



# Oak Leaf

A Publication of the AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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January 2017



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Insert: Café du Matin flyer

Santa House photos courtesy of  
C. Follmer - SNAP by Cheryl

Party photo courtesy of  
Pam Danklef

## Holiday Happenings

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual *Santa House* was well received as “children” of all ages dropped in for the festivities. 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.



Polly Schrader welcomes visitors with a smile.

The Ladies of Oakland netted \$613.00 from craft sales and \$325.00 from raffle sales, while the Santa House profited \$3,362.54, for an event total profit of \$4,300.54. 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 2016!*



This little one has her first visit with Santa.

Even though bad weather made it necessary to postpone the *Members Christmas Party*, it did nothing to dampen the holiday spirit of the AHS faithful. The mansion was richly decorated in yuletide splendor and the dining table was heaped with scrumptious delicacies.

*Shirley Bringer* won a free one-year membership with her *exact* guess of the number of M&M’s in the jar - 398. True to form, second-best guesser (and winner from 2015 as well) *Bob Johnson* got to keep the M&M’s with his estimate of 400. The winners of the Christmas Raffle were: *Helen Strong* (\$100), *Hal Uthoff* (Wine & Cheese Basket) and *Loretta Stamicic* (Angel Tree Topper).

Many thanks to *Nancy Herndon-Ulrich* for the Grand Centerpiece, and to Christmas Party hosts *Jeri Akiki, Charlie Brown, Pam Danklef, Marilyn Hammon, Dot Huebener, Rosie Miller, Joyce Rich, Sheila Savka, Rose Vitale* and *Aggie Wunderlich*.

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



Members of the Christmas Party Kitchen Committee take a break to enjoy the festivities.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Dates are set for a fun and eventful 2017...**

**AHS Membership Meetings**

*Spring - Sunday, April 23, 2017*

Entertainment: Robert L. Tiemann & Ron Jacober discuss  
"Immortal Moments in Cardinals History"

*Fall - Sunday, October 22, 2017*

Entertainment: TBD

**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.

**2017 Open Luncheons**

*Thursday, May 25*

*Wednesday, August 23*

*Thursday, June 22*

*Thursday, September 14*

*Thursday, July 27*

*Wednesday, October 25*

*Wednesday, November 8*

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.

**Members Only Luncheon**

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017 ~ 12:00 p.m.*

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

**Open Houses for 2017**

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

*May 21 ~ June 18 ~ July 16*

*August 20 ~ September 17*

Free to members \$5.00 for the general public

**2017 Bunny Hutch**

For a hoppin' good time, gather the little ones and hop on over to Oakland's Bunny Hutch! Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, Bunny Hutch is a much-anticipated spring treat. The event features story time and a puppet show, as well as the opportunity for children to visit the Easter Bunny and pet a live rabbit. Each child will make a "bunny bag" and enjoy a treat. Remember to bring your cameras!

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

*Weekdays - Reservations are needed*

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

*Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday*

*April 10, 11 & 12*

*Weekends - No Reservations needed*

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

*Saturday, April 1 & Sunday, April 2*

*Saturday, April 8 & Sunday, April 9*

For weekday reservations, please call Joyce Rich at (314) 843-7530

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



**Help Needed: Bunny Hutch Decorating**

Volunteers are needed on *Saturday, March 25* to help decorate for Bunny Hutch. 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 18, 2017 - 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 7, 2017 - 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 22, 2017 - 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 30, 2017 - 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 30, 2017 - 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.

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**AHS 4<sup>th</sup> of July Breakfast Buffet**

**Tuesday, July 4, 2017 ~ 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Country Style Breakfast Buffet ~ Silent Auction  
Entertainment ~ Tours of Oakland House

## *A commentary from President Charlie Brown*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017!** 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 "topped off" their morning with a showcase of "Hats Through the Ages"... area youngsters delighted in visiting the Easter Bunny at Oakland's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Bunny Hutch... the Unsinkable Molly Brown (aka Barbara Kay) dropped in at the Members Only Luncheon... and the April Ladies' meeting featured the musical talents of John & Doe.

**Summer:** Antique Lady Joan Komlos visited the May Ladies of Oakland meeting and gave expert appraisals of their treasures... descendents of Louis Auguste and Sarah Elizabeth Benoit gathered at Oakland for a family reunion... the Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Breakfast featured edible art created by Dr. Dan, the Pancake Man... and *One+One* serenaded the Ladies at their August meeting.

**Fall:** The Ladies explored "weird, wonderful and obscure St. Louis Secrets" at their September meeting... First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (aka Linda Spall) attended the annual Afternoon Tea... Paula Zaler gave an overview of "Mourning from 1600 to Present Times" at the fall membership meeting... and preparations got underway for another holiday season at Oakland.

