

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.

APRIL 2025

Corner

resident?

Dear Members,

We are excited to have Bristol Borough High School students contribute several pieces to this issue of the Gazette. The students are in Mrs. Renard's creative writing class. The BCHF is grateful to Mrs. Renard and

class. The BCHF is grateful to Mrs. Renard and her students for these contributions. We are always looking for stories of about our community's past, old photos, and other content for future issues of the Gazette. Please consider submitting for the Gazette. Many recent issues of the Gazette are available on BCHF's website.

We recently had our second planning meeting for Historic Bristol Day. Larry Daniel and I are working with all the other volunteers to coordinate various logistics needed for Historic Bristol Day. Other upcoming BCHF events are listed in this issue of the Gazette and on our website.

Other recent developments at BCHF include general building maintenance activities. Our building on Cedar Street was constructed over 150 years ago. Over the last ten years, a new roof was put on the building, the air condition unit replaced, the interior was painted, and other minor projects were completed. The side windows of the Cedar Street building were replaced last year. Several years ago, the wooden front entrance and windows were restored and painted. Since the restoration, a fresh coat of paint was needed on the front windows. In March of this year, the front windows repainted by Mr. Kleen Restoration LLC. This organization takes great pride in its headquarter building. It is an historic landmark in the borough.

The BCHF looks forward to seeing everyone at future events.

Jesse Walker, President

Save the Date for Our Spring Tea

What would Spring be without our Annual Tea. This year the committee is again hard at work to spare no details to make this another memorable event. Of course we will have our traditional homemade scones, along with a variety of delicious tea sandwiches served with all the hot tea you can drink. A special treat is being planned for a sweet treat to top off the event.

To make our decorations even more festive, the walls will be festooned with works of art by the Artists of Bristol. All art is available for purchase.

Save the afternoon of Sunday, April 27 for this Spring event. Reservations, which are limited, will be taken starting on April 1st through April 19th by calling 215.788.9408. Tickets are \$40 per person.

'Tony Russo, Board Member, Resigns

By: Sue Watkins

Tony Russo, Building Manager of BCHF, formally resigned at our meeting in February. Tony, who took on the very important responsibility for the health and well-being of the BCHF Headquarters, explained that it is time for him to step down from his position on the Board. Tony has handled communications with heating, air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing companies. His responsibilities have included checking for mold and water issues in the basement, getting estimates for painting and window replacements all the while keeping the historical character and significance of the building.

In every organization there's that go-to guy. That's our Tony. Tony Russo, the guy who can make it work, or who knows someone to call and do the work, or at the very least will spend hours if not days researching companies who specialize in figuring out how to make it work.

At Bristol Day, Tony has worked as a tour guide. He helps every year to man our sales and information table. He peels peaches at for the Peach Social.

He checks gutters, trees, and water leaks in the ceiling. Tony has climbed many a ladder, cut many a branch, and fixed the bulbs on a variety of lights.

Tony and his wife Marge are ready to jump on the bus for the tours sponsored by BCHF. I can speak personally all that my husband and I learned traveling with him on all those trips. Tony is a veritable walking encyclopedia of information about the sites and about the people/animals/plants we will see or hear about. He makes every trip more interesting by sharing his excitement about the upcoming "adventure".

Tony retired many years ago. But he has never stopping working. He still knows his way around a toolbox. I bet he still owns one. While Tony is leaving our Board, he will however come to presentations, come on trips, and probably volunteer at various functions. He just thinks that he's just done crawling around on his hands and knees anymore. He will be tough to replace.

Another Successful Program

by Jan Ruano

In March, BCHF's program was a first-person presentation of Harriet Beecher Stowe by the very talented actor, Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theatre of Philadelphia. This is one of the many portrayals. As an AHT historian and actor, Kim portrays ten different women. In her career in acting, she has appeared on the stages of the New York State Theater and the Metropolitan Opera House. She also is a costume designer. She is responsible for designing many of the historical costumes used in programs from the AHT. It is interesting to note that she is the one who designed the costume for the Phillie Phanatic.

