



# tête à tête

Published periodically by the York Twinning Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 21318 York, Pennsylvania 17402

JUNE JULY 2020

www.yorktwinning.org or info@yorktwinning.org

## Eagle Scout Rejuvenates Arles Park



Dear York Twinning Association Members and Friends,

My name is Xavier Douglas and I am in Boy Scout Troop 54. I am currently a Life Scout working on my Eagle Scout rank. One of the requirements to earn the Eagle Scout rank is to lead a project for the community. I'm working with the York Twinning Association to help better the community. My project is at Arles Park on the corner of East King Street and Pattison Street in York.

My project will consist of beautifying and fixing up the twinning organization's brass plaque and the area around it. I will be fixing and repainting the benches and picnic tables, along with leading a full park cleanup. I'm hoping to also put in a stone or brick pathway around the area of the plaque for viewing purposes, however, this is heavily dependent on the schedule.

I have contacted Tom Landis, the head of York City Parks and Recreation Department and will be working alongside him throughout the project. I will be overseeing the entire project and will also be working alongside volunteers to ensure that everything is done correctly.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

*Xavier Douglas*



**Xavier Douglas**

*Please note:*

Xavier is a student at York County School of Technology and he welcomes volunteers to assist with the project. Stay tuned for an announcement of work sessions.

President's Message:

I hope everyone is well in light of the recent global pandemic. The YTA Board and I are disappointed with the cancellation of our travel plans as well as our Spring and Summer events. We are keeping a close eye on the Governor's orders as well as CDC recommendations and guidelines, and hope to resume some activities as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. In the meantime, we are handling YTA business primarily by email, and will be hosting a Board meeting via Zoom on June 23rd. Stay safe!

*JaNeene Powell*, President [president@yorktwinning.org](mailto:president@yorktwinning.org)

Twinned with:  
Arles, France  
(Since 1954)



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

Leinfelden-  
Echterdingen  
Germany  
(Since 1981)  
  
Leinfelden-Echterdingen  
Das verbindet. Bietet die Vision.

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**



**YORK-CLUB LEINFELDEN-  
ECHTERDINGEN ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**York Students to France:** Kristin Witmer and Kristi Spies, Chairmen

**York Students to Germany:** McKenzie Horn, Cameron Murray, JaNeene Powell, Chairmen

**York Adults to France:** Ben Stein and Mary Dodd, Chairmen

**Please Note...**

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, all Adult and Student travel exchange programs unfortunately were cancelled for 2020. At this time it is uncertain when the programs will be revitalized as emphasis is being placed on safety and good health for participants and hosts.

Refunds paid for the 2020 trips were recently issued by the travel agency. Students who had prepared to be participants in the 2020 exchange will be invited to join the trips in the next round.

**York Adults to Germany:** Laura Koebnick, Chairman

The adult exchange program to Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany, is on our pre-scheduled calendar for 2021. As plans are made for this program, announcements for the travel dates will be forthcoming to allow ample time for planning.

**Real ID certification date extended**

The COVID-19 pandemic with subsequent quarantine has resulted in the due date for the REAL-ID to be extended to October, 2021. This certification which will be required for identification in order to board a flight in the United States, is a verification of (1) your identity, (2) your social security number, and (3) your Pennsylvania residency, even if you already have a Pennsylvania driver's license or photo ID card. Check the internet for further information.



→ Ulrich Wurster (L.) congratulates Jochen Held, recently retired Chairman of the York-Club in LE. →

Friends in York Twinning,

Jochen Held was the York-Club's face to the public for many years, not only as Chairman, but he also held other board positions during the years.— a huge thank you—as he was presented a photo book with the collection of the club's achievements under his leadership. Of course the thank you also belongs to his wife Rosemarie for her support during all those years.

The York-Club's board now consists of Ulrich Wurster, as the newly elected Chairman, Tobias Knuppel as the newly elected Deputy Chairman, and Cornelia Binder as the returning Treasurer.

I have made three visits to York and hosted guests from York three times. Tobias joined the club two years ago as his son was part of the student exchange. Together with his wife and sons, Luc and Collin, he was a part of the group that visited York last year. Cornelia also joined the club in the course of her daughter Charlotte being a part of the student exchange group a few years ago.

We are committed to continue the amazing years of partnership between the cities and in the name of all our members we are looking forward to being the host for another group from York next year.

