



### The Passing of Marieanna Bair

Brighton's most involved preservationist, dedicated historian and my good friend for the past 35 years left our earthly presence on September 29, 2021. She had great genes and led an active life for 95 years.

Marieanna became involved with the preservation of Brighton history in 1984 after raising her five children. She was a member of the Brighton Area Historical Society Board of Directors from 1984-2021 and President from 1994-2007. She was a 1944 alumna of Brighton High School and very involved with the founding of the Brighton High School Alumni Association. Her husband, Bert, predeceased her six years earlier.

She was passionate about preserving Brighton history. In the early 1980s she was influential in the successful fight to save the beautiful two story red brick 1879 Old Town Hall/Fire Station. The city council was considering demolishing it. A similar attempt by the owners of the red brick 1873 Brighton Hotel (Western House Hotel next to the railroad tracks) was thwarted by community action led by Marieanna and others in the year 2000.

While not a founding member of the Brighton Area Historical Society, in 1981, Marieanna became an early leader and provided a stable base for growth and the collection of local history. Marieanna and her small team of volunteers who scoured articles in the Brighton Argus over many years found the early history of Brighton. This effort led to the creation of the Historic Resource files. Businesses were cataloged that existed at various times and addresses along Main Street and Grand River Avenue. Today this outstanding collection of Brighton's business history including advertisements is compiled into many binders.

It was a sizable task for Marieanna to start the operation of the newly acquired Lyon Schoolhouse in the mid 1980s with limited unpaid workers. Many fundraisers were held and a multitude of volunteers assisted in refurbishing this building back to a schoolhouse from its 20+ year use as the Brighton Township Hall.

Marieanna started the historical society's monthly membership newsletter known as Trail Tales. She contributed a newly researched article for page four of the newsletter every month from its start in 1984 to 2020.

She frequently gave summer tours within the city and made presentations about Brighton's past. A true leader and supporter of women's rights, she was elected years ago to Brighton's Women's Roll of Honor. Marieanna was also a long standing board member and President of the Green Oak Township Historical Society. She was a long time member and President of the Plank Road Questers #236. Her leadership ability was well known as she was elected to State President of Michigan State Organization of the Questers.

The Brighton community will miss this successful leader and friend. Her exhausting research will serve as a community resource for generations. Many thanks, Marieanna, for your hard work!

Jim Vichich, BAHS President  
Jvichich@comcast.net — 810.250.7276

### Current CoBACH

Exhibit:  
A Tribute to  
Marieanna Bair

### CoBACH HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm  
Saturday 11—5pm  
Sunday 2—5pm  
Closed Monday

**Archiving at Lyon School  
at Lyon Schoolhouse  
Every Thursday  
9 to 12nn**

**See Page 2 for  
Additional details**

### **CHECK OUT FACEBOOK**

Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical  
Society**

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## Thanks and Recognition

**MEMBERSHIPS:** (Reflect dues paid for year 2022 unless otherwise noted.)

**IND/FAMILY:** Norma Jean Pless, Millie Quinn

**LIFE:** Claire & Aaron Jusino\*, Brigette Ritsema\*

\***Welcome new members:** Claire & Aaron Jusino, Brigette Ritsema

**2022 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS.** Please see the insert or the form on Page 3 if you would like to join, or renew your dues.

### THANKS:

- Brighton Light House/Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2021 Platinum Sponsorship.
- The generosity of members and supporters helps to sponsor special community programming and projects. You are greatly appreciated by the officers and directors of the BAHS!
- Norma Jean Pless for her contributions to Friend of Lyon School and the Larry Lawrence Scholarship fund along with her 2022 dues.
- Jerry & Carole Damon and Tom & Mindy Kinsey for their donations in honor of Marieanna Bair.
- Kathy Lueker Pearson for the purchase of Life Memberships for her nieces Claire Jusino and Brigette Ritsema.
- Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for putting up the CoBACH display, "A Tribute to Marieanna Bair."
- Lynn Strong for taking down the previous summer CoBACH display, "Music in the Air."
- Lynn Winkelbauer for her donation of jewelry for the society's spring used jewelry sale.
- Volunteers from the archives who assisted at the Michigan One-Room School Association Meeting/Presentation at Lyon School on September 25: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Jean Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Members of the Headstone Restoration Team who worked at Old Village Cemetery and helped take down and store the Brighton Victorian Silhouettes: Howard Bisoski, Jerry Brock, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mike Johnson, Randy Needham, Dave Pettigrove, Dave Rebigier, Pat Smith, Dick Weaire, Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.
- Attorney Erika McNamara for assistance in reviewing the BAHS By-Laws and presenting suggestions to the Board of Directors.
- CoBACH volunteers for September: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Pettengill, Tom Reinke, Lynn Strong & Jim Vichich.
- Jerry & Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the October Trail Tales.

