

***LA PAROLE***  
**Newsletter of the Acadian Museum**  
**By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin**  
**Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation, Inc.**  
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- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone else who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: [darylinb@plddo.com](mailto:darylinb@plddo.com). If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.
- **INVITATION TO ALL:** Due to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav we had suspended the "Living Legends" program. The program has resumed and we will honor James "Jim" Trahan tomorrow afternoon, Larry Miller on April 11<sup>th</sup> and Clifford Touchet on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The program begins at 4:00 p.m. at the Museum Café in Erath and includes a Cajun music jam session. Everyone is invited to attend.
- On March 18<sup>th</sup>, we inducted the former Consul Général of France, Nicole Lenoir, into the "Order of Living Legends." A career diplomat, she took a competitive exam to enter the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1968. During her life of public services, she served either at the Quai d'Orsay or abroad in seven different countries, including the United States. Her last nomination as a diplomat was Consul Général of France in New Orleans (1996-1999). In 1999, Louisiana celebrated *FrancoFête '99*, the tricentennial of the founding of the French colony of Louisiana. Ms. Lenoir was very involved and supportive of the event. Lynn Breaux of the Sons of American Revolution, presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation citation.
- Louisiana's bid to host the *Congrès* in 2014 was submitted to the *Société Nationale de l'Acadie* at the end of March, 2009. The announcement of the winning region will be August 9, 2009. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, several people gathered at the home of Louie & Ashley Michot to shoot the final scene of the video that will accompany our bid. The video was prepared Conn Castille and Allison Boh whose documentary, "Rice and Gray", a look at the plate-lunch houses of Acadian, debuted on LPB on March 11. It received excellent reviews.

- The first showing of the 2014 CMA Bid video was on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bluemoon Saloon in Lafayette.
- John Hernandez, III and I attended the Acadian Diaspora Symposium sponsored by the Historic New Orleans Collection. The Francophone Section of the Louisiana Bar Association's Annual Meeting will be held on April 24 during *Festival International de Louisiane* at 4:30 p.m. at the CODOFIL office.
- On March 10 a special luncheon was held of the New Orleans Council for Business Economics and the French-American Chamber of Commerce. For information: (504) 569-3413.
- I recommend the historical novel "Catherine's Cadeau," a marvelous historic novel blending contemporary Nova Scotia and Southwestern Louisiana Cajun country. For more information: Texas Review Press: <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2008/davidson.htm>. Ann Davidson at [annmckinnon2001@yahoo.ca](mailto:annmckinnon2001@yahoo.ca). I am assisting the author on her sequel which will feature *Beausoleil* as one of the characters. "Catherine's Cadeau" is only available as a signed book from stores that carry the book, like Patti's Book Nook in Gueydan (337-536-6600).
- The Acadian Memorial is offering French language studies to adults on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Call (337) 344-2584 for more information.
- Anyone interested in learning to speak French is invited to *Le Pique-Nique* in Lafayette's Girard Park. For more information, call Mike LeBlanc at (337) 261-1002.
- Vermilionville announced that Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole will be playing on Sunday, April 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. for the Lafayette Earth Day Family Festival and on June 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Creole Culture Day.
- The New Orleans International Human Rights Festival will take place from March 25 - April 5. Various locations throughout New Orleans will be hosting films, music and dance performances along with discussions to bring light to human rights issues all over the globe. For more information: <http://patioisfilmfest.org/>
- The Acadian Heritage Week committee recently traveled to Houma to organize a Terrebonne-Lafourche committee. We would like to thank Lauren Ledet and the Main Branch of the Terrebonne Parish Library for welcoming us. The Lafayette committee is meeting this week. Visit the web site at [www.acadianheritage.com](http://www.acadianheritage.com) for more details.
- We had a visit from *Acadie* – New Brunswick to renew ties between Louisiana and New Brunswick. Mirelle Cyr, Assistant Deputy Minister for international relations and the Francophonie, Bernard Thériault, Director of the Prime Minister's Cabinet for the

government of New Brunswick, and Maurice Basque, Director of the Institute for Acadian Studies at the University of Moncton.

