

CELEBRATE WINDSOR!

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF OUR TOWN'S RICH PAST

JULY 17, 2016

An Afternoon of Memories and Music in East Windsor

It's not often that so many Windsor residents gather outside of a Town Meeting. Or that so many former residents return to reconnect with their former community. Friends of Windsor's Celebrate Windsor event was historic in its own right.

You know the feeling when you throw a party but you aren't sure if anyone will show up? There was a bit of that on the morning of July 17th as volunteers set up tents and wrestled with the mysteries and hazards of the generator, extension cords, and old windows that just didn't want to stay open. But the first guests started arriving well before the hour, and it was clear that Windsor was ready for a get-together.

The East Windsor Chapel itself was part of the draw. This beautiful building isn't often open, and was at its best decked out in wildflowers. The chance to learn about East Windsor's historical sites was another big attraction, as Jim Kierstead led an intrepid group on a walking tour and shared his deep knowledge of the area's past.

Before that, every folding chair was filled and more folks stood at the back for FOW chair Patty Crane's talk about the organization's goals of



Benny Kohn, on keyboard & vocals

strengthening our community, and Colin Harrington's deep dive down memory lane with enthusiastic audience participation. We were reminded that the Alibi Bar is gone, Estes Store is changed, but Windsor still offers the chance of finding a moose in your garden, and the kind of neighbors who will rescue you from a snowdrift in a heartbeat. Colin's poem, "East Windsor Chapel," ended the program.

A display of old photographs from the Windsor Historical Commission's collection led people around the chapel interior. Bertha Torrey's formal studio portrait in a most amazing hat drew stories of Bertha herself – unhappy in love, and envious of a beautiful and brilliant sister. A letter from a new mother in the late 19th century to her sister gave details of a hard life in the hills that was nevertheless familiar, with talk of apple pies, laundry, and the difficulties of writing while holding a restless baby.

Large wall posters of two Crane Community School class pictures from the 1950's led to a lively game of "name that student" among former Crane School kids, older but with their memories still working just fine, thank you. Melodie Burdick has to be considered the champion, with an able assist from Charles Sturtevant. Every

student in the pictures has now been identified!

A surprise guest was Lucie Anderes, a talented artist and former East Windsor resident who drove from Connecticut for the event. One of two paintings she has donated to the town, a view of the chapel, was on display.

The sound track for all of this, and the highlight for many, was Benny Kohn's music under the tents. His version of "Windsor Now & Then," a song written by his late father Ed Kohn, summed up the day's spirit.



East Windsor Chapel

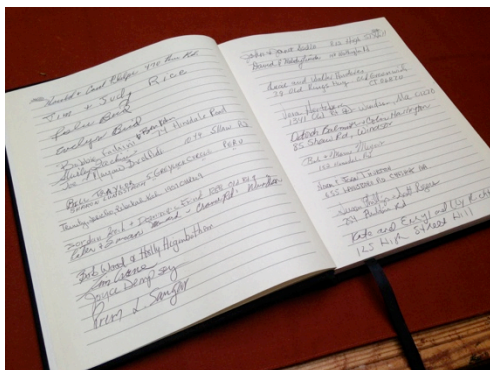
And there were goodies to take home: the new and improved Windsor Phone & Community Directory, and the beautiful Windsor Landmarks Map showing the location of the 24 historical site markers FOW had installed last year.

At the end of it all, there were almost 90 names in the guest book and barely a crumb left on the food table. Perfect.

--Susan Phillips



A good crowd filled the chapel



Celebrate Windsor's full guest book

Many Thanks...

We had so many volunteers, it feels risky to name them lest we forget a single one. But how can we not try? We couldn't have done it without their help: Lucie Anderes, Scott Brockway, Tim Crane, Joyce Dempsey, Brian Doyle, Doug & Blake Edwards, Friendly Fred's, Colin Harrington, Patti Hackett-Hunter & Alex Hunter, Jim Kierstead, Trinity & Tim Koch, Benny Kohn, Pete Menard, Prem Sangar, Sangar's General Store, Charles Sturtevant, Jack Swindlehurst, The Trustees, White Wolf Trucking, and Heather Zanolli. Thank you, all!

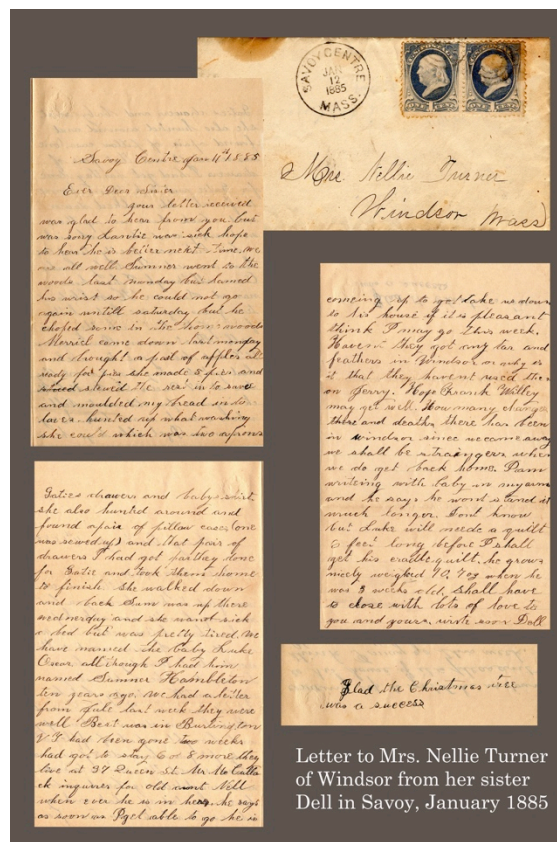
And sincere thanks to the Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Windsor Cultural Council for supporting this event.



Afternoon light in the chapel

Four-legged Support

Scott Brockway's beautiful handcrafted sofa table, made from locally harvested maple, has found a home with raffle winners Dick and Sue Jacobs of East Windsor after doing its part to support Friends of Windsor. We sold almost 100 raffle tickets, and raised \$465 to support our community-building efforts. A huge thank-you to Scott, owner of Windsor's own Berkshire Wood Products, who reached out to us with the suggestion for a raffle as part of our Celebrate Windsor History event. A great idea and a big success!



Letter to Mrs. Nellie Turner of Windsor from her sister Dell in Savoy, January 1885

WINDSOR LANDMARKS MAP!

Friends of Windsor is thrilled to introduce our guide map featuring the locations of the 24 site markers erected last year as part of our Windsor Landmarks Project, which highlights and celebrates the town's natural, historical and cultural treasures. In conjunction with our monthly FLASHBACKS series and companion online presentations, the artfully designed 16" x 18", two-sided map helps to create a more complete story of Windsor's past and our unique rural identity. Whether you're a resident of town (or former resident), a frequent visitor, or just passing through, we think you'll love this creative and useful guide to some of Windsor's most treasured sites. Cost: \$4 (\$5 if you'd like us to mail it to you). They'll be available around town soon. To buy one now, contact Patty Crane at 413-684-3334 or fowindsor@gmail.com. We have a limited supply of *unfolded* maps for framing (please call or email to inquire).

A heartfelt thanks to our five generous sponsors: Berkshire Bridge & Iron, Hill Engineers, L.P. Adams, The Trustees, and Wild & Scenic Westfield River.

