

FEBRUARY 2021

PARK WEST

NEIGHBORS

DAVID CROMER
THERE IS LIGHT



Best Version Media

Cover photo provided by
Baris Selcen

SOCCER CLASSES FOR KIDS AGES 1.5 -14

Voted best Soccer club in Manhattan 2019



Professional Soccer Training

917-703-0409
jcsocroc@gmail.com

"NYC's top rated Soccer Program for kids!"

Follow Socroc_Soccer on instagram and receive 10% off your first semester.

www.jcsocroc.com

Did she say "YES"?

We PLAN, GUIDE, CAPTURE your special moments for you!

NYC
Proposals
Engagements
Weddings

(415) 917-9891
baris@bsmproductions.com



BSM PRODUCTIONS
Your Special Day Deserves To Be Treated Special!

SEARCHING FOR HEALING?
Learn about prayer that reduces fear & increases immunity

JOIN OUR ONLINE CHURCH ACTIVITIES
Sunday Services • Sunday School • Testimony Meetings • Bible Study

VISIT OUR READING ROOM IN-PERSON
Now open Mon-Sat: 3:30 to 6:30pm

www.firstchristiansciencechurchnyc.com



First Church of Christ, Scientist
10 West 68th Street, New York, NY 10023
Ph: (212) 877-6169 Email: fccsnyc@aol.com
Please note our physical location is currently closed.



Best Version Media®

PUBLICATION TEAM



PUBLISHER:
Jonah Hochman

CONTENT COORDINATOR:
Sabrina Lobner
slobner@bestversionmedia.com

DESIGNER:
Robert Alexander
ralexander@bestversionmedia.com

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER:
Baris Selcen
baris@bsmproductions.com

ADVERTISING

CONTACT: Jonah Hochman
PHONE: (631) 428-3858
EMAIL: jhochman@bestversionmedia.com

FEEDBACK / IDEAS / SUBMISSIONS:

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 25th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to:

Jonah Hochman
jhochman@bestversionmedia.com

PARK WEST NEIGHBORS

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- EMERGENCY..... 911
- POLICE DEPARTMENT..... (212) 580-6411
- POISON CONTROL..... (800) 222-1222
- GAS LEAK..... (800) 752-6633 (ConEd)
- LOCKSMITH..... (212) 580-0066
- LIBRARY..... (212) 621-0619

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted. All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2021 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.

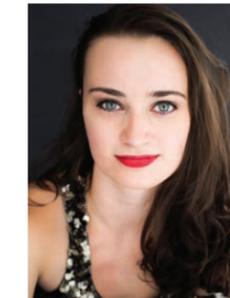
DEAR RESIDENTS,

Love is in the air! Valentine's Day is here and there are a plethora of at-home date night ideas in the Calendar of Events on page 10!

On page 6, you will find the story of this month's featured resident David Cromer, a dedicated Upper West Sider and Tony Award-winning director. His is certainly a fascinating story and he really dives deep in to the mindset of what goes into making a world-class Broadway play!

Pages 12-13 contain helpful insights courtesy of Syl-Lee Antiques, including how to get the best value when selling some of your most valuable items. On page 5, this month's Non-Profit Spotlight is the Wild Bird Fund. They are a fantastic organization that helps to ensure that the local bird population is well taken care of. On page 14, check out the running series we have continued for Patrick Lencioni. Of course, the St. Agnes Library offers its monthly update on page 15.

New Yorkers are resilient, have courage and be kind!



Peace and blessings,

SABRINA LOBNER
CONTENT COORDINATOR
slobner@bestversionmedia.com




BVM Best Version Media®

Interested in becoming an Expert Contributor?

Contact the Publisher of this magazine for more information.

EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

SENIOR HOME CARE



Craig Sendach - Touching Hearts at Home
(212) 201-6139 - www.touchinghearts.com/nyc

The heart of home care, Touching Hearts at Home provides caregiver services from just a few hours up to 24 hours to seven days a week, including weekends and holidays. Whether in Manhattan, Brooklyn or Queens, Craig and his team will ensure the best caregiver fit for you or your loved one.

Would you like a new "home in your body"? Pain-free and able to move in a non-restricted fluid way? Well, then **GYROTONIC® IS FOR YOU!**

30% discount for new clients at the BRAND NEW

Body Evolutions West 72nd
140 West 72nd
(Between Amsterdam and Columbus)

www.bodyevolutions.com
212.510.7212
Info@bewest72.com



Our caregivers help older adults continue to live at home.

- Companionship
- Light Housekeeping
- Memory Care
- Laundry & Linens
- Transportation
- Shopping & Errands
- Meal Preparation

Touching Hearts at home
The heart of home care.

