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HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE OPENS FOR THE 2023 SEASON ON APRIL 15TH WITH A CELEBRATION OF BABY ANIMALS

(HANCOCK, MA – March 27, 2023) Springtime at Hancock Shaker Village heralds the arrival of new life on the farm. Experience the ritual of renewal by welcoming this year’s Baby Animals. Meet our newest arrivals – lambs, piglets, calves, chicks, and kids (goats, that is) – and enjoy a wide variety of events and activities throughout the village. A family favorite for over twenty years, this celebration kicks off the 2023 season. This year’s programming explores our Shaker roots across the farm and in the Village, their commitment to the perfection of form and function in daily life, the global reach of iconic Shaker designs, and the artists they inspire today.

“Don’t miss our 21st annual Baby Animals Festival!” says Director Nathaniel Silver. “Nowhere else can you cuddle an adorable piglet, learn more about the life on the farm, and discover the fascinating contributions that the Shakers made to society”. From special tours of the farm to wood-working workshops in the recently refurbished Tannery, from our weekly **Goat Yoga** to an exclusive dinner and talk with award-winning author **Ilyon Woo**, we’ve got something for everyone.”

Baby Animals returns for its 21st season, opening Saturday April 15th (through May 7th). Enjoy daily talks from our farm team and explore the Village. Our exclusive **Behind the Scenes Tours** return this year too. Starting at 10am, before the village opens, they provide a hands-on experience with the animals and a wagon hayride tour of the Village (special tickets required; book online soon as they sell out quickly). And if you enjoy a day out on the farm, then you’ll love to see our flock get tidied up on **Sheep Shearing Weekend**, April 22nd and 23rd.

Join us this year and experience all we have to offer. Thanks to a magnificent renovation, **The Tannery** – the heart and soul of our craftsmen – looks better than ever. Inside, we feature drawings by Danish cabinet maker **Ejner Handberg**, who settled in the Berkshires, visited Hancock, and recorded local Shaker masterpieces for prosperity. Published as a how-to manual for craftsmen, Handberg’s handbook went viral – long before social media – sending their iconic designs around the world. Elsewhere, our special exhibitions shine new light on the brilliance of

Shaker ideas and the art they inspired. ***Handled with Care***, a collaboration with the New Britain Museum of American Art, surfaces hidden gems in our own collection, while ***Stillness and Light*** – an exhibition of black-and-white photographs by John Mancina – reveals the breathtaking beauty and simple harmony of Shaker architecture that resonate across our beloved historic site. Two of American painter **Barbara Prey's** critically acclaimed watercolors, *Red Cloak Blue Bucket* and *Wood Work*, produced during her 2018-19 residency, extend the exploration of light in the Shaker tradition across the Village. And if you're craving that personalized experience, sign up for **Treasures from the Vault** to join our curator for a rare peek at the Village's exquisite collection of gift drawings, many made by local Shaker sisters.

Best known for their exacting handwork, the Shakers inspire our season of workshops. Hone your hand skills in the forge in the **1-on-1 Blacksmithing Workshop**, learn to make a Shaker whisk broom in the **Swept Away with Brooms Workshop**, weave a basket in the **Shaker Cheese Basket** and **Lattice Basket Workshops**, and join the **Oval Box Workshop** to learn art of the iconic Shaker box.

Come for the art and enjoy the music. Chill out under the stars with our **Back Porch Concerts** (and don't forget your picnic blanket!). On Friday July 8th, North Adams native **CJ Fields** delivers the soulful sound and Nashville twang of his rock and roots collaboration. *Rolling Stone Magazine* featured country artist **Phoebe Hunt** debuts at the Village on Friday July 21st, bringing her irresistible combination of fiddle and vocals to our stage beneath the stars. On August 18th, singer-songwriter and Berkshires local **Tony Lee Thomas** takes the Back Porch to strum his bewitching guitar melodies. And September 1st, troubadour **Jake Klar** returns home to enchant you with soul-feeding storytelling.

And there's more! Be inspired at Hancock with our multi-course **Cider Dinner**, hosted by craft cider maker *Berkshire Cider Project* and learn more about their single-varietal specialty brew made from the heirloom apples of our Shaker orchard. Enjoy a Berkshire sunset with your favorite drink during our **Sunset Celebrations** on June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th. Speaking of drinks, kick off Father's Day weekend with a **Craft Beer Dinner**, highlighting the local *Bright Lights Brewing*. And don't forget to bring a bite of the Village home – purchase a share of our **Vegetable & Herb CSA** and savor the flavors of heirloom varieties, raised sustainably by our team in the best traditions of the Shakers.

