



President's Message

Hello BAiP Neighbors!

We had a very successful 2024. Highlights can be found at the end of this issue of *The BUZZ*. Thanks to all of you for your participation.

Board Transitions – The Board elected the following Officers: Jean Schmidt, President; Larry Sikon, Vice President; Bill Williams, Treasurer; and Sharon Salit, Secretary.

Thanks to Marjorie Goldsmith, former BAiP President, who stepped off the Board after more than three years. Thanks also to Cynthia Watkins, who was secretary for four years, and Linda Messing, who was our Treasurer for two years, for their dedicated service. Both Cynthia and Linda remain on the Board, so we will continue to have the benefit of their many contributions and leadership.

Please welcome Bill Williams who has been elected to his first term on the

Board and as noted above will be serving as Treasurer. We are grateful for his willingness to serve and know he will be a great contributor.

Board Advisory Group

At the suggestion of Gail Naruo, former BAiP President, the Board established an Advisory Group made up of former Board members to provide guidance and ensure our institutional memory is not lost. A member of the Advisory Group attends each of our Board meetings, and they have been invaluable contributors to the work of the Board. We so appreciate their willingness to consider contributing to BAiP. The current members of the Advisory Group are: Marian Anderson, Gerry Borrell, Bonnie Mairs, Gail Naruo, and Leilani Shaw.

BAiP Volunteers I want to thank all of the BAiP members who lead our activity

groups and find ways for neighbors to meet and get to know one another.

Special thanks to all who are working behind the scenes to support BAiP and make everything run smoothly as we continue to grow: the members who write, edit, and prepare *The BUZZ*, BAiP's newsletter; the Tech and Zoom Squads for their important work; those who find engaging speakers for BAiP Presents; the volunteers who staff the Resource Exchange; our coordinator of administration and chair of our community outreach; the volunteers who provide assistance through the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program; our webmaster; the volunteers who welcome our new members; the head of our building representatives; and our Committee chairs. BAiP would not be here without you!!!

BAiP Board Agenda – As you may recall, we think that BAiP is in a unique position to address the issue of age-segregation in our society and is continuing to explore opportunities to connect BAiP members with younger generations in mutually beneficial ways. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for intergenerational activities/projects, etc.

Volunteering One of the other things we have learned is that many of us are interested in giving back and making a

meaningful contribution. With that in mind, we are exploring whether BAiP can be a resource for volunteer opportunities in our community. For example, we could have a page on our website where members could go to learn about volunteer opportunities and how to sign up. If this is something you think we should do and/or you are interested in helping make this happen, please let me know at president@bloominplace.org

Also, if you have any questions or suggestions for ways in which BAiP can better serve our members or new ideas for facilitating neighbors helping neighbors, please send me an email. I look forward to hearing from you.

2025 BAiP Board

I am pleased to introduce the members of the 2025 BAiP Board of Directors.

Jean Schmidt	President
Larry Sikon	Vice President
Bill Williams	Treasurer
Sharon Salit	Secretary
Carol Barker	Director
Candy Dato	Director
Deborah Goldberg	Director
Mike Kronberger	Director
Linda Messing	Director
Steve Pred	Director
Bill Short	Director
Cynthia Watkins	Director



In Memoriam

Arlene Agus

Chita Besbroda

Edward Goldstein

Judy Pietrasiewicz

Cornelia Rakow

Phyllis Sperling

Mary Tierney

Spotlight on Activities



In 2013 Phyllis Sperling gathered some BAiP members interested in forming a watercolor painting group. Since then the group has been meeting regularly under the guidance of Carolyn Kirkpatrick, with membership evolving around a few core members. The group recently changed its name from “Watercolors” to “Watercolors and Crafts” to reflect members’ expanding interests in related artistic endeavors, such as knitting, jewelry making, iPad drawing, and pastels.

Members work side by side for two hours, sharing ideas about work in progress and information about exhibitions and resources of mutual interest. According to a newer member, “the group is congenial and accepting of everyone’s talents.” A longtime member commented, “I had asked if there was a BAiP watercolor group before being invited to

Phyllis’s get-together and have continued ever since.

The encouragement and technical advice from other members encouraged me to find a formal class that has been very satisfying. But nothing replaces the friendship and support of this informal group.”

The group has been fortunate to work in the spacious solarium of a nearby building where several members are residents. The space provides excellent lighting year-round and an outdoor deck with panoramic views for warmer weather. Indoor plantings and outdoor water towers figure in many paintings. As another member put it, “It has been a very special work environment.”

Here’s a sampling of work from some of the members.



