



A Message from BAiP President Marjorie Goldsmith

It's summer and I hope you have been enjoying some wonderful days. Walking groups, tennis groups, and softball have all been out and about.

BAiP was started 12 years ago by a group of Upper West Side neighbors and friends who wanted to find a way to support each other in living full lives as older people. Started and continuing as a volunteer organization, BAiP has been particularly important for many during the pandemic. Using Zoom, BAiP has offered members physical fitness activities (yoga, Pilates, and other movement activity groups) as well as our BAiP Presents and Hooray for Hollywood (H4H) programs.

BAiP is an unusual organization in that it doesn't ask for dues from its members. Rather, it asks that everyone contribute in some way. The "behind the scenes" work for programs such as BAiP Presents and Hooray for Hollywood is extensive: considering topics of interest to members, finding speakers, working with the speakers and the captioning company and with Zoom, soliciting evaluations and reflecting on them. That's all the work of committed volunteers who are making our learning and pleasure possible.

After a slowdown during the pandemic, the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program (N2N) is ready to resume full activity. There is more detail on the types of assistance BAiP offers in the "Need Some Help?" section (p. 6) of *The BUZZ*. So, a big thank you to the Tech and Zoom Squads, the BAiP Presents and N2N committees, activity group leaders, and all who have enriched our lives.

To officially honor all our volunteers, BAiP is planning to have a volunteer appreciation event this fall, at which the Herman Sands award will be presented.

BAiP Summer Sports Program

by Dorothy Callaci

Outfielder Nancy Schneider reached for the softball and made a long throw to stop a run from third base to home plate.

Close by, on the tennis court, Karen Gershenhorn's backhand whacked the tennis ball over the net to keep the volley going.

This seasonal activity of BAiP members on both the baseball diamond and the red clay tennis courts of Riverside Park is coordinated by Bill Short, who said the aim of all the action is "getting in shape, staying active, and having fun." Most of the players who turned out for the two-hour softball practice and games and the one-hour tennis lessons held one day each week hadn't played in years and years or not at all. But, as Bill noted, "All are welcome."

"I haven't played in over 30 years," Nancy said, "and my teammates haven't either, but that didn't stop us. Many of us dug old, old mitts out of the closet." Her husband, Gary Ardan, came to watch the opening practice and signed on to play. Now they each have



new mitts and are looking forward to the fall season.

Karen rated the two Riverside Clay Tennis Association instructors “fantastic and patient” as they sent balls across the net and worked on basic skills. “We had plenty of time on court,” she explained, “with nobody playing against anybody and lots of camaraderie.”

Jodie Armstrong, who never learned to play tennis because it was too expensive, describes feeling “so happy” with her free, one-hour Tuesday lesson.



Tennis Players

Marie Sansone Taylor; Coach Jacob Leibovitz; Elizabeth Wilen- Berg; RCTA Director Tim Heath; BAIP Activities staff member Candy Dato; Anthony Bellov; Lucy Painter; Sheri Franklyn; Jodi Armstrong; Karen Gershenhorn; Bonny Hart; Bill Short



Lucy Painter summed up their shared experience: “We hit from the south side of the court to the instructors on the north side. Now, when we pick up the missed balls a couple of times each session, there are a lot more balls on the north side than there were in the beginning of the season, so we must be getting better.”

For a rundown on softball, Larry Sikon described the season as “a lot of fun with a nice mix of women and men and experienced players and novices. Each time we get together,” he recounted, “we start with a little fielding and batting practice and then move on to a game. And that’s when things get really serious. All of the players bring out their competitive spirit and do their best to have their team come out on top.”

He added that “Bill Short and Bill Halasz have done a great job organizing our efforts, getting us a really nice field to play on, and providing all the necessary equipment.”

And Bill has even more exercise challenges up his sleeve. He’s working on a fall season of pickleball, a game invented in 1965 that mixes tennis, table tennis, and badminton that’s played on a regulation badminton court.

Bill is hoping more BAiP members will get over their “I can’t do this” mindset and come out for the fun and exercise when softball and tennis begin again in September. He invites members to “get in shape and have some fun” by contacting BAiP activities@bloominplace.org to request a spot to play ball.



Softball Players

John Maniscalco, Henry Siegel, Nancy Schneider, Gary Ardan, Larry Sikon, Bill Short, Bob Halasz, Faye Ullah, Michael “Mort” Mortensen, Sheri Franklyn, Fred Michel
Not pictured: Mariam Touba, Marie Taylor, Bob Collier, Dan McGuire



Special Thanks

For tennis: Mark McIntyre, US Tennis Association (USTA),
Riverside Clay Tennis Association (RCTA)

For softball: Riverside Park Conservancy (RPC), Mike Handell, Kids of Summer

Marlene Schonbrun for tennis photos

Ozzie Alfonzo for softball photos

Join In!

