

LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2020



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

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To see more pictures of the Festival of Lights go to the Lansing Historical Society Facebook page. PHOTOS BY DAN BOVINO



TF SOUTH CHOIR

FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ Bill Benne

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and wish you good health and happiness in the New Year! As I reflect on the events of 2019, I am reminded of all the hard work that goes into keeping the Lansing Historical Society alive and vibrant and all the people that volunteer and contribute their time and talent over and over again.

I have visited some surrounding areas' Historical Societies and have been complemented on our very own Society and the events and programs that we hold, so I would like to thank the Board, the volunteers, and all the members for their support and contributions in making The Lansing Historical Society the success it is—with a special thank you to our Museum Curator, Barb Dust, for her creativity in our museum exhibits!

Bill Benne

2019 –2020
Officers

PRESIDENT:	Bill Benne
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Dan Bovino
SECRETARY:	Jennifer Saia
TREASURER:	Phillis Drewno
DIRECTORS:	Sharon Murphy Marilyn Kooy Sue Bovino
MUSEUM CURATOR:	Barb Dust
ADVISOR:	Tony DeLaurentis

GENERAL MEETINGS & PROGRAMS
ARE NOW UPSTAIRS IN THE
LIBRARY AT THE STAGE AREA

Jan. No Meeting

Feb. 24 Black Cowboys & The Wild West

Mar 23 “Eleanor Roosevelt” a Living
History Portrayal

April 27 Along the Calumet River in
Illinois & Indiana

May 18 Annual Installation Banquet

June 22 Historical Walk on Ridge Road

Jim Kijewski: The History of Lan-Oak Pool

On October 28th, our program speaker was “Coach K”, Jim Kijewski, long-time pool manager and TF South swim coach. Jim gave a fascinating talk on the development of Lansing’s pool, it’s day to day operation and many memories of the days when it was the source of much summer fun for the whole town. The talk was enhanced by a slide show presentation prepared by Dan and Sue Bovino.

The large crowd that gathered to hear Jim included many former lifeguards and other pool employees, who shared their stories as well. It was clear that the young people working there experienced a very positive work environment where they learned many life lessons under Jim as a mentor. A great time was had by all, as people lingered to talk to Jim and share stories with each other. It was rumored that they didn’t want to quit and continued at a local watering hole!

By Barb Dust

Barb Dust ~ Museum Curator

Farewell to the 2019 Festival of Lights! It always makes me a little sad to take it all down. It has been a joy to host this beautiful and educational display once again. Though there was one week less to share it since Thanksgiving was late this year, we were very pleased with the number of visitors. About 400 signed in, but there were others who did not sign in.

This year we had several new additions, including a tree representing India! Lansing resident, Kalpana Sharma, shared many beautiful items to decorate the tree and dressed a mannequin in an exquisite sari. She also wrote a summary of Christmas

celebrations in India. The Grant family also upgraded the tree for Scotland with new ornaments and information and loaned us their kilt-clad Santa doll, complete with bagpipes. Our Japanese tree also experienced an upgrade thanks to the efforts of Grace Bazylewski who visited Jackie Protsman and brought us Jackie's donation of many beautiful ornaments and other items from her visit to Japan. Two new nativity scenes enhanced our collection and a donation of antique toys from the Schultz family arrived just in time to be included!

I could go on and on about the contributions of our members who lovingly and painstakingly decorated trees, moved furniture, served as guides and will help take down, but that would make the article far too long. We were also joined by many other members of the community who helped. The Cultural Exploration Club from TF South came two days to set up the trees and then later came for a tour. Vivian Payne did the Croatian tree, Annie Akpo, the African tree, Karen Kleine, the Puerto Rican tree, Marilyn Thompson the Master Gardener's tree and L.A.C.E. sent in several members to update their tree. In all, over 40 people were involved in the assembling of this beautiful display! It really is cause for pride and celebration that this many people came together, pooled their talents and created such a wonderful gift for the community! Thank you so much!

Oak Glen Walking Tour

Did you know that Lansing had a roller rink where The New to You resale shop stands? The original flooring is still there!

This was just one of the fun facts Paul Schultz & Barb Dust shared with us on Sept. 23 when they gave an interesting tour of the Oak Glen territory down Torrence Ave.

As with the Walk on the Ridge, we learned some interesting history about the buildings of Lansing's past.

Thank you, Paul and Barb for sharing Lansing's history with us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

January

1 Naomi Guhl
5 Gloria Biondi
8 Brad Borys
18 Jack Wilkening
19 Richard Dust
22 Penny Hoekstra
28 Michael Wolski
28 Kathy Hardy

February

2 Bob Ore
3 Edwin Lugowski
8 JoAnn Kijewski
13 Jackie Trichak
16 Mickey Hillegonds
20 Linda Swisher
23 Christopher Bonessa

March

2 Norm Abbott
2 Bob Malkas
2 Bette Arnold
4 Joan Pitchford
6 Ralph Foster
6 Virginia Schassburger
7 Cookie Borys
7 Betty Humphry

March (con't)

9 Barbara Beiner
10 Tom Highland
12 Cheryl Kasper
16 Milece Krilich
21 Sue Bovino
24 Tony DeLaurentis
25 Jackie Ore
25 Joe Kolarczyk

April

5 Jackie Brown
17 Grace Bazylewski
21 Vanessa Nesbit

April (con't.)

21 Kim Piekarski
20 Dr. Wes Molenaar
20 Duane Schultz
23 Nancy Lucas



Share your news with us
and be included in the next
Newsletter. Email me at
mtnest1973@sbcglobal.net
or call me at
708-418-0572

Welcome!

We welcome new Lansing Historical
Society members:

Sally Allande
Bette Arnold
Jeffrey Rosinia
Heather & Ainsley Grant
Jim Long

Newsletter Publisher and Editor
Marti Benne
mtnest1973@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Committee
Toni DeLaurentis
Marilyn Kooy
Jennifer Saia



LHS extends our heartfelt sympathy to the family of CP Crawford on his passing on Nov. 23, 2019, at the age of 112! May he rest in peace!

Our sympathy also goes out to Jen Saia and family on the passing of her mother, Alice Hughes, on Dec. 25.

LHS also extends our sympathy to Floyd Fairfield and the family of Therese Liesenfeldt who passed away on Nov. 28.



Therese Leisenfelt



Therese Leisenfelt served as curator of the Lansing Historical Museum from 2004-05 to 2008-09. She was enthusiastic and energetic about making everything in the museum beautiful. This included updating many of the mannequins by giving them fresh make-up and false eyelashes! She and companion, Floyd Fairfield, were responsible for the beautiful backgrounds and props for the Festival of Lights. Therese painted the lovely white fir trees on the ten blue sheet panels that serve as the backdrops for the trees. Floyd crafted the wooden sleigh and reindeer. Therese also created our adorable La Befana doll and little girl mailing a letter to Santa. Even in her later years when she found it difficult to get out, she remained active by repainting the Nativity Scene from her daughter's church. She was working on restoring a Santa figure at the time she passed away. She was a lovely lady who was devoted to her family and friends, and she will be missed by us all.

By Barb Dust



Lansing Historical Society
Post Office Box 1776
Lansing, IL 60438

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
(Except the fourth Monday of the month)

Wednesday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lansing Historical Society meetings and programs are held the fourth Monday
of most months.

No meetings are scheduled in June, July and August.

We welcome new members! Invite your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to come see what
we're all about!