



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2012

April 2012
Volume 12, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED TO THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION'S MISSION

The Season of New Beginnings

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

With the sightings of the first robins of spring we pause to look back on all the important work members of the Association have been doing during the long winter months and consider the current state of our Association.

Much work has been done during the winter months by the Museum Committee, the Membership Committee and the Finance Committee, all of whom have worked tirelessly in their respective areas to make sure that the museum will be on a firm footing for the coming season.

For a complete update on the Belchertown Historical Association's activities, I urge you to come to our annual meeting, Sunday, April 22nd at the Smith home: 32 South Main Street.

We are grateful to **Dan and Denise Smith** for opening their home for this year's event. **A quorum of 25 members is needed to conduct business.** New this year will be an afternoon tea and dessert followed by our annual meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In the Stone House, work has been completed toward replacing our climate control system. We were awarded two Community Preservation Grants at 2009's town meeting. We waited to actually receive the funds before commencing work. We will now begin work on the second grant, addressing certain structural issues inside the museum



Join us on Saturday, May 12 9am—2pm
Opening Day at the Stone House

Of course, we have made time for a little fun this winter too, and thanks to our Fundraising Committee a wonderful time was had at the Seventh Annual February Dinner Theater held at the Villa Rose in Ludlow.

Even though the 250th town anniversary is past, this is still a great year to be involved in local history, and the trustees and museum committee have been involved in too many projects to fully mention here. But we still hope that this year will see an increase in attendance at the museum—and please don't forget that we are always looking for cleaners, dusters, house-sitters and docents during the summer months. If you have time during the week or on Saturdays and an interest in becoming more involved with our museum please contact me at 323-0946.

Although we were not able to carry out a bus trip to the flower show this year, our

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2012 Calendar
Save the dates and share them with family, friends, neighbors!

Annual Meeting

Sunday April 22 at 3pm

Smith Home,
32 South Main St.

Please bring a dessert or tea room delight!



Opening Day at the StoneHouse

May 12 9-2 on the grounds

Plants, Crafts and "Old Bags"

Stone House Museum

Open May through October

Saturday 2—5 pm

and by Appointment (call 323-6573)

Admission: **FREE** for Members;
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

NYC Bus Trip

Saturday May 26

Call Marnie 323 5211

Planning is also already underway for the **Members Cocktail Party** in late June and our eighth annual **Living History event**. Won't you join us? Lots of hands make light work! Contact Tom at 323-0946 with your availability.



OPENING DAY AT THE STONE HOUSE ~~ SATURDAY MAY 12th 9-2



Just in time for Mother's Day, tour the House and Grounds, and shop for Plants, Crafts and Old Bags!

This year we will again celebrate Opening Day for the Stone House Museum with history and creativity of Belchertown's past and present. Activities will run from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free. And just in time for Mother's Day, we will offer a variety of shopping opportunities!

Plants—Contact Sally Shattuck 323-4239 /
sallyshattuck@charter.net



Calling all Green Thumbs from near and far! If you have perennials in your yard that you can dig up and pot, please bring them to the Stone House and leave them by the Print Shop. We would like all the donations by **Sunday May 6.**

If you have perennials to donate, but you would like someone to come dig and pot them for you, contact us and we will arrange a time to come to your home and get the plants. If you would like to donate your time, we will need volunteers to help dig, pot, sort plants and set up tables on Friday afternoon, and sell on Saturday, May 12. If you know someone that has perennials in their garden, encourage them to donate some to this event in support of our beautiful museum.

"Old Bags" —Contact Mary Ellen Kuzmeski 323-7350



Once again, we are seeking donations of new or gently used bags, wallets, totes, evening purses, and backpacks for the annual "Old Bags Sale" to be held at our Opening Day May 12th at the Stone House. This is a very popular fund raiser and we need to collect as many bags as possible. So please clean out those closets and drawers and donate those old favorites to our worthy cause. New and gently used bags can be dropped off at the following Belchertown businesses: **Bell and Hudson Insurance ~ Easthampton Savings Bank ~ Station 5 Salon ~ Making Waves Salon ~ Looks to Kill**

If you have a large amount of bags to donate, please call us to arrange for pickup. Remember the best excuse to buy a new bag is because you got rid of an "Old Bag". Thanks for your help.

Crafts—

Carol Mierzewski 323-4344 /
emierzewsk@aol.com

Gerri Amprimo 323-8633 /
gaamprimo@aol.com

Craftpeople and local artists will again display and sell their products. If you or a friend would like to be part of this, contact us for information on participation fees and an application.





