

BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7, Issue 2 – June, 2022 – August, 2022

From the President's Desk



www.bristolhistoricalsociety.org

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Steve Vastola

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Recording Secretary:

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Memorial Military Museum

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Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

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This is a busy time of year at the Historical Society. We are back in the swing of things with regular programs, recovering from a spring tag sale, and about to head into some summer events. I want to take a moment to recognize all of the dedicated volunteers, speakers, and members who have been busy making sure our events run smoothly and that we are living up to our commitment to present Bristol's history to those in and around the city. To those who organize and volunteer for events, to those who have been presenters, to those who baked for the tag sale, to those who serve on the Board, to those who help with getting the word out about programs, to those who serve on our scholarship committee, and to those who have donated items to our collection, we owe you a huge debt of gratitude. The Society is very lucky to have you!

We resumed our regular Third Thursday programs in April, but added one special event in March, with CT historian Damien Cregeau, who discussed the long and thorny relationship between Russia and Ukraine from 1850 up to the present invasion. April's program brought back a different conflict, World War I, as Board member Rit Carter lead us through the fascinating history of a Bristol resident convicted of sedition. The always-entertaining Kandie Carle presented a slightly lighter May program, walking us through dressing for the gilded age from corset to gloves, and the social history that goes with it.

On June 11, from 10am to 2pm, the Society will be participating in CT Open House Day and celebrating the remarkable Loretta Teevan, who taught English, Latin, and Mythology from 1955 to 1998 at Bristol Central High School. If you had Miss Teevan as a teacher, then you wrote an "I Meet Me" or another retrospective essay for her. Friends of Loretta's have the letters that have not yet made it back to their authors and hope to return as many as possible on June 11th. In honor of her commitment to education, we will dedicate many of that day's displays to Bristol's schools.

June's upcoming Third Thursday program will be presented by one of our past presidents, Tom Dickau, who will consider redevelopment in Part I of Bristol/Forestville Recycled: Then and Now. Please join us for that on June 16th to learn more about how the Bristol landscape came to be as it is now.

We hope to see you in person!

Maya Bringe, President

BHS SPRING TAG SALE UPDATE

Our tag sale which was on Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th was very successful. A profit of approximately \$1500 was realized due to you, our members, for your donation of items and because of the many volunteer hours put in by Bob Adamczyk, Maya Bringe, Jane Goodwin, Mary Houle, Lynn Laskowski, Karen Pescarmona, Becky Runk, and Marilyn Simmons. At the end of the sale many of the remaining items were donated to a local animal rescue center for their upcoming tag sale, furniture to an organization that helps women and to Goodwill.

COLLECTIONS RECEIVES NEW ADDITIONS!

The following items have been received to be added to the 'Collections' of the Bristol Historical Society.

- The Leatherman Book for children
- A framed picture of the Gridley House
- Stopwatch with WBIS engraved on the back
- Downs Cemetery photos of gravesite
- Child's mannequin from Harmin's Clothing Store
- 120-year-old pewter ice cream mold
- French Club history and photos
- WW1 photo of the Homeguard on Prospect Street
- Ellen Zoppo-Sassu Inaugural dress from 2017
- Jennings School reunion album
- Bev & Ralph Strong's family histories and plaques
- WW1 memorial parade pictures of 1924
- J.H. Sessions materials
- Loretta Teevan memorabilia

Eleanor Wilson, Collections Committee.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The Annual Meeting for the Society will be **Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6pm**. Voting will take place for the following offices:

President

First Vice President

Director of the Board (multiple openings)

Ballots will be mailed out on June 1, and members are able to vote by mail or in person at the annual meeting. Look for your ballot in the mail. Each voting member of your household should receive a ballot—please contact us in the office (860-583-6309) if you believe that you need additional ballots or do not receive one. **Mailed in ballots must be returned by 6pm (the start of the annual meeting) on June 22nd to be counted.**

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.

2022 BHS ANNUAL DINNER

THE DATE: Wednesday, August 10th. **THE PLACE:** Bristol Historical Society's Great Room!