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## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH:** Days and hours of operation:

**Tuesday—Friday 5—8 pm, Saturday 11—5 pm and Sunday 2—5pm.**

**Current CoBACH Display: "A Tribute to Marieanna Bair"**

**November 5,12,19; Thursdays:** Archiving work at Lyon School from 9-11:59am. Lyon School is open for visits and tours. All visitors must wear facial masks and observe social distancing. **CLOSED for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26.**

**November 6, Veterans Day Parade:** Brighton will observe Veterans Day on Saturday, November 6 with a downtown parade starting at 11am followed by a program at the Millpond Veteran's Memorial.

**November 21, Sunday; 1—4pm Lyon School:** BAHS Annual Membership Meeting with Elections. The annual membership meeting including the election of officers and directors will take place at the Lyon Schoolhouse, 11455 Buno Road. This is the last meeting of 2021. Program will start with a Pot Luck Luncheon at 1pm. Business meeting will begin at 2:15pm.

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## Life — Business — Professional Members

### Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Shirley Barton — Charles & Janice Beach — Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Edgar L Cord, Ph.D. — Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreyra — Nancy Fredenburg — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Carol McMacken — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Venno Needham Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips Joyce Powers — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigette Ritsema — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman Carole Scott — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute — Al & Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

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

Advance Craft Builders (2021) — Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\* — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor\*\* — Brighton District Library \*\* Brighton Lions Club (2021) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group \*\* — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2021) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2021) — Golfview Painting (2021) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Auto Body \*\* Livingston County Convention Visitors Bureau (2021) — Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* Michigan Consulting & Environmental (2021) — Neighbors Magazine (2021) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2021) Preview Properties (2021) — Promess, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\*

### 2021 Sponsorships

**Platinum:** Brighton Light House/Dan & Anna Oginsky

**Bronze:** Weld Mold Company

# 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>Address:</b> _____ <b>City:</b> _____ <b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____ <b>E-Mail:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> ( ) _____
<b>Membership Plan:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	<b>Additional Donation to—Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School <input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events <input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	<b>Amount of Donation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____

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](mailto:jvichich@comcast.net)

## BAHS Leadership 2021

President <b>Jim Vichich</b>	Directors <b>Joe Collins</b>
Vice President <b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>	<b>John Rawcliffe</b>
Secretary <b>Mindy Kinsey</b>	<b>Thomas Reinke</b>
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor <b>Jerry Damon</b>	<b>Lynn Strong</b>
Webmaster <b>Debbie Armstrong</b>	<b>Peggy Van Sickle</b>
	Education Liaison <b>Judith Coebly</b>

## 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.

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**

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**BRIGHTON HOSPITAL**

**A PIONEER IN ITS FIELD – Conclusion**

In 2001, Brighton Hospital became partners with St. John Providence and in 2011 became fully affiliated with Providence Hospital, which was renamed Ascension Brighton Center for Recovery.

Brighton Hospital is continuing to improve. Through Ascension fundraising, a new half-way house for recovering addicts will be built in 2022 with 2 separate wings for men and women and will be able to house 32 people, replacing an older building on site.

Ford Motor Company donated a Martha and Mary Chapel in 1960. (See Trail Tales December 2021 issue for the story of the chapel.) Harry Henderson found out that the chapel was not being used at Camp Legion which had closed in 1952. Harry notified the Ford Motor Company and said Brighton Hospital could use it. Ford Motor Company then had it moved in one piece to Brighton from Dearborn. It is still a presence on the complex and can be seen from Grand River.

A chandelier was donated by Cliff Bell, a saloon keeper that hung in the main dining area that became the main lobby. It was removed during renovations in 2008.

Senators, scientists, doctors, and executives, are among the people that have sought recovery at Brighton Hospital. The files are full of success stories, but like all diseases, not all are healed.

Brighton Hospital treats the patient’s physical, mental, social and spiritual problems. They give them the tools in which to help themselves. The hospital also offers free support for family and friends through programs. A children’s support program is very popular and helpful for children affected by addiction in their family.

Some Brighton personnel have written books (Nan Reynolds and Jeff Jay) that carry on the understanding of addiction.

A newsletter was published monthly called the Brighton Beacon. The Hospital also has an alumni group.

Brighton Hospital works closely with Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous to help its patients after treatment. They also support Alanon and Alateen for the family members and friends. In addition, they also support many other 12 step programs.

Brighton Hospital is not a hospital for everyone, but it is good to know that there is such a high caliber facility available in our community.

*Submitted by Mindy Kinsey (Information from BAHS files, the Brighton Argus, Jacque Fuller, a nurse for 35 years at Brighton, Kelly Rogers and Cory Swann, Resident Historians and hospital support team for 15 years ea. Mark Mullinax of Brighton Library and Lee Gough, local attorney )*

