

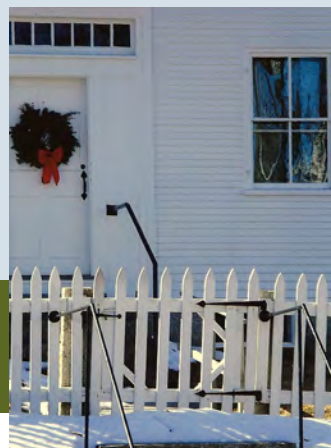
# The Clarion

Celebrating 40 years as the Friends of the Shakers

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Sr. Mildred Barker, left, August 1974 at the Shaker Bicentennial Conference held at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Shakers in America, August 6, 1774.

At right: Sr. Frances Carr and Br. Theodore Johnson at Chosen Land, August 1974.

*Photos by Ruth Von Euw, courtesy of Stephen J. Paterwic*



Sister Mildred declared that the FOS organization was a “formal group for real and lasting sacred ties of friendship.”



Wendell and Vi Hess, Ruth and Ed Guerin, above, at Chosen Land, 1994.

*Photo by Peg McGee*



Sr. Elsie McCool, above left and Sr. Elizabeth Dunn, above right, at the 1974 Shaker Bicentennial, 1774-1974.

*Photos by Ruth Von Euw, courtesy of Stephen J. Paterwic*





## Friends of the Shakers' Charter Members

When the Friends' organization began in 1974, we counted one hundred and twenty-two charter members.

The following founding members of The Friends of the Shakers are also members in 2014, thus displaying their commitment for forty years. Our organization is indebted to all who had the foresight to create and maintain the FOS for all these years. Our lives are that much richer because of our association with the Shakers.

Edward J. Brown  
Roger and Gail Hall  
Bill and Ginny McKeachie  
Flo Morse  
Barbara Osborne  
Francisco Sierra  
Dr. Paul H. Tedesco  
Gerard Wertkin

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## President's Message The Friends at Forty



It is an honor to be President of this unique organization, The Friends of the Shakers, at this milestone. In this commemorative issue of *The Clarion*, we have the opportunity to hear from people who were part of the founding of the organization, at the suggestion of Sister Frances, forty years ago. We also look forward to continue the mission stated in our by-laws, "To encourage and foster an appreciation of the religious and historic heritage of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village." I appreciate the consistent support of the Shaker Community and desire our efforts always reflect their goals for us.

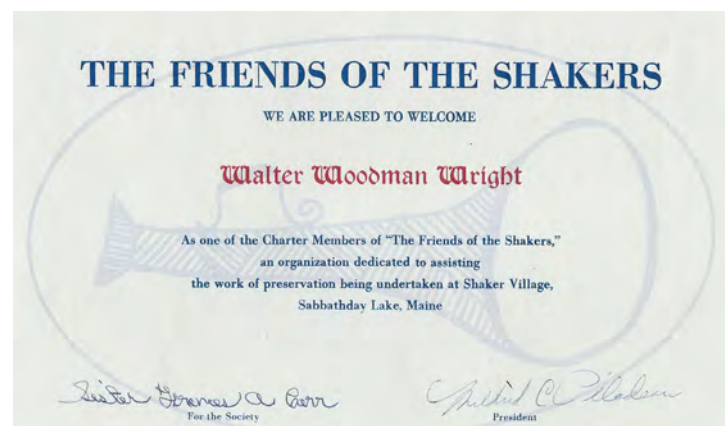
We present a "new" *Clarion* intended to broaden appeal to members and potential members. In print and on-line we want *The Clarion* to foster knowledge about and appreciation of Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village. Our editor, Donna Murphy, has worked diligently to achieve *The Clarion* before you. I hope you enjoy the results.

In this issue, past President Nancy George provides a description of the strategic planning process, in which the Friends are participating. This effort follows earnest, informal discussions among the Friends' Board, the Shakers, Michael Graham and a number of members of Friends. I feel it is timely and look forward to the exchanges generated by the process and outcomes to be shared with the membership here in "The Clarion" as well as at our Annual Meeting in August.

We have all become members born out of our love and appreciation for the Shaker Family, who graciously continue to support our efforts. Let us celebrate this long relationship with renewed dedication on their behalf.

Happy Anniversary Friends!

*Cheryl Kline - President*



All those who joined before January 1, 1975 received a Charter Member Certificate that was printed at the Shaker Press and decorated with authentic motifs from Shaker Spirit Drawings. Each one was signed by community members and the President of Friends of the Shakers.

## A Charter Member's Reflections

Look where we are forty years later! Stronger and more devoted than ever to the Shakers of Sabbathday Lake. I am proud to be one of the first Friends and am glad to have lived to see the commitment of our current members.

