



### A Message from BAiP President, Marjorie Goldsmith

Many thanks to Gail Naruo for her two years as president of BAiP. She led our organization during a difficult time, and we are fortunate that she will continue to be involved with BAiP through her work as a board member and a book group leader.

Going forward, I'm excited to take over the presidency, and I look forward to working with all who are part of our organization. While New York struggles with an upsurge in COVID and we wish to be with our friends and family in person, I continue to be grateful for Zoom and all the opportunities it has brought us to stay connected. Zoom has allowed many of our 'living room' groups to continue to meet. It supports the wellness classes, opening them up to a much larger audience than when they were held in person and allowing those who cannot or are not comfortable leaving their homes to stay connected with others and keep up with exercise. Zoom keeps our Hooray for Hollywood series going strong. I've been using Zoom for regular conversations just because it's nice to see the faces of the people with whom I'm talking.

BAiP is an all-volunteer organization. Thank you to all who lead groups and find ways for neighbors to meet and get to know one another, and thank you to all who are working behind the scenes to support BAiP as it continues to grow: the members who write, edit, and prepare *The BUZZ*; the Tech and Zoom Squads for their important work; those who find engaging speakers for BAiP Presents; and the volunteers who provide assistance through the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

Please think about how you can support BAiP. If you have an idea for a new group, contact Activities co-leaders at [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org). Or if you'd like to talk to me about leadership roles in the organization, I am available at [president@bloominplace.org](mailto:president@bloominplace.org).

I'd also like to introduce the members of the 2022 BAiP Board of Directors which just held its election for officers.

Marjorie Goldsmith	President
Gail Naruo	Vice President, Acting

#### 2022 BAiP Board continued

Diane Petchesky	Treasurer
Cynthia Watkins	Secretary
Lo-Yi Chan	Director
Candy Dato	Director
Mike Kronberger	Director
Linda Messing	Director
Sharon Salit	Director
Jean Schmidt	Director
Bill Short	Director



### The Sands Volunteer Appreciation Award

BAiP created the Sands Volunteer Appreciation Award to honor the memory of Herman Sands, one of the founders of BAiP who served as a Board Member, N2N volunteer, and great friend to the organization. The award is given in recognition of the outstanding contribution of a current member, and the ceremony also acknowledges the contributions of all BAiP volunteers.

**Every BAiP member may participate in the process of choosing a Sands awardee.** An email request will go out soon asking for your nomination of the BAiP member you think should receive the next Sands Award for his or her Outstanding Volunteer Service. You will be asked to include your reasons for selecting this person. When the nominations have been received from the membership, the full Board will select a recipient for the next Sands Award.

The previous recipients of the Sands Award were Ozzie Alfonso, Dorothy O'Hanlon, Toni Kurasch, Teresa Elwert, and Arlene Seffern. In every case the recipients contributed to BAiP in tangible and intangible ways. They all represent the spirit of volunteerism that is the heart of the neighbor-to-neighbor model. In 2020, each of the 11 members of BAiP Tech Squad and the 15 members of the Zoom Squad received a Sands Award, virtually. They were recognized for making it possible for BAiP to continue to function online throughout the pandemic.



## Join In!

### BAiP Activities

Most groups are meeting on Zoom for the time being. Some groups are able to gather outdoors and those groups that are meeting in person are following the Board's guidelines for indoor groups to include vaccinated members wearing masks and distancing.

In October there was an email blast with information about openings in groups. Several members joined groups and priority was given to new members and members who were not in other groups (with the exception of the Wellness groups and Hooray for Hollywood).

**Groups with openings:** The Writing Circle, Creating Art and Writing on Zoom, Knitting Group, Opera Lovers Happy Hour, Outdoor Taiji Qigong, and the others listed below.

A **New Wine Tasting Group** is in formation. There is a great deal of interest so it's not possible to accept everyone. Consider becoming a leader of a group like this!

The **Photo Editing Group** is now open to new members, both beginners and advanced editors. One requirement is that you need to have a photo editing program. Steve McLure, who leads the group, can help you find one.

The **Yoga, Movement,** and **Pilates** groups will continue to meet on Zoom for now.

**Walking Groups:** The already established walking groups all meet in the early morning. There is interest in having groups that meet late morning, late afternoons, or over the weekend. Let us know if you are willing to lead a walking group that meets regularly at least once a week. You set the day, time, and pace. We will advertise and find members.

**Do you need a New Year's Resolution?** Members continue to be needed as group leaders. Is there something you are passionate about? We will help you plan and execute your new group, perhaps even find you a co-leader. Some ideas for new groups are language conversation groups (Spanish, Hebrew, Italian, other), an additional Jazz listening group, TV show discussion group, cooking, outdoor coffee and discussion.

