



# 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.

SEPTEMBER 2022

## President's Corner

The Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, throughout its 55 years, has worked to preserve Bristol's history and to expand the cultural opportunities of its residents. In other words, BCHF works to strengthen our sense of community and enrich our lives. One of Bristol's major annual events, Historic Bristol Day (HBD), does that spectacularly well. From the first HBD

committee, chaired by Pauline White and Mary Jane Mannherz, to this year's committee, chaired by Mary Gesualdi and Nick Rizzo, BCHF will have successfully planned and executed 46 HBDs.

The first Historic Bristol Day (HBD) was sponsored by the Radcliffe Cultural and Historical Foundation and took place on October 15, 1977. It was primarily a reenactment of colonial Bristol, a Bristol of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The many events were designed to portray the early life and times of this, the oldest town in Bucks County. Guides in colonial costumes gave tours through many of Bristol's historic homes including the former home, at 235 Radcliffe Street, of the Spanish ambassador to the United States from 1809 - 1815, Don Luis de Onís y González-Vara. The Bucks County Riflemen recreated a Revolutionary War military encampment near the wharf close to the headquarters of General Cadwallader, one of Washington's generals who commanded 3,000 troops in Bristol. More than 40 craftsmen demonstrated their skills at many locations including the Friends Meeting carriage house on Market Street (pewter maker, blacksmith, and tinsmith), St. James Parish House on Walnut Street (weavers and spinners), at the wharf (toy makers and soap makers), and along many of the sidewalks and walkways in the historic section. In addition to these demonstrations, there were exhibitions of historic artifacts, Early American decorative arts, and Delaware River decoys. Children weren't forgotten, they were entertained by a storyteller and puppeteer under the old oak tree in the Friends Meeting yard and they could buy sweet treats out on the street from the Cookie Lady. To give the participants the experience of what it was like to shop in early Bristol, the Dorrance residence, that later became the Knights of Columbus Hall at 300 Radcliffe Street, had an 18<sup>th</sup> century general store

where shoppers could buy fresh baked goods. There were some additional activities from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to round out the celebrations; there were Delaware river cruises on modern boats, an exhibition of paintings by the artists of the Bucks County School of Painting at the Radcliffe Art Gallery on 117 Franklin Street, and modern-day meals in several churches. The first Bristol Day was an impressive effort and a rousing success that drew enthusiastic crowds and started a long tradition.

This year on October 15, 2022, exactly 45 years after the first HBD, the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation will again be sponsoring Historic Bristol Day. This HBD will be just as impressive but will be less a recreation of colonial Bristol than a celebration of life in Bristol today. As the first HBD, there will be house and garden tours as well as walking tours, art, entertainment, and activities for the children. However, few people will be in colonial garb and there will be more up-to-date events like the splendid Car Show, Regatta, Antique Boat show, and boat parade. There will be food vendors, craft vendors, and the participation of many other cultural and historical non-profit groups. Like the first HBD, we expect to draw large crowds from Bristol and the surrounding areas. Once again, people will be impressed with this beautiful historic community.

This year, on the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, we will remember Bristol's past HBDs and the mission behind the effort, we will have a stronger sense of community and we will be enriched by the experience.

*Thanks to the Margaret Grundy Library and Harold Mitchener for providing background and information.*

Speaking for BCHF, I would like to take the opportunity to remember our emeritus board member Catherine McCarry who died on June 30. Catherine was a BCHF board member for many years and an active participant on many committees including the HBD committee where she served as chair. I will remember her sharp wit and acute concern for the community and for the environment. We miss her and sympathize with her family and friends.

*Debbie Pinney, President*



## A Note From Ways & Means

I'm so pleased to announce that our Peach Social was a success. We offered both dining in, takeout, and some ate their desserts outside, as the weather was so pleasant.

