



The Gazette



Published by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

VOL. 43

Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day—Third Saturday of Each October

No. 6

BCHF is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit, all volunteer Organization.

JUNE 2025

President's Corner

Dear Members,

We are looking forward to the change in seasons in the Borough. Planning for future events throughout the year is ongoing. There is exciting news about BCHF executive board. Alison McHugh has been voted on to the executive board. We look forward to her involvement with the foundation.

Recently, I was traveling down Cedar Street past the BCHF headquarter building and stopped into see the community band practicing. The Musical Director, Logan Gupta, and Business Manager, Diane McDevitt, introduced

themselves in between songs. It was great to hear their rehearsal. Future band practices are scheduled from 7pm to 9pm at the Cedar Street building on the following days: 5/29, 6/5, 6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21. Feel free stop by for their practice.

The BCHF looks forward to seeing everyone at future events.

Jesse Walker

Art Exhibit Reception at BCHF

On the evening of May 2nd, artists, BCHF members, and the public gathered at BCHF to enjoy the art created by members of the Artists of Bristol on the Delaware (AOB) as well as refreshments provided by AOB and BCHF jointly.



All the pieces were original and unique

and represented a variety of styles and media.

Everyone enjoyed the atmosphere, the art, and each other's company; all in all, it was a celebration of art and the tradition of art exhibition at BCHF .





Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation

May 1, 2025

Dear Friend of BCHF:

The **49th Annual Historic Bristol Day** will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025. This event is one of Bucks County's finest and concentrates on the rich history and cultural contributions of this charming, riverfront borough.

This year's Historic Bristol Day's special attractions will include: *House & Garden Tours, A Classic Car Show, Musical Groups, A Children's Corner, Craft Exhibits, variety of Food Vendors, an Afternoon Tea, Walking Tours, & much more!*

We are once again very fortunate to be able to host this favorite Fall event once again. We also know it may be difficult for some to be able to donate what they have in the past as financial circumstances may have changed over the past few years. However, any 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 31st** would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A Rizzo

Nicholas A. Rizzo
Bristol Day Fundraising Chair

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 _____

Bristol's Neighborhood Books

By: Sam Black, Louisville Kentucky

The stories in the April Gazette by Mrs. Renard's students, brought back a couple of Bristol memories. Luciana Snyder's article on hockey in Bristol, described the first ice rink in Grundy Park. Both my daughters learned to ice skate, at that Jefferson Avenue rink, in the early 1970s. My older daughter continued ice skating and joined a senior figure skating team, while teaching her daughter to skate.

Tessa Tomlinson's Mazzanti's Market article made me think back to all the independent grocery stores in Bristol when I was growing up. These family stores were in just about every neighborhood. Like the Mazzanti's, just about everyone in the family would work in the store. The neighbors supported the stores for several reasons. There was back then several areas in town that were largely of one or another ethnic grouping. The stores catered to this and made available the items their customers wanted. Many items available in these stores were not stocked at the Acme or A&P, the two major chain stores at that time. Many special items were shipped in on a regular basis. The neighbors knew if they want that item, they had to be at the store promptly or it would be gone. I know there were lots of these, but cannoli's from New York stick out in my mind. Most of the stores would take phone orders and send groceries via errand boy. Young boys would be available in case they were needed, hoping for a small tip when the delivery was made. There was a great deal of socializing in these stores since many customers had similar backgrounds and spoke the languages from their native countries.

Most of the stores got their supplies from the Independent Grocery Association (IGA), a company that relied on the stores for support, so it could purchase in bulk quantity. This helped the local store to be a little more competitive. They were not in most cases able to price similar items at the major chains level. Owners had to keep customers from going to the Acme or A&P to stay open.

One way that the neighborhood stores kept their customers was by keeping a book. Customers could buy what they needed and either pay or put it on the book. It was expected that there would be payments to the book account on a regular basis. But the customer could continue to charge against the book without ever fully clearing the book. There was no book at either the Acme or the A&P. Their customers paid before leaving the store. There were no credit cards until well into the 1960's. When credit cards were issued on a grand scale everything changed.

It is great that some of the neighborhood stores still exist, but it is because they are so unique and have both a following and a family that will not let them go.

