



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XLIV NO. 1

January 2020



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Insert: Café du Matin flyer

Holiday Happenings

December always finds Oakland House Museum decked in holiday cheer and bustling with activity... and this year was no exception. An area tradition, the 42nd Annual Santa House was prominently featured on the front page of the *South County Times* and the *Green Park Call*, and thanks to our friends at the *Affton Fire Protection District*, the man in red arrived in style by swapping out his reindeer for an Affton firetruck.

Throughout the festive, multi-day event, 1,230 Santa House attendees listened in rapt attention to the Story Lady's seasonal tale and delighted in a holiday puppet show. The aroma of freshly-baked cookies led to the cozy kitchen for a chat and treat with Mrs. Claus. No Santa House visit would be complete without a chance to sit on the lap of St. Nick himself.

The Ladies of Oakland netted \$1,011.00 from craft sales and \$271.00 from raffle sales, while the Santa House profited \$4,555.28, for an event total profit of \$5,837.28. The lucky winners of the annual Ladies of Oakland Raffle were announced on the last day of Santa House. They were: **Rosie Miller** (\$100), **Sue Fagan** (Holiday Fleece Throw) and **Jean McDaniel** (Christmas Sled Decoration).

Year after year, area families return to Santa House because they enjoy the beautiful decorations, the festive atmosphere and the thrill of meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus in person... but most of all, they appreciate the hard work and friendliness of the folks at Oakland House Museum.

THANK YOU to all who contributed their time & talents to **Santa House 2019!**

The AHS faithful turned out in force again this year, with 65 members and 2 guests attending the annual **Members Christmas Party** on December 21. The mansion was richly decorated in yuletide splendor and the dining table was heaped with scrumptious delicacies, including Spinach Cheese Squares, Turkey Cranberry Triangles, Cheesy Garlic Pull-Aparts and a Fresh Fruit Ball.

Many thanks to Party Chairperson **Dot Huebener**, to **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich** for the Grand Centerpiece, and to Party hosts **Jeri Akiki**, **Charlie Brown**, **Pam Danklef**, **Marilyn Hammon**, **Rosie Miller**, **Sheila Savka**, **Rose Vitale**, **Mary Jane Autry**, **Ingrid Giddings**, **Lucy Johnson**, **Cyndie Ahrens** and **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich**. We can't wait until Christmas rolls around again for another great holiday party!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Dates are set for a fun and eventful 2020...

AHS Membership Meetings

Spring - Sunday, April 26, 2020

Program: To Be Announced

Fall - Sunday, October 25, 2020

John Murphy as 18th Century Barber Surgeon Joseph LaBollé

Luncheon 12:30 p.m. Meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the company of other members of the Affton Historical Society for a pot luck luncheon, with drinks and desserts provided. A business meeting and an entertaining program will follow the luncheon.

2020 Open Luncheons

Tuesday, April 28

Thursday, August 13

Thursday, May 7

Tuesday, September 29

Tuesday, June 9

Friday, October 9

Thursday, July 23

Tuesday, November 10

These luncheons are open to the public, so come alone, bring a guest, or put together a group. What a delightful way to spend the afternoon with special friends! The Ladies of Oakland serve groups of 15-56. House tours, given by a docent in period dress, are at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Please make reservations 2 weeks in advance by calling Dot Huebener at (314) 300-8213.

Please note: Private Luncheons can be booked for groups of 15-56. Call Dot Huebener at (314) 300-8213 to reserve a date for your next group get-together.

Open Houses for 2020

Beautiful Oakland House will be open to the public on the following Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 19 ~ May 17 ~ June 21

July 19 ~ August 16 ~ September 20

Free to members \$5.00 for the general public

2020 Bunny Hutch

For a hoppin' good time, gather the little ones and hop on over to Oakland's Bunny Hutch! Now in its 25th year, Bunny Hutch is a much-anticipated spring treat. The event features story time and a puppet show, as well as the chance for children to visit the Easter Bunny and pet a live rabbit. Each child will make a "bunny bag" and enjoy a treat. Don't forget your cameras!

