

# MILL NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE

Water Mill Museum

41 Old Mill Road, Water Mill, NY 11976

(Mail to: PO Box 63)

Tel: 631-726-4625

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Spring 2023



## Uncle Fred's Workshop

This historical white out-building at the Water Mill Museum, has a rich history, and was even moved a few times. It served as a laundry, potting shed or summer kitchen up until 1894. That's when John Benedict's 34-year-old grandson, Fred, claimed and outfitted it as his workshop, studio and den where he proceeded to dream, explore, invent, collect, craft, entertain and escape from the pressures of everyday life. Today it stands precisely as it was when "Uncle Fred" passed away in 1952, age 92, having occupied his beloved studio and workshop for 58 years.

At Uncle Fred's Workshop you will see antique tools, measuring devices, photography equipment and frames, handmade game boards, toys and a popcorn maker that is made from scratch: not the popcorn, but the popcorn making device! And a lot more! Fred's lunch box sits next to his desk, as if waiting for him to come back from a local errand, or the post office.

Uncle Fred's Workshop is a rich robust example of a captured moment in time, that is frozen, as it was, when he passed away at the ripe old age of 92. That was in 1952.



## 2023 Membership Dues

We depend on your dues and donations to keep the stones grinding and to help us share the rich history of our hamlet. Please use the enclosed envelope to rejoin or become a member for the first time. \$25 for individuals or \$30 for the family gets you a 10% discount in the gift shop and free participation in the Members' Art Show — as well as the good feeling of helping to sponsor programs and exhibits benefitting the whole community.



## 2023 SEASON

at the Water Mill Museum

May 25–October 8, 2023

Open Daily, 11:00am–4:00pm

Sundays 1:00pm–4:00pm

(Closed Mondays through Wednesdays)

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

## 37th Annual Quilt Show & Sale August 17 – September 3

After having our best attendance in 2022, we look forward to another successful Quilt show this summer! Please save the dates and come and treat yourself to the museum's colorful transformation between August 17th and September 3rd. This year's Quilt show and sale will feature quilts and fabric works of art of all sizes, patterns and colors. We've extended our hours: Daily 11am – 4 pm (Closed Wednesdays), Sunday open 1-4. The admission donation is \$5 in support of the museum, and you will receive a chance for the raffle quilt or \$5.00 off a book.

"Bonnie's Antique Log Cabin" is the title of this year's raffle quilt that will be displayed in the museum all season. This quilt was a donation by Warren Frank and we believe it was made by his late wife Bonnie. It is a queen-sized handmade and hand-quilted piece of art. Within a thin red border, hundreds of fabric "logs" were stitched together to create a colorful pattern that you can see in the quilt photo. Raffle tickets are enclosed so please return your tickets to take a chance to win this beautiful quilt. The drawing will be held at our Annual Meeting in October.

In addition, we are looking for collectors or quilters who would be interested in selling or entering pieces in our show. For more information, call Peggy Helstowski at 631-725-1896, Eileen Noonan at 516-848-7500, or the mill manager, Rachel Verno at the museum 631-726-4625.



### Museum Calendar of Events 2023

#### Water Mill Museum's 31st Annual Members' Art Show Thursday, May 25—Sunday, June 11 Reception: Saturday, June 3, 4 to 6:30 pm

This year's exhibit, featuring the work of more than 50 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](mailto:kaoh@optonline.net) or go to the museum website, [www.watermillmuseum.org](http://www.watermillmuseum.org) for more information.

#### A Brush With Time by Ann Lombardo "Notes & Dust Notes" Thursday, June 15—Sunday, July 2 Reception: Saturday, June 17, 4 to 6 pm

Ann travels back in time to bring fresh visual memories to her easel in this eclectic collection of images. Her "greatest hits" from oversized wall candy to little tabletop gems will speak to anyone who sees them.

#### Good Ground Artists "Good Ground Artists and the Water Mill keep on turning" Thursday, July 6—Sunday, July 23 Reception: Saturday, July 8, 4 to 6 pm

Good Ground Artists is based in Hampton Bays but reaches artists as far west as Hauppauge and on both the North and South Forks. Lauded for the caliber of works presented, it is also appreciated for the eclectic selection of artwork—from traditional to avant-garde to surreal.

#### East End Photographers Group "Visions"

Thursday, July 27—Sunday, August 13  
Reception: Saturday, July 29, 4 to 6 pm

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 EEGG 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.

#### Thirty Squared "Summer Finale 2023" Thursday, September 7—Sunday, September 17 Reception: Saturday, September 9, 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!

#### Group Show "Friends & Family" Thursday, September 28—Sunday, October 1 Reception: Saturday, September 30, 4 to 7 pm

Paintings by Friends & Family was conceived by painter John Dios, with the intent to publicly display east end artists' works in a significant local space. Invited family and friends include sculptor, Chris Siefert, and painters Anne Siefert and Walter Us. The artists are inspired to participate in the joy of sharing their art off-line and in person to the public.



# If you were an immigrant, how would you pack to leave home forever?

There was limited space available on their voyage, room for only the bare necessities. These may have consisted of clothes, tools for a skilled trade, possibly a family Bible, a picture of your parents, a family heirloom, and necessary provisions for the trip. These items were typically packed in a trunk or a suitcase.

