



# 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**

Our 2014 Membership Drive is ongoing here at the Laurel Historical Society. In June, you should have received one of three flyers in the mail (let us know if you didn't!). One flyer asked you to consider joining the LHS; this was reserved for people who are not current members or have not been paying members for a while. Anyone who receives The Laurel Light newsletter in the mail should *not* have received this since the newsletter is a membership perk. Another flyer sent, informed you that your membership was due and requested that you renew. Many of you not only renewed, but you chose to give an additional donation. Thank you to each and everyone one of you who did! It really makes a difference. The final flyer was for members already up-to-date on their memberships, either because they are Lifetime Members or they recently renewed. Many of you acknowledged this flyer and gave an additional donation. Again, we are very grateful.

For each and every one of you who renewed, joined for the first time, or gave a donation, we would like to say THANK YOU. We realize that there are MANY worthwhile causes in Laurel and further afield, so we are happy each time someone values the work we do enough to support us.

Speaking of that work, we continue to grow and reach new audiences who can help us better understand the history and cultural heritage of Laurel, while we share with them what we know. We are glad that you value us enough to help us on this journey.

Are you wondering how well we've done so far for our 2014 Membership Drive? In total we've raised a little over \$8,000 in membership dues and donations. To put that in perspective, in 2008 we raised about \$1,400 and in 2013 we raised about \$6,500.

So, we're currently doing quite well. We reached the goal we set for ourselves, but we're hoping that those of you who haven't yet renewed or donated to the 2014 Membership Drive will do so. Because, as always, every single dollar helps and is very much appreciated!

Lindsey Baker

### **BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

LHS Board meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is October 23, 2014. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

## MUSEUM NEWS

The LHS is forming a group of volunteers to begin recording oral histories of Laurelites. Oral histories are a valuable way to capture first person accounts of life in Laurel. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Amy Junewick at amyjunewick@gmail.com

Now available in the Library for genealogy research are three volumes titled "Freedom & Slavery Documents of the District of Columbia". These include the years 1792 to 1822 and are a record of bills of sale, certificates of freedom, certificates of slavery, emancipations and manumissions recorded in the District.

The *Lost and Found Laurel* exhibit runs until December 21, 2014. 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 and by appointment. For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

## MEMBER NEWS

Members are the life line of our organization. If you have not yet renewed, please do so today! Also please consider becoming a Life Member. Many of your friends and neighbors have done so and their dedication is much appreciated.

### **Please welcome our new members:**

Terry Fiumi  
Frances E. Fliss  
Donald Krizek  
Cathy Rosenberger

We are happy to have you!

### **Please welcome our new volunteers:**

NO ONE THIS TIME! HOW ABOUT YOU?

## Volunteers Needed!

The Laurel Museum desperately needs volunteers for Fridays (10 am - 12 pm and 12 pm - 2 pm) and Sundays (1 pm - 4 pm). Volunteers are needed to serve as docents and handle shop sales. Training is provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Monica at assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975.

	OK. Now that we have your attention... Can you help us? We know you care because you get this newsletter...	
<b>THE LAUREL MUSEUM IS IN DIRE NEED OF ADDITIONAL DOCENTS</b> Docents play a critical role for the Laurel Museum visitor.		
Docents are particularly needed: Sundays 1-4 p.m.      Fridays 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or 12-2 p.m.		
<b>Volunteering to Docent at the Laurel Museum offers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New, interesting friends.<sup>1</sup></li><li>• A chance to share your unique Laurel knowledge or learn more about Laurel.</li><li>• Needed help for the LHS. <sup>1</sup>Have a friend? Volunteer together.</li></ul>	<b>Docents Receive Training &amp; Invitations to Special Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training in the current exhibit, and Laurel history.</li><li>• Invitations to volunteer lunches.</li><li>• Volunteer only tours and special recognition events.</li></ul>	
Contact: assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or call 301-725-7975 to volunteer.		
* occasionally		** depends on the kind of spirit.

