

# LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

January 2024

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## MUSEUM HOURS

Tue.-Fri. 1-4 pm — Sat. 10-noon  
For tours, call 337 456-7729 (weekdays) or  
337 501-3049 (weekends or no answer).

## HELP PROMOTE CAJUN CULTURE!

Your tax-deductible donations<sup>1</sup> help:

- Find the [lost location](#) of the first Acadian settlement
- Archive rare tapes and interviews
- Give [talks and presentations](#) to clubs and civic groups
- Fund French “immersion” and other cultural programs
- Expand the museum collection.

Donate [online](#) or by check to Acadian Museum, Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

## SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

To start or cancel a subscription, email Bruce Perrin at [bruce@plddo.com](mailto:bruce@plddo.com).

## CONNECT WITH US!

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Museum Store](#) | [Video](#)

**EDITORS:** Darylin Barousse, Bruce Perrin, Mario Lagacé, and Ryan Bernard.

**SPONSORED BY:** Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association

<sup>1</sup> Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

## Book Presentation

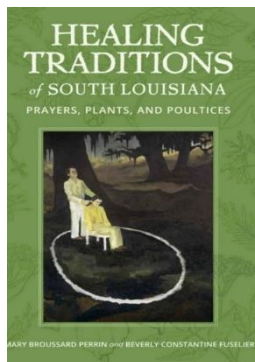


Doug Ireland, Hall of Fame Chairman (L)  
with Warren Perrin (R)

On December 9, I gave a presentation on my latest book—*The Weight of History, the Power of Apology: Remembering Lifter David Berger 50 Years After the Munich Olympics*—at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, La. The book is a tribute to my friend—the American-Israeli Olympian Berger, a young 28-year-old and Tulane

graduate, who was murdered by terrorists two days after fulfilling a lifetime dream of competing in the Olympics. To place an order, call (337) 456-7729, or visit our [museum boutique](#).

## Book: Healing Traditions of South Louisiana



*Healing Traditions of South Louisiana* is the most comprehensive history available today of the healing arts from the dawn of civilization to present times, including details on the mystical arts of the Cajun *traiteur* as well as the plants supporting their magic ([read more](#)). To place an order, call (337) 456-7729, or visit our [museum boutique](#).

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

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

## MUSEUM NEWS

### Book Talks/Special Events

The following talks will be presented by Warren and/or Mary Perrin, unless otherwise noted. All times are US Central. To schedule a talk, just pick a [topic](#) and a date that isn't already taken.

- Jan. 4, 11 am, "Who are the Cajuns?" Warren Perrin and "Healing Traditions of South Louisiana" Mary Perrin at the Jean Lafitte Visitor Center, 419 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA
- Jan. 14, 2pm, "Healing Traditions of S. Louisiana," Lafayette Museum, 1122 Lafayette St., Lafayette, LA
- Apr. 13, 10 am, the New Acadia Project, Warren Perrin, St. Landry Genealogical and Historical Society, Archive Bldg., 306 West Landry St., Opelousas, LA

### Let Us Entertain You



Fifty years ago, if you lived anywhere south of Lafayette, you probably listened to Couzan Dud on KROF Radio out of Abbeville, La. Now you can listen to him (in French) on our YouTube channel. Our video channel is doing

quite well, with over 1,100 subscribers and more joining every day. If you haven't subscribed or seen our films yet, you can [do it now here](#).

### Museum Visitors

On December 8, Ryan Bernard, Elaine Bourque and I hosted these out-of-state visitors at the Acadian Museum. They were staying at Betty Bernard's RV Park in Abbeville. I showed them how to make a four-meat Cajun jambalaya.



*Front row (L-R): Warren Perrin, Mark Nemeth, Betty Bernard, Barbara Utlaut, and Bev Thewes. Back row (L-R): Rick Edwards, Cathy Edwards, Dan Hosek, Susan Hosek, and Lester Bailey. Photo by Ryan Bernard.*

On Dec. 15, Odette Doiron and Michel St. Ongé, an Acadian couple from Shediac, NB, were touring S. Louisiana and stopped to visit the museum after attending the French table in Erath. Odette is only the second full-blooded



Acadian—both maternal and paternal lines—that I have met in my life. The first was René Babineau, a native of Richibucto, NB, Canada who helped us open the museum in 1990 and died in Opelousas, La.

