



One of the paintings by renowned equine artist Sam Savitt that will be available for purchase at the BRLA Spring Brunch March 20 at the Glen Arbor Golf Club.

## BRLA Spring Brunch will mark 100 years

By JILL MURPHY

The Bedford Riding Lanes Association will celebrate its 100th year anniversary with a Spring Brunch Sunday, March 20, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Glen Arbor Golf Club on Bedford Center Road in Bedford Hills. If you didn't receive an invitation you can find one on the BRLA website. Please respond by Tuesday, March 15. The \$75 ticket includes the buffet and a cocktail; there will also be a cash bar. Tickets for children under 10 are \$30. Tickets are \$15 extra at the door. Per club policy, no denim attire is permitted.

The anniversary brunch will also feature an exhibit and sale of art work by equestrian artist Sam Savitt. Sam and his wife, Bette, were neighbors and friends of mine for many years here in North Salem, and they are both greatly missed by the horse community here. Sam truly loved horses to the point that when he was a child in a non-horsy family, he used to pretend to be a horse! He was a lovely man and was always so delighted to come to my farm and visit a new foal.

Sam was such a good artist and so exact in his depictions of various breeds and conformation faults that his charts are still used in some equine vet schools, as well as hanging on the walls of horse-crazy kids everywhere. He also illustrated more than 100 books and wrote many himself, including my favorites, "Draw

Horses with Sam Savitt" and "How to Draw Horses," even though I was never very good drawing horses myself. He was the official illustrator for the United States Equestrian Team and a founding member of the American Academy of Equine Artists.

When I first knew Sam, he still rode and kept two horses at home. We talked about the fact that we both actually enjoyed cleaning our horses' stalls and caring for them ourselves. He told me that he was once on 57th Street in New York City and he was looking at the carriage horses, waiting there to take tourists on rides. Some of the drivers were sitting on the stone wall eating their lunch. The first carriage in line got a fare and left, and the driver of the next horse in line called to Sam: "Hey mister, would you move my horse up?" Sam took hold of the horse's bridle and moved the carriage to the next space. The driver turned to his friends and said: "See, I told you he knew horses!"

He certainly did know horses, and his artwork shows it. The last time I saw him before his death in 2000, he stopped by my farm to visit a new foal. He was just as delighted by the little filly as he was by all horses. He was a lovely gentleman.

Sam Savitt's artwork will be on exhibit and for purchase at the brunch, so don't miss this chance to own a piece of local history by an internationally renowned artist!