



Écoutez



January - March, 2019

Volume LI, No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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"The purpose of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association shall be to foster interest in history, particularly that of West Baton Rouge Parish, and to encourage and pursue research, collection and preservation of materials illustrating past or present activities of the parish."



Members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association Board are pictured following the January 22, 2019 board meeting of the organization. Shown from left are Beth Kleinpeter, Janet Simoneaux, Babs Babin, Andrea Normand, Ruth Stanley, Drew Maciasz, Joyce Barbier, Lorry Trotter, Janice Hebert, and Mary Bennett. Other board members include Glen Daigle, Garry Hubble, Michelle Owens, David Couvillon, Wilhemenia DeCuir, Ellis Gauthier, Kim Callegan, Ida Pierre, and Evva Wilson. The board meets quarterly at the West Baton Rouge Museum.

Historic Marker for St. Mark Baptist Church & Ashland Cemetery in Chamberlin Proposed

Westside Cemetery Preservation, a local group led by Debbie Martin has researched information on St. Mark Baptist Church and Ashland Cemetery near Chamberlain for the site of a historic marker, explained Brian Falcon, Chair of the WBRHA Preservation Committee. The Historical Association will sponsor the marker.

The church began in 1867 from a salvaged barge-like structure carried down the Mississippi River and then by wagons to its present site. It was constructed primarily of pine boards with a plank roof and floors. Its construction took 10 years and began in 1877.

In 1922 the textured block and cornerstone were added as were a kitchen, baptismal pool, and bathrooms. The bell was moved to a bell tower due to concerns that the weight and vibration would cause structural damage. In the 1950's the original stained-glass windows were replaced leaving only one original window, encased in what was the original back wall of the church, located behind the pulpit. The 1960's brought cosmetic and *(continued on page 4)*



2019 WBR Historical Association Board Officers - (L-R): Janet Simoneaux, Secretary, Glen Daigle, Treasurer, Mary Bennett, Vice President, and Drew Maciasz, President.

The WBR Historical Association is Now Collecting 2019 Dues

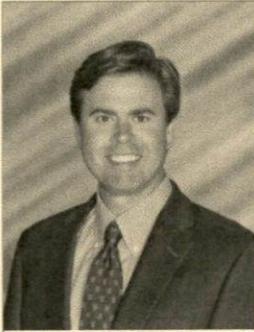
Please support your community's history by being a current member.

Make check payable to: WBRHA

See Membership form on the last page for dues amount.

Mail to:

West Baton Rouge Historical Association
845 North Jefferson, Port Allen, LA 70767



Drew Maciasz
WBR Historical Association
Board President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

Greetings!

It's an honor and privilege to serve once again as the 2019 President of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. I have always had a great personal interest in the preservation of our area's rich culture and historical significance.....what we have here in West Baton Rouge is one of a kind!



In my time being involved with the WBR Historical Association, it did not take long to realize how dedicated of a group we have to represent our association. The Association is led by a fantastic slate of board members that work tirelessly to raise money and awareness for West Baton Rouge's historical treasures. In addition, our organization would not be what it is today without the passion and leadership from the staff of the WBR Museum. Led by its Executive Director, Angelique Bergeron, she and her staff do a phenomenal job hosting unique exhibits, education lectures, and student camps, to display the treasures of West Baton Rouge and illustrate its rich culture and traditions.

There are so many wonderful events for our association friends to

take advantage of this coming year. Please plan to join us at our fundraisers such as the Christmas in July Card Party or our plantation dinner at SugarFest this October. Just as we encourage your attendance at our wonderful events, please also consider volunteering. Year after year, our events continue to grow, so we always need dedicated volunteers to assist us. Mark your calendars!

Last year, we celebrated the Museum's 50th Anniversary with a fitting Gala, coupled with the exhibit *Golden Anniversary: Treasures from the Collection*. The Historical Association opened the vault to display objects from its collection, some never seen before. We made so many wonderful memories during 2018, the association looks forward to what the next 50 years has in store.

As said, we could not accomplish anything without the great work of our volunteers and dedicated museum staff. To the many who diligently work with us, we say thanks. Please join us at our events, tell a friend about us, and we'll welcome you with open arms to experience the historical riches we have in West Baton Rouge. Let's have a great year...we've got so much to look forward to.

Sincerely,

Drew

Drew Maciasz

Where history has a name.



