



April 4, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Rebecka McDougall
Communications Director
rmcdougall@edithwharton.org
413-551-5115

**Be *Our* Guest!
Ten Berkshire Attractions are Offering Free Admission to Hospitality & Tourism
Employees**

(Lenox, MA)— This May, ten Berkshire County cultural attractions are collaborating to offer Berkshire County hospitality and tourism industry employees free admission to their properties. This initiative, named *Be Our Guest!*, will offer many local residents an opportunity to experience the region's main attractions ahead of the busy summer season.

Be Our Guest! runs from May 12 through May 31 and includes: Berkshire Botanical Garden, the Berkshire Museum, Bidwell House Museum, Chesterwood, the Clark Art Institute, Hancock Shaker Village, Herman Melville's Arrowhead, The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home, Naumkeag, and Ventfort Hall. Specific dates and hours vary by location.

"We typically host a reception for inns and other lodging establishments at the start of the season but this year we wanted to do something that would be more inclusive," said Rebecka McDougall, communication director at The Mount. "I had been toying with this idea and shared it with several of my colleagues at other institutions. Now there are ten of us opening our doors this May."

Rebecca Brien, director of sales at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lenox expressed her enthusiasm for this initiative. "Why is it important for our local hospitality staff to be able to visit our local attractions? So often, a person can live and work in the Berkshires, but never get a chance to see the things that draw tourists to the area," said Brien. "By welcoming the local hotels to see these attractions, it will allow them to share their experience with insight and passion."

Details:

**Be *Our* Guest!
Proudly sponsored by the Berkshire Eagle
May 12 to May 31, 2018**

Free admission for employees of the hospitality & tourism sector plus one guest. Please mention this program to the admission staff upon arrival. To encourage future communication, participants will be asked for their email address and place of work.

See the full list of participating locations below. Specific hours of operation vary from location to location, as noted. Visit websites or call the individual attractions for additional details.

Berkshire Botanical Garden
5 West Stockbridge Road
Stockbridge, MA
413-298-3926

BerkshireBotanical.org

Encompassing 15 acres in the heart of Stockbridge, Berkshire Botanical Garden has inspired locals and visitors to the region since its founding in 1934. Filled with colorful borders, seasonal plantings, and hundreds of flowering trees and shrubs, the Garden is awash in color all season long and is renowned for events including the annual Harvest Festival and Grow Show, as well as annual exhibitions such as this season's ART/GARDEN, featuring a collection of contemporary sculpture throughout the Garden's beautiful grounds, and Ellsworth Kelly's iconic plant lithographs inside the Garden's new Center House Leonhardt Galleries.

Gardens & Visitor Center are open May 1 through Columbus Day, 9 am to 5 pm.

Berkshire Museum
39 South Street
Pittsfield, MA
413-443-7171

BerkshireMuseum.org

The Berkshire Museum integrates science, history, and the arts in dynamic, educational and engaging programs and exhibitions for visitors of all ages. Explore the Curiosity Incubator, discover the Aquarium, be inspired by fine art and ancient objects, learn in the Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, invent and create in Lab 102, and enjoy the Little Cinema. Established in 1903, the Museum has been providing inspiring and exciting experiences for more than 115 years.

Open daily year round, Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday noon to 5 pm.

Bidwell House Museum
100 Art School Road
Monterey, MA
413-528-6888

BidwellHouseMuseum.org

The Bidwell House Museum, set in the Berkshire hills of Western Massachusetts, is an elegant Georgian saltbox originally built circa 1760 as a parsonage. Authentically restored, filled with antiques and surrounded by 192 acres of beautiful grounds and hiking trails, the museum tells the story of the early settlement of the Berkshires.

Be *Our* Guest! free admission tours are available on May 28 and May 31 from 11 am to 4 pm with tours on the hour.

Chesterwood
3 Williamsville Rd
Stockbridge, MA
413-298-3579

Chesterwood.org

Chesterwood, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the former summer home, studio and gardens of America's foremost sculptor of public monuments, Daniel Chester French. French is best known for his sculptures of the *Minute Man* and the seated figure of Abraham Lincoln for the *Lincoln Memorial* in Washington, DC.

Open the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend to the Monday of Columbus Day Weekend from 10 am to 5 pm daily.

