

# Événements



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

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Many of the 58 French and American participants in the 2012 Winchester Jumelage French tour pose outside the walls of medieval Carcassonne.  
Photo by Marc Miloutinovitch

## HISTORY, FOOD & FRIENDSHIP MARK 2012 JUMELAGE TOUR OF CARCASSONNE AND FRENCH SOUTHWEST

Toward the end of this past September 58 friends, American and French, enjoyed each other's company for a week of tourism and camaraderie during the annual Jumelage exchange trip. 2012 was a year for Winchester residents to visit their French counterparts in St-Germain-en-Laye, who planned and hosted this tour of the southern Occitane region of France.

From the twin bases of Toulouse and Carcassonne, the large group was taken by motor coach to a rich variety of historic sites, places of advanced technology, restaurants and places of natural beauty.

The tour began, for many, on Friday 21 September with a stay in St-Germain-en-Laye that included a tour of that city and an elegant official reception at City Hall. That ceremony, in the beautiful Grande Salle, featured an official luncheon, as well as remarks by Mayor Émmanuel Lamy, city councillor Fabrice Ravel, Winchester Town Manager Richard Howard and Winchester Jumelage Association President Annette Lanigan. Winches-

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



## CARCASSONNE TRIP

ter's past president Phillippe Koenig assisted with translations. Howard officially presented a gift from Winchester to St-Germain of a framed American flag and accompanying document certifying that the flag had been flown over the US Capitol.

The official southern part of the tour began the morning of the following Monday in Toulouse, France's fourth-largest city, which carries the nickname "La ville rose" (The Pink City), owing to the widespread use of brick in its architecture. The morning was taken with a tour of Airbus Industries, where the enormous A380 double-decker passenger jets are assembled in the world's largest building. The afternoon was spent visiting the medieval city of Albi and its remarkable fortified brick cathedral of Ste-Cécile, towering above the Tarn River.



Fabrice Ravel applauds as Annette Lanigan concludes her remarks in St-Germain City Hall, flanked by Mayor Lamy and Winchester Town Manager Richard Howard.  
Photo by Marc Miloutinovitch

Tuesday's excursion targeted Toulouse itself, including the famous basilica of St-Sernin, the largest Romanesque church in Europe, whose construction began in 1080. Other sites visited include the Capitole (Toulouse's City Hall,) and the Gothic Church of the Jacobins (Dominican monks) renowned for its double nave and exuberant rib vaulting. At midday, the group was treated to a festive lunch aboard a canal boat in Port Lauragais, then an afternoon cruise on the famous Canal du Midi, a waterway created in the 1670s which traverses southwestern France.

Wednesday morning was spent traveling to, and then walking the narrow streets of the remarkable ancient walled city of Carcassonne. Afternoon included a bus trip through charming hilltowns, the village of Saissac, and a visit to the École de Sorèze, a former monastery which had become a prestigious military school. This was followed by a visit to a 200-year-old handmade paper mill in Brousse. Then, returning to Carcassonne, everyone enjoyed a torchlight promenade and dinner at the hotel.

The following day began with a visit the the otherworldly cavern of Cabrespine and then a wine tasting. After lunch the group visited the village of Rennes-le-Château, with its grand vista over the surrounding countryside. After a return to Carcassonne, there was an impromptu champagne reception on an ancient bridge hosted by Alain Tavé, and dinner at the hotel.

Friday, the final day, featured a visit to the beautiful 11th-century Romanesque and Gothic Benedictine monastery of Fontfroide, complete with church, chaperhouse and cloister. No longer a religious institution, the privately owned complex produces good Corbières wines. Lunch and wine tasting amidst the strolling peacocks ensued at the Domaine de Rivesaltes, followed by a visit to a former Spanish fort at Salses-le-Château. Upon return to Carcassonne, everyone enjoyed a farewell dinner at Chez Saskia, with medieval-costumed musicians and dancers, final speeches and the exchange of gifts between the two Jumelage groups by respective presidents Annette Lanigan and Marc Miloutinovitch.

