

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Hancock Shaker Village Holiday Festivities
Thanksgiving Weekend Shaker Supper
Museum Store Sale and Downtown Pittsfield Pop-up Shop**

PITTSFIELD, Mass. – Hancock Shaker Village will present a holiday pop-up shop in downtown Pittsfield at the Berkshire Commons (2 South Street) beginning Friday, November 30 before and after the City of Pittsfield tree lighting ceremony on Park Square, and then on Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The Village's popular annual holiday sale will be held at the Museum Store from Friday, November 23 through Sunday, November 25, 10:00am to 5:00pm daily. Sale prices, including double discounts for HSV members, will be applicable online at www.hancockshakervillage.org. The Village will also host the last Shaker Supper of the season on Saturday, November 24, beginning at 4:00pm.

Shoppers will score great deals on unique gifts, such as Shaker oval boxes and carriers, books, food items (soup mixes, jams and jellies, honey), children's gifts, and holiday ornaments. Hancock Shaker Village Members will receive an extra 20% discount off of sale prices, for a total of 40% off oval boxes and other wooden items during Member Shopping Days November 23-25. This is the only time of year that Hancock Shaker Village discounts oval boxes.

While the holiday pop-up shop is a new tradition for the museum, the Hancock Shakers sold their goods in Pittsfield both as peddlers and at local stores from the 1790s through the 1950s. Shaker products, ranging from seeds, herbal medicines, and candies to textiles, woodenware, and pincushions, were renowned for their fine quality and were considered good products at fair prices. In 1808, Pittsfield Congregational Minister Thomas Allen

described the Shakers as “very harmless, innocent people, good citizens, and honest, industrious, peaceable members of society. They are good farmers and artists, and offer nothing for sale that is deceptive.”

The Thanksgiving weekend Shaker Supper will take place in the Village’s 1830 Brick Dwelling, which was home to 100 Shaker Brethren and Sisters in the late 19th century. Today, the Dwelling houses much of the National Historic Landmark museum’s premier collection of Shaker furniture and artifacts. The evening begins with a private tour, led by guides in Shaker garb; dinner guests get to see Village work areas and living quarters and gain insights into Shaker life. Appetizers are served in the Brick Dwelling’s kitchen with cider and cheese (beer and wine available for purchase) and supper in the Believers’ Dining Room, where courses are served by candlelight. The cost is \$65 per person or \$60 for members of Hancock Shaker Village. This price includes the guided tour, reception, dinner, and music. Reservations are required and can be made via www.hancockshakervillage.org or by calling 413.443.0188 ext. 100.

About Hancock Shaker Village

Situated on a picturesque expanse of farm, field, and woodland in Pittsfield, Mass., Hancock Shaker Village is an outdoor living history museum and center for the study of principled living in the 21st century. The fully restored Village includes 20 historic buildings, heirloom medicinal and vegetable gardens, 22,000 examples of Shaker furniture, crafts, tools, and clothes that depict daily life at the Shakers’ City of Peace through its 220 years, as well as heritage breed farm animals and spectacular hiking trails. Visit and enjoy daily tours, craft and cooking demonstrations, lectures and workshops, and a variety of activities for children and families, as well as a Museum Store and Shaker-inspired cuisine at the Village Harvest Café. The Discovery Room offers hands-on opportunities for kids of all ages to try their hand at chair seat weaving, working at a loom, trying on Shaker-style clothing, or milking a life-sized replica of a cow. An interactive audio tour (free with admission) is available in English, French, Italian, and German. Additionally HSV offers an executive every-other weekend Master of Science

in Design & Historic Preservation program in collaboration with UMASS Amherst; see www.umass.edu/preservation for more information about degree and elective coursework and opportunities.

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.

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