



2018 BOARD

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Front L-R: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Lin Millar, Marieanna Bair, Carole Damon, Jerry Damon  
Back L-R: Tom Reinke, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Jim Vichich (Not available for photo Lynn Strong)

### “Thank You for 2017 and Greetings for 2018!”

Thank you to everyone that helped to make 2017 such a wonderful year!

Brighton’s celebration of 150 Years as a city was a wonderful one-day event held in August. Nine months of planning by the 150th Committee reached perfection as everyone was able to see their shadow all day long. The historical society was majorly involved with the planning and programming held on Main Street all afternoon. The late 1800’s sartorial splendor of the BAHS workers was enjoyed by all guests and visitors.

The summer’s joint art-history program called Brighton’s Victorian Silhouettes was a very successful program involving (13) two-dimensional characters with color graphics. Each character was a life-size cutout, mounted on a steel frame and positioned around the downtown. An interesting biographical plaque provided enjoyment to both children and adults. Thank you to the DDA for their financial support!

Old Village Cemetery has never looked finer than it did during the 150th celebration. Eight docents portrayed early Brighton residents for a magnificent cemetery tour. The guests marveled at the beautiful grounds and at the (136) newly standing headstones that were restored over the past five years. The Headstone Team of the BAHS continues to restore these headstones that were laying broken on the ground.

The Lyon Schoolhouse and the CoBACH Center had many enjoyable programs this year. The many dedicated hard-working volunteers of the Society spent enormous amounts of time to educate the community on its past through historical based exhibits. Thank you to all!

As we add another number to the year, the Society sends a most grateful “thank you” to the **Brighton Masonic Lodge and to Anna and Dan Oginsky**. Their 2018 Platinum Level Sponsorships will allow the Society to maintain and enhance programming while saving funds for necessary capital improvements that must be made over the next decade. The Society’s new Strategic Plan has identified areas needing attention. Would you consider a sponsorship to assist in the preservation of Brighton history? See Page Three for information.

Jim Vichich (810-250-7276)  
President, Brighton Area Historical Society  
Jvichich@comcast.net

### **EXHIBITS at CoBACH** **New Hours for Sunday** **2—5pm Jan thru Mar**

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm  
Saturday 11am—5pm  
Closed Monday

### **CoBACH Display** **January — March**

Free Exhibit

**“Old Brighton Advertising Brochures”**

### **CHECK OUT FACEBOOK**

Daily postings regarding Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical Society**

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## Thanks and Recognition

### MEMBERSHIPS:

**IND/FAMILY:** Caren Biermann, Howard & Syndy Bisoski\*, Bruce Black\*, Gene & Judy Dahlin, Bill & Jackie Damm, Frank Diakow, Bill & Margaret Dixon, Tony & Beth Ferreyra, Pat Franklin, David & Jacque Fuller, Ruth Green, James & Lisa Hartman, Richard Hyne, Cheryl Krueger, Beverly LaBelle, Brenda McCarty, Ted Miller, Margaret Mitschelen, Ray Moses (2022), Patricia Mrozek, Roland & Jane Owens (2020), Bob & Kitty Padget (2019), Stephanie Popoff\*, Leland & Genal Pratt, John Rawcliffe, Paul & Cindy Sawallich, Joyce Terry, Don & Pat Thomas, Shirley Warren, Robert Wilkinson, Henry & Mary Lou Winegar, Al & Karen Wirth, Mike & Sherri Wisser, Alice Wyland, Richard & Doris Young\*.

**PATRON:** Sandra Bates\*, Margaret Bowland, Tom & Mindy Kinsey, Bob & Shirley Knight, Kate Lowry, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Kathy (Lueker) Pearson, Robert & Priscilla Pettengill.

**BUS/PROF:** Acorn Deck Accessories, Buckley Jolley Group, Power House Electric.

**PLATINUM SPONSORSHIPS:** Brighton Masonic Lodge #247, Daniel & Ann Oginsky.

\*Welcome to new members: Sandra Bates, Howard & Syndy Bisoski, Bruce Black, Stephanie Popoff and Richard & Doris Young.

### THANKS TO:

- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Priscilla Pettengill, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich for preparing the December issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Margaret Bowland, Bill & Jackie Damm, Pat Franklin and Margaret Mitschelen for their donation to Friends of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Howard & Syndy Bisoski, Tony & Beth Ferreyra and Roland & Jane Owens for their donation along with their dues.
- Bruce Black, Bill & Margaret Dixon, James & Lisa Hartman, Bob & Shirley Knight, Robert & Priscilla Pettengill, Stephanie Popoff and Henry & Mary Lou Winegar for their donation to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Sandra Bates, Kathy (Lueker) Pearson, and Al & Karen Wirth for their donation to CoBACH Events with their dues.
- Judith Coelby, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich for decorating the Lyon Schoolhouse for the annual Christmas Program with Santa.
- Lin Millar for her contributions of items for the Christmas display at Lyon Schoolhouse.
- Priscilla Pettengill and Vicki Vichich for the homemade cookies for the Christmas with Santa Program at Lyon School.
- The many Santa workers who helped bring smiles and laughter to the children and their parents at the Christmas program at the Lyon School: Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Jeanette Johnson, Mindy Kinsey, Tom Reinke, Tammy Sexton, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich.
- Brighton Veterans' Memorial Committee for the purchase of four bronze GAR grave markers for Civil War veterans in OVC.
- CoBACH volunteers who assisted visitors during December: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- George Moses for donating the time lapse DVD of the razing of the Bonner houses on East North Street.
- Jerry & Carole Damon for assembling the new membership post-cards and letters for the 2018 Membership Drive.
- The new 2018 BAHS Board for their dedication to our community in preserving and sharing history with all.