*Ulrich Wurster*, Chairman

York-Club Leinfelden-Echterdingen GERMANY



**YTA TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>BALANCE as of January 1, 2020</b>	\$ 7832.83
Receipts	28,638.84
Expenses	(17,244.42)
<b>BALANCE as of June 1, 2020</b>	\$ 19, 227.25
<i>Eriksson Scholarship Fund</i>	\$ 7,574.65

**SCHEDULE OF YTA MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, June 23 7:00 P.M.**  
Board Meeting ZOOM online

**Sunday, July 19 Picnic CANCELLED!**

**Tuesday, July 28 7:00 P.M.**  
Board Workshop TBA

## PANDEMIC HERE AND ABROAD

### COVID-19 IN FRANCE by Annie Torres

C'est en Janvier que nous avons entendu parler pour la première fois d'un virus qui se propageait en Chine. Quand les premiers cas ont apparu en Italie nous avons commencé à nous poser des questions. En Mars quand la France a eu ses premiers cas nous avons pris conscience de la gravité de ce virus que l'on nous avait présenté comme une banale grippe, la peur a envahi les Français, nous comptons nos morts !. Que faire pour être épargné ? Nous entendions diverses théories aussi contradictoires les unes que les autres . Pas de masque , pas de gel hydroalcoolique comme dans beaucoup de pays européens, le gouvernement a donc décidé que nous devions tous appliquer le confinement : première arme pour arrêter la propagation.



Il a été suivi par tous les Français. Le virus est resté dans les zones les plus touchées( Nord Est France ) et s'est très peu propagé dans le reste du pays. A Arles comme ailleurs dans le pays nous n'avions le droit de sortir de notre domicile que pour aller travailler si le télétravail n'était pas possible, pour aller acheter les produits alimentaires ou pour aller faire une activité physique individuelle sans s'éloigner de plus d'un kilomètre de notre domicile. Ceci n'était possible qu'avec une autorisation que nous devions remplir à chacune de nos sorties et présenter avec nos papiers d'identité à un éventuel contrôle de police.Sortir sans ce papier nous coûtait 135 euros

Tous les hôtels, restaurants, bars , musées et beaucoup d'entreprises ont dû fermer leurs portes et mettre le personnel au chômage. Les quelques entreprises qui restaient ouvertes devaient organiser un espace de travail pour éviter toute contagion au sein du personnel. Beaucoup d'entreprises sont actuellement en difficulté financière.En attendant que nos usines soient capables de produire en quantité des masques , nous en avons cousu pour nous , notre famille, nos amis et même pour la Mairie qui les distribuait ensuite aux personnes à risque . Nous avons également appris à faire les gestes barrières et avons découvert que nous pouvions rester enfermé à la maison sans s'ennuyer ! Le téléphone nous a permis de garder le contact avec notre famille et nos amis. Beaucoup d'initiatives personnelles ont fleuri sur internet . Avec le confinement et les problèmes de livraison, nous avons manqué de certains produits alimentaires industriels et vu se développer le commerce local.

Deux mois plus-tard nous avons le droit de sortir sans autorisation sans dépasser les cent kilomètres autour de notre domicile. Les commerces ré-ouvrent mais les hôtels restaurants bars, musées restent fermés. Les regroupements de personnes sont interdits. Les entreprises se sont organisées et accueillent à nouveau leur personnel mais le télétravail est largement conseillé. L'accès des commerces est limité en nombre de personnes, le port du masque obligatoire et la désinfection des étals répétée.Il n'est toujours pas possible de prendre l'avion et de quitter le pays. Actuellement la propagation du virus est arrêtée.

En Juin le gouvernement se prononcera sur la libre circulation et l'ouverture de tous les commerces.

A quand les échanges internationaux ?



Annie's garden in Arles is flourishing despite the pandemic!

### TRANSLATION:

It was in January that we first heard about a virus spreading in China. When the first case appeared in Italy, we started to wonder. In March when France had its first cases we became aware of the gravity of this virus which we had been presented as a common flu, fear invaded the French, we counted our deaths! What to do to be saved?

We heard various theories as contradictory to each other. No mask, no hydroalcoholic gel like in many European countries, the government had therefore decided that we must all apply containment: the first weapon to stop the spread. It was followed by all the French. The virus has remained in the most affected areas in...

