

## **Twentieth Anniversary of Jumelage Between Winchester, Massachusetts and St. German-en-Laye, France October 18 to 24, 2009**

Nearly twenty years ago, officials of the communities of St. Germain-en-Laye, France, and Winchester, MA signed an understanding establishing the Winchester-St. Germain-en-Laye Jumelage. Thus marked the beginning of this enduring cultural, social, and historical friendship between these two communities – communities that are very similar in their tastes, their location within ready commute to their major city center, and in their zest for enrichment.

To mark this twentieth anniversary, twelve members from France joined with about twenty members from Winchester for a week of recognition, celebration, and fun. The week's activities included guided historical tours in and around Boston, a two-night trip to Mystic Connecticut, and members-only dinners. Formal recognition took place in a public presentation of awards and recognitions on Thursday, October 22, in the Winchester Room of the Town Hall.

### **Welcoming gathering**

The French visitors arrived in Winchester and were welcomed by the first snow of the season. They were welcomed with a reception in the home of the president, Judie Muggia.

While at the welcome gathering, Paul Parniere, Bernard Reynaud, Khady Sall, Michel Lefebvre, Jean-Claude and Chantal Jegou, Geneviève Parniere, Sylvie Bernard, Marc Miloutinovitch, Jean Vidal and Jean-Claude Fortier show off the latest Jumelage fashion from France.



### **Culture, History, Architecture in Boston, Winchester, and Concord**

The first full day in New England was filled with guided tours of some of the culture, history, and architecture of Boston.

Beacon Hill was the location of a lively architecture walking tour, provided by architect John McConnell. (picture, below left) The guide at Trinity Church (picture, below, center) discussed the influence of Rev Phillips Brooks. Then lunch at the Boston Public Library (picture, below, right) and a look at the rare manuscripts room. Later in the afternoon lunch, Susan Vrotsos guided the members through the Museum of Fine Arts old masters room.



Later in the week, upon returning from Connecticut, the members enjoyed a morning Trolley Tour of Winchester, with Helen Knight, as the tour guide. Then on to Concord where Peter Healey, the park tour guide, lead the members from the Colonial Inn, to the Old Manse, and then on to the North Bridge – the site of the first battle of the American Revolution. (picture, right)



### **On to Connecticut – the sea, the sea**

In Mystic, CT, lead by Helen Babcock and Jean-Yves Solinga the members explored this former whaling seaport. The Mystic Seaport replicates the old whaling village that built over 120 whaling boats in its heyday. Now it's restoring the last of the whaling ships remaining from over 2,000 worldwide.

State Senator Andrew Maynard, Connecticut presented a recognition – (picture, right) being received by Jean Vidal and Judie Muggia, presidents of the St. Germain-en-Laye and the Winchester Jumelage, respectively.



Later, braving chilly waters the members sailed on the schooner ARGIA, passing under the two draw bridges in town and saw the Acela train on its way to NYC.



One of those rare moments when (almost) the entire group was gathered in one place – here on the dock in Mystic Harbor. From left to right, standing in the rear: Terry Lanigan, Al Muggia, Paul Parniere, Philippe Koenig, Judie Muggia, Jean-Claude and Chantal Jegou, Jean Vidal, Genevieve Parniere, Sydelle Pittas, Sylvie Bernard, Peggy Roll, Lucy Delaney, Jean-Claude Fortier, Bernard Reynaud, Annette Lanigan, and Ed Davis -- and then down in front: Khady Sall, Cynthia Latta, Jack Roll, Scott Ridlon and Marc Miloutinovitch.



### **The Jumelage Birthday Party**

This is, after all, why the members assembled!!! – and, the editors may be overdoing it in presenting so much of the “official stuff” -- but, here goes:

The formal recognition occurred on Thursday evening October 22, in the Winchester Room of the Town Hall. The event was chaired by Ms. Judie Muggia, Winchester Jumelage President, who recounted the start up years of the Jumelage from a personal perspective.

Then the 40 attendees – members, friends, and elected officials – listened to statements of formal recognition, starting with the Winchester Board of Selectmen, delivered by Selectman Roger Berman:

*Be it hereby known to all that the Board of Selectmen offers its most sincere congratulations to Winchester Jumelage in recognition of the twentieth anniversary *Vingt ans d’amitie Jumelage Winchester and St. Germain-en-Laye*. The entire membership extends its very best wishes and expresses the hope for future good fortune and continued success in all endeavors.*

Following this, a letter from the mayor of St. Germain-en-Laye, the honorable Emmanuel Lamy, was read by their Jumelage President, Jean Vidal. The letter reads in part (next page):

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Though I cannot be among you today, I want you to share the happiness that St. Germain-en-Laye is experiencing as we celebrate the strength of the bond that joins us to Winchester . . . . Throughout these years, the citizens of our communities have come to know each other better, to act together and to seek out, in friendship, a dynamic dedicated to liberty and democracy . . . . We will celebrate officially the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jumelage of our two communities in 2010. Until then my thoughts are with you, and I wish you, not only for myself but also on behalf of our Municipal Council and also of all the people of St. Germain-en-Laye, [all the best].*

Finally, a joint resolution from the General Court of Massachusetts was presented and read by Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Jason Lewis. The resolution was prepared in English and French—the French version begins with:

*HONORANT L'AMITIE, LA CAMARADERIE ET LES  
RELATIONS DE LONGUE DUREE ENTRE LES VILLES DE  
WINCHESTER ET DE ST. GERMAIN-EN-LAYE EN FRANCE  
EN CELEBRATION DU VINGTIEME ANNIVERSAIRE DE  
LEUR JUMELAGE*

Following a very nicely crafted description of the twenty years of activities, accomplishments and travels of the Jumelage, the English version of the Resolution closed with:

***WHEREAS, A STRONG BOND OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION  
AND RESPECT AND A LONG-LASTING FRIENDSHIP HAS  
GROWN BETWEEN PEOPLE OF WINCHESTER AND ST.  
GERMAIN-EN-LAYE; NOW THEREFORE BE IT  
RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY  
CONGRATULATES THE TOWN OF WINCHESTER AND ST.  
GERMAIN-EN-LAYE, FRANCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR JUMELAGE***

The document was adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives and signed by the respective leaders and clerks of each body and by Winchester's delegates in the Massachusetts Senate and House: Senator Jehlen and Representative Lewis.

And, finally, Jumelage leaders and officials were photographed at recognition ceremony – again, left to right, Mr. Jason Lewis, MA House of Representatives; Ms. Judie Muggia, President, Winchester Jumelage; Mr. Jean Vidal, President, St. Germain-en-Laye Jumelage; Mr. Roger Berman, Winchester Board of Selectmen; Ms. Patricia Frantzen, Vice-President, St. Germain-en-Laye Jumelage; Ms. Patricia Jehlen, MA Senate.



**And, so to bed . . .**

However, stay tuned, the Winchester Jumelage has [at least] two events planned for 2010:

April 16 -- A Taste of France [sort of a pot-luck supper with a French theme – board members supply main dishes and wine – visitors, members, and guest supply hor d’oeuvres and dessert] – check out the “Coming Events” on this web site

September 25 to October 2 – dates tentative – return to St. Germain-en-Laye for the twentieth anniversary recognition over there – once, more, check out the “Coming Events” on this web site.