



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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January 2022



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Insert: Café du Matin flyer

Socially-distanced Santa House a rousing success!



Christmas came once again to the Benoist Mansion known as Oakland, with the house decked in holiday cheer and bustling with activity. Even though safety protocols necessitated a few accommodations, the *43rd Annual Santa House* proved as festive and well-received as usual. To recite their wishlists, children sat near Santa, rather than on his lap (covid-style, you know) - and over her mask, Mrs. Claus' bright eyes flashed welcoming smiles as she dished up warm memories - and warm cookies - in front of the cozy, kitchen fireplace.

Speaking of fireplaces, would you believe that our faithful volunteers decorated *four* fireplaces in the house (pictured here and on p. 4) to make sure everything would be photo-perfect, no matter which chimney the man in red might choose to come down? But, just like most men would, he chose to come on a fire truck instead! Many thanks to our friends at the *Affton Fire Protection District* for providing a big-rig so Santa could swap out his reindeer and arrive in style.

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



THANK YOU to all who contributed their time & talents to *Santa House 2021!*
We couldn't have done it without you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Dates are set for a fun and eventful 2022...

AHS Membership Meetings

Spring - Sunday, April 24, 2022

Pot Luck Lunch 12:30 p.m. Meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Program: To Be Announced

Fall - Sunday, October 23, 2022

Pot Luck Lunch 12:30 p.m. Meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Program: To Be Announced

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

2022 Open Luncheons

Tuesday, April 26

Thursday, August 11

Tuesday, May 10

Wednesday, September 21

Thursday, June 23

Thursday, October 13

Wednesday, July 27

Thursday, November 3

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 \$22.00 per person. Please make reservations 2 weeks in advance by calling Jean McDaniel at (314) 821-7166.

Please note: Private Luncheons can be booked for groups of 15-56. Call Jean McDaniel at (314) 821-7166 to reserve a date for your next group get-together.

Open Houses for 2022

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

May 15 ~ June 19 ~ July 17

August 21 ~ September 18 ~ October 16

Free to members \$10.00 for the general public

2022 Bunny Hutch

For a hoppin' good time, gather the little ones and hop on over to Oakland's Bunny Hutch! Now in its 26th year, Bunny Hutch is a much-anticipated spring treat... and it's bound to be an even bigger hit this year as we look for safe ways to come out of hibernation and shake off the winter doldrums.

The event will feature an outdoor Easter egg hunt and story time with the Story Lady, 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 camera!

Two Fun-Filled Weekends

Saturday, April 2 & Sunday, April 3

Saturday, April 9 & Sunday, April 10

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

No Reservations Required

Watch for details on our website:
www.oaklandhousemuseum.org

Admission: \$6.00 per person
Digital online payment preferred
Payment at the door - cash, check or Stripe

For more information, contact:
Joan Komlos (314) 496-6225

Or visit our website: www.oaklandhousemuseum.org



Volunteers Needed:

Bunny Hutch Decorating - Saturday, March 26

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

Decoration Take-Down - Sunday, April 10

Start 3:00 p.m. after Bunny Hutch - 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!

Docent Meeting

Sunday, March 6, 2022 - 1:30 p.m. - Oakland House

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

For more information, call Shirley Brinker (314) 631-8507.

Kitchen Volunteers Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 - 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.

For more information, call Lucy Johnson (314) 843-6346.

Event Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, March 6, 2022 - 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 23, 2022 - 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.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: Mark Your Calendars!

AHS 4th of July Breakfast Buffet ~ Monday, July 4, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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



Bits & Pieces

NEWLY ACQUIRED BENOIST TREASURE



A lovely Victorian papier-mâché lacquered sewing box, with inlaid mother-of-pearl (pictured at right), is believed to have belonged to **Helen Amanda Benoist Carton**. Helen Amanda was the second daughter of **Louis A. and Sarah Elizabeth Benoist**. It seemed that the natural place for this beautiful box should be back on a dresser in our Rose Room, just four feet away from her son, **Benoist Carton's** portrait.



This ornate piece of Benoist history was generously donated by **A. Charles Hiemenz III** (the great-great grandson of Helen Amanda Benoist Carton) in memory of his grandmother, **Julia Fay Carton Donovan** (the granddaughter of Helen Amanda Benoist Carton).



Executive Board

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Darryl Eaves
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Ladies of Oakland

2022 Board of Directors

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Event Coordinator

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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!

THE LADIES OF OAKLAND DO IT AGAIN!



AHS offers a great big "THANK YOU" to the **Ladies of Oakland**. The Ladies presented the **Affton Historical Society** with a check for **\$4,464.76**, the result of many successful events and long hours of volunteer work in 2021. 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 2022!

YEAR-ROUND SHOPPING REMINDER



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** 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**.



We love our members!

Please plan to attend our annual

Member Appreciation Luncheon

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Rich & Charlie's

9942 Watson Road

AHS will host this luncheon
at no cost to members.

To RSVP, or for more information,
contact Joan Komlos at (314) 496-6225.

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 9:00 a.m.

beginning May 2nd,
weather permitting.



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

??? History Question ???

October History Question:

How many windows are in Oakland House?

Answer: 34 windows!!

History Question for January:

The Benoist family plot in Calvary Cemetery is unusual - what is its shape?