### Fabulous Quilt Donated to Museum

We received this note from Nicholas Roy along with this fabulous quilt he donated to us:



Dear Acadian  
Museum Curator:

I am a proud  
Acadian who grew  
up on the border of  
Maine (ME) and  
New Brunswick  
(NB). We are from  
Madawaska, ME  
and work tirelessly  
to ensure our  
culture is not  
forgotten.

My mother's name is Linda Roy and she is my hero. She taught French Immersion for most of her teaching career and, as a retired Acadian, has become a locally awarded quilter. One of her accomplishments, which I have always been in awe of, is her Acadian history quilt which depicts the Acadian deportation from Grand-Pré, NS. Each square of her quilt is based on a page from a children's book that tells the tale of the Acadians. She worked on this for over six years and I'd love it to be displayed somewhere to honor our amazing Acadian heritage.

My mother is getting on in years and I have taken it upon myself to ensure her amazing historical stitching of our proud Acadian heritage can be displayed in a protective environment long after she is deceased. She is far too humble and proud to think her work ingenious, but I know that it is and I know that it deserves a beautiful spot in your museum.

### La Table Française – Come Speak French

Southwest Louisiana locals meet regularly to share their experiences, speaking only in French. This is a great way to meet others and improve your language skills. CODOFIL provides a [list](#) of these events, but here are some of our favorites.

- **Arnaudville:** Last Saturday, 9:30 am, at Arnaudville Community Center. Contact [navisfruge@aol.com](mailto:navisfruge@aol.com).
- **Broussard:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, 8:30 am, at the Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478.
- **Erath:** Fridays, 11 am, Erath City Hall. (337) 254-8522.
- **Lafayette:** Wednesdays, 7 am, Dwyers Café, 323 Jefferson St.
- **Maurice:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 10 am, 218 Chief Fred Ave. (337) 652-0166.
- **Metairie:** Wednesdays, 6 pm, *Parlons Café*, 1001 Metairie Road, (504) 982-0800.
- **New Iberia:** Every Thursday, 8:30 am, Cane River Pecan Company, 254 W. Main St. (337) 519-7942
- **Rayne:** Every Thursday, 9:30 am, Bernard-Bertrand House, 1023 The Blvd. [wjthibodeaux@yahoo.com](mailto:wjthibodeaux@yahoo.com).
- **Thibodaux:** Every Tuesday, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. [mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com](mailto:mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com).

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## Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival Jan. 24



The 19th Annual Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival will be held Jan. 24-31, screening over 150 films, including more than 45 French language films, and presenting film industry professionals from across the United States and around the world.

As in previous years, the festival will screen narrative and documentary features, narrative and documentary shorts, and animated and experimental films. It also will present film panel discussions on a variety of topics. And, of course, all of this will be accompanied by food, music, and fun. A complete description of the films can be found at [cinemaonthebayou.com](http://cinemaonthebayou.com). All-Access passes are available now for \$100 and can be purchased at the website. A complete schedule of films and events will be published in early January 2024.

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## Passing It On Workshops



We received this news from Maida Owens with the Louisiana Folklore Society:

“Passing It On” Workshops are available through June 30. These are workshops supported by the Bayou Culture Collaborative and taught by a tradition bearer who would like to pass on their tradition. through a workshop that provides deep learning. Priority is for tradition bearers and traditions in parishes endangered by environmental changes or who practice a highly endangered tradition. We provide funds to an organization or the tradition bearer for workshops or mini-apprenticeships. Expenses generally cover the teacher honorarium and supplies. To see the 49 workshops funded since 2019, click [here](#) or contact Maida Owens, Louisiana Folklife Program, [folklife@crt.la.gov](mailto:folklife@crt.la.gov) to explore possibilities.

If you missed a Bayou Culture Gathering, they are all on the [Louisiana Folklore Society's YouTube Channel](#). Look under **Playlists** to find featured videos and all the gatherings.

