

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

January 2022

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SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

If you know anyone who'd like to get this newsletter, send their name and email address to darylinb@plddo.com.

HELP PROMOTE THE CULTURE

Your tax-deductible contributions¹ can help fund these important projects:

- Finding the [lost location](#) of our first Acadian settlement.
- Transcribing and digitizing tapes of rare and valuable interviews.
- Developing videos and podcasts for distribution online.
- Promoting the French language and "immersion" programs.
- Expanding and categorizing our holdings of cultural treasures.

You can donate¹ [online](#) or by sending a check to The Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send your request to darylinb@plddo.com.

¹The Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Catherine Blanchet's Life Work To Be Honored

Mayor Piazza and the Abbeville City Council have declared January 7, 2022, as Catherine Brookshire Blanchet Day. In the



1940's, Catherine documented songs and round dances in French by recording school children and adults when she was music supervisor of Vermilion Parish

Schools. She dedicated the rest of her life to teaching and sharing this treasure. On Friday, January 7, 2022, from 9:00 to 11:30, the descendants of the people she recorded, her students, and the community are invited to the Vermilion Parish Public Library, 405 East St. Victor St., Abbeville, La., to remember Catherine, to sing and dance. The goal is to pass on these traditions to a new generation. This public event is sponsored by the Acadian Museum of Erath and funded with support from the Louisiana Folklore Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Visit Us, "Like" Us on Facebook, or Shop in Our Store!

The Acadian Museum is open Tue-Fri from 1-4 pm and Saturdays from 10-noon. But you can also visit us online using the links below. For group tours, dial 337 456-7729.

Website: www.acadianmuseum.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AcadianMuseum

Museum Store: www.acadianmuseum.com/boutique.html

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | (337) 233-5832 or (337) 456-7729 | acadianmuseum.com

MUSEUM NEWS

New Museum Volunteer

I am happy to announce that a very well-qualified local has agreed to join our volunteer committee: EHS teacher Marisa Primeaux pictured below:



Book Signings

We are accepting invitations to give presentations. Here are some scheduled talks:

- * January 21, noon, at the Louisiana State Museum 604 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge
- * April 11, 2:30 p.m., SAGE seminar at the University of Texas Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Dr., Austin Texas.

Museum Visitors



On December 3, we hosted Gilles Courregelongue, former Counsel General of France in Canada, along with his daughter Clementine (R) and wife Dominique (L), secretary for the Counsel General of France in New Orleans Nathalie Beras.

We also enjoyed a visit by Hillary Fisher, Opelousas native and student at Nicholls State, who is doing her major senior paper on our museum.



Vatican Rep Visits Museum

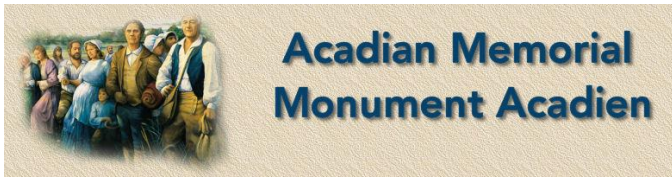


On December 10, we hosted Dr./Fr. Luis Escalante (R) from the Vatican at the Acadian Museum. During the Prelates' visit we told him the history of the Acadians, showed him the exhibit on the "Little Cajun Saint"

Charlene Richard and I signed the Historical Commission Report on the proposal to make

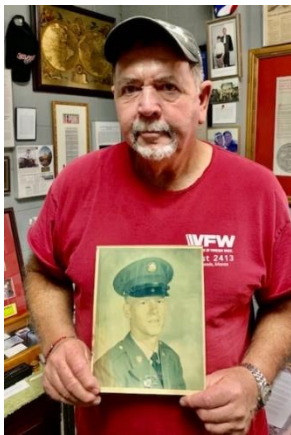
saints of Charlene Richard and Auguste “Nonco” Pelafigue. The host committee consisted of Frank “Beau” Summers, Simon Summers (who presented him with an Acadian flag pin), Earlene Broussard, Natial d’Augereau (who sang two French hymns and she is shown above with Escalante), and Warren and Mary Perrin.

