



www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org

P.O. Box 1393 / 98 Summer Street
Bristol, CT. 06011-1393/860-583-6309

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BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3; Issue 2 - June, 2018 - August, 2018

From the President's Desk

As I write this message, we are just one month away from the start of the busy summer season at the Bristol Historical Society. When I wrote last year's newsletter nothing physical had yet happened in our large room. Our small group of four people were still working with the Interior Decorator. From then to the end of December plans were finalized, and contractors were chosen. Now, a year later the plans have been carried out and implemented. Come Mid-April 2018 we were ready to put items into the big room and in the hallways. Internally we will always be moving things around looking for that perfect spot. This renovation will allow us to do rotating exhibits which was difficult to do in the past. We were able to store everything inside the building during the renovation thus making it easier for us to find items and relocate them come April.

The Governance Committee has begun its task of developing a slate of Officers and Board members to present for the Annual Meeting in June. Are you interested in becoming more involved in the operation of our society? Let us know! There are many Volunteer Opportunities too. Near the end of this newsletter is a list of 14 Volunteer Opportunities.

The Bristol Historical Society will be participating in the Connecticut Open House Day on June 9th from 9AM to 5PM.

Like I said last time Here's to the next 47 years...Cheers!!!

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

COLOR CRAZE FOR KIDS!



There has been some interest in establishing a Coloring Craze for youngsters, once a month on Saturday afternoons.

We need someone to volunteer and take charge of the program. Cortlandt Hull would gladly show cartoons after the program.

If you are interested, please call Ellie Wilson, Program Chairman at 860-582-4792. It's an easy program to run as everyone brings their own coloring pencils/crayons and books. It's a fun time for all!! Please Consider! Thank You!

Program Committee

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Bristol Historical Society will be held on Wednesday, June 27th at 6pm. All members of the Society are encouraged to attend. Proposed business for this year's meeting includes the election of nominees to three board positions (currently being held by Robert Adamczyk, Carol Denehy, and Steve Vastola). All three of these current Directors are eligible to serve another term and are being re-nominated for the seats. The terms of both President and First Vice President are also expiring. These offices are currently held by Mike Saman and Andrea Kapchensky respectively, both of whom are also eligible to serve a second term in these roles and will be renominated. The membership will also vote on amendments to the bylaws, which include language to define long-term tenants and short-term renters and language to indicate that board members of tenant organizations are able to serve on the BHS Board of Directors but are ineligible to accept roles on the Executive Committee of the Board. Members interested in the exact wording of the proposed amendments can email Maya Bringe (maya.bringe@gmail.com) for a copy or further information.

BRISTOL HISTORY 101

Save the date for this unique fundraiser: Saturday, June 16, 7-9pm!

What do Chauncy Jerome, Albert Rockwell, and Helen Welch Atkins-McKay have in common? They are among the past prominent citizens of Bristol making a "command appearance" on Saturday, June 16th to discuss their roles in Bristol's past. From the Revolutionary War through the middle of the twentieth century, these actor-portrayed citizens have seen Bristol as it evolved, went to war, and made its name in the industrial age. This catered event will feature the historic personages telling their stories in front of the audience. After the performance, actors will mingle with the guests in character, to answer any questions about their lives, historic Bristol, and their view of the events that shaped it. The event will be catered and wine, soft drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts will be served.

Tickets will be \$50. Per person and available at the Historical Society during open hours on Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Please contact Maya Bringe (maya.bringe@gmail.com or 860-986-4894) with any questions.

The proceeds of this fundraiser will help fund the Society's operating expenses.

United Way's Day of Caring

A group of volunteers from different Pier I stores' came together at BHS on May 18th. The group of 12 tackled the weeds found outside, dusted our exhibit rooms and library and made our kitchen sparkle. A beautiful job was done by all and we truly appreciate their time and effort! Thank you!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Members and Friends of the Bristol Historical Society gathered on May 17th for an evening of fun and surprises at Nuchie's for their Annual Dinner. Murdo Smith presided over the festivities for the evening. President Mike Saman presented a slide show on the history of our building. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner in anticipation of the awards.

The 2018 BHS Scholarship was awarded to Desmond De Ville, son of Karen De Ville of Bristol. Desmond is a student at Bristol Central High School where he is a member of the marching and jazz bands as well as being one of the top five students in his class. Desmond is planning on attending UVA majoring in the science and engineering fields.

The 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Jean Sue O'Keefe and was presented by last year's winner Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. Jean Sue has led the renovation of the great room at BHS in addition to volunteering and supporting the organization over the years.

This year's Community Service Award was presented to the Veterans Strong Community Center and was presented by Tim Gamache, MSG (Ret.) to Donna Dognin.

