



tête à tête

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INTEREST IN USA ELECTIONS PERSEVERES...

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

President Joseph R. Biden USA

Although the 2020 elections in the U.S. have passed, there remains a fascination in the world about how voting is accomplished in a democracy. The York Club in Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany, forwarded the following article and photos about their fall meeting that featured a renowned university lecturer on the topic of U.S. Elections.



Lecturer Martin Thunert presents U.S. Elections.

Ulrich Wurster, President L-E, states, that "Right before the start of a second lockdown in Germany, the York Club was able to organize its second come together under Covid 19 restrictions. On October 22nd, we hosted about 25 members and guests for a lecture about the forthcoming US elections, held by the senior lecturer political science, Martin Thunert, from the

University of Heidelberg. As the infection numbers were already on a rise and as the second lockdown was about to come, there was a big question mark whether our lecture could attract a solid number of attendees. In contrast to normal times, we had to do a lot of extra work to host an event for our members, both in terms of getting an appropriately huge location (to ensure a minimum distance between the attendees, see our photo) and to comply with the hygiene requirements that were imposed by the city of Leinfelden-Echterdingen. We were very happy that 25 people showed up. They were rewarded with interesting and new insights and, last but not least, a personal come-together."



The L-E York Club observes social distancing and COVID 19 restrictions at their fall meeting.

Q and A on Elections continue...

B. How is the Election certified and/or made official?

The County Board of Elections follows the Pennsylvania Election Code for certifying the election. Once all ballots are tabulated, including election day, mail-in/absentee, and provisional ballots, the Board must certify the election with the Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth.



Julie Wheeler

This must be completed by the third Monday following the election. A certification of the election results is signed by the Board and Elections staff and it is sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

YORK OFFICIAL ADDRESSES ELECTION QUESTIONS...

A York Twinning member who participated in an adult exchange to France in '83 and is now York County President Commissioner, Julie Wheeler, graciously responded to further questions as interest in U.S. Elections continues. She offers the following:

A. What was the final tabulation of voting (Trump or Biden in 2020 election) in the city of York and also in the county of York?

City of York

Joseph R. Biden: 9,314
Donald J. Trump: 3,773
Jo Jorgensen: 181

County of York

Joseph R. Biden: 88,114
Donald J. Trump: 146,733
Jo Jorgensen: 3,624

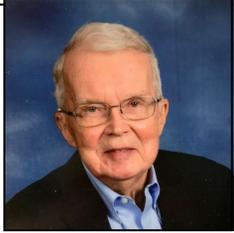
More Questions and Answers on ELECTIONS continue...see Page 2



MISSION: ...To create opportunities for personal contacts while gaining mutual respect and international friendship through organized exchange programs with our twin cities.



York Twinning Annals



Bill Sabey

CHRONICLE 2

The York Twinning Archivist, Bill Sabey, researched our history and for many years authored a column in *Tete a Tete*. He graciously resumes his passion and shares this data in an up-to-date format. Thank you, Bill, for your knowledgeable efforts.

Did you know that...

...our Twinning organization was incorporated in Pennsylvania on January 20, 1958, as the "York-Arles Twinning Committee, Inc.," a non profit corporation? It's objective was a "fostering of mutual understanding, confidence, and respect between the peoples of other nations and York, Pennsylvania; demonstrating that, where friendship between peoples exists, the democratic ideals of a free world can be used to secure lasting peace."

...the corporate name was changed to "York Twinning Association, Inc.," on September 30, 1976?

...our Association is recognized as a 501(c)3 (non profit) by the United States Internal Revenue Service.? Contributions to YTA for which no benefit is gained to the donor are tax deductible.

Did you know that...

...our twinning with Leinfelden-Echterdingen officially started in 1981? Elizabeth N. Marshall was Mayor of York and Walter Schweizer was Oberburgermeister of L-E. Our Twinning President and Mrs. Van Baker made the first visit to L-E that summer. Sister Cities International assisted us in making this new connection.

