

Celebrating Community and Choice in a Conversation with Dr. Atul Gawande

Arlington Neighborhood Village is proud to announce that renowned surgeon, public health researcher and writer Dr. Atul Gawande will be the guest speaker at the 15th Celebration of the founding of Beacon Hill Village and the subsequent Village Movement their innovative model inspired on Monday, February 13, 2017. His conversation, entitled “*Being Mortal’s* Villages: The Value of Community and Choice as we Grow Older,” will be moderated by Robin Young, host of NPR’s *Here & Now*, and feature a discussion on aging, living life with purpose, and how we can transform the possibilities for the later chapters in everyone’s lives.

The conversation with Dr. Gawande will begin at 5pm and will be simulcast from Boston to more than 150 of the 350-plus villages open and in development across the country, including Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV). All are welcome to join ANV to view the simulcast, at National Rural Electric Cooperative Conference Center, first floor access, 4301 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22203 doors open to the public at 4:30 p.m.

Community and choice are concepts long honored across the United States. They are also among the life altering concepts in Dr. Gawande’s seminal book [Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End](#), and the underlying principles of Beacon Hill Village, whose founders were determined to remain in their own homes as they aged. To accomplish this goal, they created an organization, a *virtual village*, which opened in Boston’s Beacon Hill in January of 2002 and enabled people over 50 years of age the option of choosing how and where they live as they grow older. The concepts behind Beacon Hill Village have spread across the country, thus creating a “Village Movement” and have attracted the interest of many countries around the world.

One of the great issues world wide today is how to support and care for aging populations. By 2030, twenty percent (20%) of our nation’s population will be over 65, an estimated 83 million people. The numbers are even larger in many countries around the world. The Village concept and Dr. Gawande’s profound understanding of the importance of community and choice offer valuable insights and solutions for this challenging phenomenon.

The Village Movement is a burgeoning, world-wide movement that champions an alternative approach for adults as they grow older. Villages are unique in that they are created by and for older adults, empowering their members to make wise, safe, and vibrant choices about how they wish to live.