



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2010

April 2010

Volume 10, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

A Season of Change

2010 Calendar

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

Membership Drive underway!

**BHA Annual Meeting
and Pot Luck Luncheon
Sunday, April 25 at 12:30**
Masonic Banquet Room
Vernon Lodge, 1 Main Street
on the Common

Spring Cleaning and Organizing
Opportunities as we prepare for
opening day. **Join the fun!**
Call 323-0946 to volunteer

**Museum Opening Day
Plant Sale and Old Bag Sale
May 8, 2010 9am—2pm**

**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

**Member Cocktail Party
June 25, 2010 6—8 pm**
Museum grounds

**6th Annual Living History
Days / Garden Tour
Folk Art Exhibit
Historic Small Engines,
Ford Restorers and more!**
July 10—11, 2010

TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

President's Column



With the sightings of the first robins of spring 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 at the Tremaine House in order to maintain that property, and still more work is planned for the Spring and Summer. In the Stone House work continues toward replacing the dehumidifier, which proved unequal to the task last summer. We continue to plan for work to be done to improve our climate control system and to address certain structural issues inside the Stone House. We were awarded two Community Preservation Grants at last year's town meeting, but are awaiting instructions on how the funds can be released to us before commencing work.

Much work has been done during the winter months by the Museum Committee, the Membership Committee and the Finance Committee, all of whom 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 on Sunday, April 25th at the Masonic Lodge banquet room.

We will be awarding two scholarships this year to deserving graduates from the High School. One will be our annual Historical Association Scholarship, and the second will be a special Scholarship that the Trustees voted to award in honor of **Doris Dickinson** and her invaluable service to the Stone House. It hardly seems possible that it was a year ago that we learned that Doris Dickinson was moving to South Carolina to be nearer family: she still seems such a vital part of the place! We hope that this scholarship will pay tribute to her interests in the Stone House and in Education and will help encourage a young adult to pursue these interests.

**FOR A COMPLETE UPDATE I URGE YOU ALL TO COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING
April 25th 12:30 at the Vernon Lodge**

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.

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 Fifth Annual February Dinner Theater held at the Grapevine Grille. Also, this March we resumed our annual Bus Trip to the celebrated Boston Flower Show and historic Quincy Market.

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Opening Day at the Stone House Museum Saturday May 8



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

If you or someone you know has plentiful perennials to share, please donate some to this event in support of our beautiful museum. We would like all donations by Saturday May 1st—leave them by the Print Shop in back of the museum. If needed, we would be happy to come dig and pot them for you. Please contact **Sally Shattuck** [email: sallyshattuck@charter.net / phone: 323-4239] with your name, address and phone number.

Old Bags

Spring cleaning? Your tired bags might be someone else's treasures!

Volunteers

If you would like to donate your time, we will need volunteers to help dig, pot, sort plants on Saturday May 1, set up on Friday afternoon, May 7th and sell on Saturday, May 8. Volunteers need for selling bags and serving refreshments. We have something for anyone who wants to help!



Hello, everyone. South Carolina winters aren't bad to take!!

All is going well. My camellias are blooming. The robins are here. I think they will be staying until it gets warmer up there.

These are my great grandchildren. The picture was taken for my 85th birthday party. They are Veda holding Marlee Mae, Gracie, Sawyer holding Jude Jacob and Shepherd making a face. Marlee Mae and Jude Jacob are twins and will be two in June. They are my granddaughter Jessica's and Veda, Gracie, Sawyer and Shepherd are my grandson

Chris's children. My granddaughter Elise in California has a daughter Lillyanna Mae who will be two in September. My door is always open. Come down and visit. Love, Doris [email: harveydoris1@aol.com]

We are excited to make this announce- ment!

We will again be having a QUILT RAFFLE due to the generosity of expert quilter **Florine Neggers**.



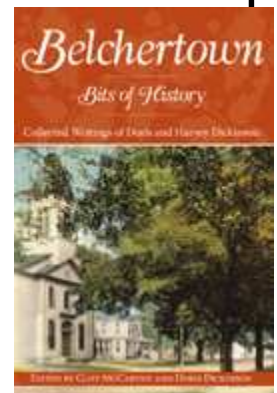
For our 2010 fund-raiser we will be raffling a queen-sized coverlet quilt in the "Log Cabin Pattern" in a "fields and furrows" arrangement in turkey red and beiges. This design was born of the Westward Movement in American History and is a traditional mid-nineteenth century pattern.