Looking way back, we were there when the Shakers went through some rocky times. We worked with and treasured Sister Mildred Barker and Brother Ted Johnson. We saw the old schoolhouse carried back to Chosen Land on logs to become the prestigious Shaker Library. We knew and loved Sisters Minnie and Elsie and Elizabeth and Marie and Ruthie, and bought their handiwork and fudge in the Shaker Store.

Today Brother Arnold, Sister Frances and Sister June cling to the old routines and traditions, host fairs and special days, and welcome neighbors and strangers

to Sunday meeting. How they accomplish so much with so few hands (though stalwarts like Lenny Brooks and Michael Graham lend theirs) is a marvel. But the Shakers were always a marvel. It is our very good fortune to befriend and embrace the only Shaker society in the world.

*Flo Morse*  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



*Flo is one of the ten founding members from 1974, who are still members today in 2014.*



Friends' Weekend 2013

Four of our past Presidents, posing with our current President.

Front row, left to right: Elaine Disch, Edward J. Brown.

Back row, left to right: Kathy Moriarty, Cheryl Kline, Nancy George.

## Friends of the Shakers Board of Directors 2014

Cheryl Kline, *President*  
Sheila Murphy, *Vice President, Secretary*

Erin Dulac, *Treasurer*

Ward Anthony

Sr. Frances Carr

Susan Dupree

Ellie Fish

Jim Gelbort, *Membership Co-chair*

Paul Gillis, *Clerk*

Br. Arnold Hadd

Lloyd Hunt

Deirdra Logan, *Membership Co-chair*

Ray McCaskey

Donna Murphy, *Clarion Editor*

Munira Naqui

Therese Royer

Judy Travis

Flo Morse, *Director Emeritus*

## Past Presidents

Marius Peladeau 1974-1975

Fritz Richter 1975-1978

Donald Prentice 1978-1979

Gerard Wertkin 1979-1981

Edward J. Brown 1981-1983

Howard Fertig 1983-1985

Roberta Farrell 1985-1989

Elaine Disch 1989-1994

Betsy Grecoe 1994-1998

Elaine Disch 1998-2000

Terry Barry 2000-2002

Kathy Moriarty 2002-2008

Nancy George 2008-2012

Cheryl Kline 2014-





## Kathy Moriarty Shaker Friends - Simple Gifts

Kathy has been involved in numerous organizations, including the Shaker Seminar, Boston Area Shaker Study Group and Friends of the Shakers.

Kathy's parents were antique dealers and collectors. Because of their interest, she first learned about the Shakers. The first Shaker museum she visited was Hancock Shaker Village with her family in 1973.

Her interest in things Shaker really started when her father purchased the book, "Religion in Wood" by Edward Deming Andrews and gave it to her to read, while she recuperated from back surgery. At first her interest was the furniture and objects the Shakers made, but after going to Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in 1978, all of that changed and her focus then became the Shakers themselves.

Her involvement in the past eight years has led to the success of several fundraisers. In 2005-2007 the Friends of the Shakers raised over \$200,000 for the Trust for Public Land. In 2012 Kathy helped raise over \$4,000 for Sr. Frances' 85th birthday that was earmarked for the Library and Museum Acquisition Fund. In the same year she helped raise money for the Shakers to purchase a table from Alfred, ME from the McCue collection. Most recently she was involved in

the Anniversary Campaign for a new library vault.

Kathy's association with the FOS led to our current May and October Work Days. When Roberta Farrell was President of the Friends, she asked the Board Members to coordinate an event. Kathy had organized a work day for the Shaker Seminar the summer before and offered to do the same for the Friends. That was in 1985 and the rest is history.

Kathy served on the Board of the Friends for 23 years as Secretary, Board Member and President. She has been a Christmas Fair volunteer since 1999 and helps at the Shaker booth at the Common Ground Fair.

She is also the author of the children's book, "A Shaker Sampler," published by the Shakers in 1981. A retired classroom teacher, Kathy always thought of children first and when the opportunity arose to create a project for a graduate course at Elmira College, Kathy chose to do something to educate children about the Shakers. She had noticed that resources for children were scarce when teachers brought students on field trips. Her book brings children through the alphabet of Shaker life with illustrations for coloring, and is still available at the Shaker Store.



## Ed Brown - Charter Member

Brother Ted Johnson was a key force in the formation of FOS. He was aided by Marius Peladeau, the first President. Peladeau had broad connections in the political and museum worlds of Maine. Br. Ted first mentioned FOS during my first visit to SDL in February 1974. The Friends were formally organized at a conference the Family held in the summer of 1974.

