



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2011

January 2011

Volume 11, Issue 1

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!

Murder Mystery Dinner
February 5 6:30pm cash bar
BUCC'S PLAYHOUSE 7:00pm
Villa Rose, Ludlow \$35 ticket
Complete chicken dinner
(vegetarian option available)
Tickets: Tom Stockton (323 0946)
Belchertown Copy Center, Villa Rose

Bus Trip: Boston Flower Show and historic Quincy Market
March 16 (cost/time T.B.A.)
Reserve a seat early!
Tom Stockton (323 0946)

Planning is already underway for our Annual Meeting in April, our annual **Opening Day Event** and plant sale, (to be held on the second Saturday of May), and our seventh annual **Living History Days and our first-ever Farm Tour in August**. Volunteers and plant donations will be gratefully accepted this spring.

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



Ring in a New Year!



TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT
President's Column

What a busy and event-filled fall it has been! The Stone House is truly a busy place, filled with momentum and activity in all aspects of our mission and it is exciting to be part of such a vibrant organization! A lot has been happening with regards to the maintenance and preservation of our Museum, our finances, and of course, the social life of the Association.

Since our last newsletter we have had several fun-filled events and our volunteers have done much important work to secure the future of our Museum and Association. We enjoyed seeing many old friends and making some new ones at the Belchertown Fair, where many visitors came to the Belchertown Historic District Commission's booth—and our decorations won the Fair Booth Theme Prize! It was a great opportunity for us to advertise our mission and upcoming events, including the very successful **Bus Trip to Salem** this past October. Many thanks to **Peg Louraine** and **Mary Avery**



who helped organize this wonderful event. Many people commented that this was a wonderful outing for the whole family and hope that we will repeat the trip this year.

Then it was time for our annual **Yuletide**

Event, and many kudos are due to **Sally Shattuck, Denise Smith, Maureen Austin, Carol Mierzewski** and the whole committee for bringing off this event so beautifully. Our many elegant baskets, wreaths, and crafts were the talk of the town and all who attended the many bazaars that weekend. The Yuletide Event culminated with the drawing of our Fifth Annual **Cash Raffle**. We owe so many thanks to all those who supported our raffle so cheerfully, and to all who gave of their time selling tickets. I am pleased to announce that this was a very successful raffle for us. Our prizewinners were **Ed Mierzewski** (1st prize), **Jacob Neggers** (2nd prize) and **Ronald Wheeler** (3rd prize). The coveted quilt made by **Florine Neggers** was won by **D. Pelchat Jr.**, of Ludlow. The Yuletide Event was also the first time our **Cat's Meow figurines** of the Association's historic Concord Coach went on sale. These figurines were made in honor of the town's 250th anniversary, and many thanks are due to Maureen Austin for spearheading that project. They really came out great!

And as soon as Thanksgiving was over it was off to New York with our **annual NYC Bus trip!** Thanks again to all who donated their time, talents, and treasure to make these last major events of 2010 a success.

New Year's Eve found us playing Victorian Parlor

Continued on page 3



Murder Mystery Dinner February 5th

Please support our SIXTH ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY DINNER, which will be held on Saturday, February 5th at 6:30 PM (show starts at 7:00) at the **Villa Rose** on Route 9.

We are very excited that our actors this year are **BUCC'S PLAYHOUSE**, so this event will also serve as a fundraiser for the Belchertown Congregational Church, as well as providing revenue to a local business. This is always a fun, entertaining event and is a much-needed fundraiser for us this year.

The tickets are \$35 and include the show and a complete chicken dinner. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are available at the Belchertown Copy Center, the Villa Rose, or for more information people can call me at 323-0946. Limited seating, so get those tickets early!



With the Super Bowl right around the corner, what happens when Belchertown becomes the potential site for a brand new professional football team? Find out who scores and who is taken off the field in this deadly game played for laughs by BUCC's Playhouse!

JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISITS THE STONE HOUSE



On a beautiful October Sunday afternoon, the Jaffrey Historical Society from Jaffrey, New Hampshire made a visit to tour the Stone House and Grounds. They were invited by Trustee **Jim Chevalier**, expert carriage restorer. The fifteen Members were given a tour by **Sally Shattuck**, **Randi Shenkman** and **Jim Chevalier**. Refreshments were served in the Print Shop by **Mary Ellen Kuzmeski**.

It was a fun day and there was talk of the Trustees making a tour in the Spring or Summer to New Hampshire.



Counter-clockwise from left: Members of the Jaffrey Historical Society pose for a group shot before the tour; **Sally Shattuck** gives a tour of the first floor, **Jim Chevalier** gives a tour of the Carriages, Member **Mary Ellen Kuzmeski** serves cider and donuts, and The Members tour bedrooms upstairs at the Stone House.



New Year's Eve at the Stone House

The Stone House started the new year by opening our doors to the community for a night of "parlor games." Joining in on a night full of music, food and festivities for the 250th anniversary of Belchertown, the Stone House offered games that would have been played in the 19th century.

We were pleasantly surprised by the large numbers of guests. Some came to see the Stone House for the first time. Others came to try the games, some stayed until they won a game. Hot cider and homemade cookies (baked from some very old recipes) were served. Many of the visitors said they would return in the spring when the museum is officially open. We look forward to a busy season and hope you'll join us in future events.

Above, President Tom Stockton ringing in 2011 First Night on the Common and kicking of the town's 250th anniversary
Right: Tom Stockton and Trustee Peg Louraine on First Night



Message from our President Continued from Page 1

Games in the Stone House as part of the "Celebrate Belchertown" event. We were thrilled to be part of the kick-off event for our town's 250th Anniversary, and hope that you will all avail yourselves of the upcoming events planned by the town's 250th committee. I know that a banquet dinner is planned during the month of April—let's get some Stone House tables together and celebrate our town's big birthday.

During the winter months we will continue to carry out our plans for a new furnace and air conditioner in the Stone House. We will be proceeding with these projects now that we have been advised that the Community Preservation funds have been made available. Thanks to the newly rebuilt back steps and insulated pipes in the kitchen we have not yet had any frozen pipes this year, in spite of the early very cold weather. Thanks to **Pete Stebbins** and **Tony Trifone** for their excellent work. Also, we have been undertaking some long-needed repairs and improvements to the Tremaine House and Barn, including a new roof for both. **Robert Hislop** has been spearheading those projects, and this work will be continuing in the Spring.

Other exciting projects underway relate to the redecoration of the Museum interior and re-designing the exhibit room with a 250th Anniversary theme in time for Opening Day. Much work remains to be done this winter and spring. And speaking of winter and spring, it is not too early to mark your calendar for two upcoming fun fundraising events. First, our sixth annual Mystery **Dinner Theater** will

be held on our (now) traditional date of the First Saturday in February (Feb. 5th). We are very excited that our actors from last year will be returning again: actors will be organized by **Todd Farnsworth** and the fees we usually pay the actors will serve as a fundraiser for the Congregational Church. Tickets are now available, and we hope for a good turnout again this year, as this fundraiser helps get us through the dark dreary months of winter. The ticket price will be \$35.00 (\$4 less than last year!) and includes dinner and the show at the Villa Rose in Ludlow.

Second, we will again this year have a **Bus Trip to the Boston Flower Show** and historic Quincy Market. This trip usually sells out quickly, so try to get your reservations in quickly. The trip will be held on Wednesday March 16. (For more information call Tom Stockton, 323-0946.) We are still negotiating ticket prices, so look for upcoming announcements in the Sentinel.

Finally, planning is already underway for our Annual Meeting in April, our annual **Opening Day Event** and plant sale, (to be held on the second Saturday of May), and our seventh annual **Living History Days and our first-ever Farm Tour in August**. Volunteers and plant donations will be gratefully accepted this spring.

As winter progresses we continue to be active in working to promote our mission even though the museum is not open for regularly scheduled hours. We hope many of our members and friends will take advantage of the fun and educational activities in our upcoming calendar.