If you think you know the answer,

contact **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich** at (314) 814-4983 or historicdzn@aol.com



Affton Historical Society MASTER CALENDAR of EVENTS FOR 2022

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

10 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

March

5 - Café du Matin (Morning Coffee) - 10 am

6 - Docent Meeting - 1:30 pm

6 - Event Volunteer Meeting - 2 pm

8 - Kitchen Volunteers Meeting - 9 am

10 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

15 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

26 - Bunny Hutch Decorating - 9 am

April

2 & 3 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm

9 & 10 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm

10 - Take down Bunny Hutch Items - 3 pm

13 - Member Appreciation Luncheon - 11:30 am

14 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

19 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

23 - Spring Yard Clean-Up Day - 9 am

24 - AHS Membership Meeting

Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

26 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

May

10 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

12 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

15 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm

17 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

June

9 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

19 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm

21 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 12 noon

Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)

23 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

July

4 - Independence Day Breakfast - 10 am - 1 pm

14 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

17 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm

19 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

27 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

August

11 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

11 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

16 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

21 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm

September

8 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

18 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm

20 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

21 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

29 - Ladies of Oakland Afternoon Tea - 1 pm - 3:30 pm

October

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

23 - AHS Membership Meeting

Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

November

3 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

10 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

12 - Fall Yard Clean-Up Day - 9 am

15 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

19 - Santa House Decorating - 9 am

December

3 & 4 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm

7, 8 & 9 - Santa House - 9 am - 1 pm

10 & 11 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm

17 - Members Christmas Party - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm



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

Also,  at "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 15, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Doug Schneider - "The World Beneath St. Louis"

April 19, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Molly Butterworth - "Trains & Trolleys"

May 17, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Ethel Cobb - "Minnie Pearl"

June 21, 2022 - 12:00 noon

Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)

Bring your favorite salad or finger food

Dan Fuller - "Noteworthy & Notorious Women"

July 19, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

August 16, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

September 20, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

October 18, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Doug Schneider - "Haunted Places in St. Louis"

November 15, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

Fun for everyone! Hope to see you there!
Nancy Harmon, President, Ladies of Oakland

Thank you to "Shutterbug"
Nancy Herndon Ulrich
who provided photos for this issue.



Café du Matin (Morning Coffee) - COVID Style
Saturday, March 5, 2022 ~ 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:

Author **Valerie Battle Kienzle**
presenting her book:

**Ready to Wear: A History of the Footwear
and Garment Industries in St. Louis**

Due to ongoing COVID concerns, we will practice social distancing, masks will be required and hand sanitizer will be available.

The cost is \$18.00 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.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

Many Thanks to deSmet Level Donors:

Dudley & Nancy Baker • Patti & Dan Behlmann
Patrick Bellinger • Peter Benoist • Jerriann Blassie
Barb Cook • Mary DeMierre • Sheila Garavaglia
Christopher Hiemenz • Christy Franchot James
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Carol Ann Miller • Gordon & Amelia Oppelt
Carol Schmieder • Trudy Seise • Frank Ziegler

Special Thanks to Barnett Level Donors:

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Gregory & Elizabeth Savel
Anita Seigmund & Nancy Suelflow

Extra-Special Thanks to Chopin Level Donor:

Joan Komlos

Super-Special Thanks to Sarah Wilson Benoist Level Donors:

Gray Benoist • Abigail Lambert • Eugenia Thoma



Save the Date!
Ladies of Oakland
Annual Afternoon Tea
Thursday, September 29, 2022
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
\$35.00 per person
(details in the July Oak Leaf)

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



This May, AHS will be listed as a registered non-profit organization for the 9th Annual **Give STL Day**. Please keep us in mind for your 2022 charitable giving plans. Watch for details in the April Oak Leaf.



AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
(DUES ARE CONSIDERED DELINQUENT AFTER JANUARY 31 - RENEW TODAY!)

There are many members who work tirelessly for the Society - who give of their time as well as their treasure.

In order to accomplish all that they do, they need the financial and emotional support of other members who faithfully pay their dues, buy raffle tickets, bring their friends to Oakland and advocate for AHS in the community.

SO REMEMBER: YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT... and “MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!”

As a member in good standing, you are:

- Invited as our guest to the annual Members’ Christmas Party.
- Entitled to Open House tours at no charge.
- Invited to the Members Appreciation Luncheon.
- Automatically a member of the Ladies of Oakland and
 - On the mailing list to receive the *Oak Leaf* newsletter each quarter.



So be sure to renew your Society membership today and

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

AHS membership is for a calendar year, Jan 1 - Dec 31 - Dues are considered delinquent after Jan 31.

In order to be included in the 2022 Membership Directory, dues must be received by February 1.

DETACH FORM BY CUTTING ON DOTTED LINES BEFORE COMPLETING & RETURNING WITH PAYMENT



Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____ CHECK CASH
(circle one)

Please mail this form with
your check made payable to:

New Member? Yes No Renewing Member? Yes No

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

Any changes in membership information? Yes No

PLEASE PRINT -

Name E-mail address

Address City State Zip

Phone Publication Preference (circle one)

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ HOME CELL BOTH

Memberships Available:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> George I. Barnett Level \$101 - \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Clemence Benoist Faris Level \$501 - \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Chopin Level \$151 - \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Wilson Benoist Level \$1,001 - \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father de Smet Level \$46 - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Brookings Level \$251 - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Louis Auguste Benoist Level \$2,501 + |



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: 2022 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

Please Note: Membership information changes will appear in the new 2022 Membership Directory. Watch for it in February!



Many thanks to all the members who renewed their 2022 memberships early - and 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.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.OAKLANDHOUSEMUSEUM.org