Cost: \$5.00 per person (cash, checks... or now we can run your credit/debit cards using Square!)

Shows on the hour and the half-hour.

Craft Items will be for sale.

Weekdays - Reservations are needed

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday

April 6, 7 & 8

Weekends - No Reservations needed

Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 & Sunday, March 29

Saturday, April 4 & Sunday, April 5

For weekday reservations, please call Chairperson Joyce Rich at (314) 843-7530

Also, Volunteers Needed: Please call Joyce to help with Line Control, Bunny Helper, Kids' Candy Baskets and Candy Lady.

For information only, call Charlie Brown at (314) 873-3248

Oakland House phone: (314) 352-5654



Volunteers Needed:

Bunny Hutch Decorating - Saturday, March 21

Start 9:00 a.m. - Work until finished - Lunch will be served

Decoration Take-Down - Wednesday, April 8

Start 1:00 p.m. - Work until finished

If you have questions, or for more information, contact:

Nancy Herndon-Ulrich at (314) 814-4983

Your Help Needed! Let's spruce up, clean up & get organized to make this the best year ever!

Spring House Cleaning at Oakland

Saturday, February 8, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Bring your home cleaning equipment to the annual house clean-up day at Oakland. Lunch will be served.

Kitchen Volunteers Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

A meeting has been called for all current and future Kitchen Ladies who serve the luncheons at Oakland. We're always looking for new members, so please come if you would like to volunteer. Refreshments provided. For more information, call Lucy Johnson (314) 843-6346.

Thank you to "Shutterbugs"
Nancy Brown & Jacqueline Brown
who provided photos for this issue.



Docent Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2020 - 1:30 p.m. - Oakland House

For current docents, or for those interested in becoming one.

For more information, call Charlie Brown (314) 873-3248.

Event Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2020 - 2:00 p.m. - Oakland House

Please come if interested in helping with weddings, receptions or other events held at the House.

For more information, call Rosie Miller (314) 892-3474.

Oakland House Yard Clean-Up

Saturday, April 18, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please bring your own rake or other yard equipment and help us spruce up the grounds. Lunch will be served. For further information, contact Rosie Miller (314) 892-3474.

A commentary from President Charlie Brown

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020! As we start another busy year at Oakland, it seems a good time to reflect back on some of the Society's events and to give special thanks to the wonderful members who make everything possible.

Spring: Café du Matin attendees were treated to a "Ball Gown Promenade"... Area youngsters delighted in visiting the Easter Bunny at the 24th Annual Bunny Hutch... Abe's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln (aka Barbara Kay), dropped by the Members Only Luncheon... and Valerie Schremp Hahn discussed her article *The Name Game* at the Spring Membership Meeting.

Summer: Elizabeth Hrebec performed "Songs from Yesteryear" at the May Ladies' meeting... Antique Lady Joan Komlos gave appraisals on a variety of "treasures" at the June Salad Luncheon... The Annual July 4th Breakfast went off with a BANG!... and Donna Ross came to the July Ladies' meeting to reveal "Secrets of Love & Beauty from a Victorian Garden."

Fall: Bev Schuetz told "The Naked Truth about Undergarments" at the September Ladies' meeting... The Annual Afternoon Tea featured Ann Lemons Pollack discussing her book, *Lost Restaurants of St. Louis*... Benoist descendants from far and wide celebrated a 3-day family reunion at the mansion... and preparations got underway for another holiday season at Oakland.

Winter: Plans were finalized to offer the first \$1,000 Ladies' Scholarship to a lucky graduate from Affton High School... the 42nd Annual Santa House was a big holiday hit with community children... the annual Members Christmas Party provided a festive way to celebrate the season... and now we look back over yet another successful and rewarding year at Oakland.

Much gratitude goes to all who have given so generously of time and talent.

Our success is dependent on those of you who volunteer to park cars, pull weeds, bake goodies, staff events and go above and beyond to keep this old house running smoothly.

Thank You and Happy New Year to One and All.

We look forward to another wonderful year at our beloved Oakland.

