



The Laurel Light

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The Laurel Light
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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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last year when we were piloting the changes in Diven's Den, one of our test subjects began lining up the simple machines one after the other so they would work together as a more complex set of machines. I know this visitor well because of her attendance at *Science in the Summer* and her mom's involvement in Side by Side. I was intrigued when her mom turned to me and asked, "Have you guys ever done a Rube Goldberg Competition?" I had personally, way back in physics class in high school. But this visitor was in elementary school and her mom explained that she had just finished a Rube Goldberg Competition in school and that experience inspired her daughter to line up the simple machines.

It's times like this that I am SO thankful for working in a small organization. Because what happened as a quick exchange ended up being a really wonderful camp that we held in July.

If you haven't heard of Rube Goldberg, he was a famous cartoonist (among other things) who has inspired national competitions where students join together multiple simple machines to complete a task in a fairly complex way. Interested in more information, Youtube "Rube Goldberg Competition" and you'll find hundreds of videos.

After this thought provoking conversation, I began to reflect on how Rube Goldberg

machines demonstrate the point we're trying to teach with simple machines and the mill. The Mill was like a Rube Goldberg in that it combined multiple simple machines, working together, to perform a function. So, keeping in mind how closely it fit our mission, I reached out to the 2 people I knew could make a camp successful at the LHS. Monica, who does such a great job in organizing volunteers, registration, set up, and materials for *Science in the Summer* agreed to do the same for the Rube Goldberg Camp. Fran Lotz, an instructor who has done *Science in the Summer* for years with us, agreed to help out with the camp as well.



Photo by Monica Sturdivant

It was a little bit of the blind leading the blind, but we had the right players in the right places and it made for a truly wonderful camp. The kids did great--they

experimented, they tested, they worked together, and they learned that trial and error works. We had 4 wonderful days of them getting into the weeds of how things worked and ended the camp with a competition with special judges. (Many thanks to Jhanna Levin, Chairwoman for her help with that!).



Photo by Monica Sturdivant

The kids really seemed to love it and if the number of parents and siblings who showed up to video the competition is any indication, the families approved as well. We're looking forward to repeating the camp next year, possibly even adding different aged groups as the idea is very flexible.



Photo by Monica Sturdivant

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Summer everyone! Your Board of Directors and the elected officers of the Society have experienced some changes in the past months. As a result of the nominating process and the acceptance vote at the Annual Meeting in May, Margie McCeney was elected to a full term as a Board member. She was actually an incumbent as she had fulfilled the remainder of Jim McCeney's term upon his passing.

Board member Fred Smalls resigned due to his inability to fulfill the time commitment expected of Board members. We thank Fred for his past willingness to serve but also for his honest consideration of his ability to continue. I'm sure it was not an easy decision to leave the Board. The Executive Committee appointed Alicia Fields (of Revere Bank) to serve the remainder of Fred's term. We hope she will stand for election to a regular term next year as well. We thank both Margie and Alicia for their willingness to serve and their commitment to preserving Laurel's history!

Our "cabinet" has changed slightly, as Abram Fox decided not to run for Vice President again. We welcome Frances Brooks as Vice President. At the Annual Meeting she was duly elected along with the incumbents in the rest of the officer positions, so our Society's officers for 2016-2018 are as follows:

President – Steve Hubbard
Vice President – Frances Brooks
Treasurer – Mariam Thakkar
Recording Secretary – Marlene Frazier
Corresponding Secretary – Amy Graver

Thanks to all officers for your willingness to serve!

Finally, Jhanna Levin will serve another one-year term as Board Chairperson and was duly elected at the July meeting of the Board of Directors.

