

# BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL NEWSLETTER

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[www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org)

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

## **President:**

Mike Saman

## **First Vice President:**

Andrea Kapchensky

## **Second Vice President:**

Tom La Porte

## **Recording Secretary:**

Mary Houle

## **Treasurer:**

Bernard O'Keefe

## **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Bob Adamczyk

Lisa Bell

Maya Bringe

Carol Denehy

Cortlandt Hull

Steve Vastola

Tom Vaughn

Noreen Zurell

## **Historian:**

Eleanor Wilson

## **BOARD LIAISONS:**

**Memorial Military Museum**

Tom La Porte

**Bristol Tramps Reunion Committee**

John Lodovico

**American Clock & Watch Museum**

Don Muller

**Bristol Sports Hall of Fame**

Bob Kalat

## **Grant Writer:**

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu

## **Newsletter Editor:**

Noreen Zurell

## *From the President's Desk*

As I write this message, we are just one month away from the start of the busy Fall Season at the Bristol Historical Society. The last time I wrote the sun set was at 8:19 p.m. and the daylight hours were getting longer. Now the sun sets at 7:25 p.m. and the daylight hours are getting shorter. That means that our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction 'Evening on the Hill' Live Auction is coming.....September 15<sup>th</sup>. See inside for more details. Since I wrote last time, the Event Room project has been completed. This renovation has allowed us to do rotating exhibits which was difficult to do in the past.

The Governance Committee developed a slate of Officers and Board members to present for the Annual Meeting in June. An election was held for all the available positions. See inside for more details.

Starting in September, people who volunteer for the many Volunteer Opportunities will be contacted. There is a list of 14 volunteer opportunities.

Bristol Historical Society participated in the Connecticut Open House Day on June 9. Members of the Bristol Historical Society may not be aware that BHS is part of the Bristol Museum Collaborative. There are six museums. Last year we were celebrating a decade of museum collaboration, cooperation, and communication. We called it **Museum Magic in Bristol**. *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



## **EVENING ON THE HILL AUCTION**

The 12<sup>th</sup> 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. If you have a last minute item that you would like to donate, please call Steve (860-944-6567) or Maya (860-986-4894) or email [auktion@bristolhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:auktion@bristolhistoricalsociety.com) and we can arrange to pick up appropriate items.



Please plan on attending this event – it’s always a tremendous amount of fun and an important fundraiser for our organization. Tickets are currently available at the Society and are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For more information call the office at 860-583-6309.

Photo’s courtesy of Brian Johnson, Reporter at *The Bristol Press*.

## ***BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING***

The Annual Meeting of the Bristol Historical Society took place on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The following people were elected: President – Mike Saman; First Vice President – Andrea Kapchensky; Board of Directors – Carol Denehy, Bob Adamczyk and Steve Vastola. No amendments to the bylaws were passed. The Society would like to thank everyone who participated, either as a candidate or voter. We are very grateful for the involvement of our members.



## ***2018 ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE***

Our Annual Appeal is in full swing! 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. We would like to extend our thanks to those who have donated. Totals are nearing \$10,000 and your support allows us to continue to bring Bristol’s rich history to our community.

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](http://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

## **COLOR CRAZE FOR KIDS!**

*Save the date!!! Get your crayons sharpened!!! Bring your favorite coloring book!!*

Saturday, November 3, 2018 is the date! 10am to 12 noon is the time



Open to all children ages 5 and up. This is a new program and might include cartoon movies, organized games, stories about Bristol history and the people who lived here. This is a FREE program! Snacks will be provided.

For more information please call Ellie Wilson, 860-582-4792.

## **ADULT COLOR CRAZE PARTY**

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

Mark your calendar for the following Fridays:

(no event in October); September 7<sup>th</sup>; November 16<sup>th</sup>; and December 14<sup>th</sup>.

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*

## **EVENTS AND PROGRAM**

### SEPTEMBER

- |             |          |   |
|-------------|----------|---|
| 9/1         | Saturday | Movie: "SON OF FRANKENSTEIN" & "WHITE ZOMBIE" starring Basil Rathbone, Boris Karloff & Bela Lugosi; 1pm & 7pm |
| 9/7         | Friday   | Adult Coloring Craze Party, 7-9pm. \$5.00 pre-paid Registration   |
| 9/15        | Saturday | 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Auction, "Evening On the Hill", 5:30pm and 7pm. Tickets available at the door.        |
| 9/28 – 9/30 |          | Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Witch's Dungeon will be open 7pm to 10pm.  |

### OCTOBER

- |              |        |   |
|--------------|--------|---|
| 10/5 – 10/28 |        | WITCH'S DUNGEON WILL BE OPEN EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY DURING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF OCTOBER. HOURS FOR THESE NIGHTS ARE 7PM TO 10PM. |
| 10/14        | Sunday | THE 2018 NORTHEAST HISTORIC BASEBALL ALL-STAR EVENT, 12 noon – 4PM, MUZZY FIELD, FREE   |

### NOVEMBER

- |       |  |                                    |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|
| 11/15 |  | SAVE THE DATE!!! PROGRAM TO COME!! |
| 12/1  |  | SAVE THE DATE!! BHS CHRISTMAS FAIR |

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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*

### **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

After a brief hiatus during the summer months, the Marketing Committee will be resuming regular meetings in the early fall.

