



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2010

June 2010

Volume 10, Issue 3

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

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

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

Bottle & Can Drive Fundraiser Saturday October 2 9—2pm Checkers Redemption / Route 202 Pass the word - Start saving NOW! Volunteers: call Carol at 323 4344

It Takes a Community!

TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT President's Column

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 25th at the Masonic Hall. After our usual pot-luck luncheon and a fascinating trivia quiz conducted by **Marnie Henneman** those in attendance heard final reports on all the hard work done by the Museum, Finance, Bylaws, Education, and Nominating committees. We discussed the current state of our buildings and our plans for the coming 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 **Ken Snow** and **Bill Barnett** who are rotating off the board, and re-elected our officers.

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 still awaiting instructions on how the funds can be released to us before commencing work. We also continue to hope to be part of the preservation of the Washington District Schoolhouse.

Our Opening Day celebration, May 8, was a success in spite of the deluge. There were "Made In Belchertown" crafters, our "Old Bag" sale (where many found bargains), 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, **Carol Mierzewski** who rounded up volunteers and worked on the raffle and sales table, and **Becki Smith** and **Millie Harrington** for their work to make the grounds look so beautiful. Many thanks to all!

We also thank **Marnie Henneman** and **Louise Butler** for representing the Belchertown Historical Association at the annual Memorial Day commemoration at the Quabbin Cemetery.

We are again pleased this year to coordinate the theme of our exhibit with the museums in the Pioneer Valley History Network, and our Exhibit Room this year features Folk Art, including many items from Belchertown's past. Our exhibit includes portraiture; needlework (hooked rugs, samplers, and quilts); Family Registers and Mourning Pictures; items produced in town for sale (Subbekashe rugs and Moss Art); and Decorative items made from natural materials.



Congratulations!

The Belchertown Historical Association gave two Scholarships this year to graduating seniors.

Aaron Astley received the annual Belchertown Historical Association Scholarship and **Travis Chartier** received the Honorary Doris Dickinson Scholarship. Best of luck to both!

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Living History Days 2010

Great Family Event and Major Fundraiser — July 10 & 11



Saturday July 10th 9:00—4:00 pm Belchertown Common

- ◆ **4th annual Garden Tour**—Take a tour of some truly spectacular Belchertown gardens (\$15 per person) The variety and individuality of each garden make this a most popular feature.
- ◆ **Crafts Fair**—a new addition this year—local talent abounds in Belchertown and the surrounding communities! **Calling all craftspeople!** See info below.
- ◆ **Museum Tours**—visit our beautiful Stone House Museum and check out the new exhibit on Folk Art!
- ◆ **Free Carriage Rides**—this was a most popular feature last year for visitors of ALL ages.

Sunday July 11th 9:00—4:00 pm Belchertown Common

- ◆ **Small Engine Show**—FREE
- ◆ **Antique Car Show**—FREE

Raffle tickets will be on sale both days for a queen-sized coverlet quilt in the “Log Cabin Pattern” in a “fields and furrows” arrangement in turkey red and beige made by our own **Florine Neggars**. The weekend promises to be fun for the whole family. Please pass the word.



Members and Friends— Please join the fun and celebration of this weekend event!
Craftspeople and local artists—This year, we have included crafters to join us on the Common as part of our Living History Event, Saturday, July 10. If you are interested in renting booth space on the Common, contact **Carol Mierzewski** [emierzewsk@aol.com / 323-4344] or **Gerri Amprimo** [Gaamprimo@aol.com / 323-8633] for details.



Volunteers—As you might imagine, this weekend requires lots of hands! If you can spare some time, we will put your talents to use. Contact **Sally Shattuck** sallyshattuck@charter.net with your availability and preferences.

The Museum Committee is looking for help with House Tours this summer. We need two (2) people to be available on Saturday from 2—5pm through October. If we have enough volunteers, it will not be a chore. It really is fun and interesting. Information on the history of the house, its inhabitants and contents will be provided to you. Please call **Florine Neggars** at 413-213-0345 and let her know which Saturday you would be available. Thank you!! **It takes a community to manage our historic Stone House Museum!**

In The Exhibit Room: Folk Art

Our Past Enriching Our Future



The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines Folk Art as “Art originating among the common people of a nation or a region and usually reflecting their traditional culture, especially everyday or festive items produced or decorated by unskilled artists.” We have interpreted the term in its broadest sense. Our exhibit includes needlework, rugs, toys, decoration, even portraiture in our attempt to portray the past-times and tastes of Belchertown residents over the last two centuries and more.

Often the purpose of Folk Art was utilitarian, done with painstaking care to beautify a necessity in a cold New England house, as with the quilts. These also provided a wonderful excuse for women to meet with their friends, to chat and keep up with town news as they plied their needles, assembling hundreds of tiny pieces of bright cloth into a cherished work of art. Often Folk Art was education-oriented, as with the samplers. Often it was rustic, as with the garden lantern or the pinecone baskets. All the items on display reflect Belchertown, Massachusetts and its citizens, from our earliest piece, dated 1774, to the early Twenty-first Century.