Tickets will be \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or 15 for \$20. Last year's beautiful quilt generated a lot of enthusiastic interest, and we know many people will covet this gorgeous home-made piece of Belchertown History. The drawing will take place at the 2010 Yuletide event.

Thanks Florine, for your generosity!

Belchertown: "Bits of History"

Edited by **Cliff McCarthy**
and **Doris Dickinson**



The fifty stories in this charming collection mark the events, places and people that have made Belchertown special.

Drawn from the writings of beloved local fixtures **Doris and Harvey Dickinson**, these tales show how Belchertown holds firm to its New England Yankee traditions in the heart of the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts. Profits from the sale of this book are being donated to the Belchertown Historical Society.

Get an autographed copy at many of our events. Also available at the Stone House Museum and several local establishments.

Membership Update

Carol Mierzewski

Please welcome our NEWEST members!
Bill Hurley, Jr. and Stephen Wittbrodt

We hope to increase numbers during our upcoming membership drive and we need your help. Our membership year is May 1—April 30. We have kept our present membership amounts to offer varied programs to a diverse community. You will soon receive your renewal forms in the mail; you can also use the membership form in this newsletter or download one from our website: www.stonehousemuseum.org.

PLEASE consider this a personal invitation to renew your membership **and** to invite 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 is a sound investment in our Community Treasure. Let's make history together!

Email emierzewsk@aol.com or call me @ 3234344 with questions and ideas for increasing our numbers.

Message from our President Continued from Page 1



As spring progresses we begin to look forward to our traditional springtime activities at the Stone House. Don't miss our **Annual Meeting** on April 25 and the Masonic Lodge Banquet Room at 12:30. This is always a fun time to get together and take stock of all we have been doing as an Association, and enjoy each others company and a potluck luncheon. (I'm going to be late, so please save me some of whatever Gerri brings.)

Our annual **Opening Day Plant Sale and Old Bag Sale, Saturday May 8th** will be a wonderful day, and an opportunity to shop for your garden while supporting your Association. **We need your help—so please see the "wanted" notice on page 2.** You don't want to miss the annual **Members Only Cocktail Party, June 25th** and plans are underway for our **Living History Days weekend, July 10-11.** This family event will be a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser. Highlights will include a **Garden Tour, our new Folk Art exhibit** and other fun and educational events including the Agricultural Commission-sponsored **historic small engines and the Ford Restorers** on the Common.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these events—and I hope to see a really great turnout at our annual meeting!

Boston Flower Show 2010

Travelers from the Historical Association spent a fun day on



Wednesday, March 24 travelling to the Boston Flower Show. This annual fundraiser was not held in 2009 because there was no Flower Show that year, but this year it—and we—were back in Boston!

After leaving Belchertown a few minutes early (everyone was on time!) we arrived in Boston around 9:30 and were treated to a tour through the city by our thoughtful Bus Driver. Three hours were spent at the Flower Show admiring blooms, birds, landscaping and gardening supplies for sale, and then we went to historic Quincy Market for lunch, shopping, and sight-seeing. In Faneuil Hall some of us heard employees of the National Park Service describe the hall's history and on the top floor saw the display of historic weapons and paintings shown by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

Due to the earlier switch to Daylight Savings Time we arrived back in bright cheery sunshine after a fun day.

Belchertown Historical Association

MEMBERSHIP May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011

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; Subscription 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. Just send us the membership form with a check payable to BHA. We'll do the rest!

Check one: ___ **Renewal Membership** ___ **New Membership**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Membership Categories

- Student (under 18) \$5
- Senior (65+) \$8
- Individual \$15
- Family \$30
- Friend \$50
- Patron \$100
- Benefactor \$250

Corporate Matching

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

Dues enclosed (please check off categories on left): \$ _____

Additional Membership Donation: \$ _____

If Membership donation is in Honor or in Memory, please so indicate:

Send completed form and tax-deductible check (**payable to Belchertown Historical Association**) to the address below or hand deliver to a Board Member.

- 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:
