



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

The Laurel Historical Society depends on our supporters to continue the work that we do in the community. Each spring we begin our membership drive.

Becoming a member of the LHS has its perks, but most of our members support us because they believe in what we do. We are not the type of membership organization you join because you realize it's cheaper to join than to pay the admission fee. We are free after all!

Our members join for a variety of reasons. Many of our members are long time supporters, people who have joined year after year and seen the evolution of the LHS. They know the work we do has merit, but more importantly they feel like they are a part of us. 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, but support us because their family is from Laurel or they grew up in Laurel and have fond memories of the town. 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.

So, dig through your mail. It's likely there is a yellow slip of paper waiting to be mailed back to the LHS for membership. We would LOVE it if you could fill it out and slip it in the mail. If you're more tech savvy, you can always join online at laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

Members receive:

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

Lindsey Baker

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Summer everyone! The LHS Board of Directors and the elected offices have experienced some changes in the past month.

First, as a result of the nomination process and the acceptance vote at the Annual Meeting in May, we have two new Board members who took their places on the Board as of 1 July:

- Mitzi Betman - recently retired Vice President, Corporate Communications and Chief of Staff at the U.S. Postal Service. She is also the daughter of LHS Board Member Emeritus Joe Robison.
- Richard Friend - author of the **Lost Laurel** book, blogger, and popular Lost Laurel Facebook page author, who has also assisted the LHS in our two most recent exhibits.

When you get the chance, please introduce yourselves to Mitzi and Richard, and thank them for their willingness to serve.

Secondly, due to his ongoing health issues, Jim McCeney reluctantly resigned as Treasurer effective 30 June and declined to be nominated for another term as Chairman of the Board. He will, however, continue to serve as a Board member as his health permits. Words cannot express how important Jim's service has been to the LHS and its Board of Directors over the past couple of decades and we will certainly miss his previous level of involvement, but we understand and appreciate his decision to step down for his own good and the good of the Society. Thankfully, he remains as a Board member so we will not be completely losing his participation. I, for one, will continue to seek his advice and experience as much as I can, and I'm sure the new Treasurer and Board Chairman feel the same way!

To replace Jim as Treasurer, the Executive Committee has appointed Mariam Thakkar to finish out Jim's term. When we first started looking for a suitable replacement, Mariam indicated that she not only has the interest but the background to

fulfill the Treasurer responsibilities. Hopefully, if we treat her well enough, she will continue in this role for sometime to come.

Finding someone to accept the challenges of serving as Chairman of the Board promised to be a bit more daunting. We are quite fortunate that our former President and long-serving active member of several committees (not the least being the Gala Committee) – Jhanna Levin – is willing to step up to that responsibility! She was nominated and elected at the regular Board meeting in July, beginning her one-year term by assuming the Chair immediately.

Finally, we express our appreciation to former Board member Lisa Losito for her many years of service to the Board and the LHS. She stepped down from the Board this year and we will miss her service and her contributions to our Society's success.

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 LHS' 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 22, 2015. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.



Gertrude Poe’s desk is on display as part of the Laurel Museum’s current exhibit: “Ripped from the Headlines, Laurel in the News,” which runs through December 21, 2015. Representatives from the LHS will deliver the card in person to Miss Poe for her birthday. Visitors can sign the Gertrude Poe Birthday Card during Laurel Museum regular hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 10AM – 2PM or Sundays 1-4 PM.

MUSEUM NEWS



RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES: LAUREL IN THE NEWS runs until 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:

Breasia Productions, Nailah Gobern
 Jeane Kidwell
 The Leonard Group, Kevin Leonard
 Bernie Lopace
 Gailian Magruder
 Cynthia and Ken Simms
 The Women’s Club of Laurel, Linda Hammil

We are happy to have you!

SIGN GERTRUDE POE’S 100th Birthday Card

Legendary *Laurel News Leader* editor Gertrude Poe turns 100 this September. From August 24 - September 20, 2015, friends and members of the Laurel community are invited to stop by the Laurel Museum and send her birthday wishes. A colorful 18 x 24” card will be sitting on (or nearby) the very desk Miss Poe used while working at the *Laurel News Leader*. Visitors can write their own birthday wishes to this distinguished Laurel citizen.

Gertrude Poe was raised in Laurel, and after graduating from American University Law school became editor of the *Laurel News Leader* in 1939. In addition to 41 years as editor and later publisher she was the first woman president of the Maryland Press Association and is a member of the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame.