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



Angelique Bergeron, PhD
West Baton Rouge
Museum Director

From Our Director



Springtime always brings a buzz of activity and tours to the West Baton Rouge Museum. *The Square Collection* and the Leonard Julien Cane Planter saw lots of great press and brought in scores of new visitors. Thanks to a generous donation from the Reed family in memory of Mr. Charlie Reed, the cane planter will soon be getting a new shelter, the old Reed Barn. Our team is always developing new displays in our historic structures, barn and Juke Joint, including a recent

addition to the Perkins Gallery thanks to a grant from the Louisiana Endowment to the Humanities. And thanks to our wonderful board members, volunteers, and staff, we were able to once again open our entire campus for the students (and their families) competing in the regional competition for National History Day.

Registration for our 24th annual *Blast from the Past Summer History Camp* is filling up fast! This year's theme is *From First Flight to the Lunar Landing*. Scientists and historical characters will take campers to the moon and back through a series of fun and creative hands-on activities. Campers will explore man's desire for flight by learning about lofty topics like da Vinci's flying machine, hot air balloons, kites, the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart. Next, they will soar into space to imagine what it was like when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon fifty years ago.

Our new exhibit, *Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad*, will be accompanied by some exciting programs. First on April 10, we welcome Carl Westmoreland, senior historian at the National Underground Railroad Museum's Freedom Center, for a lunchtime lecture sponsored in part by WRKF. On May 22, Dr. Bryan Wagner will discuss his new book from LSU Press, *The Life and Legend of Bras Coupé: The Fugitive Slave Who Fought the Law, Ruled the Swamp, Danced at Congo Square, Invented Jazz, and Died for Love*.

We're hosting a family friendly weekend on April 13-14 as we welcome Gaynell Brady's Saturday presentation on the ways in which Mammy served as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. On Sunday, April 14, we're partnering with the WBR Parish Library to host the second annual Eggstravaganza. Check out the calendar for a full list of offerings at the West Baton Rouge Museum.

This summer we are gearing up for *Prepared for Life*, an exhibit curated by Elizabeth Brantley highlighting the rich history of the Boy and Girl Scouts here in West Baton Rouge. A Scout Reunion is planned for the opening weekend of the exhibit. Reminisce with your old troop, bring memorabilia and photos to share as we celebrate all things Scouting!

With all that's going on, we hope to see you at the museum!

Sincerely,

Angelique

Angélique Bergeron



WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING RECEPTION

JANUARY 8, 2019





Beth Kleinpeter WBR Historical Association Volunteer

A new face on the West Baton Rouge Historical Association Board of Directors is retired Holy Family School teacher Beth Kleinpeter. Beth and her family have enjoyed the programs at the museum for many years and she is excited to now be serving on the board.

Beth is married to Judge Will Kleinpeter and they have lived in Port Allen for 34 years. They have four grown children: Ginny who is married to Christopher Grant; Kyle who is married to Julie Roussell; Kat and Rebecca. They are the proud grandparents to four granddaughters: Peyton, Maddie, Sydney and Caroline Grant. A fifth granddaughter will soon join the family as their son Kyle and his wife Julie are expecting their first child in June.

After receiving a B.A. degree in Interior Design from LSU, Beth worked for a design firm in the Washington D.C. area and later in Baton Rouge, concentrating in commercial design and planning. After her children were born, she returned to LSU and obtained a degree in elementary education and taught at Holy Family School for 22 years.

As the daughter of a career U.S. Naval officer, Beth had the opportunity to live in many different places. She met her husband Will at LSU after her father retired in New Orleans, where she and Will were married. Although she has lived in seven states and three foreign countries, she is happy to now live in Port Allen and call it home.

After her retirement, Beth finds time to participate in a variety of activities. She belongs to a group of puppeteers at the West Baton Rouge Parish Library that puts on performances for school children in the parish. She is an active elder in the West Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church and enjoys exercise classes at the YMCA, reading, spending time with her grandchildren, and traveling with her husband and friends.

This is one busy lady and we're proud to have her as a board member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The West Baton Rouge Museum along with the West Baton Rouge Parish Library will host *Eggstravaganza*, an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt – on **Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00PM.**

Come for springtime games, crafts, face painting, and a visit from the Easter Bunny on the beautiful grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum set on six tree-shaded acres surrounded by picturesque historical buildings.

This event is being offered FREE of charge. For more information, please call the museum at 225-336-2422 extension 200 or the library at 225-342-7920, ext. 221 or email scolombo@wbrpliblibrary.us. The West Baton Rouge Museum is located at 845 North Jefferson Avenue in Port Allen. For more information, visit www.westbatonrougemuseum.com.

