

LA PAROLE
Newsletter of the Acadian Museum
By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin
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July 16, 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.
- Justice James T. Genovese was the principal speaker at the American Bar Association dinner in Paris on June 7 speaking on the close relationship between the Paris Bar Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association – based upon the Napoleonic Civil Code. The ABA Convention was held in France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights of Mankind.



Shown is Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice James T. Genovese.



Shown, left to right, are Warren A. Perrin, Chairman of the Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Anne Craver and Justice James T. Genovese.



Shown, left to right, are Frank Neuner, LSBA representative to the American Bar Association, Tracy Neuner and Justice James T. Genovese.

- *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**

July 28, Living Legend Presentation and Induction of Gregory Wood at the 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 Acadian Cultural Center, a site of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, is a co-sponsor for Beginner's Cajun French language classes. The center has partnered with the Lafayette Chapter of the Cajun French Music Association and serves as the host site for the classes. The classes are full, well underway, and are in good hands with instructor, Phoebe Trotter. The Acadian Cultural Center looks forward to continuing this partnership each year and playing a small part in the preservation of the Cajun French language. For more information, contact Jodie Bacque, Park Ranger, (337) 232-0789 Ext. 203.

- *Les Amis du CODOFIL* (Westbank in New Orleans) will have its Cajun Reunion on August 12. For more information, contact Edwin Fleischmann at (504) 982-0800 or Joy Pitre Barreca at (504) 283-5397.
- A plan to protect a stand of old growth Acadian forest was unveiled in southeastern New Brunswick. The Nature Conservancy of Canada says



it partnered with the Village of Riverside-Albert to buy and conserve 132 hectares of forest, with help from the federal and New Brunswick governments. The group says the acquisition will also protect the water reservoirs and water supply for the 300 residents of Riverside-Albert. The property between the Caledonia Gorge Provincial Protected Natural Area and the Village of Riverside-Albert features 32 species of trees.

- P.E.I. Premier Wade MacLauchlan and Claudette Thériault, chairwoman of the World Acadian Congress Organizing Committee, announced Wednesday morning that the province would be contributing \$1 million towards the 2019 congress. It was an announcement worthy of breaking out the rapure, meat pie and a fiddle. The event, only the sixth since it began in 1994, is being jointly hosted next year by P.E.I. and Southeast New Brunswick. Organizers estimate the event will attract upwards of 100,000 people. It is scheduled to take place between Aug. 10 and 24.
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- Unfortunately, the circumstances that caused Father Clement Thibodeau's death remains unknown. His disappearance July 15, 2017, called for Diocesan prayers and formal searches, until the September 30, discovery of his death was reported in Aroostook County news. Perhaps, the priest became lost and disoriented while driving near his home in Caribou, Maine. His death was announced by the Diocese of Portland, after several months of praying and searching. This blog is a tribute to "Father Clem" and helps to support his pride in being an Acadian and Franco-American, who shared his heritage with friends and parishioners. In a personal way, Father Clem's life story represented the history of two French minority ethnic populations, being the Quebecois and the Acadians.
 - A monument for victims of the Acadian Expulsion remains in storage nearly a year after it was removed from the Halifax waterfront. Marie-Claude Rioux, executive director of *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, said the organization is still working to fix the original problems with the large stone tribute. On July 28, 2005, I participated in the unveiling of the monument.
 - Thanks to Phil Comeau for sending to us an Interesting story on the Acadian genealogy of former pitching star Cajun Ron Guidry who won a Cy Young award...his mom is a Broussard. Article: https://quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/jacques-noel/un-guidry-damerique-a-gagne-le-cy-young_a_23406884/

