

## Showing Off Our Town – “Brighton” Brightly

I know many of you avoided coming into town over the “Gilmore Girls” weekend, but what an exciting time to show off our lovely downtown area. There were probably 40 states represented by attendees. One wonderful story was that four 20 something’s came from Kentucky for the weekend, rented a place on a lake but told me they wanted to come back at another time because they thought our area was awesome and wanted to see more.

The Brighton Art Guild and the Historical Society opened CoBACH for the weekend to show off our wonderful “Old Town Hall.” We shared the history of our building and our area with these many thousands of fans from around the United States.

I enjoy the Fall season with the cooler nights and a warm day. I hope you take the time to drive around our area to enjoy a cup of cider, support the schools and attend a sporting event, or take a walk in one of our many parks to enjoy the vivid colors.

Just a reminder as you begin that Fall cleaning, we are always accepting donated jewelry for our fundraiser in April. Additionally we are always accepting Brighton area memorabilia to add to our collection, examples: matchbooks from local restaurants, menus etc. When people see these items, it brings a smile to their face.

## Fall – A Great Time for Reflections for BAHS

There are so many things I am thankful for, and I would like to give a special shout-out to our Brighton Area Historical Board and volunteers. First, to Jim Vichich for his 14th year in leading the cemetery headstone restoration program. His team is now repairing headstones in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Brighton Township. He has a crew of 20 volunteers that come once a month to continue work on the headstones. Jerry and Carole Damon for helping in so many ways, especially for their continued work on our newsletter, our membership roster and the Larry Lawrence Scholarship.

Lynn Strong and Mindy Kinsey for their continued efforts on our collection management program, changing displays at CoBACH and keeping things organized at Lyon School. Steve Black as our Treasurer who is always looking for opportunities for us to grow. Tony and Beth Ferreyra, they are always there when help is needed plus run our largest fundraiser, the Vintage Jewelry Sale. Ron Cyr who is our expert photographer capturing all of our events for our archives and Tom Reinke who keeps our meeting notes and is always volunteering for our extra projects. Deb Armstrong who maintains our website.

These are our board members and volunteers who keep us focused on our mission, “Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area.” We are always looking for new board members and volunteers. Should you have an interest in serving as a board member or volunteering, please contact me.

Nancy Fredenburg—President BAHS  
517-304-5044  
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com

**FREE CoBACH Exhibit**  
**October**  
**“Music in the Air”**

**CoBACH Hours**  
**Through October**  
**Wed. — Friday 5—8pm**  
**Saturday 11am—5pm**  
**Sunday 2—5pm**  
**Closed Monday & Tuesday**

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

**CHECK OUT FACEBOOK**  
Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical**  
**Society**

**HAPPY**  
**BIRTHDAY**  
To all those celebrating  
in OCTOBER!

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## Thanks and Recognition

**MEMBERSHIPS:** (Reflect dues paid for year 2025 unless otherwise noted.

**IND/FAMILY:** Marcia Guetschow, Heather Harrison\*(2026), Martin & Shari Smith (2026)

**PATRON:** Jan Fairbanks (2026)\*

Welcome new members\*: Jan Fairbanks, Heather Harrison

**REMINDER:** you can still renew your membership or become a member using the form on Page 3. 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 2025 and beyond.
- Dr. John Cameron, Jerry & Carole Damon and Lake Trust Credit Union for their 2025 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Wallflower Mercantile for the 2025 Platinum Plus Sponsorship and their donation to the Society.
- To all those who volunteered during the Destination Stars Hollow "Gilmore Girls" event at CoBACH: Steve Black, Ron Cyr, Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong.
- Tony Ferreya for cleaning and staining the front porch of Lyon School along with weed patrol around the school.
- Peter Abdal who used his volunteer day from Humana to help us at Lyon School.
- Jim Vichich for trimming trees and bushes at Lyon School.
- Laura Gardner for her donation of jewelry for our spring sale.
- Heather Harrison for her donation to Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration in memory of her mother, Julie Anne Abner along with her dues.
- Pleasant Valley Cemetery volunteers: Pam Bell, Anna Bennett, Rick & Margaret Bigham, Steve & Denise Black, Colleen Donehue, Tony & Beth Ferreya, Betsy Herbst, Jim Ireton, John Rawcliffe, Jim Stevenson, Joe Ventimiglia, Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.
- To our CoBACH docents and Lyon School archiving team. We appreciate your time and talents.

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## Dates to Remember

### PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SUMMER CoBACH HOURS

**CoBACH Center:** FREE Exhibit: **October** display "Music in the Air."

**Every Thursday during October; 9am—12nn:** Lyon Schoolhouse Open for archiving & tours.

**October 27; 9—12; Pleasant Valley Cemetery Headstone Restoration.**

**October 29; Wednesday: BAHS Board Meeting** at CoBACH Center, 6PM.

**November 2; Sunday; 1—4pm: Day of the Dead Celebration @ the Millpond in downtown Brighton** with St. Paul's Church. Arts & Crafts along with 2 cemetery tours.

**December 14, Sunday, 1—4pm:** Santa and Mrs. Claus at Lyon One-room Schoolhouse. FREE EVENT

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## Life — Business — Professional Members

### Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (MI) — Tim & Kerry Bennett — Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley (CA) — Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (FL) — Steve & Denise Black — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — Jack Collett — John & Jenny Conely — Kelsey Corrigan Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Patricia LewAllen DeFoor (GA) — Frank & Jo Del Vero — Bill & Margaret Dixon Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreya — Nancy Fredenburg — Dave & Jacque Fuller — Lee & Deb Gough — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Jason Conrad Huntley, CFP — Kathy Jacoby (OR) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence Jim Leith (IN) — Stephen Leith — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller Randy & Linda Veno Needham — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) Kathy Lueker Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigitte Ritsema Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich Michael & Jennifer Vichich — Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

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

Brewery Becker\*\* — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor\*\* — Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce (2025) — Brighton District Library \*\* Brighton Lions Club (2025) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group \*\* — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2025) Mark Francuck, DDS, PC (2024) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Liberty Title Agency (2024) — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Auto Body \*\* Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — MI Concrete Lifting (2025) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2025) Premier Financial Planning (2025) — Preview Properties (2025) — Promise, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\* — Serra Brighton Automotive (2025) Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2025) — Wallflower Mercantile\*\* — Wealth & Wellness Group (2025)

### 2025 Sponsorships:

**Platinum:** John Cameron, MD, Jerry & Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, **Platinum Plus:** Wallflower Mercantile

**Silver:** Steve & Denise Black — Kathy Lueker Pearson — **Gold:** Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

**Bronze:** Tony & Beth Ferreya

## Support BAHS: Become a Sponsor, 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, become a member or a sponsor, please mail your check to the address provided on the form below.

**Mail check payable to:**

Brighton Area Historical Society  
 P. O. Box 481  
 Brighton, MI 48116-0481

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive Trail Tales via:** E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ US Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership Plan:**

New             \$5 Student             \$50 Patron or More  
 Renew            \$20 Individual        \$75 Business/Professional  
                   \$30 Family             \$500 Life

**Additional Donation to — Check as Desired:**

Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration  
 Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund  
 Friend of Lyon School  
 BAHS CoBACH Events  
 Friend of Old Village Cemetery

**Amount of Additional Donation:**

\$10                     \$100  
 \$25                     \$250  
 \$50                     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in memory /honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BAHS Sponsorship Program:**

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tales newsletter and through the sponsorship placard located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall).

Platinum — \$1,000+                     Gold — \$500+  
 Silver — \$250+                             Bronze — \$100+

**We are looking for volunteers:** If you would like more information, please contact **Nancy Fredenburg at 517-304-5044.**

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit AND a 509(a)2 Public Charity Organization . All donations are tax deductible.

### Current BAHS Leadership

President <b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>	Directors <b>Ron Cyr</b> <b>Tony Ferreyra</b> <b>Mindy Kinsey</b> <b>Jim Vichich</b>
Vice President <b>Lynn Strong</b>	Trail Tales Editor <b>Jerry Damon</b>
Secretary <b>Thomas Reinke</b>	
Treasurer <b>Steve Black</b>	
Webmaster <b>Debbie Armstrong</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

**Phone:**  
 (517) 304-5044

**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 AND a 509(a)2 public charity 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**



*The following story was researched and written by Jim Vichich. It originally appeared on our Facebook page. We thought since many of our readers/members may not follow along on Facebook, we would repeat the story in Trail Tales.*

### **Old Village Cemetery — Crypt**

The crypt remnants at the Old Village Cemetery goes back to the 1800s and had a specific purpose when built but seemingly a different purpose in the 1940s and 50s.

The northern climates presented a challenge to burials during the winter freeze. The ground would be frozen from January through mid-March and made it almost impossible to bury the dead during this interval.

Some cemetery locations would use an option of piling lumber/ logs in the area of the burial plot and setting them on fire. This fire would be continuously fed with logs for multiple days until the earth was thawed for hand digging for the burial. Not sure if this practice was done in Brighton but it would seem like a viable alternative.

The crypt was used initially as a holding room where caskets with bodies were stored when the frost was too deep into the ground for burial. As the ground started to thaw in mid-March and early April then these stored caskets with bodies would be buried. Power equipment for digging through the frozen ground did not become readily available until the 1940s. It was at this time that the crypt in the Old Village Cemetery seemed to shift its use from temporary winter storage to permanent year round storage. This information was obtained from several senior individuals who described gaining access into the crypt through the locked iron front door. Caskets were visible and apparently

younger kids were taken into the crypt at night by older friends or brothers to frighten the younger sibs.

There use to be two crypts that were adjacent to each other. Several feet to the north of the existing crypt facade was an older crypt. The older crypt was just a small rubble pile of cut fieldstones around 2006. The existing crypt facade of cut fieldstones was repaired in 2010 when the new parking lot was built along the existing east property line. The roof and knee wall lower section of the crypt where caskets were stored has been gone for decades.

*(Thank you to Jim Vichich for this article.)*



OVC Crypt c 2009



OVC Crypt c 2010

*Do you have a memory of Brighton to share with our readers? We are always looking for stories to share about Brighton. If you do, please send your story to our editor, Jerry Damon at [runningbuds@aol.com](mailto:runningbuds@aol.com). We would be happy to share your memories.*