



The Laurel Light

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The Laurel Light
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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.

The City of Laurel and the Laurel Historical Society have lost a diligent and dedicated friend with the passing of Jane Cole. Jane Cole, was a Co-Founding Director of the Laurel Museum, and one of those most responsible for creating the Laurel Historical Society and the Laurel Museum we enjoy today. Jane (Martin) Cole grew up in Laurel and graduated from Laurel High School. Her father, George Martin, Jr. was General Manager and later Vice President of the Laurel Race Course. An Interior Designer by profession, Jane's interest in historic buildings and in Laurel history had a major impact on the community. Jane was one of the charter members of the Laurel Historic District Commission, and was responsible for much of the original historic building survey that established the boundaries of the historic district. In 1975, she and other interested members of the Laurel community formed the Laurel Horizon Society, which evolved into the Laurel Historical Society. Those who knew and worked with Jane can testify to her passion for the LHS, and her tireless dedication and commitment to the organization. Long time members may recall the many Wednesdays in the damp basement of the Armory where Jane and others carefully began the collecting, organizing and cataloguing of

the LHS collection. Jane also played an integral role in transforming the mill worker's house at 817 Main Street into the Laurel Museum, as a site to discover the history of the City of Laurel. Jane acted as curator and designer for many of the Museum's early exhibitions, including the memorable *Bert Sadler's Laurel: Photographs from 1905 - 1917*. Those who did not know Jane personally benefit from her efforts every time they visit the Museum, view an artifact, or learn something new about Laurel history. From the very beginning, Jane and Co-Founding Director Betty Compton made sure that the Laurel Museum followed the highest professional standards for collection, interpretation, and operations. Jane leaves a legacy that her family, friends and the Laurel community can be proud of. This issue of The Laurel Light is dedicated to Co-Founder and friend of the Laurel Historical Society, Jane Cole.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Just over a year ago, we took a chance and hired the first "Executive Director" of the Society when we chose a young woman just out of graduate school. Lindsey Baker hit the ground running and hasn't taken a break since. Prior to

Lindsey's arrival, then President Karen Lubieniecki, almost single handedly launched our children's programming. She convened a small group of educators and laid the ground work for the new program. With Lindsey's arrival the children's program has blossomed into a major activity and spawned partnerships with local schools, the Laurel Library and other groups. And thanks to Karen, Lindsey and the efforts of Maggie Hubbard the program is a success!

Karen also recognized how tired our LHS website had become and how much more important a website is in this technological age. With great effort and a few bumps along the way, Karen succeeded in launching a new, more sophisticated website. Lindsey has now taken over the task of updating our website and barely a day goes by without something new being posted. I have witnessed an activity taking place one afternoon with photos on the website the next morning! If you have not visited our new and improved website, please log on to www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

Additionally, I would like to express extreme gratitude to Karen Lubieniecki for literally going beyond the call of duty – by a year. In June of last year, we identified three wonderful candidates to succeed Karen as President. As things sometimes happen, each of the three had legitimate reasons why she could not take on the role at that time. Karen graciously agreed to serve an additional six months (which turned into 12 months). I am happy to report, however, that as of the Board meeting on July 24th, Jhanna Levin stepped up and was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors to serve as President for the

remainder of the term ending June 30, 2010. Thank you Karen for devoting an extra year to the Society, and thank you Jhanna for accepting the Presidency. This is also a good time to mention that the Society has become a truly multigenerational organization as we now have junior docents as young as six and “mature” citizens as old as – well enough said. Finally, I want to welcome Steve Hubbard to the Board of Directors. Steve is the son-in-law of Jean Wilson (and husband of Maggie Hubbard) which means Steve represents another “second generation” of Board members.

Jim McCeney, Chairman of the Board

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

LHS Board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each January, April, July, and Oct. The next meeting is Oct 22, 2009. Members are most welcome to attend these exciting meetings. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I could brag for ever about the great work our volunteers are doing, but I think it might be worthwhile to tell you about some things I've learned recently at professional development opportunities. This year I've attended three conferences; two of them regional and one national. At each conference, the same themes emerged. Namely, that we are in for some tough times. The economy is not doing well. Museums now, more than ever, have to prove their worth to their community. How can museums do this? By becoming integral members of the community and by

becoming institutions that provide services that the community could not do without. Of course, all of this must be done within each organization's mission. I'm proud to say that the LHS is working hard to become an integral part of our community. Whether we're holding a paper drive for the local elementary school, supporting local businesses with the Taste of Laurel, inviting an entire elementary school through our doors for a free field trip, or collaborating with other local organizations, we're working hard to prove our worth. There are few other organizations in Laurel that are as involved in the community as we are. The great thing is, all of Laurel is benefitting from our work, not just LHS members. Because of this fact, we're in the process of becoming an irreplaceable member of the community. This status will not only allow us to be sustainable, but also allow us to provide needed services for the community - two very important aspects of our mission. All of this is only possible through the hard work of our volunteers and the support of our membership. Thank you all for your continued dedication!