Frank Emerson watercolors



Gerry Borrell watercolors



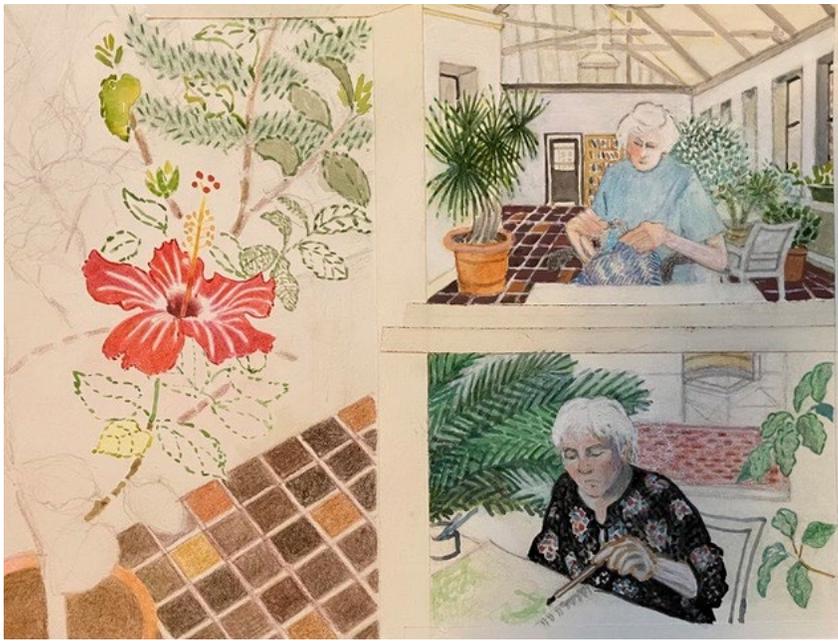
Charlotte Lin watercolors



Devra Zetlan watercolors



Reva Hausman pastels



Madelaine Gill watercolors



Carolyn Kirkpatrick ipad drawing



Bonnie Mairs knitting



Helen Geraghty beaded crown on granddaughter



Dorothy O'Hanlon afghan

Join In!

Activities

The Activities Team has been hard at work throughout the coldest January ever! We are managing Activities without our beloved Phyllis Sperling and carrying on as she wanted us to.

New team member Deborah Goldberg is the liaison for Arts groups and will be working on other projects as well.

We have just begun sending out regular monthly email blasts with the groups that have openings and any new groups that are starting. Watch for the blasts that go out in the second week of the month.

Some recent new groups include Collage in the Library, Reading Contemporary Fiction, Beginning Birdwatching, Click and Talk Photography, A View Out My Window Photography, Aging Strong, Singles Aging Creatively, and Gallery Gallivanting.

Bill Short is keeping us moving with an expanding array of sports. The **BAiP Softball Sluggers** are getting ready to come back for the spring season. Don't play? Come and watch and go for a beer or soda afterward with the players. The schedule will be in an email blast, along with information about signing up. The successful basketball tournament will be back with **May Madness** May 20.

BAiP's first flag football **Stupor Bowl**, held on March 19, was a great success. Two 5-player teams faced off to a tight 1-point victory under the watchful eyes of two scorekeepers

and two referees. All the touchdowns were scored by women.

Liz Weiner and the organizing committee are planning another **Dance Party**, to be held on May 22.

The **Cross-Eyed Cat Café** spring season started on April 8. Bill Short and the team have lined up members who will share some great stories in addition to the fun of meeting new people and seeing old friends.

Some of our activities are always open to having new members. The **Excursions** and **Dining in the Neighborhood** groups are always looking for members to host a onetime event. Just email us at activities@bloominplace.org

The new **Sing-Along Chorus** began in January and meets monthly. **Breakfast in the Park (now called Breakfast in the Neighborhood)** moved indoors for the winter. All members are invited to meet on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 at the Paris Baguette on Broadway and 97th Street. No reservation necessary--just show up and chat! We'll move back to Riverside Park when it warms up.

Instructed Exercise Classes, including Tai Chi, Pilates, Movement Speaks, and Yoga, continue on Zoom. You can sign up on our website: www.bloominplace.org.

The BAiP Activities Team

Candy Dato (Chair)

Carol Barker

(BAiP Activities Team continued)

Pat Burns
Deborah Goldberg
Lisa Handwerker
Cathy Monblatt
Pat Schuett
Bill Short

Hooray for Hollywood

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

May 20--Howard Hawks 1

June 17--Howard Hawks 2

If you've 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 to join the group. Once you have joined, you will receive a reminder each month on the day before the event. It will contain the session 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, 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. An email with information about registering for the presentation goes out shortly before its scheduled date.

If you missed a presentation, it may be viewed in the archives of the BAiP website: <http://www.bloominplace.org/baip-presents.html>

Schedule for the First Half of 2025

January

A Discussion of the Opera *Aida*

February

Bereavement

March

How to Enjoy New York City Ferries

New ferry routes now link the five boroughs. For just \$1.45, seniors may ride to numerous waterfront parks, entertainment and dining venues, and historic sites.