Acadian Memorial Reopens



John H. Broussard, president of the Acadian Memorial Foundation, informed us that the Acadian Memorial Museum is currently open Monday-Friday from 8-noon. And a grand reopening is scheduled for January 15, 2022.

Vietnam Vet Visits for Friend Farrell Vice



On December 17, 2021, Ralph Tucker of El Dorado, Arkansas visited the museum to see the exhibit on Farrell Vice, who was killed in action in 1969 in Vietnam. Tucker met Vice in boot camp and was in his squad in Vietnam. Tucker is shown

above holding the photograph of Vice which is on display in the museum in the Robert B. Vincent Military Exhibit. Outside of the museum is a memorial bust of Vice and also Brandon Dronet of Erath, who was killed in 2006 in a helicopter crash in Africa.

New Jersey Visitor Flies In

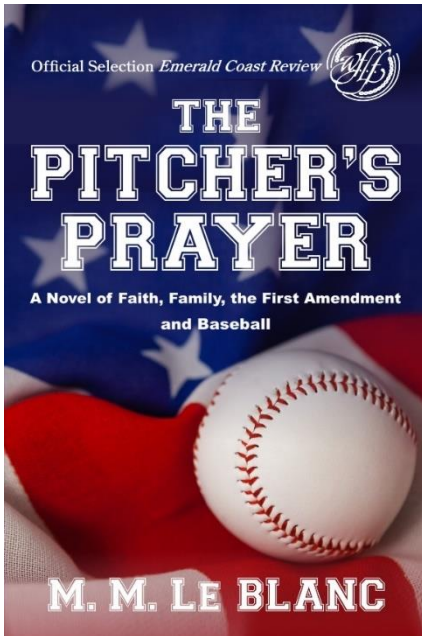


On December 28, Attorney Ed Neafsey (left) of New Jersey visited the museums and he was hosted by volunteer Jackie Vincent. He flew down just to visit our museum. He is an adjunct professor at Rutgers University where he teaches a course on the Holocaust.

Here is a nice review we got right after his visit:

The visit to the Acadian Museum was terrific... Jackie Vincent provided a wealth of helpful information and was a wonderful guide. The purpose of my visit ... was to learn about the Deportation of Acadians from Nova Scotia and the legacy of those who made a new home in Louisiana. Their story was presented there—from the Great Upheaval to the modern-day vindication of human rights in the Royal Proclamation—in an interesting, highly informative and enjoyable way. But the museum offers so much more on Acadian culture and the history of Erath. All of which makes it a great place to spend an afternoon.

New Book by Michelle LeBlanc



The Pitcher's Prayer, an award-winning contemporary novel of faith, family, the First Amendment, and baseball, is the story of two high school pitchers, one the son of a Major League pitching icon

and the other a transfer student honoring a father's dream, whose life-changing actions affect a city and each other forever.

This is the 22nd book by award-winning author M. M. (Michele) Le Blanc, "Coozan Dud" Le Blanc's granddaughter, including *Evangeline: Paradise Stolen*, *The Acadian Miracle* 53rd ed. and *The True Story of the Acadians* 93rd ed.

An Official Selection of the *XXI Emerald Coast Review* of Florida, with praise and recommendations by *New York Times* best-selling author Lenora Worth and Amazon #1 best-selling author Michael Byars Lewis. Book orders can be made via email to bizentinepress@gmail.com or call toll free 866.529.3529 and mention La Parole for free shipping. Offer not available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble or other booksellers, only directly from BizEntine Press.

Recent Deaths of Museum Supporters

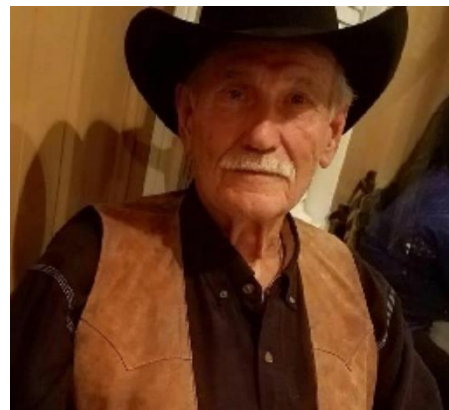
Joey Streva Jr.

