

E-Mail  
[mail@briarcliffhistory.org](mailto:mail@briarcliffhistory.org)  
Phone  
(914) 941-4393

**BMSHS**  
Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

Website  
[www.briarcliffhistory.org](http://www.briarcliffhistory.org)

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## *2016 Fall Newsletter*

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Letter to our BMSHS members and friends –

My invaluable friend and our colleague, James “Jim” Hershberger, was a man who made so many things possible for our outreach and publicity. He died unexpectedly in his sleep on Friday, November 11, 2016.

Jim was a mind-reader, a linguistic, design and computer whiz. He would manipulate images and borders almost endlessly to make flyers look just a bit better; he maintained our e-blast database of almost 1,000 addresses and could send out messages seemingly effortlessly. He could help me find just the right word or phrase when I stumbled. Jim was so enthusiastic about our efforts and successes, and he encouraged and helped us to do more, and to do better.

The effect of his loss is incalculable to the BMSHS, the Historical Society of the Nyacks, and the Historical Society of Piermont (where he did similar work), to his dear family, to the New York Giants, whose games he never missed in the Meadowlands, and to me. We have lost our outreach voice – our digital megaphone. Jim quickly and efficiently sent e-blasts to the wide audience we have developed. These e-blasts have been popular and have helped us spread “the good word” both near and far. They have been noted and appreciated by many who have learned about us, about our programs and events throughout our wider area, which they would not have known of otherwise.

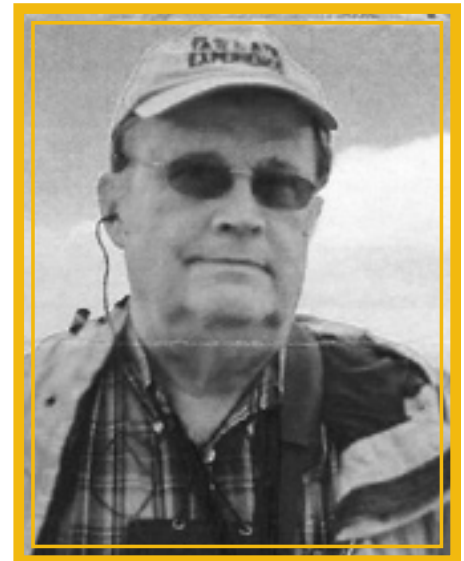
So, I ask for your understanding as we temporarily lower our profile out of necessity and regroup. An indefinite period will exist until we figure out a way to do what we used to do and find a way to do new things.

Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization. We do a lot of work -- much of it takes considerable time, and most of it is done by very few hands. If you have ever thought of volunteering or increasing your financial contribution to the BMSHS, now would be a perfect time to come forth. The work that we need to do is greater than the people we have to do it. Please let me know if you can help.

There is a huge, happy feeling and much satisfaction in store for anyone who can give time and effort as Caretakers of Our Heritage. I know – and there is no doubt that we are contributing in an important way to the village.

With sadness, but great hope for the future and a Happy New Year.

*Karen Smith*



*Jim Hershberger - 1943-2016*

*Photo Courtesy of his family*



*Steve Varvaro awarding prizes for Sassiest Captions contest.*



*Tom & Meg McGarrity and their classic Cadillac convertible!*

*Photo Courtesy of The Gazette*



*Karen Smith with copies of Dow girls' scrapbooks from 1908, 1910 & 1917.*

*Photo Courtesy of The Gazette*



*Mary Dale Allen, left, and Charla Marshal, Briarcliff Jr. College alumnae with yearbooks.*

*Photo Courtesy of The Gazette*





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## Remembering Dow Hall As It Was Fifty Years Ago....

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Photo BMSHS archives



*Mayor Schuman, Betty Clarke, Eleanor Roosevelt, Clara Tead, Headmistress 1943.*

This was an email sent to the BMSHS a few days after the Afternoon Lawn Party held at Dow Hall . It was sent by Lowen McKay, a BMSHS member and a graduate of Briarcliff College. Her remembrances are evocative and nostalgic and are reprinted with her permission. Her memories add a nice coda to what was a very special day in a unique setting.

“Karen, thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to visit Dow Hall. As a graduate of Briarcliff College, the building has a special meaning to me. I hadn’t been there since I graduated 53 years ago. It brought back many fond memories and I thought I would share them with you.

“The campus has changed and expanded significantly. When I attended, Dow Hall (we just called it ‘Main’) was the primary building with Johnson Hall [facing Elm Road] (then known simply as ‘Ho Jo’) a nearby dorm building. The modern buildings that are to the right as you enter the campus today did not exist and the space then served as a field hockey field. The school provided two-year degrees for young women. My roommate graduated with a cartography degree, a study of map-making that today would have a computer element that was not even dreamed of during those days.