- Jo-El Sonnier's visit to Port Arthur recently will be a homecoming of sorts. Born 100 miles away in Rayne, Louisiana, Sonnier has lived as close as Calcasieu Parish, at the edge of Acadiana and a short drive from the Golden Triangle. He'll be right at home because he's an inductee at the Museum of the Gulf Coast, and because this small corner of Texas is chock full of Acadian names and Cajuns who trekked to Texas in the 1930s and 1940s to work in shipbuilding or in the oil and gas industry, bringing their rich culture, food and music. A Grammy-winning musician — he found success in both the Cajun and country music worlds — he'll appear at a free museum event from 3:30-5 p.m. He'll sign two books — one's a cookbook, the other a children's book — and bring his Ayeeye Cajun Power Sauce. You know you want to try that sauce!
- If you go to a Louisiana wedding, a Cajun one especially, you might get the chance to participate in the money dance. Pin some money to the bride or groom's clothing and you get a dance with the newlyweds. Sometimes, you are expected to throw the money in a bucket. The donations give the happy couple a little nest egg.
- The *Festival acadien de Caraquet* released its 2018 program which will be held from August 3-15, and will be even more accessible to the public this year with the sale of a pass for the cost of only \$45 giving access to six nights in the big tent (for 19+), with two or three shows per night for a total of 14 shows. The pass, in the form of a bracelet, will be transferable from one person to another. On sale today May 29 until June 12, the pass is available throughout all Billetterie Accès points of sales or online at www.billetterieaccès.ca, in a limited amount. "We really want this year's festival to be accessible to as many people as possible" states Geneviève Lanteigne, General Director of Festival acadien. "That's why we came up with a bracelet giving access to many shows for a small price." For information or interviews: Carol Doucet – Le Grenier musique promo 506-850-2158 / carol@legreniermusique.com.
- The Annual Nonco Memorial French Mass will be held at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church on June 10th in memory of Auguste Robert "Nonco" Pelafigue. For more information, Diocese of Lafayette: Acadiana Magazine, May 2018, The Nonco Story: <http://faithdigital.org/Lafayette/LAF0518/Events>:
<https://www.dioceseevents.com/events/a-french-mass-in-memory-of-auguste-nonco-pelafigue/> Nonco Website: <https://www.nonco.org> Nonco FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/noncoauguste.pelafigue>.

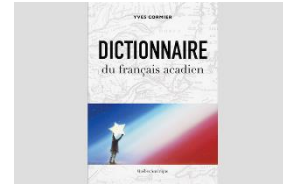
- The new and excellent book on genealogy and local Louisiana history *History of the Daigle & Schexnayder Families*—that we highly recommend—is now on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Louisiana-Legacy-History-Schexnayder-Families/dp/1936707403/>
- On May 28th, 2018, members of the Nova Scotia LeBlanc Family Association had a follow-up meeting with Stephen McNeil, Premier of the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. The discussions focused on having the government do more trail and road maintenance within the Belleisle Marsh area. At this same meeting, a reproduced copy of the 1753 Michell Map was shared with Premier McNeil. The map shows (current locations between today communities of Digby and Bridgetown) where the first French colonist families set roots in “Acadie” in the early 1600 up to 1755. Discussions continue with the premier’s office to have his Department of Natural Resources improve site conditions within the Belleisle Marsh area where many of the first Acadian families lived, farmed, and prospered for many years until the 1755 deportation. The Nova Scotia Leblanc Family Association encourages all Acadians who are searching for their family roots to visit the Daniel LeBlanc & Francoise Gaudet ancestry monument in Belleisle, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- Amadia Broussard served in Europe during World War II. For his service, France awarded him the National Order of the Legion of Honor, the country's highest order of merit for military service. Vincent Sciana, the French Consul General, visited the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home in Jennings, where Broussard currently resides, to present the honor. Sciana says that it is more of a privilege than a duty to present this honor. "A moment of emotion, of gratitude. It's a privilege for me. I am very humbled to do it in the name of my president, President Macron, and in the name of all the French people who are so grateful for the American veterans who fought for the freedom of my country."
- Dr. Joshua Caffery is the new director of the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Caffery, a published folklorist, poet, and Grammy-nominated musician and producer began his new position on July 1. He succeeds Dr. Michael Martin, the center’s director since 2011. “I’m thrilled to be joining an incredibly talented team at the Center for Louisiana Studies,” Caffery said. “It will be an honor to build on Michael’s work, and to engage with the center’s cultural mission at a time when the importance of our area’s cultural resources is so poignantly clear.” A native of the St. Mary Parish community of Irish

Bend, outside Franklin, Louisiana, Caffery earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in English and folklore from UL. He completed a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religious studies at LSU in Baton Rouge.

