



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 LAUREL LIGHT HAS A NEW LOOK!

Our staff and volunteers have been busy working on a new look for our newsletter and we have a little catching up to do. Please read along with the understanding that this first newsletter will contain a little more content. As with any new venture, we appreciate your input and ideas! Please email The Laurel Light editor, Jeanie Anastasi, at jmanastasi@verizon.net with your comments or suggestions.

THE LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS A NEW LOGO!

Many thanks to Karen Lubieniecki and Marlene Frazier for the development of our new logo (see above). Look for the logo to be used on correspondence, advertising and Museum and other Society products in the future.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I would like to extend my thanks to each Board member for his or her help with the Society's strategic plan and other projects. I am extremely proud that we have a truly working Board; they contribute their minds, bodies, time, and financial resources generously throughout the year. In addition, we are lucky to have five officers, whose

responsibilities are such that they each have the equivalent of a busy part-time job. Our President and Executive Director muster us up for task after task in addition to our "regular" responsibilities and it is a pleasure to work with them both. Our work on creating and implementing our long-term strategic plan has been a major accomplishment. We have set ambitious goals for the Society and we are achieving them. We are always looking for new recruits to serve and sit on our many committees. PLEASE; if you are willing and able to volunteer to serve on a committee or the Board, let Karen Lubieniecki, Lindsey Baker, or me know. There is plenty to do.

From a financial perspective the Society is doing respectably. The economic crisis has hit us like it has hit the rest of the nation. We have experienced losses to our modest investments as well as to our annual appeal. Much, but not all, of this is beyond our control. We know we need to do a better job of communicating our needs to the community. We work hard, seeking grant funding for many of our activities, but we must provide funding for our core costs including; salaries, insurance, postage, supplies and the like. Even though 70 of our 200 members responded to our end-of-year appeal, we would like to see that number increase.

Even a modest contribution is a great help in meeting our core needs. Board members contributed more than 80% of the total annual appeal. All contributions, given generously and according to your own circumstances, are greatly appreciated. We are most grateful for the hundreds of hours that our volunteers put in each year, but please remember that we need financial resources too.

Finally, we owe our continued appreciation to the City of Laurel, the Mayor and City Council, and the many City staffers (especially the Department of Parks and Recreation) for all they do for the Society.

James B. McCeney, Chairman of the Board and Treasurer

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a busy period for the Laurel Historical Society as our new Executive Director Lindsey Baker has been hard at work – and working all of us hard (a good thing!). Per the Society's Strategic Plan, Lindsey is the first person whose responsibilities span both the Laurel Historical Society and the Laurel Museum. She's not only been delving into her own job, but is working with interns, volunteers and others. As President, I can tell you she's made my job a LOT easier.

The results of this new organizational structure have been wonderful. For example, programs for adults have included; George McCeney singing folks songs, an "In our Backyard" tour to Hampton National Historic Site, and programs such as "Message or Myth: Quilts and the Underground Railroad," and "Eat It Here: A Taste of Laurel." The

latter program was sponsored by Main Street Pharmacy and featured food from seven different Laurel businesses. A repeat event is already being planned for next November.

One of our major LHS goals has been to increase our involvement with children and area schools. Lindsey, working the Public Programming Chair Maggie Hubbard as well as teachers David Freeman and Julie Antonelli, have created educational resources and activities. The Society now has lesson plans on a variety of subjects, and resources for teachers and homeschoolers, as well as a special Educator's Corner on our website. Upcoming children's programs will be on March 22nd and April 9th.

The Society, working with Patuxent Publishing and in connection with our *Buy It Here: Laurel Advertises* exhibit sponsored an "Advertise Your Creativity" contest. Children submitted advertisements of the Laurel Museum. The winning advertisement, designed by Maddie Waters, ran in the Laurel Leader for several weeks.

In addition to these events, we also sponsored a Paper Raiser for Laurel Elementary School, and held our annual Holiday Open House. Special thanks to the Snow Hill Garden Club for their Poinsettia sale benefiting the Society, and to Vi Turli who single handedly sold dozens of our 2008 ornament, St. Phillips Episcopal Church.