“I lived on the second floor of Dow Hall, almost opposite the Palladian window overlooking the grand staircase in the reception area. Men were permitted only on the ground floor and no men were allowed on the second floor where the dorms resided. There were no exceptions. This rule was carried to extremes as our fathers could not take our suitcases upstairs to our dorm rooms upon our arrival on the first day of school and we were forced to lug them up ourselves. There was

a 10 PM curfew and all the outside doors were locked at that time. We also had room inspections and if you failed to keep your room neat, you were grounded and not permitted to leave campus for a period of time. Communications were limited to only one telephone that was hung on the wall at the end of the dorm hallway. When the phone rang, someone would answer it and call down the corridor that you or one of your friends had a call (hopefully from your boy friend).

“Dinner was in the dining hall in Dow and we had to wear appropriate attire. We could wear pants (no jeans) to class, but you had to wear a skirt to dinner. We usually wore a cable knit sweater to finish the look. We weren’t able to bring any food from the dining hall to our rooms, so we would stuff food (usually fruit or cookies) under those bulky sweaters to hide our clandestine treats.

“There was a pool in the basement of the building and we all had to take swimming. The bathing suits were non-form-fitting tank suits with no shape and we all hated wearing them. In the winter, they flooded a portion of the lawn veranda behind Dow Hall [where we had tables and chairs set up] and they lit the area at night for ice skating. My dorm room overlooked the skating rink and it was quite lovely to see this winter scene right out my window.

“The class rooms were small and the teachers quite professional. Our studies took most of our time but we had a theatre where we had lessons in dance and music that I thoroughly enjoyed. I remember on one occasion when Eleanor Roosevelt visited us and we were quite excited to hear her speak. Anne Roosevelt was a student at Briarcliff College and I’m sure her influence prompted Mrs. Roosevelt’s saying a few words to us. Anne and Charlotte Ford of Ford Motor Cars, and Leslie Entratter, whose father owned the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, were also my schoolmates so there were many young women who were attending Briarcliff College with the goal of being prepared for their future endeavors.

“So, Karen, thank you for letting me think about a happy memory of my times at Briarcliff College and see Dow Hall once again.”

*Lowen McKay*



## Lt. John Kelvin Koelsch, USN Medal of Honor Memorial Dedication Ceremony

Law Memorial Park  
Veterans Day  
Friday, 11 November 2016 - Noon



Photo National Naval Aviation Museum



*Above is an unarmed HO3S helicopter similar to the one piloted by Navy Lt. Koelsch with crewman G. M. Neal, AM3 in the rescue of Marine aviator, Capt. James V. Wilkins, whose Corsair fighter had been hit by enemy fire during a reconnaissance mission about 35 miles southwest of Wonsan.*

*Below is the USS Koelsch (FF-1049). Originally a Garcia-class destroyer escort, the Koelsch was built in 1964, launched in 1965 and commissioned in 1966. Used in anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and blockade, the USS Koelsch was decommissioned in 1989.*



## Medal of Honor Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with a Navy helicopter rescue unit.

Although darkness was rapidly approaching when information was received that a marine aviator had been shot down and was trapped by the enemy in mountainous terrain deep in hostile territory, Lt. Koelsch voluntarily flew a helicopter to the reported position of the downed airman in an attempt to effect a rescue.

With an almost solid overcast concealing everything below the mountain peaks, he descended in his unarmed and vulnerable aircraft without the accompanying fighter escort to an extremely low altitude beneath the cloud level and began a systematic search. Despite the increasingly intense enemy fire, which struck his helicopter, he persisted in his mission until he succeeded in locating the downed pilot, who was suffering from serious burns on the arms and legs.

While the victim was being hoisted into the aircraft, it was struck again by an accurate burst of hostile fire and crashed on the side of the mountain. Quickly extricating his crewmen and the aviator from the wreckage, Lt. Koelsch led them from the vicinity in an effort to escape from hostile troops, evading the enemy forces for 9 days and rendering such medical attention as possible to his severely burned companion until all were captured.

Up to the time of his death while still a captive of the enemy, Lt. Koelsch steadfastly refused to aid his captors in any manner and served to inspire his fellow prisoners by his fortitude and consideration for others. His great personal valor and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice throughout, sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.



## Veterans Day 11-11-2016 and the unveiling of the Medal of Honor plaque for John Kelvin Koelsch

Photo Courtesy of Karen Smith



Special Medal of Honor Bagpiper and Honor Guard Start the Ceremony.



