



# tête à tête

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P.O. Box 21318 York, Pennsylvania 17402

December 2021

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

## A Message from your Co-Presidents - A Look Ahead!

### Bonjour! Guten Tag!

On Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, a committee of YTA Exchange Co-Chairs met with us to discuss the possibility of resuming travel between York and our “Twin” cities. Our goal was to consider all options then come up with an equitable rotation schedule. We took into account past exchanges that were scheduled but cancelled due to Covid, concerns about rising cases of the Delta variant, the hesitancy of people to commit to travel due to ever changing travel requirements and conditions, as well as the added responsibilities exchange coordinators would have to ensure all travelers would meet Covid regulations specific to each country. We all agreed that we want to resume travel, but also wanted to make decisions that were thoughtful and safe. Our friends in both France and Germany have since expressed interest in restarting some kind of travel plans in 2022. Our committee will be meeting again mid December to share updated information, Covid regulations, travel concerns and recommendations from travel agents. We are hoping many of these issues will be more defined and that we are able to come up with an acceptable plan keeping everyone’s best interest in mind. We appreciate your friendship, continued interest, and support of York Twinning Association and wish everyone a peaceful and happy holiday season!

Doug & Betty Stein



## OUR TWELFTH NIGHT TOUR IS COMING!



York Twinning Association’s 12th Night Holiday tour will be held Sunday, January 9, 2022 from 2 PM to 6 PM highlighting 9 historic churches in downtown York. You will be surprised to see what treasures we have here in our own backyard!

Our base this year will be Traditions Bank at the corner of W. Philadelphia and N. George Sts. Tickets cost \$20 each and can be purchased there the day of the tour. Tickets will also be available for purchase inside Central Market on December 4th, 11th, and 18th from 9 AM to 3 PM. We are asking that each member try to sell at least two tickets. They make great Christmas presents!

The 9 historic churches included in the holiday tour are First Moravian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Christ Lutheran Church, Trinity United Church of Christ, Immaculate Conception BVM/St. Mary’s Catholic Church, St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, First St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church and Heidelberg United Church of Christ.

We need at least 36 volunteers to greet people at Traditions Bank and at each of the churches in order for our event to be successful. Call 717-659-6136 or 717-487-4422 or email Mary and Larry Homsher at [mary@vidmarkdist.com](mailto:mary@vidmarkdist.com) to arrange a time to help!

Jennifer Grim is in charge hospitality and needs donations of baked goods. Please contact her by December 20, 2021 at [jsygrim@yahoo.com](mailto:jsygrim@yahoo.com) to share your baking talents.

Thank you to committee members Mary & Larry Homsher, Kathy Rauhauser, Jennifer Grim, and Jackie Bortner for making this a great event!

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:**  
 Cameron Murray & Hannah Heintzelman  
**12th Night Home Tour:**  
 Mary & Larry Homsher  
**Webmaster:** Ken Krause

**General Fundraising:** **POSITION OPEN**  
**Marketing / PR:** **POSITION OPEN**  
**Compliance Officer:** **POSITION OPEN**

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Newsletter:** Carolyn Van Newkirk  
**Spring Wine Tasting Social:**  
 Kristina Spies & Melanie Winter  
**SummerSocial/Bastille Day:**  
**POSITION OPEN FOR 2022**  
**Fall Oktoberfest:** Hank Groat  
**Hospitality for In Person Meetings:**  
 Kristina Spies



**Where in York, PA can you see two display cases with artifacts from France and Germany?**

**ANSWER:** The display cases can be seen upstairs in York's Colonial Courthouse.

## YTA Calendar of Meetings & Social Events

### MEETING DATES

All meetings will be 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 P.M., via ZOOM until further notice. All meetings are open to both Board and General Membership for remainder of year. Agendas & ZOOM link will be sent out one week prior to meeting. Final 2021 meeting date:  
**December 8th**

