



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Insert:

Afternoon Tea flyer

4th of July festivities go off with a BANG!

Even in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, the folks at Oakland celebrated our nation's independence with a patriotic breakfast. The festive, yet socially-distanced, gathering of more than 85 enjoyed a delicious meal of bacon, eggs, hash browns, fresh fruit and pastries, dished up by masked and gloved servers.

A vintage 1932 automobile was on prominent display on the driveway, and star-spangled centerpieces provided by *Nancy and Denny Brown*, adorned the tables. Guests tapped their feet to lively bluegrass music performed by *Alex Bardon, Denny Brown* and *Chris Turdo*.



Generous attendees made donations totaling \$359.38, while the 50/50 Raffle profited of \$209.00. Those monies, combined with brisk ticket sale income, resulted in an overall, after-expense event profit of \$740.92.

*Thanks so much to our wonderful volunteers!
Another successful 4th of July Breakfast
has gone off with a BANG -
and we couldn't have done it without all of you!*



AHS Fall Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 25, 2020

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

Bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the company of other members of the Affton Historical Society for a pot luck luncheon, with meeting to follow. Meats and drinks are provided - and rumor has it that there will be ribs and chicken.

The slate of Executive Board Officers and Directors for 2021 will be presented for approval. The program will feature *John Murphy* as 18th Century Barber Surgeon *Joseph LaBollé*.

2020 Open Luncheons

Thursday, August 13

Tuesday, September 29

Friday, October 9

Tuesday, November 10

These luncheons are open to everyone and provide a wonderful opportunity to meet up with friends, celebrate a special event or just treat yourself. The menu varies with the season and includes salad, entree, dessert and coffee or tea.

Oakland House tours, given by a docent in period dress, are at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch, which is served at noon. The cost is \$20.00 per person and includes the tour. Please make your 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.

MASKS REQUIRED - Provided if needed

August 16 ~ September 20

Free to members \$8.00 for the general public

Ladies of Oakland Meetings

Under normal circumstances, the Ladies of Oakland meet at 1:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

Refreshments are served, and there's always an interesting speaker or other entertainment.

However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, meetings have been canceled through September.

Please join us for the following meetings:

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

Entertainment - TBD

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

Barbara Kay as Virginia Minor - "Women's Suffrage"

Fun for everyone! Bring a friend!

Nancy Harmon, President, Ladies of Oakland

Reminder: Food Pantry Donations Needed! At monthly meetings, the Ladies of Oakland collect food for the Affton Food Pantry. Please consider bringing a donation to every Ladies meeting to help families in need in our community.



We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented and difficult times. After continual assessment, and in order to be in compliance with necessary social distancing requirements that we hope will mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on our community, the Affton Historical Society has chosen to cancel events at least through the end of July. Using official guidance, and keeping everyone's safety in mind, we will continue to assess the situation to determine when to re-open and resume normal activities with appropriate precautions in place. We will attempt to notify members of further cancellations, for August and beyond, through our website, mass e-mails and social media. Please visit us at www.oaklandhousemuseum.org and watch our Facebook page for updates.

In the meantime, please be well... and remember that we're all in this together.

Your membership support is greatly appreciated!



A "Special Thank You" to Barnett Level Donors

Darryl & Alison Eaves

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!

Joyce Rich will not be continuing her AHS committee work. Thank you, Joyce, for your many years of service.

Her resignation has created immediate volunteer openings for the following committees:

Bunny Hutch - Reservations & Leader

Santa House - Reservations & Leader

Hospitality - Membership Meetings

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To volunteer, contact Charlie Brown at 314-873-3248.



We hope you'll join us for our Covid-19 Style Ladies of Oakland Annual Afternoon Tea

"Tea, Crumpets and a Spot of Sherry" (if desired)

Thursday, September 24, 2020

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

\$25.00 per person

Reservations are required and limited.

"First come, first served" - No Reserved Seats

The program will feature a

Victorian Fashion Show by ***Historic Costume Design***

Masks & Hand Sanitizer available • Social Distancing.

All food served by masked and gloved servers

Return the enclosed form today to reserve your spot!

**Who's Who at Oakland:
Spotlight on Jacqueline Brown**

The past few weeks have been exciting and special ones for our very own **Jacqueline Brown**. The Oakland caretaker was the subject of a July 4 feature article and elaborate photo shoot (right) in the UK's *Daily Mail*. The article, which tallied over 3,500 shares on *DailyMail.com*, and was picked up by numerous other press outlets, refers to Jacqueline as a "Victorian-obsessed woman, 25, who works as a caretaker for a 19th century mansion."



She "reveals she's spent \$5,000 on period clothing in the last three years and NEVER wears trousers." Check out the full article at: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-8467771/Victorian-obsessed-woman-25-reveals-shes-spent-5-000-period-clothing-NEVER-wears-trousers.html>

Recently, Jacqueline was able to showcase her wardrobe and modeling skills in another photo shoot with Oakland as a backdrop. **Victoria L. Schultz**, local writer and caretaker of the Campbell House Museum, will release a series of books later this year. She was thrilled to have Jacqueline pose for the book covers, saying, "Thank you so very much for allowing me to use the Oakland House for my photo shoot for my new book on Victorian fashion," and "many thanks to Jacqueline Brown for her assistance." Jacqueline is pictured at left as Lady Shale from *The Society Series*.

Such an exciting time! Congratulations, Jacqueline!



