

SHAKER MUSEUM | MOUNT LEBANON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEHOLD! New Lebanon Living Museum Transfers Its Programs To Historic Shaker Museum Site in Mount Lebanon

NEW LEBANON, NY, March 2, 2018 – Behold! New Lebanon (BNL) and Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon today announced the absorption of BNL programming by the Shaker Museum. The combination takes place starting with the 2018 season.

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon tells the story of the Shakers by stewarding the historic North Family site at the Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, as well as an unparalleled collection of Shaker objects, including furniture, textiles, tools, archives, and more. BNL is the living museum of contemporary rural American living, with programs conducted by the actual people of New Lebanon, many of the skills and professions mirroring those of the Shakers.

"We're thrilled to incorporate aspects of Behold! New Lebanon's programming into the Shaker Museum's offerings at the historic Mount Lebanon site," said Lacy Schutz, Executive Director. "Many of the skills and talents of Behold's rural guides echo the ways and practices of the Shakers, who lived communally on the site for more than 150 years, from 1787 to 1947. This is a unique opportunity both to create a stronger relationship with the town of New Lebanon and to offer expanded educational opportunities to the community."

In the new scenario, programs will typically take place at the Shaker site, and will include interpretation of how the activity relates to the Shakers. The Museum also plans to make more of their lands accessible and will have guided walks, foraging, and other activities related to the area's heritage.

“Visits to the North Family site have always been one of the most popular attractions of our programming, and for good reason,” said Ruth J. Abram, founder and CEO of Behold!. “Today’s rural guides embody the spirit, values, and talent of the original Shakers. The North family site shines a light on those values. It is gratifying to know that all the hard work the Behold! guides have put into demonstrating their work will not be in vain. Now, many of their programs will be deepened by an historical backdrop at an historic site.”

Abram is currently completing a multi-media driving tour of New Lebanon’s early history, which the Shaker Museum will promote. “I look forward to working with Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon to assure a seamless transition and to raise funds,” she said. A historian and human rights activist, Abram was also the founding president of Manhattan’s Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon is dedicated to preserving the history of the Shakers, including their furniture and architecture as well as their values of inclusion, innovation, integrity, and conviction. It stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York, which is open year-round for recreation and self-guided tours, and offers tours, exhibitions, and public programs seasonally. The museum also has a campus in Old Chatham, New York, open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum’s collection of over 56,000 Shaker items is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world. Please visit shakerml.org for more information.