



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.

NOVEMBER 2022

Historic Bristol Day was a Smashing Success

The day was bright and sunny. Crowds of people came to town to enjoy all the various events provided by Historic Bristol Day. There were so many events that it was impossible to visit all of them in five hours. The food court was busy all day with people enjoying the many choices made available to them. There were over 100 vendors on Radcliffe Street to entice you to purchase that item that you just could not do without. The car show, always a favorite, did not disappoint the car enthusiast. It was topped off by a first-time grand tour of the antique cars through Bristol at the conclusion of the event. Of course, not to be outdone by the cars were the antique boats at the wharf, along with the Schooner North Wind which offered hour long sails on the lovely Delaware. The river was a busy place with the annual regatta organized by the Anchor Yacht Club. There was entertainment both at the Gazebo and on the street. The town crier in period costume ringing his brass bell was there to alert you to the events. However, occasionally he had to make room for Revolutionary War Re-enactors marching down the street.



The Artists of Bristol could be found on the new lawn of the Grundy Museum. After enjoying the art,

one could tour the museum. Also house and garden tours were available. When finished with the touring, you could enjoy tea on the banks of the river while being entertained by the harpist, Gloria Galante.

Many public buildings were open offering events such as an Archaeological Dig, quilt displays, theatre tours and much more. The presentation of the History of St. Mark Church by the fifth-grade students at St. Mark School was enjoyed by all those that attended. The student of Snyder-Girotti also added to the events of the day with a presentation entitled "Ashore on Ellis Island"

The entire town is the venue for Historic Bristol Day. Two walking tours were provided so people could learn about the history of town. It seems that a beautiful, costumed lady looking as she had come from the past was there to provide the information.

To get around more efficiently, shuttle buses and the River Runner were provided to the public.

Historic Bristol Day was a smashing success. Many thanks to all the volunteers that made it possible. Also, we are grateful for the wonderful weather which also was much appreciated.

We also thank all those that attended. Hopefully we will see you again next year.

President's Corner

Every year we ask that you pay your dues: \$15 for an individual, \$25 for a family at the same residence, \$60 for a business. Dues are payable in January. The consequences of not paying by June is that the benefits will stop: your newsletters won't be sent, and you won't get a discount on trips. But what about the benefits that are, arguably, more important. You won't be helping BCHF provide awards to graduating BHS seniors; you won't be contributing to community events like Bristol Day, the peach social, or the tea; you won't support our program of educational lectures; and you won't help us preserve a piece of Bristol history, our headquarters at 321 Cedar Street.

The property now occupied by the Bristol Cultural and

Historical Foundation has had a long and fascinating history. In the mid-eighteenth century, all the land between Mulberry and Walnut Streets, at a depth of 150 feet, was owned by John Pemberton of Philadelphia. John was the grandson of Phineas Pemberton who was William Penn's chief administrator in Bucks County and was a central figure in its affairs. In 1793, John and his wife Hannah conveyed, for 5 shillings, a portion of their property to the trustees of the Bristol Society of Friends for the erection of a school. John Pemberton was likely motivated by the fact that schools were not yet mandated by the state and that the Bristol Friends were advocates for education and, at times, conducted school in their Meeting House on the corner of Market and Wood Streets. Soon after the land was donated, the Second Pennsylvania Constitution and, later, the Free Public Schools Act diminished the need for private schools and the incentive for a Friend's

Continued on page 2

President's Corner . . . *continued*

School. The land was leased between 1793 and 1851 to unrecorded lessees. In 1851, the plan to build a Friends School on the land was resurrected although it took a couple more decades before funds were found. In 1874 the northeastern portion of the lot was sold to Ellwood Doron for \$3,000 and the proceeds were used to build the building as it now stands. In 1875 the school was finally opened with Elizabeth Woolston as Principal and Kate Laing as assistant. Unfortunately, the school had to close in 1879 due to the lack of funds and of students. For some years after, the building was leased by the Bristol school system. The building was leased between 1920 and 1929 to several groups including the Bristol Gazette Newspaper and the Robert W. Bracken American Legion Post. The Bristol Travel Club leased the property from 1929 to 1958 when they purchased it from the Bristol Friends for \$10,000. The Travel Club extensively renovated the building and landscaped the grounds. BCHF bought the property in 1991 when Mary McIlvain was president and Joseph Pavone was chairman of the build-

ing committee. For the past 31 years, this has been our headquarters, a place where BCHF holds its meetings, presents its many programs, and events and provides a place for other guest organizations to meet.

