



Fall Work Day at the Shaker Community

October 20, 2012

Come one, come all, to the Fall Work Day

Full is the time for cleaning up, putting away and readying for winter. It is the time of picking apples and pumpkins and packaging herbs. For the Friends, it is another opportunity to gather together and share time at Chosen Land.

The Shakers will provide a list of chores and welcome our support. Lunch will be provided by the Friends, and members are welcome to contribute items for lunch. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

On Saturday morning we'll begin at 10 a.m. Please check in outside the Dwelling House to let us know you are there, and find out what chores need to be done. It is helpful if you call the office ahead of time (207) 926-4597 and let us know you plan to come.

There are a range of work options available to match abilities and interests. Please contribute your time. Share the work and the fun of being together to support the Shaker Community.

Cheryl Kline - President

President's Message

The Annual Friends' Weekend, August 11 & 12, was filled with renewal of old friendships and the beginnings of new ones. Members checked in under the tent, under the direction of Bernice and Ward Anthony. Friends gathered in the Meeting House on Saturday morning for the Annual Meeting, while children's activities began on the Dwelling House lawn, under the supervision of Elizabeth Stover. The Big Basket and More Raffle, managed by Ellie Fish and Judy Travis, along with several volunteers, drew a lot of participation throughout the day. The Annual Business Meeting was called to order by outgoing President Nancy George. Brother Arnold offered the opening prayer; Sister Frances led a welcome song. The Shaker Family activities were detailed by Sister Frances. Lenny Brooks reported on the Library, particularly a large upcoming project to upgrade proper storage and facilities in the Library.

Elections were held, with unanimous approval by the membership for the slate of officers. Re-elected were: Erin Dulac, Susan Dupree, Ellie Fish, Jim Gelbort, Ray McCaskey and Munira Naqui. New Officers include: President, Cheryl Kline; Vice-President, Jim Gelbort; Secretary, Sheila Murphy. The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved.

After the Annual Meeting, Michaela Despina, of the Shaker Studies Class at New Gloucester High School, gave a slide presentation on her archaeological dig at the Shaker Mill site. Linda Aaskov, President of the Friends of the Alfred Shakers, issued an invitation to visit the new Alfred Museum.

After a pleasant lunch under the tent, we traveled to Alfred by bus. The recently formed organization, The Friends of the Alfred Shakers, was our host. The museum is still undergoing construction, but what this small group has accomplished in a few years was impressive. The Shaker Carriage House was moved a short distance to its current site and is being renovated as the museum. We were welcomed, treated to refreshments and a stirring solo rendition of Simple Gifts by Brother Marcel Crete of the Brothers of Christian Instruction.

Br. Arnold and Lenny Brooks provided a narrative about the Alfred Shaker Community and led a walking tour. The Alfred and Sabbathday Lake Communities were formally gathered in 1793 and 1794, respectively, as the Bishopric of Maine. The communities mirrored each other in many ways over the years, in the village designs and industries. As economic forces changed, the communities consolidated in 1918 and eventually merged, with all members moving to New Gloucester in 1931, and the Alfred property sold to the Brothers of Christian Instruction, who still own and maintain it. Many life-long Shakers came from Alfred, including Sister Mildred Barker.

A highlight of the visit was the wall mural of Alfred by Sandra Howe, which was completed last year. The mural was based on an 1880 view of Alfred by Phares F. Goist. The group has created a small museum with some interesting artifacts from the Alfred Community and a lovely gift shop. We appreciated the invitation to be at Alfred and look forward to continued interaction with the Alfred Friends' group.

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**Friends of the Shakers
Board of Directors**

- Cheryl Kline, *President*
- Jim Gelbort, *Vice President,*
Membership co-chair
- Sheila Murphy, *Secretary*
- Erin Dulac, *Treasurer*
- Ward Anthony
- Sr. Frances Carr
- Susan Dupree
- Ellie Fish
- Paul Gillis
- Br. Arnold Hadd
- Robert King
- Ray McCaskey
- Donna Murphy, *Clarion Editor*
- Munira Naqui, *Membership co-chair*
- Therese Royer
- Elizabeth Gruppe Stover
- Judy Travis
- Flo Morse, *Director Emeritus*

Coming soon: Online Membership
 Make your payment conveniently.
 Join, renew or purchase a gift membership at the Friends' website.
 Save stamps, paper and time and help support the Shaker Community more efficiently.
 Watch your e-mail inbox for availability and details.
 *Please help us keep our mailing list up-to-date. Just send an e-mail to: info@friendsoftheshakers.org with your full name as the subject.
 **Please remember to pay your dues.
 Jim Gelbort - Membership co-chair

Matt Laney - Shaker Studies Teacher



Shaker Studies is a semester-long course which takes advantage of unique resources in our district, including the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester. This is an academic opportunity found nowhere else in the world. In addition to studying various aspects of Shakerism in the classroom, the class regularly travels to the Village and other locations to study the physical environment, meets with members of the Shaker Community, and uses primary and secondary resources in the Village archives. Students are required to complete several projects and writing assignments throughout the semester.

