



# Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society

217 Turner Street  
Auburn ME 04210

Phone: 207-786-3327

April 12, 2024

*The Maine Franco-American Genealogy Library is located at*

*217 Turner Street, Auburn on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor above the Fortin Group Funeral Home*

### Library Hours

**Limited hours due to fewer Librarians**

*Wednesdays - 1:00 to 8:30 p.m.*

*Saturdays – by appointment*

Email: [info@mfgen.org](mailto:info@mfgen.org)

Visit our Website at:

<https://mfgen.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/MFGSLibrary?ref=stream>

### Officers/Board Members

President: Fr. Robert Parent

Vice President: Arthur Allard

Treasurer: Normand Lamie

Recording Secretary: Connie Hitchcock

Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau

Board Members: Richard Gamache, Jeanne Letourneau, Marie Murphy, Simeon Breault and Camden Martin

### Appointed Positions

Library Director: Fr. Robert Parent

Research Director: Arthur Allard

Webmaster: Simeon Breault

Facebook: Joline Fortier

## Spring General Meeting Saturday, April 27, 2024

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

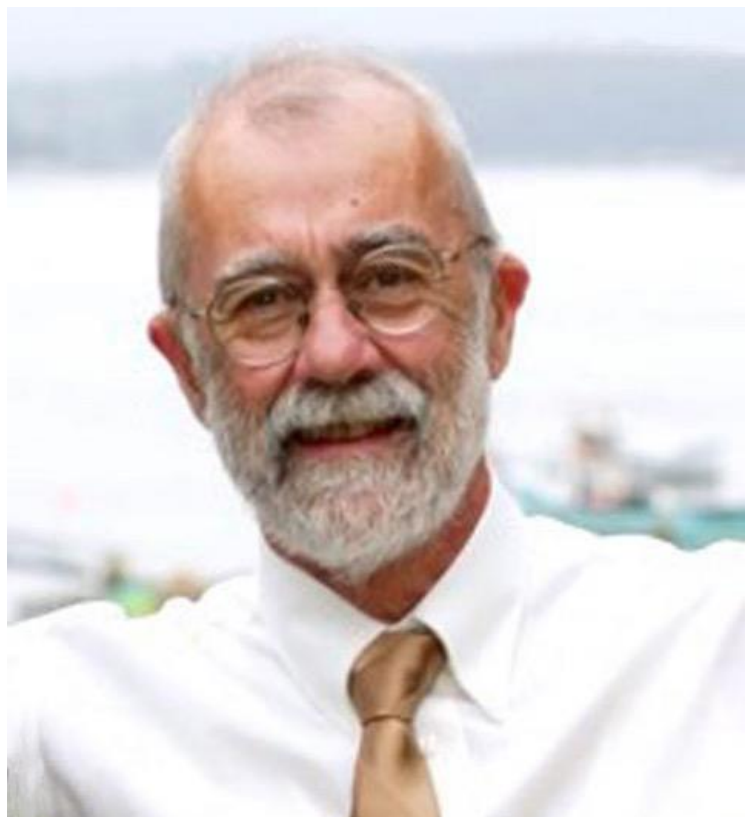
**Place: Auburn Public Library**

**Corner of Court and Spring Streets**

For parking information at the Auburn Public Library, visit [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org)

**Masks are recommended in the Library.**

## Denis Ledoux, Maine Author presents French Boy



Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society is pleased to have well-known local author Denis Ledoux as its guest speaker at its spring general membership meeting April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am in the Androscoggin Community Room of the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring St., Auburn. Ledoux's presentation will begin at approximately 11:00 am after a brief business meeting and light refreshments. Admission is free and open to the public.

Ledoux's latest memoir, French Boy/ A 1950's Franco-American Childhood, was published this past fall and is the most recent in his publications of family stories. According to Ledoux, this memoir "explores what it means to grow up outside the dominant culture and language" and "is sure to provoke discussion and not always agreement." He writes about the loss of the Franco history and culture, and includes much historical information that will help to explain Franco America to all who read it. Ledoux will expand on this topic and might even provide hints on writing memoirs to help us all document our history. Ledoux holds a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Education. His biography also notes that he has taught Franco studies at the university level and that he has been a guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities on the subjects of cultural diversity and Franco North American culture and history. He directs The Memoir Network, an international group of life-writing teachers and writers.

