



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.

MAY 2018

June Is An Important Month For Our Membership

In the month of June, those who have become members by paying their yearly dues will have their names listed in THE GAZETTE. Have you paid your membership? It is \$12.00 for an individual and \$24.00 for family membership. If you have not paid yet, please

mail your check to BCHF, P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007. We thank all of those who have previously paid their dues for this year and for those who have been paying their dues since 1967 when our organization was founded. THANK YOU!

President's Corner

BCHF will host a very special program at the beginning of May. Snyder-Girotti students will recreate their "Wax Museum" of well-known Bristolians from past and present. (As of this writing the program has not yet taken place.) I was fortunate to see these well-versed students when they presented the portrayal this past Bristol Day at the Grundy Library. I was impressed by their poise and ability. I also was delighted to give some of these same students a tour of the Center for the Arts in Bristol. Their teacher, Mrs. Helkowski on one Monday, brought a group of first and second graders and the following week, a group of third grade students. I can't tell you how impressed I was by the knowledge of art these young students displayed. They talked about brush strokes, lighting, color palettes as well as different schools of art. Their teacher is to be commended for doing such an outstanding job giving

these students the opportunity to expand their horizons.

I also recently read the book "Drama High" by Michael Sokolove, a former student of Lou Volpe. Mr. Volpe directed the highly nationally acclaimed Drama program at Truman High. Here again is an example of a dedicated teacher giving students an opportunity to excel and grow.

I know there are many teachers who are members of BCHF. Most have not been nationally acclaimed or awarded for their efforts. However, as a former teacher myself, I can say without impunity that there are a million untold stories of teachers giving students wonderful opportunities to help them find skills they might never have discovered. I also must say that we are fortunate to have a younger generation willing to treasure these opportunities. They are our future.

Jan Ruano



A Note From Ways & Means

Thank you to all who helped make our Annual Spring Tea successful. Special thanks to our amazing Ways & Means Volunteers: Carol & Harold Mitchener, Lana Delaney, Debbie Pinney, Nonnie & Kitsie Austin,

Nancy Maren, Sonia Federaro, Ceil Graff, Sue Watson, Helen Younglove and Jan Ruano with whom we could not stage this event! Not only does the committee welcome you the day of the event, but they also help with the set-up on Saturday morning. Delicious tea fare was provided by: home baker, Leeann Reider and local caterer, Darlene Carey. Wasn't Robert Konyves fun entertainment? **We want to thank Bristol Riverside Theater** for donating 2 tickets for a raffle basket and Robin Butrey for assembling them.

Our May 18-20th trip to Washington, D.C., highlighting the NEWSEUM visit, can still accommodate a few

more, but is a go. Call Jan Ruano (215 788-2106) to reserve and see the Calendar of Events for 2018 for the itinerary on the back page of the Gazette.

Our December 6th trip for "Christmas in Cape May" is steadily filling already! (See Calendar of Events for details.) Call: Helen Younglove (215 788-9408) to reserve.

I thank both these W&M members for handling the reservations for these two trips.

Please come Sunday, May 6th at 2pm to be delighted by our Snyder-Girotti's Gifted/Enrichment Students' portrayals of famous Bristolians. Your donations for this program will go directly to the school for the enrichment programs in the future. Light refreshments will be served.

All are welcome to join us at the next Ways & Means Meeting on Monday, May 21st at 7pm at the BCHF Headquarters on Cedar St. Call: Kathy Barniskis - 215 943-0258 for more information.

Travel Update

We're delighted to announce that the May 18 - 20 bus trip to Washington, DC, is a "GO." To check on current availability, contact Jan Ruano at 215 788-2106. See "Calendar of Events" on the back page of this Gazette for trip details and price.

As of this writing, eight seats remain on the December 6 "Christmas in Cape May" bus trip. Consult this issue's "Calendar of Events" for more information or call Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408 for a flyer/reservation form.

April 8 Program

On Sunday afternoon, April 8, James and Deborah Fine presented a program entitled "Bristol and World War I: The quiet life of the community . . . greatly changed," which was very well received by the audience.

