

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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From the President's Desk



www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org

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Memorial Military Museum

Carol Denehy

Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

Bob Kalat

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Eleanor Wilson

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As the groundhog predicted, winter is lingering. Here at the Society, we have a lot of reasons to be eager for spring to arrive. As coronavirus cases drop and as more and more in our community are vaccinated, we look forward to opening to the public again. The building and collections committees put a lot of work into the building while we were closed, and we cannot wait for you to see it! We will also again be able to utilize our outdoor space for a spring tag sale and other events as necessary, thanks to a recently repaved parking lot.

The Bristol Historical Society turns 50 this year! Our original incorporation paperwork was filed in April of 1971. The pandemic makes many things uncertain, but we are looking forward to celebrating, nonetheless. Because of the virus, we have postponed our Annual Dinner until later in the year and look forward to marking the anniversary then, but as you will see inside this issue, we are forming a committee to spearhead the 50th Anniversary festivities throughout the year. As I contemplate the upcoming celebrations, I am reminded of how intertwined the Society's history is with the community's and I am reminded of how lucky we are to call Bristol our home.

Our anniversary hits at a time when we are already feeling remarkably grateful for the Bristol community (and our friends and members out of town): There are so many reasons that we have been grateful for your support lately: the amazing support from the community during December's outdoor European Christmas market, the overwhelming response to our fundraising effort for our \$1,500 scholarship for a graduating Bristol senior to apply to college costs, and the donors who have given so generously to our annual appeal. I am grateful to our amazing volunteers and members. I am also grateful to all of those who think of us when they find Bristol-related artifacts or donations that they think might be appropriate for the auction or a tag sale. On a day-to-day basis, I am grateful for the local tradespeople who help us keep the building running, share their expertise, and provide advice. The story of the Bristol Historical Society is, and always will be, bound up with the story of Bristol itself.

So, with gratitude aplenty, I wait with the rest of you for spring. Best wishes from us to all of you for a wonderful rest of the year.

Maya Bringe, President



The Bristol Historical Society would like to extend its condolences to the Barnes family on the passing of Wallace "Wally" Barnes on December 10 of last year. He was a remarkable person with a long and interesting career. The Society has been grateful for the support of the Barnes family for many years, for the support of the Barnes and Sky Bight Foundations, and for the family's donations of Barnes artifacts over the year, most recently for a donation of the 1885 wedding dress of Lena Forbes Barnes from Jarre Betts. We are honored to preserve part of the history of the Barnes family and will keep his family and friends in our thoughts at this sad time.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE FORMING

The Bristol Historical Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year! Those celebrations will touch much of what we do in 2021, and the Society is forming a committee to help orchestrate the celebratory activities. If you are interested in being on the committee or helping out with the organization for some of the events, please call or email Ellie Wilson (elwilson472@gmail.com or 860-582-4792) with your contact information. We look forward to commemorating our golden anniversary with our members, friends, and the greater Bristol community.

SAVE THE DATE!! SPRING TAG SALE!

The Annual Spring Tag Sale will be June 5th, from 10-3 at the Society. We will be holding the sale outside this year, as we did in the fall. If you have items to donate, please drop them off on Wednesday or Saturday, from 10-12 or contact Maya Bringe (maya.bringe@gmail.com, 860-986-4894) to arrange a drop off time. Rain date will be June 6.



ANNUAL APPEAL

The 2020–21 Annual Campaign is well underway! If you have not already, please consider donating this year. Annual Campaign funds allow us to bring programs and events to the public throughout the year and maintain our largest artifact: the city's first public high school, which remains the oldest municipal building in the city still open to the public. With your support, we can preserve the past for the current and future residents of Bristol.

BHS ANNUAL MEETING DATE

The Annual Meeting for the Society will be **Wednesday, June 23, 2021.**

Voting will take place for the following offices:

Second Vice President
Secretary, and
Multiple openings for Board Directors

Members can make nominations for these positions during the nomination period which begins on **Friday, May 7, 2021** and closes **Monday, May 24, 2021**. Nomination forms will be available by email, in the office during open office hours. or on our website (www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org). Candidates must be members in good standing and must have been members for a year to be considered. At the close of the nomination period, the Committee will confirm with nominees that they are willing to serve and publish member nominations and its own slate of candidates by **June 2, 2021**.

Last year, because of the pandemic, nomination forms and ballots were sent out to all members in good standing and we anticipate that that will be the case again this year for those not yet comfortable with a large indoor meeting. More information will be forthcoming about whether the annual meeting will be virtual, by email, or in-person as more information about the number of cases in the area develops.

The full set of bylaws with the latest amendments is available at www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org and in the office at the Society at 98 Summer Street. If you have questions about the open positions or the election procedure, please contact Steve Vastola, veeeman@sbcglobal.net, chair of the Governance Committee.

THE BHS ANNUAL DINNER

The BHS Annual Dinner has been rescheduled. The new date is Thursday, August 19, 2021 and will still be held at Chippanee Golf Club. We are excited to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary at this time! The committee is working on a special program – one you won't want to miss!! Save the date! The next newsletter (June) will have more information as well as the dinner reservation form. With the recent renovations done at Chippanee, both outside and inside dining is available.

