We say goodbye to a dear friend

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Frances Brooks. She passed away peacefully on the morning of Thursday, August 29th. Frances was very passionate about preserving Laurel's history and she did much work for the Laurel Historical Society. After retiring from the federal government, she became a volunteer in 2008 and started as a docent. She also handled online research requests, assisted patrons in the research library, photographed objects for our collection, volunteered at special events, served on the exhibit committee, became a board member and vice president. Frances was Volunteer of the Year for 2009. She was a true asset to the exhibit committee and she worked on the upcoming exhibit until the past few weeks before becoming ill. In addition to being a great volunteer, she was also a mother, grandmother, traveler, football fan, fantastic cook, local style icon, and a friend to many. We are truly grateful to have worked alongside her and she will be sorely missed. (Please check our website and social media for updated information about the service to celebrate her life.) ~ Monica Sturdivant

McCeney Scholarship and 4th Annual March

The 4th Annual McCeney March will be held on Saturday, September 28. The walk begins at the Laurel Museum and goes through town in memory of Jim McCeney, community activist, avid walker, and longtime LHS supporter and board member. See page 6 for more information!

Proceeds from the March support a scholarship for students interested in history and for the benefit of LHS. In 2019, LHS awarded two $1,000 scholarships to Tiffani Do from Laurel High School, and Caleb Collins, from Archbishop Spalding High School. ~Ann Bennett

Left: Executive Director Ann Bennett with Tiffani Do in front of the Midwives panel in our 2019 exhibit.

Right: Caleb Collins outside the Laurel Museum with his scholarship funds.
From the Executive Director ~ Ann Bennett

The end of summer and beginning of autumn is always a good time for reflection and a chance for a new beginning. Why wait until New Year’s to start a new resolution, or spring to clean out the house? And there are great back-to-school sales on new day planners and supplies!

We had a great summer at LHS with the new Archaeology Camp, which instructed 9 campers on how to dig up the past! The Rube Goldberg and Science in the Summer camps were filled up as usual and the students had a blast.

We have great programs planned for the fall and winter, and we invite you to like, follow, and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on the latest news from Laurel Historical.

This is also the time of year that we remember former board member and supporter Jim McCeney. This year will be the 4th McCeney March. And our hearts are also filled with sadness over the passing of Frances Brooks. There are so many people that have supported the Laurel Historical Society, and we are thankful to have the opportunity to work and volunteer with such great friends!

Please keep in touch and feel free to reach out to me at the Museum. I hope that you join us at our upcoming programs and special events. See you soon!

Yours respectfully,
Ann Bennett
director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

Thank you to our Business Members!

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Ann Bennett
Executive Director
Monica Sturdivant
Assistant Director
**GRANT UPDATE**

The Laurel Historical Society was accepted into the 2019/2020 Collections Assessment program, supported by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation.

The program is designed to “help small and mid-sized museums better care for their collections.”

As part of this assessment, our collections and historic building will be reviewed during on-site visits.

Recommendations and priorities will be made by preservation professionals, and follow up will continue at least one year after the visits and reports have been filed.

**Laurel Historical Society 2018-2019 Year in Review**

2018 Exhibit
1,000+ visitors

Online and Social Media Engagement
1,560 Facebook followers 2,750 monthly average website visitors

**Speakers Series**
- Laurel Redskins: Civic Engagement Scores a Victory
- Maryland’s Mother of Civil Rights: Gloria Richardson
- The (Family) Secrets in Your DNA
- Living Local: Everyday Civic Engagement
- US Route 1: Baltimore to Washington, DC
- World War I: Meuse-Argonne to Armistice

186 attendees

**Current Members**
- 187

**Life Members**
- 90

**Free Summer Camps**
- Rube Goldberg
- 20 campers

**Science in the Summer**
- 36 campers

**Docent Volunteer Hours**
- 638+

**Board of Directors**
- 19 members

**Holiday Home Tour**
December 8, 2018
200 visitors

**Laurel Historical Society 2019 Gala**
April 28, 2018

Many thanks to our 2019 Gala Sponsors

Tim & Linda Abell * Tom Dernoga * Jim Rosapepe & Sheila D Kast * Betty Compton
Jean Wilson, Steve & Maggie Hubbard * American Legion Post 60
Growing up in Laurel in the 1930s - Part Two ~LHS Member

Every summer we visited one of our colorful relatives. Each home and experience was different. One of our favorite visits was to the farm in Anne Arundel County with Aunt Claudine and Uncle Marvin. The wide-open spaces of the fields had neat rows of strawberries, tomatoes, and the best cantaloupes in the world. My brother liked to go out in the fields, to market with my uncle, or fishing. I accompanied my aunt each morning as she walked with me in her extensive garden explaining the names and growth habits of her plants. Summer brought long rows of stately, multi-colored iris flowers with pink, at their feet and many other blossoms surrounding it with walkways connecting the colorful sections. There were two ponds, both home to little frogs and water lilies. Our cousin Virginia showed us her collection of Indian arrowheads she had gathered in the fields. We were excited by the exploration of a red clay cave. My dear aunt made me a new dress while we visited and played cards with us after dinner. An evening at the Glen Burnie Carnival was another treat. My brother and I were certain one stormy night that loud, crackling lightning came in one window of our bedroom and went out another. On a calmer night at twilight I heard my first nightingale's song.

Our city relatives Aunt Marie and Uncle Emory took us to historic sites when we visited them. While exiting Fort McHenry a newsboy was calling "Hitler Invades Poland" -- modern history in the making. There were no cousins in this household but our aunt and uncle gave us plenty of attention. We delighted in Uncle Emory's deep, expressive voice as his dramatic stories took shape.