Many went home with raffle goodies to make the night complete. Dinner Chairman Bernie O'Keefe, in his closing remarks thanked his committee for the extra effort made this year in getting business ads for the booklet. He then encouraged everyone to consider supporting these businesses thru the year and let them know where they saw their ad. These ads can also be found on our website along with our other Benefactors. A great time was had by all!



Jean Sue O'Keefe



**Desmond De Ville and
Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu**



**Donna Dognin
Veterans Strong Community
Center**

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR!! -- DECEMBER 1, 2018!

As we anticipate the warm weather and visits to the beach, the Christmas season is far from our minds. However, summer can be an ideal time to clean out the basement or attic. Our Christmas Boutique would be a great way to recycle those unwanted items that someone else can enjoy. Starting October 3rd, donations can be dropped off at the Bristol Historical Society during our regular Open Hours. (Wed. and Sat. from 10am until 2pm).

We are currently accepting reservations for vendors. If you or someone you know would be interested in our fair, please contact Mary at 860-582-7784. Best Wishes for a Relaxing Summer!

Mary Houle, Chairman

2018 ANNUAL APPEAL

Annual Appeal requests were mailed in mid-May. This campaign is the Society's fundraising outreach sent to members and friends, people in our community who have attended or supported our programs and events. Please consider donating to this campaign – the \$65,000 annual operating budget of the Society is not funded by grants, but is made up of the fundraising efforts throughout the year, including this one. Gifts to the Annual Appeal are unrestricted, which means that they can be used to support a wide range of needs, including heating, electricity, insurance, maintenance, special events, educational materials, and community outreach. Donations can be made in someone's honor or memory.

If you have not received an Annual Appeal letter and wish to support the Society, donations can also be made online at www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org by clicking the Donate button under Annual Appeal Campaign tab. Donors names will appear on the Benefactors page on our Website.

--- *Annual Appeal Committee*

SAVE THE DATE!!

The 12th Annual Evening on the Hill Auction will take place on September 15, 2018. This lively evening features a silent auction that begins at 5:30pm while guests enjoy wine, soft drinks, and finger foods. At this time, bidders can also preview a group of live auction items that often includes collectibles, art, furniture, antiques, and the occasional fun and eclectic items. Bidding for the live auction begins at 7pm. Professional auctioneer, Paul Stansel, keeps the bidding lively and entertaining.

We are currently looking for auction items. If you are cleaning out attics and you have any questions about the appropriateness of an auction donation or want to schedule a pick up during the summer, please call Steve 860-944-6567 or Maya 860-986-4894 or email auction@bristolhistoricalsociety.com. If you want to volunteer to help with this fun event, please contact Steve or Maya at the numbers or email address above. We are looking for volunteers to help with everything from the planning to help arranging items and jobs the night of the auction.

Please plan on attending this event – it's always a tremendous amount of fun and an important fundraiser for our organization. Stay tuned for press releases, emails, and Facebook posts with previews of auction items and more information about how to buy tickets as September gets closer.

Auction Committee

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY

Have you been in to see our new library research room? You would be surprised by what we have included in the collections!

In addition to Albert Rockwell's conference table and other artifacts, one can find school yearbooks, city directories, church histories, and genealogies. We have copies of the New Departure News, Bristol cookbooks and Bristol histories. There are also books by Bristol authors and many paperbacks, in addition to many albums of pictures arranged by subject.

The library research room is open during the regular hours of the Bristol Historical Society which currently runs on Wednesday's and Saturday's from 10am to 2pm.

If you have any Bristol memorabilia that you would like to donate, please don't hesitate to bring it to us. The more we can preserve, the more we can provide for the citizens of Bristol.

Collections Committee

ADULT COLOR CRAZE PARTY

Our Adult Color Craze Party resumed on Friday, April 20th with many returnees. This event is held on Friday evenings from 7-9pm. For \$5. We provide wine, cheese and crackers. You bring your friends and relatives and coloring supplies for an enjoyable evening.

Mark your calendar for the following Fridays:

June 15th; July 20th; August 17th; (no event in September and October); November 16th; and December 14th.

Please call the BHS office (860-583-6309) for reservations or mail your check to: Bristol Historical Society; P.O. Box 1393; Bristol, CT. 06011-1393 and mark Color Craze on the memo line. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Program Committee

COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Collections Committee has been filling the walls and cabinets with rarely seen items and we hope to have everything ready for June 9th – Connecticut Museum Open House Day. A new exhibit has been added to the Made In Bristol Room on Lake Compounce. It contains an actual bumper car (scooter) originally from Lake Compounce. Visitors may sit in it and take their picture. Children are most welcome.

CAN YOU HELP US OUT?

