



BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FALL NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 4, Issue 3 - September, 2019 - November, 2019

## From the President's Desk

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

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**Recording Secretary:**

Noreen Zurell

**Treasurer:**

Maya Bringe

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**Memorial Military Museum**

Mike Thomas

**Bristol Sports Hall of Fame**

Bob Kalat

**Witch's Dungeon**

Cortlandt Hull

**Historian:**

Eleanor Wilson

**Grant Writer:**

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu

**Newsletter Editor:**

Noreen Zurell

As I write this message, we are just days away from the start of the busy **Fall Season** at the Bristol Historical Society. For me, I find the Fall Season the most enjoyable season of the year. Yes, I am aware of what season comes after fall. Now the sun sets at 7:25 p.m. and the daylight hours are getting shorter, and it's not as humid. That means that our 13<sup>th</sup> annual auction 'Evening on the Hill' Live Auction is coming.....Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>, that's a week sooner than last year.

Our Event Room will be in full swing for the auction. The renovation due to the water damage will be completed on the first floor before the auction. With these past two renovations, (one planned and one not planned) we can begin again to do rotating exhibits which was found to be challenging to do in the past.

At the Annual Meeting in June, an election was held for all the available positions for officers and board members.

Our Annual Appeal starts off the line up of fall activities. Third Thursday's and Color Craze (now going into its 5<sup>th</sup> year) will continue and several new events; Tales of the Paperboy, Andrew McNight Concert, and vintage baseball have been added. More details can be found inside. If you should forget where you put this newsletter, please go to our website – [www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org) or facebook.

*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*

### IT'S COMING - DON'T MISS THE AUCTION!

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening on the Hill Auction will take place on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. 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 any last minute item that you would like to donate – for this auction or next year's – please call Steve (860-944-6567) or Maya (860-986-4894) or email [auction@bristolhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:auction@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 \$12.00 In advance and \$15.00 at the door. For more information call the office at 860-583-6309.

## **BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Bristol Historical Society took place on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Several new and returning directors were elected to both the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. New Executive Board members are Mary Houle (Second Vice President), Maya Bringe (Treasurer, a continuation of the role she took over earlier this year), and Noreen Zurell (Secretary). New Board members are Steve Cowdell, Ken Hintz, Jackie McCauley, Karen Pescarmona, Murdo Smith, and Don Zurell. Lisa Doyle—Bell was re-elected as a director for her second term. The Governance Committee would like to thank the new board members that are stepping into their new roles as of July 1 and would also like to express their enduring gratitude to Tom LaPorte, Bernie O'Keefe, Carol Denehy, Cortlandt Hull, Tom Vaughn, and Ellie Wilson, who are leaving the Board. The Society is stronger (not to mention more fun to be around) for your involvement!

### **2019 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Our Annual Appeal will be appearing in your mailboxes in mid-September! 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 are grateful for our generous friends and members.

Please consider a donation to the society. 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

### **BHS ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

Mark your calendar for our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Fair slated for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The fair features an array of creative crafters, a bake sale, and a Christmas Boutique, which offers gently used Christmas decorations. If you discover old Christmas-related items as you are cleaning, please consider donating them to BHS for our fair. This is a great way to clear out clutter and repurpose/recycle or a worthy cause. The Bristol Historical Society is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm for drop-off. If you require pick-up of bulky boxes or items, please call BHS at (860)583-6309.

Reservations for crafters are currently being accepted. If you or someone you know would like to participate in the Holiday Craft Fair, please contact Mary Houle at (860)582-7784 at your earliest convenience.

### **COLLECTION COMMITTEE**

Hats off to the Collection Committee! They have extracted items from our collection each month to coincide with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday programs. It is their goal to continually rotate items from the collection because many of these items have never been exhibited before.

