

BLS - RÈHA

BATISTE LAVALAIS SAMPSON*
RESTORATION EDUCATION HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

nonprofit@blsfamilyreunion.com

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER - #002



LOUISIANA

**State of Blues, Sit Down and
Read the Family's News
(Salutation on letters
written by daughter Mercedes
'Dez' Prier for parents
Jules & Lena Batiste.**

* ALTERNATE SPELLINGS OF SURNAMES:
LAVALLAIS AND LAVALLE;
JEAN-BAPTISTE; AND BAPTISTE

OOOOO



LOGO ART BY TIFFANY AUSTIN

**DALLAS, TEXAS
JULY 19-21, 2024**

**LAISSEZ LES BONS
TEMPS ROULER AVEC
FOI, FAMILLE, ET PARDON!
(PAGES 2 & 3 FOR DETAILS)**

OOOOO

**CATCHING UP
CONGRATS BLS FAMILY
SHARON AND RODNEY
LOGAN: PASTORS NAMED
MARICOPA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BLACK ICONS,
2023**

FLOWERS FOR CAREGIVERS

FROM THE DESK OF MANAGING EDITOR - RILEY AUSTIN-ROCHESTER.

I didn't fully appreciate the quality-of-care my mom, Mercedes 'Dez' received from my sisters Alice and Linda, and daughter Tamico. Mom did! In her final hours, she sat up in the hospital bed and personally thanked them. But, attendance at Family Reunions heightened my awareness and appreciation for all of our family's caregivers.

Early in 2016, Cousin Jacquie shared with me how she maintained balance while caring for Aunt Marguerite. She told of family fun attending their own pre-planned Inaugural Ball for President Elect, Barach Obama. They dressed elegantly wearing diamonds and minks. Jacquie says that Aunt Marguerite was also a caregiver. Jacquie and Stan planned date nights including dinner and champagne in the basement of their home. On occasion Aunt Marguerite was at the same time on date nights with families of those to whom she was providing care. And her date was dinner and champagne! I still smile years thinking of it!

Cornell wrote a team of siblings managed caring for Uncle Paul. It allowed him to finish out his working career away from home returning every 10 plus days to prepare favorite meals and spend some of the best time of his life with Uncle Paul.

Helen Marie wrote, "We took care of our mom Mary Inez Batiste McZeal using our inner strengths. Bo (Dudley Paul) kept her laughing. Micheal came to just visit. Ray (Dennis), as Pastor, cared for her spiritual needs. Larry was the handyman. Tiny (William) spent lots of time working mom's nerves. She shook her head, smiled and rolled her eyes. Debbie called to show how much she cared. Helen says, I was mom's confidant: listened and encouraged. And as the oldest helped with her finances to ensure her generosity didn't let her give it all away!"

I marvel at Hilda Mae, who told us her secret to longevity: "**keep moving!**" Cynthia told me that Hilda Mae commanded a Facebook following because her grand-daughter posted her exploits! My friend Sheila was impressed by Aunt Hilda Mae and posted her at age 90+ dancing with cane at the Mansura-Marksville 2018 BLS Family Reunion. According to Cynthia, Hilda Mae would say she was going to her own house to get some rest. Mostly I remember Hilda Mae embracing me in 2016 as her niece; with quick answers to many questions about ancestors; and with a very vibrant personality.

At the end of every conversation I say to Cousin Barbara, "Tell Auntie Marie: "**Stay feisty!**" It's a compelling quality in our family: Care-givers, Seniors and Ancestors. I'm moved to tears by investments of care-givers that keep our Seniors healthy, happy and engaged. Marie is now surrogate mom to Barbara's line-dancers' group; and she loves to shop! So shopping is priority one for Barbara. She sometimes waits in the car while her mom finishes shopping. Gail helped her understand the importance of allowing Auntie Marie freedom to do what she wants! I smile remembering how Aunt Marie timely invoked her voting power to get a handicap sign and curb posting in front of her home. It is our family characteristic, and our family values and nurtures it.

During Gertrude 'Trudi's last days I admired the dedication of all of her family care-givers: including daughters Sharon, Gina, and Sandra. They divided up responsibilities for Trudi's care. I hand flowers to Sharon's monthly traveling from Arizona to California; Gina's commitment despite extraordinary work requirements; and to Sandra not deterred by her own disabilities. They never seemed to tire.