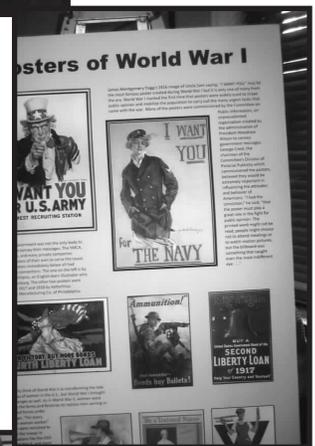


Ways & Means Chairperson, Kathy Barniskis, welcomed everyone and announced some of BCHF's upcoming activities.



Among the topics touched upon in James (seated) and Deborah (standing) Fine's power-point presentation were the Merchant Shipyard, which was located on North Radcliffe St. from 1917 until 1921, and the Town of Harriman.

One of several posters exhibited by The Fines



Mr. Fine (left) talks to one of the attendees about The Merchant Shipyard.



Attendees enjoyed the refreshments provided by members of BCHF's W&M Committee.

1921 - A Pontoon Bridge between Burlington and Bristol? Burlington-Bristol Bridge completed May 1931

"The ships (pontoons) are to be 160 feet at center, anchored to screw piles with cables. This will leave 110 feet clearance for river boats to pass between the pontoons. The steel superstructure will leave a clearway of not less than 35 feet, enough for most of the river craft to pass under with ease. For tallships there will be a drawbridge in the center, with 110 feet clearance. It is estimated that a ship can pass through the drawbridge in five minutes, and that the delays to traffic crossing the bridge will be very slight. At the draw span there will be a tender boat on each side of the opening to guide boats through.

It is planned to build at first three roadways - each ten feet wide - with two platforms for pedestrians. If traffic warrants, additional roadways can be made provided the weight of the structure itself will settle these boats down into the water. Any additional traffic put on the bridge will not in any way affect its buoyancy, and will not be felt by those using the bridge".

As it turned out this pontoon bridge was not built. As mentioned above, the Burlington - Bristol Bridge opened in May of 1931 and is still in operation.

A Wigwam on Mill Street

It's election year - - - 1880!

August 12th - The Republicans have decided to build a wigwam at the corner of Mill and Wood Streets. The dimensions will be 40' x 80' to accommodate about 1000 people. The ground is being prepared; lumber will be delivered the next day; the carpenters are ready to work.

August 19th - The wigwam is completed. It's very roomy, capable of seating 900 people with standing room for 100 more. The seats are arranged so that everyone has a view of the platform and speaker, since the back of the room is elevated. The building is lighted with gas and is handsomely decorated.

August 26th - The wigwam is open to the public. A portion of the wigwam is reserved for ladies who show they are interested enough in politics to attend the programs. Usually a parade, which ends in front of the wigwam is held before the meetings begin. The parade features the Garfield and Arthur Club and the Washington Cornet Band. Speakers were men who were prominent in state and local Republican politics. Sometimes overflow crowds were mentioned in the local paper with people standing on the sidewalk outside the building.

The Republican National Convention had met in Chicago on June 2nd and nominated James A. Garfield on the 35th ballot. Chester A. Arthur was selected as Vice President. The incumbent President (Rutherford B. Hayes) did not seek reelection, keeping a promise made during his 1876 campaign. The Democrats chose Gen Winfield Scott Hancock of PA. A third party (the Greenback) chose another Civil War General, James B. Weaver, as their standard bearer. The campaign issues were Civil War loyalties, tariffs and Chinese immigration. The election of 1880 was the sixth consecutive Presidential election won by Republicans.

James A. Garfield (of Ohio) had worked on canal boats as a

youth. He was graduated in 1856 from Williams College (Williamson, MA), had been a member of the Ohio State Senate (1859) and served as a major general in the Union Army. He opposed Confederate secession.

Garfield won the election on November 2, 1880 by a close popular majority. Fewer than 2000 votes separated Garfield and Hancock. Voters turned out in record numbers; 78% of all eligible voters cast a ballot. However, the Electoral College vote was 214 to 155. Garfield took office as the 20th President in March, 1881. The Republican schism, for the most part, had been patched up by appointees.

