

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images available upon request.

Hancock Shaker Village Presents
“Shalom: Weaving Threads of Peace” Mixed Media Assemblages by Wendy Rabinowitz

Pittsfield, Mass.— Hancock Shaker Village will present “Shalom: Weaving Threads of Peace” mixed-media assemblages by Wendy Rabinowitz in the Poultry House Gallery. This exhibition will open on Saturday, August 4 with a reception from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and run through Sunday, August 26 daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Rabinowitz will also give a gallery talk as part of the Village’s Return & Learn series on Saturday, August 11 at 2:00pm. Return & Learn sessions are free to HSV members and included with general admission. For more information or to make reservations for the “Threads of Peace” opening reception, call 800.817.1137.

Nationally recognized Pittsfield-based artist Wendy Rabinowitz’s unique artwork combines weaving and textile arts with other visual arts, graphics, and the written word, resulting in mixed media assemblages. Recognition of a living spirituality permeates all of her work. In response to divine revelation, around 1842 the Shakers gave each of their villages a spiritual name, and Hancock became *The City of Peace*; interestingly, that is also a popular English translation of *Jerusalem*, with *Salem* being similar to the Hebrew word *Shalom* (*Peace*). This is just one of the many intriguing connections between Shaker and Jewish spirituality that are reflected upon in this exhibit and gallery talk.

Additional shared themes to be explored include deep reverence for the earth, the sacred work of our hands, and respect for craftsmanship. Rabinowitz’s Shalom series celebrates the synchronicity between strands of Judaism and Shakerism, not only through shared values, and a rich symbolism and iconography, but also through reverence for the land and community.

This gallery show will be on display in conjunction with the Shaker Shalom collaboration between Hancock Shaker Village and Congregation Knesset Israel, “Shaker Soul and Jewish Neshama: A Spiritual Bond,” which includes a gala celebration, Klezmer concert, and live and silent auctions on

Sunday, August 12. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Rabinowitz's work will help to support Hancock Shaker Village programming.

Rabinowitz's artwork may be previewed online at www.hancockshakervillage.org. For more information, please call 800.817.1137.

About Hancock Shaker Village

Hancock Shaker Village, the Shaker “City of Peace,” brings the Shaker story to life and preserves it for future generations. The Village portrays principled living, as embodied in the faith-based values of the Shakers – equality, community, sustainability, and responsible land stewardship of their resources—values that resonate today.

Hancock Shaker Village members and children 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Admission for adults is \$17 and youth visitors aged 13 to 17 are \$8.

Hancock Shaker Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, Mass., just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For GPS purposes, the Village is located at 34 Lebanon Mountain Rd., Hancock, Mass. 01237. Or, enter 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201 then proceed 1/2 mile further West on Rt. 20 to the parking lot.

Caption for the image:

“WOMEN AT THE WALL: A Sanctuary of Peace” by Wendy Rabinowitz, which was exhibited at the United Nations in 2007.

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