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## New Acadia Project Searching for the Original Acadian Settlements in Louisiana



*New Acadia Project crew and volunteers on the search for the original Acadian settlements near Loreauville, LA*

Will you support the search for the graves of our ancestors? In 1765, Beausoleil Broussard and 200 other Acadian pioneers were released from prisons in Nova Scotia and chartered their own ship to find a new life outside of British control, eventually setting in the St. Martinsville area. Those pioneers included families with names like LeBlanc, Landry, Boudreaux, Dugas, Breaux, Thibodeaux, Comeaux, Cormier, Hebert, and many others. Archeologists from ULL have formed the "New Acadia Project" to search for their ancient graves and campsites, but they need better equipment to aid in their search. Please take a moment to help fund this project. You can read about it [here](#) and donate [here](#).

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## Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Expanded to Include Lafourche Parish

Legislation was recently passed to include Lafourche Parish LA, as part of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA). To read the news release, click [here](#).

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## FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

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### Congrès mondial acadien 2024



The Acadian Museum is partnering with ULL Alumni Association (represented by Jean-Claude Arceneaux) for a tour group to attend the next *Congrès mondial acadien* Aug. 10–18, 2024. To join us, email [info@acadianmuseum.com](mailto:info@acadianmuseum.com).

Tour organizer Richard Laurin, our man in Nova Scotia, invites everyone with this message:

To all Cajuns who always wished to return to the land of their Acadian forefathers, here is that chance! With 25 years' experience guiding people into the very cradle of the Acadian culture and throughout the vast Acadian Diaspora, Novacadie Tours Inc. ([www.novacadie.ca](http://www.novacadie.ca)) is calling all potential travelers to come spend 10 exceptional and revealing days in Nova Scotia during the next *Congrès mondial acadien*. A special invitation stands for any proud Broussard in Acadiana to join in. The group tour will celebrate this great Acadian surname and take a colorful part in its CMA Family reunion.

*Viens voir le pays des ancêtres et la grande famille réunie!*

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## Nova Scotia Now on the 'Cool List'

Mario Lagacé sent this article by Lilit Marcus which appeared on *CNN Travel* and noted that one of the places named is Nova Scotia, this year's host of the *Congrès mondial acadien*:

*National Geographic Traveller* has published a roster of 30 places and experiences comprising its 2024 'cool list.' About half the list is in Europe, including areas as diverse as the ruins of Pompeii and the mountains of Albania, which the magazine dubs "Europe's rising star."

But whether you prefer exploring a major world city, traveling for a sporting event or getting away from it all in a remote paradise, there's a nice mix here for just about every kind of explorer.

And Nova Scotia, Canada – which is a province, not a state – was recognized for its Acadian culture. This ethnic group is made up of descendants of Canada's original French settlers, and their cultural heritage is reflected in Nova Scotia's delicious seafood dishes.

To read the article, click [here](#).

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## Update on Beausoleil Honors

Here is an update by Will Pratt on the efforts to honor Beausoleil Broussard as a national historic person in Canadian history:

Please share that we are working on the inscription for Beausoleil. We hope to unveil the plaque next year. Here is a link for more information:

<https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/personnage-person/joseph-broussard-dit-beausoleil>

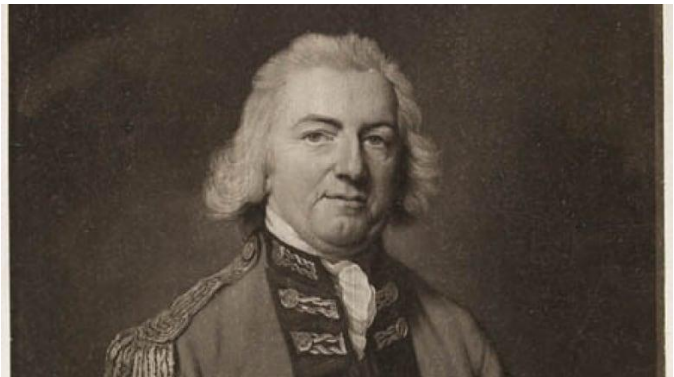
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## Université de Moncton Will Keep Its Name

This article by Jordan Gill appeared on *CBC News*:

The *Université de Moncton* will keep the name it's had for the past 60 years. On Saturday, the university's board of governors voted to keep the name of the university [which] was the culmination of a years-long campaign by some Acadian groups to have the name changed.