We received this email from Dewitt David:

On December 6, Kelly Streva called me to let me know her dad, Joe (Gamma Phi 1969), had passed away early this morning. As Joe wished, a celebration of his life took place after the Christmas holidays.

Upon graduating law school, Joey began his career as an attorney where he became a partner of a private firm in Morgan City. Later, in 1994 the opportunity arose to join the U.S. court system in the middle and western districts of Louisiana where he became an assistant federal public defender. This gave him the opportunity to fulfill his dream of helping others.

Dale Broussard



Sadly, Dale Broussard died suddenly on December 8th. He was a long-time museum supporter who, along

with this wife Faye, represented the museum at the first *Congrès mondial acadien* in New Brunswick. Dale was the best French storyteller I have known. *Merci mon amis pour votre soutien.*

Historian Shane Bernard and Family Celebrate Christmas in France



South Louisiana historian and Acadian Museum supporter Shane Bernard PhD and his daughter Colette are pictured in Paris last December 20. They, along with his wife Amy and son Alexandre, traveled to Avignon by train and celebrated Christmas in the ancient city in Provence. Between 1309 and 1377, during the Avignon Papacy, seven successive popes resided in Avignon and in 1348 Pope Clement VI bought the town from Joanna I of Naples.

NuNu Arts and Culture Collective

This appeared in the NuNu's Newsletter:

Socrates Café - 3-4 p.m., every third Sunday beginning Jan. 16. An informal gathering during which a question/idea is selected for inquiry-led discussion. Model created by Philosopher Christopher Phillips. Moderators are Claire Hernandez and Claire Zimmer.

Wooden "Pattern" from Erath Sugar Co. Donated to the Acadian Museum



Many thanks to Patsy Reeves of St. Martinsville, who donated to the museum this beautiful old wooden "pattern" (over four feet in diameter) to replace a similar piece of iron in the casting process used at the Erath Sugar Mill in the 1930s.

Casting is the process of pouring liquid metal into a mold, where it cools and solidifies. The casting process can produce everything from art pieces to engine parts. The shape is determined by the mold cavity, but something needs to shape the mold—that's where the pattern comes in.

Patterns are a model for the object to be cast. A pattern makes an impression on the mold, liquid metal is poured into the mold, and the metal solidifies in the shape of the original pattern. This historic item surely will become a very treasured part of our museum collection, thanks to you Patsy and generous donors like you!

The Lost Bayou Ramblers Get Lit

This article by Jeanie Riess appeared in *The New Yorker*:

When the Cajun punk rocker Louis Michot was 17, he decided to learn French. Michot's great-grandfather had spoken the language but refused to teach it to the younger generations. (Louisiana banned French in schools in the 1920s, forcing Cajuns to assimilate and to drop the language that had followed them from Canada to the swamp when they were exiled by the British, in the 18th century.)

The Lost Bayou Ramblers, the band that Michot formed with his brother, Andre, in 1999, sings in Cajun French, in the hope of keeping the culture alive. But you can't save Louisiana French if there's no Louisiana. "To make a generational break in the language is also to make a break in the knowledge," Michot said recently... before a benefit at the Louisiana Sunshine Festival.

"There's always a word you didn't know," he said. "Any culture needs to rely on its traditional knowledge and keep up with the modern technology." Michot was wearing a camouflage jumpsuit, one of [dozens] he has collected since he lost his grandfather, Louis Michot, Jr., whose father [was] the one to spurn French. "He wore them fishing, to church, to fix the truck," he said. "Different jumpsuits for different occasions."

Michot, who is 42, and has played with Scarlett Johansson, Dr. John, and the Violent Femmes, got a certification in solar installation about 20 years ago. He built his house, in Prairie des Femmes, with his own hands, using the Cajun method *bousillage*, in which a mixture of Spanish moss and mud is packed between timbers to form walls. His recording studio is solar powered.

