

## New Lebanon & Nassau News

### SPENCERTOWN

## “The Art Of Growing Food”

Spencertown Academy Arts Center Hidden Gardens Virtual Lecture Series presents a talk by Ellen Ecker Ogden titled “The Art of Growing Food” on Saturday, May 1 at 4 pm via Zoom. The lecture will be about an hour, followed by a Question and Answer session with participants. Tickets are \$10. To register, please see [www.spencertownacademy.org](http://www.spencertownacademy.org).

“Ellen was a guest lecturer at the Academy ten years ago when her book, *The Complete Kitchen Garden*, came out. She’s a delightful speaker who breaks the art of garden design down so it is accessible to everyone,” says Madaline Sparks, Academy board member and co-chair of Hidden Gardens. “The timing of this presentation is perfect. There’s still plenty of time to implement her tips and put into practice her advice for a fabulous kitchen garden of flowers and edibles this season. Get ready to transform your classic vegetable garden into a spectacular European potager.”

In this lecture, Ogden will illuminate six steps to successful kitchen garden design based on her years as an artist, gardener and cook. She will deliver fresh ideas on how to bring art and whimsy to the kitchen garden, while also maintaining productivity and easy maintenance. Participants will discover how to design and plant an edible garden with an eye toward beauty, bounty, and sanctuary. Ogden will offer suggestions for what to grow based on her seed catalog favorites, such as Italian Purple Pole beans, Piccolo Verde basil, Troutback lettuce, and ornamental artichokes. The talk will revolve around creative ideas and photographs from her books, *The Complete Kitchen Garden* and *The New Heirloom Garden*, both of which are available at The Chatham Bookstore (27 Main Street, Chatham) with a 10% discount if you mention Spencertown Academy.

In addition to being a kitchen garden designer and the author, Ogden is co-founder of *The Cook’s Garden* seed catalog, introducing cooks and gardeners to European specialty vegetables, herbs, and flowers. She graduated with a degree in Fine Arts, and attended cooking school with Marcella Hazan in Venice, Italy,



Ellen Ecker Ogden. Photo courtesy of the Spencertown Academy

and at the Ballymaloe School in Shanagarry, Ireland. Her articles and kitchen garden designs have appeared in numerous national publications, including *The New York Times*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Eating Well*, *Garden Design*, and *Country Gardens*, among others.

This talk is sponsored by Country Caretaker Garden Center. Additional lecture topics and dates will be announced soon. The annual Hidden Garden Tour will take place on August 28. In addition to properties with beautiful landscapes and flower gardens, it will feature various vegetable gardens this year.

### NEW LEBANON

## New Library Director Named

The Board of Trustees of the New Lebanon Library is excited and proud to announce the appointment of Michelle Hoffman as the new Library Director beginning on April 8. She will succeed Moriah Sears who is leaving us after three very successful



Michelle Hoffman

years as Director. Michelle, of East Chatham, started working at the New Lebanon Library as a Library Clerk in 2010. Since then she has held the positions of Library Assistant and, most recently, Assistant Director and has worked with the past two Library Directors at every aspect of library operation from the front desk to cataloguing to the creation and facilitation of many special programs. As a familiar and welcoming face she will ensure a smooth transition for the continuation and development of services for our patrons. As Michelle recalls, “As a stay-at-home-mom, the library became a saving grace for me and a haven for my child. It sounds cliché to say the library saved my life, but as a new mother, it provided me with support and resources ... that had a positive impact on my daughter’s school readiness.” The Library community will greatly benefit from her skills and experience.

### CHATHAM

## Shaker Museum Awarded Two-Year \$230,000 Grant

Shaker Museum, which stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives, has announced that it has been awarded a two-year grant of \$230,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant is for the inaugural permanent collection installation, *Shaker Belief, Shaker Life, Shaker Community*, which will be presented at the launch of the museum’s new facility in downtown Chatham, currently in development.

Curated by Maggie Taft, *Shaker Belief, Shaker Life, Shaker Community* will offer a kaleidoscopic view of American Shakerism from the religion’s founding in the late 18th century to its flourishing in the 19th century and decline during the 20th. Using selections from Shaker Museum’s collection, the exhibition will explore how Shakerism’s radical foundational values of equality, inclusion, and accessibility were pursued and experienced by members of Shaker communities. The exhibition underscores the many ways in which Shakers sought to forge equitable and inclusive communal bonds, and the difficulty of making good on those efforts in everyday life.

Shaker Museum Executive Director Lacy Schutz commented, “Shaker Museum is tremendously grateful to the Henry Luce Foundation for this generous support of our inaugural permanent collection installation. Through material histories, spiritual practices, and labor practices illustrated in *Shaker Belief, Shaker Life, Shaker Community*, we will be able to share the beautiful story of Shakerism with broader audiences. This exhibit is not only important because it is the first and foundational story of the Shakers that we as an institution will tell, but because it provides salient lessons about creating equitable communities in the present and future, while celebrating the materiality and spirituality of the past.”

Dr. Teresa A. Carbone, Program Director for American Art, at the Henry Luce Foundation said: “The Luce Foundation’s American Art Program is very pleased to continue its support of the Shaker Museum’s leadership and staff in their energetic efforts to share the museum’s remarkable collections and the legacy of Shaker beliefs with the audi-

ences who will be drawn to a vibrant new museum in Chatham. In doing so, the Foundation recognizes the museum’s commitment to centering works of Shaker art and design in pressing conversations about equity and representation, and to engaging local and regional communities in the museum’s growth and progress.”



A Shaker Seeds box. Photo courtesy of the Shaker Museum.