

# MILL NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE

Water Mill Museum

41 Old Mill Road, Water Mill, NY 11976

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## Restoration Fund Donations

### *Thank You!*

Jane Nichols & Steve Abramson, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Adams, John & Faye Andreasen, Robert & Susan Armusewicz, Dana Arnister, Dave & Sue Birdsall, Anita Bishop, G. David & Janet Brinton, Jane Burns, Joan & Martin Camins, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Constance, Elizabeth Cooper (Edward Howell), Susan E. Corwith, Corwith's Auto Body Inc., Linda & Denis Cronin, DeLalio South Fork Asphalt, Sean & Elizabeth Deneny, E. Howell

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership dues are due and we hope you will rejoin or become a member for the first time. The cost is still only \$25 for individuals and \$30 for the family and with it you get a 10% discount in the gift shop and free participation in the Members' Art Show as well as the good feeling that you are helping to keep the mill grinding for generations to come. An envelope and quilt raffle tickets are enclosed for your convenience.

*Jeanne White*  
President

## NEW MUSEUM HOURS

May 27th–October 10th, 2021

Open: Thursday – Saturday, 11 am–4 pm  
Sunday, 1–4 pm

Closed: Monday – Wednesday,  
July 4th, Labor Day, and Columbus Day

*Extended Hours for Quilt Show*

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.



**All scheduled art shows and events for the 2021 season at Water Mill Museum are subject to change due to current concerns with COVID-19. Our main focus is to keep everyone safe and healthy during this time. Please check our website for updates.**

## Museum Quilt Show Seeking Quilters and Items to Sell

The Water Mill Museum's 35th Annual Quilt Show will be held from August 19th through September 5th. We are actively seeking quilters and collectors who would like to sell their quilts, wall hangings or other sewn works of art. Please pass the word to anyone who may be interested and contact us so we can add you to the mailing list.

The 2021 raffle quilt is a cream-colored Album Quilt featuring beautiful embroidered patterns. The borders are cornflower blue and the embroidered patterns feature hearts, flowers, flowing trees and more. It will fit a King or Queen-sized bed comfortably. The quilt will be on display at the Museum throughout the season. Raffle tickets are enclosed with this newsletter and all sales benefit the Museum. Please take a chance to win and enclose your payment and ticket stubs in your membership envelope. The drawing will take place at our Annual Board Meeting in October.

During our show, we will feature a large variety of colorful quilts, both old and new, with varying patterns and themes. We have, for sale and your viewing enjoyment, quilts for all bed sizes, beautiful wall hangings for every season and decor, and more!

Please mark your calendar to visit our Quilt Show between August 19th and September 5th. Extended hours for Quilt Show: 11 am–4 pm Daily, Sundays 1–4 pm, Closed Wednesdays. Admission is five dollars and includes a free \$5 raffle ticket or you may apply the fee to a book of chances.

Any groups or individuals who are interested in selling or showing quilts should contact Peggy Helstowski at 631-725-1896 or Eileen Noonan at 631-726-4899, ECNoonan@aol.com.



Details of this year's quilt.

## Museum Calendar of Events 2021

### Thursday, May 27 Museum OPENS for 2021 Season

**Thursday, May 27 – Sunday, June 13**

#### 29th Annual Members' Art Show

This year's exhibit, featuring the work of more than 100 Museum members, may include oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, pastels, photography, mixed media and sculpture. The majority of the work will be for sale. The artist member in charge of this year's show is Kathy Odell-Hamilton.

Any artist members interested in participating should contact them at kaoh@optonline.net or go to the museum website, [www.watermillmuseum.org](http://www.watermillmuseum.org) for more information.

**Saturday, May 29 – Annual Members' Art Show**

*Opening Reception 4 to 7 pm*

**Thursday, June 17 – Saturday, July 3**

#### The Wednesday Group — "A Breath of Plein Air"

Once again, 20 members of The Wednesday Group will exhibit "A Breath of Plein Air" at the museum. For over 14 years the group has been meeting to paint en plein air at local sites from April through October. Come and see new works in oil, acrylic and watercolor. It's just "A Breath of Plein Air."

