

Thank You Members for 2023,

Help Needed for 2024!

As 2023 rolls to a close, a hearty thank you is shared with all members and donors! Memberships continue to be steady. Volunteers have been awesome. Donations and memberships need an increase.

The Board of Directors recently was forced to act with the never popular task of raising membership dues. Dues have been held constant for over 20 years. The dues seen on page three reflect these increases. The society has been blessed with increasing membership over this period of time. Likewise, more historical programming has also evolved. Today, we see (15) colorful life size silhouettes sharing Brighton's history in the downtown; (163) restored headstones now stand tall in the Old Village Cemetery, having been freed from the sod that clutched them toward their broken demise. A recent 2023 award from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network for the outstanding volunteer effort in the Old Village Cemetery restoration is validation to the quality of work and programming provided. The Lyon Schoolhouse has been updated in the classroom and museum room. Displays have been refreshed. The archive room is in the early stages of total revitalization due to the new software that will catalog all collections and identify their specific location. CoBACH Center displays and exhibits showcase multiple aspects of our community and its proud history. We count our blessings with our dedicated and involved volunteers that keep the continuing, informative exhibits, along with archiving and restorations in motion. The awesome deck of downtown historical playing cards required extensive research from the society and significant amounts of time from partner, Denise Murray of the Brighton DDA, who implemented the funding, printing and the free card give-away with the merchants. These complete decks of historical cards will now be sold for a very reasonable \$10 a pack, starting in November by the BAHS.

The historical society knows the enjoyment that community members receive in seeing old photos and learning about Brighton's early days. The Facebook postings from Brighton Area Historical Society have over 4700 followers and is proof to the value and interest in local history.

Annual operational expenses have seen large increases. Monthly newsletter printing and postage rates have seen the same significant upward increase as the rates for the society's electric and gas utilities. Insurance rates covering both the schoolhouse and CoBACH Center have more than doubled in the last (15) years.

But what has not changed until now is the increase in annual membership dues. The society is so very thankful for the many individuals and businesses that have paid upfront to become lifetime members. These onetime monies funded many capital improvements over the years at the schoolhouse. These improvements in some cases need updating every decade or sooner. What is the current source for these maintenance funds?

This brings us back to the issue of operational expenses. More memberships, increased annual dues, and donations from our friends and lifetime members are needed. Will you please consider an increase in your donation or membership for 2024? Remember all officers and directors receive no salaries or funds of any type for the work we love to share with the community. The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and your membership dues and donations may be tax deductible.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jim Vichich
BAHS President
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com
810.250.7276

CoBACH Exhibit: November—December

**"A Santa Bear
Christmas"**

CoBACH Hours

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11am—5pm

Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Monday

Closed November 23rd to
the 26th for Thanksgiving

**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 2024 unless otherwise noted)

IND/FAMILY:

2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS THIS MONTH. 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 2024 and beyond.
- Lake Trust Credit Union and Wallflower Mercantile for their 2023 Platinum Sponsorships.
- Tony & Beth Ferreyra for their donation to the Old Village Cemetery.
- Jerry Damon, Tony Ferreyra and Dave Pettigrove for removing the silhouettes from downtown Brighton for winter storage.
- Norma Jean Pless for the use of her garage to store the silhouettes.
- Mindy Kinsey, Linda Rawcliffe and Dianne Stehlik for jewelry donations to be used for the BAHS Jewelry Sale on April 26—May 4, 2024. Also Vicki Vichich and Judith Coebly for repairing, cleaning, packaging, and pricing of jewelry. Do you have costume or fine jewelry to do-

nate? Contact Jim—see contact information on Page 1.

- Rob Demilner for donating a mid-1940s picture of the millpond and CoBACH along W. Main Street. Also thanks to Sarah Grusin for passing the photo to BAHS.
- Dave Doss for donating 1907 downtown Brighton postcard.
- Volunteers of the Headstone Restoration Team for their September restoration work at Old Village Cemetery: Howard Bisoski, Don Boyer, Joe Collins Tony Ferreyra, Randy Needham, Dave Pettigrove, Dave Rebigier, Dave Schoewe, Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.
- Thursday morning Lyon School volunteers who archive, record inventory and fix items needing repair: Steve Black, Joe Collins, Ron Cyr, Jerry Damon, Tony Ferreyra, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Jean Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of our Lifetime Member,

Carole Scott

The Society extends its condolences to her family and friends.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH: CURRENT EXHIBIT: November & December: "A Santa Bear Christmas. Hours: Tues—Fri 5—8pm, Sat 11—5pm, Sun 2—5pm. CLOSED EVERY MONDAY.