Everyone enjoyed the program which included in depth information about the life and times of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her knowledge of the subject was very evident especially while answering questions from the audience at the end of the presentation. Our programs are a great way to entertain yourself on a Sunday afternoon. Hope to see you at our next upcoming event. Check for events on our website and in the Gazette.



Artists of Bristol Exhibition

The Artists of Bristol (AOB) will be having an exhibit at BCHF again this year. This area has an abundance of fine artists and BCHF is proud to partner with AOB to provide a venue for the artist's work and to promote the tradition of art and culture in our community.

Artists will be dropping off their artwork on April 22 from 4 PM to 6 PM and the artwork will be available for viewing and purchase during our annual tea on

April 27 from 2 PM to 4 PM and any time the building is open through May 2nd.

There will be an exhibition reception on Friday May 2nd from 6 PM to 8 PM. It will be open to everyone, and refreshments will be served. We hope you will join us.

TAKE TIME FOR TEA

On Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m., tea cups wlll be tipping as we gather at BCHF headquarters for our annual Spring Tea. Tea fare of flavorable sandwiches, fruit salad, scones and jam, a yummy dessert and, of course, brewed tea will be served by our Ways & Means Committee ladies. An art exhibition by the Artists of Bristol will be featured.

Cost per person is \$40. Advance reservations are required and will be taken at 215-788-9408 from April 1 to 19. Please note that capacity is limited.

4TH ANNUAL BOAT & CAR SHOW

Don't miss the opportunity of seeing antique and classic boats and cars on display here in Bristol on Saturday, May 31 (rain date: Sunday, June 1). Antique and classic boats from renowned manufacturers, such as Chris-Craft,, Hacker, Century, Garwood, and others will be featured on the Wharf and in the water at dockside. The Mid-Atlantic Antique & Classic Boat Society will be offering rides in an old-time speed boat on the Delaware River. For more information, visit Mid-AtlanticACBS,com.

Registration for the Car Show will begin at 9 a.m. in the monuments section of Riverfront Park. Registration fee is \$15 per participant, regardless of the number of vehicles entered.

The show will run until 3 p.m. concluding with a car parade from the King George II Inn, up Radcliffe St. and ending at Green Lane.

People' Choice trophies will be awarded in both the Antique and Classic Car categories. A Best of Show trophy will also be awarded. Voting will be by phone as well as by paper ballots.

For more information, visit www.bristoldaycarshow.com.

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS GO ROUND & ROUND

And will be transporting BCHF members and friends on two trips -- one this month and another in June.

Thursday, April 10 -- The destination is Robbinsville, NJ, for a tour of the magnificent Swaminarayan Akshardham, built between 2015 and 2023 and said to be the largest Hindu temple outside of India. Lunch will follow at the historic Cranberry Inn. Then we'll head to Windsor, NJ, for a visit to David Bradley Chocolatier and a chance to purchase some Easter delights. As of this writing, a few seats were available. To check on the current status, contact Jan Ruano at 215-788-2106. Cost is \$120 for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members.

Thursday, June 26 -- This time, we'll be traveling to Philadelphia for a three-course luncheon aboard the Moshulu, the one-and-only restaurant venue on a tall ship in the world today. Next on the itinerary is a tour of the Masonic Temple on Broad Street, a National Historic Landmark, constructed in 1873. Cost is \$130 for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website, http://www.bristolhistory.org.

TWO BY SEA

As of this writing, cabins were available on the "Independence Day Celebration" Cruise on the ocean liner, Queen Mary 2, sailing from New York and stopping at Newport, RI, Boston, MA (over July 4) and Halifax, Nova Scotia Rates per person range from \$1,920 to \$2,680 and include port charges and government fees. A passport is required. For a detailed flyer, call 215-788-9408 or print it from our website,

http://www.bristolhistory.org.

