



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !

I would like to wish the best of health and family blessings to all. Special thank you to all members, volunteers and the 2019 Board of Directors who donate countless hours to preserving and sharing the past memories of Brighton. As the Holidays approach, let us remember those special family members and friends that have passed to eternal rest.

This beautiful circa 1906 winter photo of Brighton's Old Town Hall and Millpond shows our community in its simpler times.

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276
President of BAHS
jvichich@comcast.net

FREE EVENT —- Santa and Mrs. Claus —- FREE EVENT

Sunday, December 8 — Lyon Schoolhouse, 1—4pm

Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Lyon Schoolhouse to greet the children for 2019 Christmas. The school will be decorated for the Christmas holidays as you would see in the early 1900s. Get your free family photos with Santa and join the elves as they show the children how to make their special Christmas tree ornament. Parents should help children make a wish list to present to Santa. Handicap accessible. Share your experience with grandma and grandpa also.

CoBACH Hours

Sunday—Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11am—5pm

Closed Monday

CoBACH Display

FREE EXHIBITS

December
"The Nutcrackers"

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES THIS MONTH

See the insert
in this issue

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Daily postings regarding
Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical
Society**

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Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS:

IND/FAMILY: Tim Bennett, Howard & Syndy Bisoski, Elaine Blight, Faith Capling, Nancy Cardle, Tim Hurst, Jeanette Johnson, Peter Kuja-wa, Larry & Edie Millen, Patricia Mrozek, Norma Pless, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, David & Jan Schoewe, Martin & Shari Smith, Patrick Smith, Philip & Jeanne Smith, Jim & Judy Tavarozzi, Ed Vitez, Mike & Sherri Wisser, Richard & Doris Young.

PATRON: Margaret Bowland, Mary Jo Comiskey, Val Hancock, Richard & Mary Ray, Dianne Taeckens

LIFE: Bill & Margaret Dixon

Membership Drive continues this month. Please consider renewing your dues or becoming a member.

THANKS:

- City of Brighton and Val & Kathy Jacoby for their generous 2019 Platinum Sponsorships.
- Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2020 Platinum sponsorship.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich who prepared the November issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Carole & Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong who setup the "Letters to Home" display for Veterans' Day in the CoBACH Center.
- Lee & Deborah Gough for the delivery and loan of Deborah's nutcrackers that are on display through December 23rd at CoBACH.
- Mindy Kinsey for the loan of her nutcrackers that are part of the display at CoBACH.
- Carole Damon, Deborah Gough, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong who set up the December display at CoBACH.
- Norma Pless for her donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund and Friend of Lyon School along with her dues.
- Margaret Bowland, Mary Jo Comiskey, Bill & Margaret Dixon and Val Hancock for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- Jeanette Johnson, Dianne Taeckens and Richard & Doris Young for their donations to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Ralph & Elizabeth Romano for their donation to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Patrick Smith for his donation to the Society along with his dues.
- Philip & Jeanne Smith for their donation to CoBACH Events along with their dues.
- Nick Deychakiwsky for his matching fund donation to the Society.
- Jeff Billig's for his monetary donation to the Society.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH Center: FREE EXHIBITS — (See Page 1 for Hours).

Through December 23 "The Nutcrackers" are showing their colors and unique looks. Wonderful opportunity to see the great little soldier folks of Christmas adorned in their uniforms.

CoBACH CLOSED: December 24 — January 2nd.

December 5,12,19; 9am—11:59am: Check out the 1885 One-room Lyon Schoolhouse for a free tour. School has been refurbished to an early 1900s setting. See those famous maple-top desks with the notable ink well hole in the corner.

Lyon School closed December 20 through January 1.

December 8: Lyon Schoolhouse; Sunday 1—4PM — FREE EVENT
Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Lyon Schoolhouse.

See Page 1 for additional details.

January 22: 6pm; BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center. There is NO December meeting.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — 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 — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) Ray & Bessie Maltby — Carol McMacken — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers Douglas & Carole Rearick — 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)

Advance Craft Builders (2019) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Real Estate Team (2019) — Clark Eye Center (2019) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2019) — Golfview Painting (2019) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Autobody ** Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Neighbors Magazine (2019) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2019) Preview Properties (2019) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2019) — Weld Mold Company (2019)

Sponsorships

2019—Platinum Level: City of Brighton, Val & Kathy Jacoby

2020—Platinum Level: Dan & Anna Oginsky

2019—Bronze Level: Carolina DeLuca, 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:		Additional Donation to—Check One:	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund	Amount of Donation:
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		

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	Directors Joe Collins
Vice President Marieanna Bair	Nancy Fredenburg
Secretary Carole Damon	Mindy Kinsey
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon	John Rawcliffe
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	Thomas Reinke
	Lynn Strong
	Peggy Van Sickle
	Education Liaison Judith Coebly

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“Christmas in Brighton — My Version of “It’s A Wonderful Life”
By Kathy Lueker Pearson

Brighton in the 1950s was an iconic Midwestern town: small enough that most everyone knew each other, large enough that it provided everything needed to sustain a household.

Michigan’s winter climate laid the groundwork for the Christmas season; a snowy landscape was highly anticipated and cheered when it finally arrived. The Mill Pond was a favorite venue for ice skating; some even remember motorcycles racing on the ice! Any snowy slope beckoned sledding or a thrilling toboggan ride. Sometimes the hill down Main Street heading west past the old high school served as a sledding run.

As Christmas approached the family would pile into the car and drive out to one of the local family-owned Christmas tree farms to saw down that year’s tree, tie it to the roof of the car, then perfectly place it in the living room. Dad was in charge of stringing the lights, Mom hung her precious ornaments, then my brother and I would be tasked with hanging the heavy, leaded icicles, carefully placing them strand-by-strand. When the tree was taken down, the icicles were removed, one-by-one, boxed and preserved for the next year. Christmas cards were purchased and sent.

Gift shopping was easily accomplished by visiting the local merchants: toys from Ubers Drug Store or the Dime Store, winter sports equipment from Rolison’s Hardware or Western Auto, jew-



elry from Coopers. The makings for the Christmas feast from any of the handful of local grocery stores and bakeries. This was also a good time to gather up all those carefully hoarded S&H Green or Gold Bell gift stamps given at the grocery stores, and redeem them for merchandise. Stores were closed on Sundays, so shopping had to be carefully planned.

The Christmas spirit was reinforced with evening drives around town, marveling at the colorful lighted homes. Christmas Eve was celebrated at the candlelight service at church, singing traditional carols and listening to the pastor tell the Christmas Story.

Before bed, my brother and I hung our Christmas stockings. We chose the biggest ones we could find: my Dad’s hunting socks! Since we had no fireplace, the socks were pinned to the back of an upholstered chair. Christmas morning was the typical scene of gifts under the tree. Breakfast was sparse because the main meal was across town at Grandma and Grandpa’s.

Small town family time. Christmas in the 1950s. It was indeed a wonderful life!

(The Society would like to thank Kathy for sharing these wonderful Christmas memories.)