

The ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012

DATE: Wednesday, October 24, 2012

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

TIME: 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Jenny Masur, Ph.D., Manager, National Capital Region, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

“Heroes of the Underground Railroad in Alexandria and DC in the 19th Century”



How many times have you driven past the 10 foot-tall bronze statue of two African American women on Duke Street and wondered what it signified? Join us at our upcoming lecture and discover the story behind sisters Emily and Mary Edmonson, daughters of a free black man and enslaved woman who attempted to escape to freedom aboard the *Pearl* in 1848 with nearly 80 other slaves. The teenaged girls were captured and transferred to the Bruin Slave Pen on Duke Street once located where their statue now stands. With help from their father and abolitionists, including Harriet Beecher Stowe, their freedom was purchased and they were rescued from a life of slavery.

The lecture also focuses on other instances of slave escapes from the Alexandria area by land or by sea: one from Alexandria Harbor on a ship called the *Regulator* and the story of Leonard Grimes, a free black man born in Leesburg who was prosecuted for assisting freedom seekers. The National Capital Area is unique in that some of the most successful slave traders in the United States were located here, while free states like Pennsylvania were nearby. Before the Civil War, the Underground Railroad was a major means of escape from slavery to freedom and freedom seekers employed a great deal of ingenuity in securing their freedom.

Installation of the Edmonson Sisters statue
in May 2010

October Lecture (continued from front)

Dr. Jenny Masur has worked on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program for 13 years. A Fulbright Scholar in both 1990 and 2004 as well as an expert on the Underground Railroad in the National Capital Region, she will explain the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom's definition of the Underground Railroad as "resistance to slavery through flight."

As regional manager of the organization, Dr. Masur serves as Underground Railroad expert in the National Capital Region, coordinates related park and partnership activities, participates in the National Park Service national coordinating committee for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and facilitates documentation of Underground Railroad histories, including nominations to the network.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom was established by Congress in 1998 and the program is designed to recognize the importance of the Underground Railroad, the sacrifices made by those who used the Underground Railroad in search of freedom from slavery, and the sacrifices made by the people who assisted them. The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act authorizes the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate federal and non-federal activities to commemorate, honor and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad as well as recognize its significance as a crucial element in the evolution of the national civil rights movement.



Commemorate Past Presidents of the Alexandria Historical Society

At 7:30 PM on October 24th, prior to the lecture, there will be a short program to commemorate the past presidents of the Alexandria Historical Society. A plaque will be presented by the current head of the society, President Bill Dickinson, to Jim Mackay, Director of The Lyceum. Light refreshments will follow the lecture. The plaque will later be installed at The Lyceum.

Former presidents of the Alexandria Historical Society:

2008 – 2011	Ms. Audrey P. Davis	1994 – 1996	Mr. T. Michael Miller
2007 – 2008	Mr. Douglas Thurman(deceased)	1992 – 1994	Mr. James H. Johnson
2004 – 2007	Ms. Mary Ruth Coleman	1990 – 1992	Mr. Walter V. Barbash (deceased)
2002 – 2004	Mr. James H. Johnson	1988 – 1990	Mr. Robert H. Ruffner (deceased)
2001 – 2002	Lt. Col. Henry G. Morgan	1986 – 1988	Mr. Thomas B. Worsley (deceased)
1998 – 2001	Mrs. Anne S. Paul	1985 – 1986	Lt. Col. Henry G. Morgan
1996 – 1998	Ms. Marilyn W. Burke	1983 – 1985	Mr. Joseph F. Vaughn

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1981 – 1983	Mr. Joseph B. Mitchell (deceased)	1976 – 1977	Lt. Col. Henry G. Morgan
1979 – 1981	Mrs. Virginia Jacob	1974 – 1976	Mr. Wilfred J. Smith (deceased)
1977 – 1979	Mr. William B. Hurd (deceased)		

Annual Audit of the Alexandria Historical Society

We are pleased to report that based on a thorough audit of the Alexandria Historical Society's finances conducted last summer, our books are successfully balanced.

2012 – 2013 Alexandria Historical Society Officers

President	Bill Dickinson
Vice President	Peggy Gross
Secretary	Ted Pulliam
Treasurer	Lisa Adamo

Board of Directors

Debbie Ackerman	(Term to end 2013)
Katy Cannady	(Term to end 2015)
David Cavanaugh	(Term to end 2014)
Jackie Cohan	(Term to end 2013)
Sarah Coster	(Term to end 2013)
Audrey Davis	(Term to end 2015)
Tal Day	(Term to end 2013)
Linda Greenberg	(Term to end 2015)
Adrienne T. Washington	(Term to end 2014)

Halloween in Alexandria

Poe in Alexandria

Actor David Keltz recreates Edgar Allen Poe's 1849 visit to Virginia, with an eerily authentic performance in the 19th-century Lecture Hall of The Lyceum on Wednesday, October 31st, at 8:00 PM. One of America's best-loved authors comes to life as Mr. Keltz recites from *The Raven*, *El Dorado* and other classic works to provide an unforgettable Halloween evening with America's earliest master of the macabre! Purchase tickets by phone (703-746-4994) or online (TheLyceum@alexandriava.gov). Advance sales are encouraged as the program usually sells out.

Cauldron Tea

Come to the Carlyle House terrace for a spooky afternoon tea that will be sure to cast a spell on your Halloween celebrations. After the tea, guests are invited to tour the museum and learn about 18th-century funeral and mourning practices in Virginia. Costumes welcome. Contact the Carlyle House by phone (703-549-2997) or email (carlyle@nvpra.org) for ticket information. The event will be held on Sunday, October 21st, at 2:00 PM, 121 North Fairfax Street.

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



**201 South Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**