And there's Patrick! He faithfully supports his dad, Jules Sr. Cousin Rosa 'Von' and I agree that Uncle Jules is an extraordinary person. He turns family events into a "Laugh-in!" He 're-tells' stories of our family culture sprinkled nonstop with exaggerated delightful doses of **Humor** rivaling Mark Twain! Patrick keeps him connected to us, as designated driver - when Uncle Jules lets him. I've not talked to but I see Patrick's care for his dad. And, again, that makes me smile and burst into laughter just remembering Uncle Jules and his "tall tales!" And for all that I am grateful and say thank-you!

FOR ALL OUR FAMILY CARE-GIVERS NAMED AND UN-NAMED: FLOWERS!

PROMOTING BLS FAMILY VALUES WITH TRADITIONS

Managing Editor
Riley Austin-Rochester

Contributing Editors
Sharon Logan, Rosa Millang, Claris Levy, Tamico Reed, Patrick Batiste

BLS - RÈHA

BATISTE LAVALAIS SAMPSON*
RESTORATION EDUCATION HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER - #002

nonprofit@blsfamilyreunion.com

BLS FAMILY REUNIONS CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS, LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND LINEAGE 40+ YEARS.

1983 El Dorado Park Picnic, CA
1985 Los Angeles, CA
1987 Washington, D.C.
1989 Seattle, WA
1991 New Orleans, LA
1993 San Diego, CA
1995 Atlanta, GA
1997 Alexandria, LA
1999 Alexandria, MD
2001 San Francisco, CA
2003 Los Angeles, CA
2005 Seattle, WA
2008 Atlanta, GA
2010 Alexandria, LA
2012 Crystal City, VA
2014 Las Vegas, NV
Peace Be Unto God



*Lighting And Lifting Up Your
Life With Family*

2016 Wild Horse Pass, AZ

Thanksgiving with BLS



2018 Marksville/Mansura, LA



2020 Punta Cana, DR



2022 Atlanta, GA

LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER AVEC FOI, FAMILLE, ET PARDON! LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL WITH FAITH, FAMILY, AND FORGIVENESS: JULY 19 – 21, 2024!

Greetings BLS Family. I am your Dallas 2024 Chairperson, Tamico Reed: daughter of Riley (Prier) Austin-Rochester; Granddaughter of Mercedes Batiste (Prier); Great Granddaughter of Jules Batiste (Jean-Baptiste) and Lena Lavalais (Rabellais). Currently the Dallas team include Leonard Bryant, Ajha Brown-Simpson, J'aira Brown-Simpson, Temperance Brown-Bryant. And we'll be reaching out to add more to our team.

WE'RE PLANNING GREAT TIMES FOR 2024; AND WE'RE EXCITED OUR BLS FAMILY IS COMING TOGETHER AGAIN TO LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL! HERE IS WHAT'S ON TAP!	
JULY 19	AM: MEET AND GREET, REGISTRATION, AND FAMILY PICNIC
JULY 19	PM: HOSPITALITY TIME
JULY 20	AM: FAMILY REUNION CULTURE, LINEAGE AND MORE! (Send topics to Tamico Reed, Reunion Chair at tamico34@gmail.com)
JULY 20	PM: DINNER DANCE Wear you pretty shiny things and your Zoot Suits. We are going to party N'Orleans style!
JULY 21	AM: BREAKFAST AND CLOSING CEREMONIES.

REGISTER BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2023 AND WE'LL RESERVE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU.

Registration and Hotel information are included on page 3.

For updates and more details on the planning process, call Tamico Reed at 310-567-0784, or send an email to tamico34@gmail.com. Follow on the BLS Family Facebook Page and the BLS Family Reunion website: www.blsfamilyreunion.com

The Dallas Team is calling to update family information. Soon, we'll call you: introduce ourselves, describe Reunion plans, and get feedback. Expect a call soon.

***WE'VE MISSED EACH OTHER AND BI-ANNUAL GATHERINGS FOR AWHILE. THE PANDEMIC TRIED TO KEEP US DOWN. BUT WE KNOW THAT...
BLS IS FAMILY STRONG!!***

BUY BLS FUNDRAISER MERCHANDISE TO OFFSET REUNION COSTS

Purchase a BLS LOGO Pro-Sports Jersey Sweatshirts; Laser Key Chains and more at blsfamilyreunion.com!

