

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

Volume 2, Number 47

By Damon Veach

SEMINAR SCHEDULED: The Iberville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will sponsor a free Beginning Genealogy Seminar on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at the Iberville Parish Library in Plaquemine. Presenters will be Sue Badeaux and Judy Riffel, who will speak on a variety of topics.

The seminar is free and open to all. Preregistration is not required. The seminar will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Iberville Parish Library is located off the Belleview Roads at 24605 J. Gerald Berret Blvd.

For more information, contact Sue Badeaux at suebado@cox.net.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING: According to Stephen V. Estopinal, the next general membership meeting of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society will take place 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 5, at the Louisiana State Archives Building, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The guest speaker will be William Highland, Parish Historian for St. Bernard Parish.

Information about the Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana can be found on the web at www.canaryislanders.org. You may contact the president of the society by email: llindsly@canaryislanders.org.

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ACADIAN EVENT: Mitch Conover has submitted the schedule for Grand Reveil Acadian 2011 set for October 7-16, 2011. From all indications, this will be one of the best of its kind. There may be minor changes, but plans can be made and time reserved to match the listings. Check out the schedule of events below.

GRA: NEW ORLEANS - OCTOBER 7TH & 8TH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

- Introduction and welcome to the GRA Participants by the Mayor of New Orleans and the French Consul. Recognition of Public Officials and Special Guests
- Invitation to each GRA region by Mayors of Houma, Lake Charles and Lafayette
- Program Overview by each venue coordinator
- Unveiling of the Acadian/Cajun Commemorative Plaque

Venue: To Be Determined

- **Reception with refreshments**
- **Questions and Answers**
- **Press Conference and Announcement of GRA 10 day schedule of events in New Orleans and other Acadian regions**
- **All Cajun and Acadian Star Tour, moderated by Zachary Richard and showcasing cultural spokespersons; Features guest musicians from Canada and Louisiana with a wide spectrum of musical styles all on the theme, “Les Deux Acadies.”**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH - ACADIAN TOURIST - DISCOVER AND VISIT NEW ORLEANS

- **Louisiana Swamp Tour – airboat tour of swamplands**
- **New Orleans City Tour – French Quarter, St. Charles Avenue**
- **Plantations along the Mississippi River**
- **Self-guided walking tour of the French Quarter**
- **Historical Cemetery Tour**
- **Voodoo Spiritual Tour**
- **New Orleans Cocktail Tour**
- **Horse and Buggy Tour of the French Quarter**
- **New Orleans Museum of Art and Sculpture Garden**
- **Self-guided New Orleans Trolley tour on the oldest operating trolley cars in the United States**
- **Blaine Kern’s Mardi Gras World – see how Mardi Gras floats are created**

Special group rates are being arranged by Grayline tours and independent tour operators. Optional tours may be arranged.

(RSB)

GRA: HOUMA - OCTOBER 9TH & 10TH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

- **General Assembly of Acadians Program & Reception – TBA**
- **Feature: Unveiling of an Acadian Monument**
- **“Voice of the Wetlands Festival” – Tab Benoit / Environmental Focus: Coastal Erosion, Oil Spill**
- **All Cajun and Acadian Star Tour, moderated by Zachary Richard and showcasing cultural spokespersons; Features guest musicians from Canada and Louisiana with a wide spectrum of musical styles all on the theme, “Les Deux Acadies.”**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH – DISCOVER HOUMA REGION / TOURS

Special tours are being developed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau with various attractions and restaurants.



GRA: LAKE CHARLES – OCTOBER 11TH & 12TH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

- **Introductory ceremony, Greeting by Local Officials**
- **Art Vendor Displays**
- **Presentations by local authors and writers**
- **La Table Francaise Cultural Exchange**
- **Cajun Music Performances**
- **Cooking Demonstrations**
- **Creole Nature Trail Representatives, Wildlife Refuge System on hand with displays**
- **Food vendors, also showcasing members of the Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail**
- **All Cajun and Acadian Star Tour, moderated by Zachary Richard and showcasing cultural spokespersons; Features guest musicians from Canada and Louisiana with a wide spectrum of musical styles all on the theme, “Les Deux Acadies.”**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH – DISCOVER LAKE CHARLES REGION / TOURS

Explore our area:

- **Hit the Boudin Trail**
- **See our Parks**
- **GPS activated Hand Held Video tour of the Creole Nature Trail**
- **Visit the Mardi Gras Museum**
- **Visit Local Art Galleries**
- **Carriage rides through downtown Lake Charles (private bookings)**



GRA: LAFAYETTE PROGRAM – OCTOBER 13TH - 16TH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH / SEAFOOD AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO OUR CULTURE

Acadian Related Subjects Booths: Booths containing Young Adults Organization Information, Genealogy, Acadian family name products, artists: music, crafts, Cajun & Acadian products, books, family photos, etc.

