



# The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day—Third Saturday of Each October  
BCHF is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit, all volunteer Organization.

NOVEMBER, 2024

## President's Corner

### Goodbye to Two of our Board Members

This is the last edition of the Gazette published in 2024; there is no Gazette in December. As the year ends, we bid goodbye to two of our longest serving board members, Nancy Doyle and Nancy Maren.

Nancy Doyle has been a member of BCHF since the 1980s. She's been on the board of directors twice and has held the offices of the Treasurer and of the Corresponding Secretary. Nancy has always been an enthusiastic volunteer: she and Mary Kehoe worked together for 16 years on the BCHF bakery table at Historic Bristol Day (HBD); she recruited volunteers for the HBD house tours; she has always been available to lend a hand for BCHF events such as the peach social; she regularly assists our Treasurer, Anna Larrisey. On several occasions when we were confronted with financial issues, Nancy was able to advise us based on her experience in bank management. Perhaps above all, we will miss having Nancy's balanced view and grounded judgement.

Nancy Maren has been on the board for almost 35 years, since the early 1990s. She was president of the

board from 1997-2001. During that time, she steered the board through some major renovations to our headquarters and was the chairman of the HBD committee for two years. Nancy was on the "First Night" committee for all eleven years that BCHF sponsored that delightful event. She was the Membership Committee head for about 27 years until just a couple of years ago when Sue Watkins took the position. From 2000 until just this year, Nancy was the Graphic and Layout editor of the Gazette. If that's not enough, Nancy has always volunteered to help out with BCHF events like the Peach Social and house staffing on HBD. Looking back, we can see that Nancy was an exceptionally valuable board member but, also, that she has carefully managed her retirement from the board by finding her own replacements, most recently our new editor, Linda Rowan.

With sadness, we accept Nancy Doyle's and Nancy Maren's resignations. However, we are grateful to have had them on the board for so many years. The vacancies they leave will eventually be filled but we will never truly be able to replace them. Thank you, Nancy and Nancy.

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES

The BCHF Board of Directors will have three open seats for the 2025 year. Each term is for three years and we meet the second Wednesday of each month (except July & December) for our monthly meeting. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please send a letter of interest (must be post-marked no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>) to the following:

BCHF

Nick Rizzo, Nominating Committee

P.O. Box 215

Bristol, PA 19007

Or email your questions or letters electronically by the same date to [nickandrew78@comcast.net](mailto:nickandrew78@comcast.net).

## Recap of Pat Mervine's Presentation

Rounding out our lecture series on the Marquis de Lafayette, we were very fortunate to have Patricia L. Mervine as our speaker on Sunday, September 22. Pat spoke to us about Lafayette the human rights advocate in her talk entitled “Lafayette the Abolitionist”.

Pat turned her hand to local history research, following her 30-year career as a speech/language pathologist and assistive technology consultant in Bucks County schools. Her first foray into historical research resulted in a book, “Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History”, that tells the stories of the 21 owners of Boone Farm, a 1716 stone farmhouse on the banks of Core Creek. Following that, Pat tackled a more involved topic, the history of African Americans in Bucks County from the 1600s through the post-Civil War reconstruction era. This research led to her next book, “Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County” which is about the many people involved in the abolition movement and the Underground Railroad in Bucks County. During the course of this latest research, Pat discovered that the Marquis de Lafayette was a staunch, life-long abolitionist.

During her presentation at BCHF on September 22, Pat described Lafayette’s early life and the influences that resulted in his belief in the equality of all men. She described Lafayette’s lifelong efforts to achieve his ideals: he was a major author of the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen” presented to the National Assembly of France during the French Revolution; he was a staunch advocate for the emancipation of slaves and their equal rights; he argued for the fair treatment of Native Americans, religious tolerance, and freedom of the press. Finally, Pat related Lafayette’s demonstration of how plantation slaves could become free, paid workers on the plantations he purchased in the French colony of Guiana.

