



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association  
Belchertown, Massachusetts  
1903—2013

September 2013

Volume 13, Issue 2

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

## Not Ready for Hibernation Yet!

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and event-filled summer it has been and fall looks even busier!

Our Opening Day celebration was a success with better weather this year. 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 Museum. 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, **Marnie Henneman** who headed up the bags, **Carol Mierzewski** and **Gerri Amprimo** who organized the

crafters, raffle and sales table, and **Becki Smith** and **Millie Harrington** for all their work to make the grounds so beautiful. Many thanks to all!

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

A great time was had by all at our annual Members Only Cocktail Party and many people went home with door prizes.

We are pleased this year to have new material in our exhibit room on the History of Quabbin. Many thanks to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work displaying our artifacts throughout the house.

Our summer has not been one untinged by sadness, however, and we mourn the passing of long-time trustee Jim Chevalier. His dedication and commitment to our Association remain an inspiration to us all: he will be sorely missed.

**AROUND THE GROUNDS:** Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer, and many thanks are due to **Becki Smith** for the incredible amount of organizing she has done. Thanks are also due to our Remembrance Garden volunteers who have kept this portion of our grounds looking fresh and

*Continued on page 3*

**2013 Calendar**  
Save the dates and share them with family, friends, neighbors!

**Fall Speaker Series—Free**  
Details and Schedule on Page 5

**Living History Days:**  
**Bringing the House to Life**  
Saturday October 5th 10—3

**Yuletide @ the StoneHouse**  
Saturday November 2nd 9—4

**Baskets Drop Off:**  
Friday, October 25 (7-9pm)  
Saturday October 26 (10-3)

**Crafts/Sales Drop Off:**  
Thursday October 24 (6-8)  
Friday October 25 (7-9pm)  
Saturday October 26 (11-3)

**Baked Goods Drop Off:**  
Friday November 1 (10-6)  
Saturday Nov 2- early

**Stone House Museum**  
Open through mid-October, Saturday 2-5  
and by Appointment (323-6573)  
Admission: FREE for Members;  
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children



### In Memoriam

Jim Chevalier was a valued long-time board member, past president, supporter, mentor and friend. His enduring dedication to our Association and his love for our town's history and our museum have been an inspiration to many for as long as we can remember. Since his passing, every corner and stone of the house and grounds seem to want to tell of some positive contribution he effected. We mourn his passing and remember and celebrate the difference he made in all our lives.

**James W. Chevalier**  
11/24/1944 – 6/8/2013

## Living History Days @ The Stone House Museum Saturday October 5, 2013



The Belchertown Historical Association is proud to again offer Living History Days on Saturday, October 5, 2013. For this year's Living History Days event we are pleased to provide another activity relevant to Belchertown's history. The event this year will be **Bringing the House to Life: Harvest and Fall Activities in the 19th century New England Home**. Live reënactors, many dressed in period costumes, will demonstrate and discuss many of the **Fall and Harvest activities** that might have occupied residents of a house such as the Stone House in 19th century New England. **Demonstrations and Lecture topics** will include **Herb Gardening; Historic Farm Implements; Preserving Herbs, Vegetables and Fruits; Soap Making; Candle Making; Outdoor Cooking; Spinning; Weaving; Cider Making; Corn Cob Dolls;**

**Knitting; Broom Making; Quilting; Quilling; and other seasonal activities.** The Stone House will be open with a display of our nineteenth century farm equipment, our re-creation 19th century garden and house tours from **10 to 3**. The Living History event will be a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser. Please join us to celebrate this continuing link with our past.



**The annual Yuletide event is our major fundraiser of the year and we could not do it without your help.**

We have had enthusiastic member support in the past and are hoping that this year we can count on your help again for this event to be held on **Saturday November 2nd**.

### **THEMED BASKETS**

Please consider donating a themed basket. We are asking that all baskets be delivered assembled. Please include your name on your basket so that we can properly thank you. **Contact Sally Shattuck 323-4239** with any questions.

### **CALLING ALL CRAFTERS**

Your donations of the wonderful handcrafted items that stock our sales room entice most of the day's visitors to pull out their wallets. Our reputation for beautiful and varied crafts has grown over the years and many people like to start their holiday shopping at this event. We look forward to increasing this year's sales and craft room, and to have more varied options to entice our shoppers. A small group of our Member elves have been busy making holiday ornaments both historic and traditional, and décor for the home, crocheted and knitted articles, sewn articles for home and gifting. We welcome crafters to donate their items to make this year a unique one. Contact person for crafts and sales is **Carol Mierzewski 323-4344** or [emierzewsk@aol.com](mailto:emierzewsk@aol.com).

