



BATISTE • LAVALAIS • SAMPSON FAMILY REUNION

GENESIS

EMBRACING OUR ROOTS - BUILDING OUR FUTURE

(SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE 2018 FAMILY REUNION - FRIDAY, JULY 20 TO SUNDAY, JULY 22)

MESSAGE FROM THE 2018 REUNION CHAIR, ROSA "VON" MILLANG

HI FAMILY, I HOPE ALL IS WELL WITH YOU!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The 2018 Batiste- Lavalais-Sampson (BLS) Family Reunion will be in Mansura, Louisiana beginning Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22 2018.

As promised, the 2018 BLS committee members have begun the telephone survey count of who plans to attend next year. So far, the response has been very good. If you have not received a call to date, you will receive a call soon from one of the following area codes for which you may not be familiar: 702, 301, 661, 480, 310, 213, 323, and 562. Remember, "It's just us!"

We have some great ideas for activities such as visiting the Indian mounds, where some of our ancestors may be buried; or a Bayou style dinner dance at the local casino. Of course, we plan to explore more about our unique heritage including the French creole workshop; and that includes the official launch of the nonprofit BLS Family Restoration Foundation, a nonprofit educational and historical society.

So-o-o... the excitement builds and continues...!

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Mary Catherine Batiste, youngest child - daughter of Lena Lavalais and Jules Batiste, is excited about the success of our family reunions. She called to express her enthusiasm at seeing the dreams of her youth fulfilled long after she had expressed that desire to her older brothers and sisters in the early 1960's. "Let's take a family cruise," She would tell them. Now, to her delight, we are planning a family reunion in the Dominican Republic for the year 2020.

Patrick (Pat) Batiste wants you to have your passport in plenty of time for our 2020 BLS FAMILY REUNION in the Dominican Republic. Contact your local vital records government entity for information about obtaining a copy of your birth certificate, which must accompany your passport request form. For additional info contact Pat at (323) 839-1310 or send an email to patjulesbatiste@yahoo.com.

The BLS Family Restoration Foundation, a nonprofit educational and historical society, will launch in the next few months. Volunteers for the 15-member Board of Directors include Sharon Logan, Rosa "Von" Millang, Gwen Patrick, Lorraine Sampson, and Patrick "Pat" Batiste. Ideally, the Board should consist of representatives from each of the Batiste, Lavalais, and Sampson branches of our family, span the continent and should be both gender and generationally sensitive (family members in their twenties, thirties, forties, and over sixty years of age). To volunteer and/or participate in the planning process contact Riley Austin-Rochester at rtheresaro@gmail.com, or call her at 661-878-6299.

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

BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE

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CATCHING UP WITH OUR YOUNGER BLS FAMILY MEMBERS

Jessica Sherrie (Patrick) Erickson, was born to Pastor Charles and Gwen (Batiste) Patrick, raised in Compton, CA, and graduated from Gahr High School. Jessica has several degrees including undergraduate dual degrees in African American Studies and Social Welfare from UC Berkeley, and a Master's Degree in Social Welfare from New York University's Silver School of Social Work.

She is a community leader and mentor, teacher, actor, model, and social worker. Jessica's passion for the younger generation extends from teaching at the Fragment House Learning Center High School to volunteering in the inner city. Jessica has graced the runways during New York Fashion Week in various high-end and local fashion shows, appeared in various magazines, Zen Magazine (online), Look books (in print) and Fashion Photography by Bruce Smith (in print). She has also worked with many renowned and international photographers.

Jessica met her social worker husband Jeffrey Erickson at Phoenix House Foundation in Queens, New York and married him in Central Park. Together they co-partner and manage Erickson & Brimstone, a multi-faceted consulting firm encompassing Fashion, Music, and Lifestyle.

JESICA LIVES BY THE MANTRA THAT GOD AND FAMILY ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO SUSTAIN HAPPINESS AND FULLFILLMENT IN LIFE.

Submitted by Gwen Patrick

MEET ALLYSON LAVALAIS, MEMBER-2018 FAMILY REUNION PLANNING COMMITTEE

REMEMBER TO FREQUENT THE BLS FACEBOOK GROUP OR REUNION WEBSITE-
(<http://bit.ly/2d5knf4>)/ (www.blsfamilyreunion.com)

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CREOLE PHRASE/WORD ...BY TAMICO BROWN-SIMMONS

English	Louisiana Creole *
Do you understand?	Comprendre? - pronounced the same as French Translation* (See Below for French Translation)

FRENCH TRANSLATION CHART FOR "COMPRENDRE:"

Subject Pronoun	<i>Comprendre</i> Conjugation	Pronunciation	Translation
<i>je</i> (I)	<i>je comprends</i>	(kohm prahn)	understand
<i>tu</i> (YOU)	<i>tu comprends</i>	(too kohm prahn)	understand
<i>il/elle/on</i> (HE/SHE)	<i>il/elle/on comprend</i>	(eel/el/ohn kohm prahn)	understands
<i>nous</i> (WE)	<i>nous comprenons</i>	(noo kohm preh nohn)	understand
<i>vous</i> (YOU - when spoken to a group of people)	<i>vous comprenez</i>	(voo kohm preh nay)	understand
<i>ils/ells</i> (THEY)	<i>ils/elles comprennent</i>	(eel/el kohm pren)	understand

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TO RECEIVE DIGITAL COPIES BE SURE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE.

Send your name and email address to Riley Austin-Rochester at rtheresaro@gmail.com

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

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