From the President’s Desk

As I write this, I have been the president for about two months. As you are all probably aware, they have hardly been typical months—in fact, the Society has been closed to the public since mid-March. Even now, we are discussing the best procedures for opening the doors again, keeping in mind the recommendations from the State of Connecticut, and the safety of the public and our volunteers. We have so much to share with you and cannot wait to welcome people into the building again!

Meanwhile, it may look quiet in the building as you drive by, but I assure you, things are bustling here. While the building was closed, we were able to refresh and redesign one of our largest exhibits, Made in Bristol. Thanks to the ESPN’s generous donation of an original Sports Center desk and custom background, we are finally able to showcase this prominent player in Bristol’s history. ESPN just celebrated its 40th anniversary and an exhibit featuring their role here is long overdue. (The desk is pictured on page 2 with the current BHS officers.) We are immensely grateful for this important piece!

We have also been taking this time to organize a series of events coming soon to our website and social media. We will replay some of our more popular programs—including the popular Flood of 1955 and Tales of a Milkman programs—and hope to provide some interesting new mini-programs over the Internet. We are also going to feature some of the fascinating items from our collection that do not often make it into displays. We are excited to bring Bristol history back into the community, even while we continue our hiatus from public open hours.

I also want to take a moment to welcome some new faces to the Board this year: Don Soucy has joined the Board as Treasurer, and Bob Boudreau and Paula O’Keefe, both of whom are long-time members, are new directors this year. Please congratulate them on their new roles if you see them. I would also like to take a moment to thank the three outgoing Board members: Past President Mike Saman, past First Vice President Andrea Kapcensky, and outgoing Board member Murdo Smith. The Society is far better off for your dedication!

There is one more word of thanks to extend: The Witch’s Dungeon which has shared our space for five years is moving to a full-time space. We were honored to have them under our roof and wish them all the best in their new home. Details and the new address are inside this newsletter.

We look forward to a time when people can come and go freely in the building and look forward to finding creative ways to fulfil our mission of preserving Bristol history and bringing it to current and future members of this community.

Maya Bringe, President
Meet Your Executive Team!

From left to right: 1st Vice President Steve Vastola, 2nd Vice President Mary Houle, Treasurer Don Soucy, Secretary Noreen Zurell and President Maya Bringe.

SAVE THE DATE!!

SEPTEMBER - BHS TAG SALE!! SATURDAY, SEPT. 5TH, 10AM – 2PM.
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 6TH, 10AM – 2PM.
BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT COIN SHORTAGE, ITEMS WILL BE PRICED IN WHOLE DOLLARS.
THE BHS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS WILL ALSO BE SOLD AT THIS TIME.

BHS ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS

The Annual Meeting of the Bristol Historical Society and Board Elections would have taken place on Wednesday, June 24th at 6pm. Due to current recommendations for meetings during the pandemic, this year’s voting for board positions happened by mail. We had a great turnout! The ballots were in sealed unmarked envelopes and counted by anonymous counters the day of the regular BHS Board Meeting. Several new and returning directors were elected to both the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. New Executive Board members are President Maya Bringe, 1st Vice President Steve Vastola, Treasurer Don Soucy. Returning Executive Board members are 2nd Vice President Mary Houle and Secretary Noreen Zurell. New Board members are Bob Boudreau and Paula O’Keefe. Voted in for 2nd terms were Steve Cowdell and Karen Pescarmona. Returning Board members include Ken Hintz, Jackie McCauley, Don Zurell, Lisa Doyle-Bell and Bob Adamczyk. 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 Mike Saman (Past President) and Andrea Kaphensky (1st Vice President), and Murdo Smith who are leaving the Board. The Society is stronger (not to mention more fun to be around) for your involvement!
2020 ANNUAL APPEAL

Our Annual Appeal will be appearing in your mailboxes in October! Gifts to the Annual Appeal typically 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. In addition to these normal annual needs, we are finally repaving our parking lot to provide more spaces and a smoother experience for visitors to the building. The Board of Directors decided that the renovation is overdue, and we hope to earmark some of the Annual Appeal donation to help cover those costs.

Please consider a donation to the society. If you wish to make a donation, one can also be made anytime 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. We are always grateful for the support of our members—you have made so much possible in this historic building.

--- Annual Appeal Committee

2021 ANNUAL DINNER

Save the Date! Our Annual Dinner in 2021 will be held on May 11th, at the Chipannee Golf Club. We will also be celebrating the Historical Society’s 50th Anniversary. Please plan on attending. It will be a wonderful event! More news will be coming!

BHS ANNUAL AUCTION UPDATE

Due to the novel corona virus, the Evening on the Hill Auction will be postponed until we are able to safely host the event. When that becomes possible, we will advertise a new date and contact volunteers who have offered to help with the event. Thank you for your patience as we find our way rescheduling some of our larger indoor events.