I was both sad and happy to pick-up where Bob Boggs left off. I was sad because when he retired I lost both a friend and a mentor in the school, but I was ecstatic to take on this tremendous opportunity. Shaker Studies has been going strong at GNGHS for 30 years. It's only open to juniors and seniors, with priority given to seniors. Last fall, it was seniors only because of the demand for the class.

We touch on multiple academic subjects in class: religion, history, philosophy, agriculture, archaeology and sociology. That's what makes the class so enjoyable to teach.

Generally, we focus on a topic each week and we tie it in to a visit to the community. For example, the first visit is always to the Meeting House and Brother Arnold gives an introduction to Shakerism and addresses topics I didn't cover in class. When we visit the mill sites, we

talk industry in the 1800s. When we visit the Sisters' Shop, we talk gender roles in history. The Brother Ted Scholarship is given to one senior in the class to help defray the expenses of college. The basic criterion for the Scholarship is that it should go to a student who best exemplifies the spirit and intent of the class.

The projects this past year were diverse. Students made a cider press, completed an archaeological dig at the Great Mill, created a standardized application process for the Shakers, conducted an oral interview with Sister Mary Jo and Brother Paul, translated "Simple Gifts" into German, wrote a bio of Mary Dyer, and wove baskets.

I also teach AP US History, US History and US History Since 1945. This year I'll also be the IB Coordinator for the school and will teach a new Integrated Technology in a Global Society course for the IB program. I'm a Mainer, from Skowhegan originally. My bachelor's degree is from the University of Maryland-Asian Division and I also graduated from The George Washington University and the University of Southern Maine.

Having the opportunity to teach the Shaker Studies course is great both academically and professionally. This class is a formative experience for the students because it's given at just the right time, especially for seniors. As these students are worrying about their future, they get to interact with a group of people who can share their own ideas about purpose, success and living with decisions. Interacting with the Shakers, who have taken on a lifestyle which is contrary to what our society expects today, gives the students the courage to be what they want to be and do what they want to do. It also gives them grounding as they move on. They are products of the Gray-New Gloucester area and no matter where they end up, they will be connected with their rural community and the people who came before them.

Matt Laney

Shaker Friends - Simple Gifts - Flo Morse

A Recollection

At the incredible (to me) age of 91, I have been asked by The Clarion editor Donna Murphy to recall my long friendship with the Shakers and my long association with the Friends.

It all began in 1967 when a diminutive Shaker wearing a traditional cap answered the long ring of a doorbell that echoed through the tall Dwelling House. She ushered us (Joe and me) into a waiting room with upright chairs and green cushioned rockers facing each other, as they do today.

This was Sister Mildred Barker, long since gone, but still the spiritual inspiration of the Shaker Society at Sabbathday Lake and of those who knew her. We talked of my research for my first book, "Yankee Communes: Another AmericanWay," and then visited Brother Theodore Johnson next door.

Brother Ted was a big hearty man, the most authoritative Shaker of the time, and with Sister Mildred, the chief innovator at Sabbathday Lake. In our long conversation he covered Shaker history from its beginning to the present, which he said would be different if the Believers had concentrated on adult conversions instead of taking in so many children. Eighty percent of the children, the Shakers' hope for survival, left the communities.

We came back in the morning for Shaker meeting held in the chapel. I was so moved that I cried and Eldress Gertrude Soule, who had not yet moved to Canterbury, consoled me. Sister Mildred played the organ.

Many visits followed. Sister Mildred died in 1990. After that I was thrilled to stay in her room when her dresses still

hung in the closet and her slippers sat on the floor. A photo of her beloved dog Lady was tucked into one side of the



mirror, and a long string was tied to the bathroom light so that she could reach it. I could almost hear her singing Shaker songs to her canary Joy. And I was glad to see my book, "The Shakers and the World's People," among the cluster of books on her table.

One of my treasures is a Smithsonian Magazine poster from 1974, which publicized the Bicentennial of the Shakers and featured a cover portrait of Sister Mildred singing and playing "Progress."