On July 2, 1881, Charles Guiteau, a mentally unstable man who was disappointed at being unable to get a patronage appointment, shot Garfield. Charles Guiteau was a writer and lawyer; he had been rejected in various job applications. He shot Garfield at the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad station in Washington, D.C. Pres. Garfield lingered for over 2 months, but he died of infections related to the gun shot.

Charles Guiteau was tried and sentenced in January, 1882. He was hanged 5 months later and his body was buried in the corner of the jail yard. Tiny pieces of the hanging rope were sold as souvenirs. The authorities decided to disinter Guiteau's body which was then sent to the National Museum of Health & Medicine. His brain was preserved and placed in storage by the Museum; parts of Guiteau's brain can be seen today at the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia.

UPDATE on #246-248 Mill Street: In the years after the wigwam, several businesses have been built. The Winter family sold automobiles, kitchen appliances and washing machines from this location. Cameo Kitchens also used the building for a business showroom. Today the building is occupied by Maestro's Classic.

A Full Bus to Philadelphia

Our bus trip to Philadelphia on April 19 was a sellout and, despite the drizzly and overcast weather, the feedback was very favorable, particularly regarding the Museum of the American Revolution which celebrated its one year anniversary on the day of our visit.



Pat Bosco, Nancy Girard, Debbie Biddlingmaier, Carl and Bonnie White at the restaurant.



Boarding the bus following lunch at the JNA Inst. of Culinary of Arts Restaurant.



Left: Kay Tomlinson (l) and Ginny Clifford (r) wave a replica of George Washington's Commander-in-Chief Flag while enjoying their piece of birthday cake. The flag is also referred to as Washington's Headquarters Flag because, supposedly, the presence of the flag meant that Washington was there.



Above: Complimentary cake and cupcakes were served to mark the Museum's first birthday. Betty Rodgers is all smiles as she receives a slice of the cake. Right: The "Philly Pride" lady gives onlookers a better look at her Philadelphia history adorned skirt.



Fascinating Facts About The U.S. Presidents

1. **Andrew Johnson - 1865-1869**

Was the only President elected to the U.S. Senate after his Presidential term.

Was a self-educated tailor. He is the only President who made his own clothes as well as those of his cabinet members. He was 17 years old before his future wife taught him to read. He is the only President not to have had any type of schooling.

Was the first President to be impeached; he was acquitted in the Senate by just one vote.

2. **Ulysses S. Grant - 1869-1877**

Was arrested for driving his horse too fast in Washington while President; he was fined \$20.

Ate cucumbers soaked in vinegar for breakfast each day.

Was the first President to have both parents alive when he took office.

Finished his memoirs and had them published with the help of Mark Twain (even though he had throat cancer).

3. **Rutherford P. Hayes - 1877-1881**

Was the first President to use a telephone while in office. The first telephone was installed in the White House in 1879.

Was the only President wounded in the Civil War; five Presidents had served during the War.

Had a source of anger - - - - "his honesty" - - - - (according to his political allies).

4. **James A. Garfield - March 4, 1881-September 17, 1881**

Was the second President shot in office. He was shot in the back at a Washington Railroad Station. He was placed on a bed with metal springs so that the bullet could not be found. The metal detector, invented by Alexander Graham Bell, could not find the bullet; no one thought to move him.

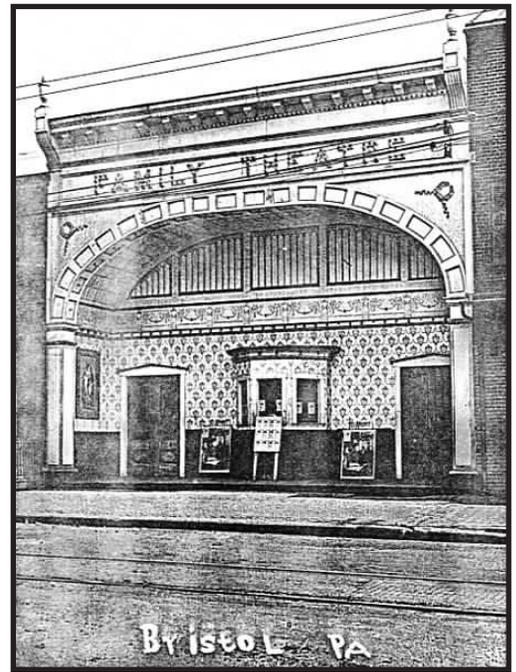
Could write Greek with one hand and Latin with the other - at the same time.

