



# BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, Issue 3 - September, 2020 - November, 2020

## *From the President's Desk*

[www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org)  
P.O. Box 1393 / 98 Summer Street  
Bristol, CT. 06011-1393/860-583-6309

**President:**

Maya Bringe

**First Vice President:**

Steve Vastola

**Second Vice President:**

Mary Houle

**Recording Secretary:**

Noreen Zurell

**Treasurer:**

Don Soucy

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Bob Adamczyk

Lisa Bell

Bob Boudreau

Steve Cowdell

Ken Hintz

Jackie McCauley

Paula O'Keefe

Karen Pescarmona

Don Zurell

**BOARD LIAISONS:**

**Memorial Military Museum**

Carol Denehy

**Bristol Sports Hall of Fame**

Ellie Wilson

**Past President:**

Michael Saman

**Historian:**

Eleanor Wilson

**Newsletter Editor:**

Noreen Zurell

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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 Kapchensky, 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Steve Vastola, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mary Houle, Treasurer Don Soucy, Secretary Noreen Zurell and President Maya Bringe.*

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**SEPTEMBER - BHS TAG SALE!! SATURDAY, SEPT. 5<sup>TH</sup>, 10AM – 2PM.**

**RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 6<sup>TH</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Due to current recommendations for meetings during the pandemic, this years' 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, **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** Steve Vastola, **Treasurer** Don Soucy. Returning Executive Board members are **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** Mary Houle and **Secretary** Noreen Zurell. New Board members are **Bob Boudreau** and **Paula O'Keefe**. Voted in for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Kapchensky (1<sup>st</sup> 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](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. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Chippanee Golf Club. We will also be celebrating the Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## **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 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Fair has unfortunately been postponed until next year. Our next fair is slated for Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

We appreciate your past interest and participation and look forward to resuming this tradition next year. Best wishes for a happy holiday season!

## **THE WITCH'S DUNGEON CLASSIC MOVIE MUSEUM**

All of us at "The Witch's Dungeon Classic Movie Museum" gratefully thank the board and members of the Bristol Historical Society, as well as our loyal visitors. We hope you will join us at our new location at 103 East Main Street, Plainville, CT. We will soon be open every weekend evening 6pm to 9pm - starting on Friday Oct. 2nd for our 54th consecutive year! For questions or comments you can contact Cortlandt at either 860-583-8306 or [cortlandthall@gmail.com](mailto:cortlandthall@gmail.com). Again, our sincere thanks to all our friends in Bristol.

### **HAVE YOU RETURNED THE FAVOR?**

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 100<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Our Membership drive kicked off on June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **BHS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

This year's ornaments honor the 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

**BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY WISH LIST**

**One good used 2 drawer file cabinet with lock and key.**

**Any metal racks used for storage.**

**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 news casts.

**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!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_



**BRISTOL  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

# 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:**

- |  |         |                                      |          |
|--|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <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! 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: \_\_\_\_\_