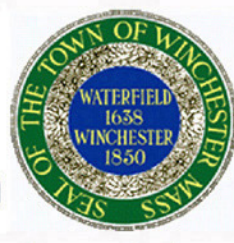


Événements

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



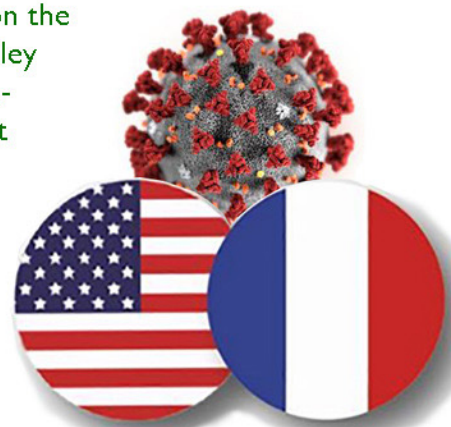
Jan. 2021 / www.jumelage.org / PO Box 453, Winchester MA 01890 / Volume 31 : No.1

1990- 2020 / Thirty Years of Friendship / Trente ans d'amitié

THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR THAT WASN'T

Jumelage members in Winchester and Saint-Germain-en-Laye shared two things in 2020: being frustrated and confined by the global Coronavirus pandemic that defined the entire year; and the effort to celebrate what should have been the glorious 30-year history of our Twin City relationship. As the dark year came to a close, we looked back on all that might have been, vowing that our celebrations would be revived and amplified as soon as circumstances allowed. We now look forward to a resumption of all the typical activities that define our annual commitment to our values of international friendship and discovery.

In these pages we will look back on the last few years and relive some of the memories and happiness that our fruitful association brought us. Chief among these are the annual fall trips, alternating between France and the United States, which bring together friends from both countries in discovery and enjoyment. Recent years have seen joint trips centered on Lyon and on the lower Loire River Valley in France, and on Virginia and the Brandywine Valley in the United States. The 2020 trip was to have been based in the Paris region and Saint-Germain-en-Laye, with excursions to points of interest a bit farther afield. This was, of course, not possible in the end, and our French friends are now planning a future trip centered in Provence. Our next American adventure is being planned around using Winchester and Boston as a home base for discovering southeastern New England.



Our student exchange program was likewise canceled this past summer. As of this writing we have no idea when free travel will be possible again, as the pandemic recedes and normal activity resumes. Our local Winchester slate of activities --- dinner parties, Town Day, Bastille Day, Farmers Market International Day, cultural exchanges, etc. --- were likewise not possible. Our Board of Directors continued to meet regularly, if remotely, by Zoom conference, as did our Joint French and American Board.

On the following pages, you will find a review of many of the pleasurable moments and times we shared over the course of the past few years, moments that we look forward to reviving with great enthusiasm!

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

MAGNIFICENT TRAVELS ABROAD AND AT HOME

One of the highlights of every year (but 2020) for Jumelage members and guests is the annual joint trip, which gathers French and American friends in an area of great interest for tourists, alternating between France and the United States. Our last two of these took groups of around 45 or so to the city of Saumur and the surrounding lower Loire River Valley in France (2018), and the Brandywine Valley region around the city of Wilmington, Delaware, and southeastern Pennsylvania (2019.)

SAUMUR and the LOWER LOIRE VALLEY



Saumur: The chateau, the church of Saint-Pierre-du-Marais and the town hall, seen from across the Loire River.

Forty-three travellers assembled in early October 2018 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye for a 8-day adventure in the beautiful Anjou region of the lower Loire River, with a headquarters in the ancient city of Saumur; headquarters of the French cavalry and riding school, and capital of one of France's most noted wine producing regions.

These days saw visits to ancient medieval barns, abbeys, and châteaux. The group visited the Grange de Meslay, an enormous vaulted medieval storage barn which today hosts an international music festival. The group visited the castles of Saumur, Brèze, Azay-le-Rideau, and Villandry.

Visits were made to museums of armored vehicles and mushroom-culture, as well as wine-bottling factories and the Combiér Distillery. Part of one sunny day was devoted to the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud on the border of Anjou, Touraine and Poitou. It remains still today as the largest monastic complex in France. Medieval villages were on the itinerary --- Candès-Saint-Martin, for example --- and the city of Angers, dominated by its immense ancient fortifications.

Memorable meals took place in ancient restaurants, old farms, and even in a candlelit cave. The final gala dinner, always a special treat, was held in the Caves Ackermann, a place for wine storage, as well as headquarters for the Saumur chapter of the Confrérie des Tastevins, an antique wine brotherhood. Four members of the group were inducted into the Fraternity. (There is a Boston chapter!)



