

**MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**SPRING MEETING – APRIL 16, 2016**

President Father Parent called the 2016 MFGS Spring meeting to order at 10 a.m. About 27 members/guests were present.

Father Parent led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer.

**President:** Fr. Parent welcomed everyone and thanked Sue Beaulieu for publishing the MFGS Newsletter and Connie Hitchcock for organizing the refreshments. He urged attendees to become members, and current members to renew their memberships. He urged people to volunteer for 2 specific projects:

1. Librarians needed to cover open days in the schedule – see Monique Gagné.
2. People needed to help with the annual fall meeting raffle.

**Recording Secretary:** The minutes of the October 17, 2015 fall meeting were read by Monique Gagné who was the recording secretary at that time. One correction was noted: the Recording Secretary elected was Connie Beliveau, not Theresa LeBrun. The corrected minutes were moved by Rita Melendy and seconded by Lucille Langelier. They were unanimously accepted.

[Fr Parent inserted an explanation that at a subsequent Board meeting, the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries switched positions: Connie Beliveau is now the Corresponding Secretary and Connie Hitchcock is now the Recording Secretary.]

**Treasurer:** Lucille Langelier informed the group that the printed report was incorrect and that she would email the updated version as soon as the problem with her computer was resolved.

Amazon.Smile: \$20 total earned to date. Lucille gave instructions on how to access and use the program, encouraging attendees to use it and select MFGS whenever making purchases on Amazon. Use of Amazon.Smile results in our receiving donations at no extra cost to the user.

Resource Mate update: about 30 Family books have been cataloged to date.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Connie Beliveau reported that she sent Sr. Christine Bourque a thank you for a donation.

**Librarian:** Richard Bourget informed the group that MFGS will start accepting genealogy books from other states.

**Assistant Librarian:** Monique Gagné stated that MFGS needs two librarians to cover the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays and Saturdays of the month.

**Web Master:** Norm Cote has updated the site with the current newsletter and will add raffle items as they are received.

**Face Book:** Joline Fortier sent in her comments.

SunJournal will provide free ad space when subscribers begin or renew their subscription to the newspaper. Simply select MFGS as your benefit/charity of choice when signing up.

**Gift Projects:**

1. Roger Dufresne, Monique Gagné, Gabe Couture, and Norm Cote have compiled 210 volumes of obituaries [98,000 individual obits] covering Maine and parts of New Hampshire from the 1980's to current date. They requested obituaries or mortuary cards that pertain to Francos, whether as the deceased or as someone with a Franco name mentioned in the obituary.

Bob Pelletier collects newspapers from the State Library to be used to scan for relevant obituaries. Discussion on various methods that can be used to obtain information ensued, including the problem with anglicized names. A book published about such names is available at the MFGS Fr. Begin Library.

2. Sue Beaulieu and Sue Rowe are indexing the Father Labonte books.

**Newsletter:** Fr. Parent announced the need for an editor/publisher. Sue Beaulieu volunteered to continue managing the Newsletter. Thank you, Sue!

**Announcements**

1. Thank you to Richard Gamache and Monique Gagné for their help in sorting and cleaning out the MFGS items stored in the old Grant's store [owned by Lamey Wellehan] on Lisbon Street.

29 chairs were salvaged. They are in good shape and are available for purchase at \$5 each. See Fr. Parent.

2. Clean Sweep: Bates College has numerous items that they sell at a tag sale in May/June. Non-profits help to sort and sell, and log in their hours to get credit. At the end of the sale, proceeds of the sale are shared and allocated to the non-profits based on the number of volunteer hours for that group. If interested in helping, a sign up sheet is available at the back table. Volunteers do not need to be a member of MFGS, but do have to identify MFGS as the organization to be credited. Arthur Allard will contact you.

3. Sponsor & Donate a Book Program

If you would like to help increase the number of books available for research, you can sign-up to purchase a book "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a person of your choosing. A list of books that MFGS has deemed important to the needs of our members is available. Once you have made your purchase, a nameplate will be affixed to your selected volume, and the book placed on the library shelves.

4. Maine Association of Retirees – Retired Employees

Help is needed to staff a table in Augusta on Wednesday, May 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See Fr. Parent or Art Allard for details

5. Monique Gagné and Jeanne Letourneau were interviewed in *Boomers* magazine.
6. Help is needed to identify people in photos of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century families of Nadeau, Bedard and Beaulieu from the Livermore Falls region.
7. The latest Veteran's stone monument will be unveiled on May 28 at 10 a.m. in Veterans Memorial Park. Two-Star General Desjardin, a Lewiston native, will preside.
8. Norm Cote announced that the city website has the Veterans' stones indexed.
9. MFGS Fr. Begin library does not have handicapped access; it was noted that the stairwell is too narrow to accommodate an automated chair. However, people can use the right hand conference room on the first floor and librarians will bring the research material needed down to you. Just be sure to ring the doorbell as you come in so that they know you are there.
10. 50/50 winner: Fr. Parent won and generously donated his \$42 winnings back to MFGS.

**Nest General Meeting:** October 15, 2016; Leslie Choquette from the Franco Collection at Assumption College in Worcester, MA will be the speaker.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:55 a.m.

**Program:** Kathy Montejo, Lewiston City Clerk

The formal program began after a brief recess. Kathy Montejo informed the attendees about the types of records available at City Hall and through the County and State offices. She provided valuable information on which procedures to use to access these varied genealogical records.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Hitchcock,  
Recording Secretary