



**NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021** Visit us on Facebook: Fredericksburg association (fsca)  
Visit our website: [fredericksburgfrejus.com](http://fredericksburgfrejus.com)

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Bonjour tout le monde,

The FSCA Board of Directors met in February via Zoom, through our recently acquired subscription to this means of holding virtual meetings. Though pandemic restrictions still keep our usual FSCA activities on hold, we look forward to returning to an active program when the situation permits. In the meantime, this month I'd like to feature an activity initiated by Robert Bugno, a longtime member newly appointed to our BOD. **Below is Bob's explanation of his conversation club. Please consider joining this group.**

A la prochaine fois,

*Judy*

Judy Hansen, FSCA President

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### **LE CERCLE FRED Monthly Conversation Club - Robert Bugno**

Did you know that we have had an ongoing French Conversation Club here in Fredericksburg since 2007? We started meeting once a month in small dining establishments, changed to the Public Library as we grew, and later to the Falls Run Community Center where we had more freedom of movement until the Pandemic became a major player in our lives. At the Center, we used their large screen TV for a monthly film in French (always with English subtitles) on the first Thursday of every month at 7 PM. . We continued the Conversational meetings the third Thursday of the month. With the pandemic, for the past year, our participants converted to only the Conversation meetings via ZOOM for both of our scheduled times. Of course, we hope to return to films when we can again meet in public.

I have been sending reminders to over 70 people every month but our group now consists of about a half dozen. We try to speak as much French as we can- no lessons here- but since we have speakers of various levels, we share the conversation with those who need help, which is almost everyone from time to time.

If you would like to join us, please send your name and contact information to me at [RobBugno@gmail.com](mailto:RobBugno@gmail.com) Meeting notices are sent out a few days before each meeting as a reminder. **Please consider joining us.**



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## **UPDATES TO OUR WEB SITE** - Thomas Baer

**Eliza Monroe's Tombstone Story:** <https://fredericksburgfrejus.com/about/in-search-of-eliza-monroe/>

**FSCA Newsletters:** <https://fredericksburgfrejus.com/organization-documents/fsca-newsletters/>

**Student Exchange Program:** <https://fredericksburgfrejus.com/student-exchange-program/>

Please share with friends, former, and potential FSCA members

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## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS** – Nancie Lightner

Dear members, As the Directors voted to exempt member dues for 2021 for those members who paid dues in 2020 I want to remind you any extra donations or contributions to FSCA are always greatly appreciated. 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.

Looking forward to future events and participation, I continue to expand our membership committee. If you are interested in helping with greeting prospective members and/or are knowledgeable in XCEL spreadsheet date input, contact me - Nancie Lightner, Membership Chair [ncblightner2014@yahoo.com](mailto:ncblightner2014@yahoo.com) or call me at 434-378-1556

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## **NEWS FROM FRÉJUS**



**Maryse Rigoulot**  
Director of Fredericksburg Section

It is March already and Spring very soon: usually a time for projects, trip plans, etc. We will have to wait a little more for that ... BUT some people in our city try to maintain cultural and leisure activities for adults and kids , while scrupulously respecting the health recommendations; This is the case for our local library , the “MVM” : Médiathèque Villa Marie . I am all the more happy to mention them as the Guide 2021 you can read here by using the link was designed by my daughter Claire, who is in charge of Communication and Organization of the activities for adults. I hope you will enjoy it. Do not miss page 6 with the photo of our Pecan tree!

[villa-Marie Guide 2021.pdf](#)

The Villa Marie with its park is a special place for us, since we have there the beautiful medallion you gave us in 2015 and the pecan tree we planted to honor a famous Virginian and symbolize our long lasting friendship.

PS: the new Director of the library is Christine Ortuno who visited Fredericksburg a few years ago with Catherine Lecat, the Director at that time and now retired. The photo on the next page dates from January 2020 but, at least, the staff is not wearing masks !!!... Enjoy the photo.





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## **Teaching French during the Pandemic: A Teacher's Perspective**

**Leigh Perret Dowd, NBTC French Teacher, Spotsylvania County**

Wow, what a year it has been! I thought of myself as a highly qualified French teacher. I have a BA in French Language & Literature, a MS in Curriculum and Instruction, and a National Board Teacher Certification. I have over 32 years of teaching experience.

None of this prepared me for what started in March of 2020! The last 9-weeks didn't count (grade-wise), so it wasn't too too stressful. We all thought everything would be back to normal by the following August. But no! We started 100% virtual in August. We switched to Hybrid mid October through December and have been teaching 100% virtual since January 4.

Now, I feel like a first year teacher. I don't know HOW to teach like this! I've been putting in hours and hours trying to figure out all this technology and how to reach my middle school students through a computer monitor. I teach mostly to "red dots." Most of the students will not turn their camera on, so their "picture" comes across as a red dot with their name and SCPS (Spotsylvania County Public Schools). I teach 25 red dots!