Lindsey Baker, Executive Director

MUSEUM NEWS

The exhibit, *Shake, Rattle 'n' Roll: Laurel in the 1950s*, continues until the end of the year. Please stop in and visit to learn about Laurel in the 1950s. There is handicapped parking directly in front of the Museum for those who need it.

What's Your Story?

The collection of 1950s stories is growing! Thank you to everyone who has

contributed. You are now able to contribute directly (or read other's contributions) on-line. Whether you lived in Laurel or lived somewhere else, we want to hear from YOU! If you weren't alive in the 1950s but you'd like to share what you've heard from your parents, grandparents, movies, television and more, we also want to hear from YOU! Join us at the Museum or on-line to www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org and tell us your story.

New Exhibit at the Laurel Library



Visitors reading the new display at the Laurel Library

Visitors to Laurel's Stanley Memorial Library can sample a bit of Laurel history while they cruise the stacks. *History Happens in Laurel*, a new display prepared for the library by the LHS features scenes from Laurel in the Early 1900s, the 1950s and today. Photographs include: an early 1900s Emancipation Day Parade and a 2009 Main Street Festival; a school group visiting the museum in 2009 and school children in the 1950s; and a turn of the century firemen photo. Patrons are urged to "Discover More" by visiting the Laurel Museum or the LHS website.

Laurel Historical Society Book Club

We are happy to announce the creation of the LHS Book Club. Please join us as we explore history and culture related topics one book at a time! We will meet the third Wednesdays of each month at 7 PM at the Museum. The first book club will be on August 19th, when we will discuss: *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* (2007) edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. Our next book club will on September 16th when we will discuss: *America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines* (2003) by Gail Collins. Light refreshments will be served.

Museum Shop News

The votes are in for the 2009 Christmas ornament. The top three are: Sadler's Main Street image with 15 votes, Little Tavern Donuts image with 13 votes, and Sadler's Emancipation Day Parade image with 11 votes. That means that Sadler's Main Street image will be this year's ornament! The ornament will be available in December in the Museum Shop or on-line.

Do you have suggestions for Laurel related items for the shop? Please email Shop Manager Frieda Weise at fweise@catzooms.com. Don't forget to visit the Museum shop (in person or on-line) to purchase your Laurel items and shop our "Fifties Corner" for objects related to our current exhibit. Check out the new LHS logo t-shirts and sew on patch.

Children's Corner

The Museum is happy to offer a new interactive space for kids! "Diven's Den" is open during museum hours and provides a number of interactive toys from the 1950s. Remember Paint by Number, Mr. Potato Head and the Hula Hoop? Introduce them to your kids, grandkids or other children in your life! And don't forget, our research library is available for children and their parents to research topics of interest related to Laurel History for those upcoming school projects.

The museum is open Wednesday 10AM – 2PM, Friday 10AM – 2PM, Sunday 1PM – 4PM and by appointment.

The Museum's Research Library is open to the public on Mondays 10 AM -12PM. If you are interested in doing research or helping out in the research library, please call the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members:

Frances Brooks

F. Fairall

Joanna Kurtz

George Quigley

Mr. and Mrs. Scagliarini

Walter and Lorie Smallets

JOIN THE LHS!

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:

- *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

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Please be advised that the membership year is now July 1 through June 30. To make this transition possible, all members were given six months of membership at no charge. Membership renewals were mailed in May. If you have not already renewed, please do so now in order to maintain your membership through June 30, 2010. You may renew by mail or on-line!

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Please welcome our newest volunteers:

- Freia Cooper – Docent
- Abram Fox – Docent/Program development
- Crystal Raiford - Docent
- Gena Vasaitis - Docent

We would also like to acknowledge our

- Junior Docents:
- Asher
- Sophia Anastasi
- Hannah Antonelli
- Madeline Lilienthal
- Nika Peden
- Peggy Stevick

Volunteers are needed for the following: **Assistant Shop Manager** for approximately six hours per month to assist with shop records, ordering and sales. Hours are flexible and retail experience is helpful but not necessary.

Volunteers at Work

Frances Brooks, a dedicated volunteer, has undertaken the task of photographing the Laurel Museum collection. She is working through each box, photographing all of the items inside and then attaching those pictures to the object's record on the computer. This process will greatly assist anyone who would like to know more about our objects, especially our Exhibits Committee and our Collections Committee. Thank you Frances for undertaking such an important task!



