

# LANDMARKS' PRÉSERVATION



## THE JOURNAL OF THE LOUISIANA LANDMARKS SOCIETY

### Welcome Donna: Our New Director of Business Operations



The Louisiana Landmarks Society proudly announces that Donna Lednicky has assumed her position in our new role of Director of Business Operations. She brings a unique skill set combining museum experience, non-profit administration in the United States and abroad, and a strong background in development and grant writing. She recently served as the Director of Marketing and Development for the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre in Luang Prabang, Laos.

Donna will be responsible for daily operations of Landmarks Society including stewardship of the Pitot House, and supporting advocacy work through membership, funds development, and assuring best management practices.

Early in her career, Donna wrote and managed over \$1 million of annual funding for the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency in Central Texas. An active board member of the Laredo Center for the Arts while living in South Texas, she later served as the Executive Director. A long-time Girl Scout, she took the opportunity in 2009 to serve as the World Centre Manager for the international girl scout visitor center, Sangam World Centre in Pune, India for three years. Donna holds a Master of Arts in Art Education with a museum education specialization from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Parks from Texas A&M University.

"I am delighted to join Landmarks and contribute to the continuation of a rich history of preservation advocacy and education in New Orleans," Donna noted. She has dived into her new role head-on, with daunting end-of-the-year deadlines of special event and newsletter preparations, budgets, board and committee meetings, membership drives and annual appeals, as well as the daily demands of being a house museum open to the public.

We welcome Donna and look forward to a long future together!

Vol. 55. No. 3

December 2018

Hilary Somerville Irvin,  
Editor

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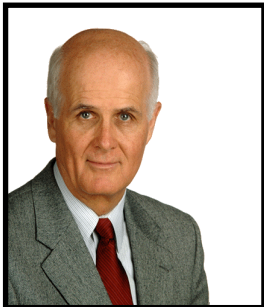
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### 2019 Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation Call for Nominations Deadline January 24, 2019

The Louisiana Landmarks Society will highlight the best efforts in restoration, rehabilitation and new construction in New Orleans historic districts with its annual awards. We are currently accepting **nominations** for the 2019 Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation. Nominations should be for work undertaken in 2018 and may be submitted from individuals, companies, or organizations. Winners will be announced this spring.

Projects earning recognition should include the following: demonstrate that historic preservation can be a tool to revitalize older neighborhoods, show that historic preservation is "green" and sustainable, support the cultural and ethnic diversity of the preservation movement, be creative examples of saving a historic building, preserve or restore an historic interior, exhibit outstanding technical proficiency or innovation, represent new design that is appropriate to historic neighborhoods

Visit our website to apply online or download the form and email to [jdyer@louisianalandmarks.org](mailto:jdyer@louisianalandmarks.org). For more information contact the Louisiana Landmarks Society at 504.482.0312 or [jdyer@louisianalandmarks.org](mailto:jdyer@louisianalandmarks.org).



## A Message from the President The Persistence of Preservation

Michael Duplantier

"I know it when I see it" was the standard set by Justice Potter Stewart for decency in 1964.

That oft-quoted test for visual certitude may well be applied to historic preservation in its many applications.

Coalitions of preservation activists often represent people of divergent backgrounds who find commonly held positions and operate concertedly in protective or supportive action. How is that possible, set within a broader society that increasingly finds itself divided by identity group advocacy? It may just be that effective collective action is possible because people of diverse circumstances can set aside other differences and agree on what is a good thing when they see it, and on what to do to protect it.

Preservationists cannot easily be ideologically pigeonholed. Advocating for old buildings is easily an act of conservation, which makes it a right of center value. Yet often the preferred scheme of conserving these architectural treasures requires active public intervention into private decision-

making, which can be said to be a left of center proposition.

Solving this conundrum requires a proper way of looking at preservation. In short, it is not a political philosophy. It instead represents an ethic, a belief system that finds expression in preserving things that have inherent value and beauty. Preservation is heuristic – it serves as an effective means for the broader community to both learn about and then to define its operative value systems. A purposeful act of saving an historic property, or creating an administrative vehicle by which it can be saved, can be an inflection point for a neighborhood or a city, an event that thereafter serves to distinguish that community in ways that speak to its priorities and its sense of self-worth.

