

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NUMBER 7

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

DATE: Wednesday, June 28, 2017

PLACE: The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA

TIME: 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Adrienne Washington, adjunct professor, journalist and independent historian

LECTURE

We've Come This Far by Faith



An African American community of former slaves was established on and around the remnants of Fort Ward during the nineteenth century following the Civil War. “The Fort” community lasted nearly a century, into the Civil Rights era of the 1960s. The Fort and the larger “Seminary” community—located around the Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School on Braddock, Howard, King and North Quaker Streets—developed a rich history through shared kinship, marriage, church and work.

In her lecture, ***We've Come This Far by Faith** (How the Creation of Two Church Congregations in “The Fort” and “Seminary” Fortified and Sustained an African American Community for More Than a Century)*, descendant Adrienne Washington (she is the great-great-granddaughter of “The Fort” founder, Harriett Stuart McKnight Shorts) will discuss the enduring memories, images and traditions of the communities’ descendants, many of whom still live nearby although the remains of former homes and school/chapel, fragments of household items and numerous graves survive only underground. The still-existing Oakland Baptist Church on King Street is testimony to the communities’ founders and its cemetery is bordered by Ford Ward Park.

Ms. Washington is an adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and University of the District of Columbia Community College (UDC-CC), where she teaches English Composition and

Urban Studies courses. She has also taught journalism classes at Catholic University and English Composition at Potomac College. Ms. Washington was a columnist for *The Afro-American* and a columnist and citizen journalist editor at *The Washington Times*. She graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a Master's Degree in Non-Fiction and Fiction Writing. She is a founder and member of the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, Inc.



Doors open at 7:00 PM. The program is free for Alexandria Historical Society members, and there is a nominal charge of \$5 person for non-members. A membership table on-site will offer the opportunity to join the Society that night. Parking is extremely limited at The Lyceum, but there are garages and street parking nearby. To learn more about the Alexandria Historical Society, please visit our website at <http://alexandriahistorical.org>.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended. To request a reasonable accommodation, please email Jim Mackay at jim.mackay@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4607 or Virginia Relay 711.

Proposed Amendment to Society By-Laws

A vote will take place at the June 28th meeting for the purpose of adding a new Section 5 to Article II of the Society By-Laws: "In the event that a Board Member or Officer should for any reason be unable to serve the respective full term of incumbency, the Board may appoint a successor to fill the vacancy created. The person appointed shall serve the remainder of the term of the Officer or Board Member in which the vacancy has arisen."

Alexandria Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors for 2017-2018 (beginning July 1st)

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**ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

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The AHS Newsletter is published by the Alexandria Historical Society, Inc., and mailed free to members. To join the Society, submit your check made payable to "Alexandria Historical Society," together with your name, address, and telephone numbers, to the Alexandria Historical Society, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Annual dues are: \$10.00, Student; \$20.00, Single; \$30.00, Couple; \$50.00, Sustaining; and \$100.00, Patron. The membership year is July to June. Dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The purpose of the Society shall be to promote an active interest in American history and particularly in the history of Alexandria and of Virginia.

The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.alexandriahistorical.org**