President’s Message

Your Support Makes a Difference—Thank You!

We sincerely thank you for your support in response to our 2013 fall appeal and we hope that you will renew your museum membership or become a new member by using the convenient envelope we have included with this mailing. Because of your generosity we can continue to restore and repair your treasured old Water Mill, Uncle Fred’s Workshop and the Benedict Potting Shed.

Please note our exciting 2014 calendar of events and join us during our 45th year as a museum. We welcome your ideas and involvement. If you would like to be a volunteer or to learn more about the museum please contact Volunteer Coordinator Donna Liehr at 283-4593.

To everyone who gave any amount we THANK YOU! If we have inadvertently omitted your name from the donors’ list, please let us know so we can show our appreciation.


Special thanks to Dianne Corwith and East End Blue Print for their generous donations of time and resources!

Sincerely, Jeanne White, President Water Mill Museum

Your Donation Dollars at Work

The historic water mill, now a museum, has for the past 100 years been maintained by donation funds. All donations and membership dues go directly to the museum. No fundraising agency or individual is paid to do our fundraising. The 15 members of the Museum Board help to write the newsletter, arrange printing, stuff the mailing envelopes and get the appeals out to the community. Due to recent generosity the following activities in the mill were accomplished this winter.

The Benedict Potting Shed, currently used by the Clay Art Guild, had a furnace installed so the building can be used year round, plumbing was up-graded, the electric line into the building was installed underground and some electrical work was done inside. In addition to museum restoration appeal funds the Clay Art Guild also helped pay for this upgrade. Museum carpenter Rick Muller did extensive repair work on the exterior walls, windows and rear exit of the building. Museum volunteers plan on painting the exterior in late spring.

Unfortunately due to extreme cold and creek water in the basement the installation of new supports for the grinding platform in the mill was started but not completed this winter. That job is expected to be finished by May. The mill is a difficult building to maintain as one exterior wall of the museum sits in Mill Creek. If Mecox Bay is closed water backs up into the creek and into our basement.

Two new exhibits in the museum were fully or partially funded by museum membership donations.

Two New 2014 Museum Exhibits

Postal Service in Water Mill

Drawing on information from retired postmaster Arthur Muller, newspaper articles and photographs of past post offices this exhibit will give a history of mail delivery in Water Mill from Colonial times to the present day. This display was made possible from museum membership funds.

Local History Gallery

This gallery on the second floor of the museum has exhibits related to activities in Water Mill. An Agricultural exhibit starts with Native American farmers and Colonial settlers and shows the different agricultural pursuits up to the 21st century. Some other exhibits cover ice harvesting, whaling, the mills of Water Mill and fin and shell fishing.

These and other exhibits in this gallery cannot be viewed by those unable to climb the stairs to the second floor. For that reason the museum has produced a video of the Local History Gallery that can be viewed on a screen on the first floor. This exhibit is made possible by the videographer Jason Nower, the narration of Richard Barons and viewing equipment donated by a member. Funds for this exhibit came from museum membership dues and a Town of Southampton Cultural Arts Grant.

Mark Your Calendars

Museum Opening Reception and Members Art Show Reception
Sat., May 31st, 5-7 pm. Refreshments & milling demonstration

Annual Meeting of Museum Executive Board
Oct. 15th, 9 am at Mill. Open to the public - refreshments served

Please Note New Hours

Open Daily, 11am-5pm, Closed Tuesday

Vol. 32 Spring 2014

MILL NEWS & NOTES FROM THE
WATER MILL MUSEUM
41 OLD MILL ROAD, WATER MILL, NY 11976

From the
Arts Grant.
Your Support Makes a Difference—Thank You!
Honorary Life Member

Arthur Muller

The Water Mill Museum Board voted to make Arthur Muller an Honorary Life Member of our Museum. Art was born in the Bronx and grew up in Baldwin. As a young boy he enjoyed family outings to Water Mill and eventually his parents rented one of the small cabins referred to as Rose’s Camps on Mill Pond. As any good fairy tale would have it, he met his future wife, Irene Corwith on this very pond. After serving in the Navy in WWII, he married Irene and they made their home on the pond where they raised their children – Sandy, Jeanne, Mosey and Ricky.

