



# Loom & Spindle

The Newsletter of the Windham Textile & History Museum / The Mill Museum  
411 Main St., Willimantic, CT, 06226 / (860) 456-2178 / [themillmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:themillmuseum@gmail.com)  
website: [www.millmuseum.org](http://www.millmuseum.org) Spring, 2018

## 2018: A JAM-PACKED YEAR

The Windham Textile & History Museum (also known as the Mill Museum) is open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (except major holidays) from February through December. We also have a lot of special events scheduled for the coming year. Here is a sample. (Occasionally, we have to change a date, cancel an event, or add a new event, so always check our website — [www.millmuseum.org](http://www.millmuseum.org) — or call us at (860) 456-2178 to confirm.

### April

**Exhibit: “A Community’s Attic: Recent Acquisitions at the Mill Museum.”** A deliberately unedited exhibit of artifacts donated to the Museum over the past two years. Communities preserve their histories when people save things. What kinds of things do people save? What things do they donate to museums? What things do museums accept? Come and find out! Closes April 29.

**April 7: Hysterical Historicals.** This oddly named non-group is a monthly meeting of anyone interested in Windham/Willimantic local history. It meets at the Museum on the first Saturday of most months at 1 p.m. There is no set agenda and no admission fee, but there is usually coffee and doughnuts.

**April 14: Kids’ Club,** a special program for children from four to twelve years old, organized and led by Bev York. It starts at 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of most months. In April, Bev will take children on a tour of Ireland in story, craft, and foods.

**April 15: Second Sunday Tour.** On the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m., we offer a special guided tour of the Museum and/or its environs. (On other days, tours are self-guided.) Second Sunday Tours are included in the admission price at no extra charge.

**April 15: Spring Tea.** Join us for a sit down tea at 4 p.m. with all the accoutrements: desserts, table linens, china, etc. The theme will be Herbs and Flowers, with guest speaker Deb Hultgren. \$12 per person. Reservations recommended.

**April 28: Mill of the Month.** On the fourth Saturday of most months, Educational Director Bev York leads a field trip to a Connecticut mill, mill village, or other historic site. Check our website for destinations, schedules, and other information. Masinda Button Mill in Willington. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

**April 28: Spinning Bee.** On the fourth Saturday of most months, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., master spinner Peggy Church leads an old-fashioned spinning bee. Spinners are invited to bring their wheels and join in the fun and conversation. Novices are welcome. There is no admission fee.

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## 2018: A Jam-Packed Year, Cont'd

### May

**Exhibit: "Local Color: Inspired by Science. An Exhibition of Fiber Art by Members of Studio Art Quilt Associates in Connecticut."** The Mill Museum's now annual summer quilt show, in conjunction with SAQACT, opens May 5. See the separate story elsewhere in this newsletter for details. The exhibit closes July 8.

**May 5: Fiber Arts Day.** Formerly "Textile Trio," the Museum has renamed its annual summer celebration of fiber arts "Fiber Arts Day." A full day of demonstrations, speakers, and vendors devoted to the fiber arts, traditional and modern. See the separate story elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

**May 12: Kid's Club.** 2 p.m. Stencils on Velvet – and Silhouettes!

**May 13: Second Sunday Tour.**

**May 17: Third Thursday Street Fest.** Look for volunteers from the Mill Museum at this year's Third Thursday Street Fests in Willimantic

**May 26: Mill of the Month.** Noble and Cooley Drum in Granville, MA. See story elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

**May 26: Spinning Bee.**

### June

**June 2 & 3: Victorian Weekend.**

**June 9: Connecticut Open House Day.** Children admitted free!

**June 9: Kids' Club.** Old-fashioned games in the park. Windham Mills State Heritage Park in Willimantic, CT. 2 p.m.

**June 10: Second Sunday Tour.**

**June 21: Third Thursday Street Fest.**

**June 23: Mill of the Month.** Museum of Connecticut Glass in Coventry, CT. See story elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