- Folklorist and UL Lafayette Professor Emeritus, Dr. Barry Jean Ancelet is a leading scholar, author, expert, and activist in the revival and revitalization of Cajun and Creole music and culture in Louisiana. He is also a poet, songwriter and singer, and his 2016 CD with Sam Broussard, *Broken Promised Land*, was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Regional Roots Music category. In this lecture, "The Theory and Practice of Folklore in Cajun and Creole Louisiana," Ancelet talked about his career, his fieldwork, and his current research on July 7 in Washington DC at the American Folklife Center.
- Well-known singer Joseph Edgar has been named artistic director of the *Congrès mondial acadien 2019 Extrême frontière* space. The event will be held over several days, from August 16 to August 23, 2019, in the heart of downtown Moncton and along Riverfront Park. "I am very much looking forward to returning to my hometown to take on the artistic direction of this space which I consider a type of cultural playground to entertain and inspire people of all ages at the Congrès mondial acadien," said Joseph Edgar. "I am very excited to accept this truly unique challenge." Known primarily as a singer-songwriter, Joseph Edgar is not new to the world of artistic direction. During the past twenty years, he has directed many events, including the 15 août des fous, the Frye Festival and most recently the Soirée Acadie Rock during the 2017 *Francofolies de Montréal*, an epic event drawing over 20,000 people. Joseph Edgar will be assisted by coordinator Lauren Guitard.
- An Acadian artist's 17-year journey to unite himself with First Nations communities in New Brunswick will be showcased to the public. The journey is represented by 12 paintings that hang in the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. They feature First Nations chiefs from across the province. Donald McGraw painted the portraits and hopes they will act as a tribute and a sign of friendship between the Acadian community and Indigenous people.
- Sadly, Lynn Breaux, an ardent promoter of our French heritage and language died on June 7. We will miss his enthusiasm and dedication.



- Acadiana and much of the world are mourning the death of chef, author and TV host Anthony Bourdain. Bourdain died in France of an apparent suicide. The 61-year-old was in Acadiana in February, filming an episode of his CNN show Parts Unknown. The episode on Marci Gras in Cajun country aired on June, 17 on CNN.
- Almost 20 years after its first edition, a dictionary of Acadian French is out in an updated edition, and the man who put it together spoke about it in West Pubnico on June 19. Yves Cormier made the presentation that day at the *Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos*. Those attending the event had a chance to buy the book – *Dictionnaire du français acadien* – at the museum that day for \$35. After June 19, the 624-page book will be for sale in the museum’s gift shop for \$40.
- A mural to honor some of the heroes who helped during Hurricane Harvey is being painted in the Westchase District in Houston, Texas. The painting along Brays Bayou is a combination of spray and hand painting and is a tribute to the volunteers and first responders who helped rescue Houstonians during Harvey. Larry Crawford is the artist working on the mural. When it is complete, the 100-by-20-foot mural will depict first responders and the Cajun Navy with a message that says "Thank You Houston Heroes."
- Field to Fashion is a new initiative that unites farmers and stylist in order to preserve Acadiana roots and put it to use today. The group is planting brown cotton seeds that will eventually be used in the local fashion industry. The spinning and weaving of natural brown cotton stretch back 250 years. In efforts to keep this tradition alive, seeds were planted into fields at the UL-Experimental Farm. "I know people down here are incredible about making things work with very few resources," said Sharon Donnan.



Sharon Donnan is a Los-Anglos native that fell in love with the Cajun heartland. She created the documentary, “Acadian Brown Cotton, A Cajun Love Story.”

- Willie Durisseau, a 100-year-old Creole fiddler from Opelousas, plays a fiddling style that goes back to 17th century Haiti. That Creole style helped pour the foundation for zydeco and Cajun music. He never recorded, but played house dances in St. Landry Parish during the Depression. Durisseau’s combat service during World War II in Okinawa makes his story

even more compelling. He and his wife Irma, 92, raised 14 children and six grandchildren during their 75 years of marriage. The Willie Durisseau First Annual Fiddle contest was set for June 29-30 at the historic Hotel Cazan in Mamou.

