



# *tête à tête*

NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2017 issue  
Published periodically by the York Twinning Association, Inc.  
<http://yorktwinning.weebly.com>

Membership Meeting: Tuesday, November 28 7:00 PM  
**COUNTRY MEADOWS** at Leader Heights

## STUDENTS TELL ALL!

Students from six different high schools in York County participated in a York Twinning sponsored exchange program by traveling to Germany during the summer of 2017. In a previous switch, their German student hosts had journeyed to York for an equally unique experience during the fall of 2016. At the November 28th membership meeting of York Twinning Association, students who participated will share their observations and enlighten everyone with insightful chatter about enculturation and life in a foreign country. Please attend the presentation and be in awe with the remarkable feedback of our program accomplishments.



York County students are all smiles as they tour Germany on an exchange visit.

Twinned with:  
Arles, France  
(Since 1954)



**Our mission is 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)  
  
Das südliche Berlin der Pfalz

## GREETINGS FROM YTA BOARD

**H**appy Holidays, YTA Members!

As with many organizations, the York Twinning Association Board will experience some changes in chairmanships as some officers are retiring from their positions and, in turn, are welcoming new folks to the YTA experience.

There are several offices that need to be filled as follows: (*Elected to serve terms of two years*)

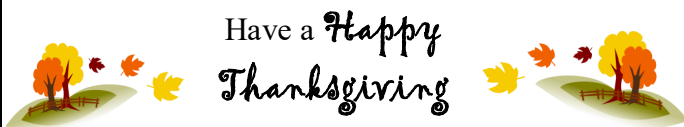
President  
Vice President  
Ways and Means Chairman  
German Adult Co-Coordinator  
Director—Tete a Tete  
Director  
Director  
Director

If you are interested in joining the board, please notify the secretary, Linda Nestor, [LNestor@inkonit.com](mailto:LNestor@inkonit.com). Elections will be held at the January, 2018, meeting.

The year 2018 will be quite busy for YTA as we will have 4 exchanges: York adults will travel to Germany, Arlesian adults will travel to York, and the students will experience exchanges with Leinfelden Echterdingen and Arles. Your support will be needed.

The board has proposed that a Marketing Chairman be elected and given a budget. Several board members have been working on this proposal which will be presented at the November or December meetings.

Cam Murray has taken over as Webmaster and has updated the site with photos and current news. Take a look and applaud the 'remodeling'. Treasurer Claudia Thune is assembling a budget for 2018 and needs proposals by December 1 for voting at the December board meeting. Mister Hot Shine car wash tickets are our only fundraiser at present and are available through Lori Rene.



**BUY CARWASH TICKETS! SUPPORT YTA!**

[lorirenel@hotmail.com](mailto:lorirenel@hotmail.com)



**\$ 19**

## GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE

**T**he York Twinning Association German Student Exchange Committee is happy to announce the kickoff of the 2018 exchange program! We are now accepting applications for Ambassadors to travel to and stay with students in Germany during the summer of 2018. Any York County student who will be 16 years of age as of June 20 is welcome to apply.

The requirements and feedback can be found on our website <http://yorktwinning.weebly.com/german-student-exchange.html> or please email [yta.gse@gmail.com](mailto:yta.gse@gmail.com) for more information.

*Bis zum naechsten mal!*

*Ja/Neene Powell*, Co-Coordinator

## Treasurer's Report

BALANCE as of 09/01/2017.....\$19,024.93  
DEPOSITS..... \$484.00  
EXPENSES..... (\$2531.55)  
Net Activity for the Period..... (\$2047.55)  
Adjustments for Float..... -  
ENDING BALANCE as of 10/31/2017.... \$16,977.38

ERIKSSON SAVINGS BALANCE..... \$2923.86

*Claudia Thune*, Treasurer

*Please note that a percentage of membership fees support the Marguerite Eriksson Scholarship Fund. Additional donations are greatly appreciated as scholarships support students participating in the exchanges.*

*York Twinning Association is a 501(c)3 non profit organization and is registered with [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) which lists an IRS recognized database of 2.2 million non profits. Donations to YTA are deductible and will be acknowledged in writing for submission to the IRS.*

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, November 28** : YTA Membership Meeting at Country Meadows 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 19** : YTA Board Meeting, Perkins Restaurant 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, January 23** : YTA Membership Meeting at Country Meadows 7:00 PM

**FRENCH ADULT EXCHANGE****BIENVENUE CHERS AMIS!**

Our Arlesian friends will be visiting us for one week sometime during the third or fourth week of June, 2018. As soon as exact dates are available, they will be posted on the York Twinning website and in the newsletter. If you wish to participate in the tour days and special gatherings, please arrange to stay around town during the second half of June.

