

# Événements



Newsletter of the St-Germain-en-Laye / Winchester Jumelage Association

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## THREE FRENCH INTERNS EXPERIENCE WINCHESTER, FRIENDSHIP, EXTREME JULY HEAT AND HUMIDITY

Three new summer interns arrived from St-Germain-en-Laye on July 5th, sponsored by the Winchester Jumelage Association, for three weeks of working for Winchester organizations and living as Americans. This past July, that also meant experiencing the stunning 90+-degree heat and humidity which dominated that month.

Hoping primarily to improve English language skills, Christelle da Conceicao, Élodie Faure and Palma de Toldi were hosted by Winchester families --- Christelle by Steve and Becky Kuhlman, Élodie by Joe and Kirsten Healy, and Palma by Philip Coonley and Marilyn Mullane. Christelle spent her internship working at the Gosselin Law Office, Élodie at Book Ends bookstore, and Palma at Kidstock Theatre Workshop.



Christelle da Conceicao (l), Élodie Faure and Palma de Toldi, Jumelage's 2014 interns, are here seen with John McConnell at his annual Bastille Day celebration.

Photo by Terry Langen

A number of activities were arranged for the interns, in spite of the hot weather, including a Bastille Day party at John McConnell's house (blessed by a relatively cool day!), a tour of the Boston waterfront and Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) led by Karen Fox, a tour of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston with Susan Vrotsos, a boat excursion in Essex with Adrienne Markham, and a walking tour of Harvard University and Square with McConnell.

Palma and Élodie have shared their experiences in essays printed on page 2. Jumelage is looking forward to welcoming three new interns in July of this year --- host families are actively being sought.

The Winchester Jumelage Association administers the Twin City relationship of cultural exchange and friendship established between Winchester, Massachusetts and St.-Germain-en-Laye, France, in 1990



## “...I REALIZED MY CHILDHOOD DREAM....”

by Élodie Faure

First of all, I would like to thank Mr. (Jacques) Paugam for introducing me to the Jumelage of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and therefore giving me the opportunity to go to the USA. I also would like to thank Mrs Marie-Hélène Genin and Mr Marc Miloutinovitch for giving me the opportunity to be “ambassador of France.” And finally, thank you to all people I met in Winchester for their wonderful welcome.

This summer 2013, I realized my childhood dream ... going to the United States of America. I went to Winchester (MA) thanks to the exchange program Jumelage and it was a wonderful experience. I was greeted by the Healey family, which is a very good family with their 3 nice kids.

During these 3 weeks I worked at Book Ends, a cute book shop of Winchester. Book Ends employees and managers were very nice with me, they taught me how to do things and it was a real pleasure to help them. I also met great customers at Book Ends, they were so happy for me when they learned that I came from France!



Intern Élodie Faure with the Healey kids.



Hosts Joe and Kirsten Healey and their kids.  
Photo by Élodie Faure

During my spare time, I visited Boston (Newbury Street, Boston Common, Fenway Park, the Museum of Fine arts, ...) I also had the opportunity to go to the beach (Crane Beach and Rockport) and to Cambridge to visit Harvard University, which is a so big place!

This experience allowed me to discover the American way of life. I learned so many things and I had a lot of fun there. I will never forget this great trip to the United States and I think it's thanks to the nice people I met there!

Thanks to the Kuhlman family, Marilyn Mullane and Philip Coonley, and Alberto and Judie Muggia to greet me some days.

## “... I ATE MY FIRST LOBSTER BLT!”

by Palma de Toldi

In the United States, everything is bigger. The roads, the houses, the cars, the portions of food ... but also some smiles which made me enjoy and love my stay! I have to say, during these three weeks, I felt I was welcomed like a queen!

During these three weeks I spent in America, we did so many things and I met so many people that it would be impossible to tell everything here, but I'll try to give you an overview of it. As we left France with Christelle and Élodie, even if I tried to imagine it a little, I had no idea of what would happen to me in America.