SAVE THE DATE

"CHRISTMAS IN JULY" CARD PARTY

Set for Monday, July 29, 2019

at the

West Baton Rouge Community Center

(Historic Marker continued from page 1)

comfort changes, including the addition of carpet, drapes, new pews, piano, an office, and dining area. It also included a central heating and cooling system.

The National Register status was sought because of the long-standing importance that St. Mark Church has had in the community. Since its early days it was the center of all activities for African American's of the Chamberlin community as well as other surrounding plantations.

For the newly freed slaves whose hands built the church, it was a sign of freedom. The church they built gave them a sense of belonging. It served as the first school for African American children of the Chamberlin community. Many politicians would make appearances at the church in order to state their platform and some of the early NAACP meetings were held at St. Mark. The church housed families who took refuge on cold nights and provided them with warmth from a pot belly stove. Members held early farmers markets at the church where they would sell, trade, barter or give their excess crops to other families.

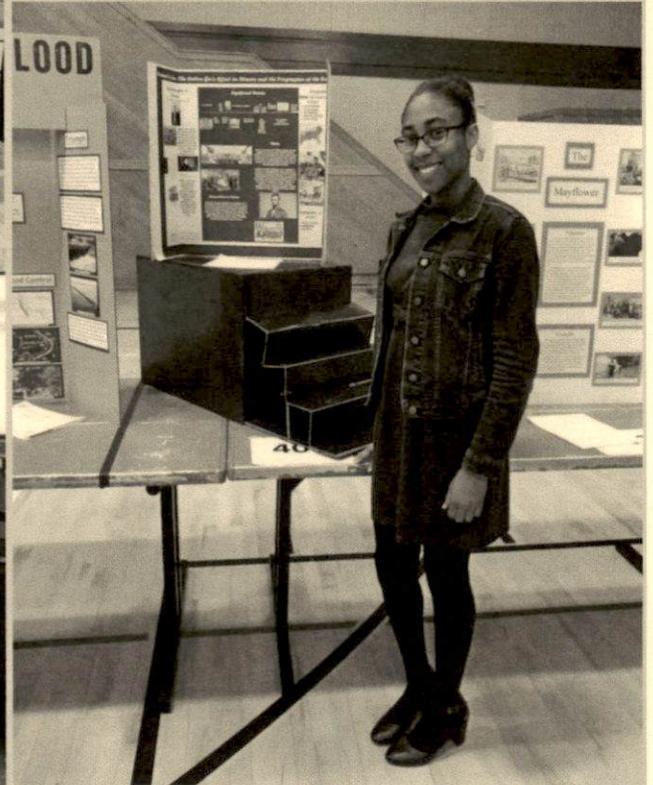
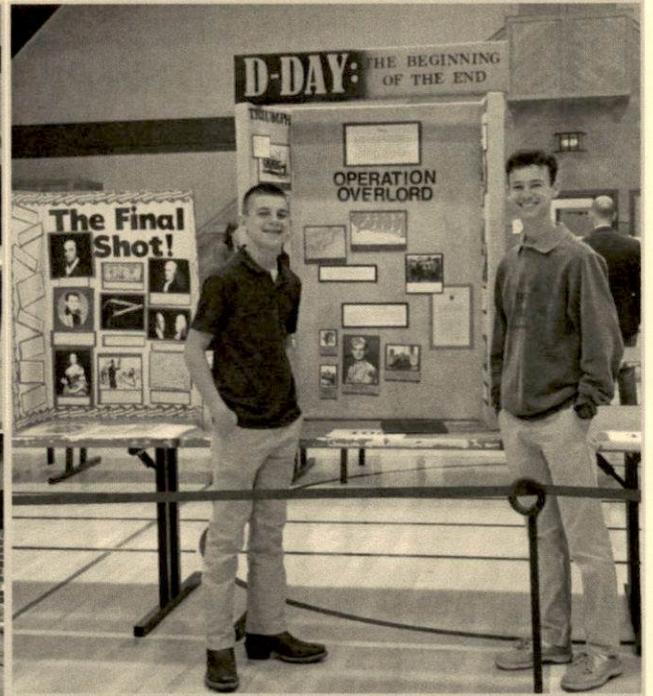
The most noted aspect about St. Mark's is that it is one of the few early African American Church's that will soon have sole ownership of the church, the land it sits on and its two cemeteries.

