

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUMMER NEWSLETTER
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From the President's Desk



www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org
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President:

Maya Bringe

First Vice President:

Steve Vastola

Second Vice President:

Mary Houle

Recording Secretary:

Noreen Zurell

Treasurer:

Don Soucy

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Mike Saman

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Don Zurell

BOARD LIAISONS:

Memorial Military Museum

Carol Denehy

Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

Eleanor Wilson

Historian:

Eleanor Wilson

Newsletter Editor:

Noreen Zurell

On August 19th, the Society held its Annual Dinner. This Annual Dinner is notable in a couple of ways: First, it is the first we have been able to have since 2019 because of the pandemic, and second, this is our 50th Anniversary year! We were delighted to spend some time celebrating the things that go into an organization that endures for 50 years and so many of those were on display that evening.

One of the things that helps us continue our mission year after year is the remarkable community that we are part of. Bristol is a diverse, generous place, genuinely committed to remembering its past. Bristol's commitment to history is evident in the generous sponsorship of so many businesses and organizations over the years and of the Annual Dinner is specific. D'Amato Construction graciously became a sponsor of the evening's event and several other businesses became patrons as well. We are truly grateful for every one of them.

Every year, we give an award to a nonprofit organization that has made an impact on Bristol over the year and this year the winner was the Salvation Army. We asked Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu to present the award and as we heard from her about the many times the Salvation Army had stepped to assist those impacted by the economic difficulties that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought, especially increased food insecurity, we were struck again that their organization typifies the resilient and generous spirit that we know so well in Bristol.

We were lucky have Tom Dickau give a brief presentation on the history of the Society and it featured heavily the resource that I know that Historical Society would be helpless without a remarkable set of volunteers. Unlike many organizations, the Bristol Historical Society is run completely by volunteers. There is no staff. When businesses closed and people stayed home during the pandemic, for instance, a core group of volunteers quietly kept coming to the building to ensure that bills got paid, annual elections happened, and collections were cataloged and photographed. They dreamed up events that could happen outside and kept us in touch with the outside world. There is no Bristol Historical Society with the amazing people that made it a priority and this has been true for 50 years.

Every year, the Society gives out a Volunteer of the Year award and this year's two recipients, Joe Morozuk and Noreen Zurell, embody that same spirit that has grown the organization for the last 50 years. Joe can be found at the building any day of the week, raking, trimming, weeding, mulching, painting, shoring up cement steps, taking things to the transfer station, and generally doing whatever he can to help out, and always with a smile. If you have donated something to our auction over the years, you may know him as the cheerful guy helping us lift and transport heavy furniture. His good humor is infectious and his kindness legendary. Noreen can be found in the office, ensuring that our newsletters look beautiful and go out on time (she is somewhere right now bravely hoping that the gentle nudges that she has provided to get me to finish this letter are enough...), greeting members, phoning volunteers, chairing the Annual Dinner committee, and generally keeping the organization in contact with the outside world. Both Joe and Noreen well deserve their awards and there is no shortage of dedicated volunteers that serve as the lifeblood of the Society.

As this first 50 years of the Society become history themselves, I am confident that the conditions are right for another 50 years of preserving the history of this remarkable place.

Thank you for the role that each of you plays in that endeavor!

Maya Bringe, President



Community Service Award



Scholarship Award



Volunteer of the Year Awards

**A NIGHT TO REMEMBER -
BHS ANNUAL DINNER and 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

It was a wonderful evening! The atmosphere at Chippanee Golf Course was perfect and so inviting. Tables and chairs were nicely spaced, and everyone was comfortable. The food was excellent. Tim Gamache led the Pledge of Allegiance, and our evening began. The program by Tom Dickau was very enjoyable. During the 12-minute video it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop, so I knew everyone appreciated the past 50 years history as we look to making the future. 85 guests attended our celebration as the following awards were presented. Liz Phelan presented the Scholarship Award to Caitlin Hildebrand, a senior from Bristol Central High School. The Community Service Award was presented to the Salvation Army by Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. Mayor Ellen also presented the Bristol Historical Society with a plaque honoring our 50th Anniversary. There were two Volunteer of the Year awards given. Past President Mike Saman made the presentations to Joe Morozuk who is always available to help wherever needed and Noreen Zurell who wears many hats at BHS – both were quite surprised. Many of our members came which made the evening truly memorable. A beautiful evening was had by all!

Noreen Zurell, Dinner Chairperson

BHS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING RESULTS

The Annual Meeting of the Society took place on June 23, 2021, at 6:00pm. Several new and returning directors were elected to both the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. Due to the coronavirus, voting again took place by mail, but members were able to turn in ballots in person at the start of the meeting. We had a great turnout, and we are grateful for the involvement of our members. Executive Board members voted in are: Second Vice President Mary Houle, Treasurer Don Soucy, and Secretary Noreen Zurell. Bob Adamczyk returns for a second term as a Board member, Ty Mellon and Bob Montgomery both return to the Board after a period away, and Rit Carter joins the Board for the first time. The Governance Committee would like to thank all of those who ran for office and extend their enduring gratitude to Paula O’Keefe and Jackie McCauley for their service on the Board.

