



BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, Issue 4 – December, 2023 – February, 2024

From the President's Desk

www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org

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Maya Bringe

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Steve Vastola

Second Vice President:

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Recording Secretary:

Marilyn Simmons

Treasurer:

Don Soucy

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Rit Carter

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Karen Pescarmona

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BOARD LIAISONS:**Memorial Military Museum**

Carol Denehy

Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

Eleanor Wilson

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Michael Saman

Historian:

Eleanor Wilson

Newsletter Editor:

Noreen Zurell

Development Director:

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu

If you have been around me or any one of the Historical Society's past presidents, you probably have heard one of us say that the 1890 building we occupy is the oldest public building still open to the public in Bristol.* This building is both the largest artifact in our collection and the one that requires the most attention. In the coming year we will be embarking on what will be a multi-year effort to repoint the outside of this historic building. We are pleased that New England Masonry from Naugatuck will begin work on the East side of the building façade in the Spring. This work will begin thanks to donations from friends and members and grants for organizations including the 1772 Foundation, Carriage Services, the D'Amato Company and the Roberts Foundation. We are also very grateful to the Connecticut Historic Preservation Office for their continued assistance and advice.

We take the stewardship of this building seriously – it's a part of Bristol's history that we want to preserve for future generations. And as I sit here and write this, there is a Holiday Fair going on around me, which seems fitting, because we also take seriously the idea that this building should be a place that serves as hub for the Bristol community. Sadly, not all of Bristol's historic buildings have been preserved and we are proud to play a role by maintaining this one – we even try to make it festive for the holidays! (Thank you to Board member Steve Cowdell for assisting us from the lift on our latest light display!)

In the meantime, from our "home" to yours,

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year

--Maya Bringe, President

*Ty Mellon assures me that he was the first to say it, and I have no reason not to believe him.

Join us for a Family Game Day & Potluck, Saturday, January 21, 2024, 12-4 PM. Bring your favorite game, favorite friends, and a soup, chili, or other finger food to share. We will have behind-the-scenes tours, and indoor winter fun for all!!

BHS ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

The 2023–2024 Annual Appeal is underway! Watch your mailbox for the Appeal letter and please consider a donation to the Appeal as those donations support a broad range of needs in the operating budget, including building maintenance and utilities, educational programs, community outreach, and more. Donations can also be made online through our website, www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org. Together we can continue to preserve Bristol's rich past for the present and future communities.

BHS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the Society will be held at **6 pm, Wednesday, May 22, 2024**. Voting will take place for the following offices:

President

First Vice President

Director of the Board (multiple openings)

All members can make nominations for these positions during the nomination period which begins on **Friday, April 5, 2024**, and closes **Monday, April 22, 2024**. 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 one full 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 **April 29, 2024**.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact Steve Vastola (veeeman@sbcglobal.net). 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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Daniel & Bethany Beaudoin, William Bresnahan, Jack & June Krampitz, Diane Higa, Theresa Pieri, Denise Poole, Christopher Pion, Kelci Trunk.

RECENT PASSINGS:

Gary Wycko.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

If you have not renewed your membership by November 1st, then your email address has been removed from our list. Don't miss out on upcoming events! Renewing your membership can happen at any time!

RECENT PROGRAM UPDATES

On Saturday, September 16th, President Maya Bringe presented a most interesting program entitled “An Introduction to Cemetery History and Symbolism.” Gravestones lead to a richer understanding of the lives of the residents in cemeteries and the society they come from.

Our 3rd Thursday program on September 21st, with presenter Tom Dickau, continued his series of Bristol and Forestville: Recycled Then and Now, Part 3, and focused on the foundation of religious institutions within our community. His presentation to date has revealed a nostalgia for the buildings and places that we all remember and that played a large part in our lives. The evening ended with a surprise announcement that he will present a Part 4 to his series, which we have scheduled for September 2024.

A special program was held on Friday, October 13th at 7PM. Bob Adamczyk and Maya Bringe presented a look at sinister and strange occurrences from 50, 75, and 100 years ago. Our programs in the past have focused on family histories, factories, successes, and events, etc. so we decided to present some things that haven’t gone well.

