



tête à tête

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June 2025

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

A Message from your Co-Presidents



Bonjour! Guten Tag!

From Co-Presidents Doug & Betty Stein



Many things have been happening with York Twinning Association so far this year! January 5th we held a successful 12th Night tour. An in-person and zoom meeting was held at the York YMCA on February 19th. On February 20th Doug and Betty made a presentation about York Twinning to members of the Newton Square Neighborhood Association. A group of YTA members and friends gathered for fun, food, and great wine at Lavender Acres Winery on March 19th for our annual wine tasting event. Another in-person and zoom meeting was held at the York YMCA on April 16th. YTA participated in Give Local York on May 1st and 2nd. Betty was able to promote YTA during a Give Local live stream and officially present a framed copy of the new signed charter between York and Arles to Mayor Helfrich on May 2nd.



A group of 21 YTA members are preparing for an upcoming exchange trip to our sister city, Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany from June 24th to July 2nd. We look forward to visiting new places, learning about their culture and history and making wonderful new memories with our German friends!

Our next in-person and zoom meeting will be held at the York YMCA on June 18th starting at 6:30 PM. Be sure to come to the meeting to hear updates about upcoming events! Hope to see you there!

Betty & Doug

SAVE THE DATE - JULY 13, 2025!

It's time to get together for summer fun, connecting with friends, and to celebrate Bastille Day!



This in-person summer social will be held Sunday, July 13, 2025 at Doug & Betty Stein's home, 279 Little Creek Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362. Fun starts at 2 PM - plan to eat around 4:30 or 5 PM. Swimming, volleyball, and croquet will be available. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided.



Bring:

- A side dish and a dessert to share
- Lawn chairs
- Swim suits & towels
- BYOB if you want alcoholic beverages
- Old and new photos of YTA exchanges

Event will be held rain or shine! This will be a great opportunity to socialize, share stories about travel adventures and memories. Family and friends are welcomed!

RSVP appreciated for planning purposes, but is not required. Hope to see you for our Bastille Day celebration, July 13, 2025!

(717-880-1404 or j1j2j31@comcast.net)



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:

Jennifer Grim **CO-CHAIR NEEDED**

French Student Exchange:

Kristin Witmer, Kristie Spies

German Adult Exchange:

Hank Michele Groat & Laura Koebnick

German Student Exchange:

Molly Wiles **CO-CHAIR NEEDED**

12th Night Home Tour: 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: JaNeene Powell

Summer Social/Bastille Day: **OPEN**

Fall Oktoberfest: Hank & Michele Groat

Hospitality for In Person Meetings: Kristina Spies



In what started as a small act of kindness to him from a stranger, Kevin Smith has been working to create a movement to spread kindness around the world.

August 7th, 2025 is "Pack the Park for Kindness" being held at Wellspan Park, York Revolution Stadium. In collaboration with Give Local York, this will launch the first Kindness-themed sports event hoping the idea will spread to other communities. Film director, Elgin Cahill will be there to capture kindness magic for the film "For Such A Time As This." We could all use a little more kindness! **Save the date, August 7th, 2025. Come to Wellspan Park at 6:30 PM for a fun night out and help "Pack the Park for Kindness!"** Check kindness-worldwide.org for more information about Kevin, his story and goals.

YTA Calendar of Meetings & Social Events

MEETING DATES

Future Board and membership meetings will be held in the Loucks Room at York YMCA, the third Wednesday of the month, as listed below, from 6:30-8:30 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.

2025 MEETING DATES

June 18th— Regular Board meeting.

July 13th— Bastille Day/Summer Social at Stein home, 279 Little Creek Road, Spring Grove, PA.

August 20th— Regular Board meeting

September 21st —Oktoberfest Celebration— Lancaster Liederkrantz, Manheim, PA

October 15th—Short Board meeting followed by reception for people to share summer photos from trip to Leinfelden-Echterdingen

November 15th - Board/budget meeting

December—No formal meeting.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Summer 2025: Summer Social/Bastille Day

July 13th, 2025 (see front for details)

Fall 2026: Oktoberfest celebration –

September 21, 2025

Winter 2026: 12th Night Holiday Home Tour,

January 4, 2026

Spring 2026: Wine Tasting Social—TBD



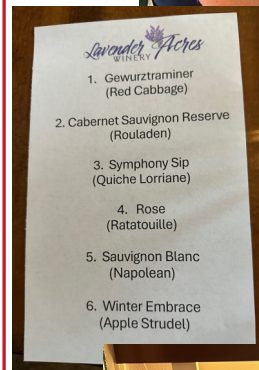
WINE TASTING FUN!