The group of kids I worked with during the first two weeks, Kari and I.

photo by Palma de Toldi





Harvard Hall

photo by Palma de Toldi

From Monday to Friday, every week, I worked at Kidstock, and loved it! Little by little, I found out that Kidstock (where I worked) is really an awesome place to be. There, children under fifteen create theatre plays. The amount of imagination they are able to bring out is astonishing: in two weeks they invent, write, and create the scenery for a play! But what I preferred in Kidstock was the atmosphere; when somebody makes a joke, everybody laughs, when somebody shows something he finds interesting, everybody finds it interesting! There is no judgement at all.

The week-ends were free and that's when I did so many things, in addition to some weekdays when I missed Kidstock. We went several times to the beach. On the first Saturday, Christelle's family brought the three of us to Rockport, a beautiful city on the coast, where I enjoyed playing in the ocean with Kate and Caroline (Christelle's hosts' children) and ate my first lobster BLT! Marilyn and Phil, my hosts, also brought us to Crane's Beach.

During the second week, John, an architect teacher in Harvard, gave us a tour of Harvard University and of Cambridge city. It was very interesting, he even showed us the Architecture Building and we met some of the summer's students!

We also went --- thanks to Marilyn and Phil --- to Cape Cod with a ferry from Boston for an amazing day. At Cape Cod we went for a whale watch which was incredible: we saw about ten whales!!!

With Suzie, we visited the Museum of Modern Art, and discovered the biggest statue in the world.

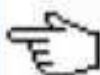


View of Boston from the boat.

Photo by Palma de Toldi

We went several times to Boston. We went an evening with Elizabeth and Karen and walked on the water front, it was really peaceful and I learned a lot about Boston. On the second week-end there was a festival in Boston, the Outside The Box Festival. We went there with Élodie's host family and saw amazing dancers (some normal and some on poles, dancing in the air). I really enjoyed Boston. It's an outstanding mix of old buildings and churches and super modern skyscrapers. However, the strangest and most exciting thing I did in Boston was seeing the Blue Man Group. They are a kind of band, playing drums, drawing, doing funny things on stage. Moreover, I got to swim in a lake, went on a little boat along the Essex River, to a Bastille Day party at John's house ... we even had our picture in the newspapers!

But the most welcoming people I met were my hosts Marilyn and Phil. They were very nice to me and I felt at home with them. I have to say, the nicest moments I spent were with them, sharing their day to day life, during our discussions, our laughs and our foosball parties! A big THANK YOU to all!! ■



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## Événements



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## POSITIVE PALMA

By Marilyn Mullane and Phil Coonley

### The Joy of Hosting

My husband Phil and I are new this year to Jumelage, though we've long known of Winchester's student exchanges with a "sister city" in France. As retired empty-nesters who visited Paris in April, we said "Sure!" when a dear friend frantically asked us in June to host a French student from Saint-Germain for three weeks in July. Soon, following several re-assuring e-mails with Palma's mom and Palma herself, we and the other excited host families were at Logan Airport greeting our new French friends.



Palma de Toldi (center) with her host family Marilyn Mullane (r.) and Phil Coonley.

Palma was intent on improving her already fine English, so our worry about our modest French gave way to the fun of explaining the many "strange" expressions that pepper our American "English." We were also concerned about having no young people in our household, but our evening together were happily filled with chatting, movie watching, miniature golf, and playing "baby foot," (our Foosball.) Palma's friendly interest in adults and children of all ages was also evident at Jumelage's Bastille Day celebration, outings with the Jumelage students, and from reports by young children in the other host families. And Palma was a hit with the director of Kidstock, where she enthusiastically worked nine-hour days with future thespians. Palma couldn't have been easier to host, and we --- and our dog --- found her a total delight. We still miss her! ■



Scott Ridlon lingers over dessert with some of the many diners enjoying a Cajun and Creole evening.  
photo by John McConnell

### "TASTE OF FRENCH AMERICA" TURNS UP THE CULINARY HEAT ON A FALL EVENING

On the heels of the success of the annual exchange trip to New Orleans, the semiannual Jumelage "Taste of France" get-together became a celebration of the Americanized versions of French cooking that give the Crescent City her justifiable culinary reknown.