A conviction long-held eventually becomes civic dogma. As such, there should not be any hesitation for preservation advocates to advance or defend its principles. The heavy lifting is done. Preservation has now been institutionalized, with its many applications now routine and its regrettable exceptions broadly lamented. It now has the power accorded to mostly unchallenged expression, and can thus

be quickly converted into purposeful action, action that is persuasive and meaningful.

If nineteenth-century thinker Thomas Huxley was right that "the great end of life is not knowledge, but action," then action, and consequential outcomes, must be the goal of a preservation organization like Louisiana Landmarks. It always has been, and always will be.

Michael Duplantier



## Annual Appeal: Give the Gift of Preservation

As you plan your year-end charitable giving, we earnestly and sincerely request that you remember the Louisiana Landmarks Society, and that you express that remembrance with a gift in support of our operations and programming. Preservation is a team effort. We cannot do it without you, and with your support and assistance we can and will grow stronger, more successful and even more committed and resolute. It is comforting to know that the Louisiana Landmarks Society is always at the ready, with a small but hard-working professional staff, a core of knowledgeable and dedicated leaders, and with members and volunteers who consistently and faithfully support the organization and honor it with their participation and generosity. Thank you for your support!

Join us for Louisiana Landmarks

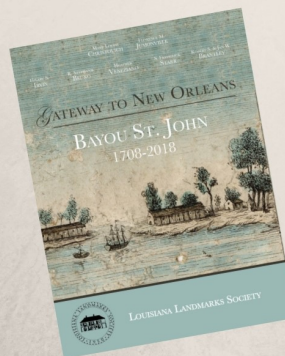
Bayou St. John Walking Tour

Explore the history and  
architecture of the neighborhood

Every Wednesday at 1pm

\$30/person—space is limited

Advanced reservations are required  
Reserve on-line or call (504)482-0312



Available Now!

Our new  
book about the  
historic Bayou St.  
John neighborhood  
makes a great gift!

**Louise Martin Memorial**



The Louisiana Landmarks Society and the New Orleans preservation community sadly and prematurely lost a special friend and vigorous supporter on November 11, 2018. Jerrye Louise Behr Martin’s (Louise) innovative work left the streetscape and living fabric of her beloved city a much better place. Recipient in 2003 of our Thirty-Sixth Harnett T. Kane Preservation Award, Louisiana Landmarks recognized Louise for her then twenty-five years of work in the Garden District, for her purchase and renovation of historic properties on Magazine Street, and for her leadership role and work with the Felicity Street Redevelopment Project, a non-profit that encouraged repopulation of the Lower St. Charles Avenue corridor by acquiring neglected buildings, stabilizing, and finding occupant-owners for them. Her work continued for many years after receiving the Kane Award.

Louise’s efforts over the years included advocacy for public projects, as well as private restorations. She

was instrumental in saving the Gothic-style McDonogh #6 school building, now part of St. George’s School, and led the effort to install in Sophie Wright Place a monumental sculpture of Sophie by Enrique Alvez. One of her most imaginative projects was installing a Roman Catholic chapel in the Garden District, which involved the reconstruction of a historic building on Jackson Avenue. Working frequently with attorney and Lower Garden District pioneering advocate Camille Strachan and the late architect Henry Krotzer, she set about identifying and then saving countless historic properties. Philadelphia building conservator Dorothy Krotzer recalled her father and Louise’s creative relationship: “I remember Louise whisking Papa off on many a Saturday morning to go look at a new project, scratching their heads and pondering the best way to renovate a building.” They worked really well together,” she continued and “they both loved the puzzle of figuring out how to give an old building a new life.”

Louisiana Landmarks extends its condolences and gratitude to Louise’s family--her husband of 48 years, Edward Fontaine (Ted) Martin, and their five children, Marie Louise (Ouida) Laudumiey, Elizabeth Richards, Alice Allen, Anna Denton, and Edward (Teddy) and her twelve grandchildren.

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..... **TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS** .....

