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FRANCO-AMERICAN
COLLECTION
FRANCO-AMÉRICAINNE



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From the Coordinator:

A long winter is behind us now, and we're well and truly into a busy 2011. Historically, 2011 marks a number of anniversaries – so far we've seen the fiftieth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's inauguration (January 20th), Ronald Regan's 100th birthday (February 6th), 100 years since the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist fire (March 25th) and fifty years since the first manned space flight (April 12th). Perhaps most significantly, 2011 will mark the start of the four-year-long Civil War sesquicentennial. The Franco-American Collection aims to mark this occasion in its own way, so stay tuned for more details of that.

In the meantime, we've been busy in the first few months of 2011. In this issue you can read about what we've been doing, including an event with Governor LePage, regular monthly sing-along sessions, and a special upcoming performance by Josée Vachon at USM.

L'hiver est enfin passé, et l'an chargé 2011 est commencé. Il y a beaucoup des anniversaires des événements historiques à cette année – depuis janvier, il y avaient l'anniversaire cinquième de l'inauguration de Président John F. Kennedy (janvier 20e), l'anniversaire centième de Ronald Regan (février 6e), cent ans depuis l'incendie à l'usine de « Triangle Shirtwaist » (mars 25e) et cinquante ans depuis le premier voyage dans l'espace habité (avril 12e). Mais l'événement significatif cette année est le sesquicentenaire de la Guerre Civile. La Collection Franco-Américaine commémorera cette occasion à l'avenir – continuez à lire ces *Bulletins* pour plus détails.

En plus, pendant les mois derniers, nous avons été occupés. À ce numéro, on peut lire au sujet de nos activités, qui comprend un événement avec Gouverneur LePage, les opportunités pour chanter tous en cœur chaque mois, et un spectacle spécial par Josée Vachon à UMS.

Happy Spring / Joyeux Printemps!

James

Celebrating Franco-American Day with Governor LePage

On March 16th, the Franco-American Collection and USM's Lewiston-Auburn College joined the Franco-American Heritage Center to welcome Paul LePage to his hometown during Maine's Franco-American day, and honor his achievement in becoming the first Franco-American to be elected governor of Maine. Collection Coordinator James Myall spoke at the event, saying that as an immigrant himself, he was pleased to see the progress that Maine's Franco-Americans have made in overcoming prejudices, and that he took Gov. LePage's election as evidence of this. James then presented Gov. LePage with a compilation of essays on Franco-American small-business owners, drawn from the Collection's holdings. Alongside Rita Dube, the Heritage Center's Director, and Dean Joyce Gibson of USM-LAC, there was an address by the French Consul to the United States in Boston, M. Christophe Guilhou, who expressed pleasure at seeing French culture alive and well in Maine.

During the evening this year's nominees to the Franco-American Hall of Fame were announced:

Terry Ouellette, founder of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society, and member of the Maine Acadian Heritage Council

Patrick Paradis, mayor of Augusta

Claire & Giles Auger, both French teachers and active community members in Sanford.

Dr. Edward Martin, founder of the Acadian Society of Mexico-Rumford

Sr. Solange Bernier, long-time teacher at St Dominic's in Lewiston.

Maine's Franco-American Day also saw festivities in Augusta earlier in the day, and was attended by dignitaries from France, Canada and Switzerland, as part of *La Semaine de la Francophonie*, a week-long international celebration of the French Language and Culture.



Dean Joyce Gibson and Coordinator James Myall Welcome Gov. LePage

Le 16 mars, la Collection Franco-Américaine, le collège Lewiston-Auburn de l'UMS et le Centre d'Héritage Franco-Américain ont fait bon accueil à Paul LePage à son ville de naissance pendant le jour franco-américaine en Maine et fait lui honoré pour être élu le premier gouverneur franco-américaine de Maine. Le coordinateur de la Collection, James Myall, a dit que, comme un immigrant lui-même, il admire le progrès des franco-américains contre la discrimination, et que l'élection de Gov. LePage était un jalon. Ensuite, James a présenté au Gouverneur un livre au sujet des entrepreneurs franco-américains de Lewiston-Auburn.

Avec Rita Dubé, directrice du Centre d'Héritage, et Joyce Gibson, doyen du collège, le Consul Français aux États-Unis à Boston a parlé. Il a dit que la langue et couture française étaient fortes en Maine.

Pendant le soirée, les nominées annuelles au Panthéon Franco-Américain étaient annoncés :

Terry Ouellette, fondatrice de la société historique de Ste-Agathe, et membre du Conseil d'Héritage Acadien en Maine.

Patrick Paradis, maire d'Augusta

Claire et Giles Auger, professeurs de la langue française et citoyens actifs de Sanford.