The Clark Art Institute
225 South Street
Williamstown, Massachusetts
413-458-2303

ClarkArt.edu

The Clark offers a rich experience of art in a setting of great natural beauty. With four special exhibitions and its permanent collection on view this summer, visitors are invited to experience art ranging from Renaissance masters to contemporary video installations. The Clark's 140-acre campus features some five miles of walking and hiking trails with spectacular views of the surrounding hills and woodlands, and a stunning one-acre reflecting pool. Currently open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Open daily July through August, 10 am to 5 pm.

Hancock Shaker Village
1843 West Housatonic St.
Pittsfield, MA
413-443-0188

HancockShakerVillage.org

Home to the Shakers for more than 220 years, Hancock Shaker Village is now an outdoor history museum dedicated to preserving the Shaker legacy and making that story relevant and illuminating for today's visitors. Situated on 750 acres of picturesque farm, field, and woodland in the bucolic Berkshires of Massachusetts, the Village consists of 20 historic buildings, a working farm and heirloom gardens, and a premier collection of 22,000 authentic Shaker artifacts.

Hours: April 14 through June 29 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Herman Melville's Arrowhead
780 Holmes Rd
Pittsfield, MA
413-442-1793

MobyDick.org

The home of Herman Melville from 1859-1863 and place where he wrote *Moby-Dick*, three more novels, seventeen short fiction works including *Bartleby*, *The Scrivener*, *Benito Cereno*, *I and My Chimney*, *Piazza Tale* and others as well as his early poetry.

May 12 to May 20: Open Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, or by appointment.
Starting May 21, we are open daily 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home
2 Plunkett Street
Lenox, MA

413-551-5111

EdithWharton.org

A day at The Mount is an opportunity to experience the beauty and splendor of Edith Wharton's beloved country estate. Visitors may take a tour of the house, explore the beautiful gardens, attend a play, hear live music, or just enjoy a glass of wine on the Terrace. The grounds and trails are perfect for leisurely strolls, birdwatching, and nature walks. Dogs welcomed and children eighteen and under are free every day.

Open daily May 12 through October 31. Check EdithWharton.org for hours and tour times.

Naumkeag

5 Prospect Hill Road

Stockbridge, MA 01262

413-298-8138

TheTrustees.org

Experience Gilded-Age style and splendor at this marvelous estate, renowned for its elegant gardens and rare Berkshire "Cottage." With its gracious house, magnificent gardens, and panoramic views, Naumkeag is a quintessential country estate of the Gilded Age. Bequeathed in its entirety in 1958 – from furniture to garden tools to its intact dairy barn – Naumkeag, a National Historic Landmark, provides a special link to Berkshires history. More than that, it is a place where you, like the Choates, can find beauty and rejuvenation in a lovely place.

From April 15 to May 19: Open Saturday and Sunday only, 10 am to 5 pm.

May 20 to Columbus Day: Open daily, 10 am to 5 pm.

Ventfort Hall

104 Walker St

Lenox, MA

413-637-3206

GildedAge.org

Elegant, artisan crafted Jacobean-Revival mansion built in 1893 by George and Sarah Morgan, JP Morgan's sister. Features hand carved oak, beautiful plaster ceilings, expansive lawn and 90 foot grand veranda. Film set of the Academy Award winning film, "The Cider House Rules."

Open year round. Daily guided tours on the hour. Visit our website GildedAge.org for hours.

About The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home

The Mount, a National Historic Landmark, is both a historic site and vibrant center for culture inspired by Edith Wharton's passions and achievements. Wharton, considered one of America's greatest writers, was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. She built The Mount in 1902 as a country retreat.

We offer multiple ways to experience the property, including house and gardens tours, a backstairs tour, and our popular ghost tour. Interpretive exhibits throughout the house explore Wharton's life, her humanitarian efforts, and her literary legacy. The grounds and trails are perfect for leisurely strolls, birdwatching, and nature walks.

We collaborate with over 40 organizations to present lectures, theater, music, storytelling, workshops, and sculpture to diverse audiences. The Mount is the literary hub of the Berkshires, bringing both renowned and emerging writers and readers together for engaging conversations that inform and inspire.

The Mount hosts over 50,000 visitors annually.

The Mount is located at 2 Plunkett Street in Lenox, Mass. For more information visit EdithWharton.org or call 413-551-5100.

###