



Fredericksburg, Virginia
Fréjus, France
Sister Cities Since 1980



NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this strange and unsettling time, Sister City activities have been put on hold until there's an "all clear" regarding the corona virus regulations. We are not alone, of course, and many of you have probably heard from friends in France who have shared their own experience in coping with this pandemic.

For instance, a former classmate, retired to a village near Avignon, noted the official form stating the purpose for being out of her house when she goes to the pharmacy, grocery store, post office, etc. In fact, in her small village, she must make an appointment for the post office so as not to crowd the space during the two hours a day that it is open. Knowing that we are now encouraged to wear face masks in public, she sent an email with directions for making a face mask from a sock--a simple and clever version--and very French!

Hopefully, we will be able to resume a more normal lifestyle before too long. However, while we are still "hunkered down," there's all the more reason to say "Merci" to Phyllis Whitley, our newsletter editor, for providing a diversion with some interesting background about FSCA.

Take care and stay safe,

Judy Hansen, President

Visit our website: fredericksburgfrejus.com
Visit us on Facebook: [fredericksburg sister city Association \(fsca\)](https://www.facebook.com/fredericksburgsistercityassociation)

LOOKING AHEAD with optimism

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

SUMMER EXCHANGE

As we follow the status of the COVID-19 we continue to hope for the July 11 arrival of the Fréjus students.

As we are still in an upward corona spiral and because quarantine standards may be extended, we bow to the Fréjus leaders to make the final decision for the summer exchange.

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

4TH ANNUAL SISTER CITIES POTLUCK DINNER Cancelled due to COVID-19



We hope it can be rescheduled

CONVERSATION/FILM GROUP

No meetings at this time due to COVID-19

Reminder notices are sent out before all meetings and films. For more information contact Robert Bugno (RobBugno@gmail.com)

BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION



Wilbur & Dave practice for the Bastille Day Bash

We continue to be optimistic that we will celebrate the 231st Bastille Day, the great French national holiday, on July 14th, 6pm at Market Square in Downtown Fredericksburg. Plan to join your fellow Francophiles for Music, food, wine, fellowship and fun!

Bill Beck – Event Coordinator

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are moving ahead at a slow but steady pace as we are early in the planning and some actions are dependent on information that will come as the celebration time comes nearer.

We are continuously monitoring the Coronavirus situation and its potential impact on the 40th Anniversary Celebration and L'Omelette Géante. Our planning remains focused on the following: The Preliminary Program remains unchanged at this time:

- Number of French guests – 40 maximum,
- Length of visit - 9 days (21 September 2020 to 29 September 2020) (Includes arrival and departure days),
- 6 planned tour activities anticipated and Welcome and Farewell Events,
- Reaffirmation signing and Dignitaries and Invited Guests Luncheon
- Historic play to be presened by a visiting Historic Performers Group from Fréjus.
- L'Omelette Géante Festivities on Sept. 28

If you would like to become a part of this exciting adventure as a committee Chair or a committee member, contact Lori or me royhk.007@verizon.net

The Host Housing Committee: Chair Odile Pryor, has the hosting applications and will make them available soon. She has already been contacted by four or five people offering to host. Contact her if you want to host. opryor@gmail.com

Roy Kissinger – 40th Anniversary Celebration Chairman

5000 Egg Omelette Spectacular – Bob Antozzi is heading up this part of the celebration. Bob is as busy as a fox in the chicken house right now but he thought you might enjoy knowing about *the Legend of the Giant Omelet* and how we in Fredericksburg became a part of this great tradition.

According to the legend, when Napoleon and his army were traveling through the south of France they decided to rest for the night near the town of Bessières. Napoleon feasted on an omelette prepared by a local innkeeper. The omelette was such a culinary delight that he ordered the townspeople to gather all the eggs in the village and to prepare a huge omelette for his army the next day.

From this beginning, the omelette later became a tradition to feed the poor of the village at Easter. It has also become the symbol of a worldwide fraternity rich in friendship, tradition and cultural exchange known as the "Confrérie".

The Giant Omelette Celebration is truly an international festival. Each year, foreign representatives visit each Confrérie to assist with the preparation of the omelette, to experience the joie de vivre, to share in its rich culture, to meet and mingle with its people and to make memories and friendships which last a lifetime. Each celebration draws a crowd of at least 4000 people, often thousands more. In 2000 there were six cities participating in the Confrérie.

In 2000 the Frejus Confréries agreed to come to Fredericksburg, prepare a Giant omelette, and celebrate with us the 20th Anniversary of our twinning with Fréjus. We had a parade, a blessing

of the food at a local church. Festival vendors sold French related products and included a Marché aux Puces. Day long entertainment included 40 members of the "L' Estelerenco" choral group from Fréjus.

