



tête à tête

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December 2023

Yorktwinning.com Doug & Betty Stein j1j2j31@comcast.net

A Message from your Co-Presidents



Bonjour! Guten Tag!



As we head into the holiday season, YTA has a lot to be thankful for. Our membership is growing, and thanks to York YMCA allowing us to use the Loucks conference room, we've been able to begin holding our meetings both in person and via zoom.

Three successful social events were held in 2023 encouraging people to make new friends and renew old friendships. Members attended our yearly wine tasting event in the Spring, a Bastille Day and Summer picnic, and participated in a fun-filled Oktoberfest celebration this Fall.

Exchanges with both Arles, France and Leinfelden-Echterdingen (LE), Germany were able to restart this summer. Seven students and three chaperones traveled to LE for almost two weeks in June. A group of eighteen adults and three teens traveled to Arles for ten days in July. York hosted ten German students and their two chaperones during a two week visit to York, PA. None of these experiences could have happened without the time, efforts, and support from you, our YTA members! Check our website. Our exchange chairs are currently working to plan adult and student exchange programs for 2024. Student applications are available and due by December 15th.

We look forward to another year of opportunities for growth, fun, and friendship. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!



Betty & Doug,
Co-Presidents, YTA

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR TWELFTH NIGHT TOUR - JANUARY 7, 2024!

The annual 12th Night Holiday tour will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2024, from 1 PM to 5 PM. It will highlight four unique locations this year – Box Hill Mansion, the home of Charlie Martynuska, York Water Company Headquarters, and York Historical Society Museum. Music will be provided by students from Spring Grove Area High School. NEW THIS YEAR – several artists, including Anita Williams, Chris Gold, and Carole Little from the York Art Association will be displaying their works.

Box Hill Mansion located at 1501 Copper Beech Drive, York, PA 17403 will be our base and also open to tour. YTA's 12th Night Holiday Tour is our biggest fundraiser. We hope you will support this fundraising event by purchasing the tickets being mailed out to YTA members. **Tour tickets make great Christmas gifts!** Tickets cost \$20. Extra tickets can be purchased at Box Hill the date of the tour. Even if you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation so we can continue providing social activities for our members, cultural experiences to visitors from our sister cities Arles, France and Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany, and scholarships to York County students who travel with YTA during cultural exchanges.

Checks should be made payable to YTA and mailed to: YTA c/o 12th Night Committee, 279 Little Creek Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362. We hope to have an on-line option for purchasing tickets available soon on our website.

Volunteers are needed to greet people as they visit each location. Call Laura Koebnick at 717-891-8087 or email her at laura.koebnick@aol.com to arrange a time to help! Sonja Schaffer is in charge of cookie donations and needs donations of baked goods for the event. Please contact her at didicanche@msn.com or 717-688-5596 by December 22, 2023 with what, and how much, you are able to donate.

Hope to see you at this great social event January 7th!

Twinned with:
Arles, France
(Since 1954)



OUR 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)



YTA Board Officers & Chairpersons

BOARD OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Doug & Betty Stein
Vice President: Laura Koebnick
Secretary: Michele Groat
Treasurer: JaNeene Powell
Asst. Treasurer: Kyle Groft
French Adult Exchange:
 Ben Stein & Jennifer Grim
French Student Exchange:
 Kristin Witmer, Kristie Spies
German Adult Exchange:
 Hank Groat & Laura Koebnick
German Student Exchange:
 JaNeene Powell & Molly Wiles
12th Night Home Tour: **NEW** Co-chairs -
 Jessie Henning & Amy Matthews
Webmaster: Ken Krause
Membership Chair: Brandi Whitman
General Fundraising: **POSITION OPEN**
Marketing / PR: **POSITION OPEN**
Compliance Officer: **POSITION OPEN**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Newsletter: Betty Stein
Spring Wine Tasting Social: Kristina Spies,
 Melanie Winter, and JaNeene Powell
Summer Social/Bastille Day: **OPEN**
Fall Oktoberfest: Hank & Michele Groat
Hospitality for In Person Meetings: Kristina Spies



Thank you to former YTA member Judy Orcutt for her recent donation of two Santons to our organization. They will be displayed, along with other Santons, at Box Hill Mansion during our 12th Night Holiday tour.

