FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

When this newsletter was going to the Press, something we had been waiting for finally arrived and is in place. The water trough was once in Jean Bradley’s yard, and before that in the center of Forestville. It is now on the Center Street side of the Bristol Historical Society Building.

On June 10th, a new display is opening at The Bristol’s Historical Society – A General Store. Travel the time period from 1860 to 1960. Remember the past on how we remember things, to now see how they really were. Were things really better in the past.......you can decide. Look at what our parents and our grandparents had to work with compared to what we have today! Do you know what some of these items are, and better yet what they were used for? Tour guides will be available to answer your questions. This General Store also complements our already existing Industries in the Bristol Exhibit. See both of them and compare the magic of the past that was once in Bristol.

Also, the Research Library has been revamped. The Rockwell Table is now in the BHS Library. It was once the Rockwell’s Board Room Table. If that “Table could only talk” – that truly would be magic. Our records tell us some of the things that happened there but we need to remember that the table was there too!

Nothing physical has yet happened in our large room. Our Committee is still working with the Interior Decorator and we are now at the stage where the previous architect we used is back with us. If all goes to plan, we will have something to show in the Fall.

The Bristol Historical Society is a ‘living history book’ of Bristol’s past. We would like to grow and preserve this treasure. We have a grand building in which to grow.

Mike Saman, President

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAG SALE!!
Friday, July 7th 9am – 2pm
Saturday, July 8th 9am – 2pm

It’s not too late to donate! Pickups can be arranged if necessary. This fundraiser is a huge hit every year and there will be hundreds of items all priced to sell. Come join the fun and find some treasures! Rain or shine! All proceeds benefit BHS. Contact Jackie Vigue at 860-944-0738.

Thank you!
COLIN SAVINO RECEIVES
BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

At the 2017 Bristol Historical Society Annual Dinner at Nuchie’s on May 18th, Colin Savino was awarded its Annual Scholarship. Colin is the son of Len and Alison Savino of Evelyn Road.
After graduating from Bristol Central High School, Colin will attend CCSU in New Britain, CT. He plans to major in Marketing.

In the photo above are the following from left to right: Alison Savino; Len Savino; Colin Savino; Elizabeth Phelan, Scholarship Chairperson; and Mike Saman, President, Bristol Historical Society.

Congratulations Colin!
Members and Friends of the Bristol Historical Society gathered together for a fun evening on May 18th at Nuchie’s to attend our Annual Dinner. Murdo Smith, Master of Ceremonies, moved things along and kept the guests entertained throughout the evening. President Mike Saman spoke about the important work we are doing not only cataloging Bristol’s history and offering interesting programs, but by preserving our building itself. He gave a brief history of our building built in 1890 and the different uses it has had since. Learning about the old steam tunnels that run from BHS to the library and beyond intrigued the guests.

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu acknowledged our President’s Circle donors and noted that many of those contributors are from families that have resided in Bristol for generations. One of those benefactors, Ed D’Amato, Sr. was present and said a few words about his family’s ties to Bristol and his pleasure in donating to the Historical Society and supporting the work that the Society does.

The 2017 BHS Scholarship was presented by Liz Phelan to Colin Savino, a senior from Bristol Central High School who read his winning essay. The 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, presented by Bob Boudreau for her continued volunteer efforts and support for the organization over the years. The Community Service Award was also presented by Bob Boudreau to the organization For Goodness Sake. Kendra Morales, Executive Director and President of the FGS Board and Patrick Ringrose, Vice President of the Board accepted the award on the organization’s behalf. Eagle Scout Zachary Bell from Troop 9 was also honored by Troop Leader Ken Sherman for his Eagle project in which he provided BHS with a new sound system, retractable movie screen and custom cabinet. It is a unique project that will be a valuable asset to our facility.

Numerous raffles won…many going home with Pat Smith who had a lucky night! Closing remarks were made by Bernie O’Keefe, Chairperson of the Annual Dinner Committee, who gave special thanks to his committee for working together, Andrea Kapchensky and Mike Saman for their efforts and noted the work and time that past President Tom Dickau and Building Committee Chair Gerald Thompson had given. Bernie encouraged all to take note of the business and individuals that have contributed ads to our Program Booklet, to tell these businesses that we appreciate them supporting the BHS because their continued support and yours truly makes a difference. You can find a list of our full page ad donors on our website along with our other Benefactors.
It was a hot day on May 19th, but that didn’t stop 12 volunteers from the United Way Youth Group from clearing the bank, raking, polishing, dusting our great building and it’s grounds. Our hardworking volunteers were students from BEHS, BCHS, St. Paul’s High School and Plainville High School. They did an awesome job and we truly appreciate their time and effort!