For thirty years Art served as postmaster in Water Mill. When he started in 1946 postcards cost a penny and letters three cents an ounce. He has said many times that what he liked best about the job was the opportunity to know and be friends with virtually all the people of Water Mill.

Enjoying swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing, ice skating and the most gorgeous sunsets with his family, friends and neighbors on the pond has been a gift that has never lost its power over him.

For seven decades Art has quietly taken the initiative to look after any number of tasks of benefit to the museum such as helping with restoration in the early 1970s, monitoring the level of Mill Pond and generally looking after its health and appearance, and has set an example for Water Mill of a citizen genuinely dedicated to the preservation and propagation of the values essential to a small community such as ours.

Art says he has lived his dream of raising his family on the pond that he and his wife loved so much.

Brief History of Postal Service in Water Mill

In Colonial times post riders or the stagecoach from Brooklyn would drop off mail at the water mill. It was not until 1867 that the federal government established an official post office, with a postmaster, in the hamlet center. It is not clear where that first post office was located but by 1875 it was located inside of Water Mill’s Corwith General Store where Suki Zuki is now located. In the early 1900s, an annex was added on the west side of the store to create the first post office building. That space is now occupied by a nail salon. Later another annex was added on the west for a larger post office and that space, by the entrance way to the parking lot, is currently occupied by Nightingale Gallery.

In 1961 the post office moved again into a building that had been originally built for a pharmacy. That stucco building, to the west of Penny Candy Store, is currently used as an office. When the five buildings were built at Water Mill Square in 1976 a space was set aside for a post office. A few years later, with the population in Water Mill increasing, the post office expanded into adjacent space.

Are you curious why the early post office had a peach basket, a beer case and Winchester ammunition box in the office? Want to know how two-tons of mail were found in 1964 in the garage of the postal delivery person ten years after he retired and what happened to that mail? Why was the post office in 1966 a recipient of President Johnson’s “Citation of Merit”? For answers to these questions and more detailed information about postal service in Water Mill please visit the exhibit at the museum or read Arthur Muller’s three page article in “Water Mill Celebrating Community, the History of a Long Island Hamlet.” This history book is for sale at the museum.
**Walking Tour of Historic Water Mill Center**

Every Wednesday at 9:30am during July and August, weather permitting, a walking tour will leave the Water Mill Museum. The group will, within an hour, visit the Corwith Windmill, Water Mill Community House and view the old Water Mill Railroad Station. On the return trip to the museum the group will be given information related to the historic businesses between Station Rd. and Old Mill Rd. The tour is free and no registration is necessary.

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**22nd Annual Members’ Art Exhibit**

**May 22 - June 16**

Attention all artists and friends of artists, Our twenty second annual members’ exhibition reception is coinciding with the museum’s opening for the season and opening party. All artist members are invited to exhibit with us providing your museum membership is up to date. We open at the end of May and close on October 13, as does our membership.

Please spread the word, if you are an artist or know an artist, let them know. The prospectus and forms can be downloaded from our website: www.watermillmuseum.org. Please follow directions. Images submitted via email to gallery@watermillmuseum.org will be posted on our site during the exhibit. All info will be on our forms. Don’t forget to bring a resume for our bio book when you deliver your work.

The Museum’s Opening Party & Artist Reception is May 31st, 5-7 p.m. Please tell your friends and bring something to share for the table. Plus we are going to have a Grist Mill Grinding Demonstration... showing the original purpose of this 370 year old building built in 1644.

**Pre-registration is May 5th,** and delivery of artwork is May 12th. Please note on the prospectus that the museum is having the show earlier this year and it will be hung the week before the museum is open to the public, as I am going away. I will try to accommodate artist’s delivery issues.

Lucille Berrill Paulsen, Exhibition Chair

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**“Priceless Moments of the Day”**

Art Exhibit June 19 - July 14

**Barbara Moeller**

When Barbara Moeller was a young woman she lived near William Merritt Chase’s studio in the Art Village in Southampton, NY. It was during this period of her life that she developed an admiration for the way that Chase captured the light that he incorporated into his paintings.