A longer voyage is being offered by Oceania Cruises, Oct. 29-Nov. 9, sailing from Rome to Istanbul and visiting Cinque Terre, Naples/Pompeii and Taormina (Sicily), Italy; Cephalonia, Katakolon and Athens, Greece; and Ephesus and Istanbul, Turkey. Rates per person, double, range from \$6,150 to \$6,850 and **include round-trip airfare from Philadelphia**, port charges, government fees, taxes and transfers to & from the ship. Oceania Cruise also offers a number of perks. A passport is required. Payment is due by April 29. For a detailed flyer, call 215-788-9408 or print it from our website, given above. For questions or reservations, contact Grand American Travel in Morton, PA., at 1-800-423-0247

Mazzanti's Market

By: Tessa Tomlinson

Mazzanti's Market on Lincoln Ave has been around for over 100 years. Guido and Elvira Mazzanti were immigrants from Italy. They opened their market in 1917 and later gave birth to 6 children, Isolina Mazzanti Marozzi, Guerino 'Woody' Mazzanti and Louis 'Gigi' Mazzanti, Mabel Saracino, Irma Mazzanti and Guido Mazzanti Jr. Guerino and his brother Louis Mazzanti were killed in the Battle of St. Lo in World War II around 1944. Later after Guido and Elvira had passed away their daughters Isolina and Irma helped run the market with their families. Isonlina and her husband lived above the shop with their only child Mario Marozzi who is currently running Mazzanti's Market with his aunt Irma and her daughter Elvira Nocito Manginelli.

My father grew up living right next to the market and he says he has a lot of memories of going there. He would tell me stories about how he and his cousins before school would go into the market and get gummy mice and how Isolina Mazzanti would always give them lots of candy. She was always working the register. Even though Isolina has passed away they still have her sweater hanging on the back of the stool where she sat.

So when my parents were looking to buy their first house together, they decided to move into my dad's childhood house, which was right next door to Mazzanti's. Growing up, living next to the market was something I have always enjoyed. Anytime my mom ordered a hoagie she would let me go next door and pick it up for her. When I would walk into the store it always smelled like sharp cheese and Italian Meats. If a kid came into the store Irma and Elvira would fill their pockets with different gums and lollipops.

Every winter when I was younger my brother and I would go outside and shovel the sidewalks. When it would snow and Mario would see us shoveling he always invited us inside the market and let us pick a pint of ice cream. It is pretty cool seeing how many people will come to the market, many of them from out of state who heard how good their hoagies are. You will see different old-fashioned cars outside the shop occasionally, and on Saturdays, the lines could be down the sidewalk. It was always convenient having a market right next to your house, whenever we needed milk or something for dinner that night we could go next door and grab it. My family appreciates Mario and his family so much. It is fascinating to see how the shop has evolved from a little local market to a well-known Italian hoagie place.

BCHF Bristol Community Band

May Performance

Philip Bigelow Executive Director BCHF Bristol Community Band

The BCHF Bristol Community Band will be holding a free concert at the BCHF Headquarters on Sunday May 18 at 2pm. The BCHF Bristol Community Band is sponsored by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation.

We started 1 year ago and have performed at many retirement homes and some festivals including Bristol Day, Lafayette Day and Sunday Afternoon at the Wharf Concert Series. The band was started by several members of the Bracken Cavaliers Alumni Drum and Bugle Corps when membership really started to decline. The idea of starting the community band came from our trumpet soloist Steve Kates and grew from 6 members to 23 in a few weeks' time The band would never have started if it wasn't for the help of following people: band advisor Ed Lynd, board member and treasurer/ music librarian, Tony Arena, and our board secretary/business manager Dianne McDevitt and our Executive Director Phil Bigelow.

At this point, the Band has grown to 27 members and added several members to our administration: Natalie Paschket, Orchestration Manager, Mike Sabol, Digital Director and Beth Vohl, Merchandising.

We play a variety of music ranging from 60s and 70s pop tunes, jazz, big band and ballads.

This year you can catch us as we represent the Historical Foundation and the borough of Bristol at several festivals: Southampton Days, The Red White and Blueberry Festival at Rancocas Woods NJ, Bristol Day and the Sunday at the Bristol Warf Concert Series and well as Burlington County Parks Concert Series in September.

We would love to have you come out and have some fun. The concert is free. Hope to see you on May 18th.

