

**NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2022** Visit us on Facebook: Fredericksburg association (fsca)  
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**IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOLLOW THE PROFILES \* CHECK THEM OUT**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Bonne année à tout le monde! -- Happy new year to everyone! As you know, in November at our Annual Membership meeting we elected a new Board of Directors. In this issue of our newsletter we're asking each of them to introduce themselves and tell you something about whom they are and their relationship to Fréjus and FSCA. I will begin with a bit about me:



I've been a member of FSCA for at least 20 years; my first (and only) visit to Fréjus was in 2002, when my family and I were welcomed by the Jumelage and put in contact with Chérine Gébara of the Fréjus museum and heritage administration. Since then I had Chérine visit Fredericksburg twice to give talks (co-sponsored by my dept at UMW) on the history of the Roman port at Fréjus. My connection to France prior to FSCA: I studied in Paris 1976-1979 for a doctorate in philosophy, and over the years since, I have taught French and courses in French philosophy (in both English and French) at UMW. I retired from the Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion in 2021, after 35 years.

My wife Wendy, and I have lived in downtown Fredericksburg since 1991; we have four grandchildren (two in Charlottesville, two in Cleveland) and our youngest son is pursuing his PhD in Geology at University of California at Davis. He studied French at Amherst and spent a year in Morocco teaching English to Francophone college students (Fulbright fellowship). I enjoy cooking, baking my own baguettes, and making French dishes like cassoulet, blanchette de veau, and crepes.

I am looking forward to post-Covid times when FSCA can sponsor our usual events again, like mardi gras and Bastille Day. I am hoping that this spring we can have a party to celebrate our outgoing President, Judy Hansen for the great work she's done, as well as some of our founding members, including Phyllis Whitely, our newsletter editor. We're keeping our fingers crossed that in September this year we can host visitors from Fréjus to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Sister City relationship --delayed by two years so far by the pandemic. Also, this is the year we would, in principle, host high school students from Fréjus, but at the moment it's too early to know what the chances of that working out will be. **Craig Vasey – President** [cvasey@umw.edu](mailto:cvasey@umw.edu)

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## **ADDITIONAL FSCA DIRECTORS elected for 2022-2023**

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



It started in the Spring of 1998 when I first met Virginia (Ginny) Bingel (later to be Ginny East). Ginny was a member of our Fréjus Sister City Program. In 1997 Ginny and her daughter Kristen went with the American students to Paris and Fréjus. In 2003, Ginny, her daughter Katie, and I went with then FSCA President Debbie Bouslog and her group of students to Paris and Fréjus. That was my first visit to Fréjus, but not my first trip to France. Since then Ginny and I have been involved with many Sister Cities activities. I am currently responsible for our Student Exchange Programs .

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership – Nancie Lightner** [ncblightner2014@yahoo.com](mailto:ncblightner2014@yahoo.com)



As a Fredericksburg native, I have always been interested in our clubs and organizations, so after retiring and returning home, my dear friend Mandy Carr invited me to attend some of the Fréjus activities. I had such an enjoyable time and reconnected with so many people that the rest as they say is history.

Personally, I started off in college as a French major, but due to a college transfer I became an English major, but never losing my love of the French language and culture. I was a teacher for 18 years and a school administrator for another 18 years, my last job in Sussex, VA. I am married 50 years to Jeffrey K. Lightner, MD

We have 5 children and 5 grandchildren who gave us an amazing anniversary celebration this past August. I love Fredericksburg, and I love the fact that we have good friends and alliances in Fréjus & that we continue to spread good will between our countries.

**Secretary – Moriah Webster** [mlweb@vt.edu](mailto:mlweb@vt.edu)



Bonjour! I am a Fredericksburg native and middle school French teacher in Hanover County. I joined the board in 2020 after being a student host in the summers of '08 and '10 and as an exchange student on the 2009 summer student exchange trip program. Favorite memories in Fréjus include: swimming in the gorgeous Mediterranean; learning, playing, and losing atrociously at pétanque; touring Fragonard in Grasse and La Maison du du Chocolat in Roquebrune; exploring the Château of Versailles; and taking in the magical sites in Paris despite temperatures in

the sweltering summer heat! [Moriah publishes our Newsletters & Notices.]

