



**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2014 BOARD**

**FRONT ROW: Nancy Fredenburg, Marieanna Bair, Tammy Sexton, Mindy Kinsey, Linda Millar.**

**BACK ROW: Joe Collins, Tom Reinke, Larry Lawrence, Jim Vichich. MISSING Jerry Damon**

**POINTS OF INTEREST:**

President's Editorial See Page 1  
There's Music In The Air ( part 3) See Page 4

**YOUR HELP and SUPPORT IS NEEDED**

Please become a member of the Brighton Area Historical Society and help to maintain the society's projects in the beautiful communities that surround and include the City of Brighton. The white 2014 membership form is located within this newsletter. Your membership dues will help to support the society's mission statement, "Preserve, Advance, and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area." Funding for all operations is 100% from dues, donations and fund raising and is totally returned to the community. No officers, board members or volunteers receive any compensation.

The Old Village Cemetery adjacent to the Millpond is receiving extensive rehabilitation. Join in the spring cleanup on May 3 or join the band of brothers (including sisters) dedicated to rebuilding all the broken headstones in this 1838 historic cemetery. Headstone work starts in April, always the fourth Monday at the OVC. This (10) year program will train volunteers as some come and go during this process. This spring will be year number two. The 1885 Lyon One-room Schoolhouse educates young students both in the spring and

fall as local teachers present a unique curriculum that teaches about early education in the typical one-room schoolhouse. This refurbished barrier-free schoolhouse located at 11455 Buno Road also serves as the headquarters for the Brighton Area Historical Society. Archives containing local history and records continue to expand as researchers work every Thursday morning on rediscovering early Brighton Area history. If you have time from 9am-12nn consider joining this active group of fun loving volunteers.

Volunteers are needed at the CoBACH Center located downtown next to the Millpond. Within this building you will find displays of local history from the BAHS, drama presentations by the Livingston Players and wonderful exhibits from local artists of the Brighton Art Guild. The City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center provides a venue for experiencing local culture and needs docents for the 5-8pm slot.

If you are a newly retired person or a person that enjoys history consider joining the volunteer group within the society. Please contact me for information.

Jim Vichich BAHS President  
(810) 250-7276

**OFFERED BY THE BRIGHTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**The "The Brighton Area"  
softcover photo-history book  
\$20.00  
or  
From Settlement to City  
Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945  
Hardcover history book by  
Carol McMacken  
\$65.00**

**Available at  
Lawrence Autobody  
CoBACH Center  
Green Oak Township Hall  
or by  
Calling 810-250-7276**

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**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
at  
Brighton Area Historical Society**

**SILENT MOVIES  
LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!  
Every Saturday 1pm-3pm  
January 15-February 28**

## Thanks and Recognition

### Memberships:

#### BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Advance Craft Home Bldrs., Kimble Appraisal Group\*, Archer-Huntley Financial

#### PATRON:

Bill & Jackie Damm, Emil & Joan Engel, Jerry & Carole Damon, Jack & Beverly LaBelle, Kathy Pearson (OR), Ray & Mary Kay Rich, Tom & Bonnie Riuta Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, and Lois Tobias (NE)

#### FAMILY/INDIV:

Pat Anderson, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Robert & Nancy Carlson, Jim DeJohn, Jerry & Ann Dilloway, Evelyn Dothager, Doris Fay (2015), Pat Franklin, Phil & Peggy Gage (St. Marie), Ruth Green (MS), Joanne Harte, Lynette Hawkins, Stan Kourt, Jim Lauridsen, (StrlHts), Sylvia Lawing, John & Ruth LePatourel, Harold Leitz, Helen Leitz (Drbn), Steve & Kathleen Lowry, Charles & Evelyn McConnell (Drbrn), Pat Mrozek, Joan Naylor (OK 2016), Pat Nelson, Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Edwin & Sherry Nyhus (2015), Bob & Kitty Padgette, Rich & Judith Parsons, David & Janice Schoewe, Connie Sherman, Don & Pat Thomas, and Bob & Ruth Watson.

*\* Welcome also to new business member Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.*

#### Thanks:

- Marieanna Bair, Jeanette Johnson, Pat Nelson, Jane Tomlinson, Jim Vichich for preparing the December newsletter for mailing.