Planning is already well underway for the 2013 reciprocal visit of our French friends to the US --- a trip to New Orleans. (See article on page 8 in this newsletter.) ■



## JUMELAGE TO SPONSOR CONCERT OF FRENCH & AMERICAN ART SONGS

The central focus of an afternoon of art songs by both French and American composers, is a central figure in the history of music in the 20th-century, Nadia Boulanger (1887 - 1979.)

Contralto Marion Dry, a Winchester resident, has crafted a concert around this remarkable Paris-based musician, mentor and teacher. Her American pupils comprise a vertible "Who's Who" list of well-known composers in this country: Aaron Copland, Walter Piston, John Eliot Gardiner, Philip Glass and Elliot Carter among them. (When George Gershwin asked to study with her, she talked to him for half an hour and declared "I can teach you nothing.") She was the first woman to conduct the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The concert, also featuring pianist James Busby, will be presented at 3:00 the afternoon of 10 February at the Winchester Unitarian Church, and will be followed by a reception with refreshments. General admission is \$15 per person. Tickets are available in advance at Bookends in Winchester Center, through the Jumelage website ([www.jumelage.org](http://www.jumelage.org)) or at the door.



Nadia Boulanger



Marion Dry

Two types of works will be featured: pieces by Boulanger's teachers (Debussy, Fauré, Poulenc,) and pieces by her American pupils. Dry and Busby will also present this concert later this year at the American Cathedral in Paris, and next year in St-Germain-en-Laye.

In addition to her career as a professional musician, Marion Dry is also on the Faculty of Music at Wellesley College, recently serving as departmental chair.

## HOWARD, MARMON APPOINTED OFFICIAL CONTACTS FOR ST-GERMAIN/WINCHESTER GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIP

The difference between the forms of government of Winchester and St-Germain-en-Laye has always posed a bit of a puzzle for French Mayor Émmanuel Lamy. St-Germain has a city form of government, with a Mayor and City Council, whereas Winchester governs itself as a Town with a Board of Selectmen and Town Manager. This has meant that Winchester has lacked a direct official counterpart to Mayor Lamy, important for official governmental relationships.

This was recently rectified by act of the Winchester Board of Selectmen upon recommendation of the Jumelage Association, spearheaded by Jack Roll, declaring Town Manager Richard Howard (an appointed executive) and Selectman Douglas Marmon (an elected official) as our official counterparts to the St-Germain mayor. It is expected that the clarification will facilitate twin city interchange at the governmental level. ■



## TWO WINCHESTER ARTISTS INVITED TO SEND WORKS TO BIENNIAL ART EXHIBITION IN ST-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE

At the request of several members of the delegation of City officials from St-Germain-en-Laye who visited Winchester last March, the Office of Cultural Life of that city has recently invited two local artists and Jumelage members to submit paintings for their biennial exhibition of art.

Susan Vrotsos and John McConnell, (a painting of his was this year's official gift from Winchester to St-Germain,) have been recommended by Mayor Émmanuel Lamy for inclusion in the show.



The Great Hall of the Manège Royal.

Held every two years, the exhibition takes place in the Great Hall of the Manège Royal in St-Germain, and draws more than 2000 visitors in the three weeks it is on view. This is a juried show, with prizes in both the painting and sculpture categories.

Vrotsos and McConnell are now investigating ways of shipping their works to Paris, finding out about import duties, and other obstacles to be overcome. ■

## LIVE POST-ELECTION SKYPE SESSION WITH FRENCH & AMERICAN JUMELAGE PARTNERS



Attendees watch the faces of their French counterparts during the live Skype chat held at Town Hall following the presidential election. In attendance: seated (L to R) Selectman Jennifer Wilson, Al Muggia, Annette Lanigan, Selectman Doug Marmon and Town Manager Richard Howard. Standing: Terry Lanigan, Cynthia Latta, Jo Ann Michalak, Elaine and Tom Seigny, Susan Vrotsos, State Representative Jason Lewis, and former Selectman Judie Muggia. Photo by Tom Seigny

The morning following the presidential election of 6 November, a group of Winchester officials and Jumelage members gathered at Town Hall for a live Skype session with a contingent of our French counterparts assembled in the City Hall in St-Germain-en-Laye. The internet meeting was arranged in order to have both sides give commentary and analysis of election results. Each group's image was projected on large screens placed in each chamber, which facilitated a lively face-to-face discussion.

