A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past several years, the Laurel Historical Society has been lucky enough to establish an ongoing partnership with Laurel High School via the Spartan Historical Society. Each year has had a different focus. We have catalogued a collection of scrapbooks from the high school and scanned them with the help of Kevin Leonard. We have also worked on History Day projects, had the students practice public speaking (about history), discussed current events, and more.

This year we tried something new. We wanted to provide a forum where the students could directly engage with primary sources about Laurel’s history to discuss current events. We wanted to help give context, arouse curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and help students better understand their community.

In March we did this with a “Pizza and Politics” afternoon at Laurel High. We opened it up to students not in the club and had around 30 or so kids join us for a debate. The debate began with the students learning the story of Cpl. Richard Findley (he subsequently earned the rank of Sergeant) and Ronnie White and their fateful interaction on June 28, 2008. They were given the following information:

On June 28, 2008 Cpl. Richard S. Findley, 39, was dragged under a car while trying to stop suspects in a stolen vehicle in Laurel, Maryland. The incident took place in the shopping center at the intersection of Contee Road and 197. Cpl. Findley later died from his injuries. On June 29, 2008, Ronnie L. White was charged with 1st degree murder of Cpl. Findley.

Within less than 48 hours of being charged, Mr. White was found dead in his solitary confinement cell at age 19. The State Medical Examiner ruled White’s death a homicide. The Maryland State Police investigation concluded that White might have killed himself. Almost 5 years later, in January 2013, a former corrections officer, Anthony McIntosh pled guilty to obstructing justice for giving a false account of the incidents regarding Mr. White’s death. As of today, no other charges have been made.

Using this information, newspaper articles from the case, and materials from the Black Lives Matter website, we asked students to debate the following question: If this case occurred today, in 2017, do you think it would fit into the Black Lives Matter Movement?

Our hope was that students would think critically about what happened, think critically about the BLM movement and how it relates to other Civil Rights movements, and use the primary sources to inform their arguments. They did. It was a very interesting conversation. Half way through we had the students switch sides for the debate.

It was a really wonderful opportunity for students to engage in Laurel’s past, to think critically about that past and draw comparisons to current events on the national stage. Our plan is to continue Pizza and Politics and we hope the students continue to come for more than just pizza.
Annual Meeting and Approval of Officers and Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting, the slate of Officers and Board of Directors was decided upon. All appointments are two-year terms except the Chairman of the Board who is elected each year. Terms run July 1st thru June 30th.

LHS Officers continuing until 2018:
Steve Hubbard, President
Frances Brooks, Vice President
Marlene Frazier, Recording Secretary
Amy Graver, Corresponding Secretary
Mariam Thakker, Treasurer

Board Members re-elected for 2017 – 2019:
Jeanie Anastasi
Mitzi Betman
Tom Dernoga
Chris Erdle
Alicia Fields
Richard Friend
Paula Schuman

New Board members elected for 2017 – 2019:
Lesley Brinton

Board members continuing until 2018:
Mike Boivin, Sr.
Lisa Everett
Abram Fox
Jhanna Levin
Karen Lubieniecki
Margie McEney

Permanent appointments:
Elizabeth Compton, Founding Co-Director
Gertrude Poe, Director Emerita
Joseph Robison, Director Emeritus
Jean Wilson, Director Emerita

We welcome Lesley Brinton as a new member of the Board. Terms run two years and approximately half the board is due for election each year.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE
LHS Board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is July 27, 2017. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

Thank you from the LHS to our 2017 GALA Sponsors, Subscribers, Contributors and Advertisers!

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PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SUPPORTERS!

MANY THANKS TO THE GALA COMMITTEE: JHANNA LEVIN (CHAIRMAN), JEANIE ANASTASI, LINDSEY BAKER, LESLEY BRINTON, EILEEN COLLINS, KATHY CRAWFORD, ALICIA FIELDS, HOLLY LILIENTHAL, MARGIE MCCENY, NICOLE ST. HILAIRE & MARIAM THAKKER. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RICHARD FRIEND.
This is the inaugural year of the Laurel Historical Society's Community Impact Awards giving recognition to individuals, businesses and organizations that are contributing to the Laurel Community. Each honoree has enhanced our quality of life, contributed to our economic infrastructure, exemplified community outreach, and as such, become a part of the history and culture of Laurel. The following were honored at the Laurel Historical Society’s Great Gala on April 22, 2017:

**The American Legion: Non-profit Contributor**

American Legion Post 60 stands on four primary principles: Taking care of veterans and their families, supporting strong national defense, educating and caring for youth and promoting patriotism. The Legion supports our community through a variety of programs and social activities for local veterans and their families. In addition, they provide scholarships to students, provide facilities for little league and scouting groups, participate with the annual Toys for Tots program and more. By supporting efforts such as LARS, McVets, Special Olympics and the Polar Bear Plunge, the American Legion Post 60 exemplifies volunteerism and community spirit at its finest.