Yuletide 2010 a Great Success

It was a great day for Yuletide at the Stone House. Thanks to our Members who donated theme baskets, kitchen and baked goods, handmade crafts and volunteered their hours to work. Your support is what makes this annual event a success. Many visitors came and enjoyed the beautifully decorated rooms and took advantage of some early holiday shopping.

The winners of the cash raffle were: **Ed Mierzewski** (\$500), **Jacob Neggers** (\$300) and **Ronald Wheeler** (\$100). The Log Cabin Quilt made and donated by **Florine Neggers** was won by **D. Pelchat, Jr.** from Ludlow.



Great Memento of Belchertown's 250th Anniversary!

Cat's Meow figures of the Belchertown Historical Association's stage coach are now available at **Rannsaka** (115 North Main Street) and **Swift River Crafts** (51 South Main Street - on the common) for **\$15.00**.



Typical of stage coaches that ran through Belchertown in the 19th Century, this coach was built in Concord New Hampshire in 1869, and purchased by the Belchertown Historical Association in 1929. The coach is now housed at the Ford Annex on the grounds of the Stone House Museum.

Great collector item to buy and share!

Member Update

Please join us in welcoming our newest members: **Kristy Bennefield** and **Marjorie Cavanaugh**

Please share your newsletter and the website address with neighbors and coworkers. Membership Chair **Carol Mierzewski** has extra applications to mail to your contacts. [323 4344 emierzewsk@aol.com]

A donation was received in memory of **Donald Towne** from **Helen Towne**

In addition, **Tom Stockton**, acting Treasurer and President, reports that generous donations have been received in memory of **Don Towne, Harvey Dickinson, Ruthella Tucker** and **Sherm and Ruth Gould**. We thank all of our generous donors and join them in remembering those who have played such important roles in the life of our Association.

Belchertown Historical Association (BHA)

MEMBERSHIP FORM – thru April 30, 2011

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES '10-'11
 PRESIDENT: THOMAS STOCKTON
 VICE PRESIDENT: FLORINE NEGGERS
 VICE PRESIDENT: CAROL MIERZEWSKI
 SECRETARY: PEG LOURAINÉ
 TREASURER: LINDA BARRON

MAUREEN AUSTIN
 JAMES CHEVALIER SALLY SHATTUCK
 DENISE SMITH TONY TRIFONE

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER —
 EDITOR: MARY F. KNIGHT,
 MFKNIGHT@CROCKER.COM

PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED BY
 BELCHERTOWN COPY CENTER
 RON POBIEGLO, BTOWNCC@CHARTER.NET

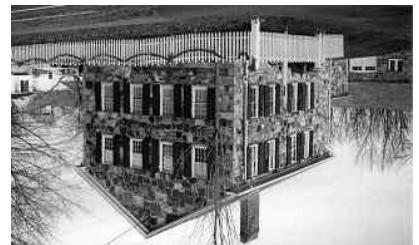
NEW GARDENS AT STONE HOUSE

You have all seen and admired the beautiful memory garden at the Stone House. In 2010, an herb garden was started opposite the memory garden. **Peg and Lew Louraine** researched medicinal and culinary herbs of the nineteenth century and planted more than 20 types, mainly culinary, that would have appeared in the normal nineteenth century kitchen garden. In 2011, the garden will be expanded to include an asparagus patch, red currant bushes, and many of those vegetables that would also have graced the homemaker's garden.

The soil was turned this Fall to prepare the beds and Sturbridge Village farmers have graciously shared their seed lists, so that appropriate varieties of squash, beets, onions, and other vegetables can be started. As they ripen, crops will be available to be viewed on Saturdays at the Stone House in the summer of 2011. Peg and Lew will be on site each Saturday and will be delighted to answer questions and share their experiences, as they bring to life a tradition from our past.



BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL
 ASSOCIATION
 20 MAPLE STREET
 PO BOX 1211
 BELCHERTOWN, MA
 01007-1211



STANDARD MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Belchertown, MA.
 Permit No. 63