Our dues are small, compared to other organizations, but they go a long way to further our mission "to preserve and promote the history of the area and increase the cultural opportunities for the residents of the community." Please pitch in and send your dues to BCHF, 321 Cedar Street, Bristol, PA 19007 or pay online at bristolhistory.org and, if you can, encourage others to join.

Thanks to Wendy Kane, Bucks Quarter Quakers coordinator, and Paul Shaffer of Bristol Friends for invaluable information about the early history of the land and the Bristol Friends School. Thanks to Dana Barber and Stephanie Walker of the Grundy Library for information from their archives.

Debbie Pinney, President

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

We would like to express our gratitude to the committee members, volunteers, participants and visitors who made the 46th Annual Historic Bristol Day on Saturday, October 15th so memorable and successful. The weather could not have been more perfect and the large crowds attending were evident throughout the day at the various events. Please save the day for next year - - Saturday, October 21, 2023!!

Mary Gesualdi & Nick Rizzo, Event Co-Chairs



The Mignoni Family and Bristol Day Chairs celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Mignoni Jewelry and Gifts on Bristol Day



Kitzie Saldan gets in the spirit of the day while visiting the BCHF bake table



The Artists of Bristol on the lawn at the Grundy Museum





117 Cars Shown on Bristol Day

The 11th annual Historic Bristol Day Car Show was a huge success with 117 cars entered. This year, for the first time, the show ended with a car cruise through Bristol Borough which was attended by over 50 cars and directed by the Bristol Police.



Our Lucky Winners

We held two raffles and one silent auction on this year's Bristol Day. The winners of these events are as follows:

Sagolla framed art was won by Ann Brogan.

The Apple Pie and container was won by Denise Kolber.

Rose Marie Strippoli painting was won by Mary Gesualdi.

We also held an art contest for Bristol students. Judging was done by members from the Artists of Bristol. The judging was exceptionally difficult as all the art submitted was outstanding.

First place was awarded to **Dante Adams**, sixth grade at Snyder-Girotti School.

Second place was won by **Jada Elie**, grade eight at Bristol Middle School.

Third Place was given to **Isabella McVey** from grade six at Snyder-Girotti School.

And Honorable Mention was awarded to **Lucie Walker** from grade six at St. Mark School.

Congratulations to all the winners

You can view the winning art-work on our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

SMOOTH SAILING

October 15 proved to be a perfect day for a sail on the Delaware and, thanks to the efforts of Kristina Jones of the Anchor Yacht Club, the annual sailboat regatta provided a picture-perfect setting on the Delaware. This year's regatta winners were:

1st Place: Capt. John Allen on "Shocking"

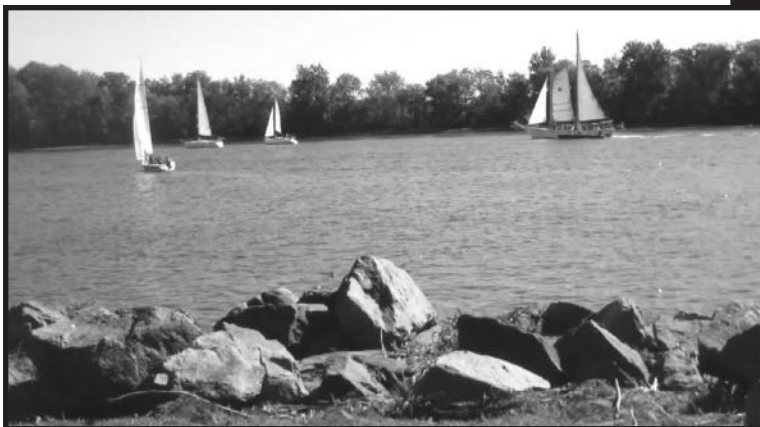
2nd Place: Capt. Mike McDermott on "Chaos"

