

Museum Membership Renewal—Autumn 2016

Museum membership includes free admission to many scheduled events. A newsletter packed with a calendar of events and other information. The opportunity to join a vital and engaged group. Membership runs from April 1st to March 31st the following year. Most of you are members, but if you wish to become a member here is our handy form.

Renew your membership early. Thank you!

Kids Club (1) - \$10 _____ Cotton (1) - \$25 _____ Wool (2) - \$50 _____

Silk (4) - \$100 _____ Other _____

We are a 501(c)3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

NAME _____

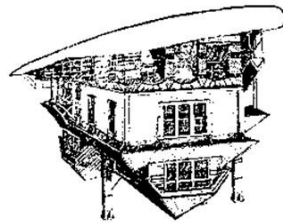
E-Mail: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please make checks payable to: W. T. H. M. or Use PayPal on the Museums Website: <http://www.millmuseum.org/>

Please mail donations to: Windham Textile and History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

Please Cut and Mail



The Mill Museum Autumn 2016 Newsletter

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The Windham Textile and History Museum
411 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226
860-456-2178
www.millmuseum.org



Loom and Spindle

The Newsletter of the Windham Textile & History Museum / The Mill Museum
411 Main St., Willimantic, CT. 06226 / (860)456-2178 / [the millmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:themillmuseum@gmail.com)
Website: www.millmuseum.org Autumn, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS & EXHIBITS

Irish Eyes:

The Irish Experience in a Connecticut Mill Town

Our fine Irish Eyes Exhibit is closing **Oct. 9**. The Museum thanks the Irish Club of Willimantic for supporting this exhibit, and Anne Marie Charland for curating it. On Friday **Oct. 7th** at 7 pm, the museum is holding a traditional **Irish wake**. \$10 admission. Reservations required. Call 860-456-2178.

Nightmare on Main:

The Horror of Confinement.

19th c. asylums, hospitals, prisons, and sanitariums. This evening program will feature the history of confinement, abuses, and treatments of institutions of past centuries.

People like Nelly Bly and Dorothea Dix exposed these conditions and influenced huge reforms. This Halloween seasonal event will be educational, enlightening, and fun. \$10 admission, Not recommended for children.

Anyone wishing to volunteer please call 860.423.1878
Doors open at 7, final show at 9:30 p.m.

Oct. 21, 22, 23.

Walktober – thelastgreenvalley.org

The Last Green Valley promotes walking, hiking, biking and kayaking through our beautiful and historic region. Each year there are over 100 walks. Check out the website or stop by for a brochure. This year the museum offerings include: **Oct. 2 at 1 pm**. Jamie Eves will lead a popular tour of the Old Willimantic Cemetery. Meet at cemetery, Main St., across from Stop and Shop. Fee \$10, \$5.

Walktober (cont.)

Oct 8 9:30 Ruth Hartunian-Alumbaugh will lead the 3rd annual Arts and Eats Walk. Meet at the museum at 9:30 and walk up Main Street sampling local café, coffee shop, restaurant comestibles. Free, registration required email ruthhalumbaugh@gmail.com

Oct 28 6 p.m. “The Spirits of Downtown” will be a mix of ghost legends and history of Willimantic’s pubs. You may opt to sample some local brew. Walk is \$5, libations are extra. Meet at the museum.

Oct 29 1 p.m. “Walking with Weir.” Famous American Impressionist J. Alden Weir summered in Windham and painted in Willimantic. On his wedding anniversary we will follow his life and his artist career. Meet at the museum.

Tea and Just Desserts

Our annual International Tea features teas and homemade treats from around the world provided by our museum board and volunteers. Gather your friends and reserve a table from one of the countries represented. This event sells out, tickets in advance by calling 860-456-2178 \$15. **Nov. 13** at 4 p.m.



Irish Migration Through Music

Connecticut’s state Historian, Walter Woodward, and his “Band of Steady Habits” will present an illustrated musical program. This program made possible with a grant from the Connecticut Humanities. **Nov. 20.** (Call for time 860-456-2178)

Trains, Tree and Toys

Save time during the Christmas-New Year’s vacation da to enjoy a display of model train layouts, decorated Museum trees, and historic toys. Open during regular museum hours, regular admission fees apply.

December.



Annual Meeting

Open to the public and members are welcome to join us and meet our new board members.

October 13, 6 p.m.



