



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2009

June 2009

Volume 9, Issue 3

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2009 Calendar

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

Stone House Museum

Open May through October

Saturday 2 to 5 pm

and by Appointment (call 323-6573)

Admission: **FREE** for Members; others:

\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

Member Cocktail Party

June 26 at 6pm

Living History Days

July 11-12, 2009

Bottle & Can Drive

September 19th

Redemption Center behind Checker's

BHA @ the Fair

September 25—27, 2009

Yuletide at the Stone House

November 7, 2009

Tents available to BHA members.

Contact Owen @ 323-5974 or Diane @ 283-6334

Your help is needed:

- Start saving your cans and bottles now!! We need 10,000 items for 9/19 drive!
- Small, fun prizes for younger children. We need 200 items by 7/4.
- Small prizes for children and adults to use in a straw raffle at the Fair. We need 400 items by 9/7.

Please pick up a few items in your shopping travels. Questions? Call Phyllis 323 9556.

Happenings in Belchertown

TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

With the arrival of spring our new season has gotten off to a great start at the Stone House. Our new year began with our Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 29th at Pine Valley. After our usual pot-luck luncheon those in attendance heard final reports on all the hard work done by the Museum, Finance, Bylaws, Education, and Nominating committees. Changes to our bylaws were voted into place and we discussed plans for our upcoming year. Our traditional thanks were given to many of our hard-working volunteers, for we always keep in mind that our volunteers are key to our success and the furtherance of our mission. We honored trustees Elizabeth Taras, Brian Walker, and Joy McCarron who are rotating off the board, and elected our two new trustees: Martha Barrett and Tony Trifone.

Kudos to our committees working on Community Preservation Grants! The new shutters are being made and will go up later in the Summer, and thanks to the hard work of Sally Shattuck, Linda Barron, Tom Stockton and Ken and Linda Snow the town meeting in May voted to give us grants for the completion of our Climate Control project, Structural reinforcement of the Stone House, and the future hoped-for preservation of the Washington District Schoolhouse.

Our Opening Day celebration, May 9, was a beautiful day and a great success. There were "Made In Belchertown" crafters, our "Old Bag" sale (where many

found bargains), fabric sales, a raffle and sales table, 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 Elaine Williamson, Master Gardener, and Sally Shattuck who headed up our Plant Sale, Linda Snow, Marnie Henneman and Cheryl Dutton who headed up the bags, and Carol Mierzewski who rounded up volunteers and worked on the raffle and sales table. Many thanks to all!

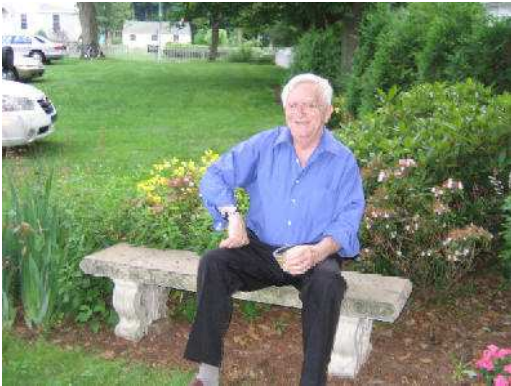


The board of Trustees bid farewell to Doris Dickinson

Our Exhibit Room this year features exhibits on 1) "Stepping Out in Belchertown" and 2) "Vacationing in Belchertown". "Stepping Out" features clothes from our extensive collection, and shows some of the research done in conjunction with the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities grant we received last year. And where would people "Step Out" in their finery in Belchertown? Well, "Vacationing" shows im-

Continued on page 3

Living History Days: Great Family Event and Major Fundraiser — July 11-12



The popularity of HGTV and other home and garden-related television shows and magazines was the catalyst for the 2008 Belchertown Historical Association (BHA) *Living History Days: Then & Now*. The weekend was full of family-friendly events, celebrating Belchertown's various contributions to the nation's history and natural New England home and garden beauty. Visitors and residents learned about history on many different levels. As you see from these photos, this was a year not to be missed! The plans for the 2009 event are underway and promise to be another winner! All proceeds will benefit the Belchertown Historical Association. Save the date!



Get Your tickets early!!

The Belchertown Historical Association is hosting its 3rd Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, July 11th from 9:00-4:00. The garden tour is part of the annual Living History Days events. There will be gardens of many varieties on the tour this year, sun, shade, woodland, expansive and simple as well as an assortment of interesting eye-catchers.

A self-guiding tour map will be provided along with descriptions of the gardens. Tickets will be sold on the day of the event on the common or at the Stone House. Tickets purchased on the day of the event will be \$15.00 (\$12.00 for members.) Tickets cost \$12.00 if purchased in advance at the locations listed below.

