



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2011

August 2011

Volume 11, Issue 3

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2011 Calendar

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



Living History Days

August 13 9am—3pm

Farm Tours of Belchertown

\$10 per family / \$5 individual

Visit the gardens at the Stone House museum and tour seven local farms in town where you will be treated to educational and fun sights and events thanks to the families and friends who are our local heroes!

Fall events this year include the Belchertown Fair, Archeology Day, Salem and NYC bus trips, Yuletide at the Stone House, and more.

Dates, details and opportunities to volunteer will be posted on the website and in the Belchertown Sentinel.



Volunteers Needed!

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 **contact Tom at 323-0946**



Congratulations to Eric Scudere-Weiss

Eric was awarded this year's scholarship from the Belchertown Historical Association. Best of luck as you continue your studies!

In case we haven't mentioned it lately, We LOVE Our Volunteers!

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

With the arrival of summer, our new season has gotten off to a great start at the Stone House. Our new year began with our Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 24th at the home of **Denise Smith**. After our usual potluck luncheon and a fascinating trivia quiz conducted by **Marnie Henneman**, those in attendance heard final reports on all the hard work done by the Museum, Finance, Bylaws, Education, and Nominating committees. We discussed the current state of our buildings and our plans for the coming year. Our traditional thanks were given to many of our hard-working volunteers, for we always keep in mind that our volunteers are key to our success and the furtherance of our mission. We honored trustee **Peg Louraine** who is rotating off the board, elected new trustee **Randi Shenkman**, and elected our officers.

We continue to plan for work to be done to improve our climate control system and to address certain structural issues inside the Stone House. We were awarded two Community Preservation Grants at the 2009 town meeting, and have just been given the money to deal with our old climate-control system. We also continue to hope to be part of the preservation of the Washington District Schoolhouse.

Our Opening Day celebration, May 14, was a great success. There were "Made In

Belchertown" crafters, our "Old Bag" sale (where many found bargains), a raffle and sales table, a terrific plant sale, and, of course, tours of the Stone House Mu-



seum. How can we give enough thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring off the separate elements that made this such a wonderful day for our organization. Special thanks are due to **Sally Shattuck** who headed up our Plant Sale, **Linda Snow**, **Marnie Henneman** and **Cheryl Dutton** who headed up the bags, **Carol Mierzewski** who rounded up volunteers and worked on the raffle and sales table, **Gerri Amprino** who organized the crafters, and **Becki Smith** and **Millie Harrington** for all their work to make the grounds so beautiful. Many thanks to all!

We also thank **Marnie Henneman** and **Louise Butler** for representing the Belchertown Historical Association at the annual Memorial Day commemoration at the Quabbin Cemetery.

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The Annual Meeting

Denise and Dan Smith graciously opened their historic home and hosted this year's Annual Meeting. Members enjoyed a pot luck supper and a historic trivia game before the call to order.

More pictures on our website.



Members enjoy the annual Cocktail Party

Members mingled and sampled the varied appetizers under the tents, while member bartender Rick Burkot served the beverages. Thanks to Mike Madore, Owen Maloney, Diane Madore, and Carol Mierzewski for organizing the event. Also thanks to the many members who donated raffle prizes. There were several to pick from and many lucky members left with special gifts.



Living History Days 2011: Farm Tours

On Saturday, August 13th, the Belchertown Historical Association will be hosting this year's Living History Days, featuring: Farm Tours of Belchertown. We have captured the theme of Belchertown's anniversary year by celebrating its history through farming. The tour includes seven local farms and the gardens on the Stone House grounds. While touring the farms, visitors will be treated to sights that include llamas, alpacas, sheep, chickens, orchards, fiber arts, hayrides, saw mills, and many more fascinating elements that encompass Belchertown's farm life. Our many thanks to all the families and friends that are opening their farms to us for this historic year's event.

The Stone House museum will be open for tours, our 19th century flower garden will be in full glory and you can enjoy the fruits of Peg and Lew Louraine's hard work: an expanded vegetable and herb garden.

Mark your calendars and notify your family and friends about this special event! Farming is indeed alive and well in Belchertown!



Tickets are \$10 per family/ \$5 per individual and can be purchased at the tent on the common on Saturday 8/13 from 9am to 3pm.

Message from our President Continued from Page 1

A great—if chilly—time was had by all at our annual Members Only Cocktail Party on June 24, and many people went home with door prizes.

We are pleased this year to have a display in our exhibit room that coordinates with the town's 250th celebration. Trustee **Maureen Austin** and **Mary Ellen Kuzmeski** created a time-line of Belchertown History around the top of the room, and the Museum Committee continues to place interesting objects from our collection in the display cases at the appropriate place in the time-line.

Speaking of the town's 250th celebration, kudos to the town's 250th Anniversary Committee for a fantastic job on the July 2 Picnic on the Common. During the festivities it was my honor, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to present a plaque to our Archivist Emerita, **Doris Dickinson**, who was in town for this historic occasion. The plaque, which will hang in the archives, reads:

"May 13, 2009 By a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of the Belchertown Historical Association these archives are henceforth to be named 'The Doris Dickinson Archives' in recognition of the many varied and vital contributions to this association of Archivist Emerita Doris Dickinson."