Moved by the Bicentennial conference at Shaker Village, an eager group of followers like me created the Friends of the Shakers. We wanted to help this brave community, ("the least of Mother's children in the East"), restore old Shaker traditions and pioneer new ones. Grown to a comfortable 500 members with a famous yearly gathering and seasonal Work Days to help open and close the Village, we are the closest museum friends' group to which I belong.

Everyone knows and loves Sister Frances and Sister June and Brother Arnold, the mainstays of Shaker Village today. Novitiate Brother Paul is special, too. We admire these Believers'

devotion to the faith they practice daily, their adjustment to modern life, their welcoming of visitors from next door and across the world.

We rejoice in the meetings we are privileged to attend, full of wisdom, personal testimonies and song. I have a vivid memory of a service held long ago in Trinity Church in lower Manhattan, when a young Brother Arnold rose from the Brothers' side in that great church and among his remarks said, "I did not join to be the last Shaker."

When home was New Hampshire, I used to drive back after Friends' Weekend vowing to be as selfless and warm-hearted as the Shakers. Surely today's Friends feel the same uplift each time they visit Chosen Land. Our Shaker Family inspires us with its simple gifts and goals.

Far from Shaker Village now, I keep in touch by phone and email. I was happy last fall to give my large collection of Shaker, Shaker-related and utopia-related books to the Shaker Library. In my writing room where once the books surrounded me, I miss them but know they are in the right place. Library Director Lenny Brooks has thanked me for "so enhancing their collection and its usefulness to so many."

My long kinship with the Shakers has been a major part of my life. And I know that the friends I have made along the way and hold dear, share my love and respect for the steadfast Believers living in the wondrous community they inherited, expanded and have maintained.

Flo Morse

August 2012



Wish You Were Here
 Snapshots from
Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village



At left: Br. Arnold relating the story of Fr. James and the willows.

Fr. James used a willow switch to ride with from New Lebanon to Alfred. When he arrived at Alfred, he dismounted and thrust the switch in the ground. He said, "This shall always grow and be in remembrance of me." The willow tree did grow there, but in the 1890's it toppled over and out of that felled tree sprouted ten other trees. In 1931, when the Alfred community closed, Sr. Eva Libby took a slip to Sabbathday Lake where she planted it in the Cider Mill hole. It grew for many years until it too fell apart. From its roots the present tree sprouted. You can still see it in the field behind the Sisters' Shop.



Sunday Meeting during Friends' Weekend.



Left to right: Matt Laney, Shaker Studies teacher, Richard and Cheri Despins, Michaela Despins, Br. Arnold. Michaela was a Shaker Studies student and presented a report on her archaeological dig at The Great Mill.



Friends enjoying the presentation at The Alfred Museum.



Linda, Joan, Sandy and Charles enjoying dinner under the tent on Friends' Weekend.



Friends of the Shakers touring the former Alfred Shaker community in Alfred, Maine on Friends' Weekend in August.



Our thanks to Althea for helping out during Friends' Weekend.



Congratulations to Sr. Frances who celebrated 75 years as a Shaker on August 26.
Front row: Wendy Carr Furlong, Sr. Frances, Linda Carr Harmon
Back row: Robin Carr and his son William Carr.



Ray, Judy and Nolan enjoy a quiet moment at Chosen Land.



Nick and Clinton at Friends' Weekend



Guests enjoying the 75th anniversary celebration for Sr. Frances.



Barbara donated her original watercolors for the Big Basket Raffle and More. Thanks to Ellie Fish and Judy Travis and all who participated to make the raffle a success.

Upcoming Events

Apple Saturdays

Held from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 22:
Free cider pressing.
Special Event:
Apple Pie sale in cooperation with the New Gloucester Historical Society. Applesauce making (pre-registration required).

September 29:
GEMS OF 26 Apple Rally Day - special events at all the GEMS OF 26 (www.gemsof26.com). At Shaker Village - Free cider pressing. Apple Art for Kids (free).

October 6: Free cider pressing. Special event: cider and donut sale.

Support the Village by attending and buying Shaker apples at the Shaker Store. Press them in our new apple press.



Above: Br. Arnold and Michael Graham putting the new apple press together.

Above right: Br. Arnold, Leonard L. Brooks and Michael Graham trying out the new apple press.

Below right: Family and friends enjoying one of the Apple Saturdays.

Photographs courtesy of Miss Wendy



Shaker Christmas Fair

December 1: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

It's that time of year to purchase wonderful holiday gifts. We will have wreaths, antiques, books, herbs and more.

Shop at our White Elephant Room where proceeds go to local needy families.

