



This year, we are pleased to welcome Shaker scholars Jerry Grant and Sharon Koomler to the Friends of White Water Shaker Village's 2024 Annual Gathering.

Jerry is the Director for Collections and Research at the Shaker Museum in Chatham, New York, a position he has held since 1987. Previously, he had a decade of experience as a guide, craftsperson, librarian, curator, and director at Hancock Shaker Village. Jerry has published and lectured widely about the Shakers.

Jerry's presentation is called *The Shaker Museum: Past, Present and Future*. The Shaker Museum, celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary next year, was the first public museum created to singularly focus on recording and presenting the history and daily life of the American Shakers. Jerry will speak about the Shaker Museum's founder, John S. Williams, Sr., his relationship with the Shakers at Mount Lebanon, Hancock, Canterbury, and Sabbathday Lake, and his adventures in amassing a collection of over ten-thousand Shaker items.

Sharon Duane Koomler has studied the lives of Shakers for more than 30 years. Sharon has held education and curatorial positions at Shaker Museum at South Union, Hancock Shaker Village, and Shaker Museum. She authored the book *Shaker Style: Form, Function and Furniture*. While her academic specialties were in material culture studies, Sharon's particular interest in Shaker studies became the people over the artifacts.

Sharon will be presenting on Mother Ann: *tho' Mother's gone, she is with you still: Ann Lee 1736-1784*. While Mother Ann Lee's birth and death dates reflect only a short time on this earthly plane, she remained ever-present in the daily lives of Shakers since then. Her presence is keenly felt today by Shakers at Sabbathday Lake and by many who hold her close in heart. This talk provides examples of Mother's ongoing influence and power.

Jerry and Sharon's presentations are timely, as in 2024, we commemorate the 250th anniversary of Mother Ann and her small group of followers' arrival in America in 1774.

The day will begin at Miami Whitewater Community Church at 9700 Dry Fork Rd. Harrison, Ohio, which offers a large meeting room, has plenty of close parking, and is just four miles from the village. Participants will enjoy the presentations, a catered luncheon with homemade salads and desserts, and the opportunity to participate in a silent auction/raffle of Shaker-related items. The day will conclude with tours of the Meeting House, Dwelling, and Milk House, where all can view the restoration progress that has taken place since last fall.

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024
Location: Miami Whitewater Community Church and the White Water Shaker Village North Family Site
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Doors open at 9:30.
Tickets: \$30 per member/\$35 per non-member

The 2024 Annual Gathering is open to members and non-members who are interested in learning more about the Shakers and the FWWSV. Members are encouraged to invite others they think would enjoy learning more. Seating is limited to 100.

Please send checks to FWWSV, 11813 Oxford Rd, Harrison, OH 45030, with a note listing attendees, address, phone number and email address.

Registration deadline is Monday, April 8, 2024.

The Miami Whitewater Community Church is located at 9700 Dry Fork Road, a half mile north of the Dry Fork exit on I-74.

Get directions and a map at [https:// www.mymw.org](https://www.mymw.org).