- Play coming in May, *Floating Palace*, written by Michelle Benoit and Glen Pitre, a comedic murder mystery aboard a 1920 vaudeville showboat, will world premiere at the Bayou Playhouse, a new regional theater on the waterfront in old Lockport, LA, under the direction of Perry Martin and produced by Karissa Kary. During the play's run, the theater will also host a festival of some of Pitre's films, including rarely seen early works like *La Fievre Jaune* and *Huit Piastres Et Demie* (<http://www.bayouplayhouse.com/id30.html>).
- The Advisory Board of the International High School of New Orleans is conducting a search for a dynamic school leader as the principal of this new school. For more information: [www.wtcno.org/email/ihsno\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.wtcno.org/email/ihsno_brochure.pdf).
- A legislative hearing for the Franco-American K-12 education bill was held on March 16 in Augusta, Maine. For information on the new bi-lingual initiative in Maine, contact Dr. Barry Rodrigue (207) 753-6574.
- Thanks to Priscilla Lawrence of the Historic New Orleans Collection, we are now receiving issues of their wonderful magazine. For more information, (504) 523-4662; [www.hnoc.org](http://www.hnoc.org).
- Last year, I met with Annie Beauregard of the *Musée de la Civilisation* in Quebec who is organizing an exhibit on the migrations of the Francophone people in North America. She would like to include an object from Louisiana which would be a symbolic, characteristic of Louisiana Francophone people dating before 1850. Particularly, she is looking for an object related to sugarcane, rice or cotton cultivation. If anyone has such an object that they would like to loan or donate to the exhibit, please contact me.
- Thanks to Jennifer Fortin, of the North American Minister of Affairs, Quebec government has donated \$1,000 to translate Dr. Shane Bernard's book "Cajuns and Their Acadian Ancestors: Young Readers' History" (originally published in English in April, 2008 by the University Press of Mississippi). The book will be translated by Ms. Faustine Hillard, former employee of CODOFIL. I am acting as escrow agent for the project.
- We were saddened to hear that Mazime Profit, a MICEFA (a consortium of Parisian universities to accept French students and send Louisiana students) student at Southeastern,

was killed by a drunk driver while walking.

- Congratulations to Cécile Arsenault of Prince Edward Island who has taken a position with the Acadian and Francophone Affairs Division as the French Language Services Advisor.
- Clarence LeBreton, Assistant Secretary of the Canadian Department of Tourism and Parks, and C.E.O. of the Historical Acadian Village in New Brunswick, Canada, is happy to announce that the second part of the Historical Acadian Village will officially open on July 1, 2009, Canada's National Day. This new portion of the museum will feature the period between 1880 and 1945. To celebrate this event, the opening ceremony will be accompanied by a concert paying tribute to outstanding Acadian singers from the region, especially Donat Lacroix, Raymond Breau, Calixte Duguay and Edith Butler. Everyone is invited to attend the festivities at the Historical Acadian Village, C.P. 5626, 14 311 route 11, Caraquet (N.-B.) E1W 1B7, Canada.
- Ken Walker, President of the Cajun French Music Association, lauded all of the Chapters for outstanding *Mardi Gras* celebrations. He noted that the membership had dipped in recent years from over 2,000 families to approximately 1,700 families. All Chapters were encouraged to increase their membership in preparation for the *Le Cajun Award and Music Festival* to be held August 21 and 22 in Lafayette.
- Victoria Salisbury, Miles Media Interactive, is the editor of a Louisiana website, LouisianaTravel.com, which will be used to promote Louisiana culture and tourism. We are helping to introduce her to areas of Acadians/Cajun interest in the state and will host her for the filming of a documentary at the Acadian Museum in April. For more information: (917) 596-7343; [Victoria.Salisbury@MilesMedia.com](mailto:Victoria.Salisbury@MilesMedia.com).
- The Historic New Orleans Collection is presenting a film series on "Cajuns on the Silver Screen." The series presented a different film each Sunday in March. The films included "Belizaire the Cajun," by Glenn Pitre (1986) and "Louisiana Story" by J. C. Boudreaux (1948). For more information: [wrc@hnoc.org](mailto:wrc@hnoc.org) or call (504) 523-4662.
- According to founder Bernie David, the "Little Bastille Day" celebration will be held in Folsom on July 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be presentations with music along with a Cajun dance demonstration. For more information, [jbwdavid@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbwdavid@bellsouth.net).
- *Alliance Française de Lafayette* will have French classes Monday - Thursday, various topics, various locations. For information, (337) 261-1002 or [info@aflafayette.org](mailto:info@aflafayette.org).