A LOOK AHEAD – DATES TO REMEMBER!

June

5 or 6 BHS ANNUAL SPRING TAG SALE, 10AM – 3PM
23 BHS ANNUAL MEETING/VOTING – 6PM

August

19 ANNUAL DINNER at Chippanee

October

16 or 17 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – MEMORIAL BOULEVARD
23 EVENING ON THE HILL - AUCTION

CHRISTMAS MARKET RECAP

In lieu of our usual Christmas Fair this year, we held an outdoor, European-style Christmas market on December 17th. When I had the idea, I had never attended a Christmas Market in Europe, but I had read about them and seen several travel shows that gave me the idea that the Society could pull this off. The response was tremendous, it was a huge success for us, and hopefully it provided many Christmas gifts. There are hopes and plans to make this happen again this year and again we are looking for baskets, all sizes welcomed, and any member who wants to work on this event, please let us know.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who worked on the market, donated to the event, and all those who came out to support the Society that Friday. I have to thank President Maya Bringe especially since she encouraged it right from the beginning and it was a way of keeping our annual Christmas Fair tradition on-going for 2020. I also want to extend thanks to True Value's Just Ask Rental who watched the weather with us in order to set up the tent we used on the day of the market. Again, thanks to all.

Robert Adamczyk, BHS Research

COLLECTION COMMITTEE NEWS

The big green sofa, currently on the 2nd floor of our building, that came from the Adrian Muzzy house (Prospect Place) will eventually be moved to the carriage room and be used as a display for our textile collection. This will help us to display items that cannot be hung on hangers because they have become too fragile. This will also help us to show more of the wonderful textile collection which probably now numbers more than 1,000 items.

Wish list: Still looking for an old fashion globe lamp.

Robert Adamczyk-co-chair of Collections

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY HELPS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS of the VETERANS MEMORIAL BOULEVARD!

Albert Rockwell first donated the land for Memorial Boulevard to the city in 1919. The boulevard was officially opened the next year on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921 and this was just the beginning of the park's rich history. The park's name was eventually changed to Veterans Memorial Boulevard to honor Bristol's veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country. It is a place of honor for our Veterans, a gateway to downtown Bristol, as well as a place of passive and active recreation. For 100 years, the city has maintained the park with its calm, stately beauty, and it has been a source of pride for many. The boulevard also has a bright future, with the creation of the Memorial Boulevard Arts Magnet School and rebirth of the community theater.

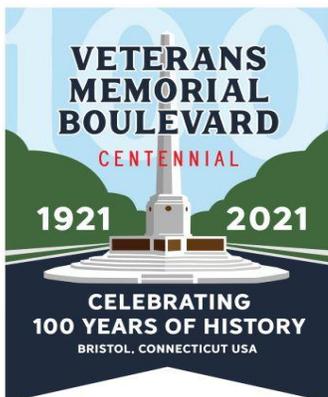
The Bristol Historical Society is proud to be one of the community partners that will be working together with the City of Bristol, the Bristol Parks, Youth, and Community Services Department along with other organizations and individuals on the planning of the Centennial Celebration of Veterans Memorial Boulevard to be held this fall on Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 1pm-5pm (with a rain date of Sunday, October 17th.)

Starting in January, BHS member Tom Dickau began writing monthly articles that chronicle the development and evolution of the boulevard. He began with the history of the land itself and the articles are fascinating to read! You can read the series on the BHS Facebook page or printed monthly in the Bristol Press. We will soon add them to our website as well.

Other BHS members have been busy working on it as well! I had the opportunity to create a logo for the centennial which shows the WWI monument standing proudly at the western entrance to the boulevard; a view that we all recognize and is symbolic of the boulevard itself. BHS Members Carol Denehy and Cynthia Donovan were an integral part of the development of the framework of the centennial celebration with the Parks Department. BHS Member Bob Adamczyk may appear as Albert Rockwell (shh!) and he and BHS President Maya Bringe will be going through our archives to share with BHS members and the community artifacts the Historical Society has relating to the boulevard.

There is a lot to look forward to and learn as we look back at the history behind the Veterans Memorial Boulevard and the people behind it. We look forward to sharing it with you.

Paula O'Keefe, BHS Board Member



BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUCTION

Save the date! We are pleased to announce that after last year's pandemic-related hiatus, the *14th Annual Evening on the Hill Auction* will take place on Saturday, October 23, 2021. This lively evening features a silent auction that begins at 5:30 pm 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 7 pm. Professional auctioneer, Paul Stansel, keeps the bidding lively and entertaining. If you have an item that you would like to donate, please call Steve (860-944-6567) or Maya (860-986-4894) or email 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.

SCHOLARSHIP PASTA FUNDRAISER HUGH SUCCESS!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser for our Scholarship fund. Because of bad weather, we had to reschedule the event to Thursday, February 25th.

Bell City Diner and its owner Peter Panlides out did themselves in providing generous meals for take-out or indoor dining that made the fundraiser such a success. We highly recommend Bell City Diner as a choice restaurant to patronize.