PROMOTING BLS FAMILY VALUES WITH TRADITIONS

Managing Editor

Riley Austin-Rochester

Contributing Editors

Sharon Logan, Rosa Millang, Claris Levy, Tamico Reed, Patrick Batiste

nonprofit@blsfamilyreunion.com

finalblsrehanewsltr September_2023_#002_© pending

BLS - RÈHA

BATISTE LAVALAIS SAMPSON*
RESTORATION EDUCATION HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER - #002

nonprofit@blsfamilyreunion.com

2024 FAMILY REUNION PAYMENT OPTIONS

**FULL PAYMENT DUE
JUNE 1, 2024**

MAKE CHECKS, MONEY
ORDERS AND CASHIER'S
CHECKS PAYABLE TO AJHA
SIMMONS WITH BLS IN THE
MEMO, AND MAIL TO

AJHA SIMMONS,
18959 LINA ST. #814,
DALLAS, TX 75287

A non-refundable registration fee
for each family should be
deposited by October 31, 2023.
The \$75 non-refundable fee will
offset Grand Total Payable.

OR

REGISTER AND PAY
ONLINE AT THE FAMILY
WEBSITE:

blsfamilyreunion.com

BEEMAN HOTEL INFORMATION

6070 No. Central Expressway
Dallas, TX 75206 T: 214-7506060

Friday, July 19	Saturday July 20
King \$129	King \$129
Qn Qn \$129	Qn Qn \$129

Rates also apply to July 16 –
July 18 (Tues. – Thurs.) early
arrivals. All rates are subject to
any and all applicable taxes.
Complimentary self and
premium paid parking are
available. Airport transfers are
not available.

**BOOK YOUR STAY NOT
LATER THAN JULY 5, 2024**

AT

(214) 750-6060

OR

FOLLOW THE LINK

[BLS Family Reunion 2024 - The
Beeman Hotel.](#)

Mention Code: 0724FAMILY.

DALLAS, TX - BLS FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2024

I. FAMILY MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE NUMBER(S)	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
NAMES OF OLDEST KNOWN MATRIARCH (M); PATRIARCH (P)	BATISTE _____ (M) _____ (P) LAVALAIS _____ (M) _____ (P) SAMPSON _____ (M) _____ (P)

II. PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE:

Age 11 and above \$125.

Age 10 and under \$75.

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	AGE	FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENT AMOUNT
INSERT \$75 DEPOSIT FOR FAMILY, OR TOTAL OF FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENT		

III. T-SHIRT ORDERS

YOUTH: S/M/L - \$12; ADULT: S/M/ L/XL - \$15;
2X L/3X L/4XL/5XL - \$20

NAME	SIZE	AMOUNT PAID
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE FOR ALL T-SHIRTS ORDERED		

IV. TOTAL DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 01, 2024

TOTAL DEPOSIT/REGISTRATION FEES	\$
TOTAL T-SHIRT ORDERS	\$
GRAND TOTAL PAYABLE BY MONEY ORDER/CASHIER'S CHECK OR ONLINE AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM	\$

BUY BLS FUNDRAISER MERCHANDISE

Purchase a BLS LOGO Pro-Sports Jersey Sweatshirts; Laser Key Chains and more
at the BLS Family Reunion Website: www.blsfamilyreunion.com