Good wine, good food, great fun! York Twinning Association held their annual wine tasting event on Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 5 PM to 8 PM at Lavender Acres Winery, 4865 Libhart Mill Rd. Hellam, PA 17406. Participants enjoyed six different wines in honor of our Twin Cities, Arles and Leinfelden-Echterdingen. Wine was served along with delicious foods specially made to compliment each wine. A big thank you to Wendy and Bill Hewitt for making this event enjoyable for everyone!



Lavender Acres
WINERY



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:

j1j2j31@comcast.net

Subject line: YTA Memories

Three Generations of Memories The Miller Family

In June of 1993 Jacob Miller, Jr. and his wife Arlene, a former French teacher, took their three children, Tom, Jake, and Alissa on a YTA exchange trip to Arles, France. Jacob, Arlene, and Alissa were hosted by a very sweet older couple who Alissa said served them with yummy meals and delicious crème brulee. Tom and another American boy named Zach Hughes stayed with host Julien Rousset-Rouviere, and Jake stayed with host Marc Carpentier. Some of their fond memories



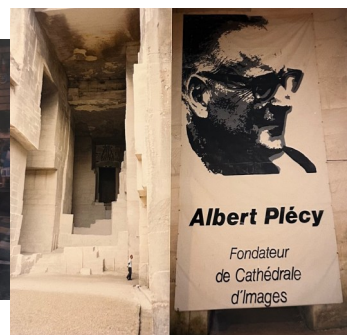
from that trip included seeing the June 23rd Saint John's bonfires in



center square celebrating the birthday of John the Baptist. They loved

seeing the women in their traditional dress as they performed songs and dances for spectators.

Another memory that stands out to them is the trip the group took to Le Baux to see the Cathedral of Images featuring works by Albert Plécy and music by French composer Armand Amar.



They remember seeing white horses and black bulls in Camargue and going to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, where they heard the story of the two Marys and took a photo from the church rooftop. They also remember beautiful Romanesque architecture and lavender fields at the Abbaye Notre-Dame de Senanque.



Jacob, Jake, and Alissa all remembered the picnics, group meals, and fantastic food served to them throughout their visit. Jacob said he especially loved the strawberry and cheese dessert croissants! During their visit the Miller family met many other people including Jean and

Monique Laurain, Mimi and Pierre Giraud, Mimi's sister Evelyne and Mr. and Mrs. Metz.



What's Your Story - Miller Family story (con't)



For many years after their 1993 visit to Arles with YTA, Jacob and Arlene continued their involvement with YTA by hosting Arlesians in their home during exchanges.

Tom, Jake, and Alissa are now grown and have families of their own. Although they did not travel on additional YTA exchanges, they have maintained relationships with some of the people they met and stopped in Arles during their travels.



The Miller family YTA connection was renewed in 2019 during a YTA exchange with German students from Leinfelden-Echterdingen.

Jake's family hosted a German boy named Ole. Jake's son Alden was to go with YTA on an exchange trip to Germany in 2020 but due to Covid it was cancelled. When student exchanges resumed, Jake's family hosted Hanna Wertennaur during a 2023 German student exchange to York.



Hanna and Jake's daughter Ada became fast friends and in the summer of 2024 Hanna's family hosted Ada during YTA's student exchange to Germany. Jake's family offered to again host a German girl, Magdalena Hutzler, during a YTA student exchange to York in the Fall of 2024. In an article for Spring Grove High School Ada wrote, "... both times it felt like I had just gained a sister that I still talk to to this day. The memories and connections are worth the step outside the comfort zone."



