

2023 BAHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS!!

Please see the enclosed flyer to renew your dues for 2023.
Not a member?... Please use this flyer to become a member of the Society.
Current members, please forward this flyer to family members or friends you feel would enjoy becoming a member. Thank You.

Jewelry Preserves the Past!!

The Brighton Area Historical Society is seeking donations of all types of jewelry for its spring 2023 fundraiser. The society also repairs broken jewelry for this sale.

All funds made during this sale are returned to the community through historical programming including providing exhibits at the CoBACH Center. Likewise the continued operation of the BAHS owned 1885 Lyon One-room Schoolhouse is a community treasure for all to enjoy.

The CoBACH Center is located in the former 1879 firehouse found next to the millpond in downtown Brighton. You will find free exhibits that change every two months that showcase various aspects of the history of the Brighton area.

School age children visit the Lyon School for a day to observe a multi-grade (K-8) classroom from times past. They learn about community and play outdoor games. There are (29) maple top desks having pivoting seats and the “famous” inkwell hole in the corner of the writing surface. The classroom setting is early 1900s.

Another preservation example is the almost complete 10-year restoration project where broken headstones in the Old Village Cemetery are being reassembled to their once respectable appearance. Many mid 1800s headstones are seen from Brighton’s founding families.

Please help to preserve and share memories of Brighton’s history. Donate today, your outdated jewelry that hides in back and sides of your jewelry box. You may have jewelry from your mom, aunt or grandma that does not fit your taste. Men’s jewelry is also needed. Lighten your load and donate it to the Brighton Area Historical Society for their spring fundraiser. It is a very worthy cause and 100% of funds raised are used in the community. Call or email Jim for questions or how to make your jewelry transfer happen.

Jim Vichich, BAHS President
James.vichich@gmail.com — 810.250.7276
Info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends
its sympathy to the family of
Joyce Powers
Joyce was a Lifetime Member of the Society.

CoBACH Exhibit:

Through Nov 17:

**“Brighton Fire
Department”**

Nov 19—Dec 23

**“Christmas Memories
of Brighton”**

CoBACH HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11—5pm

Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Monday

**Archiving at Lyon School
on Buno Road
Every Thursday
9 to 12nn**

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 2023 unless otherwise noted)

IND/FAMILY: Richard & Kathy McKinnie, Gary Norfleet*, Harg Stoddard*, Ed Vitez

LIFE: Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley

Welcome to new Members*: Gary Norfleet, Harg Stoddard

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR DUES. Please see the insert or the form on Page 3 if you would like to join, or renew your dues. Through your dues and donations we are able to continue the work of preserving Brighton's history.

THANKS:

- To our members who have renewed their dues for 2023 and beyond.
- Harg Stoddard and Ed Vitez for their donations to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Beth Walker for her donation to the Society.
- Richard & Kathy McKinnie for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund, Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Janice Field for her donation of historical memorabilia.
- Todd Buckley of Buckley Jolly Real Estate for the donation of framed plat maps.
- October volunteers that staff CoBACH: Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Knight, Bob Pettengill, John Rawcliffe, Tom Reinke, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich.
- Thursday morning Lyon School volunteers who assist in the organization and preservation of Brighton historic records: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- The multi-talented volunteer workers for their awesome restoration work in rebuilding and restoring the broken headstones in the Old Village Cemetery during the 2022 summer: Howard Bisoski, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Tony Ferreyra, Dave Fuller, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Knight, Jack Longberry, Dave Pettigrove, John Rawcliffe, Dave Rebiger, Spence Schubbe, Pat Smith, Dick Weaire, Don York, Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.
- To our board members and members of the society who volunteer their time in so many ways to make this organization a success.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH: Days and hours of operation:

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

CURRENT EXHIBIT; Through Nov 17: "Brighton Fire Department Through the Years."

NEW EXHIBIT; Nov 19 — Dec 23: "Christmas Memories of Brighton."

Nov 3,10,17; Thursdays; 9—11:59am: Tours and Archiving at Lyon Schoolhouse. **CLOSED for Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 24**

November 16, Wednesday, 6pm: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH.

NOTE: This meeting is one week earlier due to Thanksgiving. Typical November membership and elections meeting is being moved to Sunday, March 19. This is necessary due to a change in the BAHS fiscal year that will now run January—December.