**Winter:** The November Ladies of Oakland program featured "The History of Wedding Customs"... the 39<sup>th</sup> 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*

### **2017 Board of Directors**

**Jeri Akiki**  
**Bert Barry**  
**Darryl Eaves**  
**Ingrid Giddings**  
**A. Charles Hiemenz III**  
**Dot Huebener**  
**Pat Treacy**  
**Nancy Herndon-Ulrich**

**Pam Danklef**  
*Membership Chair*

**Ingrid Schaeffer**  
*Publicity Chair*

**Maureen Foley**  
*Photographer*

**Patti Behlmann**  
*Oak Leaf Editor*

*The Board meets at  
Oakland House at 7:00 p.m.  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
of each month from  
January through November.  
**Members are welcome!***

**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 24<sup>th</sup>,  
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.



### **DOCENTS NEEDED**

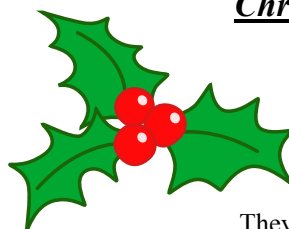
- Do you enjoy wearing period dress?
- Do you like to meet & greet folks?
- Are you interested in history?

If you answered YES to any of the above,  
you qualify to become a docent for AHS.

The training is FREE.  
The hours are GREAT.

The enjoyment is TREMENDOUS!

For more information,  
Call Charlie Brown at 314-353-2636



### **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 2017.

**Affton Historical Society**  
**MASTER CALENDAR of EVENTS FOR 2017**

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.

**January**

- 9- Calendar Meeting - 10 am
- 12 - Board Meeting - 7 pm

**February**

- 9 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 18 - Spring Housecleaning - 9 am

**March**

- 4 - Café du Matin (Morning Coffee) - 10 am
- 7 - Kitchen Volunteers Meeting - 9 am
- 9 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 21 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 25 - Bunny Hutch Decorating - 9 am

**April**

- 1 & 2 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm
- 8 & 9 - Bunny Hutch - 11 am - 3 pm
- 10, 11 & 12 - Bunny Hutch - 9 am - 1 pm
- 13 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 15 - Take down Bunny Hutch Items - 9 am
- 18 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 22 - Spring Yard Clean-Up Day - 9 am - 4 pm
- 23 - AHS Membership Meeting  
Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
- 26 - Members Only Luncheon - 12 noon
- 30 - Docent Meeting - 1:30 pm
- 30 - Event Volunteer Meeting - 2 pm

**May**

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

**June**

- 8 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 18 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 20 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 12 noon  
Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)
- 22 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

**July**

- 4 - Independence Day Breakfast - 8 am - 11 am
- 13 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 16 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 18 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 27 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

**August**

- 10 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 15 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 20 - Sunday Open House - 2 pm - 4 pm
- 23 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

**September**

- 14 - 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 - 1 pm
- 28 - Ladies of Oakland Afternoon Tea - 1 pm - 3:30 pm

**October**

- 12 - Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 17 - Ladies of Oakland Meeting - 1 pm
- 22 - AHS Membership Meeting  
Lunch 12:30 pm, Meeting 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
- 25 - Open Luncheon - Tour 11 am - Lunch 12 noon

**November**

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

**December**

- 2 & 3 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm
- 6, 7 & 8 - Santa House - 9 am - 1 pm
- 9 & 10 - Santa House - 11 am - 3 pm
- 16 - 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

**Our new website has launched!**

**VISIT US at**

***www.oaklandhousemuseum.org***

*Also,*



***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 21, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Rick Thum - "Irish Music"

**April 18, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Lanie Boyd - "Murder Mysteries with StL Connections"

**May 16, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Joan Komlos, The Antique Lady  
Bring your "treasures" for appraisal!

**June 20, 2017 - 12:00 noon**

Salad Luncheon (note earlier time)  
Bring your favorite salad or finger food  
Dr. Gloria R. Perry - "1855 German Immigration to US"

**July 18, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Sheila Savka - "Cake, Cookie & Candy Decorating"

**August 15, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Entertainment: TBD

**September 19, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Entertainment - TBD

**October 17, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.**

Entertainment - TBD

**November 21, 2017 - 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 **\$4,910.21**, the result of many successful events and many long hours of volunteer work in 2016.

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 2017!

## *Café du Matin (Morning Coffee)*

**Saturday, March 4, 2017 ~ 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:

### **"The Mystique of a Victorian Lady"**

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 newsletter insert or contact Pam Danklef at (314) 842-0149 or [jpgdanklef@aol.com](mailto:jpgdanklef@aol.com).

