



The Laurel Light

MAY 2010
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The Laurel Light
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The Laurel Historical Society, Inc.
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News and History from the Laurel Historical Society

The mission of the Laurel Historical Society, Incorporated is to encourage the understanding and preservation of the history and cultural heritage of Laurel.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The Gala! The Lifeblood of the Historical Society

The Night of the Comet was the Society's tenth annual gala. The first was our 25th Anniversary, and beforehand there was a considerable controversy about "inheriting" the Laurel-Beltsville Heart Association's annual dinner. The success of the 25th ended all doubt – it was well attended and everyone enjoyed the evening.

Nine years later the gala is still going strong. And now it has become a **necessity**. Ten years ago we employed one person who worked only half time. Today we have one full-time and one half-time employee who bring the Museum and our numerous programs to life. The gala is our only significant fundraising event. We charge nominal fees for some programs and raise a little money with our biennial, Holiday House Tour, but I think you will be surprised with the economics of the gala. The price of admission earns us almost nothing. The \$75.00 ticket (a bargain compared to most other galas) just covers the cost of the dinner, printing, mailing, and decorations. The volunteers on the Gala Committee bless them, put in several hundred hours annually. The only items

they purchase are the invitations and design, the cost of the booklet and decorating supplies. We have held the price down intentionally because we want Laurelites and other friends to join us. We want to keep the gala in town and affordable. We want it to be the most enjoyable evening in Laurel, and many of those attending say it is.

So how do we benefit? We benefit from the Sponsorships, booklet ads, contributions (Comet Chasers this year), AND the Silent Auction. We don't earn enough to meet our salary costs entirely and must still count on our year-end annual appeal, but the gala is an indispensable help. One of the primary ways **you** can help the Society is by inviting your friends and neighbors to attend in 2011. Let them experience the enjoyment of the evening. And finally, "Bid early and bid often!"

James B. McCeney, Chairman of the Board

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

LHS Board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is July 22, 2010. Members are most welcome to attend Board meetings. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In a month, I will have been President for a whole year! Time certainly flies by here in beautiful downtown Laurel. This past year, I can happily report that I have met even more amazing and interesting members at a variety of events and am getting myself even more involved in the life of the Society beyond the gala. As I said at the gala, the LHS is like an iceberg; most people only see the very tip. Once you investigate a bit further you find there is a whole lot more going on. There are 12 committees at my last count, which doesn't include several other initiatives that Lindsey and Monica handle without our help. They are: Facilities, Finance/Budget, Membership, Collections, Exhibits, Development, Investments, Nominating, Communications, Public Programming (which is becoming one of the most active due to the phenomenal Children's programs), and the Executive Committee. I have managed to become at least familiar with most, and even involved myself in some and I plan to delve even further in the upcoming year.

As far as programming is concerned, it's always good to see old friends, but it is even more exciting to meet new faces and to put names with familiar faces! Please continue to join us at these events....the more, the merrier!

Jhanna Levin, President

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In my role as Executive Director of the LHS, there aren't many things that I'm not involved in. I often have my finger in most things that take place at the Society even when they are not under my direct purview. From planning the budget to taking pictures at the events, I'm involved in a lot. So I take great pleasure in knowing that there are

some things that will proceed smoothly without me.

The LHS Annual Gala is one of those occasions. Although I am kept "in the loop" for the gala each year, my contributions are absolutely minimal. The wonderful members of the Gala Committee work all year to produce an exciting evening for the community and a very productive fundraiser for the LHS. I merely have to write a little something and show up (albeit all dressed up).

It's a wonderful, truly special evening for the LHS and it is put on completely through the work of volunteers. It is our largest fundraiser and it brings the community together for a beautiful evening in a way that doesn't happen often enough in Laurel.

I'd like to thank the volunteers of the Gala Committee for all of their hard work producing a truly one of kind evening for the LHS. Great job!

Lindsey Baker, Executive Director

MUSEUM NEWS

Let the Twenty second century know you were here!! Bring up to four recent pictures that tell your story and place them in our *Laurel in 2010* scrapbook. Pictures of your family, your team, your school, your pets, your house, special celebrations and special days are welcome. You can write a description for the future about you and your life in Laurel. Make sure what you love is remembered.

