

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

DATE: Wednesday, September 28, 2016

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

TIME: 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Dr. Krystyn Moon, Ph.D., associate professor of History and director of American Studies, Mary Washington University

LECTURE

From Arlandria to Chirilagua: The Remaking of a Northern Virginia Neighborhood, 1960s-1980s

Alexandria began as a tiny port town along the Potomac where the river is wide, founded by a group of local farmers, Scottish tobacco buyers and their African slaves. It's now a city of more than 148,000 people, with nearly 30% of Alexandria's residents born outside the United States; over 100 native languages are currently spoken by Alexandria school children.

Much of this transition took root in the mid-to-late 20th century, and Dr. Krystyn Moon has studied its impact in the Arlandria neighborhood, an area in the northern portion of Alexandria around Mt. Vernon Avenue and Four Mile Run. Dr. Moon will present *From Arlandria to Chirilagua: The Remaking of a Northern Virginia Neighborhood, 1960s—1980s* at this month's lecture.

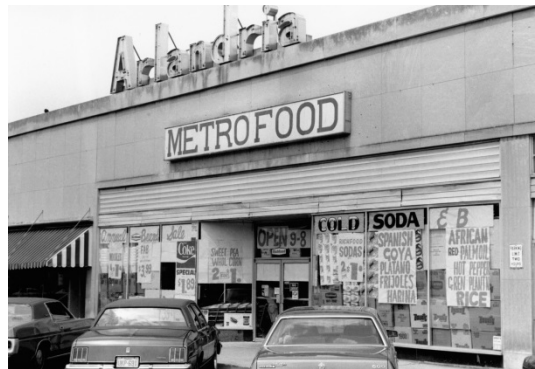


Photo taken by Jim Wilson. Courtesy of Special Collections, Alexandria Library.

The breakdown of structural racism, combined with America's Cold War policies, created major demographic changes in Alexandria during the mid-to-late 20th century. The Arlandria neighborhood experienced a dramatic shift from predominantly white-only housing to homes for immigrants from all over the world. This talk explores the forces that led to a population shift of such great magnitude, its impact on Alexandria and the experiences of the immigrants who made Arlandria their home from the 1960s to the 1980s.



Dr. Moon is an associate professor of History as well as director of American Studies at Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University and was the recipient of a Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Grant with the Office of Historic Alexandria in 2015 as well as a Christopher Reynolds Foundation Grant for 2016-2017. Dr. Moon was raised in rural, southern New Hampshire and currently resides in Alexandria.

Doors open at 7:00 PM—seating is limited. The program is free to Alexandria Historical Society members and \$5 for non-members. An on-site membership table will provide an opportunity to join the Society. Parking is limited at The Lyceum, but there are garages and street parking nearby.

President's Message

Greetings and welcome back after a long, particularly humid summer! Usually this is the time when we head for the beaches, the mountains or curl up on our porch with a sweet ice tea and an engaging treatise on Civil War battles. In between these activities, however, our active and committed board members have been very busy conjuring up spectacular events for this coming season while we simultaneously explore ideas regarding membership and publicity. You have witnessed that in the past two years, we have improved the Alexandria Historical Society's website, making it more accessible and presentable. Current and potential members can now join our organization on-line, and sign up for events ahead of time. Some of you might have experienced glitches in this system for which we apologize. Trying out something new can bring some mishaps. We have initiated a minimal five-dollar charge for non-members to our events in the hopes of encouraging people to join our organization, thus providing us the opportunity to expand our mission of education and publication. We created eye-catching postcards which publicized our fall 2015 and spring 2016 schedule of events. Our fall 2016 postcard may arrive in your mailbox any day! Lastly, we honored the life of Anne Smith Paul, past president of AHS and a dedicated board member for more than twenty years by offering, for the first time, a one-time grant to a community history-focused organization located in Alexandria.

Our 2016-2017 season has a spectacular line-up of fall presentations. We will open on September 28 with Dr. Krystyn Moon's presentation, ***From Arlandria to Chirilagua: The Remaking of a Northern Virginia Neighborhood, 1960s—1980s***. She addresses how American and Cold War policies changed the demographics of Northern Virginia starting in the late 1960s. On October 26, Charles Joyce will speak about the history of Francis Snow's historical photograph of United States Colored Troops (USCT) taken at L'Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria in ***What a Photograph Tells Us: Black Soldiers Fight for Equality on the Battlefield and in the Hospital***. Images of USCT soldiers are uncommon and remarkably, each man is identified on the front of this albumen photograph.

In addition to lectures, the Alexandria Historical Society will be partnering with other sites, offering "Members Only events" and using other venues. Our first venture which meets all these criteria will be on November 1, when we partner with Alexandria's Historic Ivy Hill Cemetery. Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, will present ***Rest on Embalmed and Sainted Dead: The Development of Embalming Practice During the Civil War*** in the rarely seen 19th-century vault! Two weeks later, on November 12, Catherine Weinraub, site director at the Alexandria Friendship Firehouse Museum and

AHS secretary, will offer a walking tour, **Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting History**. This event will delight all ages, including children 10 years and above. We are currently planning a Behind-the-Scenes tour with Mount Vernon and are in the early stages of considering a bourbon tasting in the spring.

As you can see, we have lots of creative energy focused on offering a variety of new options along with quality lectures. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting process, please introduce yourselves to one of our board members at our next event.

Debra P. Ackerman, AHS president

Upcoming AHS Lectures and Events

October 26, 2016: "What a Photograph Tells Us: Black Soldiers Fight for Equality on the Battlefield and in the Hospital." This lecture will take place at The Lyceum.

November 1, 2016: "Rest on Embalmed and Sainted Dead: The Development of Embalming Practice During the Civil War." This event will be held in the 19th-century vault at Ivy Hill Cemetery!

November 12, 2016: "Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting History." A walking tour that begins at Friendship Firehouse.

March 22, 2017: "Trade and Material Culture in the 18th-Century Mid-Atlantic Region." This lecture will take place at The Lyceum.

Alexandria Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors for 2016-2017

On September 28, before the lecture begins, a vote will be taken on proposed board directors.

Officers:

President	Debra P. Ackerman
Vice President	Audrey Davis
Secretary	Catherine Weinraub
Treasurer	Tal Day

Board of Directors:

Jamie Bosket	Term to end 2018	
Katy Cannady	Term to end 2018	(Alexandria Archaeology representative)
Jackie Cohan*	Term to end 2019	(Newsletter editor)
Caroline English*	Term to end 2019	
Dennis Hensley	Term to end 2017	(HARC representative)
Patrick Ladden	Term to end 2018	
James Mackay*	Term to end 2019	
Julia Randle*	Term to end 2019	
Mark Whatford	Term to end 2017	
Helen Wirka	Term to end 2017	(Alexandria Chronicle editor)

*Proposed directors

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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