REMEMBER GRANDMA’S BUTTON JAR?

A Third Thursday Program!  June 15th  7PM
Presented by: The Acorn Button Society of Hartford

Where have all the buttons come from? The humble but ever so necessary button!

Come hear about something different! Learn about the button society!

Interesting History! Come and join us!!
SAVE THE DATE!!

Plan now to attend the 11th annual Evening on the Hill Auction, September 16th. For those of you who have not attended this event before let us tell you a bit about it. The evening starts at 5:30pm with a silent auction featuring goods and services donated by businesses local and statewide. During the silent auction, you can enjoy wine and soft beverages and finger foods as you preview the live auction items. At 7:00pm the silent auction closes and the live auction begins. It is always a fun group of items being auctioned: antiques, collectables, art, home décor, and the occasional quirky item. There are always some fun surprises too! Our professional auctioneer Paul Stansel is returning, and he always keeps the auction lively and entertaining.

Until then, we need your help: You can donate auction items. Right now we are starting to collect items for both the silent and live auctions. Please call Steve (860)944-6567 or Maya (860)986-4894 to discuss the appropriateness of the item or items you might want to donate. You can also volunteer. Right now we are looking for volunteers to help plan, as we get closer we will need people willing to make finger foods and desserts, and we will have many jobs the night of the auction too. Lastly, you can help fill the seats the night of the auction. Plan to attend and invite all your friends to this highly enjoyable event. Stay tuned for emails and press releases about how to purchase tickets as we get close to September.

Thank you ahead of time for your participation in this important fund raiser for our organization!

Maya Bringe & Steve Vastola, Auction Co-chairs

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Collections Committee has been meeting every Saturday at BHS to concentrate on two major projects: The General Store and our new Reference Library.

The General Store is rapidly being transformed into a skillful blend of artifacts from our collection that are arranged in eye-catching displays providing a wide panorama of the many interesting and unusual items our ancestors used in their everyday activities.

The Reference Library’s new shelving units have been filled with a wide variety of books related to our city’s history including city directories and high school yearbooks. In addition, an historic table and set of chairs once owned by city industrialist Albert Rockwell graces the center of the room.

As a result, the Collection Committee plans to be hosting the grand opening for both projects on Saturday, June 10th from 10AM to 4PM. This will coincide with the other City museums that will be participating in the Museum Magic festivities.

Tom La Porte, Chairman

COMING SOON! MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

Membership renewals are coming up! July 1st is the date to renew for the year ending June 30, 2018. Many great things will be happening in the next year and you will want to be part of it. Your renewal is important to us. It helps BHS bring new programs to you as well as continuing updating the building. You too are also important to BHS. Come volunteer!! As a member, you have the opportunity to help with the programs as well as attend for free. We need everyone’s contribution, both time and money. We are sure you will find this an enjoyable and rewarding experience!

Noreen Zurell, Chairman
EVENTS AND PROGRAMS
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 2017

6/2 Friday Movie: “MARK OF THE VAMPIRE” plus “FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLF MAN” stars (Bela Lugosi, Lionel Barrymore & Lon Chaney, Jr.); 7PM

6/3 Saturday Movie: “MARK OF THE VAMPIRE” plus “FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLF MAN” stars (Bela Lugosi, Lionel Barrymore & Lon Chaney, Jr.); 1PM & 7PM

6/10 Saturday Connecticut Open House Day; 10AM – 4PM

6/15 Thursday Acorn Button Club of Hartford County – 7PM

6/16 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9PM $5.00 pre-paid Registration

6/22 Thursday Art Studio Fashion Show featuring clothing from the Bristol Historical Society General Store; 7PM – 9PM

7/7 Friday BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAG SALE; 9AM – 2PM

7/8 Saturday BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAG SALE; 9AM – 2PM

7/14 Friday Movie: “MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE” & “MASK OF FU MANCHU” stars Bela Lugosi & Boris Karloff; 7PM

7/15 Saturday Movie: “MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE” & “MASK OF FU MANCHU” stars Bela Lugosi & Boris Karloff; 1PM & 7PM

7/20 Thursday “CT. Tobacco: Gone with the Wind” presented by Janet Carville; 7PM

7/21 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9pm $5.00 pre-paid Registration

7/23 Sunday Post Card Show; 1PM – 4PM presented by Tom Dickau

7/27 Thursday SPECIAL! Solar Eclipse Program presented by Dr. Larsen, CCSU; 7PM

7/28 Friday Movie: “DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL” stars Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal & Billy Gray; 7PM

7/29 Saturday Movie: “DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL” stars Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal & Billy Gray; 1PM & 7PM

