



The Laurel Light

September 2017
Volume XVIII, Number III
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

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

When I arrived at the Laurel Historical Society back in 2008, what struck me most was the dedication of the men and women who had worked tirelessly to create a professional organization to promote and preserve Laurel's history. Speaking with Board Members and volunteers, I learned that we had some really amazing people who founded the organization and who have supported the efforts of the LHS since its inception. It was inspiring for me to hear their stories. Sadly we recently lost two of those long time supporters.

On July 13, 2017, Gertrude "Trudy" Poe, aged 101, passed away. Gertrude was the editor of the Laurel Leader for 41 years before retiring in 1980. Gertrude was a force to be reckoned with and was well known in the journalism field for being the "first woman" on many fronts. She was a long time supporter and friend to the LHS. I remember meeting her at a reception in 2008, and we reached out to her many times over the past nine years with requests for objects and information that helped supplement our exhibits. She was a very gracious lady and a very generous donor over the years. Trudy also served on the Board of Directors for decades.

On August 13, 2017, J. Richard "Dick" Compton, aged 97, passed away. Dr. Compton, or Dick as everyone at the LHS called him, was a Brigadier General who later had a private medical practice on Main Street with his wife, Elizabeth L. "Betty" Compton, RN. As the husband of our Co-Founding Director, Dick performed many functions and was

a tireless supporter of his wife's passion to preserve the history of the Laurel she loves. His artwork was one way that he contributed to the efforts of the LHS and he was known by many for his wicked sense of humor. Dick and Betty have both been tireless in their commitment to the organization while giving of their time, treasure and immense talent.

We have lost two stalwart supporters and extremely fine individuals this summer. Their hard work and unending support are an example of their lifelong dedication to Laurel. This issue of *The Laurel Light* is dedicated to Gertrude Poe and J. Richard Compton. I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the Poe family and to Betty Compton and family.

Lindsey Baker

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

LHS Board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is October 26, 2017. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Laurel Pool Room at 7:30 PM.

We welcome Lesley Brinton to the Board of Directors serving from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019. Lesley is CPA who lives in West Laurel with husband John and son Liam. She is an active part of the LHS serving on the Annual Gala Committee. For 10 years she has been active with the American Legion Post 60 as a member of the Auxiliary and as the Post Accountant. Her focus at the Post has been working with LARS. As mom of Liam she has been actively involved in Parent Teacher organizations in his schools. Professionally, Lesley is currently the Controller of Chizuk Amuno Congregation in Baltimore.

FUN FOR KIDS THIS SUMMER

Submitted by Monica Sturdivant

Over the summer, the Laurel Historical Society hosted two camps that provided perfect opportunities for children to engage in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities. Both camps were led by Francis Lotz ("Mr. Fran"), a teacher from Montgomery County Public School System.

Rube Goldberg Camp (June 27 - 29) challenged teams of students with the task of building a machine out of recycled/reusable materials that resulted in a hammer hitting a nail. This camp was for third, fourth and fifth graders. The winning team received a prize. Students reported that they enjoyed figuring out how to make things work and making new friends.



Photo courtesy of Monica Sturdivant

The Science in the Summer Camp (August 14 - 18) focused on teaching students about the science of sports. This camp held two sessions each day. The first session was for second and

third graders. The second session was for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. Students



Photos courtesy of Monica Sturdivant

learned about the chemistry of food and how it helps the body. They learned about the science of movement. They made energy drinks and bouncy balls. On the last day, the students received a visit from representatives of Art Way Alliance, a non-profit organization that teaches children how to make comic books, manga and animation in an environment free of judgment and derision. Students learned to develop a character or mascot for their energy drinks. Each student received a certificate of completion. Students reported that they enjoyed the jumping activity, making the bouncy balls and the drawing activity with Art Way Alliance.

LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY!

Our members join for a variety of reasons and the great thing is, no matter why you join us, we are grateful for your support. We do our best to run the LHS with the lowest operating costs possible so that your donations are used to create more exhibits, fund more programs exploring Laurel's history, allow us to forge new partnerships and inform an even wider audience.

Members receive:

1. Online access to Online Collections
2. Newsletters with articles about Laurel history, museum exhibits, and programs.
3. Invitations to Members-Only Events
4. Participation in the LHS Members Only Genealogy Group
5. E-mail bulletins on events and activities.
6. A 10% discount in the museum shop, including online purchases.
7. 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
Household Lifetime	\$500.00

We thank our LHS Lifetime Members!!