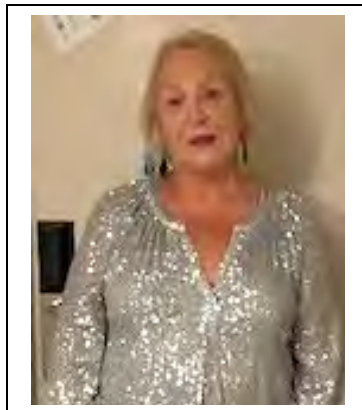
**Treasurer – Wilbur Brown** [wbrow53399@aol.com](mailto:wbrow53399@aol.com)



I have been a long-time Sister City member, and I now serve as Treasurer. I work as the Management Specialist for the Department of Environmental Services Division for the Arlington County Water Pollution Control Facility. I am a native from the Fredericksburg area. I hold a BS degree from North Carolina Central University in Biology. I have served on several boards, Virginia Water Environment Association, and Harambee 360 Experimental Theatre, Inc. and was past board member of Fredericksburg Sister City (Ghana). My family and I have hosted student exchange guests from Fréjus, and our three children (Celeste, Cameron and Savannah) have participated in the exchange traveling to Fréjus. I have previously served as Membership Chair and Historian.

[Wilbur is Sister City's traditional bartender/wine steward, and also photographs Sister City events to document the activities of the association].

**Public Relations - Mandy Carr** [monbar123@aol.com](mailto:monbar123@aol.com)



I was a music teacher at James Monroe High School for 32 years. I have been on the FSCA Board for many years, serving as an officer and board member. I joined FSCA the first year it began because of the travel opportunities. So many other wonderful things happened as well. I was asked to bring some music students on the first exchange along with the American students studying French. The Fréjus journey began. I have stayed with 'The Gras' on my numerous visits. Their children were toddlers when I visited in the 80's. Now I have met their toddler grandchildren. Wonderful friendships with them and many people from Fréjus. The most memorable moment was a private visit with Princess Grace of Monaco, aka Grace Kelly. This was arranged by the late Elisabeth Andre. I feel honored to perform 'The Star Spangled Banner' at our Sister City Events here and in Fréjus.

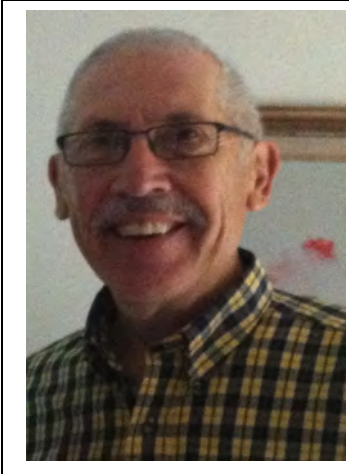
**Thomas Baer – Website** [tfbaer@hotmail.com](mailto:tfbaer@hotmail.com)



I joined the Fredericksburg Sister City Association in 2018, and assumed the responsibilities for the management of the association's website. I have been living in the Fredericksburg area since 1997. I was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador, where my parents (German father, French mother) moved to in 1962. I learned about the FSCA through my children that attended James Monroe HS. We have hosted students twice and our son participated in the exchange in 2017 - he absolutely had one of the best times of his life. I was brought on the board mainly to revamp the FSCA's website. Looking forward to putting the pandemic in the past so that we can start having fun gatherings again, such as for Mardi Gras and Bastille Day.



**Robert Bugno** - [RobBugno@gmail.com](mailto:RobBugno@gmail.com)



Paulette and I moved to FBG in 2006 from Northeastern PA. When we were exploring the downtown area that summer, we noticed the FSCA sign at the Visitor's Bureau and I was immediately hooked. Having been a long-time member of a French Conversation Club in Scranton, I wanted to continue here, and sent out notices in the Free Lance Star and in my Falls Run Community newsletter looking for people to join a conversation group to meet once a month. Le Cercle Fred was born shortly afterward. We were meeting once a month at first, then added a monthly film in French with English subtitles. With the advent of Covid we have instituted monthly Zoom meetings and temporarily eliminated the movies. Prospective members can email me at my email listed above. We meet via ZOOM on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

For my own enjoyment, I play Euphonium (Baritone Horn) with the Fredericksburg Concert Band and have volunteered since 2007 with our church group to cook/serve a monthly meal at the Thurman Brisben Center, a homeless shelter in FBG.

Since joining FSCA, I've had the privilege of not only meeting good adult friends, but also working with students whom I accompanied to Fréjus on one of the summer exchange visits.

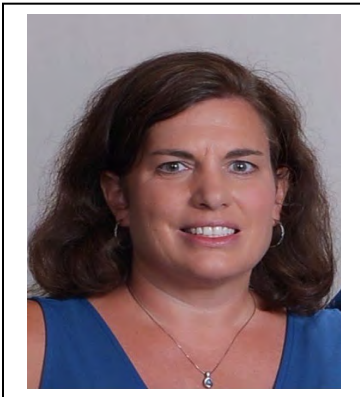
**Carol Butler** – [butlercarolle@gmail.com](mailto:butlercarolle@gmail.com)



Even though I was born in Gordonsville, VA I have lived in the Fredericksburg area for most of my life. I became interested in the organization when I heard my friends Mandy Carr and Nancie Lightner discussing the good times they had attending events. Even though I majored in mathematics in college and taught mathematics for forty years, I took French in both high school and college. I thought being active in Fréjus would be a good way to bring those skills back. I have always wanted to go to France to visit and hope I will be able to do so in the near future.