St. Mark is still in operation today with many of its members being descendants of the original founders. Its early beginnings played a part in not only religion, but in education, politics, and community action.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Regional Competition held at the West Baton Rouge Museum

We would like to extend a special thanks to our volunteers and judges for helping with National History Day! The Baton Rouge Regional National History Day Competition is a day when young scholars from our region come together and present the culmination of their yearly history project. This year we saw 54 projects in different categories including exhibits, papers, performances, websites, and documentaries. Students used a combination of primary and secondary sources to create projects focused on this year's theme, the *Triumphs and Tragedies in History*. The top 4 students in each category move on to the State Competition at the World War II Museum in New Orleans in April. We wish them the best of luck!



Curator's Corner:

Exhibits:

Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad, featuring the photographs of Jeanine Michna-Bales, opens April 6 and runs through May 26. Considered the first civil rights movement, the Underground Railroad united people from different races, genders, social levels, religions, and regions in a common and worthwhile cause. While there are many books on the subject, there is very little visual documentation of the Underground Railroad because of its secretive nature. This exhibition is on loan from ExhibitsUSA, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.



Elizabeth Brantley
Curator of Collections

We are currently developing our summer exhibit, *Prepared for Life: Scouting in West Baton Rouge*. The exhibit will tell the story of the Boy and Girl Scout troops that shaped the lives of local youth for the past 60 years. Artifacts from the WBR Historical Association's permanent collection and on loan from the community include uniforms, awards and patches, camping equipment, and photographs of troop activities. We are still accepting donations and loans for the exhibit. **If you have an item that you would like to share, please contact Elizabeth Brantley at elizabeth@wbrmuseum.org or**

225-336-2422 x 206.

In other news:

The year started with activities designed to inform us about national trends in interpreting history. We held a service day on the Martin

Luther King Holiday with staff, scholars, board members, and youth. The morning began with a tour, then a roundtable discussion, and wrapped up with an evaluation of the *Cuttin' Cane Ain't All We Do* narrative, currently under development with a grant from the National Parks Service.

In February, Kathe Hambrick facilitated the **Index-a-thon** Project in collaboration with FamilySearch, an extensive online genealogy resource. Attendees from the local area and as far away as New Orleans and Lafayette came to explore rural parish records and receive hands-on instruction on the data entry of historical records. Genealogy connects families to their history. The collections and tours at the WBR Museum help people make those connections.



Kathe Hambrick
Exhibits Curator

The West Baton Rouge Museum was well represented at the international **Enslaved** Conference at Michigan State University in early March. Dr. Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, leading authority on Louisiana's colonial history, extended the invitation to Kathe Hambrick and Angélique Bergeron. This conference featured 33 presentations by scholars and students from England, Cuba, Brazil, Canada, across Africa and the United States, and it informed us greatly on the current academic research, implications, and efforts to make that research more accessible.

The **Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art** in Laurel, Mississippi has invited Elizabeth Brantley to present a lecture titled, *East Meets West: Ukiyo-e and its Influence on Western Fashion Illustration*. The April 25 lecture will focus on the Japanese woodblock prints known as *Ukiyo-e* and how their style inspired the fashion illustrators creating early Vogue magazine covers. The lecture is in conjunction with the exhibit, *The Art Deco Covers of Vogue* on view at the Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art from March 26 – August 25, 2019.

Blast from the Past Summer History Camp **FROM FIRST FLIGHT TO THE LUNAR LANDING**

For boys & girls ages 6 - 12
Registration is now open

Session One: June 17 - 21
Session Two: June 24 - 28

Drop Off: 8:00 - 8:30 AM
Pick Up: 3:00 - 3:30 PM

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM
845 n. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen, LA
www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.com
225.336.2422 x200

**SPONSORED IN PART BY THE
FRANK CARRUTH III CHILDREN'S FUND**



Volunteers opened the Museum's historic buildings for National History Day students and their families.

2019 Historical Association Board of Directors

Babs Babin	Beth Kleinpeter	2019 Officers
Joyce Barbier	Andrea Norman	President
Kim Callegan	Michelle Owens	Drew Maciasz
David Couvillon	Ida Pierre	Vice President
Wilhemenia DeCuir	Ruth Stanley	Mary Bennett
Ellis Gauthier	Lorry Trotter	Secretary
Janice Hebert	Evva Wilson	Janet Simoneaux
Garry Hubble		Treasurer
		Glen Daigle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5 - 1:00 p.m.: Le Café Français – Gratuit.

April 6 - May 26: EXHIBIT - Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad. Photographer Jeanine Michna-Bales spent more than a decade researching freedom seekers and the ways they escaped enslavement. Her photos help us imagine what the long road to freedom may have looked like as seen through the eyes of one of those who made the epic journey.

April 7 - 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.: Volunteer Appreciation Party in the Juke Joint - We'd be BLUE without YOU!

