

# Old Schwamb Mill · Works in Progress · Spring 2025

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## Arlington Museums Create a Brochure with Something for Everyone

“Four Unique Museums. One Vibrant Town”

That’s the cover phrase on the newly released tri-fold brochure from the Museums of Arlington. The colorful pamphlet was created by representatives of the **Old Schwamb Mill, Jason Russell House & Museum, Cyrus Dallin Art Museum, and Armenian Cultural Foundation.**

The brochure is now available in over twenty hotels in Cambridge, Arlington, Lexington and Concord, eight nearby libraries, and at each Arlington museum, where it is a popular take-away. It is also included in the welcome tote-bag given to each new Arlington homeowner.

For years the four museums have encouraged visitation to each other’s locations, but creating an attractive joint pamphlet that is succinct and informative was a challenge. This brochure, designed by **Heather Leavell** of the **Cyrus Dallin Art Museum**, hits all the marks: beautiful photos, enticing descriptions, addresses and open hours, a map, and a QR code to scan for more information.

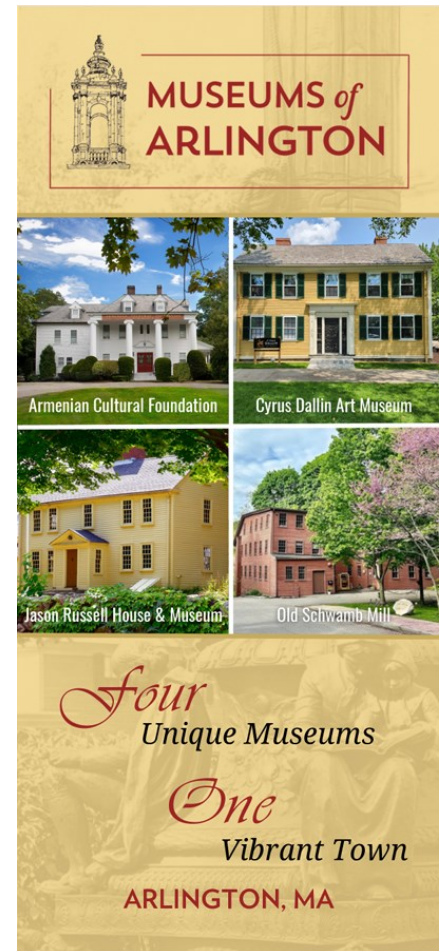
OSM board member **Janet O’Riordan** and museum director **Lynette Aznavourian** joined the other museums’ reps to make the brochure a reality. The four museums split the costs of printing.

“This is the first product of the four-museum consortium,” says Janet O’Riordan. “We plan to meet several times a year to coordinate programming and events. By joining forces, we feel we can make Arlington better known as a destination with something for everyone.”

## Mill’s Revolutionary Exhibit “The Road Where It Happened” Continues Its Successful Run

Last year the Mill was awarded a \$5,000.00 matching grant from **Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area** to create an exhibit about the land and inhabitants of Menotomy, site of the battle of the Foot of the Rocks on April 19, 1775. Thanks to contributions from Friends of the Mill and a year of research and writing by the Mill’s exhibit committee, the exhibit launched in December 2024, in time for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lexington, Concord and Menotomy.

“The Road Where It Happened: Revolution Comes to Menotomy” has attracted over two hundred visitors, including dozens over Patriots Day weekend when the Mill stayed open Saturday through Tuesday. Out-of-town visitors have come from Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia, plus Brazil, Great Britain, and Japan.



**Freedom's  
Way** NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

In addition, the exhibit was the occasion for a special reception for Friends of the Mill and a successful gathering of over 70 members of historical societies from the towns whose militia took part in the fighting on April 19.

On both occasions, board member **Doreen Stevens** gave an inspiring, fact-filled talk on the discoveries she made in researching the day's events.

"The Road Where It Happened" remains open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, through May 31. The panels will also be exhibited in the second floor gallery at Town Hall in autumn and will return to the Mill in December. The research for this exhibit is also informing the creation of the Foot of the Rocks memorial on Massachusetts Avenue.

## Visits to the Mill for the Young and Old

Schools, woodworking clubs, and senior centers are three common sources of arranged group visits to the Mill. With advance notice, we can have extra volunteers on hand to allow for separate smaller tour groups or supervision of youngsters. If seeing the turner at work is important to the visit, we work with master wood turner **David Graf** to be sure he is on hand.

Photography groups love the Mill for its wealth of subject matter, soft lighting, and variety of textures and colors. About ten members of the photography group from the **Wellesley Council on Aging** visited in late April, spending a couple of hours taking pictures while receiving insights from David Graf and tour guide **Janice McInnes**.

The following Monday, Mill president **Dermot Whittaker** met the group in Wellesley to listen as they shared their work. Many found the Mill a welcome challenge for a photographer. Initially, it took time to become acquainted with the dozens of unfamiliar tools, frames and fixtures. Curvilinear frames hang alongside straight beams and joists, taut horizontal belts, and other "framing" objects that the photographer must be aware of. Daylight coming in each window, even on a cloudy day, can present an interesting contrast to the Mill's dark interior – or an annoying "hot spot" that detracts from the picture. Capturing the texture of worn wood, rough cast iron, dusty shelves, and gleaming cutting tools is another challenge.

Anyone interested in arranging group visit to the Mill should contact museum director **Lynette Aznavourian** at [info@oldschwambmill.org](mailto:info@oldschwambmill.org). A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person is welcome.



Bell on office door or the Old Schwamb Mill (photo: Barbara Owen, Wellesley COA Photography Group)

## Mill Participates in NARM for Year Three – \$100 Donation Qualifies

In 2023, the Old Schwamb Mill joined the **North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association**. NARM is a network of over 1,400 art museums and galleries, historical museums and societies, botanical gardens, children's museums, zoos, and more. When people sign up through a participating NARM institution, they can receive reciprocal membership benefits across the United States, Bermuda, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.

Over the past twelve months, **81 Friends of the Mill** received the benefits of NARM membership by donating \$100.00 or more to the Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, Inc. Donors receive a Friends of the Mill card marked with official NARM emblem. The cards with NARM emblem are valid for a full year from the date they were issued.

With this spring's Friends of the Mill appeal, please consider taking advantage of the Mill's joining NARM with a donation of \$100.00 or more.

***You can contribute to the Mill's Friends Appeal securely online at [www.oldschwambmill.org](http://www.oldschwambmill.org)***