Kevin Drum is inducted into the Confrérie des Tastevins



The Abbey of Fontevraud

Finally, a reception was held for the group in the Saumur City Hall by Jackie Goulte, the mayor of Saumur, and our own Arnaud Péricard, the mayor of Saint-Germain, as well as councillors and other officials. This was followed by the traditional joint meeting of the Boards of Directors of the Winchester and Saint-Germain branches of the Jumelage. Glasses of Loire Valley sparkling wine, accompanied by cries of "chin-chin" completed the formalities.



Group portrait at the Barnes Foundation Museum in Philadelphia.

BRANDYWINE VALLEY AND BEYOND

For the 2019 joint trip, it was Winchester's turn to host, and the focus this time was the region around northern Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania, bisected by both the Brandywine River and American History.

Home base was the elegant DuPont Hotel in Wilmington, from which many day excursions were planned. No visit to the region can ignore the historic DuPont family and their scientific and architectural accomplishments.

Accordingly, the trip started with visits to the historic gunpowder factory at which this French émigrée family made their first fortune. The following decades saw them constantly inventing and patenting new chemicals and processes. The acquired wealth led to the construction of magnificent homes and French-styled châteaux and gardens in the region, a number of which were on the itinerary. Both Hagley and Nemours were among these grand homes.

The area is rich with art museums, and many were on the tour; Especially the Delaware Museum of Art, the Brandywine Museum (with its famous collection of works by the three generations of the Wyeth family,) and the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. Several days saw visits to the Brandywine Battlefield of the Revolutionary War, a helicopter museum, polo matches, a day at Winterthur House museum and gardens, and an afternoon and evening at the famous Longwood Gardens, culminating in a spectacular display of illuminated fountains.

A day in Philadelphia included Independence Hall, the Barnes Foundation, and the world famous pipe organ at the former Wanamaker Department Store (now Macy's.) The tour ended with the traditional Gala Dinner, in the DuBarry Room of the DuPont Hotel.



Nemours Estate and Gardens



LOOK FOR US ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/jumelagew.sg/>



Guided tour of
NC Wyeth works
at the Brandywine
Museum.

Événements  

Événements is the newsletter of the
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John McConnell, editor

Annual dues: \$40, individual / \$70, family
\$110, patron ■ PLEASE JOIN!

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SUMMER STUDENT EXCHANGE, BACK AND FORTH

Every summer, the Winchester Jumelage Association welcomes three young adult students from Saint-Germain for three weeks. They are placed with local businesses or community organizations, and spend the better part of each week working and getting through the day in English. Typically, some of them are studying political science and spend their time working in the office of our State Representative Michael Day. Others have worked at BookEnds, a local bookstore, at KidStock childrens theatre workshop, Wright-Locke Farm, and other establishments.

Various activities are planned for our interns during their stay which, in the past, have included tours of the Museum of Fine Arts, boat cruises in Essex, walking tours of Harvard University, visits to the State House, and so forth. The interns are placed with Winchester families, who generally give generously of their time to take interns shopping and touring around Boston, New England and beyond.



Our students were hosted at a pool party by Tony and Kitty Galaitsis in 2018. (L.-R.) are President Annette Lanigan, Clément Delplancq, Board member Albert Moussa, Éva Pouplin, VP John McConnell, Amaury De La Rocque, and Saskia Gilmer; who was one of Winchester's students who went to Saint-Germain-en-Laye earlier that summer.

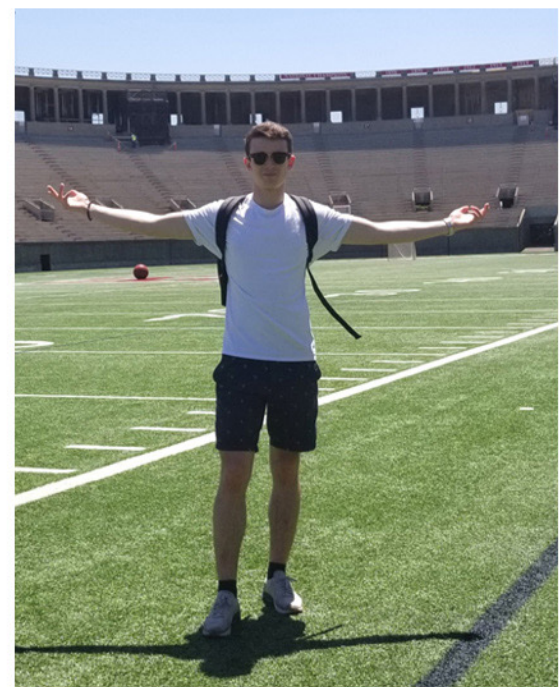
Winchester Jumelage also sponsors up to three local students, usually who have been studying French, to spend three weeks in Saint-Germain working and staying with local families. These must be at least 18 years old at the time of arrival in France.



