

FRANCO-AMERICAN PROGRAMS PROGRAMMES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS SUMMER NEWSLETTER/2024

• University of Maine • Crossland Hall • Orono, ME 04469-5719

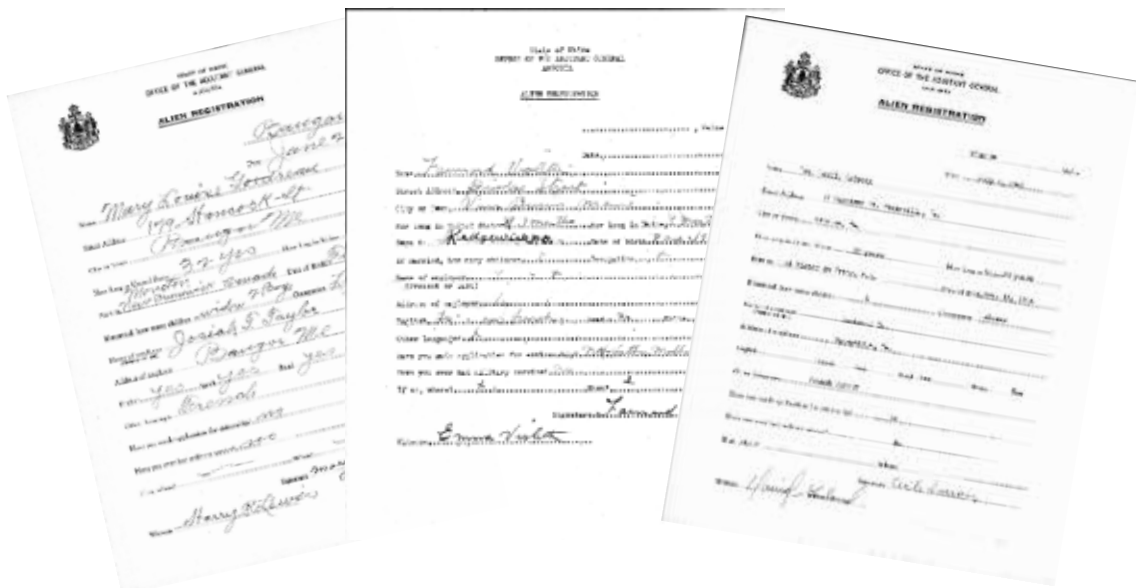


NEH Digitization Grant

UM students, staff, and volunteers have completed 10 months of a 2-year grant to digitize historic materials and make them available online through Franco American Digital Archives. Over the next year, the public will be able to access over 95 French-language novels, poetry books, and children's books published in the 1970s and 1980s; historic papers and letters from individual and family collections held at Assumption University; personal scrapbooks held at the UMaine Fogler Library; transcriptions of Maine Alien Registrations from over 14,000 Franco-Americans living in Maine in 1940; and other historic digitized collections held at the University of Maine Fort Kent Acadian Archives, University of Southern Maine, and Saint Anselm College.

Maine Alien Registrations

Over 25 individuals from all around New England have volunteered to transcribe historic Maine government documents from 1940. These Maine Alien Registrations were required of all noncitizens living in Maine at that time. Of the nearly 35,000 registrations digitized by the Maine State Archives, over 14,000 were completed by French heritage and franco-phone people born in Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and PEI, or Franco-American citizens in Maine who revoked their citizenship by marrying a non-citizen. These documents teach us about Maine's Franco-American communities at the outset of World War II, and introduce us to individuals at that time--their language, birthplace, occupation, residence, and more. Our team of transcribers continues to work hard over the summer! We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in transcribing remotely (all work takes place online!), please contact Jake at jacob.albert@maine.edu.