### TRANSLATION cont'd

...Northeast France and had spread very little to the rest of the country. In Arles, as elsewhere in the country, we only had the right to leave our homes to go to work if teleworking was not possible, to go buy food products or to go to do an individual physical activity without moving away from more than one kilometer from our home. This was only possible with an authorization which we had to fill in on each of our outings and present with our identity papers to a possible police check. Going out without this paper cost us 135 euros.

All hotels, restaurants, bars, museums and many businesses had to close and lay off staff. The few companies that remained open had to organize a workspace to avoid contagion among staff. Many companies are currently in financial difficulty. While waiting for our factories to be able to mass produce masks, we sewed them for ourselves, our family, our friends and even for the Town Hall which then distributed them to people at risk. We also learned to make barrier gestures and discovered that we could stay locked up at home without being bored! The telephone allowed us to keep in touch with our family and friends. Many personal initiatives have flourished on the internet. With confinement and delivery problems, we ran out of certain food products and saw the development of local trade.

Two months later we have the right to go out without authorization without exceeding the hundred kilometers around our home, Shops reopened but hotels, bars, museums remain closed. Grouping of people is prohibited. Companies have organized themselves and are welcoming their staff again, but teleworking is widely recommended. Access to shops is limited in number of people, the wearing of a mandatory mask and repeated disinfection is done. It is still not possible to fly and leave the country. Currently the spread of the virus is stopped. In June the government will vote on free movement and then opening of all businesses.

When will international trade begin?

BISES Annie

### COVID-19 IN U.S. COLLEGE by Nicole Van Newkirk

I am currently a junior at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and am an art history major plus I give tours to prospective students around campus. I also work in our library, however, this changed March 8 when my classes went online. One of my professors opted to write out his entire lectures via email and send them to us during class-time because he was unable to utilize ZOOM. Another chose to make ZOOM lectures optional in order to make his class accessible to students of all economic status. Finally another professor chose to make ZOOM lectures mandatory and we continued the discussion-based class as normally as we could.



Lewis and Clark is a small liberal arts college which means that all of my classes are less than thirty students. My third class was only nine. Due to the small class sizes, most classes are heavily discussion-based which has made the ZOOM classes less than engaging. Aside from academics, student life has also been heavily disrupted. I live in the dorms with Rembrandt, my service dog, and was planning on staying on campus after classes turned online. Lewis & Clark did its best to support students who needed to stay on campus instead of going home, however, ultimately L&C emailed the entire student body stating it would be safer if everyone left campus as soon as possible.

So Rembrandt and I moved into my friend's parent's guest bedroom in Olympia, Washington, two hours north. I had been lucky enough to find a safe place to wait out the quarantine, yet some at L&C have been unable to support themselves in their new living environments. Due to Congress CARE's Act, colleges were able to give taxable stipends to students which has been incredibly helpful. The President of the College is sending monthly updates to the student body, staff, and faculty about COVID and Lewis & Clark. He seems convinced that we will be able to come back to campus in the fall and that we all will be tested for COVID as soon as we arrive. With the small size of the campus, it seems doable, but in these unprecedented times, we are still unsure.

Please note: Nicole Van Newkirk and Sydney Altman translated Annie's story about COVID-19 in France.

## **PANDEMIC HERE AND ABROAD cont'd**

### **COVID-19 IN GERMANY by Tobias Knueppel**



During the past few months the Corona virus has been an all dominant issue. I'd like to give a review to our American friends that has happened so far in Germany.

We noticed first infections at the beginning of March. In southern Germany there were a few days school vacation and people usually travel to the Alps and Italy for skiing. Some of them were infected, so in the beginning of the crisis the county Leinfelden-Echterdingen belongs to had higher rates than other regions in Germany. Our government has extended capacities in hospitals and then a concept of shutdown came up.

#### **What did this mean in practice?**

We closed all schools, cultural facilities like museums, theaters and cinemas, churches, many shops, etc. Sports events were cancelled, companies shut down production and sent employees home. Chancellor Merkel has a kind of comeback after more than 14 years in charge. At 21st March, the German government directed to avoid all travelling. If we met each other the number was limited to 2 persons except families. But fortunately until now we could leave our homes and we've always had essential goods. Then rates of infection declined. For a short time we reopened shops and we wear masks when we step inside a building. More easing will come within the next few days: restaurants and hotels will be allowed to welcome guests. Borders to our European neighbors will open.

