



BATISTE • LAVALAIS • SAMPSON

THE FAMILY REUNION NEWSLETTER HAS GONE DIGITAL

BE SURE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE.

Send your name and email address to Riley Austin: rtheresaro@gmail.com

TO VIEW OR DOWNLOAD GO TO: www.blfamilyreunion.com.

PRINTED COPIES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

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MESSAGE FROM THE 2018 REUNION CHAIR, ROSA (VON) MILLANG

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Happy Holidays! I wish everyone happy holidays; and a joyous, harmonious, safe and peaceful entry into 2017. May your holidays and entry into the New Year be filled with the love of family; the intimacy and caring of good friends; the bounty of healthy food; the abundance of good fortune; the dignity that comes along with discernment; and the blessings of good health. If you should encounter health issues, I wish you the blessing of good physicians and health care providers, and loving supportive people around you.

I am looking forward to being in touch with you in February/March of 2017 announcing the dates for the 2018 Batiste- Lavalais- Sampson (BLS) Family Reunion.

Excitement for the 2018 Reunion continues to grow! I was in Mansura a couple of weeks ago and was excited to speak with family members that will be attending their first BLS Family Reunion in 2018.

MAY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS TOUCH "EACH AND EVERY" ONE OF YOU.

JOIN THE TEAM PLANNING OUR BLS RESTORATION FOUNDATION, a nonprofit foundation

IN PREPARATION FOR ESTABLISHING THE NONPROFIT – There are required officers for filing a nonprofit including president, secretary and treasurer. Additionally, a minimum of three members are required for the Board of Directors. There is no required filing of advisory board members, but there will be several advisory board members representing all three branches of the BLS Family. If you are interested in actively participating in the Foundation, please send your resume along with the accompanying completed form found on page 4 of this newsletter to Riley Austin-Rochester at rtheresaro@gmail.com. The volunteer form is downloadable from the www.blfamilyreunion.com.

READ THE BLS RESTORATION FOUNDATION POSITION PAPER AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM.

BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE

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JOIN THE FAMILY FOR THE 2018 BLS FAMILY REUNION IN MANSURA, LOUISIANA: BIRTHPLACE OF OUR ANCESTORS.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

In November Hilda McDougal (Batiste), was in rehabilitation (rehab). As of the newsletter's release, Cousin Jacquie Evans reports that Hilda has left rehab and is living with her daughter and son-in-law in Gainesville, Va. They are adjusting well. Keep Hilda in prayer. Hilda is 96 years old and pictured on the front row of the BLS FAMILY Reunion group photo in the yellow shirt.

Patrick (Pat) Batiste wants you to begin planning for our 2020 BLS FAMILY REUNION in the Dominican Republic. Stop by your local Post Office and begin the process of obtaining your passport. If you need help, contact Pat at (323) 8391310 or send an email to patjulesbatiste@yahoo.com.

Gail (Donna) Tymony makes beautiful wreaths for *all occasions*, including Christmas. If you are interested, send a text message to donnared7@aol.com.

BE FILLED WITH COMFORT AND JOY THIS SEASON...

Here is "A Christmas Morning Tradition at the Logan's" ... submitted by 2016 Reunion Chair, Sharon Logan (a partial reprint from 2016 BLS Family Reunion Commemorative Program)



For the past 12 years, every Christmas morning my girls have kept this tradition alive. It starts at 6:00 AM when the girls awaken us to start the morning. As we sit around the Christmas tree, we prepare to open our presents. With coffee, tea, and hot chocolate drinks of our choice, we share gifts, laughs, and take pictures as we open each presents. Once all of the presents are open, we partake in a serving of our Christmas Morning Traditional Bread Pudding.

BREAD PUDDING

- 6 slices of day(s) old bread (I typically use a mixture of sliced wheat bread and dinner rolls)
- 2 TB Butter
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups of milk
- 3/4 cups of white sugar
- 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Break bread into small pieces into a baking dish. Drizzle melted butter over bread. Sprinkle with raisins. In a separate dish, combine eggs, milk, white sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla extract in a mixing bowl. Beat until well mixed. Pour over bread and lightly push down with fork until the bread is covered and soaking up the egg mixture. Bake in oven for 45 minutes or until the top springs back when lightly topped.

