



# tête à tête

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

## A Message from your Co-Presidents



**BONJOUR! GUTEN TAG!**



YTA had a fantastic start to 2026! Our annual 12th Night Holiday Tour was held on January 4, 2026. The weather was perfect and over 200 people enjoyed the unique homes, art galleries and Logos base that were all withing walking distance in the Newton Square area.

Our first meeting of the year was held on February 18th. Thanks to the generosity of York YMCA of the Roses we can continue holding our meetings both in-person and via Zoom in the Loucks conference room.

Student exchanges to both France and Germany have been planned. Two students from New Oxford High School will travel to Arles with chaperone Kristi Spies from July 12th through July 27th. One French student will return with them and stay here until August 10th. 15 YTA students will travel to Germany with two chaperones, Leah and Lynn Leonard, from June 11th to June 25th. German students will visit York in October. A group of adults from Arles will visit York from August 3rd to August 10th. \*See additional itinerary plans for their visit on page 6 of this issue.

On April 18th, YTA will hold its annual wine tasting event. April 30 and May 1st YTA will again participate in Give Local York, a 24 hour fundraiser created especially for non-profit organizations. Funds raised will be used for student scholarships and to support YTA activities for members, friends, and events when our friends from France and Germany visit in 2026.

If you haven't already done so, send in your membership form so you can be included in our YTA membership directory when it is updated this Spring. Thank you for supporting YTA. We are looking forward to making new memories and friends at upcoming events.



Betty & Doug,  
Co-Presidents, YTA

## SAVE THE DATE -- APRIL 18, 2026!



**It's time to sign up for YTA's Annual Wine Tasting event being held on Saturday, April 18th** from 2 PM to 6 PM at Lavender Acres Winery, 4865 Libhart Mill Road, Hellam Township, PA 17406.

The cost is \$40 per person. Gratuity is not included. Wines from each of our Twin City regions will be served along with appropriate snacks. Additional wine and snack options will be available for purchase at the event.

**This event has a strict RSVP date. Tickets must be purchased no later than April 12, 2026. Tickets can be purchased by check, cash, or online at [bit.ly/YTA2026WineTasting](https://bit.ly/YTA2026WineTasting)**

Please contact JaNeene Powell with questions at [JaNeene.Powell96@gmail.com](mailto:JaNeene.Powell96@gmail.com) or text messages to 717-858-2966.

Be sure to invite your family and friends to join us for fun, fellowship, great wine and food. Hope to see you there!



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:** **POSITION OPEN**  
**Secretary:** Michele Groat  
**Treasurer:** JaNeene Powell  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Kyle Groft  
**French Adult Exchange:**  
 Jennifer Grim & Diane Reimert  
**French Student Exchange:**  
 Kristin Witmer, Kristi Spies  
**German Adult Exchange:**  
 Hank & Michele Groat  
**German Student Exchange:** Molly Wiles  
**12th Night Home Tour Co-chairs:**  
 Jessie Henning\* & Amy Matthews\*  
**Webmaster:** Ken Krause\*  
**Membership Chair:** **POSITION OPEN**  
**General Fundraising:** **POSITION OPEN**  
**Marketing / PR:** **POSITION OPEN**  
**Compliance Officer:** **POSITION OPEN**

\* Denotes Board Directors

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Newsletter:** Betty Stein  
**Spring Wine Tasting Social:** JaNeene Powell  
**Summer Social:** Jennifer Grim & Diane Reimert  
**Fall Oktoberfest:** Hank & Michele Groat  
**Hospitality for In Person Meetings:** Kristi Spies



### Mark your calendars!

**Give Local York** will once again hold the biggest day of giving to help non-profit organizations in York County

**This on-line event will run from 9 PM Thursday, April**

**30th through 9 PM Friday, May 1st.**

This great fundraiser is an easy way to support York Twinning Association. Being part of Give Local York raises awareness for YTA, expands our social media presence, uses new marketing strategies, and expands our fundraising success. YTA is also entered into a stretch pool to earn additional dollars.

**Save the date! Give to YTA** and raise funds for exchanges, student scholarships and cultural events.  
**Remember, every little bit helps!**

## YTA Calendar of Meetings & Social Events

### MEETING DATES

Thank you to the York YMCA for allowing us to continue using their Loucks Room for YTA meetings at no charge. Unless otherwise noted, future Board and membership meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month 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 meetings.