**If anything above interests you** or if you have questions or want to discuss some possibilities, contact us at: [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org) or call 212.842.8831 ext. 16 and leave a clear detailed message.

### Tennis Talk

Coaches report that the best tennis players both love the sport and have a keen competitive spirit. Well, that was certainly on display when the BAiP tennis group met for the tournament that was the culminating event of their 12 weeks of lessons on the Riverside clay courts at 97<sup>th</sup> Street and the Hudson River. The stands were filled with family members and BAiP cheerleaders like our president, Gail Naruo.

BAiP members Jean Schmidt, Mark McIntyre, Mel Pipe, Nancy Schneider, Nicole Gordon, and Bill Short treated their audience to some seriously competitive matches, with Bill Short emerging as the tournament winner.

BAiP owes a big thank you to The Riverside Clay Tennis Association (RCTA) which provided the lessons, Coach Tim Heath, and all the equipment to our tennis group at no cost. Happily, RCTA is planning to continue the relationship with BAiP this spring, expanding the effort to two days per week. This is the kind of neighborhood collaboration that embodies the BAiP spirit of cooperation. We'll be watching our first group continue to play as official RCTA members and look forward to new groups in the spring.

### BAiP Presents

BAiP hosts guest speakers who discuss a variety of subjects of interest to our membership. The presentations are on Zoom followed by a question-and-answer period. Next up.

#### January 27 at 4:00 pm

*Non-Western Approaches to Health and Wellness*

presented by Dr. Chiti Parikh

Assistant Professor & Director, Integrative Health & Wellbeing, NY Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine.

BAiP presentations are also scheduled for February 24, March 24, and April 28 and will be announced in future emails.

Watch for an email a few days before each event with a registration link.

### HOORAY for HOLLYWOOD

H4H is a series of presentations at which member Rick Harris uses numerous film clips to examine topics in classic Hollywood films. To participate, you must first register by emailing [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org). If you don't use email, call 212.842.8831 ext. 16 and leave a message.

Once you have registered, watch for your email to log into Zoom at 4:55 on the day of the session which runs from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

#### January

18 *The Films of Clark Gable* 2

#### February

2 & 15 *Hollywood in the Movies* 1, 2

#### March

1 & 15 *Handsome Hunks and Romantic Heroes* 1, 2

#### 29

*Beauties and Bombshells* 1

#### April

13 *Beauties and Bombshells* 2

26 *The Films of James Stewart* 1

#### May

10 *The Films of James Stewart* 2

## Need some help?

### Neighbor to Neighbor \*\*

N2N is BAIp's outreach to neighbors who may need assistance. Volunteers can pay a friendly visit by phone or in person, do a needed errand, or accompany a member to the doctor.

Contact: [n2n@bloominplace.org](mailto:n2n@bloominplace.org) or call 212.842.8831 ext. 1

### Tech Squad \*\*

BAiP's Tech Squad volunteers help members resolve problems they are having with their technology. If your phone is baffling you, you can't figure out how to save a document or attach one to an email, the Tech Squad can help.

Contact: [techsquad@bloominplace.org](mailto:techsquad@bloominplace.org) or call 212.842.8831 ext. 26

### BAiP Resource Exchange

BAiP members have provided a variety of referrals from doctors and physical therapists to tailors and hairdressers.

Contact: [ResourceXchange@bloominplace.org](mailto:ResourceXchange@bloominplace.org)

*\*\*Volunteers will offer assistance to those who are fully vaccinated against COVID. Mask wearing is required for any assistance that takes place indoors. These requirements are for BAIp members as well as any other person present in the room.*

## BAiP Newsmaker: Caitlin Hawke

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group presented the Torain Award to Caitlin Hawke, an early volunteer of BAIp who formerly served as co-director of the Activities Sector.

The BNHG gave the award to Caitlin for her work to promote the history of the Bloomingdale neighborhood. She has developed an extensive collection of historical photographs of the immediate neighborhood and researched the context of each, turning up many fascinating stories in the "Throwback Thursdays" posts on the blog she writes for the 102-103 Streets Block Association

[<https://www.w102-103blockassn.org/blog/category/throwback-thursday>].

Caitlin continues her work as the Associate Director of Programming at the Columbia Aging Center, a university-wide center housed at the Mailman School of Public Health.