...the city of Leinfelden-Echterdingen only came into existence in 1975 when a communal reform program brought together the villages of Echterdingen, Leinfelden, Musberg, and Stetten, some of which were over 900 years old? In 1981 L-E had a population of 35,000. The city is located 12 kilometers from Stuttgart, capital of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

...the summer of 1981 saw our first student exchange when Jennifer Landherr went to Germany? The next year we sent four more students and the German students in turn came to York. Student exchanges have occurred in the years since then.

Did you know that...

...in the early 1980s, member Hope Fremont provided leadership in trying to effect a twinning with the city of Takasaki, Japan?

...she had met a Japanese visitor to York International, knew that Shippensburg had an active Japanese twinning, and was fascinated with "Noh" theater in Takasaki?

...despite a valiant effort, Hope could not achieve closure and the attempt had to be abandoned?

To Do
YTA

- Redesign and replace York City welcome entry signs
- Install professional website
- Select committee to meet with York History Center for inclusion

Q and A on Elections continue with Julie Wheeler...

C. Can you describe the transition of power from one elected team to a new team?

In the office for President, the parties begin an informal transition process as early as spring of the election year. Starting the transition this early is vital for the potential administration to be ready on Inauguration Day to deal with important issues, particularly with national security and major economic concerns.

The transition officially starts when the General Services Administration (GSA) declares an "apparent winner" of the election. This releases funds appropriated by Congress and allows for the President-elect to secure such things as computers and office space and begin conducting background checks for security clearances. This transition process continues until Inauguration Day.

When the President-elect takes the oath of office during the Inauguration, the powers, immunities, and responsibilities of the presidency are legally transferred to the new president.

D. Is there anything else of interest about the election process you can tell the folks in Leinfelden-Echterdingen and Arles?

There is a vast internal and external team of people working the elections in order to make sure registered voters in York County are able to vote at every election. In addition to county employees, the Election Office manages a team of approximately 2,000 poll workers, delivery drivers, and other volunteers to make sure the elections run smoothly.

All of our staff are very passionate and dedicated to ensuring the integrity of our elections process not only for the presidential election, which occurs once every four years, but for all elections in the county, which are held every six months.

Editors Note: Thank you, Commissioner President Julie Wheeler for responding to our questions which clarify the election process and which involves hundreds of people year round.

On a side note, Julie and her husband may be interested in the Adult exchange to Arles and/or Leinfelden Echterdingen in the near future.

CELEBRATIONS

2021: 40 years twinned with
Leinfelden Echterdingen
Germany

2024: 70 years twinned with Arles
France



**YORK-CLUB LEINFELDEN-
ECHTERDINGEN Honors Two Mayors**

JOCHEN HELD writes...

In 1983 a first group from L-E visited York... "Seven Swabians" is a famous fairy tale about people from this region who travelled throughout the world and to be safe from danger they carried a long spear with them. Our Swabians in 1983 had no spear. Instead they brought and received friendship.

Fifteen years later, in 1998, another group from L-E visited York again and met the Mayor of the City of York, Charles Robertson. And as a special gesture of friendship, Mayor Robertson presented a symbolic key to our Mayor Wolfgang Fischer as a special sign of the grown friendship between the two cities. Mayor Robinson



Mayor Robertson presents a symbolic key to Mayor Fischer

promised that this key would open the houses of the York people and welcome the German visitors as real friends whenever they come to visit.

Since then the doors have remained open and the sense of the key hasn't lost its importance. We are so thankful about that and want to let you know.

Note: Mayor Robertson retired in 2002 and passed away in 2017. Mayor Fischer retired in 2001 after a term of 16 years and still lives in L-E.

UPDATE on EAGLE SCOUT Project

Eagle Scout Xavier Douglas is pictured as project manager for beautifying ARLES Park and fixing up the brass plaque, brick stand, benches, picnic tables, and also supervising a massive park cleanup in York.



Workerbees were Xavier in red shirt, a city employee, York City Parks Director Tom Landis, and fellow scouts. The revitalization of the park is a tribute to 501(c)3 community collaboration.



MEMORIES OF 2016 TRIP TO ARLES

SCOTT MARKLE WRITES...

For over 22 years I have been honored to be a member of York Twinning Association and on more than one occasion have visited the cities of Arles and L-E as part of the Adult exchanges.