## Volunteer Luncheons

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

## LHS Executive Director Elected MAHM President and Named to National Committee

Submitted by Karen Lubieniecki

LHS Executive Director Lindsey Baker does not limit her efforts to the LHS and her work is being recognized in the state and nationally. She was recently elected President of the Maryland Association of History Museums (MAHM). Her term will run through February 2015. Baker has also been named to the prestigious National Program Committee of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), making the LHS by far the smallest museum participant on the committee. Other members include representatives from the Minneapolis Institute of Art, The New York Botanical Garden, J. Paul Getty Trust, Baltimore

Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Natural History, and the National Aquarium, among others. Baker also serves on the Small Museums Administrator's Committee for AAM and the Small Museums Committee for AASLH and is the speaker coordinator for the Small Museum Association Conference Committee.

The Maryland Association of History Museums is an alliance of historical and cultural institutions that collect, hold, interpret, and protect the cultural and material heritage within the State. The association advocates for members by enhancing professionalism in those institutions and individuals, and promoting awareness of museum interests. According to its website "The American Alliance of Museums (formerly the American Association of Museums) is the one organization for all museums. Through advocacy and excellence, the Alliance strengthens the museum community. We support 21,000 museums, individuals and companies by; developing standards and best practices, providing resources and career development and advocating for museums to thrive." We are proud of you Lindsey!

## **Remembering Jennie Lee Kalie**

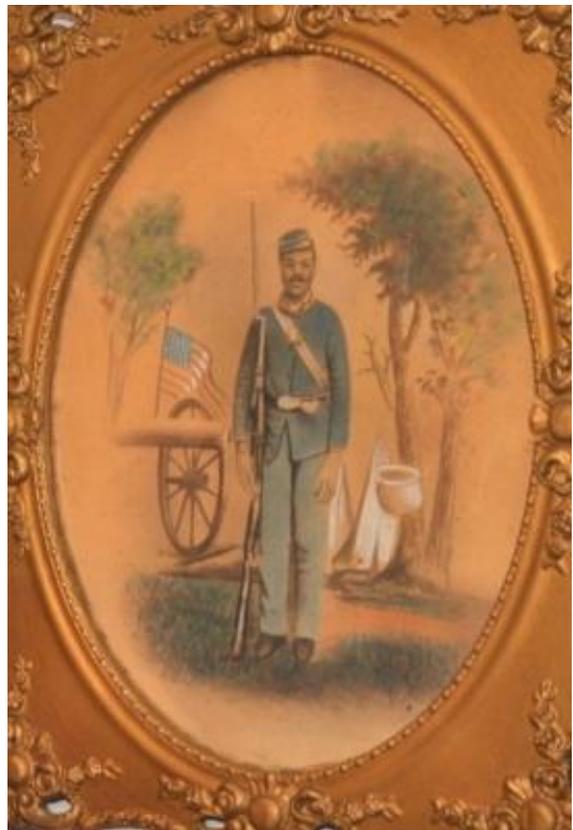
Submitted by Elizabeth L. Compton

We recently lost, through death, our dedicated friend, Jennie Lee Kalie. She was an early Laurel Museum volunteer who was loved and respected by her fellow workers. Her long experience as a wise teacher complemented her skills as a docent. Many children and adults enjoyed learning their hometown history at the Laurel Museum through her inspiring tours. She and her devoted husband John, also a teacher, were available to help with special programs as well as serving as scheduled guides. They donated many needed items for special events including a flat bed truck for the Laurel Historical Society to use in Laurel parades. All who had the pleasure of working with Jennie Lee remember her smiling contributions to productive days moving the Laurel Museum forward. We are blessed to have had Jennie Lee Kalie in our lives.

