



### A Message from BAiP President, Marjorie Goldsmith

As we approach the spring, I'm reminded how grateful I am to BAiP for providing many opportunities for me to connect with other members over the past winter. We've had interesting and entertaining programs from BAiP Presents. My knitting group has met on Zoom and, though we can't touch each other's yarn and projects, we've kept in touch through the winter, indeed for the past two Covid years. Hurray for Hollywood, book groups, and discussion groups of all kinds have continued, thanks to their many members and leaders and Zoom squad members.

At its March 10, 2022 meeting, the BAiP board voted to lift the mask requirement for in-person meetings. Individual fully vaccinated groups may choose to meet in person, on Zoom, or a hybrid of both, with or without masks. This is an opportunity to discuss what is best for you. The Board's statement follows.

BAiP is an all-volunteer organization. Members take care of the small and large details necessary for BAiP to operate. From filing documents in Dropbox or picking up mail at the post office, to working with other board members on policy issues, to planning BAiP Presents programming, a volunteer member takes responsibility for the task. We're looking for people to take on some additional administrative tasks and see that BAiP stays strong and available to our Upper West Side community. To support your community organization, please contact me at [president@bloominplace.org](mailto:president@bloominplace.org).

### BAiP Board Approved Mask Policy

BAiP members are responsible for deciding whether [masked](#) or [unmasked](#) indoor in-person activities and volunteering is appropriate for them. If necessary, members should consult a medical professional to help make that determination. It is the responsibility of each group and volunteer leader, in collaboration with their group members, to decide whether to continue to meet on Zoom, hold in-person meetings, or have hybrid meetings with some in-person and some on Zoom.

### Antiques Zoomshow Draws Record Audience

by Dorothy Callaci

There were personal stories behind each of the 157 antiques items submitted by 57 BAiP members to the recent BAiP Zoomshow along with fascinating historical and cultural details provided about each item by antique experts.

Lynn and Steve Max said they were "excited to see their antique pocket watch appear on the show" and to learn it was a gentleman's hunting case pocket watch from the 1820s with a complex chronograph Suisse movement of gears for greater accuracy.

Lynn noted that "As a young man, Steve actually wore the watch...an unusual fashion statement at the time."

The Doyle Auction Gallery provided the antique experts who chose 13 of the submitted items to focus on for the Zoom presentation and provided written appraisals for all the others. Their stories and details of each item were enjoyed by a record participation of more than 130 BAiP viewers.

Among the wide range of antiques featured was Gil Tauber's beautiful 110-piece porcelain dinner service for 18 that was said to be from the Royal Porcelain factory in Austria in 1907. But, as the expert noted, dinner parties and dining tables today are not designed for 18 guests.



Vladimir Kagan Mosaic Table  
Auction Estimate: \$5,000 - \$7,000

Antiques Zoomshow *continued*

“My daughter and granddaughter love looking at the delicate porcelain,” Gil said, “But neither has any desire to own it because it can’t be put in the dishwasher. The porcelain was inherited by my late wife who taught dance at SUNY, and it was used at every Thanksgiving. Washing was never a problem because the foreign students she invited always volunteered to help with the dishes.”

The Doyle experts were specialists in everything from rare books and paintings to Asian artifacts, jewelry and more. The furniture specialist described Stan Weiss’ coffee table as a 1950s Vladimir Kagan design made of walnut and brass with glass mosaic tiles that was “chic then and is chic now.”

Stan said, “I was pleased with Doyle’s research of my beloved cocktail table and happy to share it with the BAiP community.”

Throughout the show, the experts advised all BAiP members who own antiques about the importance of writing down and saving documentation about the provenance of their valuables. In a Q&A at the end of the Zoom show, Dorothy Crouch read some of the questions submitted by members about care of valuables. If it’s meant to shine, polish it. However, the experts warned: do not clean furniture, simply wipe it with a cloth. As for papers, textiles, and other delicate items, keep them out of the sun.

Susie Saunders Wolfe described having “emotional feelings in revisiting my grandfather’s letters with an expert who could validate his pioneering role in early aviation history,” adding, “I want to thank BAiP for all the work that went into creating such a fascinating program.”

It took the significant efforts of a number of BAiP members to make the February 24 Zoomshow happen. Roses Katz and Gil Tauber connected the individual antique owners with the Doyle Gallery personnel. David Reich was chief troubleshooter and set up the Dropbox. The critical and complex arrangements for handoffs, screen sharing, and the audio/visual quality of the show were managed by Lo-Yi Chan. Marlene Schonbrun photographed most of the items seen on screen.