Each visit has left me with so many new friendships, experiences, and precious memories. This was especially true when we visited Arles in September 2016. The week was filled with side excursions to Marseilles, Aigues-Mortes (a 13th century city surrounded by a medieval fortress), La Baux shopping high in the mountain caves, an old limestone quarry transformed into a multimedia theater Carrieres de Lumieres, St. Paul de Mausolee where in 1889 Vincent Van Gogh convalesced, we even cheered a bull fight, followed by a tour of salt flats where we were schooled as to why the lakes were pink, and marveled over the recently discovered bust of Julius Caesar which was found deep in the Rhone River and is currently displayed on a pedestal in the Bleu Musee. So much to see yet so little time to see it all! Touring was only a small part of the experience since opportunities to meet people and foster new friendships are always the highlight. My host was a remarkable kind lady, Yvette Mistral, who lived in a remodeled home, a "mas". Historically it is a traditional stone farmhouse found in Provence. My bedroom was once the hayloft; the dining room below me was the livestock stables. "If we listened carefully we could hear the mooing of farm animals!" (*Imagination of Editor.*)

But the best was yet to come. Yvette owned a 1976 Citroen 2CV. The blue French car was manufactured from 1948 until 1990 and it was a thrill zipping through the countryside with horns blowing from local old car admirers who envied his prize for a careful scrutiny! Every-



Scott Markle is all smiles with Yvette's antique Citroen.

one will agree that Jumelages Assn went the "extra mile" in Sept. 2016. The experiences were phenomenal and the people were especially gracious. Come join us next round.

FRENCH NEWS generates interest in Arles/York Twinning

Editor's Note: The newsprint item below recently appeared in a French tabloid and stirred chatter on both sides of the Atlantic. YTA Member Magali Ginoux offered to interpret the content...



Magali Ginoux

She states that she read the article again with a magnifying glass as it printed small. Basically, as it was titled "The Twinning Club Needs New Members", and this is a must for an institution that is vital to the city of Arles. 66 years ago the city of Arles signed a Twinning agreement with the City of York, PA in the USA, and since then more Twinning occurred. Wisbech UK, Fulda DE, Verviers BE, Vercelli IT, Pskov RU, Jerez de la Frontera ES, Sagne Mauritania, Kalymnos, then 3 towns in China, and 2 in Malaysia are continual guests in Arles.

You can imagine the work and it is always the same group of members who take care of it. The last gathering of the board made a call for new members. Though this past year has been difficult for everyone, it is imperative to keep the Twinning spirit alive.

There is always a reason for people to join such a program: perspective of a future trip to that country, children learning a foreign language, plus plain fun to gather and enjoy friends from near and far. And being a volunteer myself, I can assure of the hidden benefits one gets from the so called "free" work.

Since I am retired, ten years already, I just couldn't conceive not having activities in my days. It gives a reason to get up every morning, to join members who soon become friends and to meet visitors who rely upon your knowledge to make their visit an experience they will positively remember. This is where the real value of being a volunteer comes in, not a monetary value but an enrichment of the quality of life.

I started belonging to the Arles-York Twinning back as a teenager in the 60s as I was learning languages in school. It was also back then, for this girl growing up on a farm, a way to a more social gathering and meeting people my age. Little did I know that "the club" (as my Dad referred to it) would in effect change the course of my life. In 1969, as I was majoring in languages at the University of Montpellier, I was given the opportunity, by Mr. Jean Laurain, to be the exchange teacher in the York City School District Language Department under the direction of Ms Marguerite Eriksson. The program was well developed and teaching French was targeting the elementary schools.

Magali Ginoux reviews her life living and teaching French in York

French News generates interest (cont'd)...

Along with Jocelyn Brysselbout, Betty Boyd, and Marguerite, we covered York elementary schools. I was at Devers, Goode, and Lincoln. I taught there 2 years, then a 3rd year at a junior high Phineas Davis. The experience I made during that time is memorable and wonderful. The younger the child is, the easier it is to learn a language and I wish the program would have stayed in both cities.

Arles is a very touristy town and my personal opinion is that sometimes being too diversified creates problems. Eleven Twinning is insane considering the work needed when visits are done.