We start by listening to your unique needs. Then we'll customize a plan of care with our trained caregivers who understand your personal needs and lifestyle.

Call us: (212) 201-6139
www.touchinghearts.com/nyc

Archival framing of Art, Photos, Ketuba, needlepoint, oil paintings, keepsakes, objects d'art, etc. Dry-mounting, glass change, Mirrors made to order. Restoration of Art and Frame Pick up, delivery, and installation services available.

METRO
Frame Art

CREATIVE CUSTOM FRAMING
211 W. 92ND STREET, NYC
PHONE: 718-432-0532
EMAIL: METROFRAMEART@GMAIL.COM

Also visit our other location at
585 W 235th Street
Riverdale, NY 10463

METROFRAMEART.COM

We can help you make wise choices suitable for your personality and lifestyle.



salon 84

162 West 84th Street
(at Amsterdam Avenue)
New York, NY 10024
t: 212.932.8531
e: nycsalon84@gmail.com

www.salon84ny.com

FITSPACE N.Y.C. EXECUTIVE TRAINING SERVICES



RICHARD LOUIS

646.315.5001
RLOUISNYC@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FITSPACE.NYC

The Wild Bird Fund

Article and Photos courtesy of the Wild Bird Fund

In the middle of the Upper West Side, between 87 th and 88 th streets, in the prettiest storefront on Columbus Avenue, sits the only in-city wildlife rehabilitation center in the country. Before the Wild Bird Fund wildlife rehabilitation and education center opened in 2012, New York was the only major city in the U.S. that did not have a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

When COVID-19 struck, the Wild Bird Fund was designated an essential service by the Governor's Office and the Mayor's Office. During the pandemic, courageous New Yorkers also deemed it necessary to rescue the injured, sick or orphaned wild animals they found. What does that say about New York City?

We care about each other and our fellow wild New Yorkers.

Despite the pandemic, more than 7,000 patients have been brought Wild Bird Fund. From the smallest, the ruby-throated hummingbird, to the largest, the mute swan, 184 different species were treated this year at WBF. New York's 50,000 acres of parks, marshlands and abandoned lands attract more than 350 species of birds who live here, migrate through or come here to breed. The Wild Bird Fund is the only emergency care facility they have, and compassionate New Yorkers are their only ambulance.

So what do you do if you find an injured bird? Most often people will see a little bird lying on the sidewalk and think it's dead. But it may just be unconscious. You can do a quick check by seeing if you can move the unresponsive bird's legs; if they move freely, there's a chance of revival.

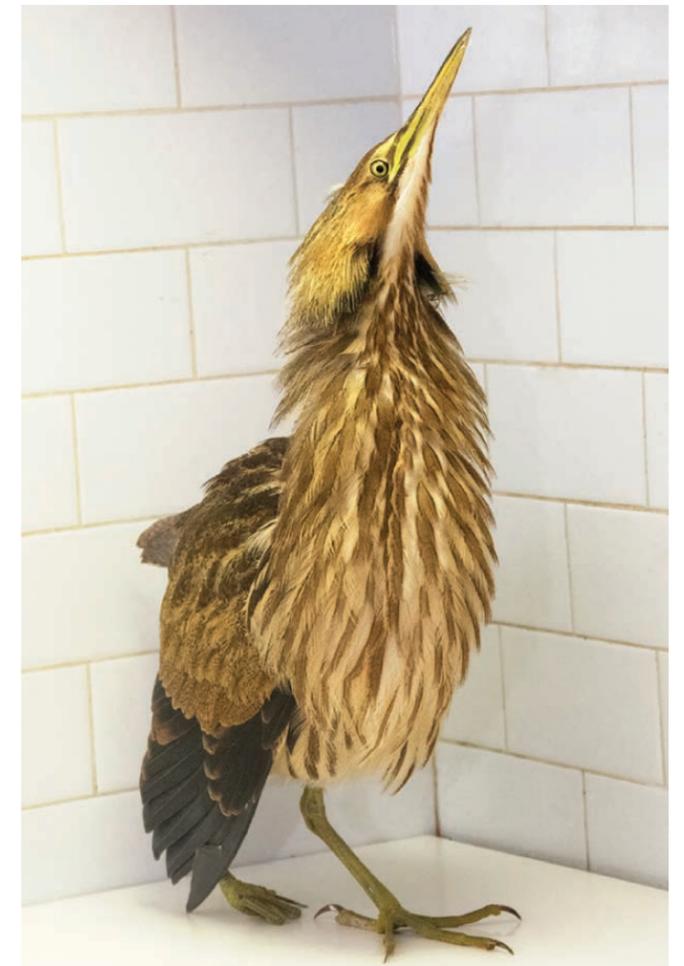
Keep the bird warm. Put the bird in your pocket to warm it up. Do not worry about disease. Birds have avian diseases, which we generally can't get. Just wash your hands. When a little songbird ends up concussed on a cold sidewalk where the temperature is 70 or 60 degrees in the summer and below freezing in the winter, it can die of hypothermia.

