

# The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

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## 2018 Alexandria History Awards

The Alexandria Historical Society presents its 2018 Alexandria History Awards at a special ceremony, April 25, 2018, 7:30 PM, at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. This event honors groups or individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural and artistic heritage of Alexandria, Virginia. All are welcome to attend this free event.

**J. LANCE MALLAMO**, former Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, will give the address, "Beyond My Wildest Dreams: My Life & Career as a Public Historian".

Presentation of the **High School History Awards** to the following students from each of Alexandria's four high schools. Each student is selected for academic achievement and scholarship, high motivation and sustained interest in American history, awareness of the role of history and the historian in contemporary society and demonstrated citizenship and leadership.

**MADELEINE MCDADE**, Bishop Ireton High School, Teacher: Marie Markussen

**JULIET FARIS**, Episcopal High School, Teacher: Michael Reynolds

**LILLY CADY**, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School, Teacher: Kate Hardwick

**JACKSON DUPONT**, T.C. Williams High School, Teachers: Steven Bertetti, Michelle Hudgens and Andrew Orzel

**The T. Michael Miller History Award** to **MICHAEL COMMISSO**

This award, named in honor of the City's most prolific research historian and former AHS President, recognizes those who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural and artistic heritage of Alexandria.

The following is an excerpt from this year's award program:

*Michael Commisso earned his Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design and Environmental Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2001, and his Master's in Landscape Architecture from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse in 2004. After working as a Historic Preservation Planner and Landscape Designer in Georgia, he joined the National Park Service in 2006, serving as Landscape Architect for the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (2006—2012) and then as the Cultural Resource Specialist/Landscape Architect, National Capital Regional Office (2012—2015). Currently, he fills both the position of Cultural Resource Program Manager, National Mall and Memorial Parks, and that of Acting Chief of Resource Management, National Capital Parks—East.*

*Mr. Commisso is receiving the T. Michael Miller History Award for his skills and expertise in the inventory, documentation and treatment of the historic landscape, as well as his commitment to the history and preservation of the City of Alexandria. Since his relocation to Alexandria in 2012, he has volunteered on both the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission and the Alexandria Historical and Preservation Commission, the latter of which he is the current chair. Of singular importance is his contribution to the Old Town Alexandria Alley Survey Group that was tasked with surveying and researching the important but largely undocumented alley system of Alexandria. Mr. Commisso served as the group's chair, designed the survey template, participated in the survey work and vetted the survey data. To date the Old and Historic District Survey is complete, with the group poised to expand the survey to the rest of the City.*

*Mr. Commisso's past projects include Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Land Use History (2007); Glenmont Estate, Thomas Alva Edison National Historical Park Cultural Landscape Report and Treatment Plan (2010); Battleground National Cemetery, Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report and Treatment Plan (2013); Dupont Circle, National Mall and Memorial Parks Cultural Landscape Inventory (2013); and Antietam National Cemetery, Antietam National Battlefield, Cultural Landscape and Treatment Plan (2014).*

**MAYOR ALLISON SILBERBERG** will make remarks at the conclusion of the ceremony.

All AHS members are cordially invited to come, enjoy and celebrate. We hope to see you there!

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### **AHS Election of Officers and Board Directors**

AHS' bylaws state, "The annual election of officers of the Society and members of the Board of Directors shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the Society in May. Officers shall serve one year. Directors shall serve three years, beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Directors' terms shall be staggered to ensure continuity on the Board."

The AHS Nominating Committee members (Debbie Ackerman, Katy Cannady, Tal Day and Patrick Ladden) are pleased to submit to AHS members the following slate of officers, renewing and new board directors for your consideration at the May meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the May meeting providing the nominee has consented to serve.

**Officers, one-year term**

President — Krystyn Moon

Vice Presidents— Audrey P. Davis

Treasurer — Caroline English

Secretary — Catherine Weinraub

**Board Directors, current term ends 2018, renew through 2021**

Debra P. Ackerman

Katy Cannady

Ginny Hamill

**NEW Board Directors through 2020**

Fran Bromberg

Severiano Ortiz

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**What is Coming Up Next?**

The Spring issue of **The Chronicle** will be in your mailbox soon.

May 16, 7:00—9:30 PM—**Rosenwald**, this documentary tells the remarkable story of how businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald partnered with Booker T. Washington during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to construct 5,500 schools in poor, rural African-American communities in the South. Rosenwald's concern with justice for African Americans led to the creation of programs and establishments that addressed the community's crucial needs. Co-sponsored by AHS, Office of Historic Alexandria and Preservation Virginia, the event will be held at The Lyceum at 201 South Washington Street. Please call 703-746-4994 for more information.

May 23, 7:30 PM—**Exploring the Covert Capital**, Dr. Andrew Friedman, at The Lyceum. Learn how U.S. foreign policy following World War II played out in the suburbs of northern Virginia, which furnished a cover for clandestine activity.

June 27, 7:30 PM—**The Stupendous Works of a Great Architect: Exploring the History of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial**, Tim Winkle, at the GWMNM. The presentation explores the origins of collections at the GWMNM related to George Washington. The program starts at 7:30 PM; visits to the tower observation deck are available at 7:00 PM.

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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](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org)