



LAUREL LETTERS

FALL | 2024

Dear Laurels,

In my winter letter to you, I was asking for warmer weather. Well, that was a mistake! Whew! We glistened, then sweated through the summer! Wherever in the Laurel world I traveled this summer, it was HOT. The planning meetings continued for the August 26th third annual Cannonball Classic Golf Tournament, a fundraiser for operating expenses for the Marietta Educational Garden Center (MEGC), home to 21 garden clubs in and around Marietta. Deanna Slone and I continued working out the details for the 66th Laurel District Annual Meeting (see invitation below in newsletter) at the Marietta Country Club in Kennesaw on Wednesday, October 9th. We really hope you will attend! Carol Fey and her committee continued meeting regularly ironing out details for the annual GCG Historic Landscape Preservation Fundraiser hosted by Laurel District to be held Saturday November 2nd at the MEGC. Please support these events by attending and making a donation!

Your Co-Director and I visited Hoe 'n Euharlee Garden Club in June. My husband, Greg, and I attended the fabulous Garden Club of Ellijay Flower Show and were "wowed" by their talents! Michelle Culberson, GC of Ellijay President and members attended Flower Show School classes as part of their goals for the year and actually offered a flower show to their community. It was a huge success.



Laurel District Director, Cheryl Briscoe has started her second year of service.

A big thank you to all of you Presidents and members who dug and researched your club founding dates for the 60 garden clubs in our district. I loved talking with you and hearing about your histories. We've got that history recorded now.

Your Laurel District Executive Board met in August to prepare for the coming fall. The Garden Club of Ellijay hosted the Summer District Board Meeting where we worked hard and enjoyed their gracious hospitality at the Gilmer/Sequoyah Regional Library. When you get a chance, please thank your board members for their dedication and good decision-making. They really do support our district through their ideas, labor, and showing up!

One change that is extremely important to note: Shirley Priest, after many faithful years as Laurel Letters Editor, has retired. She did such a good job for us, and we appreciate her dedication throughout those years. Thank you, Shirley! Fortunately for us, Lorelle LoCurto stepped up to take on that responsibility. She, too, is a jewel! Please send all articles to me for publication in Laurel Letters and Garden Gateways. Deadlines are still on the GCG website.

See you soon!

Cheryl Briscoe
LAUREL DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Plant America: Grow Members, Clubs and Gardens

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HONORING OUR PAST THROUGH
STORIES

LAUREL DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA

lauredistrictofgcg@gmail.com
gardenclubofgeorgia.org/laurel-district-page

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Cheryl Briscoe

CO-DIRECTOR

Merrell Holden

RECORDING SECRETARY

Kathy Shiner

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Maye Suddath

TREASURER

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CHAPLAIN

Rene Lanier

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Edna McClellan

ADVISORS

Caroline Alford
Edna McClellan
Marie Purser
John Barnett

COMMUNICATIONS/NEWSLETTER

Lorelle LoCurto



LAUREL LETTERS NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 9, 2024
66TH ANNUAL LAUREL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
PURCHASE TICKET BY DEADLINE: 10/1
Updated Guest Speaker, Vicki
Jones, Bartow County Master
Gardener and Laurel District
Chairman of Arboretum and
Botanical Gardens
"America's First Ladies and The
Garden Club of Georgia"

NOVEMBER 2, 2024
HONORING OUR PAST THROUGH
STORIES
10am-2pm, Marietta Educational
Garden Center
Featuring Guest Speakers, Garden
Tours, Exhibits, Plein Air Painters,
Lunch, Raffles, and More! Check
out the brochures at the back of
this newsletter and purchase your
tickets or reach out to
GardenClubofGeorgia.org for
more information.

