



# The Laurel Light

MAY 2011  
Volume XIV, Number II  
The Laurel Light  
Published Quarterly by:  
The Laurel Historical Society, Inc.  
817 Main St. Laurel, MD 20707-3429

## News and History from the Laurel Historical Society

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*The mission of the Laurel Historical Society, Incorporated is to encourage the understanding and preservation of the history and cultural heritage of Laurel.*

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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

In these tough economic times, many museums and historical societies are searching for funding opportunities in places they never looked before. Some are adjusting their goals and efforts to fit funding streams, some are cutting back programming and exhibits, and some are even cutting positions.

For the Laurel Historical Society, we've been weathering the storm by working in a way similar to how we've always functioned; through reliance on our volunteers. Our volunteers do a number of different tasks, from giving tours, to writing the budget, to building exhibits. We have more "people power" than I've ever seen in an organization. Through their efforts, these volunteers have enabled us to bridge the economic gap as various funding sources have dried up.

"A Night at the Races" on April 9, 2011 was another display of all that volunteers do for our organization when left to their own devices. Yet again I was able to sit back and enjoy a wonderful evening full of the Laurel Historical Society's friends and family at our Annual Gala. Our Gala Committee, comprised entirely of volunteers, puts on this major fundraising

event for us once a year, but they work all year round to make it a success. From the decorations, to the invitations, to the menu, to the seating arrangement, to the silent auction--it is all made possible through volunteer efforts. Without these wonderful volunteers, the event, our major fundraiser, would never happen.

So I would like to thank our volunteers once again for all that they do. But for this one issue of the Laurel Light, I'd like to particularly thank our Gala Committee for their efforts.

Lindsey Baker  
Executive Director

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

Springtime in Laurel is such a beautiful time. The snapshot of lush vegetation blooming against the backdrop of a historic home always reminds me of how much I love this place. As I took one of my nightly walks around Old Town (now that it's nice out again), I found myself stopping to stare at new gardening, new additions and in general, at all that is quaint and warm about our City.

The Gala was amazing! The ladies of the Gala Committee always deliver a great evening! I hope you enjoyed yourself as

much as I did. If you were unable to attend, we are so sorry you missed out. Mark it on your calendar now for next year to avoid missing the "event of the year". Thank you again to all of our community supporters, members and guests for assisting us with another successful fundraiser.

A few weeks ago I worked as the Sunday docent. This was a new experience for me as that I had only worked in the gift shop. Not only was I able to thoroughly appreciate (and read through without distraction) the new exhibit on the Laurel Racetrack "And They're Off! 100 Years at Laurel Park", I also had a few visitors to interact with as well. I learned a lot from both the exhibit and the visitors! If you have never done it, or it's been awhile, I encourage you to contact Monica and volunteer for an afternoon. I guarantee you will enjoy yourself. Looking ahead, we have many more events before the summer rolls in including the LHS Friends and Family Picnic. I hope to see many of you there!

Yours in preserving Laurel's history...one story at a time,

Jhanna Levin  
President



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

## **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 July 28, 2011. Members are most welcome to attend Board meetings. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

Submitted by Marlene Frazier



The Laurel Museum's exhibit, "**And They're Off! 100 Years at Laurel Park**" features a short story about a cherished Laurel horse, Mountain Rose II. When the horse had to be destroyed, the owner had him buried on the grounds of the Laurel Racetrack. This was unusual in itself, but even more exceptional was the fact that the owner had a tombstone carved and placed on the grave. With permission of the track, Charlie Hessler and I were able to locate the tombstone in the wooded area, clear away decades worth of underbrush, and take a picture of it.

For many more stories on Laurel Park, please visit the museum and shop on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM or Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. For more information on the exhibit or to schedule a group tour please visit [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org).



Lady and horse at Laurel Park

### **Laurel Historical Society Book Club**

The LHS Book Club meets monthly to explore history and culture related topics one book at a time. We meet the third Wednesday of every Month at 7 PM at Mango's restaurant. Join us!

### **LHS Genealogy Group**

The Laurel Historical Society Genealogy Group assists members in conducting Genealogy research. Whether you are just thinking about beginning your journey into genealogy or you are an experienced genealogist, please join us and learn how we can help each other. For more information, contact Mike Boivin at [mikeB98159@aol.com](mailto:mikeB98159@aol.com).

