

**LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**

**January 2022**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
2022**



**COME SEE WHAT'S NEW IN THE LANSING  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM!**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ Bill Benne****HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

As the saying goes, “Out with the old and in with the new”! Except covid carried over to the new year. LHS has taken every precaution to ensure safety to our members and guests. We did have to cancel our May banquet last year, and having the banquet in May this year is still uncertain. LHS has still been active while being safe. All we can do is hope we can finally put covid 19 to rest. In the meantime, we are requiring anyone visiting the

museum to **please wear a mask**. We will continue to be safely involved in whatever events we can.

Check out our scheduled programs and bring a friend!

Hopefully, we will be able to have our banquet this year and we will be able to share fellowship together again.

Be safe!

**Barb Dust ~ Museum Curator**

After a year off due to Covid and the library remodeling, it was a great joy to be able to once again put on the Festival of Lights, Christmas Around the World! We had 40 exhibits in all, including 37 trees on display, representing 27 countries. The community seemed to be thrilled to have the Festival return as well. We received many positive comments about the detailed information and overall beauty of the exhibit.

After a lovely concert of holiday selections by TF South and TF North choirs on opening night, the audience came down to view the trees, and there was a steady stream of visitors. One new feature on display is the Victorian doll house donated by the family of Betty Humphrey. The beautiful house came with its own Christmas decorations!

Mary DiGrispino, teacher at District 158, hosted a night at the museum for her Peacemakers Club and their families. She was assisted by her family members, Nicholas, Matthew, and Maggie, who guided the students through the museum as the kids did a scavenger hunt. Also that evening, Heather and Ainsley Grant taught the students how to make peace symbol ornaments in the Community Room.

The Festival of Lights was successful because of the help of so many people. A special thank you to the TF South students and teachers from the Multicultural Exploration Club and the History Club for assembling all the trees.

We also participated in the display of Christmas trees at Fox Pointe. Thank you, Jan Bockel, for guiding us in constructing our ornaments. I'd like to share a thank you note from the village: “Events like this bring a community closer together, as well as creating a sense of pride within our community...Thank you again for helping to spread holiday cheer to Lansing residents and other guests...We wish you a very safe and happy new year.”

2021 – 2022  
Officers

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

## IN MEMORY OF BETTY HUMPHREY

The Lansing Historical Society was saddened to learn of the passing of Betty Humphrey on June 23, 2021. Betty was the second curator of the Lansing Historical Museum and had a role in starting many key features of the museum.

The artistically talented Betty attended the Art Institute of Chicago for two years and finished her studies at a fashion design school in Chicago. Her career path led her to become a pattern designer for the Cotton Shop women's clothing store chain, very popular in the 1940's.

After her marriage, Betty moved to Lansing to accommodate her husband's job in the south suburbs and stayed home to raise her three children. When they were old enough, she returned to pattern design, this time for several bridal houses.

While her children attended TF South, she became friends with Julia Gault, their biology teacher. In 1976 Julia became involved in the founding of the Lansing Historical Society and drew her very artistic friend, Betty, into the project. They both helped start the museum which opened in 1981. Julia was the first curator and Betty became the second.

Betty's artistic sense was key to establishing many of the museum's displays, including the first exhibit of "Christmas Trees Around the World". Her love of fashion design and experience in the bridal fashion industry were the driving forces in the creation of the June Brides display of wedding gowns from different eras. Betty also played a role in

obtaining the dolls of the Presidential wives.

After her husband, Jesse, died, Betty moved to Springfield, IL to be near her daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Randall Rushing. She passed away at the age of 95. This summer, the Rushings made the trip up from Springfield to donate to the museum many beautiful artifacts that Betty wanted the Lansing Historical Museum to have, including the Victorian doll house that Betty made and lovingly furnished with elements reflecting her own life. We are grateful to the Rushings and to Betty Humphrey herself for all she did to establish this organization.