While I was President, the Board took major steps to put the organization on a more permanent and businesslike basis. This included clear delineation of responsibilities through a formal committee system and steps to involve more fully the general membership in the operation of Friends. We also established a more visible and defined fundraising process. Our first big project was painting the office, as suggested by Sister Mildred.

Br. Ted had been expressing concern about protecting the library's assets, which were stored in non-archival conditions, in the central dwelling. He wanted to return the Shaker Schoolhouse from the Merrill farm, where it had been used as an apple storage shed for many years. The building was in poor condition and rapidly deteriorating. The building was tied up in an estate settlement. The apparent way through involved one of the heirs, Blinn Merrill. I had many conversations with him that seemed to lead nowhere in particular. One day, out of the blue, Blinn called and said that the family was willing to donate the building as a memorial to his parents. There is a plaque to this effect on the wall of the schoolroom near the northeast corner.

As you can imagine, Br. Ted was overjoyed. In due course, the Family moved the building and undertook the large task of restoration and adaptation for archival purposes. Tragically, Ted died early in this process. I believe he was granted the satisfaction of seeing the building brought back before his untimely death.

*Ed served on the Board of FOS from 1980-2005, was President from 1981-1983 and Treasurer from 1995-2005.*

## Roger Hall - Charter Member

How has the FOS organization impacted your life and your family's life?  
When I first began researching Shaker music in 1971, the first place I visited was Sabbathday Lake. Brother Ted was very helpful in providing manuscripts for me to inspect. That was the beginning of my Shaker music journey, which I wrote about in my pamphlet, *Blended Together: Travels Along The Shaker Music Trail*.

How has Shaker history and your connection to the Shaker Family influenced your life?  
It has enriched my life greatly because of my interest in their beautiful music, and over the years I have written articles, presented many lectures and workshops (including at Sabbathday Lake) and been involved with recordings of their music. That all was because of my first visit to Sabbathday Lake and especially my close friendship with Sister Mildred Barker.

Forty years ago, what was the mission and what were your goals for FOS?  
As best as I can remember, it was simply to help support the Shakers in any of their needs. My contribution was mainly through researching, lecturing and performing their music. I then became Vice-President in 1981 and I was the editor of *The Clarion* from 1981-1984.

What projects done by FOS are you most proud of?  
I'm most proud of saving the Shaker Schoolhouse and moving it from a neighboring farm to be restored as the Shaker Library at SDL. Also saving the land so that it will be preserved as a Shaker site.

Is the current organization how you imagined it would be?  
It appears to be more successful than I imagined with many successful projects, including saving the valuable land and helping maintain and restore the buildings, such as the current project for the Shaker Library.

*Roger's music edition of the Welcome Song and Farewell Song are used at the Friends' Annual Meetings. He has a new CD, Celestial Praises - A Celebration of Shaker Spirituals, dedicated to Sr. R. Mildred Barker and Sr. Lillian Phelps.*

*We often say that we are praying for the Shakers. Perhaps this little prayer will help to focus our efforts:*

### Pray for Vocations to the Shakers

Ever living Father-Mother God, stir up in many hearts the desire to follow in the footsteps of Mother Ann by a selfless life of prayer, work and enthusiasm for the Shaker Christlife at Sabbathday Lake. With your grace, help the Shakers to strive to live the Gospel by giving themselves ever more completely to you, and so make them worthy to receive new members into their fellowship. We ask it in union with the host of Believers who have gone before us and now stand in your presence as witnesses to the Testimony. Amen.

Adapted by Stephen J. Paterwic  
from the prayer for vocations of Portsmouth Abbey.



Life members Bernice and Ward Anthony at the October Work Day, 2013. The Anthonys continually renew their life membership in support of the FOS.



## Upcoming 2014 Events

Spring Work Day - May 17

Friends' Weekend - August 9, 10

Fall Work Day - October 25

Christmas Fair - December 6

Friends' Weekend will be held this year at SDL with a dedication of the new Shaker Library vault and a variety of presentations. Please note that the trip to the Farnsworth Museum is cancelled.

We hope to see you at Friends' Weekend.

Happy Birthday to Sr. Frances - March 13



Deborah and John lending a hand at Work Day.

Photo by Kyle Allen

## Reflections and the Future

As the Friends of the Shakers of Sabbathday Lake enter their 40th year of offering support to the Shaker Family and their village known as "Chosen Land," it seems an opportune time to reflect on the past and to give a great deal of time and thought to the future, and how we can best be of value to this remarkable place and the people who share so much with us. Thus we have decided to devote considerable time and effort through a small committee to assess where we are and where we should go. This effort will lead to the development of a "Long Term Strategic Plan" that many businesses, public and private, have entered into to ensure that their organizations maintain their focus on their roles.