Following her talk, Pat entertained questions from the audience and we all enjoyed the homemade treats made by members of the Ways and Means committee. In lieu of an honorarium, Pat requested that we donate to the African American Museum of Bucks County.

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## The 1824 Lafayette Arch Finds a Home!

By Rosemary Mignoni

Many years ago, Bristol Historian, Paul Ferguson, was taking an evening stroll around town and noticed a heap of trash near Cedar and Dorrance Streets. Paul knew that the American Legion building was going to be demolished soon to make way for 4 new homes on the 600 block of Radcliffe Street.

The always curious Paul, looked through the pile and found the Arch! He knew he had to rescue this piece of Bristol’s history. He carefully removed the Arch and carried it to his home at 319 Radcliffe Street.( Along the way, a gentleman stopped and helped!)

Paul knocked on the door, and when his wife, Carol Mignoni Ferguson, opened the door,

Paul proclaimed, “look what I found, Carol!”

“WOW!”, was her response, “We need to find a place for this so that everyone can see this piece of history!”

Carol called our family together and we brainstormed,

and thought the Borough Hall would be a good place to display the Lafayette Arch. I went over to see the Borough Manager, Fidel Esposito, and he agreed, and organized the Placement of the Arch, near the Borough Council Hall.

Our Municipal Building is now filled with wonderful pictures and artifacts of Bristol, including the 1824 Lafayette Arch... “Welcome Friend!”







## 1824 Flower Girl Remembered

Sandy Spicer contacted BCHF with information connected to Lafayette. She and her son, Harry, enjoy scouring the Bristol Cemetery and discovered a tombstone for Mary Booz Vansant.

Mary was born in 1816. At the age of 8, she was one of the flower girls who proudly helped decorate the arch that was used to welcome the Marquis de Lafayette back to Bristol in 1824 and had that inscribed on her memorial.



## 2024 Annual Meeting

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 20 at 7 PM at BCHF headquarters** for our annual meeting. Following a short business meeting to summarize the state of BCHF and the election of the board members, we will have a final program to end our year commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette and his visits to Bristol as a youth and during his Farewell Tour. In addition to this, we will be able to enjoy and purchase pieces of Lafayette/French related art by members of the Artists of Bristol as well as food and drink that Lafayette may have enjoyed while here in the United States or in France. This is a free event open to everyone.

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### "UNSUSPECTING PARTICIPANTS"

That's the title of this year's presentation by Titanic historian David Kaplan, who'll make his return to BCHF's stage on **Tuesday, November 26, at 7 p.m.** Mr. Kaplan, of Petoskey, MI, has been a member of the Titanic Historical Society for over four decades. His interest in the Titanic began when he was 9 years old while watching the 1953 "Titanic" movie. From that point on, he has been researching the tragedy, the ship and its passengers. On the 26th, he will present the biography of six people -- from their early years, their coming together on the Titanic for five days, and each one going back to their normal lives with the memories of the tragedy.

Attendees are kindly asked to bring a donation for the Bristol First United Methodist Church Food Pantry of sanitary products, toilet paper, paper towels, dish or laundry detergent, etc., or a monetary contribution.

We hope to see you on the 26th! Invite your family members and friends to accompany you!!

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### SAIL AWAY WITH BCHF

The Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, through Grand American Tours of Morton, PA, is presenting an 8 day/7 night PACIFIC WINE COUNTRY CRUISE, MAY 10-17, 2025, on THE SAPHIRE PRINCESS. Ports-of-call are: Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, CA; Astoria, OR; Victoria and Vancouver, CANADA. Rates per person double occupancy range from \$3,048 for an inside cabin to \$3,578 for a balcony cabin and include round-trip airfare from Philadelphia, port charges, government fees, taxes and transfers to/from the ship. A Passport is required. An initial deposit of \$350 pp double occupancy or \$700 pp single is required to secure a reservation and assign a cabin.

For bookings by November 30, only \$100 pp

deposit is required for double occupancy, subject to capacity control. Final payment is due by January 9.

