MEMBERS - AN APPRECIATION

This month we want to say “thank you” to everyone who is currently a member and “please join us” to those of you who are not. Memberships start at just $40 and provide important financial support for the Village throughout the year. In return, members receive free everyday admission to the Village, reduced admission fees for special events, and discounts in the Museum Store. And they’re our unofficial and informal ambassadors in New Hampshire and throughout the United States.

Members love the benefit of free everyday admission to the Village, and this year, they can visit our partner museums for free too! Present your member card at the Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum in June, or at the Enfield Shaker Museum in August, and receive free admission.

Congratulations also to Charles and Judith Putnam of Concord, the lucky winners of the drawing for a $100 gift certificate to the Museum Store! They and many others responded to our special appeal asking lapsed members to renew. Cheers and thanks to everyone who re-joined. We welcome you back!

As an additional way of expressing our gratitude, members will soon receive a postcard invitation to four special, members-only events for 2018. And for those who are yet-to-become members, maybe this is just the nudge you need. We hope everyone will want to attend one or more of these great programs. Mark your calendars!

Furniture Exhibit Preview and Gallery Talk
June 8, 5:30-7:30pm
Enjoy our new exhibit on the 2nd floor of the Carriage House with a gallery talk and complementary wine and cheese.

Moon Rise Garden Party
July 25, 5:30-7:30pm
Take a garden tour with Concord Food Co-op’s Andy Messenger and learn about the special partnership between the Village and the Co-op. Try some of the Co-op’s specialties and enjoy free wine and beer tasting while a nearly-full moon rises in the east over the ponds and gardens. This event is for members of the Village and the Co-op.

Behind the Scenes: Historic Preservation of the Cart Shed
September 28, 5:30-7:30pm
Take a tour of the Cart Shed with preservation experts Mae Williams, Jim Garvin, and the Village’s Buildings and Grounds Manager, Dave Ford. Light refreshments of local cider, wine, and cheese will be served.

Members’ Brunch and Store Sale
November 23, 10am-4pm
Escape the Black Friday crowds and relax at our member brunch and shopping extravaganza in the Museum Store, where members and their guests receive 30% off their purchases. Members can also take a complimentary tour at 11am or 2pm!

Members, we are also looking for your feedback! Please complete this brief survey. If you have additional suggestions on how to augment the Village’s current membership program, please contact Maggie Stier.
**2018 SPECIAL EVENTS**

**MAY 5:** Heifer Parade

**MAY 12:** 11th Annual XC5K Race

**MAY 26:** Plant Sale

**JUNE 2-3:** Traditional Craft Days

**JUNE 20:** Annual Dinner & Auction

**JULY 17-21:** Arts Week

**AUGUST 4:** Community Day

**SEPTEMBER 15:** Artisan Festival

**OCTOBER 13:** Vintage Car Show

**OCTOBER 20:** Harvest Music Festival

**DECEMBER 8 & 15:** Christmas at Canterbury

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**IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Last week, we had an exciting opportunity to engage with our community, visiting the Canterbury Elementary School to teach them about the Shakers’ robust nineteenth-century printing industry. As the school prepares for its annual program at Canterbury’s historic one-room schoolhouse - this year focusing on the 1880s - they invited the Village, and other local historians, to introduce the era with a day of special programming at the school.

In the 1880s, Canterbury took over the publishing of the Manifesto, the Shakers’ monthly periodical printed from 1871-1899. Read within Shaker communities and also sold to non-Shaker readers, the Manifesto was edited by Elder Henry Blinn. After discussing the Manifesto and looking at facsimile copies, we encouraged the students to brainstorm ideas for their own contemporary publication, thinking critically about content, advertising, and distribution. We also took our smallest printing press, allowing us to discuss the process of printing with metal type before printing bookmarks (complete with a saying from Mother Ann Lee) with each of the classes.

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**ON THE CALENDAR**

**Community Clean-up & Potluck**
April 28, 9am-1pm (potluck begins at noon)

With 25 buildings and nearly 700 acres, we rely on the support of our many friends and supporters to maintain the Village. Join us for a morning of volunteering - projects include clearing fallen tree limbs, raking leaves, weeding the garden, and helping with indoor projects like sweeping, dusting, and preparing activity supplies. Then, stay for a potluck lunch and a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances.

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**A Beginner’s Introduction to Tai Chi**
Mondays, April 30 - June 25, 5:30-6:30pm

Individuals with no previous exposure to tai chi will learn how this ancient Chinese exercise regimen can prevent and/or re-mediate common health problems. If you can sit, stand and shrug your shoulders, you can do tai chi. This class will take place out on the Garden Barn lawn overlooking the Village's ponds. Register here.

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**Heifer Parade (FREE!)**
May 5, 10am-2pm

Brookford Farm's cows will return to the Village on May 5th for our annual Heifer Parade. All activities, including maypole dancing, music, and make-your-own head wreaths and May baskets, will run from 10am-2pm.