### 2026 MEETING DATES

**January**—No formal meeting due to January 4th, 12th Night Tour.

**February 18th** —Regular Board meeting

**March** — No formal meeting

**April 15th**—Regular Board meeting

**April 30th—May 1st—Give Local York, 24 hour fundraiser, from 9 PM to 9 PM**

**June 17th**— Regular Board meeting.

**August 8th**— Summer celebration & farewell dinner for French Student and Adult visitors at Lake Meade Community Center.

**August 19th** — Regular Board meeting *\*Change of location for this meeting. Due to a scheduling conflict it will be held in the Tech Rev building beside the YMCA of York.*

**October 4th** —Oktoberfest Celebration

**October 21th** —Short Board meeting - with a reception following the meeting with visiting LE students, their host families, and YTA students who traveled to Arles during the summer.

**November 18th** - Board/budget meeting

**December**—No formal meeting.

### SOCIAL EVENTS

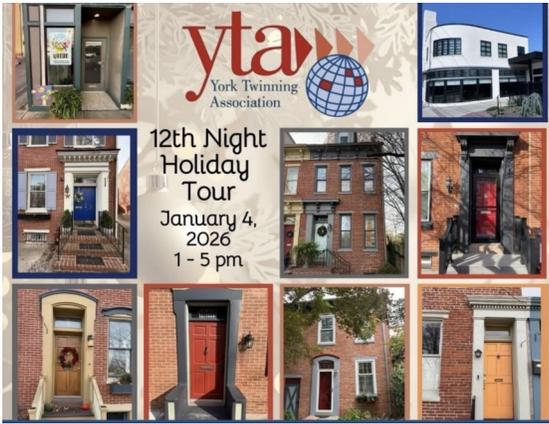
**Spring 2026:** Wine Tasting Social, April 18, 2026  
 Give Local York, April 30 & May 1st

**Summer 2026:** Summer Social/Farewell dinner,  
 August 8th, Lake Meade Community Center

**Fall 2026:** Oktoberfest celebration,  
 Sunday, October 4th

**Winter 2027:** 12th Night Holiday Home Tour,  
 January 3, 2027 - 1 PM to 5 PM

# 12th Night York Holiday Tour 2026



12th Night  
Holiday  
Tour  
January 4,  
2026  
1 - 5 pm

York Twinning Association held their annual 12th Night Holiday Tour on Sunday, January 4, 2026. Seven unique homes, along with artwork by several York artists displayed in the galleries of The Queue Building of Ophelia’s Making Agency, were highlighted on this year’s tour. Logos Academy served as both our base and our first stop.

This year’s tour showcased homes and buildings in York City’s historic Newton Square and surrounding streets. The neighborhood was devastated by Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and then revitalized in the 1980’s through York’s Back to the City Movement, which provided low-interest loans to encourage both home rehabilitation and homeownership among those who might not otherwise be able to purchase a home. Today, Newton Square is a charming neighborhood with unique historic homes.



Our base, Logos Academy, is a Christ-centered, non-profit K-12 school serving York City since 1998. 255 W. King St. has been its home since 2012. Originally part of land owned by Baltzer Spangler, a 1941 founder of Yorktowne, the site later housed sections of York Stock Yards. In 1937, York architect Harry Russel Lenker designed an Art Moderne-style automobile showroom here for Charles Heiges. Opening as White Rose Motors in 1938, it showcased Cadillac and Oldsmobile cars until the late 1960s. After decades of YMCA use, Logos Academy purchased the property. By Fall 2022, the expanded campus was fully in use. RLSP Architects preserved the rare Art Deco features, earning design excellence awards. Today, the building blends York’s rich history with a renewed purpose as a center for learning and community connection.



The Queue Building and the Studio Arts Group are part of Ophelia’s Making Agency. The Agency supports emerging and established artists and has helped spur the creative movement taking place in the WeCo neighborhood. The Queue is one of three buildings renovated by the Studio Art Group, which includes not only studio art space but also several individual artist studios. An exhibit of daylilies and other works from the local art community were on display for the YTA 12th Night Holiday Tour.



The weather was perfect and over 200 people enjoyed the unique homes, art galleries and Logos base that were all within walking distance in the Newton Square area.



### 12th Night York Holiday Tour 2026 (con't)

Many of the homes included on the tour this year were originally built between the mid 1870s and 1890s. One home once served as a brothel. Another is thought to have been occupied during the Civil War, when York was briefly under Confederate occupation.



