



Fredericksburg, Virginia
Fréjus, France
Sister Cities Since 1980



NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020 Visit us on Facebook: Fredericksburg association (fsca)
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bonjour les amis,

It's November....and in a "normal" year, I'd be announcing our Annual Meeting, an evening with friends, food and wine, a program, and a bit of business. But this is 2020, and the pandemic has forced a major program change.

We do have two items of business that require a vote of the membership at an Annual Meeting: One vote to amend the Bylaws and another to elect a new member to the Board of Directors. Instead of an in-person meeting this year, we will conduct the voting by email.

The Board has approved the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for the new board member to be elected. Nominations may be accepted from the floor and sent to Cathy Herndon, chair of the Nominating Committee, by Nov. 5th. Be sure that such person will accept the nomination and is willing to serve. Watch for the meeting announcement coming soon with all of the details.

Special note: In this newsletter, be sure to read Bill Beck's delightful essay about his collection of Fréjus post cards. It provides many memories of our Sister City and notes the fun he and Susan have had in collecting the old cards.

A la prochaine fois, Judy

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dear members, I know due to the pandemic our recruitment of new members has slowed down a bit, but hopefully we will pick back up before too long. And, with that in mind, and for your convenience, I invite you to click on our website, shown at the head of this newsletter, and use the membership application that is there.

Good news: recently our board voted to exempt member dues for 2021 for those members who paid dues in 2020. So, if you paid your dues for 2020, you do not owe dues again until 2022. As usual, any extra donations or contributions to FSCA will be greatly appreciated

Looking forward to future events and participation, I am in the process of forming a membership committee. If you are interested in helping with greeting prospective members and/or are knowledgeable in XCEL spreadsheet date input, please contact me.

Best wishes to everyone to stay healthy and safe. Nancie Lightner, Membership Chair ncblightner2014@yahoo.com
or call me at 434-378-1556

NEWS FROM FRÉJUS



Maryse Rigoulot
Director of Fredericksburg Section

Today, as I prepare this message, and for a little time, I would like to forget Covid 19 and the ferocious battle taking place in America. I want to think of Miss Liberty's 134th anniversary and of the pleasure we would have to see her again.

We are with you in spirit as we share this video of our first two Thanksgiving events – first at the King George home of Marjorie and Garnet Strothers and then our first Thanksgiving celebration in Fréjus: <http://vimeo.com/190347534>

I am also attaching a link to a nice programme about Fréjus. It lasts about 25 minutes and I thought that it could be interesting for all those who know/ love Fréjus. It could also be used by French teachers:

<https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur/emissions/chroniques-mediterraneennes>



Collecting Frejus

Shared by Bill Beck

My introduction to this Sister City Association came twenty years ago when we were celebrating the 20th anniversary of our twinning with Fréjus. To tell this story I'll have to admit that I was the Mayor of Fredericksburg at the time. Everyone involved was making a valiant effort to teach me about France along with the incredible undertaking of producing our first ever Giant Omelet festival. The omelet was an astounding success and I became almost proficient at saying "bienvenue à Fredericksburg". The Mayor of Fréjus at that time, Elie Brun, was among the group of 50 French visitors who had come to celebrate the anniversary and help with the Giant Omelet. At one of our public meetings that week Mayor Brun presented me with a wonderful framed collection of early 1900's post cards from Fréjus. I realized then that someone had tipped him off about my love for interesting little bits of history. The collection included old images of the Villa Aurellian, the aqueduct and the Roman Arena along with many other places that seemed ancient, beautiful and fascinating, but that I knew nothing about. Those old post card images, along with meeting lots of wonderful French people, whetted my appetite to learn more about our Sister City. Two years passed before Susan and I were able to make our first visit to Fréjus. We flew from Dulles to London, to Nice and arrived in Fréjus in time for an informal, but still magnificent dinner that had been prepared for us at the Villa Aurellian. Finally I could see the great Palladian house that I knew from our post card collection. We were staying the week in the guest suite at the Villa and the next morning, our first morning in France, after breakfast, Susan and I walked down through the gardens.



I thought the giant aloe plants were astonishing and then..... we came upon the Roman aqueduct, two thousand years old and looking as it did in my 100-year-old post card. I was enchanted.