### **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

We would like to acknowledge Lisa Bell who has volunteered to work on the Linen Room Collection. She is doing a marvelous job of not only reorganizing the clothing and other linens, but also photographing each item and placing them into a photo file. Hopefully, some day that file will be available to all to see the marvelous collection of clothing, millinery and hats, linens, quilts, banners and accessories that exist in the collection.

We have received an original bench from the dining room of Lake Compounce. The bench is on display in the Event Room. Please feel free to sit on it when you come in.

During WWII the Federal Government encouraged not only the troops but also the home front to write letters to keep morale high. JH Sessions and Son (the trunk hardware company) kept these letters and we have added them to the collection.

Gary Potter donated a framed photograph of the original Bristol National Bank building; one building is still standing on Main Street. This wonderful addition is now hanging in the Center Street Hall.

Collections has trained 2 new volunteer docents (guides) for the hours of operation on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but we are still looking for additional people to be docents. This is an easy job, the training is easy and Collections will provide all the info needed to do the job. If you are interested, give either Ellie Wilson or Bob Adamczyk a call at the Society and we will set up times for training.

### **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*

## **2018 NORTHEAST HISTORIC BASEBALL ALL-STAR EVENT**

On Sunday, October 14, 2018, the Bristol Historical Society in collaboration with Team Bristol will be hosting a double header vintage baseball game at Muzzy Field.

Billed as “The 2018 Northeast Historic Baseball All-Star Event”, players from the New England states will compete in two separate games: the first by 1864 rules and the second by those of 1865.

The teams will be dressed in authentic period uniforms and compete with vintage equipment on a playing field without a pitcher’s mound, as was the standard of the day. The score will be posted on a blackboard and announcements made through a megaphone.

Play will begin at 12 noon and last until approximately 4 PM. Admission is **free** and children are welcome.

Join us to take a step back in time and see how America’s favorite pastime was played and enjoyed over 150 years ago!

## **MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM NEWS**

April 6, 2017: On that date, The Jack Denehy Gallery World War I Exhibit opened to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States entering World War I.

August 25, 2018: Today, visitors to the World War I Exhibit repeatedly commented on “How new, how fresh the 100-year old items looked.”

November 12, 1918: Lt. Lloyd Van Keuren was wearing one of those new looking uniforms now in the Gallery when he wrote a letter from France, also on display, to his sister one day after the Armistice was signed ending four years of fighting that resulted in the loss of 16 million military and civilian lives during The Great War.

“Last night everyone went wild here...The 312<sup>th</sup> Band alternated between the Marseilles (sic) and Star Spangled Banner. The French hugged and kissed the soldiers...I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving last night that the war was over...(and) resulted in victory for the Allies...This war has been a great lesson to mankind...Anyone who fails to heed it is lacking in wisdom.”

November, 2018: This month will mark the end of the stories of men and women who were part of “Bristol in World War I: Over Here and Over There.” For two years, they have been shared through the varied displays and many programs and events. Throughout the month we will continue to welcome more school classes and other groups. We thank the hundreds of visitors who chose to better understand the “great lesson” that Lt. Van Keuren wrote about as a hopeful warning.

SAVE THE DATE: November 10, 2018. Beginning at 1:00pm, our final program will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I as a **Celebration** with activities, refreshments and a Special Surprise! Watch for more details. All ages are welcome!





**“THE WITCH’S DUNGEON CLASSIC MOVIE MUSEUM”** is celebrating over 50 consecutive years! Considered the longest running classic horror attraction in the country, now greatly expanded to four times the original size. It was created in 1966 by 13 year old Cortlandt Hull, as a tribute to the actors and makeup artists that gave us the classic movie monsters. The wax museum style tour features highly accurate life-size re-created figures of Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi, Lon Chaney, Vincent Price and others each in an elaborate scene, or diorama based on the classic Hollywood chillers! You are guided through the 20 min. tour by other-worldly costumed hosts, giving you insights to the films, makeup artists and the actors. as well as special voice recordings by Vincent Price, John Agar, Mark Hamill and June Foray. After the tour, you are welcome to stay and enjoy vintage silent movie thrillers shown on film until closing at 10 p.m. in our auditorium. Also featured before the tour, are displays of rare original movie props and makeup appliances by Oscar & Emmy winning makeup artists John Chambers, Dick Smith, and others, actually used in films. A great family event, and for movie buffs or film students as well.

**Located at The Bristol Historical Society - 98 Summer Street - Bristol, CT.**

**Fri. Sat. & Sun. - Evenings - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

**Sept. 28 to 30, Oct. 5 to 7, Oct. 12 to 14, Oct. 19 to 21**

**Oct. 26 to 28 & Oct. 31 - Halloween**

**\$6.00 Donation - children must be 6 or older  
accompanied by an adult**

**No video or photography allowed during tour**

**Both The Bristol Historical Society & The Witch’s Dungeon Classic Movie Museum  
are non-profit organizations**

**wheelchair accessible**

**Special Guests and Events announced on website -  
www.preservehollywood.org**