We are looking for both a child's mannequin and a male mannequin (free standing). Both of these would help us to complete our Crinoline Hall exhibit. If you have one or know of a store that is closing, please contact Bob Adamczyk or Eleanor Wilson.

Collections Committee

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED!

The Collections Committee is looking for a volunteer with a background in textile design to assist us with our collection. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please call Bob Adamczyk or Eleanor Wilson.

Collections Committee

BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame held a very successful program on May 10th titled "The History of St. Anthony's High School Sports". Before a full house, panelists, John Fasola, Bob Fiondella, Tom Burke, Morrie Laviero, and Phil Mannarino led the discussion on the history and stories of St. Anthony's. The entire program was video taped and can be seen at its entirety on the Hall of Fame website at bshof.org.

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame will hold it's annual scholarship golf tournament on Monday, July 30th at Chippanee Golf Club in Bristol. For more information on sponsorship or playing availability please contact Don Soucy at 860-384-0256 or Jack Hines at 860-302-8243.



EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- 6/9 Saturday Connecticut Open House Day, Museum open 9AM to 5PM.
- 6/15 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9pm. \$5.00 pre-paid Registration
- 6/16 Saturday **Bristol 101 Fundraiser 7-9pm.**
- 6/21 Thursday **Third Thursday Program. 7pm. WBIS with Tom Dickau and 5 former announcers: Pete Lis, Tom Monahan, Glen Colligan, Don Gordon, Steve Savino and Bob Douglas.**
- 6/29 Friday Movie: "FIEND WITHOUT A FACE" and "INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS" stars Marshall Thompson, Kevin McCarthy & Carolyn Jones, 7pm.
- 6/30 Saturday Movie: "FIEND WITHOUT A FACE" and "INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS" stars Marshall Thompson, Kevin McCarthy & Carolyn Jones, 1pm & 7pm.
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- 7/19 Thursday **Third Thursday Program. 7pm. Cortlandt Hull and Bill Finkelstein will present a program on Amusement Park Restoration.**
- 7/20 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9pm. \$5.00 pre-paid Registration
- 7/27 Friday Movie: "THE HAUNTED PALACE" and "THE DEVIL'S BRIDE", starring Vincent Price, Lon Chaney Jr. and Christopher Lee, 7pm.
- 7/28 Saturday Movie: "THE HAUNTED PALACE" and "THE DEVIL'S BRIDE", starring Vincent Price, Lon Chaney Jr. and Christopher Lee, 1pm & 7pm.
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- 8/10 Friday Movie: "ARSENIC & OLD LACE", starring Cary Grant, Josephine Hull, Jean Adair and Peter Lorre, 7pm.
- 8/11 Saturday Movie: "ARSENIC & OLD LACE", starring Cary Grant, Josephine Hull, Jean Adair and Peter Lorre, 1pm & 7pm.
- 8/16 Thursday **Third Thursday Program. 7pm. Full Steam Ahead, a train program presented by Steve Vastola and Cortlandt Hull.**
- 8/17 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9pm. \$5.00 pre-paid Registration
- 8/18 Saturday Hobbyist Program. Call BHS for details
- 8/31 Friday Movie: "SON OF FRANKENSTEIN & WHITE ZOMBIE", starring Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi, 7pm.
- 9/1 Saturday Movie: "SON OF FRANKENSTEIN & WHITE ZOMBIE", starring Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi, 1pm & 7pm.

MUSEUM ON THE GO!

THE MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM extends beyond the walls of THE JACK DENEHY GALLERY.

- APRIL 19TH: The museum marked the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Seicheprey by presenting A program at the American Legion Post 2.
- Colonel Terry Finnegan came from California to present his findings about the historic battle. American troops were fighting against the German Army for the first time without the French army. Company D, 102nd Regiment, 26th “Yankee” Division was in the front lines within the ruined village.
 - During the 24 hour battle, they were bombarded by German artillery, attacked by 3,000 soldiers, including elite Storm Troopers.
The men fought valiantly, often in hand to hand combat.
Our town was stunned by the deaths of eight men and the wounding and capture of others. After the battle, only 46 men out of Company D’s 250 men were fit to return to combat.
- Over 70 people attended the event which closed with Bristol children reading the names, ages, parents and local addresses of the eight young men who gave their lives.
- MAY 7 – MAY 31: The museum has a display from our collection representing Bristol men who served in the US Army and US Navy during World War I.
- JUNE 2: The museum will have a Vietnam Era travel display honoring Bristol men who served at the Bristol Public reception which will follow the awarding of pins to Vietnam Veterans at 1PM.
- JUNE 14: Museum Vice President Carol Denehy will be the Flag Day guest speaker for the Bristol Elks Lodge #1010 on June 14th.
- JULY 21: Take Me Out to the Ball Game! The Bristol Blues baseball team will host a Military Appreciation Day to honor veterans. We are pleased to have a display table on the Concourse before the 4PM game begins. Come early to Muzzy Field, visit our table, visit With your friends, get your hot dog, peanuts, and popcorn and root, root for the home team, The Bristol Blues.