Our 2019 students (l.-r.) Lucas Burgain, Morgane Blondeau and Avrielle Poignant-LeGoff, at a Sanborn House cookout.



2016 Intern Marie-Laure Pairon in the Massachusetts House of Representatives with her "boss," Rep. Michael Day.



2018 French Student Clément Delplancq on a tour of Harvard Stadium.

HOSTS WANTED!

Every summer Winchester Jumelage hosts 3 French college students for 3 weeks in July. They stay with local host families or persons and work in local businesses. Hosts are responsible for providing a bedroom and most meals, as well as whatever other activities, tours or trips you might enjoy sharing. If this is something that appeals to you (previous hosts have found it very rewarding,) please contact John McConnell (Jumelage V.P.) at 781.729.8010.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Annette Lanigan

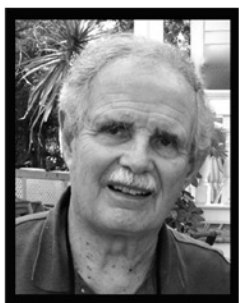
Bonjour, Jumelage members and friends!

In 2020, the Winchester Jumelage, like so many other organizations, had to cancel all of our planned activities, one by one as the months went by, because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This included the Taste of France dinners in the Spring and Fall, the Winchester Music School exchange to Saint-Germain-en-Laye, participation in Town Day, the cultural exchange of Winchester and Saint-Germain students in June and July, the International Day booth in September and finally the Jumelage trip to Saint Germain-en-Laye in September 2020 to celebrate our 30th Anniversary.

It is also likely that many of our early 2021 events will be cancelled. However, we are looking toward to the future when most have been vaccinated and are planning for our September 2021 adults' trip to France to occur, if all is safe. It will be centered around Aix-en-Provence with various excursions in the south of France. A 31st Anniversary is even better than a 30th!

In the meantime, we continue to have communication between the two organizations via Zoom joint Board meetings, Facebook posts, etc. A virtual meeting is now being planned in March for Saint-Germain and Winchester officials.

Sadly, long time member George Vrotsos passed away last year. After many years on the Board his widow Susan Vrotsos resigned. We thank her for planning and participation and delighting us with her artistic talents.



George Vrotsos 1933-2020

We are actively looking for Board Members, so please contact me, if you are interested, at aclanigan@gmail.com.

I'll leave you with a reminder that we have a Facebook Page, Jumelage Winchester & Saint-Germain-en-Laye, which we encourage you to follow.

Send us your ideas for activities or events you'd like us sponsor!

Annette

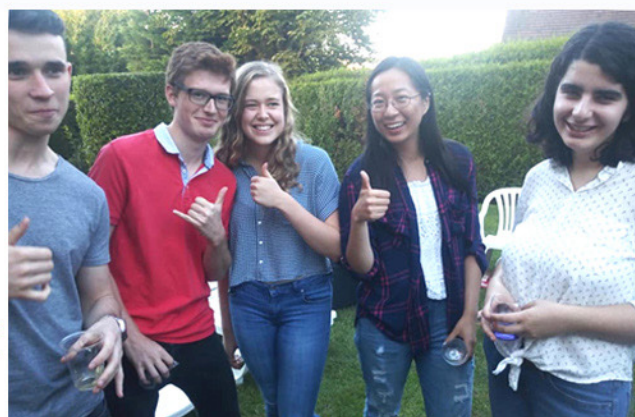


Izzy Ma, a 2017 Winchester student intern in Saint- Germain

STUDENT EXCHANGE

2019 Winchester students who spent time in Saint-Germain were Maria Zhang, Andrea Huang, and Léo Massoc do Nascimento

Clément Delplancq and Amaury De la Rocque welcome Winchester students Saskia Gilmer, Lulu Tian and Anna Romaniuk to a reception in Saint-Germain-en-Laye in June 2018.



OUR EVENTS



Rep. Michael Day receives the Certificate of Appreciation from John McConnell



The Jumelage Town Day kiosk



A spring Taste of France dinner party at the Sanborn House

Winchester Jumelage sponsors both recurring and one-of-a-kind events in the course of a typical year. As 2020 was anything but typical (all events were canceled,) here is a look back at a few events from the last couple of years.

At least every spring and fall we host festive potluck dinner parties, called "A Taste of France," which are themed to correspond to the regional cuisine of both the French and American annual tour destinations --- most recently Virginia, Lyon, Chesapeake Bay and the Loire Valley. More recently we have started having annual summer cookouts for our visiting French students.