In Winchester, the session was held in the Selectmen's Room, with Selectmen Doug Marmon and Jennifer Wilson, Town Manager Richard Howard and State Representative Jason Lewis in attendance.



Citizens of St-Germain gather at City Hall for the live post-election Skype conference.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Annette Lanigan

Bonjour everyone!

Here we are starting a new year, but first let's reminisce a little about 2012. Last year was Winchetser's turn to travel to France for our yearly cultural exchange --- and what a trip it was! Each year I think the trip is the best, and then the next year is even better.

Carcassonne was amazing --- the largest walled city in France, with several thousand years of existence. Of course, the best part is traveling with our French friends, many of whom we have known for years, and catching up with each other's life events. Our first stop was in St-Germain-en-Laye for a reception and tour hosted by Mayor Émmanuel Lamy. Winchester Town Manager Richard Howard and the Mayor strengthened their acquaintance following the Mayor's previous visit to Winchester

Our town selectmen have confirmed that Doug Marmon, Winchester Selectman, along with Town Manager Howard, are the official liaisons to Mayor Lamy.

The day after the US presidential election we Skyped with St-Germain, Town Hall to City Hall, and had a lively discussion on the results and possible consequences.

Many of us met Fabien Fieschi, Consul-General of France in New England at a tarte-flambée reception at Sandrine in Harvard Square for Winchester Jumelage and Boston/Strasbourg Sister City Association. Mary Louise Burke is currently the president of that organization and our commonality has resulted in several social events, including one coming in May.

Now back to what will be happening this year. In October we will host the cultural exchange again, and the French have selected New Orleans as a destination. It has a rich French heritage, with a unique American blend of French, Spanish, Native American and Black cultures held together with jazz, creole and Cajun music. If you plan to come with us, you'll need to sign up by April 1st. Also, please see the article on the back page of this newsletter.

This summer we will again sponsor young French interns, and we also want local Winchester interns to go to St-Germain. If you know of young people in the 18 - 21 year range, please let them know about this opportunity.

## ANNUAL TASTE OF FRANCE POTLUCK HELD IN OCTOBER



Diners enjoy the warm atmosphere of this fall's Taste of France. Photo by John McConnell

The annual Jumelage social dining evening, the "Taste of France," took place on the 19th of October in the Clubhouse at The Ledges in Winchester. This year's theme, "Salad Days," was concocted to encourage attendees of the potluck dinner to bring delicious French-themed food which didn't need to be baked or reheated --- owing to the somewhat limited capacity of the available kitchen. Two large tables offered a selection of hors-d'oeuvres and main courses.

Wine and other beverages were located throughout the hall. One of the attractions of the evening was the presence of Morgane "Milou," daughter of Marc Miloutinovitch, president of our sister organization in St-Germain-en-Laye. Morgane spent the fall studying English in Boston, and was hosted by Jumelage members Didier and Cherie Collin de Casaubon.



## MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN BOSTON AND WINCHESTER TWIN CITY ORGANIZATIONS

An initiative by Judie Muggia, past president --- and founding spirit --- of Winchester Jumelage, has resulted in a new cooperation between the Winchester organization and its counterpart in Boston, which is "twinned" with the French city of Strasbourg.

Representatives of the two groups got together for the first time this past fall for dinner and discussion at Upstairs on the Square restaurant in Harvard Square. Literature, photos and posters of past events were exchanged, and ways in which cooperation might be fruitful were traded about the table, and considerable good will was generated in the process. A common theme was our mutual dedication to fostering amicable ties and cultural exchange between France and the United States.



At the inaugural meeting. Faces (L to R): Judie Muggia, Adrienne Markham, Margaret Flagg, Jeff Flagg, Al Muggia, Mary Louise Burke, Susan Vrotsos, John McConnell, Brigitte Tournier and Ellen Flatley.