COLLECTION COMMITTEE

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

COLLECTION COMMITTEE WISH LIST

Looking for…. A double globe or a Gone With The Wind Lamp. Dress mannequin’s for displaying textiles.

BHS 2020 HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Due to health and safety considerations, the 14th Annual Holiday Craft Fair has unfortunately been postponed until next year. Our next fair is slated for Saturday, December 4th, 2021.

We appreciate your past interest and participation and look forward to resuming this tradition next year. Best wishes for a happy holiday season!
Our Membership drive kicked off on June 1st. This year we mailed the 2020-21 membership form to all our Annual members. To date 39 annual members have yet to renew. Did you misplace your form? If you need another one, please see the last page of this newsletter. You can fill it out and mail to BHS with your check. Otherwise your membership will expire October 1st.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS .... DID YOU FORGET?**

Since March, when the Coronavirus became an epidemic, how many of you have had a neighbor, friend or someone who did your grocery shopping, get gas for your car, prepare your take-out meal or helped in any way to keep you safe? And don’t forget those family members who might be doctors, nurses or EMT’s. Even during our recent power outage as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias, did someone loan you a generator or bring you a meal?

Return the favor and Pass It Forward by recognizing these individuals with a thank you by purchasing a special Profiles of Courage ornament to honor essential workers and volunteers. To quote Maya Bringe, BHS President, “we are living in a really historical moment and it is important to commemorate its happening.”

Ellie Wilson, Program Chair of BHS, designed and purchase this special ornament with the assistance of Tom Dickau, Rick Fitzsimmons and the Woodbury Pewter Company.

In addition, Bristol Historical Society’s 2020 Annual Christmas Ornament is currently available for purchase. It too was designed with the help of Tom Dickau, Rick Fitzsimmons and the Woodbury Pewter Company. Our 2020 choice commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the Bristol Hospital, which will begin its celebration in November.

Ornaments are $15 each, payable by check or exact cash only. You can contact Tom Dickau at 860-582-1357 or e-mail tdickau@sbcglobal.net to reserve you purchase. The Profiles of Courage ornament can also be purchased with exact cash at City True Value Hardware, Farmington Ave., Bristol.

Both ornaments will be available for purchase on the morning of Saturday, September 5th at the BHS tag sale or on Saturdays from 10-12 noon at the Society during the months of September and October. If you frequent the Farmers Market we will be there on Saturday September 19th from 10-1pm. Please wear a mask.

All proceeds from these sales benefit the Bristol Historical Society. Won’t you help?

Ellie Wilson, Program Chair.

**BHS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

This year’s ornaments honor the 100th Anniversary of the Bristol Hospital and the covid workers. BHS is officially closed, however, every Saturday during the months of September and October Tom Dickau will be at BHS from 10am to 12 noon. You can stop by and purchase these at that time. The price for each one is $15.00. Cash or checks will be accepted.
CONGRATULATIONS!

To BHS member Lindsay Vigue, Chair of Bristol’s Art & Culture Commission, and her commissioners for their efforts to enrich the city’s landscape. If you have not driven up Main Street to see the newest addition, please make an effort to do so. The mural at Webster Bank was featured as a WFSB Bright Spot during its newscasts.

MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

The Memorial Military Museum has offered exhibits and programs to the public since 1975. We celebrated 40 years in September 2015 with a dedication program for The Jack Denehy Gallery, named in honor of the museum’s founder. And 2020 was to be a celebration of 45 years of Honoring, Preserving, Exploring Bristol’s Military Heritage!

We thank all our members, visitors, donors and organizations who have made the Memorial Military Museum a unique place to experience Bristol’s Military heritage.

See you soon with new exhibits and programs!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Each year the Bristol Historical Society grants a scholarship to a Bristol graduating senior. Funds for the scholarship are raised at our annual Pasta Supper held in February. At this year’s dinner the amount was raised to $1,500.00 thanks to a challenge by several of our attendees.

We would like to continue giving this amount; however, we cannot rely on just the money raised at the Pasta Supper. If you would like to contribute to the fund but cannot attend the supper please complete the attached form and mail it with your donation to the Bristol Historical Society at P.O. Box 1393, Bristol, Conn. 06011-1393. Any and all donations will be gratefully accepted!

Name________________________________________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
Amount____________________________________________
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021
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:

☐ Individual $30.00 ☐ Civic Group $100.00
☐ High School/College Student $10.00 ☐ Business $200.00
☐ Family $50.00

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Your time and talents are important to us! The back of this form has a brief description of what each Committee listed below does to help you decide which Committee will best serve your skills. 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. Thank You!!

☐ Annual Auction ☐ Membership Committee/Mailing
☐ Annual Dinner ☐ Building Committee
☐ Annual Tag Sale (improving & maintaining the premises.)
☐ Christmas Fair ☐ Collection Committee
☐ Event Baking ☐ Program Committee
☐ Hospitality ☐ Scholarship Committee

Office Use Only:
Date_________________________ Payment:____________________________