

LA PAROLE
Newsletter of the Acadian Museum
By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin
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May 11, 2018

- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: darylinb@plddo.com. If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.

- *Acadie Then and Now* was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie*. In Canada, the books in French or English editions may be ordered from Jacques Ouellet of *La Grande Marée* at email: jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca, or on the web at www.amazon.ca. In the U. S., call (337) 233-5832, or email perrin@plddo.com



- **Upcoming Presentations by Warren and Mary Perrin**

May 15, television interview at 8:00 a.m. with KADN, Channel 15, Lafayette

May 22, Louisiana legislature at noon, Capitol, Baton Rouge

June 7, 2018, ABA Convention at 8:00 p.m. in Paris, France

July 28, Acadian Memorial at 4:00 p.m. in St. Martinville

January 19, 2019, Algiers Historical Society (AHS) at 10 – 12 a.m., Algiers Regional Library, Algiers, LA

- Let **Acadian Museum Editing Services** polish up your written word. We provide proofreading and editing services for all forms of written documents, from brochures to school papers to full-length book manuscripts. We work for international students and faculty, business and



government officials, high school and college students, or anyone who needs a perfect written document. All profits go to the Acadian Museum. Call 337-501-3053 or email mlbperrin@gmail.com. Ask for Mary Perrin for more information.

- The family of Mayor Al Broussard remembered him with a 5K and Memorial Croc Walk that was held on April 7th and raised over \$10,000 dollars for the New Acadia Project (NAP) and \$5,000 to the Acadian Odyssey Monument.. “It’s a project where they are looking for the gravesite of Beausoleil Broussard, an Acadian who was exiled, he was a relative of my dad’s so that’s why it’s so important to find his grave a



Mayor Clifton

tourism in Loreauville," Saunier said. It’s a project current Loreauville Mayor Brad Clifton (right) is passionate about as well. “The New Acadia Project is establishing archaeological digs to find the remains of the persons of the 1765 settlement where they established roots here and branched out.” Clifton said.



NAP Board

“For the last four years they’ve been doing digs and all the proceeds from the races go to NAP.”

- Sadly, former Living Legend, Gus Weill, mentor to several big-name political strategists, died at his Baton Rouge home:
http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/article_d942d330-3f39-11e8-ad45-834e5be81dc8.html
- We received this from Living Legend Richard Laurin of Nova Scotia: “I am organizing a new tour *On Our Forefather’s Footsteps in Acadie!* from July 10th to the 22nd, 2018. All Cajuns and Acadians are invited to embark on this wonderful tour of the three superb provinces of the Canadian Maritimes. Each is province unique and shaped by the ocean and a rich heritage. We will discover it all with a *joie de vivre!* Experience Acadian cultural tourism at its best; a very inclusive and enlightening tour taking you to the regions where the story of Acadie begins...and never ends, at least in one’s heart! (see the information and how to register here: <http://novacadie.ca/tours-a-venir/calendrier-des-tournees-2018>.”
- Some history: The Acadian trinity of crosses commemorates the Acadian Deportation. The first is the Herbin Cross at the Grand Pré National Historic Site. It was originally

constructed on what had been the parish cemetery of stones thought to come from the foundation of the Church of *Saint-Charles-des-Mines*. The Deportation Cross is the actual site where Acadians from the lands around Grand Pré and as far away as Piziquid (Windsor) and Gaspereau, were forced onto transport ships to be deported. It's believed this is also the spot where over 100 years before deportation, the Acadians first stepped ashore to begin their community in *Les Mines*. Nearby is a cairn for the New England Planters who came ashore here to take possession of the abandoned Acadian farms. In the little bayside park across from the Morden Community Centre is the French Cross. The Acadians who came to Morden broke into two groups. One stayed, but one risked the journey across the Bay of Fundy to hide in the forests of what would become New Brunswick. Those who risked crossing the bay survived, while most of those who remained in Morden perished. In the spring of 1756 an Acadian man, Pierre Melanson, aided by a young Mi'kmaq boy, crossed the Bay seeking aid for the survivors. On the return trip Melanson died. History is not always full of happy endings, but it shows the perseverance, inspiration and innovation it takes to survive extraordinary events.

