



MILL NEWS & NOTES

From the
Water Mill Museum

Vol. 24

41 Old Mill Road, Water Mill, NY 11976

Spring 2010



A Generous Thanks

Thank you for your contributions to our Water Mill Museum. Your generosity allows us to restore and maintain our historic gristmill as well as the adjacent buildings on the site. Each donation helps and is appreciated.

The Board of Directors is very grateful to:

Gerald & Sherrill Adams, John & Faye Andreasen, Betty Arnister, H. Karin Barsalona, Theresa Bernbach, Kenneth Bialkin, Dave & Sue Birdsall, Henry & Gilda Block, Ronald & Susan Brackett, Sally & Daniel Breen, David & Janet Brinton, Marilyn Burden, Susan Burke, Ronnie & Seymour Chalif, Clay Art Guild of the Hamptons, Gay & Al Colina, Charles & Susan Corwith, David & Vivian Corwith, Marilyn Corwith, Sarah Corwin, Rose D'Alessio, Perry Delalio, Reynolds Dodson, James & Sonja Downey, Dr. Laurence & Regina Dubin, Eastland Farms/Michael DeRosa, Doreen & Will Ekert, Andrew Feustein, Gil & Suzanne Flanagan, Rodica Florea, Brian & Deborah Foster/Complete Yard Care Inc., The Fourth Foundation, Margery Freedman, Elaine Lavale Freeman, and

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The museum will open for the 2010 season on May 20th. We hope that you will take some time to stop by and enjoy the many exhibits and a demonstration of the milling process by our Millerette, Joan Wilson.

Again, we are most grateful for your donations.

Faye Andreasen , Co-President

Forty Years as a Museum

Our historic Water Mill has a long history dating back to 1644 with Edward Howell, its first owner. In the intervening years, other owners operated the mill until John Benedict came to Water Mill in 1818 to manage the mill. The Ladies Auxiliary of Water Mill began leasing the mill from the Benedict family in 1920, since they were no longer milling.

In 1942 the Auxiliary purchased the mill "to preserve same for public use and enjoyment." The Ladies Auxiliary incorporated at this time in order to buy the mill. Many Auxiliary members, along with their families and friends, worked together to repair and restore the building. These dedicated women raised the necessary monies by holding rummage sales, food sales, and by soliciting donations.

In 1969 the mill was opened as the Water Mill Museum. Thus, the restoration of the mill was begun. Removal of debris from many years of neglect, replacement of decayed timbers, reshingling, and restoration and replacement of the milling machinery had to be accomplished to return the mill to a functioning water powered operating mill.

Once again, the women of the Auxiliary had to raise money and they did so with dedication and determination. Generations of women deserve the thanks and appreciation of the Water Mill community.

This past year, 2009, the museum celebrated its 40th anniversary. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to grant lifetime membership in the museum to four of the ladies so instrumental in establishing the museum. These four surviving members of the 1969 nucleus are: Marge Burnett, Frannie Flink, Doris Foster and Nancy Halsey.

To these outstanding ladies we say thank you for saving our mill. We and the entire community are indebted to you for overcoming what appeared to be insurmountable obstacles and for being wonderful examples of civic pride and volunteerism.



The 1969 Board of Directors from left to right:
Helen Jones, Mrs. Richard Ross, Barton McGuire, Ruth Enstine, Irene Muller,
Frannie Flink and Elizabeth Ann Forney

First Chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary of Water Mill
Marie Donnelly Durk

First Directors:

Edna Sayre Ball, Abbie Sandford Burnett, Hazel Howland Corwith, Julia Murray Cuddihy, Grace Van Anden Halsey, Kathryn Diamon Halsey, Flora Darrah Schmidt and Janet McConnell Smith