

MILL NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE

Water Mill Museum

41 Old Mill Road, Water Mill, NY 11976

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Spring 2024



Greetings

Hope everyone had a healthy and productive winter. Our Board has been busy getting the museum ready for our opening on May 23rd. This year in addition to our regular museum schedule, we will have a number of afternoon and evening programs suitable for all ages. We also have a great lineup of local artists who will be showing their work in our gallery space throughout the 2024 season and there will be a reception for each event that we hope all of you will attend. The 32nd annual Members' Show will kick off the season with an opening reception on Saturday, June 1st from 4-6 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet our Board, tour the museum and enjoy all the wonderful art created by our very talented members.

Looking forward to seeing all of you.
Rachel Verno
Director



2024 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 benefiting the whole community.

2024 SEASON

at the Water Mill Museum

May 23–October 13, 2024

Open Thursday–Saturday 11:00 am–4:00 pm

Sundays 1:00 pm–4:00 pm

(Closed Mondays through Wednesdays and July 4th)

Treasure Hunt

You are Sworn to Secrecy!

Kids, teens, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents!

Meet at Flying Point Beach on July 11th, under a fading sun at 7 pm. We will spend 20 minutes—mining and perfecting our search for booty (treasure). Glance over your shoulder and stealthily change course, and rendezvous at Uncle Fred's Workshop, where time stood still at his death in 1952. It is located at the Water Mill Museum. We will conduct experiments and calculate the value of your treasure. About 80 years ago, Uncle Fred led an expedition with several kids that were hanging around his workshop; they partook in this very same adventure, my Aunt BAM, Barbara Ann Muller Cancellieri, among them. SHHH! This is top secret! On an untraceable phone, call the Museum for more details and to register. 631-726-4716.

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

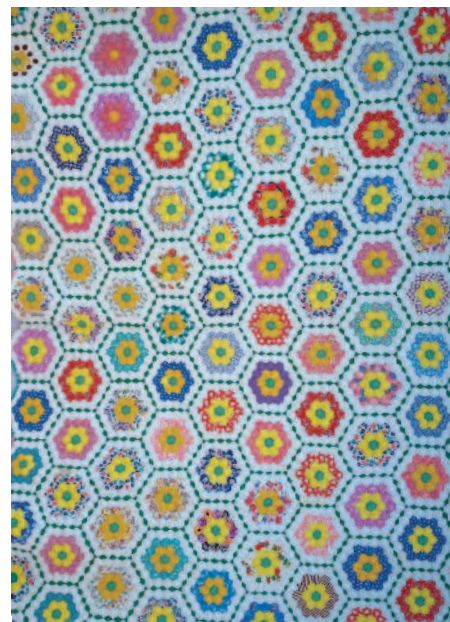
38th Annual Quilt Show & Sale August 15 – September 1

Please join us and enjoy our 38th Annual Quilt Show this summer! The museum will host our show from August 15 to September 1. 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 11 am – 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.

Grandmother's Small Flower Garden is the title of this year's raffle quilt that will be displayed in the museum all season. It is a colorful, handmade and hand-quilted antique quilt measuring 66 x 76 inches. 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 board meeting in October.

If anyone would be interested in selling or entering pieces in our show, please contact us. 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 2024

Water Mill Museum's 32nd Annual Members' Art Show Thursday, May 23—Sunday, June 9, 2024 Opening Reception: Saturday, June 1, 4 to 6 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 Kathy Odell-Hamilton at kaoh@optonline.net or go to the museum website, www.watermillmuseum.org for more information. Registration deadline is May 7, 2024.

Ann Lombardo "Of Many Things" Thursday, June 13—Sunday, June 30, 2024 Reception: Saturday, June 15, 4 to 6 pm

East End artist Ann Lombardo displays her versatility in subject, style, size...it's eclectic. For her third year in a row, Ann will display about 40 paintings, many showing for the first time. The pivotal works will be new large landscapes that explore all four seasons. Tablescapes appear refreshed in nuanced colors and shapes. Her medium is all oil. Every piece is original and one of a kind.

Good Ground Artists "Good Ground Artists and the Water Mill Museum Together Again" Friday, July 5—Sunday, July 21, 2024 Reception: Saturday, July 6, 4 to 6 pm

Good Ground Artists is based in Hampton Bays but reaches artists throughout Suffolk County especially 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 "Sun, Sand & Surf" Thursday, July 25—Sunday, August 11, 2024 Reception: Saturday, July 27, 4 to 6 pm

The East End Photographers Group will present "Sun, Sand & Surf" 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 EEGP 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 2024" Thursday, September 5—Sunday, September 15, 2024 Reception: Saturday, September 7, 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!

Helen Giaquinto "Less is More" Thursday, September 19—Sunday, September 29 Reception: Saturday, September 21, 1 to 4 pm

This exhibit is about simplicity, in elements of line, shape, color, style and subject, to enjoy and explore.