- In This Issue:
- Congratulations
Neily Raymond!
Page 2
- 2nd Annual Young
Franco-American
Summit
Page 2
- Join Us at the Young
Franco-American
Summit
Page 2
- Student FAROGERS
Page 3- 5
- Congratulations
Graduates!
Page 7
- Our Community Group
Page 7
- About the Centre
Page 8
- Recovery
Page 9
- Thank you Volunteers
and University Staff
Page 9
- Our Great Losses
Page 9
- About us/Contact
Page 10

Our Students:

Kathie Wing pursuing Master's Focusing on Franco-American Studies



Kathie Wing, graduated from UMaine in 2020 with her Bachelor's degree with minors in Franco-American and Canadian Studies. She is currently a Master's student focusing on Franco-American Studies. Her thesis focus will look at Franco-American women in the early 1900's as they join the workforce in textile mills and shoe shops. How does this change the Franco-American family structure as it gives women independence? By utilizing oral history and diaries she will look at women as they leave the family to strike out on their own, move with their family unit, decide to marry or not, or go into religious orders. Kathie's thesis will give these women a voice in a patriarchal society where they would typically go from father's home to their husband's home. These oral histories and diaries provide a glimpse at the changing narrative in women's lives due to economical needs of the family as they struggle to keep their language and culture intact.



Johnny Sylvain

Hi, my name is Johnny Sylvain. I am a rising Senior here at UMaine, working toward a Bachelors in Computer Science with minors in New Media and Computer Engineering. I was introduced to the Franco-American Centre through my father Robert Sylvain, who has performed at Rassemblements. I am currently working with Susan Pinette and Jacob Albert this summer to migrate the published franco-american works database to francolibrary.org. I have greatly enjoyed working and learning from the Franco-American Centre, and I look forward to continuing this great summer!



Tanja Kunz

As many of you know, Tanja Kunz joined our team this year. She is pursuing her iPHD here at UMaine, with research focused on the history of labor in Maine (lumber and textiles), ethnobotany and cultural anthropology. Her work sorting and organizing our Centre files



Lorraine

after the flood last year, turned into her being hired as the Graduate Assistant for the (NEH grant funded Franco American Portal Project). She has already digitized thousands of documents and transcribed thousands of registrations of our Franco ancestors in the (Maine alien official name) project. We are looking forward to the coming year with her (and her sweet canine friend) helping us build cultural resilience and Franco American heritage.

Third Annual Young Franco-American Summit (YFAS)

Saturday, October 14th, 2023



(Top left to right): Celia Wong, Kevin Harrington, Mercédès Baillargeon, Jacob Lamontagne, Wesley Morris-Laviolette, Shawn Pinette. (Bottom left to right): Camden Martin, Maddie Kehne, Shamari Sykes, Melody Keilig (Desjardins), Jessamine Irwin, Kristen Morris-Laviolette.

The 2023 Young Franco-American Summit (YFAS) was held on Saturday, October 14th, 2023, but its impact will remain. This year was slightly different from the two previous YFAS events in several ways, but the mission of YFAS will always be to provide an event for the young generations of Franco-Americans, French-Canadians, Québécois, Acadians, and Francophones to gather and discuss the future of our culture and the French language.

This year's YFAS event at Rivier University in Nashua, New Hampshire. Le Club Richelieu de Nashua graciously sponsored us and shared their board room in the Dion Center to host the event. Their Vice President, Lee Caron, joined us as a special guest.

Join us at the Young Franco-American Summit this fall!

Calling all Franco-Americans and Franco-enthusiasts aged 18 to 35! Come to the Young Franco-American Summit, the only Franco-American event for young voices to share ideas, discuss their experiences, and network within their age group while celebrating Franco-American culture.

Interested in attending or presenting?

Contact

**Melody Desjardins at
melody@modernefrancos.com!**

DATE & Venue: (date and venue to be announced)

Our Student FAROG Group:



Student Appreciation Dinner, April, 23, 2024



Once again, the students held a successful food & toy drive. The collected items were delivered December 14, 2023, by their advisor, Lisa Michaud.