After Hurricane Ida devastated much of the coastline... he launched the Louisiana Solar Fund, to help install solar power in bayou communities...

Read the rest of the story here:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/01/03/the-lost-bayou-ramblers-get-lit>

Perrin Interviewed by Ontario Writer

On December 20, I was interviewed by an Ontario writer named Andréanne Joly... the purpose was for her to write an article discussing Queen Elizabeth's legacy, including her role in the Royal Proclamation of 2003. The reporter posed several questions to me about the attitude of the Queen and whether or not I felt that she reacted properly and was trying to do justice for the Acadians, reexamining the role that the Crown played in the Deportations that began in 1755... I gave several reasons why I thought that the Queen's response was proper and had she not taken our initial Petition seriously we would never have obtained the proclamation and we would probably still be in litigation—for many years to come—over the issue....

I was asked whether or not she had ever expressed empathy for the Acadians and the only example I could give was the fact that a Canadian reporter for the BBC, Chief International Correspondent Lyse Marie Doucet, had questioned Prince Charles about the Petition for an Apology during a Canadian visit and he had replied that, "history can be so cruel to some people." The article will be published with Francopresse.ca. on February 6 which is the 70th anniversary of her accession of the throne.

Legends of the Rougarou May Send Chills Down Your Spine

This article by Jackie Ann appeared in *Only In Your State*:

Since the dawn of time, people have been telling stories. One of the most popular stories that gets passed down from generation to generation is the legend of the Rougarou, Cajun Country's answer to Bigfoot. Over the years there have been many different stories about this mythical creature in Louisiana, a common occurrence with oral traditions like this one.

Under daylight, the swamps and bayous of Louisiana are some of the most beautiful natural scenery in the entire country...



...but under the cloak of darkness, many believe that a creature lurks in the shadows. And no, we're not talking about gators.

That creature is the Rougarou, a terrifying creature described as a werewolf-looking beast that roams the swamps around Acadiana and the Greater New Orleans area. The Cajun legend has been around for hundreds of years, with roots that go back to French settlers.

Read more about it and see the scary pictures right here:

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/louisiana/legends-of-the-rougarou-la/>

"Passing it On" Workshops Promote Cajun Culture in Vermilion Parish

A series of workshops and demonstrations funded with support from the Louisiana Folklore Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and sponsored by the Acadian Museum

PASSING IT ON WORKSHOPS

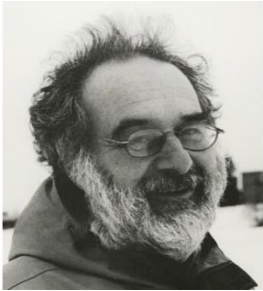
Workshop	Presenters	Location
January 7, 9:30 - 11:30 am		
Pioneering Folklorist: Catherine Blanchet's Half Century of La. Folk Songs	Earlene Broussard, Natial d'Augereau, Linda Hebert	Vermilion Parish Library 405 East. St. Victor Abbeville, LA
February (date to-be-announced on our website)		
Vermilion Parish Traditions of Storytelling	Moderator Richard Landry, Allen Simon, Connie Suire, Robert Richard and Randall Broussard	TBA
March 19, 9:30am		
Healing Traditions of Acadiana	Mary Perrin, Mary Ann Armbruster, Ph.D., Beverly Fusilier, Nancy Adkins, DVM, Tina Vidrine, Melanie Francois	Perrin Farm in Prairie Greig 6805 Hwy 330 Erath, LA 70533
April 2, 10:00 a.m. (registration required)*		
Madame Dronet's Legacy: Spinning and Weaving in Prairie Greig	Elaine Bourque, Austin Clark	Perrin Farm in Prairie Greig 6805 Hwy 330 Erath, LA 70533

