

NEWS from Hancock Shaker Village



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Contact Shawn Hartley Hancock
Director of Marketing & Communications
413-443-0188 x 221 shancock@hancockshakervillage.org



Caption: Hancock Shaker Village will hold its annual Gala, “Back to Our Roots,” on Saturday, July 18, from 5 to 10 pm in the Event Tent at the Village. The evening promises a variety of “wild” moments.

Back to Our Roots Gala at Hancock Shaker Village verges on the wild side this year, with open fires, wild bison, and an enormous plastic cow presiding

Pittsfield, MA..... This year’s Gala at Hancock Shaker Village promises to be a bit on the wild side. “We’re not forsaking our Shaker heritage,” says Linda Steigleder, President and CEO of HSV. “We’re just mixing things up to make a great party!”

Let's start with the basics: food and music. The evening will feature sustainably-sourced cocktails and cuisine prepared over an open fire by [Fire Roasted Catering](#) of Great Barrington, a specialty caterer known for rustic, elegant food that celebrates a connection with local and seasonal ingredients. Yum!

... And the music! Call it hot swing or gypsy jazz, live music will be provided by [The Lucky 5 Jazz Band](#)! The band brings verve, high energy, and an unpredictable impulse to the tradition of jazz from the 20s, 30s and 40s. Easy to dance to or just to sit and listen while gazing at the Rounds Stone Barn as the sun sets.

What would a gala be without those rousing live and silent auctions? HSV's special "Cause within the Cause" will focus on the revitalization of its Discovery Barn, a hands-on learning center for children and families. The space is well-known to area children, many of whom have tried on a Shaker dress or bonnet there, or held a baby chick. While every other historic building at HSV has gotten new paint and much-needed repairs in the last year, the Discovery Barn (part of the site's 1910 Barn), needs an upgrade and a new vision.

To drive home the case for the Discovery Barn overhaul, HSV's very own Mary Jane, a life-size plastic cow who represents a beloved dairy cow who lived and grazed on the Shaker Farm in the 1930s (also called Mary Jane), will be un-hooked from her plumbing in the Discovery Barn and wheeled across the farm and into the Event Tent to inspire the gathered party-goers.

Finally, those bison.... Peter Fay of Mohawk Bison in Goshen, CT, will be at the Village all day distributing info on bison, which he raises on his farm. Fay had his 15 minutes of fame a few years ago when a rare white bison was born on his farm. Such a rare occurrence is believed to be sacred among Native Americans, some of whom traveled to CT from western states to attend the naming ceremony for the baby animal... Bison meat is on the menu of the Gala.

Gala tickets start at \$200 and are available on the HSV website or by calling 413-443-0188, x 0, during business hours.

About Hancock Shaker Village

From 1784 until 1959, Hancock Shaker Village was home to hundreds of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, a close-knit sect of Protestants originally from England. They were commonly called Shakers because of the whirling, quaking and "shaking" they exhibited during their religious services.

Since 1960, Hancock Shaker Village has been open to the public as an outdoor history museum preserving the Shaker legacy. While only a few are still living (all at Sabbath day Lake in Maine; none live at Hancock), the Shakers are best-known today for their simple and elegant furniture, many ingenious inventions, communal living and deep spirituality. “Hands to work and heart to God,” a Shaker axiom attributed to founder Mother Ann Lee, sums up their belief that hard work was a form of prayer or devotion to God.

Located on 750 acres in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, Hancock Shaker Village features a museum collection of more than 20,000 authentic Shaker artifacts (gift drawings, furniture, textiles, etc), 20 historic buildings (including the majestic Round Stone Barn) in a preserved and walkable village setting, a working farm with heritage livestock and extensive gardens of vegetables, flowers and herbs.

Visitors enjoy a rotating schedule of exhibits, programs and workshops in both the historic Village and the modern Visitor Center, a variety of individual and group tours, a mile-long hiking trail, and indoor and outdoor picnic areas.

Hancock Shaker Village is open seven days a week, including holidays, from 10 am to 4 pm through June 28. Beginning June 29 and through the close of the season on November 1, visitor hours are 10 am to 5 pm. The Village Harvest Café, serving lunch and snacks, and the Village Store (also online) are both open daily during visitor hours.

Adult admission is \$20 (many discounts apply), youth admission (ages 13 to 18) is \$8, and children age 12 and under are always free on family visits. Scout troops, churches, school field trips and other groups enjoy reduced group rates. For more information, visit our website: hancockshakervillage.org.