Lisa Michaud & Alan Cust. (December 14, 2023)

2024 Election of FAROG Officers:



l to r: Treasurer: Javi Ahumada, Vice-President: Jean-Luc Martin & President: Alex Emery

Our Trip to Montreal, February 16-19, 2024:



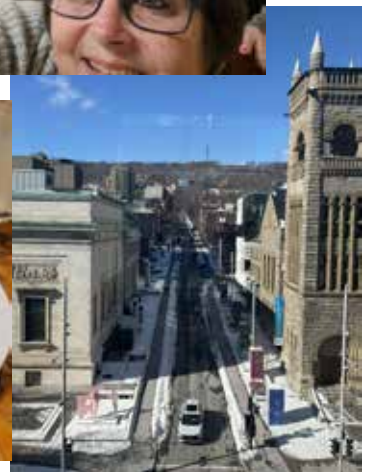
FAROG Vice-President Emily Vaccaro and President Gianna Cilley hard at work planning, organizing and seeking funding.

The FAROG student group held a FAROGsGIVING and other events to raise funds. They also sold raffle tickets for funding.

This trip would not have been possible without Emily and Gianna's hard work in planning and organizing!



Thank you!



Franco-American Programs Events and Gatherings:

September 29, 2023



Franco American contributions to American literature are significant and influential, but the Franco American dimension of such work has too often remained invisible. We'll learn about *Résonance*, a recent project founded by a collective of writers, poets and academics, that seeks to bring visibility to Franco Americans and their creative work.



Jane Martin, fiction editor, *Résonance*; adjunct professor, University of Southern Maine; former Fulbright student at McGill University

Susan Pinette, director, Franco American Programs, professor of modern languages, University of Maine; general editor, *Résonance*

Steven Riel, editor-in-chief, *Résonance*; author of five books of poetry; retired librarian who worked at Harvard University Library.

<https://www.mainepublic.org/show/maine-calling/2023-09-29/franco-american-influence-on-culture>

Maine Heritage Lecture:

October 12, 2023

50 Years of Advocacy in Maine:
Exploring the History of Franco American Activism
Dr. Susan Pinette
Professor of Modern Languages and Classics
Director, Franco American Program




Dr. Susan Pinette, Director of the Franco American Program, will present *50 Years of Advocacy in Maine: Exploring the History of Franco American Activism*. Dr. Pinette will discuss three contexts - US social justice movements, Quebec politics, and the Franco communities themselves - that were crucial to the emergence of the Franco American student advocacy movement on the University of Maine campus.

The talk was followed by a roundtable discussion with longtime advocate Séverin Beliveau, Maine Senate President Troy Jackson, and the former Director of Franco-American Studies Jim Bishop, Moderator Kristin Langellier.

A reception will followed the event at the Franco-American Centre.



l to r: Dr. Susan Pinette, Jim Bishop, Severin Beliveau, Troy Jackson and Kristin Langellier



French IV Students visit Centre:

November 2, 2023

Meghan Murphy, French Teacher at OHHS, RSU4 brought her French IV students to visit the Franco-American Centre, and to learn about the Modern Languages department at the University.



The Franco Centre hosted the students with materials and information followed by a lunch of chicken stew, ployes and dessert.

Frederic Rondeau and Kathryn Slott were invited to speak about the Modern Languages department.



1st FAROGsGIVING Fundraiser:

November 17, 2023



Holiday Gathering:

December 8, 2023

Special thanks to Claire Bolduc for the beautiful French Barrets!



Mardi Gras:

February 13, 2024



Nancy Lamarre



Francophone Month, Film Screening:

February 29, 2024

Franco-American Programs held a hybrid event with the Quebec Delegation to celebrate Francophone Month (March 2024). Quebecoise Film Director, H el ene Choquette, was on campus to show her film, "A story about the Taste of Language." It was in French with English subtitles. We had a Q&A after the film screening (in English) and then a simple dinner with the director.



Susan Pinette & H el ene Choquette



Marie-Jos e Duquette, D el egation du Qu ebec   Boston & Fr ed eric Rondeau Director Canadian-American Center

Rassemblement:

April 5-7, 2024

Our yearly "Rassemblement" was held on April 5-7 and we added a virtual component aside from the in-person rassemblement on April 13th.

Every year, Franco American Programs organizes a "rassemblement" or gathering of Franco American artists, writers, and creatives. This annual event aims to create a culturally supportive space in which members of the Franco-American creative community can share their work. With each passing year, these gatherings get bigger and better! Join us for the next one!

