

PORT-
VENDRES,
FRANCE

YORKTOWN,
VIRGINIA

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THIRD QUARTER — TROISIEME QUART 2022

President's Corner

This past quarter has been busy for Sister Cities Yorktown. On May 7, Sister Cities Yorktown served as the primary non-profit providing volunteers for the annual Blues, Brews, and BBQ Festival in Yorktown. We provided 74 volunteers from members and friends and will receive a portion of the proceeds from that event. Those proceeds will go to help fund exchanges and other activities throughout the year.

Two exciting events are on the horizon. Those include a Bastille Day wine tasting at the Hornsby House Inn on July 14. If you are interested in attending, go to <https://bit.ly/3xtxCgR> and purchase tickets there. This event is likely to sell out so don't wait to get your tickets.

Another exciting event is a free breakfast being held at Riverwalk Restaurant on August 25 at 9AM at Riverwalk Restaurant. The topic is "The Value of International Relationships" and speaking will be Brigadier General John Kline, Commanding General of United States Army Center for Initial Military Training (USACIMT) and the Senior Commander Army Element. This is another event that you should register early for and to register email contact@sistercitiesyorktown.org.

Looking forward we are anxiously awaiting word from our Sister City in France, Port Vendres, about continuing our adult exchange program and more news about Port Vendres 200th anniversary of their incorporation in 2023. We have been advised by the Minister of Education and Culture in Port Vendres that we will know more about that this summer.

We hope to see you at a Sister Cities Yorktown event soon and if you want to join us please email me at contact@sistercitiesyorktown.org.

**Don Willis, President
Sister Cities Yorktown**

Culture: Art

Impressionist art - a radical form of painting made famous by French artists in the latter part of the 19th century. This style of art faced much criticism when first exhibited. While it was later accepted by art critics, it was readily embraced by many artists themselves, who saw it as a method of representing the way the viewer saw the subject, rather than defining the subject itself. Several American painters studied in France and this influence in their work can be seen with the impressionist, neo-impressionist and modernist styles that derived from their studies. A great example of this is shown in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art's current exhibition "Whistler to Cassatt: American Painters in France" that is ongoing now through the end of July.

Alexander Harrison was one such painter who captured the impressionist movement and was a member of, among other organizations, the Society Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris. Initially a draftsman mapping the Pacific coast for the U.S. Government, Harrison moved to Paris to study art. He subsequently moved to Brittany and focused his art on landscape and marine painting. In 1885 he received the first of many honors and awards for his paintings. Although he painted many subjects, Harrison is perhaps best known for his coastal and marine paintings. Harrison divided his time between Paris and the Breton coast and remained in France for the rest of his life.

Harrison's beautiful coastal painting entitled "Le Crepuscule (Twilight)" reflects his talent for following the principles of impressionism while lending realism to the subject, and is included in the current exhibition at the VMFA.

Upcoming Events

July 14 - Bastille Day Wine Tasting

On 14 July we will hold our annual Bastille Day event - this year will be a wine tasting at the Hornsby House Inn pavilion in Yorktown. A selection of wines from the Languedoc-Roussillon region (in which our sister city is located) will be served for tasting. Appetizers will accompany each of the wines, and there will be an opportunity to purchase any (or all!) of the wines sampled. Tickets are \$25/members, \$30/non-members, and are available through Eventbrite at: <https://bit.ly/3xtxCgR>. Seating is limited, so be sure to reserve your tickets now. This is a fun social - a chance to meet fellow SCY members and others, and taste some excellent wines in the process. We hope you can join us.

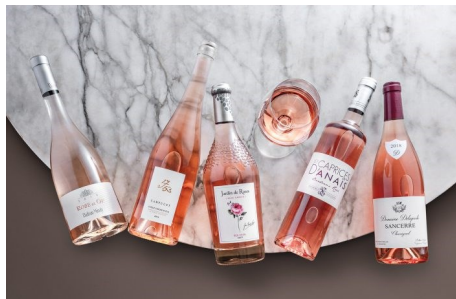
August 25- Breakfast Event

There will be another breakfast event at the Riverwalk Restaurant on August 25th. Local businesses are invited to have breakfast and learn about Sister Cities Yorktown. Our guest speaker will be Brigadier General John Kline, Commanding General of U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training. The topic of his talk is "The Value of International Relationships". Please contact Don Willis, email: contact@sistercitiesyorktown.org for more information or to sign up for this event.

October 5 - Soiree en Blanc

Our annual Soiree en Blanc will be held on October 5 in Yorktown. As usual, the exact location will be revealed just before the event. This is another fun social, with everyone dressing in white and bringing a picnic dinner. Tabletop decoration contest, door prizes and more.... Check our website and/or Facebook later this summer to access the sign-up page.

Wine Selection



Rosé - once considered a fad (in the U.S.), wine drinkers are now consuming more rosé than ever. Always popular in France, enthusiasm for this light and refreshing wine has increased exponentially, with the U.S. buying up to 40% of the Provence rosés sold abroad. Not a new wine, rosé is actually thought to be one of the oldest types of wines: the Greeks planted the first grapevines in Provence some 2600 years ago. The method of macerating red grapes to give red wine its color was unknown, so all wines made from red grapes were technically “rosé”. Rosés can be dry or fruity, depending on the variety of grapes used, and are best served chilled. A rosé from Provence

can be found at any price point, and many brands are available locally. Try one with a goat cheese appetizer, a salad nicoise or simply when enjoying a nice summer afternoon.