Another country visit to our great Aunt Naomi, my grandmother's sister, and Uncle Ned was in Montgomery County near Dickerson. They were older but no less entertaining. Their big house with a long drive from the road was lined with beautiful trees. They had a neighbor with a daughter named Lucy about my age who loaned me a bicycle. Lucy and I covered the hills on our bicycles most of the day. I was thrilled to see Sugarloaf Mountain in the distance and the pretty countryside. My aunt and uncle took me to the Montgomery County Fair. On our return home we approached a farm where the barn was engulfed in flames. A bucket brigade had been formed to wet the area and deter sparks around the house. My uncle joined the team and the home was saved. On the ride home I knew I had had a remarkable day as I hugged the box of Whitman’s Chocolates that I had won at the fair in a spelling bee.

There was a week at the cottage on the Severn River with cousins. We jumped from the wharf into crab filled waters and carried gritty sand from the beach into the house on our feet or clothes all day. We were a little sunburned but it was a delight to play with all the cousins who joined the crowd.

Home in Laurel with our baby sister. I enjoyed watching over and playing with my sister. She was an outgoing, happy little girl. My brother helped with some assigned household tasks. My mother was a wise disciplinarian, most always in good humor. Despite numerous demands she found time to celebrate every holiday and each birthday for members of our family. She loved to entertain her extended family and friends. She also enjoyed bridge and took turns with her friends for regular parties. All this and she cared for me during my routine tonsillectomy as well as a case of diphtheria, an arm fracture suffered while roller skating, and sharing measles and chicken pox with my brother. My father worked long hours, was gentle, kind and so generous. I loved him dearly.

My Dad had six sisters who when widowed moved back to their original home in Laurel to live together. We stopped to visit them every Sunday on the way home from church. They were so much fun, showered us with hugs and raved over our little accomplishments.
They had special surprises and always a dollar in the card for every holiday, birthday or any reason. We always went to their home the day after Christmas to their huge tree adorned with old-fashioned ornaments. Aunt Molly always made three different cakes: a chocolate, a lemon, and a coconut grated from the nut. It was impossible to choose just one.

We led very active lives. We walked to school, church, to visit friends and everywhere else in town, roller skated often, and ice skated on the lake in winter. Our Dads came to pick us up just before dark and would leave their car lights on a few minutes to give us an added minute or two on the ice. I rode my bicycle often all over town. We swam in a pond nearby, finding soft, slimy soil with our toes in the bottom. We hiked along "the rocks" as we called the riverside around the old Laurel mill site and shot BB guns at moving targets thrown in the water. I hope the statute of limitations is past to report us to the environmentalist authorities.

Growing up in the small town of Laurel in the 1930s was a childhood filled with adventure, education for life, love of family and friends and a community of good people like no other. I love it still, ninety-three years later.

“Laurel Circus” - photograph submitted by Janice Barton Kaifer. Her mother, Mary Abby Dorsey, was in 4th Grade and 9 years old in 1932 when this picture was taken. Janice stated that her Dorsey family moved from a farm in Annapolis Junction to Laurel about 1925. She married Harry C. Barton, Jr. in 1944. He had the Occasion Flower and Gift Shop on Main Street until 1956, when he passed away.

Welcome to our new volunteers!
Heather Crandall  Lee-Ellen Lane
Denise Redmond    Jourdan Sutton
LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Two Events!

11 am - Walk Begins at the Laurel Museum (817 Main St.)

10:30 am - Day-of registration & materials pick up

The 4th annual “McCeney March” through Historic Laurel honors community activist, avid walker, and LHS Board member Jim McCeney. Proceeds of the McCeney March go towards a scholarship for students interested in history and for the benefit of LHS.

TO PRE-REGISTER & PAY ONLINE:
WWW.LAURELHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG/THE-MCCENEY-MARCH.HTML

Friends & Family Picnic

12:00 ish Riverfront Park, Avondale Street

McCeney March Participants Welcome to Attend!

LHS will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Please bring your favorite dish: (Last name: A-M dessert/N-Z salad or side dish).

RSVP:
info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

OR
301-725-7975
MEMBERSHIP

Check your mailing label on the back to find out if it’s time to join or renew your membership!

Members receive:
- Online access to parts of the Laurel Museum's collection
- Quarterly newsletters and Members-Only Events
- Participation in the LHS Members Only Genealogy Group
- E-mail bulletins on events and activities
- A 10% discount in the museum shop, including online purchases
- Discounts on LHS events, including our annual Gala
- Contribution to the preservation of Laurel's past and present for future generations

Membership Categories

- Student $10
- Senior $18
- Individual $30
- Couple/Family $40
- Business $50
- Lifetime $500

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Join Online https://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/join-the-lhs.html
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Address Service Requested

Upcoming Events

- September 12, 7 pm: A History of Behnke’s
- September 28, 11 am: McCeney March followed by Friends & Family Picnic
- October Speakers Series: TBA
- October 4, 4-6 pm: Educator’s Open House
- October 20, 1-4 pm: Party for Poe
- November 14, 7 pm: Medical Battles of the Civil War
- Fall Children’s Day: TBA
- December 6-8: Holiday Open House
- December 22: Last Day of 2019 Exhibit

Please call 301-725-7975 or visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

Contact Us
Laurel Historical Society
817 Main Street
Laurel, MD 20707

Tel: 301-725-7975
Email: info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

We’re on the web:
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

Laurel Museum Hours
Wed & Fri. 10 am - 2pm
Sunday 1 - 4 pm