- The 6th edition of the *Congrès mondial acadien* (CMA) will be held from August 10 to 24, 2019, on Prince Edward Island and in Southeastern New Brunswick. Its mission is to reunite Acadians from around the world. George Belliveau will direct the closing day celebrations on Aug. 24, 2019, in Shediac, N.B. Originally from Pré-d'en-haut, N.B., Belliveau comes from a musical family of five and, as such, has been immersed in the world of music for a long time. Emmanuelle LeBlanc will be taking on the artistic direction of the August 14 Commemoration Day, highlighting the adoption, in 1884, of the world Acadian flag and national anthem. During the CMA 2019, this defining moment will be celebrated in the very town where it took place in 1884: Miscouche.
- In order to publicize the *Congrès mondial acadien* 2019 event, a delegation from the host region traveled to the United States at the end of April. Members of the delegation attended the *Festival International de Louisiane*, which was held in Lafayette from April 25–29. The following week, they gave a few public presentations in New England, where many Acadians and friends of Acadie reside. Information-rich cultural programming was delivered, and the culminating point was the show put on by the CMA 2019 on the festival's biggest stage, right before the closing show. The "*Congrès mondial acadien*

2019 Kitchen Party” featured nine artists and groups from the Maritimes, Quebec and Louisiana, who were already taking part in this year’s festival. For more information visit www.cma2019.ca.

- Iva Clavelle of Lafayette’s Associated Travel, will be working on a group travel plan for the *Congrès mondial acadien 2019*. Contact Iva at iva@inedatrip.com for more information.
- Long-time LUS Director and Living Legend Terry Huval announced on April 10 that he plans to retire later this year. Huval, who has served as director of Lafayette Utilities System since 1994
- On February 27th at Government House in Halifax, Nova Scotian historian Sally Ross made a talk on *The History of Acadian Schools* in Nova Scotia. In attendance was the former Chief Justice Arthur J. LeBlanc who was appointed lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia over a year ago. He is the first Acadian and francophone to hold the position. When he was a judge he made an important ruling in 2000 that had a very positive effect on the Acadian schools in Nova Scotia. Pictured here are, left to right, Sally Ross, his Honor Arthur LeBlanc and his wife Patricia.
- Journalist Jim Bradshaw recently wrote in his newspaper column: "Worry over the loss of the French culture in south Louisiana is no new thing. Nearly 80 years ago, there was enough concern that 3,000 people came to a big meeting in Abbeville to try to figure out what to do about it. It was put together by a remarkable woman who promoted far more than the language. The *Lafayette Advertiser* called the meeting in April, 1940, a pivotal event in the organized movement to perpetuate the French language, customs, and tradition' in south Louisiana. It was organized by Louise ‘LuLu’ Olivier and brought together French speakers from Vermilion, Iberia, St. Landry, Lafayette and St. Martin parishes who wanted to 'create confidence and pride in the minds and hearts of the people in regard to their French heritage and to point out the commercial, professional, and cultural advantages of a bi-lingual education.' The newspaper article described Olivier as a field representative of the Louisiana State University Extension Department.”



- President Alan Broussard of *Famille Beausoleil* organized the Broussard and Trahan family organizations for a meeting held on April 14. The meeting opened with a presentation by Cheryl Broussard Perret discussing the upcoming *Congrès mondial acadien 2019* and the Broussard family reunion to take place in New Brunswick, Canada at beautiful Solomon Gardens—land that had originally been settled by Acadians in the 17th century. Warren A. Perrin, Chairman of the Acadian Museum, did a presentation on a new book entitled *The Hat* by AGB Johnston. The book can be ordered

here: https://www.amazon.com/Hat-J-B-Johnston/dp/198023194x/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1524153644&SR=8-4&keywords=a+j+b+johnston The Acadian Museum of Erath donated an



Acadian flag pin to all attendees and two history books—one given to oldest (Don Louis Broussard, 98) and youngest (Anna Clausi, 14) attendee. Following lunch, there was a showing of selected clips from Leonard Forest's film *Les Acadiens de la Dispersion* and an update by Dr. Mark Rees of the New Acadia Project, the UL archeological search for the lost Acadian settlement and graves of the Acadian pioneers. Photo caption: The youngest attendee was Houstonian Anna (Broussard) Clausi, age 14, shown here (right) with Warren A. Perrin.