Photos and additional information are on the next page.





My home office



Empty classroom



TMS Set up

I have discovered several ways to get them engaged: the chat feature(writing), Pear Deck(an interactive Google Slide Show), Flipgrid (for student-audio recorded responses), Quizlet (for studying new vocab.), Gimkit (vocab. game) and more. These programs have worked well for many students.



SMS Classroom



SMS Classroom – broader view

And then there are the other students, approximately 20% of my students, who are failing French II! This is the highest failure rate I have ever experienced in all my years of teaching! Am I a bad teacher? I refuse to give a passing grade to those students who do nothing! Those students do not complete assignments or attend Google Meets on a regular basis. The reasons are as varied as their personalities. A few reasons include: computer device not working or wifi issues, babysitting for younger siblings, no quiet place to work, no parent support and so on.

Well, it has not been easy. We all know that! I have accepted the situation and do my best to cope. I have learned so much yet there is still so much more to learn! I wonder when we will return safely to teach like old times! I wonder if the students will be emotionally scarred from their lack of social interaction. I wonder if we will teach like we used to a year ago. . .or will technology always play a much larger role in education. This pandemic has changed so many things.





## HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



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

**(Message from your Editor:** When preparing this newsletter I quickly realized that 2015 was an exceptional year. With almost 300 photos in my files of the 35 Anniversary celebration in Fréjus I decided coverage reflecting that exciting visit must be as all encompassing as possible. I hope you enjoy it as I did in preparing it for you.)

### 2015 35<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Fréjus

Plans for the September visit began in late spring when the Jumelage invited our members to participate in two different exhibitions of photographs and art work in Fréjus as part of the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of our twinning. It was an honor to be invited. Works by Fréjus artists were also exhibited.

#### Welcome Reception



Philippe Rigoulot, Jumelage President watches as Mayor Greenlaw and Mayor Rachline sign to reaffirm our twinning



Philippe & Maryse Rigoulot show gift presented to the Mayor and a similar one for them..



Gift from Fréjus to Fredericksburg Shown with young men who Fabricated the sign.

Continued on next page



## 2015 Continues

### Remembering 9/11



Mayor Greenlaw participates in Ceremony with the French officials



Mandy Carr and friends lead everyone singing our National Anthem

### Artists Exhibition at Marche aux puces



Fréjus Western Dancers performed. Note the sign over Tourism office



Art & special made items were abundant.



Phyllis exhibits paintings at the Marche



Sara & Mandy enjoyed the decorations



And others shop the markets

The festivities continue.....

### Invitational Photo Exhibition



Fredericksburg Students exhibiting were: James Monroe - Savannah Brown, Lindsey Haberm, Zachary Cisneros , Samuel Poth Stafford High - Samantha Durant ; Chancellor High - Sophia Horn, Haley Snyder, Myani Grey Colonial Forge - Elizabeth Posey; Fredricksburg Academy - Austin Rapkin  
Brooke Point - Sierra Smizer; and Battlefield High /Haymarket - Jaylin Kimble

And the winners were:



Haley Snyder, Lindsay Durant & Lindsey Haberman

**Fredericksburg Adults** participating in the **Photographer's Exhibition** were:  
Leigh Perret-Dowd, Bob Doud, Bob Bugno, Paulette Bugno, Kelly Cordova, Connie Orgeron, Touggy Orgeron and an Able Friend (– a special gift for Annette)



1<sup>st</sup> Prize “Carl’s Ice Cream in the summer” by Leigh/Bob was recognized too  
Everyone with a photograph in the Exhibition was recognized at the Reception





Maryse Rigoulot presents awards to the Dowds



The Oregons and the Bugnos receive special gifts

## Official Luncheon



Mayor Greenwal thanks our Hosts



Cheers by everyone



FSCA Past Presidents were honored:  
Debby Bouslog, Sara Fartro, Phyllis  
Whitley and Charlie Sieracki

## Pique-nique in the Park



A great buffet luncheon with comfortable  
tables in a delightful setting



Included a play with M Martini & friends with Michel Gras translating  
for Americans. Everyone enjoyed fantastic performances by all.



## Dinner Parties with friends were often (here are photos of just a few)





At the Russo home



the Ollivier's home



and... ? ...who remembers this one?

### Faire la fête avec un thème à porter du blanc was a fun evening.



A warm welcome by friends \* Everyone wore white as requested - & were stunning \* Mandy & Jean-Pierre smile



Descendents of our George Washington? Phyllis says "Cheers to the good guys" Another play for our enjoyment Who are these lovely ladies?