From time to time we recognize members of our community whose devotion to Jumelage has been exceptional, and a Certificate of Appreciation has been established.

We always have a prominent location for our annual Winchester Town Day booth. And our Farmers Market has recently been hosting an Associations Day and an International Day on summer Saturdays, at both of which Jumelage is proudly represented.



Tom Sevigny helps man the Jumelage table at the International Day event at the Winchester Farmers Market

From time to time we also sponsor lectures, concerts, or walking tours for our community members. Last year, in association with the Winchester Community Music School, we instituted a program of musical and educational exchange with the Debussy Conservatory in Saint-Germain-en-Laye by having a week-long visit from a French piano instructor and one of his students, who gave master classes and a concert at WCMS..

Finally, a variety of events are always planned during the three July weeks that our French students are in town, including tours of Harvard and Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts, and boat cruises.



Our hosted French students and members enjoying a delightful cookout on the verandah at Sanborn House



Members and guests enjoying the Taste of Virginia potluck dinner, as Thomas Jefferson watches from beyond



The best we could muster for our 30th anniversary celebration in the Pandemic Year.



Tartes Tatin at the annual Bastille Day party

SNAPSHOTS



International Day at the Winchester Farmers Market. (L-R) Tom and Elaine Seigny, Annette Ianigan, John McConnell



On her retirement from the lumelage Board of Directors, Susie Vrotsos (L) receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Board member Sunne Savage.



2019 Bastille Day festivities with our French Students, chez McConnell



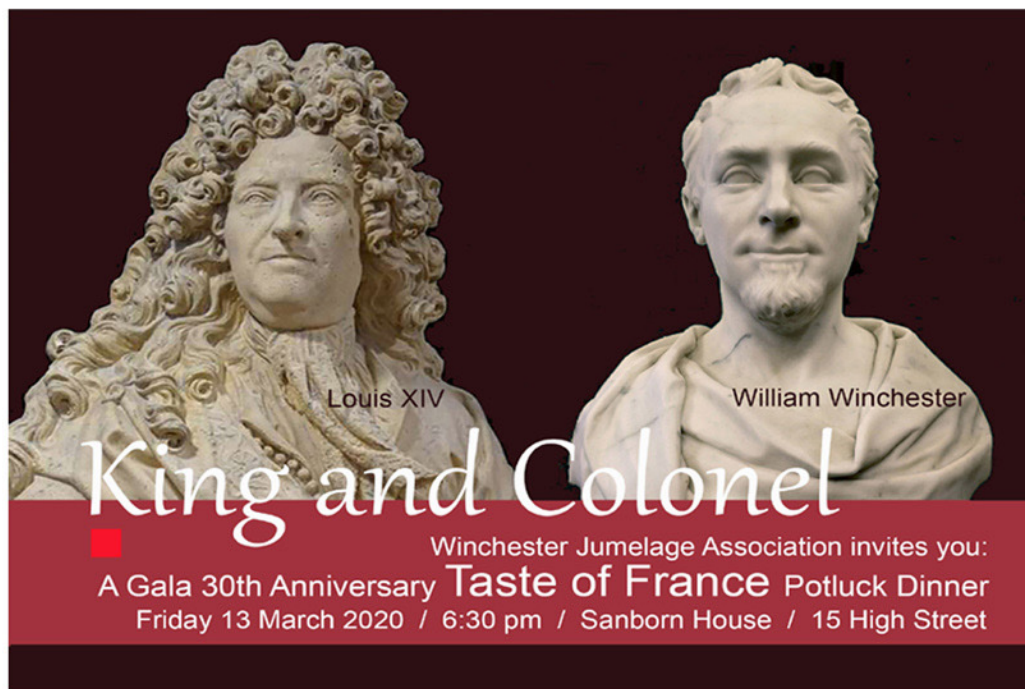
Tom Galaitis "flies" at the National Helicopter Museum in West Chester PA



Jumelage Reception at Saumur City Hall, with the mayors of that City and of our own Saint-Germain-en-Laye, together with various councilors.



The audience following a piano recital by Cédric Boyer and André Millot of St.-Germain, at the Winchester Community Music School



The mailer card for the grand anniversary dinner that wasn't.

We should have known!

Our gala 30th Anniversary "Taste of France" dinner party was scheduled for a Friday the 13th, just at the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, of 2020.

8.

Événements  

PO Box 453, Winchester MA 01890

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Newsletter of the Winchester Jumelage Association

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John McConnell, *Vice-President*
Norman Doucette, *Treasurer*
Tom Sevigny, *Secretary / Clerk*

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Sunne Savage
Susan Vrotsos