3rd Place: Capt. Mike Paul on "Right Moves"



Above: The regatta prize winners with their families and HBD co-chairs Mary Gesualdi (far right) and Nick Rizzo (2nd from left)

Left: Sailboats lining up for the regatta, with the schooner North Wind in the center.



TALKS AND TRIPS

The Ways & Means Committee has been busy the past few months lining up programs and trips for next year. See the Calendar of Events in this issue of the Gazette for program and cruise information. We will have details on our one-day bus trips for inclusion in the January Gazette.

Thank You - We Could Not Have Done It Without You!

Our member sponsors are:

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Everyone enjoyed the music in the gazebo with the beautiful river as a backdrop



Radcliffe Street was busy all day with folks enjoying the beautiful weather, activities for the children and a large selection of items in the food court.



Pat Buchanan - - Annual Meeting Speaker

BCHF's annual meeting will be held on **November 16, 2022, at 7:30 PM**. We are fortunate to have as our speaker, Patricia Buchanan whose talk is entitled "Mosaics: Then and Now".

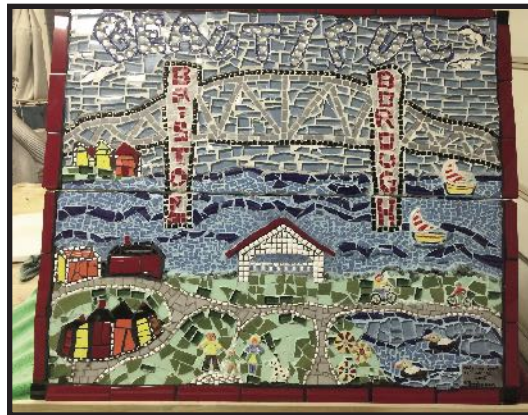
Pat's art education started in High School where she majored in art, taking two art classes a year for four years. After high school, she attended the Philadelphia College of Arts (later renamed the University of the Arts). Finding that art college together with all the art supplies was too pricey, Pat transferred to West Chester University with a major in Phys-Ed. She reasoned that she could get a practical education while honing her art skills less formally. As often happens, the obligations of a family and her career in education precluded her seriously pursuing her interest in art for a couple decades. Eventually she was able to return to art, she took classes at Fleisher Art Memorial in Philadelphia. While at Fleisher she took classes in mosaic art and painting, both figure and portrait. To this day, Pat continues her education as a member of the Mosaic Society of Philadelphia and has taken workshops all around the country. She has studied both ancient and modern mosaics while on tours in many countries including Greece, Italy, and Mexico. Soon, she will be attending a mosaic workshop in Barcelona, Spain.

Pat's art has been displayed in many shows and galleries. She's an active member of the Artists of Bristol and has, with fellow artists Kim White and Jennifer Erickson, created several community mosaic projects; the garden poles in the community garden, the clock tower in the Grundy Library, and the bench in front of the library.

We are very lucky to benefit from Pat's many years of art study and look forward to her presentation. Please join us.



Above: Kim White and Pat Buchanan at the library bench.



Valued Member of the Board Resigns

We regretfully report that Mary Kehoe resigned from the BCHF board in October. She joined the BCHF board during Nancy Maren's presidency (1997 – 2001). Mary faithfully attended board meetings and was indispensable for getting the Gazette to all the members each month. She was responsible for the bake table on Bristol Day for 15 years before passing the task over to a newer member. She and Dave McGlynn set up the chairs and tables for endless events, their help is "sorely" missed. Mary has always been devoted to family and friends and we will miss her.

