



January—March, 2021

# Écoutez

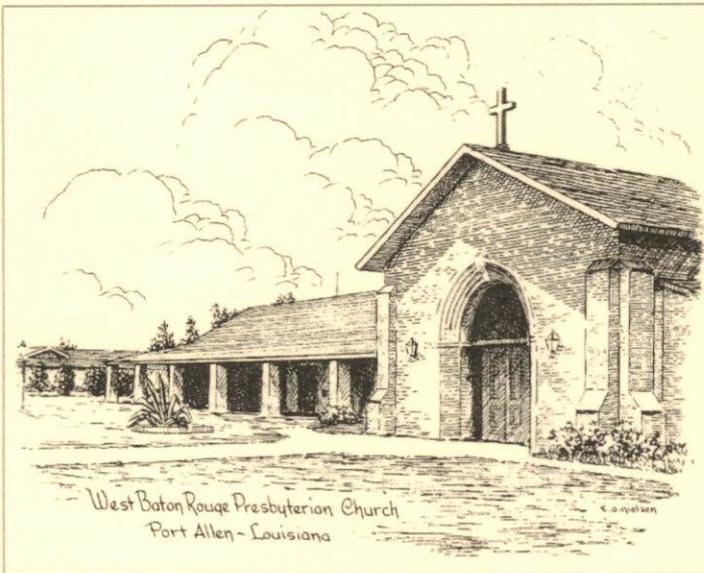


Volume LIII, No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Janet Simoneaux, Editor, jcsimoneaux@gmail.com

*"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."*



## WBR Presbyterian Church makes Donation to WBRHA

The Historical Association received a gracious donation from the West Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church. The items, which will be added to the permanent collection, include architectural blueprints for the 1960 A. Hays Town renovation of the church, photographs of the renovation progress, articles about the renovations, a program from the dedication ceremony, and a binder of church meeting minutes. The architectural blueprints were included in the recent *A. Hays Town and the Architectural Image of Louisiana* exhibit. See more on page 3.



Following the WBR Historical Association's Annual Meeting on January 11, 2021 at the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen, board members posed for a group photo. Pictured above from left are: Ashley Coco, Drew Maciasz, Michelle Owens, David Couvillon, Babs Babin, Tom Acosta, Glen Daigle, Ruth Stanley, Kim Callegan, Beth Kleinpeter, Ida Pierre, Lorry Trotter, Kat Lorio, and Andrea Normand. Not pictured are Donna Badon, Ellis Gauthier, and Janet Simoneaux.

## The WBR Historical Association is Now Collecting 2021 Membership 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



Pictured above are the 2021 West Baton Rouge Historical Association Officers. Shown from left are Tom Acosta, President, Michelle Owens, Secretary and Glen Daigle, Treasurer. Not shown is Brian Falcon, Vice President.



Tom Acosta  
WBR Historical Association  
President

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

I am honored to serve as 2021 President of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. Special thanks to Mary Bennett, our 2020 President, who served admirably during the pandemic year when we had to cancel not only SugarFest, but so many other Association fundraising and Museum social activities. We hope and pray 2021 will see the return to more normal pre-pandemic life at the WBR Museum. To



that end, all are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as available, wear masks, maintain social distancing, quarantine as required, wash your hands, and stay safe for yourself and others.

Just a little about me: I am a native of West Baton Rouge, having grown up on River Road in the Brusly/Addis area. I graduated from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU, and have practiced law in Port Allen since 1986. My wife Mary Broussard and I live in the Addis home I grew up in. I retired in 2008 after 30 years of commissioned service as an Army Officer on active duty, in the National Guard and Army Reserve – including wartime service in the Middle East after 9/11 for Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. I have served a total of 18 years on the WBR Museum Board, including five years as Board Chair from 2014 thru 2018. I have been active in the Port Allen Rotary Club since 1988, and served on the WBR Chamber Board from 1988 thru 1998.