The title was Bristol Neighborhood Books, the second book is about a system that was on going until the legal lottery was enacted. Not every, but many neighborhoods had a person that would daily contact their clients. The client would bet on a three-figure number, and give the money to that person. If that number was printed the next day in a place everyone knew where to look, the client was a winner. The winning odds were determined by how the bet was placed. There were several combinations the client could choose. It was up to the "Bookie" to keep track of the bets and turn the money in to the organization sponsoring the system. That organization would pay out winning bets though the bookie to the client. No names, but I can remember a couple of the bookies.

When I read the articles the Tessa and Luciana wrote I immediately thought about the store books. I had a classmate whose father kept a book and she was not thrilled when she found out some people on the book were also going to the Acme or A&P. When I started to write about that, I remembered the bookies.

I hope that Mrs. Renard can continue to have her students contribute similar articles to the Gazette. I am sure that Gladys Hewitt would have encouraged her students to submit articles, had there been a Gazette in the 1950s.

Annual Peach Social

BCHF will be holding its 31st annual Peach Social on Sunday, August 10 from 2 – 4 PM at our headquarters, 321 Cedar Street, Bristol Borough. We'll be serving tree ripened New Jersey peaches and ice cream atop angel food cake. We'll have tables set up in our air-conditioned building and in the shade, under the elms in our side yard. You can eat it here or take it home. It's a great way to relax and socialize with your friends and family on a summer afternoon while helping us to raise money for academic awards given to Bristol High School graduates. The price is \$10, providing good value for this treat that supports a worthy cause..

Volunteer Opportunity

Every year on the day of the peach at 11 AM, a group of volunteers gather at our headquarters, around a paper covered table loaded with peaches purchased from Russo's farm in Tabernacle, New Jersey. We work together to peel and slice all the peaches while we chat and generally have a good time. Coffee, tea and treats are provided to make the experience just a little sweeter. Please join us on Sunday, August 10 at 11 AM and experience this old-fashioned community effort.

The Lemonade Stand

By Harold Michener

In summer many people in the U. S. think of children selling home-made lemonade in front of their house.

The American business of selling lemonade began in New York city's thriving street scene and it was sold by adult men. The price was 5¢ a cup.

Children were not able to sell because in late 1800's because the children were expected to work; in the clothing manufacturing business, some boys worked in the mines getting coal, other sold newspapers on the street, while others if they were on a farm were expected to help with the farming chores.

By 1918 every state passed laws mandating that children should attend school. With summer vacation, this gave children a chance to make a little money for themselves. This is when children started having lemonade stands outside their homes.

Looking back in time:

Egypt sold a mix of barley, mint, black pepper and leaf of citron.

In Paris vendors carried vats of it on their backs and filled glasses for passing pedestrians.

Beginning with long voyages the British Navy required the sailors to drink lemon juice to prevent Scurvy.

In the mid-1800's there were many people against the use of an alcohol drink and lemonade was an answer. Lucy Hayes, wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes would not allow alcohol to be served at the White House. People called her "Lemonade Lucy".

At the present time there are few lemonade stands. Lemonade is sold in bottles at supermarkets or can be taken from soda machines.

Today some lemonade stands are available to make money to prevent childhood cancer.

Did you ever sell lemonade in front of your home?

Sources: Smithsonian Magazine, personal experience and the Internet.