April

Fighting Trump's Plan for the Upper West Side

May

Riverside Park Conservancy: Its History and Current Activities

June

Better Balance

The BAiP Presents committee is always looking for new program ideas, possible speakers, and new committee members. Contact: Bonnie Mairs, committee chair: bonnie1673@earthlink.net



Need Help?

Tech Squad

Personal technology is always changing, sometimes faster than we users can keep up! Here are some tech tips you can use, courtesy of members of the BAiP Tech Squad.

- Put a passcode on your mobile phone and any device you use outside your home. A phone without a passcode is vulnerable to the theft of personal information and funds in financial accounts.
- Use a password manager. This is web-based software that securely stores and manages your online login credentials and more, such as medical information. A password manager enables you to log in to password-protected apps and websites no matter where you are in the world. Two programs to consider: 1Password (fee-based), Bitwarden (free). Also, browsers such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Edge provide options to save passwords. [Read more](#) about password managers.
- Emergency contacts/ICE. Even if your mobile phone has a passcode on it, emergency personnel (such as EMTs, police, fire department) will be able to notify your designated contact in the event of an emergency if you have added that person's name and contact information to your phone. And if you add your critical medical issues to your phone, they can access that information as well. [Read more](#) about adding emergency information to your phone.
- Use OMNY. MetroCard users recently got a letter from the MTA announcing changes to the card and providing information about switching to OMNY. Resources for you:

- o The [OMNY website](#); there's a digital assistant in the lower right corner.
 - o In-person help from the [mobile sales vehicles](#), including one at 96th St./Broadway on first and third Fridays of each month, 10 a.m. to noon
- When a plugged-in device stops working, first confirm the device is plugged in properly. If yes, unplug it, wait 60 seconds, plug it back in, then restart it.

Members of BAiP's Tech Squad may be able to help you with all of these tips. Contact the Squad via email at techsquad@bloominplace.org and via phone at 212-842-8831, ext. 26.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

N2N is the BAiP 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, do a needed errand, or accompany a member to the doctor. If you need other help that a neighbor might provide, please ask, and N2N will try to help.

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

Help N2N get the word out with our [new flyer](#).

Resource Exchange

BAiP members can request referrals to a wide variety of professionals and service providers -- from doctors and electricians to plumbers and hairdressers. Members are also encouraged to add their own recommendations to the growing Resource Exchange files.

Contact resourceXchange@bloominplace.org.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

It was another great year for BAiP. We added new groups and activities, expanded our partnership with the Riverside Park Conservancy, and welcomed more than 120 new members. Here are the highlights.

All-Member Activities

- Members gathered Monday afternoons at the **Cross-Eyed Cat Café** over ten weeks in the spring and fall to meet new people and hear members share their fascinating backstories. Overall, 210 members signed up to participate on a rotating basis, with approximately 20 people attending each week.
- A **Dance Party** was held at the Field House in Riverside Park, with another scheduled for this spring.
- **Dining in the Neighborhood** drew a total of 200 members to get together for dinners/lunches over the course of the year.
- **Breakfast in the Neighborhood** (formerly Bring Your Own Breakfast) was held every Wednesday morning, 9:30–10:30. In the fall and winter, it is at Paris Baguette on Broadway. (It will move back to Riverside Park when it warms up.) No need to sign up--just show up.
- **BAiP Presents** offered a program every month on Zoom.
- The **Hooray for Hollywood** series continued its film discussions.

Wellness Program

- Six free wellness classes--two yoga, one movement, one Pilates, and two Tai Chi -- were offered on Zoom.

Groups

More than 70 groups met regularly online, hybrid or in person, including 14 reading groups.

- Several new groups were added, including Journaling, Photography, Wine Tasting, Walking, and Sketching.

Sports

- **Softball:** The BAiP Senior Sluggers met in Riverside Park on Thursday mornings in the spring and fall. More than 30 members participated, enjoying fun lunches at Ellington afterward.
- **Tennis:** The Riverside Clay Tennis Association offered free lessons to six BAiP members in the spring and fall.
- **Basketball:** The May Madness and Fall Frenzy tournaments had six two-person teams competing in Riverside Park, including some members who had never played before. Coaching/practice sessions were held prior to the tournament, and enthusiastic fans came out to cheer on the teams.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

A key part of our mission is to encourage our members to help and support one another, which they certainly did.

Forty-seven **N2N** volunteers provided more than 235 hours of assistance to BAiP members.

- The **Tech Squad** spent more than 60 hours helping 70 members.
- The **Resource Exchange** responded to 75 requests for information.
- The **Fresh Food for Seniors** program sponsored by NYC offered a food bag of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables for \$10 (a \$15+ value) throughout the growing season. BAiP volunteers help organize and distribute the food bags. This year 107 of our members participated in the program. In total, 600 bags of food were delivered to needy seniors, 100 of which were donated by BAiP.