NOVEMBER 15, 2024
STATE AWARDS DUE
The Garden Club of Georgia Awards
Committee reminds clubs that all
awards applications are due
NOVEMBER 15. We encourage all
district clubs to submit awards
applications and enjoy recognition
for your hard work.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Please submit all LAUREL LETTER
NEWSLETTER articles and photographs
to lauredistrictofGCG@gmail.com

SUBJECT:
LAUREL LETTERS | CLUB

PHOTOS:
PLEASE SUBMIT ORIGINAL/HIGH
RESOLUTION PHOTOS WITH
CAPTIONS NAMING PEOPLE, IF
POSSIBLE

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, SEND PICTURES OF
YOUR GARDEN/FLOWERS



DEADLINES

FALL ISSUE

Deadline | August 25
Emailed | September 15

WINTER ISSUE

Deadline | November 19
Emailed | December 15

SPRING ISSUE

Deadline | February 25
Emailed | March 15

SUMMER ISSUE

Deadline | May 15
Emailed | June 1



LAUREL DISTRICT NEWS



SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIPS IS A GREAT GIFT

REMEMBER THIS! A great way to honor a friend of your garden club is by purchasing them a Subscribing Membership to the Garden Club of Georgia. You can add a check mark (A12) to your club's annual president's report if you purchase three subscription memberships. Subscribing Membership is for someone not affiliated with their own garden club and does not have a right to vote on issues. They will receive the Garden Gateways publication and can stay informed on all the wonderful things taking place across the State of Georgia. It can also be a way to recruit someone to your garden club that has been trying to decide if they want to join. Once a Subscribing Membership is purchased, an explanation email and certificate that can be presented will be sent electronically.

Here's the link: [Subscribing Membership Gift](#)

~ Deanna Slone
Grand Gardener Chair GCG,
Subscribing Member Chair Laurel District

NORTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE GANG AND SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSITION CLASS PREPARE THE GREENHOUSE AND GARDENS FOR FALL



North Cobb High School's Transition Class is taking an active role in supporting the efforts of the NCHS Greenhouse Gang. This class is made up of nine, 18-22 year olds who are focused on

learning social and functional skills to make them better prepared for work opportunities, day programs or supporting in their home environment. The students have been organizing the greenhouse to prepare for the new school year. They have also weeded the garden beds, pruned flowers and planted fall plants. The Greenhouse Gang also partners with the NCHS construction class for assistance with mechanical projects and support.



NCHS STAFF GARDEN CLUB EARNS NATIONAL AWARD



North Cobb Garden Warriors (Dawn Easterling, VP Treasurer; Cheryl Briscoe; Lorelle LoCurto, President)

One of our newest garden clubs, North Cobb Garden Warriors, received 1st Place at the National level for Sponsoring a Youth Garden Club. They sponsored the North Cobb High School Greenhouse Gang, a 60+ student member club dedicated to service, education, growing and sharing..



Kalmia latifolia, the mountain laurel, is also known as ivybush or spoonwood (because Native Americans used to make their spoons out of it).

LAUREL DISTRICT NEWS

FREE ADMISSION TO HALL COUNTY FALL GARDEN EXPO
SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 28, FOR YOUR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS

The Hall County Master Gardeners will host the Fall Garden Expo again at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center in Gainesville on September 27-28, 2024. The expo features dozens of vendors with high-quality garden-related products, including plants, tools, garden art, birdhouses, and more. This is North Georgia's largest plant sale, and autumn is the best time of year to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and native plants.

We are pleased to offer free admission to garden club members after noon on Saturday, September 28. Club members need to mention when they arrive at the gate the name of the garden club they belong to, and everyone in their vehicle will be admitted for free. Of course, garden club members are welcome to visit the Fall Garden Expo at any time on Friday or Saturday, but free admission is available only on Saturday afternoon. Additional information about the Garden Expo can be found at <https://www.hallmastergardeners.com/fall-expo>. We appreciate you sharing this information with your club members by forwarding this email, including it in your newsletter, or announcing it at your meetings. Please reply if you have any questions. Thank you, and Happy Gardening!