York for all the experiences I lived, remains my one favorite Twinning. At the beginning I didn't quite understand the reason for the affiliation. Those two cities are so different. Consider the population background: York: Dutch/German, Arles: Greek/Roman. The weather, York: definitely cold in winter time; Arles: unpleasant Mistral wind but hot Mediterranean weather. Food, York: Amish influence, meat and potatoes. Arles: more olive oil, garlic, fish from nearby.

Yes, very different, but then so much to discover. It would have been pretty boring to twin with a city so similar that nothing surprises and expecting the unexpected became my new life. I made plenty of friends and obviously after 50 years plus I have cherished those friendships.

My "American parents" Joan and Ralph Runkle became my staple Twinning family; Sarah and Andy Case were my American grandparents. Andy was a retired Penn State art professor whose family originated from Alsace Lorraine area of France. He kept painting during his retirement years and used me (Magali) as his subject in a few of his drawings. The one painting that was given to York City and hangs in the Mayor's office, represents several historical scenes from Arles and includes me, in my folk costume, which I wore in York during special occasions.

Summarizing my thoughts, Magali thinks that if you want to deeply understand your own culture, you need to comprehend others.

Mark Twain said it perfectly, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness: many of our people need it sorely on these accounts!"

MEMORIES of YTA PRINCIPLES

Elie Heller Magali reports that Elie was one of those people who made her first years in York the best she can remember. A very social, talkative, driven person, for many years she was a vested member of YTA. She retired as a school principal and traveled all of North America in an RV. Recent photo at left of Magali and Elie.

Phyllis Noel Evelyne Laurent reports that Yorker Phyllis was a close and dear friend of hers for 46 years. She lived in York with her husband George and entertained Arlesians for many YTA exchanges.

Ruthe Cradley A former teacher turned York community activist, Ruthe was instrumental in cementing the York Twinning tie with Arles, France. She frequented trips to Arles and is pictured on p.37 of the 50th anniversary book as center attention in Arles Square.

An Exchange Program Picture Story with Josette et Francois Dorey

Josette et Francois Dorey est membre du comite de jumelages Arlesian avec la ville de Pskov en Russie.

White box identifies area of Pskov on the globe and red box identifies Pskov, RUSSIA, on flat map. Maps courtesy of Wikipedia .



Pskov est une ville de Russie jumelée depuis 1976 avec la ville d'Arles. Elle est située à l'extrême nord-est de la Russie et à 280 kms au sud-est de Saint Petersburg. Elle est très proche de l'Europe de l'Est, de la Lettonie en particulier. La ville compte 210,000 habitants. Pskov a été fondée en 903 lorsque Igor épousa Olga de Kiev, originaire de la ville.

Pskov est jumelée avec 16 villes dont RONAOKE; ville indépendante du Commonwealth de l'état de Virginie aux États-Unis.

On dit, "En Pskov nous avons découvert la ville guidée par des étudiantes du département de langue française dirigée et particulièrement les nombreuses églises nouvellement restaurées. Le reste du temps, nous passons de bons repas, arrosés de participations à la culture et à la récolte des légumes et fruits. On aussi offre l'expérience d'un bain russe, la chaudière et d'eau froide."

Folklore au Theatre de verdure



Mayor of Pskov welcomes Arlesian guests



La Datcha (Sauna)



Ninel, Francois, et Josette mange pique-nique.



**P.O. Box 21318
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Bonjour! Guten Tag!, Hello!



Who could imagine more than one year ago, how much the virus would change our daily lives? The friendship between York, Arles, and Leinfelden-Echterdingen, with the first contact, had developed its strength with regular exchange programs for students and adults since then in both directions. Early 2020 the clubs had started organizing their Twinning activities, soliciting students, raising funds for travel, and brushing up on French/German/English language skills. Students were excited and some looked forward to visiting US for the first time, to learn about schools, to live with an American family, experience a different daily life, and to see places they knew only by TV. In turn, adults prepared their next visits. But 2020/2021 made a big change and planning was cancelled. This will not prevent us from keeping our mutual friendship alive and meet in a more virtual world, with emails, phone calls, Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram.

Jochen Held, past President L-E exchange program

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