



# 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**

Chairman of the Board Jim McCeney sent along his submission for this newsletter to me before he sent it to our wonderful newsletter editor Jeanie Anastasi (the brains behind all of these wonderful newsletters if you were ever wondering). When I read through Jim's update I thought to myself, "Wow, no wonder I'm so tired." Over 30 programs in a year is a LOT of programs.

You would think that my next thought would be that we need to slow down. But I think this past year has been the best one for me since I arrived at the LHS. I've seen us really make some inroads into reaching new audiences. We've found ways to partner with already established organizations around town and tap into their programs and audiences to extend our reach. We really are a part of the community now and I don't think that can be disputed.

But just like Jim did, I have to give a nod to all of our supporters. Without you we definitely would not be able to be where we are today. And by supporters, I mean everyone who is on our side of the proverbial ring. I don't just mean financial

supporters. I mean all of our volunteers, board members, and partners. Each and every one of you plays a special part in making our organization a success. So I would like to say "Thank you" to all of you once again. Whether you attended one program or 15, or whether you gave \$20 or \$5000, your support means the world to us.

Lindsey Baker

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your fantastic support of our Historical Society. Your support of our Annual Giving drive was the best ever.

For the last few years our energetic, enthusiastic, workaholic Executive Director has managed to outspend our modest goals and fundraising. We have been able to handle it by borrowing from our rainy day funds, but not this year. We set ambitious goals, and you exceeded them. We are most grateful.

In addition to operating the Museum we have had 32 programs and activities this past year. Of course not all programs are

geared toward our supporters. Our mission encompasses everyone; young and old. We had grand openings, stories, house tours, walks, edit-a-thons, lectures, tastings, haunted tours, singing, science explorations, reenactments, wine tastings, kids events, programs in Spanish and more! What a year! We just want to say "Thank you" for providing the resources for us to carry out these programs.

Jim McCeney

p.s. Be sure to come to the Museum to visit "Lost and Found Laurel."

### **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 April 24, 2014. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It is with great pride and some sadness that I write my last submission as President of the Laurel Historical Society. It has been an exciting and humbling five years. I remember the day very clearly when I was asked to serve. I remember thinking of all of the presidents that had come before me. What big shoes I would have to fill. I thought of the hard work and sweat equity, quite literally, that many past presidents endured. I knew, with great certainty, that I would not have to endure as much, because we had Lindsey, the Executive Director extraordinaire. I also knew I had a cohesive Board with a Chairman that would guide me through my term (I didn't realize it would turn into longer than a two year term), an Executive

Committee that was open-minded and willing to work and very strong Chairwomen to move us along. I also knew there was a membership who cared, truly loved our fair city and the history that came before us. That we are a group of like-minded people that wanted to preserve our past while helping to shape our future. Therefore, I had no real trepidation saying "yes."

What a five years it has been! So much has happened. We've "lost some Laurel" and "found some Laurel" for certain. That is exactly why the new exhibit is one of my favorites. The commerce and community of Laurel is what my family was originally drawn to and what allowed us to make this our home. I sometimes forget that I'm actually from Philadelphia and that we moved to Beltsville when my father was stationed here. Laurel has become my home. It has adopted my family and I and has helped me weather many storms. My mother fell instantly in love the day she came, at Len Geary's suggestion, to look at 512 Main Street, a property she purchased for her growing business. She spent everyday afterward believing in her heart and telling anyone that would listen, why this place was worth fighting for. And we weren't even from "these parts." I feel part of something greater than myself when I walk down Main Street or when I walk through the neighborhood. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms, for listening to my ideas and for the honor and the privilege of serving this great organization. Laurel is worth preserving.

