



Écoutez



April - June, 2019

Volume LI, No. 2

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."



The West Baton Rouge Historical Association Card Party Committee includes from left: Babs Babin, Alice LeBlanc, Andrea Normand, Lorry Trotter, Kim Callegan, Evva Wilson, Ruth Stanley, and Joyce Barbier.

14th Annual Christmas in July Card Party Set for July 29 by WBR Historical Association

"Plans are underway for the 14th annual Christmas in July Card Party fundraiser set for Monday, July 29, 2019," announced Lorry Trotter, chairperson. The West Baton Rouge Historical Association hosts the annual fundraiser event which begins at 10:00 a.m. at the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen. A \$30 donation per person includes snacks, lunch, and door prizes.

Card players are invited to try their luck at bridge, bouree, canasta, dominoes, hand and foot canasta, pokeno, sequence, Shanghi rummy, and other parlor games. Bring your entire group or register individually to play. Evva Wilson is food chairman for the event and guarantees a delicious lunch.

Other committee members include Babs Babin, Joyce Barbier, Kim Callegan, Alice LeBlanc, Andrea Normand, Janet Simoneaux and Ruth Stanley.

Reservations are required and the registration deadline is July 22. For additional information contact Alice LeBlanc at 336-2422, ext. 203.

West Baton Rouge Teachers' Institute Held July 15 & 16

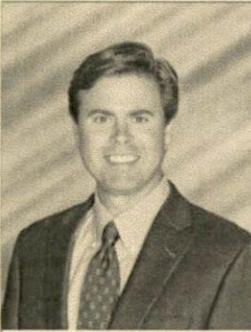
This year's Teachers' Institute, entitled *Prepared for Life: Project-Based Learning*, explored how project-based learning prepares the student for life allowing him/her to learn about different subjects simultaneously. Achieved by guiding students to identify a real-world problem, develop its solution, and present it through a multimedia approach grounded in a set of 21st-century tools. Project-based learning is an exciting approach that equips kids for life in the modern world.

Area teachers accepted into the program enjoyed two days of professional development activities conducted in conjunction with the WBR Parish School Board. Teachers that completed all activities and submitted a themed-based lesson received a \$100 stipend generously provided by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.



Teachers Marthalee Marron, Vasheta Hudson and Kathryn Moreau craft solutions to sample critical thinking scenarios during a session of last year's WBR Museum Teachers' Institute.





Drew Maciasz
WBR Historical Association
Board President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

Wow, this year is moving so fast! It's hard to believe half of the year is already behind us. As I said last quarter, it's an honor to be serving another year as the President of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. Just as the first half of our year has flown by, I know the second half will zoom by. The Historical Association is gearing up for what surely will be packed with fun events. There is so much excitement around the upcoming events and I know they will be huge successes.



As I write this letter, I'm so amazed at the awesome work the volunteers of our association are doing. In July, we will be hosting one of our main fundraisers, "The Christmas in July Card Party" to be held at the Port Allen Community Center. There is always so much preparation involved with any events, and I'm sure a fun time will be had by all.....we hope you can join us!

In addition to the Card Party, there is already much anticipation for the Plantation Dinner and Sweets Booth that is always a "hit" at the annual *SugarFest*. These activities and events grow larger

and larger each year, so we encourage everyone to consider volunteering. The Ethel Claiborne Dameron lecture is also slated for this fall, and is always one of the high points in our event lineup. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at all these upcoming events.

I say it all the time, but in my time being involved with the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, it's quite evident 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. Not to mention, it would not be what it is today without the passion and leadership from the staff of the West Baton Rouge Museum.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in the Historical Association. We want everyone to come see the excitement, experience the wonders of the Museum, and participate in our events. If you know someone interested in becoming a member or volunteering with us, please have them call Alice LeBlanc at the West Baton Rouge Museum, (225) 336-2422 or email leblanc@wbrmuseum.org. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Drew

Drew Maciasz

Where history has a name.