We could never itemize or properly quantify all of Doris' many contributions, and I was proud to be able to honor Doris in this way on behalf of our association.

This year our Living History Days event will be on Saturday, August 13, and we are pleased to provide another activity relevant to Belchertown's history during this anniversary year. The event this year will be a **FARM TOUR**, celebrating our agrarian past and showing how agriculture has survived and adapted in town up to the present day. One person asked me: "Are there any farms left in town?" Well—THERE ARE! For the modest price of \$10 per family, visit 7 local farms and see everything from tree and vegetable farming to alpacas and beef cattle. The Stone House will be open with a display of our nineteenth century farm equipment, our re-creation 19th century garden, and \$1 ice cream from 12 – 3! The Living History event will be a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser, and will include the historic small engines and tractors on the Common, sponsored by the town's agricultural commission. Please join us to celebrate this continuing link with our past.

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.

I hope to see all our old and new friends at the many events we have coming up this summer and fall. Remember—membership in the Belchertown Historical Association is always fun and informative, and memberships make great gifts!

Opening Day 2011 at the Stone House Museum



The sun was shining on May 7th as visitors shopped for perennials, crafted items or “Old Bags”. The House was open for tours, **Jim Chevalier** guided visitors through the carriage barn, **Peg and Lew Louraine** explained the importance of the colonial herb garden and Archivist **Cliff McCarthy**

sold signed copies of his latest book.

Thanks to our many volunteers who made this happen: **Linda Snow, MaryEllen Kuzmeski, Marnie Henneman, Nora Austin, Kathy Henneman, Amy Moran, Judy Bettencourt, Cheryl Dutton, Shirley Bock, Florine Neggers, Randi Shenkman, June Henneman, Becki Smith, Denise Smith, Carol Mierzewski, Geri Amprimo, Maureen Austin, Sally Shattuck, Mike and Diane Madore, Owen Maloney, Holly Shands, Barb Sullivan, AnnMarie White, Gail Gramarossa, Marian Kennedy, Millie Harrington, Tony Trifone, Jim Chevalier, Colleen McKeon and Sheila Jones.** Thanks also to members **Dot and Ken Rhodes** for providing us with an extra tent.

The winners of the raffle prizes donated by the crafters were **Fran Fern, Wendy Story, Mary Ellen Kuzmeski, Kathy Henneman, Linda Snow, Rachel Kimball, and Barb Sullivan.**

Thanks to our crafters who helped shoppers with Mother’s Day gifts: **Dale Gardener-Fox, Rachel Kimball, Ann Maziarz, Gale Miron, Thomas Ptaszkiewicz, Roxanne Venskowski, and Lauralee Harrington.**

It was a great day!

More photos at the museum website: stonehousemuseum.org/openingday.htm





Membership Update

Carol Mierzewski, Chair

Email emierzewsk@aol.com Ph: 413-323-4344

Please join me in welcoming our newest members!

Emily Kubacki

Nancy Bell

Rachel Kimball

Sean Odabashian

Have you paid your dues? It's not too late! Check the mailing label of your Newsletter. If it reads 04/30/2011 then you are due to renew. If you have misplaced your form, you can use the form below or download a form from the website: stonehousemuseum.org/application.htm

The cost of doing business has impacted us drastically and we depend on your continued support. Please renew if you haven't already and invite friends and neighbors to join! You can't beat the price for what you receive in benefits!

The following donations have been received as part of member renewals:

In memory of Michael Madden

In Memory of Jack Avery

In Honor of the Austin Family



Don't miss out! Member-ship is affordable, fun and rewarding!

Visual made in wordle.net

Belchertown Historical Association (BHA)

MEMBERSHIP FORM – May 1, 2011 thru April 30, 2012

I am pleased to support the Stone House Museum and the BHA Belchertown Historical Association



I am interested in getting involved in activities of the Association. Best way / time to contact me:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If this is a Gift Membership, please indicate who the gift is from: _____

Membership Category:

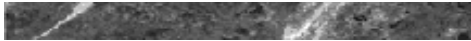
Individual \$15 Student (<18) \$5 Senior (>64) \$8 Family \$30 (adult and children <18)

Friend \$50 Patron \$100 Benefactor \$250 Additional donation: \$ _____

Membership Donation in honor in memory of _____

Eligible for Corporate Matching Program (attach employer's corporate matching gift form)

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Send completed form and tax-deductible check (payable to Belchertown Historical Association) to
The Belchertown Historical Association PO Box 1211, Belchertown, MA 01007-1211



BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 P.O. BOX 1211 BELCHERTOWN, MA
 01007 | 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

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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER —
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A Chance to Honor Doris Dickinson

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I was proud to be able to honor Doris in this way on behalf of our association. She has selflessly given so much of her time and energy to the preservation of our association and the preservation and promotion of our town's history. We were all happy that she could be a part of the town's celebration, and that people looking in the archives and at the celebration programs in 50 or 100 years can also be inspired by her contributions and example.

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