Yours in Preservation,

Jhanna Levin

**LEVELS OF GIVING**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM**  
**JANUARY 1, 2013 TO**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

The Laurel Historical Society depends upon the generosity of our donors to complete its mission of "Preserving Laurel's Past for the Future." In an effort to recognize and thank our contributors, we are doing our annual publication of names and donation levels. Without all of you, we would not be able to continue the work of the Society. **We want to know of any errors, misspellings or omissions. Please contact Lindsey Baker by email [director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org) or by mail, 817 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707.**

The Society would like to thank the following donors for their support in the form of contributions, sponsorships and advertisements:

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## **2014 GALA UPDATE!**

# *An Evening* **LOST LAUREL**

*Travel in our time machine and spend An Evening in Lost Laurel in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park on April 12, 2014. Share memories of the Bay and Surf, photo booths, the Laurel Drive-in and maybe even some fashions from the Vogue Shop. We already have Main Street Pharmacy as a sponsor. Auction items so far include restaurant gift certificates, professional services (think lawyers), autographed books, sports memorabilia, and more. If you would like to be a sponsor, donate something for the auction, or advertise in our booklet, please contact the museum. Look for your invitation in mid-March.*



## VISITORS ENJOY A SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Submitted by Margie McCeney, Co-Chair

Neither rain, sleet, nor snow could keep the crowds from our biennial house tour. Whatever made all those people willing to face the wintry weather (wanting to see inside homes or maybe it was refreshments at the Women's Club), we are grateful. And of course, the tour would not be possible without the generosity of the people who are willing to open their doors. Thank you to the following homes and churches: Linda Armstrong & Steve Hargst, Clayton Cooper & Diego Difuentes, the Laurel Woman's Club, Margaret Miller, the Pallotine Missionary Sisters, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, and Betsy Welsh. This year we had more support than ever from local businesses advertising in the tour booklet. Advertisers included: Gary's Automotive Service Center, Community Insurance Services, Donaldson Funeral Home, Downs Law Firm, Latin Image Salon, Laurel Board of Trade, Councilwoman Mary Lehman, Maryland Milestone, Minuteman Press, Poist Gas, St. Philips Episcopal Church, Randy Anastasi/Sport Automotive, Linda M Brown, Attorney at Law, Cork 'n Bottle Liquors, Crossfit, The Crystal Fox, Curry Leaf, Debz New Look, Executive Electrolysis, Greater Laurel Chiropractic,

Hey, Red!, A.M Kroop & Sons, Laurel Fuel Oil and Heating Co., Laurel Glass & Mirror Co., Laurel Health Food, Laurel Mill Playhouse, Laurel's Lock Shop, Councilman Mike Leszcz, Main Street Pharmacy, McGowan & Cecil, LLC, Pearl Dental Center of Laurel Lakes, PNC Bank, R. L. Thompson Electrical Contractor, Rainbow Florist and Delectables, Resource Enterprises, Inc., Revere Bank, Royal Custom Tailor and Tuxedo, Schembari Family Dentistry, Sean Patrick's Pet Spa, Sports Card Heroes, Tails on Trails Pet Sitting and Dog Walking, Toucan Taco, and last, but not least, Wicked Killa Ink Tattoo & Piercing Studio. Please patronize our business supporters! If you are interested in having your home or business on the tour in 2015, let us know. We'd love to have you!

## MUSEUM NEWS

Submitted by Marlene Frazier

The Museum has received some interesting donations recently. In addition to the Laurel Leaders that the library gave us last year, we recently picked up a trove of photos and records of the Library's history. An EBay purchase yielded a photo of a World War I military unit while it was stationed at Camp Laurel on the grounds of the Laurel Race Track, and Stuart Hurtt donated a wonderful framed, hand drawn plat of land holdings in the City of Laurel.

*Our new exhibit, "Lost and Found Laurel" runs thru December 2014. Stop in and see what all the buzz is about! The Laurel Museum is open Wedns 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 info: laurelhistoricalsociety.org*

## **MEMBER NEWS**

Please welcome our new members:

Shawn Dowling

Pat Farmer

Kim and Jeff Jones

Donald Krizek

Lou & Diane Mezzanotte

Christy and Ezra Richter

Donna Schneider (Lifetime Member)

Judy Shreve

Bill & Grace Stanton

Elisa Ulino

We are happy to have you!