**In Memory of Louise Martin**

By Sandra L. Stokes

**In Memory of Natalie B. Chapman**

By Sandra L. Stokes

**In Honor of James & Anne Morse’s 50th Wedding Anniversary**

By Ethel Hernandez Susan Kierr



## That (Really) Blue Bayou Bridge

James R. Logan, IV



Crossing Bayou St. John barely a stone's throw downstream from the Pitot House sits a charming and historic Pratt Truss-style pedestrian bridge. Over the years, the bridge has been known by many names: earlier as the Magnolia Gardens Bridge and the Harding Drive Bridge, sometimes colloquially as the Cabrini Bridge or the Silver Bridge, and, since a City ordinance in 1991, officially as the Magnolia Bridge.

In 1908, the bridge was moved from Esplanade Avenue to its present location, where it has been repaired and refurbished at various times since. Sadly, in recent years the bridge's condition had become severely deteriorated. About 100 years after its relocation, the Louisiana Landmarks Society placed the Magnolia Bridge on its 2011 "New Orleans Nine" list of most endangered sites for threatened "demolition by

*Continued on Page 6*

### Brad Vogel Discusses "Walt Whitman at 200: Whitman's New Orleans Foray" Sunday, February 17, 2019 5:00 pm 6330 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118



Join Brad Vogel of the Walt Whitman Initiative as he brings the poet's months in New Orleans to life during the bicentennial year of Whitman's birth. A former New Orleans fellow with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Vogel now serves as Executive Director of NY Preservation Archive Project. Well-known to many New Orleanians, Vogel when in New Orleans ran *Inside the Footprint* blog, documenting the destruction on the lower mid-city properties for the new hospital. Vogel's presentation will be one of hundreds of commemorative events taking place across the United States in 2019 under the umbrella of the Whitman 2019 Consortium.

Walt Whitman, America's most famous poet, is known for his connections to New York, Washington D.C. and Camden, New Jersey. But he spent crucial time in New Orleans as well. He left New York in 1848 to help establish the New Orleans *Crescent* newspaper. Whitman's three-month stay from February 25th to May 25th significantly influenced his development as a poet and writer. Arriving by boat, Whitman and his 14-year-old brother Jeff took temporary lodgings but later moved into the Fremont House in the American district across from the St. Charles Hotel and the offices of the *Crescent*. The city was in the midst of the carnival season; General Taylor's men, back from the Mexican War, swarmed the streets. Over the next few weeks, Whitman roamed the streets in early morning, during break times, and late at night.

These experiences and impressions formed the basis of feature articles in the *Crescent* and, later, "New Orleans in 1848" in *November Boughs* (1888). But it is an enigmatic romance or sexual exploration of some kind that most scholars deem the most pivotal part of Whitman's time in New Orleans - he leaves New Orleans changed, an individual suddenly capable of writing his watershed book of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*, in 1855.



## Rediscovering the Discoverers: French Canadian and Native American Encounters and the Founding of Louisiana, 1699-1718

Sally Reeves

The gracious campus of Metairie Park Country Day School was the setting for the November 3 symposium REDISCOVERING THE DISCOVERERS: FRENCH CANADIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN ENCOUNTERS AND THE FOUNDING OF LOUISIANA, 1699-1718. The conference was designed to focus on the contributions of French Canadians and Native Americans to the settlement of Louisiana and Gulf Coast communities. Their pioneering efforts, in the twenty-year period before the founding of New Orleans, made the city possible.

Sponsored by the Consul General of Canada and the Louisiana Historical Society, the conference brought together experts on the French Canadian background of the LeMoynes family, the indigenous people of the Gulf Coast, 17<sup>th</sup>-century travel journals of French and French Canadian explorers, French colonial architecture, and the French Canadian families who settled in Gulf Coast communities.

A particular emphasis was on the Native Americans of the Gulf Coast area. Their knowledge, hospitality, and generosity provided the support that Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and his party needed to survive the early going. Another important point was that Iberville's detection of the mouth of the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico, attempted in life-threatening weather, was a redemption for the French over a decade after Cavalier de la Salle failed to do so.

Jean-François Lozier, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Ottawa gave the keynote lecture on French-Canadians of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, including the Le Moyne brothers; the milieu of their society, why they would leave Canada, their cultural ability to interact respectfully with indigenous peoples and learn their languages, and their frontier, navigational, and military skills. Tammy Greer, a member of the United Houma Nation of Louisiana and director of the Center for American Indian Research and Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, described the traditions of Native Americans of the Gulf region.