April 10: Lunchtime lecture "Freedom on the Mississippi River" with Carl Westmoreland, Senior Historian at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Participants are welcome to bring a Brown Bag Lunch. FREE

April 13 - 10:30 a.m.: Mammy and the Underground Railroad. Join us for a family friendly program for ages 6+ and learn about the many ways Mammy served as a Conductor on Underground Railroad. This program will include storytelling, scavenger hunt collecting goods, and crafts to create an engaging and deep experience for families. FREE

April 14 - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Eggstravaganza – Join the West Baton Rouge Museum and the West Baton Rouge Parish Library for an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt, games, crafts, a visit from the Easter Bunny and more on the museum grounds. FREE

May 3 - 1:00 p.m.: Le Café Français – Gratuit.

May 15: Lunchtime lecture and book signing with Catherine Savage Brosman and Olivia McNeely Pass, authors of *Louisiana Poets*. Participants are welcome to bring a Brown Bag Lunch. FREE

May 22: Lunchtime lecture and book signing with Dr. Bryan Wagner, author of *The Life and Legend of Bras Coupé: The Fugitive Slave Who Fought the Law, Ruled the Swamp, Danced at Congo Square, Invented Jazz, and Died for Love*. FREE. Participants are welcome to bring a Brown Bag Lunch.

June 7 - 1:00 p.m. : Le Café Français – Gratuit.

June 8 - August 18: EXHIBIT – Prepared for Life: Scouting in WBR. This exhibit will tell the stories of the boys who learned valuable life skills and made lasting friendships in the Boy Scout troops of WBR. The exhibit will also explore the contributions of local Girl Scouts and the programs that they participated in.

June 8: Exhibit Opening Reception and Scouting Reunion

June 17-21: Blast from the Past Summer History Camp-Sess 1

June 24-28: Blast from the Past Summer History Camp-Sess 2

July 5 - 1:00 p.m. : Le Café Français – Gratuit.

July 15 -16: WBRM Teachers Institute

July 29: Christmas in July Card Party

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Mrs. Carolyn Corona Achee	Harry L. Laws Co., Inc.
Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.	Dorene & Dale Mayeux
Patricia L. Alford	Modernaires Dance Club
American Sugar Cane League	Carlyn Morales
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Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	J. Huntington Odum, Jr., DDS
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Rose Marie Gray	West Baton Rouge CVB
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones	West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
Terry & Steve Guidry	West Side Women's Club
Lee & Michelle Hart	Doug & Anna Wilkinson
Holy Family Catholic Church	
Garry Hubble Family	
Ken & Cindy Kahao	
Roger Kahao *	
Mr. & Mrs. William Kleinpeter	
Stacy & Matthew Krebs	
Janice Kitchens/Anita Melancon	
LA Farm Bureau Federation	
Lagniappe Dulcimer Society	
Mim & Najma Landry	

Welcome New Members

New Friends:

Terrlyn Blunt
Theo & Crystal Ewing
Roger Kahao
Dr. Olivia Pass
Harry Shields

New Patron:

Cletus & Eloise Robinson

* Denotes New Friends Member



West Baton Rouge Historical Association

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Fax: 225-336-2448
Email: contact_us@wbrmuseum.org
Website: www.westbatonrougemuseum.com

Change Service Requested

Donations were received for the following Memorial Funds:

Acquisitions Memorial Fund

In Honor of Evva L. Z. Wilson – Live Oak Chapter
National Society of The Daughters of the American Revolution

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

Charlie Reed – Rosemary Reed and Family

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DONATION FORM

Please fill out the form, enclose your donation made payable to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association in an envelope and mail to: West Baton Rouge Historical Association, 845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767. Only one acknowledgement card will be sent per donation. Thank you.

FROM: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

PLEASE MAIL CARD TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NOTE: Place an (X) next to the Memorial Fund to which you wish to send your donation.

ACQUISITIONS FUND _____ ETHEL CLAIBORNE DAMERON FUND _____

GENERAL FUND _____ MUSEUM MEMORIAL FUND _____

FRANK CARRUTH III CHILDREN'S FUND _____ (make checks payable to WBR Museum for this fund)

The WBR Historical Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax exempt. Thank you for supporting the WBR Historical Association.

Membership Form – 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please check the membership category you wish to join.

Student \$10.00 _____ Friends \$100.00 _____
(businesses/individuals)

Member \$20.00 _____ Patrons \$35.00 _____
(individuals) (families/individuals)

Make checks payable to West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and mail to 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767.