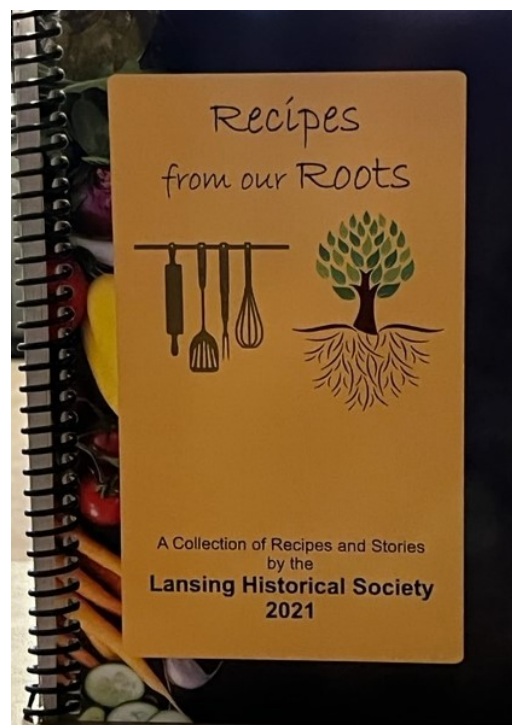


Victorian Doll House donated to LHS by Betty Humphrey's family.



## RECIPES FROM OUR ROOTS

The Lansing Historical Society's cookbook, *Recipes from Our Roots*, got its start in the midst of the first wave of the Covid 19 pandemic. It was conceived as a way to bring the community together during a time when we were stuck in our homes. As a kick-off in April, we hosted on Zoom, Illinois Humanities speaker, Catherine Lambrecht, who shared her experiences with the Family Heirloom Recipes event at the Illinois State Fair, and our project was underway. Thanks to the efforts of the cookbook committee, consisting of Jan Bockel, Sue Bovino, Marti Benne, Toni DeLaurentis and Barb Dust, and the many people who shared their family recipes and, more importantly, the stories behind them, the cookbook became a reality. The book also contains tidbits of Lansing history and historical photos in every section. The price is \$10. We have sold all the first 100 copies, and American Printing in Munster was able to quickly bring out the next 50 copies for us. They are now available at the museum, or you can call Barb Dust at 708-474-7497.



Congratulations to Tony and Toni DeLaurentis who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2021!

Welcome to our new members:



Dan Centracchio  
Marlene Cook  
Rosemarie Nugent  
Jennifer Polley  
Judy Wengren

LHS extends our sympathy to the families of our recently deceased members:

Jackie Trichak  
Betty Humphrey





## MUSEUM GUIDES 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. The museum hours starting in February will be 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. You can give Barb Dust a call at 708-474-7497 or email her at [barbd@aol.com](mailto:barbd@aol.com).



Christmas trees scavenger hunt

## UPCOMING LHS PROGRAMS

### **Feb. 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

Art T. Burton, "Black Troops in WWI and WWII"  
Retired History professor and author, Art T. Burton, who taught at South Suburban College and Prairie State College, will present a talk and slideshow on the achievements of African American troops in the conflicts of the 20th century, such as the Harlem Hellfighters in WWI and 761st Tank Division in WWII. The program will be free and open to the public.

### **March 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

Bob Malkas, "The History of the Lansing Airport"  
Bob Malkas spent 23 years as the manager of the Lansing Airport and has done much research on the history of the airport, which he will now share with us.

### **April 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

Lansing History Trivia Night



Peace Sign crafts

To our members who are receiving our newsletters by email, thank you! I hope you enjoy the color photos! To the members that are receiving our newsletters by mail, please consider switching to email. Photos look much better in color and you'll be helping us save on printing and mailing costs. Just email me at: [mtnest1973@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtnest1973@sbcglobal.net). Thank you! Marti Benne, editor

Lansing Historical Society  
Post Office Box 1776  
Lansing, IL 60438

MUSEUM HOURS  
(708) 474-2447 ext. 176

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.