BAiP Activities

The Activities Sector had a successful spring season of softball and tennis lessons. Thanks to Bill Short and to all the sluggers and tennis players. Over the summer, we will be planning for sporting activities in the fall.

We continue to work with a member who is interested in starting a **Widow's Group** and an email for that will go out soon. The new **Bridge Group** is on hold. The **Poetry Circle** held a reading of the members' poems on June 27 via Zoom.

Movement Speaks is taking a break and will resume on July 11. Pilates and Yoga will meet on Zoom through the summer except for some vacations for the leaders.

Many groups take summer breaks and are hoping to meet in person in the fall depending on members' comfort levels. Most groups are still on Zoom. Candy Dato and Phyllis Sperling, the Co-Chairs of Activities, are thinking about new activities and also looking to see which groups may be able to accept new members. This is an ongoing process which will be announced periodically.

On June 30, Activities hosted an outdoor **Blooming Hour**, the first since before the pandemic, on the roof deck of Anshe Chesed Synagogue.

You may contact Activities with any questions at activities@bloominplace.org.

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 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.

- July 19** *Race in American film - 1*
- Aug 2** *Race in American film - 2*
- Aug 16** *What a character - the character actors - 1*
- Aug 30** *What a character - the character actors - 2*
- Sept 13** *Images of women in American film - 1*
- Sept 27** *Images of women in American film - 2*

BAiP Presents

BAiP hosts presentations on a variety of subjects that are of interest to the membership. The presentations are on Zoom and are 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.

If you missed a presentation, go to the BAiP website <https://www.bloominplace.org/baip-presents.html>

June 23 **Through the Eyes of Our Neighbors**

Works by members of the two BAiP photography groups were shown and discussed in a two-part presentation by:

Ozzie Alfonso

Leader of the BAiP Photography Group since 2010

Marlene Schonbrun and Virginia Lawrence

Co-Leaders of the new BAiP Photo Excursion Group

July & August The BAiP Presents teams will be on hiatus during the summer and will resume programming in the fall.

September 22 **Charitable Giving**

BAiP Poetry Circle

On June 27, members of BAiP's **Poetry Circle** presented a reading of their poems. The poets were: Arlene Metnick, Ben Goldstein, Beppe Manca, Christine Penney, Elaine Avidon, Han-hua Chang, Joanne Grumet, and Matthew Flamm. The program of readings can be heard by clicking here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiPopeA8JNM>



From *The BUZZ* Team

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

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

baipbuzz@bloominplace.org



Need Some Help?

Columbia University Classes continued

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
or call 212.842.8831 ext. 1

Tech Squad **

BAiP's Tech Squad volunteers help members resolve problems with their technology. For example, the Tech Squad may be able to assist you update your software or learn to host a Zoom meeting.

Contact: techsquad@bloominplace.org
or call 212.842.8831 ext. 26

BAiP Resource Exchange

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

Contact: ResourceXchange@bloominplace.org

*** Volunteers will offer assistance to members 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.*

Audit Columbia University Classes

Interested in Art History, Paris for Romantics, Cinema History, U.S. Era of Civil War & Reconstruction, or perhaps something else?

Consider auditing a class at Columbia University for free! It's part of the University's "giving back" to neighbors who live in the 10025 zip code.

Registration for the program should take place by mid-August to attend a course in September. There is a one-time registration fee of \$85 and results in a Columbia ID that can also provide discounts at local stores. The \$85 registration fee is waived for 10025 Manhattanville auditors upon providing proof of neighborhood residency.

BAiP's own Caitlin Hawke is usually a guest speaker in the Y(our) Longer Life Seminar, which is GREAT!!

The link for info is:

<https://sps.columbia.edu/academics/auditing-programs/manhattanville-course-auditing-community-members>

2022 "Fresh Food for Seniors" Program Under Way

BAiP participates in the "Fresh Food for Seniors Program" sponsored by NY City Council Member Gale Brewer and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine.

The program, which began on June 23, offers farm-fresh fruit and vegetables at \$10 a bag. The bags are pre-paid for two weeks in advance and picked up at St. Luke's House, 306 West 102nd St., between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. on the following days:

July 7, July 21

August 4, August 18

September 1, September 15, September 29

October 13, October 27

November 10 – Last bag pickup;
no additional orders

If you have any questions call [212.842.8831](tel:212.842.8831) ext. 20 and leave a message.



IN MEMORIAM

Dora Bardach

Jean Dorsey

Carl Johnson

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.



Gail Naruo

Originally from Wisconsin, I moved to NYC in my 20s, intending to stay only a year or two. After a significant adjustment to urban living and the boldness of New Yorkers -- They argued openly with family and friends! They discussed therapy in public! -- I came to feel at home here in ways I had never felt before.