Closed for Thanksgiving: November 23rd —26th.

November 1,5,8,12,15,19,22,29: Society volunteers at CoBACH Center.

November 2,9,16,30; Lyon School; 9—Noon: Historical archiving and school visitors welcome. **Closed 11/23 for Thanksgiving.**

November 15 or 29; 6pm at CoBACH: BAHS Board Meeting. Verify exact date on website or Facebook.

December 10; 1—4pm at Lyon School: Christmas for kids with Santa and Mrs. Claus (**FREE**).

December 24—January 3, 2024: CoBACH closed for Christmas and New Year holidays.

CoBACH Winter Hours begin January 4th and will be posted in the December newsletter.

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 (FL) — Steve Black — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Edgar L Cord, Ph.D. — Bonnie Corrigan — Kelsey Corrigan Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Frank & Jo Del Vero — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreyra Nancy Fredenburg — Dave & Jacque Fuller — 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 Venno 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 — Brigette Ritsema — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — 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 (2023) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brewery Becker** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Lions Club (2023) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** Clark/Tait Eye Center (2023) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** Liv. County Convention & Visitors Center (2023) — Lawrence Auto Body ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Neighbors Magazine (2022) Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2023) — Preview Properties (2023) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** Serra Honda Brighton (2023) — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2023) — Wallflower Mercantile (2023)

2023 Sponsorships: Platinum: Lake Trust Credit Union, Wallflower Mercantile

Bronze: Margaret Bowland, Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter, Carolina DeLuca, Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial, Liv. County Convention & Visitors Center

2024 Sponsorships: 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: _____	Phone: () _____
		Address: _____	
		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
		E-Mail: _____	
Membership Plan:		Additional Donation to—Check as Desired:	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron or More	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	<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 \$ _____

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).

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

Current BAHS Leadership

President Jim Vichich	Directors Tony Ferreyra Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial John Rawcliffe Thomas Reinke Lynn Strong
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon
Secretary—Interim Jerry Damon	
Treasurer Mindy Kinsey	
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
Permit #303
Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The following is the story about the Brighton Veterans' Memorial located in downtown Brighton by the Mill Pond. Thanks to all those who made this memorial possible.

Brighton Veterans' Memorial

A Veterans memorial is a tangible representation of a much larger ideal. It is a place to give a community a way and to show acknowledgement and reverent appreciation to those who have served our country and for those who have died in service. It's a place of humble gratitude for their sacrifice and a place of reflection for their loss.

Brighton has been honored to have a memorial, a grand rock with a plaque that was installed at the Mill Pond in the 1950's. In an effort to upgrade the current memorial to world-class status, a small group of community members consisting of Ricci Bandkau, Bryan Bradford, Dennis Nauss, Chad Cooper, Piet Lindhout, Dick Price and the Brighton Senior Men's Club undertook this project. All veterans groups in the area took an active role in contributing to the design and backed its redesign when presented to the City of Brighton where it was received by unanimous approval.

Organizers said local contractors donated \$80,000 worth of labor to build the Brighton Veterans' Memorial in seven weeks; no dollars from taxpayers were used.

With a vision of a beautiful testimonial to the bravery of the soldiers who served, the existing memorial was moved to a new circular site. The new site features shiny granite on a raised circular base that holds the original veterans' rock, brass service medallions and flags for all six military branches, as well as the American flag surround the site. It has brick pavers with the names of those who served their country. (Additional engraved brick pavers can be purchased through the Veterans Memorial Committee.) Approximately 972 bricks engraved with veterans'

names have been installed at the site. Culminating in stately and proper memorial to those we honor.

Thousands packed the Brighton's Mill Pond area on November 9, 2013 to attend the official unveiling of this world-class memorial that a community built.

Surrounding the memorial is a garden maintained by the Brighton Garden Club. The club is honored to have designed and has continued to be responsible for maintaining this outstanding memorial garden. This garden was awarded first place in 2015 by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please note that Commemorative Pavers may be purchased by any individual to honor a United States Veteran, who was honorably discharged, and will be placed at the Memorial on the "Veterans' Walk of Honor", or an area nearby as expansion allows.

Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful project.

(Information for the above was obtained from the Veterans' Memorial website along with updates and the photo supplied by Steve Conaway, Chairman, Brighton Memorial Committee.)