## Meet your new AHS Board Members



**Bert Barry** - "My descent from Louis A. Benoist comes through his son Theodore (my great-grandfather). My grandfather, Francois Barat Benoist was Theodore's youngest child, the last of his seven children. His mother was Mary Hunt Benoist. As you know, Theodore was the second member of our family to own Oakland. My grandfather was the only one of his children not born at the house. My mother was Tam Benoist Barry, the only child of Francois and Annie Laurie Bloodworth Benoist. She grew up on Pershing Place, a few houses east of the house where my grandfather was born. I vividly remember attending the first family gathering at Oakland, which was organized by my cousin Elizabeth Christy Benoist. Her goal was to have all the members of the family pitch in and buy Oakland, but that plan did not succeed. Happily, the generous and hard-working members of the Affton Historical Society took on the responsibilities that Bets could not convince her family to assume. Of course, I am tremendously honored to serve on the Board of Directors, and I look forward to doing everything possible to continue the excellent work of the AHS."



**Mary Kirschman** is married and has lived in Sunset Hills for thirty years. Prior to retirement she taught kindergarten and second grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. She has been interested in St. Louis history and historic homes. She looks forward to contributing to the success of the Oakland House.



**Save the Date!**  
**Ladies of Oakland**  
**Annual Afternoon Tea**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2017**  
**1:00 - 3:30 p.m.**  
**\$30.00 per person**

(details in the July Oak Leaf)

### ??? **History Question** ???

*October History Question:*

Miss O'Flaherty was a captivating woman in conflict with the conventions, proprieties and values of her time.

She was born in St. Louis to a prominent family. Thomas O'Flaherty was an Irish immigrant who had become a merchant and prominent business man in the county.

He married Eliza Faris whose parents, Antenaïse Charleville and William Faris were descendents of the founders of St. Louis and Kaskaskia.

Who was this lady that visited Oakland House and met her future husband there?

*Answer:* Kate Chopin

*History Question for January:*

How much money did Louis A. Benoist pay for the 476.43 acres he purchased that became Oakland Farm?

If you think you know the answer, contact Charlie Brown at (314) 353-2636 or [bbcoakland@aol.com](mailto:bbcoakland@aol.com)

**AFFTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2017 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 2017.
- Mail this form with your check payable to:

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

Please renew my membership for 2017.

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 \$15
- [ ] Couple \$25
- [ ] Contributor \$25
- [ ] Organization \$25
- [ ] Friend \$26 - \$100
- [ ] Sustaining \$101 - \$250
- [ ] Benefactor \$251 - \$500
- [ ] Professional \$501 - \$1000
- [ ] Patron \$1001 or more

**THANK YOU** for your continued support!

**Reminders:**

2017 dues need to be paid by January 31 if you want your name to appear in the Membership Directory.

A yellow address label indicates we have not received your 2017 dues.

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](mailto:jpdanklef@aol.com)

**Please Note:** Membership information changes will appear in the new 2017 Membership Directory. Watch for it in February!

**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](mailto: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 2017 Membership Directory.*

- |                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dennis Bidy                   | Fred Jones      |
| Pamela Favazzi                | Carol Schmieder |
| Judy Feiler & Robert Geraghty | Helen Wilson    |

**A "Special Thank You" to Contributors:**

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Dennis Bidy           | Richard Rottnek  |
| Maureen Foley         | Pauline Schrader |
| Dorothy Green         | Dolores Scott    |
| Dee Pape              | Pat Treacy       |
| Florence Shinkle Rice | Marlane Truebe   |

**A "Very Special Thank You" to Friends:**

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Aaron & Dana Brown         | Tish & Mike Murphy  |
| Bobbi Cioffi               | Anne Nelson         |
| Edna Deardeuff             | Joyce Rich          |
| Sheila Garavaglia          | Trudy Seise         |
| Roger & Patricia Gray      | Anita Siegmund &    |
| Don & Joan Harbaugh        | Nancy Suelflow      |
| Jonathan Hiemenz           | Suzan Slater        |
| Mary Holtz                 | Gary & Nancy Ulrich |
| Bob & Lucy Johnson         | Karen Walker        |
| Patricia Benoist Kauffmann |                     |

**A "Super Special Thank You" to Sustainers:**

- Walter Benoist
- Charlie & Barb Brown
- Julia Hiemenz
- Clinton & Jean McDaniel

**An "Extra Super Special Thank You" to Benefactor:**

- Elizabeth Beniost Igleheart

**A "Grand Super Special Thank You" to Patrons:**

- Gray G. Benoist
- Sidney Guller
- Abigail Lambert

**In Memoriam:**

Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of the following member who recently passed away.

**Ross A. Wagner**  
He will be missed.



*A big thank you to "shutterbugs" Pam Danklef & C. Follmer (SNAP by Cheryl) who provided photos for this issue.*

