



# The Gazette



VOL 44  
No. 5

Published by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007  
Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day—Third Saturday of Each October  
BCHF is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit, all volunteer Organization.

MAY 2026

**President's Corner** Dear Members:

BCHF events and programs include our Spring Tea, Art Show, Peach Social, Community Band Concert, and trips. Information about these events and trips are highlighted in this issue of the Gazette and our website.

The next meeting for planning Historic Bristol Day will be held on May 19th at 6:30pm.

A Historic Bristol Day information table selling tickets, tee shirts, and sweatshirts will be at the Sunday Stroll Events on Mill Street. Thank you for your membership support.

Sincerely Jesse Walker

To support the 50th Anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, we are hosting two special fundraising initiatives that help ensure this milestone celebration is bigger and better than ever. The first is a commemorative raffle, giving participants a chance to win great prizes while directly supporting the planning and programming of the event. We are also offering limited-edition anniversary merchandise, allowing supporters to celebrate Bristol's history while helping raise the funds needed to make this historic year truly memorable for the entire community.

ONLY 200 TICKETS SOLD

5 BIG PRIZES!!!

# Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation

April 1, 2026

Dear Friend of BCHF:

This year marks a very special milestone for our community. In 2026, Historic Bristol Day will celebrate its **50th anniversary (along with America250)**, continuing a tradition that began when residents first came together to showcase Bristol's rich history, beautiful homes, local organizations, and vibrant community spirit. The celebration will be **Saturday, October 17, 2026**.

For fifty years, Historic Bristol Day has been a celebration of the people, places, and stories that make Bristol such a unique town. As we prepare for this anniversary celebration, BCHF is working to make this year's event bigger and better, with additional entertainment, activities, and experiences for residents and visitors alike.

We are very fortunate to be able to host this favorite event once again. We also know it may be difficult for some to donate what they have in the past. However, a contribution of any size will be deeply appreciated, and will help our organization achieve another successful event.

As we plan this event, may we count on your financial contribution (no matter the size) that will assist us in achieving our goal of making Historic Bristol Day an outstanding community event? Your contribution will be acknowledged in BCHF's publications and again, will be greatly valued during these difficult times. We cannot pull off this major undertaking without your generous support and assistance.

A response **no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>** would be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas A Rizzo*

Nicholas A. Rizzo

Bristol Day Fundraising Chair

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Please make a check payable to:

BCHF

P.O. Box 215

Bristol, PA 19007

Name as it is to appear in acknowledgement: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation:    \$25\_\_\_\_\_    \$50\_\_\_\_\_    \$75\_\_\_\_\_    \$100 \_\_\_\_\_    Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Remembering the Ladies – Carol Simon Levin

Carol Simon Levin is a storyteller, author, historical re-enactor, and life-long learner. She has spent her career learning about the remarkable women, who have played major roles in shaping this country, and bringing their stories to life in presentations and books. She returned to BCHF this March in the guise of Abigail Adams to tell us about notable women in U. S. history including first ladies, from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama, abolitionists like Harriet Tubman, suffragists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton,



*Official portrait of Abigail Adams  
by Gilbert Stuart.*

civil rights activists like Ida Bell Wells, and women important in modern government like Shirley Chisholm. As Carol spoke, I was reminded that women have been the conscience of this country from the time when they were considered their husband's property and Abigail Adams begged her husband to "remember the ladies" as the Continental Congress was drafting the new legal code through our current time when women are speaking out for human rights.

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### UPCOMING TRIPS

#### Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty on June 24 – Register Now

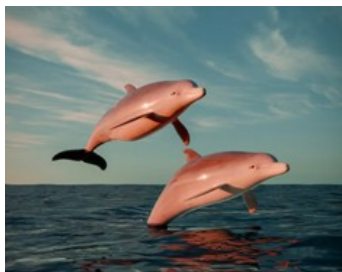
Don't miss our trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty where you can experience part of America's history. Registration closes on June 1.

For inquiries and a registration form, call Deborah Pinney at 215-788-7537.

To learn more about the trip, download a registration form, or to use our NEW on-line registration, visit <https://www.bristolhistory.org/Trips-.html>.

#### Whale Watching aboard the Miss Belmar

Join us on board the SS Miss Belmar for a unique whale watching adventure off the Jersey Shore. On July 29, we will take a guided 3-hour tour led by a knowledgeable onboard naturalist, who shares fascinating insights about whales, marine life, and the coastal ecosystem. Bring your camera so you don't miss the opportunity to take live photos of dolphins, sharks, rays, seabirds, and other wildlife during the journey.