Lori Thomas
Hall County Master Gardener Volunteer
LoriMM12@yahoo.com



Hall County Master Gardeners

FALL GARDEN EXPO

CHICOPEE WOODS AGRICULTURAL CENTER
1855 CALVARY CHURCH ROAD, GAINESVILLE, GA 30507

Friday, Sept. 27, 8:30-5:00 & Saturday, Sept. 28, 8:30-4:00

\$2 Adult Admission | KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE | NO PETS
Rain or shine | Covered Venue | Food Trucks Onsite

DOOR PRIZES

**Native Plants • Evergreens
Garden Art • Perennials •
Plants for Wildlife • Vegetable
Plants Pumpkins • Trees •
Shrubs • Pots Garden Tools**

"Beautification Through Education"
Please visit the speaker's tent
Friday and Saturday at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm
to hear presentations on garden related topics
See website for more information

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION
Hall County

University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the Hall County Extension office at 770-535-8293 or uge1139@uga.edu, at least three weeks prior to the program date.

Scan QR Code
For More information
hallmastergardeners.com
770-535-8293

BALLGROUND GARDEN CLUB HOSTS MEMORIAL CEREMONY



DEDICATION CEREMONY

*Gold Star / Blue Star
Family Memorial Markers*

Saturday, September 28, 2024
CEREMONY AT 11 A.M.
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW CEREMONY

Ball Ground Botanical Garden
215 Valley St, Ball Ground, GA



Ball Ground
Garden Club

The graphic shows two vertical red-bordered frames. The left frame contains a yellow five-pointed star, and the right frame contains a blue five-pointed star. The background is a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field.

Congratulations to the Magnolia
Garden Club of Cartersville,
Celebrating their 75th
Anniversary on September 29.



WHEN IN ROME, THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

ROME FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Rome Federation Garden Clubs got off to a great start on Tuesday, Aug. 20th for the new year. Their program was a hit with Art D'Ambrosio presenting a most unusual floral design. Throughout the presentation he often reminded them to think outside of the box and then act upon their thoughts! In preparation for a spaghetti dinner, he explained that a pasta design was needed and wow did he produce! Using a colander, he fashioned this eye-catching design using red roses, colored peppers, spaghetti, and greenery. (The bread sticks didn't work out!).

Art has over 55 years experience in the horticulture field having taught in New York State for 35 years and upon retiring and moving to Rome he became an adjunct instructor at GNTC in the Horticulture Science Program. He proved that Floral Design can be fun!



MARIETTA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

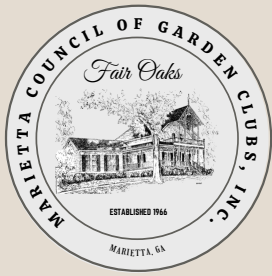
MARIETTA EDUCATIONAL GARDEN CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES HOST ANOTHER GREAT EVENT!

THIRD ANNUAL CANNON BALL CLASSIC BIG SUCCESS!



Marietta City Club was the venue for the 3rd Annual Cannonball Classic on Monday, August 26, 2024. It was a beautiful day with lovely weather, a Martin's Biscuit breakfast, lunch, and 100 golfers who supported the fundraiser for Fair Oaks, home of the Marietta Educational Garden Center. Each of the 18 tees had "hole sponsors" from the community, including four garden clubs. Community businesses and individuals donated items for a raffle that featured golf items, restaurant gift cards, bar items, jewelry, clothing, and a villa in Tuscany. Competition was keen in every way. Thank you to all who participated and helped us raise over \$16,000 for the operating expenses of our garden center.





MARIETTA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS IS PROUD TO BE HOSTING THE 66TH ANNUAL LAUREL DISTRICT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9. SEE PAGE 12 FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DETAILS. SIGN UP NOW!



“ The Marietta Council of Garden Club is thrilled to be able to observe our Blue Birds and Nature. There have been three broods of fledglings at Fair Oaks this season. ”



Marietta Council Officers hosted the second annual President's Luncheon at Fair Oaks to celebrate their positions and offer training as they made plans over summer break.





COME SEE OUR HAYES ELEMENTARY GARDEN!

The Flower Garden Club
of Marietta

The Flower Garden Club of Marietta began sponsoring a school garden at Hayes Elementary School in October of 2023. With the help of the Marietta Metro Rotary Club and many others, the garden is a labor of love and delights all who visit. Hayes Elementary School is located in Kennesaw.