## **LHS Speakers Ignite Interest in Laurel History**

Submitted by Karen Lubieniecki

Looking for a speaker for your neighborhood, service or community group? The LHS has many speakers and terrific topics available. Whether it's Civil War or Lost Laurel, we have a topic for your group. And it's FREE. New this year: ***A Long Overdue Story***. Dianne Cross's odyssey of historical discovery started with a portrait of her great-great grandfather, Isaac Hall, which hung in her grandmother's living room. As children they called it "the soldier." Hall's curiosity led her to find out more about him. Who was he and what did he do? Cross's extensive research has enabled her to weave together the compelling story of his life from a slave to soldier to freedom. The long overdue story is the story of one of the over 200,000 African Americans who fought in the Civil War.



For a complete list of Speakers Bureau topics and instructions on booking a visit for your group visit [laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://laurelhistoricalsociety.org).

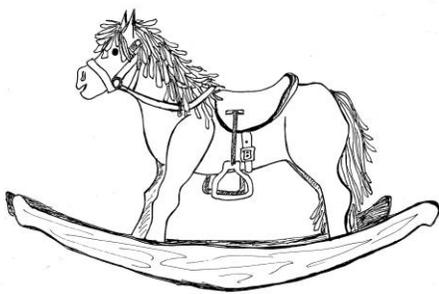
## **SCIENCE IN THE SUMMER!**

Submitted by Monica Sturdivant

The theme for this year's Science in the Summer was Bioscience. Campers had a blast building models of cells, looking at plant and animal cells and growing bacteria. Science teacher Francis Lotz led the campers in lots of fun demonstrations and experiments that involved making slides and looking at them through microscopes. The campers also had a chance to look at samples of water and plant life from and near the Patuxent River. This gave the students the opportunity to learn about science, but history was also incorporated into the camp. Water from the Patuxent River powered the mill and it also provided water to the mill workers for washing clothes and other cleaning jobs.



Science in the Summer attendees; photos by Lindsey Baker



### **Children's Corner**

Join other kids at the Community Curators Event Kids Style on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM. Bring your favorite treasure to share with others! Families are welcome. RSVP appreciated but not necessary to attend. See you there!



Children at summer programs learning history; photo by Lindsey Baker

## **Do You Have Any Laurel Yearbooks?**

Submitted by Marlene Frazier

All of the yearbooks the Laurel Museum currently holds from local public and private schools have been digitized by the "Yearbook Project," a program at the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. This was done at no cost to the Museum and they even paid the shipping for the three heavy boxes both ways. The books were scanned in color and will be available on the research computer in the John Brennan Research Library at the Museum in the near future.

We do not have a complete collection of these books, and they will scan more of them for us if we can find them. If you have a copy, we would love to have it for the Library and even if you do not wish to donate it, please let us know. They will scan the yearbook(s) and return it in the same condition they received it.

### **The missing yearbooks are:**

Laurel High School: Any before 1927 (except 1924); 1928; 1929; 1931 to 1943; 1949; 1971; 1979; 1982; 1984; 1989 and 1994 to present day.