Snow Ball

Save the date for the annual Snow Ball. The theme is the 325th anniversary of the founding of Windham, CT. **Jan. 21.**

Volunteers

The Museum has always welcomed volunteers to support our education programs and public voice, preserve our local history, manage our aging building, and help raise funds to pay our bills. Two volunteers we are especially grateful to are **Elsie Jenkins and Joe Charron**. Elsie has spent hours scanning fragile documents showing American Thread Company records and thus making them available on line. And Joe brings his carpentry skills to good use fitting out a storage closet in Dugan Hall to store our chairs and tables. Thank you to them and many others. For more information or opportunities, especially to help wrap gifts at the EastBrook Mall, call Kit Eves at 860-617-4364

Volunteers: We have also benefitted from the many hours given to us by **Sheila Vernon**, North Windham, one of our most dedicated members and volunteers.

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Dawn Bakke, Willimantic

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Jamie Eves

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Beverly York

We sincerely thank outgoing board members Ricardo Perez, Bill and Candie Powers, and Nick Khan for their service.

Thank You!

The Museum is truly grateful to State Representative **Susan Johnson** and **Dennis O'Brien** for hosting a Backyard block party as a Fund Raiser for the Mary Lou DeVivo Memorial Education Fund. The theme was Windham Schools and featured photos of all eleven of the 19th c. district schools and a desk from the district #7 Warner School in South Windham. Guests and donors enjoyed viewing old yearbooks and questions from 1940 history midterms.

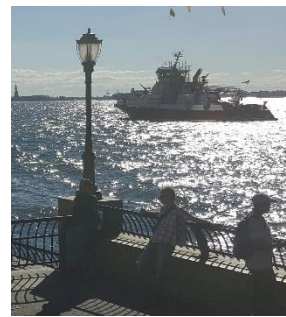
Glenn and Susan Martineau for sharing their Welcome to Breadsville miniature's exhibit with the museum.

Pageau Trust

The museum is grateful to the Leo & Rose Pageau Trust again this year. That award will be used to support our education program, especially to continue offering museum tours to Windham school classes free of charge. This award also keeps costs low for schools from 22 other towns and groups to come tour the museum and the historic American Thread neighborhood on our Willimantic River.

RECENT EVENTS

The Museum's Mill of the Month group chartered a bus and toured the Tenement Museum in New York City along with other highlights including the World Trade Center.



Saturdays at the Mill Museum

1st Saturdays at 1 p.m. Hysterical Historicals

If you love Willimantic history come by for an informal meeting. There is discussion and show and tell about local history. Bring mystery photos, family letters, business mementos to evoke memories. Free. Coffee.

2nd Saturdays at 2 p.m. Kids' Club

Oct. 8. Meet at Windham Center Green for tour of Dr. Hunt office, the historic library, the Charter Oak and J Alden Weir Walkway, a story and old fashioned games.

Nov. 12. Dye cotton T-shirts and create Who houses for Whoville.

Dec. 10. Gingerbread Holiday and 50th Birthday Party for the Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

3rd Saturdays at Museum Lyceum

Oct. 15. 4 p.m. "The Non-Profit Murders," a book reading and signing by local author Diana K. Perkins. Diana serves on the Museum's Board of Directors and has written a murder mystery set in Windham. Proceeds will benefit the Museum and the Guilford Smith Memorial Library. Refreshments.



4th Saturdays Spinning / Fiber Arts

Every 4th Saturday - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your spinning wheel or your knitting and drop by for this Spinning get together. This exciting new program will be organized by professional weaver Peggy Church (email peggy.church@earthlink.net). Enter the Dugan Program Room on Union Street.

4th Saturdays Mill of the Month

Oct. 22. 10 a.m. Baltic. This will be special tour with a hike! First we will meander about the village of Baltic and learn about the mill that created the village. Then we will hike along the Shetucket River to the site and ruins of some cottages. Hear the stories from the guide Diana Perkins who authored the historical fiction "Jenny's Way" set in the location. Bring water and wear your hiking shoes.



Digitization

The Mill Museum has begun a major project to digitize our collection and put the images online. The Museum has more than 20,000 artifacts in its collection.

Only a fraction is on display at any one time; the rest are in archival storage. In order to make these items more accessible to scholars, researchers, and the general public, we intend to make high resolution digital images, and then upload those images to the Connecticut Digital Archive, a nationally searchable database of digital records maintained by the University of Connecticut.

A team of staff, volunteers, and student interns have already begun work, and the first images will be uploaded (along with descriptive reference data) in a few weeks.

Thanks to generous grants from the Greater Willimantic Rotary and Historic New England, we will be able to digitize large documents, such as maps and blueprints, at a commercial copier. Scanning smaller items and photography will be done in-house.

STRIKE!

If you missed our popular Labor Day Strike at the Museum, you missed another visit from Mother Jones, played by our own Bev York. This year we reenacted the 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike.