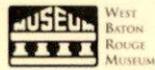


WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



Angelique Bergeron, PhD
West Baton Rouge
Museum Director

From Our Director



Summer is in full swing and the West Baton Rouge Museum is always hopping when school is out! We're celebrating the rich Scouting traditions in West Baton Rouge with the exhibit *Prepared for Life* and the associated workshops, lectures, and a movie night. The exhibit opened with a Scouting reunion where old friends gathered to reminisce and current Scouts entertained the masses. Our Blast from the Past Summer History Camp, aka Space Camp, focused on the events of 1969 including Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon, 1960s pop culture, and a look back even further in time to see how we learned to fly before we launched. Campers also learned that sugar can be used to make rocket fuel!

Now that we've all survived summer camp, we're gearing up for our annual Teachers' Institute. Thanks to the generous support of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, area teachers are able to participate in this interactive learning experience. This year, teachers will explore project-based learning across disciplines.

Visitors to the West Baton Rouge Museum may notice a couple of new additions to our campus. Thanks to a generous donation from the Reed family and the craftsmanship of Mike Rumfola, we

now have a new old barn to house the Leonard Julien Cane Planter, which the River Road African American Museum donated to us last year. We were also able to add a side porch to our juke joint that will serve as a performance stage under the oaks.

Look for lots of great programming coming your way, including music on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month. This fall we will begin hosting Historical Happy Hours in our Juke Joint on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Join us as we dive into the Blues this fall with a new publication and two exhibits: *Juke Joint Men* and *A Cast of Blues*.

We're also excited to announce Blues After School, a new offering with the collaboration of the House of Blues and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation. We will accept 10 middle school students from West Baton Rouge Parish to this free weekly music and enrichment series. Each week, students will work with music educators from Rockin' Mozart Academy to play and read music. They will also enjoy guest presenters including music professionals and historians. If you know any musically-inclined kids entering grades 6 and 7 this fall, have them sign up for an interview.

As always, we hope to see you at the Museum!

Sincerely,

Angelique

Angélique Bergeron



PREPARD FOR LIFE
SCOUTING IN WEST BATON ROUGE EXHIBIT
 OPENING RECEPTION AND SCOUTING REUNION - JUNE 8, 2019



Port Allen's Troop 38 led by Maurice Pecquet. The picture was taken circa 1984 during the troops visit to Vicksburg, MS