#### **What impact does the crisis have in Germany?**

At first let me look at the impact on our health: Today, 05/21/2020, Robert Koch Institute published 176,752 infected and 8247 deaths by reason of Corona ([www.rki.de](http://www.rki.de)). As mentioned before rates are decreasing at the moment. Secondly, a lot of Germans worry about our economy. Some can't earn their living and need help. Companies are in trouble. At 19th March our government spent 40 billions Euro to help smaller companies. At 25th March our Parliament agreed with an extraordinary budget 2020.

Then we have a political impact. As you will probably know, we'll have elections in 2021. From my point of view Chancellor Merkel has a kind of comeback after more than 14 years in charge. In the meantime Germans seem to trust in confidence and sober leaders. She's a physicist and knows what an exponential curve is. At the moment our governing parties gain.

#### **Finally let me explain the local and individual impact.**

Many employees are doing work at home., e.g. on laptops. Students still are at home, except the ones taking exams with challenging preparation. Our club had to cancel two events in April, a presentation of Mr. Andrew Denison about American election this year and a wine tasting. Then we had to cancel the students exchange this June because our government instructed the schools to stop all events including exchanges until end of August. We are very sorry about that and hope we'll have exchanges and meet each other again in future.

### **COVID-19 IN U.S. SCHOOLS by Ben Stein**

York County began to take serious measures in response to COVID-19 on Friday, March 13. That afternoon, public schools began announcing two-week closures. By the end of the school day, it was clear that teachers and students would not be on school property again until March 30 at the earliest. The Red Lion Area School District, where I teach high school French, originally intended to have its teachers implement just one week of online learning from March 23-27.

#### **What was the involvement of business and educational institutions?**

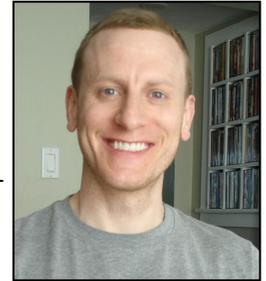
From mid-March various states throughout the United States began to take similar measures. Each state's governor began issuing statewide mandates closing nonessential businesses and ordering anyone who wasn't an essential worker to stay at home unless seeking medical treatment or purchasing life-sustaining goods such as food. Pennsylvania school closures were extended until April 3. Then, on Monday, April 6, Governor Wolf announced that all Pennsylvania schools would remain closed for the remainder of the school year. This news was disheartening for many teachers and students, particularly high school seniors who would have to miss out on milestone events like their class trip, prom, and graduation ceremony.

For me, the end of March was a whirlwind. Like all my fellow educators, I quickly had to figure out how to be an effective, full-time online instructor and help my students be successful in an online learning environment. There was an endless onslaught of emails from school personnel to read as well as various online meetings to attend. I also had to be available for virtual office hours every weekday to address the concerns and questions of students and their parents.

#### **What was the affect on the Adult trip to France and what is the current impact on the U.S.?**

On top of my school responsibilities, I had an important responsibility to the York Twinning Association. As the coordinator of the French Adult Exchange, I had to decide whether or not to cancel this summer's trip to Arles, which was scheduled for the end of June. After consulting my counterpart in France, other YTA board members and our travel agent, I concluded that it was best to cancel the trip. I made the official cancellation announcement to the participants during the final week of March. Giving that the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, it is uncertain at this time when the Yorkers will make their next trip to Arles.

As of noon on May 27, the CDC confirmed 1,662,414 cases of COVID-19 in the United States and 98,261 deaths. In Pennsylvania, there have been 69,417 cases and 5265 deaths. In York County, there have been 956 cases of COVID-19 (PA Dept of Health). Pennsylvania is utilizing a red/yellow/green color system for re-opening the state and has begun to relax some of its restrictions on a county-by-county basis. On Friday, May 22, York County moved from the highly restrictive red phase to the yellow phase. In the yellow phase some of our restrictions include limiting group gatherings to no more than 25 people, not allowing schools to conduct in-person instruction, and restricting restaurants to carry-out and delivery services.



