



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2019

September 2019

Volume 19, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and event-filled summer it has been and fall will be 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 Remembrance Garden, as the plantings are really growing in. 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 show some of the fruits of the Museum Committee's and **Pat Warner's** work with our special exhibit

of clothes. We certainly are blessed with a remarkable collection! Many thanks are due to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work throughout the house displaying our artifacts.

Many things have been happening around the Stone House grounds 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.

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



Visit us at the Belchertown Historic District Commission Booth. Get a copy of our 2019 Program to share with family and friends and participate in our Belchertown Fair Scratch Ticket Raffle—the winner will be drawn on Sunday afternoon.

2019 Calendar

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

Belchertown Fair 9/20-22

Living History Days 10/5

Halloween 'n History 10/27 6pm



Yuletide
November 2nd
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.

Lecture Series starting in January.

Watch for details in the Sentinel and Facebook.

Murder Mystery Dinner will be on

February 2, 2020 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!

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

What a great day to be a visitor at our Stone House Museum. The board of trustees and the museum committee will bring the house to life on Saturday, October 5, with local artisans and members exhibiting daily activities and craftsmanship that 19th century households depended on. Peg and Lew will be busy putting our kitchen garden to bed for the winter months ahead. They will be harvesting herbs and digging up root vegetables. Visitors will be able to view the carriage collection and get a lesson on preserving in the Stone House kitchen. We look forward to having local families take advantage of the day to visit our museum for the first time.



Kitchen Demonstration Garden

By Peg and Lew Louraine

Our tenth year has been so interesting! Crops have thrived that never did very well before and no-brainer crops have failed dismally. Gardens just seem to have their own personalities and do what they want from year to year. We actually had good tomatoes this year (our “progressive gardener” crop!), and good eggplant. Garlic and beans have done very well. The herbs are pretty placid, and just keep on keeping on. But, we had HUGE basil crop, which was a surprise, and the parsley was also very successful.

As usual, members are encouraged to visit on Saturdays and help themselves to herbs for their own kitchens. Veggies are more chancy since we only plant small “demo” amounts of those, but if you time it right you may get a small haul of onions, beans, potatoes, carrots and so forth. It is our pleasure and privilege to manage this garden and we invite you all to help and/or enjoy it.



Message from our President Continued from Page 1

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 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 replace the roof with appropriate cedar shingles, and begin replacing 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 year(s). Please donate, as you are able.

Belchertown Historical Association
The Stone House Museum
Keeping Belchertown History Alive
 2019 Program



Open: May-October Saturdays 2-5
 Tours are offered year-round by appointment.
 20 Maple St. (Route 202)
 Belchertown, MA 01007-1211
 www.StoneHouseMuseum.org 413.323.6573

We are looking forward to our annual presence at the **Belchertown Historic District Commission Booth at the Belchertown Fair** where we will present a photo display of Belchertown farms and coordinate our presence with the Belchertown Historic Commission. We will again offer a “What’s the difference?” poster to describe the different activities of the town’s historic organizations, the traditional “straws” game and sell raffle tickets and gift items, and expect many pictures will be taken in our “cut-out face” placard made by Becki Smith. Although the Stage Coach will not be in the Parade this year, Cat’s Meow figures of the Stagecoach are still for sale, as are Cat’s Meows of the schoolhouse.

If you don’t have a copy of our **Keeping Belchertown History Alive 2019** program, it will be available at the booth. Please share with family and friends and thank the many local businesses who support this great communication and marketing tool.

New this year is the Belchertown Fair Scratch-ticket Raffle!* Like the popular Yuletide Raffle, this will be a framed group of scratch tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5), with the winner drawn at the end of Fair weekend.

October will be a busy time this year and our annual activities include **“Living History Days” (October 5)**. This event includes fall activities in the New England home, and this year a return of Civil War reenactors! We expect 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 2)** 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. WREATH ALERT! This year our sales room will feature theme Wreaths for all occasions, from spring to St. Patrick’s Day to Patriotic! We are still looking for CRAFTERS and people to donate THEME WREATHS. If you have a hobby and can help, please call Tom Stockton (413-949-0970). 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.

The Scratch-ticket Yuletide Raffle will be back!* Tickets are \$2, (or 3 for \$5), and the prize will be drawn at the end of our Yuletide event—just in time for the holidays!

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!

* **Tickets are available from BHA Board members.** 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!

Belchertown Historical Association
 MEMBERSHIP For you, your Family, as a Gift, in Memory or in Honor

The Belchertown Historical Association, a non-profit organization, exists primarily on income from your membership, event admissions, contributions and bequests.

A membership entitles you to: Unlimited visits to the Stone House Museum complex (excluding special events) during the membership year. Subscriptions to the Association Newsletter. Discounted admission to all museum events and special member privileges when announced. While these are significant benefits, the real benefit is the sense of belonging to an organization which is preserving our past for our future. Make history with us!

Joining is easy and affordable Association.

Check one: Renewal Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

If this is a Gift Membership, please attach a matching gift form from your employer.

Same low price
Same great value

StonehouseMuseum.org/
Make History with Us

Membership Categories
 Student (under 18) \$5
 Senior (65+) \$10
 Individual \$20
 Family \$35 (children-18)
 Friend \$50
 Patron \$100
 Benefactor \$250

Corporate Matching Program—
 Double your tax-deductible donation by attaching a matching gift form from your employer.

Join or renew your membership today.
And share the experience of making history!

The Belchertown Historical Association
 Maple Street (Route 202) PO Box 1211,
 Belchertown, MA 01007-1211

I am interested in getting involved in activities of the Association. Best time/way/time to contact me: _____



Yuletide at the Stonehouse 2019!



Our Yuletide event is quickly approaching. Bringing the museum to life at the beginning of the holiday season, with garlands, pine boughs and holly brings a joyful feeling to all of us. Add in the aroma of warm apple cider and our senses come alive with the spirit of the season. On Saturday, November 2, the Stone House Museum will open its doors, from 9:00-3:00, for visitors to behold beautiful handcrafted delights, baskets brimming with treasures and gifts, and home-baked goods that will tantalize anyone's palette. This year we will be featuring a new room: wreaths. We will be selling a variety of wreaths for all occasions. Many of you have donated items or baskets in years past, and we hope that you will be able to help again this

year.

You can drop off your donations at the Stone House on:

Sunday, October 27 from 12:00-2:00

Monday, October 28 from 10:00-12:00

or Friday, November 1 from 4:00-6:00PM.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Yuletide event or have any questions please contact Sally Shattuck at 413-230-2022 or at sallyshattuck@charter.net.



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.





BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 20 MAPLE STREET, PO BOX 1211
 BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007-1211
 VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE,
 CALL US AT 413 323-6573 OR
 EMAIL INFO@STONEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

ARCHIVIST: CLIFF MCCARTHY

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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER AND MUSEUM
 WEBSITE EDITOR: MARY F. KNIGHT,
 MFKNIGHT@CROCKER.COM

Halloween 'n History

Historic Belchertown figures from the distant past will come alive on the last Sunday in October from 6-8PM, weather permitting. Group tours will be given of historic Mount Hope Cemetery for some fun-filled hands-on history learning, assisted by our live reenactors, portraying figures from Belchertown's past- but don't rule out other ghostly apparitions throughout the cemetery. The event is sponsored by the Belchertown Historical Association. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free admission to museum members.



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