It brings me a dream of a once happy day,
Of merry forms I've seen
Upon the village green,
Sporting with my old dog Tray.

Chorus:
Old dog Tray's ever faithful,
Grief cannot drive him away,
He's gentle, he is kind;
I'll never, never find
A better friend than old dog Tray.

The forms I call'd my own
Have vanished one by one,
The lov'd ones, the dear ones have all passed
away;
Their happy smiles have flown,
Their gentle voices gone;
I've nothing left but old dog Tray.

Chorus:
When thoughts recall the past
His eyes are on me cast;
I know that he feels what my breaking heart
would say:
Although he cannot speak I'll vainly, vainly
seek
A better friend than old dog Tray.

The song can be heard on YouTube:
[youtube.com/watch?v=ASKiyGZj68k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASKiyGZj68k).

It may be overly sentimental, but dog lovers
love it!



LHS Helping to Save Our Stop

Save

Our

Stop

The LHS is actively participating in efforts to keep the Laurel train stop from being moved to a new development in Howard County at the Racetrack. In a recent press conference, LHS Executive Director Lindsey Baker and other speakers noted the station stop's long (180 year) history, and historic economic importance to Laurel. Speakers also noted that Laurel is the transportation friendly town new developments are trying to create. Since the press conference there have been a number of meetings with state officials and the developers by Laurel officials. A number of folks have noted that hearing from citizens will be an important part of making sure the stop isn't moved.

"How can I help?" you might ask. Pre-stamped postcards addressed to MDOT's Secretary Peter Rahn with a pre-printed message for commuters and non-commuters alike can be picked up at the Museum. (We'll even mail them for you).

What else can people do?

- 1. Sign the Petition Saying You Want to Save the Stop**

<http://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/save-our-stop>

2. **Write/email/call Dennis Schrader**, at MDOT saying the station should stay in Laurel. If you are a commuter or were a commuter, or moved to live in Laurel because the train was there, mentioning that can help.
 - a. **Dennis R. Schrader**, *Deputy Secretary for Policy, Planning, & Enterprise Services* (410) 865-1006
e-mail: dschrader@mdot.state.md.us
P. O. Box 548
7201 Corporate Center Drive,
Hanover, MD 21076 – 0548

3. **Let Howard County Planning & Zoning officials know how you feel about plans to move the station. Be sure to mention if you live in Howard County.**
 - a. **Valdis Lazdins**, *Director*
vlazdins@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-4301
 - b. **Brenda Luber**, *Plan Review, Forest Conserv. Database*
bluber@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-4343

4. If you're on Facebook: "Like" us at:
www.facebook.com/SOSLaurelMainStreet

Need more information or available to help? Please email saveourstop@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Laurel figures prominently in the early history of railroads in Maryland. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, initiated construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1829 and a 12-mile stretch between Baltimore and Ellicott Mills (now Ellicott City) was laid through Laurel in 1835. A small railroad station

constructed on the east side of the tracks in Laurel greatly facilitated commercial development in the region. In 1884, the station was demolished and the present Queen Anne-style station, designed by well-known architect Francis Baldwin, was built on the west side of the tracks. The B & O railroad station has been in continuous use ever since, serving commuters and travelers between Baltimore and Washington, D. C. The station is on the National Register of Historic Places.

SAVE OUR STOP!

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.

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!



Please consider the LHS in your Planned Giving. It's easy. For more information please contact Lindsey Baker (301)725-7075.

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!



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Address Service Requested

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Gertrude L. Poe, Director Emerita
Joseph Robison, Director Emeritus
Jean Wilson, Director Emerita



Laurel Historical Society Calendar

AUGUST 2015 – DECEMBER 2015

For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org

August 30th

Grand Opening: Diven's Den
Laurel Museum 1:30 – 3:30 PM

September 12th

Un-Corked: a Saturday at Snow Hill
\$25 per person 6:00 – 9:00 PM

October 18th

Ripped from the Headlines Kid Event
Laurel Museum 1:30 – 3:30 PM

September 10th

Reporting on Integration at Laurel's
Schools: Panel Discussion
Montpelier Arts Center 7:00 PM

October 8th

Vaccine Nation: Flu, Measles and the
Battle Over Vaccination
Laurel Pool Room 7:00 PM

November 8th

Taste of Laurel
Laurel Pool Room 1:30 – 3:30 PM

December TBD

Biannual House Tour