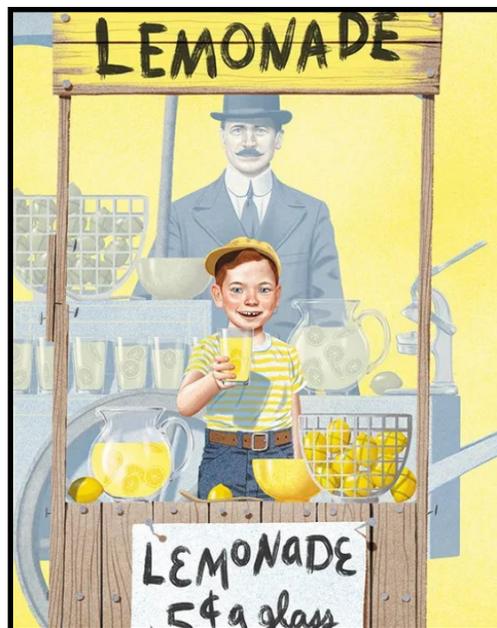


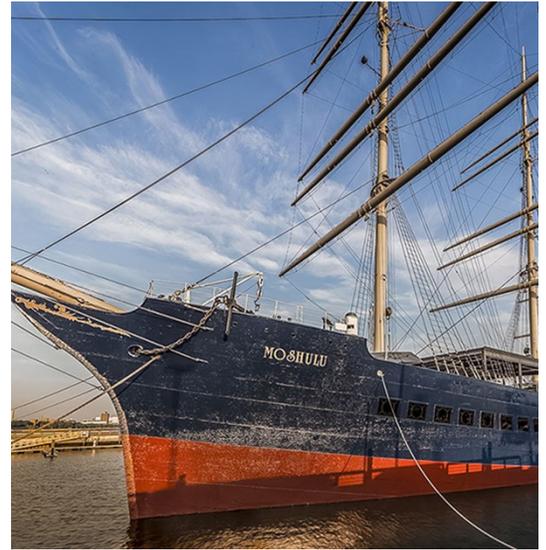
Illustration by Jason Ralsh: Smithsonian Magazine April/May 2024

SORRY.....SOLD OUT!

You don't want to hear those words so call now, while there is still availability on the June 26 bus trip to center-city Philadelphia for lunch aboard the Moshulu on the Delaware River at Penn's Landing, followed by a tour of the magnificent Masonic Temple on Broad St. The all-inclusive cost is \$135 for BCHF members; \$145 for non-members.

Call Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 re. current availability.

The May 21 deadline has been extended to June 6.



Just a reminder the Gazette does not publish in July and August.

The September issue will have lots of information about
Historic Bristol Day which is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025.

PLAN AHEAD

Since there will be no Gazette in the summer to remind you, keep in mind that we have two day trips coming up the latter part of the year. ---

Wed., October 1 - Eckley Miners' Village Museum in Weatherly, PA. Eckley was established in 1854 as a company- owned coal mining town. The PA Historical and Museum Commission has owned and operated the village as a museum since 1970. Eckley was featured in the film "The Molly Maguires." A 3-course lunch will be served at the Inn at Jim Thorpe and there will be some free time to explore that town. The all-inclusive cost is \$128 for BCHF members; \$138 for non-members. Reservation deadline is Sept, 10.

Thurs., December 4 - Tarrytown, NY, for a tour of the magnificent Lyndhurst Mansion, including a hot buffet luncheon in one of the mansion's private rooms. The mansion sits on its own 67-acre park beside the Hudson River and is one of America's finest Gothic Revival mansions. USA Today described it as one of the "Ten Best Historic Holiday Tours."

The all-inclusive cost is \$158 for BCHF members; \$168 for non-members. Reservation deadline is Oct. 31

If you have a suggestion for a future destination, feel free to let us know!

Please note: Pat Thomas Tours, LLC, of Langhorne, establishes the deadlines based on that which the motorcoach company and the places where we're touring and dining have set for her. BCHF has no control over that.

2025 B.C.H.F. Membership

The following individuals, families and businesses have joined the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation as members for the year 2025. If your name does not appear below, and you would like to continue to support the work of the Foundation, you may join now using the coupon at the bottom of the page or go online at www.bristolhistory.org. Additional members will be noted in our September newsletter.