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS**

Visitors come in search of your homemade delights at our Yuletide Bake Sale!! You can start baking now and put things in the freezer or wait until the holiday spirit fills you with inspiration. But, whatever it takes, please keep our bake sale in mind and bring your tasty items to the Stone House. We can do the pricing if you do the packaging. Contact **Sally at 323-4239** or [sallyshattuck@charter](mailto:sallyshattuck@charter).

### **YOU—YOUR FAMILY—YOUR FRIENDS—YOUR NEIGHBORS—CO-WORKERS**

Last but not least, your volunteer time is crucial to this event. We will be calling to organize our volunteers in the coming weeks and hope to have you join us for a few hours on Saturday, November 2nd. But you don't have to wait to be called! Please tell your friends and relatives to visit our beautifully decorated museum during the Yuletide event!



**Message from our President** *Continued from Page*

lovely during a hot summer, and to **Peg and Lew Louraine** for the work they have done to bring historic gardening methods to life in our herb garden.

If you've been to the Stone House recently, I hope you've noticed the wonderful new Goshen Stone walk, installed by **Sonam the Tibetan Stone Mason** from Deerfield with a bequest from the **Eleanor Schmidt fund**. This walk will greatly improve the look of our museum and, more importantly, the safety throughout the year. The old stones were used to make an apron in front of the Ford Annex. Work will now be done to move the gate to the correct location.

We are busy planning for our annual presence in the BELCHERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION BOOTH at the **Belchertown Fair** where we will present a photo display from the archives from fairs gone by. We will offer the traditional

"straws" game and sell raffle tickets and gift items. Many thanks to **Becki Smith** for the painted decorations for the booth! And although the Stage Coach will not be in the Parade this year, Cat's Meow figures of the Stagecoach are still for sale at the Stone House.

October is a busy time this year, and we invite all to come to our October activities, which this year include our annual "**Living History Days**". (See article on page 2)

Our **Yuletide event** (November 2) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our American Girl Doll raffle drawing. Equally as important, it is a great time to come visit and renew friendships at the beginning of the New England Holiday season. We are looking for **BAKERS, CRAFTERS** and people to donate **THEME BASKETS**. If you have a hobby and can help, please call Tom Stockton (323-0946). Our baskets are considered by many to be the nicest and most elegant of all the Yuletide events in town, so we can use your help keeping up our holiday tradition.

<b>Drop Off Times:</b> <b>for donated items:</b>	<b>Themed Baskets:</b> Friday, October 25 (7-9pm) Saturday October 26 (10-3)	<b>Crafts/Sales Items</b> Thursday October 24 (6-8) Friday October 25 (7-9pm) Saturday October 26 (11-3)	<b>Home-made Goodies</b> Friday November 1 (10-6) Saturday Nov 2- early
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**YULETIDE RAFFLE:** Our raffle this year is one of the ever-popular American Girl Dolls. The Caroline Doll is dressed in an 1812 costume, comes with her own story and would make a fabulous gift, if you don't want her all for yourself. (See article on page 7) Tickets are only \$2 (3 for \$5), and the prize will be drawn at the end of our Yuletide event.

We are discussing the feasibility of a fun day-long **BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY** on the first Saturday in December. Come see the festive Holiday displays in the city, and shop or sight-see to your heart's content. To make early reservations or indicate your interest call **Marnie (323-5211)**.

We appreciate everyone's continued interest and support, and look forward to seeing you all this fall. And remember: for friends, new neighbors, and "old townies" who have moved to distant cities, Gift Memberships make great holiday presents, are a wonderful way to stay connected, and hardly cost more than a "store-bought" card! See you soon!



**John Delargy and team from the Hampshire County Sheriff's office set up a tent for Opening Day. Many thanks for the use of the tent and donation of their efforts!**



Special thanks to **Carol Merzewski** for her photography skills! Many more pictures available at [stonehousemuseum.org](http://stonehousemuseum.org)

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Denise and Dan Smith** graciously opened their historic home and hosted this year's Annual Meeting. The meeting concluded with a potluck supper.



**OPENING DAY** With rain clouds and intermittent downpours, this year's Opening Day brought many who came to buy plants, choose an Old Bag, buy a special gift for Mom from local crafters, or Tour the House, which was free to the public.



### MEMBERS COCKTAIL PARTY

It was a hot, humid but rain-free evening while Members mingled and sampled the varied appetizers under the tents. Thanks to **Mike Madore, Owen Maloney, Ken Henneman and Tony Trifoni** for setting up the tents; and **Diane Madore, and Carol Mierzewski** for organizing the event. Also thanks to the members who donated the many raffle prizes. It was a fun evening and many members went home with a prize.



## FALL SPEAKER SERIES



Come learn about your town's history and the role it played in national events. Shakers, Shay's Rebellion, and famous Belchertown people will all be addressed in the Fall Speaker Series sponsored by the Belchertown Historical Association. All talks are free and will be held at the Stone House Museum. Refreshments will be served.