The Torain Award is named for Jim Torain who spent most of his life working tirelessly to preserve the legacy of the Old Community where he grew up. The Old Community is the name given to the African American neighborhood that flourished on West 98<sup>th</sup> and West 99<sup>th</sup> Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue, a neighborhood that was destroyed in 1955 as part of the city's urban renewal plan.



## BAiP Photography Group Member: Carol Goodfriend

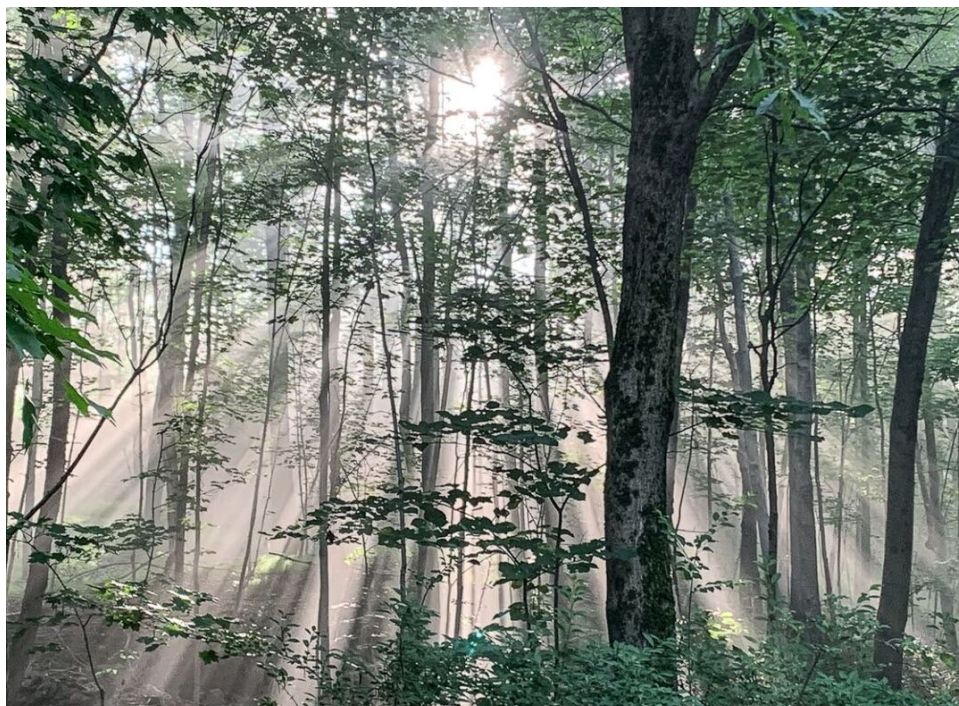
### From The BUZZ Team

Miriam Cukier, Michelle Harris,  
Gerry Borrell, Jeanne Chin,  
Dorothy Callaci

Two brand new members to BAIp have joined *The BUZZ* team. Jeanne Chin will design the layout of the newsletter, and Dorothy Callaci will write interviews and feature pieces. Welcome!

We look forward to hearing from our readers with observations and suggestions:

[baipbuzz@bloominplace.org](mailto:baipbuzz@bloominplace.org)



## Meet Your Board

The role of the BAiP Board of Directors is to set policy and budgets for everything that BAiP does. Each issue of *The BUZZ* newsletter will introduce one or two Board members who, in their own words, describe their BAiP experience and their journey to becoming a member of the Board.



### Candy Dato

Of all places, I first learned about BAiP while traveling with friends in Cuba in 2014. My friend was surprised I hadn't heard of it since I lived in the neighborhood. On my return home I became a member of BAiP but didn't get involved right away because I was working full-time.

I was thinking ahead to retirement and had the sudden and unexpected idea that I would take an acting class - nothing I had ever thought of in my life. I put the thought aside but months later responded to an email blast that BAiP's Bloomingdale Play Readers was looking for new members in an upcoming performance. I joined the group and have been a member ever since. It's been great! I've made new friends, read new plays, and enjoyed doing presentations for the BAiP community. One of the other members introduced me to her acting teacher, and I was hooked. Within a few years I had taken many acting classes and had actually launched a second career while still working in my former profession. Joining the Play Reading group had very unexpected outcomes, in addition to being a fun part of my life.

When I finally stopped working as a college professor, I had more time available to get involved in BAiP in other ways. I became a building representative and began meeting more BAiP members. I was recruited to join the Board of Directors in January 2020 and became the secretary for a year. Most of the time I've been on the Board has been during the pandemic and that has been quite a ride.

By the middle of 2020 I began to explore the possibility of taking on the role of Co-chair of Activities. I was so impressed and inspired by the work being done, but I was also not sure about taking on that level of responsibility. However, I had a lot of orientation and support, and I gradually moved into that role by January 2021.