Sincerely, Charlie Brown, President



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Charlie Brown

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Nancy Herndon-Ulrich

Vice President

Mary Jane Autry

Treasurer

Becky Cox

Recording Secretary

Darryl Eaves

Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Harmon

President

Ladies of Oakland

2020

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Rosie Miller

Event Coordinator

Mary Kirschman

Publicity Chair

Patti Behlmann

Oak Leaf Editor

*The Board meets at
Oakland House at 7:00 p.m.
on the 2nd Thursday
of each month from
January through November.*

Members are welcome!

Find Us On
facebook 



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

Mark Your Calendars!

AHS 4th of July Breakfast Buffet

Saturday, July 4, 2020 ~ 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Country Style Breakfast Buffet ~ Entertainment ~ 50/50 Drawing ~ Tours of Oakland



Save the Date!
Ladies of Oakland
Annual Afternoon Tea
Thursday, September 24, 2020

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

\$35.00 per person

(details in the July *Oak Leaf*)

Mark Your Calendars!

MEMBERS ONLY Luncheon 2020

Thursday, May 14 12:00 noon

Cost: \$10.00

Entertainment:

Betsy Burnette-Belanger as Mae West

Contact Lucy Johnson (314) 843-6346 or

Pat Arrendell (314) 353-2096 for

reservations or more information.

Do you LIKE flowers?

Do you LIKE being outdoors?

Do you LIKE digging in the dirt?

Then we'd LIKE you to join the

Oakland Garden Club!

We'd love to have your help in keeping the Oakland grounds beautiful.

We garden on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. beginning May 4th,
weather permitting. If you can't be there by 10am, please come
when you're able - any time you can give will be appreciated.

If interested, or for more information, call Rosie at (314) 892-3474.



Affton Historical Society MASTER CALENDAR of EVENTS FOR 2020

A few members have requested that we publish a listing of all AHS events for the year in chronological order. Here is the result, ready to clip and post on your bulletin board or refrigerator. We hope you find it helpful.

February

- 8 - Spring Housecleaning - 9 am
- 12 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

March

- 7 - Café du Matin (Morning Coffee) - 10 am
- 10 - Kitchen Volunteers Meeting - 9 am
- 11 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 15 - Docent Meeting - 1:30 pm
- 15 - Event Volunteer Meeting - 2 pm
- 17 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 19 - Film premiere - *Lemp's Last Wright*
- 21 - Bunny Hutch Decorating - 9 am
- 28 & 29 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm

April

- 4 & 5 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm
- 6, 7 & 8 - Bunny Hutch - 9 am - 1 pm
- 8 - Take down Bunny Hutch Items - 1 pm
- 9 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 18 - Spring Yard Clean-Up Day - 9 am - 4 pm
- 19 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 21 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 26 - AHS Membership Meeting
Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
- 28 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

May

- 7 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch - 12 noon
- 13 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 14 - Members Only Luncheon - 12 noon
- 17 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 19 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

June

- 9 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 11 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 16 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 12 noon
Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)
- 21 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm

July

- 4 - Independence Day Breakfast - 8 am - 11 am
- 9 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 19 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 21 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 23 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

August

- 13 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 13 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 16 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 18 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

September

- 10 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 15 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 20 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 24 - Ladies of Oakland Afternoon Tea - 1 pm - 3:30 pm
- 29 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

October

- 8 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 9 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 20 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 25 - AHS Membership Meeting
Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

November

- 7 - Fall Yard Clean-Up Day - 9 am
- 10 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 12 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 17 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 21 - Santa House Decorating - 9 am

December

- 5 & 6 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm
- 9, 10 & 11 - Santa House - 9 am - 1 pm
- 12 & 13 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm
- 19 - Members Christmas Party - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Year-Round Shopping Reminders:



Any time you shop on Amazon.com, remember to direct a portion of your purchase to AHS. It's easy. Just sign on at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and register to make Affton Historical Society your charity of choice. Then, every time you shop, be sure to sign in through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to AHS. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you already know, with the same products, prices and service - but with the added benefit of helping charitable organizations. Support AHS by starting your online shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).



