



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2014

April 2014
Volume 14, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2014 Calendar

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

Opening Day May 10 9-2

Join us on the Museum Grounds Crafts, Plants, and "Old Bags" While everyone is having a great time on Opening Day at these many booths, remember the museum is open for free from 11 am – 3 pm for mini tours. The Stone House Museum is where your history lives.

Stone House Museum

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

Annual Meeting April 30, 5:30

Masonic Lodge Banquet Hall
Pot-Luck Dinner (bring a dish to share). Meeting will follow, concluding with a lecture by **Louise Butler** concerning the history of farming in Belchertown. All members welcome!!

Members-Only Cocktail Party

June 13 6:00 Join us on the Museum Grounds. Bring an appetizer to share!

Garden Tour in July 12, 10am

Want YOUR garden to be included?
Contact Sally 323-4239.

Living History Days TBA

Yuletide at the Stone House TBA
Check our website and local papers for updates and details!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Cleaners, dusters, house-sitters and docents—If you have some time, we would appreciate your help!
Call Tom at 323-0946.

A Season of Change



BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and 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, and 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 by the Museum and Membership Committees. These volunteers have worked tirelessly in their respective areas to make sure that the museum will be on a firm footing for the coming season.

The Museum Committee's lecture series, in particular, provided an opportunity to hear lectures on many fascinating topics such as The Angel of Hadley, The Civil War Letters of Mr. and Ms Lincoln of Brimfield, and Life in Enfield before the Quabbin, including a 1916 film made in Enfield, MA. Lectures

were very well attended and enjoyed.

In the Stone House we are beginning work on implementing our Community Preservation grant, addressing certain structural issues inside the museum, and planning how to move the gate to match our new Goshen Stone walk when the ground has thawed. We are very grateful for the income from the Edward & Eleanor Schmidt Trust that will enable us to complete this project. We are also working on getting a new de-humidifier for the cellar, and an on-demand hot water heater for the bathroom and kitchen. You will hear a full report on these improvements at our Annual Meeting, on April 30.

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

This is a great year to be involved in local history, and the trustees and museum committee have been engaged in too

many projects to fully mention here. We especially want to draw attention



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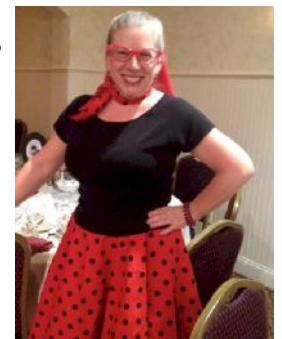
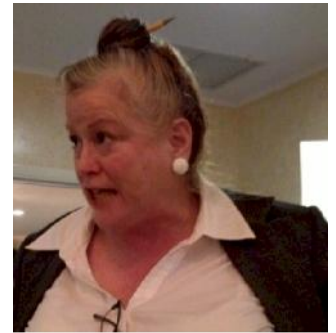
Murder Mystery Dinner with BUCC's Playhouse a Sell Out!

Thanks to all who supported our 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 "BEBOPPED AT THE SOCKHOP", a high-energy comedy/mystery. Someone was murdered (or course) and bedlam ensued, resulting in an evening of entertainment that delighted the audience, although it was, in part, a bittersweet event: long-time director Todd Farnsworth, the minister from the Belchertown Congregational Church, has left for a new position in Hamden, and this year was probably his last appearance as director of our show. 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.

*Left, Tom and Sally Shattuck enjoy the performance
Top right, Jane Crutchfield plays the school principal as a Member of BUCCS Playhouse
Bottom right, Member Denise Smith dresses for the 70's theme*



Message from our President Continued from Page 1

to our recent acquisitions of several important Belchertown items, including a nineteenth century picture of a house in Belchertown, and an 1844 arrest warrant for a Belchertown resident. 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. We are hoping for a good turn-out at our Annual Meeting on April 30. 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 cuisine.

Also, our annual **Opening Day Plant Sale, Crafters and Old Bag Sale, Saturday May 10th** will be a wonderful opportunity to shop for yourself and gift-giving while supporting your Association. **We still need plants and crafters**, so please read how you can help elsewhere in the newsletter. Plans are also underway for our annual **"Members Only" Cocktail Party on Friday, June 13**, our GARDEN TOUR in July, and 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!

Garden Tour 2014 — Show off your treasure!

We are hoping to host a garden tour this summer. The proposed date is Saturday, July 12th.

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 who might be interested, please contact **Sally Shattuck**, 323-4239.



OPENING DAY AT THE STONE HOUSE ~~ SATURDAY MAY 10th 9-2

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 am —2 pm. Admission is free. And just in time for Mother's Day, we will offer a variety of shopping opportunities. Plan to celebrate the Museum Opening with us. All proceeds to benefit the Stone House Museum. **We need your help to make this special day work!**

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

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 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 4.**

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 10. If you know someone that has perennials in their garden, please pass the word!

"Old Bags" —

We are collecting old and gently used handbags, wallets, backpacks, totes, evening bags, etc. for the annual **Old Bag Sale** to be held on Saturday, May 10 at the Stone House Museum's Opening Day Event. All proceeds from the sale are donated to the non-profit museum.

Drop off locations at Station 5 Salon, Making Waves Salon and Looks to Kill Salon.

Crafts —

Carol Mierzewski 323-4344 / emierzewsk@aol.com
Gerri Amprimo 323-8633 / gaamprimo@aol.com

Craftspeople 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

Calling All Fledgling Docents

The Museum Committee is putting out a call for new docents to help with tours on Saturday afternoons during our open season. If you think you might like to join our group but are hesitant because you don't think you know all about Belchertown's history and the artifacts in the museum, fear not! We will be providing training sessions throughout the season and for the first season, all new docents "shadow" experienced docents. People always work in pairs so there is always someone else to "confer" with when we don't have an answer for a visitor.

Contact Randi Shenkman and let her know you're interested.

rshenkma@hotmail.com

Stone House Wins Grant

The Stone House is the recipient of a SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board) grant to preserve our wonderful collection of World War I posters. Up until now, the posters have been folded or rolled and kept in boxes. With \$934, and the volunteer labor of the museum committee (**Nancy Bell, Shirley Bock, Amy Moran, Florraine Neggars and Randi Shenkman**), and our museum's archivist (**Cliff McCarthy**), each poster will be placed into a clear archival sleeve to keep the paper from degrading.



Properly preserving these posters will enable the Museum to create a special World War I exhibit in time for the 100th anniversary of the U. S. entry into the 'War to End All Wars'.

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

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Archivist: Cliff McCarthy

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Editor: Mary F. Knight
Printed and Distributed by:
Paradise Copies, Inc.

Membership Update

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

It's membership renewal time! Thanks to all who have sent in their forms and payment for FY2015; we encourage everyone else to follow up for May 1st. You can call me for a Membership Application or access it 24/7 on line at stonehousemuseum.org. Your tax-deductible membership and business sponsorships help us to care for the Stone House Museum and all its collections and to present exhibits and programs that ensure that Belchertown's heritage will be preserved for future generations.

We can't do the important work of the association without you! Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting April 30.

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

