



Fredericksburg, Virginia
Fréjus, France
Sister Cities Since 1980



NEWSLETTER – May 2020

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NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Bonjour tout le monde,

C'est le mois de mai--enfin! Though we are still in the clutches of Coronavirus, perhaps some of the stay-at-home restrictions will soon be eased and we can gradually return to a more normal--though perhaps a "new normal"--lifestyle.

Unfortunately, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, the student exchange trip scheduled for July had to be canceled. (See comments from Jack East following my message..) This, the first cancellation in the forty years since the exchanges began, is of course disappointing. However, with the state of international travel during the pandemic, Air France found it necessary to cancel the July flights. We look forward to next year when, hopefully, we can return to this program so central to our overall mission and so important to students in both Fréjus and Fredericksburg.

At this time, plans are still underway for the Giant Omelet in September. However, in these uncertain times, upcoming activities are in "wait and watch" mode. Look for details in future newsletters. Meanwhile, enjoy the History Highlights included in this edition and bring back memories of Sister City events in past years.

A la prochaine fois,

Judy Hansen

UPDATE ON STUDENT EXCHANGE

This message from Mme Rigoulot in Fréjus was one we hoped would not come about:

4-27-2020 - I have just received an email from Air France announcing the cancellation of the July flights. They propose to transform our advance payment into a credit note for next year and this is acceptable.

I feel sad because it has never happened before but I understand that it was unavoidable. Let's hope that the September trip will not be cancelled too. All the best, Maryse Rigoulot,

My thanks and deepest appreciations go out to all the parents and students who volunteered their homes and time for this event. We regret the necessity of this cancellation as well. I extend

a special thanks to the students who had planned to host: Alexander Broughton, Josephine Chew, Hollis Glancy, Briana Griffiths, Lily Hourin, Emilia Hughes, Lillian Hutcherson, Veronica Kendall, Mackenzie Polachak, Francesca Poudrier, Bakhtawar Shaikh, Joey Singhass, Andrew Warder, and Morgan Watkins. We hope you can host a future exchange.

Some Directors are proposing we consider moving the date for the French arrivals to the same time next year, 2021. Further discussions will happen through future emails from the Directors and me. Please contact me with any questions/clarifications

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

NEWS FROM FRÉJUS



Maryse Rigoulot
Director of the Fredericksburg Section reports:

Dear friends,

I want to believe that we will deal with the COVID-19 crisis in an exemplary way. It is with deep regret that our Students visit in July had to be cancelled. It was a decision by Air France that made this necessary.

Because we need that more than ever, may this little flower bring you luck, joy and happiness on this May 1.

Maryse Rigoulot



Photos from France



Merci mille fois to our friend, Philippe Jouan, for sharing these lovely flowers from his garden in Bargemon

A FEW NOTES:

Ralph Meima on YOUTUBE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGC9zn_fqHw

Remember the story about Ralph in our March newsletter? In 1978, Ralph, with the American Consul in Marseilles, brought François Léotard, Mayor of Fréjus to Fredericksburg seeking an American sister city for his town, Fréjus. The rest is history. We are delighted to learn he is still a busy man.

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



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear readers, With many of our lives on hold right now I hope you will have time to read about the history of FSCA . With hope that “What is Past is Prologue” for FSCA in a good way..

Phyllis Whitley - Editor

1986



Welcome reception for our French Visitors.



Group photo – Margaret Rose is right near back.



STUDENT EXCHANGE * WEDDING BELLS

In 1981 Debby Shelkey, of King George, was hosted in Fréjus by Carole Gener. In 1982 Carole came to the USA to stay with Debby and met her brother Stuart. She thought he was cute. Visits were back and forth across the ocean until July 12, 1986 they married and settled in King George. They have raised three children; Adam (living in Spotsylvania & working at Dahlgren), Olivia (who was married last August) and Grant (Currently a college student. Carole said last August was a very special time because her father, mother and step-father came from France and were joined by her sister from Oregon to celebrate the wedding of Olivia. This year Carole and Stuart will celebrate their 34th Wedding Anniversary. We extend our Congratulations now to this fantastic couple.



July 4, 1986
Fireworks display in Fredericksburg,
Courtesy of a “maitre artificier” from
Fréjus



DIRECTORS YEARS: 1986-87

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CINDY POOLE SWOPE
MAYOR LAWRENCE DAVIES
WALTER SHEFFIELD, City Attorney & Agent of Record

1987



1987 SUMMER EXCHANGE TO FRÉJUS

Top photo Welcome to Fréjus with Gerard Ferraioli on the left and Elisabeth Andre on the right.

Bottom photo – at the airport – heading home

1988

Regrettably there are no photos or notes in my files for this year. If you were there and have a photo to share – send it to the editor and it will be posted next issue.



1989

This was a year filled with many events.

Fredericksburg artists, Lorene Nickel and Joseph Detwiler had an exhibition of ceramics at the Centre Cultural in Fréjus with French painter Michel Kourline.

Fréjus Masonic Lodge was named “Fredericksburg Number 597.” In September an official delegation visited Fredericksburg to attend a special meeting commemorating George Washington's initiation in the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge.

Fredericksburg Mayor Lawrence Davies visits Fréjus with group



L-R back row Philip Pryor, Elisabeth Andre, Mayor Davies, Bob Kravetz, Jane Ellen Kravetz



And other FSCA members to the right- Sara Fartro and Paula Suggs

Directors for 1988-89

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More History Highlights in future editions of your newsletter

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