Ledoux has won numerous awards for his work including the Maine Fiction Award for *Mountain Dance & Other Stories* in 1990. His short fiction has twice been honored with the Maine Writing Fellowship Award (1991, 1996), an NEA-based merit award; and also in 1996, Denis was named Life-Writing Professional of the Year by the Association of Personal Historians.

He is currently at work on three book projects:

1. A sequel to French Boy;
2. A story of his early Canadian ancestors. *Here to Stay / A Slice of Franco-America in the Seventeenth Century*; and
3. Coming Down, a novel about a *Canadien* family immigrating to Maine in 1890.

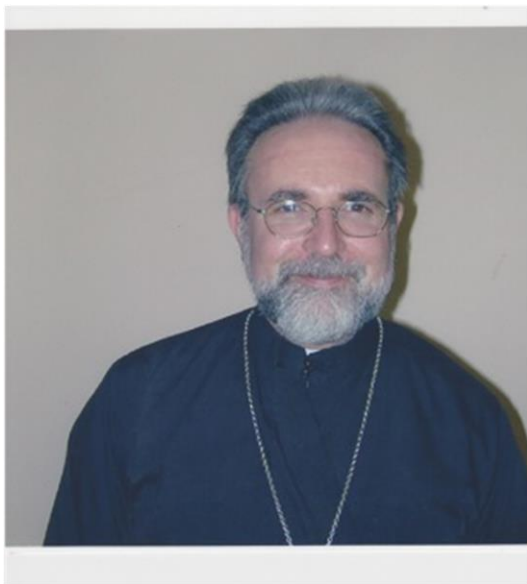
Denis lives and works in Maine, just a mile from his boyhood home.

For more information on The Memoir Network or to contact Denis, call 207-353-5454 or email the office at [memoirs@thememoirnetwork.com](mailto:memoirs@thememoirnetwork.com)

MFGEN is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the study of Franco-American genealogy and genealogical research in the state of Maine.  
[www.mfgen.org](http://www.mfgen.org)

For more information about the meeting, contact Connie Hitchcock, Recording Secretary of the Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society, at [cahitchco@aol.com](mailto:cahitchco@aol.com).

## A Message to our Members



Dear Members,

As we begin to experience tastes of Spring amidst the rain, ice and snow events, it is time to plan to attend the MFGS April General Meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> and the presentation by this Spring's speaker, Denis Ledoux, on his latest book. More information on this is found in this newsletter issue. I hope to see many of you there and bring a friend or two or three and share our rich history, culture and heritage. Help us spread the news of our society and how we can help in the discovery of your ancestors and their lives.

As you will see as you read this newsletter, there have been some changes in our society since the last meeting in October. First, on a sad note, we announce the resignation of our capable treasurer Ann Nadeau who will be leaving us for warmer climes. We will miss her greatly as she has been a great asset to our society and a joy to work with. But on a positive note, we also announce the unanimous appointment by the board of directors of a new treasurer, Normand Lamie. Norm was kind and generous enough to immediately answer our call for a new treasurer in our last general email. Welcome Norm!

Lastly, I will be offering more courses in French-Canadian genealogy in May. The details are in the *Genealogy Courses* article.

Looking forward to see you all at the April General Meeting,  
Fr. Robert Parent, President MFGS

## We Welcome our newest members to the Society

New members are: Cecile Eisenhert, Kim Stone, Christopher Beam, Robert Laverdure and Diane Williams.

## Normand Lamie Appointed Treasurer of MFGS Board

The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that Normand Lamie was appointed MFGS Treasurer at its recent Board of Directors meeting. Lamie, a Lewiston resident, brings a wealth of knowledge and diverse experiences to help the Board meet its goals.

Lamie is an independent contractor and licensed Professional Engineer who also holds degrees in Business and Public Administration from the University of Maine.

He has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Maine Water Utilities and the New England Water Works Association. His experience extends to numerous other related Boards and Commissions, and includes volunteering on the Boards of Directors of Maine MILL (formerly Museum LA), and of the Auburn Lewiston Rotary Club. His position as Treasurer for the Rotary adds to his extensive experience in financial management developing numerous professional working relationships with various officials in the area.

Lamie has co-authored several publications including “The History of the Lewiston Canals”. He is also the recipient of numerous awards in his field notably the New England Water Works Association’s *Jerome J. Healy Award*. He was presented the *Public Service Leadership Award* by the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce in 2010 and named a *Paul Harris Fellow* by the Auburn Lewiston Rotary Club in 2019.

In his spare time, Lamie enjoys genealogy research and spending time with seven grandchildren.