**Saturday, June 19**

#### The Wednesday Group — "A Breath of Plein Air"

*Opening Reception 4 to 6 pm*

**Thursday, July 8 – Sunday, July 25**

#### Good Ground Artists

##### "Good Ground Stronger Than Ever"

Good Ground Artists are proud of its eclectic art and established and ever emerging artists. We encourage and support all aspects of the arts.

**Saturday, July 10 – Good Ground Artists**

*Opening Reception 4 to 6 pm*

**Thursday, July 29 – Sunday, August 15**

#### East End Photographers Group "Expressions"

The East End Photographers Group will present an exhibit of diverse photographic imagery, featuring traditional, digital and alternative photographic processes—carrying out its mission to promote photography and the visual arts in a community setting. The EEPG encourages photographic artists to exhibit new work at each show and provides support and a forum for new artists who are just beginning to exhibit their work and realize their personal vision.

**Saturday, July 31 — East End Photographers Group**

*Opening Reception 4 to 6 pm*

**Thursday, August 19 – Sunday, September 5**

#### Water Mill Museum 35th Annual Quilt Show and Sale

*Open during extended Museum hours*

(continued on last page)

## FROM THE DIARY OF A LOCAL SURVIVOR

### A firsthand account of the 1918 Pandemic

**H**azel Howland left her family farm in upstate Evan Mills in September 1917 to teach at Southampton HS. The Spanish Influenza struck the following fall, while she was living at the Fosters Boarding House (now the 1708 House B&B) in Southampton. Edited excerpts from the diary she kept during the pandemic appear below.

#### OCTOBER 1918

Other than war coverage, the news to affect our population the most concerns the influenza epidemic. By mid-October Southampton has experienced one epidemic death and many serious cases. The village Board of Health forbids the assembling of people in churches, schools and other public places. Two local

doctors, Hugh Halsey and John Nugent, have contracted the influenza. Numerous cases are reported among schoolchildren.

With the disease reported in every state, the government orders the immediate closing of theaters, dance halls, moving picture houses, and other public places. The hours of operation for stores and public offices are limited.

Most distressing is that no serum protecting against this influenza has been discovered. The public is counseled to avoid crowded conditions and overeating. Coughing and sneezing in the presence of others

is considered dangerous because the disease is highly infectious. On Oct. 23, a Wednesday, after working at the Red Cross, I find myself infected. Thursday, Dr. Nugent, just recovered himself, visits me. He confirms the diagnosis and advises (the boarding house owners) Dr. and Mrs. Foster to limit their exposure to me. The next five days I remain in bed, unable to sit up or leave my room. I felt terrible, my head hurt unbelievably, and I was either too cold or too hot.

It is the next Tuesday before I find the strength to gingerly sit up and dress. But it is Friday, 10 days after succumbing to the disease, before I am able to find my way downstairs for dinner.

#### NOVEMBER 1918

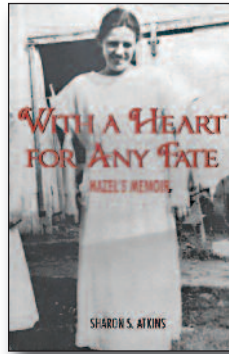
*Hazel records a conversation with Mrs. Foster.*

**H:** "It's lonely with everything being closed."

**Mrs. F:** "Very few people are venturing out of their homes. The newspaper is filled with news of the deaths of several of our friends. The list of the children dying is heartbreaking."

**H:** "I was sure I was never going to get well. Everyone I know is getting sick. I am so sorry if I contributed to the illnesses of (three fellow teachers)."

**Mrs. F:** "You can't blame yourself, Hazel. They were exposed by others as well as you."



#### BOOK COVER

The diary entries are from "With a Heart for Any Fate—Hazel's Memoir" by Sharon S. Atkins, granddaughter of Hazel and niece of our Water Mill neighbor, Paul Corwith. The book is available on Amazon.

No new cases develop that week. It is assumed the epidemic has run its course in Southampton. Slowly, people gather in public places.

Thursday, Nov. 7, the Southampton Press carries the headline, "World War Ended!" An announcement also appears in the newspaper that schools will reopen the next Monday.

I join with the citizens of Southampton (Nov. 11th) at the formal celebration of the end of the war—with a grand parade, a band concert, patriotic speeches and a dance.

