



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Insert:
Afternoon Tea flyer

Independence Day Picnic features dual birthday celebration

On July 4th, the Affton Historical Society hosted another successful Independence Day celebration, but with a twist on tradition and a bonus surprise. To celebrate our nation's birth, Oakland supporters and friends came decked out in their finest red, white & blue, but this year, instead of a morning breakfast, they were treated to a mid-day, old-fashioned barbequed pork steak picnic with all the fixin's. **Orvel Cox** and the **Red Bud Masons #427** turned up with roasters full of bbq goodies, beans, coleslaw, potato salad and good humor. The menu was topped off with birthday cake and Ted Drewes frozen custard - yum!



As usual, the Oakland house and grounds looked festive. Flags were prominently displayed at every turn, and the mansion sported recently acquired green shutters for the event. Lively music filled the air, and guests were kept busy with house tours, lawn games, good company and fun. We don't believe that longtime member **Jerriann Blassie** has ever missed a July 4th gathering, so we were thrilled that she and her brother were able to attend again this year in spite of her recent health issues.

Members who like sleeping in appreciated the new starting time, and many folks gave a hearty "thumbs up" to the new menu and activities... so it seems likely that AHS has set some new July 4th traditions going forward. Many thanks to Orvel and his band of merry men, plus daughter and Board member **Becky Cox**, for continuing our tradition of good food served by smiling faces. Also thanks to house managers **Cyndie Ahrens & Steve Slayden** who provided the Ted Drewes, to **Shirley & Ray Brinker** who organized the lawn games, to **Sharon Yaeger** who ran the 50/50, and to all our loyal volunteers.

Another successful 4th of July gathering has gone off with a big bang - and we couldn't have done it without all of you.

"Happy Birthday to America!" Those were the sentiments modestly spoken by **Agnes Lamprecht**



even though the day was also dedicated to her upon the occasion of reaching her 100th birthday milestone. You've gotta love the Greatest Generation! Agnes, who joined the Society in 1974, has been a dedicated Oakland member, attending meetings, serving on committees, and bringing us two loyal volunteers in her daughters **Dot Huebener** and **Barb Sapia**. Agnes seemed to savor all aspects of the dual birthday party, especially the tender pork steak (she ate every bite). Pictured above between Barb (on left) and Dot (on right), Agnes was truly our Queen for a Day, complete with crown, banners, family photos, cake and an adoring family.

Happy 100 Years, Agnes!

AHS Fall Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 22, 2023

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

Program: Author & Historian Mark Zeman

Historic Tales of St. Louis

Bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the company of other members of the Affton Historical Society for a pot luck luncheon, with meeting and program to follow. Drinks and meats are provided. During the meeting, a slate of Executive Board Officers and Directors for 2024 will be presented for approval. Mark your calendar to join us on October 22.

Open Houses for 2023

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

August 20 ~ September 17 ~ October 15

Free to members \$10.00 for the general public

2023 Open Luncheons

Wednesday, August 9

Wednesday, September 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.

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 gathering.



Ladies of Oakland Meetings



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.

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss any of these events:

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! Bring a friend! Nancy Harmon, President, Ladies of Oakland

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



*Please join us for the
Ladies of Oakland
Annual Afternoon Tea
Thursday, October 5
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
\$35.00 per person*

Reservations are required and limited.

"First come, first served"

Join us for our program

"Dolls That Saved the World"

presented by:

Nancy Harmon, Doll Historian & Collector

Return the enclosed form today to reserve your spot!

Many thanks to "Shutterbug"
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
who provided photos for this issue.



We appreciate your financial support!

Special Thanks to Barnett Level Donor:

Florence Rice

Extra-Special Thanks to Chopin Level Donors:

Oliver Chrisler & Lynda Brady

Robert & Joan Morrissey

Special Thanks...

- To **Lucy Johnson** who made a special donation of \$100 at the July 4th celebration
- To an **anonymous loyal member** who made a special donation of \$1000

We are so appreciative of all the gifts you entrust us with. Please be assured that we squeeze every penny and do as much as we can with our own labor.

THANK YOU!

??? History Question ???