Virtual Rassemblement: April 13, 2024



Robert Sylvain and Joey LeBlanc

Our Community Group Franco-Femmes + 2

(Tom Pinette & Joey LeBlanc):



l to r: Lin Larochelle, Bonnie King, Lisa Michaud, Martha Mitchell, Louella Rolfe, Suzanne Taylor and Emma Phillips Applebees, August 14, 2023



l to r: Nancy Lamarre, Emma Phillips, Elaine (<http://www.elainesbakerycafe.com/home.html>), Lin Larochelle August 14, 2023



Franco-Femmes donated to the Bangor Savings Peanutbutter and Jelly Collection September 18, 2023



Yvon Labbé visits the Franco-American Centre September 15, 2023



Amy Morin presents "Hands at Work" October 6, 2023



Author Dana Murch shared the genealogy and family connections of his research for his book. October 26, 2023



Martha Whitehouse showing Tom Pinette and our group how to make God's Eye crafts. January 19, 2024



Our Community Group- Franco-Femmes + 2:



*Martha Whitehouse helping as Claire Bolduc demonstrates her yarn winder
March 1, 2024*



*l to r: Debbie Roberge, Lisa Michaud, Lin Larochelle, Martha Mitchell, Louella Rolfe
April 23, 2024*



*We held a quilting show and tell
May 17, 2024*



*Kristin Langellier and
Joey LeBlanc*



Lisa Michaud sharing the quilt her Grandmother and Great-Grandmother worked on together.



l to r: Martha Whitehouse, Mindy Blake and Kristin Langellier



Joey LeBlanc sharing his quilting

Our Community Group- Franco-Femmes + 2:

Through Youtube we visited Japan, Hawaii and Mexico. Those who visted these countries shared their memories and experiences in each country. And each countries foods were available.



Martha Whitehouse wearing her kimono outfit.



Martha Mitchell showing her kimono she wore as a child while living in Japan.



Mindy Blake sharing Mexican clothing and art.



l to r: Debbie Roberge, Suzanne Taylor, Bonnie King and Barbara listening to Tanja Kunz as she shares her recent trip to Hawaii.

Our Community Volunteers:

We are certainly grateful to these two reliable volunteers. They have over 500 volunteer hours this year! Debbie wears many hats here at the Centre, as you can see by the photos. But her love and passion, besides Lorraine is genealogy! She has researched families and keeps adding to her database. She is currently working on adding each of our Franco-Femmes genealogies into Roots Magic so that we can determine how we are all related. So, if you need any help with genealogical research, Deb is your go to person.



Debbie Roberge and Alex Baron

Alex helps out where ever she is needed... from moving furniture, helping others, organizing materials to washing dishes.

The Franco-American Centre thrives because of our community volunteers! Thank you!



The mopping



The cuddles



The genealogy



What's New At the Centre?

We are pleased to share that the Centre received new flooring and paint throughout the first floor. And we also were gifted a beautiful Trunk from Debbie Roberge. A mug collection and a Christmas Village that we proudly displayed. Nick Pelletier kindly gave us his father's (Raymond Pelletier) collections. A huge shout out and thank you to Celeste Ringuette for the beautiful conference table and chairs for our Adrian Lanthier Ringuette Library. Thank you for making our home your home!



Adrian Lanthier Ringuette ancestral chart by Debbie Roberge

Josée Vachon House Party

June 7, 2024



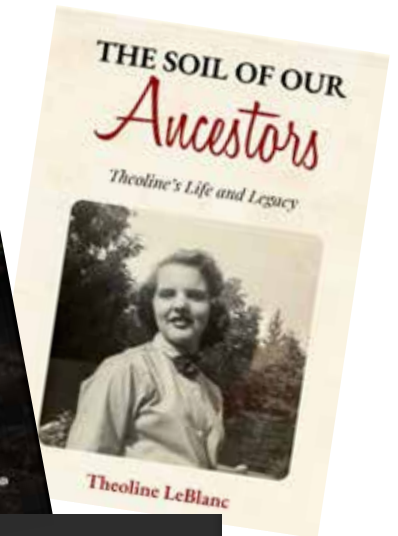
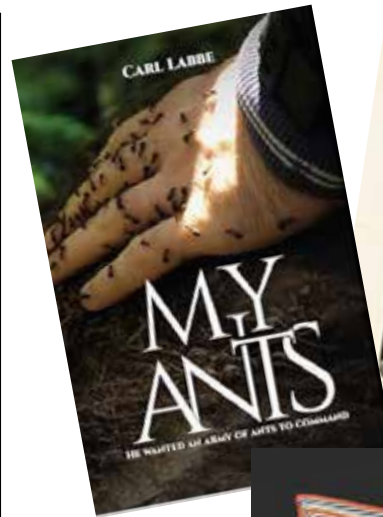
Josée performed at the Franco-American Centre on June 7th. What a wonderful way to end the year with an, as always, exceptional performance.

