



# FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

## FSRA NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

<http://www.foreignservicereetireassociation.org>

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – SAFETY HARBOR RESORT AND SPA

Please join us for the FSRA lunch on Friday, September 20 in the Athena Room at the historic **Safety Harbor Resort and Spa** located at 105 North Bayshore Drive, Safety Harbor. There will be a social hour at 11am (with a cash bar) prior to the lunch at 12pm. Safety Harbor is located on Tampa Bay about seven miles east of Clearwater. The original hotel, built in 1926, is Florida's only Natural Mineral Spa. It was built over a spring discovered by Spanish Explorer Hernando De Soto who believed it to be the Fountain of Youth. Safety Harbor is a quaint *old Florida* small town with numerous local restaurants, bars and shops. Our special thanks to **Wayne Rychak** for organizing this first event of our 2019/2020 season.

**OUR SPEAKER IS MAYA BURKE**, Science Policy Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP). Maya manages habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects, facilitates working groups, and distills Tampa Bay-specific research for a broader audience. She is a member of the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel and co-author of the Recommended Projection of Sea Level Rise for the Tampa Bay Region. She has spent 15 years working in water resource management, regulatory compliance, land acquisition, and environmental land use planning. Prior to working at the Estuary Program, Maya coordinated the Agency on Bay Management and the ONE BAY Resilient Communities Working Group for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and worked for the Southwest Florida Water Management District. She is a graduate of New College of FL (Political Science and Environmental Studies, 2005) and a native Floridian.



Ms. Burke's topic of discussion is "*Sea Change: Climate, Collaboration, and Tampa Bay.*" The Tampa Bay area has decades of experience demonstrating the power of regionalism and cooperation to address seemingly insurmountable environmental problems. Is climate change a different beast? Maya will recount the lessons-learned from realizing environmental recovery goals in an urbanized estuary that may also be instructive for tackling the "wicked" problem of climate change. She will describe how local ecosystems are responding to climate stressors and what resource managers are doing to protect people, property, and quality of life. She will also provide an overview of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition and offer a summary of the recently updated Recommended Projection of Sea Level Rise for the Tampa Bay Region.



### HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Safety Harbor Resort and Spa is providing a special rate of \$119 + tax for their signature room and \$149 + tax for a Bay View room with balcony. The normal

#### FSRA Board of Directors

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#### **The Foreign Service Retirees**

**Association** is a non-profit organization, formalized in 1982, designed to enhance the camaraderie and friendship of members and guests. Anyone who has served overseas as a representative of a U.S. government agency, including a branch of the Armed Services or Peace Corps, is welcome to join.

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**AFSA** – AFSA encourages retired FS personnel to let your Congressional Representatives know what you think about the proposed cuts to the State Department and USAID budgets, and to thank them for the things they do support. <http://afsa.org/>

resort fees are being waived. Contact the resort at (727) 726-1161, Ext 7100 for reservations and request the special *Foreign Service Retiree Association rate*. The resort will honor these rates for extra night stays before and after the luncheon date. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, August 20 to ensure availability. Special rates will be honored after this date if rooms are still available. The hotel is managed by the Trademark Collection by Wyndham.

**DIRECTIONS** The Resort is located in downtown Safety Harbor, 20 miles north of St Petersburg; between Tampa (20 miles to the east) and Clearwater (7 miles to the west). From Tampa International Airport, take FL60 west across the Courtney Campbell Causeway following signs to Clearwater. At the end of the causeway, turn right onto South Bayshore Blvd and follow 2.5 miles to the hotel on the right.



### OTHER LODGING OPTIONS IN THE AREA

1. *Fairfield Inn & Suites Clearwater*, 3070 Gulf to Bay Blvd, Clearwater (727) 724-6223 (2.8 miles south)
2. *Hampton Inn Tampa/Northwest/Oldsmar*, 4017 Tampa Rd, Oldsmar (813) 818-7207 (5.7 miles north)
3. *Courtyard by Marriott Tampa Oldsmar*, 4014 Tampa Rd, Oldsmar (813) 925-8887 (5.6 miles north)

**WELCOME RECEPTION** Please join us for a welcome reception in the *Bar Fly Grill* located directly across the street from the entrance to the hotel. An area to the left of the bar will be reserved for FSRA participants. The reception will be from 5pm-7pm on Thursday, September 19. There will be a cash bar with food available for purchase.

**FSRA BOARD MEETING** The FSRA Officers and Board of Advisors will meet Friday, September 20 from 10:00-11:00 am in the Hotel's Cypress Room. Water and coffee will be available.

**SOCIAL HOUR** Join us on Fri. September 20 from 11:00-12:00 noon in the Athena Room at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. There will be a cash bar.

