



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association  
Belchertown, Massachusetts  
1903—2018

October 2018

Volume 18, Issue 2

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

## 2018 Calendar

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



**Yuletide**  
**November 3rd**  
**10—3**

### Lots of volunteer opportunities!

Donate Craft items to sell  
Make a Themed Basket to raffle  
Contribute homemade food items  
**Drop off 10/28 12-2 or 11/2 4-6.**  
Take a shift during the day to help out.  
**Call Tom at 413-949-0970.**

And Visitors!! Pass the word to friends old and new!

**Scratch-Ticket Raffle Drawing:**  
Tickets are \$2 (or 3 for \$5). Asking a friend or neighbor to buy one ticket is a great way to initiate a conversation about the Association and our mission.

**2019 Events—watch for details in the Sentinel and Facebook.**

**Lecture Series** starting in January.

**Murder Mystery Dinner will be on February 9, 2019** at the Villa Rose Restaurant in Ludlow.

**Annual Meeting will be in April**

Idea: for friends, new neighbors, and "old townies" who have moved to distant cities, **Gift Memberships** make great presents, are a wonderful way to stay connected, and hardly cost more than a "store-bought" card!

**Stone House Museum**  
**Open May through October**  
Call us to arrange private tours.

## GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO FALL!

**BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT**

What a busy and event-filled summer it has been and fall is 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 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, **Erica Morrison-Brazitis** who headed up the bags, **Denise Smith** who rounded up volunteers, **Carol Mierzewski** who coordinated our crafters, and **Becki Smith** for all her work to make the grounds so beautiful. There were particularly many positive comments about the newer location of the Remembrance Garden, as this was the first time some had seen it. It surely is special to see the garden as you drive into the grounds! Many thanks to all!

We also thank **Marnie Henneman** and **Amy Moran** for representing the Belchertown Historical Association at the annual Memorial Day commemoration at the Quabbin Cemetery. The usual great time was had by all at our annual Members Only Cocktail Party, and many people went home with door prizes (thanks Denise!)

We are pleased this year to continue our exhibit on WWI posters, coinciding with the

anniversary of The Great War. Many thanks are due to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work throughout the house displaying our artifacts.



**AROUND THE GROUNDS:** Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer, and special thanks are due to **Becki Smith** for the way that the Remembrance Garden has flourished in its new location. Special thanks are also due to **Peg and Lew Louraine** for the work they have done to bring historic gardening methods to life in our herb garden.

**SCHOOLHOUSE PROGRESS:** The Washington District Schoolhouse is the last remaining one-room schoolhouse in town, and well worth our efforts to preserve it. Due to the beneficence of Bell Properties and Andrey Korchevskiy the schoolhouse was donated to our Association, and we believe it will be a vital link in telling the story of Belchertown to future generations. We continue to learn much about the town and its residents by investigating the schoolhouse's history. Special mention here must be made of the tireless efforts of **Billy Austin**, who, as our Moving Coordinator, has surmounted MANY unexpected problems organizing this complicated project. We are continuing the extensive process of fundraising in order to restore the schoolhouse. By our current accounting the move and repair of the structure and foundation work has cost \$36,000 more than the Community

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## Bringing the House to Life: Harvest Activities in the 19th century New England Home.

Living History Day was a great day to be a visitor at our Stone House Museum. The board of trustees and the museum committee brought the house to life on Saturday, October 6, with local artisans and members exhibiting daily activities and craftsmanship that 19th century households depended on. Sarah Madison set up her stone carvings on the front lawn and offered mini-lessons in carving stone. Sharon Corton brought her spinning wheel and could be found spinning in the parlor and sharing her expertise of different wools. Peg and Lew were busy putting our kitchen garden to bed for the winter months ahead. They spent the morning harvesting herbs and digging up root vegetables. Visitors were able to view the carriage collection and get a lesson on preserving in the Stone House kitchen. We were delighted to have several local families take advantage of the day to visit our museum for the first time. Mark your calendar for next year—the first Saturday in October!



If you know what this wooden object is and how it was used, call Tom!



## Kitchen Demonstration Garden

By Peg and Lew Louraine

Happy Fall to all of our members! The garden did well in most areas this year and we failed spectacularly in a few others. Onions were wonderful this year, for the very first time! Parsnips were planted twice and only one has ever come up, after years of great parsnips! Gardening is a lifetime of adventure; one never knows what will do well in any year. We grew eggplant for the first time, and, fortunately, have a Board member who regularly harvested them. Our potatoes did well; tomatoes not so much, in spite of all the sunshine. Hops have grown all over their support poles and into the other areas of the herb garden. We are thinking maybe a bigger trellis next year! We welcome any help and any suggestions and any visitors! As our members, you have a stake in the garden so be sure to stop by on our open days and help yourself to a little bouquet garni or maybe a veggie that looks ripe and ready to enjoy!



