



Fredericksburg, Virginia
Fréjus, France
Sister Cities Since 1980



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Though we're already well into 2020, I wish you "Bonne Année" and hope that you will join in the activities of this 40th anniversary year of our Sister City relationship with Fréjus, France. With two different groups visiting from Fréjus in 2020, there's ample opportunity for FSCA members to welcome old friends and/or make new ones.

Our signature program has long been home stay exchange for our students. Since the first exchange in 1980, well over a thousand students have participated, with American students going to Fréjus in odd-numbered years, and Fréjus students hosted by area families in even-numbered years. Plans are already underway for the upcoming student visit in July, when local students will introduce their French counterparts to peanut butter, tubing on the Rappahannock, and other features of American teenage life. (For more info, contact Jack East, 1st VP.)

Then in September, we expect about 40 adults from Fréjus to participate in the official events and fun of the Giant Omelet Festival as we mark the 40-year friendship between our two cities. This will be an exceptional opportunity for Sister City members to host a French guest or two and foster friendships which can last for years. (To inquire about hosting, contact Odile Pryor opryor@gmail.com.) Check our newsletter for details of other annual events and come join us in 2020!

Judy Hansen, President

Visit our website: fredericksburgfrejus.com
Visit us on Facebook: fredericksburg sister city association (fsca)

IN MEMORIAM



We extend sympathy to the families of past President A. C. Whitley, longtime Treasurer Steve Beauch, Don Colt, Henry Fulgham, Sunny Lynn and Bennie Merian. They were good friends of FSCA for many years and we will miss them.

ONGOING EVENTS

CONVERSATION/FILM GROUP

Since 2006, FSCA has had a monthly French conversation club, "Le Cercle Fred," gathering for conversation, no lessons given. In addition, the same group schedules a monthly showing of free films in French with English subtitles, ranging from classic black-and-white to current films. For more info about this group, contact Robert Bugno (RobBugno@gmail.com). Reminder notices are sent out before all meetings and films.

ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARTY

Merci mille fois to Virginia and Jack East for hosting the Mardi Gras Party this year. Over 30 people dressed in their favorite costumes and came to their home to enjoy an evening of camaraderie, fine food, wine and a delicious "King Cake". We extended a warm welcome to new members Carol Butler, Lydie and Roman Zawada.



Laissez le bon temps rouler

Left-right: Suzanne Garner, Virginia East, Jack East And Garret Garner.

UPCOMING EVENT

4TH ANNUAL SISTER CITIES POTLUCK DINNER



March 27, 6-9 pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center – 408 Canal Street. Just \$12 per person. Mail check, made to SFA to Roger Engels, 314 Princess Anne St., Fredericksburg VA 22401 & note on check you are with FSAC: or charge at Eventbrite (small transaction fee added here) Traditional Dress is welcome.



LOOKING AHEAD

Exciting events are coming your way. Check them out and plan to attend.

BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendar and plan to join your fellow Francophiles as we celebrate the 231st Bastille day, the great French national holiday. July 14th, 6pm, Market Square in Downtown Fredericksburg. Music, food, wine and fun!

Bill Beck – Event Coordinator



SUMMER EXCHANGE

Our Fréjus students will be here July 11-23. We are having a student exchange meeting on March 10 to pair up who we can with our host families. Right now we have maybe 7 or 8 host families and 14 French students (11 girls, 4 boys) that are approved to come. I'll have a better idea what we need to do after this meeting. If you have a student who would like to host a Fréjus student this year please contact me. It would be great if you could attend the meeting on the 10th.

Jack East- 1st Vice President – Student Exchange
eastjack1@outlook.com

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



From September 21-29 about 40 French friends will travel from Fréjus to be with us to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our twinning. Plans are underway for a variety of activities and we will share these with you in upcoming newsletters.

In the meantime – if you would like to host one or more of our visitors please contact Odile Pryor at opryor@gmail.com.

