

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Shaker Museum



### **SHAKER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ANNUAL SUMMER SERIES OF SOCIAL EVENTS AND TOURS TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT COLUMBIA COUNTY**

*Offerings Include a Wide Variety of Special Live Social Gatherings, Museum Collection Tours, Online Symposiums and a Virtual Treasure Hunt*

**CHATHAM, NEW YORK, June 1, 2022** – Shaker Museum, which stewards the world’s most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives, announced today its Summer Series 2022 line-up of community events, educational programming, and tours to be held throughout Columbia County in the Hudson Valley. Over a dozen in-person events will be held in eight different locations, and the Summer Series will also include two online symposiums.

Shaker Museum Executive Director Lacy Schutz commented, “Shaker Museum is thrilled to convene our local and virtual community through our Summer Series. The Summer Series is an important part of the museum’s ongoing programming roster. These upcoming events broadly explore sustainability and consider how the Shaker values of community, innovation, inclusion, integrity, and conviction offer us inspiration and guidance as we navigate a rapidly changing world.”

**Summer Series Events:**

- **Shaker Museum Social (June 12<sup>th</sup>):** The Summer Series kicks off with the annual Shaker Museum Social, which will be held on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:00pm at the Columbia County Fairgrounds Pavilion and will feature music and local food and business vendors including Bees & Baas, Beth's Farm Kitchen, Chatham Brewery, Churchtown Dairy, Edible Hudson Valley, Fluff Alpaca, Hart, New York Textile Lab, Tacos Diablo, and Yummy Kitchen. Admission is free for all.
- **Collection Tours, Historic Site Tours, Treasure Hunts (Ongoing):** Also upcoming are behind-the-scenes tours of the Shaker Museum collection, walking tours of the North Family property, and a rare visit into the Shaker Meetinghouse in New Lebanon – recognized as one of New York State's most important examples of vernacular architecture and one of the Shakers' most substantial and innovative buildings. A virtual Treasure Hunt awaits families and children of all ages at the historic Mount Lebanon site, where the walking trails are open to the public from dawn to dusk.
- **Book Release Party (June 18<sup>th</sup>):** Local author and farmer, Ellyn Gaydos, will celebrate the release of her book, *Pig Years*, on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the vault of the Great Stone Barn in New Lebanon. The Chatham Bookstore co-sponsors this special event with Shaker Museum in the actual venue that is a dramatic setting in Gaydos' book. Admission is free for all and signed copies of *Pig Years* will be available for purchase.
- **Strawberry Shortcake Festival (July 2<sup>nd</sup>):** Everyone's favorite Strawberry Shortcake Festival returns on Saturday, July 2 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in Crellin Park. PieconicNY will once again supply the delicious dessert which is available for \$10 per serving.
- **Online Events (July 20<sup>th</sup> & August 10<sup>th</sup>):** Shaker Museum will host two fascinatingly divergent online programs. The first is a discussion between the museum's Director of Collections and Research, Jerry Grant, and Columbia County community leaders working to provide comfort and mental health services addressing the question of whether or not Shaker communal life supported good mental health (Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm). And in a nod to the Shakers' unrelenting quest for sustainability, the museum will curate an introduction to the fascinating world of mycelium (fungus) as a sustainable building material in a timely conversation with visionaries from the AIANY Custom Residential Architects Network, Silman, The Glass House, and the Myco Matters Lab of Kansas State University (August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm).

- **Garden Party (August 6<sup>th</sup>):** The finale of the Summer Series will be the Garden Party for all Summer Series sponsors held at a private property in Old Chatham with catering from Hudson's beloved Lil' Deb's. Last year's Garden Party was lauded as "one of the most memorable parties of 2021" by [RuralIntelligence.com](https://www.ruralintelligence.com).

A full schedule of all events, including information on reservations and sponsorship, can be found on the Shaker Museum website at [shakermuseum.us](https://shakermuseum.us).

### **About Shaker Museum**

With more than 18,000 objects, Shaker Museum stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives. It is the leader nationwide among organizations devoted to Shaker history. Its permanent new facility in Chatham, NY designed by Selldorf Architects is estimated for completion in 2024. The museum also stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, NY and has a campus in Old Chatham, NY, which is open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection can be viewed online at [shakermuseum.us](https://shakermuseum.us).

### **Images:**

Click [HERE](#) for link to Summer Series art image.

**Art Credit:** Julianne Martin, *Cows in the Field Go This Way*, from "In Union, Remotely." Reproduced by special permission from the artist for the benefit of Shaker Museum. During the lockdown in 2020, Shaker Museum invited artists of all ages and abilities to explore the museum's collection online and create artwork inspired by the Shaker example. This image is one of the extraordinary submissions from that program.

**\*\* More images available by request\*\***

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