The Zoomshow was a wonderful example of many members volunteering their time and skills at multiple levels to create an exciting event for the community.

If you missed the show, you may watch it on the BAiP Presents page of the website [bloominplace.org/baip-presents.html](http://bloominplace.org/baip-presents.html)



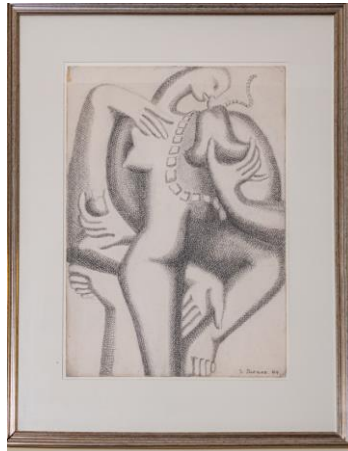
KPM Porcelain Dinner Service  
Auction Estimate: \$2,500 - \$3,500



Hunting Case Pocket Watch  
Auction Estimate: \$1,200 - \$1,800



Tibetan Copper Alloy Figure  
Auction Estimate: \$3,000 - \$4,000



Sari Dienes  
Auction Estimate: \$4,000 - \$6,000



Famille Verte Chinese Pot  
Auction Estimate: \$8,000 - \$12,000



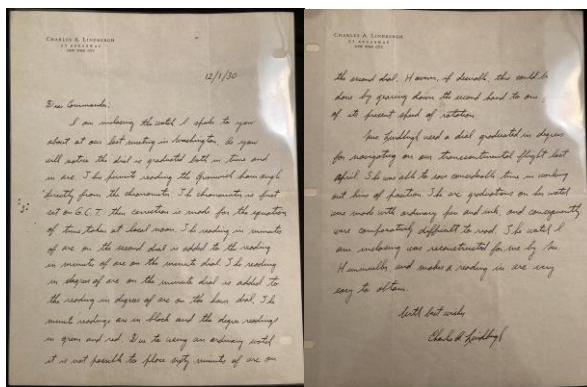
Art Nouveau Brass Inkwell  
Auction estimate: \$200 - \$400



Earrings & Pendant  
Auction estimate: \$ 1,000 - \$1,500



Austrian Art Nouveau Box  
Auction estimate: \$800 - \$1,200



Lindbergh Letter  
Auction estimate: \$1,500 - \$2,500



Orville Wright Signature  
Auction estimate: \$2,000 - \$3,000



Gorham Sterling Silver Flatware  
Auction estimate \$2,500 - \$3,500



Diamond Ring  
Auction estimate \$8,000 - \$12,000

# Join In!

## BAiP Activities

There has been a good deal of momentum in the Activity sector as we emerge from our COVID cocoons. We launched a few new art and literature groups and we'll be offering a new series of sports options. Of course, all BAiP activities depend on the volunteer efforts of our group leaders. We hope you will talk to us about your ideas for a new group.

The BAiP Board recently changed the policy about indoor masks. Members of activity groups are discussing if and when they want to meet unmasked indoors. BAiP will continue to support any Activity group that prefers to meet via Zoom. All Wellness classes (Yoga, Movement Speaks and Pilates) along with Hooray for Hollywood will remain on Zoom at this time.

## New Groups

Some new groups were started in 2022: Creative Studio; Isaac Babel Reading Group; and the Time, Memory and Childhood Reading Group. All were popular and filled up very quickly.

## Spring and Summer Sports

Now that spring is here, you will be hearing about more outdoor activities. For the first time, we will have a **Softball** group in Riverside Park starting in May. Also in May, **Tennis** lessons will resume for brand new players and for some members who haven't played in a long time. And once the court is completed, we hope to have a **Pickleball** group. Keep an eye out for emails alerts!

## Groups with openings

Groups that are open for additional members include: The Writing Circle, Creating Art and Writing on Zoom, the Knitting Group (for experienced knitters), Opera Lovers Happy Hour, and Outdoor Taiji/Qigong.

## Walking Groups

The already established walking groups all meet in the early morning. There is interest in having groups that meet late mornings, 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.

