



*A volunteer network of neighbors helping neighbors*

# Bloomingdale

AGING IN PLACE [bloominplace.org](http://bloominplace.org)

[info@bloominplace.org](mailto:info@bloominplace.org) – (212) 842-8831

## **Everything you always wanted to know about BAiP but were afraid to ask.**

We are often asked these questions by even our most active members. If you wish, circulate this note to your friends who live within the membership “neighborhood” described below.

**Who can be a member of BAiP?** Adults of any age who live within our “neighborhood”: **West 96 to West 110 Street between Riverside Drive and Central Park West.**

## **How do I know if I am a member already?**

If you already receive our emails directly from BAiP about new social groups, Let’s Go outings, etc., we consider you a member! If you are unsure, contact us to find out: [info@bloominplace.org](mailto:info@bloominplace.org) or if you don’t use email: (212) 842-8831 ext. 0.

**How much does membership cost?** Membership is free and all our directly sponsored offerings are free. (If we go to a concert together, or take the bus, members pay the concert and bus costs.)

**How can I apply for membership?** The easiest way to join BAiP is to fill out our [contact form](#). (For people who do not use a computer call 212-842-8831, ext. 0 and leave a message; we will call you back.)

**What about people living outside of the membership neighborhood?** BAiP’s mission as an all-volunteer organization is to create community among close neighbors and for that purpose we need to put limits on our growth and our geographic boundaries. We register people outside of our boundaries as Friends of BAiP. Friends are invited to our panels and kept informed of general neighborhood events.

**What is BAiP’s purpose?** BAiP’s mission is to help older adults lead vital, safe, connected, and comfortable lives as their needs change. An all-volunteer, intergenerational network of neighbors, BAiP builds community by organizing social activities, sharing information and extending a helping hand to neighbors as they continue to live at home.

## **How does BAiP fulfill that mission?**

Through Activities: BAiP believes in building community. We do this by organizing small group activities, some ongoing (such as a variety of walking groups, some monthly

(such as our many reading groups), some from time to time (like our tour of Hoboken). BAiP has frequent Blooming Hour events where people meet and socialize, small coffee klatches and salons organized around a speaker or discussion topic and dinners in the neighborhood. We launch and fill groups quickly. For information on open groups and upcoming events see our website: [bloominplace.org](http://bloominplace.org). To suggest and lead a new group write to [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org) or call 212-842-8831, extension 16.

Through Education: BAiP offers a series of free presentations by experts on topics of interest to seniors and the people who care about them. These panel discussions are open to the general public. See our website, [bloominplace.org](http://bloominplace.org) for announcements of panels.

Through Neighbor to Neighbor: N2N is our outreach to seniors who may need assistance; someone to walk with, an escort to the doctor, emergency shopping, for example. Like most everything we do, N2N is comprised of volunteers so their assistance depends on their availability. To contact N2N call 212-842-8831 and press 1.

Through Community Outreach: BAiP serves the community in a number of ways; by assembling and distributing fresh farm produce bags for the Fresh Food for Seniors program co-sponsored by the Manhattan Borough President and our City Councilwoman, by organizing a local flu shot day, by offering occasional CPR classes, etc. For more information, reach us at [community@bloominplace.org](mailto:community@bloominplace.org).

Through our ResourceXchange: BAiP keeps a list of resources recommended to us by our members: doctors, lawyers, window washers, manicurists, handymen, etc. We do not vet the reliability of these people; that is up to you, but the ResourceXchange is a good place to start if you need someone to do something. You can contribute a recommendation or get one by contacting us at [ResourceXchange@bloominplace.org](mailto:ResourceXchange@bloominplace.org).

Through our Tech squad: Our Tech Squad is comprised of BAiP members who can fix things (computer glitches, lamps, etc.) The Tech Squad tries to solve all problems for all people but is limited by the ability of its members' expertise and their availability.

**How is BAiP funded?** BAiP is an all-volunteer organization, which means that we have no paid staff. Everything our volunteers do, from working behind the scenes to administer the organization to leading groups of all kinds, is staffed by unpaid neighbors. Currently, about 100 of our members have served as volunteers. With the exception of a small grant from the Borough President's office (which covers two of the four instructor-led exercise classes we offer) all of the funding is raised through donations from our members. Funding is spent on volunteers' insurance, website maintenance, two of our exercise groups, refreshments for some events, rental of space, providing for special needs, postage and printing.

**What makes BAiP tick?** BAiP has grown and flourished for a number of reasons. First: our flexibility; we have an ear out to the needs of our community and try to adapt accordingly. Second: we have really created a new fabric in our community here on the upper upper west side; people have made connections and new friends. Third and most of all: our wonderful volunteers who come forward offering to help with administrative tasks or with new ideas and projects that they volunteer to lead. Without our volunteers we are nothing. We hope and expect that our members who are able will find a way to give their time to make a difference in our organization.

**How can I volunteer?** We need people in all roles, people with one hour a week to spare or 10, to serve as the following:

- walking/book/excursion/salon group leaders;
- “organizers” for small dinner gatherings in neighborhood restaurants;
- greeters at events;
- volunteers who can work with spreadsheets or have some experience with databases, websites and QuickBooks;
- Tech Squad members who can hang pictures or fix glitches in computer software;
- helping hands for neighbors who need assistance;
- legal counsel to help review occasional contracts and legal issues

In other words, we need people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and do what they can for the community. To talk to us about volunteering contact us at [volunteers@bloominplace.org](mailto:volunteers@bloominplace.org) or 212-842-8831, ext. 41.

**I love BAiP. How can I make a donation?** We are grateful for the support of our members. To make a contribution, send your check to PO Box 497, New York, NY 10025 or visit our page on [nycharities.org](http://nycharities.org) to make a donation with a credit card. To leave an even more lasting legacy, you may make a bequest to BAiP and ensure its existence in years to come. To support BAiP by making a gift or bequest, please email or call us: [treasurer@bloominplace.org](mailto:treasurer@bloominplace.org) or 212-842-8831, ext. 52.