A collective sigh of relief. Life does resume. Various lodges announce the resumption of meetings. The Crescent Theatre reopens. School and teaching duties resume.

#### DECEMBER 1918

Early December still sees new cases of influenza being reported daily, with most people spending but a few days in bed. However, within a week, the epidemic takes a fresh hold in Southampton with more than 200 cases reported. By Dec. 10, the Southampton Board of Health again bans public assemblies and public places shut their doors. Meetings stop, church services are suspended, the library closes. With school closed I return home for the remainder of the year.

#### JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1919

*Hazel returns to Southampton for the start of the new school term on Jan. 6. Discharged soldiers come home, people resume normal activities and begin socializing.*

#### MARCH 1919

The Board of Health orders all schools to shut their doors in an attempt to abate the continued rapid spread of the virus. Although reports indicate a milder version, funerals as a result of the disease are still being held. Not all public events are cancelled.

I attend a school board meeting with fellow schoolteachers. We discuss options for containing the virus and developing future lesson plans to aid students in maintaining their studies. We are better prepared now than we were last fall, should the worst occur and schools close again.

*With school closed Hazel goes home to help care for her ailing grandfather, who dies within the week. Immediately following his funeral, she travels back to Southampton, where schools have again reopened.*

**That's Hazel's last diary entry about the pandemic.**

Find us on [Facebook](#) or at the [watermillmuseum.org](http://watermillmuseum.org)



# COVID Cancels One Museum Activity and Modifies Another



## Children's Hands-on Milling Cancelled

At these mill sessions youngsters learn firsthand how to turn cobs of corn into cornmeal. They participate in shelling kernels from the cobs, pouring them into the hopper, adjusting the grinding stones and the flow of water that turns the outside water wheel, and finally sifting to yield the finished product.

Because it's currently not safe to hold group milling sessions we are inviting you and your youngsters to visit the museum to view individually a new video demonstration of the cob-to-cornmeal process, featuring our miller and her assistants dressed in colonial garb. Appointments are not necessary. The video will be available for viewing anytime the museum is open.



## Bowls of Plenty Fundraiser Modified

This fun luncheon, sponsored by the Clay Art Guild of the Hamptons, has long been a popular museum fundraising event. Participants have enjoyed delicious homemade soups in a beautiful handcrafted bowl, which they get to take home.

Because of restrictions due to COVID, this year's fundraiser will be called "EMPTY BOWLS". Held from 11am–2pm in the Museum courtyard on Saturday, October 9th with a rain date of Sunday, October 10th, participants will pay \$25.00 for a beautiful handcrafted bowl of their choice. They will fill their bowl with soup RECIPES to take home.

We thank Clay Art Guild for sponsoring this unique fundraiser for Water Mill Museum.

## MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

(continued from page 2)

### Thursday, September 9 – Sunday, September 19

#### Thirty Squared Summer Finale 2021

*Reception Saturday, September 11th, 4 to 7 pm*

The Thirty Squared painting group was formed in January of 2015 when artist Aubrey Grainger challenged her Facebook friends to Paint 30 paintings in 30 days. The result was an exhibit featuring the fun, lively and free-spirited work of 18 artists. This year participating artists were asked to paint every day for 30 days, either doing a painting a day or working longer on more developed pieces. Along the way they encouraged one another with praise and constructive criticism. Come to this fabulous show and see what they achieved!

### Tuesday, October 12

#### Water Mill Museum Annual Meeting

*4 pm at the Museum. All are welcome.*

***Sunday, October 10 – Museum CLOSES for Season at 4pm***

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Water Mill Museum and the election of Board Members for 2022 will be held on Tuesday, October 12th, at 4 pm at the museum. This meeting is open to the public.

## Honorary Life Members

Marilyn Corwith	R. Timothy Maran
Marlene Haresign	Arthur Muller
Betty Kistler	Lucille Berrill Paulsen
Janet Lavinio	Muriel & Bill Petty
Mary Maran	

We are online at  
[www.watermillmuseum.org](http://www.watermillmuseum.org)  
or find us on [Facebook](#)

To write us: Water Mill Museum  
PO Box 63  
Water Mill, NY 11976

To phone us: 631-726-4625