- Last year, Edward “Ned” d'Entremont took a trip to Nova Scotia with his wife, to find out more about his Nova Scotian roots. While flipping through tourism guides, d'Entremont came across information about the *Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos* in West Pubnico and its genealogy services. Many people in Pubnico, N.S., can trace their roots to Philippe Mius d'Entremont, who came to the area from Normandy, France, in 1653. "If you're trying to find out where you come from and you think you're from that area, that's the place to go," said d'Entremont. The museum has an extensive Acadian genealogy database, as well as historical Acadian documents, maps and photographs. Some of the documents go as far back as the 1640s. Volunteer staffers Pauline d'Entremont, Christina Crowell and Coral d'Entremont work on the museum's genealogy database, the brainchild of Pauline who started it on her home computer in the late 1990s. By 2004, the database had 15,000 names and recently hit 100,000 linked names. In a linked database, there must be a family member already registered. That allows new people who want to be added to be connected. See article at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/west-pubnico-museum-acadians-genealogy-milestone-1.4680883>
- Two additional Prince Island sites will be added to national francophone tourism corridor. Mill River Golf Course in Woodstock and Parks Canada's Green Gables Heritage Place in Cavendish, which both offer services in French, will soon be added to the national Francophone Heritage, Culture and Tourism Corridor. They will join 12 P.E.I. heritage sites and attractions that are already part of the list. Martin Marcoux, board member with RDÉE Canada and president of RDÉE Prince Edward Island, made the announcement in Abram-Village during the official launching ceremony of the P.E.I. portion of the national corridor. To read article: <http://www.journalpioneer.com/community/None/two-additional-island-sites-to-be-added-to-national-francophone-tourism-corridor-219842/>
- There is a new play to showcase historical friendship between Acadians and Mi'kmaq. Raymonde Balfour and Colleen Gauvin are best friends and the creators of *Two Nations Teachings*. (Bridget Yard/CBC) Two women are taking to the stage to teach New Brunswickers about a little-known interweaving of two of its defining cultures. "We're

showing how when the Acadian people came here the Mi'kmaq people welcomed them, took them in, saved their lives, gave them medication they needed — and how the bond is still there," said Colleen Gauvin, an elder from Eel River Bar First Nation. She and Raymonde Balfour, an Acadian from Campbellton, are preparing a play about this century-long friendship. The production, which they hope to debut in late August, was inspired by workshops the two conduct in schools around the region, called Two Nations Teachings. While the history of both peoples is riddled with tragedy, the pair wishes to shine a light on at least one positive aspect.

- Historian identifies Creole as culture, not a race. What is a Creole?

The answer can be as different as the people who claim the term.

Creoles can be descendants of Louisiana-born slaves or free people of color who may also claim French, Spanish, African and Native-



American roots. Creoles can be descendants of whites who left France and settled in Louisiana in the 1700s. They were not exiles from Nova Scotia like the Acadians, who later became Cajuns in Louisiana. These Creoles were natives in the New World with roots in the Old World. Author and historian Elista Istre, Ph.D, said the answer to the Creole question varies according to geography, time periods and who's doing the talking.

- Robert Melanson, president of the *Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick*, says anglophone and francophone communities should focus on their similarities rather than their differences. (Submitted by *Societe de l'Acadie du Nouveau Brunswick*) Francophones are not about to give up fundamental rights people spent 50 years fighting for, says the new president the organization that promotes Acadian interests in New Brunswick. Bilingualism policies can't be blamed for things going wrong in the province, said Robert Melanson, president of the *Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick*, or SANB.
- To celebrate the 50th anniversary, over 50 Louisiana artists and craftsmen pay tribute to CODOFIL in three exhibits on the French language, traditional culture and the Louisiana environment. *Une Place à la Table* - Alexandria Museum of Art – July 1 – August 25; Vermilionville in Lafayette – August 2 – September 21; Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge – September 6 – October 29.
- Alain Bossé cooks up Acadian Chicken Fricot from his new book, *The Acadian Kitchen, Recipes from Then and Now*. The book is available locally as well as online. There is a strong

sense of familiarity when Alain Bossé describes his new cookbook, *The Acadian Kitchen*. It might be the Acadian Chicken Fricot bubbling on the stove in his Braeshore home with the smell of summer savoury that floods a person's senses of childhood memories, but when the Kilted Chef describes his book, one can soon tell it is more than just a book of recipes. "It comes from my background of Acadian culture," he said.