BCHF Welcomes Two New Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Suzie Antonelli and Joe Dugan have become the newest members of the BCHF board of directors. They are both life-long residents of Bristol and both are teachers. Suzie is taking the seat vacated by Helen Younglove earlier this year and Joe is taking Mary Kehoe's place. We hope they enjoy working on the board and we look forward to knowing them.

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **November 1922** issues of THE BRISTOL COURIER.

11/1 – HALLOWE'EN CELEBRATED BY MANY PARTIES AND DANCES. Numerous Events Staged at Which the Guests Make Merry – Costumes Original and Unique.

BIG CROWD EXPECTED AT GOODWILL FIRE CO. SHOW. Production of Musical Comedy by Local Talent. "Why Marianna," the play that is on the tongue of almost everyone in Bristol today, is to be bigger and better than any amateur production yet developed in Bristol, according to those who are responsible for its production. The play opens at the Forrest Theatre tomorrow night and closes the following evening. Mrs. Herbert L. Brunton has been selected for the title role. Mrs. Jacob C. Schmidt, Jr., has also been chosen for the cast.

11/3 – COLORED VOTERS TO HOLD MASS MEETING HERE. A Republican mass meeting is to be held in the Colored Community House tonight, Radcliffe and Walnut Streets. The meeting is to be addressed by the Honorable Andrew F. Stevens, banker and member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.

HELP WANTED. Women and girls for light work in shipping room. Also boys and girls, who can make good figures. Apply Bristol Patent Leather Co., Bristol."

"FOOTBALL AT VICTORY FIELD, Wilson Avenue and Harrison Street. Sunday, November 5th. Bristol Athletic Ass'n versus St. Mary's (one of the strongest teams in Trenton). Kickoff called at 2:45 P.M."

11/6 – KNIGHTS TEMPLAR ATTEND SERVICE IN CHURCH HERE. First Time Knights Templar Have Ever Appeared in Bristol. Last night, Frankford Commandery No. 92, Knights Templar, marched up the aisle of St. James Church behind the choir, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

FOR RENT. Two six-room houses at 436 and 438 Pond St. Gas and sewer. Good location. 436 - \$15.00 a month. 438 - \$16 a month. Apply to Benjamin Silber, 221 Jefferson Ave.

11/8 – REPUBLICANS GIVEN MAJORITIES IN TOWN. Voters of Bristol yesterday gave all of the Republican candidates majorities. The vote was very light, there being a total of 1,266 votes cast in Bristol Borough. The vote cast by women here was especially light.

"The Frankford Elevated Now Completed Brings Our Bristol Riders 25 Minutes Closer to Philadelphia. Take trolley at your door, leave Elevated at the door of your favorite store. No time lost between home or store and station. Fare Half. TRENTON, BRISTOL & PHILADELPHIA STREET RAILWAY COMPANY."

11/10 – HIGH SCHOOL OBSERVES ARMISTICE DAY HERE. Armistice Day was appropriately celebrated today at chapel service held at the Bristol high school. In his talk to the students, Principal Butz emphasized the necessity on the part of the people and the students to have respect for law and order.

TENDER RECEPTION TO NEW PASTOR HERE. A reception was tendered the newly appointed minister of the Union Church in Harriman, the Rev. George Murray Klepfer, last evening in the high school auditorium by the members of his congregation, ministers of the borough and members of their congregation.

"W. CLAYTON FORCE, Groceries and Service, Wood and Washington Sts.....Demonstration and Sampling by the National Biscuit Company at Our Store Tomorrow. National Specials: Harlequin Wafers – 3 boxes 35c. Festinos – 3 boxes 25c. Chocolate Puff Cakes – 33c lb. Fruit Cakes, light or dark – 5 lb. box \$3.50."

11/15 – SETTLEMENT IS REACHED BY GOV'T AND HARRIMAN. Emergency Fleet to Pay \$500,000 to Merchant Shipbuilding Corp. After a five year stay in this locality and spending millions of dollars to erect and operate a shipyard, the United States Shipping Board, Emergency Fleet Corp., will shake the dust of Bristol from its feet, so to speak, within the next thirty days.

