



# The Oak Leaf

*A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

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## “Where there’s tea there’s hope...”

~ Arthur Wing Pinero

In the midst of this pandemic, we should all take heart from Pinero’s wise words. The Ladies of Oakland certainly did when, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, they hosted “*Tea, Crumpets, and a Spot of Sherry*,” a COVID-style Afternoon Tea. Many precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all in attendance, including limiting reservations, temperature screenings, mask wearing and social distancing. The 26 guests were treated to a fashion show of Victorian clothing presented by *Historic Costume Design*, narrated by *Nancy Herndon-Ulrich* and modeled by *Jacqueline Brown*.



Even though limited to half its normal size, the event realized an overall profit of \$769.02, and would not have been possible without the hard work of many people. Thank you to Tea Committee members *Pam Danklef* (Chair), *Rosie Miller*, *Dot Huebener* and *Barb Cook*, as well as to Servers *Mary Jane Autry* and *Jean McDaniel*, and Door Monitor *Lucy Johnson*.

## How about a few more tea-related quotes to brighten your day?

“No matter what is happening in your life, you always offer tea.” ~ *Clemantine Wamariya*

“There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.” ~ *Henry James*

“A cup of tea would restore my normality.” ~ *Douglas Adams*

“There is no trouble so great or grave that cannot be much diminished by a nice cup of tea.” ~ *Bernard-Paul Heroux*

“There is something in the nature of tea that leads us into a world of quiet contemplation of life.” ~ *Lin Yutang*

“Come, let us have some tea and continue to talk about happy things.” ~ *Chaim Potok*

*And just for the ladies...*

“A woman is like a tea bag - you can’t tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.” ~ *Eleanor Roosevelt*



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 many events through the end of the year. 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 January and beyond, through our website, mass e-mails and social media. Please visit us at [www.oaklandhousemuseum.org](http://www.oaklandhousemuseum.org) and watch our Facebook page for updates.

*In the meantime, please stay safe and be well.*

### AHS Fall Membership Meeting

*Sunday, October 25, 2020*

*1:30-3:30 p.m.*

*(Note: No luncheon or program due to COVID-19)*

Come and find out what has been happening during the summer, and what's in store for the upcoming months. We will be voting on Officers to the AHS Board and Officers to the Endowment Trust Board.

### Fall Lawn Clean-Up Day

*Saturday, November 7, 2020*

*9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Volunteers are needed to spruce up the Oakland House grounds during our Fall Lawn Clean-Up Day. Come when you can and stay as long as you'd like. Lunch will be provided. Please bring your own rake, yard equipment and gardening gloves.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Open Luncheons and Ladies of Oakland meetings are canceled for the remainder of 2020, and there will not be a Members Christmas Party this year. Looking forward to better times in 2021!

## 🎅! 🎅! 🎅! Santa Claus is coming to Oakland!

Mark your calendars for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Affton Historical Society Santa House - COVID-Style!

In these uncertain times, we're doing everything we can to keep the Christmas magic alive.

Enjoy a winter wonderland outside our Victorian home while safely visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



#### *Weekdays - Reservations Required*

Wednesday, December 9 - Friday, December 11  
Open Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### *Weekends - Reservations Recommended*

*Weekend Walk-Ins welcome as space allows*  
Saturday, December 5 & Sunday, December 6  
Saturday, December 12 & Sunday, December 13  
Open Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Visits to take place during 30 minute time slots starting on the hour and 1/2-hour each day.

Limit: 30 Guests per time slot.

Reserve your spot online at our website, or by calling Joan Komlos (314) 496-6225

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Digital online payment preferred - Square available at the door

Check our website frequently for updates on reservation availability and cancellations due to inclement weather.

So much to enjoy for children of all ages!

Cookies  
Hot Chocolate  
Candy Canes  
Coloring Books

Questions?  
Call Charlie Brown (314) 873-3248  
or e-mail [bbcboakland@gmail.com](mailto:bbcboakland@gmail.com)

Bring your camera and...  
*"be good for goodness sake!"*

Visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus & the Elves  
Holiday Music, Decorations & Games  
North Pole mailbox for your Christmas list  
Limited crafts & goodies for sale on weekends

Visit us at: [WWW.oaklandhousemuseum.org/event/santas-house](http://WWW.oaklandhousemuseum.org/event/santas-house)

### Santa House Volunteers Needed

- Interested in helping inside or outside?  
Contact Lucy Johnson at (314) 843-6346.
- We need folks to act as Santa's helpers, cookie bakers, Mrs. Claus or with various other fun jobs.  
Contact Charlie Brown at (314) 873-3248.
- Think you'd make a great Santa?  
Contact Charlie Brown at (314) 873-3248.

### Holiday Decorating Help Needed

Help us "deck the halls" of Oakland for the holidays!

*Saturday, November 21, 2020*

We'll start at 9:00 a.m. and stop when finished, usually around 4:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served. Questions?