* preregister by calling 337 456-7729 or email info@acadianmuseum.com

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Paul Surette Dies

Vanessa Bass informed us of the recent death of Paul Surette. Paul was proud of his heritage and did his utmost to share his knowledge of the Acadian history of this area of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He was a fount of



information on the Acadian families and their dwellings there, through his extensive histories titled *Atlas of the Acadian Settlement of the Beaubassin*. The books are available from Tantramar Heritage Trust, Sackville, NB www.tantramarheritage.ca

New Edition: *We Were Not the Savages*

Chief Daniel Paul of Halifax is touting the new fourth edition of his book *We Were Not the Savages* which covers the brutal treatment that the Mi'kmaq Indians (brothers to the Acadians) received at the hands of European settlers. Chief Paul, who spent his life promoting and protecting the Mi'kmaq people and culture, had this to say:

Just a line to say I'm now 83, 17 to go for a 100!
On September 30, 2022 a new fourth edition of *We Were Not the Savages* will be published and, because of my age, it will be the last, it will contain all the new developments that have happened since 2006 and much more.

May your New Year be prosperous and peaceful!

Danny

Madawaska Quilters Turn Leftovers into Warmth For The Needy

This article by Paula Brewer appeared in *Fiddlehead Focus*:

A group of local quilters has turned leftover pieces of fabric into welcome gifts for those in need. The story started with an anonymous donor in Portland, retired from quilting, who had boxes of leftover fabric. She had heard about the Acadian Quilters and their charity work and wanted to help.



(L-R) Priscilla Cannan, Charlene Nadeau, and Nicole Plourde pose in Cannan's backyard in October with some of the quilts they sewed for charity. The group has made quilts, baby blankets, and bibs with donated leftover material and plans to donate all the items to those in need. (photo Hannah Catlin | St. John Valley Times)

The donor called the Madawaska Town Office, who put her in touch with a member of the local group. Thanks to that donation, the Acadian Quilters have made 22 children's quilts, 15 baby blankets and a slew of bibs to be given to local people who need them.

Read more about it here:

<https://fiddleheadfocus.com/2021/12/10/news/community/madawaska-quilters-turn-leftovers-into-warmth-for-the-needy/>

Acadians Carrying on The Tradition of ‘Grosses Tetes’ in Madawaska Class

This article by Emily Jerkins also appeared in *Fiddlehead Focus*:

While techniques may have changed over the centuries, Acadians in the St. John Valley are keeping traditions alive and getting big heads in the process — literally. Victorine Dionne hosted the first Grosses Têtes (big heads) class in Madawaska in 2011, utilizing the art of *papier maché* to create giant heads that revelers wear during Acadian celebrations. The first big heads caught the eyes of Gerald Fongemie and his wife, who enrolled in the class the following year.

Grosses Têtes date back to the 15th century when figures depicted Bible scenes. Eventually, the heads became representative of a region or neighborhood. Today, the heads are a staple on the streets of Madawaska during the Acadian Festival’s Tintamarre, a noisy parade involving improvised instruments and noise makers.

You can read more about it [here](#).

Season’s Greetings from David Le Gallant



Season greetings were sent from our Acadian friend on Prince Edwards Island, David Le Gallant. David is President of *Société internationale Veritas Acadie*. One of my earliest supporters who helped me get support from many Acadians in obtaining the apology from the British Crown.

Acadian Remembrance Day Honored in P.E.I. Ceremony

This piece by Brittany Spencer was on *CBC News*:

More than 3,000 Acadians were deported from Prince Edward Island in 1758. Islanders were recently able to come together in person to commemorate Acadian Remembrance Day at a ceremony at Skmaqñ–Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst National Historic Site.

The annual ceremony honours the more than 3,000 Acadians who were deported from Prince Edward Island in 1758.

The event was cancelled last year because of COVID-19, but this year a small group of community members, Acadian organizations, politicians and students came together to mark the day.



(Julien Lecacheur/CBC)

"It was special that we could do it again in person this year because since 2008 we have had a ceremony here," said Georges Arsenault, Acadian historian and master of ceremonies for the event.