The city offered many new experiences: a diverse population, opera, modern dance, a women's consciousness raising group, international food. My GRE verbal score literally increased 100 points from simply being around articulate New Yorkers and reading the *New York Times*. I married, worked at a psychiatric clinic in Brooklyn, started on my PhD in psychology, had a son, and grappled with simultaneous work, dissertation, and child rearing. Mid-career, I shifted from clinical work to directing university counseling centers in New York and then in New Jersey. Following my divorce, I moved to California to another director position, a second marriage, and experiences with West Coast culture.

After being widowed and retiring, I relocated to Austin, Texas, to be near family. The University of Texas Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was my source of new friends and activities. I served as a committee member and then Chair of one of the OLLI programs before returning to NYC in 2016.

I was barely unpacked in my new apartment when I learned about BAiP at the street fair on my block. My first BAiP involvement was to start a new book group because all the existing ones were full, and I missed the two groups I had in Austin. I joined the N2N Committee and subsequently became its Chair.

I also joined the Board of Directors and served as President for two years, from 2020-2021. During that time, we weathered an unprecedented pandemic and ensuing lockdown. The Board did terrific work in its efforts to support connections among BAiP members isolated by the pandemic; it developed policies regarding Covid, shifted activities to Zoom, began the Inclusion and Diversity initiative, and produced the first version of *The BUZZ*.

Through BAiP I've made many new friends, participated in new activities, and have had the opportunity to give back to my local community while exercising my brain with stimulating discussions of issues, challenges, and plans. What could be more valuable?



BAiP Member Profile: Bob Ledogar



Bob Ledogar, one of BAiP's founders, continues to lead the walking group he and Evelyn Miller started all those years ago but admits, "We were faster then than we are now."

"Walks," he explains, "are good for your brain and good for getting you up in the morning." So Bob's walkers meet three days a week at 8:30 a.m. and walk for about an hour. "There's always lots of conversation," he reports, "about all the events of the day." He leads the way on his rolling walker.

Back in 2007, Bob and his wife, Elly, among others, were especially attracted to the idea of having a "neighbor to neighbor" component in BAiP whereby volunteers help one another with everyday chores like shopping or keeping doctor appointments as age increasingly makes those chores difficult.

But calls for help didn't pour in. Bob thinks that's because people don't like to ask for help. So BAiP began adding activities like reading groups, walking groups, and card games to its original mission. As word spread, more and more people wanted to become part of BAiP, so boundaries for membership were extended, and today there are over 1400 members.

Asked why he joined BAiP, Bob says, "I didn't want to go to a nursing home, so our shared purpose was to develop a community to help us stay and enjoy our older years at home."

Aging in place was the goal. He and Elly joined the steering committee of about two dozen Upper West Siders who were active in neighborhood block associations. Bob's original contribution to BAiP was as webmaster. He also

By Dorothy Callaci

served on the first Board of Directors for ten years.

BAiP caught the attention of the *New York Times* and in February 2013, a *Times* feature described the growing popularity of similar groups, using BAiP as a model. They included a photo of BAiP walkers with Bob on a snowy morning walk in Riverside Park and a quote from Elly, who died in December, "We're glad to be part of this because we don't ever want to leave the neighborhood and we hope we don't have to."

Bob credits BAiP's growth to the fact that "people want to meet other people" and, with the wide variety of activities it now offers, BAiP meets that need. Tapping into all the talent and time to be found among Bloomingdale retirees, there are an array of activities for members to choose from and enjoy. As he points out, "Anyone with an idea for an activity can start one, run one, and be the boss."

Bob grew up in Queens with a sister and two brothers. After completing a master's degree in urban planning at MIT, with a focus on health issues, he spent 18 years working for the United Nations. He spent 10 of those years in Guatemala with UNICEF on issues affecting urban children.

After retiring from the UN he joined CIET International, an NGO research center, with an interest in measuring the impact of the programs he helped to support as a UNICEF officer.

Today Bob continues to be an active BAiP member, leading his walking group, enjoying participation in a reading group, and attending monthly BAiP Presents meetings. "I am proud of the great idea that initiated BAiP and of the things we've accomplished and the friends I've made," he said.



June 30, 2022 Blooming Hour





**DO YOU HAVE
COMMUNICATIONS and/or PR
EXPERIENCE?
*BAiP NEEDS YOU***



BAiP is committed to communicating effectively with all of its members. We're now in the process of evaluating our communication channels and exploring new ones.

We are looking for members with experience who would be willing to help us determine what methods are most effective.

If you are interested, please send an email to Jean Schmidt (jschmidt@bloominplace.org) and tell us a little about yourself.