The October’s Third Thursday program on October 19th marked our third celebration of National Stamp Collecting Month. Although the hobby is casually referred to as “stamp collecting”, philately also includes the collecting and interpreting of any postally used items. This year’s attendees were treated to some very interesting pieces, such as letters written to Tracy Peck, Jr. while he was in Germany in the 1860’s. These letters describe locally and nationally important historical events pertaining to the Civil War, while their envelopes divulge important clues of how the United States facilitated mail delivery to Europe in that era, specifically through the Hanseatic Free Cities of Bremen and Hamburg. This event was created in collaboration with the Memorial Military Museum, and we would like to thank them for their assistance. Please mark your calendar for October 24, 2024, for our fourth annual celebration. (If you collect stamps or have an old collection you would like to know more about, please contact me (Steve Vastola) at 860-944-6567}.



The last 3rd Thursday of 2023 put everyone in the mood for the upcoming Christmas season! John Cilio featured the History of Christmas Carols on Thursday, November 26th at 7PM. Carols used to be sung throughout the year, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas time has survived. Those in attendance discovered some of the fascinating stories that surround the traditional songs of the season.

All of our programs are free to members with a suggested donation of \$5 for non-members. The calendar for 2024 is filling up, so stay tuned for upcoming programs!

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORNAMENT FOR SALE

The Bristol Historical Society is proud to dedicate its 2023 annual ornament to two community service agencies that protect and secure our safety: The Bristol Police and Bristol Fire Departments. An ornament was donated to every employee from both departments in part due to the generosity of the Barnes Group Foundation, the D'Amato Construction Company, the Roland Dumont Agency, and the Main Street Community Foundation.

The two-sided pewter ornament pictures the Bristol Police and Bristol Fire Department badges on opposite sides. A brief history of each department is included with each boxed ornament.

They can also be purchased at City True Value Hardware Store at 750 Farmington Avenue until they are sold out.

Ornaments can also be reserved and purchased by calling Tom Dickau at 860 582-1537 or by emailing tdickau@sbcglobal.net. Please indicate ornament in the memo space or leave a voice mail which will be returned.

Less than twenty ornaments remain that honor our dedicated police and fire departments. No further ornaments will be ordered this year. Don't miss this opportunity!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE Bristol Historical Society and the Bristol Public Library are co-sponsoring a program on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 2PM featuring a film on the "Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Lacks was an African American woman whose cancer cells were harvested at John Hopkins Hospital in 1951 without her permission or the knowledge of her family. Those cells became the source of the HELA cell lines in medical research that changed the face of medicine today. The harvesting of her cells remained unknown until the 1970s. As recently as August 1, 2023, her family reached a settlement in their case after 70 years. As time approaches, watch for further program details.

2023 LANTERN TOUR

The lantern tour returned to West Cemetery this year with actors Nicki LaPorte, Maureen Rao, Maya Bringe, Lisa Doyle-Bell, Jackie McCauley, Bob Adamczyk, Bob Such, Mel Bee, and Joe Pinette portraying some of Bristol's colorful characters. The event was co-sponsored with the Bristol Cemetery Commission, and especially Commission members Mike Saman, Linda Arbesman, and Sebastian Panioto, who managed check-in with grace and good humor. We would also like to thank the West Cemetery Association and the staff at the cemetery for allowing us to hold the event and Bristol's own all-volunteer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for keeping us out of trouble, sending volunteers on tours, and generally helping us bring people the best experience possible.

CHARITABLE GIVING AND RMDS

Did you know that if you are required to take a required minimum distribution from an individual retirement account, you may have the option of donating those funds directly to a qualified charity without a tax penalty? Required minimum distribution rules have changed with the passage of the SECURE 2.0 Act, and those changes include a higher age at which taking a minimum distribution is required, so check with your financial advisor or accountant to see how the changes apply to you.

As always, donations to 501(c) (3) non-profit organizations—including the Bristol Historical Society—are tax-deductible and may be beneficial, depending on how you file your taxes. Our tax ID number for your records is: 23-7122055.

FROM THE CALENDAR

Every day of 2023, we have sent out highlighted a bit of history from Bristol for the date. We have learned so much from the project and we are sharing one fun discovery here:

November 23, 1927—The Bristol Press reports a judgement has been received in the case that that Judge William Malone argued before the US Supreme Court. Malone and Percy S. Bryant of Hartford represented the plaintiff, the Silver Lane Pickle Company, in “the famous pickle” case, a breach of contract case that featured a defendant trying to get out of a sale by objecting to the method of payment, because cucumber prices had risen precipitously after a killing frost in the pickle belt of the country. (For those curious, the pickle belt of the country appears to be in the Midwest.) Those interested in the details of case can read more about the decision here:

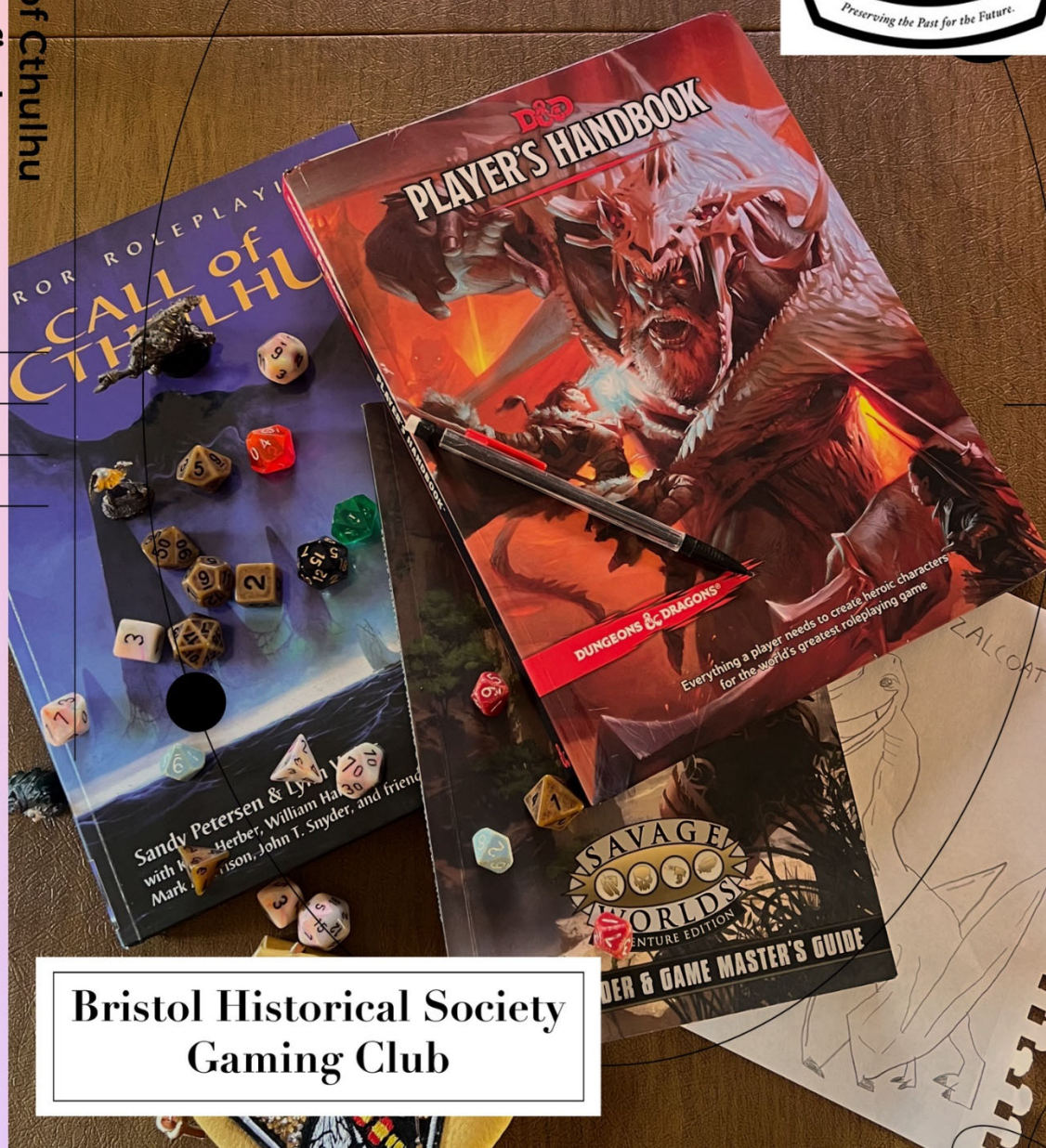
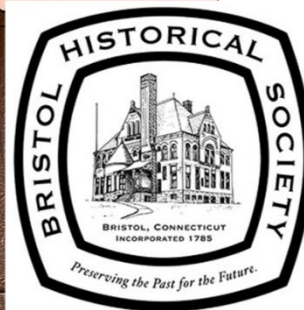
<https://law.resource.org/pub/us/case/reporter/US/275/275.US.113.65.html>

Judge Malone is pictured below:



Call of Cthulhu
Starfinder
Dungeons & Dragons

Play Dungeons & Dragons!
Try New RPGs & Meet Gamers!
All Ages & Experience Welcome!