Through my years of Museum work, I have gained a huge appreci-

ation for all of the hard work by the many members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association who have volunteered many thousands of hours and resources to give birth to and sustain the WBR Museum. Special recognition must also go to the generosity of those who have contributed funds and artifacts to our Association and its museum collections, and to the late Judge Paul B. Landry, whose endowment provides a solid financial foundation which we hope will sustain Association operations for years to come. Our Association and its volunteers have worked hand-in-hand with our dedicated Museum Directors and full and part-time staff to secure American Alliance of Museum accreditation for the Museum in 2009, and to present countless exhibits and lectures to the public, earning numerous awards and recognition for the Museum and West Baton Rouge Parish. Association volunteers – beginning with Oscar Bennett – have promoted the initial ad valorem tax millage to support Museum operations, and have guaranteed its renewal every 10 years since. Next year, we will once again be called upon to spearhead the tax election campaign to successfully renew our Museum millage.

Looking to the future, our Card Party fundraiser is scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021 at the WBR Community Center in Port Allen. Assuming we all do what is needed to put the pandemic restrictions behind us, we can look forward to celebrating SugarFest once again on Sunday October 3, 2021! In the meantime, please keep up the good work, join us at Association and Museum events when able, tell friends about us, and help celebrate West Baton Rouge at OUR Museum! Bonne Sante!!

Sincerely,

Tom Acosta



## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

CULTURE CULTIVATED · LA CULTURE CULTIVÉE · LA KILTIR KILTIVÉ



Angélique Bergeron, PhD  
Executive Director

## From Our Director

Dear Friends,

The azaleas are in bloom and the West Baton Rouge Museum is ready for spring! We are very hopeful for the return to some degree of normalcy. However, we are prepared to present virtual programs if necessary. We have completed our next round of tech upgrades to the Brick Gallery, which will allow programs, such as our lunchtime lectures, to be live-streamed and recorded for later



viewing for those who are unable to attend in person.

We have two vibrant textile exhibits currently on display, *Wandering Spirit: African Wax Prints* (through May 2<sup>nd</sup>) and *Centered Around Culture: Quilts by Cely Pedescleaux* (through May 30<sup>th</sup>) and some wonderful accompanying programs planned. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, there was a "Meet the Artist" reception with Mrs. Pedescleaux sponsored in part by the Baton Rouge Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. On Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> join us in person or online to hear Dr. Joyce Marie Jackson discuss *African American Quilters: Transforming the Canon with Spirit Driven Work*. Sign up

for a quilting workshop with Cely Pedescleaux on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited. To close out *Wandering Spirit*, the museum will host a documentary film screening of *Wax Print: 1 Fabric, 4 Continents, 200 Years of History* on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited to bring back more of our monthly outdoor offerings, including Historical Happy Hour (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 6:30PM) and the Cajun French Music Association's Jam (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 3PM). Baton Rouge artist Chloe Marie, will perform at the April 16<sup>th</sup> Historical Happy Hour and Jesse and Anglyn Brown will lead the Cajun Jam on April 18<sup>th</sup> – bring your own refreshments and a chair or blanket and enjoy music under the oaks of the museum campus! Please note that Le Café Français will be at 1PM on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> since we are closed on Good Friday and in May, the Old Time Jam (normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ 3PM) will move to May 16<sup>th</sup> to avoid Mother's Day.

Speaking of Mother's Day, stop by the WBR Museum's gift shop for locally made jewelry, art, and more! We hope to see you soon. Until then, stay safe and stay connected with the WBR Museum.