- Here is the link for the CMA 2019 Registration for Broussard Family Reunion: <https://www.cma2019.ca/en/program/families/2-general/231-broussard-eng>
- The Acadian Museum announces a CMA 2019 Poster Contest for students:


The Contest Theme: The Broussard/Trahan Families: *Congrès mondial acadien 2019*

The contest is a cultural and education initiative to teach children about Acadian history, culture and genealogy. All students from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to create posters that reflect the past, present and future efforts to preserve and promote the French Acadian/Cajun culture in Louisiana and show its connection to the international Acadian community which will unite for the 6th World Acadian Reunion from August 10-24, 2019 in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Contest Rules: Submitted posters must meet the following criteria: Be original and drawn by hand; no copyrighted/trademarked characters or material; Posters must be half-size (12 x 18 inches) of a standard poster and include at least five historical facts on Acadian/Cajun and a French language element, such as definitions of words or phrases; attach the name, age, grade in school and contact information of student to the back of the submitted poster and also state whether it is submitted for the Broussard or Trahan

family; entries must be received by the Acadian Museum Foundation at 251 La Rue France, Lafayette, Louisiana no later than July 15, 2018.

Posters will be judged based on: ability to show at least five important historical facts about Acadian history and culture (as opposed to using words only); creativity; originality; quality of artwork. Prizes will be awarded to the best Broussard and Trahan poster in each grade category: Grades K-3rd - Winners will receive an Acadian flag pin and \$75 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third place. Grades 4th-8th - The winners will receive an Acadian flag pin and \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third place.

- Here is film maker Lisa Ferron (left) from New Brunswick who is doing research for a documentary on Beausoleil Broussard. She spent the day with me in Erath to meet a relative of the singer Beyoncé. Willa Mae Broussard (right). When a child, Beyoncé sang at family reunions in New Iberia; she has many relatives in Louisiana. 
- The Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team presented retired Brig. Gen. Robert J. Leblanc with a set of brigade colors, a governor's commendation and a Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Certificate for his time as an emergency manager at the 256th Armory. Leblanc, 96, is a native of Abbeville. In 1943, Leblanc volunteered for duty with the Office of Strategic Services and served in the 3rd Army. He was inducted into the Order of Living Legends by the Acadian Museum of Erath in October 2001.
- *Cajun Mardi Gras*, a feature on the food, music and culture of Lafayette, Opelousas and surrounding area, is part of the new season of the CNN original series *Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown*. It is scheduled to air June 17 on CNN. The hour-long episode will feature a local *courir de Mardi Gras*, a crawfish boil and zydeco music. Bourdain, a veteran chef and best-selling author, stopped in Grand Coteau for a home-cooked meal prepared by chefs Toby Rodriguez and Jolie Meaux. Rodriguez and Bourdain visited Billy's in Opelousas for boudin and cracklins. Bourdain had a Sunday lunch at Laura's 2 in Lafayette, which included a conversation with Dave Lemelle of the Step-N-Strut trail ride, Sid Williams of El Sido's Zydeco and Blues Club and Herman Fuselier, *Daily Advertiser* music and entertainment writer and host of *Zydeco Stomp* on KRVS 88.7 FM.
- On April 21, there was a new festival held in Arnaudville to celebrate Acadiana's natural surroundings through art, music, food and science at the 2018 *Fête de la Nature*, hosted

by *Atelier de la Nature*. Participants were able to explore the privately-owned nature reserve and participate in free, hands-on activities that were educational. *Fête de la Nature* is a big thing in French-speaking countries; it is their version of Earth Day,” says Dr. Brandon Ballengée. “We wanted to be the first to bring this festival to Louisiana in celebration of the francophone culture and the history of French-speaking in the area. Think of it as our version of Cajun Earth Day.” *Atelier de la Nature* is a privately-owned nature reserve in Arnaudville that was started in 2016 by husband and wife duo Dr. Brandon (biologist and artist) and Aurore Ballengée (sustainable food educator) out of their passion for south Louisiana's rich ecological diversity.




- *Le Grand Hoorah* was held in late April at Chicot State celebration of Cajun and Creole culture that kicks off the beginning of the Dewey Balfa Cajun and Creole Heritage Week. The Chicot State Park festival showcases music, food, and fun from some terrific musicians. It is a lead into *Festival Internationale de Louisiane*.
- This May, university students will spend five days in the small bayou community of Arnaudville, Louisiana conversing with native French speakers at a retirement home, taking Cajun dance lessons and learning how to cook some of Acadiana's most cherished recipes. The annual LSU *sur les Deux Bayous* study abroad program immerses LSU Cajun French students in the language, culture and traditions of francophone Louisiana with the hope of preserving the French roots of our great state. The LSU Cajun French program is just one of many programs across Louisiana seeking to develop and preserve Louisiana French language and culture. Although some residents may believe the Cajun French language and traditions are disappearing, experts like LSU Cajun French instructors Cathy Luquette and Ashley Luoma are more encouraged now than ever. “There is a growing movement these days,” Luquette said. “Louisiana French has skipped a generation or two, but the younger generation, like college students, are now really interested in learning Cajun French.”
- Wonderful news from the CODOFIL president: "The Vermilion Parish School Board has approved a French Immersion program in that parish to begin in the 2019-2020 school year. It will be a kindergarten class at a yet to be determined elementary school in that parish. I suggest to the school board that they should consider two programs at two elementary schools. Merci." William (Bill) Arceneaux, President, CODOFIL.

