



WINDSOR  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Joel Ferola:  
Share Your Windsor Story

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L.P Wilson Community Center, Windsor, CT

Interviewer: Michelle Tom

Interviewee: Joel Ferola

Transcriber: Sulema DePeyster

**Michelle Tom**

I'm Michelle, I'm the librarian/archivist at the Windsor Historical Society.

**Joel Ferola**

Oh.

**Michelle Tom**

I forgot my name tag. Can you tell us your name? Hold on one second. [pause] All right, would you mind telling us your name and how long you've lived in Windsor?

**Joel Ferola**

I'm Joel Ferola and I've lived in Windsor for two years. And I have a really good idea to give everybody and you might know it already. Real good idea, though. Here it is. If you think every day, "What can I give?" You'll be a lot happier than if you think every day, "What can I get. [00:01:00] I know it's a real good idea. There's a lot of people that kind of don't know it. I have a couple of hobbies. First, one of my hobbies is called origami. I don't know if we can see this.

**Michelle Tom**

Yes. Yes, we can.

**Joel Ferola**

And look at this box. It's got six colors. Every side is different. It's all paper. Six pieces, no tape, no glue. And it stays together. And the fun part, it's kind of a mystery, because you look at it and you don't know how it was done. My other hobby, I call him proverb cards. I had blank index cards. I put a saying or a joke [00:02:00] or an idea on every card. Anything I found that I thought might be good, I would type on a card. After a long, long time, I actually had 700 cards, which is a lot. And I typed the whole thing again and gave it to somebody and they said, "Oh my God, that is so special." It's something anybody can do, except it takes a long time. Unless you're lucky and you find a book and you like everything in the book. If you can do that, but yeah. And I go out of my way to do things for people.

**Michelle Tom**

Where did you live before you moved to Windsor?

**Joel Ferola**

Canton.

**Michelle Tom**

And what brought you here?

**Joel Ferola**

Our House in Canton was getting hard to [00:03:00] live with. We had a very big driveway and we decided to shovel the snow every time it snowed. But it snowed a lot and we had a big driveway and we had to shovel like all day like five or six hours of shoveling to get all the snow away. And then in the summer, we had to cut all the grass and we decided we'd rather live here.

**Michelle Tom**

What was it about Windsor that made you move here?

**Joel Ferola**

I'm not sure, but I like the Senior Center. The senior lunch where everybody gets to go to lunch. And then I have all kinds of people I can talk to. And because I'm a kind of a talkative person and I like people a lot and not very good at reading or TV either, [00:04:00] so I'm very happy when I have somebody to talk to. One of the things I'm a little afraid of, someday I might be very, very alone. No one to talk to and I just hope that doesn't happen.

**Michelle Tom**

Well, you've always got people at the Senior Center.

**Joel Ferola**

Yeah.

**Michelle Tom**

What are some of the other things you do here?

**Joel Ferola**

Let's see. Well, I used to go to the WOW group. That was the Watch Our Weight group. Wer're all trying to lose weight. And then the writer's group. We talked about writing. And then the knitting and crochet group. I don't actually knit, but I figured I would origami, so I'll go to the group. If there was a group all all day, all the time, I'd probably be going to groups all day if I could. [00:05:00] But it ends at one or two o'clock. I don't know why. All the groups don't go anymore more than one or two o'clock. I don't know why. Maybe it costs a lot. Or maybe it's hard to do.

**Michelle Tom**

And what part of town do you live in?

**Joel Ferola**

\_\_\_\_\_. Do you know where that is? It's about 2 inches from here. I can walk here from my house. And I'm trying to make a couple of friends. A good friend is not someone you just see once in a while. A real good friend is somebody you help them a lot and they help you a lot. And

it's more than just like once or twice a month I think if it's a very good [00:06:00] friend. So that's something I want and it takes a long time to find a friend. I don't know why. But some friendships last longer than some marriages.

**Michelle Tom**

That is very true. Well, thank you so much for coming over here and talking to us.

**Joel Ferola**

Yeah, I don't know who's going to see this, but if anybody wants to learn origami, I'm always – Monday to Friday, I'm always at the senior lunch. So if anyone wants to learn, all they have to do is go to the lunch. This is pretty fancy, complicated, but there are things way easier than this. So if anybody wants to learn, I'd be happy to teach them.

**Michelle Tom**

Well, thank you so much.

**Joel Ferola**

And every person is a little different. Some people talk, talk, talk. Some people quiet, quiet, quiet. [00:07:00] [laughs]

**Michelle Tom**

I just need -- did you fill a release form?

**Joel Ferola**

I don't think I did, no.

**Michelle Tom**

Oh OK, I just have something for you to sign

**Joel Ferola**

OK.

**Michelle Tom**

To give us permission.

**Mike Cook**

While she's getting the paper for you to sign, just one question. Any good memories of an event like Memorial Day? Shad Derby?

**Joel Ferola**

Well, no, not really.

**Mike Cook**

All right.

**Michelle Tom**

Haven't been here for enough Shad Derbies because they haven't even had it since – if you've only been here for two years, they didn't have it last year and they barely had it the year before. So here. If you could just fill that out.