Sincerely,

Angélique Bergeron, PhD



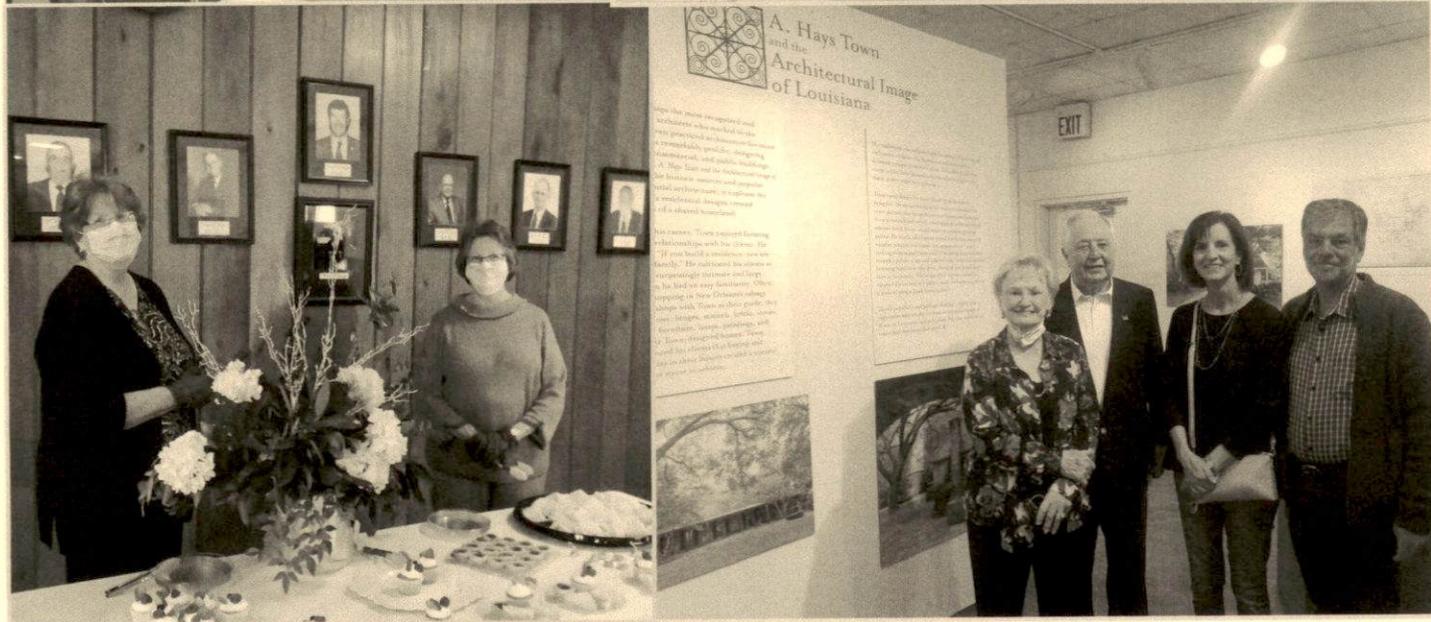
# A RECAP OF A. HAYS TOWN AND THE ARCHITECTURAL IMAGE OF LOUISIANA

## A. HAYS TOWN GALLERY TALK, TOUR AND RECEPTION

From January 16 through March 7, 2021, the West Baton Rouge Museum was host to a traveling exhibit entitled *A. Hays Town and the Architectural Image of Louisiana* on loan from the Paul and Lulu Hilliard Museum. This exhibit drew lots of local fans of the beloved and nationally recognized Louisiana architect known for his French, Spanish, and Caribbean inspired designs. The exhibit was accompanied by two public programs which were also well attended.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24 at Noon, Leslie Gladney, granddaughter of A. Hays Town delivered a Lunchtime Lecture at the museum followed by a tour and reception at West Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church which was designed by Town. Special thanks to the volunteer committee at the church for their welcoming spirit and to Ms. Gladney for sharing a heartfelt and intimate glimpse into her grandfather's life.

On Sunday March 7, the last day of the exhibit, visitors had the added bonus of meeting with West Baton Rouge Museum's resident blacksmith, Gary Hart. Mr. Hart displayed examples of historical architectural hardware and reproductions he personally made by hand for 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century sites for visitors to examine as they toured the gallery space. One of the guests stopping by was builder A. Hays Town, II, the son of A. Hays Town. Ironically, the West Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church was the younger Town's first nonresidential building project.





# Glen Daigle

## WBR Historical Association Volunteer

A lifelong resident of Port Allen, Glen is the son of Russell and Peggy Daigle. He attended Port Allen High School and LSU where he studied accounting. He is Vice President and Branch Manager of b1BANK where he has served for the past 28 years. Glen is a member of the Board of Directors for the West Baton Rouge Foundation for Academic Excellence, an organization that provides grants to public schools.

Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors and was past chairman for the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce. At the organization's recent Annual Meeting Glen received the "Pride of West Baton Rouge Award" for his untiring efforts to create a better place to live, work, and do business!

Glen is currently treasurer of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and has served in that capacity for a number of years.

He started hiking/biking to watch the sunset on the levee and discovered birds! He is a self-described "Bird Nerd" posting numerous photos to his Facebook page every week. Several of his photos were featured in the 2019 WBR Museum exhibit "Artists of WBR."

He loves running and is co-founder of Jack's Running and Walking Club of Port Allen. In addition, he is a cantor and Eucharist Minister at Holy Family Catholic Church. Glen is also a member of the Baton Rouge Symphony Chorus.

His hobbies include birding, photography, and singing. Glen is a proud Port Allen supporter of all things good! We're delighted to call him Volunteer of the Quarter for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.



## Curators' Corner:



Kathe Hambrick  
Director of Interpretation

### Current Exhibits:

Quilts Offer Comfort—*Centered Around Culture: Quilts by Cely Pedescleaux* is on display through May 30th. Whether a bedspread or a wall hanging, quilts offer comfort to people of all ages. Handmade quilts can be asymmetrical and geometrical at the same time. In African American contemporary quilting, patterns change and overlap. They convey messages that make us remember or want to know more. Story quilters are like poets. They are able

to weave tales through thread, fabric, and mixed media that awaken our senses. Consider the quilts of Cely Pedescleaux a journey through color, texture and time with a Louisiana flair.

On display through May 2nd, *Wandering Spirit: African Wax Prints* is a tribute to the century-old handmade designs and patterns on textiles that originated in Indonesia and were copied and industrialized by Europeans and exported to Africa. The history of the African wax print is a history paved along colonial trade routes and globalization in the post-colonial era. Though not originally African, these textiles have become ingrained in African culture and society, and loved and identified as their own. Other popular African textiles are on display, including Mud cloth, Kente cloth, Kuba cloth, Ndop cloth, Mbuti bark cloth, as well as Adinkra cloth and stamps.



Ferin Jones  
Exhibits Curator

### Upcoming Exhibits:

*Evangelina: Evolution of an Icon* - Wildly popular well into the 20th century, the poem *Evangeline, A Tale of Acadie*, written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1847, inspired artists, musicians, filmmakers, and entrepreneurs alike. All traded on the image of the poem's heroine, *Evangeline*. *Evangelina: Evolution of an Icon* examines the changing appearance of the iconic character through the paraphernalia produced since her inception. It also explores the evolution of Acadian and Cajun identity through her ever-shifting and controversial persona. This exhibit opens on May 15 and closes on October 31.

### Art By Bourgeois : Douglas Bourgeois -

Douglas Bourgeois, a proud Cajun-country boy of Catholic upbringing who loves to paint, has been called a "visionary imagist" whose paintings are provocative, surreal, transformative, and experiential. The saints, sinners, and pop star characters featured in this exhibit are radiant depictions of Douglas's dream world and creativity. You can explore this world at the West Baton Rouge Museum from June 5th through September 3rd. Special thanks to the Arthur Roger Gallery of New Orleans for curating this show.