- From Amanda Lefleur: “On April 22, a CODOFIL open house event, *Merci, professeurs!*” seems by all accounts to have been a success. Approximately 300 people attended this event honoring French teachers. Three television stations covered the event. Attendees included teachers present and past, including a couple from France, who were part of the first CODOFIL associate teacher cohort in 1970, as well as parents and students, and a delegation from *France-Louisiane France-Amérique*. Bon Temps Grill provided a delicious buffet, and more than 70 door prizes were awarded throughout the day. Twenty-five oral history interviews were conducted.”
- We received this from Dr. William “Bill” Arceneaux: “I regret to inform you that the father of Michael Vincent, our colleague and fellow CODOFIL Council member, died April 23. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Michael.”
- On April 25, the Town of Broussard, led by Mary Charles Langlinais, hosted a delegation from Cap Pelé, New Brunswick, for a celebration and renewal of their twinning which had occurred in 1984. The translation of the document was done by CODOFIL Director Peggy Feehan.: *Résolution visant à réaffirmer le jumelage entre les villes de Broussard, en Louisiane et Cap Pelé, au Nouveau-Brunswick*.
- I made a talk on NAP and donated my biography of Beusoleil Broussard, *Acadian Redemption* to Cap Pelé.
- Sadly, Cajun music legend and Living Legend Elton “Bee” Cormier died.
- On March 3, 2018, the West Baton Rouge Museum opened a new exhibition entitled *Fait à la Main: The Acadian Handicraft Project*. This exhibit will feature traditional Acadian handiwork such as brown cotton woven textiles, hand sewing and wood crafts created by Louisiana artisans who participated in the handicraft project. <http://westbatonrougemuseum.com/>.
- Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson (shown here) recently hosted Port-au-Prince Bar Association Bâtonnier Stanley Gaston for a visit and lunch at the Louisiana Supreme Court building. Dona K. Renegar, president, Louisiana State Bar Association, joined a delegation of expat Haitian New Orleans business and cultural leaders, Warren Perrin and representatives from the Francophone Section of the LSBA, and Chief Judge Carl E. Stewart of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to commemorate the



partnership between the *Congrès of International Conference of Bar Associations of Common Legal Traditions* and the LSBA.

- A French language youth chorale from Moncton, Canada, *Les Jeunes Chanteurs d'Acadie*, recently visited St. Martinville. The group is marking its 50th anniversary, and part of their celebration was a trip to Acadiana where they performed at *Festival International de Louisiane*. They visited the Acadian Memorial and then performed at *St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church*. The choir also visited Myrtle Place Elementary, one of Lafayette's French immersion schools, for a dual performance and attended High Mass at St. John's Cathedral and performed at Festival's *Scène des Jeunes*. A documentary film crew from Radio Canada is following *Les Jeunes Chanteurs* for a television documentary.
- The GMA on the road television series continues in St. Martin Parish with the Acadian Memorial and Museum in St. Martinville. The Acadian Memorial and Museum was created to honor the three thousand Acadians who fled persecution from France and then were deported from Nova Scotia in the 1700's to what is known as Acadiana. "The main feature of the memorial is a mural painted by Robert Dafford, it's a twin to a mural that he also painted in Nantes, France and depicts the arrival of the Acadians." explains museum curator Elaine Clement. The mural is a massive painting taking up an entire wall measuring 30 feet long and 12 feet tall. The museum also has a wall of names, which Clement explains is completely bronze and is engraved with names of the 3,000 Acadians who came to Louisiana, including some of the ship manifests. One of the most interesting things about the Acadian Memorial and Museum is that it is entirely bilingual and can be experienced in both English and French. For more information on the memorial and museum, visit acadianmemorial.org/
- Save the date: the 2018 FACC-GC Summer Wine Festival is scheduled for June 23, 2018. For more information: (504) 458-3528; info@facc-gc.com.
- The annual *Fiesta Espanola* will take place in New Iberia on May 11, 12, 13 of 2018. There will be a simulated dialogue between Francisco de Boulogny and Bernado de Galvez. You can join them at City Hall at 9:30 to participate in the walking parade. The parade will start at City Hall in downtown New Iberia and end at Boulogny Plaza. For more information, email Jim Viator, jmviat@yahoo.com.