### 2022 MEETING DATES

**January**—NO formal meeting due to January 9th, Twelfth Night Event  
**February 9th**—Regular Board meeting  
**March**— No formal meeting—Live event/Wine tasting social this month. Date to be determined.  
**April 13th**—Regular Board meeting run by VP  
**May 11th**—Live meeting/ social. Presentation: History of YTA and the York/Arles connection. Place to be determined  
**June 8th**—Regular Board meeting  
**July 16th** - No formal meeting—YTA Bastille Day Picnic Social. Place to be determined.  
**August 10th**—Regular Board meeting  
**September**—No formal meeting—YTA Oktoberfest Celebration, place to be determined.  
**October 12th**—Regular Board meeting/Budget Review  
**November 9th** - TBD  
**December 14th**—TBD

### SOCIAL EVENTS

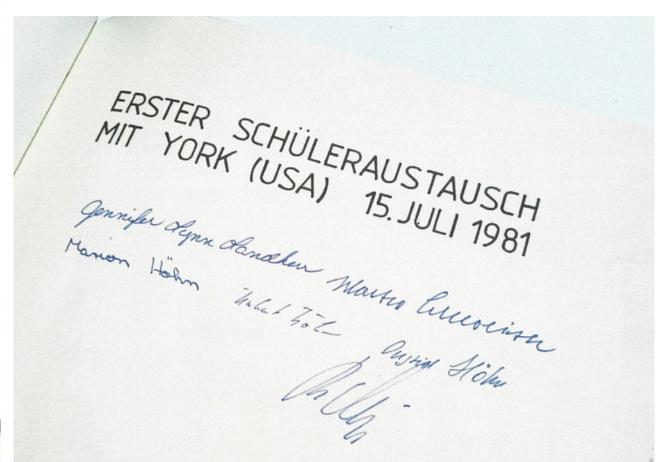
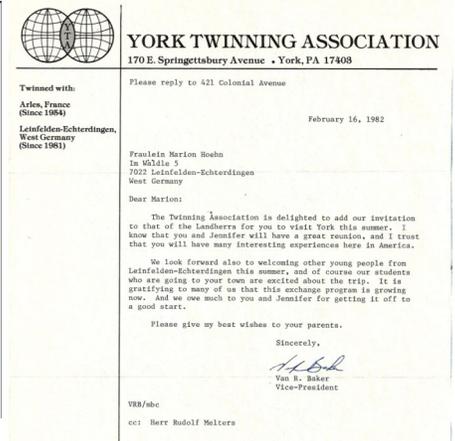
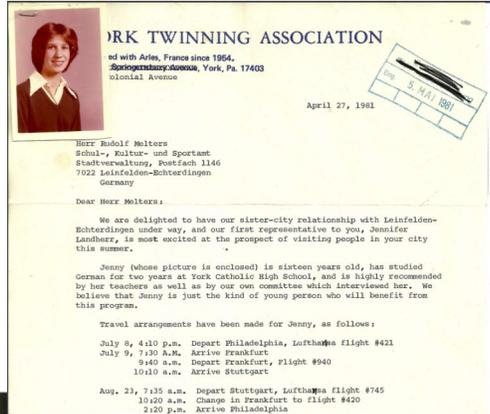
**Winter:** **12th Night Classic Tour**, Sunday, January 9, 2022, 1 to 5 P.M.  
**Spring:** **Wine Tasting Social**, Event to be determined for Spring 2022  
**Summer:** **Bastille Day / Picnic**, Event to be determined for Summer 2022  
**Fall:** **Oktoberfest Party**, Event to be determined for Fall 2022.

## NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS IN LEINFELDEN-ECHTERDINGEN

*Submitted by Ulrich Wurster and Tobias Knuppel*

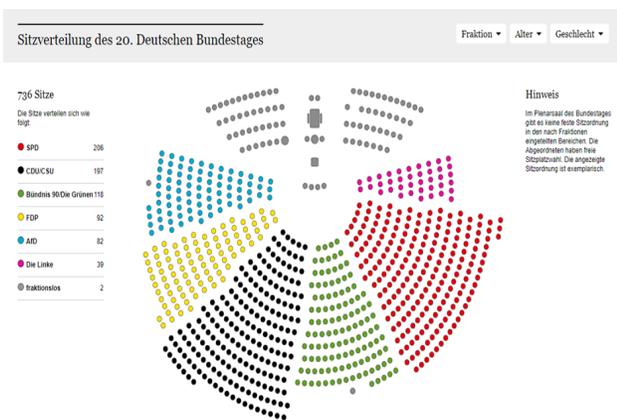
2021 is the year of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of York and Leinfelden-Echterdingen being twin cities. Jennifer Landherr and Marion Höhn were the first participants in what since has grown to a yearly exchange of up to twenty students from each side. And the students' exchange was only the beginning as soon after also groups of adults started to visit each other.