For a detailed flyer, with descriptions of the six ports-of-call, contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408. Make reservations on line at <http://www.grandamericantours.com> or by calling 1-800-423-0247 or 1-610-328- 4181.

Cancellation insurance is available through Grand American.

**Keep in mind that the reservation deadline is January 9 and that there will be no December Gazette to remind you!**

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### Thanks to everyone who made HBD 2024 possible.

We are grateful to everyone who worked to make Historic Bristol Day a success this year. Thanks to all the committee chairs, all the volunteers, all the other organizations that participated, all the property owners that allowed us to show their properties, all the many businesses and individual donors, and all the residents of Radcliffe Street that tolerate the inconvenience of having a street fair at their front doors. Special thanks to Mary Gesualdi, the tireless chairperson of the HBD committee and Mark Gesualdi, the organizer of the HBD Car Show. This year's Historic Bristol Day was one of the best. Bristolians and people from all over will have wonderful memories of Bristol and this magnificent event.

## ***Our member sponsors for Historic Bristol Day are:***

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### **Historic Bristol Day Raffle Winner**

The lucky winner of the original watercolor donated by Joe Sagolla is Jerry Kline. The wonderful painting depicts the riverside view of one of the most historically significant buildings in Bristol, the King George II Inn. Congratulations Jerry!

## **A Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**

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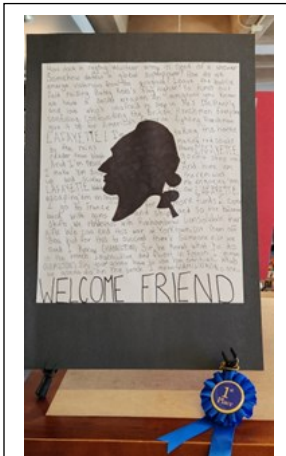
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Maggie McCay  
Mary Lou Tantum  
Mike Crossan  
Qadriyyah Tongori  
Raising the Bar  
Stepping Stone Dancers  
WaWa of Bristol



## 2024 Bristol Day Student Art Contest Winners

Special thanks to Ms. Vogt, Mrs. Marchese, Ms. Mitchell, Mrs. Scavello and their students for all the phenomenal entries in this year's Historic Bristol Day Student Art Contest. The Artists of Bristol, Janice Rhodes and Marty Shively, expertly judged all the artwork and the winners were:



First Place  
Molly Balcer  
St. Mark  
Grade 8



Second Place  
Emerilise Golden  
Snyder-Girotti  
Grade 6



Third Place  
Shelly Bergey  
Bristol Middle School



Honorable Mention  
Charlotte Faithanne  
Burton,  
Bristol Middle School  
Grade 8

All the art was on display in the Grundy Library on Bristol Day.



Fun at the Grundy Library  
on Historic Bristol Day



The Car Show was a huge success with about 130 cars participating. We had a record number of attendees all voting for their favorite antique and classic car.



The Best of Show trophy went to a 1957 Thunderbird that was originally owned by Frank Sinatra. The owner is Don Mc Millan, who sports a hat like Old Blue Eyes wore.

The People's Choice trophies were awarded at 2:45.

First Place Antique went to Bob Johnson Jr. for a 1969 Camaro Z28.

Second Place Antique went to Art Smith for a 1957 Chevy Bel Air.

Third Place Antique went to Frank Messenger for a 1967 Firebird convertible.

First Place Classic went to Cynthia Mancuso for a 2013 Mercedes Benz SC 550 Roadster.

Second Place Classic went to Angelo Bassio for a 2005 Chevy SSR.

Third Place Classic went to a 2010 Chevy Camaro custom.

The car cruise went off without a hitch at 3PM. The cruise came down Pond to Old 13, down Mill St. to Radcliffe to Market and down Market to Old 13. The cruise gives all those that didn't make it to the show an opportunity to see the cars.

#### OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from **November 1934** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER. Price 2c a copy; 6c a week.

11/1 – VOTERS JAM ST. MARK'S SCHOOL HALL TO HEAR SPEAKERS DISCUSS THE ISSUES OF THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN AT OLD-FASHIONED REPUBLICAN RALLY.