You can reach Bob at rantozzi81@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I extend a warm welcome to our newest members - **Lydie and Roman Zawada, Carol Butler, Bill and Katy Stewart.** We are delighted that you have joined our organization and we look forward to you participating in our future events.

At this time I want to recognize our life members and encourage others to enroll at this level: Barbara Antozzi, Robert Antozzi, Joan Beauch, Steve Beauch, Bill Beck, Susan Beck, Nathalie Bullock, Bob Dowd, Leigh Perret Dowd, Cathy Herndon, Lori Kissinger, Roy Kissinger, and Elaine Miller, Martin Miller, Barbara Suval, John Suval, Jerry Tankersley, Margie Tankersley, Craig Vasey, Katheryn Willis and Russell Willis

I am certainly looking forward to the end of social distancing and getting together with everyone as we plan our future events.

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 FORMS CAN BE SECURED AT

- 1) our website: fredericksburgfrejus.com or**
- 2) on Facebook: fredericksburg sister city association (fsca)**

NEWS FROM FRÉJUS



Maryse Rigoulot, Director of the Fredericksburg Section reports:

Our elections were held on March 15 and Mayor Rachline was reelected for 6 years. We look forward to meeting the new councillors in charge of the Jumelage and present them with our projects for the Fredericksburg exchanges.

The situation in Fréjus: it is somehow a bit difficult to give information about Fréjus as we all stay at home except for shopping or going to the doctor's or helping old or needy people. Our « pass » is valid only for one hour. We don't know how many persons were infected these last days, or how many died from Covid19 in Fréjus. The information we get is from the TV News and of course, even though we want to be optimistic, the facts and figures they give are not reassuring.

We keep busy: We enjoy taking a break together and watch series in English: This is us, The English game, AJ and the queen etc ... or old movies. Last night we watched "A Star Is Born" with Judy Garland. Of course we follow our American friends on Facebook, on their own page or on Fredericksburg Today, Fredericksburg Now, Fredericksburg downtown. Maybe we know more presently about Fredericksburg than about Fréjus!! We look forward to seeing our friends again.

Further news from Fréjus from other dear friends,

France is in its 4th week of lockdown, which will continue until the 15th and is likely to be prolonged further. No definite dates as yet. The number of deaths in France from Covid 19 seems to average out at about 500 to 600 a day, with no real sign of abatement. The medics are working round the clock, and some of the saturated hospitals have had serious cases transported by air to hospitals in other regions. Air traffic is almost at a halt.

All schools, places of worship, restaurants, bars, theatres, cinemas, libraries, sports facilities or other places where people congregate are shut. Grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies and certain Post Offices remain open.

Shoppers are filtered into stores. Social distancing is respected & checkouts are protected by plexiglass. Most staff wear masks and protective gloves, but there is still a terrible shortage of masks even for medical personnel and health workers. Drive-in shopping and delivery services have reached saturation point!

One hour's daily exercise outside is permitted up to one kilometre from home. No cycling, though we still see the occasional cyclist on the main road near us. The beaches, parks, public gardens and the Esterel hills are out of bounds.

If ill, we can call our doctor for a consultation over the phone. He then decides what steps to take from there. All this is to avoid clogging up doctors' offices and hospital emergency services.

The written exams for the Baccalaureat will not take place. Students' continual assessment results will be taken into consideration instead.

Air traffic is almost at a halt.

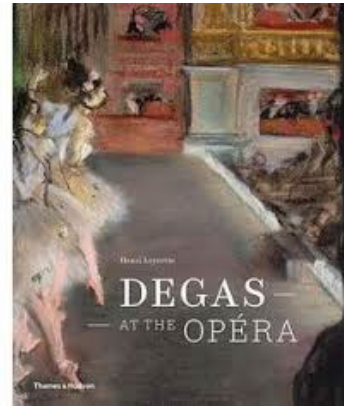
Positive points: The air is less polluted. People are showing signs of great solidarity...helping elderly neighbors, leaving congratulatory messages on bins for the refuse collectors, applauding the medical staff from balcony windows in apartment blocks at 8 in the evening. Video clips of all sorts from sports coaches on how to keep fit during confinement. The homeless found shelter now the streets are deserted. Teachers posting lessons via the web just to name a few.

We can but hope that common sense and a good dose of solidarity between one another will pull us through.

Keep safe. Michel and Hilary Gras

IN THE NEWS

DEGAS AT THE OPERA



Continuing through July 5th

[check the Gallery if still confined by the Virus]
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.

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.

Still confined by the Virus – check out their 10-french-films-series-to-watch-on-Netflix

Some things to check out

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2018/12/edited-1890s-film-footage/> Thanks to Bill Beck for sharing this film with all of us.