Read more about it here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-acadian-remembrance-day-2021-1.6284388>

Acadian Federation of Québec

Yvon Godin sent this to me:

A delegation from the Acadian Federation of Québec attended a mass on the 13 Dec 2021 at *Notre -Dame-de- Lourdes* chapel in downtown Montréal for a special tribute to the Acadians.



The celebrant of the mass was Father Lévesque. The song *Évangéline* and our national Acadian anthem *Ave Maris Stella* were sung during the ceremony. The Acadians were from Atholville, Bathurst, Moncton, Petit-Rocher, Saint-Antoine, Saint-Paul, Saint-Simon (New Brunswick) and also from Gaspésie and Montréal.

December 13 is the Remembrance Day of the Acadians, that we pay tribute every year on the historical site of Port-la-Joye, near Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, the most significant loss of lives during the years (1755-1763) of the Acadian Deportations. During these three days of 1758, approximately 850 Acadians, the average age of 15 years old, perished in the Atlantic Ocean. Particularly, the date of the 13 of December, when about 362 Acadians drowned onboard the Duke William off the coast of Gornouailles, near England, was the worst day of death.

New Archeology Exhibit Shows What Island Life Was Like Hundreds of Years Ago

This article by Jessica Doria-Brown appeared in *CBC News*:

An Island archeology exhibit on display at the Acadian Museum in Miscouche has been extended until June to allow more people the opportunity to take it in.



Jessica Doria-Brown/CBC

The exhibit includes findings such as stone tools and items used to prepare and serve food, as well as personal belongings.

It's called *Unearthing the Past: Archeological Discoveries of P.E.I.* and features artifacts, photographs and discoveries from digs at four different sites on the island, including former Acadian settlements and a Mi'kmaw campsite inhabited for more than 2,000 years.

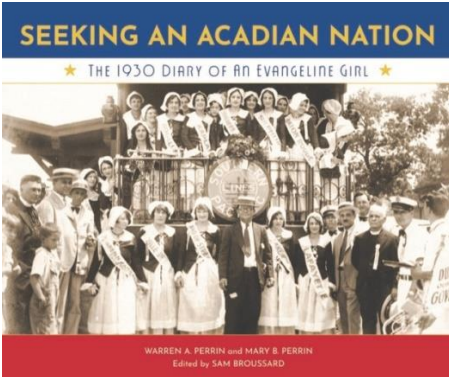
Former provincial archeologist Helen Kristmanson led the work and is curator of the exhibit, which she said represents 15 years of her work on P.E.I.

You can read more about it here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-acadian-museum-artifact-exhibit-1.6288868>

LAGNIAPPE

Visit the Boutique / Get Cool Stuff !



Another way to support the museum is by visiting our [online boutique](#). Our latest book, [Seeking an Acadian Nation](#), traces the Acadian reunification movement from the 1800s to the 1930s. Other titles and souvenirs include:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world. This book won the *Prix France-Acadie* in 2015.
- [Acadian Redemption - From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation](#) by Warren Perrin.
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet.
- *The University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams, a Companion Book to the documentary The Ragin' 13*
- Other historical "picture books" on Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes, plus T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Help Us Put Acadian TV on the Air!



D.L. Menard at Lake Peigneur

For most of last year, we had been announcing that we would release our own YouTube channel of Cajun and Acadian video treasures. But *we still need your help to make it happen!* For months, Chris Segura of the Center for Louisiana Studies has been working around-the-clock on converting our massive historic collection of videotapes, which will be a major part of what we offer. Here is just one of the videos from that collection: D.L. Menard playing outdoors at Lake Peigneur with the Rees Family Band.

<https://youtu.be/9EHP2TV8Y4A>

In addition, we would like to make our channel the number one spot for the best in Cajun videos: food, music, culture, you name it!

Here's how you can help and *have fun* at the same time! Go to www.youtube.com, search for "Cajun," watch a lot of the videos, and send us links to the absolute best ones you can find (email rybernard@gmail.com). Once we have a critical mass of these videos ready for viewing, we will launch the channel. Stay tuned, and meanwhile [click here](#) to help in other ways.