

# SHAKER MUSEUM | MOUNT LEBANON

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon to open June 17 with new tour, spaces, and exhibit

(June 8, 2016) – Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon opens its doors for the summer season at 10AM on Friday, June 17 at the North Family historic site. Hours are 10AM - 4PM, Friday through Monday, through October 10. Guided tours will depart from the Wash House every two hours beginning at 10:30AM. New this season is a walking tour at 12:30PM to the North Family's Cemetery & Community Memorial, which explores the lives of those buried there and the Shaker approach to the afterlife.



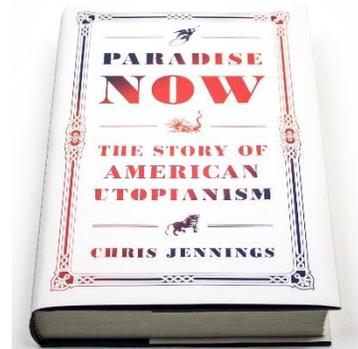
Visitors outside of the North Family Poultry House.

The site will also feature a new orientation gallery in the Wash House and a learning space for children in the Poultry House (pictured).

***Wash: There is no dirt in heaven***, this season's exhibition, explores the day to day work of Shaker women and men as they carried out the domestic chore of weekly communal laundry and looks at the Shakers' engineered waterpower systems, including dams, ponds, and aqueducts that ran the mechanical wash-mill, extractors, and elevators to lift clothes from the wash room to the drying attic.

The exhibition also explores how the Shakers used their knowledge of laundry technology to create and manufacture a commercial washer, mangle, and laundry soap for sale to the public.

During opening weekend, all visitors will receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store, housed in the historic 1854 Wash House. The Store features a curated selection of items for sale, including new and used books, locally-made gifts, and products from the living Shakers of Sabbathday Lake, Maine.



*Paradise Now* by Chris Jennings, available in the Museum Store.

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon will also host a cocktail reception, community picnic, and pie auction to celebrate the opening of the 2016 season. Tickets are available at the New Lebanon Library, in the Town Clerk's office, and online at <http://shakerml.org/collections/special-programs-events/products/shaker-museum-opening-party>

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon, located in New Lebanon and Old Chatham, Columbia County, New York, is dedicated to engaging and inspiring local, national, and global audiences by telling the story of the American Shakers. The Museum's collection of over 56,000 Shaker items is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world. The Museum also stewards the North Family historic site at Mount Lebanon Shaker Village. The Museum is open seasonally at the site from June to October, and offers programs year-round. Please visit [www.shakerml.org](http://www.shakerml.org) for more information.