**Bristol Historical Society
Gaming Club**

Saturday January 27th 10am-1pm. 98 Summer Street Bristol
RSVP & Info- president@bristolhistoricalsociety.org

BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame 27th annual induction ceremony was held on Friday, Nov. 17 at the Double Tree in Bristol. In front of 270 guests, including 36 former inductees, Mark Dunn, Carol Langlois Panigutti, Chris Michalowski, Rob Nicoletti, Chuck Nolan, Frank Owsianko Jr., Sara Paradis, and Tim Washington Jr. were inducted. (see photo below).

In addition, Thomas “Tad” Doyle received the second annual Julie Larese Award from the Bristol Tramps and longtime Hall of Fame Secretary Ellie Wilson received a special recognition award from the HOF. Ellie has been the secretary for the entire 27 years the HOF has been in existence. She is also a longtime volunteer with the Bristol Historical Society. (see photos below).

Please visit the Hall of Fame website, ***bshof.org***, to view all past inductee speeches as well as an extensive scrapbook page of Bristol sport organizations, award winners, and a way to nominate individuals online.

2023 Class Photo

Seated L-R, Chuck Nolan, Carol Langlois Panigutti, Sara Paradis

Standing L-R, Rob Nicoletti, Tim Washington Jr., Frank Owsianko Jr., Mark Dunn, Chris Michalowski



MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

Museum 2024 Research Project: Women in the Military

Most Americans are unaware of the contributions of women in the US military. Now is the time for our museum to add the stories of women to Honor, Preserve and Explore their Military History. Since the American Revolution women have served as nurses. In fact, the first woman honored in the museum is Bristol's Sarah E. Reynolds who served as a nurse in the Civil War. One Bristol woman is listed on the World War I monument among those who served. By the end of 2024, we want to learn about as many Bristol women who served from the nation's beginning to today.

The committee will begin by researching the military history of Bristol women in the service during World War II because their names are available from the book "Bristol Connecticut in World War II. Of the 113 total, 64 served in the Army, 45 in the Navy, 2 in the Marine Corps, 2 in the Coast Guard. The museum has photographs of some of those women. However, we will be asking the public to contribute to the stories of those women who were their relatives, neighbors, family friends.

The museum is dedicated to bringing awareness of the contributions from all Bristol women in the US military from the American Revolution to the present day.



The accompanying photograph is of Jeanne Caron who enlisted while living on Sixth Street and then returned to Bristol to raise a family and share her many talents and skills through work and community involvement.

BHS SCHOLARSHIP PASTA SUPPER

Another year, another opportunity to raise monies for our annual Scholarship Fund. The price have remain the same as last year for this year.

The date for this year's annual pasta supper is Thursday, February 15th (the 3rd Thursday) with a snow date of February 22nd. MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Please see the Reservation Form attached to this newsletter for new and detailed information. We will also have a silent auction.

Our annual Scholarship will be awarded at the annual dinner in August.

If you cannot make the pasta supper, please consider making a donation. You can use the same form.

Looking forward to seeing you there!!



BRISTOL
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
PASTA SUPPER RESERVATION FORM**

**Thursday, February 16, 2023
(Snow date Thursday, February 23, 2023)**

5-7PM

**Parkside Restaurant
224 N. Main St., Bristol, CT.**

PRE-PAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 11, 2023.

ABSOLUTELY NO WALK-INS!!

ADULTS - \$30.00 CHILDREN (UNDER AGE 10) - \$20.00

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

**BYOB: Bring your plastic glass and your favorite beverage. Corkscrew will
be available. Parkside cannot serve but we are able to bring.**

Please cut off below and send to Bristol Historical Society, PO Box 1393, Bristol, CT. 06011-1393 with your check to reserve your reservation. (860-583-6309)

RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Option #1. Indoor Seating: # _____ persons @ \$30.00 ea. = Total _____

_____ children under 10 @ \$20.00 ea. = Total _____

Gluten Free: Yes _____ No _____

Option #2. Take-out orders: # _____ persons @ \$30.00 ea. = Total _____

_____ children under 10 @ \$20.00 ea. = Total _____

Gluten Free: Yes _____ No _____

PLEASE INDICATE TIME FOR PICK-UP: (5:30PM or 6:00PM) _____

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY; P.O. BOX 1393; BRISTOL, CT. 06011-1393 (860-583-6309)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!