Membership Update

By Carol Mierzewski, Chair
emierzewsk@aol.com 413-323-4344

It is that time of year again when memberships come up for renewal. Our membership year is May 1- April 30. You should have received renewal forms in the mail. If you did not, please feel free to contact me or you can download the form at our website: stonehousemuseum.org/application.htm

Unfortunately expenses have risen to outpace our current incoming dues. For this reason, the Board has voted unanimously to increase membership dues minimally to offset rising costs. This increase is reflected in the enclosed Membership form. We feel it is important to point out that this is the first increase in membership dues in more than 10 years

Our goals are to maintain our present membership and to increase our numbers. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become members. The Belchertown Historical Association exists primarily on income from your membership, event admissions, donations, and bequests. This enables us to care for the Stone House Museum and its collections and offer varied exhibits and programs to Members and the Community.

Your Membership renewal is a sound investment in our Community Treasure. Consider renewing and make history with us.

Please welcome our newest members: **Abaigeal Duda** and **Mike Caney**.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have time during the week or on Saturdays and an interest in becoming more involved with our museum contact Tom at 323-0946 . We have something for everyone, regardless of your availability! Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ **Cleaners and dusters** to keep the museum shining.
- ◆ **House sitters and docents**—training available.
- ◆ **Anyone who would like to learn Quilling** or paper filigree - an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. Tools and supplies are minimal - quilling tool (\$3.50), special glue bottle (\$5), paper strips (\$1.50 - \$4/package) and tacky glue. We would like to offer a tree full of quilled snowflakes at our 11/3 Yuletide Fundraiser. We'd meet one afternoon a month, on Tuesday or Friday. More info: Gerri 323-8633 or gaamprimo@aol.com

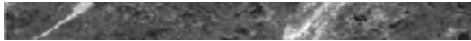


- ◆ **Crafters to help us get a head start** on other ideas for the Yuletide event. Teach the committee a craft or work on your own or in small groups on various crafts or themed baskets.
- ◆ **Tent Set Up/Take Down**—We are in need of a team or trio to set up tents as needed for Association events and the occasional use by members. This is a commitment of less than two hours. Schedule is very flexible. It takes a lot of strength, but no special skills or tools required. More info: Carol Mierzewski 413-323-4344/emierzewsk@aol.com

Message from our President Continued from Page 1

fundraising committee is planning a bus trip to NYC for Saturday, May 26. The format will be the same as our December trip, with three drop-offs and one pick-up, but the weather will be much nicer in May than in December! As usual the trip will leave from the Belchertown Common. For more information call **Marnie** at 323-5211.

As spring progresses we begin to look forward to our traditional springtime activities at the Stone House. Don't miss our **Annual Meeting** on Sunday April 22nd at 3:00 at 32 South Main Street. This is always a fun time to get together and take stock of all we have been doing as an Association, and enjoy each other's company and wonderful desserts. Also, our annual **Opening Day Plant, Craft and Old Bag Sale, Saturday May 12th** will be a wonderful day, and an opportunity to shop for your garden while supporting your Association. **We still need plants**, so please read how you can help later on in the newsletter. Plans are also underway for our annual **Members Only Cocktail Party in late June** and plans are underway for our summer Living History Days event. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these events—and I hope to see a really great turnout at our annual meeting!



BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007-1211

VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE, CALL US
 AT 413 323-6573 OR VIEW US AT
 WWW.STONEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

ASS'T CURATOR: SHIRLEY BOCK
 ARCHIVIST: CLIFF MCCARTHY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES '11-'12
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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER —
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 MFKNIGHT@CROCKER.COM

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Thanks to all who supported our seventh annual Murder Mystery Dinner in February. Instead of hiring actors from outside of town, the Historical Association again entered into an agreement with **BUCC'S**

PLAYHOUSE, from the Belchertown Congregational Church, so the dinner theater served jointly both as a much-needed fundraiser for the Historical Association and also as a fundraiser for the Congregational Church.

The actors performed Paula Hilton's *Muscling in on Murder*, a high-energy comedy/mystery. Someone was murdered (or course) and bedlam ensued, resulting in an evening of entertainment that delighted the audience. More than 100 people came to the Villa Rose to support this much-needed fundraiser. The food was wonderful, the staff was very attentive and, of course, the actors from BUCC's Playhouse did a wonderful job. Everyone seemed to have a great time, so many thanks to the actors from BUCC's Playhouse, the management and staff of the Villa Rose, and all who attended this fun, mid-winter event.

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