Always a pot-luck event, the serving tables at the elegant Sanborn House were crammed with all sorts of delicious gumbos, jambalayas, étouffés, and other spicy Creole and Cajun side dishes, salads and desserts. A wine bar kept the company --- many of whom sported their Mardi Gras beads and tassels --- in a festive mood.

To the Jumelage way of thinking, food is the perfect excuse for bringing people together in a merry atmosphere in order to promote an appreciation of the many ways to reinforce Franco-American friendship.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Annette Lanigan

Bonjour everyone!

At the start of a new year, it is time to reflect on both the old year and plans for 2014. By the way, 2014 will be the 24th year of our Jumelage with Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

Our cultural exchange to New Orleans in early October drew one of our biggest attendances. Everyone was amazed at the knowledge of our tourguide, who was also our French translator during several tours of the city, plantations and swamps. The French have a rich history influencing New Orleans' culture and cuisine.

That trip was fresh on our minds for our semi-annual Taste of France (the "Taste of French America," on this occasion,) held a few weeks later. We relived our experiences with fellow trip members and others. The Sanborn House location for the potluck dinner was a big hit, prompting us to schedule it again for our upcoming dinner on March 14th.

We have made contact with the Lexington (Massachusetts) / Antony (France) Jumelage group. They have dedicated a park in Lexington to their French twin, which leads us to think about similar ideas for doing something similar in Winchester to recognize our "sister," St-Germain. Lexington also has a strong school exchange program.

Last Summer we had three interns, which you can read about in this copy of Événements. For 2014 we already have 3 French candidates for July interns. To keep this program going every year, we need host families. Please let us know if you can host a delightful French young person, or know of someone who could. We hope in future to also have Winchester interns who will work and live in St-Germain.

September 27th starts our week-long cultural exchange in Normandy, the location chosen because 2014 is the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Details of the trip have been sent out. Do join us! --- but you need to send your downpayment by Jan 29th.

Would you like to become more active in Jumelage? We are looking for new members for the Board of Directors --- those who work to make all our plans a reality. Please call me at 781-729-7425. If you have an idea for an event or a program of some sort, contact our Program Director, Judie Muggia.



Mississippi River steamboat "Natchez," a lunch venue.



The friendly New Orleans group.



## NEW ORLEANS TRIP WAS A WEEK OF "BONS TEMPS" FOR ALL



The French and American trip members gather for a group photo in front of Jackson Square.

Good weather, good food and a varied, if exhausting, itinerary made for a highly successful 2013 joint Jumelage trip to New Orleans this past October. More than 50 Winchesterites and Saint-Germainois spend 5 very full days exploring the Crescent City and environs, an area known for the influence of its French history and culture.

The group stayed at the lovely Four Points Sheraton Hotel, on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter, journeying from there by

bus to more distant attractions, or on foot to explore the "Vieux Carrée."

Day One featured an introductory bus tour of the city, led by a fluently bilingual tourguide, Ginnie Robilotta. This included a drive along the Esplanade and a tour of St. Louis Cemetery #3, one of the famous above-ground burying places in this very low-lying city. A tour of Longue Vue House & Gardens was followed by a return via the western University and Garden Districts, with its stately fine old homes, and the Warehouse District, with its many new art galleries.

Day Two began with a walking tour of the French Quarter, replete with breakfast at the Café du Monde, a visit to the French Market, and then a luncheon cruise on the Mississippi River aboard the paddlewheel steamer "Natchez." In the afternoon, a trolley ride led to the enormous City Park, and the New Orleans Museum of Art, famed not only for its art collection, but its gardens as well. The day concluded with dinner at the famous Acme Oyster House in the French Quarter.