We'll be getting a voucher for a casual lunch in the fully equipped galley where you can also purchase snacks. Captain Alan and his experienced crew are dedicated to providing a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable trip for guests of every age and physical ability.

Registration closes on June 27. For a registration form, call Deborah Pinney at 215-788-7537. For more information, to download a flyer, or register on-line visit our webpage: <https://www.bristolhistory.org/Trips-.html>

## *Pages from Bristol's Past*

*As Bristol prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, the Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation Gazette will look back at some of the traditions, events, and moments that have helped shape the life of the borough..Bristol's history is not only found in its historic buildings or well known events, but also in the small neighborhood places where residents gathered and daily life quietly unfolded.*

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### **Corner Markets: The Heart of Bristol's Neighborhoods**

**By: Michael P. Crossan**

There was a time in Bristol when nearly every neighborhood had a corner store. A quick walk down the block could bring you to a friendly shopkeeper, a loaf of bread, a cold soda, or the morning paper. For generations of Bristol residents, those small neighborhood markets were more than just stores. They were gathering places where everyday life in the borough quietly unfolded.

Long before supermarkets and convenience chains became the norm, Bristol Borough's neighborhoods were dotted with corner markets and small grocery stores that served the everyday needs of residents.

Nearly every section of town had one within walking distance. A loaf of bread, a quart of milk, luncheon meats for lunch, butchered meats for dinner, or the morning paper could all be picked up just around the corner. These markets offered far more than groceries. They were places where neighbors caught up on the latest news, where children stopped on their way home from school to buy a piece of candy, and where store owners knew nearly every customer who walked through the door.

Across Bristol, these small stores became fixtures of their neighborhoods. Residents still remember places such as Dugan's at the corner of Bath Street and Mifflin Street, Heath's at Race Street and Buckley Street, and Cook's Corner at Spruce Street and Buckley Street. In other parts of town there was Gerome's at Farragut Avenue and McKinley Street, Sagolla's at Lafayette Street and Wood Street, Mary Roche's on Buckley Street, Bono's on Jefferson Avenue and Chestnut Street, and Indelicato's on Jefferson Avenue and Elm Street.

Along Penn Street and nearby blocks, several neighborhood markets served residents for many years, including Asta's on Penn Street between Wood Street and Cedar Street and Napoli's at Penn Street and Wood Street. Other familiar stops included Morici's at Dorrance Street and Pond Street, McCoy's Deli at Bath Street and Buckley Street, and Brescia's on Otter Street.

Another well remembered neighborhood stop was Danis' Market, which later operated on Farragut Avenue after moving from its earlier location on Radcliffe Street. Danis' became known for a hot roast beef sandwich and

homemade treats like rice pudding, and for many people it was another favorite place around town to stop for something good to eat.

Trips to the corner store often included another small task that many people still remember. Glass soda and milk bottles carried a small deposit, and kids were often sent back to the store with empty bottles to return for a few cents refund. For some, that spare change quickly turned into a piece of candy or a cold soda before heading back home.

For many kids growing up in Bristol, those corner stores also became regular stops after school. I remember walking home from St. Mark School with friends and stopping in at places like Tommy the Greek's on Farragut Avenue or Gerome's Deli to grab a snack and sometimes play a video game before heading the rest of the way home. Along the way we might also stop into Mazzanti's Market on Lincoln Avenue to pick up a drink or something quick to eat before continuing on.

Over the years many of Bristol's neighborhood markets changed names as new owners took over, and eventually most disappeared altogether as larger supermarkets and shopping centers changed the way people shopped.

One of the few that still survives today is Mazzanti's Market on Lincoln Avenue. Walking through the door still reveals the character of the old corner grocery stores that once dotted Bristol's streets. Decades later, the same family continues to operate the store, preserving a small piece of Bristol's neighborhood history.

The corner markets of Bristol were among the town's earliest neighborhood meeting places, where a loaf of bread, a bottle of soda, and a few friendly words could make the borough feel a little smaller and a lot more like home. Even though many of those stores are gone today, the memories of them remain a lasting part of Bristol's story.

***Do you remember a Bristol corner market or neighborhood gathering place? Share your memories with us [www.bristolhistory.org/memories.html](http://www.bristolhistory.org/memories.html)***

## Sail Away with our Partner Grand American Tours

BCHF has partnered with Grand American tours to offer cruises for 2026 and 2027.

Details and flyers for each cruise are available on our website at

<https://www.bristolhistory.org/Trips-.html>

All rates are per person double occupancy and include roundtrip airfare from Philadelphia.