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A Message from Club Jumelages

Dear members of the Arles-York Committee and Association,

Following the meeting of the Arles-York Committee held on April 8th, 2025, I am honoured and delighted to announce my appointment as President of the Arles-York Committee, within our association.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Evelyne Laurent, for her constant dedication and commitment to the development of our twinning. My gratitude also goes to Mrs. Michèle Laffé for her unwavering support and her essential role in the life of the association.

I take on this responsibility with great enthusiasm and a strong desire to continue the work that has already been accomplished, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Arles and York.

Together with all the members of the committee, I am eager to promote the cultural, educational, and human exchanges that are at the heart of our twinning.

My mother and I are also very much looking forward to visiting Michele and Hank soon, in the spirit of friendship and sharing that so beautifully reflects the values of our association.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any ideas, questions, or suggestions. I'm excited about this new chapter we are about to begin together.

Warmest regards,

Alicia Espinat

President of the Arles-York Committee

✉ alicia.espinat@gmail.com

✆ +33 6 60 63 23 55



Marie-Franz and Alicia Espinat.
Photo taken during the 2023 YTA member visit to Arles.



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to York Twinning Association during Give Local York. With your help we were able to raise almost \$2,400.00.

A very special thank you to J. Miller, \$500; Krouse Travel, \$250; and J. Spies, Heritage Financial Consultants, \$250 for their matching contributions! Funds collected will be used to continue providing cultural experiences for our members, visitors, and student scholarships.



Thank you, too, to Mayor Michael Helfich. He was able to arrange a time for Betty Stein to join him on a Live Stream during the Give Local campaign to promote York Twinning Association. As a gift to York City, York Twinning had the original Protocole D'Amitie proclamation framed that was signed in September 2024 between the city of York and Arles, France. This act confirms and continues our international friendship that began over 70 years ago in 1954! Mayor Helfich accepted it on behalf of York City acknowledging a commitment to continue this relationship, known as the oldest, continuous sister city relationship in the United States.



Farewell to a friend



Ruth Sabey passed away on April 28, 2025. She, and husband Bill, were long-time members of the York Twinning Association. They loved to travel and participated in many YTA exchanges.

A memorial service for Ruth will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025 at

11 AM at First Presbyterian Church of York, 225 East Market Street, York, PA 17402. The family will visit with friends following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of York Stephen Ministry Program, 225 East Market Street, York, PA 17403. Cards of condolences and memories can be sent to their son, William Sabey, Jr. 113 Ashley Way, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

A MEETING BY CHANCE— A FRIENDSHIP BY CHOICE!

In August 2023, Max, Bettina, and Karla Koepf packed their bags and moved from Kronberg, Germany to York, PA where Max had been transferred to complete a two year assignment, doing research development, at Metso.

After settling into their new home, the family decided to go hiking at Rocky Ridge, a park nearby. While hiking they were pleased to meet a couple walking Bernese Mountain dogs which reminded them of a dog belonging to friends back in Germany. They struck up a conversation and found they all had a love of Germany and similar interests connecting with people internationally. The people they met were Hank and Michele Groat who then introduced them to YTA. As members of York Twinning Association, the Koepf family have made many more connections and friendships.

Max's two year assignment is coming to an end in June and the Koepf family will soon be returning to Germany, taking with them many memories of York and their time with YTA. They enjoyed the many gatherings and accompanying visiting groups of adults and students from Germany during exchange visits to York. They enjoyed having the opportunity to visit the Colonial Courthouse, Gates and Plow Tavern, and new History Center to learn about York's history, visiting the Pennsylvania State Capitol building in Harrisburg, and participating in activities at Indian Steps Museum. Bettina said she was proud to be a part of an organization that encourages people to make both local and international connections. She feels those connections help people to learn and understand that although there are cultural differences, people around the world also share many similarities.

We wish them safe travels as they return to their home in Germany and look forward to continuing their friendship and connections to the York Twinning Association! Bettina can be reached at her email - familie.koepf@web.de



Photo credit goes to Michele Groat

DESTINATION—ARLES, FRANCE!