From lectures by award-winning authors to behind-the-scenes talks with our curator; we will re-connect you with our Shaker roots and the rich tapestry of this country's history.

HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE SPRING/SUMMER 2023 SEASON AT A GLANCE

BABY ANIMALS FESTIVAL

April 15th - May 7th.

Daily 11am-4pm.

Activities for all ages during Baby Animals – for schedule, visit HancockShakerVillage.org

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

April 15th - May 7th. Daily 10am-11am

Hop aboard our hayride and get the dirt about our farm from our farmers. Learn little known facts and secrets about the Shaker farm, and pet baby goats, lambs, and piglets. Tours are limited to 20 people and happen only once daily so sign up here soon. Fee includes admission to the Village for the day.

STILLNESS AND LIGHT, by John Mancia

On view beginning April 15th

The exhibition, Stillness and Light, comprised of sixteen black and white photographs captured one autumn morning in 2017 by John Mancia, attest to the particular qualities of light across the Village.

HANDLED WITH CARE: THE FUNTION OF FORM IN SHAKER CRAFT

On view beginning April 15th

From baskets to boxes, the Shakers elevated the everyday objects around them with beauty, order, and proportion. Join us this for this exhibition in collaboration with the New Britain Museum of American Art.

SHAKER SUPPERS

Have you ever wondered what the Shaker's thought about racial equality? Did you know that the swivel chair was a Shaker invention? Have you heard about the scandals in these communal societies? Find out more at our four part Shaker Supper series. Enjoy a delicious communal meal from 6:00-8:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased in sets of 4 or individually for dinner.

May 12th: Learn more about Shaker Bio's

June 9th: Prepare for shock with these Shaker Scandals

September 8th: Get inspired with Shaker Innovation

November 3rd: Learn more about the Shaker and Racial Equality

Ticket pricing is coming soon!

WORKSHOP: SHAKER LIGHT AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Join photographer John Mancia for a Hand-on-photography workshop that explores Shaker light. During the workshop participants will explore the meaning of light to the Shakers, visit several Shaker Buildings to examine the interplay of light and architecture and experiment with light in their own photography. Participants should provide their own camera or phone for taking images.

Saturday, May 13th, 10AM – 1PM (rain date: Saturday, May 20th)
Saturday, October 14th, 10AM – 1PM (rain date: Saturday, October 21st)

WORKSHOP: BLACKSMITHING 101 FOR 1-ON-1

Learn basic blacksmithing skills at the Village's coal-fired forge with instructor Rick Ryer. Learn to manage a coal forge fire, heat stock, form the stock using tools such as hammers and anvils, and complete finish work (which includes operating an electric grinder). Participants will make two j-hooks and if time allows a fireplace poker. No previous experience required.

Saturday, June 3rd, 10AM – 12PM
Saturday, July 1st, 10AM- 12PM
October 7th, 10AM- 12PM

SUNSET CELEBRATIONS

Berkshire Sunsets are works of art! Stop by the Village to drink in the golden hour view. Sip a favorite beverage from the bar and bring your friends for our Sunset Celebration series.

June 21st - Celebration Kick-off, Summer Solstice
July 19th – Sunset Celebration
August 16th – Final Sunset Celebration

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, Barbra Prey

July 13th, 6:00-8:30

Enjoy a delicious dinner and hear American artist and the New York Senate's *Women of Distinction* Award winner Barbara Prey, speak about her work (including two painting on view in the Chace Gallery)

Ticket pricing is coming soon!

BRIGHT IDEAS CRAFT BEER DINNER

June 16th, 6pm

Looking for a truly memorable night out? Bright Ideas brewing brings their locally brewed craft beers to pair with a delicious farm-to-table meal. Discover the deep-rooted flavors of each beverage, as you enjoy the view and learn more from the brewers. Its great way to kick-off Father's Day weekend!

WORKSHOP: LATTICE BASKET

Saturday, June 24th, 10AM – 3PM

Join instructor Sandy Salada to create this fun and easy basket (8"H, 10" diameter), woven in natural reed. Perfect for a planter or catch-all basket, the basket has a square plain weave bottom then weaves diagonally up the sides to a round top. No experience needed. Suitable for ages 14 and up. Maximum capacity: 10 participants.

