



Bloomingtondale Aging in Place

baipbuzz@bloominplace.org

Spring/Summer 2024

EXTRA! EXTRA!

BAiP in ACTION!

A picture is worth a thousand words.

This issue of *The BUZZ* highlights the active spirit of BAiP members through photos of the sports and social events they've flocked to this spring and summer. Nearly all of the activities will be picked up in the fall, preceded by email announcements to members.

These are just a few on the BAiP roster. To view others, go to BAiP's website, <https://www.bloominplace.org>.

Be sure to watch for BAiP emails for groups that have openings as well as learn about the new, member-led activities organized with the help of Activities co-directors Phyllis Sperling and Candy Dato.

Email activities@bloominplace.org with any questions about activities you would like to join.



Softball

The BAiP Sluggers, under coach Bill Short, are in their third year of spring and fall softball seasons. This spring, 40 members got up to bat. The Sluggers have terrific team spirit and are enthusiastic and supportive of their fellow players. After a workout, the team has lunch at Ellington in the Park.





Pictured at this spring's last game are Alan Baily, Allen Sisk, Bill Short, Dan McGuire, Edward Garelick, Frank Emerson, Frederick Miller, Henry Siegel, Irene Kolker, Irwin Abraham, James Langfore, James Picinich, James Stormont, Jean Schmidt, Jerry Litwin, Jody Eckert, Karen Rubin, Keith Eisenstark, Kimberley Heilig, Larry Sikon, Laura Hanrahan, Lily Friedman, Lyndie Callan, Michael Mortenson, Molly Warner, Nancy Schneider, Robert Bannard, Robert Collier, Robert Halasz, Sharon Brown, and Susan Anderson.

TENNIS LESSONS



As both a BAiP board member and a sports enthusiast, Bill Short has forged a beneficial relationship with the Riverside Clay Tennis Association (RCTA) and the Riverside Park Conservancy (RPC). This is the third year in which the RCTA has offered six BAiP members a series of six free, one-hour tennis lessons in the spring and the fall. By the end of the program, members are making serious contact with the ball.



This spring's participants were Alice Greene, Robin Bahr, Steve McLure, Isabella Calisi-Wagner, Sebastian Lin, and Hillary Silver.



Basketball

In a bit of madness that comes with springtime, Bill Short organized a first-time BAiP basketball tournament, fittingly called **May Madness**. Ten players competed on four teams in an elimination tournament. They included Candy Dato, who had never even been on a basketball court and scored two baskets; Jody Eckert, a former player at UConn; and Jean Schmidt, who still plays regularly. It was great fun, with many baskets sunk and no injuries incurred.



Other tournament players were Mariam Toubia, Alan Thurston, Nancy Schneider, Frank Emerson, Molly Warner, Karen Rubin, and Liz Weiner. The team effort was completed with Bill's son Ciaran, who served as referee. Bill's wife, Cynthia, a nurse, was there to offer any first aid and also treats--popcorn and peanuts for the many fans in the stands!



Dance Party



BAiP members dusted off their dancing shoes for a summer solstice party at the newly renovated fieldhouse in Riverside Park. DJ D Mecca's playlist of old favorites provided three hours of dancing, and snacks helped keep the energy level high!

Liz Weiner was the event organizer with dance committee members Deborah Goldberg, Miriam Cukier, Susan Cowell, and Bill Short.





Bloominghour

For years, the Bloominghour has been a BAiP favorite event, a chance for members to casually socialize. The first Bloominghour of the spring was held at Abigail's restaurant at Broadway and 102nd St. A large gathering of 50, including many new members, turned out for the cocktail hour organized by Miriam Cukier with the invaluable aid of Gail Naruo.



Cross-Eyed Cat Café



Not every activity requires chasing down balls. Bill Short negotiated with the RPC for the weekly use of the park's volunteers' house through the spring. It will start up again in September. The space becomes BAiP's Cross-Eyed Cat Café, with programs that include entertainment and guest presentations.

Among the features this spring was a performance by the lively bluegrass group Bloominggrass, with players Chris March, Jim Kendrick, John Vitale, Gary Ardan, and Nancy Schneider.

The following week, chef Nicola Zanghi talked about his career and the world of food to a rapt audience. He also offered attendees a treat with ricotta and sun-dried-tomato spreads prepared on the spot.



photos by Miriam Cukier

A Message from BAiP President

Jean Schmidt

Hello, Neighbors!

As you can see from the photos in this issue of *The BUZZ*, our members were very active this spring. That's in addition to the 65 groups that meet regularly.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made all of these events happen. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication has enriched us all and created so many more opportunities for us to keep active, try new things, and make new friends.

Welcome, new board member Carol Barker. Carol is a longtime Upper West Side resident who has been a member of the BAiP Activities Team since 2022. She also teaches English as a second language to recent immigrants.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall!



It's a small world for BAiP members . . .

When they first met and talked about their respective careers, Neil Borrell, Ozzie Alfonso, and Rick Harris realized they had all had gone to Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx. Neil and Ozzie were even in the same homeroom.