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## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Center Exhibit — FREE!! Through March:**  
“Old Brighton Advertising Brochures.”

**Jan 3,7,10,14,17,21,24,28,31; Sun 2pm—5pm and Wed 5pm—8pm:**  
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center. Note new hours on Sunday only.

**Jan 4,11,18,25; 9am—12nn:** Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Stop by to check out the 1885 one-room schoolhouse that has educated hundreds of local children. Share old photos or memories.

**Jan 24; 6pm at CoBACH Center:** First Board meeting of 2018.

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## Life — Business — Professional Members

### Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong — Tom Archer — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton — Charles & Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — Jack & Heide Clausnitzer — John & Jenny Conely — Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Emil Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Larry & Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Carol McMacken — Jere & Kay Michaels James & Janis Miller — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — Bob & Donna Phillips Joyce Powers — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

### Business /Professional Members: (\*\* Indicates Life Members)

Acorn Deck Accessories (2018) — Advance Craft Builders (2018) — Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\* — Brighton Art Guild (2017) Brighton District Library \*\* — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Real Estate Team (2018) — Clark Eye Center (2017) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2017) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Autobody \*\* Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2018) — Preview Properties (2017) Promess, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\* — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2018)

## 2018 Sponsorships

**Platinum Level:** Masonic Lodge No. 247 — Dan & Anna Oginsky

## 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> Brighton Area Historical Society P. O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116-0481		<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> ( ) _____
		<b>Address:</b> _____	
		<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____
		<b>E-Mail:</b> _____	
		<b>How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail	
<b>Membership Plan:</b>		<b>Donation to—Check One:</b>	<b>Amount of Donation:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	
		<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	
<small>The Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.</small>			

### BAHS Sponsorship Program

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tails newsletter and through sponsorship placards located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall) and the Lyon One-room Schoolhouse.

#### Annual Sponsor levels are:

**Platinum — \$1,000+;      Gold — \$500+;      Silver — \$250+;      Bronze — \$100+**

If you would like to become a sponsor or have a question, please contact:

Jim Vichich, President  
Brighton Area Historical Society  
810-250-7276 or [jvichich@comcast.net](mailto:jvichich@comcast.net)

### BAHS Leadership 2018

President <b>Jim Vichich</b>	Directors <b>Joe Collins</b>
Vice President <b>Marieanna Bair</b>	<b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>
Secretary <b>Carole Damon</b>	<b>Mindy Kinsey</b>
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor <b>Jerry Damon</b>	<b>Larry Lawrence</b>
Webmaster <b>Debbie Armstrong</b>	<b>Lin Millar</b>
	<b>Thomas Reinke</b>
	<b>Lynn Strong</b>
	Education Liaison <b>Judith Coebly</b>
	<b>Sue Skwarski</b>

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.

### 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](mailto: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.

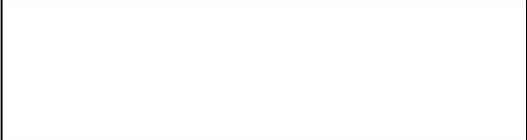
**CoBACH Center**  
202 W. Main Street, in downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. CoBACH is formally known as the City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center. It is located in the historic 1879 two story brick building, also known as the Old Town Hall.

**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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**Brighton Area Settlers Valued Education — Part 5**

The 1868 Union School, by early 1920s, was obvious to many, as becoming inadequate to meet the needs of District 5 pupils. By 1926, there was sometimes heated discussion as to where the new school was to be built in District 5. To eliminate the growing contention over the issue, Thomas S. Leith donated the land for the school.

A two-story structure was built at 125 N. Church Street, opening in 1928. Eight students graduated from high school the first year. Through the 1940s the school on Church Street would continue to accommodate rural school graduates in addition to its own elementary and high school students.

During and after the Depression more students had seen the benefits of the broader education found in high school. Again there was an overwhelming need for additional facilities. The rapidly mounting enrollments soon became a major problem.

After 1945, following WW II, the birth rate increased nationally. The G.I. (Government Issue) Bill of Rights enabled returning veterans to go on to college; similar to aspirations in the 1930s to attend high school. The 1940—1960 population growth of Michigan was one of the largest in the nation.

With jobs in Detroit, and improved roads, families moved to the 'country'. It became impossible for rural districts to house 50-60 students in a one-room structure. District 5 School Board found it impossible to accept rural school districts' additional students, without the support of those districts' consolidation with District 5. Much discussion (not always amicable) took place in the 1950s. Parents found it emotionally difficult to 'give up' their local control. Many felt they were being forced to consolidate and a number of unkind letters to the editor appeared. Confronted with no alternative, nearby rural districts

consolidated with District 5. Because of the distances involved, students were transported by bus. Property tax hikes were necessary and more aid needed.

A Michigan Legislative act in 1964, required all school districts to provide K-12 instruction thereby forcing those districts which could not comply to merge with neighboring districts. By 1990 the rural one-room school was virtually non-existent.

Inevitably District 5 School Board found it necessary to construct new elementary school buildings. In 1951, West Elementary school, 1010 State Street, was built. In October, 1976, it was renamed Lindbom School in honor of its long-time principal, Carl H. Lindbom. The School District sold Lindbom School in 2015.

The Burton S. Miller Elementary School, 850 Spencer, was constructed in 1957. It was named for the long time Brighton City police officer who, for many years, had assured the safety of children crossing Grand River, who attended school at 125 N. Church Street, often carrying small children across Grand River. Following construction of later elementary schools, this building became the Miller Early Childhood Center and Senior Citizen Center in 1988.

To be continued...

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Bill Pless writings; "Brighton Schools — Then and Now, 1992" by Jean Petersburg; school office staff. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)