Was the last of the seven Presidents to be born in a log cabin.

Champion Pianist Breaks Record in Bristol

It was noted in the local paper that William Welker, a pianist at the Family Theatre on Mill Street, sat down and began to play on August 25, 1911. He started the melody at 10:30 AM on a Tuesday morning and never finished until 10:30 PM on Wednesday night. Welker claims the previous record for continuous playing was 34 hours. All day long on Tuesday and Wednesday, crowds of people passed in and out of the theatre to watch the novel endurance of the exhibition. The player ate his meals regularly with one hand while playing with the other. Watchers sat with him all Tuesday night. The next day William told a reporter from the Gazette he "did not feel any worse for the wear." (Other personal needs were not addressed in the news article.) He played entirely without sheet music. Friends say that he has been an adept piano player since he was a child.

The Family Theatre was located at 107 Mill Street. In 1911 it was owned by Max Cohen and operated as a moving picture and vaudeville amusement place. It was advertised as having "three reels of moving pictures shown daily and admission at all times was five cents." Earlier uses for the building location as listed in the town directory in the 1880's was a tobacco store and later as an office for an attorney. Woolworth 5 & 10 moved into the location in 1917 and Spencer Furniture was listed occupying that space in the late 1940's. Today that location is occupied as a medical office.



Out of the Past - - continued

attempt to advance the fast increasing popular summer sport in Bristol. The league is under the sponsorship of the Recreational and Educational Department of the WPA.

5/26 - - VETERANS GROUPS TO HOLD SERVICES ON MEMORIAL DAY. Sons of Veterans, American Legion and V.F.W. Announce Programs. None of the cemeteries in Bristol will be visited on Memorial Day by the groups which usually conduct services in the cemeteries here, but joint services will be held in the Bristol Cemetery and also one in St. Mark's Cemetery.

"UNITY-FRANKFORD STORES . . . Memorial Day Values! Beverages, Penna. Brand - 3 quart bottles, 25¢ (bottle deposit required). Frankford Brand Dill or Sour Pickles - 19¢ quart jar. Quinlan's Potato Chi:s - 18¢ 1/2 lb. Drinking Cups - 2 pkgs., 15¢. Picnic Plates (12 to pkg.) - 2 pkgs., 15¢. Seiler's

Tenderized Boiled Ham - 27¢ 1/2 lb. Seiler's Jumbo Beef Bologna - 18¢ 1/2 lb. Memorial Day Cakes - 39¢."

"VACATION PLACES. The Bristol, 1110 Ocean Ave., Ocean City, N.J. Ocean view rooms \$15 to \$25. Phone Bristol 3153 for reser."

5/28 - - COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULED TO OPEN HERE ON TUESDAY. The Bristol Community Center, 115 Franklin Street, will open for recreational activities Tuesday afternoon. Supervised hours will be from 3:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on school days on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. There will be games for all ages to play and to watch.

"We invite you to NAPLE'S Italian Tomato Pie (La Pizza) and Spaghetti House, 447 Mill Street. Very reasonable prices on every type of order. Open every day."

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **MAY 1938** issues of **THE BUCKS COUNTY COURIER**

5/2 - - **BRISTOL RESIDENTS TO MAIL UNIQUE CARD.** One feature of Bristol's observance of National Air Mail Week, May 15 to 21, will be a large card, or more than one card if necessary, addressed to Postmaster General James Farley, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C., extending greetings to the Department from the citizens of Bristol. The card will be ruled off to accommodate rows of the new air mail stamps. Under each stamp will be written the name of the person who purchased that stamp.

"**GRAND THEATRE . . .** The Greatest Event in Motion Picture History! Walt Disney's First Feature Production, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," in Technicolor. Adults, 15¢. Children, 10¢."

5/4 - - **ORGANIZE COLORED LEAGUE IN LOWER BUCKS COUNTY.** A group of men met at the home of L.H. Wilhite last night for the purpose of organizing a Lower Bucks County Colored League. The towns represented at the meeting were Langhorne, Yardley, Newtown, and the Excelsiors (formerly the Cubans) of Bristol.