As plein air artists, both Chase and Moeller seek to capture the quality of the light as well as the color drenched shadow at the priceless moments of the day. This light is not owned by Chase or Moeller for it has brought countless artists to eastern Long Island. What is unique about Barbara is her technique. She freely applies brush and palette knife to give the landscapes an abstract quality so that the image becomes infinitely more interesting than the actual scene itself.

The paintings in this exhibit reveal Barbara’s keen sense of observation of her surroundings whether it is the natural world on the East End, a steam bed in Marin, California or a child’s sense of wonder and excitement during one of those special moments of the day.

**Reception: Saturday June 28th from 5-7pm**

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**“Summer Celebration”**

Art Exhibition July 16 - August 11

**The East End Photographers Group**

The East End Photographers Group (EEPG) is the longest exhibiting arts organization at Ashawagh Hall with the exception of the Springs Improvement Society, who hosts their member’s show and the Annual Invitational art exhibit. The EEPG is an incorporated non-profit organization whose mission is to promote photography and the visual arts and do it in a community setting. It encourages photographic artists to exhibit new work at each show and gives support and a forum to new artists who are just beginning to exhibit their work, realize their personal vision and embrace the photographic process— which the EEPG believes is the most important aspect of attempting to create photographic art.

Liz Glasgow and other local Springs photographers organized the EEPG in 1988 and generally met at Tim Lee’s Springs photo studio to discuss photography, show work and have some fun. Up until that point there were no formal photography groups on the east end, other than informal meetings at photographers’ homes. The group’s first exhibition at Ashawagh Hall was the weekend of April 13, 1990, which created the tradition of an annual spring photography exhibition at the hall. The group went through many changes, adding members from surrounding towns and the North fork and began conducting meetings at Guild Hall. In the 1990’s some EEPG members, primarily from Southampton, broke off and formed the Photographers East organization. It should be noted that photographers from both groups have, at one time or another, been members of both organizations.

As a group, EEPG has exhibited on both the North and South Forks of Long Island as well as New York City. The town of East Hampton, New York is our home base.

**Reception: Saturday July 19th from 5-7pm**

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**“Works on Paper & Canvas”**

Art Exhibition September 17 - October 6

**Helen Giaquinto**

Works on Paper and Canvas is a selection of expressive paintings taken from Helen Giaquinto’s personal impressions of her life on Long Island as well as her travels. She paints directly on paper or canvas with conviction; she does not compromise the integrity of the subject. Helen has studied with notable artists and has received significant art awards.

She is a retired art teacher and an active member of the art community.

**Reception: Saturday September 20th from 1-3pm**
Annual Quilt Show and Sale

The 28th year of the Museum’s Quilt Show & Sale will start on August 15th and end on September 14th. In order not to miss it call the museum at 631-726-4625 for the days and time we will be open.

This year’s raffle quilt is a lovely queen sized, hand quilted quilt that someone will be very lucky to win. It has a white background and the design is in shades of blue and yellow.

The quilt will be raffled at the Bowls of Plenty, another not to be missed event on October 11th.

Introducing our 2014 Board & Committee Members

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<td>Sue Taylor</td>
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<td>Faye Andreasen</td>
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<td>Joani Wilson</td>
<td>Mill Staff &amp; Advocate</td>
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Honorary Life Members

- James Buddy Burnett
- Marilyn Corwith
- Doris Foster
- Nancy Halsey
- Arthur Muller

Our “Discovery Room” in now available for rent at $125 per week - call Museum for more details

Hands On Children’s Milling Sessions

Starting May 26th and running until Aug. 7th, the museum miller will have milling sessions every Monday and Thursday starting at 11:30 am. Registration is required as these free sessions are limited to ten children so please call 726-4625. Only children five years or older may participate.

English Afternoon Tea Fundraiser Event

The Mill will be presenting another popular English Afternoon Tea fundraiser event on Saturday, September 6th. The full English afternoon tea will consist of homemade scones with Devonshire cream, tea sandwiches and a selection of cakes as well as freshly brewed pots of tea. The event will be held outside in our courtyard area weather permitting. Sunday, September 7th will be held as the rain date.

We are online at www.watermillmuseum.org or find us on Facebook

Send Correspondence to: Water Mill Museum
PO Box 63
Water Mill, NY 11976

or Phone: 631-726-4625