A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since my arrival, I have always heard that we have honored people at the Gala in the past, but I never experienced it first hand. So when the Gala Committee first suggested the idea of honoring Jim and Bobbi at our 2015 Gala, I was intrigued.

I know both Jim and Bobbi well enough to know that they don’t like attention being drawn to the good work that they do. So I was curious to see how an entire evening dedicated to them would go. I have to say, it was inspirational. It was also hard. I think for everyone who cares about him, not having Jim in the room with us was difficult. But seeing all of their friends and family in one room, coming together to honor the work that they do, was a beautiful thing.

I know how much Jim and Bobbi do to support the LHS, but that room was a testament to something more. Jim and Bobbi are the model for how you embed yourself into a community. They show us all what it means to be truly dedicated to making your town a better place. Through their example, we are able to see what it means to go above and beyond. Not just with financial support, but with time, advice, hard labor, and unending support. They are giving of themselves because they believe it will make their community a better place, and it does.

There were so many people brought together in the same room to honor Jim and Bobbi because we all recognize just how much they do for Laurel. For that I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended and who showed their support for the McCeneys and all that they do. It was truly inspirational.

Lindsey Baker

Annual Meeting and Approval of Officers and Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting, the nominations for the Board of Directors were decided upon. Terms run July 1st thru June 30th.

Board Members re-elected for 2015 – 2017:
Jeanie Anastasi
Tom Dernoga
Chris Erdle
Paula Schuman
Frederick Smalls
Mariam Thakkara

New Board members elected for 2015 – 2017:
Mitzi Betman
Richard Friend
Permanent appointments:
Elizabeth Compton, Founding Co-Director
Gertrude Poe, Director Emerita
Joseph Robison, Director Emeritus
Jean Wilson, Director Emerita

Our appreciation and thanks to Lisa Losito for her many years as an officer and Board of Director and welcome Mitzi Betman and Richard Friend as new members 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 23, 2015. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

THANK YOU FROM THE LHS TO OUR 2015 GALA SPONSORS, SUBSCRIBERS, CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS!

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Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre
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City of Laurel, Office of the Mayor
Eileen Collins, Executive Electrolysis
Clayton Cooper and Diego Sifuentes
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Abram Fox
Richard Friend
Friends of the LHS
Fulton Station Jewelers
Ada Ghuman
The Grill at Maple Lawn
Historic Londontowne and Gardens
Jailbreak Brewing Company
Jewish Museum of Maryland
A. M. Kroop and Sons, Randy Kroop
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Laurel Museum
Jhanna Levin
Magnificent Body, Johnnette Armstrong
Jim and Bobbi McCeney
Margie McCeney
Regina Mima
National Capital Radio & Television Museum
National Capital Trolley Museum
Olive on Main
Prince George's County Genealogical Society
Prince George's County Historical Society
Ranazul Restaurant
Red, Hot & Blue
Joe and Joan Robison
Sandy Spring Museum
Karen Lubieniecki and Ken Skrivseth
Snow Hill Manor
Surratt House
Toucan Taco
Venue Theatre
Woodhall Wine Cellars

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Olive on Main
Pearl Dental Center of Laurel Lakes, Akbar Masood, DDS
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Revere Bank, Kenneth White
Schembari Family Dentistry, PC
St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
Snow Hill Garden Club
Toucan Taco
Town Center Laurel

**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SUPPORTERS!**

**MANY THANKS TO THE GALA COMMITTEE:**
JHANNA LEVIN (CHAIRMAN), LINDSEY BAKER, EILEEN COLLINS, KATHY CRAWFORD, SARA FOX, HOLLY LILIENTHAL, MARGIE MCCENEY, REGINA MIMA, NICOLE ST. HILAIRE & MARIAM THAKKAR. A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE COMMITTEE GOES TO MELANIE DZWONCHYK AND RICHARD FRIEND.

**ANNUAL GALA A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE TO JIM AND BOBBI MCCENEY**

Bobbi and Jim McCeney Cake; Photo by Jeanie Anastasi.

The Laurel Historical Society Annual Gala was held April 18\textsuperscript{th} at the Carriage Room at
the Laurel Park Race Course. This year’s gala Stop the Presses! An Evening Honoring Jim and Bobbi McCeney, honored one of Laurel’s finest couples. The Carriage Room was full of friends and family of the McCeneys, City and County politicians and government officials and of course many dedicated Society members and volunteers. Unfortunately, Jim McCeney was not able to attend due to illness, but Bobbi graciously accepted proclamations from the City of Laurel, Prince George’s County and the State of Maryland, as well as other accolades, with her understated Southern flare. The McCeney family has been a part of Laurel for more than 140 years and of course the family tradition continued with Rob McCeney, son of Jim and Bobbi speaking on behalf of his parents, and Margie McCeney seen throughout the evening continuing her duties as part of the gala committee.

