

# The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

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## Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling to Open in May

Historic Inns of New England, a partnership that specializes in restoring old buildings for use as inns and restaurants, is the new tenant of the Great Stone Dwelling. They plan to open the building in May, 1998, with 24 guest rooms and a full-service dining room. The East Brethren's shop is included in the agreement and will be used as a residence by one of the managing partners.

The Museum's discussions with HINE began even before the Campaign to Save Historic Enfield Shaker Village was completed in September, 1997. As soon as the museum closed on the sale, staff and board members turned their attention to crafting a detailed lease for the new tenants. Key provisions concern restoration of the historic details of the building's interior. Shaker scholars and the State Office for Historic Preservation helped to assure the long-term integrity of the building.

Just as at another Shaker site, Pleasant Hill in Kentucky, visitors to Enfield will be able to stay within the community and gain a whole new perspective on Shaker life. Guest rooms on the second and third floors, many complete with original built-in cupboards, will be furnished in simple Shaker style. Meals will incorporate Shaker cooking traditions with contemporary American cuisine. And the first floor dining room, which was designed to accommodate 100 Shakers at meal times, will have its modern bar and room divider removed to restore the room to its original configuration.

Inn partners Don Leavitt and Rick Miller, who have been in business together for 14 years, come to Enfield with experience restoring and operating the Red Hill Inn in Center Harbor, NH. "If the Shakers weren't associated with this site... it would still be a



*(l-r) HINE partners Don Leavitt and Rick Miller, Board President Galen Beale and Museum Director Sarah Shaffer sign the lease on January 22, 1998.*

great spot for a country inn," observed Leavitt, "but the Shaker legacy allows us to attract a whole new market.... There is a tremendous fascination with the Shakers."

All this is good news for the Museum and its supporters. The Museum gains necessary revenue for underwriting mortgage and operating expenses for the new buildings. It gains new partners in its mission of presenting the story of the Enfield Shakers. New programming possibilities abound. And the public

gains greater access to one of the finest Shaker buildings ever built, and new reasons to visit the Enfield Shaker Museum more often. Please join us in welcoming Don Leavitt, Rick Miller, and their staff, and in celebrating the promise of a bright future for the Great Stone Dwelling.

### Volunteer Brunch Honors 5-Year Vets

On a chilly Sunday morning in February, the Great Stone Dwelling warmed to the sounds and smells of a convivial gathering over a delicious brunch served in the historic dining room. The Board of Directors hosted the annual volunteer appreciation event, and recognized ten individuals for having completed 5 years of volunteer service: Don and Kathy Gamache, Kathy Ford, Joan Fishman, and Nancy Martin, all of Enfield; Eleanor Densen of Grantham; Steve Priest of Bedford; Karen Sluzenski of Etna; Mary McCleskey of Hanover; and John Gilbert of Woodstock, Vt. Congratulations and thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much of their time and talent to the Museum.