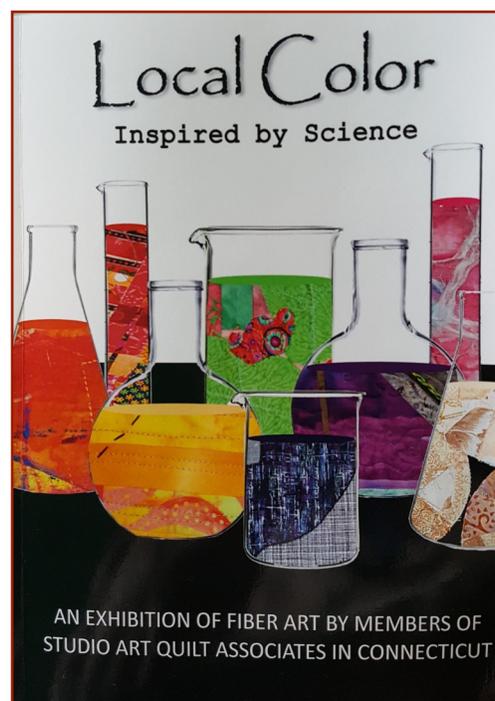
## New Quilt Exhibit: Inspired By Science

Opening on May 5 and continuing through July 8, the Mill Museum – in partnership with the Connecticut chapter of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA-CT) – presents a stunning exhibit of new art quilts, "Local Color: Inspired by Science." The exhibit features art quilts by SAQA-CT members.

According to Clara Nartley, the exhibit's coordinator, "Science and art often seem to be two mutually exclusive topics.... However, there are many linkages between the two disciplines. It is quite common to find artists with science backgrounds and vice versa. And just as common to have scientific devices influenced by the arts, whether it be in their design and user experience, or in their presentation."

"Traditional quilting techniques, photographic processes, illustration, and digital technology, play a significant role in many of these pieces, both in conceptualization and execution," Nartley continues. "Drawn from artists in Connecticut and surrounding areas, the works in 'Local Color: Inspired By Science' expand on the narrative of science in art."

Adds Mill Museum Executive Director Jamie Eves, "We are really excited to be hosting this exhibit – one that will be shown in various locations around the state. The Mill Museum and Windham/Willimantic are becoming centers for an emerging fiber arts community. This is the Museum's third annual quilt exhibit, and we plan on more to come."



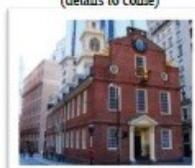
**Right: Cover of exhibit catalog for "Local Color: Inspired By Science."**

**Left: The exhibit at its first stop, the Zahn Gallery at the Middlesex Hospital. The exhibit will be at the Mill Museum May 5–July 8**



Please join us as the  
**The Windham Textile and History Museum presents the**  
**Mill of the Month**

A monthly program where we visit other mills and factories. Call museum for more info 860-456-2178 <http://www.millmuseum.org/>

 Feb. 24, 2018 – 11 a.m. <b>New Britain Museum of Industry</b> 59 West Main Street, New Britain, CT	March 24, 2018 – 11 a.m. <b>Hall Mill &amp; Family History</b> Willington, CT.	April 28, 2018 - 1 p.m. <b>Masinda Button Factory</b> 213 Luchon Rd., Willington, Ct
		
May 26, 2018 – 10:30 (Leave Willimantic at 9) <b>Noble and Cooley Drum</b> <b>Build a Drum!</b> Call to reserve a spot. 42 Water Street, Granville, MA	June 16, 2018 – 3 p.m. (Third Saturday) <b>Museum of Conn. Glass</b> Corner of North River Rd. & Rt. 44, Coventry	July 28, 2018 - 2 p.m. (2.5 hours) <b>American Precision Museum</b> 196 Main St., Windsor, VT - \$6.
		
August 25, 2018 – 10 a.m. <b>Coltville National Historic Park</b> Huyslope Ave., Hartford, Conn.	September 22, 2018 – Bus Trip <b>Boston Freedom Trail And Other Sites</b> (details to come)	October 27, 2018 - 1 p.m. <b>Talcottville Mill</b> Vernon/Rockville
		

## Fiber Arts Day

Join us for Fiber Arts Day on Saturday, May 5, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Formerly Textile Trio, Fiber Arts Day highlights the traditional fiber arts of quilting, weaving, sewing, and spinning. We will have vendors, speakers, and demonstrations. Fiber Arts Day will coincide with the opening of our new art quilts exhibit, “Local Color: Inspired by Science.”