**LUNCH MENU OPTIONS** The Resort is offering a choice of three entrees. All lunch entrees are served with salad, bread and iced tea or water. Dessert and coffee are included.

- Vegetable Wellington
- Herb Crusted Tilapia with Mustard Chives Sauce
- Rodney's Crispy Garlic Parmesan Chicken

**TO MAKE LUNCH RESERVATIONS** Please see the reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter to select lunch options and for payment and mail-in information. Indicate food allergies or special requirements on the form. Direct all inquiries concerning lunch reservations to Ellen Engels (FSRA Vice-Chair). Ellen's contact information is on the reservation form. The price is \$36 per person. The deadline for lunch reservations is Friday, September 6.

### **FSRA ANNUAL DUES**

**\$20 for singles**  
**\$30 for couples**

### **FSRA RENEWALS ARE PAYABLE JANUARY 31!**

For new member applications, member dues, member address and email changes, contact: **Chris Swenson** at 239-495-6739, or by email: [chswenson@embarqmail.com](mailto:chswenson@embarqmail.com)

The New Member & Renewal Form, along with the latest newsletter is always available on the FSRA website:

<http://www.foreignserviceretireeassociation.org/index.html>

Please send any comments or suggestions for the FSRA newsletter or website to: **Marian Walsh** 941-483-0803 or [mvanwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:mvanwalsh@gmail.com)

### **WONDERING WHERE FUTURE FSRA EVENTS WILL BE?**

Are you thinking it would be great to have a FSRA lunch in your Florida hometown? We need members to suggest venues and speakers. As a local, you're the best person to suggest a location. For more information, contact Ellen Connor Engels, FSRA Board Vice-Chair, by email: [engelsec@hotmail.com](mailto:engelsec@hotmail.com) or by phone 703-785-0614.

**USEFUL WEB LINKS** Haven't read the latest **FS Journal**?

<http://afsa.org/afsa-publications-resources>

How about **State Magazine**?  
<https://www.state.gov/resources-bureau-of-human-resources/#statemag>

## PLACES OF INTEREST IN SAFETY HARBOR, TAMPA BAY AREA



**Philippe Park** – located 2 miles north of the hotel, this lovely waterfront park is named after Count Oder Philippe, credited with introducing grapefruit to Florida. Philippe was the county's first non-native settler arriving in 1842. The park was once part of his plantation. A large Tocobaga Indian Temple Mound is located in the park.

**Honeymoon Island State Park** – located 13 miles northwest in Dunedin. This undeveloped and natural barrier island offers 5 mi of beaches, 3.5 mi of hiking trails & a nature center. Nearby Caladesi Island can be visited by ferry leaving from the park. Downtown **Dunedin** is picturesque and worth a visit.

**Tarpon Springs/sponge dock** – located 14 miles to the north, Tarpon springs is a popular tourist destination loaded with Greek restaurants and markets, shops, charter fishing and interesting sights.

### FROM MICHAEL BOORSTEIN, FSRA CHAIR

Dear FSRA Members: I hope you're all having a good summer and are looking forward to the FSRA fall season of events and activities. As outlined in this newsletter, our September meeting will take place on **September 20 in Safety Harbor**. Wayne Rychak, the event coordinator, has confirmed a great hotel and spa at reasonable rates and an excellent speaker has been lined up. Looking ahead, plans are being made for our **November 8 meeting in Miami** thanks to John Curry. Details on the hotel and speaker for the Miami lunch will be posted on the website when available. I look forward to seeing you in September in Safety Harbor!

**AFSA NEWS** The June AFSA Retiree Newsletter is now available. Go to <http://afsa.org/retiree-newsletter> and click on June 2019 newsletter. AFSA is looking for your feedback on the following topic:

*Do You Have a Seasonal Address?* AFSA is considering adding a new feature to the AFSA Retiree Directory, which would display the seasonal addresses of those members who have them. Before we embark on this project, we would like to gauge the interest of our members in this option so that we know what to expect in terms of workload and resources. If you would like this feature to be added to the AFSA Retiree Directory, let us know at [retiree@afsa.org](mailto:retiree@afsa.org). No need to send us an address yet; just let us know if you would find this useful.

**PALM COAST LUNCH PHOTOS** Thanks to Adelet Kegley, we have photos from the May lunch in Palm Coast. This link will be available through August if you would like to view or download photos.

