



A Heartfelt Thank You to Marieanna Bair

The Brighton community owes a debt of gratitude to Marieanna Bair for her leadership and exhausting research of old community and family documents over the past 36 years. This intensive work has led to numerous written articles detailing the history of people, businesses, farms and churches of the Brighton Area.

At the May Brighton Area Historical Society board meeting, Marieanna submitted her resignation letter. She felt it was time to step back from the Board of Directors, a position she has held since 1984. These 36 years of being the main history detective for the society included 23 years as president and 13 years as vice-president.

Marieanna has been a voice for successful preservation of several downtown historical buildings. The two-story brick Old Town Hall built in 1879 as the fire hall and city hall has been repurposed into a history and art museum. The three-story brick Western House Hotel (aka Pink Hotel) built in 1873 has been repurposed into the beautiful Brewery Becker.

She has reassembled extensive old Brighton family records that she gathered from distant past clippings of Brighton Argus newspapers. Marieanna started the Historical Resource Survey which lists the many businesses found at specific addresses in the business districts of Main Street and Grand River Avenue.

The society's monthly news, Trail Tales, has been published every month since 1984 and each month consists of a newly researched article located on page four. Many of these classic articles by Marieanna were recently bound into a book called [Page Four](#).

Marieanna is a beloved friend of mine. These feelings are shared by all who know her. She is a great example of generosity. She has given so much time to preserve and share the history of Brighton. Marieanna is a proud alumna of the class of 1944 of Brighton High School.

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276
BAHS President
jvichich@comcast.net

CoBACH Hours

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
NEW Hours Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Monday

The CoBACH Center is currently CLOSED. Anticipate opening in July

Archiving at Lyon School on Buno Road is also CLOSED

Check our Facebook Page for the Opening Date of both.

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

Brighton Area Historical Society

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DATES TO REMEMBER	2
THANKS AND RECOGNITION	2
SPONSORSHIP FORM	3
BAHS LEADERSHIP	3
CONTACT BAHS	3
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	4

Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS:

IND/FAMILY: Mike Arnold, Gerald and Patricia Kelly, Paul Weber

Renewing and new memberships keep the Society vital. Please see the form on Page 3 if you would like to renew your dues or become a member of the Society.

THANKS:

- Brighton Masonic Lodge, #247, City of Brighton and Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2020 Platinum sponsorship.
- Debra Ball Johnson for donation to the Society.
- Carole & Jerry Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the June issue of Trail Tales.
- Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, John Rawcliffe, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich for the strong arm help in relocating stored historical items from the demolished shed at Lyon School. The Lyon School shed was crushed by a direct hit of a neighbor's large tree.
- Thanks to our members who designate their employer's matching funds contributions to the Society.

To our members who continue to recognize the value of this Society through their payment of dues and donations. We are grateful for all you do in support of this organization.

Enjoy the Month of July

Stay Safe and Be Well

Dates to Remember

CoBACH Operations / CoBACH Center: Has been **CLOSED for March—June**. It is anticipated to reopen in July once COVID-19 protective gear has been put in place. Follow the BAHS Facebook page for updated opening information.

Lyon Schoolhouse: Lyon School has been closed for archival work March—June. Follow the BAHS Facebook page for updated opening information.

BAHS Monthly Board Meeting: Scheduled for July 22nd at CoBACH at 6PM.

OVC Headstone Restoration Days are CANCELLED FOR 2020. Due to COVID-19 and the close working proximity of our senior staff, the society will take the summer off.

Lyon Schoolhouse: The Lyon Schoolhouse will have its 1993 shingle roof replaced in July.

