



The Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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April 2023



In this issue...

Springtime Happenings!

- Café du Matin
- 2023 Bunny Hutch
- Upcoming Meetings and Events
- Independence Day Lunch
- Ladies of Oakland Meetings
- Calendar Updates
- Save the Date: Afternoon Tea
- Bits & Pieces:
- Give STL Day
- Scholarship Winner
- Our Condolences
- Food Pantry Donations Needed
- Thanks for Your Support!
- History Question
- Membership Notes & Updates
- 2023 Membership Form

Insert: 4th of July Lunch flyer

Shutterbug
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
 provided photos
 for this issue.
Thank You!



Springtime Happenings!

The March 4th *Café du Matin*, which showcased *Victorian Fashions on Parade*, was a rousing success, with one attendee proclaiming it to be “the best \$20 I ever spent!” Generously donating her time and expertise, **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich** moderated the show featuring gowns from her one-of-a-kind collection that were graciously modeled by our youngest members, **Rachel** and **Valerie**, and their Italian exchange student friend, **Vittoria**. The girls had a “ball” throughout their busy morning, which began with a hairstyling session, and ended with a reluctance to take the lovely frocks off. Mom and member **Darlene Trosky** ably assisted with the pinning, lacing and quick changes necessary for the show to run smoothly. As promised, a copy of Mary Todd Lincoln’s first Inaugural ball gown, which resides in the Smithsonian, was the very last feature. One Benoist descendent in attendance was heard to say, “Can you imagine this house filled with all the women wearing these clothes?” It was truly a special sight for us all to witness some 170 years later.



In additions to the fashion parade, the fifty-three guests in attendance were treated to a delicious array of homemade goodies, created and donated by committee members. As there was no cost for food or program, the Ladies of Oakland were able to realize an overall profit of \$1000.00. Many thanks to Morning Coffee Committee members **Pam Dankleff** (Chair), **Rosie Miller**, **Dot Huebener**, **Cyndie Ahrens**, **Sue Slater** and **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich** for their generosity, time and organizational skills. Also, thanks to server **Barb Cook**, and to **Lucy Johnson** who manned the hospitality table.



The *27th Annual Bunny Hutch* was a success in spite of having kicked off with blustery cold and rain. The weather on the final Sunday dawned glorious, so in the end over 700 attendees came out of hibernation to participate in this much-loved and highly anticipated event. Excited youngsters were thrilled to pet a real “live” bunny and pose for photos with the Easter Bunny. The Craft Ladies charmed customers with their wares, while Storytime and a treat rounded out the fun-filled day of springtime activities. Many thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who help to make this event a success every year!

AHS Membership Meetings

Many thanks to those who attended our re-scheduled Spring Membership Meeting on April 16th. Local author **Patrick Murphy** discussed several of his books including *Candy Men* and *Places to Pray*.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the:

Fall Membership Meeting - Sunday, October 22, 2023

Pot Luck Luncheon 12:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite dish - Drinks and meat provided

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

The program is still to be determined

Open Houses for 2023

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

Free to members \$10.00 for the general public

May 21 ~ June 18 ~ July 16

August 20 ~ September 17 ~ October 15

2023 Open Luncheons

Tuesday, May 9

Wednesday, August 9

Tuesday, June 13

Wednesday, September 13

Thursday, July 13

Wednesday, October 11

Tuesday, November 14

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 \$30.00 per person and includes the tour. Please make your reservations 2 weeks in advance by calling:

Jean McDaniel at (314) 821-7166

Private Luncheons can be booked for groups of 15-56.
Call Jean at (314) 821-7166 to reserve
a date for your next gathering.

**** NEW THIS YEAR! ** - Join us for the first ever...**

AHS Independence Day Lunch ~ Tuesday, July 4, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

For only \$21.00 per person (\$8.00 for children 12 and under) you will receive:

BBQ Picnic Fare (pork steaks, baked beans, salads, drinks & dessert)

Patriotic Music ~ Tours of Oakland House

50/50 Raffle ~ Fun & Games



Please return the enclosed Reservation Form with your RSVP & payment by **Friday, June 30** to:

Affton Historical Society, Box 28855, St. Louis, MO 63123

For information, call Nancy at (314) 814-4983

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

May 16, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Laurene Taylor Shows - "Phyllis Diller"

June 20, 2023 - 12:00 noon - (note earlier time)

Salad Luncheon - Bring your favorite salad or finger food

Barbara Kay - "Mary Todd Lincoln"

July 18, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Missouri Botanical Garden - "Recycling"

August 15, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Barnes Bradshaw

"The Life & Times of Absalom Grimes"

September 19, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Jerry Rabushka - "Cherry & Jerry Ragtime Band"

October 17, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Barnes Bradshaw - "Witch Trials"

November 21, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.

Dan Fuller

"Riverboat Captains of Bellefontaine Cemetery"

Fun for everyone! Hope to see you there!