The essence of a long term strategic plan is to enunciate a vision for the organization (what it ideally wants to look like in the next 3-5 years), develop a mission statement (to explain the ways in which it will try to reach its vision), elicit a statement of core beliefs and then set goals and concrete, detailed action plans.

An important word to remember in developing such an effort is the word "plan." As is true in all aspects of life, few things remain just as they were at any given point, so plans may and should be adjusted according to changing needs. This will be an important aspect of our planning and implementation.

A committee of approximately 12 people has been established, including Brother Arnold, Michael Graham, several past Presidents of the Friends, current Board Members and other members. In order for this group to have input and thoughts from our members, there will be an advisory group who will be asked to comment on the planning as it goes forth. Additionally, a survey of members will be developed to seek further views. The planning committee held its first meeting in mid-February and it is expected that meetings will be held twice a month until July. The plan will be ready for presentation at the August meeting of the Friends.

As we move ahead with this, it is so important for all of us to reflect on how truly fortunate all of the Friends are to be part of this historical, spiritual and environmentally beautiful home of the Shakers. Take time to think about the Dwelling House, the Meeting House, the farm, the animals, the woods and trees, the lake and most of all our Shaker family. We look forward to our continued caring for Chosen Land and all that it represents, and we believe developing a Long Term Strategic Plan will help us accomplish that.

Nancy George and Mary Larnard  
Co-Chairs,  
Strategic Planning Committee



Our love and gratitude go to the Shakers at SDL who today carry on the blessed work of Mother Ann. Brother Arnold, Sr. Frances and Sr. June.

## "Love - A Shaker Way" by Flo Fertig

Love is a word that means many things to many people.

My husband, Howard, and I were fortunate to have been able to attend the Friends' Annual Meeting in August at Sabbathday Lake. From the moment we stepped from our car, we were enveloped in a sense of complete tranquility. We felt as though we had "come home."

Thursday, August 6, 1981, was the two hundred seventh anniversary of Mother Ann's landing in this country from England. That evening there was a candlelight service in the Moses Johnson Meeting House. You could feel the love and devotion of these dedicated Shakers flowing from their spirits. It evolves around you and cloaks you like a blanket of love. Try as I would, I found it difficult to stand and give testimony of my inner thoughts. Each time we visit, we encounter a true love transferred between these Believers and their friends and admirers.

It is not easy in these times to find a place where thought for another is closer to your heart than thought for oneself. Here at Sabbathday Lake it is an hour-by-hour, day-by-day occurrence. It makes you feel as though you are sitting in front of a roaring fireplace, but instead of your body being warmed, your soul and spirit are engulfed in the warmth. This is Shaker "love."

The Shakers at Sabbathday Lake are living their lives as their beliefs dictate. This is the last surviving tree in Mother Ann's orchard. I pray that it has strong roots to weather the elements and bears healthy fruit to ripen on its branches for many years to come.

*This wonderful writing appeared in the Winter 1981 Clarion and we thought it appropriate to include it in this year's Winter 2014 Clarion.*

*It is reprinted here with the permission of Flo Fertig.*





## Raffle Results

The winning ticket for the Shaker style round candle stand made by master craftsman Chris Becksvoort was drawn by Sr. Frances on December 7, the day of the Shaker Christmas Fair. The winner was a retired school teacher from Milo, ME who was delighted to learn that she was the new owner of a singular creation. The table was delivered to the happy winner on December 19.

The raffle realized almost \$4200.00.

We sold 2233 tickets out of 2500 printed.

Thank you to all who bought tickets. Thank you to Chris Becksvoort for donating the stand (retail value \$1400.00). Thank you to Terry Royer for heading the ticket sales done by the Friends' Board Members.

Thank you to the Board Members who sold tickets.

Leonard L. Brooks

### \*\*\*Trivia Answer\*\*\*

How many of you knew the correct answer to the Fall 2013 trivia question?

What U.S. President made a personal visit to SDL?

President Hoover's visit came after he was out of office in the 1930's. He came to visit Eldress Prudence Stickney who had been a longtime correspondent of his. Her letters are in the Hoover Presidential Library.



## Editor's Notes

I would like to thank all those who contributed photographs, information and reminiscences to this special edition of *The Clarion* as the Friends' organization turns 40.

A big thank you to all those who had the foresight to start this wonderful organization forty years ago. I know that my life has been richer for being a part of it.

Special thanks to the Shakers for their goodness and faith, which they willingly share with the world.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the first *Clarion*. Enjoy.

*Donna Murphy*  
Editor

Left: Stephen J. Paterwic and Ruth Von Euw, both teachers, shared thirty five years of friendship and Shaker adventures.

*Courtesy of Stephen J. Paterwic*



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