



## Women's History Month



### Celebrate Women's History Month with Historic Alexandria

Historic Alexandria invites readers to participate in the virtual celebration of Women's History Month in March. The observance had its origins as a national celebration in 1981, when Congress authorized and requested the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week."

After being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Since 1998, Alexandria has hosted events and honored women who have made significant contributions to the community. This year's celebration features the following:

•**Outlandish Tours**, *March 6, 13, 20, and 27, \$15 per person* – Celebrate the March premiere of Season 6 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved "Outlander" series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour

this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines – such as cascara and dauco seeds – that were featured in Diana Gabaldon’s “Outlander” novels. The tour also touches on the role of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. Recommended for ages 18 and older. The tour will be conducted from 11 a.m. to noon. Tickets are available [here](#).

**•Virtual Lecture and Discussion: Dr. LaNitra Beger on Irma Stern and the Paradox of South African Art**, *March 24, 7-9 p.m., Free*– Join the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) for a lecture with Dr. LaNitra Berger on South African artist Irma Stern’s complex life and work. Dr. Berger will discuss her recently published book, “Irma Stern and the Racial Paradox of South African Modern Art: Audacities of Color,” which explores how Stern became South Africa’s most prolific and controversial painter. Stern depicted the lives of people who are of black, Jewish and mixed race origins, while maintaining a neutral position on apartheid. A discussion with Rabbi David Spinrad, a member of the ACRP Steering Committee, will follow the lecture. Register [here](#).

**•Civil War Women’s Day at Fort Ward**, *March 26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Free* – Learn about women’s dress, skills, and contributions during the Civil War from historical interpreters, who will present talks, displays and demonstrations throughout the day. The interpreters will explore women’s roles on the home front, in factories, in camp, on the battlefield, and in soldiers’ aid societies and relief efforts for both armies during the war. Learn about women who disguised themselves as Union soldiers and the challenges experienced by the hundreds of women who served in the Army.

**•Self-Guided Women’s History Tour**-Discover where Alexandria’s women of the past and present have lived, worked, and made history on Alexandria Celebrates Women’s new Women’s History Walk! The extensive self-guided\* journey is designed to enable history seekers to explore as little or as much as you like at your own pace. The new Walk includes an optional extended tour. ACW will post the route soon! \*\*If you would like a free guided tour, please contact [AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com). Download the tour guide [here](#).

**•Social media posts highlighting Alexandrian women who have made contributions to the community** -- Each Thursday in March, Historic Alexandria’s Facebook and Instagram pages will feature Alexandrian women-- of different ages, races, and eras -- who helped make a difference.

Visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic) for a list of all events celebrating Women’s History Month.

## Volunteer at the Carlyle House

Enjoy History? Looking for a fun and relaxing volunteer opportunity? Carlyle House Historic Park, a colonial house museum in Old Town Alexandria, seeks volunteer guides to give public tours of this historic building. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a museum volunteer, please contact the museum by calling 703.549.2997 or emailing us at [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org).

## Join the Junior Docents at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum

Do you know a child or student who enjoys learning about history and talking about what they know? Gadsby’s Tavern Museum’s Junior Docent Program is a wonderful way to encourage their interest and enthusiasm! Students accepted into the program are trained in museum information and presentation skills. Then, they provide tours in 18th-century clothing Sunday afternoons during the summer (based on student

availability), practicing their speaking skills and engaging visitors of all ages and sharing their interest in history.

Applications are now being accepted from 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students. To be considered, students must complete the application, available at [alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern](http://alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern) and return it to the Museum no later than Friday, March 25. Applicants must also attend an audition on Sunday, March 27, where the child will have the chance to give a short presentation on a historical topic of their choosing. Application includes information about required training classes. Questions should be directed to the Assistant Director at 703.746.4739.

## Coming Events

### **“Hunt for Washington”**

*February 28*

Download this scavenger hunt, a fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing a clue sheet from [www.washingtonbirthday.com](http://www.washingtonbirthday.com) and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to [gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com](mailto:gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com) any time before the end of the day on February 28 for a chance to win prizes and mementos. FREE.

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### **Civil War Nurses of Alexandria**

*March 4*

*Lee-Fendall House Museum*

*6:00 p.m.*

*\$5, Tickets available [here](#).*

The American Civil War marks the beginning of nursing as a profession in America. This talk will explore the paths that a number of women took before arriving in Alexandria during the American Civil War as nurses. Due to limited space, advance registration is required and is \$5 per person. Please call 703.548.1789 or email [contact@leefendallhouse.org](mailto:contact@leefendallhouse.org) for more information.

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### **Julia Wilbur & Harriet Jacobs: Aid Workers & Allies in Civil War Alexandria**

*March 11*

*Lee-Fendall House Museum*

*6 p.m.*

*\$5, Tickets available [here](#).*

This talk will explore the lives of two women from very different backgrounds who worked together to meet the needs of African American refugees from slavery and injured Union soldiers in wartime Alexandria. Due to limited space, advance registration is required and is \$5 per person. Please call 703.548.1789 or email [contact@leefendallhouse.org](mailto:contact@leefendallhouse.org) for more information.

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### **Friendship Firehouse Museum Open**

*March 12*

*Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred Street*

*11 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

*\$2 per person, free to City of Alexandria residents*

Younger visitors will receive a free fire hat and a take-away bag of fun activities! Guests must wear masks

that cover their mouth and nose while in the building.

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Historic Alexandria receives City operational funding to support its mission; however, these resources do not cover the full scope of the department's strategic goals and projects. Donations, special revenue, and grant funding help supplement staff, conservation work, and educational programs. [Please consider a donation today!](#)

## Museums Open on a Limited Basis

**In accordance with CDC guidance, City of Alexandria Museums now require guests to wear a mask in indoor public spaces. Currently, the following City Museums are open to the public:**

### **Alexandria Archaeology Museum**

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

### **Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum**

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

### **Gadsby's Tavern Museum**

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

### **Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum**

Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays & Mondays, 1 - 5 p.m.

### **Friendship Firehouse Museum (March 12, and April 16)**

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### **Fort Ward Museum**

Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit our website and follow us on social media to discover new things about your hometown. For more information, please visit [alexandriava.gov/historic](http://alexandriava.gov/historic).

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Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 situation, we are providing updates on our website. For additional information about the City of Alexandria's actions, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>.

## THIS WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA'S HISTORY

On March 2, 1958, Alexandria City Public Schools had 41 vacancies on its staff of 610 professional positions. At the time, the minimum salary for an Alexandria teacher was \$3,900 a year.

## UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

Due to the state of the pandemic in Alexandria, commissions and committees are reconsidering whether to have meetings in person or virtually in the months of February and March. Further updates will be posted online as more information becomes available.

### **February 28, Public Records Advisory Commission Meeting**

*Archives and Records Center*

*7:30-9:30 p.m.*

### **Virtual: March 1, HARC Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting**

*Registration Link [here](#).*

*10-11 a.m.*

### **March 9, AHRPC Meeting**

*Lloyd House*

*8:15-9:30 a.m.*