



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association  
Belchertown, Massachusetts  
1903—2012

January 2012

Volume 12, Issue 1

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

## 2012 Calendar

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

### February 4 6:30

#### Murder Mystery Dinner

BUCC Playhouse Event  
Villa Rose, Ludlow, MA  
Tickets \$35 must be purchased in advance at the Villa Rose, Cold Spring Discount Liquors or by calling 323-0946

**Bus Trip: March 14 to Boston Flower Show** and historic Quincy Market

**Bus Trip: Spring time in New York City**

More information will be announced on the Stone House Museum website and local papers. Contact Tom at 323-0946 if you don't want to be left out.

Planning is also already underway for our Annual Meeting in April, our annual **Opening Day Event** and plant sale (second Saturday of May), and our eighth annual **Living History event**. Won't you join us? Lots of hands make light work! Contact Tom at 323-0946 with your availability.

### 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

## "Winter" Wonderland NOT!

### BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and event-filled fall it has been! The Stone House is truly a busy place, filled with momentum and activity in all aspects of our mission and it is exciting to be part of such a vibrant organization! A lot has been happening with regards to the maintenance and preservation of our Museum, our finances, and of course, the social life of the Association.

Since our last newsletter we have had several fun-filled events and our volunteers have done much important work to secure the future of our Museum and Association.

Many of us enjoyed the **BUCC's production** of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, even though the final performance was almost SNOWED OUT! We couldn't have our semi-annual graveyard tours (a sleigh would have been more appropriate than the hearse **Blue Star Equiculture** was planning to pull!) BUT—In honor of our role in preserving "our town's" history, the Historical Association has been promised a share in the play performance's profits—watch the Sentinel for a final figure when the check is presented to us! We certainly are grateful for all the help we can get during these difficult financial times.

Then, postponed one week due to the weather, it was time for our annual **Yuletide Event**, and many kudos are due to **Sally Shattuck, Denise Smith, Maureen Austin, Carol Mierzewski, Becki Smith** and the whole committee for bringing off



*An October 29, 2011 snowstorm brought most events to a standstill in Belchertown for over a week!*

this event so beautifully. Our many elegant baskets, wreaths, and crafts were the talk of the town and all who attended. The Yuletide Event culminated with the drawing of our Fifth Annual **Cash Raffle**. We owe so many thanks to all those who supported our raffle so cheerfully, and to all who gave of their time selling tickets. I am pleased to announce that this was a very successful raffle for us. Our prizewinners were **Sandy Bronner** (\$500), **Yun Fang Hsiao** (\$200) and **Irving Hislop** (\$100).

And as soon as Thanksgiving was over it was off to New York with our annual NYC Bus trip! Thanks again to all who donated their time, talents, and treasure to make these last major events of 2011 a success.

We continue to devote as much time as possible to preserving and upgrading our

*Continued on page 3*



### Volunteers Ready the Stone House for the Holidays

The Stone House looked very festive this holiday season due to the hard work of some special volunteers. The Carriage Barn and Print Shop were illuminated at night and the fencing was festooned with pine garlands and wreaths.

Thank you **Millie Harrington, Phyllis Ferriter, Helen Towne, Becki Smith, Tom Stockton and Denise Smith** for making the House and grounds look spectacular.



### THANK YOU MEMBERS!!

The Board of Trustees thanks all who helped to make this year's Yuletide a success. Members who donated themed baskets, the cooks and bakers who filled our kitchen with a variety of goodies, the members who donated their handicrafts to our sales room, our member photographers (**Les Campbell, Elaine Darr-Morton, and Jim Gambaro**) who donated their framed works, our volunteers who worked the day and those who sponsored our event with monetary donations. It takes a Membership. Thank you all for your continued support.



### Yuletide a Great Success

It was a great day for Yuletide at the Stone House. Many visitors came and enjoyed the beautifully decorated rooms and took advantage of some early Holiday shopping.



Shoppers in the sales room above. Below, Ken Henneman and Erica Morrison-Brazitis share holiday greetings.



Above, visitors eye the goodies in the kitchen. Right: Elaine Darr-Morton and Les Campbell pick out their favorites.



Above, woolen dog coats made by Florine Neggers were very popular thanks to the early snow.



Louise Butler in period costume greets visitors at the Yuletide event.

## Membership Update

By Carol Mierzewski  
emierzewsk@aol.com 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. Thanks!

We thank all of our generous donors and join them in remembering those who have played such important rôles in the life of our Association, like Don Towne and Harvey Dickinson.