Laurel Junior High: Any before 1966; 1968; 1981

Laurel Elementary School: Any except 1964

Eisenhower Middle School: 1983 to present day

Martin Luther King: 1991 to present day

St. Vincent Pallotti High School: Any before 1983; 1990 to present day

St. Mildred's Academy: Any except 1940 & 1949

St. Mary of the Mills: inception to present day

## **THE PARANORMAL – IS THE MUSEUM BUILDING HAUNTED?** SUBMITTED BY AMY JUNEWICK

*This past July, the LHS invited the Pasadena Paranormal investigators to the Museum to see if there are spirits among us. The team of three included Jared, Brent and Ben. We also had a reporter and a photographer from The Baltimore Sun. Marlene Frazier, Amy Junewick, and Mike Graver were in attendance as well, as they are associated with the Museum. The team set up an extensive array of equipment, recorders, cameras, infrared light, a kinect system and random sound units such as the ovilus and echovox. They stayed at the Museum until about 12:30 AM recording on the various media. We all helped ask questions of any spirits that might be present. It didn't seem that there was a lot of activity that night, but when they returned to show us their findings, a few things were considered possibly paranormal. All in all, they said the Museum was "active."*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Laurel Museum, located at 817 Main Street, occupies a building constructed between 1836 and 1840 by Horace Capron. Mr. Capron was the owner of the Patuxent Manufacturing Company, a cotton duck mill that was located on the opposite side of Ninth Street. The building was one of many duplexes built in the area to house mill workers and their families. During renovation, a company ledger was found in the west half of the building, detailing transactions between the company and the mill workers. It is believed that for some period of time the west half of the building was used as a company store. After the mill closed in the mid-1930s, the building was used as a rental property until the City of Laurel purchased it in 1985. The building was officially designated the Laurel Museum in 1991, and renovation of the building was completed in 1996 through a grant from the State of Maryland and the City of

Laurel. Today, the Laurel Museum serves as a repository for information and artifacts relating to the history of Laurel. It also fulfills an important educational role in the community. The Laurel Museum houses the John C. Brennan Memorial Research Library, educational exhibits, administrative offices, and a museum shop.

### **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](mailto:jmanastasi@verizon.net) with your stories, memories, recipes, comments, questions, suggestions or story ideas. Thank you in advance for your submissions!

### **Join Us!**

Are you reading this newsletter but not a member? We'd love for you to join! Membership enables the LHS 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 by visiting [laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://laurelhistoricalsociety.org).

### **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](http://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!



## **RECIPE CORNER**

We will be including some recipes in the coming issues of The Laurel Light, originally submitted by local residents for an unpublished cookbook. Each recipe will include a brief history or interesting facts associated with the origin of the recipe. If you would like to donate for future issues please email your recipes and stories to Jeanie Anastasi at [jmanastasi@verizon.net](mailto:jmanastasi@verizon.net).

### **Aunt Molly's Cream Cheese Cake**

Contributed by Maryland Miles Massey

Aunt Molly (Mary V. Fisher) lived on Main Street and worked at the Post Office. She was known for her jolly personality, seamstress skills and homemade cakes. Her favorite cakes included caramel, coconut, chocolate and orange, always served on Christmas night. This is the only one I would attempt to make because it was so easy.

Ingredients: 1 pound cream cheese  
3 eggs  
2/3 cup sugar  
½ tsp. almond extract  
1 cup sour cream  
3 Tab. sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla

1. Beat softened cream cheese and eggs together. Add 2/3 c. sugar and almond extract. Beat until smooth, thick and lemon colored.
2. Pour into greased 9x5 pyrex dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes; cool 20 minutes.
3. While cooling, beat sour cream, 3 T. sugar and vanilla together. Pour over top and spread evenly. Bake 10 minutes at 350.
4. Can be prepared ahead and frozen. Can use low fat substitutes for cheese and sour cream. Enjoy!

### **Laurel Historical Society**

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# Laurel Historical Society Calendar

## September 2014 – November 2014

For more information visit [laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://laurelhistoricalsociety.org)

September 11 <sup>th</sup> 7 PM Wikipedia and YOUR History: Taking Control of the Internet, One Article at a Time! Laurel Pool Room	October 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6:30 – 8 PM Fine Wine Fridays at Snow Hill Manor	October 18 <sup>th</sup> 7 PM Historic Haunt Laurel Museum
September 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:15 AM – 4 PM Laurel History Edit-A-Thon Laurel Museum	October 5 <sup>th</sup> 1 - 4 PM Community Curators Kids Style Laurel Museum	November 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1:30 – 3:30 PM Taste of Laurel Laurel Pool Room
	October 11 <sup>th</sup> 4 PM Found Laurel: Jailbreak Brewery Tour Jailbreak Brewery on Route 1 between Whiskey Bottom and Gorman Roads	November 8 <sup>th</sup> 7 PM Laurel Trivia Tastee Diner on Route 1