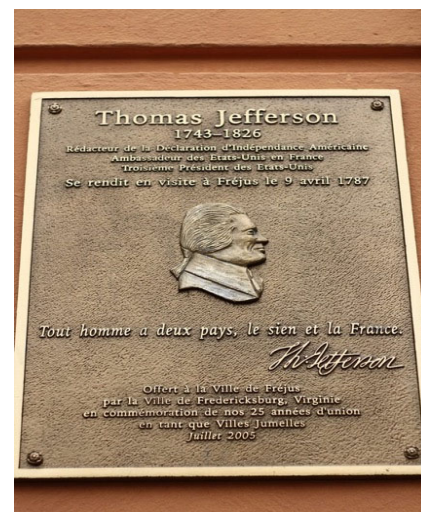
Continued next page

Later that day we were taken on a short tour of the town that included a visit to the Roman Arena, another of the sites in the post card collection. Our love affair with Fréjus had begun.

That was all eighteen years ago. We have been back to Fréjus, though not as often as we would like, and have visited a few other places in France. Ever since that first trip we have kept our eyes open for things that remind us of France and have added Fréjus post cards to our collection occasionally. But, this being 2020, a year that will certainly go in the history books under some dismal title, we are not going anywhere. Staying home all these months has given us plenty of time to organize our collection, always reminiscing about our trips, and think about filling the gaps. As much as I hate to admit it, the internet, particularly eBay, has been a delightful diversion. It's really become an entertaining way to be reminded of all the fun we've had on past trips. I've set my eBay account to notify me when anything with "Fréjus" in the title is listed. That means that almost every morning there is an email with some little bit that will elicit a happy memory. [There is also an Italian bicycle company of the same name, so I keep one finger on the delete key] Most days we just look, but often enough we will click "buy". Then in a week or two we will get a little package, usually from France, occasionally from Britain and sometimes from less expected places like Croatia. When we get the cards, if they have been used, it is always fun to read the notes from years ago. A hundred years ago, whether it was in English or French it seems that most of the notes were a close approximation of "having a great time, wish you were here". Some things never change. There are a few post card sellers we have bought from several times and they often add a little thank-you note and once even an extra card. I continue to be amazed that we can buy and have these interesting little bits of history delivered from Europe for the price of a glass of iced tea in Paris. We are just hoping that this pandemic is over long before our post card album fills up. In the meantime, enjoy a few more of my antique post cards - remember the scenes you have seen in Fréjus or the ones you will see someday when you visit our Sister City in France.



More photographs – next page



Fréjus Hotel de Ville – where our gift to our Sister city “The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Plaque” now resides. It commemorates Jefferson’s visit to Fréjus on April 9, 1787.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



Remembering the good times. With hope that What is Past is Prologue 2005

July–November 2005 Celebration of the 25th Anniversary began in July when fifty [50] adults and twenty [20] students traveled to Fréjus for a ten day celebration. FSCA presented Fréjus with a bronze plaque noting the visit of Thomas Jefferson to Fréjus in 1797(See photo above) and commemorating our anniversary. Fréjus presented the city of Fredericksburg with an artistically designed sundial.



More events – more photos – next page



Eight Fredericksburg artists presented an exhibitions of art during the celebration.. The Theme” Fredericksburg....Timeless”



“Fredericksburg ...Timeless”

Artists: Left-right: Steve Beauch, Joan Beauch, Mike Rodrigue, A.C. Whitley, Tonya Wasser, Phyllis Whitley, Cathy Herndon and Betsy Rodrigue

More photos of this extraordinary anniversary celebration on the next page

The Student group had a wonderful time too:



And more 2005 events on the next page

In November a celebration was held in Fredericksburg for members and friends who did not attend the July event. Mr. Ralph Meima was a special guest. In 1979 Mr. Meima was with the American Consul in Marseilles when he brought a group of French officials to visit the United States. Among the group was François Leotard, Mayor of Fréjus, who was looking for an American Sister City.



25th Anniversary Celebration

Fredericksburg VA - November 2, 2008



YEAR – September 1 2004 – 2005

PRESIDENT	GAIL HOWARD
1 ST VICE PRESIDENT	CATHY HERNDON
2 ND VICE PRESIDENT	MANDY CARR
SECRETARY	LAURA GRISCHARD
TREASURER	FIELDING LEWIS
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More History Highlights in future editions of your newsletter

FSCA DIRECTORS – 2020-2021

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Merci mille fois to all our current Directors who continue to contribute to the success of our organization.

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