As you may know, the proceeds from the Social are earmarked for scholarships that we award to graduating seniors. This year's recipients are: Jaidyn Morales-Devine received the Tillie VanAken memorial award for History, Bryannah Pulinario for Art, Kayla Smith received the Sarah Carter memorial award for Literature, and Jolene Zefferi for music.

Congratulations to them!

Ways & Means will participate in Italian Day on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Look for our sale table under the wharf. Besides our sale items, we will be selling chances for the watercolor print donated by local artist, Joe Sagolla. The winner will be notified on Historic Bristol Day.

Ways & Means will meet at 2pm on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at the BCHF headquarters on Cedar St. Join us!

## Trip Talk

**THREE COUNTIES IN A SINGLE DAY!** On Thursday, October 20, our bus trip will visit the counties of Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware. We will first tour Valley Forge National Historical Park, then visit the town of West Chester for lunch. After lunch, we'll take an 80-minute narrated ride on the West Chester Railroad to the picturesque village of Glen Mills. The all-inclusive cost is \$122 for BCHF members and \$127 for non-members. As of this writing, only seven seats remain. Contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408 for current availability/reservations.

**HOLIDAY TRIP TO THE BRONX, December 1 - SOLD OUT!**

**HOLY LAND/AEGEAN CRUISE, October 6-17, 2023** - This fully escorted cruise aboard Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Nautica" will visit ten ports-of-call /five countries from Israel to Italy. The cost per

person includes round-trip airfare and the choice of one of the following amenities: \$600 shipboard credit, 6 shore excursions, or alcoholic beverage package (beer, wine, champagne with lunch and dinner). Price ranges from \$4,298 to \$8,098 pp. For a detailed flyer, contact Helen Younglove at 215-788-9408. For questions/reservations, contact Grand American Tours at 1-800-423-0247.

**TRIP CANCELLED!** Plans for a trip to Winterthur on January 4, announced in the June Gazette, have been canceled because of concern for possible hazardous winter weather conditions and resulting non-refundable policies of Winterthur and the bus operator.

The Ways and Means Committee is already at work on plans for bus trips in the Spring, late Summer, and late Fall of 2023. Watch future issues of The Gazette for details as they become available.

## DR. BENJAMIN RUSH

Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia recommended the use of the Bath Chalybeate Mineral Springs (cool water) located adjacent to the Silver Lake in Bristol at Bath Road. This attraction was frequented primarily by those who could afford a visit for 2-4 weeks in the 18th century.

People from the East Coast and the Caribbean Islands visited. There was the mineral spring bath, a hotel and a racetrack. Most people came by river to the Mill Street wharf. They were transported by horse and wagon to the baths. The hotel at the springs was not always able to house all who wanted to stay and some people stayed at the King George Inn or other smaller hotels on Mill and Radcliffe Streets.

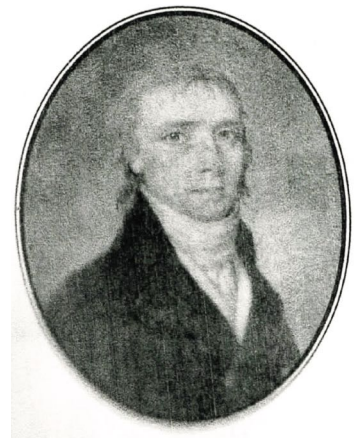
As transportation improved and steam-powered railroads became popular, Saratoga Springs in New York

state became the place to visit. This was around 1821.

What do we know about Benjamin Rush?

Benjamin was born in a farm house on Christmas Eve in Byberry in 1745. Byberry is presently part of Philadelphia near U.S. Route 1. Rush died in Philadelphia in 1813. He was a tall, slender, handsome man with blue eyes, long blond hair and had a rather large head.

His family was very "pious" engaging in daily prayers



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## ***Rush . . . continued***

and praises to God. Chapters of the Bible were read aloud in their home.

The family was also described as “defiant”. There was an old sword hung in the Byberry farm house and it was taken to every house in which Benjamin lived. This sword had been used by his great grandfather John in the cavalry as a member of Oliver Cromwell’s group against the English monarch in the English Civil War.