YTA Calendar of Meetings & Social Events

MEETING DATES

Thank you to the York YMCA. They have graciously agreed to allow us to use their Loucks Room for YTA meetings at no charge. Future Board and membership meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 P.M., both in-person and via ZOOM. All meetings are open to both Board and General Membership. Meetings will be followed by a short social time. Agendas, in-person and ZOOM links will be sent out one week prior to meeting.

2024 MEETING DATES

January—No formal meeting due to January 7th, Twelfth Night Tour.
February 21st—Regular Board meeting
March — Wine tasting event— Date TBD
April 17th—Regular Board meeting
May 3rd—Give Local York fundraiser
June 19th— Regular Board meeting.
July 14th— Bastille Day celebration & Summer Social at Stein home, 279 Little Creek Road, Spring Grove, PA
August 21st— Regular Board meeting
September —Oktoberfest Celebration—Date TBD
October 16th—Short Board meeting followed by reception for German student visitors and presentations from students who visited Arles and LE during the summer 2024.
November 15th - Board/budget meeting
December—No formal meeting.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Winter 2024: 12th Night Holiday Home Tour, January 7, 2024
Spring 2024: Wine Tasting Social
Summer 2024: Summer Social/Bastille Day
Fall 2024: Oktoberfest



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 12TH NIGHT SPONSORS

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Platinum Sponsor



York Water Company
Silver Sponsor

Colony Packaging and Machine
Silver Sponsor



Dan and Trudy Waltersdorff
Silver Sponsor

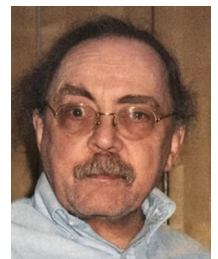
York County Economic Alliance
Bronze Sponsor



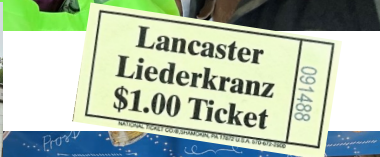
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REMEMBERING—PHILIP KEHR

Former YTA member, Philip Kehr, passed away on June 10, 2023 after suffering from Parkinsons' Disease for two decades. He is survived by his wife, Joanne Kehr, their son Terry Lubadika, and grandson Aiden Lubadika. Philip was 75 years old. Philip graduated from Red Lion High School and Lebanon Valley College. He worked in advertising for 25 years, as a paralegal, and baked desserts for his company *Peace of Cake*. Philip and Joanne joined York Twinning Association in 1989. They participated in exchanges and hosted visitors from both Leinfeld-Echterdingen, Germany and Arles, France. His obituary can be found at ydr.com/obituarites/mpa111546. A celebration of life is being planned for next year. Anyone with memories or photos of Philip, please email them to Joanne at jbkehr@comcast.net



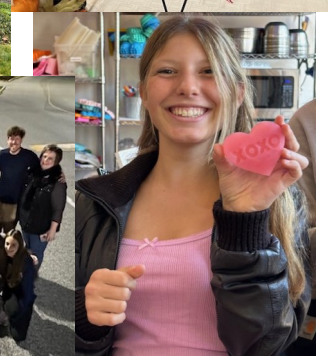
YTA members had a great time celebrating Oktoberfest at Lancaster Liederkrantz, September 17th! Thank you to Hank and Michele Groat for making those arrangements and reserving a table for us. Everyone who attended enjoyed authentic German beer, pretzels, bratwurst, music and festive dancing.



