

The
ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXVIII   ISSUE V   NEWSLETTER   April 2019

Upcoming Lectures

at The Lyceum

201 S Washington St,
Alexandria VA 22314

REMINDER: HOW TO USE MEMBER CODE TO REGISTER

Go to alexandriahistorical.org and click on events. Find the register button. This button will take you to Eventbrite, where you can click on tickets and then “enter promotional code” (NOTE: each event has its own code). Once you have entered the code, the event will drop to \$0 and you can complete your reservation. Please email alexandriahistoricalsociety@gmail.com with any questions!

Alexandria Historical Society Awards Ceremony

April 24, 2019, 7:30 PM

Gretchen M. Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), will speak at our ceremony honoring the newest recipients of the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award to a person or persons who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural, and artistic heritage of Alexandria. In addition, outstanding history students from each of Alexandria’s four high schools will be given an Alexandria High School History Award based

on the recommendations of their teachers. AHS Members are welcome to attend this event and support present and future historical work in Alexandria.

We Cannot Be Tame Spectators: Three Centuries of Virginia Women's History

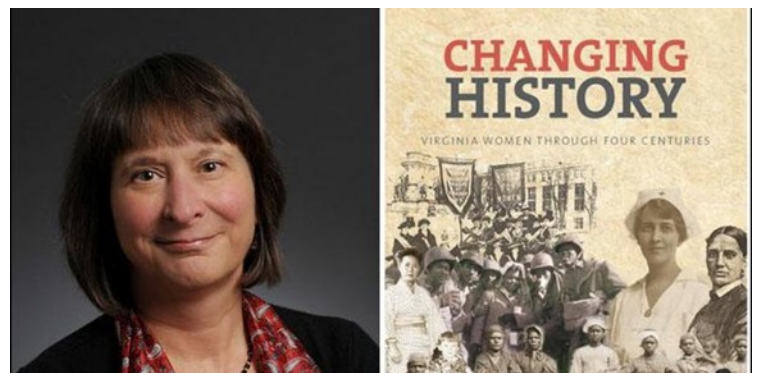
May 22, 2019, 7:30 PM

Member Promotional Code: ahswomen2019

Cindy Kierner, professor of history at George Mason University, will speak about Virginia women, including those who have made history that is both important and inspiring. As entrepreneurs and laborers, wives and mothers, educators and reformers, women—both famous and lesser-known—have influenced the course of history in the Old Dominion. Dr. Kierner is the co-author of *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries* (with Jennifer R. Loux and Megan Taylor Shockley). This engaging narrative reveals a history of Virginia women whose rights and choices have increased over time: enslaved women became free; wives became property-owners; women of all races attained greater access to education, suffrage, and other basic civil rights. Progress has not always been steady and improvements have varied by class, race, and region. Virginia's women have created an evocative legacy. Dr. Kierner will share their stories.

Kierner is Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer and past president of the Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH). She has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Southern History*, the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, the *North Carolina Historical Review*, and the University of Virginia Press. Her research has received support from the American Historical Association, American Antiquarian Society, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, the Virginia Historical Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the International Center for Jefferson Studies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Cindy Kierner, co-author of *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries*



The Early History of Seaport Alexandria: New Insights from Archaeology

June 26, 2019, 7:30 PM

Member Promotional Code: ahsarch19

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist of Alexandria, tells us about new discoveries on the Alexandria waterfront. In 2012, City Council approved a plan to revitalize Alexandria's historic waterfront. Just as 18th century Alexandrians sought to transform their sleepy tobacco town into a prosperous port, so too do today's residents envision a viable and vibrant waterside destination. Because of the unique, 30-year old Archaeology Protection Code requiring excavation prior to certain development projects, Alexandria Archaeology geared up for a period of intensive focus on some of the most historically significant areas within the National Register Old and Historic District. Block by block, project by project, the remains of wharves, warehouses, dwellings, industries, privies, and of course four ships have begun to emerge from the waterlogged depths at the river's edge. Even as individual features and artifact assemblages, these finds are highly significant, but when taken together along with a wealth of historical documentary data, a maritime cultural landscape is taking form. This presentation offers a tour of the archaeological evidence of the diverse neighborhoods, bustling wharves, and massive land making efforts that characterized the Alexandria seaport at the turn of the eighteenth century.

Images from waterfront excavations in Alexandria, a 50-foot ship (below) and 85-foot ship (right).



Selected History Happenings

Spring2Action Kickoff Event

April 5, 2019 from 1:00-5:00pm and April 6, 2019 from 10:00am-4:00pm
116 S. Quaker Lane

Join the Office of Historic Alexandria as we kick off our drive to restore Virginia's top endangered artifact, the 1858 Prettyman Hose Reel Carriage. Visitors will be able to take a self-guided tour of last year's runner up, the Alexandria 18th-century ships.

\$10/person, \$25/family

Specialty Tour: Hamilton BFF & Frenemies

April 6, April 13, April 20, and April 27, 2019 at 10:00am
Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Inspired by the musical, *Hamilton*, hear about Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison, and Burr—alongside stories from enslaved men and women working at the tavern, like Candas and Moses. Grapple with the realities of early America and how these stories intertwined to start a new nation.

\$15 per person; \$12 GTMS members. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available.

After Work Concert Series—Two Sisters

April 12, 2019 at 6:00pm
Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street

Great music with a suggested donation for the musicians. No ticket required—show up and enjoy traditional ballads by Two Sisters. Beer and wine for sale; light refreshments available as well.