- Charlene Kull for donation of archival material related to Cars and Concepts.
- Jerry & Carole Damon, Jim DeJohn, Pat Franklin, Helen Leitz, Charles & Evelyn McConnell, and Ralph & Elizabeth Romano for donations to Friends of Lyon School with their dues.
- Jim Lauridsen, Sylvia Lawing, Rich & Judith Parsons, and Bob & Ruth Watson for donations to society projects with their dues.
- Extensive Christmas decorating at Lyon School and the CoBACH Center by Shirley and Bob Knight, Jeanette Johnson and Mindy Kinsey.
- CoBACH volunteers for December: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Lyon One-room Schoolhouse Christmas with Santa volunteers: Mindy Kinsey, Shirley and Bob Knight, Tammy Sexton, Jerry and Carole Damon, Jeanette Johnson, Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Tom Reinke, Marieanna Bair, Vicki and Jim Vichich.
- Loaning of Christmas exhibit items from Dennis Dimoff, Bruce Ritter and Vicki Vichich for the CoBACH Christmas Exhibit called "Lighting Your Way to Christmas!"
- Snow removal at Lyon School by Jim, Joe, and Larry.
- Planning and setup of the CoBACH January—February Exhibit called "Lights! Camera! Action!" A large team effort of Judy Coebly, Gary Reutter, Bill Besso, Marieanna Bair, Mindy Kinsey, Jerry Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.

### Society Life Members:

Tom Archer  
Shirley Barton  
Marilyn Campbell (IN)  
Nancy Fredenburg  
William & Lenore Harris  
Betsy & Bob Herbst  
Larry & Kate Lawrence  
Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)  
Carol McMacken  
Joyce Powers  
Douglas & Carole Rearick  
Robert & Pauline Schaffer  
Anne Stratigos  
Jim and Vicki Vichich

### 2013 Business / Professional Members:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.  
Advance Craft Builders  
Fred Bonine, DDS, MSPC  
Brighton Bar and Grill  
Buckley Jolley Group LLC  
Clark Eye Center, MD., P.C.  
Caretel Inns of Brighton  
Champ's Pub  
Davis Multimedia, Inc.  
Susan Doyle, realtor  
Grace Pointe Church  
Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.  
Mancuso and Cameron P.C.  
Schoolhouse Family Dentistry  
SOS Livingston  
Synergy Environmental, Inc.  
Yum Yum Tree  
Lawrence Autobody \*\*  
McCrie & Associates, P.C.  
Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\*  
Patrick Financial Group, LLC\*\*  
Promess, Inc.\*\*  
Refrigeration Research \*\*  
Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\*  
\*\* Life Members

**Our efforts are enhanced with the support of our Business/Professional members.**

## Dates to Remember

### January 5: 11 am

Setup of new CoBACH exhibit: Lights! Camera! Action!

**January 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, and 29: 5pm-8pm** BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

### January 9, 16, 23, and 30: 9am -12nn

Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Join us and bring several old Brighton photos to share.

### January 15-February 28 :

CoBACH Movie Exhibit Lights! Camera! Action! Will feature silent movies every Saturday from 1pm-3pm. See memorabilia exhibits of early Brighton movie theatres.

### January 22: 6pm

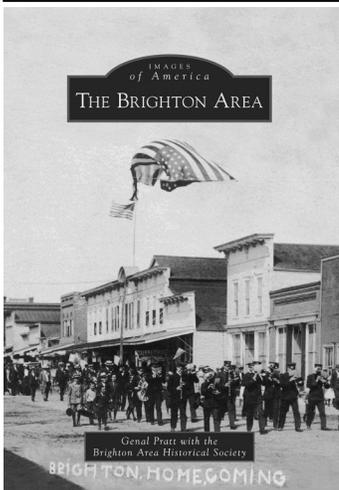
BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH

## Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become a member, please mail to the address provided on the form below.

<b>Mail check or money order payable to:</b>		<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> (____) ____-____
Brighton Area Historical Society		<b>Address:</b> _____	
P. O. Box 481		<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____
Brighton, MI 48116-0481		<b>E-Mail:</b> _____	
		<b>How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail <small>(PLEASE CHECK ONE)</small>	
<b>Membership Plan:</b>		<b>Friend of Lyon School:</b>	<b>BAHS Projects Fund:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.