We continue to need more volunteers to take shifts at the museum. Frankly, we have hundreds of members in the LHS but only a small handful of our members have been willing to volunteer two hours of their time on an occasional basis. We wind up with the same folks over and over and we truly appreciate them for their dedication, but we desperately need more people to step up. We continue to struggle to fill the gaps in coverage and may have to consider some drastic measures to address the problem. I won't elaborate here, but any solution that doesn't entail more volunteers stepping up could either cost us money or curtail museum services. Please consider how YOU might be able to help. If you can volunteer one two-hour shift per month, that would help tremendously. If enough new volunteers step up, it might only mean serving one shift per quarter! Please, please, please think about how you might help to ease the burden. Thank you!

Wishing you all some relief from the heat and looking forward to autumn conditions in Laurel (especially football!), I'll sign off for now. Many thanks to all members, friends, and supporters for your interest in and affection for Laurel, her history, and the Laurel Historical Society's role in helping to preserve access to that history for generations to come.

Steve Hubbard

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

LHS Board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is October 27, 2016. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Laurel Pool Room at 7:30 PM.

**LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY!**

Our members join for a variety of reasons. Many of our members are long time supporters and other members join not because they know the organization intimately, but because they believe that the history of Laurel should be saved. Some of our members reside far away and support us because their family is from Laurel or they grew up in Laurel. And we have others who join because they have enjoyed our changing exhibits, or attended a particular engaging public program.

The great thing is, no matter why you join the LHS, we are happy to have your support. We do our best to run our organization with the lowest operating costs possible so that your donations are used to create more exhibits around town, fund more programs exploring Laurel's history, and allow us to take part in partnerships spreading the love of Laurel's history to new audiences.

Members receive:

1. Online access to Online Collections
2. Newsletters with articles about Laurel history, museum exhibits, and programs.
3. Invitations to Members-Only Events
4. Participation in the LHS Members Only Genealogy Group
5. E-mail bulletins on events and activities.
6. A 10% discount in the museum shop, including online purchases.
7. Discounts on LHS events, including our annual Gala.

Dues are tax deductible. Membership categories include:

Individual	\$30.00
Couple/Family	\$40.00
Senior	\$18.00
Business	\$50.00
Student	\$10.00
Lifetime	\$300.00

Join today!

MUSEUM NEWS



Behind the Bricks: Twenty Years of the Laurel Museum runs through December. The Laurel Museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays 10 AM - 2 PM, and Sundays 1 - 4 PM and is free. Visits by school groups and tours over 10 people can be scheduled on other days by appointment. The John Brennan Research Library is open Mondays by appointment. For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

MEMBER NEWS

Please welcome our new members:

Eileen Burton
Marcellis Johson
Robert Spillman

We are happy to have you!

Volunteers News

The Laurel Museum is in urgent need of volunteers for Sundays (1 pm - 4 pm) and the first and third Fridays (10 am-12pm or 12pm-2pm). Volunteers will greet visitors, give tours and handle shop sales. Training is provided. For more information, please contact Monica at assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975.

Please welcome our new volunteers:

NO ONE THIS TIME! HOW ABOUT YOU?

INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING YOUR HOME?

Submitted by Marlene Frazier



Do you want to know more about your house? How old is it? Who used to live there? Here is a method to do basic Real Property Research in Maryland.

Go to:
Maryland Dept. of Assessments and Taxation Real Property Search
<http://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx>.

Select Prince Georges for county and Street address for method.
Enter the street number and the street name (don't include st, ave etc).

This will bring up the most current record. On it you will see the words "deed reference" which will have two numbers, the first is the book or "Liber" and the second is page or "Folio". Write these down and go to the next website.

Go to:
Maryland Land Records in the Maryland Archives
<https://mdlandrec.net/main/index.cfm>.

Click on "new account" and complete the application. Wait for the verification email. When you receive that, go back to that page and enter email & password followed by submit. Then select county

use are noted in the record in "Past Perfect".

****The Vertical Files:**

The files contain information on many Laurel related subjects. They are filed by category and contain copies of articles, extra copies of original documents and photos, and family histories. They are located in the tall file cabinets in the Library.