Please Welcome New Members:  
**Downy Family**  
**Elizabeth Ward**

### Gifts Received:

**In Honor of Jane Gabbie** from Suewilla Woodfork  
**In Memory of Don Towne and Harvey Dickinson** from Tom Stockton

### In Memoriam

**Helen Lister, 94**, formerly of Belchertown, passed away in early November 2011. Helen was as a Curator at the Stone House, and worked part-time at the Post Office and the Clapp Memorial Library after retiring from the State School as an Industrial therapist.

### *Message from our President Continued from Page 1*

physical plant. We have upgraded the alarm system in the Ford Annex and Sentinel Building in order to eliminate the many false alarms that have cost the police extra work and the Association extra money. Work has been completed on our new Climate Control System, including the installation of a new oil burner and appropriately-sized air conditioning unit. This should help with our energy efficiency and create a more stable environment for our artifacts. We were finally able to complete this project after receiving the Community Preservation funds voted to us by Town Meeting in May 2009. When we receive the rest of the funds from 2009's grant we can move on to the structural improvements needed in our cellar and attic. Look for a new museum sign, replacing our dilapidated old one, and we have been undertaking some long-needed repairs and improvements to the Tremaine House and Barn. **Robert Hislop** has been spearheading those projects, and this work will be continuing in the spring.

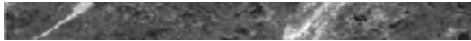
We have been fortunate to obtain for our collection a rare 19<sup>th</sup> century cast-iron road sign showing the way to "BELCHERTOWN" with a hand pointing the direction. Only three other of these signs are known to exist—one for Monmouth Center, one for Amherst, and one for Greenfield. The sign was purchased for the Ford Annex, in honor of **Don Towne** with money donated by **Roseann Nulman**. The sign has been beautifully mounted on a Butternut board by trustee **Tony Trifone**. Other exciting projects underway relate to the redecoration of the Museum interior and front hallway and re-designing the exhibit room. Much work remains to be done this winter and spring. Volunteers who are interested in this type of work are encouraged to contact us about their availability!

And speaking of winter and spring, it is not too early to mark your calendar for two upcoming fun fundraising events. First, our seventh annual **Mystery Dinner Theater** will be held on our (now) traditional date of the First Saturday in February (Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>). We are very excited that our actors from last year will be returning again: actors will be organized by **Todd Farnsworth** and the fees we usually pay the actors will serve as a fundraiser for the Congregational Church. Tickets are now available, and we hope for a good turnout again this year, as this fundraiser helps get us through the dark dreary months of winter. The ticket price will be \$35.00 (\$4 less than last year!) and includes dinner and the show at the Villa Rose in Ludlow.

Second, we will again this year have a **Bus Trip to the Boston Flower Show** and historic Quincy Market, and are planning a first-ever **Spring Trip to NYC**. These trips usually sell out quickly, so try to get your reservations in quickly. The Flower Show trip is being planned for Wednesday March 14. We are still negotiating ticket prices, so look for upcoming announcements in the Sentinel or call me for more information: 323-0946.

Finally, planning is already underway for our Annual Meeting in April, our annual **Opening Day Event** and plant sale, (to be held on the second Saturday of May), and our eighth annual **Living History Days**. Volunteers and plant donations will be gratefully accepted this spring.

As winter progresses we continue to be active in working to promote our mission even though the museum is not open for regularly scheduled hours. We hope many of our members and friends will take advantage of the fun and educational activities in our upcoming calendar.



BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
 BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007-1211

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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## Murder Mystery Dinner



The **Belchertown Historical Association** will hold its 7th Annual Murder Mystery Dinner on **Saturday, February 4th** at 6:30 PM (show starts at 7:00) at the **Villa Rose (Route 21) in Ludlow.**

We are very excited that our actors this year are BUCC'S PLAYHOUSE, so this event will also serve as a fundraiser for

the **Belchertown Congregational Church.**

What do a high-powered salesman, an inventor, a marketing guru, a big eater, a sound sleeper, a sex kitten, and a diet enthusiast have in common? **The Bycle Cycle**, an amazing new exercise device that is taking Belchertown by storm. How the cycle was invented is another story, however, and has a twisted ending that will make your muscles ache with laughter. Join Michael Bycle, Ian Ventor, Sheila Closit, Sue Flay, Matt Napper, Callie Katz, and Dan D. Diet as they bend, push, and pull their way through an intriguing night of exercise. **And whoever said exercise will kill you, is right!**

This is always a fun, entertaining event and is a much-needed fundraiser for us this year. **The tickets are \$35 and include the show and a complete chicken dinner. There will be a cash bar.** Tickets are available at Cold Spring Discount Liquors (on the Common), the Villa Rose, or for more information people can call **Tom Stockton at 323-0946.**

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