BREAD PUDDING SAUCE

- 2/3 cups sugar
- 2 TB all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- 7 TB butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

In a saucepan, combine sugar, flour, and water until smooth. Add butter. Bring to boil over medium heat, cook, and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla. Serve warm or cold over bread pudding and enjoy it with a hot drink of your favorite beverage.

-STAY CONNECTED - VISIT OUR BLS FACEBOOK GROUP OR REUNION WEBSITE-
<http://bit.ly/2d5knf4> / www.blfamilyreunion.com

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MEET GWEN PATRICK: MEMBER 2018 FAMILY REUNION PLANING COMMITTEE

Gwen is the second oldest daughter of Clabert (Steve) Batiste. She has always lived in California and in the year 2008, she was a candidate for the State Assembly. Gwen and her husband Pastor Charles Patrick have five children, Gentry, Jessica, Charles III, Hope and John Paul. Gwen and Pastor Charles led a congregation in Compton, California known as Sunago Christian Fellowship Church, and now have started a new ministry vision to reach youth of this generation through Foundations For Future Generations (FFFG) in New Berry Springs, California.

In a recent update to supporters, Gwen and Pastor Charles say that in less than one year God moved to grow the vision of FFFG "by leaps and bounds!" The various FFFG programs will all emphasize character development and development of employable skills in an academic environment.

Now there is a newly completed lake expansion for fishing. The lake will open spring 2017 for fishing catfish, tilapia, and more. FFFG occasionally employs local college students and ministries (Victory Outreach Ministries) to help beautify and maintain the property. The grounds are also home to a colony of endangered Tri-Colored Blackbirds. The colony gets active with nesting and roosting from early spring through mid-Summer. Because of the Tri-Colored Blackbird, Gwen and Pastor Charles, in partnership with the Audubon Society and affiliates, bring regular visitors and supporters to the grounds.

The most recent exciting news is a grant of \$10,000 from USDA to build two greenhouses to fulfill the horticultural, agricultural, and aquaponics visions of FFFG. Two 1500 square foot structures, scheduled for construction this winter, are foundational for the "outdoor classroom" component of FFFG to invite communities to enjoy the natural habitat of Newberry Springs.

They hope you will plan to visit soon! You can view more of what they are doing at www.fff.org.

CREOLE PHRASE/WORD ...by Gwen Patrick, Member, 2018 BLS FAMILY REUNION COMMITTEE

English	Louisiana Creole *
TAKE CARE	SWINN-TWA

HONORING OUR MILITARY

Submit anecdotal articles about anyone who has been or is in military service to our country.

CLARIS JEAN SAYS, "THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING OUR COUNTRY A SAFER AND A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE!"

THE 2018 REUNION COMMITTEE	THE BLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	
ROSA (VON) MILLANG, Chair	Newsletter Managing Editor Riley Austin-Rochester rtheresaro@gmail.com	Assistant Managing Editor Tamico Brown-Simmons tamico34@gmail.com
Gwen Patrick Sharon Logon, Chair Advisor	Contributing Editors Gertrude Williams - trude11@pacbell.net Mary Ann Lacefield - mlacefie2003@yahoo.com	

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BLS FAMILY REUNION RESTORATION FOUNDATION

VOLUNTEER FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION FORM

(Please submit Your Resume and this Form by June 30, 2017)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____ cell _____ home _____

Email address: _____

BRIEF DISCUSSION OF YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FOUNDATION

CHECK ALL APPLICABLE: I am interested in being **1. An Officer:** President _____ Secretary _____ Treasurer _____
2. A Member of the Board of Directors _____ **3. Member of the Advisory Board** _____

LIST BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY YOU REPRESENT INCLUDING ALL LINEAGES FROM AVOYELLES PARISH

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.

YOUR AVAILABILITY (check all applicable)

WEEKLY _____	WEEKENDS _____ SAT. __ SUN. __ AM __ PM __	MONTHLY _____	WEEK DAYS AM __ PM __	QUARTERLY _____
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CONTACT RILEY AUSTIN-ROCHESTER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORM OR FOUNDATION at rtheresaro@gmail.com

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL CONTINUE IN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLY FOLLOWING THIS ISSUE, UNLESS FAMILY SPONSORS COVER THE COST OF MAILING.

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