They were leaving home, possibly forever. They were leaving their friends, siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. They had to say goodbye as if they would never see them again. Indeed, most would never see their loved ones or home again. This was the case for my Swedish grandmother.

My grandmother arrived at Ellis Island in 1916—alone, with a suitcase, a wool blanket worn as a shawl, a knife, fork and wooden spoon, and



\$10. She was 19. One of her ten siblings immigrated to America the year before and was employed in the kitchen on a large estate. My grandmother worked for another family, caring for their young children. It was on a trip to

Southampton with her employer's family and children, that she met my grandfather.

My grandparents, Mom and Pop Corwith, were farmers, chicken farmers. I was told that the 1938 hurricane blew away the chicken coops and all the chickens; they had to start over. This was not a mechanized operation. Everything was done by hand. That meant feeding the chickens, cleaning out the hen houses, gathering, cleaning each egg by hand, candling, sizing, packing, and even delivering them on an egg route. This was the era when there was the milkman, bread man, and fish man, too.

My sister and I loved to spend Friday night with our grandparents. We all watched "The Life of Riley" and "I Remember Mama", and off to bed promptly at 9. We helped with some of the egg chores on Saturday morning. Over the years, two sisters and a brother visited my grandmother, they wrote letters often, but she never returned to Sweden. In the early seventies, my mother visited her relatives in Sweden and tried to get my grandmother to accompany her. My grandmother, Selma, said she couldn't bear to go back to see all her family knowing that it would be a last goodbye, again.

*by Sandy Raynor*



## Call for Artists

**Event:** Water Mill Museum Annual Members' Art Show

**Dates:** May 25th – June 11th, 2023

**Reception:** June 3rd, 4-6:30 pm, all are welcome

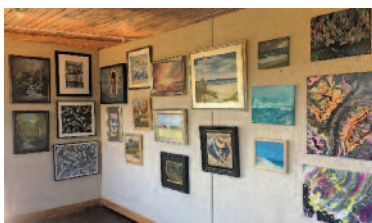
**Location:** Water Mill Museum Gallery

41 Old Mill Road, Water Mill, NY 11976

**Description:** Open Call to Artists for the Annual Members' Art Show

**This year, our Gallery has all new lighting, which looks amazing!**

All artists are invited to participate in this annual group show.



Simply become a member by responding to the membership request mailing, and watch for notifications in your email inbox. Keep in touch!

**Questions?** Email us at [info@watermillmuseum.org](mailto:info@watermillmuseum.org)

The Museum will accept submissions in mediums including oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, mixed media, graphics, photography, and sculpture.

The exhibition is a non-juried show. Works will have size parameters, and we'll announce soon whether you can put one or two pieces in the show. A detailed registration form will follow soon, with drop-off, show, reception and pick-up dates



## THANK YOU

Great appreciation goes to Mary Godfrey of Mary Godfrey Custom Framing and Photography in Southampton, for donating her time and professional services to the museum's "Iceboating in Water Mill" exhibit. Mary spent countless hours offering her creative expertise combined with her generous donation of materials. Everyone at the museum thanks her.

For those of you who missed the Iceboating exhibit last season, or just want to see it again, we are happy to announce that the exhibit will be up for the 2023 season. Look forward to seeing everyone there and thanks again Mary.



***The Machines Inside the Machine***  
**Simple Machine Workshop**  
**FEATURING OUR 1644 WATER MILL**  
**at the**  
**WATER MILL MUSEUM**  
**AUGUST 10, 2023 at 7 PM**

The six simple machines—lever, wedge, wheel and axle, pulley, screws, and inclined plane—find abundant uses in a seventeenth century water-powered grist mill. Join us in learning about each machine as we spot them in their native habitat in the Water Mill Museum. Step back from our digital, technological, “push this button” experience and appreciate the simple, ingenious tools of yesterday. They are no less impressive today!

Call a friend, share this evening with them; they will thank you!

**Honorary Life Members**

Marlene Haresign  
 Janet Lavinio  
 Mary Maran

R. Timothy Maran  
 Lucille Berrill Paulsen  
 Muriel and Bill Petty

**Uncle Fred Checker Game Night**  
**at the**  
**WATER MILL MUSEUM**  
**JULY 20, 2023 at 7 PM**

Calling all checker players, young, old and in between! You are cordially invited to participate in one of Uncle Fred’s pastimes, a friendly game of checkers with your friends, neighbors or a grandchild. (I’ll happily loan you one of my grandkids for a game or two.)

Uncle Fred’s Workshop will be open to give you a bird’s eye view into his life, his passions, his crafts, the times in which he lived, in an untouched setting, over 100 years old.

Admission is free, but please stop by the mill or call ahead, 631-726-4625, to reserve your spot. If you are feeling a little rusty, concerning the rules, Rule Sheets will be available upon request.



***A special thank you to all those who***  
***generously donated to our Fall***  
***appeal.***

***Your support will help us to continue***  
***offering programs and keep our Mill***  
***grinding.***

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Water Mill Museum, the Quilt Raffle Drawing and the election of Board Members for 2024 will be held on Tuesday, October 10th at 4 pm at the museum.

This meeting is open to the public.

To write us: Water Mill Museum  
 PO Box 63  
 Water Mill, NY 11976  
 To phone us: 631-726-4625