April History Question:

Willard E. Winner's Merylwood Estates development project did not go as planned, so the Oakland property began to be subdivided. Who purchased Oakland and 200 acres... and for what purpose? (Not Lakewood Cemetery yet)

Answer: John Mayor, a Kansas City coal operator, purchased Oakland in order to make a second attempt at subdividing. However, actual development was delayed, and then a local neighbor informed Mayor that both time and vandals were taking a significant toll on the property. Mayor's coal company leased the house and 200 acres to the Metz family to occupy and repair in lieu of paying rent. Beecher Metz was a lad of 13 years when he came to Oakland. He later gave us detailed descriptions of buildings, glass in the foyer doors, pear and apple orchards, bridle paths, plantings and Mirror Lake. He was enchanted with forsythias, syringas, flowering quince and Russian violets, and would later become a landscape architect. Metz and his family lived in the Benoist mansion on the Oakland grounds until 1919. A year later, in 1920, Lakewood Park Cemetery was established.

History Question for July:

In addition to banking, what did Louis Benoist do to increase his wealth? The answer will surprise most of you... I was surprised.

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



2023 Executive Board

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Becky Cox
Vice President

Mary Jane Aтры
Treasurer

Steve Slayden
Recording Secretary

Darryl Eaves
Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Harmon
*President
Ladies of Oakland*

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Shirley Brinker

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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!

Back by popular demand:

Join us as we PARTY with POE

Last fall, Oakland finally answered the call to host some sort of Halloween season program. The "spook houses" of years past are *nevermore*... our lovely mansion is much too well-restored for that... so instead we welcomed lovers of **Edgar Allan Poe**'s genius of scary stories for a one-of-a-kind event. The mesmerizing evening featured light refreshments followed by a "vignette" of 1850's parlor entertainment. After the lights were dimmed, **Anne Williams**, a celebrated stage performer, dramatically recited several selections of Poe's works from memory. That right, *from memory*, folks! The event was so well received, we've decided to host an encore performance this season.

Be sure to mark your calendars to join us for:

Party with Poe at the
Benoist Oakland House Museum

Friday, October 27, 2023 7:00 pm
\$25 per person - Space is limited!

Reserve your seat by sending a check with names & phone to:
Nancy Ulrich, 9911 Vassel Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123

Please note: Attendees must be over the age of 18 - Younger people may not be able to maintain silence for the one hour program which cannot be interrupted.



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
- Rental discounts for members

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CALL:
Jean McDaniel - (314) 821-7166



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.OAKLANDHOUSEMUSEUM.org



Bits & Pieces



St. Louis is truly a generous community!

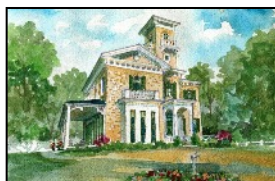
There is no greater evidence of this fact than the recent outpouring of support for local non-profits shown on the tenth annual **Give STL Day**. The May 10th event generated over \$3.8 million in the form of 26,222 individual gifts to 1,053 deserving non-profit organizations. The **Affton Historical Society** participated again this year and profited **\$215.00**. Many thanks to the donors who remembered AHS in their charitable giving plans. Watch for the next **Give STL Day** in May 2024.



Around the House: When you visit you'll find continual restoration of our lovely 173-year old home.

We're in the process of replacing two rotting sheds with one new shed, and we're getting bids on the veranda roof replacement - it's hard to believe it's been almost 30 years since we did that. We're also looking to restore or replace the three balcony railings that give such character to our treasured Oakland.

And we continue to look for an appropriate memorial to **Charlie and Barb Brown**; we'd like to find a replacement sundial with a pedestal foundation in keeping with our Victorian mansion.



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

AHS Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Haven't yet paid for 2023? It's never too late. Use the form below to **RENEW TODAY!**

Membership Directory Updates

Please welcome the following new members and add their contact information to your 2023 Membership Directory:

MOWREY, Rachel 314-954-2015

MOWREY, Josephine
9408 Rosebay Drive, St. Louis, MO 63126
raychella@gmail.com (Rachel)
josephinemowrey@gmail.com (Josephine)

ROWLAND, Ann 618-704-9320

7409 Triwoods Drive #A, St. Louis, MO 63119
ann.rowland@yahoo.com

And please make the following changes or updates:

ANDERSON, Carissa (email address correction)
carissa.siebeneck@gmail.com



What could be more lovely than an Oakland summer wedding? See page 3 for details on renting the mansion for your big day.

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

New Member? Yes No Renewing Member? Yes No

Any changes in membership information? Yes No

PLEASE PRINT -

Please mail this form with your check made payable to:

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

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Phone Publication Preference (circle one)
HOME CELL BOTH

Memberships Available:

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