The Expansion of Hockey Throughout Bristol

By: Luciana Snyder

To some people hockey is a dangerous sport, but to others it could be their whole life. In 1970 the first skating rink was built right where nowadays the canal is. It stood as a popular destination point for citizens that lived in Bristol and even tourists traveling in. The rink had made improvements around 1990 enclosing and adding a roof over the ice. Very sadly in 1995 a huge fire broke out at the rink causing it to burn down to ashes. Two years later, The Grundy Foundation purchased the old carpet mill for a reported cost of \$500,000. They demolished the standing building and prepared for the new build of the rink. \$1.755 million was donated for 2 sheet rinks to be placed in the new standing building. This rink would later claim its popular name, "Grundy" after The Grundy Foundation.

Quickly the hockey program grew all over the area, travel teams and school teams would call this their home rink. The Bristol Blazers became the most known hockey team in Bristol. Present day the Grundy Senators and Grizzlies would find their home there later on. Programs like the Flyers learn-to-skate has drawould encourage boys and girls around Bristol to find 2020.

interest in Ice Hockey. These programs would develop a name for hockey throughout the town. Grundy is known as a staple in Bristol and to kids who are chasing their dreams of playing hockey. In 2020 after years of financial problems Bristol sold the rink to a Maryland owned company, "Black Bear." Anyone in the hockey world recognizes this famous name, some people became angry after hearing this news but not for the hockey side of it.

For those not on the hockey side, Black bear is a company that operates different rinks and leagues. They run leagues throughout the AHF, THF and AGHF. Black Bear's goal is to invest in different rinks all over the US and try to grow the game of hockey. They seem so great you may think but to the people of Bristol this was a big issue. The prices of skating and Grundy no longer being something owned by the borough were big problems. Some have also been infuriated with the amount of teams coming in and out of the rink. In my opinion Black Bear was the best option for this old rink. Every time you drive by Grundy on a Saturday the parking lot is packed, many kids running around outside the rink. Since this purchase many local teams have made this rink their home. The increase in hockey teams around this area has drastically increased since the purchase back in

Changes to Sites Around Bristol

By: Harol Mitchener

- 1. The Lenape people lived on the site occupied by the Bristol Borough across the street was the Leedom factory that made quality rugs.
- 2. The Bucks County Court House was across from the Masonic Lodge #25 on Cedar St.
- 3. At the corner of Old Bristol Pike and Mill St. once was where the Grand Theater which showed motion pictures. There were seats for 1,000 patrons. After the films stopped, about 1955, the Kenley Players had live theater production. Some of the actors there were Gloria Vanderbilt, Helen Hays and Margaret Truman.
- 4. Warner's Home-Made Candies formerly on U.S. Route 13 in Bensalem Township started where there is a Bakery Shop at the corner of Pond and Market. Streets.
- 5 Bristol once had seven fire companies: Bristol Fire Company at Market and Wood Sts., No. 2 Fire Company at Pond and Mulberry Sts., No. 3 Fire Company at Swain St. at Pearl St.., No. 4 Fire Company on Mansion Street between Jefferson Ave. and Beaver St., No. 5 Fire Company on Wood St. between LaFayette St. and Jefferson Ave., No. 6 Fire Company on Hayes St. between Wilson Ave. and Farragut Ave., Consolidated Fire Company attached to the Municipal Building on Pond St.
- 6. Between 1831 and 1938 the original Town Hall was in the middle of Market St. facing Radcliffe St.
- 7. The Bristol Diner was located where the William Penn Bank is at Market and Old Bristol Pike.
- 8. The original name of the lake across from the Golden Eagle Diner was Mill Pond.
- 9. The Lenox China Headquarters on Radcliffe St. was once the location of a pipe factory. They made pipes for use in the Panama Canal.
- 10. Landreth Manor at Green Lane and Radcliffe St. was once the Landreth seed and tree farm. They came to Bristol in 1847.
- 11. Bristol's oldest green-houses for growing flowers and plants was Schmidt's located at Otter and Maple Streets. Established in 1895.
- 12. The Bristol Courier Newspaper was printed on Beaver Steet where there is now an America Hears business producing hearing aids. This was the original Courier Building.
- 13. The parking lot for the Grundy Library once had a building on it which was the Library and Red Cross Headquarters.
- 14. Before the Burlington-Bristol Bridge opened in 1930, a ferry boat went between Burlington and Bristol.