Cub Scouts



Reunion of Girl Scout Troop 185 (1957-1967) at WBR Museum



Boy Scout Troop 53 Color Guard



Boy Scout Troop 53 led by Jerry Zimmerman



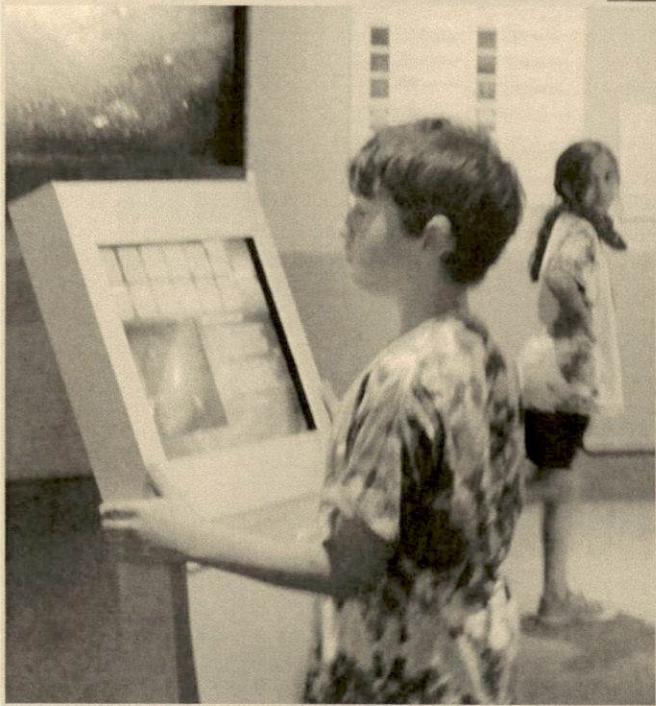
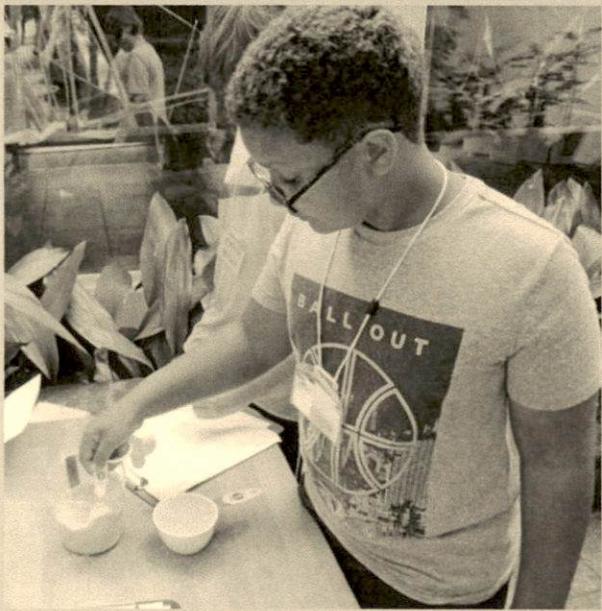
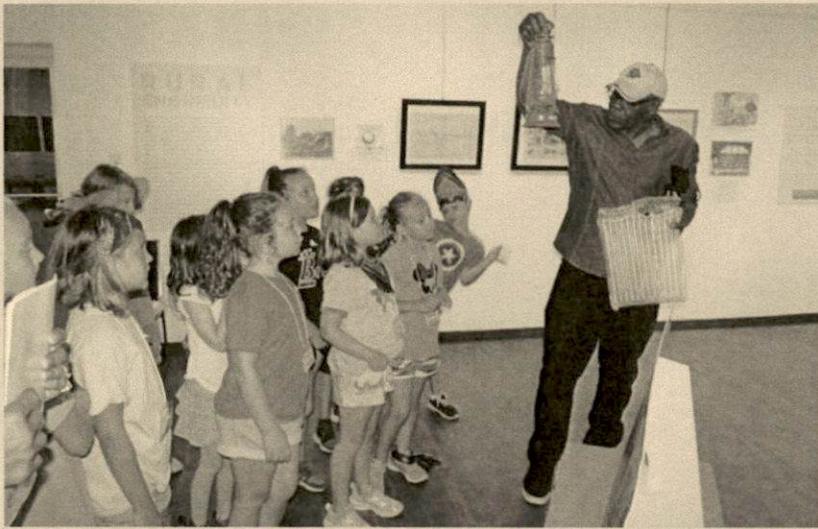
Members from Girl Scout Troop 10163

Blast from the Past Summer History Camp

FROM FIRST FLIGHT TO THE LUNAR LANDING

During the weeks of June 17 - 21 and 24 - 28, West Baton Rouge Museum held its annual Blast from the Past summer history camp program, a series that has been running strong since 1995. This year's theme was "From First Flight to the Lunar Landing" in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of American astronauts landing on the moon. Campers enjoyed learning about humans' age old fascination with flight through ancient tales, kite flying, hot air balloons, and flying carpets. They learned about Da Vinci's designs for flying machines and met with three different pilots to learn about the parts of planes, careers in aviation, and how flight works. Once we learned how to fly, we looked to the stars and set our sites on outer space. We worked with a NASA teacher to learn about rockets and how we might maneuver on Mars one day. Of course, we did a count down for Apollo 11's lift off, landing and splash down and saw history happen by watching 1969 film footage. While we were in the year 1969, we took a moment to have fun with pop culture of the period with songs, dance toys, fashion, and clips of TV shows from the sixties. A "far out" time was had by all!







Michelle Owens WBR Historical Association Volunteer

Originally from Walker, Michelle Owens moved to Port Allen in 1981 at the age of twelve and has called Port Allen her home since then. She graduated from Port Allen High School and attended Baton Rouge Community College where she earned a degree in Business Office Administration.

Michelle was recently elected to the WBR Historical Association Board to fill a one-year vacancy. She has helped with the SugarFest dinner for many years and has chaired the fundraiser event for the past two years.

She is the proud mother of two sons, Micah and Eli. Micah is 22 and a junior at Mississippi State University where he's studying Chemical Engineering. Eli who is 18 recently graduated from Catholic High School and plans to attend Baton Rouge Community College in the fall, majoring in Drafting.

Michelle served on the Holy Family Bear Fair Committee for 22 years and co-chaired the school fundraiser for three years. She also has been a member of the Holy Family Boy Scout Troop 53 Committee for the past 11 years, where she continues to serve today as committee chair. Both of her boys have achieved their Eagle Scout rank.