This is a great time to be involved in the Society – whether you're interested in kids programs, in helping develop our history resources, aiding in research, or finding a welcoming place with energetic

people where you can volunteer a few hours of your time. I would be remiss if I didn't ask you to patronize the Museum Gift Shop for gifts and mementos. You can now buy 24/7 by going to our website and purchasing on line. Your purchases makes the recipient happy and also help us stay financially strong during these difficult times.

Karen Lubieniecki
President

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Lindsey Baker, Executive
Director



(Lindsey Baker on left with Maddie Waters and Karen Lubieniecki, President)

Interviewer (I): Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Lindsey (L): I'm from Delaware. I earned my undergraduate degree from Goucher College in Baltimore and my graduate degree from the University of Delaware. I have a twin sister and an older sister. I also have a dog named "Zinn".

I: What special skills and talents do you bring to your work as the Executive Director?

L: I hear I bring a certain level of energy! I listen to ideas and try to relate them to the Society's goals. I am good at working with individuals as well as groups. I also have skills related to the internet and social networking sites that can help to further the Society's goals.

I: What do you enjoy most about working for the Society?

L: I enjoy working with the network of volunteers who are willing and ready to do anything asked of them. I enjoy the variety of tasks I accomplish in any given day. I don't get bored!

I: What is your vision for the Society for the future?

L: I see the Society as an integral part of the community. I see us as recognized by the community as a place to go and learn and have fun. I see more people coming through the Museum doors in an effort to spread the word about what we do.

I: How valuable are volunteers in realizing your vision?

L: Absolutely essential! Ninety nine percent of our daily activities depend upon volunteers. The Society would not be able to function without them.

I: What do you like to do in your spare time?

L: I play soccer, read, go to the movies and spend time with Zinn.

I: Is there anything else you would like to say?

L: Yes. Everyone has made me feel very welcome. I look forward to meeting more members at Society events.

MUSEUM NEWS

The newest exhibit, *Shake, Rattle and Roll: Laurel in the 1950s*, opens Sunday February 8th. In 1950 the population of the City of Laurel numbered just over 4,000. During the 1950s changes in society shook basic beliefs and fears rattled the status quo. As Laurel rolled into the future its residents found their lives shifting in many ways. By 1960, Laurel's population doubled to over 8,000 and the social and commercial centers had shifted.

What happened to Laurel between 1950 and 1960? How did national trends affect Laurel? Why did the town change so drastically? Join us as we explore Laurel in the 1950s, a community in transition.

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

RESEARCH LIBRARY HAS EXPANDED HOURS

Beginning in February, the Museum's Research Library will be open on Mondays from 10 AM -12PM. If you are interested in doing research or helping in the research library, please call the Museum.

WELCOME NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

Shelly Baker
Warren Baker
Joan Kim of Main Street Pharmacy
Richard and Judith Long
Mary Maestrelli
John and Kelly Solis

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are pleased to announce Michael Smallwood, Jeri Witt, Michelle Ellison, and Annette Nellums will be completing training and replacing volunteers who recently resigned or reduced their volunteer hours due to changes in their job schedules, moving or health reasons. Although, our regular museum shifts are filled now, we still need volunteers for special events or projects, fill in during vacations or illnesses, and cover a shift when there are five Sundays, Wednesdays or Fridays in a month. We especially need volunteers we can call to help give tours when we have requests for group tours to children or special needs adults during the week. Training is provided.

Contact Shari Pollard at shari.pollard@verizon.net or 301-776-5229 to discuss your interests and volunteer opportunities.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Jim Frazier, our resident "computer-geek" has been awarded this year's volunteer of the year award. In addition to a myriad of volunteer activities, Jim is regularly called upon to assist with computer related

questions and issues, using his expertise to benefit the Society. Thank you Jim!

Many thanks to the McGeney's for hosting this year's Volunteer Appreciation Party. The event is held annually for all Society volunteers. Come join us and volunteer!