Tim & Linda Abell
 Jeanie & Randy Anastasi
 Pete & Gloria Arnold
 Mirza & Hussain Baig
 Warren Baker
 Wilma & Randy Benson
 Susan Broda-Aurand
 Faith Calhoun & Carol Annechinio
 City of Laurel Council & Mayor
 Legends Group
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Collins
 Dick & Betty Compton
 Clayton Cooper & Diego Sifuentes
 Wayne & Darlene Cotten
 Donna Crary
 David & Carol Cummings
 George Delaney
 Tom & Lenora Dernoga
 Finley & Pamela doCarmo
 Stephen & Ann Edmonds
 Lawrence & Barbara Eldridge
 Chris & Denise Erdle

Dave & Lisa Everett
 Barbara Feagin
 Marlene & Jim Frazier
 Ann-Marie Gabor-Malek
 Carol Gardiner
 Jim Gordon Jr.
 Kingdon & Mary Gould
 Mike & Amy Graver
 Judy & Don Haxton
 Doug & Susan Hayes
 Charlie Hessler
 Steve & Maggie Hubbard
 James Hummer
 Juniper Humphrey
 Noreen Javornik
 Buddy & Janet King, III
 Mike & Mary Eileen Leszcz
 Scott & Holly Lilienthal
 Norman & Connie Lilley
 Lisa Losito & Douglas Humphrey
 Karen Lubienieki & Ken Skrivseth
 Randolph Lusk
 Thomas & Colleen MacLean
 Mary Jo Mallonee
 Dave Mann & Trevor Johnson
 Robert & Wendy Manzi
 Warren & Billie Jean Marton
 Pearl Dental Center - Akbar Masood
 Bobbi McCeney
 George & Natalie McCeney
 Rob & Betsy McCeney
 Margie McCeney
 Sean McCeney
 Margaret McCeney
 Mark McKitrick
 Kevin & Kara McNulty
 Virginia & James Mentall
 Bob & Jeanne Mignon
 Dale Neiburg
 Valerie Nicholas
 Hey Red! Inc - Doreen Nionakis
 Ireene & Jim Ohlmacher
 Shari & Rich Pollard
 Quatrefoil Associates, Inc.
 John Quill Jr.
 Ed Ricks
 Joe & Joan Robison
 Michael & Angela Sarich
 Vince & Karen Schembari
 Paula Schuman
 Frank Scotto
 Roy Shiflet
 Frederick Smalls
 St. Mark 's United Methodist Church
 Charmane Truesdell
 Ann Wagner
 Michael & Ruth Walls
 Jean Wilson
 Sidney & Debbie Zook

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

Please welcome our new members:

Sarah Bourne
Ronald Collins
Carl DeWalt
Julie and Alan Ernstein
Rosetta Maria Greco Marcus
Cheryl Poulos
Sally Kress Prascus
Barbara Rew
Marcia Richards

We are happy to have you!

Volunteers News

Please welcome our new volunteer:

Beth West

Thank you Beth for volunteering!

The Laurel Museum is in urgent need of volunteers for Sundays (1 pm - 4 pm) and Fridays (10 am-12pm or 12pm-2pm). Volunteers will greet visitors, give tours and handle shop sales. Training is provided. For more information, please contact Monica at assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975.

Conservation of Cronmiller Journal Underway!

Submitted by Marlene Frazier

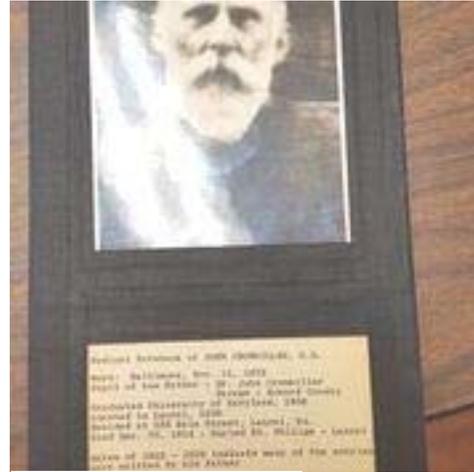


Photo courtesy of Marlene Frazier

The journal of doctor John Cronmiller was donated to the Laurel Museum a few years ago and was in very fragile condition due to its age. The earliest entry is probably from his father, dated 1832. Dr. Cronmiller came to Laurel in 1858, lived and practiced medicine at 525 Main street and is buried in St Philip's Cemetery. The journal contains recipes for cures that were used at the time for many maladies including asthma and epilepsy. It also includes lists of expenditures for things like a horse and a carriage. The museum wanted to ensure that it was properly handled and members of the Collections Committee took it to the Maryland Archives in Annapolis. The staff there recommended treatments that they can provide and it was decided to have it carefully prepared by the conservation staff for scanning and then scanned with a special book scanner. This process will provide digital images that can be read and researched without endangering the journal itself.



Photo courtesy of Marlene Frazier

Winner of the James "Jim" McCeney Scholarship

Submitted by Abram Fox



Photo courtesy of Karen Lubieniecki

The Laurel Historical Society is pleased to congratulate the recipient of its 2017 James "Jim" McCeney Scholarship. This year's winner of a \$1,000 McCeney Scholarship is Elianna Schiffrick, a Laurel resident and graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School who is a freshmen at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. A Laurel resident since age 2, she indicated the scholarship has a special meaning for her. "I like this scholarship because Laurel is my hometown. I know the town by heart. Having it keeps a little connection to back home even at Georgetown," she stated.