## YORK TWINNING STIMULATES VOLUNTEERS

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - Mahatma Gandhi**

*York Twinning Association is a premier all volunteer organization, attracting folks who connect and share with like-minded people. A recent 12th Night Fundraiser corralled over 80 volunteers who organized and greeted hundreds of guests and who showed a sense of pride and identity for the organization. Read the articles about a few of our YTA volunteers who branch out and assist other non profits. Hats off to our volunteers!*

### CASA for York County by Michele Groat



I have served as a York County Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children (CASA) for about eight years. The decision to become a CASA was not an easy one, but I can honestly say I have no regrets. It's grown me as a person, and forced me into situations way outside my comfort zone. It's not easy, but then most things in life that are truly valued are not always easy. Working with the children themselves is usually the easiest as they are eager to have an opportunity for safety, security and love. Most of the children (they can be teens as well), have had some rough times, their resiliency is amazing. Obviously, the courtroom is not a place for children, and yet there they are...imagine what an intimidating environment that would be for a child. The York County Judicial staff, attorneys and all involved go to great lengths to make these court appearances more comfortable, to include therapy dogs for the children to meet in the court room. Still, it is a courtroom and they quickly become aware of the changes this room can make in their lives.

To elaborate, the organization is dedicated to ensuring secure living conditions for the 300 to 400 vulnerable children who have been placed into York County's dependency system. CASA volunteers are individually empowered by the court to stand up for these abused and neglected children. Currently there are 50+ trained CASAs for York County and each of them have at least one case that they are committed to support until the child (or children) is either reunited with their parents or adopted.

- Gathering information about one child and their family, background and current circumstances on behalf of the judge.
- Advocating for the child by providing information to the court and making fact-based recommendations regarding what is in the child's best interest.
- Monitoring court orders and case plans to ensure services are carried out and court orders and plans are followed..
- Facilitating a collaborative relationship among parties providing service to help create a framework in which the child's best interests are considered.
- Identifying resources and services the child and family need.
- Being a constant presence in the child's life as they are moved from one foster or kinship home to another.
- Being a source of stability, care and support in the child's life (we stay on the case from beginning to end and this can take a long time.)

The York County CASA program is grateful for its volunteers but they still lack enough volunteers to serve all of the children in need. Call 717-771-9754 for further information or email at [casa@yorkcountypa.gov](mailto:casa@yorkcountypa.gov)

### VOLUNTEERS AROUND *the* STATE *with*YTA

Take a peak at more YTA volunteers as they tweak “Happiness Hormones” (aka volunteer...)

**Roger & Linda Nestor** serve as hosts for Horizons du Monde

**JaNeene Powell** and her family serve Special Olympics, constructed masks during pandemic, host foreign students

**Ben Stein** works as docent at the Appell Center in York  
**Linda Just** services senior citizens by doing their IRS tax reports

**Sydney Altman** works at New Bolton in Chester County (Horse Hospital) researching diseases (colic) in horses

**Carolyn Van Newkirk** is chairman of Ray Aviation Scholarship program which awards monies for pilot training

### LAURA KOEBNICK at Nixon Park & PA State Laboratory

Laura services Nixon Park, a nature park in Jacobus. Her duties include attending the front desk which involves counting the number of visitors, answering the phone, supervising purchases from the gift shop, and handing out hunting permits in the fall. She serves a four hour shift taking over where needed. The staff greatly appreciates volunteers as they free the paid staff to work on their jobs.

Working in the State Lab in Harrisburg cleaning dinosaur bones, had long been on Laura's bucket list of things to do. She had to clear an FBI background check initially, and then she went to work. She reports that it is fascinating to gently clean bones that were hidden for 140 million years and expose them to human eyes for the first time ever! The first specimen she cleaned fell apart in her hands. This unnerved her thinking she would not be invited back to the lab. She was—no harm done!



### YTA MEMBERS:

Share your volunteerism with fellow members. Send in your story for future Tete a Tete.

[cvannewkirk@comcast.net](mailto:cvannewkirk@comcast.net)



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17402**

*Editor's note:*

**Friends and Members of York Twinning Association:**

The June July 2020 Edition of Tete a Tete varies somewhat from tradition due to the affect of the pandemic on our activities. However, we remain committed to international understanding through people-to-people adventures and community-to-community interaction. You will note that representatives from our sister cities have contributed to this issue. In addition, fifteen YTA members collaborated on current topics and share their observations. What do you think of this format? Let us know. [info@yorktwinning.org](mailto:info@yorktwinning.org)