The French Adult committee is meeting in November to start the planning for the visit.

Thank you to all who have expressed interest in hosting.

A bientot! *Mary Dodd, Chairman*  
dodd2663@gmail.com

**GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE****GERMAN STUDENTS VISIT YORK!**

Twenty German Exchange students arrived Friday, October 13, accompanied by two chaperones. Over the two weeks the students were here, they participated in various activities, including weekends with host families and two days with their American sibling at school. YTA also facilitated several day trips:

**York City:** Tour of downtown, visit with Mayor Bracey, visit to Central Market, and fun at Escape Games Live.

**Gettysburg:** Trip to the museum and tour of battlefield

**Harrisburg:** Tour of the Capital, visit to Whitaker Center, tour of Senators Baseball Stadium

**Lancaster Day:** Trip to Amish Farm and visit to Roots Market

**Baltimore Day:** Trip to Fort McHenry and Inner Harbor, and walking tour of stadiums

**Lake Tobias and Hershey:** Visit to Lake Tobias with Safari Tour, visit to Chocolate World and stop at outlets

**York College and Laser Alleys:** Visit to York College to shadow a college student and trip to Laser Alleys for bowling and laser tag

A special thank you to Harrison Swartz for driving day trips and leading tours of Baltimore and Washington, DC., and Brandon Powell for permitting Harrison to drive his 8 passenger vehicle on all trips. Thanks to activities' leaders: Claudia Thune, Molly Wiles, Hank Groat, Hannah Lane, Cam Murray and Lori Rene Weyant. And an appreciation to local businesses and organizations: Mayor C. Kim Bracey, Escape Games Live, Bailey's Coach, Elite Coach, Red Lion Bus, Laser Alleys, Harrisburg Senators.

*JaNeene Powell, Co-coordinator GSE*

**FRENCH STUDENT EXCHANGE****THE SEARCH IS ON!**

York Twinning Association is looking for high school students who would like to travel to Arles, France, during the summer, 2018. They must be at least 16 years old and have completed at least two years of French before the trip.

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend our November meeting where past exchange students will share their experiences. Madame Witmer will also be there to answer questions and pass out applications. If you would like more information about the exchange or would like an application, please send an email to yta.fse@gmail.com. Applications are due November 30, 2017.

YTA is looking for volunteers to help coordinate the French student exchange. We are currently remodeling and updating our program for students to travel to Arles. If you would like to help coordinate, please contact Kristin Witmer, French Student Co-Coordinator.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful opportunity for our youth and their families.

A bientot! *Kristin Witmer & Kristi Spies*  
madamedoubleve@hotmail.com  
kspies@ycds.org  
Co-coordinators  
French Student Exchange

**WE GET MAIL!**

**Evelyne Laurent, President Arles Jumelage, writes the following to YTA membership:**

*"Dear American Friends,  
We are near you in thought after the terrorist attack that took place in New York.*

*Chers Amis americans,  
Et dis bien que nous sommes pres de vous par la pensee, apres l'attentat qui a eu lieu a New York."*

*Evelyne continues with a remembrance of her long time American friend, Jeanette Aiken, who passed recently...  
"j'exprime ma grande tristesse d'avoir perdu, une nouvelle fois, une amie tres chere a York; je presente mes affecueuses condoleances a ses enfants et je les embrasse.*

*I express my great sadness for having lost a dear friend from York; I present my heartfelt condolences to her children and embrace them."*

*Evelyne Laurent Guillier  
Editor's note: Jeannette Aiken frequently hosted her French friends when they visited York.*





### POP-UP SCREEN SHOUTS YTA!

A pop-up screen designed by Vice President Adrienne Williams, was recently on display at a YTA event and is now available for board members to provide signage for activities.

The screen folds down into a compact package, is light to carry, and can be set up in a minute!

The design on the screen has six colorful photos of York Twinning events which feature people to people exchanges at events both here in York County and abroad in France and Germany. Adrienne inserted a mission philosophy, "Connecting people of different regions, cultures, and backgrounds," which further defines the organization.

Adrienne, who is a professional architect by trade, also created a one page card which markets York Twinning and which has already been distributed at numerous functions. Board members are encouraged to request a bundle of these cards when an event is planned.

The pop-up screen and the marketing card are an introduction to an aggressive campaign to re-energize YTA initiatives. In addition a mass postcard mailing recently announced 2017-2018 meeting dates of the organization to the membership.

Look for the pop-up screen which will be on display at the next meeting, November 28, and give a 'Shout Out' for YTA!

### BITS 'N PIECES

1.) Members are encouraged to pay dues for 2018. The membership application is on the web-site or paper copies will be available at the November 28th meeting. On the form you will see the various areas of the organization which welcome volunteers. Check your interest and make your assistance known to the board. YTA needs you!