Volunteer Frances Brooks taking pictures of the collection

GALA WRAP-UP



Clif Collins, Elvis Presley and Randy Anastasi

On Saturday, April 4th, we held another successful gala to benefit the LHS. This year's theme was "Moonlight Over Laurel: A 1950's Evening". By all reports, it was a splendid evening. For those of you that were unable to attend, you really missed out! The 1950's themed food was delicious, the band exceeded all expectations, and the auction featured many interesting items. We featured a new room layout and the pink and black decor was perfect. We saw many new faces but missed some old friends. We would love to see you next year! I would like to extend another hearty thank you to our sponsors: Main Street Pharmacy, Gertrude Poe, Glenn Feagin-Coldwell Banker, Schembari Family Dentistry, UPS, Patricia Bentley-Fisher: in memory of Elwood L. Fisher, Revere Bank and Snow Hill Garden Club. I would also like to thank my gala committee for all of their hard work. These women spent countless hours in meetings, preparing materials and decorations, logging computer time and making phone calls. My heartfelt thanks to Margie McCeney, Barbara Eldridge, Karen Lubieniecki, Bobbi McCeney, Jeanie Anastasi, Eileen Collins, Holly Lilienthal, Kathy Crawford, Regina Mima, Lisa Losito and Lisa Vora. See you next year!

Jhanna Levin, Gala Chair



Gala Committee members Margie McCeney and Holly Lilienthal

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following contributor's for their generous contributions to the Silent Auction:

A Woman's Place
 Jeanie Anastasi
 Laurie Blitz
 Carol Bounds
 Edna Brandt
 Cakes Plus
 Chesapeake Skating School
 City of Laurel
 Comic Classics
 Cork & Bottle Liquors
 Elkridge Furnace Inn
 Barbara and Glenn Feagin
 Finders Keepers
 Marlene and Jim Frazier
 Friend of the LHS
 Friends of the National Zoo
 Janice Flores
 Fruit Flowers
 Fulton Station Jewelers
 Geppi's Entertainment Museum
 Giant Food
 Bill Griffith
 Kathryn Harrison
 Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
 Judith Haxton
 Charlie Hessler
 Hey Red
 Inn at Henderson's Wharf
 Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens
 Jiffy Lube at Route 1 and Montgomery St.
 Cecelia Jordan
 J.P.'s Cake Corner
 A.M. Kroop & Sons, Inc.
 Ladew Topiary Gardens
 Laurel Museum
 Laurel Tavern Donuts
 Elizabeth Leight
 Levin-Eldridge Family
 Karen Lubieniecki
 Maryland Historical Society

Bobbi McCeney
Margie McCeney
Angie McDonald
MNCPPC Planning Department
Carol Montesi
Pasta Nostra
Simon Pearce
Pepino's Italian Kitchen
Gertrude Poe
Rams Head Tavern at Savage Mill
Joan and Joe Robison
Sabatelli's Golden Salon
Karen Schembari
Schembari Family Dentistry
Ken Skrivseth
Something Special
Sotterly Plantation
Kefinm St. Hilaire
Mamuka Tsereteli
R.L. Thompson
Frieda Weise
Western Maryland Scenic Railroad
Jean Wilson

DID YOU KNOW?

Laurel High School did not have a graduating class of 1949. First Grade through Senior High used to be 11 years. The class of 1948 was the last class to go through the 11 year program. The class of 1950 (Jane Martin Cole's class) was the first one to go 12 years. The class of 1951 (my class) was the first to go through the complete Elementary School, Junior High School and Senior High School program. Under the 11 year system, students went to Elementary School for 7 years, followed by 4 years of Senior High School.

Submitted by George W. Quigley

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. Purchase on line at www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org or by calling (301)725-7975

CORRECTION TO MAY LAUREL LIGHT

George W. Quigley of Branson, Missouri writes, "My brother, Donald Quigley sent me his copy of The Laurel Light. Under the article entitled, "Did You Know", there is mention the Patuxent Bank Building was on northwest corner of Main St. and Washington Blvd. I recall it being on the northeast corner. As I recall, (my recollection from the 40's and 50's) there was a 2 story hotel on the northwest corner. There was a drugstore and Greyhound bus depot on the SW corner and a Trailways Bus depot on the SE corner. "

Thank you George and so noted! We appreciate your encouragement and look forward to including your story ideas! Please email The Laurel Light editor, Jeanie Anastasi jmanastasi@verizon.net with your comments or suggestions.



Laurel Historical Society Calendar

August – October 2009

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

August 6th, 7 PM

Take a Walk Down Memory Lane with Elizabeth Leight

August 19th, 7 PM

LHS Book Club: *This I Believe* (2007)

September 10th, 7 PM

Separate But Equal Has No Place: A Maryland Humanities Council Sponsored Lecture

October 1st

Laurel Educator's Open House

October 8th, 6:30 PM

Free Genealogy Resources with Mike Boivin

October 25th, 1:30-3:30 PM

Fall Fun: Kids Sunday at the Laurel Museum

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
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