The décor’ was Ripped from the Headlines paying homage to the current Museum exhibit. The red, black and white color scheme and inventive “newsie” hand crafted items added much to the theme. The “give away” was a letter opener used regularly by this writer. The theme cocktail “Bobbi’s Pimm’s Cup” was a crowd favorite with the line to taste the libation extending into the busy Silent Auction area. The lively and spirited Silent Auction continued through the evening and the Live Auction culminated in a real win for the Society. Generous donor John Moore contributed the full amount needed to supply the Laurel Museum with a new Ipad.

The Gala is the largest fundraiser for the Laurel Historical Society each year. This year the Gala raised over $6500 in our Live and Silent Auction, about $15,000 in sponsorships and ads, and had over 225 people in attendance.

As in years past, attendees enjoyed posing for the camera in the photo booth and dancing the evening away. If you attend the Gala every year, thank you! If you have never attended, please try and join us next year! This IS the social event of the year in the City of Laurel!
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.

NEW LHS LIBRARY RESEARCH POLICY NOW IN EFFECT
Submitted by Abram Fox

After several months of consideration and review, the Laurel Historical Society has revised its John Calder Brennan Library Research Policy, and at the same time has made all 111 years of the Laurel Leader files available online for access from any location. First and foremost, the Research Library policies have been updated to better take into account the time and effort LHS staff and volunteers put toward fulfilling research requests. The fee schedule has been updated to include fees for research conducted by staff and volunteers, something that had previously been free but proved to be a significant drain on LHS resources. We will still conduct research for those who request it, with a nominal hourly fee for more prolonged requests. Additionally, the library policies now include a Personal Use Waiver which will provide us a formal outlet for waiving scanning and copying fees for files for personal,

Children's Corner
We will be holding a Science in the Summer Camp from August 10th - 14th. If you are interested in helping with the program or volunteering at the Museum during program hours, please call the Museum!
academic, or other non-commercial use, something we have already been doing in practice.

These new policies increase and make clearer the benefits received by LHS members when using the Research Library. The new Research Library policy is now available on the LHS website. At the same time we have also uploaded all of the digital files of the *Laurel Leader* from 1897 through 2008 to an online file management system called Box, and updated the Research Policy accordingly. As a benefit only to LHS members, you can email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org to be granted access to the entire run of the Leader. Each file is viewable online from anywhere you have internet access. You can view the files as long as you want, but cannot download them.

Setting up this file management system also allows us opportunity for future expansion of online availability of files, including yearbooks from a number of Laurel schools and photographs from the Sadler collection and others. We’re excited to increase the scope of our digital offerings for LHS members, and the value of your LHS membership.

**MEMBER NEWS**

Members are the mainstay of our organization. Look for your membership renewal soon and please consider becoming a Life Member. Many of your friends and neighbors have done so and their dedication is really appreciated.

Please welcome our new members:
Lesley Brinton  
Darnice Jasper  
Katherine Meixner  
Maureen Veihmeyer  
John Williams  

We are happy to have you!

**Volunteers News**

The Laurel Museum is in urgent need of volunteers for Sundays (1 pm - 4 pm) and Fridays (10 am - 2 pm). Volunteers are needed to give tours, answer questions about the Laurel Museum and/or handle gift shop sales. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Monica at assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975.

Please welcome our new volunteers:  
No one this time; how about you?

**Volunteer Luncheons**

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

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The McCeney residence at 400 Main Street was built in 1866 and has been the home of five generations of the family. It was built on the former Talbott Estate, which was purchased by Thomas Jefferson Talbott in the early 1800s. The frame house, which features joist secured with wooden pegs, was purchased by George Patterson McCeney and his wife Margaret Sadler McCeney in 1929. Mrs. McCeney was the daughter of Robert H. Sadler Sr., who operated a pharmacy at 420 Main Street. The McCeney house is a "foursquare" house; four rooms 15 x 15 on each floor with a center hall. The kitchen wing was added prior to 1979 and the east porch was added about 1905. In 1930, the street-level entrance was added to provide public access to Dr. Robert S. McCeney's medical office. Dr. McCeney practiced there until 1987. In 2000, Mr. and Mrs. James B. McCeney began a detailed restoration project on the home.
Main Street Festival 2015

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!

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.

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

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

Laurel Historical Society Calendar
June 2015 – November 2015
For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org

June 7 1:00 PM
Treasures in the Attic Appraisal Event
Cabana Room

June 11 6:30 PM
Friends and Family Picnic
Laurel Museum Grounds

June 13 6:30 PM
Wine Festival at Snow Hill Manor

July 9 7PM
Cold Case Solved: The Stephanie Watson Murder
Partnership Hall at Laurel Police Station

August 10-14
Science in the Summer Camp
Laurel Pool Room

September 10
Reporting on Integration at Laurel’s Schools: Panel Discussion
Montpelier Arts Center

September 12 6:30
Wine Festival at Snow Hill Manor

October TBD
Laurel in the News: Flu, Measles and More: Vaccinations and Epidemics
Then and Now

November 8 1:30-3:30
Taste of Laurel