### New book released

#### Images of America: The Brighton Area

by Genal Pratt with the Brighton Area Historical Society

128 pages, and includes 199 pictures

**\$20.00** Plus \$5.00 if shipping is required

**Description:** This new book contains a treasured collection of photographs and provides a fascinating historical record of the people, farms, and businesses that drove the growth of Brighton through the 19th and 20th centuries. The architecture, landscape, and cherished character of Brighton tell the stories that embody the foundation of our community today.

### We Need Your Help

We are asking our members to step up and get involved. "Can you fill this need?"

#### Volunteers at CoBACH

Welcome desk, help set up displays, loan of personal items for displays of the early days of Brighton.

Contact Jim Vichich at 810-250-7276

### BAHS Leadership

President

**Jim Vichich**

Vice President

**Marieanna Bair**

Secretary

**Linda Millar**

Treasurer

**Jerry Damon**

Trail Tales Editor

**Jerry Damon**

Directors

**Joe Collins**

**Nancy Fredenburg**

**Mindy Kinsey**

**Larry Lawrence**

**Thomas Reinke**

**Tammy Sexton**

Education Liaison

**Judith Coebly**

**Sue Skwarski**

### BAHS: How to Contact Us or Find Us

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

**E-Mail:**

info@brightonareahistorical.com

**Phone:**

(810) 250-7276

**US Mail:**

Brighton Area Historical Society

P. O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

**Lyon School**

11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored, barrier-free one-room schoolhouse and serves as our organization headquarters.

**CoBACH Center**

202 W. Main Street, in downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. CoBACH is formally known as the City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center. It is located in the historic 1879 two story brick building, also known as the Old Town Hall.

The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

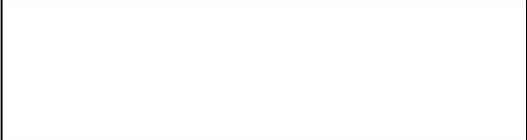
The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #303  
Brighton, MI

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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**There’s Music In The Air (part 3)**

The Rialto Theater, built by Cliff Roberts, one of the members of the Brighton Peerless Band and the Concert Band, opened in March, 1919, bringing movies to Brighton. The Concert Band entertained movie goers with a concert at its opening. The Rialto was located c. 307 W. Main Street.

The Eastern House, northeast corner of Main and Grand River, had a dance floor on the second level; dancing also took place at the Opera House at c. 125 E. Grand River. Many of the musicians were area residents. Nationally known bands of that era performed regularly at the Blue Lantern on Island Lake.

During the difficult times of the 1930s’ Great Depression, the hunger for music was not diminished. In rural schools a visiting music teacher, from the Livingston County School District, usually came once a week to conduct a class in singing. A piano or pump organ was found in some schools which was used by the music teacher, students, etc. Almost every pupil could play ‘ChopSticks’; often some could play by ‘ear’.

Brighton native and third grade teacher in district 5, Brighton City, Elsa Marten Stegenga recorded her experience in the organizing of a school band in 1934. She was contacted by Guy Pitkin, local business man and mayor, requesting her help in the organization of this band. Pitkin had long been a member of the Brighton Band, which performed Sunday concerts and marched in holiday parades. He hoped a school band would serve as a ‘feeder to the Brighton Band.

Elsa writes, “A Conn Instrument salesman was contacted, the PTA had a meeting and a small segment of interested children from grades 6-9 started to receive lessons at the school. The School bought the drums, French horns, and the base horn.

Mr. Pitkin also decided we needed uniforms. So, capes and hats were ordered. They were Blue and Gold but the High School Foot Ball Team was absolutely negative to the idea of changing their Orange and Black colors. They had no use for the band.

The little band flourished. The kids did a good job and were proud. Mom and Dad were proud, too. We marched at the foot ball games. By 1937 we were giving a concert a month for which we charged a dollar, the money was used for music and band needs. We also had fun with parties and picnics. At one I received a beautiful black eye when in a race I collided with Bill Beckman, our six foot drum major. The band kept growing, and when I left, in 1938, it was a nice organization. We marched in the holiday parades and played on Wednesday nights by the Mill Pond during the summer. But times were changing.” Society archives include a c. 1934-35 photo of 23 school band members.

Pitkin’s hope for this group as a feeder did not materialize. As the players graduated they either left town for college or jobs. Not long after, WW II resulted in more changes. Stegenga notes a number of the band students who were lost in the war. After the war several members returned to their music becoming teachers, directors and members of their own music groups

**To be continued...**

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Carol McMacken’s; “From Settlement to City” and Society archives. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)