2.) How about putting a great big smile on the face of one of our longtime members? Wanda Miller has just turned 85 so let's shower her with birthday cards! Although her special day was November 11th, we know she would appreciate a 'Congratulations!' even a few days after the fact. Send to [milwacur@comcast.net](mailto:milwacur@comcast.net) or 503 Luther Drive, Shrewsbury, PA 17361. (*E-cards won't open on her computer but email works!*)

### 2017 ADMIN BOARD ON DUTY

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## CHRISTMAS IN PROVENCE FRANCE

### "SANTONS" OF PROVENCE

SANTONS (Provençal: "santoun" or "little saint"), are small hand-painted terracotta nativity figurines produced in the Provence region of southeastern France. In a traditional Provençal *crèche*, there are 55 individual figures representing various characters from Provençal village life such as the scissors grinder, the fishwife, the blind man, and the chestnut seller.



Typical Provençal *crèche* featuring village buildings and townspeople. Note detailed facial features in photo at right.

The first clay *santons* were created by Marseillais artisan, Lagnel (1761-1822) during the French Revolution when churches were forcibly closed and their large nativity scenes prohibited. Lagnel crafted small figurines in plaster molds and let them dry before firing them.

A maker of "santons" is a *santonnier* and the creations of *santons* today is essentially a family craft, handed down from parents to children. *Santons* are moulded in two halves, pressed together, and fused. Hats, baskets, and other accessories are applied with an adhesive. When the figure is completely dry, it is given a gelatin bath in order to harden the figure further and to provide a surface for the application of pigments. Faces are painted first, then hair, clothing and accessories. Modern *santons* are generally fired in a kiln. There are two types of *santons*: *santons d'argile* (clay figures) and doll-like *santons habillés* (clothed figures).

York Twinning Association is fortunate to have inherited a magnificent collection of *santons* which were precious belongings of Marguerite Eriksson, one of the original founders of YTA. Occasionally they are displayed in local boutiques and meeting headquarters.



Source: "Christmas in France"  
World Book, Inc. 1995

## CHRISTMAS IN L-E GERMANY

Leinfelden Echterdingen is a vivid city and the inhabitants are creative with many ideas. During Christmas time, there is a special illumination of the streets. Each of the four parts of LE has a tall Christmas tree in a central place with electric candles. Chains of lights are across the main streets and they also show the shapes of the roofs as well. Activities are more a matter of the city's clubs or the shops.

There are bazaars on the weekends in public places; one weekend is an *Engeles Markt*—*Engel* is the Swabian dialect for *Engel*—*Angel* where people sell cookies, jam or honey, self-made toys, or offer mulled wine and hot sweet chocolate.

Something new initiated by the churches is a Living Advent Calendar. Twenty-four houses are selected and decorate one window festive and every day in December people come together in front of another of those houses, singing Christmas chorals and drinking hot punch.

December 24th, Christmas Eve, is the day for the family. The whole family goes to church together and have their festive Christmas meal at home, no specific dish but popular is carp, fondue, or *raquelette*.

The Christmas tree, normally a Nordland fir, is decorated at home. The presents are displayed at the bottom of the tree and before they are impatiently unwrapped, we sing Christmas chorals and one of the family reads the Nativity story.

Another tradition is the *Sternsinger*", youth star singers, who go from house to house and collect money for charity. When they are finished singing, they write a signature over the door of the house with chalk. The sign is written in a special

way and is considered bad luck to wash it away. Seen on many doors between December 27 and January 6, will be symbols that they have been approached by the *Sternsingers*.

*Christkindlmarkt*, *Weihnachtsmarkte*, or *Reiterlesmarkt*—Stuttgart, LE's neighbor, is famous for its Christmas market, and is one of the oldest and biggest markets in Europe. There will be twenty-nine days of festive seasonal atmosphere. The opening ceremony takes place in the beautiful inner-courtyard of the *Altes Schloss*. The Christmas market presents a big variety of fanciful decorated staff roofs with a competition for the most beautiful one every year. There is an ice rink and children's fairyland with a mini railway, an antique market, and the Stuttgart Town Hall presents itself as a giant Advent Calendar. The Christmas tree at the Schlossplatz, a Norway spruce, is about 27 yards high with about 40 thousand lights. There are daily concerts and admission is free.

Source:  
**Jochen Held**,  
President of  
York PA Club  
based in Leinfelden Ech-  
terdingen Ger-  
many.



With snow, Stuttgart is a winter wonderland!



**P.O. Box 21318**  
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*Let's talk!*

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**USPS**

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**Meetings**



*Bonjour!*  
*Guten Tag!*  
*Hi!*