### Thursday, September 26 at 7pm — "Nine Belchertown People You Should Know"

Presented by **Cliff McCarthy**, Stone House archivist and local historian.

Do you know which Belchertown native has had a full-length Hollywood movie devoted to his life and has been portrayed by actors John Carradine and James Coburn in other films? Do you know who drew the plans for remodeling the Stone House into a museum? Do you know who the first American Protestant missionary to China was? Or the first Governor of Kansas? Come learn the answers and more interesting things about former Belchertown residents.

### Thursday, October 24 at 7pm— "Artful and Designing Men"

Presented by **Gary Shattuck**, author of the brand new book, *Artful and Designing Men*

In 1786, Belchertown was near the epicenter of Shay's Rebellion and many of the town's residents were drawn into the conflict on both sides. The second presentation in the series deals with the life of one of the most important rebels, Job Shattuck. Hot off the press, Gary's book will be available for purchase.

### Thursday, November 21 at 7pm—"Tyringham Shakers and the Belchertown Connection"

Presented by **Stephen Paterwic**, researcher on the Tyringham Shakers

Few people are aware of the Shaker Society in Tyringham, Massachusetts, it being the smallest and most isolated of the New England Shaker communities. Recent research shows that Belchertown families were among the founding members of that religious community. Who were these folks and what motivated them to join the sect and create this intentional community?



**The Belchertown Stone House Museum**

78 likes · 7 were here

✓ Liked

Message



**Please visit us on Facebook!** [www.facebook.com/TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum)

Get up-to-the minute news and announcements like information on the Belchertown Fair and dates for Docent training sessions to be held this winter. Check out pictures of interest in and around the museum, like the new sidewalk. Facebook is one more way the Belchertown Historical Association keeps in touch with its members!

## Membership Update

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

Thanks to all Members who have recently renewed their Membership and welcome to our newest members:

**Christie Hester-Moore**  
**Victoria McAndrew**  
**Steve Nelson**  
**Jessica Hanson**  
**Cynthia Hardaker**  
**Patricia Mitchell**

Your continued support keeps history alive in Belchertown. Please share your newsletter and the website address with neighbors and coworkers. Contact me if you need any extra applications.

The following special donations have been received:

**Doris Stockton In honor of Tom Stockton**  
**Rita Owczarski In memory of "Boots" Owczarski**  
**Anthony Trifone & Jean Aldrich In Loving Memory of William Aldrich & George A. Aldrich**  
**Clark & Joyce Bridgman In Memory of the Belchertown Bridgmans**  
**June Allen In memory of Clayton Allen**  
**Alfred Roccanti In memory of Dorothy Roccanti**  
**Mary Avery In memory of Jack Avery**  
**Irene Miller In memory of Roland C. Miller**  
**Mary Knight In memory of Ron Pobieglo**

### Belchertown Historical Association

#### MEMBERSHIP FORM – May 1, 2013 thru April 30, 2014

I am pleased to support the Stone House Museum and the Belchertown Historical Association and want to renew / join!



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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership Category:

Individual \$20     Student (<18) \$5     Senior (>64) \$10     Family \$35 (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)

I am interested in getting involved with BHA. Best way/time to contact me: \_\_\_\_\_

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**  
20 Maple Street  
Belchertown MA 01007-1211  
Visit us at the Stone House, call us at  
413-323-6573 or email us at  
info@stonehousemuseum.org

**Assistant Curator:** Shirley Bock  
**Archivist:** Cliff McCarthy

**Board of Trustees 2012-2013**  
**President:** Thomas Stockton  
**Vice President:** Florine Neggers  
**Vice President:** Carol Mierzewski  
**Secretary:** Randi Shenkman  
**Treasurer:** Maureen Austin  
**Board Members:**  
**James Chevalier** Sally Shattuck  
**Denise Smith** Tony Trifone

**Members Newsletter—**  
**Editor:** Mary F. Knight  
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## Meet Caroline Abbott



Please support our **AMERICAN GIRL DOLL** raffle, which will be drawn at the annual Yuletide Event—just in time for the holidays! This year's doll will be on display during the Fair and will be admired and coveted by all who see it. **The Caroline Doll is dressed in an 1812 costume and comes with her own story.** As the War of 1812 begins, so does the story of Caroline Abbott's bravery. She loves sailing with her father, but when he's captured, Caroline must help keep the family's shipyard running. When she sees a chance to rescue her father,

Caroline discovers that she must use her mind and heart to guide her decisions. Tickets are \$2, or 3 for \$5. We are hoping very much that proceeds from this event will help balance our annual operating budget.

ASKING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO BUY ONE TICKET IS A GREAT WAY TO INITIATE A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION AND OUR MISSION! ONE TICKET TUCKED INTO A CARD MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

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