## **Welcome New Volunteers**

No one this time; how about you!

## **Volunteers Needed!**

The Laurel Historical Society is in need of volunteers for Sundays (1 pm - 4 pm) and Fridays (10 am - 2 pm) at the Laurel Museum. Volunteers are needed to serve as docents and/or handle gift shop sales. Training is provided.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the Science in the Summer camp scheduled for August 4th - 15th. This is a free science education program that helps elementary school children "grow into science." The camp will be held at the Laurel Municipal Pool Meeting Room, which is across the street to the left of the museum.

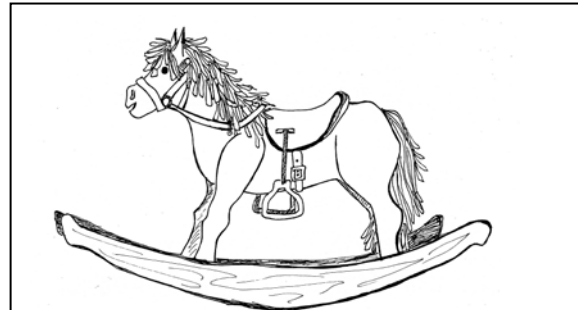
Volunteer duties include helping move items to and from the camp site, assisting with registration, helping with setup of experiments, assisting children with activities and helping clean up experiment areas. For more information, please contact Monica at [assist@laurelhistoricalsociety](mailto:assist@laurelhistoricalsociety) or 301-725-7975.

## **Volunteer Luncheons**

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

## **MUSEUM SHOP NEWS**

Many thanks to all who made our Holiday Open House a success! We had plenty of visitors to the Museum and shop. Thank you for your support. Don't forget that you can find many of our shop items online. Check out the online shop at [laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop](http://laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop).



## **Children's Corner**

Diven's Den features stations for kids. The "den" is located on the lower level of the museum. Bring the kids for a tour and some fun!

We will again sponsor "Science in the Summer" for elementary age school children in August.

Registration information soon. Please keep this in mind for the kids and grandkids this summer!



**Vi Turley and Jane Bulla Named LHS  
Volunteers of the Year**



The Laurel Historical Society Volunteers of the Year were named at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. This year we honored Vi and Jane, two of our volunteers who work quite well as a team. Together they are a force to be reckoned with and are always happy to help in whatever way they are needed. Vi and Jane give great tours, are a dynamic duo in the shop, and are a great help with mailing among other things! Thank you Vi and Jane for your invaluable help with the LHS!



***“Lets Take a Walk” by Betty Compton will be continued in the next several issues of the Laurel Light! Stay tuned.***

**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 at [jmanastasi@verizon.net](mailto:jmanastasi@verizon.net) with your comments, suggestions or story ideas. Thank 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
- \* Members 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).

**Laurel Historical Society**  
**817 Main Street**  
**Laurel, Maryland 20707**  
**301.725.7975/301.725.2675 (fax)**  
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 laurelhistoricalsociety.org

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# Laurel Historical Society Calendar

## March 2014 – August 2014

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

March 13 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM <i>(Re) Collecting Laurel</i> Laurel Pool Room	Laurel Park Racetrack	June 12 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM Friends and Family Picnic Laurel Museum
April 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM <i>"History Matters" Expanded</i> Laurel Pool Room	May Date and Time TBD Lost and Found Laurel Series: Lost Laurel Trivia Kroop's Boots Behind the Scenes Snowden Cemetery Tour	August 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> Science in the Summer Camp Laurel Pool Room
April 12 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM Laurel Historical Society Gala <i>An Evening in Lost Laurel</i>	May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 6:30 PM Annual Meeting Laurel Pool Room	More event info on line soon!