8/4 Friday Movie: “THE SHE CREATURE” plus “CURSE OF THE DEMON” stars Chester Morris, Marla English & Dana Andrews; 7PM

8/5 Saturday Movie: “THE SHE CREATURE” plus “CURSE OF THE DEMON” stars Chester Morris, Marla English & Dana Andrews; 1PM & 7PM

8/17 Thursday “Sending a Letter: A History of the U.S. Post Office Before the Civil War”, presented by Tom Kelleher of Sturbridge Village; 7PM

8/18 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9pm $5.00 pre-paid Registration

8/25 Friday Movie: “DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE” & “DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY” stars Fredric March, Miriam Hopkins & Kent Taylor; 7PM

8/26 Saturday Movie: “DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE” & “DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY” stars Fredric March, Miriam Hopkins & Kent Taylor; 1PM & 7PM


Eleanor Wilson, Chairman
The BHS Gift Store will be open during BHS events. The next time you attend a presentation, take a moment to peruse or merchandise. You may find that perfect gift for that historically-minded person.

Memorial Day ushers in the beginning of summer, yet it is not too early to start thinking about the BHS Annual Holiday Fair that is scheduled for December 2nd. As usual, we will feature a Christmas Boutique with gently-used Christmas items. As you are cleaning your basements or attics, and sorting through holiday items, please consider donating to our Boutique. Items can be dropped off at BHS on Wednesdays between the hours of 10am – 2pm and Saturdays between the hours of 12 noon – 4pm. Special arrangements can be made, should pick-ups be required.

Our large Event Room will feature an array of crafters. Any interested crafters are encouraged to reserve a booth early in order to guarantee a space. Please contact Mary Houle at 860-582-7784 for information.

Mary Houle, Chairman

32nd ANNUAL POSTCARD SHOW

The Bristol Historical Society will be hosting the 32nd Annual Postcard Show on Sunday, July 23rd from 1pm to 4pm. The postcard show was first presented at the Terry Homestead by BHS members, Pete and Marion Maroon. It is now continued under the coordination of BHS Past-President Tom Dickau.

Five of six local or regional postcard dealers/collectors will be present to sell, buy or trade postcards as well as other Bristol memorabilia.

The Bristol Historical Society will have a table set up to sell excess Bristol memorabilia to assist the organization. Bring your postcards, other paper collectibles for appraisal! There will be a nominal fee associated with this service.

A video presentation of over 300 vintage postcards of Bristol and Forestville will run throughout the afternoon. Come and take a walk back in the history with an enjoyable afternoon of reminiscing and conversation.

Light refreshments will be available in the air-conditioned facility at BHS. Although admission is free, donations are gladly accepted to assist BHS in its mission.

Contact Tom Dickau for further information or questions at 860-582-1537.
THE HISTORY OF WOMEN’S SPORTS IN BRISTOL

On Thursday, May 4th, The Bristol Hall Of Fame hosted a panel discussion on how women’s sports developed in Bristol in the early years. The program was held at the Bristol Historical Society. The panel was made up of former Hall of Fame coaches and players from Bristol. Joann Galati served as chair with panel members being Beth Lafferty, Debbie James, Tami Chapman, Gail Ericson and Phil Pirog. Tom Monahan served as MC.

Each of the women on the panel spoke of playing sports in their neighborhoods at an early age. Every day they would go out and play basketball or baseball with boys and girls playing side by side. It was not until they tried to enter organized sports that they were turned away and told it was only for boys. They were devastated. This was the first time they were told they could not play. “The boys did not understand either”, Debbie James said. “We played side by side every day and now we were told they could not play”. “Lucky Bristol Park Department was ahead of the curve” said Gail Ericson, “I was able to swim and compete in the park department summer programs”.

Then in 1972 came a bill introduced by Former President Richard Nixon called the “Anti-Discrimination Bill” later called Title IX. Joann Galati explained “no one could be discriminated against based on sex, race or religion”. Joann went on to explain “it opened the doors for women in so many ways, not only in sports but in the work place as well”.

Joann was the pioneer for women sports in Bristol. She started the first women’s basketball and softball teams at Bristol Eastern. “I remember the first year we were issued rubber basketballs while the boys teams had leather basketballs, it was a slow process but in time look where we are now’ stated Galati.

Phil Pirog was the first male in Bristol to coach women. “We were issued gym uniforms for the players, rubber softballs and old wooden physical education bats” Pirog said.

Many women have now advanced to play sports in college Beth Lafferty stated “because of the efforts of people like Coach Galati and Coach Pirog working hard for the advancement of women sports, many Bristol players have earned scholarships to play at the next level”. We have been given a chance to play in college and the Olympics”.

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