everyone enjoyed their snack, one of the teachers told us that in the Islamic faith treating your neighbors with kindness and respect is highly valued. Therefore, she said they are very happy to meet their neighbors and invited us for a visit to the Islamic Center in the future.  The visit ended with members hugging children, teachers hugging members and staff, and lots of smiles all around! When we learned of the terrorist attacks in Brussels that occurred on the same day, it was clear that when distrust and fear of extremism and violence is so high, reaching out to our neighbors in peace and love is more needed than ever!

Creating Awareness of Ageism

Dr. Lydia Li, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan, recently asked her Adulthood and Aging class to come up with good ideas to promote ending ageism. Ageism is stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of older adults. One group, including Soonhung Kwon, a student who works right here in the Silver Club, created a visually-pleasing sticker with the statement "My Favorite Age Is Now". Soonhyung and his classmates Kaileen Kersting, Maneesha Finkle, Erin Mobley, Danielle Schillhaneck, Nan McBride, and visiting PhD student Qiyu Sun, all worked together to create the sticker and added a flyer which provides more detail and a bit of humor about ageism, along with resources about ending ageism which are available on the internet.
Moldy, Fuzzy, Colorful, Pastels
Jeanne Kero

We began our Silver Club pastel project by sharing an old, mold-covered printmaking plate that I had made using glycerin and gelatin. The Silver Club art class examined it and agreed with me that it had unusual colors (yellow, gold, blue) and that it was interesting to look at (some thought it was creepy). I asked my artists not to think about drawing mold but to be inspired by the shapes, colors and textures that they had witnessed. The Silver Club artists picked up their pastels and as you can see their imaginations grew!

Upcoming Silver Club Art Exhibitions

- Ann Arbor District Library- Malletts Creek branch: August 2 through Sept. 15, 2016
- 55 Gallery at Turner Senior Resource Center: 10/28/16 - 1/27/17 - reception 11/13/16

Meet Our Staff and Volunteers

Staff: Lisa Chasse, Doug Dault (Director), Patricia Hall, Jeanne Kero, Soonhyung Kwon, Kristine Monhollon, Jen Morak, Elaine Reed, Laura Rice-Oeschger, Dana Roe, Kathi Tobey, Marianna Voica, Cara Yonovitz

Volunteers: Jasmine Chang, Polly Connor, Aurelie Muller Dirry, Maria Dollar, Dorothy Doss, Maia Fattahi, Alice Fishman, Lori Fithian, Emily Hogan, Sara Holmes, Maddie Houlse, Sherri Kantor, Eni Mihilli, Myrna Miller, Ryan Pinti, Rose Redman, Jacqui Roe, Mary Sexton, Jennifer Steiner, Cathy Strachan, Kelsey Tajer, Randy Thackston, Kathy West, Mary Wisgerhof, Heidi Yeager

Advisory Board: Julie DeLoria, Alice Fishman, Sara Holmes (Board Chair), Sherri Kantor, Jean Kelsey, Clare Kolevar, Myrna Miller, Robert Newman, Deb Shtulman, Cathy Strachan, Julie Young
An Opportunity to Support Silver Club

The goal at Silver Club is never to turn away families in need due to financial circumstances. We use a sliding-fee scale so that each family pays what it can afford. The balance comes from grants and assistance from a wide array of supporters. We are so grateful to Silver Club families and friends for their generous support of our programs in whatever way they feel comfortable.

How You Can Help:
Be an ambassador – promote the Silver Club by referring families who are caring for a person with memory loss to our programs.
Volunteer – if you have time, there are many ways to help, including spending time with members during program hours, participating on Silver Club committees, or helping with special, time-focused projects.
Make a gift – the Silver Club is a non-profit organization which relies significantly on public funding and contributions. “Gifts in kind” such as artwork, books and equipment make an immediate impact. The easiest way to make a monetary gift is through our online link: https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#/give/basket/fund/367384.

For more information about giving, contact us at (734) 998-9352.

Contact Information
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Www.facebook.com/SilverClubMemory
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Mon-Fri

Sponsors & Community Partners
Silver Club is a non-profit organization primarily funded by donations and member fees. We are also supported by:
• U-M Geriatrics Center
• Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
• Area Agency on Aging 1-B
• Brookdale National Group Respite Program
• Friends of the U-M Hospital
• Medicaid Waiver Program
• Veterans Affairs