Information and photos from Gary & Vicki Knisely

A family reunion, a love of travel, history, and art led Gary and Vicki Knisely on an adventure through Europe in May 2025. Following a visit with Gary's relatives in Antwerpen, Belgium, Gary and Vicki traveled to Lyon, France where they boarded a Uni-world cruiseship for a historic trip down the Rhone river. The cruise ended on the Rhone River beside our sister city, Arles, France.

Although Gary and Vicki have been involved with York Twinning Association since the late 1970's they never had the chance to visit Arles. They had heard many stories from their good friends John and Dottie Rauhauser and Marguerite Eriksson about Arles during past meetings and events, so were excited to finally get to visit the city. In addition to experiencing the history and culture, they also wanted to visit Marguerite's memorial and pay tribute to their friend who was so influential in the formation of twinning between York and Arles.

One of the first things they saw as their ship pulled into harbor were stone abutments and pillars topped with lion statues on either side of the river. The lions were created around 1886 by French sculptor Pierre Louis Rouillard. These structures, restored in 2008, are what remains of an old railway bridge that connected the east and west banks across the Rhone. The bridge, which no longer exists, was bombed by the Allies on August 6, 1944 to disrupt German shipping during World War II. This location by the river is said to have inspired Vincent Van Gogh to create his famous "Starry Night Over the Rhone" painting in 1888.



On a walk to the Amphitheatre, they saw a beautiful enamel medallion on a wall of Fischer Bar De La Fontaine. The medallion, lined with colorful ceramic tiles, was created by Paul Balzes. In front is the Amedee Pichot fountain created by sculptor Joseph Flandrin.

They also visited the Amphitheatre and the Roman Theater. The Amphitheatre, built in 90 AD and was inspired by the Coliseum in Rome, could seat 20,000 people. It was used for chariot races, theatrical performances, and gladiator fights. When the Roman Empire fell, it was used as a fortress to protect the people of Arles. The Roman Theater, smaller in size, could seat about 8,000 people. It was built during the reign of Caesar Augustus and also used for entertainment purposes. During the Middle Ages, stone from the Roman Theater was ravaged and used for building other structures. Only part of it still stands. Both structures are still used today for plays, concerts, and other forms of entertainment.



Gary and Vicki got to see many other places in Arles including Café Van Gogh, Le Jardin de l'Hotel de Dieu, the Town Hall and the Roman obelisk at Place de la Republique. The weather during their visit was beautiful. They loved seeing magnificent architecture, artwork, and visiting shops and cafes during walks around the city. Their experiences made them realize why Arles had become such a special place to Marguerite and the York Twinning Association.

As their trip came to an end, Gary and Vicki had one final place to visit. With the help of google maps and maps emailed to them from Evelyne Laurant, they were able to find the memorial and bus stop named after Marguerite Eriksson.



Au revoir a notre bonne amie Marguerite and au revoir Arles. We take with us wonderful memories of old and new until we meet again!

Remembering Marguerite!

In December 2024, Jim McClure wrote an article for *The York Daily Record*, “This Tale covers two cities: Twinning of York and Arles, France, celebrated this year”. It recounts the story of Marguerite Eriksson and her importance to York and our twin city of Arles, France. Below are excerpts from that article to explain her connections to York and Arles and why she is still honored today.



One Spring day 40 years ago, Marguerite Eriksson was walking along the main street in her beloved French town of Arles. She was in that city in the south of France to celebrate an anniversary, 30 years since the twinning of Arles and her home city of York.

With fellow city educator Victoria Lyles, she had forged that relationship as part of a Cold War program to promote understanding between America and its former European allies and enemies. Indeed, it was an anniversary moment for the allied cities of York and Arles to savor.

Suddenly, this productive tale of two cities turned into urban tragedy when two men abroad a motorbike pulled up to the longtime French teacher in York city schools and grabbed her purse. In their getaway, they dragged her several feet before she struck an object. She died days later, and that news sent waves of grief throughout the twinned cities separated by the Atlantic.

The educator’s death created a tragic irony. Here she was, instrumental in the creation and continuation of a program to sand the type of friction between continents that could lead to violence. And she was killed in a violent assault.

