Celebrate the Centennial of the Victory for Equality!

One hundred years ago Michigan women finally were able to cast their votes in an election. This right of citizenship which men have been privy to for so long, now belongs to the women that have given birth to all the voters for decades since the founding of this country.

The State of Michigan finally passed women’s suffrage in 1919. In 1920 the passing of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States enfranchised women to vote in all state and federal elections. Women had been fighting for this cause since the Convention of Women’s Rights was held in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848. Activists and reformers have challenged both state and federal governments for this basic right of representation.

This summer from June through August you will be able to learn about this difficult campaign for equality. The Brighton Area Historical Society (BAHS) has extensive programming that will be focused at the City of Brighton Arts, Cultural and History (CoBACH) Center located at 202 W. Main St. adjacent to the Millpond in the downtown.

Elaborate panels that detail this most challenging journey are on loan from the Michigan Women’s History Center this summer. Special free presentations will be given by notable speakers at the CoBACH Center during this period. On Sunday, June 9 at 3pm learn about the 100 Years of Ratification. The Equal Rights Amendment Celebration will be Sunday, August 18 at 3pm. Brighton’s Own Livingston Players will continue their History Alive Series called “Suffrage Debate, Yea or Nay!” You will find this performance at CoBACH on July 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21. The Brighton Victorian Silhouettes will have a new silhouette that depicts the first two women voters in the city. A local Brighton Art Guild member has created this wonderful artwork that incorporates the facial images from actual family photos of the two ladies.

Please save these dates and watch for notices through Facebook and local media. Please bring children, family and friends to experience the Celebration of the Victory for Equality!

Jim Vichich — President, Brighton Area Historical Society
jvichich@comcast.net
810.250.7276

Memorial Day Program Downtown — May 27, 2019

9am—1pm: CoBACH Center open for FREE exhibit of Civil War memorabilia. Enjoy the awesome museum quality artifacts presented by two private collectors that love to share information. Bring the kids for an enjoyable and educational time!

10am: Parade on Main Street
10:15—10:40am: Program at Veterans’ Memorial
10:40—11:10: Old Village Cemetery Civil War Veteran Headstone Restoration/Rededication for Brighton’s Private Charles Pease. Solemn Program by Sons of Union Camp 120 and Hartland HS History Club. See authentic looking uniforms of the presenters and learn about Private Pease’s role in the War of the Rebellion. The SOUVC Color Guard will lead community members into the Old Village Cemetery after conclusion of the program at the Veterans’ Memorial.

CoBACH Hours
Sunday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
Closed Monday

May, 2019 CoBACH Display
“My Hometown”
Free Exhibit

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK
Daily postings regarding Brighton History.
Brighton Area Historical Society
Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS:
PATRON: Michael & Vivian Hatty, Paul Richards*
*Welcome new member: Paul Richards

We thank our members for their membership dues and donations that contribute to the viability of the Society.

THANKS:
- City of Brighton and Val & Kathy Jacoby for their generous 2019 Platinum Sponsorships.
- Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg and John Park for their donations to the Suffrage Program.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich for preparing the April issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Bill Dixon for his donation of the portable wall for use in displays.
- Carole Damon, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for setting up the current display at CoBACH.
- Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for designing and sewing the sashes to be worn during this summer’s program called Petticoat Patriots. The over-the-shoulder sashes read "VOTES FOR WOMEN".
- Nancy Fredenburg for chairing and organizing this summer’s Petticoat Patriots exhibit.

- Mark Frank for his framed photo donations originally from the Yum Yum Tree Restaurant.
- Jan Allison, Judith Coebly, Vicki Vichich and Sue Zimmermann for their extensive volunteer labor used to clean, repair, research and package jewelry.
- To the jewelry donors: Marieanna Bair, Dorothy Baldori, Linda Balsamo (for husband Jasper and mother Lupe’s jewelry), Elaine Blight, Kaye Bruns, Maggie Carah, Terry Celano, Judith Coebly, Jane Cormier, Carole Damon, Ginny & Nancy Fredenburg, Rosemary Oldford, Norma Pless, Eric Scholz in memory of wife Marcella, Vicki Vichich, Alice Weyland, Sue Wilson, Karen Wirth and Sue Zimmerman.