MFGS welcomes Normand Lamie to its Board and looks forward to many years of mutual collaboration.

The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society is a non-profit, primarily self-help genealogical research library dedicated to help Americans of French-Canadian & Acadian ancestry discover their history. The MFGS library holds 3200 volumes which include a collection of marriage repertoires from all six New England states as well as Canada, New York and Oregon.

The library also includes digital files for researching Census information, Social Security Death Benefits information and Maine obituaries. Please visit [www.mfgen.org](http://www.mfgen.org) for more information, including revised hours of operation. Email: [info@mfgen.org](mailto:info@mfgen.org)



## Genealogy Courses - Beginners and Intermediate

Fr. Robert Parent will once again hold a genealogy class for beginners this May as it was successful and well received last year. The classes will cover the basics in genealogy focusing on how to use the resources of our library and how to record your findings, and they will also deal with various topics peculiar to French-Canadian research. The course will be held at the MFGS Library and is comprised of four one-hour classes plus optional time for questions and help. The meeting time will be 6 p.m. on Tuesdays: May 7, 14, 21, 28. Class size is limited to 10 people due to the size of our library so first-come-first-served.

If there is interest, Fr. Parent will also hold an intermediate course in French-Canadian genealogy dealing with notarial and court records and the history behind them. You will discover how valuable these resources are in discovering the lives of our ancestors and the times in which they lived. If interested, these one-hour classes, also limited to 10 people, will be held at 6 p.m. at the MFGS Library on Thursdays: May 16, 23, 30.

Please let Father Parent know of your interest either at the General Meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> or by emailing [info@mfggen.org](mailto:info@mfggen.org) with your intention by April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Each of these courses is free for members and \$30 for non-members.

## MFGS Nominations and Elections

As we are all looking forward to warmer temperatures and the Spring MFGS General Membership Meeting, I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming elections this Fall. At the Fall MFGS General Membership Meeting, we will have openings for the following positions on the MFGS Board of Directors:

President	Recording Secretary
Vice President	Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer	Elected Directors (3 Openings)

All of these open positions will be for a two year term. Many of the current members of the Board of Directors have held their positions for a number of years and we are hoping that other members would come forward in order to bring in some new members on to the Board of Directors. If anyone is interested please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely, Richard Gamache  
Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations and Elections  
[rlgamache@comcast.net](mailto:rlgamache@comcast.net) (207) 208-6086



## Lafayette Collector Plates

MFGS was recently gifted with a set of vintage Henri D'Arceau Limoges Lafayette Legacy Porcelain Collector's Plates to distribute at our discretion.

MFGS has a complete Set of 7, each plate depicting a different American Revolution scene and is in its original Styrofoam box. Six of them also have the original "Fiche de Controle Final" paper which certify that the plate is of the appropriate quality to be certified as D'Arceau-Limoges.

The back of each plate details in French the scene pictured on the front; and also is imprinted with the mark of D'Arceau-Limoges and is numbered.

We are pleased to offer them to interested collectors in our membership. According to research on a couple of sites as recommended by Orphan Annie's, the value is anywhere from \$40.00 for a set of 6 plates [\$6.67/plate] to \$52.75 for a set of 7 plates [\$7.54/plate]. MFGS will be selling these at our April 27<sup>th</sup> Spring General Meeting where you can examine them and purchase at that time.

MFGS is asking \$7.00 per plate or \$42.00 for the set [\$6/plate – like getting one plate free].

This will be a first come/first served sale. Checks or cash only; we don't have credit card sales capabilities.



## Donate-A-Book - Dedicate-A-Book

Do you have a loved one to whom you would like to dedicate a book? MFGS has a list of books that can be purchased. A dedication label will be placed in the inside cover in their memory/honor. Contact the MFGS Library for more information.



# *Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society*

MFGS, 217 Turner Street, Auburn, ME 04210  
Tel. (207) 786-3327 Website: <https://mfgen.org>

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your Name, City, State and email to appear in our online email directory?

No other information will be listed. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Memberships:

Individual \$25.00

Family \$25.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional member of the same household

Lifetime \$300.00 [this amount equals 12 yearly fees / 12 X \$25 = \$300]

Membership begins in the month in which dues are paid and is renewable on the anniversary of your join date.

Make check payable to: Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society, or MFGS. Dues must be payable in U.S. Funds. Return completed form with your payment to: MFGS Treasurer, 217 Turner St., Auburn, ME 04210