

Loom & Spindle



Windham Textile & History Museum

The Mill Museum

May, 2021

Museum Director Stepping Down

Sadly, The Mill Museum announces that Jamie Eves, its esteemed Executive Director, is stepping down after more than a decade of service. Jamie came to the Mill Museum in 2005 as a volunteer, giving tours and working in the archives. He joined the Museum's Board of Directors the next year and became Executive Director in 2011 with the passing of his predecessor Brooke Shannon.

As he looked over the past ten years, Jamie saw "a lot of goals met and projects brought to fruition, many grants won, some big and some small. Despite COVID, the Museum is on a sound financial footing, having

finished in the black the past two years and completing a long list of capital improvements: painting the main building, putting a new roof on Dugan, updating the heating and cooling system, creating a weaving studio, making the Dugan basement usable, etc."



Jamie readily acknowledged the contributions of others, remarking that all of the accomplishments were the "result of teamwork, from the Museum's staff (particularly colleague Bev York), volunteers, and Board; to Windham town officials who have loved the Museum as much as I have; to countless selfless members of the greater Windham community pulling together -- but I certainly enjoyed being part of the team." He noted with pride the Museum's increased accessibility, expanded website and social media presence.

The Board accepted Jamie's resignation with regret, and was grateful that he will continue to volunteer. Board President Dawn Bakke said she fully understood that "for every thing there is a season," and that Jamie had indeed more than earned a time for rest.

Windham Textile & History Museum

BOBBIN' ABOUT

Upcoming Events May 2021

May 8 **Growing Green.** Free activity for kids at the Museum. 2-4 p.m. This is an outdoor drop-by event. Stop by, plant seeds, and pick up materials to take home. Limited supply. Reserve at themillmuseum@gmail.com or first come, first served. **Masks required.** The Mill Museum, [411 Main Street, Willimantic.](#)



May 16 **Zoom in for Tea: International Tea Day.** Brew a cup of tea and join us virtually for an entertaining and educational hour. 4 p.m. Fee: \$10 per screen. Reserve at themillmuseum@gmail.com.

May 22 **Picturing America: Our Country's History in Art.** Free exhibit at Garden on the Bridge, [322 Main Street, Willimantic.](#) 2-5

p.m. Donations support the Museum. Stroll by a series of images of nationally famous art that shares the story of American history. This exhibit seeks to enhance and strengthen the understanding of America's history and founding principles. A project of the National Endowment for the Humanities, sponsored by The Mill Museum. **Masks required.** . Rain date: Sunday, May 23.



May 29 **Where They Stood: The Industrial Revolution.** Second of three programs teaching American History through visiting local 19th century sites. A slow-paced, outdoor walking/driving tour lasting approximately 3 hours. 10:00 a.m. Fee: \$15 per person. Drive, caravan or carpool on your own. **Masks required.** Bring water and a snack. Itineraries will be e-mailed to people who pre-register at themillmuseum@gmail.com.

The Mill Museum Re-emerges from COVID

Although the Windham Textile and History Museum (aka: The Mill Museum) remains temporarily closed for many of our normal activities, it has been busy behind the scenes sprucing up for its reopening in August. Under the direction of the collections staff, Jaky Ray and Chelsey Knyff, the third floor is being thoroughly cleaned and organized to represent its appearance in the late 1800s as the Austin Dunham Library for the workers - the first "public" library in Willimantic. It had a large collection of books, newspapers and magazines available for free for the Company's employees, their families, and other members of the community.



During the pandemic shut-down, other activities have continued. The inimitable Bev York led others in chalking the sidewalk in memory of the victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire on March 25, 1911 - the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of New York City, and one of the deadliest in U.S. history.



Besides leading outdoor walks, Bev also led a series of virtual tea parties and trivia games via Zoom that allowed members and newcomers to become involved in the Museum in fun new ways.



And our planning for the future goes on. The committee for "Nightmare on Main" has started to meet and has chosen "Phobias" as this year's theme. It's sure to be a thriller! Outdoor activities for May are all ready to go - Just take a look at the "Bobbin' About" section of this newsletter! COVID may have slowed us down for a bit, but don't count us out. Spring is bustin' out, and so are we. So come join us! For

more about the Mill Museum's exhibits, our gift shop, classes, etc., visit our website: MillMuseum.org.

Sneak Preview: We are now collecting books for our August book sale. Please email the museum to arrange for drop off or pick up.

Get Woven into the Fabric of Our Museum

Don't forget to tell your friends about The Mill Museum. We're a REGIONAL museum, so folks throughout eastern Connecticut and beyond can learn about the vital role the mills and the people who worked in them played in shaping the area's history. You'll be getting a Membership Form in the near future. If you've already joined, pass it on to a friend! Their involvement may be one more thread in a growing tapestry of history.

THE WINDHAM TEXTILE AND HISTORY MUSEUM, [411 Main Street](http://411>MainStreet), Willimantic, CT 06226