### **Children's Corner**

We invite you and yours to learn a little bit about Laurel; history, customs, and traditions, and experience the interactive space Diven's Den. Our next activity "Kids Day at the Museum" will be on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 - 3:30 PM.

### **MEMBER NEWS**

Please welcome our newest members:

**A. Dea Porrino  
Bernie Gallagher  
Clark Shatter**

We are happy to have you!

**The Annual LHS Friends and Family Picnic** will be June 9, 2011 at 6:30 at the Avondale Entrance to Riverfront Park. Please bring the following by first letter of your last name:

A – H	Beverages
I - O	Side dish
P – Z	Dessert

**Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. All are invited to attend and we hope to see you there!!**

### **Volunteers Needed!**

The Laurel Museum is in need of volunteers for **Sundays from 1 PM - 4 PM**. Even just once a month or every other month would help! Anyone interested in volunteering at the Museum may contact Monica at [assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org) or 301-725-7975 for more information. Thank you!

### **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**

You can always shop from the comfort of your own home as you can find many of our items online. Please visit [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop).

## **GALA NEWS**



Submitted by Gala Chair, Margie McCeney



Horse Kelso and jockey at Laurel Park

A good time was had by all at *A Night at the Races*. In our mock race Kalmia, sponsored by Betty and Dick Compton, was the big winner. Hot Dam!, sponsored by Eileen and Clif Collins came in second, and Charlie's Horse, sponsored by Kevin McNulty, came in 3rd. Attendees enjoyed jazz by Samba Pa Ti before dinner, and danced the night away when DJ Al Roda took over after dinner. There were door prizes, lots of bidding on auction items, and drinking our race-themed "Black Eyed Susan" cocktails. Thank you to those who attended, purchased tables, sponsored tables, donated auction items, and/or were event sponsors. It all adds up. I would especially like to thank our sponsors: Main Street Pharmacy for the invitations, Gertrude L. Poe for the valet parking and Glenn & Barbara Feagin for the dessert. The following members sponsored a table and named the horses in our mock race: Clif and Eileen Collins, Dick and Betty Compton, Larry and Barbara Eldridge, Jim and Bobbi McCeney, Kevin McNulty of Resource Realty, Quatrefoil Associates/C-Street Gallery. Photos taken at the gala are available on the LHS website. Suggestions, ideas, and comments are always welcome! Please contact Margie McCeney at

mmcceney@yahoo.com. Thank you all for your support.

### **THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE SPONSORS:**

Maryland Million:

**Main Street Pharmacy**

Laurel Turf Cup:

**Gertrude L. Poe**

Laurel Futurity:

**Glenn and Barbara Feagin**

Winner's Circle:

**Clif and Eileen Collins**

**Dick and Betty Compton**

**Larry and Barbara Eldridge**

**Jim and Bobbi McCeney**

**Kevin McNulty/Resource**

**Enterprises, Inc.**

**Quatrefoil/C-Street Gallery**

Thoroughbreds:

**Randy and Jeanie Anastasi**

**Lesley and John Brinton**

**Elizabeth Citrin**

**Elinor Fong and John Moore**

**Joanna Tyson Kurtz**

**Michael and Mary Eileen Leszcz**

**Karen Lubieniecki & Ken**

**Skrivseth**

**Maryland Miles Massey**

**Dr. and Mrs. Akbar Masood**

**Virginia and Jim Mentall**

**Jim and Bobbi McCeney**

**Lou and Carole Montesi**

**Robert and Beatrice Newkirk**

**Ireene and Jim Ohlmacher**

**Ronel Associates Insurance, Inc.**

**Sarah Brown Shannon**

**St. Mary of the Mills Parish**

**Bob and Sonia Thompson  
Anne Towne**



Dick & Betty Compton and Melanie Dzwonchyk



Paul & Jan McCollough; Barbara and Glenn Feagin

**THANK YOU TO OUR AUCTION ITEM  
DONORS:**

A. M. Kroop and Sons  
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Anonymous  
Audubon Naturalists Society  
Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum &  
Sports Legends Museum at  
Camden Yards  
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra  
Bowie Baysox  
Camelot Liquor  
Calvert Marine Museum  
City of Laurel  
College Park Aviation Museum