Find a paper bag or little box. When birds go into a quiet, dark place, they rest. A brown paper bag is the perfect bird ambulance and recovery room. Take the bird in the bag/box into a small room like a bathroom and let the bird rest for an hour in the bag. If after an hour the bird is fluffed up and has its beak tucked under a wing, you should bring it to a wildlife rehabilitator such as the Wild Bird Fund. If it is hopping around in the bag/box let it escape from the bag into that small, closed room. If it flies well, turn off the lights and recapture it. Then you can take it to a park with a water source and let it go.

New York City Audubon estimates that 90,000 to 230,000 migratory birds die each year from window strikes in the city. There's a 50% chance you can save the bird – a worthwhile endeavor considering that more than a third of all North American bird species are at risk of becoming extinct.

Northern saw-whet owls and American bittern by Ardith Bondi.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT





THERE IS LIGHT
DAVID CROMER

By Sabrina Lobner
Photos by Baris Selcen

David Cromer is a Tony Award-winning director whose life is dedicated to theatre. Cromer was whisked to New York City in his adult life and achieved having five of his productions grace Broadway stages. "I spent most of my young adult life working in theatre in Chicago. I was pretty committed to living in Chicago, and I think I desired a greater stage or a bigger lens, or a bigger market than I was in, but I also did not possess the fortitude or driving ambition to make a move to L.A. or New York." He continued, "I was very connected in Chicago; it was very fulfilling and very nourishing artistically, but I think I secretly always wanted to [move] and then I realized it was too late." As fate would have it, someone would intercede and implant Cromer into the NYC theatre community. "I had the good luck that a producer came in and sort of dragged me to New York," he said with a chuckle. Cromer directed two shows in New York, then returned to his home in Chicago, but not for long. "The third show I brought to New York was a production of *Our Town*, and that ran kind of indefinitely and I was

also in it, so I basically had to stay and then I just ended up not leaving." He continued, "I wasn't even planning to move; I was too scared of it—I always thought it was something you were supposed to do when you're young." Fortunately for NYC audiences, the decision to move to New York was made for Cromer. Although he originally intended to be in the city for six months while directing and performing in *Our Town*, he discovered a rationale for staying. "I started getting jobs, it's the nature of my profession—you go where the jobs are." He continued, "I was able to work, and there was a little more money here." Little did he know, he would direct a play on Broadway early in his NYC career.

In 2009, the same year *Our Town* ran Off-Broadway, Cromer celebrated his directorial Broadway debut. "The first plays I directed on Broadway were a revival of *Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Broadway Bound*." He continued, "It was an effort to couch those plays (the

Eugene Jerome plays) as serious American plays. They are great comedies, but he, Neil Simon, was a far more complex writer than he is often given credit for, and those plays demonstrated it. I had a reputation at the time for illuminating revivals of American plays, and so I was hired to do a deeper dive into those plays. It was a disaster, something went wrong with the marketing, we were hemorrhaging money, and we closed very early. The few people who saw it really loved it, so that led to other jobs. While that was not a financial success, it was also not a failure." The work came flooding in for Cromer, and he was offered a plethora of gigs outside of Broadway. "Broadway is one of the things you can do in the theatre, and it's the well-known one, and it's the high-profile one, and sometimes it's the very lucrative one; but I go back to Chicago to work, I got to Boston to work, I work here at not-for-profit at Lincoln Center or Manhattan Theatre Club."

Eventually, Cromer would receive the opportunity of a lifetime. On the evening of June 10, 2018 at the 72nd Annual Tony Awards, *The Band's Visit* won ten of the eleven awards it was nominated for. One of those awards was Best Direction of a Musical, which was awarded to Cromer. "It was a composer I loved, a playwright I loved and had worked with; the producer was very open to my input. It was the most ideal piece for me to work on. It concerned things that mattered

(Continued on Pg. 8)



This Resident Feature is proudly sponsored by Golden Key Locksmith

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

- COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL LOCKS
- CAMERAS • DOORS • SAFES INTERCOM SYSTEM
- ACCESS CONTROL KEY DUPLICATION
- MASTER REKEYING • 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

328 COLUMBUS AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10023
INFO@NYGKEY.COM
WWW.NYGKEY.COM
LIC: 2065742 BONDED & INSURED