She has worked for ExxonMobil Pipeline Company for 10 years as a Documentation Specialist, dealing with government regulated documents pertaining to ExxonMobil pipeline repairs in both Louisiana and Texas.

Michelle has been a member of the Krewe of Good Friends of the Oaks Mardi Gras Krewe for 31 years and served as Grand Marshall in 2017. She is a lifelong member of Holy Family Catholic Church.

We are pleased to have Michelle as a valued board member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.

Curator's Corner:

A call for artists:

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year and working on exhibits for 2020 and beyond. In January 2020 we will be hosting an exhibit that highlights the work of West Baton Rouge artists. We will be issuing a call for entries soon so that we can be sure and display the very best that our parish has to offer. If you know a local artist that you think should be featured please have them contact Curator of Collections, Elizabeth Brantley at 225-336-2422 X 206 for more information.

Fall Blues:

We're celebrating the Blues this fall with two exhibits (*Juke Joint Men* and *Cast of Blues*) and a new publication.



Kathe Hambrick
Exhibits Curator

The West Baton Rouge Museum is pleased to announce a new **exhibition and publication** entitled *Juke Joint Men*. The exhibit, which will open on **August 17** and run through December 29, 2019, features the collages of local bluesmen by J K Lawson and the musically inspired metal sculptures of Port Allen native Ronald Trahan. The 12' x12' hard cover publication, *Juke Joint Men*, will be available at the West Baton Rouge Museum gift shop and select retailers beginning in August. The authors will be on hand for a **book signing** at the museum in

conjunction with a Cultural District Announcement Party on **August 29th from 5PM – 8PM**.

A Cast of Blues is a national traveling exhibit on loan from ExhibitsUSA and the Mid-America Arts Alliance that features 15 resin cast masks of blues legends created by artist Sharon McConnell-Dickerson and 15 color photographs of performers and juke joints by acclaimed photographer Ken Murphy. The exhibition is fully accessible to all visitors, featuring braille labels, video elements and educa-

tional materials including interactive musical instruments. A music playlist and two films are part of the blues experience and visitors are encouraged to touch the resin cast masks. "A life cast is like a 3D photograph to someone who is blind," says McConnell-Dickerson, who is visually impaired herself. McConnell created the masks of famous blues musicians over a period of eight years. *A Cast of Blues* is curated by Chuck Haddix, music historian, author, radio personality, and Director of the Marr Sound Archives at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

These exhibits are an extension of the West Baton Rouge Museum's celebration of juke joints and the music that evolved on the west side of the Mississippi River.



Elizabeth Brantley
Curator of Collections

Donate to the Collection:

Did you know that the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's collection is made up of over 10,000 objects, photographs, and documents? We acquired these artifacts through the generous donations of local residents and visitors and we are still actively collecting objects that document the rich history of West Baton Rouge Parish and its people. One of our most frequent inquiries is about the donation process. If you have an object that you would like to give to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association please contact a member of the Curatorial team and set up an appointment for us to view your object or send an email with a photograph of the object and a description about its ties to West Baton Rouge to elizabeth@wbrmuseum.org. Once accepted by a member of the Curatorial team, the object will be placed before our Accessions Committee for review and they make the final decision about whether an object will be placed in the permanent collection. Please note short-term loans are only accepted when given for a temporary exhibit; otherwise the item must be donated. A Deed of Gift form will be issued to the donor for documentation and tax purposes. Donations are not accepted on weekends. We hope you will consider the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's collection as a repository for your family history!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 13 – 10:00 AM - Noon – Spinning Tales with Juliette Gordon Low – Enjoy a museum theater performance featuring a portrayal of the founder of Girl Scouts. To register, call (225) 336-2422 Ext. 200. FREE.

July 14 – Old Time Country Music Open Jam - The public is invited to participate and enjoy this monthly acoustic only jam session.

July 15 – 16 – West Baton Rouge Museum Teachers' Institute

July 17 – Noon - Lunchtime Lecture with Geoffrey Tyler - Learn how this pilot, the last prisoner of the Cold War, used his training & military experience when he had to make an emergency landing in hostile territory. FREE.

July 21 - 3:00—5:00 PM – Cajun Jam with the Cajun French Music Association featuring Lee Benoit. Gratuit.