If you have questions please contact me:
Roy Kissinger – 40th Anniversary Celebration
Chairman royhk.007@verizon.net

5000 Egg Omelette Spectacular – Bob Antozzi is heading up this part of the celebration. The event will be held Saturday, September 26th at the Fair Grounds. Bob says things are coming together quite nicely and more information will be forthcoming in future newsletters. You can reach Bob at rantozzi81@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

First, congratulations and a big welcome to all our current members, returning members and life members. We know you will continue to enjoy the inherent friendship and camaraderie as contributing members and integral supporters of our vibrant and growing organization.

Currently we are getting excited about the various activities, student visits, upcoming visit by 40 adults and the big omelette event this fall. Because of the community and international importance of this year's events and our practice of honoring the bonds between the citizens of Frejus and Fredericksburg, I challenge all current members to bring in at least one new member before September. Let's all focus on growing our group in the spirit of Friendship and

the history of our two cities. A membership application is printed here for your convenience

Warmest Regards – Nancie Lightner, Membership Chair Person 434-378-1556

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



Dues are due in January – These small fees help support our many activities

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please select the 2020 Membership level that is right for you:

____ Individual (\$25) ____ Family (\$50)
____ Individual Life (\$250)

*Name(s) _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

*Phone(H) _____

(Cell) _____

*E-mail _____ * Required

Used for newsletters and/or communications. FSCA does not share e-mails with others.



CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Please consider making a supporting donation to FSCA.

I wish to support FSCA by donating
\$ _____ to General Operating Fund.
\$ _____ to the Alec Vitarius Memorial
Scholarship-Fund (student-exchange scholarships)
\$ _____ to the Cultural Grant fund (for the
Arts, lectures, exhibits, etc.)

Please make checks payable to: Fredericksburg Sister City Association, Inc. and mail to Nancie Lightner – Membership, 605 Kenmore Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

NEWS FROM FRÉJUS



Maryse Rigoulot, Director of the Fredericksburg Section reports:

At our February General Assembly Philippe Rigoulot was re-elected President of the Jumelage. Michel Gras and André Ollivier were reelected as the Vice Presidents.

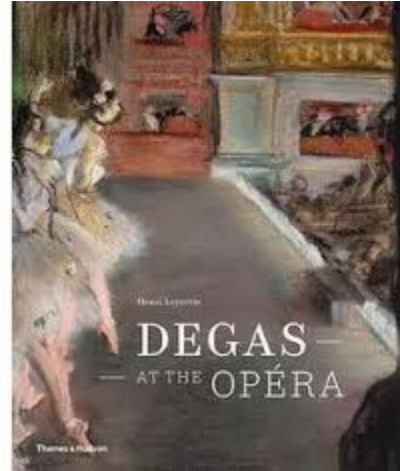
Pecan Tree in Fréjus: The Pecan tree, paying homage to President Thomas Jefferson and our Fredericksburg Sister City was planted and dedicated in the Villa Marie Park in March 2019. It is thriving and is a constant reminder of our strong ties with Fredericksburg.



Medallion – gift from Fredericksburg and installed near the pecan tree on the same day.

IN THE NEWS

DEGAS AT THE OPERA



Celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Paris Opéra's founding, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. will present approximately 100 of the artist's best-known and beloved works. Opening on March 1.

ON THE INTERNET

Check out France-Amérique at info@france-amerique.com for other stories on French Culture. Don't read French? No problem – it is Bilingual



Welcome to SPRING

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

More than 40 years ago, in 1978, Ralph Meima, with the American Consul in Marseilles, brought a group of up and coming French politicians to America for a tour of our country. One person was François Léotard, Mayor of Fréjus. He was seeking an American sister city for his town. Mr. Meima brought him to Fredericksburg where Meima's parents lived. Mayor Léotard liked what he saw and proposed a "twinning" with Fréjus. In 1979 Mayor Laurence Davies asked Tom and Lydie Mann (with their daughters Aude and Coco), along with Jack and Phyllis Pritchett (with daughter Melissa) to visit Fréjus during their holiday trip to France. Upon their return home they recommended to Mayor Davies we form the partnership.