Message from our President *Continued from Page 1*

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.

Plans are well underway for our annual Members Only Cocktail Party on June 25, and our Living History Days event on July 10-11. The Living History 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, tractors and cars will be on the Common. Some of the Stone House member crafters and more SUMMER OLD BAGS will also be on the Common, and we will again have horse-drawn carriage rides around the Common, raffles and sales items.

We are excited to announce that raffle tickets are now on sale for the beautiful turkey red “Log Cabin” 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!

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!

Quilt Raffle Encore!

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

For our 2010 fundraiser 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!

Opening Day at the Stone House Museum 2010

Carol Mierzewski

With rain clouds and intermittent downpours, this year's Opening Day brought many who came to buy plants, choose an Old Bag, buy a special gift for Mom from local crafters, or Tour the House, which was free to the public.



Sally Shattuck organized the plants along with master gardener **Elaine Williamson**. Weeks of collecting, digging up, storing, moving, identifying and tagging bushes, trees, and perennials brought many varieties at tag sale prices to all.



Linda Snow and **Cheryl Dutton** collected, stored and priced our "Old Bags".



Customers browsed under the tents for that special bargain bag. Bags priced from \$1 to \$10 along with some designer bags valued at \$20 were a steal. The "Old Bag shoppers always leave happy!"



Thanks to our crafters for their support: **Gale Miron, Jacob and Noah Humiston, Ann Maziarz and Charlene Ulmer, Marianne and Jim Gambaro, Dale Gardner-Fox, Roxanne Venskowski of Summersault Soaps, Linda Tsoumis, Denise McGoldrick, Lauralee Harrington.** The crafters and raffles were organized by **Gerri Amprimo** and **Carol Mierzewski**.



Florine Neggens and **Shirley Bock**, along with **Pat Warner, Randi Shenkman, Marnie Henneman, June Henneman,** and **Travis Chartier**, welcomed tours of the House and our new exhibit on Folk Art.

The winners of our raffles were: **Ann Belden, Gerri Amprimo, Erica Brazitis, Grace Adzima, Beth Jacobs, Gale Miron,** and **Phyllis Ducomb**.

This event would not be possible without the many volunteers who gave their time: **Ann Opalenik, Mary Ellen Kuzmeski, Cheryl McNamee, Becky Smith, Mike Madore, Owen Maloney, Ben Williams, Jim Chevalier, Peg Louraine, Nora Austin, Mary Alice Austin, Colleen McKeon, Ruth Berard, Nancy Pratt, Deb Madden, Ali Fenton, Cindy White, Deb Beauchamp, Holly Rainaud** and **Phyllis Ferriter**.

Special thanks to our business sponsors: **Randals Farm and Greenhouse, Hadley Garden Center, Andrews Greenhouse, Bell and Hudson Insurance Company, Eashampton Savings Bank, Making Waves The Salon, Jones-Bay Path Realty,** and **Station 5 Salon**.

Thank you to all those who helped make this event a success.



Remembrance Garden Update

By Nancy Pratt

Goethe once wrote: "One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words." I would add, "to appreciate a gift of nature." One of these gifts is the **Remembrance Garden** at the Stone House. With labors of love provided by **Millie Harrington** and **Becki Smith**, this spot has become a beautiful addition to the grounds of the museum. Dedicated on August 12, 2001, the garden has expanded over time to include areas to the south and north of the original plot. The donations to honor living and memorialize the dead are the sole support of all the

glorious beauty of the site throughout the seasons of the year, and the balance has kept our treasury sound.

Wouldn't YOU like to honor someone? Perhaps the memory of a loved one, a recent graduate of Belchertown High School, your child's favorite teacher, a sports team, an important wedding anniversary or birthday, deep gratitude of our armed forces, defenders of our freedom. The honorees or the families of the deceased will receive a notice of the gift. Acknowledgement will also be sent to the donors. The names of those honored and the donors are recorded in a register kept inside the Stone House. If you would like to honor someone, send a check made out to the "Belchertown Historical Association" with a Remembrance Garden notation in honor / memory of to Nancy Pratt, 370 West Street, Belchertown, MA 01007. Come visit the Garden and enjoy a moment in appreciation of nature's gifts or check out more pictures at our website: www.stonehousemuseum.org/remembrance.htm

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

Have you paid your dues? It's not too late! Check your mailing label of your Newsletter. If it reads 04/30/2010 then you are due to renew. If you have misplaced your form, you can use the form below or download a form from the website. Memberships to the Belchertown Historical Association make great gifts!

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
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 01007 | VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE,
 CALL US AT 413 323-6573 OR VIEW US AT
 WWW.STONEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

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**We love our
 Volunteers!!**

Peg and Lou
 Louraine
 watering the
 herb garden at
 the museum.



The results of nurturing care
 under the guidance of Millie
 Harrington and Becki Smith.



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