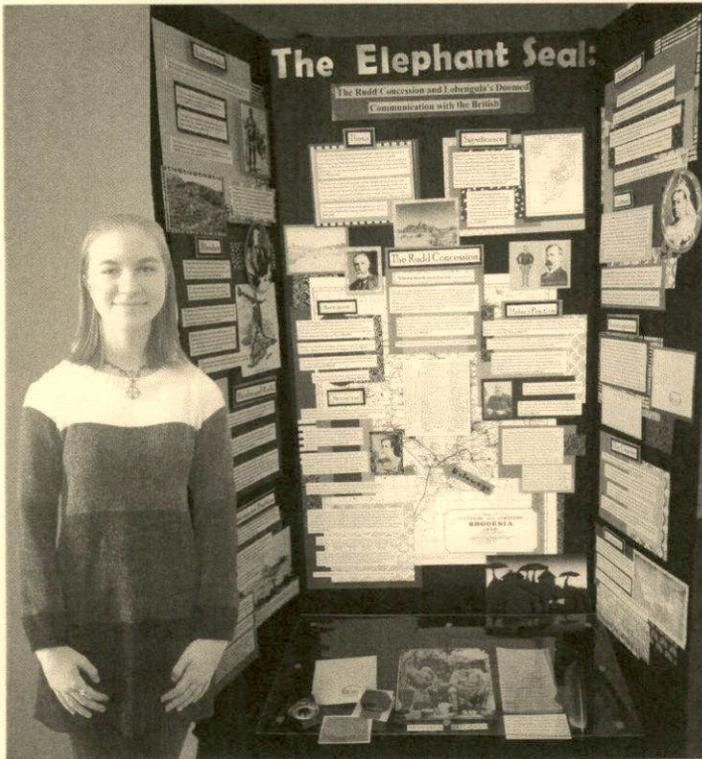


Lauren Hawthorne  
Curator of Collections

## Sound Success for the 2020 – 2021 *Blues After School* Program

The 2020 – 2021 *Blues After School* program is a partnership program presented by West Baton Rouge Museum and Rockin' Mozart Music Academy LLC with funding in part by New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation. This school year from September - April, a group of middle and high school students have been meeting weekly on Friday afternoons for a free two hour program. During the first hour, kids meet with Rockin' Mozart instructors, Michael Blount and Mark Dupont under the direction of Dr. Michael Berthelot for instrument and Blues band instruction. The second hour focuses on cultural, historical and arts related activities and lessons on music industry best practices and is presented by museum staff and special guests. Guest presenters this year have included: Classical guitarist and song writer Miles Boone, Popular and Commercial Music Industry graduate and audio engineer Christian Luckett, LSU Jazz Studies Professor Doug Stone, Professional Jazz musician and Loyola University Jazz Studies Professor Wessell Anderson and his wife and classroom educator Desi Anderson and professional Blues musicians Marty Christian, Kenny Neal, Henry Turner, Jr. and Carter Wilkinson. A few of the second hour activities have included song writing, recording, cigar box guitar making, exhibit touring, king cake making, jamming with professional Blues artists, and taking a field trip to visit Slim Harpo's grave and state historic marker erected by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. This second year of the Blues After School program has been a sound success, and West Baton Rouge Museum and Rockin' Mozart are looking forward to an encore next year! To hear for yourself, come by the Blues After School Finale Concert on museum grounds on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 2 p.m. Following their set will be a performance by their instructors' professional Blues/Pop/Rock band, Taylor Rae.





**National History Day:** The West Baton Rouge Museum wants to thank everyone involved with the 2021 National History Day competition. Although this year was completely virtual, we still saw 58 wonderful student projects. Sixteen judges viewed projects in categories including exhibit, documentary, research paper, original website, and even performance. This has been an interesting year, and we are grateful for all of the help in hosting a successful competition. Hopefully next year we will be able to host our favorite in-person competition!

## West Baton Rouge Museum Annual Teachers Institute

### Evangelicalia: Engine for Student Engagement and Social Change

The two-day summer professional development series, scheduled for July 12th & 13th, is open to in-service K-12 teachers across all subject areas. However, this year's theme is best suited to middle-high school instruction. This will be the fourteenth year the museum is offering this professional development program. Participants will produce a theme-based lesson with the help of museum staff and special guests for use in their classrooms.. Participants will also receive classroom resource materials, a certificate of participation, and a \$100 stipend upon completion of all institute activities and assignments. Daily lunches are provided.

The Teachers' Institute is limited to 25 participants on a first-come-first-serve basis. Registration forms may be downloaded from [www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.com](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.com) or picked up at the Museum.