WORKSHOP: OVAL BOX

Learn how to make iconic Shaker oval boxes in this two-day workshop with instructor Rick Ryer. The workshop also includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the Village's collection of Shaker oval boxes and other handmade treasures. Beginners are welcome.

Saturday – Sunday, June 24th – June 25th, 10AM – 3PM

Saturday – Sunday, September 16th – 17th, 10AM – 3PM

BACK PORCH MUSIC: CJ Fields

July 7th, 7PM-9PM

Berkshire County native CJ Fields is a Grammy-nominated songwriter who has a soulful sound with southern rock influences. "The best new debut album I've seen in a long time!" That's what folks rooting around the radio station are saying about CJ Fields modern day cash", declares *Roothog Radio*.

\$25/day of (\$20/advance); kids 12 and under free.

Purchase tickets at hancockshakervillage.com

Concerts are on the back Porch-guest sit on the lawn, bring a blanket or lawn chair. If rain is forecast, the concert will move indoors. Doors open at 6:30PM. Tickets are non-refundable. Cash Bar.

3rd ANNUAL CIDER MAKER'S DINNER

Saturday, July 15th, 6PM

Artisanal local cider maker Berkshire Cider Project produces a fine, sparkling hard cider from their heirloom apples gathered from the Village's historic orchard. Join us for a special dinner al fresco to launch the 2023 vintage of BCP's Hancock Shaker Village Hard Cider. The evening begins with a stroll in the orchard, then continue with a multi-course dinner featuring cinder pairings and remarks by the makers.

BACK PORCH MUSIC: Phoebe Hunt

July 21st, 7:00-9:00

Austin Music Awards featured folk artist and fiddle player, Phoebe Hunt, performs music from her newly released album "*Nothing Else Matters*". *Rolling Stone* makes it clear, "Hunt certainly doesn't neglect her roots, but she doesn't wallow in the dirt of her influences, either."

\$25/day of (\$20/advance); kids 12 and under free.

Purchase tickets at hancockshakervillage.com

Concerts are on the back Porch-guest sit on the lawn, bring a blanket or lawn chair. If rain is forecast, the concert will move indoors. Doors open at 6:30PM. Tickets are non-refundable. Cash Bar.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, Ryan Bernsten

July 27th, 6:00-8:30

Enjoy dinner at the Village and hear Author, Podcaster, *Trevor Project* Editor, Ryan Bernsten, discuss his book *50 States of Mind* and his social and political takeaways from a cross country journey. Book will be available for purchase at event.

Ticket pricing coming soon!

WORKSHOP: SWEEP AWAY WITH BROOMS

Get swept away by the history of brooms in this hands-on workshop that celebrates the legacy of Shaker broom making. Instructor Faith Deering shares the rich history of broom making in western Massachusetts, introduces you to tools of the trade, and guides you as you make your very own hand-held wish broom. During the workshop you will also visit the Village's Broom Shop in the historic Brethren's Shop. No previous experience required. Participants must be 13 or older.

Saturday August 5th, 10AM-12PM

Saturday November 11th, 10AM-12Pm

SUMMER GALA

Saturday, August 12th, 6PM

Join us for the never-miss event in the Berkshires. It's an evening of summer fun- where rolling hills meet a stunning sunset beside the Round Stone Barn. Evening includes cocktails, dinner, starlight and celebration.

BACK PORCH MUSIC: Tony Lee Thomas

August 18th, 7:00-9:00

Skilled in both guitar and double bass since childhood, Tony Lee Thomas dips into classic vocal techniques, channeling artists from Stevie Wonder to Martin Sexton. "Tony Lee Thomas's CD *Supernova* conjures those ghosts of greats such as Ben Harper, The Allman Brothers Band and Steely Dan. Excellent", raves Linus Ripley of *Split the Atom, M&P*

\$25/day of (\$20/advance); kids 12 and under free.

Purchase tickets at hancockshakervillage.com

Concerts are on the back Porch-guest sit on the lawn, bring a blanket or lawn chair. If rain is forecast, the concert will move indoors. Doors open at 6:30PM. Tickets are non-refundable. Cash Bar.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, Ilyon Woo

August 24h, 6:00-8:30

Join bestselling author, Ilyon Woo, for a dinner discussion about her newest book *Master Slave Husband*, copies of which will be available for purchase in the Shaker Mercantile before and during the event.

Ticket pricing is coming soon!