DRAW LOTS TO NAME DENOMINATION OF SCHOOL ORATOR. Last night, the Bristol School Board chose by lot the denomination from which a preacher will be selected to deliver the baccalaureate sermon to the next seven graduating classes at Bristol High School. The result was as follows: Methodist, Episcopal, Hebrew, Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian.

5/6 - - **ANNOUNCE SCHEDULE FOR ASH COLLECTION.** The Street and Highway Committee of Bristol Borough Council today made public a statement relative to the collection of ashes in Bristol. Residents are urged to have their ashes placed in a suitable place for the collector at the time specified.

BURGESS ANDERSON TO TOSS OUT FIRST BALL. Tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock at Landreth's Ball Park, Bristol, the baseball season for 1938 will be opened. After the parade of drum and bugle corps of the American Legion Cadets and their drill, the flag will be raised and Burgess Anderson will throw out the first ball and the game between the visiting group, Philadelphia Italians, and Landreth Seeds will get underway.

"Beautiful Gifts for Mother's Day! Extra Size House Aprons - 75¢. Extra Size Ladies' House Dresses and All-Silk Crepe Dresses, 16 - 20 & 36 - 44, at Very Reasonable Prices. All Kinds of Silverware and Pyrex Goods. N. TRANOTTI, 425 Jefferson Avenue."

5/7 - - **WINNING ESSAYS IN THIS AREA IN STATE CONTEST.** Two essays written by two Bristol students have been awarded recognition in a contest conducted by the Exchange Club of Pennsylvania. The authors of the articles were Martin J. Healey and Thomas Collier, Jr.

"Don't forget the **BIG AMATEUR STAGE SHOW.** Every Wednesday night at 8:45. For Cash Prizes. 6 Guaranteed Acts. Those desiring to compete for prizes may do so by entering their names one week in advance. **THE GRAND THEATRE.**"

5/10 - - **THE OLD TOWN HALL IS TO BE RAZED; BELL IN TOWER IS TO BE PRESERVED; SEA SCOUTS ORDERED TO VACATE.** Burgess Clifford L. Anderson spoke favorably upon the recommendation of the Finance and Public Property Committee and said that, so far as he had been able to ascertain, the building has "no historic value." "There is no reason it should be preserved to the detriment of the traveling public and the safety of children."

INTEND TO STOCK CANAL WITH BASS THIS FALL. John C. Johnson, secretary of the Bristol Fish and Game Protective Association, has been notified of the intention of the

Fish Commission of Pennsylvania to stock the canal from Bristol to Morrisville.

5/13 - - **FIND SECRET ROOM IN PRIVATE RESIDENCE.** A secret room has just been discovered in a Bristol residence and it is believed that the room was used before the Civil War in which to hide slaves. The discovery was made by Linton Martin, Jr. and John Wendell Martin, 13, while playing in the cupola room of the residence of E. Linton Martin, 315 Radcliffe street.

"**ANNOUNCING G. CATTANI,** Farragut Ave. & Hayes St., Bristol, exclusive distributors of Cooper's Old Bohemian Beer."

"Expert Lubrication, 65¢. Good Gulf, 14.9¢. Gulf No-Nox, 17¢. **BRISTOL OIL CO. SERVICE STATION,** Pond and Dorrance Streets."

5/16 - - **LOCAL CADETS WIN 3rd HONORS IN NEW YORK.** The Bristol Cadets of the Robert W. Bracken Post, No. 382, American Legion, won third honors yesterday afternoon in the competition held at Madison Square Garden, New York. The award is \$75 in cash. There were eleven junior corps in the competition.

5/20 - - **HISTORY WRITTEN AS 1,610 PIECES OF MAIL ARE FLOWN.** A silver-tipped amphibian lifted its prow from the waters of the Delaware and soared aloft bearing 1,610 pieces of mail - the first mail flown from Bristol direct to airport. Bristol residents gathered en-masse at the Mill Street wharf and, from thousands of throats, cheers of "Bon Voyage" arose as the sign for the take-off was given. In the sports model "Seabird" F-5, piloted by Carl deGanahl, were Mrs. deGanahl and Bristol Postmaster Joseph P. Duffy, the trio making a swift, safe journey to the new S. Davis Wilson Airport, Philadelphia, and return. Included in the 1,610 pieces of air mail was a home-made cherry pie sent by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lynn, Otter Street, to their son W. Edward Lynn who is in San Francisco, Calif. It cost \$3.72 to mail the pie.

