



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[Digital images attached]

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Carolyn McDaniel

cmcdaniel@hancockshakervillage.org

413.443.0188 x221

**HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE ANNOUNCES OPENING  
OF NEW RESTAURANT: BIMI'S CAFÉ  
*OPENING MAY 28, 2021***

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, May 24, 2021 – Hancock Shaker Village announced today that it has partnered with restaurant entrepreneurs **Ellen Waggett** and **Christopher Landy** to open **Bimi's Café** at Hancock Shaker Village with **Chef Joshua Kelly** on Friday, May 28.

Farm-to-table has become a cliché, but at the Village it's actually true, where the farm is a stone's throw from the kitchen door.

**Bimi's Café**, serving locally sourced freshly prepared foods and espresso drinks, is owned and operated by the television production and lighting designer husband and wife team Christopher Landy and Ellen Waggett. A shared passion for delicious food, authentic experience, and exceptional service brought Landy and Waggett to Hancock Shaker Village, where diners can walk the farm's trails where some of the café's ingredients will be harvested from the Village, which is a museum as well as the oldest working farm in the region.

"The mission and vision of Bimi's," said Jennifer Trainer Thompson, Director of Hancock Shaker Village, "as well as Ellen and Chris' passion for locally sourced high-quality ingredients, are so much a part of what we do here. We *are* the farm in farm to table – so of course we want the table too. We're tremendously excited that Chef Josh will be bringing his considerable talents to the Village."

Open when the museum is open, including evenings when there are concerts and other public events, Bimi's Café at Hancock Shaker Village will provide a new exciting culinary option for museum and evening visitors, as well as those who live and work locally. With dining indoors as well as outdoors, beginning Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> Bimi's Café at Hancock Shaker Village will be open daily from 11 am – 4 pm. Purchasing a ticket to Hancock Shaker Village is not required to enjoy the café.

**Ellen Waggett and Christopher Landy** are theatrical designers with television credits that recently include production design for late night shows such as *Late Night with Seth Meyers* (Ellen) and lighting design for *Oprah with Meghan and Harry: A CBS Primetime Special* (Chris). Their desire for fresh, sustainable, local foods served as inspiration for their entrepreneurial

venture with Bimi's Cafe. Currently, Chris and Ellen are the principal designers at their television design firm Vibrant Design in Brooklyn, New York, and owners of Bimi's Cheese Shop in Chatham, New York.

**Executive chef Joshua Kelly** grew up in the Hudson valley and first worked for chef Tom Carlucci, catering hundreds of events and weddings throughout the region. His subsequent culinary education was at Johnson & Wales University before moving to Colorado. For the past five years, Josh has been the culinary director for a restaurant group in Colorado Springs, having been the executive chef and project manager for six successful restaurants of different styles. Josh has returned to the region to join the team at Bimi's.

## **ABOUT HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE**

Hancock Shaker Village, a living history museum on 750 acres in the heart of the Berkshires, is located at 1843 West Housatonic Street, Pittsfield, MA. A National Historic Landmark, the property includes twenty historic Shaker buildings dating back to 1783, and the oldest working farm in the Berkshires with heritage breeds and heirloom gardens. The museum is home to more than 22,000 artifacts including furniture, textiles, hymnals, and everyday goods, making it one of the premier Shaker collections in the world.

The Shakers settled in the Berkshires in 1780, building a vast village that extended over the towns of Hancock, Pittsfield, and Richmond in Western Massachusetts. They called the village the City of Peace and created a value-driven communal society that nurtured goals as far-ranging as gender and racial equality, social reform, sustainability, innovation, and pacifism. Their buildings, furniture, and artifacts emphasize Shaker attitudes toward honesty, utility, and design, and remain a lasting legacy for us today and into the future. The Shakers' influence on American history extends far beyond their relatively small numbers. This influence lives on at Hancock Shaker Village, and manifests in the buildings and artifacts we steward, the exhibitions we present, and our programs that tell a story rooted in the fertile soil of history, imagination, dedication, and beauty. Simply stated, Hancock Shaker Village exists to provide an historic context to the Shaker story, to preserve the site and all it contains for future generations, and to bring this narrative to life in compelling ways.