German Student Exchange to York, PA October 13th to 28th, 2023



Ten students and two adult chaperones from Leinfeld-Echterdingen (LE), Germany were welcomed to the USA by YTA members Betty & Doug Stein and Hank Groat upon arrival at Dulles airport then transported to a meeting place in Spring Grove. Host families were excited to greet them and start two weeks of adventures together. Weekends were spent with host families who took them on a variety of adventures including a trip to Washington, D.C. Throughout the weekdays, YTA members kept the German group busy by taking them to visit many places including Hershey Chocolate World, Hershey Outlets, Indian Echo Caverns, Gettysburg, Lancaster Amish Farmhouse, Sturgis Pretzel factory in Lititz, Baltimore Aquarium and Fort McHenry. The group also took a walking tour of York that included stops at York's Colonial Court House, the Gates and Plow Tavern, lunch at Central Market, soap making at Sunrise Soap, a visit with Mayor Helfrich at City Hall, a tour of the Strand and Capitol theaters, and a stop to take photos of the murals in Royal Square. Another day the group was treated to a tour of the Capitol building in Harrisburg with Rep. Seth Grove and also toured the PA State Museum. Students and chaperones also got to shadow students at York College for half a day, then play laser tag and go bowling at Laser Alleys. In addition to all of those activities students spent three days attending high school with their host 'brothers and sisters' while chaperones shadowed high school German teachers. Along with their host families the German visitors attended a YTA meeting, enjoyed a farewell picnic dinner, and attended a high school football game. Though there were long hugs and some tears when it was time to say farewell, everyone left with wonderful memories and friendships that will last a lifetime!



WHAT'S YOUR STORY ???

How have you been involved with YTA? Did you travel to Arles or Leinfelden-Echterdingen? Were you a host for visitors during one of our exchanges? Maybe you attended or volunteered during one of our events. Maybe you still maintain close relationships with friends you met through YTA. By sharing photos and stories we hope to rebuild relationships, reconnect with friends with whom we may have lost contact, and encourage others to join our association. Please consider sending us your photos and memories to share in future issues of Tete. Send information to:

jlj2j31@comcast.net

Subject line: YTA Memories

Our YTA Story by Hank & Michele Groat

In September 2014 our youngest daughter came home from school and told us about an exchange program through York Twinning Association (YTA). We were interested so started asking questions. German students were scheduled to arrive in about three weeks, were in need of host families, so we jumped in and hosted our first German student from Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany. Hosting Amalie was an awesome experience. We remain in touch with her family still.

The next year German adults came to York. We hosted our new friends Peter and Katja. It was a pleasure getting to know them and spending time together. We stay in contact with them to this day. That year in the fall, we again helped with the student exchange and hosted another German student, Lana. It was another great experience. We also hosted a French adult, Robert and have continued to stay in touch. We truly enjoyed the opportunity to host and learn about different cultures, politics, and different ways of thinking.

We traveled to Arles, France in 2016 for the first time. It was an amazing trip. There was so much history and so much to see and do. Our hosts and friends added to the wonderful experience. We had the opportunity to travel to Arles again this summer, in July of 2023. We had so much fun being able to see old friends and meet new ones!

The best way to really enjoy York Twinning Association is to get involved. You get to meet new people and participate in cultural activities both here in the US and abroad. In the Spring there is a wine tasting event, in the summer there is a summer picnic and Bastille Day celebration, in the Fall there is an Oktoberfest celebration, and in January YTA has a holiday tour fundraiser event. These are all held to extend friendships and raise funds used for activities when our French and German visitors come to York and provide scholarship money to York County students participating in the French and German exchange programs.

Traveling with YTA offers great opportunities to meet new people through both student and adult exchanges! We started helping with York Twinning Association from the start and love to travel with YTA groups. The adult exchanges take place on a rotating basis. This year York adults visited Arles. Next year (2024) German adults will come to York. In 2025 York adults will visit Germany, then in 2026 the French adults will come to visit us in York. The student exchanges take place every year! During the German student exchanges, York students travel to German in the summer then the German students visit York the following Fall. The French student exchange is different because the French host students travel back to the U.S. with York YTA students for two weeks when they return from France. Our daughter Tayah was the first student to go on both the German and French student exchanges. There are costs involved, and it takes intentionality, but the experience is truly priceless and the friendships you make last a lifetime!



Amalie and Tayah



Katja, Peter, Hank, Michele



Michele and Hank at salt flats in Camargue, France



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