Purchase great holiday gifts in our Book Room and Herb Room.

Baked goods and fruitcake will be available from the Shaker Kitchen for the only time all year.

Purchase a BBQ meal cooked in the crisp December air. Come one, come all.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Christmas Fair, please contact the museum office at (207)926-4597, or ussshakers@aol.com

The Shaker Store is open Saturdays only from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. from Columbus Day until the Shaker Christmas Fair. It will re-open Memorial Day Weekend.

Contest Results - Summer Issue



The photograph to the left portrays some of the Alfred Shakers c. 1927. This is a view of the sisters and young girls at the Alfred Church family.

Congratulations to our winner Frank Sierra of New York, New York. Frank had the entry with the most correct answers.

Br. Arnold provided us with the correct answers to the contest.
1st row - Mabel Lovely, Ellen Green, Carol Coffin, Avis Todd
2nd row - Lillian Healey, Helena Lovely, Frieda Coffin, Arlene Page, Eleanor Philbrook
3rd row - Edith Gardiner, Eva Libby, Eldress Harriet Coolbroth, Etta Goodwin, Grace Philbrook, Minnie Green, Dorothea Page, Della Haskell



New Clarion Contest

Can you correctly identify the Shaker brothers and sisters in this photograph?

The winner will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Shaker Store.

Please e-mail your answers by November 1 to SDLClarion@aol.com

Coming in the Spring issue of *The Clarion* Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village celebrates 230 years.

Meet Chuck Rand the new Librarian/Archivist.

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We returned from Alfred to a delicious fried-chicken-plus supper under the tent. Doug Tilghman did his usual fantastic job of keeping us all well fed! Names were drawn for the Big Basket Raffle with over \$600 raised, and lots of great baskets and special items distributed to appreciative new owners.

Shaker Hymns were sung in the Meeting House in the evening as dusk descended, bringing to a close the full, lovely day.

We are grateful to the Shaker Family for their generosity, sharing their time and their home with us. We particularly appreciate Br. Arnold and Lenny Brooks providing wonderful narratives of our visit to Alfred, and the Friends of the Alfred Shakers welcoming all of us. Thank you to the Museum Staff and many Friends' volunteers who helped to make this weekend so enjoyable, and to the members who came and supported all the events.

Cheryl Kline - President

Prayer for Politicians

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Eternal Mother, strong to love,
send your spirit upon us. Fill us that we may in some small way share in your essence which is all love and wisdom, direct those of us who have been chosen to represent your people in paths of ever greater service, ever reminding us that those who serve are always called to meekness and the recognition to serve truly is to be the least.

Let us not only have the gift of service but the gift of wisdom as well. Help us to remember that true wisdom comes not from books but from insight into that divine self which you are continually revealing to those of us who are open and receptive to your life-giving spirit.

In all of life's decisions, but particularly in those that affect the well-being of your people, help us to be guided by love of you and of our fellow men, not by selfish whim. Bless us that we may ever be a source of blessing to all whom we have met and touched. These things we ask through Eternal Christ, who has always been, who is now and always will be the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the one who makes all things new. Amen."

Sr. Mildred Barker

Sr. Mildred delivered this prayer at the April 11 session of the Maine House of Representatives in 1979. We thought this a welcome prayer for the upcoming elections.

Shaker Recipe

Shaker Apple Pie

3 cups apples, peeled and sliced
2/3 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cream
1 tablespoon Shaker Rose Water
Pastry for two 9" crusts



Slice apples into mixing bowl and add the sugar, cream and rose water. Mix thoroughly so that the rose water will be distributed evenly. Line a pie dish with pastry. Fill with the apple mixture and cover with top crust in which a few small vents have been slashed for steam to escape. Brush with a very little rose water mixed with milk. Bake in a moderate oven, 350°, for 50 minutes.

From *Shaker Your Plate: Of Shaker Cooks and Cooking* by Sister Frances A. Carr
Sisters Frances' book may be purchased from The Shaker Society, 707 Shaker Road,
New Gloucester, ME 04260
Telephone (207) 926-4865 Fax (207) 926-3559

"I have always thought that the first real picnic is that written of by St. Matthew when we read of that huge assemblage of people who had come to hear Jesus preach at the end of the day find themselves with not enough food. What a wonderful scene is conjured up by that description of those early miracles in which the few loaves of bread and the fishes are multiplied to feed thousands. We here at this Shaker Village in Maine love picnics, and to me that has always seemed like one of the greatest, with the sea spread out before and that mass of humans all over the green hillside."

From Shaker Your Plate