

January 2026

LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



*Congratulations to LHS on
50 years of history preservation and
Still going strong!*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paul Schultz

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and is having a healthy New Year. Our museum trees are all put away and we are looking and planning for the coming year.

2026 is a notable year for our society, as we are celebrating our 50th birthday! We have come a long way since 1976 when our founder, Julia Gault, and others organized our society and started a small museum in the old Village Hall on Lake Street. I am thinking of all the brilliant and dedicated people that through the years gave their time and talent to make it the strong society that it is today.

We need to take pride in our accomplishments and we need to work together to make our next 50 years just as remarkable. With your help, we can make our society even better!

I hope to see everyone at our February program!

Stay warm!

Barb Dust – Curator

When January rolls around, you can find LHS members busy at work taking down our wonderful trees and displays from the Festival of Lights. South Korea was new this year. We showcased a beautiful traditional satin Korean costume known as Hanbok which can be adapted for both men and women. The Festival of Lights culminated with a Three Kings celebration on Jan. 6 when we served a traditional Mexican Rosca de Reyes cake.

Upcoming on April 28, 2026, we will join with the TF South History Club in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a special program entitled, “John Adams, Architect of Democracy”. We are the recipient of a grant from Illinois Humanities’ Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. We will host historian and actor, Brian “Fox” Ellis, who will portray John Adams. As John Adams, he will share the history of what steps led up to the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, then lead a discussion about our rights and responsibilities, our shared history and a hopeful future. This program will take place in the Grand Lobby of TF South H.S. 18500 Burnham, Lansing, 6:00 p.m. The public is invited. There is no charge!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US- WE'RE 50 YEARS OLD!

By Marlene Cook



Part One of Four

The year was 1976 – a bicentennial year. Julia Gault, a biology teacher at TF South High School, had been forced to retire at age 65. She fought it, and won at the appeals court level. She eventually retired when she was ready, but she was not ready to quit living her life to its fullest.

The Lansing Bicentennial committee was making celebration plans and Julia decided she'd get involved and attended a meeting. When they asked for suggestion, she opened her mouth and found herself Chair of the Heritage Committee.

She had some ideas and spoke to history teacher, Jim Kijewski, about them. She told him of her desire to form a historical society and museum. He thought it was such a good idea that he immediately signed up and became the first charter member of the new Lansing Historical Society, even before Julie, the founder. (He is still a member as is his wife, Joanne).

As an offshoot of the Heritage Project, the Lansing Historical Society was chartered on July 19, 1976, with 75 charter members. Putting their heads together, they began planning the future, looking back.

Next: getting items to show and a place to show them. See Part Two in the next issue of the Lansing Historical Society newsletter.

2026 Board Members

President: Paul Schultz
 V-President: Dan Bovino
 Secretary: Marlene Cook
 Treasurer: Jan Bockel
 Directors: Sue Bovino
 Mario Bovino
 Kalpana Christian
 Curator: Barb Dust

Programs 2026

Feb. 23 "Bessie Coleman, African American Aviation Pioneer" by Dan Cuthbert
 March 23 Women's Baseball in Illinois & the Midwest by Anna Sielaff
 April 27 The Lansing Old Timers & the History of Lansing Baseball by Ken Reynolds
 April 28 "John Adams, Architect of Democracy"
 May 18 50th Birthday Banquet

The Time Travelers of District 158

Time Travelers performed "The Incredible Westward Movement" at the Lansing Public Library! This continues to be a wonderful event in partnership with the Lansing Historical Society that allows students to showcase everything they learned during Summer School. We are very appreciative of Mrs. DiGrispino for everything she does to teach this amazing group!



Amelia Earhart flies into Lansing!

On Sept. 22 we had the pleasure of meeting Amelia Earhart. Leslie Goddard portrayed Amelia and gave an excellent account of her life and adventures (in a humorous style) that kept everyone wanting to hear more!



On Oct. 27 Mike Horvath and his son, Mike, Jr. of M. Horvath Jewelers did their rendition of the traveling antique show! They “set up shop” in the Community Room in the Lansing Library where our members and guests brought in some antiques to be appraised. Unfortunately, most of the items brought in had more personal value than monetary value! What “antique” is hiding in your closet? Take it to M. Horvath Jewelers and find out what it’s worth!

What’s It Worth?



Photos by Dan Bovino

Halloween at Fox Pointe

As you know, the Lansing Historical Society is more than just programs. We get involved with community events, too. We joined the many businesses at Fox Pointe for Trick or Treat. There were many



children in an assortment of costumes lined up to receive their treats! And if I might add, almost all of them said ‘thank you’ after receiving their treats!



Dan Bovino, Dan Centrecchio, and Paul Schultz decorated a tree at Fox Pointe for LHS!

“FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS”

Christmas Around the World

One Christmas tradition the Lansing Historical Society has kept going is the Festival of Lights! We had trees decorated for over 30 countries around the world. This year South Korea was added! December 1 was the premier beginning with TF South & TF North choirs singing songs that set the mood!



We had over 100 visitors, some for the first time and others come back every year to see what's new. There's never a fee to see any of the displays.

Thank you to those who helped set up, take down, and acted as guides. We, also, want to thank the TF South Cultural Exploration Club

who helped put up the 40 trees! None of this would have been possible without your help!



The next big display will be April 8 in honor of our fallen heroes, Ken Novak (of the Lansing Police Dept.) and LCPL Philip Martini (USMC).

Lansing Historical Society
Post Office Box 1776
Lansing, IL 60438

(708) 474-2447 ext. 176
www.lansinghistoricalsociety.org
lansinghistorical1776@gmail.com

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:

Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Visits at other times can be arranged
by calling Barb Dust at 708-474-7497