Self-guided exhibits will be open 10am-4pm. Guided tours are available for $10 per person at 11am & 2pm. Learn more about this free event.

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**Secret Lives of Garden Herbs with Herbalist Maria Noël Groves**
May 9, 6-7:30pm

WHAT THEY LEFT BEHIND

Three fun finds in our collection are linked by the common theme of parrots. . . something one might not typically associate with the Shakers!

The first is a dress with a print of purple parrots on a cream background. In traditional Shaker style, with a Bertha collar and matching belt, along with a touch of lace at the collar, it appears to have been homemade. Our textile collection is full of cheerful prints - paisleys, florals, polka dots, stripes, and even cherries - but the parrot dress definitely stands out as a particularly fun example of the twentieth-century Shakers’ fashion sense.

Another parrot, probably a pen wiper or a sewing pin case, is made of felt pieces sewn together in layers. Intended for sale to the world in the Shakers’ Gift Shop, it is typical of the many unique items that individual sisters crafted in the mid-twentieth century.

Most intriguing is a stuffed parrot statue, which once hung in Sister Ethel Hudson’s room in the Dwelling House. The fake bird has real feathers attached to it, with beak and talons made of plastic. After Sister Ethel’s death it was one of made items found, inventoried, and preserved by the Village’s staff. Today, it serves as a quirky reminder that the Shaker sisters needed the cheer of pets and fun decorations just as we do today.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

We are grateful for a recent grant of $16,776 from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust that will allow us to completely upgrade the aging internet infrastructure at the Village. This upgrade will support moving the Museum Store back to the Carriage House, permitting the use of the Hubbard Education Center for programming and facilities rentals, and it will also provide more consistent internet service throughout the Village.
AROUND THE VILLAGE

After ten weeks, we say goodbye to Kira Lyle and Rebecca Gale, our hard working winter interns. They’ve moved furniture, curated chairs, baked cookies for Cabin Fever Reliever, helped at Maple Weekend, cataloged recent acquisition, and helped us out in a plethora of other ways. We’ll miss their cheerful enthusiasm, and as they prepare to leave us for graduate school and new job opportunities, we asked them to share some thoughts on their time at the Village.

Hi, I’m Kira, and I’m figuring it out. Figuring what out? You ask. Everything— what I want to do, who I want to be, where I want to go. Part of figuring it out is trying things, and an internship is the collegiate, academic, pre-professional mode of trying. At Canterbury Shaker Village I have been able to try a variety of things, as a professional and as a 23 year old person. I tried, and fell in love with, cataloging. To me, accessioning and cataloging are the best ways to show respect for the materiality of the lives of people long gone. Beyond putting a record in a computer system and finding a place to store an object, cataloging allows for the story of an object to be recorded and organized. In museums, objects are the touchstones of a story, we use them to represent people, places, and events. By organizing a collection and making it accessible, the stories that can be told using those objects becomes infinite. Co-curating a chair exhibit with Becca provided and opportunity to engage in this process, selecting objects to tell a story and organizing the narrative in a way that is both interesting and understandable to visitors. This winter has been filled with experiences and opportunities, and I’m far more grateful than I can say, and far less frostbitten than I anticipated.

-Kira

It has been fascinating to learn more about this unique community and hear stories about the sisters of the twentieth century who founded the museum. I’ll never forget being moved to tears on two separate occasions by the narratives I’ve encountered here. Once was when I saw a video of Alberta Kirkpatrick tell about coming to Canterbury as a scared orphan and being greeted by Marguerite Frost running down to meet her. Another was at Shaker Spotlight, watching Tom Davenport and Frank DeCola’s documentary on the Shakers, hearing Eldress Marguerite Frost comment about talk of disbanding the Shakers: “But I don’t want to go anywhere . . . If this is what you’re going to accept, although it means everybody goes the other way, you have to go on. It’s not easy, and I wouldn’t have anyone think it is. But they shouldn’t accept the charge and start on the way unless they’re determined to go through with it.” Marguerite’s words resonate with me as I move forward to start my adult life. Whatever path you take, it’s important to put your heart into your work and commit to whatever cause you take up. The Shakers are an example of two things I value highly: working hard and showing kindness. I know that my time here will continue to have an impact on me for a long time yet.

-Rebecca

MAPLE WEEKEND

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Village for the first East Canterbury Maple Festival! We couldn’t have predicted such a large and engaging crowd! Jill McCullough and Tim Meeh of North Family Farm also joined us at the Village for the weekend and ran wonderful demonstrations on making maple candy.

Our interns, Kira and Rebecca, have explored the Village extensively over the last ten weeks. This newsletter features a few of their photographs.

Our mission is to preserve the 200-year legacy of the Canterbury Shakers and provide a place for learning, reflection and renewal of the human spirit.

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