Victoria L. Schultz



AHS awards first scholarship

The first ever Affton Historical Society college scholarship was awarded to 2020 Affton High School graduate **Margaret (Maggie) MacArthur**. In order to be considered, applicants must be pursuing a Liberal Arts or Humanities major. Maggie (pictured at left with *Ladies of Oakland* Past President Lucy Johnson) plans to attend Southeast Missouri State University in the fall to study Anthropology and Musical Theatre. Her high school activities included Student Council, National Honor Society and the Thespian Society.

Congratulations, Maggie... and good luck in your future studies!



The premiere of *Lemp's Last Wright* has been postponed again.

The new date, time and venue are:

March 18, 2021
7:00pm - 11:30pm
Chase Park Plaza Cinemas
212 Kingshighway, 63108

If you purchased tickets, sit tight. Shift Films will update you as needed.

**Nancy Brown,
Jacqueline Brown,
Victoria L. Schultz &
Amanda Rie Photography**
provided photos for this issue
THANK YOU!



Victoria L. Schultz
made a generous donation to
Oakland House Museum
in conjunction with her photo shoot, as did
Rebecca R. Stallard
in conjunction with a music video shoot.

MANY THANKS, LADIES!



**Affton
Historical Society
2020 Executive Board**

Charlie Brown
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Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
Vice President

Mary Jane Austry
Treasurer

Becky Cox
Recording Secretary

Darryl Eaves
Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Harmon
President
Ladies of Oakland

**2020
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Phillip Tafra

Pam Dankle
Membership Chair

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!

Bits & Pieces



St. Louis is truly a generous community!

There is no greater evidence of this fact than the recent outpouring of support for local non-profits shown on the seventh annual *Give STL Day*. The May 7th event generated over \$4.5 million in the form of 38,570 individual gifts to 977 deserving non-profit organizations. The *Affton Historical Society* participated again this year and profited \$367.00 from five donors. Thanks to the following donors for their support of AHS and the St. Louis community: **Patti Behlmann, Charlie Brown, Tracy Coleman, Jean McDaniel** and **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich**. Watch for the next *Give STL Day* in May 2021.



If you're already making purchases at Amazon.com, why not direct a portion of your purchase to be donated to AHS? It's easy. Just sign on at 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. 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. We hope you'll consider supporting AHS by starting your online shopping at smile.amazon.com.



A fleur-de-lis memorial now adorns the wedding cake in the garden. It was donated by friends in memory of **Gary Ulrich**, a dedicated longtime member who spent countless volunteer hours helping to keep things at Oakland House Museum running smoothly.



Be sure to check out the spruced-up finish on the driveway and walkways around the mansion! Second and third coats of Clear Spectrum sealer have been applied to keep them looking fantastic for years to come. Many hours of volunteer work by **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich** and **Tracy Coleman** went into this effort. Thanks so much, ladies!



Recently the Oakland grounds was the site of a metal-detecting expedition by **Chris Turdo** of Bi-State Dirt Fishing. Unfortunately, no priceless treasures were found; his most interesting find was an old key.



In Memoriam: Our sympathy, thoughts & prayers go to the families & friends of the following members who recently passed away. They will be missed.

Longtime members **George Sinovic** and **Dorothy Lavezzi** passed away in May. Dorothy led the Craft Ladies for many years.

We lost former caretaker **Tom McPhie** to a stroke in June. He was 63.

Membership Directory Updates

Please welcome the following new member and add her contact information to your 2020 Membership Directory:

SMITH, Barbara 314-369-7165
10 Magnolia Drive, St. Louis, MO 63124
bsmith5550@aol.com

And please make the following changes or updates:

BETTLACH, Frieda (change to #101)

KINMAN, Lorraine & Wayne (new address)
155 Carondelet Plaza #902, St. Louis, MO 63105

NICOLAI, Julie (new address)
11115 Hermitage Hill Road, St. Louis, MO 63131

Membership Notes:

Please contact Membership Chair Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149, (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com if:

- you are not receiving monthly e-mail updates on "Oakland House Museum Happenings"
- your membership information is incorrect or incomplete
- you've yet to pay your 2020 dues - *It's never too late!!*

??? History Question ???

April History Question: April's question centered around Louis Auguste & Sarah Elizabeth Wilson Benoist's oldest son Henry Augustus Benoist (b. 1851) and his wife Mary Ellen (Carton) Benoist (b. ???). In what years did they die?

Answer: Henry Augustus Benoist died in 1923; we were unable to find a death date for Mary Ellen (Carton) Benoist.

History Question for July - Background: In the 1830's, Louis A. Benoist engaged regularly in the banking business. By 1838 his financial operations had developed to such an extent that he established a branch banking house in New Orleans which was conducted first under the name of Benoist & Hankney, and later under the name of Benoist, Shaw & Co. The St. Louis parent house, along with the New Orleans branch, became one of the leading financial institutions of the south. It did a large business until the St. Louis house was compelled to suspend temporarily as a result of a financial panic sweeping the country.

However, very soon Benoist's financial genius enabled him to triumph over his embarrassments. Upon reopening, he was able to pay depositors their due, along with 10% interest for the time during which their funds were tied up. His resumption of banking operations was met with even greater public confidence and esteem. It may truly be said that he was one of the great Western financiers of his generation and a remarkably progressive man in every respect.

Question: In what year was Benoist compelled to temporarily suspend banking operations?

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



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.OAKLANDHOUSEMUSEUM.org