



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2010

September 2010

Volume 10, Issue 4

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2010 Calendar

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

Stone House Museum Open May through October

Saturday 2—5 pm
and by Appointment (call 323-6573)
Admission: **FREE** for Members;
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

Belchertown Fair September 24—26

Stop by the Belchertown Historic
District Commission Booth!

Bottle and Can Drive Saturday, October 2, 9-2

Route 202 Redemption Center
Volunteers needed: 323-4344

Archeology Day Saturday, October 9, 10-12

Stone House Museum grounds

Salem Bus Trip Saturday, October 16, 8-8

\$27 Members \$30 guests
Call Mary to reserve 323-5176

Yuletide at the Stone House Saturday, November 6

Stone House Museum

New York City Bus Trip Saturday, December 4

250th Celebration Friday, December 31

Stone House Museum

Activities bustin' out all over!

TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT President's Column

What a busy and event-filled summer it has been so far! Since our last newsletter, we began our summer with a beautiful evening at our annual **Members' cocktail party**. The Membership Committee did a great job putting that event together, and we all renewed acquaintances with old friends and made a new friends as well.

July kicked off with our annual **Living History Days** and what a weekend it was! The fourth annual Garden Tour was a beautiful event (until the rain started), and people are already asking how they can have their gardens on the tour year after next. The annual display of historic small engines and tractors on the common (sponsored by the Belchertown Agricultural Commission) was enjoyed by many. Many thanks are due to all of our hard workers and organizers. In addition to our many volunteers I would like to thank the local businesses that sponsored our recent Garden Tour (**Easthampton Savings Bank, Country Bank for Savings, Florence Savings Bank, and Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency Inc.**) and our other Living History Days events (**McCarthy's Pub** and **Stop & Shop**.) We are indeed fortunate to live in a town where the local business community is so interested and supportive of local events, and the Belchertown Historical Association is very grateful for our community's continued support. Please support our generous sponsors! Also, thank you to all of you who supported this very valuable and very necessary FUNdraiser.

Plans are already underway for our Living History Days celebration next year, which is during the 250th anniversary year of the Town of Belchertown. Instead of a garden tour next year we are hoping to celebrate our agrarian past by hosting a Farm Tour in early August, drawing attention to the continuing tradition of farming in Belchertown. Plans include live reënactors "bringing the house to life" in the Stone House, demonstrations of our historic farming implements, and perhaps Square Dancing and Contra Dancing in the evening.

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 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. Peg and Lew have much knowledge to share on historic gardening methods and historically appropriate 19th century plants. Their efforts will help us next summer as we "bring the house to life" with live reënactors during our Living History Days.



Check out the Fair Photos from the BHA archives!

Continued on page 3



YULETIDE AT THE STONE HOUSE NOVEMBER 6, 2010

The annual Yuletide event is our major fundraiser of the year and we couldn't 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. Please consider donating a themed basket. We are asking that **all baskets be delivered assembled**. They can be dropped off at the Stone House Saturday, October 30 from 10 am to noon and Wednesday, October 27 from 5 to 7 pm. Please include your name on your basket so that we can properly thank you. Contact **Carol Mierzewski** 323-4344 with any questions.

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. Contact person for crafts and sales is **Maureen Austin** 289-1347. We also need homemade delights from your kitchen to ours. Contact for baked goods is **Sally Shattuck** 323-4239.

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 6th. Please remember to tell your friends and relatives to visit our beautifully decorated museum during the **Yuletide** event!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!
 Your help is needed for the 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 on Friday evening, November 5th or early on Saturday, November 6th. We can do the pricing if you do the packaging. Contact Sally at 323-4239 or sallyshattuck@charter.net

AND BASKET MAKERS!!
 Your creativity with themed baskets and your generosity is so appreciated for this event! Ideas and contributions are most welcome. Contact Carol at 323-4344 or emierzewsk@aol.com

New York City Bus Trip

On Saturday, Dec. 4 we will be hosting our bus trip to New York City. This fundraiser has been very successful for us, and it's lots of fun, too. We'll meet on the Belchertown Common at 7AM and drive to New York City. The driver usually makes several stops to drop people off near their destination (Rockefeller Center, the Met. Museum of Art, etc). After a day of site-seeing, shopping, theatre-going or visiting with friends, everyone meets back at the bus and we arrive back home around 11 PM. Watch for more information and ticket prices.



