



817 Main Street Laurel, Maryland 20707  
info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org Tel: 301-725-7975  
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release March 22, 2018

Contact: Karen Lubieniecki 301-395-1376 (m) [Karenlub2@gmail.com](mailto:Karenlub2@gmail.com)

After April 1: [director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org) (301-725-7975)

**Photo: Gloria Richardson at protest in Cambridge, Maryland, July 1963**

### **Gloria Richardson: Maryland's Mother of Civil Rights April 12**

Laurel, Maryland...She's considered "Maryland's Mother of Civil Rights." On April 12, Gloria Richardson will be the focus of a talk by historian Artura Jackson. The program will explore the life of Richardson, an important, but often-overlooked civil rights activist. Her actions with what is known as "The Cambridge Movement," a struggle for civil rights and economic opportunities in Cambridge, Maryland deeply affected her community and generated national attention. Sponsored by the Laurel Historical Society, in partnership with Black History Program of M-NPPC the program will be held at the Laurel Pool Room, 9th and Main Streets, Laurel, Maryland at 7 p.m.

The 1960's were a difficult time for the town of Cambridge, Maryland. The packing industry had declined, and the lack of job opportunities due to Jim Crow laws made it difficult for African-Americans to find employment. One Cambridge resident who encountered these problems was Gloria Richardson. This divorcée and single mother of two girls decided to join the local chapter of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and take a stand against Jim Crow. Richardson became a leader in this local organization and her activism was recognized nationally. Demonstrations that resulted in violent encounters in early summer 1963 lead to a declaration of martial law. Intervention by the Kennedy Administration to work with Richardson to resolve the crisis resulted in what became known as the "Treaty of Cambridge."

Artura Jackson is a Public Historian who specializes in gender studies, 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States History, and African-American History. Her body of work includes extensive

research on Gloria Richardson and the role of gender in the Cambridge Civil Rights Movement. Ms. Jackson is a program assistant at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Black History Program, which operates out of Abraham Hall, a historic African American benevolent lodge located in Beltsville She is an alumna of Salisbury University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 2014, and a Master of Arts degree in History in 2016.

The Laurel Historical Society was founded in 1975. Since 1996 it has operated the Laurel Museum, whose current exhibit "We the People: How Civic Engagement Shaped Laurel," runs through December 2018. This program is part of a series of programs connected to the exhibit. Suggested donation for the program is \$3 members, \$5 non-members. The Laurel Museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays 10-2, Sundays 1-4. Group tours by appointment. Admission is free. The Laurel Library and digitized *Laurel Leaders* and other items from the LHS collection are open to researchers by appointment Monday-Friday and online to members. The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Md. For appointments or for additional visitor information contact 301-725-7975 or [info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org) or visit [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org) ##