BASKETBALL OPENS THE LOCAL SEASON. Bristol A.A. Cops the Initial Contest by Score of 24 to 17. Playing for the Bristol team were: Edwards, Glasco, Lansing, Salt and Deck. Leroy Skillman, the man who has awakened interest here in football this year, is also behind the basketball proposition.

11/16 – TWO NEW STEAMERS WILL PLY RIVER HERE NEXT SEASON. Plans are being prepared and bids are to be requested for building a new steamer and the rebuilding of another for the Burlington Island Amusement Company. The new steamer is to have three passenger decks and will be a first class steamer in every particular. The two boats will be placed in service between Burlington Island and Philadelphia and Trenton.

MEGARGEE PAPER MILLS PURCHASE 70 ACRE SITE FOR NEW FACTORY HERE. Bid Over \$60,000. The tract of land extends from a point close to the greenhouses formerly occupied by the Floral Exchange at Edgely to the Tullytown borough line and from the Pennsylvania Railroad to the Delaware River.

11/17 – CONTRACT 87-SC IS GIVEN BURIAL HONORS. Employees and Former Employees Attend Last Rites Given the Dead. Jolly Time Follows. The fact there was no saving in the cost of ships and in consequence thereof, they could see all hope of a bonus

continued on next page

Silver Lake Nature Center

Silver Lake Nature Center is located on 253 acres and is part of the Bucks County Park System. Going back to the 1600's Silver Lake appeared on maps in its present location. It originally was a pond used to power mills in Bristol. Dams were built on Otter Creek and Adam's Hollow Creek. A mill race was built into some Bristol Mills.

Over the years the pond filled in with mud and vegetation and became a marsh. In the late 1700's the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia published a paper entitled "An Analysis of the Calybeate Waters of Bristol - 1768". In 1783 Dr. Benjamin Rush began recommending that people bathe in the waters as a cure for many diseases. The baths were completed in 1810; hence the name for Bath Road. The springs attracted people from all over to Bristol. The attraction of these baths made Bristol quite the resort town especially during the early 1800's. By the late 1870's at the baths had lost their appeal due

to the popularity of Saratoga Springs, NY

In 1935-6 the Pennsylvania Fish Commission purchased the lake which was mostly wetlands. At this time the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began work on the present lake, by then called Silver Lake. Most of the work was done by hand. It took over 300 men to physically dig out the lake. In the 1940's when Route #13 was built, the lake underwent another change. The southernmost section was filled in by removing an island and using the soil as "fill" for Route #13. The Bucks County Dept. of Parks and Recreation purchased the lake in 1957 from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. The surrounding land owners were bought out during the 1960's.

A unique feature of the Nature Center located at Silver Lake is a structure built with recycled products. "Earthship" heats and cools itself; it gathers its own water, recycles its own waste and produces its own food.

Out of the Past . . . continued

gone forever, made little difference to the big gathering of employees, former employees and officials of the Merchant Shipyard as they frolicked to their hearts' content in the Administration Building last evening. The opening number, sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," was:

A contract made with the E.F.C. is just a scrap of paper.

We started out with lots of steam and ended up with vapor.

Listen to our hymn of hate, Faus, Bingham, Pitts & Buillion.

You gave us a dollar and ninety eight, but you owed us just three million.

"Everybody Come Dance at Enterprise Hall, Bristol, Saturday, November 18. Music by Arcadia Five, of Trenton. Gents - 40c. Ladies - 25c."

11/20 - TWO NOVICES TAKE THEIR SOLEMN VOWS AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH. At the 10 o'clock solemn High Mass on Sunday, November 19th, which was celebrated by the Most Rev. Father Xavier Pellerin, General of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity, Sister Immaculate of St. John DiMatha and Sister Josephine of the Most Holy Trinity, formerly Miss Cecilia Schwartz of Bristol Township and Miss Margaret Kennedy, also of Bristol, made their solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Order of the Most Holy Trinity.

