

A Critical and Popular Success:

In 1818, the New York State Legislature passed an Act for the Relief of Eunice Chapman, the first and last time that the state enacted a law to give one woman a divorce. It was just another unlikely turn in Chapman's fight to regain custody of her three children, who had vanished with their father, a semi-reformed drunk, after he sought salvation in a celibate Shaker community. Eunice, who under existing laws had no rights to the children, fought back by writing pamphlets, lobbying legislators, and rousing anti-Shaker mobs. Woo captures the drama and many ironies of Eunice's story, admiring her courage without adopting her view of the Shakers as unmitigated villains. Indeed, measures proposed for her "relief" horrified observers like Thomas Jefferson, who saw a threat to religious freedom; one legislator noted that the law's language could as easily be used against Jews or "the Egyptian who worships a crocodile or an onion."

(The New Yorker 9/13/10 P. 72)



Premier Program

Ilyon Woo

Special Guest Speaker

On Sunday, November 6th, at 2:00 PM author Ilyon Woo will be our guest to talk about her book. A graduate of Yale and Columbia, Ilyon Woo has been interested in the Shakers since girlhood. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Debby Applegate called



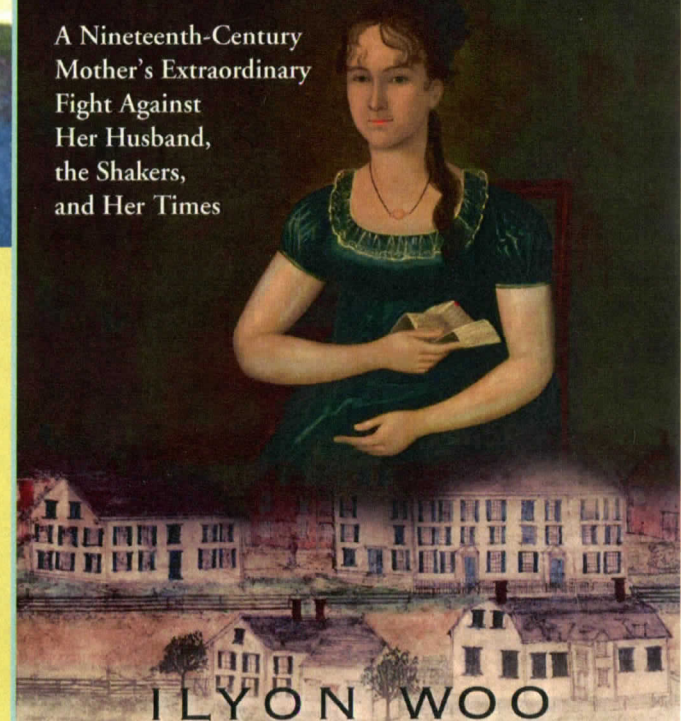
the book "masterfully written, deeply suspenseful, and filled with fascinating facts and insights," and National Book Award winner Nathaniel Philbrick said, "Woo brings the past to life in all its wonderful strangeness, complexity, and verve.... This is what history is all about." In 2000 she starred in a short film directed by celebrated African American film pioneer Charles Burnett about the inter-generational divide between a young Korean American woman and her grandmother.

The William K. Sanford Town Library
Presents

Special Book Events

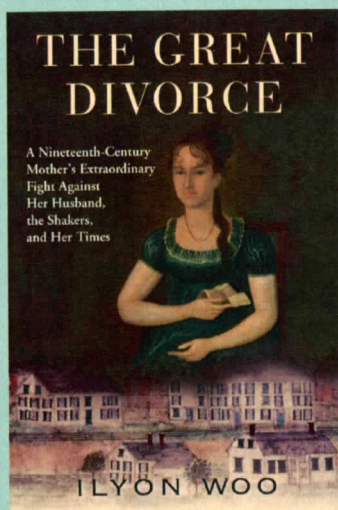
THE GREAT DIVORCE

A Nineteenth-Century
Mother's Extraordinary
Fight Against
Her Husband,
the Shakers,
and Her Times



Book Discussions

Monday, October 17th at 7:00 pm or Sunday, October 30th at 2 pm (your choice); have been set aside for Library Book Discussions to discuss the book, *"The Great Divorce"*. Discussions will last about 90 minutes and will be led by a Librarian. Call 810-0314 or 458-9274 to sign up. Group sizes will be no larger than 15.



Books Available

To get your copy of the book just stop by the Library Information desk and say you are interested in taking part in the Book Discussions of *"The Great Divorce"*. You might even want to do your own book discussion or just read the book.

Noon Book Talk

On Wednesday, October 19th at 12:15 pm a Noon Book Review of *"The Great Divorce"* will be held. Our reviewer will be Peter Hess, author of *Who Were the People*

of Albany; The Civil War and the Albany Rural Cemetery", "People of Albany: The First 200 Years?" and "People of Albany: During Albany's Second 200 Years". Come a little early and bring your lunch -- we have tables set up and coffee for your convenience.

Shaker Heritage Talk

On Wednesday, October 12 at 12:15 pm our guest will be Starlyn D'Angelo, Executive Director of the Shaker Heritage Society of Albany, New York. She will talk about the role of women in Shaker Society, the development of the local settlement, the culture of the community, and answer any questions you might have about the Shakers in general or the local site in particular.

The Shaker Heritage Society is a non-profit organization that offers award-winning educational programming about the Shakers, their innovative spirit and their influence on American culture. The Society is actively concerned with preserving the integrity of the Watervliet Shaker National Historic District, site of America's first Shaker settlement.

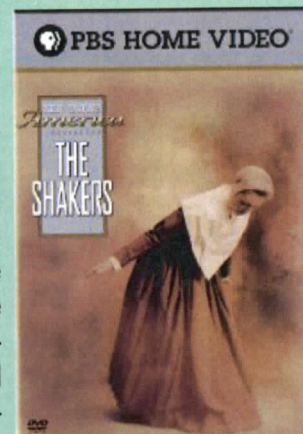


The mission of the Shaker Heritage Society is to celebrate and interpret America's first Shaker settlement and to preserve it for the benefit of future generations.

Movies

Ken Burns: America: The Shakers
Join us on **Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00 pm or Sunday October 16th at 2:00 PM**

for a special showing of *"The Shakers"*. From America's documentarian Ken Burns (The Civil War, Baseball, Jazz) comes this intimate portrait of a "serene creed" whose members considered themselves America's "chosen people." They called themselves the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, but because of their ecstatic dancing, they are more popularly known as the Shakers. Its members put their "hands to work and their hearts to God," creating a legacy of fine and priceless furniture and magnificent architecture. A model for the world's utopians, the Shakers believed in social, economic, and spiritual equality, and in pacifism, feminism, and joyful personal worship. They also believed in celibacy, which is why, when Burns filmed this in 1989, there were but a dozen Shakers left in America. --Donald Liebenson Running time is 58 minutes.



ALSO to be shown right after a 23 minute video produced by Pablo Helguera on the local shaker history and facilities will be shown right after for those with time to stay a bit longer.