(Continued from Pg. 7)

to me, and it was a great experience," he said, beaming. "We were all very straightforward with each other about what we were trying to accomplish; we made sure we were communicating as much as possible." The touring production of *The Band's Visit* opened in 2019 and thrived until the shutdown. Cromer has kept the faith throughout the pandemic and continues to check in on the various projects he had lined up prior to the shutdown. "All of the projects that got scuttled by the pandemic...every couple of months the groups get together and we try to work on the scripts of the new plays I was going to do, or discuss what's going to happen when. There is light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "The thing that has been hardest about this for people is trying to be patient, and that's a terrible thing to say to anyone, 'Be patient.' It's a brutal thing to say to people who are suffering; it's a privileged thing to say to people who are starving, but at least in the matter of people who are hungry for forward motion, for their ambition, if it's just a matter of saying hungry to get back onstage, I've been at it long enough to say, 'I know you're hungry, but if you can breathe, and meditate and be patient, the time will pass and it will come back.'" Cromer added, "I have not suffered like many of my colleagues have suffered, and I hope I can figure out a way to alleviate some of that."

Cromer has gained and maintained a reputation for excellence yet remains incredibly humble. "I can only try to make it something that I would respond to, and hope that they [the audience] respond to it too," he shared. "The biggest game-changing hits were always an innovation, were always something that was unusual." He continued, "Theatre has always got to be of use to the audience, and it's a collaborative artform in which you need to get a whole bunch of people invested in spending a lot of time and money; there's an enormous amount of moving parts. If I was a painter, I'd paint whatever I wanted; if I was a composer I would compose whatever I wanted; but once you get into *I'm going to ask an audience to watch*, I get interested in how best to use the audience's time to make them enjoy themselves, to make them be moved or informed." Cromer has experienced the pleasure of witnessing growth simultaneously in both his process and his work. "I used to think that trying to figure out why people do things is the day-to-day task of doing a play. Why is this happening, why might this happen? You rarely can stop at, 'This is happening because this person is bad, or this person is good.' It doesn't work that way." He continued, "My job is to make the show seem like it's really happening, and the best way to do that is to make it full. The best way to make it full of life, full of complexity, is to put as many people's lives into it as possible." Even while having to remain physically isolated from his community, Cromer has been committed to putting in work that will ultimately connect him to others on a deeper level. "Since I have not been able to work for nine months, I have grown even more contented with trying to become a good person: trying to be of use to others, trying to use the balance I am achieving as a way to be of use to people who feel out of balance."



Theatre has always been a part of Cromer's calling: even his parents recognized he had the potential to become a dedicated artist. Cromer said of his father, "He was very supportive of the part of my life that involved being a poor artist too; he was very supportive of the time when things weren't going well and it didn't look like anything was going to happen." His father honored the sacrifices Cromer made, and Cromer's character has been shaped by the familial backing he received. His benevolence towards those around him and those that will encounter his work is evident. "Art demands empathy, and the absence of empathy. It is another political forest that the empathetic are confronted with. Good politics, or public service, is the act of finding out what benefits a community so that it can function well, and that has to do with what people need and trying to understand what people need, so that demands empathy." He continued, "As I figure out ways to become a better, more generous person, or a more communicative person, I carry that into work, hoping it enriches and makes the work better."

As winter progresses, Cromer is practicing mindfulness and generosity. "I am looking forward to trying to figure out (for myself and for anyone around me who this can be of use to) how to deal with the shutdown, the winter, the dark, and try to keep productive and positive," he said. "I've come to terms with the things that I want, which is that I'd like to work, and then I'd like to sit in a chair and stare into space when I'm not working. I hope that the peace and patience I'm working on will stick around." Cromer is dedicated to ensuring he gets outside and relishes the NYC parks he adores. He has always lived on the Upper West Side and has no plans of leaving. "I'm a committed Upper West Sider. It's quiet, it's beautiful, it doesn't seem too fancy," he said. "They say you can call yourself a New Yorker if you've been here 10 years; I'm very happy here, I love it...How could I leave?"



Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share?

Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at slobner@bestversionmedia.com.

* Please check the provided website for updated information on each event.

WED., FEBRUARY 3

Selected Shorts: Reading the Russians with George Saunders

@Virtual Symphony Space
George Saunders has been teaching the nineteenth-century Russian short story for 20 years, and his newest book, *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, is a master class on some of his favorites. Now he brings his passion to Selected Shorts with a lineup of stories curated from his long history with the greats of Russian literature, including hidden gems not included in the book. With performances by Becca Blackwell (*They, Themselves and Schmeer*), Donna Lynne Champlin (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*), Santino Fontana (*Tootsie*), Peter Jay Fernandez (*Luke Cage*), Zack Grenier (*The Good Fight*), Ann Harada (*Smash*), Richard Masur (*Younger*), and BD Wong (*Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens*). Great actors transport you through the magic of fiction, one short story at a time. Sometimes funny. Always moving. Selected Shorts connects you to the world with a rich diversity of voices from literature, film, theater, and comedy. This is a virtual event. Ticket holders can watch the event on the Watch Here section of the Symphony Space website. You can tune in at the premiere or view at your leisure for two weeks afterwards. This event premieres on February 3 and is available until February 17.

