



The Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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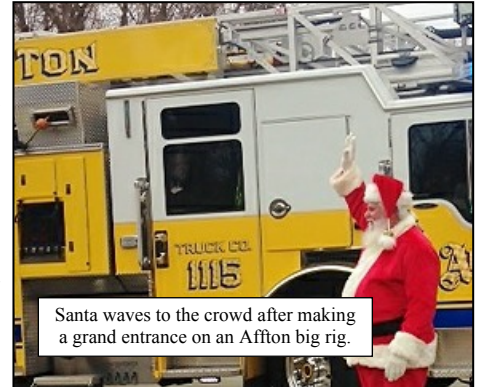
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Insert: Café du Matin flyer

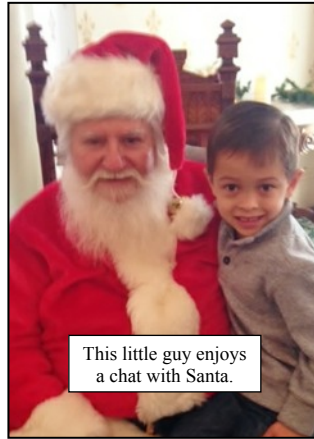
Holiday Happenings

December always finds Oakland House Museum decked in holiday cheer and bustling with activity... and this year was no exception. As an extra treat, to celebrate the **40th Annual Santa House**, the man in red came to town in style. For both Saturday grand entrances, Santa swapped out his reindeer for an Affton firetruck. Many thanks to our friends at the Affton Fire Protection District for arranging these special big rig arrivals!



Santa waves to the crowd after making a grand entrance on an Affton big rig.

Throughout the festive, multi-day event, Santa House attendees listened in rapt attention to the Story Lady's seasonal tale and delighted in a holiday puppet show. The aroma of freshly-baked cookies led to the cozy kitchen for a chat and treat with Mrs. Claus. No Santa House visit would be complete without a chance to sit on the lap of St. Nick himself.



This little guy enjoys a chat with Santa.

The Ladies of Oakland netted \$910.00 from craft sales and \$787.00 from raffle sales, while the Santa House profited \$4,407.03, for an event total profit of \$6,104.03. Year after year, families return to Santa House because they enjoy the beautiful decorations, the festive atmosphere and the thrill of meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus in person... but most of all, they appreciate the hard work and friendliness of the folks at Oakland.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed their time and talents to **Santa House 2017!**

The AHS faithful turned out in force for the annual **Members Christmas Party** on December 16. The mansion was richly decorated in yuletide splendor and the dining table was heaped with scrumptious delicacies.

In the "Guess the Number of Green M&M's" contest, **Sheila Savka** won a free one-year membership with her guess of 175, while **Doris Schieber** won the jar of M&M's with a guess of 176. The correct number of green M&M's in the jar was 174. The super-close guesses from the two ladies officially put an end to **Bob Johnson's** two-year winning streak - Sorry, Bob! The lucky winners of the Christmas Raffle were **K. Merryman** (\$100, but \$50 was donated back - thanks so much!), **Charlie Brown** (Large Christmas Basket) and **Mary Lou Wees** (Small Christmas Basket).

Many thanks to Party Chairperson **Dot Huebener**, to **Nancy Herndon-Ulrich** for the Grand Centerpiece, and to Party hosts **Jeri Akiki, Charlie Brown, Pam Danklef, Marilyn Hammon, Rosie Miller, Joyce Rich, Sheila Savka, Rose Vitale, Mary Jane Autry, Ingrid Giddings** and **Trudy Seise**.

We can't wait 'til Christmas rolls around again for another great holiday party!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Dates are set for a fun and eventful 2018...

AHS Membership Meetings

Spring - Sunday, April 22, 2018

Program: To Be Announced

Fall - Sunday, October 28, 2018

Program: To Be Announced

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

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

2018 Open Luncheons

Wednesday, Apr 11

Thursday, August 30

Thursday, May 10

Tuesday, September 11

Wednesday, June 13

Wednesday, October 10

Tuesday, July 10

Tuesday, November 13

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 25-56. House tours, given by a docent in period dress, are at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. The cost is \$18.00 per person. Please make reservations 2 weeks in advance by calling Dot Huebener at (314) 300-8213.

Open Houses for 2018

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

April 15 ~ May 13 (Second Sunday) ~ June 17

July 15 ~ August 19 ~ September 16

Free to members \$5.00 for the general public

2018 Bunny Hutch

For a hoppin' good time, gather the little ones and hop on over to Oakland's Bunny Hutch! Now in its 23rd year, Bunny Hutch is a much-anticipated spring treat. The event features story time and a puppet show, 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 cameras!