Governance Committee

TIMEFRAMES OF BRISTOL PROJECT

Several double-paned frames will be popping up in the city this month as part of a project celebrating the Society’s 50th Anniversary in collaboration with the Bristol Arts and Culture Commission. Each “time frame” will have two sides. One will be empty, allowing you to see what’s in front of you in the present. The other will have an image of that Bristol site from the past, so you can compare the scene that you might have seen 50 or 100 years ago to what you see now. A map with the locations of the installations will soon be available on our website. We are grateful to the Arts and Culture Commission, and we also thank the Public Works Department for their role in “planting” the displays.

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.

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

100 YEARS OF FASHION

We all know Bristol for clocks and springs, but before that we were a textile town manufacturing knit underwear, crinolines to stockinettes, etc. Come to the Bristol Historical Society's 3rd Thursday program on September 16th at 7pm to learn about textiles and fashion in Bristol and Connecticut for your viewing. 100 years of fashion will be on display.

Please come to the program wearing your best vintage (jewelry and hats count). Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members. Masks are required.

POSTAL HISTORY OF BRISTOL

COME CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH AT THE BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

On display will be several philatelic items mailed from or to Bristol.

The display can be viewed Wednesday, October 27th or Saturday, October 30th from 10am – 2pm or by appointment. On Thursday, October 28th, 7pm, member and stamp collector Steve Vastola will give a presentation on several aspects of philately related to Bristol. Doors open at 5pm to allow attendees to view the display before the presentation.

Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members. Masks are required.

DON'T MISS THE AUCTION!

The 14th Annual Evening on the Hill Auction will return to the Historical Society on 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 any last-minute items that you would like to donate—for this auction or next year's—please call Steve (860-944-6567) or Maya (860-986-4894) or email auktion@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. Tickets will be available at the Society beginning October 1 and are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. For more information call the office at 860-583-6309.

A LOOK AHEAD – DATES TO REMEMBER!

Present and Ongoing---

“Meet Me at Minerva” restoration project.

Sale of the 100th Anniversary of the Memorial Boulevard ornament.

September

- 16 *100 Years of Fashion, a 3rd Thursday Program, 7pm.*
17 *Color Craze returns! 6:30 – 8:30pm. \$5, BYO snacks, we provide wine.*
24 – Oct. 9 *Children’s Scavenger Hunt*

October

- 23 *Evening on the Hill Auction. Silent Auction, wine, finger foods and Preview at 5:30pm; live auction begins at 7pm. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.*
28 *Postal History of Bristol, a 3rd Thursday Program, 7pm.*
29 *Color Craze! 6:30 – 8:30pm. \$5, BYO snacks, we provide wine.*

November

- 18 *Mark Twain and the Mystery of the Wondering Book, a 3rd Thursday Program, 7pm.*
19 *Color Craze! 6:30 – 8:30pm. \$5, BYO snacks, we provide wine.*
26 *European-Style Christmas Market, 3-6pm.*

December

- 4 *BHS Annual Christmas Fair, 10am – 4pm*
25 – *12 Days of Christmas -*
Jan 6, 2022

January 2022

- 9 *Mistletoe Martini Fundraiser to conclude the 12 Days of Christmas. Time and details to come!*

THE COLOR CRAZE IS BACK!

Please join us on Friday, September 17th at the Bristol Historical Society from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The cost is \$5, and we will provide the wine, coffee or tea. You may bring your own snacks. If you wish to make a reservation, please call the Bristol Historical Society at 860-583-67309 or just walk in. Everyone is welcome! Masks are required.

SCAVENGER HUNT NEWS

As part of our 50th anniversary, the Bristol Historical Society is offering two Scavenger Hunts designed for 3rd and 4th graders, but all ages are encouraged to participate! The fun begins on Friday, September 24th, and ends on Saturday, October 9th with both walking and driving hunts of Bristol featured. The walking scavenger hunt exclusively covers the Federal Hill area, while the second hunt features locations around the city.

Copies of the Scavenger Hunts, which include the clues and answer sheets, are available at the children's departments at the Bristol Public Library and the Manross Library in Forestville, and at the Bristol Historical Society and will be available at the BHS table at the Mum Festival on September 25 and 26. Responses can be emailed to scavengerhunt@bristolhistoricalsociety.org or dropped off at the Historical Society, 98 Center St., Bristol on Wednesdays, or Saturdays between the hours of 10am and 2pm.

All correctly completed entries will be entered into a prize drawing and winners will be notified by phone no later than October 12th.

This is a great way to explore Bristol and learn about its history!