The homes' unique features included parquet and original hardwood floors that were recovered and refurbished after the flood. Many homes also featured exposed brick walls, high ceilings, crown molding, and antique hardware on windows and solid wooden doors. Additional features including chandeliers, spiral and floating staircases, lofts, modernized bathrooms, and backyard oases have been added reflecting individual personalities of home owners. A few homes also displayed collections of artwork, framed blueprints of the original buildings and news articles about the 1972 flood and neighborhood restoration process.



Several Santons were displayed at Logos. Some were from private collections and others were Santons that have been donated to YTA. In the Southern part of France, people celebrate Christmas holidays by decorating their homes with Santons. The word "Santon" in French means "little Saint". Santons are hand-molded, clay figures that represent the people and animals who visited and brought offerings to baby Jesus.



Work and cooperation of all committee members, facility/home hosts, volunteers, artists, and Logos staff, helped make this event successful. Thank you to Co-Chairs Amy Matthews and Jessica Henning and committee members Betty & Doug Stein for their time and efforts. Thank you to all the YTA members who volunteered their time helping to promote the event, sell tickets, set up and tear down, and help at our tour locations throughout the day. Money raised will be used towards funding student scholarships and cultural events for YTA members, friends, and visitors from our twin cities in France and Germany.

Thank you Atlas Printing, Karen Ford & Duane Bell from David's Interiors, and sponsors Jake Miller, Krouse Travel, Anonymous Donor, Ben and Fran Hoover, York Water Company, Budget Rentals Management LLC, CORE Design Group, Royal Square Development & Construction, York Economic Alliance, and Colony Packaging and Machine for their generosity and support of YTA!



## 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](mailto:jlj2j31@comcast.net)

Subject line: YTA Memories

### Enriched Through Exchanges! Information provided by Joanne Kehr

My late husband, Philip, and I became involved with York Twinning Association in 1988 when we hosted Walter and Ria Walter from Germany. I had learned some German in college and Walter learned English in a Canadian prisoner-of-war camp during World War II which allowed us to communicate rather well. Ria did not speak English but did teach us the German word 'böse' to describe our naughty cat!



Our next guests were Monika and Heinrich Sturm who became great friends that we visited during a later trip to Germany. We also hosted the Andres, French visitors from Arles, and another time hosted Aline Menuisier from France. Aline was the first teacher to come from France on a year long exchange. We subsequently visited Aline and her husband, Pierre, at their home outside Arles.

Over the years we had the opportunity to host and be hosted by many others during exchanges. I have gotten to know wonderful people in France and Germany

and in the York Twinning Association. Those friendships have grown and endured for decades.



When you travel on an exchange trip, you get to stay with host families. It's like having personal concierges who know interesting places to visit, fun things to do, make your travel arrangements and take you to good restaurants. I am always encouraging people I meet or know to join the Twinning Association. I tell them that they will have a better travel experience if they stay in homes of natives and learn how the people of that country live and think, and . . . eat!



Our involvement with YTA wasn't just limited to hosting visitors or traveling during exchanges. One year Philip and I created a 'garden' tour of homes in the 400 block of West Market Street, known as "Doctors Row", as a fundraiser for the club. Philip drew the map and I described the various gardening design techniques of each garden.

Another year I organized a trip to the Eisenhower farm for French visitors, knowing that some would want to honor the General who had freed their country from the Nazis. It was a profound experience for my French guest, who had been a teenager during the Nazi occupation of France. It is important to remember that the Twinning Association was started so we could get to know people in other countries, respect their cultures and develop international friendships. I believe strongly in encouraging international understanding and friendship as a deterrent to misunderstandings and wars.



I was a French major in college and also studied German so greatly enjoyed having opportunities through exchanges with York Twinning Association to practice using these languages with my international friends. I don't remember how I first learned about York Twinning Association, but by being part of YTA and participating in exchanges my life has been enriched.

## Adult French Exchange Itinerary—Summer 2026

York Twinning Association is excited to welcome and host a group of French adults from Monday, August 3, 2026 through Monday, August 10, 2026. The exact number of Arlesians visiting is not known at this time.

