

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Images available upon request.

**“Shaker Shalom”—Celebrating Similarities in Shaker and Jewish Traditions
Hancock Shaker Village and Kneset Israel Congregation
Present Two Collaborative Events**

Pittsfield, Mass.—Hancock Shaker Village and Kneset Israel Congregation will present two collaborative events exploring the shared customs from the Shaker tradition and from Judaism, two cultures of peace.

“Shaker Soul and Jewish Neshama: a Spiritual Bond Conversation” panel discussion between Rabbi David Weiner of Kneset Israel, Pastor Kim Kie of New Hope United Methodist Church, and Professor Jane Crosthwaite of Mt. Holyoke College’s religious studies department will take place on Tuesday June 26 at 7:30pm at Congregation Kneset Israel Synagogue (16 Colt Road in Pittsfield, Mass.). Light refreshments will be served. “These ‘Shaker Shalom’ conversations offer good opportunities to unearth and to explore common roots and the continuing common interests of these two religious traditions,” said Professor Crosthwaite. This event is open to the public by reservation; \$5 suggested donation. RSVP to Kneset Israel at 413.445.4872.

“Shaker Shalom: A Gala Celebration and Concert,” a joint fundraising event with proceeds equally benefiting Hancock Shaker Village and Congregation Kneset Israel Synagogue, will take place on Sunday August 12 at 5:30pm at Hancock Shaker Village. It will include cocktails and an elegant Shaker-inspired kosher picnic created by Chef Michael Roller, followed by a Shaker-Jewish fusion concert by clarinet virtuoso Paul Green and his Neshoma Klezmer Ensemble and auction in the Round Stone Barn. Concert-only tickets are \$36; Gala tickets range from \$150 to \$1000. Tickets may be purchased by calling Hancock Shaker Village at 413.443.0188 or online at www.hancockshakervillage.org.

In conjunction with these two events, Hancock Shaker Village will also present **“Shalom: Weaving Threads of Peace Mixed Media Assemblages by Wendy Rabinowitz”** in the Poultry House Gallery. This exhibition will run from Saturday, August 4 through Sunday, August 26 from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily. Pittsfield-based artist Wendy Rabinowitz relates the Shaker ideals of peace with Jewish ideals of Shalom in her artwork that combines weaving and textile arts with other visual arts, graphics, and the written word, resulting in mixed media assemblages. The exhibition is free to HSV members and included with general admission.

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.

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. For more information, call 800.817.1137 or see www.hancockshakervillage.org.

About Congregation Kneset Israel

Congregation Kneset Israel is a warm and welcoming egalitarian synagogue community serving the entire Berkshire region. Founded in 1893, Kneset Israel is committed to participatory prayer, life-long Jewish learning, Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World), and sharing the joys and challenges of life. For more information, call 413.445.4872 or see www.knesetisrael.org.

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