Dr. Edward Martin, fondateur de la Société Acadien de Mexico-Rumford.

Sr. Solange Bernier, professeur à l'école St-Dominique à Lewiston.

Les dignitaires de la France, le Canada et la Suisse, ont célébré le Jour des Franco-Américains à Augusta, un part de La Semaine de la Francophonie internationale.

Monthly Sing-Alongs

The Collection is hosting a series of monthly sing-along sessions, to which everyone is invited! Join us on the third Wednesday of every month for good music and good company. Everyone, from age 7 to 101 is welcome, and, since words are provided, no knowledge of French is required. Bring your friends, your dancing shoes and perhaps a joke or story to share. Upcoming dates are May 18, June 15 and July 20. Each session begins at 1:15 and continues until 2:30. Look out for announcements in the Sun Journal and Twin City Times for more details, or call the Collection at 753-6545.



Accordian Player Irene Coady and Singer Alette Couturier

La Collection teint l'opportunité pour chanter en cœur en français avec vos amis chaque mois – tout le monde est invité! Venez au Collège Lewiston-Auburn le mercredi troisième chaque mois pour ressentir la musique et compagnie bonne. Personne ne doit pas parler le français, parce qu'il y a des paroles écrits. Préparez à danser, chanter et rire!

Les séances à l'avenir sera à mai 18, juin 15 et juillet 20. Chaque séance commence à 1h15 et continue jusqu'à 2 h30. Regardez les journaux « Sun Journal » et « Twin City Times » pour plus détails, ou téléphonez la Collection à 753-6545.

Josée Vachon

The Franco-American Collection is pleased to announce that internationally-renowned singer-songwriter Josée Vachon will be coming to Lewiston on Sunday, May 22, for a performance at USM's Lewiston-Auburn College. The performance is provisionally scheduled to begin at 1pm and will last for 2 hours. The second half of the performance will feature a sing-along session led by Josée, in which audience suggestions will be encouraged. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. We expect a large turnout, and seating will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, please contact the Collection.



La chanteuse célèbre internationale, Josée Vachon, viendra à Lewiston, à dimanche, 22 mai, pour interpréter au Collège Lewiston-Auburn de UMS. La séance, qui est organisé par la Collection Franco-Américaine, commencera à 1h, et continuer pour deux heures. Josée chantera pour un heure, et tout le monde chanterait en cœur pour le deuxième heure. Il y aura des rafraichissements. L'événement sera gratuit et ouvert à la publique. Si il y aura trop des auditeurs, les premiers arrivés seront les premiers servis.

Pour plus d'information, contactez la Collection.

Apollos Rivoire



Paul Revere, J.S. Copely, 1768

Although the name of Paul Revere is well-known by every American schoolchild (thanks in part to the poem of Maine author Henry Longfellow), the Boston patriot's French heritage is less widely-acknowledged. Indeed, but for his father's efforts to assimilate, we might well today be remembering the midnight ride of Apollos Rivoire. Paul's father was born Apollos Rivoire in Riocaud, a small town in the county of Aquitaine (southwestern France) in 1702. In order to improve his chances, Apollos' father, Isaac, sent the young boy to stay with his uncle, Simeon, who lived on the British island of Guernsey. The islands, which lie in the English Channel between France and England, were popular destinations for French protestants like the Rivoires, because they were French-speaking but under the authority of the English church. Simeon paid for Apollos to be apprenticed to a gold- and silver-smith in Boston, John Coney, at the age of 13. When Coney died in 1722, Apollos travelled briefly back to Guernsey to visit his relatives, but he was determined to make his life in the New World. Setting up his own shop in Boston's Dock Square (today's Faneuil Hall), it was probably around this time that Apollos anglicized his name – from Apollos to Paul and from Rivoire to Revere (the new spelling took some time to settle; 'Reverie' and 'Revear' are also recorded). Although protestants like Apollos were better received by the English colonists in America, the French were still viewed with suspicion, and an English name was necessary to 'get ahead' in society.

In 1729, the renamed Paul Revere married Deborah Hitchbourn. The couple gave their eldest son the same anglicized name that Apollos had adopted, and the celebrated Paul Revere was born in 1734. In addition to his name, the younger Paul gained his father's skills at metal-working, to whom he was apprenticed in 1747 until the elder Revere died in 1754. Although Paul was not raised in a French environment (in fact he fought in the French and Indian Wars), he maintained contact with his relatives across the Atlantic, and wrote regularly to his cousins Mathias and Jean. And, of course, although Paul Revere's efforts at Lexington and Concord helped begin the American Revolution, the war was brought to a close with French and American soldiers fighting shoulder-to-shoulder at Yorktown.

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