



Loom and Spindle

THE MILL MUSEUM OF CONNECTICUT /
WINDHAM TEXTILE AND HISTORY MUSEUM

COMING EVENTS:

- **Exhibit: Mill Memories: Photos of Mill Workers from the Museum's Collections.** January 23 through April 26. \$3 per person.
- **Fourth Annual Snow Ball.** Riverside Athletic Club, 600 Main St., Willimantic, CT. Saturday, March 7, 7:00-8:00 PM for le Petit Gala and 8:00-12:00 PM for the Ball. \$60 for the Ball; \$85 for the Ball and Gala.
- **Tea & Talk: Mill Girls.** Power point presentation by Carol Buch, Instructor in Women's Studies, Univ. of Connecticut. Sunday, March 15, 4:00-5:30 PM. \$10 per person; includes tea and pastry.
- **Tea & Talk: Mill Memories: Photos from the Museum's Collection.** Power point presentation by Jamie Eves, Prof. of History, Univ. of Connecticut. Sunday, April 5, 4:00-5:30 PM. \$10 per person; includes tea and pastry.
- **Opening Reception: Celebration of Quilts Exhibit.** Friday, May 22.
- **Exhibit: Celebration of Quilts.** May 22 through Aug. 30. Traditional and art quilts celebrating people, places, and special events. Includes quilts from the Museum's collection. \$3 per person.
- **Tea & Talk: The Development of Quilt Designs.** Talk by James Key. Sunday, May 24, 4:00-5:30 PM. \$10 per person; includes tea and pastry.
- **Lantern Tour of Willimantic's Three Bridges.** Walking tour with Beverly York, the Museum's Educational Director. Thursday, June 4.
- **Victorian Days.** Saturday, June 6 through Sunday, June 7.
- **Tea & Talk: How to Care for Your Quilts.** Talk by Pat Ferguson. Sunday, July 19, 4:00-5:30 PM. \$10 per person; includes tea and pastry.

MILL MEMORIES: NEW PHOTO EXHIBIT CELEBRATES MILL WORKERS

A new photo exhibit has just gone up at the Mill Museum. Entitled "Mill Memories," the exhibit features over 100 photos of mill workers from the Museum's collection. The photos date from the late 1800s through the 1970s, and depict workers at the Willimantic Linen Company, Cheney Silk Mills, American Thread Company, and William Brand Company. The exhibit went up in January and will continue into late April.

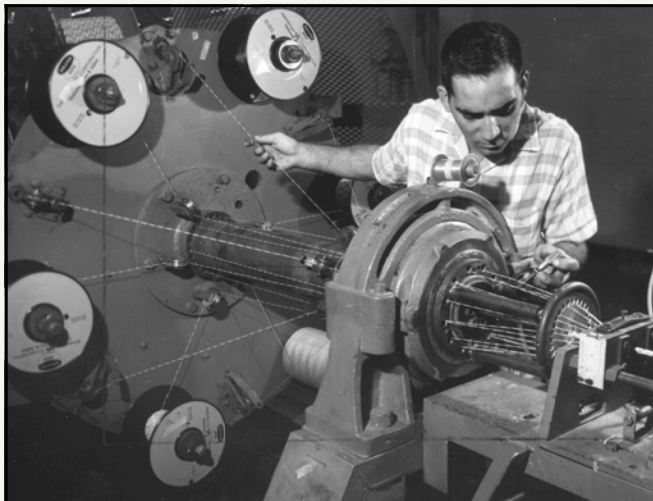
The exhibit includes 60 wall-mounted photos, along with two ring binders with

additional photos. Visitors are encouraged to identify workers from some of the more recent photos. The exhibit also includes a history of photography.

"Many of the photos are visually stunning art as well as important historical artifacts," says Dr. Jamie Eves, the Museum's volunteer collections curator, who helped plan and install the exhibit. "Volunteers have been busy preserving, cataloging, and scanning the approximately 1,000 photos in the Museum's collection. These are some of the best." Eves especially singled

out Museum volunteer Janice Knight, who preserved and cataloged hundreds of the Museum's photos.

Bev York, the Museum's Educational Director, prepared the section of the exhibit on the history of photography. Carol Buch, who teaches women's studies at the University of Connecticut, helped Eves select the photos. "Carol's help was invaluable," says Eves. "She picked up on so many subtle things, like clothing styles, age, and facial expressions. And Bev did her usual fine job of story-telling. It's a terrific exhibit."



NEWS & NOTES

The Museum has acquired a new LCD projector. The projector will allow the Museum to show Power Point presentations, and will be used in conjunction with the Museum's new Tea & Talk lecture series.

If anyone has teapots or three-tiered plates they would like to donate to the Museum, they would be put to good use. With an increasing number of programs calling for tea and pastry, the Museum needs more pots and serving plates. The Museum is also looking for donations of vacuum cleaners. Anyone with an item to donate can contact Executive Director Brooke Shannon at the Museum.