Contact Janice Rhodes at 215-781-0483 for a flyer. Contact Grand American to register and mention that you are part of Bristol Historical & Cultural Foundation. Travel Protection Insurance is recommended. We will receive a commission for each booking. Below are the basic details about each cruise to spark your interest.

### **Mexican Riviera on the Discovery Princess.**

10 days/9 nights. Nov. 5 – 14, 2026 A passport is required. Initial deposit is \$350 per person. Final payment is due by June 9, 2026.

### **Australia & New Zealand on the**

**Norwegian Spirit.** 13days/12 nights Feb. 15 – 27, 2027. A passport is required and each traveler must also obtain an Australian Visa individually. Initial deposit is \$350 per person. Final Payment is due by Sept. 19, 2026.

### **Alaska Cruise, Land & Rail on the Island Princess.**

11days/10 Nights. June 13 – 23, 2027. A passport is required. Initial deposit is \$350 per person. Final Payment due by Feb. 15, 2027.

### **Greenland & Iceland on the Celebrity**

**Silhouette.** 15 days/14 nights. June 19 – July 3, 2027. A passport is required. Initial deposit is \$550 per person. Final Payment due by Feb. 22, 2027.

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## 5th Annual Mahogany and Steel Car and Boat Show

The 2026 car show season is just a few weeks away! Our first show will be the 5th Annual Mahogany and Steel Car and Boat show. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th with a raindate of Sunday, May 31st. The show will be held at the Bristol Wharf and docks in the Mill Street parking lot along Monument Park and the Delaware River. There will be a sign at Mill and Cedar Streets directing you to the show entrance. Registration on the day of the show begins at 9 AM and is \$20 for one or multiple cars.

Visit [bristolhistory.org/car-show.html](http://bristolhistory.org/car-show.html) to pre-register.

Best of Show and People's Choice trophies will be awarded for both antiques and classics. Attendees will be able to vote with their phones, but paper ballots will also be available. King George Inn gift certificates will be chanced off. Coffee and breakfast items, and hotdogs and sausage and pepper sandwiches will be sold by the Bristol High School teachers. The show will conclude with a car parade down Radcliffe Street from Mill Street to Green Lane.

# Mahogany and Steel

5TH ANNUAL BOAT & CAR SHOW

*on the Delaware*



Make the day a family outing and enjoy the many fine eateries and shops along the historic streets of Bristol.

## SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026

10am – 3pm - Car cruise through Bristol Borough at 3pm  
Bristol Wharf at Mill and Radcliffe Streets, Bristol, PA

Rain Date: Sunday, May 31, 2026

### Boats

Don't miss the opportunity to see Antique & Classic Boats from great manufacturers such as Chris-Craft, Hacker, Century, Garwood, and others covering 100 years of boat building. See these great works of art being displayed on land and in water at dockside.

The event will be held at the Bristol Wharf offering you an opportunity for a ride in an old time speed boat on the Delaware River.

Visit [Mid-AtlanticACBS.com](http://Mid-AtlanticACBS.com)

### Cars

All American & Foreign Antiques, Classics, Newer Corvettes, Camaros, Firebirds, Mustangs, Challengers, T-Birds, Street Rods, Exotics, Lowriders & Luxuries, and more...

Car registration starts at 9:00 am

\$20 registration per participant on the day of the show.

The following trophies will be awarded:

Pre-1997, 1997 -2026, Best of Show 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place  
People's Choice for both Antiques and Classics.

Visit [bristolhistory.org/car-show.html](http://bristolhistory.org/car-show.html) to pre-register

# Out Of The Past

## The following items were excerpted from The Bristol Courier May 1926 2¢ a Copy

**May 1** – An auxiliary of the Italian Welfare society was organized with 25 members at St. Ann's Club on Dorrance St. Mr. Louis Galzerano was elected President.

"My Irish Rose" will be presented at the Forrest Theatre on May 14. It will be staged by the Knights and Daughters of Columbus. It was organized by St. Mark Parish.

**May 4** – The Parade of Boys will take place throughout Bristol on Saturday. This big event will end at the high school where the Ward Banner for the highest number of boys will be awarded and refreshments distributed.

**May 5** – The Bristol Borough school tax rate will remain the same as last year at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of valuation with a per capita tax of \$4.

**May 6** – Captain Christopher will perform aerial stunts for the Boys day event on Saturday.

Dr. Joseph deB. Abbot has set a record administering Diphtheria inoculations to 1,000 children. Bristol has been kept free of the disease.

A & P advertises "Clean-Up Week". Brooms 45¢ - 59¢, 10 Qt. galvanized pails 18¢, Old Dutch Cleansers 3 for 20¢.