# A Taste of Acadie

**Blast from the Past**  
summer history camp

For campers ages 6 - 12  
Session 1: June 14 - 18  
Session 2: June 21 - 25

8:00am - 3:30 pm  
Space is limited  
Advanced, paid registration required

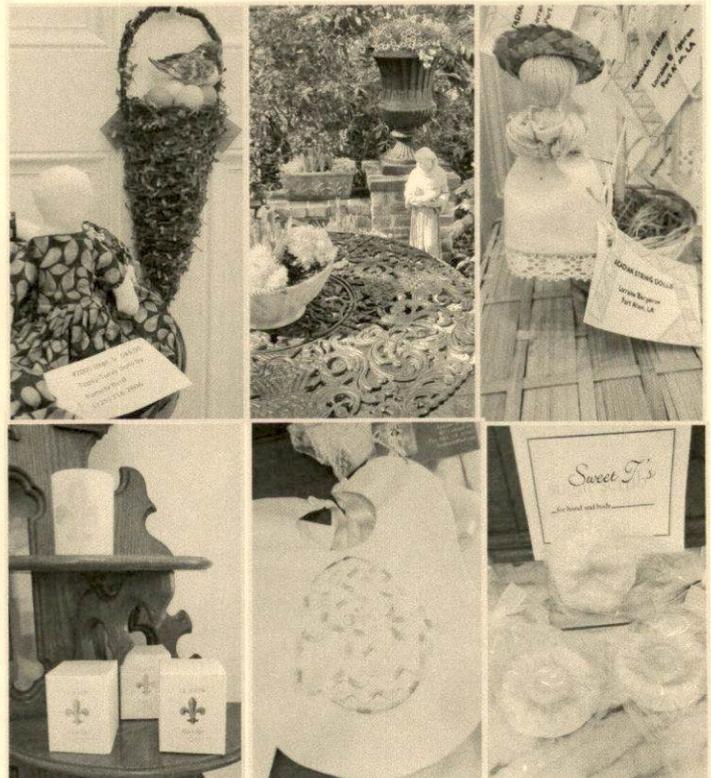
An adventurous week of tracing Louisiana's Cajun culture from Canada to Acadiana through stories, games, crafts, chores, and more!

**\$125 for residents of WBR Parish**  
or members of WBR Historical Association  
**\$150 for all other participants**

Registration opens April 1, 2021  
Call 225.336.2422, ext. 200  
or visit our website at [www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org](http://www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org)

## WBR Museum's Gift Shop

Blossom by blossom the spring begins! Visit the Museum gift shop for Easter gifts created by talented local artists and crafters. Enjoy a quiet pause in the Museum's serene courtyard. We look forward to your visit!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Please note for all programs: Masks will be required, hand sanitizing stations will be available, and social distancing protocol will be practiced.**

**Through May 30:** Exhibit, *Centered Around Culture: Quilts by Cely Pedescleaux*

**April 1:** Registration opens for Blast from the Past Summer History Camp, *A Tale of Acadie*

**April 9, 1PM:** Le Café Français. GRATUIT

**April 11, 3 PM:** Old Time Country Music Jam. Bring an acoustic instrument and join in or bring a lawn chair and listen! FREE

**April 16, 6:30 PM:** Historical Happy Hour featuring live eclectic Soul/Jazz with Chloe Marie on the Juke Joint side porch stage. Bring a lawn chair and your own libations. FREE

**April 18, 3 PM:** Lecture African American Quilters: Transforming the Canon with Spirit Driven Work presented by Dr. Joyce Marie Jackson. FREE

**April 24, 12 – 3 PM:** Quilt Workshop with Cely Pedescleaux. Limited space. Reservations and some supplies required. FREE

**April 30, 6:30 PM:** Film Screening *Wax Print: 1 Fabric, 4 Continents, 200 Years of History*. FREE

**May 2, 2PM:** Outdoor Concert featuring Blues After School Finalé followed by Pop/Rock/Blues band, Taylor Rae. FREE

**May 7, 1PM:** Le Café Français. GRATUIT

**May 15 – October 31:** Exhibition—Evangelina: Evolution of an Icon

**May 16, 3 PM:** Old Time Country Music Jam. Bring an acoustic instrument and join in or bring a lawn chair and listen! FREE

**June 4, 1PM:** Le Café Français. GRATUIT

**June 5 – September 4:** Exhibit, *Art by Douglas Bourgeois*

**June 13:** Old Time Country Music Jam. Bring an acoustic instrument and join in or bring a lawn chair and listen! FREE

**June 14 – 18, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM:** Session 1: Blast from the Past Summer History Camp