Cost: \$4.00 per person (cash or check)

Shows on the hour and the half-hour.

Craft Items will be for sale.

Weekdays - Reservations are needed

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday

March 26, 27 & 28

Weekends - No Reservations needed

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

Saturday, March 17 & Sunday, March 18

Saturday, March 24 & Sunday, March 25

For weekday reservations, please call

Joyce Rich at (314) 843-7530

Please call Joyce - she needs help with Line Control, Bunny Helper, Kids' Candy Baskets and Candy Lady.

For information only, call Charlie Brown at (314) 353-2636

Oakland House phone: (314) 352-5654



Help Needed:

Bunny Hutch Decorating & Take-Down

Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, March 10** to help put up Bunny Hutch decorations, and on **Saturday, April 7** to help take them down. On both days we will start at 9:00 a.m. and will work until finished. Lunch will be served. For information, call Nancy Herndon-Ulrich at (314) 260-1524.

Your Help Needed! Let's spruce up, clean up & get organized to make this the best year ever!

Spring House Cleaning at Oakland

Saturday, February 17, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.

Bring your home cleaning equipment to the annual house clean-up day at Oakland. Lunch will be served.

Kitchen Volunteers Meeting

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 - 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. Refreshments provided. For more information, call Lucy Johnson (314) 843-6346.

Oakland House Yard Clean-Up

Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 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.

Docent Meeting

Sunday, April 8, 2018 - 1:30 p.m. - Oakland House

For current docents, or for those interested in becoming one. For more information, call Charlie Brown (314) 353-2636.

Event Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, April 8, 2018 - 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 Jean McDaniel (314) 821-7166.

Members Only Luncheon

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 ~ 12:00 p.m.

This special luncheon is for members only. After-lunch entertainment will feature Barbara Kay as American sharpshooter Annie Oakley. The cost is \$10.00. For reservations or more information, call Lucy Johnson at (314) 843-6346 or Pat Arrendell at (314) 353-2096.

A commentary from President Charlie Brown

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018! As we start another busy year at Oakland, it seems a good time to reflect back on some of the Society's events and to give special thanks to the wonderful members who make everything possible.

Spring: Café du Matin attendees explored "The Mystique of the Victorian Lady"... area youngsters delighted in visiting the Easter Bunny at Oakland's 22nd Annual Bunny Hutch... Red Cross founder Clara Barton (aka Barbara Kay) dropped in at the Members Only Luncheon... and the Spring Membership Meeting featured *Immortal Moments in Cardinal History*.

Summer: Antique Lady Joan Komlos visited the May Ladies of Oakland meeting and gave expert appraisals of their treasures... Salad Luncheon attendees learned all about their German heritage... the Annual July 4th Breakfast featured edible art created by Dr. Dan, the Pancake Man... and John & Doe serenaded the Ladies at their August meeting.

Fall: Former First Lady Edith Wilson (aka Linda Spall) attended the September Ladies' meeting... "What's With St. Louis?" was the theme of a Uniquely Quirky Afternoon Tea... Author Cameron Collins revealed the *Lost Treasures of St. Louis* at the Fall Membership Meeting... and preparations got underway for another holiday season at Oakland.

Winter: The November Ladies of Oakland program featured music and storytelling by Kathy Schottel of One+One... the 40th Annual Santa House was a big holiday hit with community children... the annual Members Christmas Party provided a festive way to celebrate the season... and now we look back over yet another successful and rewarding year at Oakland.

Much gratitude goes to all who give so generously of time and talent.

Our success is dependent on those of you who volunteer to
park cars, pull weeds, bake goodies, staff events
and go above and beyond to keep this old house running smoothly.

Thank You and Happy New Year to One and All.

We look forward to another wonderful year at our beloved Oakland.

Sincerely, Charlie Brown, President



Executive Board

Charlie Brown
President

Clinton McDaniel
Vice President

Rosie Miller
Treasurer

Becky Cox
Recording Secretary

Mary Kirschman
Corresponding Secretary

Lucy Johnson
President
Ladies of Oakland

2018

Board of Directors

Jeri Akiki
Bert Barry
Darryl Eaves
Ingrid Giddings
A. Charles Hiemenz III
Dot Huebener
Joan Komlos
Phillip Taфра
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich

Pam Danklef
Membership Chair

Ingrid Schaeffer
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!*



Save the Date!
Ladies of Oakland
Annual Afternoon Tea
Thursday, September 27, 2018
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
\$30.00 per person
(details in the July *Oak Leaf*)

We Need Your Christmas Cards!