Time: 7:30pm
Cost: From \$12
www.symphonyspace.org

ONGOING Winter Village

@Bryant Park
Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park is Manhattan's winter wonderland. Enjoy New York City's only free admission ice skating rink, the Holiday Shops, and rinkside eats and drinks at The Lodge Deck by Urbanspace. Per New York State safety guidelines*, things have changed in order to keep all visitors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. *New this Year:* Ice skating at Winter Village is now a fully outdoor experience, and the Holiday Shops have a reconfigured layout with fewer shops to allow for more spacious walkways. The European inspired open-air market

hosts artisans from New York City and around the world. Located along Bryant Park's allées, plazas, and terraces, the Holiday Shops are housed in custom-designed kiosks. Be sure to visit The Lodge Deck, Winter Village's rinkside outdoor, après skate-escape where visitors can cozy up with a festive cocktail, enjoy delicious food, and watch the ice skaters. The Lodge Deck by Urbanspace is a cozy winter destination with a festive cocktail bar and food options to fulfill the cravings of New Yorkers and visitors alike.
Time: Varies
Cost: Varies
bryantpark.org

ONGOING Your Space by Symphony Space

@Your Home!
While the theaters are dark, Symphony Space can still be your go-to for art, ideas, and community worth sharing — safely, of course! Throughout this time, the organization is distributing free Symphony Space content to keep you entertained, inspired, engaged, and connected, and through the wonders of social media, they hope you will join in the conversations along the way. After all, every space can become a Symphony Space.
Time: Varies
Cost: Free!
www.symphonyspace.org

ONGOING Nightly Met Opera Streams

@Your Home!
During this time, the Met hopes to brighten the lives of audience members even while the stage is dark. Each day, a different encore presentation from the company's *Live in HD* series is being made available for free streaming on the Met website, with each performance available for a period of 23 hours, from 7:30pm EDT until 6:30pm the following day. The schedule will include outstanding complete performances from the past 14 years of cinema transmissions, starring all of opera's greatest singers. The streams are also available through the Met Opera on Demand apps for Apple, Amazon, and Roku devices and Samsung Smart TV. To access them without logging in, click *Browse and Preview* in the apps

for connected TV, and *Explore the App* on tablets and mobile devices.
Time: Varies
Cost: Subscription Required
www.metopera.org

ONGOING The Show Must Go On!

@Your Home!
As theaters remain dark on Broadway and beyond, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is pitching in to bring Broadway to you! The composer's Really Useful Group, in partnership with Universal, is offering free broadcasts of the greatest Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals, including such megahits as *Cats* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. A different Lloyd Webber musical streams each week on The Shows Must Go On!, a new YouTube channel devoted to this project. Each show goes live on the channel on Friday at 7pm BST (2pm EDT, 5am AEDT), and usually remains viewable for 48 hours afterward. In addition to full-length videos, the channel streams clips and behind-the-scenes footage. Lloyd Webber has already shared several individual songs, performed by himself at his piano, in sweet videos on his Instagram and Facebook accounts. Links to charitable organisations are provided. The shows in the series are announced week by week.
Time: Varies
Cost: Free!
www.youtube.com/theshows-mustgoon

ONGOING Lincoln Center at Home

@Your Home!
While practicing social distancing, you can still maintain your vital connection to the live performing arts at Lincoln Center. On Lincoln Center at Home, daily pop-up classrooms for families and regularly updated videos of performances—archival, home-made, documentary, or previously broadcast—will be made available. Experience Lincoln Center world-class artists, on your screens at home, and be sure to follow Lincoln Center organizations on social media.
Time: Varies
Cost: Free!
www.lincocenter.org

ONGOING

Live with Carnegie Hall

@Your Home!
Music has the undeniable power to comfort, uplift, connect, and inspire. In response to this unprecedented time, Carnegie Hall invites you to join them for an entirely new original online series: *Live with Carnegie Hall*. Tune in for unforgettable episodes that feature some of the world's finest artists as they share behind-the-scenes stories, excerpts from past performances, and live musical moments. During the live streams, episodes can be viewed on this webpage, as well as on the Hall's Facebook and Instagram pages.
Time: Varies
Cost: Free!
www.carnegiehall.org

ONGOING

Daily Dance Break with KIDZ BOP

@Your home!
KIDZ BOP Daily Dance Break! As a way to move and stay active together with their fans, the KIDZ BOP YouTube channel is highlighting a different KIDZ BOP Dance Along video at 3 PM EST everyday.
Time: 3pm
Cost: Free!
www.youtube.com/user/Kidz-BopKids/videos

EVERY SUN.