The French Adult exchange committee developed the following itinerary for their visit. YTA members and friends are encouraged to join in these activities to support York Twinning Association and meet our French visitors. **Contact Jennifer Grim at 717-515-8308 or [jsygrim@yahoo.com](mailto:jsygrim@yahoo.com) no later than March 30, 2026 to confirm your reservation. Reservation checks should be mailed to YTA, P.O. Box 21318, York, PA 17402.**

**Monday, August 3, 2026—Adult French visitors arrive. Time/place TBD.**

**Tuesday, August 4, 2026—York Day**

Led by Doug & Betty Stein; Shopping coupons secured by Jeff & Renee Miller  
10 AM—Cost for YTA members and friends—\$6.00

Meet at York's Colonial Courthouse for a short history of York's French connections and possibly meet with Mayor Walker. Next walk across the street for a quick tour of the Gates House and Plow Tavern then walk down the street to the new History Center for a self-guided tour. Lunch on your own at Central Market followed by time to shop at local venues. Recommend walking a few blocks through Continental Square and on to Royal Square to view stunning murals painted by local artists. *Possible reception with a special guest early evening at the History Center. Time, costs, and details will be provided upon confirmation.*

**Wednesday, August 5, 2026—Native American Day**

Cost for YTA members and friends—\$40 tours, \$20 boxed picnic lunch. Limited seating, sign up ASAP

Led by Jennifer & Jack Grim

Experience a tour of the Susquehanna River on Chief Uncas, a 1912 electric wooded boat built by beer tycoon Adolphus Busch and named after the leader of the Pequot tribe. Expert guides will tell you stories of native settlements then take you on a tour of the Zimmerman Center, a restored historic home dating back to the Revolutionary War. Finally, you'll have an opportunity to take a short hike on the Native Lands Heritage Trail to see the land where Native Americans last settled from 1676 to 1680. A boxed, picnic lunch will follow at Klines' Run Park.

**Thursday, August 6, 2026—Harrisburg Capitol Tour**

Led by Jane Best

Morning tour—Cost for YTA members & friends—\$0 for tour, approximately \$20 for lunch

Join us for a tour of the The Harrisburg Capitol, housing chambers for the PA House of Representatives, the PA Senate, and the PA Supreme Court. Bronze entrance doors open to a beautiful rotunda with a grand staircase similar to the one in the Paris Opera House. 4 floors, 475 rooms, and a dome are decorated with medallions, fantastic paintings, hand-crafter tiles, and mosaics. Lunch will take place in the Capitol cafeteria following the tour.

**Friday, August 7, 2026—Washington, D.C. bus trip**

Led by Scott Markle and Lisa Rees.

Full day—Cost to YTA members and friends—\$50 for the bus/tour, \$20 to \$25 for lunch

Limited seating, sign up ASAP

8:00 AM—leave York, arrive in Washington D.C. around 10:00 AM. During a drive around the city, Scott will point out different landmarks, monuments, and memorials. Upon arrival to Capitol Hill the group will take a guided tour of the Capitol Building then lunch at the cafeteria in the Capitol Visitor Center. The remainder of the day is free to walk the mall and visit museums of your choice. Museums are free but the Air and Space Museum and the African American Museum require reservations. The bus will depart at 5:00 PM. A bagged dinner will be provided on the bus during the return trip. We'll arrive back in York around 8:00 PM.

**Saturday, August 8, 2026—TWO EVENTS! AM Lancaster/Amish trip; PM Summer celebration/farewell dinner**

Lancaster trip led by Laura Koebnick; Summer celebration. Farewell dinner led by Jennifer Grim & Diane Reimert  
**AM Cost for YTA members and friends—\$14 farm and house tour, \$25 buggy ride, \$25 for smorgasbord lunch**  
AM—Group leave for Amish Farm and House in Lancaster. A 35 minute group tour will follow with buggy rides for those interested. The group will then travel to Bird-in-Hand restaurant for a smorgasbord lunch. Anyone wishing to shop can visit the nearby Artesian Village for authentic handcrafted goods.

**PM cost for YTA members and friends for farewell dinner— \$25.00**

PM—A summer celebration and farewell dinner for Arlesian visitors will be take place from 6 PM to 9 PM at Lake Meade Community Center in East Berlin, PA. A catered meal will be served. A DJ will play dance music and teach three types of line dances. It will be a fun evening. **We encourage all YTA members and friends to attend.**

**Sunday, August 9, 2026—Free day for Arlesians with host families**

**Monday, August 10, 2026—Arlesians depart. Time/place TBD.**





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

## 2026 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 increased in 2025 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 2026. 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 2026!**

**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 2026 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*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:*

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership      | <input type="checkbox"/> FUNdraising activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter      | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media           | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Marketing    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programming     | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Exchanges      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Exchanges | <input type="checkbox"/> YTA Officer            | <input type="checkbox"/> 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**



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York, Pennsylvania 17402