State Treasurer Charles A. Waters came to the native town of his father, Daniel Waters, last night and delivered a stirring political address on behalf of the Republican candidates.

LEVINSON'S ADDS NEW DEPARTMENT TO STORE. Levinson's United Cut Rate Drug Store, 125-127 Mill Street, has announced an innovation in modern pharmacy. With the engaging of a registered pharmacist, The Levinson Brothers have set up a new department where the customers can see their prescriptions compounded while they wait.

11/3 – ST. ANN'S AND OPPONENTS FAIL TO SCORE IN GAME. On a gridiron drenched in rain, the St. Ann's A.A. Warriors and the Wissahickon Eagles splashed, skidded, slipped and rolled to a scoreless tie yesterday afternoon on the local field. The game was a benefit affair for the Harriman Hospital. Playing for the locals were: Tulio, Kornstedt, Niccols, Tunis, Angelo, M. Seneca, and Conti.

"ROLLER SKATING, Bristol's New Pastime, 1504 Farragut Avenue 1/4. Ladies 25c, Men 35c, Spectators 10c. 8 p.m. – 11:15. Special instruction classes available."

11/7 – THREE GENERATIONS IN BUSINESS FIFTY YEARS. A half century of business enterprise is being observed this year by S. B.

Ardrey and Sons, machinists, whose plant on Pond Street has occupied the same location for the entire fifty year period.

"HOUSE FOR RENT. #220 Mulberry St. 8 rooms and bath, open stairway, garage. \$30 a month."

11/8 – OVER 200 CONFIRMED AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH. Bishop O'Hara Gives Most Touching Address to Large Assemblage.

"A&P. Reduced Prices! 8 O'Clock Coffee – 19c Lb. Rinso (washes clothes whiter) – 2 lg. pkgs. – 39c. Post Bran Flakes – 10c Pkg. Sylvan "A" Milk – 13c Qt. Crisp Iceberg Lettuce – 5c Head. Golden Ripe Bananas – 4 Lbs. 19c."

11/9 – LWD WORK GETS UNDERWAY HERE. Workmen are engaged in rebuilding the boat wharf at the foot of Mill Street and tree surgeons are engaged in trimming the trees of the borough as well as doctoring them where it is necessary.

11/21 – DEMOCRATS PARADE IN VICTORY CELEBRATION. Jubilant Democrats of Bristol and various other districts in Bucks County paraded through the streets here last night in a victory celebration. The paraders were afoot, on horseback and in motor cars. Red fire and transparencies with pithy slogans added color to the line. The parade marched for two hours.

11/22 – PHARMACISTS FORM A COUNTY ASSOCIATION. Officers elected include Asa Fabian of Bristol, President, and Edward T. Finegan of Bristol, Secretary-Treasurer.





**Bristol Cultural &  
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## **BCHF Calendar Of Events For 2024**

**NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/20, 7 PM.** BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Election of Board members followed by a presentation entitled "Adieu, Lafayette." French- & Lafayette-themed refreshments and the Artists of Bristol's artwork spotlighting France and Lafayette. The public is cordially invited. No fee.

**NOVEMBER. Tues., 11/26, 7 PM.** Return of Titanic historian David Kaplan whose topic will be "Unsuspecting Participants." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donations to the FUMC Food Pantry of Bristol of sanitary products, toilet paper, paper towels, dish or laundry detergent, etc., greatly appreciated.

### **CHECK ON LAST-MINUTE AVAILABILITY**

In case you missed the reservation deadline for our December 3 "Holidays at Nemours Mansion" bus trip and would like to get onboard, check with Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 re. any last-minute openings. The cost, including lunch, is \$135 for BCHF members and \$145 for non-members.

**Stay tuned for information on next year's day trips!**

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BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check our website at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org)  
Email us at [bchf2157819895@gmail.com](mailto:bchf2157819895@gmail.com) Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol\_historic\_foundation

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