- Kiplinger has rated the 50 best places to retire in 2018 in the United States, and a Louisiana city made the list: Lafayette. "If you're craving Cajun and Creole culture, Lafayette is the place to retire. Known as the 'Cajun Capital City,' the area is rich in history, distinctive foods and two-stepping tunes. Nature lovers can appreciate the area, too, located on the Mississippi Flyway and the Atchafalaya Loop of America's Wetland Birding Trail. Bird watchers have gotten a glimpse of 240 species, so far," Kiplinger writes.
- Singer and musician Lisa LeBlanc has been named artistic director for one of the key events of the *Congrès mondial acadien 2019* – the August 15 celebrations to be held in Dieppe, New Brunswick. Originally from Rosaireville, New Brunswick, Lisa LeBlanc says that she is looking forward to the challenge. "This will be my first time working as an artistic director. I am really excited that my directorial debut will be for the day of August 15th, a celebration that is near and dear to my heart."
- Hall of Fame jockey Kent Desormeaux, now a veteran 48-year-old rider, regularly visits the winner's circle at Santa Anita Park near Los Angeles. But his origins are from tiny Maurice, Louisiana. There, a large percentage of the population speaks a distinctive dialect of French and Cajun, which originated from about 180 families with names such as Broussard, Romero, Picard, Villien, and, of course, Desormeaux. These Cajun families are decedents of French settlers known as Acadians who were cruelly driven out of Nova Scotia by the British in the middle of the 18th Century.
- Here are excerpts from an article by Herman Fuselier in *The Daily Advertiser*: Roddie Romero squeezes out a tune. Harold Bernard's boot heel hits the plywood floor. He explains the timing and footwork of a simple two-step to the couples surrounding him. These sounds will be broadcast to people across the world in the hopes of attracting them to Louisiana, and Lafayette specifically, through an international marketing video. Lafayette is one of the areas featured in a music-focused video. It'll last 2 to 3 minutes and also include Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The Acadiana scenes were shot in downtown Lafayette, including a dance

lesson at Glide Studios. Bernard did more than lead couples in a dance, describing the history and traditions of Cajun music one Tuesday in June.

- The *Congrès mondial acadien 2019*, in cooperation with the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques (CFA) and the *Commission du tourisme acadien du Canada Atlantique (CTACA)*, presented the show “*Belle et Bum célèbre l’Acadie et le Québec*” on July 9th in the *Parc de la Francophonie of the Festival d’été de Québec (FEQ)*. The concert featured both Acadian and Québécois artists: Zachary Richard, Radio, Les Hay Babies, Jean-François Breau, Menoncle Jason and Gabriel Robichaud represented Acadie, whereas Fred Fortin, Émile Bilodeau, Guylaine Tanguay and David Goudreault represented Québec. Acadian Pierre Guitard and Québécoise Laura Lefebvre delighted the crowd during the first part of the show. All in all, thousands of people gathered for this electrifying performance in the heart of Québec City.



- "Farewell Alligator Man: A Tribute to the Music of Jimmy C. Newman" is a show on the 2018-19 season at the Acadiana Center for the Arts. David Simpson, Gillian Welch, Mavis Staples, the Robert Cray Band and a tribute to Grand Ole Opry star Jimmy C. Newman are among the highlights of the 2018-2019 theater performance season at the Acadiana Center for the Arts. The Jan. 17, 2019 Newman tribute, titled "Farewell Alligator Man," is part of the Louisiana Crossroads Series, which also features "Wayne Toups and Royal Bluegarou Unplugs Zydecajun," a live album recording set for Sept. 20.
- The Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes of the University of Maine at Fort Kent opened its new exhibit, "Evangeline," with a wine and cheese reception on July 5. Lise Pelletiers, director of the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, who also teaches classes related to Acadian history and literature, curated the exhibit. The exhibit will be on display at the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes through December and is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pelletier said she will make special accommodations for any group or organization that cannot attend the exhibit during regular hours. For more information, contact her at (207) 834-7535.