Please save your
Christmas cards
and drop them by
Oakland House
the next time
you're there.

They're great for crafts and
will be used for Santa House 2018.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

Mark Your Calendars! AHS 4th of July Breakfast Buffet

Wednesday, July 4, 2018 ~ 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Country Style Breakfast Buffet
Entertainment ~ Tours of Oakland House

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 April 23rd,
weather permitting. If you can't be there by 9am, please come
when you're able - any time you can give will be appreciated.
If interested, or for more information, call Rosie at (314) 892-3474.



Find Us On
facebook 

Affton Historical Society
MASTER CALENDAR of EVENTS FOR 2018

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

- 8 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 17 - Spring Housecleaning - 9 am

March

- 3 - Café du Matin (Morning Coffee) - 10 am
- 6 - Kitchen Volunteers Meeting - 9 am
- 8 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 10 - Bunny Hutch Decorating - 9 am
- 17 & 18 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm
- 24 & 25 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm
- 26, 27 & 28 - Bunny Hutch - 9 am - 1 pm

April

- 7 - Take down Bunny Hutch Items - 9 am
- 8 - Docent Meeting - 1:30 pm
- 8 - Event Volunteer Meeting - 2 pm
- 11 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 12 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 15 - Sunday Open House - 2pm - 4pm
- 17 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 21 - Spring Yard Clean-Up Day - 9 am - 4 pm
- 22 - AHS Membership Meeting
Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

May

- 10 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch - 12 noon
- 10 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 13 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 15 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 22 - Members Only Luncheon - 12 noon

June

- 13 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 14 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 17 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 19 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 12 noon
Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)

July

- 4 - Independence Day Breakfast - 8 am - 11 am
- 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

August

- 9 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 19 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 21 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 30 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

September

- 11 - 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
- 27 - Ladies of Oakland Afternoon Tea - 1 pm - 3:30 pm

October

- 10 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 11 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 16 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 28 - AHS Membership Meeting
Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

November

- 8 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 13 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon
- 17 - Santa House Decorating - 9 am
- 20 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm

December

- 1 & 2 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm
- 5, 6 & 7 - Santa House - 9 am - 1 pm
- 8 & 9 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm
- 15 - Members Christmas Party - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

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:
Jean McDaniel - (314) 821-7166

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

Also,  Find Us On **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.

April 17, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Beauty Consultant Yvonne Lopes - "Make-Up"

May 15, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Hrebec - "Songs From Yesterday"

June 19, 2018 - 12:00 noon

Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)

Bring your favorite salad or finger food

Lanie Boyd - "Murder Mysteries with StL Connections"

July 17, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Attorney Adam Ford - "Estate Planning"

August 21, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Joan Komlos - "The Antique Lady"

Bring your "treasures" for appraisal!

September 18, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Linda Spall - "Cooking with Marge"

October 16, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

November 20, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment - TBD

Fun for everyone! Hope to see you there!
Lucy Johnson, President, Ladies of Oakland

A Big THANK YOU to the LADIES OF OAKLAND!

AHS offers a great big "thank you" to the Ladies of Oakland. The Ladies presented the Affton Historical Society with a check for **\$5,101.19**, the result of many successful events and many long hours of volunteer work in 2017.

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 2018!

Café du Matin (Morning Coffee)

Saturday, March 3, 2018 ~ 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:

"Possible Bags, Reticules & Purses"

What History Do They Share?

Presented by: Nancy Herndon-Ulrich

The cost is \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required and are on a "first-come, first-served" basis, so don't delay. For more information, see the insert or contact Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149 or jpdanklef@aol.com.

In Memoriam:



Polly Schrader - We were saddened to learn of the passing of long-time Affton Historical Society member Polly Schrader. Services were held at St. George Church on January 2, 2018. Polly was a very funny lady who truly loved Oakland. We will miss her smiling face.



Aggie Wunderlich - It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a wonderful lady who gave many years of time and energy to Oakland House. With her gentle manner and constant smile, Agnes (Aggie) Wunderlich will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. A Memorial Mass will be held at Mary Queen of Peace, 676 West Lockwood Avenue on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Oakland House appreciated.

Oakland Memorials

Contributions in memory of

Aggie Wunderlich

were received from:

Charlie & Barb Brown

Kaye Shumate

Joyce M. Cortinas

Anita Siegmund

Darren W. Glosemeyer

Nancy Suelflow

Judith L. Kaatz

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Wilson

David Wolfersberger

??? History Questions ???