**May 7** – Bristol Firemen will stage a fair May 27 – June 5 to raise funds for uniforms. They want to be properly uniformed for the Sesqui parade of the State Firemens Association.

**May 10** – Lt. Commander Richard Byrd USN completed the first air conquest of the North Pole. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in recorded history that the U. S. flag was placed there.

Fifth Ward led by Arthur Brady won the award for the most boys in line for the parade with 192.

**May 11** – Bristol Borough Council held its monthly session. Three Bristol fire companies requested aid for the purchase of new apparatus.

**May 12** – Bristol League of Women Voters was well represented at a large gathering at Valley Forge. They traveled by chartered bus. The event was to encourage a large vote to be cast for the primary election.

A big dance will be given by St. Ann's Ladies Society at St. Ann Auditorium at 8:30 PM tonight. Music by Joseph Delias Orchestra. Gents 50¢ Ladies 35¢

**May 14** – Two big Republican rallies to held tonight. On Monday the Republican Women of Bristol will hold a meeting in support of the campaign.

Special 10 Day Sale. Men's Women's and Childrens shoes. Everything reduced 30 % Harry Popkin Dorrance and Pond St.

Straw Hats \$1.50 - \$3.50 at Gallagher & Gallagher Mill and Cedar St.

**May 15** – A dirt speedway will open on May 31<sup>st</sup> near Langhorne. It is the first one-mile dirt track for auto racing ever built. It will be known as the Philadelphia Speedway.

**May 18** – Mary Ridgeway Grundy widow of the late William H Grundy died at her residence Walnut Grove Farm in Bristol township. She is survived by her daughter Margaret R. Grundy and sone Joseph R. Grundy.

**May 19** – A scaffold broke on a building under renovation at 212 Mill st. dropping 4 men 30 ft. into the alley. Only one sustained broken bones.

**May 20** – Employees of 3 Rohm & Haas plants will hold an outing at Maple Beach. 250 men, women and children are expected.

**May 22** – Four businesses will exhibit work by students. The exhibits show the practical training the students are getting making furniture, sewing and artwork.

Miss Anna Hawkes of Shadyside, Edgely was hostess to her classmates of the Friends Select School in Phila. for a luncheon and cards at her home.

**May 25** – Borough Council okayed contract for the new concrete roadways on Otter, Mill and Radcliffe St.

**May 26-** St. Ann's Holy Name society will host a Spring Dance at St. Ann's Hall at Pond and Logan St. Music by Delia's Orchestra. Gents 50¢ Ladies 35¢

**May 27** – Annie Ardrey of Mulberry St. was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize of \$100 by the Bristol Courier for the best essay by a girl age 15 – 20 years old.

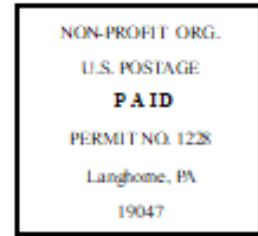
**May 29** – Burlington Island Park opens on Sat. May 29<sup>th</sup>. It has the latest games and greatest rides. There is regular boat service from Mill st. wharf direct to the park.

Everything is ready for the Sesqui to open on Mon. in Philadelphia. There are millions of exhibits in place in scores of exhibition buildings.

39 drivers of the automobile racing world are scheduled for the opening of the Philadelphia Speedway.



**Bristol Cultural &  
Historical Foundation, Inc.**  
Post Office Box 215  
Bristol, PA 19007



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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### Calendar of Events For 2026

**June 24, 2026 - Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Tour** with dinner at the Historic Cranberry Inn. \$162 for members/\$172 for non-members Call 215-788-7537 to register.

**June 28, 2026 @ 2 PM Concert by BCHF Community Band.** Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

**July 26, 2026 @ 2 PM – Bob Mercer presents The Galapagos Islands and Evolutionary Laboratory**  
Adults \$5 donation, students free. Light Refreshments will be served.

**July 29, 2026 - Whale Watching off the coast of Belmar, NJ** off Belmar, NJ. \$95 for members/\$105 for non-members (215-480-2061) to register.

**August 16, 2026 @ 2 – 4 PM- Peach Social**

**September 17, 2026 – Luncheon Cruise Onboard the Paddle-Wheel Riverboat "River Lady"** \$132 for members/\$142 for non-members Call 215-788-9043 to register.

**October 17, 2026 – Historic Bristol Day**

**October 28, 2026 - The Strasburg Railroad and the Choo Choo Barn With Lunch at Casey Jones' Restaurant**  
\$156 for members/\$166 for non-members. Call 215-781-8591 to register.

**November 18, 2026 @ 7 PM BCHF General Membership Meeting**

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](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

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THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. — Linda Rowan, Editor  
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