**Message from our President Continued from Page 1**

Preservation grant we received towards the cost of the move. We are now working toward the restoration of the exterior of the building, in order to stabilize it for future years. We have already done preliminary work on the surface of the schoolhouse and the Sentinel building, and “before the snow flies” we hope to install the schoolhouse’s chimney, replace the roof with appropriate cedar shingles, and begin restoring the windows and front door with period-appropriate replacements. (The current windows and door are not original.) We thank trustee **Tony Trifone** for his work on this project, and **Rob Hislop** for his help with estimating costs. You will be hearing more about this project from your trustees over the coming years. Please donate, as you are able.

We have enjoyed coordinating our annual presence at the **Belchertown Historic District Commission Booth** at the Belchertown Fair where we presented a photo display from the archives from fairs gone by. It was nice to be able to offer a “What’s the difference?” poster to describe the different activities of the town’s historic organizations. We offered the traditional “straws” game and sold raffle tickets and gift items, and many pictures were taken in our “cut-out face” placard made by Becki Smith. Although the Stage Coach was not in the Parade this year, Cat’s Meow figures of the Stagecoach are still for sale at the Stone House, or by contacting us at 413-323-6573.

Our busy fall activities included our “**Living History Day**”, October 6. The annual event this year included a stone-carver and spinner. We were gratified to have a steady stream of visitors to the Stone House helping us bring our history alive for this annual celebration.

Our **Yuletide event** (November 3) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our scratch ticket 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 need EVERYONE’S help to fill our rooms and tables with crafts, baked goods and raffle baskets or items.** We know that some of you excel at baking, knitting, sewing, and crafts. For those of you that excel at shopping, you can join the fun by looking for items around a theme (winter, cooking, reading, decorating...) and put together a few items that will make a fun basket for our raffle room. The Stone House will be open for you to bring in your donations on Sunday, October 28 from 12:00—2:00 and Friday, November 2 from 4:00-6:00. We look forward to seeing what surprises you have for us this year. If you can volunteer for a shift at the event, please call me at **413-949-0970**. Again this year we will feature a limited, high-end version of our “Old Bag” sale in the Silent Auction room.



Scratch-ticket Yuletide Raffle \$2 each, 3 for \$5  
We are hoping very much that proceeds from this event will help balance our annual operating budget.


**The 2018 Yuletide Raffle** is a framed group of scratch tickets—could be worth a bundle, just in time for the holidays! Take a chance on winning it for \$2, (or 3 for \$5). The winning number will be drawn at the end of our Yuletide event!

We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends on Saturday as the museum is transformed a holiday wonderland. We appreciate everyone’s continued interest and support!


**And speaking of support, we are so proud that over 50 local businesses and several individuals participated this year in sponsoring our inaugural Museum Program!** We have distributed copies at all museum events and have supplies at strategic locations throughout town. Feedback has been very positive. Patrons appreciate the information about the museum, our programs and the vision we have for the schoolhouse; they are also very impressed by the support we have from local businesses. If you do not have a copy yet, be sure to pick one up at the Yuletide event! And, please join us in thanking these sponsor personally!

**Belchertown Historical Association**  
**The Stone House Museum**

*Keeping Belchertown History Alive*  
2018 Program



Open: May-October Saturdays 2-5  
Tours are offered year-round by appointment.  
20 Maple St. (Route 202)  
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www.StoneHouseMuseum.org 413.323.6573



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*Thank  
You!*

**Progress on the restoration of Washington District School -**  
- would not be possible without a grant from the Community Preservation Committee, the sponsors of our 2018 Program booklet, and individual donations. Our most recent donors include Jean Aldrich & Tony Trifone; Angela and Bruce Alexander; Rosemary Austin; Kevin & Cindy Brown (in memory of Kenneth Brown); Janice Colarusso (in honor of June Henneman; Rachel Collard; Jane & David Crutchfield; Michael & Bonita Curtin (in honor of June Henneman); Suzanne Dudley; Barbara & Arthur Frigon (in honor of June Henneman); Fran Goff (in honor of June Henneman); Barbara Harrington; William & Wendy Hausworth; Barbara Harrington; William & Wendy Hausworth; Ken & Kathy Henneman (in honor of June Henneman); Mary Knight; Deborah Madden; Dorothy & Owen Maloney; Ann Marona; Rick & Natalie Owen; Jim Phaneuf (in memory of Mike Madore); Patricia Poulter; Donald Pratt; Joanne Schoettler; Randi Shenkman; George & Linda Smith; Linda & Ken Snow (in memory of Jennie McCullough); Susan Stephens (in honor of June Henneman); Knowlton Utley.

**We received donations in honor of June Henneman's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday** from the following people: Frank & Dorothy Adams; Millie Harrington; Gordy & Cindy Palley; Thomas Smith & Bev Macaulay; Nancy Pratt; Barbara & Bill Dziuba; Roland & Beatrice Desrosiers; Beverly & Robert Henneman; Gerald & Susan Nichols; Paul & Carolyn Henneman; Albert & Blanchette Parmenter; Francis Fern.

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