To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the York-Club intended to invite Marion Höhn (in the meantime married and called Marion Czech, working as an English teacher in the nearby city of Waldenbuch). Sadly, we had to learn that Marion Czech passed away this summer at the age of only 55. She will always be part of the history of our cities and we will keep her in our memories.



### About elections to the German Bundestag

In our last tête à tête we had a preview to German elections. Today we explain what has happened at 26<sup>th</sup> September and what this could mean for another period of 4 years. We again have 6 parliamentary groups, but the numbers of members of these groups have changed. *SPD* is now the party with most members and tries to set up a new government. Their candidate Olaf Scholz wants to follow Dr Angela Merkel (*CDU*) as a Chancellor who is head of our Federal Government. Therefore he needs votes from members other parliamentary groups. At the moment *SPD* and 2 other parties (*FDP* and *Bündnis 90/Die Grünen*) are negotiating objectives of a new government. In Germany we call this kind of political alliance *Ampel* (German word for *traffic lights*), because the involved parties use colors red, yellow and green. Mrs Merkel will remain Chancellor as long as our Bundestag votes a new Chancellor. By the way we have no change of our local representatives. Leinfelden-Echterdingen belongs to electoral district No. 262 Nürtingen. We still have 4 members in parliament, all of them reelected.



## NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS IN ARLES

*Submitted by Michele Barlet & Evelyne Laurent*

Arles has Roman ruins, but . . .



. . . there are also some wonderful modern buildings, too!



In the early 1970's Simone and Pierre Benkemoun entrusted their architect friend Emile Sala with the project of a family house. They wanted to live in a transparent and open place.

Emile Sala was a great fan of Le Corbusier whom he considered to be his master. As he could work in total freedom, he created dynamic modern spaces that still recall the haciendas southern style or riads as the whole circulation or organized around a patio. Surprisingly, a second house is ordered by the Benkemoun's neighbours, the Banks, so Sala organized the conception of these two villas in a harmonious way ensuring their privacy.

Simone and Pierre Benkemoun, the owners, lived there for 45 years and now their daughter Brigitte has decided to keep the house open so as to have it go on living. So she organizes different events. From the 28th of May to the 7th of June 2021 Cermanist designer and painter Pierre Casenove was hosted at the Villa to stage his work, alongside his dishes and customary items will be found in the Arlesienne boutique Moustique.

In the past, September 2019, the Villa welcomed the master glassmaker Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert and his works specially designed and blown for the Villa. He has since won the Bettencourt Foundation Grand Prize for the Intelligence of the Hand.



## Meet the Mayor of York!

### Mayor Michael Helfrich

Michael Helfrich was elected as Mayor to York City on November 8th, 2017 and took the oath of office on January 2, 2018.

Born the son of Kenneth R. Helfrich from Girard Avenue in York, and Christine Hartmann from Frankfurt, Germany, he grew up in West York, but spent much time as a youth in the city of York. Mayor Helfrich graduated in the top five of his 1988 West York graduating class. He attended York College, then spent the next few years traveling around the country. He returned to York City in 2001 and has been very involved with a variety of organizations addressing natural resources and politics affecting our area.

Mayor Helfrich is also a local historian who lives in the oldest owner-occupied home in the City of York, the Cookes House, also known as the Tom Paine House, which was built in 1761. He completed research on his home and the time Thomas Paine spent in York. His research resulted in a publication called "The Question of Thomas Paine at York Town" published in the Journal of York County Heritage, Vol. 2, 2011. Mayor Helfrich's home was included on one of York Twinning Association's past 12th Night tours.

Mayor Helfrich has a great interest in the York Twinning Association. During a recent visit to his office he proudly showed us many artifacts from both Arles, France and Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany that are housed in York's City Hall.

Thank you, Mayor Helfrich, for your interest and continued support of York Twinning Association!