Monthly concert sponsored by The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) and The Office of Historic Alexandria.

Free with suggested donation.

Becoming American: Identity and Acculturation**April 13, 2019****10:00am****The Lyceum**

Carefully curated, *Becoming American* is a selection of documentaries designed to engage and enlighten audiences, representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present.

Between Two Worlds: Identity and Acculturation ~ Looks at how immigrants react and adjust to living in a new country and culture, and how they bridge the divide between the traditions and values of their native countries. [Film: *The New Americans*, Episode 1, The Nigerians.]

Free

Historical Fires in Alexandria Walking Tour**April 13, 2019****1:00pm****Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St.**

Visit the sites of especially significant fires that occurred in 1871, 1873, 1897 and 1909, and learn about the technology employed to fight these fires.

A big fire can impact an entire community. Visit the sites of especially significant fires that occurred in 1871, 1873, 1897 and 1909, and learn about the technology employed to fight these fires. For age 10 and older.

\$6 for adults, \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, as space is limited.

Facetime with History**April 14, 2019****1:00pm****Gadsby's Museum**

James Madison & Albert Gallatin, Former President and Minister to France, discuss the news of the day. On the 2nd Sunday of every month, guests will be greeted by a person from the past while journeying through the museum. While the

person varies, through conversation and stories, guests will deepen their understanding of the past and how it connects to today. Sponsored by the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society.

Included with cost of Museum.

African American History of Alexandria Bus Tour

April 27, 2019 from 10:00am-4:00pm

Mount Vernon

This special bus tour begins at Mount Vernon with an exclusive viewing of Mount Vernon's Lives Bound Together exhibition, on slavery at George Washington's plantation.

This special bus tour begins at Mount Vernon with an exclusive viewing of Mount Vernon's Lives Bound Together exhibition, on slavery at George Washington's plantation. The tour will be conducted by exhibit curators. Afterward, visitors will walk to Mount Vernon's Slave Cemetery for a site talk by archeologists, followed by a lunchtime lecture (box lunch provided). After lunch, guests will board a bus to Alexandria and visit Freedom House Museum, once part of the headquarters for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, and then on to Alexandria's Contraband and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, the burial ground for over 1700 contrabands (escaped slaves). The tour will conclude at Mount Vernon at 4 p.m. The tour will go rain or shine and has extended periods of walking over uneven terrain.

\$40 for adults and children

Becoming American: Immigration and Work

April 27, 2019 at 10:00am

The Lyceum

Carefully curated, *Becoming American* is a selection of documentaries designed to engage and enlighten audiences, representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present.

April 27: Help Wanted? Immigration and Work ~ Looks at the economic side of immigration, chronicling the essential part immigrant labor has played in building

America, as well as the conflicted relationship American workers have had with immigrants. [Film: Destination America, Episode 1, The Golden Door.]

Free

Celestial Ball Dance Class

April 18, April 25, and May 2, 2019 at 7:30pm

Gadsby's Tavern

In preparation for the Celestial Ball on May 4, individuals interested in dancing can learn 18th-century English country dancing in advance from expert dance instructors. Those not familiar with this style of dancing should complete at least one full class to become accustomed to the figures and language for the ball.

\$12 per class or \$30 for the series. Reservations are recommended.

Celestial Ball

May 4, 2019 at 8:00pm

Gadsby's Tavern

Long ago in a time far far away... join us on May 4th for a star-studded ball. Enjoy live music, English Country dancing and a seasonal dessert collation. Last quarter of the 18th century costume optional; "after-five" attire encouraged. Advanced registration is required, space is limited.

Cost is \$45 in advance. Reservations are required.

Specialty Tour: Peeling Back the Layers

May 4, 2019 at 10:00am

Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Explore the 18th century buildings, including spaces rarely opened to the public, and understand how the buildings have changed over time in this specialty tour at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your camera!

\$15 per person; \$12 GTMS members. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available.

Archaeology After Dark: Fort Delaware and the VCP
May 9, 2019 at 6:30pm
Lloyd House

Alexandria After Dark brings together professional archaeologists and historians for informal lectures on topics relating to the rich archaeological heritage of Alexandria and the surrounding area. Cash bar and light refreshments provided.

Lab Manager Kevin Bradley introduces the Alexandria Veterans Curation Program (VCP) and its unique mission to serve military veterans and rehabilitate at-risk United States Army Corps of Engineers archaeological collections. He will highlight the program's preservation efforts of the Fort Delaware Civil War prison camp collection.

\$12 per person; \$10 FOAA/OHA members. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available.

Highlights from March

On March 27, AHS hosted a talk by Dr. Zachary M. Schrag, professor of history at George Mason University and author of *The Great Society Subway: A History of the Washington Metro*. On the forty-third anniversary of the grand opening of the first leg of the red line, Dr. Schrag described the political, cultural, and logistical contexts of the project of creating a major subway system in a metropolitan area already dominated by the automobile. The talk was received with much interest and a spirited question and answer session in which Dr. Schrag revealed the real reason Georgetown has no Metro stop and speculated about Metro's future in Washington.



Dr. Zachary M. Schrag

Society Membership Renewal

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Alexandria Historical Society. Your generous support through membership, donations, and endowment allows AHS to engage our members and the community at-large in our history. Go to the website to renew: alexandriahistorical.org.

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ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. NEWSLETTER

201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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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