Nancy Harmon, President, Ladies of Oakland

**** CALENDAR UPDATES ****

We've made several changes to our master calendar since its publication in the January *Oak Leaf*. Please note:

The **Independence Day** event is now a BBQ Lunch scheduled for **11:00 am - 2:00 pm on Tuesday, July 4th**

The **Annual Afternoon Tea** is now scheduled for one week later on **Thursday, October 5th**

Santa House Decorating is now scheduled for one week earlier on **Saturday, November 25th**



***Ladies of Oakland
Annual Afternoon Tea
Thursday, October 5, 2023***

**** NOTE DATE CHANGE ****

1:00 - 3:30 p.m

\$35.00 per person

***Program to be determined
Details in the July Oak Leaf***


Bits & Pieces



Give STL Day 2023 will take place **Wednesday, May 10th**. Sponsored by the St. Louis Community Foundation, **Give STL Day** is an online giving event that benefits local nonprofits, and thus the whole community. Usually **Give STL Day** runs from midnight to midnight, but in celebration of this being the **tenth annual event**, they've added ten extra hours, so giving opportunities will run through **10 a.m. on May 11th**. And while the **main giving event is scheduled for May 10-11, early donations can be made anytime from April 10 through May 9.** Imagine the impact we can have when the St. Louis region comes together in support of local nonprofit organizations.



The **Affton Historical Society** will again be listed as a registered nonprofit organization for **Give STL Day 2023**. Please show your support for AHS, as well as for other community nonprofit groups, by going to **GiveSTLDay.org from now until May 11th to contribute**. Especially in these difficult times, this is an easy and effective way to support the Society - and the entire St. Louis region.

 The 2023 winner of the \$1000 Affton Historical Society Ladies of Oakland Scholarship is **Lydia Wroughton**. Lydia will graduate from Affton High School in May with a 4.05 GPA and plans to major in Public Health.



Congratulations, Lydia!

Best Wishes in your future academic pursuits.

Our Condolences



Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers go to longtime member and Ladies of Oakland past president



Lucy Johnson
on the loss of her husband ***Robert Johnson***

AHS would like to express condolences to members who have recently lost a close family member. To notify us of a loss, please contact Pam at (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com.

Food Pantry Donations

Every month, the Ladies of Oakland collect food to donate to the Affton Christian Food Pantry. Please consider bringing a donation to the next Ladies meeting to help families in need in the Affton community.



Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

Many Thanks to deSmet Level Donors:

Bert & Liz Barry • Francois Benoist Barry • Patti & Dan Behlmann • Jerriann Blassie
Barnes Bradshaw • Sara Benoist Chrisler • R. Whitney & Catherine Chrisler
Jim Crooks • Jane Crowe • Mary DeMierre • Christie & Mike Dennison
Sheila Garavaglia • Roger & Pat Gray • Don & Melanie Hiemenz
Gabrielle Highstein • Christy Franchot James • Josh & Rhonda Kottemann
Maggie Kuhns • Charles & Frances Mantler • Margaret Marnati • Julie Nicolai
Gordon & Amelia Oppelt • Winthrop & Heidi Reed • Gregory & Elizabeth Savel
Mary Stiritz • Kevin & Debbie Summers • Thomas & Holly Washeck
Victor & Lorraine Wiedemann

Special Thanks to Barnett Level Donors:

Pierre & Kathleen Benoist • Dr. Walter Benoist • Don & Joan Harbaugh
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich • A. Charles & Mimi Hiemenz • Ann Holton • Jean McDaniel
Rosie Miller • Florence Rice • Anita Seigmund & Nancy Suelflow • Frank Ziegler

Extra-Special Thanks to Chopin Level Donor:

Joan Komlos

Super-Special Thanks to Sarah Wilson Benoist Level Donors:

Gray Benoist • Abigail Lambert • Eugenia Thoma

Executive Board

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Mary Jane Autri
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Steve Slayden
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Ladies of Oakland

2023

Board of Directors

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Joan Komlos
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Pam Danklef
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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!



??? History Question ???

History Question for January:

In 1905, Robert Brookings sold the Benoist Estate for the second time to Willard E. Winner who purchased it for a new purpose other than a private home. What was his plan?

Answer: Oakland and 468 acres were sold to Winner for \$150,000 for a development project to be called "Merylwood Estates." The one and only house built still stands today on the northwest corner of Fleta and Seth. A lack of funding ended the project, and Oakland farm was sold again.



History Question for April:
The land began to be subdivided. Who purchased Oakland and 200 acres... and what for? (Not Lakewood Cemetery yet)

If you think you know the answer, contact Nancy Herndon-Ulrich at (314) 814-4983 or historicedzn@aol.com

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

Membership Directory Updates

Please welcome the following new member and add her contact information to your 2023 Membership Directory:

HOECHST, Linda 636-751-1707
1601 Elk Fork Road, Wildwood, MO 63038
lchoechst@gmail.com

And please make the following changes or updates:

BELLINGER, Patrick & Candice (add name to listing)

JACKS, Freda
fjacks@att.net (updated email address)

Please check your personal information in the 2023 *AHS Membership & Ladies of Oakland Book* to make sure that it is complete and correct. Contact Pam with any additions or corrections at: (314) 503-6401 or jpdanklef@aol.com

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.

AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

AHS Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. If your address label is **YELLOW**, your 2023 dues have not been paid. To continue to receive *The Oak Leaf*, you must pay your 2023 dues. Use the form below to **RENEW TODAY!** If you have questions about membership status, contact Pam at (314) 503-6401, (314) 842-0149 or jpdanklef@aol.com.

✂-----✂

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

New Member? [] Yes [] No Renewing Member? [] Yes [] No

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

Please mail this form with your check made payable to:
Affton Historical Society
P.O. Box 28855, Affton, MO 63123

PLEASE PRINT -

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Phone Publication Preference (circle one)
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 + |

✂-----✂

To keep up to date with ***Benoist Mansion - Oakland House Museum Happenings,***



be sure to visit us at: www.oaklandhousemuseum.org