THE TIME: Social Hour 5pm; Dinner 6pm.

This will be a truly wonderful evening! The invitation/reservation form is in the mail, and you should be receiving it soon! The committee is working with a caterer to put together a unique, enticing buffet menu – one which will be enjoyed by all. You won't want to miss it!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JUNE 11 th	Saturday	10am – 2pm	Connecticut Open House Day
JUNE 16 TH	Thursday	7pm	Program at BHS. Tom Dickau will present “Bristol & Forestville Recycled” Part 1.
JULY 21 st	Thursday	7pm	Program at BHS. Tom Vaughn will be our guest speaker. The topic will be announced soon!
AUGUST 10 TH	Wednesday		Annual Dinner at BHS Great Room. 5pm Social, 6pm Dinner Program to follow. Reservation forms are in the mail.
AUGUST 18 TH	Thursday	7pm	Program at BHS. Eric Larson will present a photography program on Birds of CT as a prelude to the Mum Festival photography contest.
SEPTEMBER 15 TH	Thursday	7pm	Program at BHS. Tom Dickau will present Part 11 of “Bristol & Forestville Recycled.”
OCTOBER 20 TH	Thursday	7pm	Program at BHS. Steve Vastola will present a follow up to last Year’s program on “Stamps.”
NOVEMBER 17 TH	Thursday	7pm	Program at BHS. Sarah Larson of the Parks Dept., and Tom Dickau as DeWitt Page and Bob Adamczyk as Adrian Muzzy will present a program On Rockwell & Page Parks. (NOTE: This year’s annual pewter ornament Features both parks.)
DECEMBER 3 rd	Saturday		Bristol Historical Society Annual Holiday Fair. More to come in September Issue.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

Membership renewal starts June 1st and runs through June 30th. The past few years we have included the renewal form when we mailed out the ballots in the beginning of June. This has worked very well with 95% of our annual members renewing. However, because of high postage rates we cannot mail back your membership cards unless you send us a stamp when you send back your ballot should you want your card right away. We will however include your card in the Annual Appeal mailing which is made in the fall.

MAY’S 3RD THURSDAY PROGRAM A FUN EVENING!

Our guest speaker for our 3rd Thursday program in May was Kandie Carle who presented “The Victorian Lady: dressing from Corset to Gloves in the Gilded Age, which showcased the textiles and garments of the era. Kandie dressed from corset to gloves as well as reproduction garments. She shared insights into the lifestyle, manners and etiquette of men, women, and children with interaction from the audience. It was a fun evening for all!

CONNECTICUT OPEN HOUSE DAY

WITH A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LORETTA TEEVAN

The Bristol Historical Society invites former students, parents, and friends of Loretta Teevan, a Bristol educator for 43 years, who died on January 24, 2022, to an open house from 10–2pm on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Come and share your stories with your fellow classmates in her memory.

It was Loretta’s style to have her English, Latin, Italian and Mythology students write “I Meet Me” and “In Retrospect” papers every year, with a promise to return them at some point.

As a guest of many class reunions, she would return those papers. Courtesy of her relatives, Kelly Monahan-DiNoia and Ellie Wilson will try to fulfill that promise by making available many, many of those papers. Come and see if we have yours.

During the open house the Bristol Historical Society will have their exhibit rooms available for viewing and their display cases will feature Bristol Central High School memorabilia, yearbooks, and other educational items.

You can also still view the restored “Minerva” statue, temporarily housed at the Bristol Historical Society. Once the arts magnet school is complete the statue will be transferred back to its original site.

In addition, one will also be able to visit collections the Bristol Sports Hall Fame and the Memorial Military Museum during the open house.

Hope to see you there.

BRISTOL/FORESTVILLE, “RECYCLED,” THEN AND NOW

Tom Dickau, as part of the Third Thursday Programs, will be presenting a multi-media program entitled, **“Bristol/Forestville, “Recycled, “Then and Now”** on Thursday, June 16 at 7:00pm at BHS. The program, presented in movie style will include music, over 500 images of the area (many not seen before) and narration chronicling the changes that have occurred.