**Giante Omelette Celebration** was a major event that is always held in France in September.



FSCA members who have the honor of being designated **Chevaliers** and helped with this event were: Bob Antozzi, Steve Beauch, Bill Beck, Wilbur Brown, Mandy Carr, Sara Fartro, Cathy Herndon, Alan Howard, Gail Howard, Charlie Sieracki, A.C. Whitley and Phyllis Whitley. Newly inducted as Chevalier were Mayor Mary Catherine Greenlaw, Susan Beck, and Judy Hansen.



Maitre Gerard Ferraoli is ready



The fire is ready



And here comes the bread



Time to crack some eggs



Charlie says count me in.



Virginia Chevaliers with inductees



Time to add the eggs with herbs to the pan



Now everyone stirs, .... and stirs,..... and stirs



And then .....





Mayor Greenlaw pitches in - as do Steve and Joan Beauch and Wilber Brown



Crowd waits with Joan for the omelette- and here it comes

#### : Directors for 2014-2015:

President	Bill Beck	<a href="mailto:bill@becksantiques.com">bill@becksantiques.com</a>
First VP	Leigh Perret-Dowd	<a href="mailto:houndleigh@yahoo.com">houndleigh@yahoo.com</a>
Second VP membership	Mandy Carr	<a href="mailto:monbar123@aol.com">monbar123@aol.com</a>
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Director- SPORTS	Bob Antozzi	<a href="mailto:rantozzi@cox.net">rantozzi@cox.net</a>
Director	Davy Jennings	<a href="mailto:davyjennings@verizon.net">davyjennings@verizon.net</a>
Immed. past president	Cathy Herndon	<a href="mailto:herndoncathy@gmail.com">herndoncathy@gmail.com</a>

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



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ANOTHER SPECIAL TREAT THIS MONTH – **Continued from our February issue:**

## The True Story of the Queen's Necklace

by Clément Thiery - france-amerique.com

Jewelers Boehmer and Bassenge offered their sumptuous necklace to Louis XVI in 1782, but the queen refused on the grounds that it was immeasurably expensive. Madame de La Motte told the cardinal Marie-Antoinette wanted this prize piece, and he agreed to act as an intermediary, negotiating a plan of four payments over two years. The jewelers were delighted to have finally found a buyer and presented the cardinal with the necklace on February 1, 1785. He then handed it over to Madame de La Motte, who promptly disappeared with her accomplices and sold the diamonds abroad. (keep reading – next page)

Boehmer approached Madame Campan, Marie-Antoinette's lady-in-waiting, surprised that he had not received the full payment for the necklace. With that, the affair was discovered. On August 15, 1785, before celebrating mass in the royal chapel, Rohan was arrested in the Hall of Mirrors while the members of the court looked on in astonishment. The cardinal was judged before the Paris Parliament in May 1786. Against all expectations, he was acquitted. Madame de La Motte and her conspirators were arrested and judged in turn, and she was branded with a V for *voleuse* ("thief").

### The Fall of the Queen

Despite her innocence, the queen was painted as the guilty party. The country was gripped by a major financial crisis, with members of parliament and all other high-society figures criticizing the king and his finance minister, Calonne, for wanting to introduce a nationwide tax, even for the rich! They seized upon the necklace affair as a pretext for tarnishing the queen's image, which indirectly weakened the government. Marie-Antoinette was slandered, seen by the people as the instigator of the scandal! She was accused of being a gold digger and having worked to destroy the cardinal she hated. Her unpopularity was at its height and the Revolution began three years later, leading the queen to her tragic demise...

This incredible fraud gave rise to the superb novel by Alexandre Dumas, *The Queen's Necklace*, which went on to inspire Maurice Leblanc's works, a volume in the *Blake and Mortimer* comic book series, and several movie adaptations. The necklace was worn by Hillary Swank in Charles Shyer's 2001 film, *The Affair of the Necklace*, and more recently was featured on a statue at the Met Gala in the heist movie *Ocean's 8*!

In *Lupin*, the auctioneer declares that the queen's necklace disappeared in the "twists and turns of the Revolution" before reappearing on different occasions in the possession of Napoleon, in Russia, in Constantinople, and in the secret treasure room of the Third Reich! The most plausible hypothesis is that the necklace was broken up before its gemstones were sold across Europe and lost forever. However, there are three reproductions still in existence, at Versailles, at the Château de Breteuil southwest of Paris, and in Switzerland, owned by Bassenge's descendants. The original artifact was never found again, but its legend is more alive than ever!

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## **FSCA DIRECTORS – 2021**

*Merci mille fois to all our Directors for agreeing to lead us in 2021*

President – Judith Hansen [judyhansen@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhansen@yahoo.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> VP, Student Exchange – John East [eastjack1@outlook.com](mailto:eastjack1@outlook.com)  
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