On the steps of her apartment building, Linda Siedel bumped into David Reich. She recognized him the minute he introduced himself. She and David were together in kindergarten and a few other grades at PS 193 (now the Gil Hodges School), in the Midwood section of Brooklyn.

In Memoriam

Cathay Brackman

Stephen Edelstein

John Odom

Malta Ristoroucci

Join In!

ACTIVITIES

The BAiP Activities Team has been at work all spring and into the summer. This issue of *The BUZZ* features a photographic tour of some of the sports and social events we've enjoyed.

Other social groups like **Excursions** and **Dining in the Neighborhood** are looking for members to host a one-time event. For more information, send an email to activities@bloominplace.org. There are also plans to start a **chorus** in the fall. Possibilities include a small a cappella group and another a larger sing-along group. Keep an eye out for an email.

Instructed exercise classes continue through the summer. **Mat yoga** is held in person at the library and runs to the end of July. A very popular **Tai Chi** group is on Zoom, as is **Pilates**. Sign up for these on our website: bloominplace.org. In the fall, in-person Tai Chi and chair yoga on Zoom will resume.

Breakfast in the Park continues this summer into the fall. All members are invited to meet at Ellington in the Park on Wednesdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., where you can buy coffee or BYO breakfast. No reservation is required; just show up and chat!

Two new photography groups started up. Members of one group, **Click and Talk**, go to diverse places in the city to photograph and then share their work at a subsequent meeting. The other group, **A View Out My Window**, offers members with limited mobility a creative outlet.

A new **reading group** was also formed.

In September, watch for an email with information about those groups that are

taking new members. It's also a good time to start a new group.

Email us (activities@bloominplace.org) and we can brainstorm ideas.

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

Rick Harris leads his popular **Hooray for Hollywood** series on the third Tuesday of the month, 5:00–6:30 p.m., via Zoom. The schedule of topics follows.

Sept. 17 – Audrey Hepburn 1

Oct. 15 – Audrey Hepburn 2

Nov. 12 – Moms in the Movies 1

Dec. 17 – Moms in the Movies 2

If you received Hooray for Hollywood email notifications in the past, you are on the list to continue receiving them. If you want to be added to the list, click the link below for an email reminder the day before the event. It will contain the session's topic, list of film clips, and information on how to attend via Zoom.

[YES, NOTIFY ME OF HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD SESSIONS](#)

If you don't use email, then register by calling 212-842-8831, ext. 16, and leave your name and phone number.

If you have any questions, write to activities@bloominplace.org or call 212-842-8831, ext. 16.

BAiP Presents

BAiP hosts monthly presentations on a variety of subjects that are of interest to the membership. The presentations on Zoom are followed by a question-and-answer period. If you missed a presentation, it may be viewed in the archives of the BAiP website:

<http://www.bloominplace.org/baip-presents.org.html>

May 23, 2024: A Guide to Estate Planning (slides)

April 25, 2024: How to Have Your Voice Heard: Your Community Board & City Council Rep (slides)

March 28, 2024: Medicare 2024: A Closer Look (slides)

January 17, 2024: Safety in Our Neighborhood

BAiP is on hiatus through the summer. Watch for email announcements about programs in the fall.

2024 Fresh Food for Seniors

Thanks to NYC Council Member Gale Brewer and Borough President Mark Levine, the **Fresh Food for Seniors program offers a bag of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at \$10 (a value of \$15+)** throughout the growing season. The produce is ordered by GrowNYC at wholesale prices from farmers in NY and NJ. It's pay-as-you-go, not a subscription, so no need for a commitment, just some advance planning.

The pickup and prepay location is St. Luke's House (Mt. Sinai Hospital Addiction Institute) at 306 W. 102nd St. On the following dates between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m., you can pick up a food bag and prepay for the next bag.

July 24

Aug. 7, 21

Sept. 4, 18

Oct. 2, 16, 30

Nov. 13

If you have any questions, call (212) 842-8831, ext. 20, and leave a message.



Need Some Help?

Neighbor to Neighbor **

N2N is BAiP's team of volunteers who assist members with tasks that do not require professional or technical skills. For example, N2N volunteers can pay a friendly visit by phone or in person, perform a needed errand, or accompany a member to the doctor. If you need other assistance that a neighbor might provide, please ask, and N2N will try to help.

Contact: n2n@bloominplace.org or call 212-842-8831, ext 1.

BAiP Tech Squad

The Tech Squad is made up of neighbors who are skilled in working with computers, cell phones, software, tech accessories, and more. A neighbor with expertise in Chromebooks recently joined the Squad and can provide help using them. The Squad also has an Android phone coach, but an iPhone coach would be a welcome addition! So, if you enjoy helping newbies learn to use their phones, let us know! The Squad is reachable via email at techsquad@bloominplace.org and via phone at 212-842-8831, ext. 26.

BAiP Resource Exchange

BAiP members can provide and access a variety of referrals, from doctors and physical therapists to electricians and hairdressers.

Contact: ResourceXchange@bloominplace.org

**** For in-person visits, volunteers and the members they help will decide on a mutually agreeable health-safety plan, which may include proof of COVID vaccination and mask-wearing.**