It opens with a brief explanation regarding the community transitioning from a farming, agricultural society to a major industrial city and how this created many facilities and homes that have been repurposed over the years.

The reasons for the failure of the Redevelopment within the community will be briefly explored. This led to the retail center of our city being focused on Route 6, mainly the Farmington Avenue area. This was not an accident!

A historically deceptive and purposefully distorted inaccuracy, which was promoted within our city, will be discussed with a description of what actually took place.

Several industrial sites and the homes of their owners will be described. Documentation and images will show how these have been recycled many times over the years.

This program is meant not only to provide accurate history, but also to jog the audience’s memories about places that used to exist but have been recycled or repurposed to their present day uses.

Doors will open at 6:30 so attendees can explore the various exhibits and museums available! Seating at the airconditioned facility is limited to the first hundred that enter. Admissions is free for BHS members; a \$5 donation is requested for non-members. Parking is available behind the building. Refreshments will be served.



MUM FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

This fall the Bristol Historical Society will be hosting a photo contest in our museum as part of the 2022 Mum Festival. Categories will be announced soon, but all will be related to our great City of Bristol. The photo contest will be open to all, with prizes awarded in youth and adult categories.

Start taking your pictures now, and plan to come to the museum to view all the photographs when they are on display. Winners will be chosen by a jury of professional photographers including member, Lindsay Vigue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Vastola at veeeman@sbcglobal.net or 860-944-6567.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

October's 3rd Thursday Program will be a continuation from last October's when stamp collector Steve Vastola gave us a very interesting discussion on the art of collecting stamps. Steve is also looking to the public to share if they have any interesting Bristol-related philatelic items they might be willing to lend to enhance the display he will have available. Even a pile of cancelled envelopes that aren't that old might have something interesting in it. The doors will open at 6:30pm and the program starts at 7pm. As always members are free, and non-members are asked for a \$5 donation. Refreshments will be served.

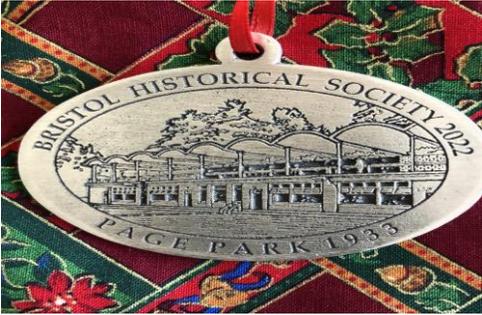
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Vastola at veeeman@sbcglobal.net or 860-944-6567.

CALLING ALL BOY SCOUTS!

I am interested in putting together a "Bristol Scouter's Reunion" for the spring of 2023. If you were a scout in Bristol as a youth, please let me know. A number of us want to learn about your experiences and who you might still know from back then. We are interested in tracking different histories; troops did different things, went to different summer camps, participated in different events, etc. And, if you still have any Boy Scout items, perhaps you would consider lending them to us for display purposes.

This is currently in the 'start-up' mode but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Steve Vastola at veeeman@sbcglobal.net or 860-944-6567.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY ORNAMENT NOW AVAILABLE



The Bristol Historical Society's annual holiday ornament for 2022 is now available. This two-sided medallion pictures a vintage scene of Rockwell Park on one side with the image of Page Park Pool on the reverse side. Residents of our community spent many hours of enjoyment and have fond memories of these municipal parks. The Bristol Park, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department is planning major renovations at both facilities.

A small eight-page history of each park is included in the ornament box. The ornaments are priced at twenty dollars this year due to increased production and material costs.

Ornaments can be purchased at all Bristol Historical Society events; at the Annual Rockwell Park Festival, sponsored by the West End Association; at the two-day Mum Festival Field Day and Saturdays at the Farmers Market. They can also be purchased at the United Ways sponsored Bristol Blues Game at Muzzy Field June 17, sales start at 5:30. They will also be sold at City True Value Hardware Store on Farmington Avenue starting in September.