*Continued on page 6*

New Orleans' **NO** most endangered sites  
**NINE**

**A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**DEADLINE: Friday March 22**

**Nominations forms now available at**  
[www.louisianalandmarks.org/2019-new-orleans-nomination-form](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org/2019-new-orleans-nomination-form)

**Submit online or by mail**

The New Orleans Nine (NON) is an annual advocacy project that brings attention to properties and physical features that are in danger of being lost from the fabric of our city. The final choices are based upon selection criteria including historic, architectural, and cultural value, the severity of the threat, and the degree of the community commitment to save the feature.

*Continued from Page 4*

neglect,” and at the same time longstanding neighborhood efforts began to mobilize for a much needed restoration project.

Work finally began on the City’s “Magnolia Bridge Rehabilitation Project” in February 2018. Over this past year, the bridge’s many fans, both locals and visitors alike, have all have been thrilled to watch the slow but steady progress, now about 81 percent complete, according to a November 30, 2018 status update.

During sandblasting and painting, a “containment tent” was used to capture sandblasted paint debris and prevent water and air particle pollution. For a time the bridge looked like a New Orleans version of a Christo draped environmental art piece. But recently, when the painting work was done and the bridge was “unwrapped,” some people found the new color a bit jarring and unexpected, and wondered if it was just an undercoat or base paint. It’s not, the bridge was painted “Federal Blue” in accordance with project design plans; the painting sub-contractor has completed the majority of its work and the bridge’s vibrant, new blue color will remain.

What do you think about the soon-to-be completed renovation of the Magnolia Bridge and its new paint job? Share your thoughts with us by email or on Facebook and Twitter, as we plan to follow up when the bridge project is completed early next year.

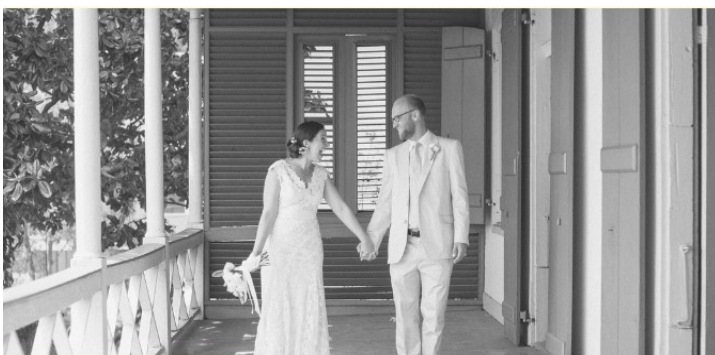
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Sally Reeves, Supervising Archivist, Clerk of Civil District Court, Parish of Orleans, spoke on *What We Know and When We Knew It: French Colonial Journals and Journal Writers, 1685-1718*, explaining that the experiences of French explorers and the names of barrier islands, lakes, and communities came to light in journals long before they passed into oral tradition.

Jay D. Edwards, Professor of Anthropology, Louisiana State University spoke on French vernacular Architecture of the Mississippi Valley and how its components grew.

Christopher Tidmore emphasized the profound influence that French Canadian Families exerted on Louisiana History.

Attendees were also treated to a delicious alfresco luncheon, and following the program, a Champagne and Dessert Reception on Bayou St. John with Jean Baptist LeMoynes and Native American Guides held on a breezy, mild day at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral.





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*Our Fete du Jardin was a success!  
We had "Big Fun on the Bayou"!*





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Your membership helps Louisiana Landmarks Society promote historic preservation through education, advocacy, and operation of the Pitot House.

Purchase a membership on our website:  
[www.louisianalandmarks.org](http://www.louisianalandmarks.org)  
Make checks payable to Louisiana Landmarks Society, and mail to:  
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**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

As always, if any of our members have an item of interest or an idea for something they would like to see in *Préservation*, please let us know!

Leave a message at the Pitot House at 504.482.0312, email [info@louisianalandmarks.org](mailto:info@louisianalandmarks.org), or email our editor Hilary Somerville Irvin at [hilaryirvin@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryirvin@gmail.com).

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