

NEWSLETTER – September 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bonjour tout le monde,

As we move into September and the usual change of activities from the summer, we still seem caught in Covid “leftovers.” We’re all watching and waiting for a return to more normal routines soon.

In the meantime, we can pause and remember the events surrounding 9-11, noting Bill Beck’s poignant account with French friends elsewhere in the newsletter.

We anticipate an active Sister City program for 2022 and hope for strong participation from FSCA members. After the long hiatus during the pandemic, we’d like to hear from members with ideas for interesting activities or those who want to become more active in planning events. Please feel free to indicate your ideas to anyone on the Board of Directors. We look forward to working with you!

A la prochaine fois, *Judy*

Judy Hansen, FSCA President

NEWS FROM FRÉJUS

We have just learned with much sadness the death on August 1, 2021 of Mrs Elisabeth ANDRE at the "Résidence les Jardins de Valescure" in Saint Raphaël where she was living. A memorial service was held in strict privacy in the chapel of the "Home Arménien".

Mrs André was born on 31 May 1945 in Thonon les Bains in Haute Savoie. She had been in charge of the twinning with the City of Fredericksburg since 1980, when she organized the first students’ exchanges between our two cities She was the President of the Comité d’Accueil et de Jumelage from 1997 to 2014. (continued next page)

We will remember her as a hardworking and dedicated person in her duties within our association.

Philippe A. RIGOULOT
Président du Comité d'Accueil et de Jumelage



Mme Andre at the Giant Omelette Event Parade in Fredericksburg in 2000

**A comment from
Mme Guillermin in Fréjus**

I was very sad to learn about the passing of Elisabeth. Apart from the fact that Elisabeth was my friend, it is important to know that the Comité de Jumelage owes her its current structure. Together, we laid the foundation to ensure its survival over time. Elisabeth devoted herself entirely to the Jumelage for many years, despite obstacles which would have discouraged quite a few. She did much more than presiding over the association for a number of years, she gave it a meaning.



**September 11th, 2002 in Fréjus –The First Anniversary of the Day that Changed the World
By Bill Beck**

In September of 2002 Susan and I visited Fréjus for the first time. We were part of a small group, Phyllis and A.C. Whitley and Sara Fartro, there to represent Fredericksburg at the annual Giant Omelet Festival.

The entire visit was filled with unforgettable moments, but the most significant, the one that will be with me forever, was undoubtedly the ceremony to commemorate the tragedy of September 11th. It had been just one year and the



memory of that day was still searing. Nineteen years later I still find that when I try to describe my experience on September 11th, 2002 in Fréjus the words do not come easily.

I have been to my share of Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events and always celebrated the Fourth of July and even witnessed a Boy Scout flag retirement ceremony, but I have never seen, and really felt, the degree of affection, and real respect, for my country that was there in the south of France that day.

We had just seen our agenda a day or two earlier with a listing for a memorial ceremony on the morning of the 11th at the Fréjus veteran's monument. That listing did not begin to prepare me for the sight of a town square and a tall stone monument festooned with American flags and long rows of uniformed first responders, firemen and police officers from Fréjus and other towns from Marseilles to Menton, and French citizens, young and old, waving our Stars and Stripes.



Of course the Mayor of Fréjus led the ceremony, but he had invited the leaders of all the local religious organizations. The Catholic priest, the Rabbi, the Imam and the group of Buddhist Monks all in their turn and in their own ways offered prayers and expressions of peace and solidarity.



The Mayor asked me to speak as the representative of the Americans. I cannot honestly remember what I said, hopefully something about America's dedication to religious liberty and equality and certainly thanks and appreciation to France for being our first and oldest ally, the one without whom we would not have won independence. I do remember that I finished by saying that, to me, there were no more American words than
Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité.



As the ceremony closed and the crowd began to disperse, two older gentlemen, certainly of the World War II generation and wearing hats with military insignia, came up to me. Each one shook my hand and, I suspect using their only English words, said “thank you, thank you.” Following those gentlemen a young girl, wearing an American flag sweater and a small gold Star of David, looked up at me and said “I love America.” I could only say “thank you, thank you.”



These three photos from the Nice Matin newspaper

Additional information next page



In closing this remembrance I share with you the following as reported in the Nice Matin newspaper that day.



Des drapeaux et des larmes

Unis dans le recueillement, portant drapeaux américains, fleurs ou photos de disparus, certains en pleurs, les Américains ont commémoré à New York, Washington et en Pennsylvanie, les attentats du 11 septembre 2001, sur fond de crainte de nouvelles attaques. Le président George W. Bush leur a promis de « gagner la guerre contre le terrorisme ». A Paris, Jacques Chirac a réaffirmé la solidarité de la France. (Photo AFP)

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Maryse Rigoulot
Director of Fredericksburg Section

NEWS FROM FRÉJUS

Dear friends,

For our Jumelage members, September is a time for remembrance but also for the return of associative activities. We have three very important dates:



- * September 5th: Our annual "Association fair" where the Comité de jumelage keeps a stand at the Base Nature to present our 5 Sister Cities plus the Confrérie of the Giant Omelette.
- * September 11th & 12th : The Giant Omelette in Saint Aygulf.
- * September 11th: The commemoration of 9/11

Of course, we will make the latter special this year. I will share details and photos of this event in a future newsletter. Meanwhile, I join the invitation or poster; No need to say we wish you were here with us! Bien amicalement, Maryse Rigoulot



David RACHLINE
Maire de Fréjus

Philippe A. RIGOULOT
Président du C.A.J

INVITATION

Le samedi 11 septembre 2021 à 10 heures
Dans les Jardins de la Villa Marie

Nous nous associerons par la pensée à nos amis de FREDERIKSBURG en Virginie U.S.A
pour commémorer le 20^e Anniversaire des tragiques attentats du 11 septembre 2001

Une jardinière de fleurs symbolisant le souvenir sera déposée

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

While there have not been many online SCI Global Awareness Roundtables mid Summer the SCI GATeam is ramping up for a busy Fall. See below for the GAT Zoom online Roundtables an event that might be of interest to FSCA members:

September 20, Monday, 2:00pm EDT - France

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84835399762?pwd=TmUzcHRPSHk5RVlrRCtIWDdBYWtWZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 3539 9762. PW: 857480 Country Rep: mary@palko.me

FSCA DIRECTORS – 2021

Merci mille fois to all our Directors who continue to lead us in 2021

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