A VISIT WITH FORMER GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL

Fleur de Lis Garden Club

Gathering in someone's home can be the height of good fellowship. Recently, the members of the Fleur de Lis Garden Club experienced this pleasure while spending time with the Honorable Nathan Deal at his home and in his garden. The garden spans the sloping hillside above the rapids of the Chattahoochee River. While walking down the flat stone steps, we were able to enjoy new blooms on a variety of flowers, and across the river the rhododendron were flourishing in their native soil. But the diamond in the garden was the Sandra Dunagan Deal Camellia, Japonica. Named in honor of the Former First Lady, this beauty displayed classic white blooms with gold anthers and cream filaments.

Before leaving the garden a few of us made our way up to a swing which looked down on the swirling water below. With a garden behind us, water beneath us, and the blue sky above us, we surely discerned the beauty, serenity, and tranquility that nature provides.

Back inside, the Governor gave us a tour of his home. In every room there were multiple treasures: hand-painted porcelain plates and landscape paintings done by his mother; a magnificent Brazilian marble table top; a desk made for him by the prison inmates who worked at the mansion in Atlanta; and his prized collection of 13 pairs of boots!! Wow!!!

And such a story-teller! Everything he valued had a story—the story of a staff member, a gifted artist, a loving family member, and his beloved wife, Sandra. As we gathered in the living/dining area, Governor Deal regaled us with the story of his soon-to-be published children's book, *Veto, the Governor's Cat*. He even showed us the illustrations for the book! *Veto* was actually his cat, and the Governor shared parts of the book along with an authentic introduction to several of the other characters in the book. To say his audience was mesmerized is an understatement. It became obvious that this book was written to convey certain attributes that all children/people should strive to attain: patience, perseverance, loyalty, truthfulness.

When our time with the Governor concluded, we each left his home with beauty on our minds and appreciation, respect, admiration, and love in our hearts. Many thanks and blessings to you and your family.



Laurel District invites you to our 66th Annual Meeting



**Wednesday, October 9, 2024
9:00am to 2:30pm**

Marietta Country Club
1400 Marietta Country Club Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152



Updated Guest Speaker,

Vicki Jones

Bartow County Master Gardener and
Laurel District Chairman of Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

presents

*"America's First Ladies and
The Garden Club of Georgia"*

Garden Club Host:
Marietta Council of Garden Clubs
Deanna Slone, President 2023-2025

RSVP: By Wednesday, September 25, 2024
See attached information to prepare for the meeting:

- Complete your reservation form and submit payment.
- Make hotel arrangements if you plan to overnight Monday before the meeting.
- Ask your club to provide a basket for the raffle or send a \$50.00 check made out to Laurel District. This is our fundraiser to help pay for the annual meeting. See suggestions for basket themes.
- State or District Chairpersons: reserve exhibit space using your registration form.
- Gather pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald pull-a-tab project; place them in a container that you don't need to be returned.

Laurel District Annual Meeting Registration Form 2024

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Coffee: 9:00am

Meeting: 10:00am

Mail the completed registration form and check for \$45.00

(Payable to Laurel District) to:

Dee Anne Wyse

37 Waterside Drive

Emerson, GA 30121

dawyse@bellsouth.net

Registration Deadline: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024

(Confirmation will be sent to you by email upon receipt of payment)

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

BADGE NAME PREFERENCE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

GARDEN CLUB AND CITY _____

DISTRICT _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

Please check all that apply to you:

National GC Board Member

Deep South Board Member

GCG President

GCG Board Member

Former GCG President

Laurel District Director

Laurel Board Member

Council President of _____

Club President

Club Member

Club Voting Delegate

Guest

New Garden Club Member 2024

First Time Attendee at District Meeting

National Life Member

GCG Life Member

Deep South Life Member

Hotel Information

Hilton Atlanta Marietta Hotel and Conference Center

500 Powder Springs St.
Marietta, GA 30064

Book Here: <https://tinyurl.com/Laurel-District-Lodging>

Rooms blocked until 09/08/2024

Group Name: Garden Club

Group Code: GARDEN

Room Type: 2 Double Beds

Rate: \$179.00 plus tax

Arrival Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Check in: 4pm

Departure Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Check Out: 11am

Self Parking Fee: \$23.00 per day

The cutoff date for this rate is Sunday, September 8, 2024.