79th Street Greenmarket

@Columbus Avenue, 77th to 81st Sts
Make your weekly visit to the Greenmarket to browse the stalls or to purchase produce, protein, baked goods, herbs and more from local farmers.
Time: 9am-5pm
Cost: Free
www.grownyc.org

EVERY TUES. & FRI.

Little New-Yorkers

@New-York Historical Society Dimenna Children's History Museum
Each week, kids can come into play with historic toys, sing a special song, read a story, and complete a related craft project. Ages 2-7.
Time: 3:30-4:15pm
Cost: Free with museum admission
www.nyhistory.org

EVERY SUN.

Sunday Story Time

@New-York Historical Society Dimenna Children's History Museum
Each Sunday, bring your little ones to this fun story group to read an engaging and educational picture book, followed by a related craft activity. Perfect for ages 3-7.
Time: 11:30am
Cost: Free with museum admission
www.nyhistory.org

EVERY SAT. & SUN.

Weekend Drop-In Sessions in the Sackler Educational Lab

@American Museum of Natural History
Each Saturday and Sunday, everyone is welcome to stop by the Sackler Educational Lab to get an intimate look at the science and history of human evolution. Talk with scientists, discuss the latest discoveries, and see and handle objects such as fossil casts of human ancestors, early stone tools, and a real human brain.
Time: 12-5pm
Cost: Free with museum admission
www.amnh.org



AMSTERDAM Wine Co. - EST. 2014 -
"BEST WINE SHOP ON THE UWS!"
-WINE SPECTATOR, OCT 2017-

FREE DELIVERY!
271 Amsterdam Avenue (btwn 72nd & 73rd)
New York, NY 10023
212.201.1224 | info@amsterdamwine.com
amsterdamwine.com

We Buy Antiques, Jewelry & Fine Art

ARE YOU MOVING? CONTACT US BEFORE YOU PACK!

We Buy:

Asian Antiques	Gold	Estate Jewelry	Tiffany
Bronzes	Flatware	Costume Jewelry	Watches
Lladros	Lalique	Native American Jewelry	Judaica
Sterling	Jade	Porcelain	Art Glass
Diamonds	Coral	Baccarat	Mid-century furniture
Oil Paintings	Coins	Cameos	& Much More

WE CAN BUY ONE ITEM OR AN ENTIRE ESTATE!

Same Day Service
40 Year Family Business
FREE House Calls
Licensed & Bonded

Syl-Lee Antiques

FREE HOUSE CALLS AND FREE APPRAISALS | (212) 366-9466 | Marion Rizzo & Adam Zimmerman | Syl-LeeAntiques.com

Syl-Lee Antiques

Article and Headshot courtesy of Syl-Lee Antiques



If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that the unfolding of life events can be utterly unpredictable. Even the best-laid plans for our personal well-being, for that of our families, and for our finances can abruptly, and dramatically, be altered almost overnight. In the most stable of times, the management of our personal estates, or those of our parents, grandparents, or other loved ones, can appear intimidating, mysterious, and overwhelming. In times of greater uncertainty, all of those feelings can be even more intense. This is especially true when -- as is often the case -- estate issues arise because of unexpected life transitions or illness.

The good news is that understanding in advance the process of dealing with potentially valuable estate items, in particular antiques, can take a lot of the pressure off of managing an estate. It can also put the estate owner or their heirs in the best possible position to see the financial benefits that can come with the successful liquidation of physical items in an estate, such as furniture, jewelry, and art.

The key to doing this is understanding (1) exactly what has re-sale value on the antique market, and (2) the process for

taking you or your families' heirlooms from your home to the market. By the end of this article (which you may want to clip and save), you will understand both.

What Has Resale Value?

If your family has old furniture, jewelry, art, or other heirlooms, the first question you should ask is whether the items can be sold on the antiques market in the first place. If they can, then an antiques dealer acts as a broker between you and that re-sale marketplace.