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS WIN CRITICAL PRESERVATION GRANTS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson announced today that \$500,000 in grants money has been approved to help restore 16 of the county's important historic buildings. One is here in Laurel, the prominent local landmark home, Oaklands, received a \$50,000 grant. Built in 1790, it was saved from demolition by its new owner and has undergone rehabilitation efforts since 2002

IMAGES FROM THE PAST



Circa 1950

LAST YEAR'S GALA WRAP-UP

A good time was had by all who attended 2008 gala "*A Diamond Studded Evening*" on April 5, 2008. The evening was a delightful tribute to baseball in Laurel and Maryland. Many volunteers led by Gala Chairperson Jhanna Levin cleverly planned the event complete with baseball memorabilia, themed decorations, dancing to the Swing Band and the always popular Silent Auction. The Laurel Historical Society Inc., would like to gratefully acknowledge the following:

GALA SPONSORS:

Glenn Feagin, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Dave and Carol Cummings
Laurel Park
Gertrude Poe
Schembari Family Dentistry
UPS

MUSEUM FAN CONTRIBUTORS:

Mr. and Mrs. John Brinton
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Minuteman Press
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SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS:

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Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Camelot Liquors
Chesapeake Skating School
City of Laurel
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
Cindy Clatterbuck
Clif and Eileen Collins
Corridor Wine and Spirits
The Downs Law Firm
The Elkridge Furnace Inn
Lawrence Eldridge
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FONZ
Jim and Marlene Frazier
Lisa Losito
Karen Lubieniecki
Maryland Historical Society
Bobbi McCeney
Margie McCeney
Carole Montesi
Joan Hartman Moore
Simon Pearce
Pepino's Italian Kitchen
Gertrude Poe
Ram's Head Tavern
Red, Hot and Blue
Joe and Joan Robison
Ken Skrivseth
Sports Card Heroes
Sterling Portraits, LLC
Take It or Leave It
Tangier Island Cruises
Top of the World
University of Maryland
The Walters Art Museum
The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad
Cynthia Wood
Woodland Horse Center

Friends of the Laurel Historical Society
Fulton Station Jewelers
Geppi's Entertainment Museum
Giant Food
Hagerstown Suns
Havre de Grace Decoy Museum
Susan Hayes
Sharon Hipkins, L.A.C.
Hey Red!, Inc.
Historic Inns of Annapolis
Doug Humphrey
Inn at Henderson's Wharf
Cecilia Jordan
Michael W. Kauffman
Laurel Curves
The Laurel Museum
Laurel Park Race Course
Jhanna Levin
Lincoln Park Studio: Dare Wenzler, artist
Woodland Tack Shop

WHEW...thank you everyone!

UPDATE ON THE 2009 GALA

This year's gala "*Moonlight over Laurel: A 1950s Evening*" will be held on Saturday, April 4th in the Carriage room of the Laurel Racetrack. Chairperson Jhanna Levin and her committee are hard at work on preparations. "We have many ways in which our members can help" says Jhanna. "We need sponsors, auction items and tables full of guests...please don't forget to invite your friends and family members." Ticket prices will remain the same as in previous years. For more information please call 301-725-2675.



Laurel Historical Society Calendar

February-April, 2009

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

February 8, 2009, 1-4 pm
"Grand Opening of "Shake,
Rattle 'n' Roll: Laurel in the
1950s"

February 11, 2009, 7:30 pm
Lecture "Who Were Ozzie
and Harriet: The Roots of
the 1950s Childhood Ideal"

March 9, 2009, 7pm
Lecture at the Maryland
City at Russett Library
Shake, Rattle and Roll:
Exploring the History of
Laurel

March 18, 2009, 6:30 pm
Joint Women's History
Program at Montpelier Arts
Center

March 22, 2009, 1:30 pm
Spring Children's Program
at the Laurel Museum

April 4, 2009, 6:30 pm
Annual Gala- Moonlight
Over Laurel: A 1950s
Evening

April 11, 18, 25, 2pm
Film Series- 1950s
Matinees at the Laurel
Museum"

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