History Questions for October:

1) In 1859, the St. Louis Philharmonic Society was formed with James Yeatman as president. In addition to William Robyn, Henry Blow and James Eads, what other famous St. Louisian was among the directors?

Answer: Louis Auguste Benoist

2) On August 11, 1866, the Missouri Historical Society was organized with the Honorable James H. Lucas as president.

Among the vice presidents were Edward Bates, Frederick Billion, Capt. Lewis Bissell,

Gen. Bernard Pratte, Henry Shaw, James Soulard, William Cozzens, George Knapp and Henry von Phul.

What other famous St. Louisian also served as a vice president?

Answer: Louis Auguste Benoist

History Question for January:

The children of Sarah E. Wilson and Louis Auguste Benoist were: Henry Augustus Benoist (b. 1851), Eugene Hunt Benoist (b. 1 Apr 1852), Charles Francis Benoist (b. 30 Sep 1854), Marie Clemence Benoist (b. 10 Dec 1855), Helen Amanda Benoist (b. 5 Aug 1857), Louis Auguste Benoist (b. 13 May 1859), Theodore Benoist (b. 2 Apr 1861), Leo deSmet Benoist (b. 18 Mar 1864) and Howard A. Benoist (b. 6 Mar 1867). Which of their nine children lived the longest?

If you think you know the answer, contact Charlie Brown at (314) 353-2636 or bbeboakland@gmail.com



This May, AHS will be listed as a registered non-profit organization for the 5th Annual **Give STL Day**. Please keep us in mind for your 2018 charitable giving plans. Watch for details in the April *Oak Leaf*.



**AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2018 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Don't be late! We need to update the Membership Directory and we don't want to miss ANYONE!

- AHS Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Dues are considered delinquent after January 31 - RENEW TODAY!!
- Please complete this form to renew your dues for 2018.
- Mail this form with your check payable to:
Affton Historical Society, P.O. Box 28855, Affton, MO 63123

Please renew my membership for 2018.

Date _____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

New Member? [] Yes [] No

Renewing Member? [] Yes [] No

Any changes in membership information? [] Yes [] No
Please print -

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Memberships Available:

- | | |
|--|---|
| [] Individual \$20 | [] Robert Brookings Level \$151 - \$500 |
| [] Couple \$35 | [] Clemence Benoist Faris Level \$501 - \$1000 |
| [] Father deSmet Level \$36 - \$50 | [] Sarah Wilson Benoist Level \$1001 - \$2500 |
| [] George I. Barnett Level \$51 - \$100 | [] Louis Auguste Benoist Level \$2501 + |
| [] Kate Chopin Level \$101 - \$150 | |

THANK YOU for your continued support!



Many thanks to all the members who renewed their 2018 memberships early - 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.

Also, special thanks to Barb Cook who helped me with the membership acknowledgement letters. So many renewals at one time created many memberships to be acknowledged.

Pam Danklef, Membership Chair

Membership Reminders:

2018 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 at (314) 842-0149 or jpdanklef@aol.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members who joined since the October Oak Leaf. Their addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses will appear in the new 2018 Membership Directory.

Jason & Jill Alsup	Shirley Brinker
Marge Birsinger	Vera Jordan

Please Note: Membership information changes will appear in the new 2018 Membership Directory. Watch for it in February!

Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

A "Special Thank You" to deSmet Level Donors:

Bert & Elizabeth Barry	Mary Ann Pierce
Patti & Dan Behlmann	Joyce Rich
Christie Dennison	Carol Schmieder
Sheila Garavaglia	Harold Uthoff
Joan Komlos	Aggie Wunderlich
Anne Nelson	Frank Ziegler

A "Very Special Thank You" to Barnett Level Donors:

Pierre Benoist	Roger & Patricia Gray
Morton Clifford	Don & Joan Harbaugh
Becky Cox	Florence Rice
Nancy Herndon-Ulrich	

A "Super Special Thank You" to Chopin Level Donors:

Anita Siegmund & Nancy Suelflow
Jack & Mimi deOlloqui Turner

An "Extra Super Special Thank You" to Sarah Wilson Benoist Level Donors:

Gray Benoist Abigail R. Lambert

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 or jpdanklef@aol.com.

Shopping Reminders:



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.



Be sure to sign up for the eScrip Program at Schnucks. Affton Historical Society receives a percentage of your purchase every time you shop.