100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEMORIAL BOULEVARD ORNAMENT

The Bristol Historical Society has completed its 2021 Holiday Ornament earlier than usual to accommodate the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Memorial Boulevard. This two-sided ornament pictures the former Bristol High School and the WWI monument on one side. A Howitzer cannon donated to the City of Bristol in 1926 was the first artifact on the boulevard and is pictured on the reverse side. A brief eight-page history of the Memorial Boulevard is included.

These ornaments or medallions can be purchased from Tom Dickau by calling 860 582 1537 or emailing at tdickau@sbcglobal.net. Please place ornament request in memo line.

They can also be purchased at The Farmers Market at Depot Square on the following Saturdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm: Sept. 11 and 25 and October 16, 23, 30.

They will also be available at the Bristol Mum Festival grounds on Sept. 25 (Noon to 8:00pm) and Sept. 26 (Noon to 5:00pm). They can also be purchased at City True Value Hardware on Farmington Avenue starting September 4th.

The proceeds benefit the Bristol Historical Society and cost \$15 each.

A EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Bristol Historical Society is offering a second European Christmas Market, which was such a great success last year. This year it will be held on *FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH – the day after Thanksgiving from 3pm to 6pm*. This year some of the gift baskets will include tea/coffee, pet, candy, snacks, crafts, wine, children's, baking, and Christmas ornament baskets. All will be appropriately wrapped and ready for the Holiday season.

Depending on the weather, we will either have a tent outside (as we did last year) or move indoors if the weather is bad. We look forward to seeing you and Happy Holidays to all!

We are also looking for donations of baskets and specific items to fill these suggested baskets. Regifted items will be greatly appreciated!

THE HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR IS COMING!

After a year's hiatus due to Covid, the Holiday Craft Fair returns for the 2021 Holiday Season. We are anxiously anticipating the resumption of this tradition on Saturday, December 4th from 10am until 4pm. If you or someone you know would be interested in a vending slot, please call 860-582-7784. We still have spaces available. Our committee welcomes anyone interested in helping out. If you have already signed up via your membership form, we will be calling you shortly! We could use assistance in setting up and decorating prior to the fair and on December 4th as well.

Lastly, as the weather cools down, and you are pulling out Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations, please consider donating any unwanted Christmas items to our Holiday Boutique. It's a great way to clean out and recycle. Items can be dropped off at BHS on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am until 2pm.

Mark your calendars for December 4th! See you at the fair!

2021-2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership renewal drive runs June 1st to June 30th. New annual membership takes effect July 1st. If you haven't renewed your membership this will be your last newsletter. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website or stop by BHS Wednesday or Saturday between 10am and 12 noon to fill one out. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

COLLECTION COMMITTEE

Recent acquisitions:

H.C. Thompson folder
A 4H scrapbook
Portrait of James White, principal of Memorial Boulevard School 1964-1986
Daily food book from the Jerome Family
Ruth Treadway's wedding and lawn dress from 1913
Film of Memorial Blvd. World War Monument of 1921
Bartholomew, Batsford & Winston Family Genealogy
Five Laurel Crest yearbooks (1965-1969)
Pictures of the 75th Anniversary of the World War I Monument
World War I film of dedication, 1924
Shot glasses from the Gridley House
NY, NH, Htfd. Railroad lamps
Oil painting and a framed picture of Superior Electric (Middle St.)
Lena Yorkes Barnes wedding gown
Old Bristol, CT. baby book
Replica of the Bristol Firehouse on Meadow Street and the Forestville Railroad Station

COLLECTION COMMITTEE WISH LIST

1960's – 1980's clothing items for men, women and children
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 19th to the mid-20th century
Gone With the Wind lamp

BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame will celebrate their 25th Anniversary at their annual induction ceremony on Friday, November 19 at the DoubleTree in Bristol. This years' class includes Jim Danis, John Dauphinee, Todd Hasler, Dr. Al Jabs, Hank Lodge, Karin Przygocki, Stacy Mills Rivoira, and Tony Savino, deceased.

Ticket information can be obtained by contacting Pat Parente at 860-919-8087 or online at bshof.org.

BSHOF ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The BSHOF held their annual scholarship golf tournament in July at Chippanee Country Club. One hundred and eight golfers teed it up to raise money for the 6- \$1500 scholarships awarded each year to local high school students. Rick O'Brien was the winner of the special closest to pin contest taking home the \$1000 first place cash prize. Bob Fiorito and Capuano Insurance came in second and third winning a four some of golf with carts at Stanley Golf Course and Manchester Country Club.

The BSHOF has an excellent website, bshof.org, including past inductee speeches, numerous scrapbook pages of local sport organizations, a video library, and much more. There is also a process to nominate individuals or organizations for possible induction and to make a donation to support the many community events sponsored by the hall of fame.

MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

Brigadier General Edward Wozenski was a 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 25, 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.