The controversy over the university's name, and the city of Moncton itself, goes back to the 18th century. The city is named after Col. Robert Monckton, a British officer who was a key figure in the deportation of the Acadians in 1755.



*The city of Moncton, where the university took its name, was named after British officer Robert Monckton who was a key figure in the Acadian Deportation. (Library and Archives Canada)*

After the Seven Years War, the city was named Monckton in honour of the colonel, but after the Confederation the name of the city was changed to Moncton.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.

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## Prince Edward Islanders Mark Acadian Day of Remembrance

This article appeared on *CBC News*



*Students on P.E.I. on Acadian Remembrance Day,*

Members of the Acadian community, dozens of school children and local officials gathered... to mark Acadian Remembrance Day at Skmaqñ–Port-la-Joye–Fort Amherst National Historic site. There was music, a silent walk, and readings that highlighted the resilience of the Acadian community.

Dec. 13 has a special meaning for P.E.I.'s Acadian Community. On that day in 1758, a ship carrying Acadians being deported to France sank. More than 350 people died. It was the greatest loss of Acadian life in a single day, said Georges Arsenault, an Acadian historian.

"It is to recognize the difficult years that the Acadians had and of course resilience because we are still here, we've been on the Island for over 300 years and French is still a language which is alive, that has been spoken on the Island for 300 years," he said.

To read the article, click [here](#).

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## All Hail Capitaine Acadie!



This article by Jérémie Tessier-Vigneault appeared on the Radio-Canada website:

Après *Attaque à Shédiac* et *Les Îles en péril*, le superhéros plus grand que nature vient sauver la péninsule acadienne pour le septième tome intitulé *Beluettes à Caraquet*. Le plus récent opus de *Capitaine Acadie* paraîtra en mars prochain et proposera une aventure épique de 36 pages se déroulant dans différents lieux de la ville côtière.

Click [here](#) to read the whole article (in French).

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## Noel 2023 Alfred et Claude LeBlanc

We received this from Yvon Godin:



Here is a photo of Christmas decorations in front of Alfred LeBlanc's home in Longueuil, Québec. He was originally from Saint-Antoine, NB.

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## LAGNIAPPE

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### Lewis and Clark's French Connection



Thanks to Mario Lagacé for spotting this article by Melody Desjardins, which appeared on the website [MyFrenchCanadianFamily.com](http://MyFrenchCanadianFamily.com). The article explains the French role in showing a bunch of Anglos the territory they were “discovering” for the first time—territory that the French had been thriving in for years:

Okay, fellow Americans: how many of you learned about the epic exploration story of Lewis and Clark in history class? Probably most of you, if you were even paying attention.

From what you remember... Meriweather Lewis and William Clark were recruited by President Thomas Jefferson to find a passage to the Pacific... later joined by Sacagawea, a young Native American woman who became their one and only guide...right?

Not quite. As with most American history, there's always the fine print that doesn't make the final cut into our history textbooks. According to historian Denis Vaugeois, there's a French-Canadian contribution to the famous expedition that was left out of the historical account.

The entire article is priceless, and you can read about it [here](#).

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### Lafayette Culture Will Grow If We Live It to the Fullest

This article by Kristi Guillory Munzing appeared in *The Acadiana Advocate*.

*Kristi Guillory, accordion player for Bonsoir Catin, performs on the opening night of Festival Acadiens et Creoles in Girard Park on Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 (Advocate photo by Brad Bowie)*



I was not born in Lafayette, but Lafayette raised me. I was meant to be here. My childhood in this town came by way of Providence and, like all good things that come to many of us, through the fervent prayers of my Cajun mama. My mom was raised in Lake Charles by two transplanted Cajuns who went west for work. Mawmaw and Pawpaw frequently visited family back home and still lived their Cajun culture, so much so that my mother would yearn to call Lafayette her own home.