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) — Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) — 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 (2020) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** — Brighton District Library ** Brighton Lions Club (2020) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2020) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2020) — Golfview Painting (2020) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body ** Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Neighbors Magazine (2020) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** Power House Electric, Inc. (2020) — Preview Properties (2020) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2020) Weld Mold Company (2019)

2020 Sponsorships

Platinum Level: Brighton Masonic Lodge #247, City of Brighton, Dan & Anna Oginsky

Bronze Level: Carolina DeLuca, Frank & Josephine Del Vero, Bob Hill, Neighbors Magazine/M. Lenninger

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 Brighton 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 2020

President Jim Vichich	Directors Marieanna Bair—Emeritus
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg — Interim	Joe Collins
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	John Rawcliffe
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon	Thomas Reinke
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	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



“Up Home” — 1948

Besides the first day of October, when I expected birthday presents to be put ceremoniously at the foot of my youth bed (my birthday was the sixteenth but the *month* was right—the most important thing in the mind of a soon-to-be-four year old!), the day most Brighton and Green Oak kids I knew looked forward to most was the Fourth of July. That was when the carnival came to town and fireworks exploded in the night sky above Sloan Memorial Field. Before the carnival moved to the empty lots next to the town Chevrolet dealership, where it neither had the allure nor the excitement of its previous location, in the late 1940s and early 50s it was held on Main Street, which had been totally vacated. Barkers, colorful Roma, booths with tantalizing, exotic foods and rides took the place of gray and black Fords and Chevys. I begged and pleaded for days to know exactly when the carnival would be in front of Paul DeLuca’s store or Aunt Emma’s bank.

When the farm chores and dinner dishes were finally done we climbed into the green ‘41 Chevy sedan Dad had bought from my Uncle Carl Westin in Fowlerville. Dad drove—far too slowly—down Rickett Road to find a parking spot blocks away from downtown, likely as far as Aunt Maria’s home out West Main. It’s hard to know who enjoyed the banter and excitement more, my brother and I or our parents. They took their turn riding on the merry-go-round and other kiddy rides with us and, as we got older, the Ferris wheel. Far too soon it was time to go “*up home*” for a rest before going to Sloan Field at the high school for the second major attraction of the day.

“*Up home*” was my mother’s mother’s 19th century farmhouse on North Second Street, just a block west of Grand River. I remember it well because of the special persons who lived there. Amanda Westin’s cozy old-fashioned kitchen with a black cook stove in the center was the meeting place for a large family circle that included nieces, nephews and life-long friends, many of whom had emigrated from Sweden like my grandparents. In the war years, Grandma often shared things about the war in her native language that she did not want my brother’s small ears to hear. Even though I was very young, I remember her distinctive Scandinavian accent. Until I was six my parents and Mrs.

Chappel, my first teacher in school, could not coax me into pronouncing words like every other little kid in the neighborhood. I liked to make myself comfortable in an overstuffed “shair” in our warm sun-room during the winter rather than plop down on the hard bottomed “chair” with no cushion in the old dining room. Sunday dinner’s roast “shicken” with mashed potatoes, stuffing and a thick piece of juicy breast was far more appetizing than the leg or thigh of the stewed “chicken” with boiled potatoes that Mom sometimes served for supper on week-day evenings.

Eddie and I were the center of the universe “*up home*.” Grandma kept my toys and some of her treasured mementos from her home on the southwest coast of Sweden in a basket of wonders that she always brought out for me to play with on her hardwood dining room floor. She all but weaned me on strong percolator coffee that had been richly whitened with fresh cream, served with one of her special Swedish pastries and two or three coffee bean candies. After our arrival, Mom’s sister, Aunt Emma, dressed leisurely in a work smock after a long day with Brighton State Bank examiners, inevitably descended down dark, rickety stairs into the tomb-like basement, where our uncle teased us that the biblical Moses lived, then emerged with two cans of tuna fish for sandwiches to go with our special treats, O’Henry candy bars. While I contented myself with uncovering new treasures in Grandma’s basket, Eddie had complete freedom to be inventive rummaging around Grandfather Westin’s old gray barn that stood next to the garage. More than likely both of us would be spoiled with the latest toy from “Aunt” Arbor, my brother’s pet word for the big city where my aunt typically shopped on a day off from the bank.

Excerpt taken with permission from Paul Weber’s upcoming book, “remarkably Brighton: Still in Touch.”