Call Nancy Herndon-Ulrich (314) 814-4983

## In Memoriam:

### Remembering Sidney Guller

“Sidney Guller passed away peacefully at home October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, surrounded by his family. He lived a rich and meaningful life, and he was a month shy of 97 years old. Sidney was devoted to his loving family, his company Essex Industries, his fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu, his school Washington University in St. Louis, and the various organizations and boards he served. However, the true love of this life was his wife Bobbi; everything rose and set with her.” (From the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 5, 2020)



Guller was an extremely generous supporter of the Affton Historical Society for many years, serving as an ex-officio member of the AHS Executive Board, as well as the Endowment Fund Trustee Board. Affton-based Essex Industries, which he and his brother Harold founded 73 years ago, continues to be a major employer in the St. Louis region. Guller remained active with the company until his death, most recently as Chairman of the Board.

Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of Sidney Guller.  
He will be missed.

### ??? History Question ???

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.

#### July History Question:

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

Answer: The year was 1842.

#### History Questions for October:

In what year did Louis Benoist build a handsome white-pillared house on the northwest corner of Eighth and Pine Streets in St. Louis?

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



Congratulations to member  
**Barbara Finboom**  
and her husband, **Neil**,  
for winning first place in the  
**Post-Dispatch Great Garden Contest**  
this past July!



Photos for this issue were  
provided by “shutterbugs”  
Nancy Brown,  
& Dianne Isbell.



### **Affton Historical Society 2020 Executive Board**

**Charlie Brown**  
*President*

**Nancy Herndon-Ulrich**  
*Vice President*

**Mary Jane Autry**  
*Treasurer*

**Becky Cox**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Darryl Eaves**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

**Nancy Harmon**  
*President  
Ladies of Oakland*

### **2020 Board of Directors**

**Jeri Akiki**  
**Bert Barry**  
**Shirley Brinker**  
**Ingrid Giddings**  
**Mary Kirschman**  
**Joan Komlos**  
**Steve Slayden**  
**Phillip Tafra**

**Pam Danklef**  
*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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month from  
January through November.*

**Members are welcome!**

### **Café du Matin - Morning Coffee**

**Saturday, March 6, 2021 10:00 a.m.**

Details in the January *Oak Leaf*

### **Annual Afternoon Tea**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**

Details in the July *Oak Leaf*

### **Save the Dates for**

## **2021**

### **Calendar Meeting**

This meeting is to set the  
dates for the 2021 Event Calendar.

**Monday, January 11, 2021 10:00 a.m.**



## RENT A MANSION:



BEAUTIFUL  
OAKLAND IS  
AVAILABLE FOR  
WEDDINGS,  
SHOWERS,  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS  
AND OTHER  
SPECIAL  
OCCASIONS

- 3 hour minimum rental
- Use one of our caterers

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CALL:  
Rosie Miller - (314) 892-3474



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

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.

### **DOCENTS NEEDED:**

- Do you enjoy wearing period dress?
- Do you like to meet & greet folks?
  - Are you interested in history?

If you answered YES to any of the above, you qualify to  
become a docent for Oakland House Museum.

The training is FREE. The hours are GREAT.

The enjoyment is TREMENDOUS!

For info, contact Charlie Brown - 314-873-3248

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x Please **WELCOME** the following **NEW MEMBERS**  
and add their contact information to your directory:

**BRUNER, Meggan** ..... **314-323-7876**  
5301 Seth Street, St. Louis, MO 63123  
megganmcilvaine@gmail.com

**TRUEMAN, Carl** ..... **314-353-3464**  
5901 Savio Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123  
marytrueman@gmail.com

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**REMINDER:** 2020 memberships expire on December  
31, and dues are considered delinquent after January 31.  
Memberships must be renewed February 1 in order to be  
included in the 2021 Membership Directory, so... **use the  
enclosed form to renew your membership TODAY!**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

If your membership information is incorrect or incomplete,  
please contact Pam Danklef at (314) 503-6401,  
(314) 842-0149 or jpdanklef@aol.com

### **IMPORTANT:**

When contacting Pam Danklef at (314) 503-6401,  
(314) 842-0149 or jpdanklef@aol.com with a **new address**,  
be sure to include your **new phone number** as well.  
This is especially true for those of you who move to  
retirement communities (Laclede Groves, Bethesda,  
Cardinal Ritter, etc.) where you receive a new phone number.

**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)  
503-6401, (314) 842-0149 or jpdanklef@aol.com.



**Thanks for your generous support!**

**Becky Cox** made a special donation  
to the Affton Historical Society.

**Helen Bollner** made a donation to the  
Affton Historical Society in memory of **Tom McPhie**.

**Shirley Brinker, Pam Danklef, Phil Tafra &  
Charlie Brown** donated money they received  
from a bridal party to Oakland House Museum.

**MANY THANKS TO ALL!**

## **Shopping Reminders:**



If you do your Christmas shopping on Amazon.com, remember to direct a portion of your purchase 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. Support AHS by starting your online shopping at **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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

**www.OAKLANDHOUSEMUSEUM.org**