The Museum is always looking for more volunteers. With only two part-time staff, volunteers are essential to the continued operation of the Museum. The Museum especially needs docents to lead tours (we will train you), counter workers in our Linen Company Store gift shop, help setting up and breaking down events, and volunteers to help catalog and preserve items in our collection. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Brooke Shannon at the Museum.

The Museum participated in the Willimantic, CT, Chocolate Festival, held on Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day). Educational Director Bev York helped children make chocolate mice (a very popular activity), chocolate goodies

made by Museum staff and volunteers were available, and the Museum sold about twenty copies of its new "Mill Museum Chocolate Cookbook" at \$3 each. Executive Director Brooke Shannon put the cookbook together; it features new chocolate recipes along with some Victorian recipes from old cookbooks from the Museum's Dunham Hall Library. Copies are still available in the Museum's Linen Company Store gift shop.

The Linen Company Store gift shop also has for sale a number of copies of *Windham Past and Present: A Cookbook*, which was produced for the town of Windham, CT, tercentenary in 1992.

FOURTH ANNUAL SNOW BALL
ON MARCH 7

*"Each year's
Snow Ball
outdoes the last.
It's an event
not to be
missed!"*

The Fourth Annual Snow Ball will be held on Saturday, March 7, at the old Riverside Athletic Club at 600 Main Street in Willimantic, CT.

In previous years, the Snow Ball has been held in the ballroom in the Windham, CT, town hall, and in the old American Thread Company Mills in Willimantic, CT.

The Snow Ball is an elegant black tie gala organized annually by Windham resident Andrew Gibson and others as a fundraiser for the Museum. This year's proceeds will be applied to two ongoing Museum projects. "Walking Through Time" is a project to

create self-guided tours to acquaint visitors with the sights, sounds, historic structures, and significant events of Willimantic as a mill town; proceeds from the Snow ball will go towards the purchase of mobile technology, installation of historic markers, and regional marketing initiatives. "Permanent Place – Permanent Space" is a project to establish and dedicate a permanent exhibition room for the Museum's premier collections of early American sewing machines and local and family heirloom quilts.

The Snow Ball begins at 8:00 and will feature music by the

Flamingos, gourmet hors d'ouerves, a terrific martini, wine, and cocktail bar, and the opportunity to bid on many "must have" silent auction items. Admission is \$60.

For an additional \$25 attendees can also join in le Petit Gala, a winter revelry and preview party featuring award-winning singer Sarah Callinan, a troupe of wandering mimes, jugglers, acrobats, magicians, and other treats.

Each year's Snow Ball outdoes the last. It's an event not to be missed!

TEA & TALK: A NEW LECTURE
SERIES AT THE MUSEUM

The Mill Museum has inaugurated a new program: "Tea & Talk," an ongoing lecture series featuring topics related to preserving and presenting the history of textiles, mills, and mill communities in Connecticut. The talks will be accompanied by tea, coffee, and pastry. There will be an admission charge of \$10. The talks will be on Sundays, from 4:00 to 5:30.

The first Tea & Talk occurred in January,

when Jamie Eves, a history professor at the University of Connecticut and the Museum's volunteer collections curator, made a Power Point presentation on "The Rise of the Textile Industry in Eastern Connecticut." A lively discussion followed.

The next Tea & Talk is scheduled for March 15, when Carol Buch, who teaches women's studies at UConn, will speak about "Mill Girls." Eves will have

another Power Point on April 5, on photographs of mill workers in the Museum's collection. On May 24 James Key will speak on the development of quilt designs, and on July 19 Pat Ferguson will speak on "How to Care for Your Quilt." In the fall, Bev York, the Museum's Educational Director and a history teacher at Quinebaug Valley Community College, will speak about some of the treasures in the Museum's collection. Other talks are also being planned.

**OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO ANSWERED
THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL APPEAL!**

Roger & Cynthia Adams
 Mrs. Gloria Bein
 Larry Briggs
 Rheo & Faith Brouillard
 Fred A. Cazel Jr.
 Anne Clarke
 Helen Collins
 Richard Curland
 Jamie & Kit Eves
 Mona & Todd Friedland
 Murphy Sewall & Virginia Fulton
 Jeanne Haas
 Michael Haggerly
 David & Janet Haines
 John G. Hall
 Marge Hoskin
 Richard & Linda Kelley
 Steve & Faith Kenton
 Bernice Kerouack
 Elaine & Keith Knowlton
 June & James R Knox
 Alice Kolega
 James & Barbara Lacey
 Katherine Lariviere
 Stephen, Dolan & Fiona Leek
 Shirley Mustard & Dean Williams
 Linda J. Oulton
 Doris E. Palmer
 Beatrice Peckham
 Ethel Pocius
 Emil Pocock
 Jean & Robert Richards
 Leslie & Guy Ricklin
 Belle Robinson
 Alice Rubin
 Carl W. Schaefer
 Gail N. Smith
 David Wollner
 Beverly & Duke York
 David & Martha Yutzey
 Frank & Maryann Zator
 Sandy Brooks
 Pam & Bob Horrocks
 Norman & Jacqueline Janes
 Leo & Teresa Santucci
 Walter & Jane Pawelkiewicz