The family eventually left the Church of England and decided to follow the Society of Friends (Quaker) In 1683 they joined William Penn and journeyed to America. At some point they became Baptist and then returned to the Church of England. Today in America it would be the Episcopal Church.

Benjamin’s parents had seven children. His father’s name was John and his mother’s name was Susanna. She was five years older than her husband. Her parents were well-off and lived in Tacony, now a part of Philadelphia.

Benjamin’s father decided to move to Philadelphia. At that time it was the largest city in the 13 colonies. He purchased a house at #82 N. Front Street, near High Street. William Penn was instrumental in setting up outdoor markets for selling produce from New Jersey and High Street eventually became known as Market Street. Benjamin’s father set up a blacksmith shop in the first floor of the building and the family lived upstairs. In the summer of 1751 his father, John, died.

After the death of his father, his mother opened a store called “The Blaizing Star”. She sold food and liquors both retail and wholesale and did rather well. His mother decided to send Benjamin to a school called the West Nottingham Academy near the Susquehanna River run by Rev. Samuel Finley. Each evening meal was started with prayer and the reading of the Bible. The school was on a farm and Rush learned Greek and Latin as well as many farm related jobs.

The Rev. Finley decided that Rush had learned all he

could at the school and from there Rush was sent to the College of New Jersey (now Princeton). Rush was then thirteen and a half in age and entrance was to translate a New Testament Passage from Greek to Latin. Rush did well and was admitted to the junior class. There were 58 students and Nassau Hall was the main building. Under the Rev. Samuel Davis, Rush learned to take notes as he read or listened to a lecture.

On Sept. 21, 1770, at the age of 14, he was the valedictorian of his class. There were 11 students receiving the bachelor’s degree that year.

After college his mother hoped he would study theology but he was not interested. His mother helped him find a job in a Philadelphia attorney’s office however Rush decided he did not want to be a lawyer but rather would study “physic” to become a physician. He traveled to Edinburg, Scotland to study medicine.

He performed experiments there and wrote his thesis in English which he had to translate into Latin in order to graduate.

Upon his return to Philadelphia he became the founder of American Psychiatry and was also the founder of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. He married Julia Stockton of Princeton and they had 13 children.

Rush also signed the Declaration of Independence and crossed the Delaware River with Washington on Christmas night of 1776.

During the yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia, he stayed in the city and would go from house to house to care for those that were ill. Rush and his wife are buried at Christ Church cemetery at 5th and Arch Street. His good friend, Ben Franklin and Franklin’s wife, Debora, are buried in the same cemetery.

Dr. Rush was 68 years old when he died.

*Sources: Rush by Stephen Fried; Images of America - Bristol by Harold and Carol Mitchener; internet.*

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## **2022 MEMBERSHIP**

In the June GAZETTE we listed all members in good standing. Since that time, the following individuals have renewed their membership in BCHF. If you have not yet paid your dues, we urge you to renew your membership so that you will continue to get the GAZETTE in the mail with all of this interesting information and will also be able to take advantage of member discounts on trips and events.

*Sam & Dorothy Black  
Graham Brent  
Paul Felkner*

*Tybet Lalli  
Ron Marcella  
Charles & Delores Samsel*

*Jane Sutton & Mary Ann Laut  
Raquel Vertucci*

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## ***2022 Membership Form***

**2022 Membership Dues:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual \$15.00**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Family \$25.00**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Business \$60.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Bristol Courier Social Events News

The Bristol Courier, owned by the Bristol Printing Company, was incorporated May 19, 1914, with Serrill D. Detleson as Managing Editor, and Ellis E. Ratcliffe as Secretary. The Courier originally located at Beaver and Garden Streets in Bristol, moved to Old Route 13, Tullytown, with new ownership and improved printing presses in 1954. For many years, it was the only paper published daily, except Sunday, in Lower Bucks County. Prior to the Levittown tract construction in the early 1950's, papers were delivered to homes in Bristol, Edgely, Tullytown, Bridgewater, Croydon, Andalusia, West Bristol, Hulmeville, Bath Addition, Newportville, and Torresdale Manor. Before the Bristol Courier, from 1910 to 1914, The Daily Courier, published by William Watson, was available in the Bristol area. **In 1954 Calkins Newspapers, Inc. purchased The Bristol Courier.** The Courier was merged with The Levittown Times creating the Bucks County Courier Times.

This article discusses the social news events published by the Bristol Courier in the late 1940's, and early 1950's; prior to the Courier's sale to Calkins Newspapers, Inc. Social items were printed on a space available basis. Many daily items were grouped together on one page, but others were used as fillers to complete news columns on other pages. These items included, but were not limited to birthday parties, vacations, anniversaries, Lodge and church activities, visits to relatives, visits from relatives and any other personal activities of social interest. People enjoyed seeing their names in the local paper. This type of news was similar to social items, printed in the BCHF Gazette's "Out of the Past" section.

The Courier got social news from independent reporters that endeavored to find people having events of interest and would like to have the information put in the paper. The paper was eager to get social news to help increase circulation. The Courier paid the princely sum of ten cents a column inch to encourage the reporters.

Edith Black, was one of the reporters that supplied news on a weekly basis at the time mentioned above. Articles were initially acquired mostly by word of mouth; friends would tell her about people having company for a visit or there was a party etc. She would then call the person involved and ask if they would like it in the paper. In most cases the result was positive, and an article was submitted for publication.

In order to keep the news coming, Edith started a file system to record names and dates that repeat items might be generated. If someone had a birthday party, she would note the date and call the following year to inquire if it was repeated. The system was used for any type of news she thought would reoccur. As time went on, more people she called, called her if they had news they wanted published. People Edith contacted would call, and report someone else that had a possible item. The file system grew and grew. Often when she called there wasn't news, but the person wanted a friendly chat. This often happened in reverse when someone would call her just to talk. These friendly calls insured any events would be reported to Edith.

Not all of the news was gathered over the phone. Edith, because of her relationship with the Courier, became fairly well known in the Bristol area. People would stop her in the A&P, at stores on Mill Street, or social functions she attended, to give her news items. Edith was careful getting information correct, and to ensure all attending any affair were listed. Not only were the names important, but if guests were from out of town, their home towns were also noted. One of the most important aspects of each article was length. As mentioned above there was a reward of ten cents a column inch.

Each article was hand written in ink, on a separate sheet of paper. All the articles gathered during the week were hand delivered each Friday to the Courier office. As these articles appeared the following week, they would be cut out and pasted to a full uncut page of the Courier, filling one column at a time. At months end, pages with the published articles would be delivered to the Courier for total length measurement. Pages had seven columns, and the cut-out articles were pasted over the printed area. The full pages were of equal total inch length and a partial page, full columns of equal length, plus incomplete column length. Checks were issued based on the total number of inches times ten cents.

My mother started reporting social news events as a way to earn a little extra money. But as she became more closely involved with their lives, she felt the personal contacts were more rewarding than the money received.

*This article was written and submitted by Sam Black*

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# 46<sup>th</sup> Historic BRISTOL DAY

rain or shine

**Saturday, October 15, 2022  
from 10 am until 4 pm**

on Radcliffe Street and Riverfront Park  
Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania

**ANNUAL TEA  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG  
CRAFTERS & VENDORS  
FOOD TRUCKS  
STUDENT ART SHOW  
HOUSE TOURS  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

**ANTIQUE BOAT DISPLAY  
CAR SHOW  
ENTERTAINMENT  
CHILDREN'S CORNER  
GRUNDY MUSEUM  
RIVERFRONT REGATTA  
WORSHIP SITES**

and much more to come....