Jose L. Acevedo	Fidel Esposito	Cynthia A. Mancuso	Anthony & Margaret Russo
Suzanne Antonelli	Pat Esposito	Ron Marcella	George & Lynn Salapka
Mary Antonelli	Alexis Fullen	Nancy Maren	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sumpsel
Irene Arhipov	Marie Feole	Janice Rhodes & Marie Shively	Debbie Bidlingmaier/Dottie Saxton
Kitsie Saldan & Nonnie Austin	Pauline Flacco	Roberta Marino	JoAnna Schneyder
Andy & Kathy Barniskis	John Foxall	Jim & Diane McDevitt	Gretchen Schroeder
Philip Bigelow	Barbara M. Funk	Dave McGlynn	Gloria L. Seacrist
Sam & Dorothy Black	Regina Gentert	Alison McHugh	Carole Serfass
Patricia A. & Frank Bosco	Mary, Mark & Christina Gesualdi	Regina McHugh	Thomas & Catherine Severi
Nancy Brown	Joseph M. Gilardi	Diane McKairnes	Colleen Sims
Pat Buchanan	Gene & Barbara Gregory	Patricia Mervine	Margaret Sleppy
Deborah Burgess	Elisabeth Halpert	Dorothy Mitchener	Joyce & Howard Smoyer
Kathleen Burke	David & Jeanne Harris	Harold Mitchener	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stallone
John & Jean Burton	Andrea Harvie	Fr. Dennis Mooney	Alan C. Stoneback
Frank & Robin Butrey	Alan & Patricia Hermely	Paul Moore	Rose Marie Strippoli
Frank & Darlene Carey	Donna B. Heron	John Morong Jr.	Paul & Veronica Swift
Arlene E Carrello	Nancy Hodges	Jennifer Moyer	Kay Tomlinson
Peter W. Cattan Jr.	John Hodgkinson	Patrick Mulhern & Family	Robert & Elizabeth Tosti
Jeanette Ruano & Ceil Graff	John Hodgkinson	Rene Mullen	Elaine Tosti
Nelson & Ann Clements	Lorraine Hoffman	Margaret, John, & Patrick Murphy	Jeannine VanBuren
Virginia Clifford	Beverly Howley	Barbara Nelson	Sherry VanCleve
Jean Cordek	Francis J. Hufnell	Carole O'Neill	Regina Vasey
Vincent & Alice Cordisco	Dr. Joanne Hullings	Mike & Virginia Paleafico	Raquel Vertucio
Eugene Costantini	Evelyn Ifkovitz	Mary Jane Paone	Jesse Walker
Susan Cox	Michele Jones	Phyllis Pavone	Gerri Walker-Mancini
Stephanie Croquez	Mary Kehoe	Deborah F. Pinney	Anne Walp
Michael Crossan	Clarence King	Margie Pliszka	Bill & Sue Watkins
Ed & Marie Crossan	Rose Marie Kirby	Philomena Quattrocchi	Vernon Wiegand Jr.
Brianna Maura Curran	Jerry & Sharon Kline	Susan Rachin	Ken and Lisa Worthington
Mary Jo D'Agostino	Angelene Krull	Johanna Raines	Helen Younglove
Joseph & Jeanne D'Emidio	Albert & Sharon Lalli	Bettie Ann Rarrick	
Amy Dailey	Thybet Lalli	Angelo & Melinda Ratini	
Larry Daniel	Mary Swain Landreth	Cathy Raupp	<u>Community Members</u>
Diane Davidson	Joe & Anna Larrisey	Helen B. Raymond	Harris Comfort
Ellanna L. Delaney	Jane B. Larzelere	Denise Riccio	Mignoni Jewelry
Bob & Nancy Doyle	Luz Lebo	Nancy Riccio	Grundy Foundation
Joseph Dugan	Eva Ligato	Stephen C Halpert & Richard Lau	St. Mark Catholic Church
Bernadine Dunning	Suzanne J. Ligato	Nicholas A. Rizzo	
Mary Ann Ennis	Gary Luthran	Linda Rowan	
Anthony Esposito	JoAnne Maguire	Keith T Russell	

2025 Membership Form

2025 Membership Dues: _____ Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business \$60.00

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____ Phone _____

Make check payable to B.C. H.F. Mail to B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

OUT OF THE PAST

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

June 2 - Borough Council fixed the tax rate at 11 Mills the same as last year. They increased the appropriations for the Fire Department.

Advanced Cinema Co. of Philadelphia set fire to the old Iredell Mansion at Pond St. and West Circle to be filmed for a movie being made in the Borough.

June 3 - Mill Street Business Men's Association is preparing to deliver a petition to the Borough Council to widen Mill St. by 3 ft. to allow parking on both sides of the street.

June 4- Keystone Motors on Lincoln Ave. in Bristol is promoting the Chrysler Six as a car that make driving delightful for women.