These people drove over 200 miles, from Van Buren.



l to r: Henry Bellefleur, Lydia Martin, Pat Ezzy, Lisa Michaud, Irene Dumond & Jim Dumond.

New Books



Our Vision Statement:

We seek to make Franco American Programs at the University of Maine into an international center for Franco American scholarly research and community engagement. The Franco American Program responds to an unmet need: it researches, teaches, and serves the French cultures of the Northeast. This need is felt locally, nationally, and internationally. The University of Maine is singularly capable of responding to this need and providing national and international leadership. The University's land grant mission to serve the people of Maine and its large Franco American population, its location close to Canada, and its role as the state's flagship campus present a unique opportunity to build upon our strengths and create a national and international profile.

Our Mission Statement:

Franco American communities constitute a large percentage of the population of Maine and the Northeast region. It is the mission of the Franco American Program to serve these communities while recognizing that cultural patterns do not stop at national borders. The Franco American Program includes the Franco American Centre as well as Franco American Studies.

The primary goal of the Franco-American Centre is to support and enhance the Franco American communities of Maine. The Centre looks to disseminate the richness of Franco history, language, and culture, as well as to bridge Franco Americans both to the University campus and to other peoples of the region.

The primary goal of Franco American Studies is to broaden the canon of knowledge on Franco American peoples, culture, and literature. It encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary research, faculty engagement, and student exploration.

Our Staff:

Director of Franco-American Programs: Susan Pinette
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Project Manager and Archivist: Jacob Albert
Email: Jacob.albert@maine.edu

Coordinator of Community Engagement/Editor: Lisa Desjardins Michaud
Email: Lisam@maine.edu

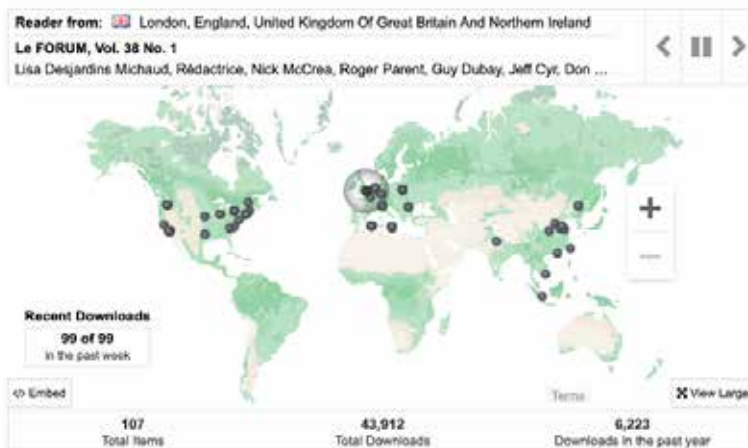
Graduate Assistant for the Franco-American Programs: Tanja Kunz
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Volunteer/genealogist: Debbie Roberge
Email: deborah.e.roberge@gmail.com

Who Reads Le Forum?



Tom Pinette and...43,912 others!



Le Forum: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/francoamericain_forum/

Oral History: <https://video.maine.edu/channel/Oral+Histories/101838251>

Library: <https://umaine.edu/francoamerican/franco-american-library/>

Occasional Papers: <https://umaine.edu/francoamerican/occasional-papers/>

Résonance: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/resonance/vol1/iss1/>

FADA: <https://francoamericandigitalarchives.org>

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