Ornaments can also be purchased by contacting Tom Dickau at 860 582-1537 or by emailing him at tdickau@sbcglobal.net. Please include ornament in your memo line, so he knows it is not spam.

Rekindle your memories of your youth at these parks by purchasing an ornament, while also assisting BHS with this annual fundraiser!

THE BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME NEWS

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame held a virtual Scholar Athletes ceremony on Sunday, April 30, 2022. 124 students were recognized as Scholar Athletes for their combination of academic and sports achievements.

The Joe McGinn Award went to the Bristol Eastern and Bristol Central Unified Sports Team.

The following students received \$1500 Scholarships

BSHOF/Alfred Greenleaf Memorial Scholarship:	Carson Rivoira, Bristol Central High
BSHOF/Leary Family Scholarship:	Madeline Ross, Bristol Central High
BSHOF/Christopher Calnan Memorial Scholarship:	Alexsia Newman, Bristol Eastern High
BSHOF/Christopher Calnan Memorial Scholarship:	Victoria Kosciukiewicz, Bristol Eastern High
BSHOF/Brian Farrell Sr. Memorial Scholarship:	Adam Houle, St. Paul Catholic High
BSHOF/Roberge Family Scholarship:	Anna Kretsch, St. Paul Catholic High

BSHOF ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Will be held on Monday, July 25th at the Pequabuck Golf Club. A special closest to the pin contest will be held prior to golfers teeing off with the First-Place winner receiving \$1,000 in cash, Second Place winner receiving a 4-some of golf with carts, and Third Place receiving \$100 in cash. Closet to pin golf balls can be purchased for only \$50. Please contact Don Soucy at 860-384-0256 or at drs.1947@yahoo.com to purchase a ball or for more information on the tournament.

60'S REUNION PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1ST.

IT WILL BE AN EVENING OF STORY TELLING
ABOUT SPORTS IN THE 60'S.

THE PANEL

TO GET IT STARTED WITH GARY PALLADINO AND BART BEARDSLEY, BE,
MIKE GIOVANAZZO, GREG ZIOGAS, BC, TONY CARRIER, ST ANTHONY, JACK KRAMPITZ SR.

DOOR OPEN AT 6:30. @ HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
FREE. BEER. WINE, SNACKS SERVED. PLEASE ATTEND

BRING A FRIEND, AND THINK OF A STORY ABOUT A COACH, TEAM, MEDIA COVERAGE, TRAINING,
A GAME, A TEAMMATE. HELP MAKE THE PROGRAM A SUCCESS.



MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM NEWS



Bristol native Dick Fitz shares stories of his years as a young man serving in World War 11 with the Navy Armed Guard aboard Liberty ships. The mission of the Merchant Marine ships was to deliver vital supplies and equipment to Allies and American troops all around the world. Dangers of enemy submarines, aircraft, bombers, land artillery and turbulent seas and weather were constant presences.

Contemporary film clips, music and graphics highlight details of Dick's interview, so you feel that you are there!

All ages are invited to join us for this memorable "red carpet" event!

The event poster is set against a light blue background. On the left side, there is a large, vertical image of the American flag. In the center-left, there is a black and white portrait of a young man in a sailor's uniform, smiling, with his arms crossed. To the right of the portrait, the text 'WELCOME ABOARD!' is written in large, bold, red capital letters. Below this, the word 'FOR' is written in smaller, black capital letters. The main title of the event, 'THE PREMIERE SHOWING OF THE VIDEO PRODUCTION: "STORIES FROM WWII: ROBERT FITZ"', is written in a mix of black and blue fonts. Below the title, the date and time 'SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 | 1:00PM' are listed, followed by the location 'MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM, 98 SUMMER STREET, BRISTOL, CT 06010'. At the bottom, it says 'MEET OUR SPECIAL GUEST ROBERT "DICK" FITZ', 'VIEW A SPECIAL DISPLAY OF ROBERT'S MEMORABILIA IN THE JACK DENEHY GALLERY', and 'JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS | FREE ADMISSION'. A faint, stylized anchor is visible in the bottom right corner of the poster.