****The Laurel Leader Newspapers:**

Digital copies of the paper currently from 1897 to 2008 and bound hard copies from 1946 to 1981. The digital files can be accessed by using the library computer and will be available on line.

****The Sadler Photograph collection:**

Over a thousand images that were taken near the turn of the 20th century by Bert Sadler. Digital images of these glass plate negatives can be accessed by using the library computer and are available on line.

****The Library:**

The Library shelves contain both Laurel specific items and books with general information. There are yearbooks for all of the local schools and City directories as well as histories of local organizations. The yearbooks are digitized and available on line. There are also books on genealogy, the history of textile mills, and many other subjects.

The Brennan Collection:

Collected by Laurel's long time de facto historian, John Brennan, it contains articles, letters, and photos amassed by this one individual over a number of years. It is located in the files in the Library.

The Obituary Files:

This is a record of obituaries filed by last name. There is both an extensive card file and three notebooks for the larger records.

How to use the resources at the Laurel Museum:

The library is open by appointment. Appointments can be made throughout the week between 9-3. Research by staff or volunteers is also available.

For our full research policy please go to our website, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org, "about us" "Brennan Research Library."

For research inquiries please email research@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or call the Museum at 301-725-7975.

*** Indicates projects that we would like to implement to make the collections more complete. We could use volunteers to help make that happen.*

LHS New Policies and Procedures

One of the important but unglamorous tasks of the LHS Executive Committee is to make sure our Bylaws, and policies and procedures are up to date and reflect current issues facing the Society. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors recently updated our Research policies to include Social Media and use of digital images. Members now receive two hours of free self-guided research, and one free hour of staff research, with a reduced fee for additional research time. Non-members have less time and higher fees. We've also updated our Code of Ethics for volunteers, board members and staff and have passed a new anti-discrimination policy. You can find the new Laurel Historical Society Research Policy as well as

our Bylaws on our website. Our goal is to put all of the new policies on our web site, but for now if you want a copy of them please contact us at info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

Karen Lubieniecki, Chair, LHS Executive Committee

NEW ACQUISITIONS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

James Wolfe donated artifacts related to the Mason's Laurel Wreath Lodge. His father, M. W. Wolfe, was a worshipful master in 1958 and his gavel, pin and other items are on display in the current exhibit, "Behind the Bricks". In addition to these he gave the museum a unique wood and cane chair that was used in the lodge from the end of the 19th to early 20th century. Thank you Mr. Wolfe!



Photo by Marlene Frazier

THE LAUREL LIGHT NEEDS YOU!

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 discovered the

history of your home and the families who lived there? Do you want to share what you know?

Would you like to share your stories for the *Did You Know* and *My Memories of Laurel* sections of the newsletter? Do you have a burning question about Laurel that you would like to have answered? Do you have a recipe with Laurel roots?

If so please email The Laurel Light editor, Jeanie Anastasi at jmanastasi@verizon.net with your stories, memories, recipes, comments, questions, suggestions or story ideas. Thank you in advance for your submissions!

BECOME A PART OF LAUREL HISTORY!

Purchase a personalized sidewalk brick and literally become a part of Laurel's history!! 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. You may purchase on line by visiting laurelhistoricalsociety.org or by calling 301-725-7975. Already have a brick? Purchase another and ensure that you and your loved ones continue to be on Laurel's historical path!

Please consider the Laurel Historical Society in your Planned Giving. It's easy. For more information please contact Lindsey Baker (301)725-7975.

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Joseph Robison, Director Emeritus
Jean Wilson, Director Emerita



Laurel Historical Society Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2016 – DECEMBER 2016

For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org

September 4
Hidden Spaces Tour at
Montpelier Mansion

September 25
Wikipedia Edit-A-thon

October 13
The Laurel Wreath Lodge &
Laurel History

October 23
McCeney March

November 6
From Mill House to Museum:
How Laurel Made It Happen

December 2-4
Holiday Open House