

# SHAKER MUSEUM | MOUNT LEBANON

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Chairman of the Board elected at Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon**

(October 4, 2016) Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon's Board of Trustees unanimously elected Paul Cassidy as Chair of the Board at its September 24, 2016 meeting. Cassidy succeeds Jeff Daly, who joined the board in 2006 and has served as Chair of the Board since 2008. Daly remains as a trustee and was given the honorary title of Chair Emeritus in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the museum.

"I was first attracted to the minimal forms and functional

beauty of the Shaker aesthetic," Cassidy said, "and soon came to realize that the Shakers' conviction, integrity, and tolerance were the key to the modernism and beauty of their architecture and furniture."

A consensus builder in leading community projects, Cassidy joined the Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon Board of Trustees in 2010 and spearheaded the redesign and launch of the museum's website - [www.shakerml.org](http://www.shakerml.org) - as part of a marketing and outreach project. Cassidy has also been a key member of the special events committee, planning and producing the museum's annual fundraising event.



*Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon executive director Lacy Schutz with incoming Chair of the Board Paul Cassidy at the museum's annual benefit in August, 2016. Photo: Rachel Louchen/Rural Intelligence.*

This year's event, which took place for the first time on the museum grounds at Mount Lebanon, was an unprecedented success, raising almost 50% more than last year. Guests sipped wine in the Great Stone Barn and dined under a tent in the shadow of the dramatically illuminated barn façade. This year's honorees were Martha Clarke and Alfred Uhry, who created the recent off-Broadway hit, *Angel Reapers*, which explored the early Shakers and their faith through song, dialogue, and dance.

"I'm inspired by the momentum created under the leadership of the museum's new director Lacy Schutz," Cassidy said. "We had our most successful gala in years. It was a truly magical evening and I see the opportunity to transform Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon into a major driver for economic development in New Lebanon, Columbia County, and the Capital District."

Schutz, who joined Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon in February after more than six years at the Museum of the City of New York, said, "I look forward to working with Paul to stabilize the organization and create a 21<sup>st</sup> century museum that honors and perpetuates the core Shaker values of innovation, integrity, and community."

Outgoing board chair Daly said, "I have great confidence in our new team of Paul Cassidy and Lacy Schutz. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspective will help lead the museum to the next level."

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon, in New Lebanon and Old Chatham, Columbia County, New York (formerly known as Shaker Museum & Library), 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 first Shaker community and the administrative and spiritual center of the Shaker world from 1787 to 1947. The museum is open seasonally at the site from June to October, and offers programs year-round. The offices, collections, library, and archive in Old Chatham are open year-round by appointment. Please visit [www.shakermml.org](http://www.shakermml.org) for more information.