Scrapbook creation will take place on the 4th Sunday of each month from May until November at the Laurel Museum from 1 – 4 PM.

Our exhibit *Snapshots in Time: Our Community in 1910 and 2010*, continues through the end of the year.

Come in and take a look!! There is handicapped parking directly in front of the Museum for those who need it.

Museum Shop News

Don't forget the Museum Shop and our 24/7 access available on line or for those of you who now live out of town. New products include a laminated map of Laurel for \$5.00 and heavy duty magnets with the gala logo for \$2.00. Stay tuned for new shop products and of course the coveted 2011 Christmas ornament. Start your collection this year! Come in and see us! You can visit the online shop anytime at www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop.

Children's Corner

Our Junior Docent program is full of promising young community members who like to contribute to the LHS with their time and efforts. These Junior Docents are often the people you see helping out at our Children's Programs, but they do many things to help the Museum. This past summer, they spent every Wednesday at the Museum doing research on Laurel's history. They learned all about the town of Laurel's early development and how it was tied to the Laurel Mill. Based on what they learned, they created a short video explaining the history of the Mill. The video was made for kids by kids and tells a lot about the history of Laurel! Thank you to Junior Docents who participated in the project. Please

consider using the video for your classroom, group or club use. If you are interested in learning more about the Junior Docent program and how your child might get involved, please contact us at director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

Laurel Historical Society Book Club

The LHS Book Club meets monthly to explore history and culture related topics one book at a time. We meet the third Wednesday of every Month at 7 PM at a local restaurant. Join us!

LHS Genealogy Group

The Laurel Historical Society Genealogy Group assists LHS members in conducting Genealogy research. Whether you are just thinking about beginning your journey into genealogy or you are an experienced genealogist, please join us and learn how we can help each other. The next meeting is Monday, June 14 For more information, contact Mike Boivin at mikeB98159@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please welcome our new members:

Peter Brown
Nancy Mitchell
Bethany Community Church, Pastor Ken McGhee
Ethelyn and Frederick Bishop
John Glenn and family
Ruth Kent
Laurel Regional Hospital Foundation, Inc.,
Contact Amy Karfonta
Nancy Mitchell
Lakshme Someswaran

We are happy to have you!

Become a Member

Are you reading this newsletter but not a member? We'd love for you to join!

Membership enables the Society to:

- *Sustain the Laurel Museum
- *Research Laurel history
- *Preserve artifacts
- *House a research library
- *Host special children's events
- *Develop educational materials for schools and scout groups

Membership benefits include:

- *Quarterly Newsletter with articles about Laurel history, museum exhibits and programs
- *Member's only events
- *Member's only discount in the museum shop
- *Discounts on LHS events, including our annual gala
- *Contributing to the preservation of Laurel's past and present for future generations

Join today at
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

MEMBER NEWS

The Annual Members and Friends Picnic will be June 10, 2010 at the Avondale Entrance to Riverfront Park. Please bring the following by first letter of your last name:

- A - H Dessert
- I - O Main
- P - Z Side

Paper products and drinks will be provided by the LHS. All are invited to attend, and we hope to see you there!!

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of several docents to work at the Museum, **especially on**

Sundays from 1 PM until 4 PM. Please call the Museum if you can help out one or more Sundays a month!! Thank you!

Volunteer Luncheons

Please consider joining other volunteers for our monthly luncheons at local restaurants. Dates and times are emailed to volunteers. Come and join us!

GALA NEWS



Jhanna Levin pointing the way to gala fun!

AS YOU KNOW, THE SOCIETY'S PRIMARY MISSION IS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF OUR FAIR CITY. WE USE THE GALA AS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR WHICH MEANS THAT ITS SUCCESS IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR JOURNEY TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY, BOTH BIG AND SMALL, ON WHAT MAKES LAUREL SUCH A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY. I AM PROUD TO REPORT THAT WE HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR, RAISING OVER \$16,000! WE HAD 201 ATTENDEES IN TOTAL, INCLUDING MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS. THANK YOU TO AL RODA AND

SAMBA PA TI FOR THE MUSIC. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, DONORS AND SILENT AUCTION DONORS. AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ATTENDANCE!!!

I WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO THANK THE GALA COMMITTEE. THESE WOMEN HAVE MET EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT FROM SEPTEMBER UNTIL APRIL, MADE ZILLIONS OF CALLS AND TRILLIONS OF MINISCULE DECISIONS. AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE GALA COMMITTEE, A PUBLIC THANK YOU TO THESE LADIES JUST DOESN'T EVER SEEM ENOUGH. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MARGIE McCENEY, HOLLY LILIENTHAL, REGINA MIMA, EILEEN COLLINS, LISA LOSITO, ANGELA SARICH, BARBARA ELDRIDGE, KATHY CRAWFORD, JEANIE ANASTASI AND BOBBI McCENEY.

MARGIE McCENEY WILL BE NEXT YEAR'S GALA CHAIR. THE THEME WILL BE "A NIGHT AT THE RACES" AND THE DATE WILL BE SET IN THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, SO STAY TUNED. WE HAVE ALREADY SECURED A COLORED PRINT OF THE MUSEUM FOR THE AUCTION TABLE!!!!

JHANNA LEVIN, GALA CHAIRPERSON

P.S. JUST IN CASE YOU WANT TO ENJOY THE LAUREL COMET, WE HAVE INCLUDED THE RECIPE BELOW!

Recipe for the Gala Drink the Laurel Comet

Ingredients:

- 2 oz Tanqueray gin
- 5 oz tonic water
- Splash of berry flavored maraschino cherry juice
- Blue maraschino cherry with a lime wedge for garnish

Preparation:

1. Pour the ingredients in a highball glass with ice cubes.
2. Stir well.
3. Garnish with the cherry and lime wedge.
4. Enjoy!

Auction Stories

Submitted by Margie McCeney

Have you ever wondered which type of items make for the most interesting or profitable bidding at the gala? Two items were so popular that the donors, who were in attendance at the gala doubled their donations. Bobbi McCeney who donated a garden consultation donated a second one since it was so popular. At the end of the auction she agreed to give one to Holly Lilienthal for the same amount as the winning bid. There was fierce bidding on the wine tasting donated by Doug Humphrey. He said if the bids got up to \$500 he would do two tastings. Larry Eldridge and Elinor Fong were the winners.

One donation that had Laurel history was a set of bread and butter plates. These Bavarian plates were given as a wedding present to Katherine Gough, a teacher and principal at Laurel Elementary School in the 1940's and 50's. In 1964 she gave them to Bobbi French as a wedding present when Bobbi married Jim McCeney. The high bidder was another Laurel resident, Kathy Crawford.

Bidding was fierce for the weekend at the Robison's condo in Ocean City, a dinner party in your home for 8, homemade lasagna, and for two autographed books: *Barefoot Contessa at Home* and *T is for Terrible*. Restaurant gift certificates were

also popular, and I know at least two of them have already been put to use. If you have a special talent that you'd like to contribute or have any other auction ideas, please let us know. Email Margie McCeney at mmcceney@yahoo.com



Councilwoman Gayle Snyder and LHS Board member Kevin McNulty

THANK YOU TO OUR COMET SPONSORS:

**MAIN STREET PHARMACY
GERTRUDE POE
BETTY AND DICK COMPTON
BARBARA AND GLENN FEAGIN
UPS**



Mike Lhotski, Karen Lubieniecki and LHS Co-founder Betty Compton

THANK YOU TO OUR COMET CHASERS:

**JEANIE AND RANDY ANASTASI
JULIA BROWN**

**MARGARET CHENAULT
WAYNE COTTON
MARY LOUISE AND HARRY DINGLE
BARBARA AND LARRY ELDRIDGE
CHRIS AND DENISE ERDLE
JIM GORDON
JEAN AND RUSSELL JONES
JOANNA TYSON KURTZ
MARY LEHMAN
MICHAEL AND MARY EILEEN LESZCZ
AIDAH MASOOD AND AKBAR MASOOD,
DDS
JOSELINE A. PENNA-MELNYK
VIRGINIA AND JIM MENTALL
CAROLE AND LOU MONTESI
ROBERT AND BEATRICE NEWKIRK
IRENE AND JAMES OHLMACHER
SHARI AND RICH POLLARD
ST. MARY OF THE MILLS
BOB AND SONIA THOMPSON**