**Klingbeil Capital Management: Corporate Community Contributor**

Klingbeil Capital Management has been investing in our City since 2007 with the development of The Oaks condominium community on Main Street. They have been managing Emerson at Cherry Lane since 2014 with its 445 units residents providing shopping foot traffic to the new Laurel Towne Centre. Most recently Klingbeil developed C Street Flats with approximately 100 units. Located just off Main Street, it has increased the foot traffic for Main Street shops. Sip at C Street Café supports the local arts and opens its doors to local businesses and community organization for catering and use of the community room.

**More than Java Café: Small Business Contributor**

The owners of More than Java Café have brought their personal touch to the hub of downtown Main Street. As a family owned and operated business, the Café has contributed to the revitalization of Laurel’s Main Street and has improved the visual landscape of the town as passers-by can observe customers sitting at bistro tables enjoying beverages, a bite to eat and conversation. The Café offers daily service to residents and businesses and provides a promotional platform for local artists, writers, poets and creative entrepreneurs.

**Marcus Colbert: Special Honor In Recognition of Public Service**

Marcus Colbert, our beloved neighborhood public servant is being recognized for his 14 years of dedication and service to the City of Laurel, Department of Public Works. Marcus was known for his ready smile, service to others, and hard work. Always courteous, he would stop to say hello to everyone along his sanitation route. He was gracious and considerate, putting cans back in place for the elderly residents so they didn’t have to walk far to retrieve them. He even took pictures with children in front of the large DPW truck. Marcus will be honored with a memorial brick in his name to be placed on the walking path leading to the Laurel Museum.
LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF JIM MCCENEY

The Laurel Historical Society is announcing an extension of the application deadline for the James “Jim” McCeney Scholarship for two deserving Laurel-area high school graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in the discipline of social studies and intend to continue their study in related fields at the college or university level. This scholarship program was established in 2016 in memory of Jim McCeney, former President, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Laurel Historical Society. Two scholarship recipients will receive awards of $750 to be used in support of their academic studies in history or other related fields. For consideration, applicants must meet GPA requirements and be able to demonstrate sustained participation in social studies-related activities outside of the classroom, as well as submit an application and short essay. The new application deadline is July 1, 2017, and the application will be available on the LHS website. We strongly encourage any interested students to apply!

MUSEUM NEWS

Laurel’s WWI: From Here to Over There

Laurel’s WWI: From Here to Over There runs through December 17, 2017. 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 www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

MEMBER NEWS

Members are the mainstay of our organization. Renew your membership today and consider becoming a Life Member. Many of your friends and neighbors have done so already.

Please welcome our new members:

Wayne Davis
Julie and Alan Ernstein
Janice Kaifer
Ray Pomeroy
Jonathan Williams
James and Susan Wolfe

We are happy to have you!

Volunteers News

The Laurel Museum is in need of volunteers for the Sundays and Fridays. Volunteers will give tours and/or handle shop sales. Training is available. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Monica at assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975.

Please welcome our new volunteers:

Corine Williams
Cheryl Poulos

THANK YOU LADIES!

Children’s Corner

We will be holding a Rube Goldberg Camp June 27th-29th and the Science in the Summer Camp from August 14th - 18th. If you are interested in helping with the program or volunteering at the Museum during program hours, please call the Museum!
DO YOU KNOW THIS BUILDING?

We are hoping that someone will recognize this building and the people in the photograph. If you have any information please contact Marlene Frazier at marlene.frazier@verizon.net. Thank you!

Main Street Festival 2017

Many thanks to all who stopped by the Laurel Historical Society table! Many of you picked up information, made purchases, asked questions, and shared stories with the wonderful volunteers staffing the event. It’s fun to take the work of the LHS and the Museum out to the general public in such a festive way. Stop by and see us next year!

AmazonSmile

What is AmazonSmile you ask? It’s a tool that donates .05% of all eligible purchases to a charity of your choosing.

In order for it to work, you must shop on the Smile.Amazon.com website. It has all of the same great choices as Amazon.Com, you just start your shopping experience by picking your charity of choice (we are rooting for the Laurel Historical Society).

Then shop as you normally do and if your purchase is eligible for AmazonSmile, then we’ll automatically be sent a percentage of sales.

Prefer to shop on the app? There currently isn’t a means to donate through the app, but if you add the items to your shopping cart in the app, then sign in through a web browser to smile.amazon.com, you should be able to donate that way.

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
* Access to our on-line collections
* Member’s only events
* Member 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
GALA PICTURE FUN!
Laurel Historical Society
817 Main Street
Laurel, Maryland 20707
301.725.7975/301.725.2675 (fax)
info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

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Gertrude L. Poe, Director Emerita
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Jean Wilson, Director Emerita

Laurel Historical Society Calendar
June 2017 – August 2017
For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org

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<td>Friends and Family Picnic and Community Collections Appraisal Event Cabana Room, Greenview Drive</td>
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Be sure to “Follow or Like” the LHS on your Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook!