



Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Historic dolls featured at Ladies' Tea

On October 5th, the *Ladies of Oakland* hosted their *Annual Afternoon Tea*, featuring dainty delicacies and darling dollies. Ladies of Oakland President and doll historian *Nancy Harmon* gave a fascinating presentation on “*Dolls That Saved the World.*” Colorful cloth dolls from her huge collection were on display at every turn, and attendees were encouraged to bring their own dolls from the World War I and World War II eras for Nancy’s expert evaluation and commentary.

As usual, the sold-out event was a rousing success, realizing an overall profit of \$1,470.00.

Assorted china tea cups were donated especially for the event, so guests were delighted to be able to “drink and then dash” with their own unique party favor. This much-anticipated event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many people who organized, decorated, donated and prepared food, and gave countless hours of their time. Thank you to Tea Committee members *Pam Danklef* (Chair), *Rosie Miller*, *Nancy Herndon*, *Dot Huebener*, *Christie Dennison* and *Cyndie Ahrens*, as well as to our gracious greeter *Lucy Johnson*, and our steady-handed servers *Jean McDaniel*, *Alice Lottmann*, *Mary Jane Autry* and *Mary Wells*.



Nancy Harmon shares her doll expertise.



AHS Fall Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 22, 2023

At the fall membership meeting, which was held on Sunday, October 22, officers for the **2024 AHS Executive Board** were duly elected after nominations from the floor (see listing on next page). If you didn't attend, you missed a great pot luck lunch as well as an interesting program tailored to our local history. Author **Mark Zeman** presented a slide show and discussed his book *Historic Tales of St. Louis*. Books are available for purchase online. Many thanks to **Pam Danklef** for bringing us another enlightening program.

Ladies of Oakland Meeting

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

We will install officers for 2023, and the program will feature **Dan Fuller** speaking on "Riverboat Captains of Bellefontaine Cemetery."

Refreshments will be served at both meetings.

Fun for Everyone! Bring a Friend!

Last Open Luncheon of the Year

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

There's only one open luncheon date left in 2023. It is open to everyone and provides a lovely opportunity to meet up with friends for a special day out or to just treat yourself. 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.

Fall Lawn Clean-Up Day

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Volunteers are needed to spruce up the Oakland House grounds during our Fall Lawn Clean-Up Day. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and will end around 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please bring your own rake, yard equipment and gardening gloves. Contact **Rosie Miller** at (314) 892-3474 for more information.



!!! Santa Claus is coming to Oakland!

Mark your calendars for the **45th Annual Affton Historical Society Santa House!**

Weekdays - Reservations are needed

Call Joan Komlos (314) 496-6225

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Wednesday & Thursday, December 13 & 14

Weekends - NO reservations needed

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

Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17

For the little ones, each visit includes:

- * Story Time and Puppet Show
- * Visit with Santa in the Victorian parlor
- * A home-baked cookie from Mrs. Claus

Remember to bring your camera and, no matter what your age...
"be good for goodness sake!"

* Craft items for sale

* \$7.00 per person - cash, check or cards on Stripe

* For more information, contact: (314) 352-5654
or visit: www.oaklandhousemuseum.org

Holiday Decorating Help Needed

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

Saturday, November 25, 2023

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

Annual Members' Christmas Party

Saturday, December 23, 2023

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

Why not take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle, and join us for the Annual Members' Christmas Party?

Come share good food & drink with your fellow Society members in the festive splendor of Oakland.

Free to all members.

For non-member guests, there is a \$5 charge.

Call Lucy Johnson at (314) 843-6346 for guest reservations.



Santa House Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed each day of the 2022 Santa House to act as Santa's helper, cookie baker, Santa, Mrs. Claus, line control worker, and more. Workers needed on...

Weekends: December 9 & 10 and 16 & 17 - 11am-3pm

Weekdays: December 13 & 14 - 9am-noon

To sign up, or for more information, contact

Joan at joankomlos@sbcglobal.net or 314-496-6225

Santa's coming to town... in style!

For his arrival to Oakland, the man in red will be swapping out his reindeer for an Affton firetruck. Don't miss Santa's grand entrance at **10:30 a.m.** on **Saturday, December 9 & Saturday, December 16**. Many thanks to our friends at the Affton Fire Protection District for arranging these special big rig arrivals!



Many thanks to "shutterbugs"
Dianne Isbell, Shara Storm
and Nancy Herndon-Ulrich
who provided photos for this issue.



In Memoriam

We were saddened to note the passing of the following members who recently passed away:

Georgia Catanzaro - a funny, helpful lady who served two terms as President of the Ladies of Oakland. She and her family would always stay for clean up and to toast the event. We enjoyed many laughs with Georgia.

Frances Pauley - a longtime member who was also a Benoist descendent. We greatly appreciate her support and loyal following of our projects throughout her many years.

Mildred Posek - the other half of the Joe & Mildred team; they would always volunteer to work together, and often "house sat" for weddings out on the veranda. Joe was part of the Brick & Mortar Gang and Mildred was an early Kitchen Lady. Mildred wore a perpetual smile and was a faithful Craft Lady. Working at Oakland must be good luck as Mildred is our second lady to reach 100+ years.

Mary Ann Schuette - a spicy, quick-witted lady! Mary Ann is remembered for her Treasury work with the Ladies of Oakland and for her frequent volunteering. One of the last events we remember her attending was Bunny Hutch 2021 to which she brought three generations of her family.

Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of each of these lovely ladies. They will be missed.

??? History Question ???

July History Question:

In addition to banking, what did Louis Benoist do to increase his wealth?

Answer:

One of Louie's money-making enterprises was running a lottery - an age-old activity.

History Question for October:

Louis A. Benoist was famous in St. Louis and nationwide for his honest and reliable banking enterprise. His practices were considered extremely safe in the lending and real estate business. There were many St. Louis notables who did business with Benoist, but one in particular was very famous. What is the name of this noted St. Louisan?

Note from Nancy: I am looking for one specific answer, but others you might find in your research may well be acceptable... and perhaps I will learn more??

If you think you know the answer, contact

Nancy Herndon-Ulrich at (314) 814-4983 or historicedzn@aol.com

Our Condolences

Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers go to AHS Board Member **Barnes "Barney" Bradshaw, Jr.** on the loss of his father **Barnes Bradshaw, Sr.**

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

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please Note: 2023 memberships expire on December 31. Renewal forms will be enclosed in the January *Oak Leaf*. Memberships must be renewed by February 15 in order to be included in the 2024 Membership Directory, so watch for the form in January and pay dues promptly upon receipt. Thanks.

Café du Matin - Morning Coffee

Saturday, March 2, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Details in the January *Oak Leaf*

Annual Afternoon Tea

Thursday, October 3, 2024

Details in the July *Oak Leaf*



Save the Dates for 2024

- 2024 Executive Board**
- Nancy Herndon-Ulrich**
President
 - Phillip Tafra**
Vice President
 - Mary Jane Autry**
Treasurer
 - Becky Cox**
Recording Secretary
 - Mary Kirschman**
Corresponding Secretary
 - Nancy Harmon**
President
Ladies of Oakland

- 2024 Board of Directors**
- Carissa Anderson**
 - Bert Barry**
 - Barnes Bradshaw**
 - Shirley Brinker**
 - John Cole**
 - Darryl Eaves**
 - Ingrid Giddings**
 - Joan Komlos**
 - 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 2nd Thursday of each month from January through November.

Members are welcome!



Directory Updates:

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

McGRATH, Pat 314-304-4223
2183 Doe Run Drive, Arnold, MO 63010
pmcgrath1951@gmail.com

PLOUGH, Jackie 314-640-9735
2733 Fordham Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129
jplough610@gmail.com

WALSH, Joe & Nancy 314-486-9141
5706 Rosa, St. Louis, MO 63109
joewalsh0614@gmail.com
nancybymewalsh@gmail.com

Please update the addresses for the following members in your 2023 Membership Directory

GOWAN, Betsy
821 Lakeglen Drive, Suwanee, GA 30024

KOTTEMANN, Josh & Rhonda
734 Memoir Lane, Manchester, MO 63021

LAMBERT, Abigail F.
82 Yorkshire Lane Court, St. Louis, MO 63144

LEVINE, Karen
1118 Dunston Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146

PAPE, Dee
12563 Village Circle Drive # 270, St. Louis, MO 63127

SCHMIEDER, Carol
25535 Oakmont Terrace Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129

STEGMANN, Dave & Deanna
4943 Southridge Park Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129

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

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.

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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.OAKLANDHOUSEMUSEUM.org

Affton Historical Society

www.oaklandhousemuseum.org

Oakland House Museum



Chair Rhonda Kottemann (left) with Anne Williams

PARTY with POE

On October 27th, for the second year in a row, our lovely Benoist mansion served as the perfect backdrop for a spirited and one-of-a-kind Halloween event. Lovers of **Edgar Allan Poe's** scary genius were treated to seasonal refreshments in the dimly lit parlor, followed by a mesmerizing presentation by celebrated stage performer **Anne Williams**. The evening was wildly successful... but then, how could it not be with Anne's scintillating performance in period dress with dramatic recitations *from memory*? It's all in the delivery! Many thanks for a wonderful evening to Event Chair **Rhonda Kottemann**, **Becky Cox** and **Emily Young**, who designed the flyer.

Bits & Pieces

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.



MOVING?? Don't forget to notify us of your new mailing address... and phone number, too, if necessary.



Send your new contact information to:
Affton Historical Society
P.O. Box 28855
St. Louis, MO 63123

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:
Rosie Miller - 314-892-3474 *

* *Editor's Note:* The Rent-a-Mansion contact details listed in the July *Oak Leaf* were incorrect. Please contact Rosie Miller at 314-892-3474 for information on Oakland House Museum rentals. Apologies for the error - pb