[https://1drv.ms/u/s!As5pP26bVgypgr0X\\_K0r9L5W2HB5aA?e=fU7CAC](https://1drv.ms/u/s!As5pP26bVgypgr0X_K0r9L5W2HB5aA?e=fU7CAC)

### NOTES FROM THE SPEAKER – PALM COAST, MAY 10, 2019

J. Philip Craiger, PhD., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach): Cybersecurity: Nation-State Threat Actors & Threats to Business

Malicious actors and acts threaten the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information and systems worldwide through technical and non-technical means. Consumers would be prudent to protect themselves

### NEW FSRA MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Michele M. **BOVA** of St. Augustine (STATE); served in Spain, Peru, Costa Rica, Egypt and Dominican Republic.

Mattie R. **HARMS** of St. Augustine (PCV) served in Niger; (STATE) served in Haiti, Mali, Senegal, Chad, and Congo DRC.

Doris Giles **McMAHON** of Palm Coast; Peace Corps service with Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Patrick Timothy **WALL** & Amelyn **BACALSO** of Ormond Beach (FCS); served in D.C., Panama, UAE, Philippines, Ho Chi Minh City, Sydney and Buenos Aires.

Daniel and Rebecca **YOUNG** of Sarasota (STATE); served in Jeddah, Taiwan, Brussels, Kinshasa, Port-of-Spain, Beijing, Cairo, Lima, Algiers and Paris.

### AFSA RETIREE OUTREACH

Christine Miele is the AFSA Retiree Outreach Coordinator. She engages with Foreign Service Retiree Associations and supports the work FSRA does locally to share the story of the Foreign Service. Her contact info is available at: <http://www.afsa.org/outreach>

### FOREIGN SERVICE RESOURCES

See this section of the AFSA website for online resources on a variety of subjects that may be of interest to the Foreign Service community: <http://www.afsa.org/online-fs-resources>

against such attacks. Malicious actors include nation-states (Russia and China lead the pack), third parties, and criminals. Motives differ but all seek to disrupt, sabotage or steal data and/or monies. A prudent response is to understand threats and put in place a plan to protect assets.

The FBI identifies the biggest cyber threats as: ransomware, the Internet of Things (IoT) and compromised emails. Ways you can be harmed include: denied availability of critical data and systems (eg: city of Atlanta, city of Baltimore, Wanna Cry attack and hospital systems). A spear phishing email prompts a victim to interact with it, causing the malware to activate and encrypt data on the victim's system, rendering the system unusable and subject to blackmail to obtain the key to disencrypt.

**IoT:** The network of physical devices with interconnectivity to the internet grows exponentially and can cause worldwide disruptions (eg: Mirai botnet). Critical infrastructure can be put at risk.

*The remedy:* Pay attention and be slow to click on attachments. Be paranoid! Specifically: Backup critical data; update personal software, hardware and applications; use long, complex passwords and a password manager; use two-factor authentication for log-ins.

*Other suggested mitigation strategies:* use anti-malware software and browser security plugins; never divulge info via unencrypted websites; open attachments with care; use a timeout lock screen on devices; consider eliminating or reducing one's social media presence; encrypt your hard drive; and use VPN when in an open Wi-Fi environment.

*Submitted by Sue Ford Patrick. Thanks Sue!*

**NEW GIFT IDEAS** Polo shirts with FSRA seal are available through FSRA member Bob Kegley: RAWombat@msn.com (prices range from \$24 - \$27 with seal embroidery plus shipping; XL sizes add \$6). Search for "Port Authority Polo Shirt" for product info and colors at this website: <http://www.unameitapparel.com/shop/>

**Death of an Annuitant:**

*Submitted by Judy Carson*

The following link to the AFSA website offers valuable information that all retirees should have in their estate and/or trust documents (and send onto the executors and successive trustees).

<http://www.afsa.org/death-annuitant>

**Mail-back Coupon for Lunch on Friday, September 20 at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa**

Complete this form & send **PRIOR TO FRI. SEPTEMBER 6, 2019** with a check payable to FSRA of Florida to: Ellen Connor Engels, 230 24th Avenue North, St. Petersburg FL 33704  
Queries? email: [engelsec@hotmail.com](mailto:engelsec@hotmail.com); phone number 703-785-0614.

**\*\*\*YOUR ORDER & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRI. SEPTEMBER 6, 2019\*\*\***

**MEMBER or GUEST**

**LUNCHEON CHOICE (CIRCLE ONE)**

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian – Tilapia – Chicken**  
FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_
2. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian – Tilapia – Chicken**  
FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_
3. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian – Tilapia – Chicken**  
FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

**Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Luncheons @ \$36.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank You!**

I/We plan to gather at 5:00pm for the Welcome Reception in the **BAR FLY GRILL** (directly across the street from the hotel) on Thurs. September 19. Cash bar/food available for purchase. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_