PROMOTING BLS FAMILY VALUES WITH TRADITIONS

Managing Editor

Riley Austin-Rochester

Contributing Editors

Sharon Logan, Rosa Millang, Claris Levy, Tamico Reed, Patrick Batiste

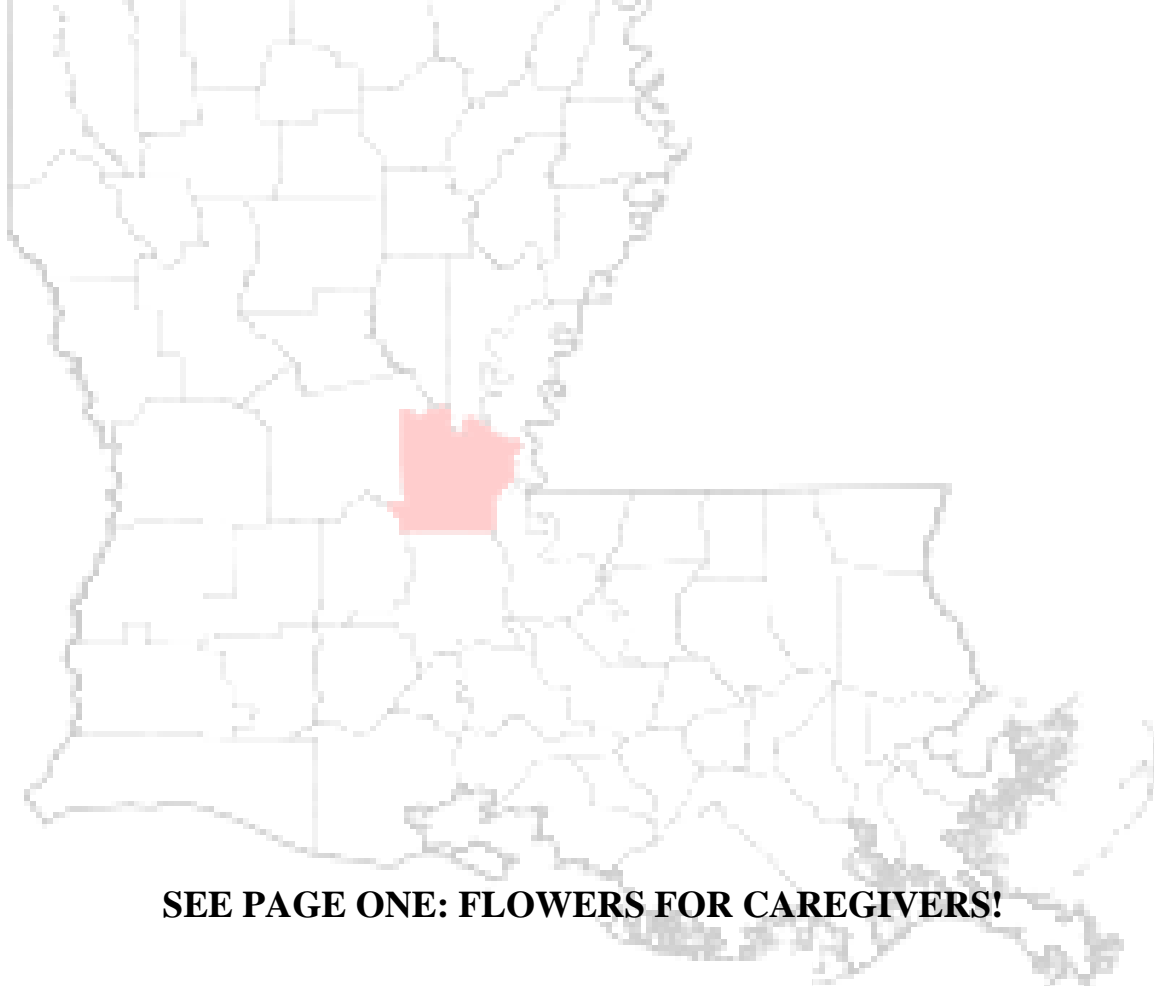
nonprofit@blsfamilyreunion.com

finalblsrehanewsltr September_2023_#002_© pending

BLS- RÈHA

BATISTE LAVALAIS SAMPSON
RESTORATION EDUCATION HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
2372 Wood Village Drive, Henderson, Nevada 89044

JOIN THE TEAMS: BLS REHA & BLS FAMILY REUNION



SEE PAGE ONE: FLOWERS FOR CAREGIVERS!

STAY INFORMED

Centers for Disease and Prevention
Control: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

FOR AVOYELLES PARISH NEWS

www.newsbreak.com/louisiana/marksville;
www.avoyellestoday.com

***FAMILY PRAYER FOR FAMILY
TO
STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY***

Contact Cousin Claris Jean Levy at
clarislevy6@gmail.com

***JOIN BLS REUNION
PLANNING AND/OR
BLS REHA NONPROFIT
FOUNDATION TEAMS***

Send an email to
nonprofit@blsfamilyreunion.com

PROMOTING BLS FAMILY VALUES WITH TRADITIONS

Managing Editor
Riley Austin-Rochester

Contributing Editors
Sharon Logan, Rosa Millang, Claris Levy, Tamico Reed, Patrick Batiste