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Loom and Spindle

The Mill Museum Newsletter

September 2024

Museum Annual Meeting To Take Place in October

Like all membership-based non-profits, the Windham Textile and History Museum (the Mill Museum) holds an Annual Membership Meeting during which museum members vote to fill vacancies on its Board of Directors and among its officers.

Officers and directors serve two-year terms (and can be reelected), so not all spots are open, but some are. We currently have seven directors, but our bylaws allow us to elect as many as twenty, so there is plenty of room to add

new voices. And this year, by chance, all four officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are open for election or reelection.

Nominations can be made from the floor. All current museum members are entitled to vote. Attendance at the Annual Meeting is open to anyone.

Therefore, we are inviting everyone to the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting of the Windham Textile and History Museum on Thursday, October. 10, at 5:30 p.m.

We will meet in the Dugan Hall meeting room on the second floor of the museum's Jonathan Dugan Building, 157-B Union Street, Willimantic, CT, 06226. There is on-street parking on Union Street, as well as in the museum's parking lot at 411 Main Street. There is also additional parking across Main Street in front of the Windham Mills buildings.

UAW Union Makes Major Donation to Museum



The Marine Draftsmen's Association - UAW Local 571, presents a check for $5,000 to the Mill Museum..
From left, Jamie Eves, Mill Museum Interim Executive Director, Samantha Chace, Museum Educator, David Evans, Financial Secretary of The Marine Draftsmen's

The Mill Museum recently received a $5,000 donation from a prominent Connecticut union, the Marine Draftsmen's Association - UAW Local 571. It represents workers at the Groton-based Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics.

The union sponsors an annual summer internship for youngsters, who as part of their internship, visit the Mill Museum. August's museum program was led by Samantha Chace, the Mill Museum's museum educator, and included a lecture by Robert Asher on the labor movement. Participants also toured the museum which has exhibits

Association, and Claire Lary, Museum Treasurer. (Photo: Michael Mahony)

comparing the living conditions of mill workers and their bosses. They also took part in a mock assembly line with a simulated speed-up.

The union's donation will be directed to the museum's general fund.

"As [Interim Executive Director] Jamie Eves has said recently, 'The museum preserves the memory of the community,'" Mill Museum Vice President Michael Mahony said. "Every dollar received … allows the museum to continue its work."

Liberty's Daughters Exhibit Concludes

There is still time to view the Mill Museum's current exhibit: *Liberty's Daughters in Northeastern Connecticut: Women, Textiles, and the Nonimportation Movement in the Revolutionary Era*.

The special exhibit will close on Sunday, October 20. It is available for viewing between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Representatives from the New England Lace Group will be there on October 19th. On October 12th, between 1 and 2 p.m., Joyce Knowlton will play a dulcimer and Faith Kenton will demonstrate knitting. Regular admission charges apply.

This exhibit examines the contributions of patriot women to the success of the nonimportation movement. It also explores how women's vital role in the movement may have — or may not have — transformed women's political and economic roles following the American Revolution.

News Briefs

Tour of Historic Homes

The Willimantic Victorian Neighborhood Association is partnering with the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to provide a walking tour

of historic homes in the Hill Section of Willimantic.

This month, the tour group will visit the homes of 11 of the women who founded the Anne Wood Elderkin DAR Chapter.

The tour will take place at 1 p.m. on October 5. The rain date is October 19. The guided tour will be led by chapter members in period dress starting at 347 Windham Street.

Please park along Windham Street. Additional information is included online at www.facebook.com/AWElderkin/

Great Windham Frog Fight

Mill Museum Interim Executive Director Jamie Eves recently was a guest on Mike Allen's Amazing Tales of CT podcast. They discussed the historic Great Windham Frog Fight.

Get Woven into the Fabric of Our Museum

You don't have to live in Willimantic or Windham to support 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. If you've already become a member, THANK YOU! If not, please consider joining our ranks.

At the $25 COTTON (Individual) level, members receive the newsletter; email notice of the Museum's programs and events; free admission to the Museum, its library and exhibits (special events and fundraisers my be extra); and 1-hour access to staff time for personal research.

At the $50 WOOL (Family) level, membership extends these same benefits to members of a household consisting of up to two adults and any number of children.

At the $100 SILK (Patron) level, membership includes all the above benefits, plus invitations to a private, advance showing of exhibits; free personal tours; and 3-hour access to staff time for personal research.

Membership Levels:

Silk (patron) membership, $100

Windham Textile & History Museum
411 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226
Make checks out to: WTHM

Go to https://millmuseum.org/join-membership/ and join today or increase your level of membership. Your involvement may be one more thread in a growing tapestry of history.

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