And explore a site that Odile Pryor just found: <https://french.kwiziq.com/> Kwiziq's Artificial Intelligence Engine - KwizBot - will guide you from your current level to fluency in the most efficient way possible using intelligent testing and learning material authored by our French experts.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The first new Newsletter highlights covered just two years, 1979-1980. But what exciting years they were! Future years were exciting and eventful too.

1981

July 1981 will long be remembered by 20 of our students –our first exchange to Fréjus. Included in the group was a choral group directed by Mandy Carr.



Left-right: Left-right Lisa Rocco, Cheryl Carter (now deceased), Mandy Carr, director, Faye ?, Marie Jackson, Matthew Maynard, Frances Ferguson, accompanist.

There was a nice surprise waiting for our students:



Elisabeth Andre made arrangements for a visit with Princess Grace of Monaco. It was a highlight for the Americans that year.

1982



July in Market Square – We were busy promoting our Sister City

Student Exchange in July



Lydie Mann, lower right was one of the guides for the day in D.C.



In 1982 FSCA receives awards from Sister Cities International & Reader's Digest for "Outstanding Youth Exchange" and "Best Small City Achievement" at conference in Tampa, Florida President Thomas Mann and members – take a bow!

DIRECTORS 1982-1983

PRESIDENT	THOMAS P. MANN
1 ST VICE-PRESIDENT	MARGARET ROSE
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT	SUE GIOVANNETTIVALENTINE
SECRETARY	MANDY CARR
TREASURER	FRED MILLER
HISTORIAN	MARGARET HOFMANN
IMMED.PAST PRESIDENT	CLIFFORD CHANDLER
EX-OFFICIO	MAYOR LAWRENCE DAVIES
EX-OFFICIO	WALTER SHEFFIELD, City Attorney
and Agent of Record	

July 1983

Fredericksburg artist, Johnny P. Johnson, has exhibition in Fréjus



Mayor François Léotard welcomes Johnny at the opening of his exhibition in Fréjus. In a recent talk with Johnny he says he has vivid memories of his first visit to France. His work was brought to Frejus in portfolios and then prepared with glass and frames for exhibit. He said Hilary and Michel Gras hosted him at their home and he had a delightful time getting to know them.

August 1983 “L’ Estelerenco” a choral group of 40 Fréjus people visited Fredericksburg. A three week stay included several performances locally, at the Lincoln Memorial and Monticello



Welcome caravan



Students await hosts

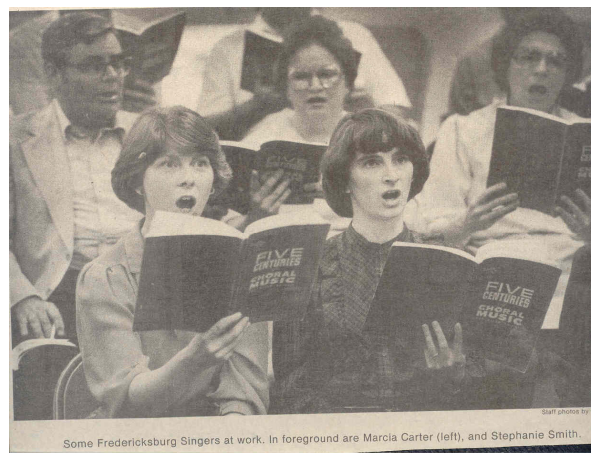


Frejus chorale rehearse - in Dodd Auditorium



Combined choirs performing in Dodd.

Merci mille fois to Roy Smith for providing these photos from that visit.



Fredericksburg Singers performing in Fredericksburg. Front row/ L-R Marcia Carter and Stephanie Smith. Second row/L-R Bill Pinschmidt, Carolyn Allen and Mary Pinschmidt

1984

July in Fréjus

While we were having a great time with the Fréjus students on our turf, our Fredericksburg Singers were in Fréjus. The 40 members performed in Fréjus and the region for three weeks.



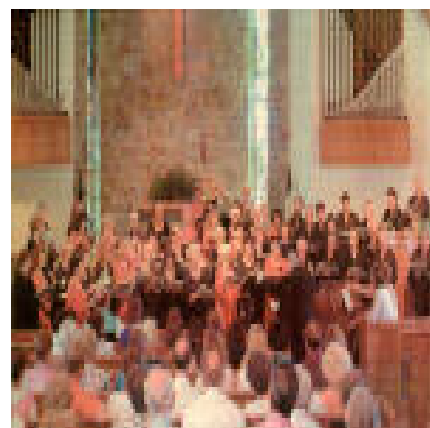
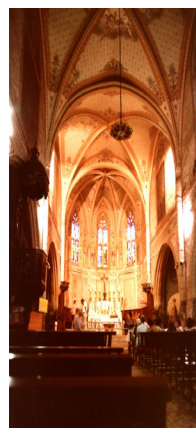
Welcome Reception: Left to right: Mayor Francais Leotard, Jumelage Director, Gerard Ferraioli, Director of the Fréjus Singers, and Director of the Fredericksburg Singers, Steve Burton



Fredericksburg Singers perform for the the Fréjus mayor and audience at the town hall.