REMEMBRANCE



MUSEUM FOR ALL AGES!

The MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM experienced visits from four different groups in April and May.

- APRIL 24: This is the second year of the museum's partnership with St. Joseph School 8th grade class. The class spent the morning "On a Mission to Seek Information on WWI". To do so, they rotated through four different "Duty Stations" until the entire group reported to "Headquarters" with their findings. Adult "Officers" and young "Recruits" enjoyed sharing the experiences. We look forward to a November visit with the new class.
- MAY 8: The Jack Denehy Gallery welcomed the "Little Guys," 3rd graders from Immanuel Lutheran School. They were curious about the items in the exhibit including learning about two WWI animal heroes: Sgt. Stubby, the dog from Connecticut and Cher Ami, the carrier pigeon that saved the "Lost Battalion."
- MAY 16: Six young men from the Focus-Center for Autism in Canton visited the Gallery as a follow up to their studies about WWI. They were knowledgeable, engaging and energetic participants. We were so pleased to have shared the time with them and look forward to their return.
- MAY 17: Daybreak Adult Day Care of Farmington bussed 14 men and women to the Gallery. We provided hands-on items for us to talk about together and trigger memories. The World War I "Over Here" items that would have been used in hometown Bristol brought memories and some laughs. The "Over There" items that would have been carried on battlefields in France, brought serious thoughts and snippets of memories of families' military service. It was a mutually enjoyable visit.

Our Mission: To Honor, To Preserve, To Explore Bristol's Military Heritage

REMEMBRANCE



SAVE THE DATE!! JUNE 9TH – CT. OPEN HOUSE DAY!

**WELCOME TO THE WWI CANTEEN
FREE DONUTS AND COFFEE
9AM – 1PM
MORE ACTIVITIES TO 5PM**



**BRISTOL
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 1393
Bristol, Connecticut 06011-1393

On the corner of Summer and Center Sts.

860-583-6309

Dear Member:

Thank You for joining our organization as either an annual, life-time or one-year free member [a new procedure started this past year]. Here is your renewal for your annual membership! We trust that free members have enjoyed being a member and will now join us as paid members. Many of you have become active within our activities.

Please mail your renewal form back as soon as possible. Please print all requested information clearly, especially telephone numbers and your email address. We are now sending our quarterly newsletter via email. This becomes a cost-saving and efficient manner in communicating with all members. Those without email will receive the newsletter through regular mail. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your membership card mailed to you.

Life-time members are reminded there are no dues required, but we would ask that you detach the form at the bottom of the page so we have accurate information regarding your address, telephone number and email address. This will assure that we are not missing you on e-blasts and email transmissions! Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope to return the form. Any and All donations are greatly appreciated!

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs! We welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have. Our upcoming events can be found on our website or on our Facebook page!

NOTE: If you signed up before to volunteer on any committee, we have restructured the committees. Starting July 1st, we are starting with a 'clean slate'. All previous names have been erased. We are grateful for any support you can provide. If you wish to sign up again, please use the Membership Renewal Form and mail it to us with the bottom of this form with your current information and we will be happy to add you to our new Volunteer Program.

Life-time Members please complete, detach and mail back!

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Mobile/Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____



**BRISTOL
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

P. O. Box 1393 / Bristol, CT. 06011-1393

Please fill out form and return with appropriate Membership dues.

Name: _____

If this is a Family Membership, please list additional and/or children's names (under 18):

Civic Organization/Business Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile/Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Types and Dues:

- | | | | |
|--|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Group | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School/College Student | \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50.00 | | |

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Your time and talents are important to us! Along with renovating our beautiful building, we have restructured our Committees.

PLEASE NOTE: Starting July 1st, we are starting with a 'clean slate'. All previous names have been erased. We are grateful for any support you can provide. If you wish to sign up again, please indicate by numbering 1, 2, and 3, etc. the areas you are interested in helping. That Committee's Chairman will contact you before the event.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| ___ Fundraising | ___ Marketing |
| ___ Annual Auction | ___ Collection Committee |
| ___ Annual Dinner | ___ Membership Mailing & Telephoning |
| ___ Annual Tag Sale | ___ Museum Guide |
| ___ Christmas Fair | ___ Program Committee |
| ___ Event Baking | ___ Scholarship Committee |
| ___ Hospitality | ___ Building & Grounds Upkeep
<i>(improving & maintaining the premises.)</i> |

Office Use Only: Date: _____ Payment: _____