Individual cancellation policy: 24 hours advance notice.

Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta NW/Kennesaw Town Center

895 Cobb Place Boulevard
Kennesaw, GA 30144
678-322-1140

Room Type: 1 King Bed

Rate: \$139.00

Room Type: 2 Queen Beds

Rate: \$149.00

Arrival Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Check in: 4pm

Departure Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Free parking.

The cutoff date for this rate is Monday, September 9, 2024.

Individual cancellation policy: 24 hours advance notice.

Dining in Marietta (optional)

Restaurant for the Night of Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 6pm

1885 Grill
2840 S. Main Street
Kennesaw Ga 30144

Menu \$15.00 - \$38.00

Salads, Soups, Main Plates, Handhelds, Seafood, & Desserts

Will you attend? ___ Yes ___ No

Preparation for the Meeting

Reserve Exhibit Space: State or District Chairs

If you wish to reserve exhibit space,
please email Kathryn Coffee: kathryncoffee@ymail.com

Memorial Service: All Laurel District Clubs

If a member of your club passed away since the 2023 Laurel District Annual Meeting,
please email or call Rene Lanier, Laurel District Chaplain at:

Rlanier111@gmail.com
770-713-0600

She will need to know the name and garden club of the deceased member.

Memorial information deadline: Wednesday, September 25

What to Bring

RAFFLE BASKET

Each club should bring a raffle basket to the meeting worth \$50.00 or more. Be creative!
(We know you are!) If you have no one attending the meeting, we ask that you donate
\$50.00 to the raffle (checks made out to Laurel District). Each basket should have the
content and value list completed and attached to or within the basket.

Suggested themes are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Christmas is Coming! | Plant for Pollinators |
| Feed the Laurel Birds | Herbs and Spices |
| Be Thankful for Thanksgiving | Grow Garden, Grow |
| Children's Gardening | All About Honey |
| New Year Celebration! | Wine and Cheese Party |
| Tailgate Time is Here! | Love the Butterflies |
| Golfer's Delight | Family Italian Dinner |

BASKET NAME: _____

BASKET CONTENTS:

VALUE:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PULL TABS

Bring pull tabs in a container you can lift and do not need to be returned.
There will be a designated area for you to donate your pull tabs.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Trevor Beemon
Executive Director
Cobb Landmarks &
Historical Society, Inc.



