

PO Box 630  
New Lebanon, NY 12125  
518-794-9100  
Contact: Anna Win, ext. 223, [programs@shakerml.org](mailto:programs@shakerml.org)  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Shaker Museum Receives Six Looms in the 2020 Schacht Tools for Schools Grant

(OLD CHATHAM, NY) June 8, 2020 - Shaker Museum received a 2020 Schacht Tools for Schools Grant from the Schacht Spindle Company. One of two grants awarded from 39 applications, this grant awards the museum six 10-inch cricket looms, which will be used in future programs.

Susie Harding, the museum's Membership and Program Coordinator, said, "We always seek ways to strengthen our commitment to the community by demonstrating Shaker values at the town and county levels. Thanks to this grant, we can organize more hands-on activities that promote Shaker values of community, labor, and charity. We hope our programming will encourage more individuals to take an interest in the history of the Shakers and to become more engaged in our local community."



*Close-up of a loom made by Elder Henry Green, Alfred, ME*

Lisa Seymour, the museum's Collections Manager, stated, "In addition to weaving cloth, the Shakers used different types of looms to weave a wide variety of goods including rugs, coverlets, and tape for binding and chairs, as well as woven straw and poplar veneer used to make bonnets, mats, and poplarware boxes."

Last year, the Shaker Museum organized free knitting workshops under its programming series "Connect. Create. Contribute." This set of programs brings people together over several sessions to experience working with their hands while enjoying the camaraderie of communal effort and the satisfaction of helping others. The awarded looms will be used in "Connect. Create. Contribute." events in various locations, including retirement facilities and community centers. Harding has an extensive background in knitting and in teaching craft skills to others.

[Schacht Spindle Company](#) is committed to furthering the crafts of weaving and spinning; they view education as key to weaving and spinning vibrancy and growth. Schacht Tools for Schools Grants offer schools and educational programs the opportunity to acquire equipment for this purpose. Schacht Grants offers grants for equipment to 501(c)(3) organizations or public schools with tax-exempt certification in the United States for educating people in spinning and weaving.

The Shaker Museum stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York and has a campus in Old Chatham, New York, which is open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices,

collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection of over 16,000 Shaker items is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world and may be viewed online at [www.shakerml.org](http://www.shakerml.org).