

# LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2023

**“FASHIONETTE”,**  
an icon of Lansing for over 60 years,  
now closed.



Photo by Carrie Steinweg

**FROM THE PRESIDENT ~****Tony DeLaurentis**

Happy New Year to all of you and may 2023 be a healthy, happy, and peaceful year.

A huge thank you goes out to Barb Dust and her volunteers for the wonderful Christmas display that many of our residents and non-residents enjoyed. Every year Barb adds a new flare to the display to keep visitors coming back.

Now on to a new year of great programs and displays.

We have purchased 10 new Christmas trees to replace some of our oldest trees and this year we are looking to replace some of our oldest and damaged mannequins.

Please consider asking a family member, neighbor, or friend to come check out our programs. This is probably one of the best ways to peak interest in joining our Historical Society.

Again, Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our next program on January 23rd!

Tony

**Barb Dust ~ Museum Curator**

October was Fire Prevention Month and so the October program for the Lansing Historical Society was the perfect opportunity to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Lansing Fire Department. Fire Chief Chad Kooyenga was our guest speaker. He prepared a power point on the history of the department from the original purpose of fighting prairie fires and the invention of Lansing's first fire engine by Chief Bill Winterhoff all the way through Lansing's Leadership in the implementation of modern life-saving equipment on to the present day. This program was enhanced by old photographs and augmented by commentary from other former members of the LFD who were present in the audience.

2022 – 2023

Officers

PRESIDENT:	Tony DeLaurentis
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Sue Bovino
SECRETARY:	Sharon Murphy
TREASURER:	Phyllis Drewno
DIRECTORS:	Rich Dust
	Marti Benne
	Dan Bovino
CURATOR:	Barb Dust

## PROGAMS FOR 2023

January 23, 2023:

The Rise and Fall of Opulence  
on the Rails—Presenter  
Ken Schoon

February 27, 2023:

The African American Water  
Trail—Presenter Lillian Holden

March 27, 2023:

Artifacts of the Calumet Region  
Presenter Mario Bovino

All programs begin at  
6:00 p.m. and are held upstairs  
by the stage in the Lansing  
Public Library, 2750 Indiana  
Ave. Lansing, IL

All programs are FREE, so  
bring a friend!

### Welcome to Our New Members:

Thomas Gumulauskis  
Wilde Negrete  
Lorna VanKley-Bischoff  
Pat Leck

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

January once again finds us engaged in the task of taking down the “Festival of Lights, Christmas around the World.” It is a time of a little sadness but also a time to reflect on the joy and beauty that it brought to the holiday celebration in Lansing. This year was larger than usual with the addition of three new trees...for Ukraine, the Czech Republic and one for 1950’s nostalgia. Other exhibits included the Victorian Dollhouse, the history of the Christmas tree and the history of the Lansing Santa House and information on Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the Epiphany/Three King’s Day. We also had a scavenger hunt for kids. The number of countries represented grew to 29 and the total number of exhibits was over 40.

(con’t on pg. 5)



Photo by Carrie Steinweg

Jackie Protsman, owner of “FASHIONETTE”, sadly closed its doors in 2022. FASHIONETTE had been a Lansing business icon for 65 years. Jackie Protsman ran a friendly, affordable women’s fashion and accessory shop. She referred to her fashions as “classy classics”. She wanted to make sure her customers always left happy. Jackie and some volunteers also used her business to clip and sort coupons for military families.

Jackie Protsman and the “FASHIONETTE” have served Lansing well. Thank you, Jackie, for being a part of Lansing’s fashion history.

### MUSEUM GUIDES/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of additional museum guides and substitute museum guides. No experience needed, just a willingness to meet the public and make them feel welcome in the museum for a couple of hours each month. Substitute guides would be asked to volunteer their time on an as needed basis. We have over 100 members, yet we have the same handful of members volunteering. The museum hours are Mondays, 5:30 to 7:30 and Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please consider volunteering. **We really need your help to keep the museum open.** If you can spare 1 or 2 hours a month, that would be wonderful. You can give Barb Dust a call at 708-474-7497 or email her at [barbd@aol.com](mailto:barbd@aol.com).

### Festival of Lights (con't.)

The nicest aspect of the Festival of Lights is the way it brings together so many organizations and individuals from the Lansing community. The TFS Cultural Exploration Club came in to assist our members in setting up all 37 trees. They got the job done in two hours! The TFS and TFN choral department gave us a concert of holiday music the night of our grand opening right after Thanksgiving. We hosted residents from LARC for tours of the trees on four different occasions and they presented us with new handmade decorations for their tree. The Friends of the Library graced us with a book snowman family to welcome our guests. Our heartfelt thanks to all who had a hand in making this a successful event: those who moved furniture, put up and decorated trees, guides, and the dismantling crew! It gets better every year!

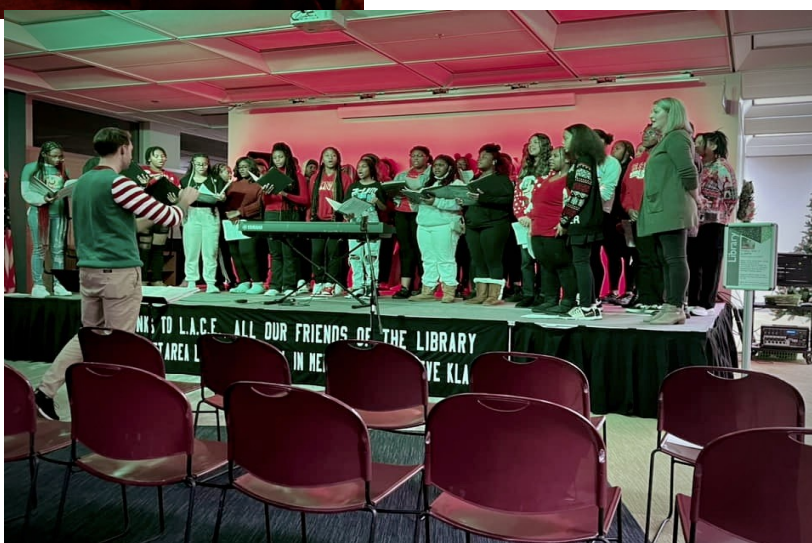
Barb Dust



3 of the 37 beautiful trees that were on display

Photos by Dan Bovino

We were entertained by the combined choirs of TFS & TFN



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Lansing Historical Society meetings and programs are normally 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!

New Museum hours:

Mondays: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.