5/21 - - **OPERA STAR VISITS HERE.** A former Bristol resident, one who has achieved a reputation in the musical world, has returned here and is paying a visit to his mother, Mrs. Catherine Lanza, 214 Washington Street. Lanza has played in two pictures produced by Warner Brothers and which are now being exhibited in foreign countries.

OUTDOOR AMATEUR BOXING SEASON SCHEDULED TO OPEN HERE TONIGHT UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF ST. ANN'S ASSOCIATION. The athletic committee of the St. Ann's Athletic Association has spared no expense in arranging all matters to the satisfaction of fight patrons, and Match-Maker Johnny Straffe has gone to considerable trouble in securing bouts, eight in all, which are good enough to earn the wind-up of any boxing show.

"**BRISTOL,** Bucks County's Finest. Thrifty Prices! Matinee - Children 10¢, Adults 20¢. Evening - Children 15¢, Adults 30¢. "The Hurricane," Greatest of all South Sea Adventures. Now with Living Sound. Also, "The New Deal," with Betty Boop."

5/23 - - **FORM NEW ORGANIZATION.** After some weeks of organization, a group of young men recently adopted a constitution and the name "Bristol Maccabees." The purpose of this association is to promote friendship and fraternalism in the community. Dr. Julius Sobel is president. Negotiations are underway to obtain permanent club rooms. The club has formed a softball team, which plays every Sunday morning at Leedom's field. A badminton court is under construction.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE TO OPEN HERE TOMORROW. Twelve teams will get off in the opening of the newly formed Bristol Community Softball League tomorrow evening when the league swings into action on six fronts. Local fans will get their first view of softball at these clashes as it is the first

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BCHF Calendar of Events for 2018

MAY Sun., 5/6, 2 PM. Snyder-Girotti School students re-create the Historic Bristol Day "Wax Museum" of well-known Bristolians from past and present. Light refreshment. Donations requested for the school's Gifted & Enrichment Program. BCHF headquarters. Info at 215 788-9408.

MAY Fri.-Sun., 5/18-20. 3-day/2-night bus trip to Washington, DC. Itinerary includes a visit to the recently-opened NEWSEUM and the Nat'l Museum of American History, a guided tour of "Tudor Place," 2-night hotel accommodations, 2 buffet breakfasts at hotel, family-style dinner at Carmine's and dinner on Sunday at the Hotel duPont enroute home. \$540 pp twin, \$696 single, \$508 pp triple. Info at 215 788-2106.

AUGUST Sun., 8/12, 2-4 PM. Annual Peach Social. BCHF's air-conditioned headquarters. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table.

Benefits BCHF awards to four Bristol High School graduates. Info at 215 788-7537.

OCTOBER Sat., 10/20, 10 AM - 4 PM. Annual Historic Bristol Day. Details to be announced at later date.

NOVEMBER Thurs., 11/15, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program & refreshments follow. Free. Public is invited. BCHF headquarters.

DECEMBER Thurs., 12/6 Bus trip to "Christmas in Cape May." All inclusive price includes lunch at the Washington Inn Restaurant, Holiday Inns Tour & Holiday Lights Trolley Ride. \$112 for BCHF members; \$115 for non-members. Info at 215 788-9408

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

CELEBRITIES COME TO LIFE

If this edition of The Gazette hasn't arrived too late, we hope you'll come to BCHF headquarters at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 6, when students from the Gifted/Enrichment Program, Grades 4-6, of Snyder-Girotti Elementary School will bring to life some hometown personalities and others who had an

impact on Bristol's history. This "Living Wax Museum" is under the direction of Lori Helkowski, the school's Gifted/Enrichment Teacher, Grades 1 through 6.

Refreshments will be served. In lieu of an admission fee, donations for the Snyder-Girotty Gifted/Enrichment Program are requested. Come one, come all!

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor

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