To those members who donated to our Scholarship fund we are greatly appreciative. Donations to this fund are acceptable throughout the year. Your donation enables the Bristol Historical Society to provide a \$1500 Scholarship to a graduating senior. The scholarship will be presented at our annual dinner, which has been rescheduled to Thursday, August 19, 2021 at Chippanee Golf & Country Club. Mark your calendar to join us as this will be one event that is planned for our 50th Anniversary celebration.

Eleanor Wilson, Program Chair

HOW TO APPLY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the 2021 Bristol Historical Society Scholarship in the amount of \$1500 are accessible in the guidance office of each of the three high schools OR on the Bristol Historical Society website. Applicants must be legal residents of Bristol who plan to attend a two- or four-year college or university. An interest in pursuing the study of history is preferred but not required. Applicants must have a minimum of 3.0/B average for 7 semesters.

Criteria for selection are academic achievement, school or community involvement and an interest in history, including the history of Bristol. As part of the application process, applicants are being asked to react to the following statement in a one-page essay: *Bristol has had many unique and interesting people, places, organizations, and events in its past history. Select one to research and describe how your choice has impacted Bristol.* Applicants are asked to cite any reference material used in their research.

Applicants are asked to email their completed applications to lizph12@sbcglobal.net no later than April 9, 2021. Please give the release form to the guidance secretary after the application has been emailed. Deadline for returning the release forms to the guidance office is April 9, 2021.

MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM -- CELEBRATING 45 YEARS +1

A tour of The Jack Denehy Gallery is a walk-through history as seen thru the eyes of local veterans and their families. Since 1975, they have generously provided unique items that tell memorable stories in exhibits from the Civil War to the 21st century. Among the military legacies in the museum are those of two Bristol brothers-in-law. They each evolved from citizen soldiers to outstanding US Army combat leaders in World War II.



Captain Edmund P. Zbikowski commanded Company A, 803d Engineer Battalion in the Philippines building air strips while enduring Japanese strafing and bombing. Lacking food, supplies, modern weapons and support, Capt. Zbikowski also led his men in brutal jungle combat with the invading enemy. Wounded by strafing, Edmund Zbikowski fought the last great battle of his life in the Malinta Tunnel hospital on Corregidor. World War II came to Bristol on April 2, 1942, when the former science teacher became the first man in our town to give his life to that conflict.

Brigadier General Edward Wozenski was another young captain in WWII. He fought through the North Africa Campaign, the Allied Invasion of Sicily, and Omaha Beach on D-Day, then continuing through Europe. For his bold leadership, he has been recognized worldwide and is still being included in contemporary books about WWII. Among his awards for heroism are the Bronze Star, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, two Distinguished Service Crosses. He later served with the Connecticut National Guard attaining ranks of Brigadier General and Commander.



SAVE THE DATES! Saturday, September 23, 2021, Memorial Boulevard – Dedication of a monument to Bristol's Most Decorated WWII Soldier, Brigadier General Edward Wozenski 45 + 1 years later, Memorial Military Museum charter member Bob Barnett is chairman of the Monument Dedication Committee to honor another Museum charter member and Office.

Saturday, October 16, 2021, Centennial Celebration of Memorial Boulevard. An afternoon of activities, displays, living history and more culminating in a music presentation. The planning committee is chaired by Paula O'Keefe, Memorial Military members serve on the committee and will be a presence during the walking tour of the monuments.

To be announced: Developing projects from the Bristol Museums Collaborative Committee Museums Reasons to Fall in Love with Bristol.



THE BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame recently held its election of officers for the next two-year term of 2021–2022.

The following were elected:

PRESIDENT:	Mark Ziogas
VICE PRESIDENT:	Bob Kalat
SECRETARY:	Ellie Wilson
TREASURER:	Dave Greenleaf

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Since 2003, the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame has tri-annually hosted a leadership forum for student-athletes from all three local high schools. Those student athletes, selected by their coaches, are introduced to leadership skills in order to make them not only better leaders on the playing field, but also in the classroom and the community. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Spring and Fall events for 2020 were canceled. After discussions with the athletic directors of the three high schools, it was decided that the Hall of Fame would host a virtual leadership meeting via Zoom. The meeting was attended by approximately 54 student-athletes and faculty and was spearheaded by Sarah Larson, the Hall's newest board member. Participants were given time to independently research different leadership styles, including Autocratic, Visionary, Democratic, Coaching, Laissez or Bureaucratic. The students then engaged in small-group discussions regarding the different leadership styles they researched, with each group having at least one of each leadership style represented. Bristol Sports Hall of Fame moderators posed a series of different scenarios and had the students discuss which type of leadership style would be most effective under each scenario. Although there were pros and cons to the different leadership styles, the students seemed to favor the Bureaucratic, Visionary and Coaching styles. Students concluded that utilizing different styles of leadership depending on the nature of the situation was most effective and learned that that type of leadership style had its own name – Situational Leadership. The program was well received by both the students and athletic directors, and the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame has already been asked to schedule another session for the Spring.