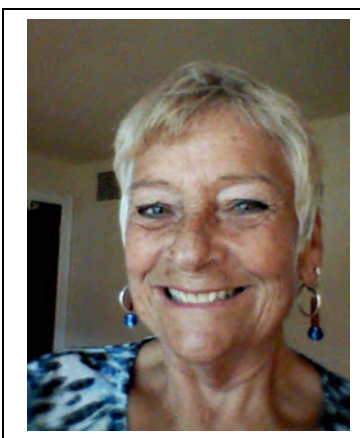
I live in King George. I have done so since I married my husband Marc Butler, who is now deceased. We were married for thirty years. I have two children and three grandchildren. I was an educator in the Fredericksburg area for thirty years, then taught in Maryland the last ten years.

**Brooke DiLauro** Liaison University of Mary Washington- [bdilauro@umw.edu](mailto:bdilauro@umw.edu)



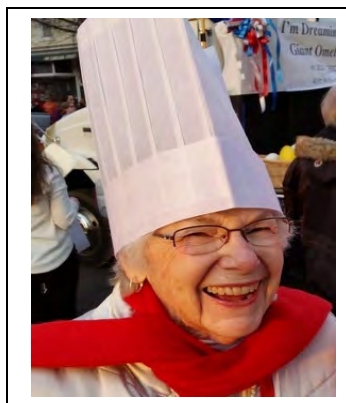
I began studying French in first grade and fell in love shortly thereafter. I have been a professor of French at the University of Mary Washington University since 2006. In addition to teaching courses on French literature, and culture, I lead a month-long study abroad program in Aix-en-Provence and Paris every summer.

**Cathy Herndon** - [herndoncathy@gmail.com](mailto:herndoncathy@gmail.com)



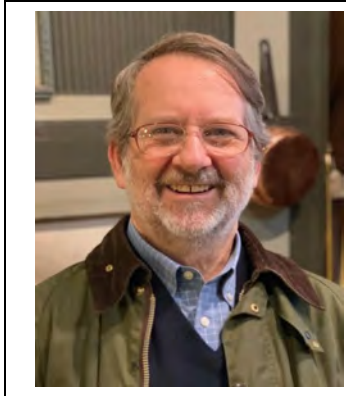
I am a retired art teacher with a long and distinguished career in local schools and UMW. I continue to have an active art life, participating in numerous arts groups and frequently debuting new works. I am a long-time member of Sister City, have exhibited my artwork in a one person show in Fréjus, and maintain close relationships with many Fréjus Sister City participants. I have been to France many times, and have hosted adults, as well as served as chaperone/host on numerous trips and excursions. I was awarded the Virginia Middle School Art Teacher of the Year, and has received numerous grants for study and arts production, including a Fulbright Fellowship to Japan, and a Virginia Commission for the Arts grant to produce art in France. I continue to support Sister City activities.

**Judith Hansen – Ex-officio - Immediate Past President** [judyhansen@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhansen@yahoo.com)



From my first day in high school Latin class, I loved the study of language--even more when I added two years of French. In college, I majored in French, had a minor in Latin, and volunteered in the excellent elementary French program of the Richmond City Schools, resulting in my first job as a French teacher in four of those elementary schools. After coming to Fredericksburg and teaching English for several years, a position in French became available. I soon joined FSCA and first visited Fréjus as a chaperone in the Sister City student exchange program, then returning to Fréjus several times in subsequent years. In addition, we have often hosted Fréjusiens and always gained much in both language and culture during these exchange visits. As FSCA secretary and president over the years, I have made many friends and helped to promote the benefits of cultural understanding that such a program provides for both students and teachers.

**Bill Beck - Ex-officio - Anniversary Advisor** [bill@becksantiques.com](mailto:bill@becksantiques.com)



I served from 2000-2004 as mayor of Fredericksburg. I have been a full time self-employed antiques dealer for 40 years. I have sold important objects to the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, The Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, The Valentine Museum, Colonial Williamsburg and numerous private collectors. I am a lifelong Fredericksburg resident and product of the City's public schools. I have served on the boards of a number of community organizations including the Fredericksburg Architectural Review Board, Our Town Fredericksburg (the Main Street organization), The Downtown Merchants Association, Historic Fredericksburg Foundation (4 years as President), The Preservation Alliance of Virginia, The Central Rappahannock Heritage Center, and The Fredericksburg Committee for The Virginia Statute For Religious Freedom. I credit FSCA and the connection with France for enormously increasing my understanding and appreciation of the French influence on American decorative arts and America's philosophy of government. I was President of our association for the years 2014-2017 And, it is a lot of fun!