## 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, email [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org) to register. Then watch for an email with the Zoom link, on the day before the date specified below, to login at 4:55 p.m. for the session which runs from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

<b>March 29</b>	<i>Beauties and Bombshells 1</i>
<b>April 13</b>	<i>Beauties and Bombshells 2</i>
<b>April 26</b>	<i>Films of James Stewart 1</i>
<b>May 10</b>	<i>Films of James Stewart 2</i>
<b>May 24</b>	<i>Warner Brothers: Portrait of a Studio 1</i>
<b>June 7</b>	<i>Warner Brothers: Portrait of a Studio 2</i>
<b>June 21</b>	<i>The Film Musical 1</i>
<b>July 5</b>	<i>The Film Musical 2</i>
<b>July 19</b>	<i>Race in American Film 1</i>
<b>August 2</b>	<i>Race in American Film 2</i>

## BAiP Presents

BAiP hosts guest speakers who discuss a variety of subjects that are of interest to the membership. The presentations are on Zoom followed by a question-and-answer period. Watch for the email notification to register for the month's presentation, held from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**April 28** "Changes in Medicaid and Protecting One's Assets While Planning for Long-Term Care"  
Presenter: Ronal Fatoullah, elder law attorney and expert on Medicaid and special needs planning.

**May 19** "Medicare 2022 – Important Updates"  
Presenter: Eric Hausman, an independent consultant specializing in Medicare education and training. He served as the Lead Trainer for the HICAP program in NYS.

**June 23** The program will be about music and musicians in Bloomingdale.

For any information about **Join In!** contact [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org)



## 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 with their technology. For example, if you use a flip phone or a smartphone made prior to 2012, it may be incompatible with the [new 5G network](#). The Tech Squad can help you find out the network your phone is using. Or, if need to know 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, ranging 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 optional and participants may choose to wear a mask or not, depending on their own comfort level.**

## The Herman Sands Award Update

Spring is officially here. Folks are exchanging their down jackets for blazers and sweaters. For BAiP volunteers those seasonal changes are a reminder of the celebration of BAiP's Volunteer Appreciation Day and the presentation of the Sands Award. The Award was created 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 presented annually in recognition of the outstanding contribution of a current member as well as the contributions of all BAiP volunteers.

As an all-volunteer organization, BAiP exists through the generosity and dedication of individuals who offer their time and energy to organize activities and extend a hand to support BAiP's mission to help older adults live safe, vital, and comfortable lives at home in our neighborhood.

The Award recognizes exceptional service, and generally goes to an individual volunteer. You may remember that last year was quite an exception. Twenty-six volunteers on the Zoom and Tech Squads were honored for the work they did in keeping us connected and safe by enabling in-person activities to continue through Zoom. This year the award will again go to an individual.

A request for nominations was previously sent out to the membership with a submission deadline of March 26<sup>th</sup>. The nominations will be evaluated by the BAiP Board, and there will be an announcement about a volunteer event honoring all BAiP volunteers that will include the Sands Award presentation.



### From The BUZZ Team

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

Readers, please send your observations and suggestions. We welcome them!

[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 introduces one or two Board members who, in their own words, describe their BAiP experience and their journey to becoming a member of the Board.



### Mike Kronberger

The Upper West Side is where I have lived since 1969. This neighborhood has been a home and a resource for my family and me ever since. I first learned about BAiP from our friend and neighbor Elisabeth Holtkamp who served the group for many years. What an organization, I thought, but of course where else would such a community form than our beloved neighborhood.

My first involvement with BAiP was six years ago by way of the wine tasting group. Here I came to understand the supportive and convivial vibe these groups can bring to retirement life. Once off the wait list for the Historic Tavern group, I learned that it had gone dormant. Along with another member, we reinvigorated the group and visited places such as McSorley's Tavern, Pete's Tavern, and The White Horse. We decided to reconsider the scope of this spirited group, so in full disclosure we renamed it Historic Taverns and Local Dive Bars.

My volunteer work at the American Youth Hostel is a highlight of my BAiP community service. A native New Yorker born in the Bronx and a life-long budget traveler, I really enjoy helping young people navigate NYC. One nice memory I have was connecting an Australian woman and a German man, both of whom wanted to see a Knicks game in Madison Square Garden. They seem to have gotten along very well. Maybe I will be invited to a wedding.

I taught public high school for 35 years before retiring. Business studies were my area. Retirement since then has been an ongoing journey of travel, community service, and new friendships. Joining BAiP has been a wonderful addition to this journey. I am thrilled to be on the BAiP Board.