### Mother’s Dream Quilt Project

As part of Fiber Arts Day, the Mill Museum will host the Mother’s Dream Quilt Project.

Moms Demand Action created the Mother’s Dream Quilt Project to comment on gun violence in America. The Project features a series of quilts made from fabric donated by mothers across the country. Every block in every quilt uses the uniform quilting pattern known as “Mother’s Dream.” Each quilt also contains at least one block composed of meaningful fabric from a victim or survivor of gun violence.

According to the organizers of the Project, “The fully assembled quilts show how gun violence has become part of the fabric of America, but also show the strength, power, and beauty of moms joining together.”

## Weaving and Spinning at the Mill Museum

As we have been telling pretty much everybody, the Mill Museum has been placing more emphasis on traditional textile production, along with our already well-established collections and displays on industrial textile production. Master weaver/spinner Peggy Church has volunteered to organize a free monthly spinning bee at the Museum. She is also volunteering to give lessons in hand weaving on traditional floor looms. The Museum acquired four looms as part of its education collection from the now-closed American Textile History Museum in Lowell, MA, and set up a weaving studio for Peggy and her students. Peggy can take up to four students at a time, and offers eight-week classes (meeting every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00, with additional bench time as desired) for \$270 per student. The current class is full, but another one will begin in September.

“Fiber arts — especially quilting — has long carried political and social messages,” explains Mill Museum Executive Director Jamie Eves. “In the early 19th century, quilts carried instructions for the Underground Railroad. The Museum is excited about using fiber arts to stimulate public discussions about important issues.”

### A Partnership With SAQA-CT

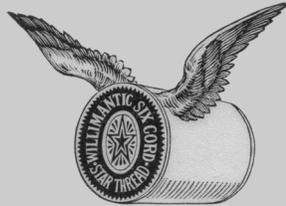
Fiber Arts Day is a joint project of the Mill Museum and the Connecticut chapter of the Studio Art Quilt Associates, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development, documentation, and publications. Local fiber artists and quilters Catherine Whall Smith and Joan Blade Johnson are the volunteer organizers of Fiber Arts Day and the “Inspired by Science” quilt exhibit. Anyone interested in learning more about SAQA can find out more at [www.saqa.com](http://www.saqa.com). Johnson is also much involved with Swift Waters Artisans’ Cooperative in Willimantic.

# The Mill Museum

## Windham Textile and History Museum

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Visit us on the Web at  
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WindhamTextileandHistoryMuseum/](http://www.facebook.com/WindhamTextileandHistoryMuseum/)

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## Membership Issue (And a Community Exhibit)

It is time for the Mill Museum's annual membership drive. The Windham Textile and History Museum (also known as the Mill Museum) is a membership-based, nonprofit educational organization. The Museum is not a government agency. Rather, it belongs to its members. Members elect the Museum's Board of Directors, which establishes the Museum's policies, mission, and goals. The Mill Museum thus belongs to the community, and is responsive to the community's needs. The Museum has more than 300 members. If you already are a member, we hope that you will renew your membership. If you are not yet a member — or somehow allowed your membership to lapse — you can join or renew by filling out the form on the insert inside this newsletter and mailing it to us.

Museums like the Mill Museum preserve and make accessible local histories that would otherwise be forgotten. To celebrate our long history as a community museum (the Mill Museum opened in 1989), the Mill Museum has organized a current exhibit (up until late April) called "A Community's Attic: Recent Acquisitions at the Mill Museum." It includes a variety of objects, papers, photos, books, spinning wheels, sewing machines, and other items donated to the Museum over the past couple of years. Putting the exhibit together was an education in what people save, what they think is important, and what (and why) folks donate to local museums.



Above: Colored glass windows rescued from ATCO Mill No. 4 before it burned in 1995, along with an A. N. Wyeth print showing the windows in the Mill, built in 1880.

Below: The original organ pedal from the organ in St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, from 1874.