WORKSHOP: SHAKER CHEESE BASKET

Saturday, August 26th, 10AM – 3PM

Make a multi-directional weave basket in the Shaker style with instructor Sandy Salada. Originally used for curing cheese, this basket makes a wonderful bread, muffin, or roll basket and looks great hanging on a wall when not in use. Made from 3/8" natural flat reed. No prior experience is needed, suitable for ages 14 and up

BACK PORCH MUSIC: Jake Klar

September 1st, 7:00-9:00

Soulful singer-songwriter Jake Klar's style dances between acoustic folk and alternative rock, occasionally featuring a hint of jazz. *The Take Magazine* declares, "Your ear pressed against the radio like a hit-hungry kid of the 1960's [Jake's Newest] album longs to wander, just as it longs to come home".

\$25/day of (\$20/advance); kids 12 and under free.

Purchase tickets at hancockshakervillage.com

Concerts are on the back Porch-guest sit on the lawn, bring a blanket or lawn chair. If rain is forecast, the concert will move indoors. Doors open at 6:30PM. Tickets are non-refundable. Cash Bar.

26th ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, September 23rd – 24th

Spend the weekend celebrating what makes the Berkshires special: fine artisanship, local food, breathtaking beauty, exploring and family fun. This year's fair includes live music, workshops and demonstrations, family activities, farm animals, a farmers market, craft beer, antique tractors, dozens of craft vendors.

WORKSHOP: TIMBER FRAME (Country Fair weekend)

Wednesday – Sunday, September 20th – 24th

Take a dive into the world of timber framing. Using 18th and 19th century tools and techniques, you will cut and raise a timber framed building while honing skills in selecting and hand-hewing timbers. Instructor Jack Sobon and Dave Carlon have taught this fascinating workshop for more than thirty years!

REO 100th ANNIVERSARY CAR SHOW (Country Fair weekend)

Saturday, September 23rd

Join us for a classic car show to celebrate the centennial of our 1923 REO sedan.

FARM TO FORK FONDO

Saturday, September 30th

A farm fresh adventure for the fit foodie. The award-winning bicycle event series Farm to Fork Fondo will include a stop in Berkshire County Massachusetts. 500 cyclists from throughout the country are expected to attend Farm to Fork to Fork Fondo at the Village.

ADVANCED OVAL BOX MAKING: OVAL CARRIERS

Saturday – Sunday, October 14-15, 10AM – 3PM

Make a nesting set of three oval carriers in their two-day workshop with instructor Bob Balcom. Participants will hone their skills in crafting swallowtails and bending bands while also learning how to bend the perfect handle for each carrier. This new workshop celebrates the spirit of the Village's special 2023 exhibition *Handled with Care*.

HAUNTED HANCOCK

October Thursdays and Fridays plus October 21st and October 28th, 7PM

A spine-chilling evening of Shaker ghosts and mystery. Walk the dark paths of the village, venture into the Brick Dwelling and the Trustee's Office (if you dare!). See gravestones, hear true tales of ghostly sightings, and learn about the Shakers' role in the spiritualist movement. 90 minute walking tour. Recommended for Ages 12 and up.

HAUNTED HANCOCK FOR YOUTH

Saturday, October 21 & October 28th, 5pm

An evening of Shaker ghosts and mystery designed for youth ages 8-12. 1-hour walking tour.

HALLOWEEN AT HANCOCK

Saturday, October 28th

Witches, ghosts, and goblins roam the Village. Trick or treat in costume. Learn how the Shakers celebrated Halloween. Get spooked with ghost stories and fortune telling. Hop on a Shaker broom. All ages welcome.

WORKSHOP: WOVEN ORNAMENT

Saturday, December 2nd

Participants will make three woven ornaments, perfect for the holidays, with instructor Sandy Salada. The ornaments include an eight-pointed snowflake, a puffy heart, woven in thin maple strips; and a reindeer woven in dyed reed.

3rd ANNUAL HANCOCK HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Friday- Sunday 8-23, Tuesday –Sunday December 26th – 31st

Join us for a magical winter evening when the oldest Shaker village in New England sparkles in a multi-sensory month long experience. Enjoy stunning art light projects, immersing you in wonder. Stroll through the nineteenth century village transformed with festive decorations. Visit the animals of the Nativity as they settle into the barn for a long winter's nap. Gather for holiday cocktails by the fire. Let time slow down and your spirits rise in the new Berkshire tradition.