

# BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5, Issue 4 - December, 2020 - February, 2021

## *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

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As I write this, we're enjoying one of those last nice fall days, but winter is right around the corner. We've been getting ready for winter in our own way at the Society: On December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have our outdoor Christmas Market. The building is full of Christmas decorations, beautifully wrapped gift baskets, and other holiday items, all of which will move outside for the public to purchase. It's frankly hard not to feel some holiday spirit as we watch it all come together. I am grateful every day for our tireless volunteers who have been there for the Society in this complicated year.

As Fall winds down, our building committee has been locking things down inside and out as the work on the parking lot finished up and the furnace control panel is being updated to make it through the long winter.

We have even taken in a winter boarder of sorts. The statue of Minerva that graced the high school before it became a middle school has been bumped from her place of pride in Kelly Monahan-Dinoia's Latin classroom, where she has spent the last 23 years. The 100-year-old plaster statue looks fantastic for her age, but the city hopes that she can undergo a slight facelift and then be incorporated in the new arts magnet school on Memorial Boulevard. Until that time, the Society is honored to have her in the building, as she provides a wise and watchful eye on the preparations for the holiday event. Pictures of her arrival are below.

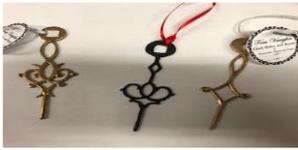
Right now, the rising coronavirus case numbers have paused our plans to reopen, but our thoughts are on our members and friends. We hope you are well wish you the best of holiday seasons!

**Happy Holidays!**

*Maya Bringe, President*



# COME TO THE EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKET!



The European Christmas Market tradition dates back to 1298, in Vienna Austria. The market took place during the season of Advent on the Christian calendar. Open air markets began in Germany in 1384. They received their biggest boost when Martin Luther suggested that the birth of Christ was a more appropriate gift and thus began a competitive market experience which led to the gift-giving that we now do at Christmas time. The markets soon spread across Europe and in some locations here in the US. Today these markets are huge enterprises with hundreds of stalls selling a large variety of goods from food to toys. The Bristol Historical Society is trying to keep its annual Christmas Fair going by offering up an open air European Christmas Market on its grounds. Although ours is not as large as the ones in Europe, we will be selling various items to meet every personal gift-giving need as well as something for your pets. Please come and join us for this festive open-air European experience.

## **BHS ANNUAL MEETING**

**Save the date!** The Society's 2021 Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6 pm. Refreshments will be served.

## **2021 ANNUAL DINNER**

**Save the Date!** Our Annual Dinner in 2021 will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Chipannee 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.

### ***BHS PEWTER ORNAMENTS***

All 150 COVID 19 pewter ornaments sponsored by Eleanor Wilson, with proceeds benefiting the Bristol Historical Society, have been sold.

To commemorate the Bristol Hospital's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 400 pewter ornaments were ordered, with the hospital purchasing 275 of them. The remaining 125 ornaments were either sold at the Farmer's Market during the month of October or at True Value Hardware. At the time of this newsletter deadline there are fewer than 40 available.

However, there are some ornaments from past years still available. Case Block, Memorial Boulevard School, Asbury Methodist Church, S.E. Root House, Abel Lewis Tavern, Terry Homestead, Bristol Historical Society, Bingham School, Bristol Public Library, Forestville Railroad Station, Central Square (Forestville), Thomas Quinlan Park and the Lake Compounce Wildcat Coaster.

The Bristol Historical Society extends a very hearty THANK YOU to those who purchased one or both of our 2020 ornaments.



### ***Bristol Sport Hall of Fame***

Like all organizations, the Coronavirus has negatively impacted the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame since March 2020. Our annual Scholar Athlete Dinner was cancelled last year, however we still awarded 6-\$1500 scholarships to local high school seniors in the spring. Our annual Thursday program in May at the Historical Society was also cancelled. Our annual scholarship golf tournament in July was cancelled, however, we did hold a special golf ball, "closet to pin raffle", that generated some of the lost funds. In addition, our annual Induction Program in November was cancelled for 2020. The 8 inductees selected will now be the Class of 2021. They are, Jim Danis, John Dauphinee, Todd Hasler, Dr. Al Jabs, Hank Lodge, Karin Przygocki, Stacey Mills Rivoira, and Tony Savino. 2021 will be our 25th Anniversary of our induction program.

On a positive note, the BSHOF purchased a new sign for outside the Historical Society building that now gives us an outside presence. (See picture). We hope that 2021 will get us back to normal sooner than later.

## **CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN**

As we are approaching this holiday season during this pandemic, I encourage you our members, and the people of Bristol to join me by sending Christmas cards to those essential workers, volunteers, teachers, firemen, police and business owners that you patronized in gratitude for their service in these hard times. Everyone needs to know they are appreciated and what better seasonal time of the year to express it.