July 28 – 2:00—6:00 PM - Acadian Day in Brusly at the St. John the Baptist Activity Center

July 29 – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM - The WBR Historical Association's Christmas in July Card Party at the WBR Community Center

August 2 - 1:00 PM – Le Café Français – Gratuit.

August 9 – Back to School Party for local teachers

August 11 – Old Time Country Music Open Jam

August 16 – 6:00—10:00 PM - Scouting Movie Marathon – This double feature family program offered in conjunction with the *Prepared for Life: Scouting in WBR* exhibit includes a screening *Troop Beverly Hills* and *Down and Derby* with refreshments and a hands-on activity at intermission. FREE.

August 17 - Juke Joint Men exhibit opens featuring the collages of J K Lawson and the metal sculptures of Ronald Trahan.

August 18- 3:00—5:00 PM – Cajun Jam with the Cajun French Music Association featuring Shannon LeJeune. Gratuit.



Café Français at the West Baton Rouge Museum

Officially a part of Acadiana, West Baton Rouge parish has a strong French/Acadian heritage that is frequently taken for granted. *Café Français* was inaugurated approximately two years ago in response to requests by visitors for a venue to meet and enjoy the French language. Long-time volunteers like Mr. Russel and Mrs. Peggy Daigle spearheaded the drive to create a space for those interested in maintaining, preserving and learning the French language. *Café Français* meets on the first Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Museum's Education Room. It is free and open to anyone interested in attending. Each meeting features a topic to spur discussion. Music is often provided by those in attendance. And, of course, there's always a bit of coffee and a little something sweet to eat. *Venez parler français avec nous.*

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
Mary Arrasmith / Katie Heck	Myles & Myles, Attorney-at-Law
Babs Babin and Family	Andrea & Joey Normand
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	J. Huntington Odom, Jr., DDS
Marlene Benedetto, Benedetto's/ Hubben's Grocery	Dr. Philip G. Padgett
Claire Bergeron	Al & Brenda Parker
Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron	Dr. Olivia Pass
Carolyn Blanchard	June Peay
Mike & Pat Blanchard	Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Pirie
Sue & Sid Blanchard	Placid Refinery
Terrlyn Blunt	Butch & Peggy Plauche
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bonanno	Rod Prejean & Associates
Carol & Carolyn Bourgeois	Skip & Laura Rhorer
Barry & Susan Brewer	River View Development
Kim & Kerry Callegan	James & Theresa Rizutto
Kym & Tony Cashiola	Edana Robnett
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville	Rose Roche'
Mrs. Dudley W. Coates	Debra & Ronnie Salvadras
Cou-yon's BBQ-Port Allen	Claire Sarradet
Criterion Catalysts & Technologies, L.P.	Harry Shields
Glen Daigle	Janet Simoneaux
Russell & Peggy Daigle	Leslie Smart *
Z. Dave DeLoach	Bob & Connie Smith
Chad & Ashley Doiron	Sneaux Balls on the Geaux
The Dow Chemical Company	Bobby & Ruth Stanley
Ann Neal Dugas & Family	Eleanor Favrot Stevens
Linda Lowe Erley	Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance
Theo & Crystal Ewing	Charles & Carolyn Stutts *
Don & Marie Favrot	Sun Plus, Inc.
William H. Forman, Jr.	Debra Jones Tarter
Scott & Kay Gaudin	Mike & Ellen Tausin
Ellis Gauthier & Family	Lorry & Bill Trotter
Sara & George "Skipper" Grady	Al & Cathy Troy
Rose Marie Gray	Margot G. Turk
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones	Pam Walsh
Terry & Steve Guidry	J. Kenneth Washington
Lee & Michelle Hart	Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Weldon
Holy Family Catholic Church	West Baton Rouge Chamber
Garry Hubble Family	West Baton Rouge CVB
Hughes Mechanical Contractors *	West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
Ken & Cindy Kahao	West Side Women's Club
Roger Kahao	Doug & Anna Wilkinson
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:

Hughes Mechanical Contractor
Leslie Smart
Charles & Carolyn Stutts

* Denotes New Friends Members



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
Marolyn F. Giroir - Babs Babin

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund
Marolyn Ann Fabre Giroir - Andrea & Joey Normand

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.