Salem Bus Trip

Saturday October 16
from Belchertown Common
Leave 8 am / Return 8 pm
\$30 (\$27 for members) non-refundable
 Cost includes bus and time in Salem for sightseeing
Space Limited Call: Mary 323-517

Proceeds to benefit Belchertown Historical Association

Come see the festive, historical and bewitching sights in SALEM MA, and shop or sight-see to your heart's content. We will leave the Belchertown Common at 8AM, and will leave Salem at about 6PM. [Tickets to individual events in Salem are not included to allow you maximum freedom to follow your own interests. Popular destinations include the House of Seven Gables, The Witch Museum, and the Peabody Essex Museum.] Salem in October is a very popular destination, so get your tickets soon!

Think Scary History!

YULETIDE CASH RAFFLE

Please support our Fifth Annual cash raffle, which will be drawn at the annual Yuletide Event—just in time to give you more cash for shopping! We are hoping very much that proceeds from this event will help balance our annual operating budget. The First Prize: \$500, Second Prize: \$300, and Third Prize: \$100. Tickets cost \$5 apiece, or a book of six costs \$25. A ticket tucked into a card makes a great gift!

LOG CABIN QUILT RAFFLE

We will again be having a Quilt Raffle due to the generosity of expert quilter **Florine Neggors**. For our 2010 fund-raiser we will be raffling a queen-sized coverlet quilt in the “Log Cabin Pattern” in a “fields and furrows” arrangement in turkey red and beiges. This design was born of the Westward Movement in American History and is a traditional mid-nineteenth century pattern. Tickets for this home-made masterpiece will be \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or 15 for \$20. The drawing will take place at the Yuletide event.

Message from our President Continued from Page 1

On a more somber note, the blower for our heating and air conditioning system is broken. (Thanks to our docents for “toughing out the heat” this summer.) We are hoping that the Community Preservation Grant money the town awarded us in May of 2009 will finally be turned over to us so that we can avoid the needless expense of fixing one furnace and then immediately replacing it. Also, work will soon commence rebuilding the back kitchen stairs, in an effort to properly insulate the water pipes behind them and keep them from freezing every winter, and filling in some of the holes in the mortar around the house to keep them from getting worse.

The Belchertown Historic District Bylaw Commission has awarded us a Preservation Award, in partial recognition of our efforts to maintain the historic Tremaine House, next to the Stone House. Look for a new roof to be put on this historic building sometime this fall.

As if we haven't been busy enough, this fall looks to be filled with more fun activities. Look for us this year at the Belchertown Historic District Commission Booth at the **Belchertown Fair (September 24-26)**, where we will present a photo display of Belchertown Historic District Commission Preservation Awards, and photos from the archives from fairs gone by. We will also be selling our raffle tickets, and selected other gift items. Also, we invite all to come to our Halloween Event, which this year is a **Bus Trip to Historic Salem Massachusetts** on Saturday, October 16. Historic Salem is a popular destination year-round, but especially in October when thoughts turn to witches and goblins. Consider a family day in Salem as a way to prepare for the festivities of Halloween.

Our **Yuletide event** (November 6) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our cash 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 still looking for 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.

Our **Fifth Annual Cash Raffle** will be drawn after this year's Yuletide event, and we hope that this raffle will be a fun way for us to help balance our operating budget as we prepare for the Heating Season. We ask everyone to please support our raffle, and, incidentally, asking a friend or neighbor to buy one ticket is a great way to initiate a conversation about our Association and its mission! **Also, tickets are available for Florine Neggors' donated Log Cabin Quilt.** This beautiful quilt is admired and coveted by all who see it, and would make a beautiful heirloom addition to your home, or a wonderful housewarming or newlywed gift. The winner will be drawn at the end of the Yuletide event.

December's events will include a fun day-long **Bus Trip to New York City on Dec. 4.** (\$45 members, \$48 non-members.) Come see the festive Holiday displays in the city, and shop or sight-see to your heart's content. To make early reservations call Mary Avery (323-5176). Also, join us on **New Year's Eve for Victorian Parlor Games in the Stone House from 6 – 9 PM.** This event will be in conjunction with the plans being put forward by the 250th celebration committee planning events for the Town's big anniversary.

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!

Cocktail Party at the Stone House Museum 2010



About 60 plus members attended the annual Members' Cocktail Party on the Grounds of the Stone House Museum. Members brought many savory and sweet appetizers to share and had a chance to mingle and enjoy the evening. Bartender **Rick Burkot** kept everyone happy throughout the evening. Lucky members went home with door prizes donated by **Joy and Bob McCarron, Diane and Mike Madore, Linda Snow, Denise and Dan Smith, Ed and Carol Mierzewski**. Thanks to the Committee for making this a fun evening!