The types of articles that can be successfully sold as antiques can be surprising. In general, the item should be over 100 years old (in particular, from the 19th Century or earlier). The following items, if they are that old, are often successful candidates for re-sale as an antique:

- Chinese porcelain, vases, and precious or coral stone statuettes. All 19th Century or earlier dynasties have re-sale potential, and 100+-year-old copies in good condition at least potentially have value.
- Sterling silver flatware.
- Coins (especially gold & silver).
- Gold and silver jewelry.
- Costume jewelry.
- Silver Judaica icons, flatware, religious items, and other curios.
- Russian silver items, and other curios, particularly if made by a listed artist such as Faberge.
- Watches, especially if made by famous names like Rolex. In addition, the following items from the 20th Century can have value on the antiques market:
- Mid-Century Modern furniture manufactured in the 1950s and '60s.
- Fine art paintings or limited-edition prints by listed artists. It is also important to know what items typically do not have significant antique market value. These items include:
 - Heavy wood furniture, chests, and other, similar items irrespective of age.
 - Asian porcelain or other curios that are not from China.
 - Overly intricate statuettes, curios, or art pieces (they are difficult to maintain and the design is no longer in favor).



- Furs, unless they have been preserved in very specific storage conditions.
- Chinaware and crystal.
- Silver-plated items.

Disposal of these items may best be handled via a professional organizer or another estate moving company.

What is the Process?

If you feel that you or a loved one's estate has items with potential antique re-sale value, your first step should be to call or email a reputable (licensed and bonded) antiques specialist, such as Syl-Lee Antiques. Even if you're not sure whether the items in question have re-sale value, a phone call, or email exchange may be able to resolve the issue quickly and at no cost.

Such a specialist will be able to research and assess the value of your heirlooms, understand how to treat the items with care and respect, and ensure that you get the best value for your money. The latter point is particularly important, because online information can sometimes be inaccurate, misleading, or not take into account the specific conditions or qualities associated with your own particular antique.

Once you reach out to the dealer, they should:

- Make an appointment at a time convenient to you, to go to your home and assess the items you'd like to sell. This is no-cost, ever.
- If necessary, contact specialists in particular antique sub-groups (e.g., Russian or Chinese items) to accurately assess the value of specialty items. This also costs you nothing.
- Provide you with an evaluation, as well as, importantly, as many options as possible for the handling of the items within the estate. These choices allow you the opportunity to make the financial and sentimental decision that is truly best for your individual circumstances.
- Offer you cash on the spot for your items, enabling you to move on to other matters as quickly as possible
- Purchase the items immediately, then make arrangements to move them out of the house at a time that is convenient for you.
- Sell them on the antique marketplace, to auction houses, retailers, other interested buyers, or elsewhere as is appropriate for the particular items. None of that work or effort falls on you.

A quick note: sometimes people may be reluctant to call a dealer due to the physical condition of the house, overcrowding or hoarding, or other concerns. Please note that a quality antiques dealer does not place value judgments on the clients or the estates. We are here to help make your estate liquidation as seamless and financially meaningful as possible, nothing more or less!

Syl-Lee Antiques has been Manhattan's premiere antiques dealer for over 40 years. Its owner, Adam Zimmerman, has been in the antique, fine art and jewelry business since he was a child. He took over the family business with his sister over 10 years ago. He has a gallery in Manhattan and visits clients in their homes all over the Long Island and New York City area. Adam is an Accredited member of AAA (The Appraisers Association of America) and is USPAP (Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice) certified. He also has completed the Graduate Certificate Diamonds program at GIA (Gemological Institute of America). Adam works closely with organizers and is a business partner of NAPO (National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals). He has a tremendous amount of knowledge about antiques and also has a great network of specialists for any category you can imagine.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE LIBRARY!

By Irfan Ali, Community Outreach Coordinator

February is Black History Month and in light of the events of 2020, this year feels like an especially relevant time to acknowledge the monumental impact of African Americans throughout our nation's history.

The African American contribution to our culture and society cannot be overstated and their contributions to literature are immense. The New York Public Library is here to help you find great titles by African American writers. Last June, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture created a Black Liberation Reading List (also known as the Schomburg95), which featured an extensive selection of genres and authors.

The 95 titles selected include classics like Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and soon to be classics like Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*. For you theater lovers, check out August Wilson's *Fences* or reread Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Poetry aficionados have a number of collections to choose from. You can start with Amiri Baraka's *S O S Poems 1961-2013* or *Shake Loose my Skin: New and Selected Poems* by Sonia Sanchez. If non-fiction is your thing, you wouldn't want to miss *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin or brush up on critical history with *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* Pulitzer Prize Winner by Isabel Wilkerson. The Schomburg95 also has a great selection of memoirs including *Men We Reaped: A Memoir* by Jesmyn Ward and *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele. Music fans won't want to miss Harry Belafonte's *My Song: A Memoir!*

The Schomburg Center in Harlem is one of the Library's renowned research libraries, a world-leading cultural insti-



New York Public Library

tution devoted to the research, preservation, and exhibition of materials focused on African American, African Diaspora, and African experiences. It features diverse programming and collections spanning over 11 million items that illuminate the richness of global Black history, arts, and culture. For 95 years, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has preserved, protected, and fostered a greater understanding of the Black experience through its collections, exhibitions, programs, and scholarship.