Elianna was chosen for her outstanding academic performance in social studies in high school, her extracurricular interests in social studies disciplines, and her career goals in the political realm. She graduated from OLGCHS with a 4.61 cumulative GPA and a 4.8 cumulative GPA in social studies courses. Her high school studies included AP US History, AP Psychology, AP Macroeconomics, IB HL Economics Years 1 and 2, and IB 20th Century History.

Outside of the classroom Elianna also found ways to incorporate her love of social studies into her experiences. She was a member of her school's Public Forum Debate Team, serving as team captain in her senior year. In addition she participated in a service trip to El Salvador and wrote her International Baccalaureate program Extended Essay on the rise of the People's Party in the American political sphere of the 1890s. After graduating from Georgetown University, Elianna hopes to pursue a career in the political sphere, possibly as a diplomat, activist, or in public service.

"Jim McCeney was a tireless pillar of the community dedicated to preserving and promoting Laurel's history. His loss is keenly felt and our goal is to honor him by

encouraging local students to take up the banner of history for Laurel," says Executive Director, Lindsey Baker.

McCeney March to be held September 23rd



Photo courtesy of the City of Laurel

In honor of long-time Laurel Historical Society Chairman, President, and Treasurer and pillar of the Laurel community James "Jim" McCeney, the Laurel Historical Society is proud to offer the James "Jim" McCeney Scholarship to encourage members of Laurel's younger generations to pursue the study of history and related fields. McCeney Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving Laurel area high school students who have demonstrated sustained excellence and commitment in the discipline of social studies and who intend to pursue those interests at college or university.

The second annual McCeney March to honor the memory of Jim McCeney will be held Saturday, September 23rd. Please plan to join Society members and others in the 5K course, which will meander through the Historic District and will highlight Jim's love of Laurel and his family's legacy here. A great activity for all ages. Walkers, runners, bike riders and kids on foot or in strollers welcome!

The Laurel Museum wants your story for our next exhibit!

Opening February 2018:

We The People: How Civic Engagement Has Shaped Laurel



What do we mean by Civic Engagement?
Working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities.

Promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

Topics we plan to cover include:

The movement to stop the Redskins from coming to Laurel

Save Our Stop

Integration of Laurel's Schools

Laurel Police's Body Cams

Preservations Efforts in Laurel

Integration of Housing in Laurel

Naming Controversy and Moving the Library

Have you been involved in one of the efforts above? Are you involved in another effort?

We are looking for tales of triumph, objects, photographs, and information related to these examples (or any we missed) of Civic Engagement in Laurel.

Have something you'd like to share?

Contact us directly; we'd love to hear about it!

info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

301.725.7975

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 jeanieanastasi@gmail.com with your stories, memories, recipes, comments, questions, suggestions or story ideas. Thank you in advance for your submissions!

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!



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1910, Speros Gavriles, a Greek immigrant, bought the building at 385 Main Street. With his confectioner's skills learned in Baltimore, he sold handmade candy, ice cream and syrup. He and his wife Anna raised seven children in an apartment above the store. Speros died in 1943 leaving his business to his children. Over the years, Gavriles expanded their services to include a sandwich shop with a soda fountain (added during the Depression years to attract customers) that dispensed popular milkshakes. In 1987, a Washington Post article described the shop as a variety store and luncheonette. When Gavriles closed in 1989, many longtime customers paid their respects, stopping in for a final word or hug and to buy one more item from their favorite store. Sons Theodore and Nick, along with daughter Christina were there to turn out the lights for the last time. The building was destroyed by fire in 1996 but is rebuilt and is now Ragamuffins, a coffee shop and meeting center.



Christina Gavriles, Photo from LHS Collections



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](https://LaurelHistoricalSociety.org)).

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.



Please consider the LHS in your Planned Giving. It's easy. For more information please contact Lindsey Baker (301)725-7975.

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

Address Service Requested

Lindsey Baker, Executive Director
Monica Sturdivant, Assistant to the Director

Board of Directors:

Jhanna Levin, Chairwoan of the Board
Elizabeth Compton, Founding Co-Director
Steve Hubbard, President
Frances Brooks, Vice President
Mariam Thakkar, Treasurer
Marlene Frazier, Recording Secretary
Amy Graver, Corresponding Secretary
Jeanie Anastasi
Lesley Brinton
Mitzi Betman
Michael Boivin, Sr.
Tom Dernoga
Chris Erdle
Lisa Everett
Alicia Fields
Richard Friend
Karen A. Lubieniecki
Margie McCeney
Paula Schuman

The Hon. Craig A. Moe (ex officio)
Joseph Robison, Director Emeritus
Jean Wilson, Director Emerita



Laurel Historical Society Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

For more information visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org

September 2, 2PM

From Soda Fountain to Coffee
Shop: Gavriles to Ragamuffins

September 23, 9AM

McCeney March

October 21, 10AM-4PM

Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon

October 28, 10AM-4PM

Board Retreat
Laurel Library

December 1-3

Holiday Open House

and save the date...

April 28
Annual LHS Gala