9:00 a.m.: Greet and Meet Session / Coffee and Pastry

10:00 a.m.: Opening ceremony: Welcome, Announcements, Introductions

10:30 a.m.: Motivational Speaker: Acadian Heritage & Culture - Our Future? Maurice Basque (invited), Zachary Richard (invited), Barry Ancelet (invited) Encourage Acadian youth /young adults

11:30 a.m.: Cuisine - “History on the Table: Eat the Message”. Demonstrations and sampling with two or three regional guest chefs from the “Two Acadians’ Cuisine” / Discussion of seafood industry. Tasting

Acadians converse about similar topics of interest to each area: (scholars to facilitate) Tentative topics discussed

1:00 p.m.: Environmental Issues / Seafood Industry and Oil Spill / Coastal Erosion – Both Acadian and Cajun seafood; What is the Future of Seafood in the two Acadies?

2:00 p.m.: French Language – Amanda LaFleur – The Louisiana French Language: The Battle Continues; Presentation of “Bayous to the Tundra”, movie documentary by Daniel Rocque

3:00 p.m.: Genealogy – Steven White, University of Moncton, New Brunswick; The Acadian Identity: Finding our Ancestors

4:00 p.m.: Musique des deux Acadies: lyrics, old ballads with 3 musicians / Music conversations: Similarities and differences with special blend of Acadian and Cajun Music (blend of a capella folk songs & ballads / history of our music / lyrics. End the day with “Les deux Acadies dansent ensemble”: playing music & dancing together.

All Cajun and Acadian Star Tour, moderated by Zachary Richard and showcasing cultural spokespersons; Features guest musicians from Canada and Louisiana with a wide spectrum of musical styles all on the theme, “Les Deux Acadies.”

Costumed Mardi Gras groups to parade / throw beads (petite animation) to announce the closing processional parade of GRA at the end of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, Sunday, October 16th.

YOUTH PROGRAM:

4:00 p.m.: Arrival / Youth check-in at Camp des Cadiens

6:00 p.m.: Small group sessions / Animation by les AnimACTEURS : « Pourquoi parler le français en Louisiane? »

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH / DISCOVER LAFAYETTE AND ACADIANA VICINITY

Local Acadiana cities plan events to highlight local landmarks, attractions and restaurants

- **Crowley Opera House – Concert with Zachary Richard.**
- **St. Martinville Re-enactment of the Arrival of the Acadians on the Bayou Teche, renewal and reconnection with St. Martinville’s sister cities, and attractions. (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Nantes, France)**
- **Blessing Ceremony in Mother church of the Acadians, St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church.**
- **Abbeville Omelette, featuring Louisiana Crawfish**
- **Acadian Family Organizations planning family gatherings**
- **Opening of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles concert at “Downtown Alive” GRA Reception / Louisiana Cajun Cuisine, featuring LA. Seafood**

YOUTH PROGRAM:

9:00 a.m.: Grand Rallye d’Automobile (lunch en route)

3:00 p.m.: Transport to Downtown Alive!

8:40 p.m.: Games led by les AnimACTEURS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH - FESTIVALS ACADIENS ET CRÉOLES, GIRARD PARK, LAFAYETTE, LA

Music, Dancing, Cajun Cuisine, Arts & Crafts, Acadian History, Culture, Traditions

- **GRA Hospitality Tent**
- **Dancing Tent : Acadians/Cajuns Dance ensemble (dancing together)**
- **ULL Computer Building- (classrooms & auditorium available for Acadian Youth / Adults**
- **GRA Acadians/Cajun workshops**
- **Reception and exhibition of Grand Pré artists, including Georgette Bourgeois originals, Acadiana Arts Council**

YOUTH PROGRAM:

9:00 a.m.: Table ronde [Discussion of solutions to the state of French in Louisiana]

7:00 p.m.: Fête des Cadiens (musique des jeunes, non-traditionnelle (Isle Dernière / Xeno), hosted by Anika Lirette / Derek Landry

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH - FESTIVAL ACADIENS ET CREOLE- GIRARD PARK

GRA Closing Ceremony and Mass

- **Outdoor French Catholic Mass**
- **Grand Parade Procession – parade around the park, including youth program participants: A demonstration of cultural and community affirmation, encouraging all ages to participate in Courir du Mardi Gras, Tintamarre (Scott Jumelage Committee), Mi-Carême, Guillonée**

YOUTH PROGRAM:

7:00 p.m.: Pièce de théâtre avec France, Canada et Etats-Unis

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FREE SERVICE: Correspondence to this column should be directed to Damon Veach, Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5337. The e-mail address is ancestorslaveach@cox.net. Queries and book reviews are printed as space permits, and you are encouraged to take advantage of this free service. Claitor's Publishing can serve as a distributor for self-published genealogy titles. Go to their homepage for details on how you can obtain this excellent service.