Photo Courtesy of Nathan Feist

Donald P. Gregg, former Ambassador to Korea; Karen Smith, BMSHS President; Judge Warren W. Eginton, former classmate of Koelsch; and Lt. Col. John N. O'Loughlin, who served in Korea.

Photo Courtesy of Karen Smith



BMSHS members Meryl Golden, Midge Bosak and Eugene Vastola.

Photo Courtesy of Nathan Feist



Karen Smith, Barry Bosak; VBM Manager Phil Zegarelli; Trustee Cesare DeRose & Mayor Lori Sullivan with memorial wreath.



Photo Courtesy of Karen Smith

Long-time Scoutmaster Joe Lylak.

## 2016 Membership to date

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Korth, Will  
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Leihbacher, Tom & Rachel  
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McGinty, Greg & Joan  
McKay, Lowen  
Messer, Eric & Hillary

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Nichols, Norman & Mary  
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Peterson, Bob  
Santiago, Mark & Adeline  
Smith, Karen  
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Stoianoff, Carroll  
Sullivan, Lori  
Van Hengel, Dru  
Watson, Steve & Lynn

### Family

Barkley, Byron & Deb  
Bassett, Michael & Linda  
Beebe, Tyler & Brooke  
Beicke, Bob & Joan  
Blake, Virginia  
Bogart, Chris &  
Liz O'Connell  
Borrelli, Joe & Colleen  
Carpentier, Marie  
Cohen, Steven & Linda  
DeFino, Ralph & Anne  
Dengler, Ken & Susan  
Feher, David & Gwen  
Gaffney, Thomas  
Gausepohl, Mark & Sheri  
Israel, Jody  
Johnson, Jr., Bill & Debbie  
LaBruzzo, Carl & JoAnn  
Leitzes, Martin & Pauline  
Little, Bob & Mary  
Manuele, John & Lisa  
Mayas, Albert & Francine  
Mesiti, Franco & Martha  
Mickel, John & Carol  
Morrison, George & Mirla  
Myers, Tom & Shannan  
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Orts, Frank & Susan  
Owens, Peter & Myla  
Patella, Paul & AnneMarie  
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Saper, Steve & Shelley  
Schrader, Agnes & John  
Schultz, Stephen & Marilyn  
Scudo, Sally & Patrick Reilly  
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Turshen, Doug & Rochelle

Van Steen, John & Deborah  
Ventura, Bill & Marion  
Wachtel, Lou & Barbara  
Whitson, Bob & Yvonne  
Zegarelli, Phil & Barbara  
Zirman, Bryan & Rori

### Senior (2)

Aisenbrey, Stu & Bev  
Comiskey, Tom & Beatrix  
Corfield, Peter & Gillian  
Cryan, John & Maria  
Dubac, Doris & Donald  
Franco, Tony & Edith  
Grant, Alan & Michelle  
Grund, Victor & Joan  
Guardenier, Bill & Betsy  
Herbek, Richard & Linda  
Hiller, Sid & Lana  
Holmquist, Eric & Ragnhild  
Jordan, Judith & Bob  
Jusko, Ed & Dolores  
Kostman, Stan & Barbara  
Kotter, Bruce & Marie  
Messina, Ed & Tina  
Molinelli, Michael & Gina  
Nechis, Mal & Joan  
Neroulis, Andonios & Eva  
Netburn, Malcolm & Susan  
Sader, Marion & Ray  
Satlin, Doris & Sheldon  
Seideman, Betty  
Springer, Todd & Mary Ting  
Towbin, MD, Carl & Twilia  
Vincent, Tom & Barb  
Williams, Gray & Marian  
Yuter, Sy & Elinor