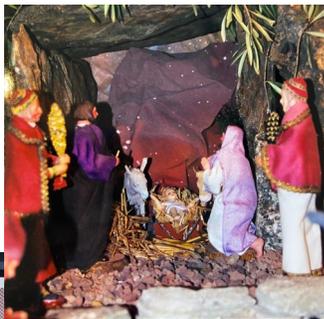
Above: Mayor Michael Helfrich with a painting of Arles, France by York artist Andy Case. Exchange teacher and Twinning member Magali Ginoux was used as the model for French heroine Mirielle.

Below: Mayor Michael Helfrich and Executive Administrator Ricardo Quintero are pictured standing beside a painting of Leinfelden-Echterdingen and other German artifacts presented to the City of York during past YTA exchanges.



## UNIQUE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Don Ryan is called the Whistle Master. He plays the world's loudest music without amplification from a non-musical instrument. Every Christmas morning at 12:15 AM since December 25, 1955, the Ryan family has presented a unique heralding of the holiday season. Announcing the arrival of Christmas day, whistle master Donald E. Ryan starts to play traditional Christmas carols on a factory whistle. Thousands of people each year make listening to the carols part of their holiday tradition. This tradition has, perhaps, no other counterpart in the world! In addition to Donald Ryan, four other people are engaged in this unusual carol concert. Family members Scott or Lisa points out the corresponding notes on a temporary music chart, while the complicated device for playing the music is being operated by their father. Mark Ryan pulls and holds the valve open to the whistle. Meanwhile, a fourth person who is employed by Metso Co. produces the air needed for the twenty-minute concert. The cylindrical whistle is 15 inches long and approximately 5 1/8 inches in diameter. The whistle was never intended as a musical instrument, thus making the entire performance more remarkable. Steam was used up until 2009. Since 2010 compressed air has been used. It works on the same principle as a toy slide-whistle. Steam or air is injected into the whistle, the piston moves to a given point, which produces a single note. When the piston changes, the steam or air column is increased or decreased, depending on the movement of the piston, thereby producing another note. The whistle's actual age is unknown, but it was installed at the plant in the late 1800's. The purpose of the whistle, at that time, was to announce the start and end of a workday, including the lunch hour. Today, electric buzzers have been installed throughout the plant to replace the whistle. Now the whistle is only used for the annual Christmas concert. In order for the music that the Ryan family has written to be on key, the pressure needs to be maintained throughout the concert. At times, variations do occur causing a slight change in tone intonation. On a calm night, Yorkers can hear the carols within a 5-mile radius. However, depending on wind direction, at a distance of 10 to 12 miles, residents have reported hearing the shrill sounds of the Christmas carols being played on the factory whistle. Technically speaking, a jet engine, 23 feet away, develops a sound that measures 115 decibels. By comparison, the factory whistle at the same distance produces 134.1 decibels. Donald Ryan has captured the Christmas spirit in the unique sounds that only he and the New York Wire Company and Metso Co. can claim. This has made Donald Ryan world famous and universally popular by being featured on: NBC-TV, CBS-TV, ABC-TV, CNN-TV, CNN Headline News, 700 Club, National Broadcasting Radio (NPR), National Music Museum at the University of South Dakota, German Magazine, Dec.25, 2014 first live concert on the internet, and The Guinness Book of World Records. © YORK PA FACTORY WHISTLE 2021



In the Southern part of France, people celebrate the Christmas holiday by decorating their homes with Santons. The word "Santon" in French means "little saint". Santons are hand-molded, clay-baked figures that represent the people, and animals, who visited and brought offerings to baby Jesus. Santonniers, makers of Santons, are found throughout the Provinces of Southern France. After crafting Santons from clay, they work with tools to create facial details and expressions before drying and baking them in hot ovens. Completed models are then dressed carefully in costumes representative of their trade or occupation. Santons can be displayed separately or as an elaborate part of the Provençal creche. York Twinning Association inherited a collection of Santons that will be displayed at Traditions Bank during our 12th Night holiday tour. The Santon display photos were taken in Arles many years ago.

**OKTOBERFEST 2021!**

**PROST!!! TO 40 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP!**



40 Years of International Friendship  
**Leinfelden-Echterdingen GERMANY**  
and  
**York, PENNSYLVANIA**





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