When I was asked to reflect upon the past 200 years of Lafayette's cultural history and where I see Lafayette projected into the future culturally, I am reminded of two things: Culture is lived and culture is cultivated... Looking forward, our culture in Lafayette must continue to be lived if we are to see it survive into the future.

To read the whole article, click [here](#).

## Working to Preserve Cajun Culture



This article by Amma Siriboe appeared on the KPLC TV website:

Keeping French music and culture alive one step at a time – that’s exactly what Miss Cajun Music 2023, Summer Parker Blanchard, is teaching 13-year-old Phoenix Sims, Junior Miss Cajun Music 2023.

“*Laissez les bons temps rouler*, it’s something that everyone says but they might not know what it means, and it means, let the good times roll,” Blanchard said.

Throughout the years, the number of youth interested in the Cajun culture has plummeted. Blanchard can recall a time when things were different.

In the current era, it’s going to take more than just a bowl of gumbo. Phoenix explained from a teen’s perspective.

“Recently me and my Teen Queen, Charlotte Risen, have been planning to visit a couple of local elementary schools for Louisiana Day, to be able to kind of bring back participation in elementary schools, especially because if you

start out young, you’ll be more accustomed to it when you’re older,” Phoenix said.

From teaching dance moves to handing out flyers in her community to attract more youth, Phoenix has a plan.

“I am learning French right now and when I talk to my friends about it, I ask questions like what type of music do you like? Because there’s all different types of Cajun music,” she said.

To read the article, click [here](#).

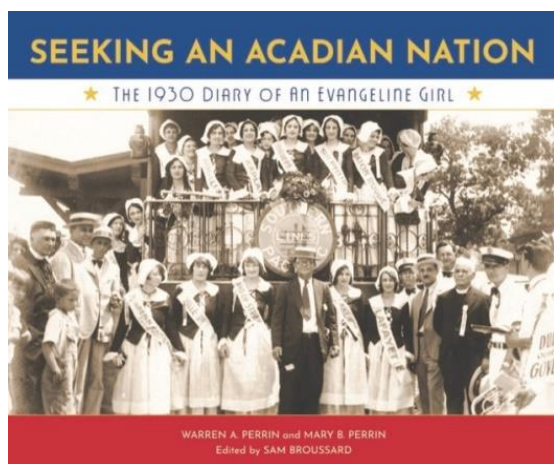
## OK, Let’s Get Down to BUSINESS!

We enjoyed seeing this meme floating around on the Internet:



Our sentiments exactly!!!

## Visit the Boutique / Get Cool Stuff !



Another way to support the museum is by visiting our [online boutique](#) and purchasing one of our books or souvenirs. Here's just an example of what you will find:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world, edited by Warren Perrin, Phil Comeau, and Mary Perrin
- [Acadian Redemption](#) - *From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation* by Warren Perrin
- [Healing Traditions of South Louisiana](#) by Mary Perrin and Beverly Fuselier
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet
- [The USL National Championship Weightlifting Teams](#) by Warren Perrin
- Histories of Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes by Warren Perrin
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

## Would You Like a Group Presentation?

As you can see from our [event calendar](#), the Acadian Museum gives regular presentations to groups around the region, and we would be happy to speak to your group. Here is a sampling of topics—or [click here](#) for a complete list. Send all requests to [info@acadianmuseum.com](mailto:info@acadianmuseum.com).

- Acadian History and Culture
- The Queen's Proclamation – History of an Apology to the Acadians
- Folk Healing Traditions and the Traiteurs of South Louisiana
- The Development of Cajun Music
- Acadian Resistance Fighters and Beausoleil Broussard
- Louisiana: the French Renaissance: 1900-2000
- Longfellow's Evangeline: The Birth and Acceptance of a Legend
- Acadians' Role in the American Revolution
- Frenchie: Cajuns' Contributions in WW II
- Post Deportation Migrations of Acadians 1755-1800