Day Three was plantation day. Traveling by bus, the group visited three important plantation homes: Laura Plantation, an example of a Creole (French) establishment (the owners did not reside there, but in the city); the American plantation Oak Alley, with its well-known allée of live oaks forming a tunnel-like approach to the ante-bellum house (a creole lunch was enjoyed here); and Houmas, another American plantation known also for its gardens, fountains, waterfalls and exotic birds. Dinner al fresco was enjoyed at the Court of Two Sisters.

Day Four was divided between culinary lessons-with-eating at the New Orleans School of Cooking, and high-speed fan boat rides (one boat for the French, one for the Americans) in the swamps and bayous beyond the city. Alligators were seen --- and handled! In the evening, a trolley ride along the riverfront levee led to dinner and Cajun dancing to live music at Mulate's, a traditional Cajun restaurant.

Day Five began with a Trolley ride along St. Charles Avenue to the World War II Museum. Here the visitors found themselves moved emotionally, immersed in the sounds, and feel of, for example, submarine warfare and the D-Day invasions in Normandy --- an appropriate foretaste of the 2014 Jumelage trip to that region of France. The afternoon was spent at Mardi Gras World, where the famous floats and costumes are created and stored. The farewell dinner was held in a private room at the Red Fish Grill in the French Quarter. Gifts and speeches were exchanged, as well as invitations to Normandy, year hence.





City Council Chamber, St-Germain City Hall. Various colored lights can be played on the wavy white plaster back wall, to simulate flags.  
photo by John McConnell



Crikey!! "Crocodile" Miloutinovich demonstrates his skills handling dangerous reptiles.  
Photo by Didier and Brigitte



One of the two airboats gliding the New Orleans trip attendees through the Louisiana swamps and bayous.



In New Orleans impromptu jazz seems to be on almost on every street corner — here on Bourbon Street.



Chef Harriet leading a demonstration of Creole and Cajun cooking for the New Orleans trip participants.



The 2013 Jumelage French summer interns are presented to the Winchester Board of Selectmen at Town Hall. photo by Terry Lanigan



Longue Vue House in New Orleans.



Some of the attendees at the last night's Farewell Dinner, at the Red Fish Grill in New Orleans.



Annette Lanigan lets "les bons temps rouler" at the Taste of French America dinner.  
photo by John McConnell



Tom Seigny and Kevin D'rum enjoying the Taste of French America. Photo by John McConnell



John McConnell in St-Germain with his two previously-hosted interns, Sébastien Duhaute and Ludovic Paugam. Photo by Jacques Paugam





La Défense, Paris, (center distance) seen from la Terrasse, Saint-Germain-en-Laye



The view from Mayor Emmanuel Lamy's office



Guests gather for Marc and Sylvie's dinner party

## A NOTE FROM SAINT-GERMAIN

As the editor of *Événements*, I take the liberty to include a small personal observation which is at the very heart of our Jumelage: I decided to spend a few days in Paris en route to a wedding in Rome this past September. Not only did my former Jumelage intern Sébastien Duhaut put me up and be my constant companion, but Marc Miloutinovitch and Sylvie Bernard took me under their generous wing for several days of touring around St-Germain, taking me out to dine, ferrying me into Paris, and hosting the most delightful evening dinner party in their (under renovation!) back garden. Among the many St-Germainois who turned out to greet me (and have a delicious dinner) were city Councillor Fabrice

Ravel and another former intern, Ludovic Paugam. The hospitality and friendship were both freely given and very moving. It is surely these friendly bonds, forged in the spirit of Jumelage, that are the foundation and purpose of our association. A sincere thank you to our French friends! ■

John McConnell

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*Événements*



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Newsletter of the Winchester Jumelage Association

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