Dynamic Do's, Stadler Street Ace Hardware, Belchertown Garden Center, Roadhouse Café, Class Grass Garden Center, Andrew's Greenhouse, Hadley Garden Center and Randall's Farm Greenhouse.



Opening Day at the Stone House



Starting young! The Humiston twins selling their blown-glass art.

It was a glorious day for Opening Day on the Stone House grounds. Due to the hard work of our members, our net income was around \$3000. Our popular perennial plant sale, the famous "Old Bag Sale, crafter vendors, Raffles, Museum House and Barn Tours brought visitors both from the community and out of town.

The winners of our prizes donated by our craft vendors were: **Bonnie Strickland, Betty Arel, Vicky Godlow, Amy Nee, Kathy Sehler, Olivia Smith, Anne Maziarz, Linda Austin, Katrina Tsoumas, Cheryl McNamee, Paula Christian, and Emilia Boyko.**

Thanks to our vendors who had many beautiful craft items just in time for Mother's Day; **Dale Gardner-Fox, Laura-lee Harrington, Ann Maziarz, Denise McGoldrick, Mary Muratore, Linda Tsoumas, Roxanne Venskowski, Gale Miron, and Sarah Prall.** Thanks to our volunteers who worked to make this a success; **Sally Shattuck, Linda Snow, Elaine Williamson, June Henneman, Marnie Henneman, Gerri Amprimo, Denise Smith, Phyllis Ferriter, Becky Smith, Millie Harrington, Florine Neggers, Gretchen Neggers, Tom Stockton, Fred and Doris Stockton, Ron Pobiegllo, Jim Chevalier, Pat Warner, Shirley Bock, Cheryl McNamee, Ken Snow, Owen Maloney, Mike Madore, Teresa Adam, Brian Stacy, Mark Greco, Cheryl Dutton, Joy McCarron, Roseann Nulman, Peg Louraine, AnnMarie Opalenik, and Barbara Sullivan, Nora Austin, Mary Alice Austin, Colleen McKeon, and Mary Ellen Kuzmeski**



Rocky Venskowski of Summersault Soaps

Thanks also to all the businesses in town that help us as collection sites: **Making Waves, Bell and Hudson Insurance Agency, Jones Bay Path Realty, Easthampton Savings Bank and Citizens Bank.**

Message from our President *Continued from Page 1*

ages from Belchertown's past as a resort destination, featuring photographs and historic postcards from Belchertown's grand hotels and Pansy Park. This is a good opportunity to learn about one aspect of Belchertown Life in the 19th century.

Plans are well underway for our annual Members Only Cocktail Party on June 26, and our Living History Days event on July 11-12. This event will be a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser. Events will include a Garden Tour, and the Historic Small Engines will be on the Common. The Masons will be running a Child Identification program in the Print Shop, and we are working on having horse-drawn carriage rides around the Common, food, and raffles and sales items.

We are excited to announce that raffle tickets are now on sale for the beautiful "Irish Chain" quilt made and donated by Florine Neggers. This quilt, made on an eighteenth century pattern, will be on display all summer, and is admired and coveted by all who see it. Thanks Florine!

Please call Tom Stockton at 323-0946 to volunteer!

I hope to see all our old and new friends at the many events we have coming up this summer. Remember—membership in the Belchertown Historical Association is always fun and informative, and memberships make great gifts!



"Stepping Out" finery on exhibit

BELCHERTOWN & THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

On May 27th, Cliff McCarthy, the Archivist at the Stone House, presented an informal program on the Belchertown pioneers who journeyed to California during the Gold Rush which began in 1849. Cliff has been researching this important period in American history as a project of the Pioneer Valley History Network with funding by Mass Humanities.

Beginning 160 years ago, the Gold Rush was an important event in American history, having an enormous impact on migration, land development, the slavery debate, and the nation's economy. Motivated by "gold fever" or just a need for adventure, many pioneers from western Massachusetts – including at least nineteen from Belchertown -- journeyed west, risking their lives for the possibility of striking it rich. Some played important roles in the development of California; some returned to New England and built on their western adventures to achieve positions of stature and importance in our communities.



California Gold Dust Bags from the collection of the Stone House Museum

Cliff spoke about the lives of these "49ers" and he showed the Gold Rush artifacts in the Stone House museum. Enoch Burnett, Jr. brought back from the gold fields two gold dust bags and a model "goldwasher," a cradle device used to wash the sediment from the gold, which he probably used as a "salesman's sample" in California. Other Belchertown "forty-niners" that Cliff featured in his presentation were Nathaniel Dudley Goodell (a renown Sacramento architect), Dr. Charles Robinson (first governor of Kansas), and P.W. Burnett, who was involved in the construction of the California State Capitol building.