"NASH Touring Model, 6 Cylinders, 5 Passengers - Reduced Price, \$1240, f.o.b. factory. Fours and Sixes. Reduced Prices Range from \$915 to \$2190, f.o.b. factory. WILLIAM DE GROOT, 341 Jefferson Avenue."

11/22 - NAME COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT DRIVE FOR BOYS COLLEGE. Members of St. Mark's Parish Plan to Raise Quota of Funds. The drive which is to be made throughout the Philadelphia

Catholic Diocese for \$1,000,000 in the interest of St. Joseph's College, has started in Bristol.

11/23 - BUSINESS MEN JOIN ELKS IN BOOSTING BRISTOL CAMPAIGN. Meeting Held Last Night Full of Enthusiasm and Interest. Speeches Made and Over \$300 Pledged to Help Advertise the Town.

BEAVER FIREMEN READY TO SELL "BRICKS" FOR HOUSE. Tomorrow, members of Beaver Fire Company, No. 4, will begin a house-to-house canvass selling "bricks" for their new firehouse, which it is proposed to build somewhere in the Fourth Ward.

11/24 - "Special until Thanksgiving. Chickens, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks - Sold by Live Weight at the Very Lowest Prices. Turkeys - 50c per lb. Ducks - 28c per lb. Chickens - 28c per lb. Geese - 30c per lb. MORRIS GROSSMAN, 100 Otter Street."

11/27 - TELLS OF GROWTH OF SCHOOL HERE DURING THE YEAR. At the beginning of the school year 1922-23, the Bristol Borough public schools were in the unique position of having a seat for every child and every child on full time. This condition is not very usual in these days and many districts may envy Bristol its position. This happy circumstance has been brought about by the annexation of Harriman to Bristol Borough and the purchase of the large school building which had been erected there. About 600 pupils, from the first primary through the twelve years to the Senior class in the high school, are cared for in the new building. Bristol now has six good school houses in the borough.

11/29 - BRISTOL HEADS LIST OF 'XMAS CLUBS IN BUCKS. Total Membership is 10,848 in 12 County 'Xmas Saving Clubs. The Bristol Trust Company within the next week or two will pay out \$78,000 in its Christmas Club fund, which is the largest of any such fund in Bucks County.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BCHF Calendar of Events For 2022 - 2023

NOVEMBER. Wed., 11/16. 7:30 PM. BCHF's annual meeting at BCHF headquarters. Presentation by Patricia Buchanan, "Mosaics Then and Now". Pat is a Bristol artist and a member of the Artists of Bristol, Light refreshments. BCHF members are encouraged to attend. The public is cordially invited.

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

2023

JANUARY. Sun., 1/29, 2 PM. Snow date is Sun., 2/26. Fully staged, one-man show by professional actor Neill Hartley, entitled "Over There: Songs and Letters of WWI." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donation of \$5/adult requested; students free. Payable at the door.

MARCH. Sun., 3/26, 2 PM. Snow date is Sun., 4/2. Presentation by PA Humanities speaker on "The Lenape Indians in Bucks County." Light refreshment. BCHF headquarters. Donation of \$5/adult requested; students free. Payable at the door.

APRIL Sun., 4/30, 2 to 4 PM. Annual Tea at BCHF headquarters. Fee. Advance reservations required.

AUGUST. Sun., 8/13, 2 to 4 PM. Annual Peach Social at BCHF headquarters. Fee. Take-outs available. Event benefits awards to Bristol High School graduates.

OCTOBER. 10/6-17. Holy Lands & Aegean Majesty (Jerusalem to Rome) cruise on Oceania Cruises' "Oceania Nautica." **Space is going fast!** Call 215-788-9408 for a detailed flyer.

10/26 - Nov. 4. 10-day cruise aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's "Vision of the Seas," sailing from Baltimore to King's Wharf, Bermuda, Nassau, and Cococay, Bahamas. 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.

Follow us on Instagram - -

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