Frejus Chorale fait une repetition (rehearsal)



Frejus Cathedral & joint performance there by both groups.

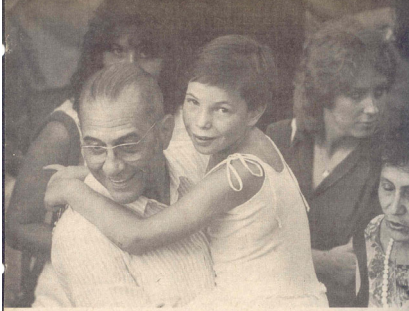


Shopping in Fréjus

Encore - Merci mille fois to Roy Smith for providing these photos from that trip.

1984 - Meanwhile in Fredericksburg

A big "Bon jour" for Fréjus students



A big 'Bon jour'

Residents of Fredericksburg get acquainted with sister city visitors from Fréjus, France, during a reception last night next to City Hall. Jack Clergue (above) hosts onto a first Civic Dulage as the French guests start a two-week visit. At right, Lydie Mann, a French native who now lives in Fredericksburg, translates the welcoming remarks of Mayor Lawrence Davies. The visit by the 20 French students and 16 adults is part of a summer exchange—40 members of the Fredericksburg Singers are now touring and performing in Fréjus.



At right – Lydie Mann and Mayor Lawrence Davies were there to greet the crowd.

And what a crowd it was.....



Finally everyone gathers to celebrate another great year in Fredericksburg as Margaret Rose thanks everyone for making it all so special.

And who are these guys? Were they chaperones or did they just come for the great food?



Left-right: Buddy Chandler, Tom Mann and John Manolis

King's Dominion is always a favorite fun day....



DIRECTORS: 1984-85

PRESIDENT	CINDY POOLE SWOPE
1 ST VICE-PRESIDENT	MARGARET ROSE
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT	SARA FARTRO
SECRETARY	MARIAM JONES
TREASURER	SUE GIOVANNETTI VALENTINE
HISTORIAN	TERI ROSE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	THOMAS P. MANN
EX-OFFICIO	MAYOR LAWRENCE P. DAVIES
EX-OFFICIO	WALTER SHEFFIELD, City Attorney & Agent of Record

1985

April 1985 was a time to enjoy “An Evening in Paris” at the Ramparts Restaurant. How many people can you identify in these two photos?



You will notice a few hints in the next photo.



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

FSCA DIRECTORS – 2020-2021

Officers

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eastjack1@outlook.com

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Directors

Bob Antozzi – Omelet Festival rantozzi81@gmail.com

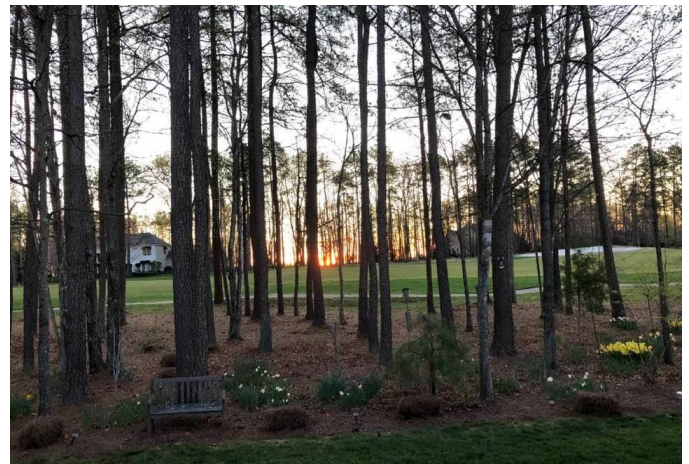
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Thomas Baer – Website tfbaer@hotmail.com

Cathy Herndon - herndoncathy@gmail.com

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

In closing this issue I am sharing a recent photograph by FSCA member Kathrine Philipp



*Looking toward a new sunrise and a new day
for all*

Thank you for your interest,

Be Safe Out there!

Phyllis C. Whitley, Editor

Note: The abundance of “news” this month is to give you interesting reading material while you are homebound. Subsequent issues will be within my guideline. I am optimistic for our future.