



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2013

March 2013

Volume 13, Issue 1

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

A Season of Change!

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What an event-filled winter 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. With the approach of the Spring Equinox 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.

After the Fair and the Halloween Cemetery Tours (made more dramatic by the winds of Hurricane Sandy) it was time for our annual **Yuletide Event**. Many kudos are due to **Sally Shattuck, Denise Smith, Maureen Austin, Carol Mierzewski, Gerri Amprino, Becki Smith, Mary Ellen Kuzmeski** and the whole committee for bringing off this event so beautifully. Our many elegant baskets, wreaths, and **traditional crafts** were the talk of the town and all who attended. 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 2012 a success.



Much work has been done during the winter months by the Museum Committee and the Membership Committee—all 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, I URGE YOU ALL TO COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY APRIL 21 AT 3:00 PM AT THE HOME OF DENISE SMITH, 32 SOUTH MAIN STREET. We are grateful to Denise for opening her home, and hope that having our meeting there will boost our attendance at this year's meeting. Again this year, the format will be an afternoon tea and dessert followed by our annual meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In the Stone House we are beginning work on implementing our Community Preservation

Continued on page 3

2013 Calendar

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

Annual Meeting—All Members

Sunday April 21 at 3pm

Smith Home, 32 South Main St.

Please bring a dessert or tea room delight

Opening Day @ the StoneHouse

May 11 9-2 on the grounds

Plants, Crafts and "Old Bags"

Crafters, plants, bags and volunteers needed. Please share with friends.

Stone House Museum

Open May - October, Saturday 2-5

and by Appointment (323-6573)

Admission: FREE for Members;

\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

Volunteers are always welcomed and needed. Please contact us with our availability.

In Memoriam Ron Pobieglo

The Belchertown Historical Association was sad to hear of the passing of Ron Pobieglo, a former Trustee and Member who dedicated his time and energy to the Association. Ron handled all our printing needs and was instrumental in setting up our Sentinel Print Shop on the grounds. We will all certainly miss him and all he has done to benefit and support the Association.

Opening Day at the Stone House Museum Saturday May 11



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!

Come and see our new selection of OLD BAGS: big, little, leather, canvas, dress, casual, evening, beach, luggage, sports, kids, adult.



If perennials are your passion, come and tour the plant sale and pick up some of your favorites or find something new to show off your garden this summer.

Some of our very talented, local crafters will be there to sell their creations and support our museum. We hope to see many of our members there.



Members and Friends— Please join the fun and celebration of opening day, and support this fundraiser!

Craftspeople and local artists

Contact **Carol Mierzewski** [emierzewsk@aol.com / 323-4344] or **Gerri Amprimo** [Gaamprimo@aol.com / 323-8633] for information on participation fees and an application.

Perennials Needed

The plant sale committee is looking for perennials, bushes, small trees, vegetable plants, and house plants. Spring is a great time to dig up your perennials and split them so they can be moved around. Set some of them aside for the plant sale on Mother's Day weekend. If you need help with the digging, just give us a call. Plants can be dropped off at the Stone House the weekend before the plant sale, or call us and we'll come pick them up. Contact **Sally Shattuck** [email: sallyshattuck@charter.net / phone: 323-4239] with your name, address and phone number.

Old Bags Needed

Spring cleaning? Please consider donating your new or gently used handbags, wallets, backpacks, totes, or evening bags to this cause. Your tired bags might be someone else's treasures! There will be drop off locations around town or contact **Mary Ellen Kuzmeski @ 323-7350**.

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to donate your time, we will need volunteers to help dig, pot, sort plants on May 4, set up on Friday afternoon May 10, and sell on Saturday, May 11. Volunteers need for selling bags and serving refreshments. We have something for anyone who wants to help!





Thanks to all who supported our seventh annual Murder Mystery Dinner in February. The Historical Association again entered into an agreement with **BUCC'S PLAYHOUSE**, from the Belchertown Congregational Church, so the dinner theater served to benefit both the Historical Association and the Congregational Church. The actors performed Paula Hilton's *Peace, Love, and 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.

PLEASE COME to our Annual Meeting, which will include an afternoon tea held on Sunday **April 21 at 3:00 at the gracious 19th century home of Denise Smith, 33 South Main Street**, diagonally across from the library. Parking is available at Denise's, at Tom's houses across the street, and at the Library.

This is always a pleasant hour or so spent learning about the state of affairs of our Association, taking care of necessary legal business, and renewing acquaintances with those who support our Association. **All members are encouraged to attend.** We must legally hold an annual meeting, and WE DO NEED A QUORUM. We will review the minutes from last year, vote on trustees and officers, hear the treasurer's report, hear about the ongoing work of our Association, and enjoy good friends, elegant surroundings, and excellent refreshments.



Message from our President Continued from Page 1

grant, addressing certain structural issues inside the museum, and we are planning to install a new Goshen Stone walk in the front of the Museum when the ground has thawed.

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 Eighth Annual **February Dinner Theater** held at the Villa Rose in Ludlow, with the actors from BUCC's Playhouse.

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. We especially want to draw attention to our **RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT BELCHERTOWN ITEMS**, including a railroad wax stamp, two original images of Belchertown Civil War Soldiers, and an early 19th century letter from the director of the Farmer's Bank of Belchertown. 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.

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 21st 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 Sale, Old Bag Sale, and Crafters Saturday, May 11th** 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 June**, our semi-annual **Garden Tour** in July, and for our **Fall Living History Days event** which will celebrate harvest-time activities and traditional New England crafting. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these events—and I hope to see a really great turnout at our annual meeting!



YULETIDE AT THE STONE HOUSE 2012

November 3rd 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.

This year's sales room was replete with an abundance of Member-made items. Historic quilled ornaments, beaded snowflake ornaments, American Girl outfits, knitted and sewn articles for home, Christmas stockings, and children's items filled the room. It was an exciting day and Members are already planning for next year!



Check out the website for more pictures!

Membership Update

By Carol Mierzewski, Chair



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 (emierzewsk@aol.com or #323 4344) or download the form from our website:

www.stonehouse.org/application.htm. 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.

Membership renewal is a sound investment in our Community Treasure. Please renew and make history with us.

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~~We have received the following Memorial donations:

For **Roland C Miller** by Irene Miller      For **Roseanne Nulman** by Helen Towne

For **Don Towne** by Tom Stockton      For **Ruth Berard** by Helen Towne

~~We also received a donation in Honor of **Linda Barron** from JoAnne and Randy Newman

## 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**

# Summer Garden Tour

**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](mailto: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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We are hoping to host a garden tour this summer. The proposed date is Saturday, **July 13<sup>th</sup>**. In past years we have showcased dozens of Belchertown's gardens, ranging from



charming and peaceful to lush and spectacular. Each year we strive to present an interesting variety of gardens, including full-sun, shade, and woodland with unique, eye-catching features.

The tour committee is currently looking for gardens. If you are interested in having the committee come and look at your gardens this spring, or if you know someone else that is interested, please contact **Sally Shattuck, 323-4239.**



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