June 5 – Postmaster Clarence Young is reminding everyone to properly address mail and include a return address to lessen the number of letters going to the dead letter office.

June 6 – Advanced Cinema has completed the film they have been making the last 10 days. It will be shown next Mon., Tues., and Wed. at the New Colonial Theatre.

June 8 – Jimmy Dykes, the Connie Macks star infielder, will be a guest at the Knights of Columbus Lodge at Radcliffe and Mulberry Sts. He was the MVP of the Athletics in 1924.

June 11 - Commencement for Bristol High School will take place at the Bristol Methodist Church on Tues. June 16. There are 31 graduates – the largest class in Bristol history.

June 15 – A plane crashed into the Delaware River and 4 men from the Anchor Yacht Club jumped into a boat to rescue the pilot. They cut the straps holding the pilot in his seat and saved the unconscious man from drowning.

June 18 – The state expects to start work soon to extend Bristol Pike from the Neshaminy Creek to Philadelphia. Currently the road is improved from the eastern boundary of Bristol to the Neshaminy Creek.

There is much advertising for people to Buy or Build a home in Bristol's 6th Ward. There is a rising market with steady demand.

June 19 – Bridges over the Canal from New Hope to Kintnersville are dangerous due to being narrow and not strong enough to support heavy traffic.

June 20 – 1,000 members of the Legionaires will hold a "June Day" convention in Bristol. There will be a parade prior to the meeting which will be held in St. Mark's Hall.

June 22 – 17 Graduate from St. Mark's! The salutatory address was made by Fenton Larrisey. The Gold Cross for proficiency was awarded to Margaret M. Dougherty.

June 24 – James Farrell, President of U. S. Steel, spoke at the opening of the National Foreign Trade Convention. He said, "The foreign trade of the U. S. has grown to enormous proportions and promised to exceed the record of \$8,260,000,000. He predicted great prosperity for American manufacturers.

June 25 – A \$2700 yacht caught fire and was destroyed in the Delaware River near Tullytown when the owner left a stove on when he went ashore to buy eggs.

June 26- M. Grossman has the following produce for sale – oranges 12¢ a dozen, cherries 12¢ a quart, tomatoes 18¢ a lb., and large pineapples for 15¢ each.

June 29 – A motorcyclist fell asleep while driving at 55 mph and crashed head on into a trolley. He was severely injured and transported to Harriman Hospital where he died. The motorman saw him coming and stopped the trolley to try to prevent the accident.



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BCHF Calendar of Events For 2025

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. \$135 pp for BCHF members; \$145 for non-members. Call 215-788-9408 re. current availability. See flyer/reservation form on BCHF's website,

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.

OCTOBER. Wed., 10/1. Bus trip to Eckley Miners' Village in Weatherly, PA, owned and operated by the PA Historical and Museum Commission as a museum since 1970. Lunch at the Inn of Jim Thorpe, followed by free time. \$128 for BCHF-members; \$138 for non-members. See article elsewhere in this Gazette.

OCTOBER. Sat., Oct. 18, 10 AM to 4 PM. 49th Historic Bristol Day. Details in the Sept. Gazette.

OCTOBER. 10/29-11/9. "Antiquity to Anatolia" cruise aboard Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Vista," sailing from Rome and visiting Cinque Terre, Naples/Pompeii, and Taormina (Sicily), Italy; Cephalonia, Katakolon and Athens, Greece; Ephesus and Istanbul, Turkey. Rates pp, double occupancy, **incl. round-trip airfare from Phila.**, range from \$6,150 to \$6,850. Several perks available. Call 215-788-9408 for flyer.

NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/19, 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Election of Board members, followed by a program. Light refreshment. No fee.

NOVEMBER. Tues., 11/25, 7 PM at BCHF headquarters. Return of Titanic historian David Kaplan with a talk entitled, "Captain Smith: Was the Deck Stacked against Him?". Donations to the FUMC Food Pantry of Bristol will be greatly appreciated.

DECEMBER. Thurs., 12/4. Bus trip to the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, NY, with a hot buffet luncheon in one of the mansion's private rooms. \$158 for BCHF members; \$168 for non-members.