- 15. There were once three Quaker Meeting Houses in Bristol. They were at Market and Wood St., Wood and Walnut St. and on Walnut St. opposite St. James Church parish house.
- 16. An Italian opera house was located between Jefferson Ave. and Lincoln Ave. The building remains on the right.
- 17. The former Wells Fargo Bank on Radcliffe St. was originally built as a private home in 1818. The two side additions were added circa 1952.
- 18 Moose Lodge #69 at Radcliffe St. and Green Lane was once the site of the Weed Chevrolet Car Company.
- 19.Bristol once had two dairies for bottling milk. Keystone and Dyers. Located behind LaFayette St. at Pond St.
- 20. When Bristol High School was located at the corner of Wood and Mulberry St. where the Bristol Senior Center is now, the class of 1912 went to Doylestown via an electric trolley. They boarded the trolley at Otter and Bath Sts.
- 21. The Otter Street School was built in 1854 across from the present Molden Funeral Home.
- 22. Leedom's Field for sports was located where the Snyder-Girotti School is on Beaver St.
- 23. The Quaker Meeting House at Market and Wood St. served as a hospital during the American Revolution.
- 24. Wagner's Hospital was located at the corner of Radcliffe and Franklin Sts. across from the funeral home. It is presently an apartment house.
- 25. The building which is the headquarters of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation was once a Quaker school built in 1874.
- 26. Bristol Bowling Alley was located on the second floor of the building at Monroe and Farragut Ave. Pins were set by hand.
- 27. O'Boyles Ice Cream Factory was located on East Farragut Ave. and Green Lane.
- 28. Grants Department Store was located on Mill St. where the Century Eye office is located.
- 29. At one time Bristol was divided into six wards for voting.
- 30. Before DelHaas High School was built on Veterans Highway State Rt. 413, High School students could go to Bristol High on Wilson and Garfield Sts. or to Bensalem High School on U.S. Route 13 across from Holy Ghost Prep School.

OUT OF THE PAST

The following items were excerpted from the Bristol Courier April 1925. Price 2¢

- **April 1 -** Front page editorial The World of Waste A wave of economy and efficiency is sweeping over our country, which is destined to add billions to our wealth instead of being wasted. President Coolidge spoke to a convention of lumbermen on this issue.
- **April 2** Two more electric automatic traffic lights are purchased to be placed at the intersection of the Highway and Jefferson Ave. It will make this section of the Highway among the safest in the area.

Alfred Tomesani, Electrical Contractor, will wire a 6-room house for \$132.50. \$12.50 down and 15 months to pay in full. Includes ceiling fixtures and switches.

- **April 3** Nearly 200 students of Bristol High School to perform "Bimbo" a big musical, comedy, romance of the south seas on April 16 & 17 at the Forrest Theatre.
- **April 4** Baree Son of Kazan by James Oliver Curwood will be published serially in the Bristol Courier beginning April 13, 1925. Have it delivered daily at 6¢ a week.
- **April** 7 Warship Saratoga was launched at Camden, NJ. It is the largest and fastest airplane carrier. When completed in 1926 it will carry 72 combat observation and bombing planes.
- **April 8** Ground was broken for the new school at the intersection of Beaver and Spring St and Jefferson Ave. Joseph R. Grundy donated the ground. Erection of the building by Angelo DiRenzo will be free. This school will eliminate children from the 4th ward crossing the canal to go to school.
- **April 9** The public is invited to attend the meeting of the Fathers' Association of Bristol Public school for an open discussion of building a proposed addition to the high school building. Meeting at the high School on April 14.
- **April 10** Traffic to shore points to be heavy for Easter motorists. Information about routes to Atlantic City and Asbury Park furnished by Automobile club of Philadelphia.

Closer cooperation between the twin cities of the Delaware river, Bristol and Burlington was urged at the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club. They want the river bridged and ship, canal, and port development.