### **MUSEUM COLLABORATIVE**

Do you know about the Bristol Museums Collaborative Committee which has been active since 2006? Representatives from six local museums meet monthly to plan ways to bring visitors from near and far to our unique spaces. Bristol has a variety of activities, programs & exhibits offered by the American Clock and Watch Museum, Barnes Nature Center/Indian Rock, Bristol Historical Society, Imagine Nation, Memorial Military Museum and New England Carousel Museum! Look for our two "Make Memories in Bristol" kiosks in City Hall and take the rack cards and maps for your family and friends. Look for our annual float in the Mum Festival parade and wave to us! More that, visit our places and really see what our museums offer right here in our hometown. We look forward to meeting you.

## **BHS GIFT SHOP**

The BHS Gift Shop is open during BHS events. It continues to offer a unique line of Bristol items for sale, including pewter ornaments. These 2-sided ornaments are produced in the U.S.A. by Woodbury Pewter, Woodbury, Connecticut. They depict past and present places of interest in Bristol, and include historic homes, former schools, and churches. Our most recent ornament featured the Wild Cat Roller Coaster at Lake Compounce. They make great gifts any time of the year and are available for \$12.00 each. We are currently offering a special package on select ornaments.



### **Two Ornament Package**

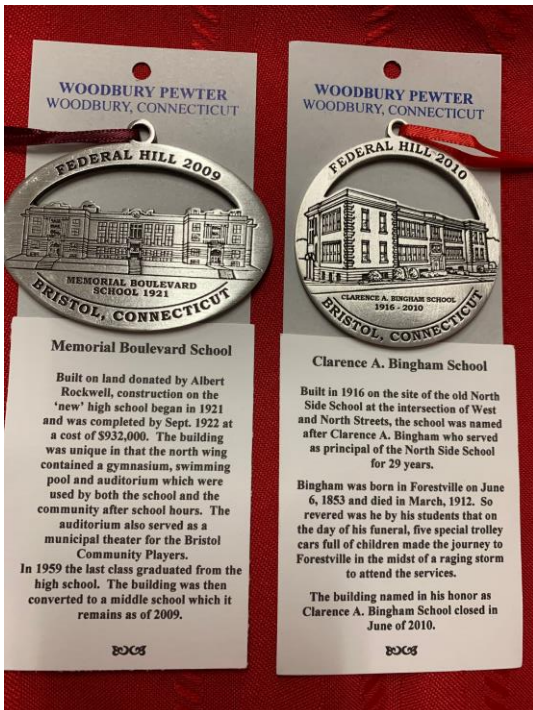
**2 Ornaments for \$20.00 (Save \$4.00)**

Ornament 1. 2012 Terry Homestead Ornament (first home of BHS) image on both sides.

Ornament 2. City of Bristol 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ornament (1785-2010)

Side 1: The former Bristol High School building (current home to BHS)

Side 2: Seal of City of Bristol



### **Two Ornament Package**

**2 Ornaments for \$20.00 (Save \$4.00)**

Ornament 1. Federal Hill 2010 – Bingham School (1916-2010) Image on both sides.

Ornament 2. Federal Hill 2009 – Memorial Blvd. School (1921) Image on both sides.



### Three Ornament Package

3 Ornaments for \$30.00

(Save \$6.00)

Ornament 1. Federal Hill 2005 – S.E. Root House (c.1870) image on both sides.

Ornament 2. Federal Hill 2011 – Prospect United Methodist (1834) image on both sides.

Ornament 3. Brightwood Hall (circa 1886-1936) image on both sides.

The next time you visit BHS, make it a point to stop by the Gift Shop. We also sell Gift Certificates for merchandise.

\*We are currently looking for volunteers to help cover the store. It would require being at BHS one half hour in advance of an event, during which time the galleries will be open to the public. If you are interested in helping out, please call Mary Houle at (860) 582-7784.

### LOST AND FOUND

A pair of black-framed eyeglasses (they look like TAC glasses) were left in the building on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Also, a single key on a black neck holder was found in the back parking lot on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

You can claim your item by coming to the Bristol Historical Society during regular open hours Wednesday 10am to 2pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm.

### BHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE

Our Membership Drive kicked off June 1<sup>st</sup>. We were off to a slow start as many of our annual members didn't respond to the information and forms found in the Newsletter. July was our turning point when we decided to 'snail mail'. A big difference! They are still coming in! Currently we have 55 annual members who have not renewed their membership.

Please renew! Great programs are coming! Your membership expires on October 1<sup>st</sup>! After that you will have to pay each time you attend one of our great programs. I'll be looking for your renewed membership!

### BRISTOL EDITION

We are pleased to announce that we have teamed up with Dave Fortier, who will be doing oral histories at the Bristol Historical Society on Saturday mornings for his podcast, Bristol Edition.

## **UP-COMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 9/7 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction, "Evening On the Hill", 5:30pm silent preview, 7pm Live.  
Tickets available at the door
- 9/20 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 6:30-8:30pm. \$5.00 pre-paid Registration
- 9/21 Saturday Tales of a Paper Boy, 1pm. Non-members \$5

### **OCTOBER**

- 10/4 – 10/31 WITCH'S DUNGEON WILL BE OPEN EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY EVENING DURING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF OCTOBER. HOURS FOR THESE NIGHTS ARE 7PM TO 10PM. ENTRANCE FEE FOR ALL AGES \$6.00.
- 10/13 Sunday Vintage Baseball Game – Muzzy Field 10:30am – 4pm – Entrance is Free.
- 10/17 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – Art of Movie Makeup, 7pm. Non-members \$5

### **NOVEMBER**

- 11/10 Sunday Andrew McKnight Concert Time – TBD
- 11/15 Friday Adult Coloring Craze Party, 6:30-8:30pm. \$5.00 pre-paid Registration
- 11/21 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – New Departure Social Activities, 7pm. Non-Members \$5
- 11/22 Friday MOVIE: "Wuthering Heights" starring Lawrence Olivier & Merle Oberon on reel film, with Vintage cartoons. 7pm \$3 all ages.
- 11/23 Saturday MOVIE: "Wuthering Heights" starring Lawrence Olivier & Merle Oberon on reel film, with Vintage cartoons. 7pm \$3 all ages.
- 12/7 Saturday SAVE THE DATE!! BHS CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR, 10am – 4pm
- 12/8 Sunday SAVE THE DATE!! FEDERAL HILL HISTORIC HOMES WALK (More to come)

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR JUNE THROUGH AUGUST PROGRAMS**

**"Letters from the Trunk"**, our June 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday program, had a wonderful turnout thanks to Bob Adamczyk, Carol Denehy, Dick Fitz, Bob Barnett, Ed Little and Bob Montgomery.

Some 25 people participated in Bob Montgomery's **Trivia Contest called Bristol 102** on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Ed Vaughan and Bob Adamczyk were declared the winners. Assisting Bob with the program was Paul DiNoia.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Lidia Jasinski and her church anniversary committee presented a 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday program, **"100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Stanislaus Church"** with a parish history video along with many photos, booklets and other items from their parish archives.

The Program Committee participated in **Plush Pets Day**, a special day promoted by Bristol's Museum collaborative on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we were disappointed that no one came. We had arranged for Rob Casey to come with his Australian Shepherd, Aspen, who is trained to sit and listen while children read to the dog. They belong to the national organization Pet Partners. The volunteers who were at the Bristol Historical Society that morning enjoyed their conversation with Rob and learned of his and Aspen's involvement within the community.

Our August 25<sup>th</sup> program entitled **"With Its Clocks, Bristol Regulates the World"** was presented by Tom Vaughn. Interest in this topic drew some new faces and several of our members. Tom's oral presentation held the audience's interest for an hour and a half. His knowledge of the subject was so thorough that he only referred to his one note to confirm dates. We anticipate his next program which has been scheduled for next July. Stay tuned!