In late May 1984, 150 mourners gathered in York’s St. Patrick’s Church for the funeral Mass for Marguerite Eriksson. “The funeral atmosphere, however, was muted,” the York Daily Record reported. “Bright light shined in through the church’s stained glass windows and fresh air blew in through open doors,”

An Arles official delivered a eulogy on behalf of his city that spellbound and stirred the audience. “Even his translator was visibly moved afterward,” the York Daily Record reported. At the front of the church, a wreath bore the message: “La ville d’Arles, a sa citoyenne d’honneur” - “The city of Arles, to her honorary citizen.” She was buried in a casket given by the people of Arles.

Her death did not mean the end of the relationship between the twinned cities. In fact, it strengthened those links, and York and Arles celebrated their 70th anniversary this year (2024). York Mayor Michael Helfrich visited Arles this fall (2024) as part of a twinning conference, recommitting to the relationship on the seven-decade anniversary of the Twinning movement.

When asked in an interview “*What were the highlights of your Arles visit?*” he responded, “I got to participate in a historic event, with dozens of other mayors and city officials from across Europe and the U.S., bringing pieces of different cultures and times together in one experience. The respect we built for one another goes way beyond any country borders or cultural differences. The twinning program fosters trust and love between people and builds educational and business exchanges that benefit the individuals, our cities, and our countries.”

An Arles street has been named in her (Marguerite’s) honor, and Helfrich joined Twinning and other dignitaries in his recent visit to Arles in bringing flowers to leave at a sign bearing her name.

“It was such a blessing to have the opportunity to honor York city teacher and York Twinning founder Marguerite Eriksson in Arles” Helfrich said in an interview, noting her commitment to peace and shared educational opportunities. “York Twinning exchanges . . . create . . . an ongoing reminder that people are not who their government might be from time to time, People are just people, and maintaining a long-term multi-generational relationship with people makes good times better, but more importantly, helps us treat each other like human beings when disagreements may occur between our governments. . . Having personal relationships with other cities goes beyond the global level of politics. It creates long-term amity between people, which makes it harder to repeat unthinkable hate-based catastrophes like World War II.”

Exchange programs with Arles (and York) continue to this day. For more information about York Twinning Association visit our website www.yorktwinning.com

Thank you to columnist, and former editor of *The York Daily Record*, Jim McClure for giving YTA permission to use excerpts from his news article, “This Tale covers two cities: Twinning of York and Arles, France, celebrated this year”. The full article can be found at www.ydr.com, [December 11, 2024](http://www.ydr.com).



Join the **YORK TWINNING ASSOCIATION** *experience*

2025 Membership Application

Mission Statement . . .

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

* Due to rising costs, our membership fees have increased by \$10 - the first raise since 2016! Printing costs, postage, and handling for YTA Tete newsletters have also risen so there will be an additional yearly fee of \$20.00 for those wishing to receive hard copies of Tete mailed to them in 2025. We will continue to email copies of the Tete newsletter to all members at no charge. Thank you for your understanding and support!

*** I am pleased to support York Twinning Association through December 2025!**

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ☐ Single \$30 | \$ _____ |
| ☐ Couple/2 people household \$40 | \$ _____ |
| ☐ Family/3+people household \$50 | \$ _____ |
| ☐ Fee for printed copies of Tete \$20 | \$ _____ |
| ☐ Additional donation | \$ _____ |
| Total due for 2025 | \$ _____ |

*A percentage of membership fees supports the Marguerite Eriksson Scholarship Fund.
York Twinning Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are appreciated.
Please complete all information so our records can be updated.*

Name _____

Street Address _____

City / State _____ Zipcode _____

Mobile Phone _____ Other phone _____

Email address _____

☐ Please check box if you **DO NOT** want to be included in the YTA membership directory.

I am interested in helping the organization with the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ Membership | ___ FUNdraising activities | ___ Hospitality |
| ___ Newsletter | ___ Social Media | ___ Publicity/Marketing |
| ___ Programming | ___ Finance | ___ Student Exchanges |
| ___ Adult Exchanges | ___ YTA Officer | ___ Other (please specify) |

Return this membership form and payment made out to York Twinning Association to:

York Twinning Association
P.O. Box 21318
York, PA 17402



P.O.Box 21318
York, Pennsylvania 17402