I have gotten to know most of the many group leaders and I am now working with members who want to start new groups. I love feeling a part of a community right in my neighborhood. Volunteering can be very rewarding and BAiP has so many ways to get involved and stay connected. For me having a BAiP "job" during the

pandemic was as important as zooming with friends and family, the classes I took, the puppy who visited me daily, and the fun-loving sketch comedy team I'm a part of. I look forward to talking with more members who want to step up and enjoy the rewards of volunteerism.



### Diane Petchesky

I was informed by a friend about BAiP, and very shortly after my retirement I joined. Because I had a career in accounting and finance, I gladly volunteered my services. I am finishing up my third year as Treasurer for the Board. In a nutshell:

the treasurer receives and records all income, and pays and records all expenses. I also produce monthly financial reports for the Board, head the Finance Committee, develop the budget, and work with the outside accountant as he prepares our yearly tax filings.

I also volunteered to teach Financial Literacy to the residents at Semiperm, a neighborhood supportive housing program for formerly homeless single parents and their children. This satisfied my retirement goals (hopefully) of making a difference in somebody's life, and it allowed me to work toward strengthening women's financial positions.

At BAiP I have participated in Move it to Music, the Soup Making Class, the Historical House Tours group, and I have attended a play reading and many BAiP Presentations. These days you can find me in the virtual Movement Speaks wellness class.

In addition to all that I do for BAiP and BAiP does for me, I'm a big sports fan. In high school I joined all the after-school sports clubs, even knowing I was a below average player. Now I just watch. I once had season tickets to the New York Jets; I upgraded my Spectrum package to include the Tennis Channel; and I watch NFL games on Thursday, Sunday, and Monday. I also like the arts, which started with playing the violin in elementary school. I have exposed many a family member to dance, music, and theater.



## BAiP Member Profile: Linda Seidel

By Dorothy Callaci



Art historian Linda Seidel, leader of two BAiP art discussion groups, encourages all of us, as museum goers, “to be open to more than what’s there.”

“My way of looking at art,” Linda noted, “is always affected by what is going on around me.” And that’s what she challenges her groups to do when she sends them out each month to an assigned museum exhibit followed by wide ranging discussions of what each has brought to their engagement with the works of art. “People love to talk about art,” she explained.

Linda brings numerous awards for teaching excellence, won during her years as the Anna Holborn Gray Professor of Medieval and Northern Renaissance Art at the University of Chicago 1977-2004, to her work with BAiP, which she sees as a continuation of her work as a “missionary of art.” During her teaching years she traveled throughout Europe visiting museums and medieval churches doing research for her many path-breaking books, articles, and essays. Linda’s latest book, to be published by the University of Chicago Press in Summer 2022, is entitled “Vincent’s Arles: As It Is and As It Was”. In it she examines two of the city’s historic sites, its 12-century cathedral and its Roman cemetery, as they are now and as they were in ancient and medieval times.

When the popularity of her first group made it too large for her living room, she formed a second group and both have continued for nine years with no dropouts. The Wassily Kandinsky and the Etel Adnan exhibits at the Guggenheim Museum were the focus for November with The Hare with Amber Eyes at the Jewish Museum assigned for December.

“Linda is a passionate art scholar and teaching is in her bones so each month is a new journey,” group member Ruth Kozodoy noted. “She brings in surprising comparisons and lots of background information to our discussions. We especially enjoy the variety from session to session.”

Linda’s career began here at Barnard where she majored in French literature. She studied in the city’s museums and The Cloisters and continued with an MA at Radcliffe and on to a PHD at Harvard where the medieval, biblical statues she passed every day on her way to class invited her to learn more about them and their world.

Told that her ability to interpret what she read was stronger than her ability to write about it effectively, Linda looked for a writing class and wound up in George Plimpton’s short story writing class. Just as she gave up the idea of becoming an artist because she loved to draw and paint as a child, she never wrote fiction after that class. But she does enjoy telling stories about art.

Although Linda finds the modern art market “a destructive force motivated by sell, sell, sell and with everything viewed as a commodity, a shiny object,” she finds satisfying changes in the way museums are curating exhibits today. They are getting on board with an understanding that their viewers are a more diverse community, she pointed out, and show more transparency about appropriated art.

When Linda returned to live on the Upper West Side and joined BAiP, she not only served as a board member for six years but became the organization’s guide to negotiating museums by teaching members to understand art beyond what museums provide and to become critical viewers.



### IN MEMORIAM

Peggy Smith

Elisabeth Holtkamp