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS – SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER**

Coming into the final months of programming for 2019 we will offer the following programs:

Bob Montgomery will host another program for us on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 1PM. His program “**Tales of the Paperboy**” is a continuation to his newspaper articles.

**The above programs are free to BHS members, \$5. For non-members.**

If you or your grandchildren have any interest in baseball, then come and enjoy vintage baseball with the Northeast Historic Baseball Stars at Muzzy Field on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The games begin at 10:30am. This program is co-sponsored with Team Bristol and is FREE OF CHARGE. Vendors with baseball collectibles will be on site.

Mark your calendar now for a benefit performance by Andrew McKnight, a folk singer and skilled guitarist. Andrew is the son of Warren McKnight of Forestville, and the grandson of Madeline McKnight, one of the founding members of the Bristol Historical Society. Andrew last performed for the Bristol Historical Society in 2008 and we are happy to have him return. His presentation will include elements of blues, bluegrass, and acoustic pop and rock.

His performance will be held on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Time and ticket information is yet to be determined. Reservations will be required by calling the Bristol Historical Society at 860-583-6308.

To conclude our programming year, Bob Adamczyk, who has done several interesting programs for us will present the “**Social Aspects of New Departure**” on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Once again, Bob will have a historical booklet on his topic, which will be for sale.

## **ANNUAL DINNER RECAP**

The BHS Annual Dinner was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Nuchie’s Restaurant. A comfortable crowd of 63 enjoyed a great meal and a few surprises. Three awards were given out. Our Scholarship Award was presented to McKenzie Lewis from Bristol Central High School. Our Community Service Award was given to The First Congregational Church of Bristol and our Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Michael Saman.

All attending received a copy of our Dinner Book which was filled with 98 ads from local businesses. There were many new advertisers supporting us this year and we hope those attending will support them as well. It was a great evening!

## **COLLECTION COMMITTEE WISH LIST**

Looking for.... A double globe or a Gone With The Wind Lamp.

**Bristol City Directories for:** 1886 thru 1888, 1889, 1900, 1902 thru 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1915, 1918, 1919, 1922, 1925 thru 1928, 1930-1935, 1943, 1945 1949, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1974 thru 1977, 1980, 1981, 1983 thru 1985, 1987, 1988, 1991.

**Bristol School Yearbooks for: St. Paul Kaleidoscope for:** 1977, 1978, 1979, 1986 thru 1989, 1991 to current issue.

**St. Anthony Shield for:** 1954 thru 1959, 1965 to their closing.

**Bristol Eastern High School Lance for:** 1983, 1997 to current issue.

**Bristol Central High School Torch for:** 1969, 1972 thru 1975, 1977, 1979 thru 1983, 1988, 1990, 1995, 1998 to current issue.

**Any Bristol or Parochial grammar school yearbooks.**

***“THE WITCH’S DUNGEON CLASSIC MOVIE MUSEUM” re-opens for its 53<sup>rd</sup> consecutive season!***



Starting on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – every weekend in October. Friday thru Sunday, 7pm to 10pm plus Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> thru Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The museum features a wax museum of accurate life size figures from classic horror and sic-fi films, original movie props & makeups, and related memorabilia. Plus nightly showings on reel film of classic movie chillers. Entrance fee for all ages - \$6.00. Our website is [www.preservehollywood.org](http://www.preservehollywood.org)

***“THE ART OF MOVIE MAKEUP”***

A very visual presentation by Cortlandt Hull will be a Third Thursday event on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. It will include a tour of the movie museum with original movie makeups on display done by Oscar & Emmy winning makeup artists John Chambers & Dick Smith. \$5.00 for non-members. BHS members – free. Refreshments will be provided.

***“WUTHERING HEIGHTS”***

Hollywood At The Bijou Film Series will be shown on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> both at 7pm with vintage cartoons. Cost: \$3.00 per person, all ages.

***BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES ANNUAL INDUCTION DINNER***

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame will be presenting their 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Induction Dinner on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the DoubleTree in Bristol. The 2019 inductees are: Bob Caron, Jim Deschaine, Wendy Guite Kenyon, Malcolm Huckaby, Pat Parente, Dean Pecevich, and art Whitehead, Sr.

To order tickets, please contact Linda Mannarino at 860-582-0310 or at [l.mannarino@comcst.net](mailto:l.mannarino@comcst.net). Tickets can also be purchased online at [bshof.org](http://bshof.org). ***No tickets will be sold at the door.***

## **MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM**

The Jack Denehy Gallery and collection storage room have been two of the spaces under renovation in the Bristol Historical Society building. We thank the Bristol Historical Society Building Committee, Board of Directors and the tradespeople who have given months of time and skill to the improvements. Mike Thomas, president of the Memorial Military Museum and volunteers have continued to reorganize the collection, as we eagerly anticipate creating new exhibits for the January 2020 reopening of The Jack Denehy Gallery.

Although we miss welcoming individuals and groups to the Gallery, we have been active in other ways. We were a “Museum on the Go” in November 2018 when we installed a “World War II Gold Star Tribute” display in the Bristol Public Library History Room. Publicity about that display led to a young Long Island man to a surprise discovery about his Bristol relative’s heroic past. When Scott Zukowski visited us in July, he was amazed and grateful to learn about the life and death of his great-uncle Bronislaw “Benny” Zukowski from the well-preserved personal and military effects that are in the collection. It gives us great satisfaction to honor the memory of a man who died at age 20 while in service to his country 73 years ago. His story had been told to visitors of the museum, and now it has a place within his family.

We were a “Museum for All Ages” on Connecticut Open House Day in June. It was an occasion to have fun introducing the legend of the WWI US Army canine from Connecticut, Sgt. Stubby, to children and adults. This American heroic dog’s tale will always be a treat to hear, as sweet as the dog bone shaped candy treats the visitors received. Tim Denehy then made a lively and well-received presentation about local legend, WWII fighter pilot and POW, Warren “Gus” Beach. The 100th anniversary of D-Day was acknowledged by our permanent display in honor of Bristol’s most decorated WWII serviceman, Brigadier General Edward Wozenski. As Army Captain Wozenski of Company E, 16th Infantry Regiment, 43<sup>rd</sup> Division, on D-Day, his leadership and exploits became thru the best seller books of Cornelius Ryan, John C. Manus and the writings of other historians. We were also proud to feature the story of Pvt. Ernest R. Blanchard, paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, whose nighttime drop from a C-47 transport early on D-Day was part of the greatest parachute offensive in war time. There were 13,100 American paratroopers, yet Ernest Blanchard’s experiences were singled out to be also featured in Mr. Ryan’s book “The Longest Day.”

A treasure trove of WWII letters rescued from the trash and later donated to the Bristol Historical Society inspired a program for the Third Thursday evening in June. The correspondence had continued throughout the war years between J. H. Sessions and Sons, Co. and the employees serving in the military. The program, “Letters from the Trunk” featured Bob Adamczyk who spoke about the Historical Society Sessions Family display and the history of the Sessions factory. The second part of the program was a presentation by the Memorial Military Museum focusing on the expressive letters of Robert Brault. Excerpts were read aloud to the audience by local veterans Dick Fitz, Ed Little, Bob Barnett and Bob Montgomery. Robert Brault was with the Bristol National Guard which became part of the 169<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 43<sup>rd</sup> Division in WWII. Collection items from the illustrious 169<sup>th</sup> were on display and were passed among the audience while Carol Denehy provided military background information to augment the letters. The evening became even more personal when we realized that two of Mr. Brault’s sons and another relative were in the audience. The evening was a successful sharing of Bristol’s military heritage.