- Under the direction of Dr. Dana Kress, Centenary College of Louisiana continues to do an excellent job publishing the only French newspaper in Louisiana, *Le Tintamarre*. For more information, (318) 869-5252 or [dkress@centenary.edu](mailto:dkress@centenary.edu).
- Blair Kilpatrick of San Francisco recently published “Accordion Dreams - A Journey into Cajun and Creole Music” (University Press of Mississippi) Call 800-737-7788 to order a copy.
- The Canadian government announced a 1.3 million dollar project that would help to designate Grand Pré a UNESCO world heritage site. For more information: <http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaSoctia/1106884.html>.
- The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society has scheduled their 2009 Annual Spring Genealogy Seminar for April 18 at the Embassy Suites, 2914 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge. For a registration form, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~la!lghs/>.
- Downtown Alive in Lafayette will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with free performances every Friday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.: April 3 - Tab Benoit at Parc International April 17 - Marcia Ball at Parc International and May 8 - Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys with special guest Geno Delafosse.
- Many thanks to Stephane Bergeron of Quebec, member of Parliament of Quebec, who graciously wrote his version of his involvement in obtaining the Queen’s Royal Proclamation of 2003. His paper, along with one written by former President of the SNA, Euclide Chiasson, will be included in the French version of my book, *Une Saga Acadienne* (“Acadian Redemption”), which should be ready for release soon.
- According to Yvon Lanteigne, as part of the *Congrès* in August, 2009, there will be a business promotion which is called *La Route des affaires*. To view a list of those businesses who are participating, visit the website: [www.cma2008.ca](http://www.cma2008.ca) and click on *Affaires*. For more information: (337) 291-5474.
- A new genealogical website in English provides a very exhaustive list of the Acadian web sites. For more information, please, go to <http://www.acadian-home.org/frames.html>
- Thanks to Lynn Boutin, my book “Acadian Redemption” is now available for sale in Baton Rouge at his restaurant, Boutin’s at 8322 Bluebonnet Blvd. The schedule: open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat. And 11 a.m.-9p.m. Sun. He features live Cajun music Wed.-Sat. weekly.
- Our friend from Paris, Thi-Hien Tran, has just released her interesting biography of her early life in North Vietnam during the Vietnam War, her education in communist Poland and harrowing escape to France. For information on purchasing the book, *The Memoirs of a vietnamian woman*, contact Valentine Véron, [valentine.veron@jcgawsewitch.com](mailto:valentine.veron@jcgawsewitch.com) or [jcg.contact@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jcg.contact@wanadoo.fr).

- According to Jean Ouellet, volunteers are needed for *Festival International de Louisiane*. Visit [www.festivalinternational.com](http://www.festivalinternational.com) to sign up as a volunteer.
- There is an interesting article on the cemetery of Grand-Pré written by Sally Ross and Susan Surette Draper. En français : <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nsgrdpre/documents/dossiers/Susan/sallysusan.pdf>. In English you will find it at the top of the sidebar): <http://www.acadian-home.org/frames.html>.
- The LeBlanc family will have a family gathering on March 28 at the Community Facility in Erath Park to discuss attending the *Congrès* in August. For more information: Joseph U. Le Blanc at [LeBlanc-JB@msn.com](mailto:LeBlanc-JB@msn.com).
- The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library has issued its latest issue of *Genealogy News*. For more information on upcoming events: (337) 437-3490 or [www.calcasieu.lib.la.us](http://www.calcasieu.lib.la.us).
- French-American Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Chapter announced a luncheon and presentation is to be held on “The Global Agricultural Outlook: Avoiding Protectionism and a Trade War” on April 6 at the Plimsoll Club, World Trade Center. For more information: [rwilbanks@wtcno.org](mailto:rwilbanks@wtcno.org).
- “Living Legend” Lee Bernard, a french-speaking decorated veteran of WWII who was featured in Pat Mire’s film *Mon Cher Camarade*, will be going to France courtesy of the French government for the anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy.
- During March, French Ambassador Pierre Vimont visited St. Landry Parish celebrating *le mois de la francophonie*, the month chosen by the French-speaking world to celebrate their shared values and cultural diversity. The Ambassador donated 1,000 French books to the French immersion program. The wonderful event was organized by the Honorary Consul General of France Chris Goudeau.
- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Acadian Memorial Festival drew lots of people. Providing entertainment was *Renaissance Cadien*, led by director Natial d’Augereau. The group is available to make presentations. For more information, contact Natial d’Augereau, (337) 898-0685.
- Louis Curet of Baton Rouge and long-time French advocate, was among individuals who attended an event to listen to Secretary of State Jay Dardenne practice talk on the “Top 10 Movies of Louisiana.”
- LPB will honor five outstanding Louisiana natives, including writer of several well-received novels of the Cajun bayous, Ken Wells. The Louisiana Legends Awards Gala ceremony will be a April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Old State Capitol.
- Tim Gautreaux’s latest book “The Missing” received excellent reviews and he was featured in a recent article in *The Advocate* (March 22, 2008, page 3E).

- The U. S. Embassy in Paris is organizing a celebration for CODOFIL's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a concert by Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys on April 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be followed by a conference on Creoles. For more information, contact CODOFIL: 262-5810.
- On October 21, 2006, Gladys Leblanc Clark, an 88-year old master Acadian spinner and weaver from Duson, was inducted into the "Order of Living Legends" of the Acadian Museum. She learned to card and spin by age eight, and perfected these skills in her teens. Over the years she has stressed a commitment to preserving the tradition by demonstrating it to others. She has participated in numerous festivals, showcased her skills at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C., was an Instructor for the Acadian Handicraft Project, and has participated in the Louisiana Folklife Apprenticeship Program. In 1997, Mrs. Clark was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship by Hillary Clinton. Recently, Mrs. Clark donated her loom and miscellaneous materials, including her handmade scrap book, raw materials and cording paddles to the Acadian Museum which has developed a special exhibition dedicated to her lifetime body of work.