Michael & Susan Cutlip
 Joseph & Cynthia Henry
 Karen Greer
 Leona & Harris Marcus
 Susan Boland
 Steph & Stephanie Smith
 Kathy & Alan Miller
 Richard Cody
 Ronald & Adelle Milavsky
 Robert & Jane Gillard
 Hans & Christina Koehl
 Mary Brown
 Lynn Keleher
 Thomas & Lee Terry
 Warren & Marguerite Church
 Sam Gordon
 Sophie Kostal
 Robert & Phyllis Meshanic
 Kenneth & Sheila Clark
 Claudia Lebel
 Alma Maddonado-Cordner
 Frank Perrotti
 Paul Ashton & Susan Oldershaw
 Donald & Susan Tepas
 Loris Masterton
 Brian & Cora Bartizek
 Willa Biewald
 Sheryl & Tom Fraser
 Carolyn Gaines
 George & Janet Jones
 Gerald & Zoe Leibowitz
 John & Barbara McGrath
 Barbara McSweeney
 Elizabeth Norris
 Beverly Rice
 Ann & Dave Williams
 Pat Banning
 Tom DeVivo
 Doe Hentschel
 Steve Merlino & Kathie Mangiafico
 Jeffrey Smith
 Alexander Taylor
 Teresa Ridgeway
 Steve & Catherine Smith
 Carmen Vance
 Nancy Polydys

William & Joan Goba
 J.H. Kessler
 Joan Merritt
 Hal & Carol Abramson
 Robert Bundy
 Jeffrey Laverty
 Frank & Bertha Schiller
 Jacqueline Seide
 Peggy Beckett-Rinker
 Roberta & Robert Coughlin
 Eva Eaton
 Georgina Hendrick
 Jean Manter
 George Norman
 James Romanow
 Frances Woody
 Robert & Rebecca Grillo
 Karl & Laurie Guillard
 Pricillia Root
 Robert & Sharon Chalecki
 Brad Plebani
 Dennis Gamache
 Andrew Gutt
 Dr. Alex Citurs
 Irene & Richard Brown
 Anne Leland
 John & Judy Hopkins



MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WINTER 2009

If you have already renewed your membership, thank you!

Student/Senior, \$10 _____ Sustaining, \$50 _____

Individual, \$15 _____ Patron, \$100 _____

Family/Household, \$25 _____ Sponsor, \$250 _____

Benefactor, above \$250 _____ Additional Donation _____

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

NAME: _____ E-Mail: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Checks payable to: W. T. H. M.

Windham Textile and History Museum, 411 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MILLMUSEUM.ORG

**THE MILL
MUSEUM OF
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WINDHAM TEXTILE AND
HISTORY MUSEUM

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**T W E N T I E T H A N N I V E R S A R Y C E L E B R A T I O N :
E V E R Y T H I N G T E X T I L E**

This year the Windham Textile and History Museum celebrates its 20th anniversary!

The Museum was founded in 1989 by Laura Knott Twine, a hand weaver and Windham resident who dreamed of preserving and interpreting for the public the industrial heritage of eastern Connecticut.

It was a tough time. The venerable American Thread Company, once the largest thread mill in the United States and the largest mill of any kind in Connecticut, had just closed its vast Willimantic, CT, plant. Faced with the loss of their community's signature industry, the people of Willimantic and Windham — joined by the neighbors in surrounding communities — founded the Museum, both to preserve and interpret their history, and to act as a cultural center around which the community could rebound economically. Through many struggles, the Museum remains — in two former American Thread Company buildings — as a symbol of Connecticut's resilience.

The Museum celebrates its anniversary with a series of programs collectively called "Everything Textile." Three important rotating exhibits will anchor the celebration. The first — "Mill Memories: A Photo

History of Textile Workers" — features more than 100 historic photos of mill workers from the Museum's archives. It went up in January and will continue until April 26. The second exhibit — "Celebration Quilts" — opens on May 22 and will be up through August 30. It will feature traditional and art quilts celebrating people, places, and special events. The third exhibit — "Treasures from the Permanent Collection" — will display highlights from the Museum's permanent collection, including paintings, textiles, and American Thread Company artifacts, as well as a Roaring 20s fashion show and speakeasy. It will go up on Sept. 26 and run through Dec. 27.

The Museum is also inaugurating a new lecture series, called "Tea & Talk" (see p. 2).



The Museum's main building when we acquired it in 1989.

In addition, Museum staff and volunteers, led by Executive Director Brooke Shannon, have been cleaning and scrubbing the interior of the Museum. The walls of the worker row house exhibit have fresh paint, and a new exhibit room has been readied to house a portion of the Museum's fine collection of antique sewing machines.

Join the celebration!