## Photograph by BAiP Member, Marlene Schonbrun



## BAiP Member Profile: Miriam Rakowski

By Dorothy Callaci



The crocuses are in full bloom and visiting birds on their way to summer homes fill the branches of the trees in Central Park. That means BAiP's resident ornithologist Miriam Rakowski is ready to resume her bird watching expeditions to the park for BAiP members.

Join her\*\*\* with your binoculars on her weekly morning expeditions and learn how to spot and identify all the varieties of birds who stop by each spring and fall, on their migratory journeys.

During 30 years of bird-watching around the world, Miriam has recorded sightings of 2,000 species. Her "exciting adventures" have included spotting rare tropical birds in the Amazon jungle. "I bird watch all year long," she explained, "and it has so greatly enriched my life that I have been inspired to share my passion with others."

The bird-watching expeditions she leads for BAiP and many other organizations are all in Central Park. That Eastern flyway is considered one of the 10 best places in the country to experience great bird migrations in the spring and fall. But for her own excursions, Miriam also enjoys a variety of Long Island locations, including Jones Beach and Montauk. "I go wherever interesting birds may turn up and my buddies can drive to," she said.

Back from a recent excursion to Montauk, she noted the very evident decline in numbers and varieties of birds which she also finds here in Central Park and which the Audubon Society attributes to loss of habitat and climate change.

"But there are still plenty to be seen," she noted reassuringly, citing a glimpse recently of a rare slate-backed gull, a Russian bird sometimes found in Alaska. "There are surprises all the time."


Miriam, born in Belgium but raised in Brooklyn, earned her first degree at Hunter College followed by a master's in international business at New York University. But after years in finance, Miriam wanted to do "something more meaningful with my life." Another degree prepared her for a second career as a public school math teacher and coach.

"I loved being around children," she said, "and took all my classes birding. We did social studies birding, science birding, and story birding."

It all began with a park ranger-led walk in Central Park 30 years ago. "I discovered it was a nice way to relax and to spend time with nice people. Slowly the birds seduced me," she said. "It's been a great gift during Covid and my way of coping."

Wearing comfortable shoes and armed with water and binoculars, which she very patiently helps each person adjust, the bird-watchers assemble on the outskirts of the park at 8 a.m. in the spring and 9 a.m. in winter when the birds are most active. The leisurely walks, usually covering one to two miles, are on flat terrain and include the forested areas, the park's seven bodies of water, and the meadows and gardens where the 300 species of birds that migrate through the park hang out.

Miriam is quick to point out the added benefits provided by the bird walks — fresh air, healthy exercise, and the chance to "de-stress." She also notes that the size of bird groups has to be small to be effective and that interest in birding has "exploded" during the pandemic. So, if you are interested in being part of a birding group sign up through BAiP and learn all the details of the weekly walks.

"Not only do we have the pleasure of viewing the many tropical birds that visit our park," she explains, "we do so while strolling through beautiful and varied habitat surrounded by the sounds, smells and sights of nature that change through the seasons." 

\*\*\* To find out more about joining the bird watching group, contact [activities@bloominplace.org](mailto:activities@bloominplace.org) or call 212.842.8831 ext.16.

Volunteers keep BAiP running. If you'd like to become an active BAiP volunteer but wonder how to do that, take a look at these HELP WANTED notices to see if they suggest a good fit for you. There is always training and support available.

**HELP WANTED**  
**BAiP Email Coordinator**

Help our members receive timely, accurate announcements about activities and policies!

The Coordinator puts content provided by committees and leaders into a specific online format used for occasional email blasts, and schedules them to be sent out.

Attention to detail, comfort using a computer and editing for correct grammar are needed for several hours a week.

**You will be trained!**

Contact David Reich  
at [dlreich@bloominplace.org](mailto:dlreich@bloominplace.org)  
or 212.842.8831 ext 152

**HELP WANTED**  
**ZOOM HOST**

The Zoom Squad needs volunteers to host the Wellness programs and large meetings.

**We will train!**

A Zoom Squad host has two tasks: social and technical. The host opens a meeting, welcomes participants and helps them make connections, spotlights the speaker, and closes the meeting. If you are hosting a Wellness class, you can continue to participate in the session.

Contact Lo-Yi Chan  
at [loyichan1@yahoo.com](mailto:loyichan1@yahoo.com)  
or 413.441.4945

**IN MEMORIUM**

**John Hewitt**

**Quandra Prettyman**

**Toni (Antoinette) Wood**