Be sure to sign up for the eScrip Program at Schnucks. Affton Historical Society receives a percentage of your purchase every time you shop.

To keep up with what's happening,
VISIT US at
www.oaklandhousemuseum.org

Also,  Find Us On [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/The-Oakland-House-Museum-213604058674332/) **The Oakland House Museum**

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Oakland-House-Museum-213604058674332/>

Ladies of Oakland Meetings

The Ladies of Oakland meet at 1:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday, from March through November. Refreshments are served, and there is always an interesting speaker or other entertainment.

March 17, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Don Marsh - "Coming of Age, Liver Spots and All"

April 21, 2020

Joan Komlos, The Antique Lady
Bring your "treasures" for appraisal

May 19, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

June 16, 2020 - 12:00 noon

Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)
Bring your favorite salad or finger food
Entertainment - TBD

July 21, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

August 18, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

September 15, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

October 20, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

November 17, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

Fun for everyone! Hope to see you there!

Nancy Harmon, President, Ladies of Oakland

A Big THANK YOU to the LADIES OF OAKLAND!

AHS offers a great big "thank you" to the Ladies of Oakland. The Ladies presented the Affton Historical Society with a check for **\$5,079.87**, the result of many successful events and many long hours of volunteer work in 2019.

So many give selflessly of time and talents. We appreciate your open hearts and helping hands, and look forward to working with you again in 2020!

Café du Matin (Morning Coffee)

Saturday, March 7, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.

You won't want to miss this delightful morning of coffee, tea, *les pâtisseries* and good company presented by the Ladies of Oakland! Our informative program will be:

"Chatalaines, Locketts, and an Orb"

Presented by: Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
(Guests are invited to bring their treasures to share)

The cost is \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required and are on a "first-come, first-served" basis, so don't delay. For more information, see the insert in this newsletter or contact Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149, (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com.

Bits & Pieces



The *Ladies of Oakland* are very proud to announce the establishment of a **\$1,000 College Scholarship** to be awarded by Oakland House to a qualified graduating senior at Affton High School. The scholarship program kicks off in 2020, with the first scholarship to be presented this May. Interested students should apply by obtaining an application from Mrs. Mary Giunta, AHS College & Career Counselor. Completed applications are due no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 18 to Affton High School, 8309 Mackenzie Road, 63123.



The significance of the newly-established **\$1,000 Ladies' Scholarship** was not lost on *Barnes (Barney) Bradshaw*, Society member, retired Programs presenter at the Missouri Historical Society, and pleasant desk greeter for many years at the Affton Community Center. Barney is always ready to discuss anything related to St. Louis history, and wanted to do his part in contributing to the youth in our area - namely education. Upon hearing about the scholarship, he promptly wrote a **check for \$100, and he is challenging other like-minded individuals** to join him.

Donations of any amount will be appreciated, and will be returned to our community through intelligent and contributing citizens to replace ourselves. Affton residents proudly sustain a thriving business and residential area in St. Louis County, maintaining close ties with our schools, police and fire departments, while supporting local history and entertainment at Oakland House. Many students remember their visits to Santa House and Bunny Hutch at Oakland, and are now bringing their children back for more happy memories in our community.

Interested in answering the Barney Bradshaw Challenge? Send contributions, marked "The Ladies' Scholarship," to:

Affton Historical Society

P.O. Box 28855

Affton, MO 63123

Thanks for your support!

??? History Question ???

October History Question:

Howard August Benoist (b. March 6, 1867), the youngest son of Louis & Sarah Benoist, married Agnes Foy (b. June 9, 1872) on November 11, 1896. In what years did Howard & Agnes die?

Answer: Howard died on April 26, 1950 at the age of 83, and Agnes died on September 15, 1957 at the age of 85.

History Question for January:

The children of Howard August and Agnes (Foy) Benoist were:

Louis Lannan Benoist (b. Dec 1, 1897)

Elizabeth Christy Benoist (b. Nov 27, 1899)

Marie Agnes Benoist (b. 1906)

Sara Miriam Richards (b. June 24, 1911)

Howard Benoist (b. May 26, 1915)

In what years did they die?