December 5; Monday, 1:30pm: BAHS Presentation to Woodland Village residents.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley (CA) — Shirley Barton — Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (NJ) — 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
Lee & Deb Gough — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN)
Kathy Jacoby (OR) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels
James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Venio Needham — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL)
Kathy Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigitte 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 (2022) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** — Brighton District Library **
Brighton Lions Club (2022) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2022)
Golfview Painting (2022) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
Neighbors Magazine (2022) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2022) — Preview Properties (2022) — Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Honda Brighton (2022) — Tee-Bone's Tavern (2022)

2022 Sponsorships

Gold: Lawrence Auto Body **Silver:** Frank & Josephine Del Vero **Bronze:** Carolina DeLuca

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: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____	Phone: () _____
Membership Plan: <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	Additional Donation to—Check One: <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	Amount of Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
<small>The Brighton 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 James.Vichich@gmail.com

BAHS Leadership 2022

President Jim Vichich	Directors Joe Collins Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial John Rawcliffe Thomas Reinke Lynn Strong
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Education Liaison Judith Coebly
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon	
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	

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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Brighton, MI**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“Here Just To Be Here”

George H. Ratz stepped off the four o’clock D.N.&L. with a calmer than usual look on his face. He held a leather satchel in one hand and a paper bag full of black cherries from the Eastern Market for his mother in the other. Exactly one week had passed since he said his farewells to his colleagues at the Treasury Department in Washington. He enjoyed the excitement of life in the capital but, truth told, his decision to return home was not that hard. Now approaching their seventies, his parents were slowing down and needed help. The “son” in George B. Ratz and Son was about to take over ownership of the family business at the corner of Hyne and Main.

George strolled leisurely down Main Street taking everything in that he remembered seeing as a small boy when he went to town with his parents and sisters on Saturday evening shopping trips. He crossed the trestle bridge over the Millpond, stopping to pause at the millrace to the south that had captivated him even then. “I am content to be home, and a small town is where I belong,” he thought. Just then, a passenger from the train who had been following him tapped on his shoulder. “I beg your pardon, son. I trust that you will not mind my tracing your steps from the station...James Oliver Curwood is my name and I am here just to be here.”

“Very pleased to meet you, sir, but should I know you from somewhere? And what, may I ask, brings you to Brighton?”

“As I previously stated, I am here just to be here. I am a poet and journalist—perhaps you will not have recognized my name. I was told by one of my colleagues at the State Journal that this village is most representative of the quaint beauty of Michigan towns. I have not been misled, I can assure you. Stand at this spot on the bridge for a few moments and you will understand why!”

George was puzzled by what the stranger said. He was used to the hustle and bustle of city life, to the effusiveness of people who passed you by every day, just a short distance away from the monoliths a nation had erected to honor its heroes of the past. What was so special about this vantage point near Main and West Streets that would prompt someone to say he was “here just to be here?”

What Curwood, one of Michigan’s foremost writers of the day, said made sense indeed. To the north of Main lay the town hall, its red, white and blue American flag with forty-six stars waving from an overhead balcony. At the summit of the hill where it stood was the red-bricked St. Paul’s Church. Trimmed in modest Victorian gingerbread and set off by a quaint belfry, it was built shortly after the village was incorporated. Anchoring it like buttresses were the slopes of the Old Village Cemetery. Most of the town fathers, early residents and Civil War veterans slept there peacefully—the Lees, Maltbys, Cases and Appletons, to name a few--some distinguished, some less so.

Marked by a modest stone just outside St. Paul’s sacristy was the grave of John McKinney, a former slave who was welcomed in Brighton as a freedman. Sadly, the village elders denied a burial plot to the man who was officially emancipated by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution until the Rev. Dr. Wm. Clark, St. Paul’s benefactor, intervened to secure a final resting place for him. Below the cemetery were the shores of the Millpond, where the shapes of modest white frame houses and livestock grazing near Grand River Road were reflected. Rows of sturdy false-fronted stores on Main, Baetcke’s Bank and Westphal’s Hardware flanking them, lay directly to the east, and the Presbyterian Church’s tall steeple loomed overhead on Piety Hill.

The quiet of the moment was broken by whistling sounds made by lacy weeping willow tree branches over the walkway. Ore Creek surged underneath the two men, flowing to the frothy spillway that diverted it at Brighton Mills, there to be released to the rocky flats beyond. “I am much obliged to you for your insight, Mr. Curwood,” George told the man who after a few moments seemed less a stranger than old acquaintance. “I believe that this view is what drew me back home more than anything else.”

(This is an story from the book, “Con Weber’s Brighton – Portrait of Family, Church and Nation 1832-1942,” written by Paul W. Weber, a former resident of Brighton. This and Paul’s current book, “Remarkably Brighton—Still in Touch” are available on-line at various booksellers.)