



# Le Bulletin

Issue 7 - December 2011  
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Our Websites:  
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**Hours**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**9 - 4**

## From the Coordinator:

We have a lot of *cadeaux* to offer you during this holiday season - and each of them highlights the yuletide spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

The Collection's Board of Trustees held an annual retreat in November, and used the opportunity to focus on our core mission and values. Among the themes discussed were leadership in the Franco community, and partnership with other organizations. Thanks to Marco's Restaurant for hosting us!

Thanks to our association with USM, Collection patrons now have the ability to browse the premier *Ancestry.com* web-based genealogical database, completely free of charge.

Together with the Franco-American Heritage Center in Lewiston, we invited local story-teller Michael Parent to help kick-start a pilot program for teaching French language in local schools by using our rich local heritage.

Our sing-along program this month will be at the St Mary's D'Youville Pavillion in Lewiston. We know that the residents appreciate being able to join in, and last year's visit really captured the spirit of the season.

Joyeux Noël et Bon Hiver!

James

## Special Holiday Sing-Along!



Lorraine Ouellette and Helene Sylvain at November's sing-along

The University of Southern Maine's Franco-American Collection will be bringing its popular French-language sing-along to the d'Youville Pavilion at St Mary's Regional Health Center, Monday December 12. The hour-long session, from 1:30 – 2:30 pm, will take place in the chapel on the third floor of the Pavilion and will focus on traditional holiday favorites, and French Noël's (Christmas Carols). Members of the public are invited to join residents for the festive session, which will be led by local singers and instrumentalists. No prior knowledge of French is necessary, since song sheets with lyrics will be provided, and participants of all ages and backgrounds are strongly encouraged.

"Taking the program to St Mary's is a great opportunity to reach those who might not normally be able to make it to our regular events" says Collection Coordinator James Myall. "We had a great time last year at d'Youville – it really captured the spirit of the holidays."

In case of bad weather, the event will be postponed until Thursday, December 22. The D'Youville Pavilion at St Mary's Regional Health Center is located at 93 Campus Avenue in Lewiston.

## Maine French Heritage Language Program (Lewiston)



The Franco-American Heritage Center and the University of Southern Maine's Franco-American Collection kick-started a pilot program for local schools by co-sponsoring a visit by renowned Lewiston story-teller Michael Parent to Sherwood Heights School in Auburn on November 18.

The program, which was an internal event for Sherwood Heights students only, featured some of Michael's famous songs and stories, as well the opportunity for some hands-on activities, such as learning to step-dance, and play the spoons.

The event was the initiative of Doris Bonneau, a retired educator, who has been organizing Saturday morning 'Fun in French' sessions for children aged 3-10 and their parents or care givers at the Franco-American Heritage Center since September. "Reconnecting children and adults to their Francophone Heritage is energizing and sparks collaboration with other organizations working towards the same end," says Bonneau.

Co-sponsoring the event was USM's Franco-American Collection. "It just made sense for us to work together on something like this," says Collection Coordinator, James Myall. "Having local children engage with Franco heritage is something both our organizations support, and by pooling our resources, we can

make a real difference."

Parent's visit marked the launch a pilot after-school French Program for 3rd and 4th grade Sherwood Heights' students and other future events at Lewiston-Auburn schools. This new program is part of the nationally-recognized French Heritage Language Program, already in place in New York and Miami. It will debut in Auburn and Augusta Maine this spring!

Anyone interested in learning more about the initiative should contact Doris Bonneau at 207-782-7272 or Rita Dube at the Franco American Center located at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston, who can be reached at 207-783-1585. The program is particularly interested in hearing from adults who would be willing to act as 'cultural ambassadors' for Maine's French Heritage, and assisting Doris with administering the program.

## Best of the Web:

Click on the links below to view some of this month's best Franco web content:

- [Rita Dubé's Tourtière](#)
- [17 Enfants and Counting](#)
- [Crafting a Bûche Noël](#)
- [Noël Concerts in Maine](#)
- [New French Words?](#)
- [A New Kerouac Novel](#)

## Ancestry.com Now Available for Collection Visitors

Ancestry Library Edition, the largest online family history resource available, is now available at the Collection, through our partnership with USM libraries.

Ancestry provides unprecedented access to family history via documents that record the lineage of individuals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and more.

Distributed exclusively by ProQuest and powered by Ancestry.com, it brings the world's most popular consumer online family history resource to your library.

Answers await all users—professional or hobbyist, expert or novice, genealogist or historian—inside the thousands of databases of family information. User-friendly search tools and comprehensive indexing make it easy to start discovering personal histories.

MEET THE FAMILY FIRSTHAND ...with millions of unique, full-text primary sources and enhanced images, including US and Canadian Census records, French-Canadian Parish Records, US Civil War and other military records, immigration records and more.

SEE HOW THEY LIVED ...with additional collections that add context and background to individuals' stories.

RECORD YOUR HISTORY ... and find others on the same path. Ancestry Library Edition features helpful tools such as charts, summaries, calendars, message boards, and more.

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