If you think you know the answer, contact Charlie Brown at (314) 873-3248 or bbcboakland@gmail.com



This May, AHS will be listed as a registered non-profit organization for the 7th Annual **Give STL Day**. Please keep us in mind for your 2020 charitable giving plans. Watch for details in the April *Oak Leaf*.



**AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Don't be late! We need to update the Membership Directory and we don't want to miss ANYONE!

- AHS Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Dues are considered delinquent after January 31 - RENEW TODAY!!
- Please complete this form to renew your dues for 2020.
- Mail this form with your check payable to:

Affton Historical Society, P.O. Box 28855, Affton, MO 63123

Date _____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

New Member? [] Yes [] No

Renewing Member? [] Yes [] No

Any changes in membership information? [] Yes [] No

Please print -

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Phone Publication Preference (circle one) HOME CELL BOTH

E-mail Address _____

Memberships Available:

- | | |
|--|---|
| [] Individual \$20 | [] Robert Brookings Level \$151 - \$500 |
| [] Couple \$35 | [] Clemence Benoist Faris Level \$501 - \$1000 |
| [] Father deSmet Level \$36 - \$50 | [] Sarah Wilson Benoist Level \$1001 - \$2500 |
| [] George I. Barnett Level \$51 - \$100 | [] Louis Auguste Benoist Level \$2501 + |
| [] Kate Chopin Level \$101 - \$150 | |

THANK YOU for your continued support!



Many thanks to all the members who renewed their 2020 memberships early - especially to those who chose to upgrade to a higher level of membership.

Remember, all dues money goes toward the upkeep of Oakland House Museum.

Members with e-mail addresses: If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving monthly e-mail updates on "Oakland House Museum Happenings," please contact Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149, (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com.

Membership Reminders: 2020 dues need to be paid by February 1 if you want your name to appear in the Membership Directory. If you have questions about membership status, or if any personal information is incorrect or needs updating, contact Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149, (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members who joined since the October Oak Leaf.

Their addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses will appear in the new 2020 Membership Directory.

Anthony & Patience Battisti Frances Miklovic
Christy James Nancy Parsons

Please Note: Membership information changes will appear in the new 2020 Membership Directory. Watch for it in February!

Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

Many Thanks to deSmet Level Donors:

Nancy & Dudley Baker • Patti & Dan Behlmann
Shirley & Ray Brinker • Sara Benoist Chrisler
Barbara Cook • Becky Cox • Mary Demierre
Christine Neuhoff Dennison • Gabrielle Highstein
Julia Pauley Lazaroff • Jean McDaniel
Amelia & Gordon Oppelt • Frances Pauley
Mary Ann Pierce • Marjorie Pundmann
Joyce Rich • Melissa Ring & Gary Carmichael
Carol Schmieder • Frank Ziegler

Special Thanks to Barnett Level Donors:

Caron & Peter Benoist • Pierre & Kathleen Benoist
Aaron & Dana Brown • Sheila Garavaglia
Roger & Pat Gray • Diane & John Heath
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich • Chip & Alexis Hiemenz
A. Charles III & Mimi Hiemenz
Lucy & Robert Johnson

Extra-Special Thanks to Chopin Level Donors:

Don & Joan Harbaugh • James & Ann Holton
Joan Komlos • Florence Rice

Super-Special Thanks to Brookings Level Donors:

Anthony & Patience Battisti • Edna Beezley
Carol & Peter Benoist • Charlie Brown
Eugenia Thoma • Anita Siegmund & Nancy Suelflow

Extra-Super-Special Thanks to Faris Level Donors:

Oliver Chrisler & Linda Brady

Extra-Super-Duper- Special Thanks to Sarah Wilson Benoist Level Donor:

Abigail Lambert

Thanks so much to Christy Franchot James, who made a donation to the Affton Historical Society in honor of A. Charles III & Mimi Hiemenz

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family & friends of longtime member **Evelyn Mueller** who passed away last fall, and to active member, former treasurer and master gardener **Rosie Miller** who lost her sister **Betty Bosse** on January 7.

They will be missed.