*Eleanor Wilson, Program Chair.*

## **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Although the Bristol Historical Society has been closed these past months, we have been the recipient of the following donations for our collection:

- Antique Doll
- Older clothing and 1 wedding dress from the 190's
- 3 dresses from the 1920's
- 12 pairs of women's gloves (white/black; short/long)
- Bristol Central Mall clippings
- 1911 postcard of downtown Bristol
- Miscellaneous items from Bingham School, Southside School, Mt. View School and St. Paul's High School
- Picture of BHS football team of 1899
- Cuff links and tie pin from Acme Rivet & Machine Corp, Riverside Avenue
- Linen napkins and tablecloth with price tag from Muzzy's
- History of South Chippens School binder
- 2 sets of demitasse spoons from American Silver Company
- Blueprint of Bristol National Bank
- 1957 city engineer map

## **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE WISH LIST**

- 1960's – 1980's clothing items for men, women and children
- 1950's women's grey business suit
- Izod polo shirt
- Men's ascots, sock and arm garters, old collarless dress shirts
- Union suits – one-piece garments with the flap in the rear
- Young junior-teenage clothing from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century
- Gone with the Wind lamp



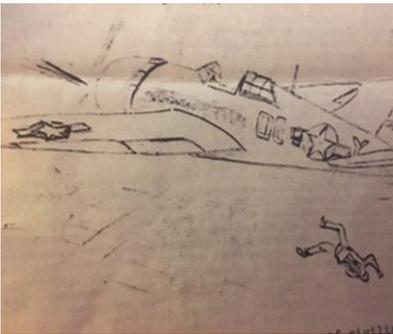
## MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

While the Jack Denehy Gallery is closed to the public, work continues behind the scenes on new projects. One is an exciting first for the Museum. Generous benefactors have made possible a professional video that is currently in production about a local World War II veteran still residing in Bristol. We anticipate welcoming visitors to the Gallery and programs in the near future.

While we wait, we remember that millions of service men and women who have been separated, sometimes for years, from home, family, community. One Bristol native, Captain Warren H. Beach, wrote and illustrated some of his World War experiences with the 359th Fighter Squadron, 356th Fighter Group. Four days after Thanksgiving 1943 would mark Capt. Beach's 20th and final mission escorting B-17s on bombing raids. After his P-47 was hit, he bailed out, was captured and eventually became POW #3164 in Stalag Luft 1.

While Capt. Beach waited out the war, he wrote. Sometimes of the tragic, "A Tale that would singe and scotch (sic) and curl up the pages." Sometimes of the irritation from "scant diet, lack of freedom, and drab monotony." Some of his cartoons reveal his natural sense of humor. One month before the World War ended in Europe, he finally could write the following: "Tremendous optimism...has nearly enveloped the camp 100%! We'll be going home soon, and we think more feverishly than ever what it will be like, will people at home appear changed, will we, will this chunk out of our lives make the years to come difficult? I don't think so. I think this immediate past of ours will enable us to face and withstand any crisis, and fully appreciate living in America."

Warren "Gus" Beach never flew again after that fateful day of November 19, 1943. He returned home with his ebullient personality intact to raise his family and have a successful career with Associated Spring. He retired to NH and passed away January 2002.





### **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 \_\_\_\_\_

### **ANNUAL PASTA SUPPER**

This coming year 2021, our annual Pasta fundraising dinner has a new venue due to the closing of Nuchie's Restaurant. The owner of Bell City Diner (formerly Oasis) has generously offered their facilities.

The menu is similar to past years': pasta, sausage and meatballs, chicken, and salad with provisions for those who need gluten free.

Due to COVID guidelines, Bell City Diner has a separate room for indoor seating that will accommodate 42 people. They have also offered the option of takeout orders for your specific time of pick-up.

Pre-paid reservations are a requirement by February 13, 2021. NO WALK-INS.

Adults - \$20.00      Children (under the age of 10) \$10.00

If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation. You can use the form on the next page. Make checks payable to:  
Bristol Historical Society; P.O. Box 1393; Bristol, CT. 06011-1393.

**SEE ATTACHED RESERVATION FORM**





BRISTOL  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# SCHOLARSHIP PASTA SUPPER RESERVATION FORM

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*  
*(snow date Thursday, February 25, 2021)-*  
*4-6PM (2<sup>nd</sup> seating 6-8PM if needed)*  
*BELL CITY DINER (formerly Oasis)*  
*782 Pine St., Bristol, CT.*

PRE-PAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 13, 2021. NO WALK-INS!

ADULTS - \$20.00

CHILDREN (UNDER AGE 10) - \$10.00

COVID GUIDELINES:

OPTION 1 – Indoor seating in private room limited to 42 people

OPTION 2 --Take-out order

MENU: Pasta, sausage and meatballs, chicken, salad and bread

RESERVATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Option #1. Indoor Seating: # \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$20.00 ea.= Total \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_ children under 10 @ \$10.00 ea.= Total \_\_\_\_\_  
Gluten Free: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Option #2. Take-out orders: # \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$20.00 ea.= Total \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_ children under 10 @ \$10.00 ea.=Total \_\_\_\_\_  
Gluten Free: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE TIME FOR PICK-UP: (AFTER 4PM and BEFORE 6:30PM) \_\_\_\_\_

If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY; P.O. BOX 1393; BRISTOL, CT. 06011-1393

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**