

Argus Press Spectator

Lombard, IL

VIDEO: 'Antiques Roadshow' appraiser assesses items at event



By Andrew Westel

"Antiques Roadshow" appraiser Gary Piattoni gives his opinion of the value of a glass bowl belonging to Dorothy Boeske during a Park Place of Elmhurst event at the Wyndham Drake in Oak Brook Tuesday afternoon.

By Colleen McBrien, cmcbrien@mysuburbanlife.com

Elmhurst Press

Wed Mar 19, 2008, 05:48 PM CDT

ELMHURST, IL -

About 50 people spent about three hours Tuesday afternoon learning about the monetary and historical values of their antiques.

The Park Place of Elmhurst held an antique appraisal event for senior citizens at the Wyndham Drake Hotel in Oak Brook as part of its Positively Park Place series.

Gary Piattoni, an appraiser for “Antiques Roadshow” on PBS, gave those in attendance his opinion on everything from paintings to silver to a miniature stove, carefully noting that the prices he suggested weren’t professional appraisals.

“My standard disclaimer is that even though I am a professional appraiser, this isn’t one,” Piattoni told the crowd. “I’m going to give you my opinion.”

Piattoni, who has also appeared on “Oprah,” is the main appraiser that he knows of in the Chicago area and has been in the business for more than 20 years, he said. At Tuesday’s event, he spent about five minutes with each senior citizen who brought items in, talking about their historical significance along with how much insurance they should have.

Piattoni said he does about six of events like Park Place’s throughout the year, and that he remembers interesting items more than the amount of the highest appraisal he’s given to someone who’s brought in a family treasure.

“I enjoy it because everyone has a connection to the items they bring in,” Piattoni said. “It’s never about the value but (instead) the story.”

Kristine Graeber, Park Place’s director of sales and marketing, said the organization puts on events for its future residents who will live in the new senior retirement community, set to open in 2010, in order to give them an idea of what they can expect when they move in.

“It’s to give them an idea of what kind of programs we’ll be having,” Graeber said, adding that the antique appraisal program would probably be helpful as the senior citizens get ready to leave their current homes for their Park Place residences.

“People are in the process of starting to consider downsizing, and this is a fun event to help in that process,” Graeber said.

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/lombard/news/x1056533661>