Paul Pugliese
Bartow County
Extension Coordinator/
ANR Agent

GARDENS



HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
PRESERVATION

HONORING OUR PAST THROUGH STORIES

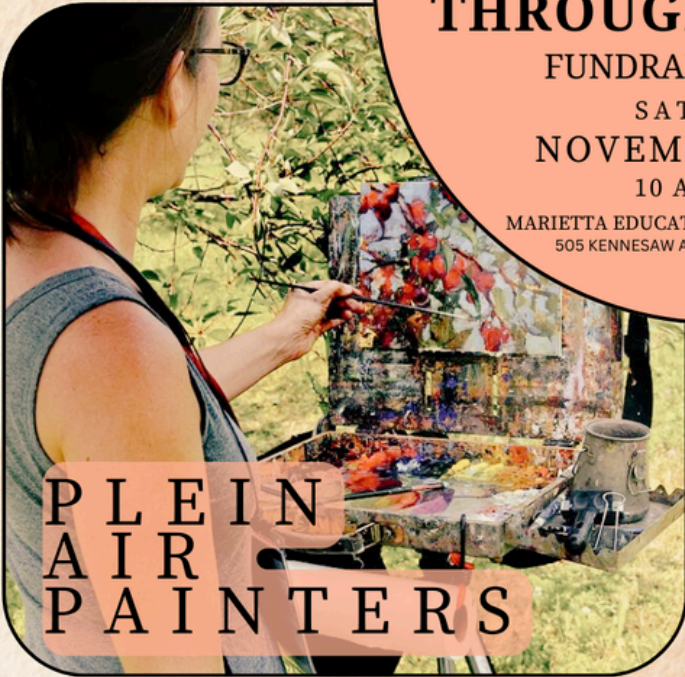
FUNDRAISING EVENT

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

10 AM - 2 PM

MARIETTA EDUCATIONAL GARDEN CENTER
505 KENNESAW AVE | MARIETTA | GA | 30060



PLEIN AIR PAINTERS



Fair Oaks

TICKETS \$45

BOX LUNCH MENU ORDER ON
REGISTRATION FORM

SEND CHECKS FOR TICKETS AND
DONATIONS

PAYABLE TO "GCG"

EDNA MCCLELLAN
180 PACER COURT #9044
ELLIJAY | GA | 30540-9305

THANK YOU!

CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL

REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE AT:

GARDEN CLUB OF
GEORGIA.ORG

FEATURING

GUEST SPEAKERS

EXPLORE THE GARDENS
including Georgia's 1st Ladies'
named Camellia Garden

DOCENTS AVAILABLE

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

PLEIN AIR PAINTERS

BOX LUNCH - SEE MENU

RAFFLE BASKETS



CONTACT HOST CAROL FEY AT
CFEY@BELLSOUTH.NET
EVENT AND FUNDRAISING HOSTED BY THE LAUREL
DISTRICT OF GARDEN CLUB OF GEORGIA, INC



Fair Oaks CIRCA 1850



HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

GRANT FUND BENEFIT
HONORING OUR PAST
THROUGH STORIES
NOVEMBER 2, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM

MARIETTA EDUCATIONAL GARDEN CENTER
505 KENNESAW AVE | MARIETTA | GA | 30060

TICKETS \$45 SEND CHECKS FOR TICKETS AND DONATIONS
BY OCT. 15, 2024; PAYABLE TO "GCG" TO: EDNA MCCLELLAN
180 PACERS COURT #9044 | ELLIJAY | GA | 30540-9305

PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO THE GRANT FUND

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Trevor Beemon
Chairman of the Acworth Historic
Preservation Commission
&
Paul Pugliese, Bartow County
Extension Coordinator/ANR Agent

FEATURING

House Tour
Gazebo and Pavilion
Raffle baskets
Gardens
Plein Air Painters
Box Lunch



EVENT AND FUNDRAISING HOSTED BY LAUREL DISTRICT

TICKETS - ORDER BY OCTOBER 15, 2024

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE#: _____ EMAIL: _____

DISTRICT: _____ GARDEN CLUB: _____

OFFICE/CHAIRMAN: _____

PLEASE MARK YOUR LUNCH SELECTION

____ TURKEY AND PROVOLONE CHEESE SANDWICH
SMOKED TURKEY, PROVOLONE CHEESE, LETTUCE, TOMATO. SERVED WITH OUR TUSCAN MAYO

____ MAPLE HONEY HAM AND SWISS SANDWICH

CANADIAN MAPLE HAM, BABY SWISS, LETTUCE TOMATO. SERVED WITH OUR SPICY SWEET MAYO

____ SIGNATURE HONEY PECAN CHICKEN SALAD ON CROISSANT

SEASONED CHICKEN BREAST TOSSED WITH DRIED CRANBERRIES, CELERY, PECANS & HONEY- MAYO

____ SPINACH SALAD

BABY SPINACH LEAVES MIXED WITH CHOPPED EGGS, FETA, WALNUTS, CRANRAISINS, OUR GINGER
MANDARIN ORANGE DRESSING

____ NUT ALLERGY ____ GLUTEN FREE BREAD

Each box lunch includes: Broccoli Mandarin Salad (broccoli florets tossed with golden raisins,
pecans, red onion and seasoned mayo garnished with Mandarin oranges). Bing Cherry Salad.
Tomato basil soup. Assorted drinks. Dessert bar.



CONTACT HOST CAROL FEY AT CFEY@BELLSOUTH.NET
EVENT AND FUNDRAISING HOSTED BY LAUREL DISTRICT