Living History Days 2010

Great Family Event and Major Fundraiser — July 10 & 11

On Saturday, July 10th we held our Living History Day Activities, including our 4th Annual Garden Tour. This year's tour featured nine superb gardens. Visitors were able to see an alpaca farm with lots of organic things going on, gardens planted on stone tiers, and unique plantings of trees and shrubs. There were sun gardens, shade gardens and everything in between. A monsoon of rain slowed things down mid-day, but when the sun appeared again, so did the garden lovers. The Belchertown Antique Car Club came out to display their cars for us, along with the small engine club that came last year. Volunteers set up our Old Bags Sale and some of our local crafters came out to help us.



Thanks to all who were able to volunteer their time to help make this a successful fundraiser, especially to those gardeners who opened their gardens to us. There will not be a garden tour next summer. The trustees are planning a weekend of activities for August to finish out the year celebrating Belchertown's 250th birthday.

Membership Update

By Carol Mierzewski emierzewsk@aol.com Ph: 413-323-4344

Please let us know if you have moved, changed your e-mail or phone number. Our mailings are sometimes returned as "Address Unknown." Having up to-date info helps us to responsibly manage our mailing costs. We often send out e-mail reminders to events. During these busy times of electronic mail and message machines, it may be the speediest way to contact you. Let me know of any changes.

Please join us in welcoming our newest members:

Tim & Sheila Jones
Stephen Wittbrodt
Grace Smith
Jacob & Noah Humiston
Bill Hurley Jr.
Sarah Ann Madison
Sharon Marean
Amy Moran
Kevin Walker
Solveig Woychuk

Donations received this summer:

In Memory:
Leon, Myrtle & Bernard William
Muriel Duggan
Kenneth W. Thayer
Jack Avery
Charles Jackson, Lt Col, USAF
Stephen & Russell Gaj, Jr.

In Honor of:
Linda Barron
Doris Dickinson
Cliff McCarthy

Stage Coach Rolls Into Town

In conjunction with Belchertown's 250th anniversary, the Belchertown Historical Association is working with the Cat's Meow to create a replica of their Concord Stage Coach. The coach was built in 1869 in Concord, New Hampshire, and used in Barre, Massachusetts at agricultural fairs. The wooden figure will be available in the sales room at our Yuletide event. **Maureen Austin**

Kudos to New Tour Guides!

The Museum Committee would like to give great thanks to **Amy Moran** and **Mary Ellen Kuzmeski** for volunteering to give tours of the Stone House. The Stone House could not stay open without folks like this who are willing to give their time and expertise. Thank you!! **Florine Neggers**

Belchertown Historical Association (BHA)

MEMBERSHIP FORM – thru April 30, 2011

I am pleased to support the Stone House Museum and the BHA Belchertown Historical Association



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Membership Category:

Individual \$15 Student (<18) \$5 Senior (>64) \$8 Family \$30 (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)

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
 P.O. BOX 1211 BELCHERTOWN, MA
 01007 | VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE,
 CALL US AT 413 323-6573 OR VIEW US AT
 WWW.STONEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

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 ARCHIVIST: CLIFF MCCARTHY

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 EDITOR: MARY F. KNIGHT,
 MFKNIGHT@CROCKER.COM

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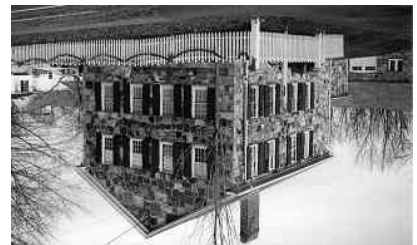
Share Belchertown's History with Family and Friends

Note cards (6 for \$3) are now available at the Stone House for your personal correspondence. There are two different designs – the town common from 1839 is depicted below. Each set of 6 note cards contains one design. Both are black and white woodcut designs of historical views of Belchertown past. These blank note cards make great gifts for family and friends. We intend to expand our selection if there is an interest. All proceeds will go towards the ongoing expenses of supporting the Belchertown Historical Association (BHA).

If you are unable to visit the Stone House in person to purchase a packet of the note cards, contact Gerri at gaamprimo@aol.com. Note cards can be mailed to you for \$3 per 6 cards plus mailing costs.



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 ASSOCIATION
 20 MAPLE STREET
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