Wayne Dzwonchyk, Vince Schembari, Mike Peden & Bobbi McCeney

THANK YOU TO OUR AUCTION DONORS:

**AAA ANTIQUE MALL
ALPHA STUDIO: AN AVEDA CONCEPT
SALON
ANONYMOUS
BABE RUTH BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM &
SPORTS LEGENDS MUSEUM AT CAMDEN
YARDS
BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
BOWIE BAYSOX
CAROL BOUNDS
EDNA BRANDT/ACUPUNCTURE WORKS
CAFÉ DE PARIS
CAMELOT LIQUOR
CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
CITY OF LAUREL**

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM
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 SHEILAH KAST
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 LADEW TOPIARY GARDENS
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 HOLLY LILIENTHAL
 SAMANTHA LILIENTHAL
 LOONY'S PUB
 KAREN LUBIENIECKI
 MAIN STREET PHARMACY
 MANGO'S GRILL
 BOBBI MCCENY
 MARGIE MCCENY
 ANGIE McDONALD
 KEVIN McNULTY
 REGINA MIMA
 CAROLE MONTESI
 OLNEY THEATRE CENTER
 GERTRUDE POE
 RAINBOW FLORIST AND DELECTABLES
 RAM'S HEAD TAVERN
 RANAZUL
 AL RASCON
 RED, HOT & BLUE
 JOE AND JOAN ROBISON
 JIM ROSAPEPE
 SAFEWAY
 ANGELA SARICH
 KAREN SCHEMBARI
 SIDAMO COFFEE
 KEN SKRIVSETH
 SOMETHING SPECIAL COFFEE
 SOTTERLY PLANTATION
 SOVEREIGN SERVICE
 SPORTS CARD HEROES
 KEFIM ST. HILAIRE
 TAMPICO GRILL
 TRADER JOE'S
 RUTH WALLS
 THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM
 JEAN WILSON

BETTY WINGFIELD
WOODHALL WINE CELLARS

And last but never least, a special thank
 you to Bobbi and Jim McCeney for
 purchasing a premium table.



Brothers Jim and George McCeney

**PLEASE CONSIDER PATRONIZING OUR
 BUSINESS DONORS!**

DID YOU KNOW?

**NOVEMBER 2010 IS THE
 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF
 THE LAUREL HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY, INC. AND APRIL
 2011 IS THE 15TH
 ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 LAUREL MUSEUM.**

BECOME A PART OF LAUREL HISTORY!

Celebrate The Laurel Museum and
 become a part of its history. Purchase a
 brick on the Laurel Museum Brick Walk
 and become part of the historical fabric
 of this 1840s building. A Laurel Museum
 brick is the perfect way to celebrate your
 children, parents, grandparents or other
 family members. Businesses can also
 show their support and ensure that their
 involvement and support of the Laurel
 community will be remembered.
 Purchase on line at
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org or by
 calling (301)725-7975

IF WALLS COULD TALK:
421 PRINCE GEORGE STREET

Submitted by Ken Skrivseth



The house at 421 Prince George Street was built in approximately 1903, but was not the first on that lot. Originally one house straddled the two lots that are now 421 and 423. We suspect that the old well on the 423 lot and the former outhouse now on the 421 lot were part of the original house. The outhouse structure has a Mansard roof with a metal peak and unusual German siding. The reveal on the vertical facing has two tapers at the top of the face instead of one, and it doesn't match the original siding on either of the current houses at 421 or 423.

Early on, the property was owned by a Mr. Small, and it can be seen on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas map of Laurel. In the George Nye diaries there is mention that a Mr. Small of Burtonsville was going to rent his house in Laurel to a Dr Phillips, so it is quite possible that Dr Phillips lived in that old house. There is no record found so far

as to the fate of the old house and when it might have been moved, torn down or burned.

The house at 421 was originally similar to the house next door, 423, which was probably built the year before. Our house is just slightly wider and has a slightly different roof pitch. A later addition was a long wraparound side porch which was closed in around 1930 (Ken found a battery dated 1935 in the crawl space underneath). Echoes of the original siding and trim color can be seen in the attic. The ceilings are 9 feet on the main floor and 8 feet on the second floor.

The house was purchased by the Beale family (not related to Maude Beale who lived on Montgomery Street), and they ran the Beale General Store on Main Street for many years. There was a rumor that the lady of the house might have been in love with the carpenter, possibly explaining the many additions and changes to the house over time by Mrs. Beale! Mr. Beale and his brothers, Wellington and William (both of Laurel), died in the 1950's and two of the Beale children rented the home. The Rudkin family later owned the home for several years and Ken Skrivseth bought it from them in 1978.

After purchasing his home Ken began work on his new fixer-upper! First he insulated the attic and added a new roof. Ken worked as his own contractor with a little help from his friends. Ken even designed his own wood scaffolding because his first requirement was not to die! He removed two layers of roof shingles, one asphalt and one layer of wood shingles. This left open 1x6 slats with gaps between (thin machine cut wood shingles have to breathe), so a layer of plywood had to be applied with tar paper over that. Then Ken and friends applied heavy asphalt and copper sheets for

the gable valleys, and 3D shingles that required a special laying sequence and laborious cutting.

An upstairs bathroom was remodeled in the early 1980's and the shed-roofed kitchen was removed (dispossessing to the surprise of Ken's brother Larry, a raccoon). Ken, the quintessential bachelor, left his kitchen rebuilding to build a garage in the back yard. He had the old aluminum siding removed to reveal the pink painted original siding!

Ken and Karen Lubieniecki married in 1990, which marked the beginning of, shall we say, an accelerated fix-up effort! The couple moved out while many of the interior walls were stripped to the studs, the kitchen designed and installed, floors redone, central air added, and new drywall installed. A second full bathroom was installed as well as a walk-in closet in the master bedroom. The back stairway was also rerouted. Ken and Karen moved back into the house after many months of renovation in late 1991. During re-siding of the house, the 1960s enclosed front porch was removed and Ken built a new porch with posts similar to the original, this time the full width of the house. In 2003 and 2004 the back three bedrooms were renovated.

The oldest artifact found on the property was an Indian arrowhead, dated by Conrad Bladey between 3500 B.C. and 2500 B.C. There was also what appears to be a hide scraper. Both artifacts are quartz and were uncovered in the clay after Ken dug the footers for the garage and it rained on the dirt pile.

IF WALLS COULD TALK: THE LAUREL STORY

Have you renovated your old home or business? Have you found interesting artifacts in those old walls. Do you feel the presence of former inhabitants? Have you learned the history of your home and the families who lived there? Do you want to share what you have discovered? Please email The Laurel Light editor, Jeanie Anastasi jmanastasi@verizon.net with your "walls" stories.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

We would love to have your story ideas particularly for the *Did You Know* and *My Memories of Laurel* sections of the newsletter! Please email The Laurel Light editor, Jeanie Anastasi jmanastasi@verizon.net with your comments, suggestions or story ideas.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!



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Laurel Historical Society Calendar

MAY 2010 – JULY 2010

For more information, visit: <http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/pages/calendar.html>

May 13, 6:45 & 7:30 PM

6:45- *Annual Meeting* at the Laurel Pool Room; all members are invited to attend!!

7:30 - Lecture: *Looking at What Isn't There: The Sadler Photographs*

May 17, 6:30 PM

Community Curators Event for Members Only. Laurel Pool Room. Pot Luck and Adult Show and Tell!! Drinks and paper products provided by the LHS.

June 10, 6:30 PM

LHS Annual Picnic at Riverfront Park, Avondale Mill Site. Pot Luck!! Drinks and paper products provided by the LHS.

June 13, 1:30-3:30 PM

Kids Event at the Museum
Picture Yourself in History!