- Visitors to Jazz Fest found Louisiana music and food, but also expert Louisiana craftsmen and women. Accordion makers Clarence Martin Junior and Penny Huval came to the Jazz Fest craft tent to show off their talents. The father and daughter own a Martin Cajun Accordions, an accordion shop in Lafayette Parish.
- Mary and I are proud of our grandson (center) Nic Ouellet who recently graduated from Ascension Episcopal School in Lafayette and was awarded a scholarship to Tulane University in New Orleans where he will study physics. He was youth director of the Acadian Museum. 
- On April 24, 2018, we were invited to attend the arrival ceremony of His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic in Washington, D. C. Shown at right are Bill and Ann Fenstermaker and Mary and Warren Perrin. 
- Mary Rundquist, Author, received Maryland General Assembly citation when presenting the story of Acadian exiles in Maryland at the Nabb Research Center at the University of Maryland in Salisbury on the 19th of April, 2018. The "Acadians in Maryland" sign, installed in 2013 at the Manokin River Park in Princess Anne Maryland, is located in Somerset County, Maryland.
- The Canadian *Prix Eloizes* celebrating the Best Acadian Artists of the year was held this past weekend in Edmundston, New Brunswick. Phil Comeau won two awards for Artist most illustrated internationally for his films, the feature *Zachary Richard toujours batailleur*, the short *Belle-Ile-en-Mer île bretonne et acadienne*, and the web series *Cousins Cousines de la Louisiane* and the *Prix du public* (People's Choice) for the Artist of the year. The other winners in the best artist categories include Arthur Comeau (Music), Mario Doucet (visual arts), Denise Bouchard (media arts), Chantal Baudouin (dance), Daniel Dugas (literature), Marc-André Charron (theatre), Emmanuelle Landry (discovery), Marie-Jo Thériot (best show), and Annie-Claude Thériault (artist from Québec). 
- Please mark your calendar for May 14 for another exciting session of *Acadiana Memories*. It is an interactive history program held on the second Monday of each month where they reminisce about people, places, and events of long ago. This month they will talk about when Southerners had to file claims against the United States government to be compensated for items that had been "requisitioned" during the War Between the States. From the start, claimants were judged guilty beyond reasonable doubt and the burden of proof was entirely on the claimant. The program is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the conference room at Hospice of Acadiana located at 2600 Johnston Street, Lafayette. Everyone is invited to attend.

- Shane Bernard designed this Cajun decal. (1764 is when the Cajuns' first Acadian exile ancestors arrived in south Louisiana.) You can purchase a one here: [Since 1764 Decal > Cajunitude](#).
- William Thibodeaux sent this email: “Please mark your calendar for May 12, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will have our group gathering at Mr. Leo Spaetgens' museum, which is located at 4452 Hwy 98. Leo's home is six miles from Burger King in Rayne near Interstate 10. Highway 98 begins next to the Burger King. Continue on Hwy 98, be aware that after one and one-half mile Hwy 98 bends toward the left, stay on Hwy 98. Address: 4452 is on white sign on fence on right across from Leo's home opposite the sign. Leo has a lot of interesting things to see at his museum that I think you will enjoy. While there, Leo will show a short eye opening film titled: "The Agenda to Destroy America" which was made in the late 1940s. There will be refreshments, so please let me know if you plan to attend. If you have any problems please call Leo at: 337 783 1437 or call me at: 337 371 9011. We hope to see you there.”
- We received this email from Peggy Feehan:

“Chers membres de la commission CODOFIL,

Please join me in offering our sympathies to David Marcantel for the passing of his father. Funeral services will be held Monday May 14 at 1PM at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings, 710 N State Street, Jennings. Visitation will be from 2PM until 8PM on Sunday and from 10AM until time of service on Monday, 114 E Shankland Avenue, Jennings. Rosary will be prayed on Sunday night at 6PM, 114 E Shankland Avenue, Jennings.”

[http://www.miguezfuneralhome.com/sitemaker/sites/MIGUEZ1/obit.cgi?user=48902227_JM arcantel](http://www.miguezfuneralhome.com/sitemaker/sites/MIGUEZ1/obit.cgi?user=48902227_JM_arcantel)