**June 21 – 25, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM:** Session 2: Blast from the Past Summer History Camp

**July 2, 1PM:** Le Café Français. GRATUIT

**July 12 – 13:** WBRM Teachers' Institute

**July 26:** Christmas in July Card Party

## SAVE THE DATE

### "CHRISTMAS IN JULY" CARD PARTY

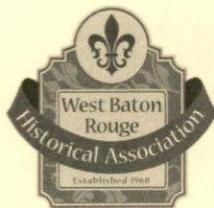
Set for Monday, July 26, 2021

at the

**West Baton Rouge Community Center  
Port Allen, LA**

## CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Carolyn & Wayne Achee	Ken & Cindy Kahao, Jr.
Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. William Kleinpeter
Karla Argrave	Randall & Judy Kolb
b1Bank	LA Farm Bureau Federation
American Sugar Cane League	Lagniappe Dulcimer Society
Babs Babin & Family	Mim & Najma Landry
Beaulieu Plantation, Inc.	Greg & Cindy Lowe
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	Dorene & Dale Mayeux
Mary F. Bennett	Carlyn Morales
Angelique Bergeron	Joey & Andrea Normand
Gordon & Lorraine Bergeron	Philip G. Padgett, M.D.
Riley L. Berthelot, Jr.	Al & Brenda Parker
Carolyn T. Blanchard	Dr. Olivia M. Pass
Mike & Pat Blanchard	June B. Peavy
Sid & Sue Blanchard	Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Pirie
Beth & Keith Bonanno	Placid Refining
Carolyn & Carroll Bourgeois	Butch & Peggy Plauche
Barry & Susan Brewer	Brian Prejean/Rod Prejean & Associates
Qiana Bynum	Skip & Laura Rhorer
Kerry & Kim Callegan	Thelma & Noah Rizan, Jr.
Tony & Kym Cashiola	James & Theresa Rizzutto
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville	Edana Robnett
Beverly B. Coates	Debra & Ronnie Salvadras
David Couvillon	Janet Simoneaux
Cou-yons	Bob & Connie Smith
Glen Daigle	Ruth Stanley
Russell & Peggy Daigle	Eleanor & Mike Stevens
Fernin F. Eaton	Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance
Linda L. Erley	Charles & Carolyn Stutts
Brian Falcon	Sun Plus, Inc.
Don & Marie Favrot	Debra Jones Tarter
Aundrea Flynn & Family	Mike & Ellen Tuzin
Ellis Gauthier & Family	Bill & Lorry Trotter
Sara & Skipper Grady	Al & Cathy Troy
Jeff Guidry	Margot G. Turk
Michelle Guillory	Pam Walsh
Harry L. Laws & Company	West Baton Rouge CVB
Lee & Michelle Hart	West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
Holy Family Catholic Church	Westside Women's Club
Hughes Mechanical Contractors	Anna Wilkinson
Daniel & Jayne Jason	
George Jenne	
Akitra Johnson & Family	



# West Baton Rouge Historical Association

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 31  
Port Allen, LA

845 North Jefferson Avenue  
Port Allen, LA 70767

Toll Free: 1-888-881-6811

Phone: 225-336-2422

Fax: 225-336-2448

Email: [contact\\_us@wbrmuseum.org](mailto:contact_us@wbrmuseum.org)

Website: [www.westbatonrougemuseum.org](http://www.westbatonrougemuseum.org)

Change Service Requested

## Donations were received for the following Memorial Funds:

### Acquisitions Memorial Fund

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

### General Memorial Fund

Doug Wilkinson- Judy LeBlanc

Doug Wilkinson- Jeannette Kendall

Doug Wilkinson- The Levy Company

Doug Wilkinson- Dana Fairchild

Doug Wilkinson- Fred and Winnie Black

Joyce Millard- Westside Women's Club

### Museum Memorial Fund

### Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

Arlen Landry- Mike and Jeannie Giroir Luckett

### 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 - 2021

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.