If you can't wait for your hold to come, the good news is that most of Schomburg95 titles are available in book form on our at SimplyE or if you want to support the work of the Schomburg Center you can buy select titles at the Schomburg Shop and have them delivered right to your door. Please visit them online to get your copy: https://schomburgshop.com/collections/black-liberation-reading-list?utm_campaign=nyplblog.

For more information on the incredible work on the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the full Schomburg95 reading list, please visit: <https://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg>.



What is Your Working Genius?

By Patrick Lencioni, founder and president, The Table Group

When it comes to work, we all have gifts. Natural, God-given talents that give us energy and allow us to contribute to the success of organizations and teams. We are meant to use those gifts, and it is frustrating, sometimes tragic, when we can't. Of course, if we don't know what our gifts are, we can't be sure that we are using them.

Now, in addition to our gifts, we all have limitations—natural areas of deficiency that drain us of our energy and frustrate our ability to contribute to work. Though we can't always avoid those areas, we are meant to minimize the time we have to spend on those tasks, though again, if we don't know what those deficiencies are, we can't minimize them.

The Six Types of Working Genius is a model and an assessment tool that allows anyone—CEOs, schoolteachers, factory supervisors, college students—to identify their gifts and limitations so they can maximize their satisfaction and success in any kind of work they do. In thirty minutes, someone can radically alter their day-to-day job fulfillment or even their career direction.

What a difference that can make in a person's life. As it turns out, those six types of genius—Wonder, Invention, Discernment, Galvanizing, Enablement and Tenacity—make up the six required activities for any work endeavor.

Whether you're engaged in running a company, a department, a project, or even a family, all six are necessary ingredients for success. No one person can possibly embody them all, which is why teamwork is so important.

Among those six types, everyone has two that we call areas of genius, where we get our joy and energy and have natural ability. We have two that we call areas of frustration, where we get drained of joy and energy and have little natural ability. Then there are two in the middle, areas where we might have some ability, but that are not a source of energy and satisfaction.

Imagine if every company, every organization, every team knew the areas of genius, competency and frustration of

their people and organized them for success. Imagine if every parent knew those areas of genius for their spouse and children. It's not an exaggeration to say that there would be more joy and less misery in society. But that has to happen one person at a time and that person might as well be you. What are your areas of genius?

Patrick Lencioni was named in *Fortune* magazine as one of the "ten new gurus you should know." His passion for organizations and teams is reflected in his writing, speaking and executive consulting. He is the author of eleven best-selling books.



The Genius of Wonder (W)

The natural gift of pondering the possibility of greater potential and opportunity in a given situation.

The Genius of Invention (I)

The natural gift of creating original and novel ideas and solutions.

The Genius of Discernment (D)

The natural gift of intuitively and instinctively evaluating ideas and situations.

The Genius of Galvanizing (G)

The natural gift of rallying, inspiring and organizing others to take action.

The Genius of Enablement (E)

The natural gift of providing encouragement and assistance for an idea or project.

The Genius of Tenacity (T)

The natural gift of pushing projects or tasks to completion to achieve results.

► **HEY, SPORTS FANS!**

DOWNLOAD THE BVM SPORTS APP AND:

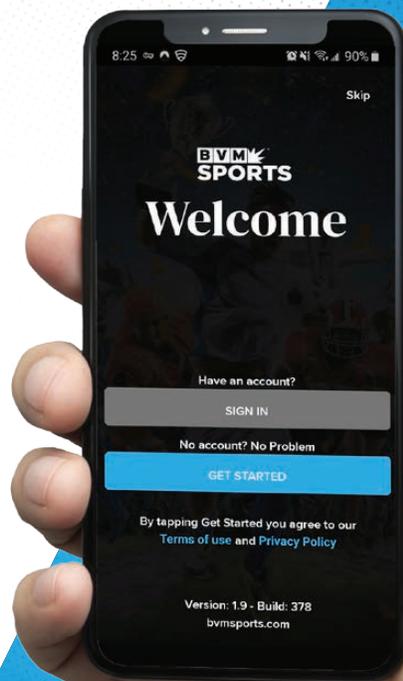
- **ENJOY** local and national sports content all from the palm of your hand!
- **CREATE** an account to keep up with all your favorite local and national teams.
- **SHARE** your favorite sports content via social media, text or email with just a few clicks.



Have everything sports right at your fingertips.

►► [Download the BVM Sports App today!](#) ◀◀

BVM Sports: One Place. All Sports.



BVM
SPORTS