Recipe of the Month

This issue’s offering is the Salad Nicoise, a composed salad first popularized along the coastal region of Provence in Nice, and now a mainstay in many restaurants in Europe and North America. Traditionally made from just tomatoes, anchovies and olive oil, it has adapted to modern tastes and is now typically created by including tuna, potatoes, green beans and hard-boiled eggs. A tasty version is shown in the recipe below:

Salad Nicoise

Dressing:

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 1 small shallot, minced
 1 tsp minced fresh basil
 1 tsp minced fresh oregano
 1 tsp Dijon mustard
 Pinch each of salt and pepper

Salad:

Lettuce greens
 5 small new potatoes, cooked and quartered
 2 - 3 tomatoes, quartered
 4 ounces fresh haricots verts, blanched and cooled
 1 can oil-packed tuna, drained
 nicoise olives, anchovy fillets and capers to taste



Whisk all dressing ingredients together. Toss lettuce with half of dressing and arrange on a platter. Arrange remaining ingredients in groups on the lettuce, and drizzle with remaining dressing. Serve cold with a baguette and a rose, ideally from Provence. Enjoy!

Past Events

Blues, Brews and BBQ Festival

May 7 - This annual event was well-attended, and SCY operated the International Wine Tasting booth. Numerous volunteers from the community supported us throughout the day by manning the booth as well as during set-up and take-down.

Our efforts raised over \$5k from this event - a HUGE thanks to all of our volunteers.

VMFA Field Trip

A members-only field trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was held on June 1st. Members traveled to Richmond to see the "Whistler to Cassatt: American Painters in France" exhibition. Lunch was held at the Can Can Brasserie on Cary St. in Richmond. A delightful exhibition, this art display features over 100 paintings and highlights many of the artworks from the late 19th to early 20th century. The exhibition runs through 31 July 2022.

Opportunities to Volunteer

Sister Cities Yorktown is an organization comprised entirely of volunteers, and we're always looking for individuals that are able and willing to contribute their time and talents to help us accomplish our mission. We are currently ramping up our committees for this year, and have opportunities for you to help us with the following:

Event coordination/execution: Soiree' en Blanc, Wine Festival, French Market, etc. This committee will help with the planning and executing of events throughout the year, for fundraising as well as purely social events. We have several planned events, but we're always on the lookout for fresh ideas.

Exchanges: We support student and adult exchanges to/from our sister city, and with travel restrictions easing soon (we hope), we anticipate getting back to exchanges. This committee will help with the coordination of the exchanges between the two cities - both for the adults and high school students.

Public Relations/Communications: This committee focuses on developing partnerships with community organizations (public and private), educating and advocating our organization and its mission to the community.

Business Support: Website maintenance, social media, writing/publishing. This committee will identify areas for improvement and advise solutions to allow us to continue our mission, using current technology and methods.

We work as a team, and have fun doing so! If you have the interest, skills and knowledge that you can contribute to help our organization, let us know. Please contact Carla Rice, crice111@icloud.com, if you would like to help. We look forward to working with you.

Membership

Sister Cities Yorktown Membership is open to anyone residing in or working in Yorktown or York County, or anyone with a sustained interest in Sister Cities Yorktown, Inc.

Bienvenue – Welcome to new members this quarter: Ann and Glenn Farrar. We look forward to seeing you at a Sister Cities Yorktown event soon!

Benefits – Participation in Member Only socials and small events, e.g. wine tasting, cooking lessons, history lectures, etc.; first priority for Exchange Trips, receipt of SCY Newsletter and information on local “Things French”.

Annual dues—\$25 per individual; \$40 per family. Dues for French language teachers in York County are \$12.50. Membership for high school students in York County is free. While you can join at any time of the year, dues are not prorated. SCY receives no funding from government sources, so donations are always welcome and appreciated. SCY is a 501(c) (3) organization, so all dues payments and donations are tax deductible. Applications are available on our website at, www.sistercitiesyorktown.org.

Please mail your check to: Sister Cities Yorktown, P.O. Box 735, Yorktown, VA 23692.
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Carla Rice at crice111@icloud.com.



Fostering a Culture of Citizen Diplomacy

Leadership - Board of Directors

Don Willis, President: willisd@cox.net
Carla Rice, Vice President: crice111@icloud.com
Debra Paulus - Treasurer: debra.ramey@tscg.com
Jimmy Richardson: jrichardson3@ycsd.york.va.us
Randy Tabor: randall.tabor@yahoo.com
Rose Field: rosefield@gmail.com
Danielle Cannella: dcannella27@yahoo.com
Lee Lillard: sch51698@cox.net
Shirley Estes: shirleyestes@cox.net

In 1990, Yorktown, Va., entered into a sister-city relationship with Port-Vendres, a small French Mediterranean village. The relationship was formalized on April 19 in Yorktown and July 13 in Port-Vendres by the Yorktown Trustees with the mayor of Port-Vendres and other dignitaries. In 2010, Sister Cities Yorktown celebrated the 20th anniversary of the relationship with citizen exchanges between both countries. In December 2011, the York County Board of Supervisors formally recognized the relationship for York County. Sister Cities Yorktown is chartered by Sister Cities International.