For more information visit <http://BristolHistory.org>



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# COME FOR THE HISTORY, STAY FOR THE FUN

at the

## 46th Annual Historic Bristol Day

### Saturday, October 15, 2022

Mark your calendar and join the fun at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Bristol Day on Saturday, October 15, 2022 (rain or shine), sponsored by the BCHF. The day will be dedicated to the memory of Catherine McCarry, former board member for the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation.

Our planning committee is feverishly working to have our craft vendors on the 200 and 300 blocks of Radcliffe Street, fabulous food trucks in the Food Court on the river, house and garden tours, historic walking tours, an archeological dig at the Friends Meeting House, our riverfront tea, Bristol's public buildings and churches on display, homemade goodies at our Bake Table and our Car Show and Antiques and Classic Boat display. Revolutionary War re-enactors will have an encampment and demonstrations in Riverfront Park. In addition to the Sailboat Regatta, we are excited to add a deco-

rated boat parade to kick off the day! The Grundy Museum will be open for touring. Students from Snyder-Girotti will perform a skit to tell the story of immigration to Bristol and the fifth graders from St. Mark School will dramatize the art and history of Saint Mark Church. Student artwork will be on display.

Enjoy a day full of entertainment on the Delaware starting with the Bracken Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Alumni Corps, followed by Frank Butrey Jazz Trio, and closing out with Big Al's Red Garter Dixieland Band. The Youth Orchestra of Bucks County's Sax Quartet will be performing along Radcliffe Street. Strolling performers, face painting, sand art and a balloon artist will be available to keep the children entertained.

Come out and be a part of Historic Bristol's past, present and future!

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## *Combined Antique and Classic Boat and Car Show a Huge Success*



Photography by  
Jean Marc Dubus



On Saturday, July 9 the first ever combined antique boat and car show took place along the Delaware River and in Bristol Lions Park. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society joined forces with the Historic Bristol Day Car Show Committee (sponsored by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation) for what turned out to be a spectacular event enjoyed by one and all.

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## Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **September 1902** issues of THE BUCK COUNTY GAZETTE. Price three cents.

9/4....."Just What Bristol Needs – A First-Class Candy Store! Confections, Chocolates and Bon-Bons, Ice Cream, Fruits, etc. All stick candy guaranteed fresh and pure. Candy manufactured daily. CUMMINGS & CO., 327 Mill St."

"THE MISSES IREDELL will re-open their school on Radcliffe Street, Bristol, September 25th, 1902. Advanced classes. Primary and kindergarten classes. Drawing, painting and elocution."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

The local milk dealers have failed in their attempt to put the retail price of milk up to eight cents per quart. The old price of six cents still prevails.

The main belt which drives the spinning mill of the Thomas L. Leedom Co. broke down on Tuesday morning and the spinning department was closed for the balance of the morning.

William E. Doran has distributed 1500 tickets in Bristol for the children's picnic on Burlington Island on Saturday. The Liberty Cornet Band has been engaged for the occasion and will go over on the 1:30 boat.

Richard Tiernan and Miss Catharine Lake, both of Bristol, were united in marriage yesterday afternoon in St. Mark's Church. After the ceremony, Mr. & Mrs. Tiernan proceeded immediately to their new home at the corner of Jefferson Ave. and Pond St.

"BRISTOL LIBRARY. On first floor of Presbyterian Church, Radcliffe St. Open daily from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. Saturday evenings 7:30 to 8:30. Readership, \$1.50 per year.

9/11....."SPECIAL! Try a Glass of RISLEY'S Ice Cream Soda. 5 cents. We serve nothing but our own make of ice cream. We make it daily. FRANK G. RISLEY, Mill & Pond Streets. Wholesale and retail manufacturer of confectionery and ice cream."

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

A boy named Reed, who drives a stage for John Irwin, was bitten by a horse one day this week. The animal fastened his teeth in the breast of the boy and lifted him clear off the ground.

It is reported that Captain F. G. Edwards has rented a room on Cedar Street in the rear of Childs' store, where he will open up political headquarters next week.