A carrier pigeon released at the launch of the Saratoga landed on the floor of the carpentry shop or the William H. Grundy company at Jefferson Ave. The exhausted bird was carrying a message to President Coolidge that the Saratoga Aircraft Carrier was launched at Camden, NJ. Personnel were coming from the Navy Yard to get the bird.

April 11 – A full page advertisement lists services to be held at 9 Bristol Churches on Easter Sunday.

- **April 13** Bristol police donned new uniforms They give an attractive and military appearance. Residents passed favorable comments.
- **April 14** The gas tax was raised to 2ϕ per gallon.
- **April 15** Residents were urged to set garbage where the collector can get it. It must be placed in watertight receptacles.

A unanimous vote by approximately 200 people in the High school auditorium approved the school board to proceed with plans to build an addition of the high school.

- **April 17** Three articles about dirigibles: R-33 had broken loose from it mooring and was adrift in Great Britain for 29 hours. U. S. Navy dirigible was to fly from Lakehurst NJ to Bermuda. American Army dirigible TC-3 landed safely with a broken rudder in Missouri.
- **April 20** Burglars crawled through the window of the residence of John Smoyer on Linden St. and stole \$38 cash.
- April 21 26 members of the Bristol high school graduating class are ready for the Capital Trip. The group is going by train to Washington D. C. they will visit the Library of Congress, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial and meet President Coolidge. They will return on Saturday night April 25.
- **April 22** New fast convenient train service begins April 26. The Reading's, New York trains will stop at Trenton Junction.
- April 23 School children and teachers contributed canned goods and other eatables for Harriman Hospital on "Hospital Day" in the schools.
- **April 25** Two girls ages 12 and 13 were accused of shoplifting at the Woolworths. They were arrested and given a hearing.
- **April 27** A man was arrested for destroying trees in the Grundy Park. He was arrested by an undercover officer who was watching the park after 2 other incidents of damage to the trees there
- **April 30** Bethel A. M. E. Church raised a large sum to pay off the mortgage on the parsonage and other debts.

Traffic signs will be posted at both ends of the highway where it enters the borough warning of the 15-mph speed limit and traffic signals. The goal is to safeguard motorists and pedestrians.



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BCHF Calendar Of Events For 2025

APRIL. Thurs., 4/10. Bus trip to the Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple outside of India, in Robbinsville, NJ, with lunch at the Cranberry Inn and a visit to David Bradley Chocolatier. \$120 pp for BCHF members; \$130 for non-members. Call 215-788-2106 for flyer/reservation form or print it from BCHF's website, http://www.bristolhistory.org.

APRIL. Sun., 4/27, 2-4 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Annual Spring Tea featuring traditional Tea fare. \$40 pp. Reservations by phone at 215-788-9408 from April 1 to 19. Limited capacity!

MAY. Fri., 5/2, 6-8 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Annual BCHF/AOB collaborative art exhibition and reception, featuring the works of the Artists of Bristol. Appetizers and beverages will be served. No fee.

MAY. Sun., 5/18, 2 PM, at BCHF headquarters. Concert by the BCHF Bristol Community Band. Light refreshment will be served. Donation of \$5 per adult attendee is suggested.

MAY. Sat., 5/31, 10 AM-4 PM. 4th Annual Mahogany & Steel Boat & Car Show, featuring antique and classic boats and cars on display at Bristol Wharf & Docks and Mill St. Parking Lot. Car cruise at 3:00. For more info, go to bristoldaycarshow.com.

JUNE. Thurs., 6/26. Bus trip to Phila., featuring luncheon on the Moshulu at Penn's Landing, followed by a tour of the Masonic Temple, a National Historic Landmark. \$130 pp for BCHF members; \$140 for non-members. Reservation deadline is May 21. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer/reservation form.

AUGUST. Sunday, 8/10, 2-4 PM. Annual Peach Social at BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Fresh, sliced peaches served over ice cream, atop angel food cake. \$10 per person. Take out or eat in. Event benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

For current information about activities and events, check our website at www.bristolhistory.org Email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com Follow us on Instagram - - IG@bristol historic foundation