



**NEWSLETTER – June 2020**

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**Visit our website: [fredericksburgfrejus.com](http://fredericksburgfrejus.com)**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Salut, tout le monde,

In these early summer days of June 2020, we find ourselves still experiencing a most unusual year, with no clear indication of when life will return to "normal"--even a "new normal." Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has drastically affected our Sister City program for the upcoming season, forcing the cancellation of the July student exchange visit and our local Bastille Day celebration in Market Square.

In addition, most recently the board of directors considered at length the effect of the coronavirus restrictions on the upcoming Giant Omelet event. In the end, we decided that the best way forward was to postpone the 40th anniversary program scheduled for September 2020 and to re-plan it for some mutually agreeable time in 2021. Considerations centered on the problems of international travel as well as the many social and economic restrictions still in effect and the uncertainty of a full reopening by September.

We very much hope that a postponement will allow us to resume planning the full and exciting celebration (albeit a year late!) to mark this most significant date in our Sister City-Jumelage relationship. We'll keep you posted and look forward to your participation as plans develop.

A la prochaine fois,

*Judy Hansen*

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** - A warm welcome to **Ms. Liane Houghtalin**. We are delighted that you have joined our organization and we look forward to you participating in our future events.

Congratulations to **Suzanne Garner** who has elected to become a Life Time Member.

Nancie Lightner - Membership Chair Person

### **IN THE NEW**

**Check out France-Amérique:** at [france-amerique.com](http://france-amerique.com) for stories on French Culture.  
Don't read French? No problem – it is Bilingual

## **NEWS FROM FRÉJUS**



**Maryse Rigoulot**  
**Director of the Fredericksburg Section**

Dear friends,

We are very sad to see what is happening in your country and in Fredericksburg. After the COVID-19 and all its consequences, we didn't need that, did we? I say WE because we feel concerned. We witnessed violence, vandalism and looting a few months ago in France and even when the situation has returned to normal, it leaves a feeling of bitterness and even despair.

Of course, the death of a man in such circumstances is unacceptable and we understand the protests. Well, I am afraid I am very pessimistic today and I just want to end this message with the hope that you are all safe and that peace will be back soon in the country that we love;

On a positive note: I think you will be happy to see this photo of the Pecan Tree in our Park that was planted a year ago this month in Honor of President Jefferson and the friendship we have enjoyed with Fredericksburg since 1980

All the best, Maryse & Philippe



**HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**



**Remembering the good times. With hope that What is Past is Prologue**

### **1990**

July 1990 Our Tenth Anniversary Celebration was held in Virginia. President Sara Fartro arranged for host families for over 150 people from Frejus. The Fréjus Dancer preformed on several occasions

Here they preform near the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts where Fréjus Artist, Michel Kourline had a month long exhibition of his paintings

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Michel Kourline & a Frejus Dancer at his exhibition at the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts. He was the first artist from Fréjus to have an Exhibition in Fredericksburg.



Michel spent a month giving lectures, painting with Local artists, touring the area and enjoying events like the homemade boat races on the Rappahannock river as shown here. He was the guest of A. C. and Phyllis Whitley for his visit.

September 1990 was an exciting time in Frejus when, during the cooking of the 5000 egg omelette, FSCA President, Sara Fartro became the first Fredericksburg person to be appointed "Chevalier d'Honneur, de la Confrérie de l'Omelette Géante de Fréjus / Saint-Aygulf". Sara is the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left – just behind the Chevalier with a very tall hat.

Since this time 21 additional Fredericksburg Friends have been inducted into this special Confrérie.



### DIRECTORS: 1990~91

PRESIDENT  
1 ST VICE-PRESIDENT  
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
EX-OFFICIO  
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PAULA SUGGS  
PHILLIP PRYOR  
MAYOR LAWRENCE DAVIES  
JAMES PATES City Attorney/Agent of Record

*Merci mille fois to all the Directors who have contributed to the success of our organization.*



## 1991



It was time for the Americans to invade France again. After several days in Paris the students, along with sever adults, enjoyed a ride on the famous TGV to Fréjus. Chaperones for this trip were Anita Grzeika and Kathleen Bushman

Gerard Ferraioli (far left in photo) arranged memorable visits to many sites including a day trip by boat to St. Tropez. A visit to his cottage and a picnic in the mountains was remembered as another wonderful adventure to another part of France.

## 1992

First visit by students from Gallieni Lycee Professionnel - Fréjus Technical School. The group visited local businesses & toured Virginia and D. C. historical attractions.

Chaperones were Maryse and Philippe Rigoulot, Philippe Jouan and Jean-Claude Gautherat



## DIRECTORS: 1992-93

PRESIDENT

1 ST VICE-PRESIDENT

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

HISTORIAN

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

EX-OFFICIO

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ANITA GRZIEKA

KATHLEEN BUSHMAN

PHYLLIS UNA WHITLEY

REBECCA WRIGHT

PAULA SUGGS

SOLANGE PEYSSEL

SARA FARTRO

MAYOR LAWRENCE DAVIES

JAMES PATES , City Attorney and Agent of Record

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## 1993

September 1993

Aujourd'hui Encore, l'Esprit des Indiens d'Amerique (Today still, the Spirit of the American Indians) an exhibition of over 100 works by Stafford County sculptor: Retha Walden Gambaro and photographer Stephen A. Gambaro were at the Centre Cultural Municipal in Fréjus for on month. It was a tribute to our Native Americans. It was declared the most visited exhibition in the history of the cultural center. Phyllis Whitley was the curator and fund raiser for the exhibition. A. C. Whitley provided moral and technical support. She secured a Grant from the Florence Gould Foundation to cover transportation of the works & the air fares for all concerned. The Fréjus Jumelage provided housing for the group.



Mrs. Gambaro was initiated as Chevaliers d'Honneur, de la Confrérie de l'Omelette Géante de Fréjus / Saint-Aygulf during this visit.

### **More History Highlights in future editions of your newsletter**

#### **FSCA DIRECTORS – 2020-2021**

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*Merci mille fois to all the Directors who are contributing to the success of our organization.*

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