DISAPPEARED WITH A LIVERY TEAM. A man who registered at the Delaware House under the name of Burns hired a horse and wagon at Roberts Livery Stable on Radcliffe Street on Monday morning. Failing to return at night, Chief Saxton started to hunt for the erring individual. The Chief took the 8:30 p.m. train for Philadelphia and located him at the

Eagle Hotel, 6th & Girard. Chief Saxton waited for the suspect until Tuesday morning but, as he failed to put in an appearance, the horse and wagon were brought back to Bristol.

BUILDING A WATER WORKS. The Corona Kid Company is erecting a reservoir and establishing a fire protection system at its works in the Fourth Ward of Bristol.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS. Pres. Scull registered a complaint for the persons living at the Forge road in the vicinity of "horse heaven" where dead animals are boiled up for toilet articles. Mr. DeGroot took issue with the presiding officer and declared the odors arising from many of the gutters about the borough were far worse than that which hovers about the dead animals,

"GRAND OPENING OF THE BRISTOL SELECT DANCING ACADEMY! In Pythian Hall, Wood Street. Saturday Eve., September 27. Popular Prices. Dancing from 8 to 12 o'clock."

"It is not too late to take a BOILED PURIFIER. Most people neglected to take one on account of the backward Spring. Our Sarsaparilla enriches and stimulates the blood, invigorates and renovates the whole system. J. D. WRIGHT, Prescription Pharmacist, 303-305 Mill St.

"New Steam Passenger Steamer, QUAKER CITY, Will Start Her Regular Trips between Philadelphia and Trenton, Stopping at Bristol and Burlington, Commencing July 10th. Steamer FRANNIE, for freight only, between Bristol and Philadelphia."

9/18.....LETTER CARRIERS COMING. The Christmas mail will be delivered in Bristol by letter carriers. All the preliminary arrangements have been made for the establishment of a free delivery system, and four uniformed members of the Government will make regular deliveries and collections after December 1.

A LOCKJAW VICTIM. Lewis Mack, a young man aged about 25 years, who was vaccinated on August 25, is at the point of death at his boardinghouse, corner of Pond and Washington Streets.

STRIKE AT CORONA KID WORKS. About 50 boys employed in the "tacking on" department of the Corona Kid Company are out on strike, having lodged a demand for a \$1.50 increase in the weekly wage scale. The boys average about 16 years of age and are paid \$8.50 a week, which is more than is paid at any other factory in Bristol for a similar class of help.

"BRISTOL ICE CO. 50 Lbs. Ice, 15 cents. We have decided to make a specialty of 50 lb. sales of ice."

### 9/25 . . . LOCAL INTELLIGENCE:

It is estimated that there are 2,500 Catholics in Bristol.

The Second Ward Republicans Club has disbanded.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## BCHF Calendar of Events For 2022 - 2023

**OCTOBER** Sat., 10/15 10 am to 4 pm 46th Historic Bristol Day including car show, decorated motorboat parade, antique & classic boat show, sailboat regatta, house tour & Tea, crafters & vendors, entertainment, food court, children's corner, archaeological dig, student art show and more. Ticket required for house tour & Tea.

**OCTOBER** Thurs., 10/20 bus trip to Valley Forge Natl. Historical Park, 3-course luncheon, and 80-minute narrated ride on the West Chester Railroad. \$122 for BCHF members; \$127 for non-members. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer/reservation form. **Only a few seats left!**

**NOVEMBER**, Wed., 11/16. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Check future issues of The Gazette for more info.

**DECEMBER** Thurs., 12/1 Holiday bus trip to the Bronx. **SOLD OUT!**

### 2023

**OCTOBER 2023** - Oct. 6 - 17, 2023, Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty (Jerusalem to Rome) cruise on Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Nautica." Call 215 788-9408 for a detailed flyer.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.

- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at [www.bristolhistory.org](http://www.bristolhistory.org).

Follow us on Instagram - -

IG@bristol\_historic\_foundation

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