For more information, contact Cliff McCarthy at the Stone House. To see a database of Pioneer Valley Forty-Niners or an inventory of gold rush objects and documents in the Valley, go to: www.pioneervalleyhistorynetwork.org.

BHA Scholarship Recipient



The Belchertown Historical Association presents a scholarship every year to a graduating senior. The Board of Trustees voted to increase the amount this year from \$100 to \$200. This year's recipient is **Nicole Dexter**.

Nicole is a native of Belchertown and worked with AP History teacher Lawrence O'Brien, History Chair Bob Hansbury, and Doris Dickinson on the Bridgman Family Project. Nicole did all the photography for the project. Congratulations, Nicole!

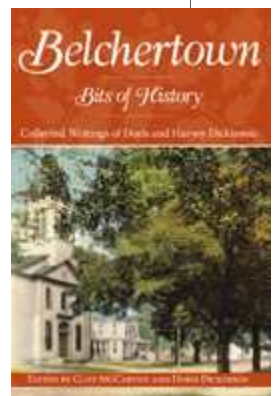
Belchertown: "Bits of History"

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

Our membership numbers continue to grow as we receive both renewals and new memberships. **Thank you to those who so promptly renewed membership for the new year.** If you have forgotten to send yours in its not too late! If you misplaced your form, you can find it on our website, use the short form below or call Member Chair, **Carol Mierzewski** at 413 323-4344.

Please welcome our newest members:

Martha Barrett **Gale Miron**
Sarah Prall Photography **Anthony Trifone**

We rely on memberships, donations, business sponsorship, and fundraising to maintain and care for the Stone House Museum and its collections, and to present exhibits and programs for the community. With your support we continue to promote and preserve our community treasure. **Thank you!!**

The following donations were received recently:

In Honor of **Doris Dickinson** from:
James Phaneuf
Laura Dickinson Curry
Mary Knight

In Memory of **Myrtle & Bernard Williams** from:
Shirley Cowles

In Memory of **Jack Avery** from: **Mary Avery**

In Memory of **Jack Hulmes, Sr.** from:
Jack & Peg Hulmes

In Memory of **Muriel Duggan** from:
Mike & Debbie Madden



MEMBERSHIP FORM -- thru April 30, 2010

Yes! I am pleased to support the Belchertown Historical Association and want to renew/join.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE (optional): _____ EMAIL (optional): _____

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

Indicate category of membership below and return the completed form with your tax deductible check **payable to Belchertown Historical Association**. Please consider moving up a level! Thank you very much for your support.

____ **Individual:** \$15 per person ____ **Family:** \$30 per family (children under 18)
____ **Student (under 18):** \$5 per person ____ **Friend:** \$50 ____ **Senior (65+):** \$8 per person ____ **Patron:** \$100 ____ **Benefactors:** \$250
____ **Additional Membership Donation** \$ _____
____ **Membership Donation in Honor or Memory of** _____
____ **Corporate Matching Program:** Attach employer's corporate matching gift form

Would you like to be involved in activities of the Association? If so, please indicate your interests and skills, and the best time for us to contact you. **Please consider including the Belchertown Historical Association in your estate plans.**

Mail to: Belchertown Historical Association — 20 Maple St. 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,

Ass't Curator: Shirley Bock
 Archivist: Cliff McCarthy

Board of Trustees '09-'10
 President: Thomas Stockton
 Vice President: Florine Neggers
 Vice President: Carol Mierzewski
 Secretary: Peg Louraine
 Treasurer: Linda Barron

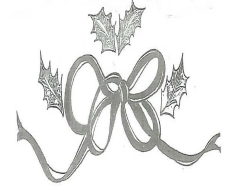
Maureen Austin William Barnett
 Martha Barrett James Chevalier
 Sally Shattuck Denise Smith
 Kenneth Snow Tony Trifone

Members Newsletter —
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YULETIDE AT THE STONE HOUSE NOVEMBER 7, 2009

The date has been set. The planning has begun. **It's not too early** to start thinking about what you can donate to make our sales area even more impressive than it has been in the past. Are you knitting mittens, an afghan or piecing a wall hanging or table runner?



Please consider making an extra or two to donate to our major fundraiser. Are beaded bookmarks, Christmas decorations, earrings, bath salts or sachets something you enjoy putting together? We can include them as part of our offerings as well.

We had the largest turnout ever last year and are hoping for even greater things this year but your handwork is what will keep people coming back AND bringing their friends along as well!

If you have any questions please feel free to call or email Diane Madore (283-6334, diane.madoregroup@charter.net) or Carol Mierzewski (323-4344, emierzewsk@aol.com)

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