A subsequent event was held in December, hosted by the Boston / Strasbourg group. Invitees gathered at Sandrine's Bistro, an Alsatian restaurant in Harvard Square, to share wine and tartes flambées, as well as to meet the newly-installed French Consul-General in Boston, M. Fabien Fieschi. Remarks of friendship were delivered by Fieschi, as well as by Mary Louise Burke, president of the Boston / Strasbourg group, and Annette Lanigan, president of the Winchester / St-Germain-en-Laye Jumelage Association.



Annette Lanigan (L), Winchester Jumelage president, and Judie Muggia, (R) past president of the same group, join Mary Louise Burke, president of the Boston/Strasbourg Association in greeting the newly-arrived Consul-General of France in Boston, M. Fabien Fieschi, at Sandrine's Bistro in Harvard Square.

Photo by Tom Seigny

Lanigan recently attended a reception which included both groups at the French Consulate facility on Brattle Street, Cambridge, hosted by M. Fieschi.

A joint brunch is also planned for May. Upcoming on the calendar for the Boston / Strasbourg organization is an exhibition of historic French wallpapers.

### Événements

Événements is the newsletter of the  
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John McConnell, editor

Annual dues: \$30, individual / \$60, family  
**PLEASE JOIN!**

[www.jumelage.org](http://www.jumelage.org) / PO Box 453 / Winchester MA 01890



## PHOTO GALLERY OF RECENT JUMELAGE EVENTS



The city of Albi and the Cathedral of Ste-Cécile above the Tarn River.

Photo by Jack Roll



Nautical luncheon. Sydelle Pittas (l.) with Jean Vidal and Martha Moussa dining (and singing) aboard a riverboat in Port Lauragais.

Photo by Philippe Koenig



Descending into the Cabrespine Cavern.

Photo by Marc Miloutinovich



Mayor Emmanuel Lamy receives gift US flag from Richard Howard as Councillor Fabrice Ravel applauds.

Photo by Annette Lanigan



Marc Miloutinovich (foreground) at a joint Jumelage Board meeting.

Photo by Sylvie Bernard



Jacques Paugam (intern coordinator) and Michèle Chevalier (Vice President) staff the Winchester/St-Germain booth during the annual Associations Day fair in St-Germain, September 2012.

Photo by Annette Lanigan



Guide Élena with the tour group at Rennes-le-Château.

Photo by Albert Moussa



Morgane Miloutinovich, daughter of Jumelage head in St-Germain Marc Miloutinovich, smiles at the hors-d'oeuvres table along with (l to r) Ann Berman, Drew Bottaro, Roger Berman and Annette Lanigan at the recent Taste of France potluck.

Photo by John McConnell



Touring the Basilica of St-Sernin in Toulouse.

Photo by Ed Davis



President Annette Lanigan addresses the tour group during the farewell dinner in Carcassonne, Chez Saskia.

Photo by Marc Miloutinovich



## JUMELAGE TO HOST FRENCH IN 2013 TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS



Winchester's Ed Davis and his committee are pulling together a multitude of details in advance of this year's cultural exchange trip to New Orleans. Planned to take place between the 6th and 12th of October, members of Winchester Jumelage Association will play host to their French counterparts --- 23 of whom have already signed up.

The group will be based at a hotel in the famous French Quarter. Attendees can expect to try Creole cuisine, as well as the French cooking that the city is famous for. They will also take in a swamp tour, a steam paddleboat cruise on the Mississippi and a trolley ride. Tours of the huge warehouses used to store Mardi Gras floats and costumes is anticipated, as well as a visit to an ante-bellum plantation. In the evenings there will be visits to Preservation Hall --- famous for its traditional New Orleans-style jazz --- and dancing to Zydeco bands.

New Orleans is of great interest to our French friends because of its strong French heritage, which has been blended into the other cultural traditions --- native-American, African-American, Carribbean, Creole and Acadian ("Cajun") among them. The result is uniquely American, colorful and flavorful! If you plan to attend, you must sign up by April 1st. Contact Ed Davis at [ed@chickadee.us](mailto:ed@chickadee.us). Details will be forthcoming.

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PO Box 453, Winchester MA 01890

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### Officers:

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