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**NEWS FROM FRÉJUS**



**Maryse Rigoulot**  
Director of Fredericksburg Section

***New Year's Greetings to our friends in Fredericksburg***



Hôtel de Ville place Formigé - 04 94 17 67 30 - c.jumelage@ville-frejus.fr  
Facebook : Comité d'Accueil et de Jumelage de Fréjus

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**NEWS UPDATES**

***Membership dues are due now:*** Member dues were exempted for 2021 for those members who paid dues in 2020. **Beginning in January we will be collecting dues for 2022.** Any extra donations or contributions to FSCA are always greatly appreciated. Just go to our website, [fredericksburgfrejus.com](http://fredericksburgfrejus.com) and use the membership application that is there to pay dues and to make any donations. Hopefully this pandemic will be over soon, and we will need to gear up for student and adult visitors from Fréjus. Nancie Lightner, Membership Chairwoman, Chair [ncblightner2014@yahoo.com](mailto:ncblightner2014@yahoo.com) or call me at 434-378-1556 [more on next page]



## Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming events:

**April 2, 2022 - Virginia Sister Cities state-wide meeting on Saturday, 02 April 2022, from 10am-3pm EST.** While we are going to attempt an in-person meeting in Newport News' new Sister Cities offices, we will also host a concurrent virtual program via Zoom, for all of you who might not be able to travel to Newport News. **From Fred Blanton SCI State Representative – Virginia** Staunton, VA [fredbsta@gmail.com](mailto:fredbsta@gmail.com) 314-267-2829

**Newsletter Editor/Publisher needed: Effective immediately** - We are looking for someone to take over the compiling our newsletters. Please contact Craig Vasey – FSCA President [cvasey@umw.edu](mailto:cvasey@umw.edu) if you are interested in applying for this fun job.

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### **FSCA DIRECTORS elected for 2022-2023**

President – Craig Vasey [cvasey@umw.edu](mailto:cvasey@umw.edu)  
1<sup>st</sup> VP, Student Exchange – John East [eastjack1@outlook.com](mailto:eastjack1@outlook.com)  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership – Nancie Lightner [ncblightner2014@yahoo.com](mailto:ncblightner2014@yahoo.com)  
Secretary – Moriah Webster [mlweb@vt.edu](mailto:mlweb@vt.edu)  
Treasurer – Wilbur Brown [wbrow53399@aol.com](mailto:wbrow53399@aol.com)  
Public Relations - Mandy Carr [monbar123@aol.com](mailto:monbar123@aol.com)  
Thomas Baer – Website [tfbaer@hotmail.com](mailto:tfbaer@hotmail.com)  
Robert Bugno - [RobBugno@gmail.com](mailto:RobBugno@gmail.com)  
Carol Butler – [butlercarolle@gmail.com](mailto:butlercarolle@gmail.com)  
Brooke DiLauro - [bdilauro@umw.edu](mailto:bdilauro@umw.edu)  
Cathy Herndon - [herndoncathy@gmail.com](mailto:herndoncathy@gmail.com)  
Judith Hansen – Ex-officio - Immediate Past President [judyhansen@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhansen@yahoo.com)  
Bill Beck - Ex-officio - Anniversary Advisor [bill@becksantiques.com](mailto:bill@becksantiques.com)

Newsletter Editor: Phyllis C. Whitley [acpcw1@gmail.com](mailto:acpcw1@gmail.com) / 540-786 -7010 *I accept credit for any error in this newsletter*

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*Note from your present editor: When Roy Kissinger left I offered to compile & publish our newsletter. Little did I know the Pandemic would descend upon us and that there would be little news to report. After discussing the situation with our President, Judy Hansen, we decide to continue the newsletter just to remind folks we are still here and we will be back in full swing soon. Thus the series of “History Highlights” was initiated.*

*I have covered our wonderful years from 1979, when we were just a thought in someone’s mind, through all the event filled years up to 2021 and have enjoyed compiling every one of the issues. I appreciate all input from many of you, the nice emails and comments.*

*Now it is time for me to move on to other projects that are waiting on my computer to be completed, including a Historical Novel (a first for me)*

*Keep on keepin’ on. And be safe out there.*

*Phyllis*