Thanks to Aude Mann for identifying individuals in the following photos. An "x" indicates we are not certain of the name of that person. If you can identify any of those people please let the editor know.



In 1979 the Fredericksburg group shared news and gifts from that visit.

Left-right: Lydie Mann, William Dennis, Tom Mann, Phyllis Pritchett Lamont, Mayor Lawrence Davies, Dr. Jack Pritchett, X and Walter Angel

On April 24, 1980 -Sister City Committee of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Inc. was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation Commission. Shortly afterwards Mayor Leotard came to Fredericksburg to sign the agreement with Mayor Davies.



A large crowd gathered for the ceremony.

Left-right Mayor Lawrence Davies, X, Mrs. Léotard,, Mayor François Léotard, and X.



Mayor Davies, Sara Fartro, X, and Mayor Léotard at the ceremony.

NOTE: Mayor Léotard, later became the Minister of Defense for France and continued as Fréjus' Mayor during this time.



Cocktail time. Left-right: X, Mayor Léotard, Lydie Mann, Buddy Chandler and X

OUR FIRST PRESIDENT



Clifford "Buddy" Chandler

Buddy arranged the activities during that first visit and got us off to a great start. We thank him for the many years he dedicated to the continued success of FSCA.

French student attends School Here

From the Fall of 1980 through the Spring of 1981 the first student exchange to Fredericksburg was David Léotard, son of Fréjus Mayor François Léotard. He attends James Monroe High School for one year.

You can expect to see more History Highlights in future editions of your newsletter.

FSCA DIRECTORS – 2020-2021

Officers

President – Judith Hansen judyhansen@yahoo.com

1st VP, Student Exchange – John East
eastjack1@outlook.com

2nd VP, Membership – Nancie Lightner
ncblightner2014@yahoo.com

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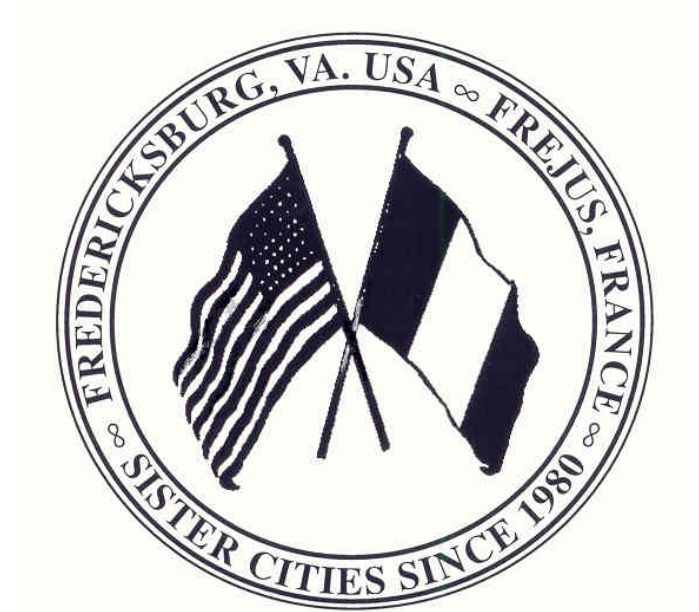
Roy Kissinger – 40th Anniversary Celebration
royhk.007@verizon.net

Send your ideas to acpcw1@gmail.com,
call me at 540-786-7010, OR write me -
10225 Gordon Road, Spotsylvania VA
22553-3723

New ideas or articles that you think the membership might want to learn more about are welcome.

Thank you for your interest.

Phyllis C. Whitley, Editor



**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN
FUTURE NEWSLETTERS?**