Patty Dombrecki and Rich Larsen for their artwork in creating two new people for the Brighton Victorian Silhouettes Historical Program in 2019. A silhouette painting depicting the first two women voters using their new 19th Amendment Civil Right by voting in the City of Brighton election in 1919 was created by Patty from actual facial images of Charlotte Mellus and Haidee Brady. This silhouette will be displayed downtown near the Old Village Hall that served as the polling location. Rich created the painting to be used for the silhouette of William Power who was the first Master of Brighton’s Masonic Lodge 150 years ago. This silhouette will be displayed next to his headstone in the Old Village Cemetery. All Silhouettes should be installed by the end of June.

Dates to Remember

April 27—May 4: Vintage Jewelry Sale at CoBACH
Weeknights: 5—8pm (M—F)
Excellent display of over 4000 unique pieces for sale. Many quality pieces 50% off eBay prices.

May 2: Ladies Night in Downtown Brighton. Visit the Jewelry Sale!
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 9am—11:59am: Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Take a short drive to visit the one-room country school. Get a tour from an archivist working to preserve local history. No appointment needed!

May 4; 9—12nn: 11th Annual Spring Cleanup of Brighton’s Old Village Cemetery located next to the downtown Millpond. Bring gloves and a leaf rake. Enter and register from the parking lot behind St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

May 20—22: Spencer School’s 3rd grades visit Lyon One-Room Schoolhouse located on Buno Road.

May 22; 6pm: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center.

May 27; Memorial Day Program Downtown. See Page 1 for details.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:
John & Deb Armstrong — Muriel (Jacque) Armstrong — Tom Archer — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton
Charles & Janice Beach — Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Bonnie Corrigan
Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Joan Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington
William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Larry & Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong
Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

Business/Professional Members: (** Indicates Life Members)
Weld Mold Company (2019)

2019 Sponsorships

Platinum Level: City of Brighton, Val & Kathy Jacoby
Bronze Level: Frank & Jo (DeLuca) Del Vero, Bob Hill
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.

Mail check or money order payable to:
Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Name: ___________________________ Phone: (_____) ______
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
E-Mail: ___________________________

Membership Plan:
☐ New $2 Student ☐ $50 Patron
☐ Renew $15 Individual ☐ $60 Business/Professional
☐ $25 Family ☐ $500 Life

Additional Donation to—Check One: Amount of Donation:
☐ Friend of Lyon School $10 ☐ $100
☐ BAHS CoBACH Events $25 ☐ $250
☐ Old Village Cemetery Fund $50 ☐ Other $________

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

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

BAHS Leadership 2019

President
Jim Vichich
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Marianna Bair
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Carole Damon
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Jerry Damon
Webmaster
Debbie Armstrong

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Joe Collins
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John Rawcliffe
Thomas Reinke
Lynn Strong
Peggy Van Sickle

Education Liaison
Judith Coebly

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
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.
WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE — Conclusion

While most people know all women in the U.S. had won the right to vote by 1920, far fewer know that the quest for women’s suffrage began at the now-historic, landmark 1848 Women’s Rights Convention at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. (The convention is also known as the Seneca Falls Convention.)

This was the first such effort ever held in the U.S., and nearly 200 women attended. It was organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two abolitionists. Also there was Frederick Douglass. The women at the convention presented the “Declaration of Sentiments and Grievances,” which itemized various rights women deserved, including the right to vote. Overwhelmingly approved, this declaration led eventually to the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, granting women suffrage.

Today, the National Women’s Hall of Fame (https://www.womenofthehall.org/) is located in Seneca Falls. Five Michigan women are honored there, including former First Lady Betty Ford, and Martha Griffiths, one of the first women U.S. Representatives, who used her 25 years in Congress to advocate for all kinds of women’s rights, most notably inclusion in the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Bill. Griffiths also was Michigan’s first elected female Lieutenant Governor, under Governor James Blanchard in the 1980s.

(Compiled and written by Sheryl James Vigmostad, BAHS Member. 810-227-7506)