Water Mill – Shop – Tea Room – Restaurant – Museum

1644-1900 Edward Howell built a water powered grist mill which operated until the early 1900's. It was purchased in 1825 by John Benedict. When milling ceased, the building was used to store ice harvested from Mill Pond. Ice cream was manufactured in the basement from the abundant cream from local dairies. The building was also used as a meeting place for various organizations such as Boys Clubs and the Grange.



1918–The Ladies Auxiliary of the Water Mill Village Improvement Society was established.

1920–The LAWAM began leasing the Mill from the Benedict family. This continued for several years—the rent in 1941 was \$10 per month.

The New York State Bureau of Services to the Blind established a satellite operation from the Old Water Mill Shop and Tea Room. The first director was Alice K.P. Brice. She was followed by Grace O'Hara who served for many years (until 1957).



The shop stocked and sold items handmade by the blind adults throughout NY State and the proceeds of the sales were sent back to the bureau (later termed the NYS Commission for the Blind).

The Shop and Tea Room (via the Ladies Auxiliary) was responsible for the facility and employed waitresses and supervisory positions. The purpose of the Tea Room was to make shopping a



pleasant experience. The Tea Room became quite popular after being promoted by its many patronesses. During the summer months, various days were set aside for groups from individual villages, and the patroness (or patronesses) of that village was in charge of inviting ladies and acting as the hostess for the day.

According to old records, in August 1934, 1,240 ladies were served. In 1939 the shop handled 15,000 articles, the Tea Room served 1,232 lunches at an average price of \$.83, 138 dinners at \$.98, and 1,014 teas at \$.50.



1942–The Ladies Auxiliary purchased the Mill and continued the Shop and Tea Room until 1957. They were continually making improvements to the Mill, indoors and out.



1950-1960's In addition to being a Shop and Tea Room, cooking classes were offered. At some point the building was leased to Jen Berkoski who ran her "Old Mill" restaurant in the Mill.

1968-1976 The Ladies Auxiliary Water Mill restored the building as a museum and the Mill was grinding once again for our nation's bicentennial.

1977–Present The Water Mill Museum has been open to the public with exhibits that relate to Water Mill's history and people, and with demonstrations and lectures on its history and relevant topics.



Knives In The Colonies, and More Importantly, Today



at revitalizing our most abused knives, and Executive Chef Jay Lippin, winner of the TV show "Chopped", were truly the stars of the show. Donald gave us each a coupon for a free knife sharpening to be used before Thanksgiving. And yes, two days later, several of us were in line at Williams Sonoma at 11:30 on Saturday to take him up on his offer. With the aid of a sharp knife, my turkey carving looked like a masterpiece this year!

On the evening of November 9th, 2023, with the backdrop of wooden gears and wheels of a 1644 water wheel, the who's who of the simple machines that make up a water mill, the Water Mill Museum treated us to good natured banter and humor laced with facts and skills, pertaining to KNIVES. Twenty-nine people were leaning forward in their seats, not wanting to miss a word of this presentation. Besides some historical facts, we learned about the many no noes we have been perpetrating on the very knives we depend on to help us in daily tasks in the kitchen. What makes a good knife, how to care for it, knife skills and safety were all part of the conversation. Donald Newman, of sharpcatknives.com, a wizard



Late Afternoon Celebration of The Colonial Herb Garden

August 15 at 4 pm
Water Mill Museum

Learn about the importance of the herb garden in colonial times, who was responsible for planting and tending it, the challenges then and now for maintaining a healthy, successful garden. What are the tricks to storing herbs for future use? Rick Bogusch, Garden Director for the Peconic Land Trust's Bridge Gardens, on Mitchell Lane in Bridgehampton, will share his decades of education and first-hand experiences with his hands-in-the-dirt nurturing herbs.



Light refreshments will be served featuring some of the herbs from our herb garden. Please call the Museum for more information and to reserve a seat: 631-726-4625.

A very special thank you to all those who generously donated to our Fall appeal. Your support will help us to continue offering programs and to keep our Mill grinding.

Honorary Life Members

Marlene Haresign
Janet Lavinio
Mary Maran

R. Timothy Maran
Lucille Berrill Paulsen
Muriel and Bill Petty



Children's Hands-On Milling Program

A one-hour program will be offered on Thursday, July 11 and August 8 at 11:30 am in our 1644 grist mill. We will offer a short three-minute video of the milling process, as well as an opportunity to participate in different early aspects, such as shelling kernels from the cobs and sifting the ground corn for consumption by humans and the farmer's animals. Registration is required as these sessions are limited to ten children. Please call the Museum at 631-726-4625 to reserve your place in this fun and informative program.

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 2025 will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 4 pm at the museum.

This meeting is open to the public.



Please scan and sign up to receive emails about our news and events.

We appreciate your support!
Thank you

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