Eileen Collins  
Betty Compton  
Cork & Bottle  
Corridor Wine  
Kathy Crawford  
Elkridge Furnace Inn  
Downtown Massage Therapists  
Executive Electrolysis  
Barbara and Glenn Feagin  
Marlene and Jim Frazier  
Friends of the LHS  
Fruit Flowers  
Fulton Station Jewelers  
Geppi's Entertainment Museum  
Giant Food  
Gorman Produce Farm  
Hillwood Estate and Gardens  
Doug Humphrey  
Jiffy Lube  
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Kake Korner  
Erika Kokal-Roda  
The Levin-Eldridge Family  
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Laurel Museum  
Laurel Park  
Laurel School of Music  
Holly Lilienthal  
Linganore Wine Cellars  
Jhanna Levin  
Maryland Jockey Club  
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Regina Mima  
Carole Montesi  
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Rainbow Florist and Delectables  
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Joe and Joan Robison

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 Karen Schembari  
 Ken Skrivseth  
 Gayle Snyder  
 Something Special Coffee  
 Sotterly Plantation  
 Kefim St. Hilaire  
 Tampico Grill  
 Susan Troccoli  
 The Walters Art Museum  
 Western Maryland Scenic Railroad  
 Woodhall Wine Cellars  
 Woodland Horse Center  
 Lesley Zark

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

2011

This December we will have our Holiday House Tour and we are looking for committee members and properties to feature! Is your house your pride and joy? Do you have a wonderful or interesting decorating style? Does one of your neighbors? Is your business part of the history and fabric of Laurel? We need you!! Please email committee member Jeanie Anastasi at [jmanastasi@verizon.net](mailto:jmanastasi@verizon.net) if you are interested in serving on the committee or would be willing to have your house or business featured on the tour. It's a great incentive to get those little "to do" items completed and a fun way to share your home with the community!

GERTRUDE L. POE INDUCTED  
 INTO THE MARYLAND  
 WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME



Gertrude L. Poe with Natalie McCeney & Friend

Our own Director Emeritus, benefactor and long time supporter of the LHS, Miss Gertrude L. Poe, has been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held March 29<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis with a reception following at Government House and attended by First Lady, Judge Katie O'Malley. Miss Poe, who is known as "Maryland's First lady of Journalism" was praised for her pioneering spirit and for paving the way for women in journalism. Many of you remember her as the 41 year editor and publisher of the The Leader, now known as the Laurel Leader. In her acceptance speech, Miss Poe stated "Now in my 95<sup>th</sup> year, I thought my eligibility for awards had expired, but this honor is certainly an enduring one." Miss Poe joins the ranks of other notable Women's Hall of Fame Honorees including Harriet Ross Tubman, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Clara Barton. Way to go Trudy. You make Laurel proud.

You can learn more about Miss Poe and her illustrious company of Hall of Fame honorees at the Women's Heritage Center and Museum in Baltimore, [www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org](http://www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org).

### **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
- \*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  
[www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org).

### **BECOME A PART OF LAUREL HISTORY!**

Celebrate The Laurel Museum and become a part of its history. Purchase a brick on the Laurel Museum Brick Walk and become part of the historical fabric of this 1840s building. 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 [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org) or by calling (301)725-7975

### **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  
[jmanastasi@verizon.net](mailto:jmanastasi@verizon.net) with your comments, suggestions or story ideas. Thank you!

### **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!**



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 Gertrude L. Poe, Director Emeritus



# Laurel Historical Society Calendar

## June 2011 – December 2011

For more information, visit: <http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/pages/calendar.html>

Feb 6 through December “And They’re Off! 100 Years at Laurel Park” Museum hours Wed and Fri 10 AM – 2 PM and Sun 1PM – 4 PM.	June 12, 1:30 – 3:30 PM. Kids Day at the Museum.	November 5, 2011 Taste of Laurel
June 9, 6:30 PM LHS Friends and Family Picnic at Avondale Entrance to Riverfront Park.	June 15, July 20, August 17 at 7:30 PM Book Club at Mango’s Grill.	December 2-4, 2011 Holiday Open House
	July 28, 7:30 PM LHS Board Meeting at the Laurel Pool Room	December 10, 2011 Holiday House Tour