### Individual

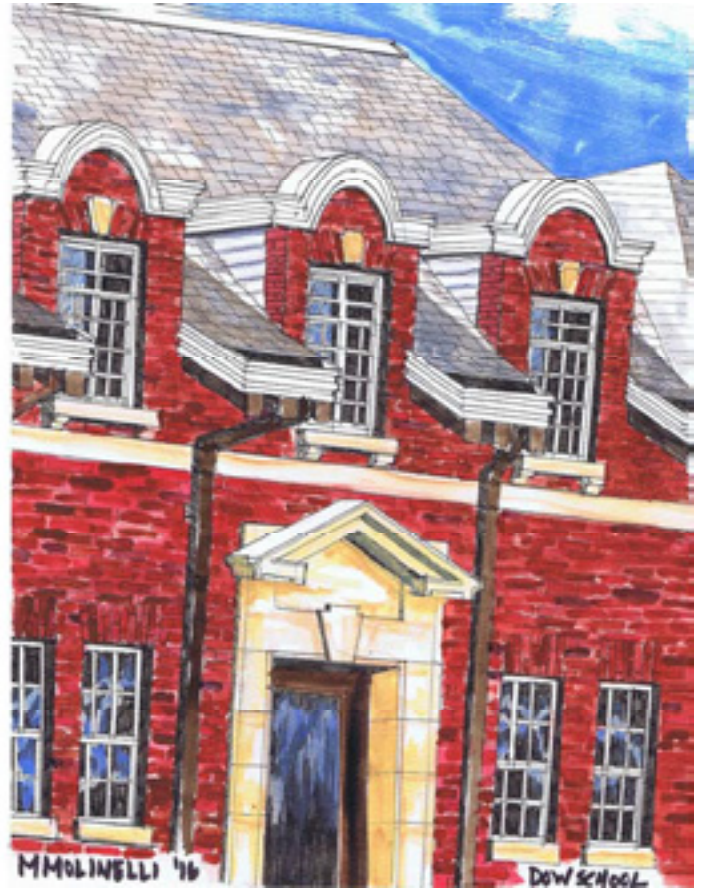
Bersito, Lois  
Burachok, Marta  
Cohn, Carol  
Eldredge, Cynthia  
Giam, JoAnn  
Greenblatt, Melinda  
Hernandez, Miguel  
Hershberger, Jim  
Jackson, Ted  
Lewis, Bobbie  
Lynch, Carolyn  
Nepaulsingh, Bert  
Pohar, Mark  
Potente, Gene  
Remy, Marilyn  
St. Lawrence, Rosa  
Stroobants, Hank

Zawacki, Kathleen

### Senior (1)

Alenstein, Mary  
Andrews, Patricia  
Bergman, Ruth  
Bernstein, Barbara  
Blockley, Kaye  
Brennemann, Florence  
Cerrone, Bob  
Chervokas, Roseanna  
Daly, Trudy  
Dick, Janet  
DiMase, Frances  
Fitzgerald, Anne  
Florent, Mary Jane  
Gentile, Charles  
Golden, Meryl  
Gonzalez, Millie  
Graham, Audrey  
Graves, Bruce  
Harrison, Dan  
Hoffman, JayCee  
Horkans, Wilma Jean  
Isaac, Helene  
Jones, Rhode  
Karp, Liz  
Kwiat, Barbara  
Lasher, Carol  
Lichter, Risa  
Limongelli, William  
May, Audrey  
McGrath, Jr., Ted  
Miluszewicus, Cheryle  
Mirsky, Sandy  
Myers, Louisa  
Oechsner, Carl  
Oehrig, Robert  
O'Loughlin, John  
Olson, Maxine  
Parker, Caroline  
Peterson, Rhoda  
Petroni, Violet  
Porter, Henrietta  
Ravosa, Claire  
Reynolds, Cal  
Ruffner, Nancy  
Schwartz, Esther  
Semisa, Aurelia  
Sottile, Vincent  
Strauss, Lore  
Truslow, Jan  
Williams, Barbara  
Willner, Susan





# **Briarcliff Lodge & Dow School: Architectural Sisters**

*We will Compare and Contrast the Two Most Significant Buildings in Our Village.*

**Briarcliff Manor Public Library**  
**1 Library Road, Briarcliff Manor NY 10510**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

**Presented by**

**Michael Molinelli, AIA LEED ap NCARB**

**[www.molinelliarchitects.com](http://www.molinelliarchitects.com) [michael@molinelliarchitects.com](mailto:michael@molinelliarchitects.com)**

**Sponsored by The Briarcliff Library and  
The Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society**



Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough  
Historical Society

P.O. Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510

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Carine Feist - Secretary  
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Kathleen Zawacki (2017)

Dear Members and Friends -- Please show your support for the Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society's mission by becoming a member or renewing your membership for 2016 (our fiscal year and membership dues year is the calendar year). Your support is vital to us as we share our history through the newsletter, offer special programs and reach out to you through our website. Please renew, join us with your 2016 membership or send along an extra donation. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us anytime at [mail@briarcliffhistory.org](mailto:mail@briarcliffhistory.org) or 941-4393.



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Senior (1) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional contributions always welcome.**

Please make your check payable to BMSHS and mail to PO Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

Look for BMSHS information in your emails, on the Village Community Events Banner, our newsletters, *The Gazette*, the bulletin board outside the EOCW Historical Center, Facebook, our website [www.briarcliffhistory.org](http://www.briarcliffhistory.org) and the Briarcliff Library announcements bulletin board. And we welcome your phone calls to us at 941-4393 and email at [mail@briarcliffhistory.org](mailto:mail@briarcliffhistory.org)