



## *This Week in Historic Alexandria*

### **WHAT'S NEW IN HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA**

This holiday season, the Office of Historic Alexandria is pleased to participate in the City's new Alexandria Giving Opportunities initiative, which list specific programs and projects that the community can directly support. Tax deductible contributions of funds, toys, supplies or volunteer hours are welcome at a variety of City agencies including Community and Human Services, the Alexandria Library, OHA museums, and City parks. This one-stop shopping wish list seeks to maximize City resources and services in a way that will improve the lives of all Alexandrians both now and long into the future. As you consider end-of –year donations over the next several weeks, please review the giving list developed for the City of Alexandria at <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Give>.



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### **EVENTS**

#### **Monday, December 12 – Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee**

*Alexandria City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room 1101, 301 King Street*

Regular monthly meeting. Free! 7 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4554.

#### **Wednesday, December 14 – Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission**

*Lloyd House, 220 North Washington Street*

Regular monthly meeting. Free! 8 a.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4554.

#### **Wednesday, December 14 – Alexandria Archaeological Commission**

*Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St., Suite 327*

Regular monthly meeting. Free! 7 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4399

**Sunday, December 18 – Music in the Gallery: MIN Flute and Guitar Duo**

*The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street*

Contemporary duo MIN, featuring the artistry of flutist Saïs Kamalidiin and guitarist extraordinaire Rick Peralta, perform a diverse chamber music program. Compositions performed will be selected from works by Schubert, Beethoven, Ellington, Wonder, Villa-Lobos, Coltrane, Carulli, Klugh, Musarurwa, Piazzolla, Gates, Hooker and many others. The music of MIN is representative of music styles from across America and from around the world. Expect the unexpected. Free! 2 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703.548.0035.



**Monday, December 19 – Alexandria Sister Cities Committee**

*Alexandria City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room 1101, 301 King Street*

Regular monthly meeting. Free! 7 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4554.

**Tuesday, December 20– Alexandria Sister Cities Committee**

*Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street*

Regular monthly meeting. Free! 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4554.

**Saturday, December 31 – First Night Alexandria**

*Old Town*

Join the celebration of the New Year through the performing arts with fireworks at midnight! Local shops, restaurants and buildings in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia turn into performance venues to showcase local talent. It's fun, affordable, safe and family friendly. For tickets and information, please visit [www.firstnightalexandria.org/tickets](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org/tickets).

**Now on Exhibit – Color Disorder**

*The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street*

Color Disorder is a joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan. It will be a collaborative project intended to explore the intersections between their studio practices through a series of around 10–12 new paintings. Both artists use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. Baines and Chan share an interest in color palettes that evoke meaning and the use of meticulous brushstrokes to convey control in an otherwise uncertain process. Free! Open Thursday through Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703.548.0035.



**Now on Exhibit – *Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier***

*Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road*

To learn more about the surgical procedures and medical equipment used in the PBS series, *Mercy Street*, come to Fort Ward Museum and see a variety of medical tools, instruments, equipment and images from the Museum's Civil War collection. A number of surgical instruments displayed in this exhibit relate to some of the procedures already depicted in *Mercy Street*, such as: a trephine used to drill into the skull, a surgeon's amputation kit, a tourniquet, a tenaculum used to tie off arteries, suture needles, a forceps and scalpels. Several examples of medicine tins are included which held contents like chloroform for anesthesia, cholera mix for digestive illnesses, and quinine to relieve fevers and other ailments. Examples of small pocket surgical kits and a surgeon's field case are included, as well as arm and leg splints and a crutch.

Free! Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 703.746.4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Now on Exhibit – *Hotel vs. Hospital***

*Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street*

Learn the story of the fine hotel industry in Alexandria and how it quickly changed after the Civil War began. The City Hotel (today part of Gadsby's Tavern Museum at 134 North Royal Street) was the only major hotel in Alexandria to remain open during the entirety of the war. The two other fine hotels in town, Mansion House (transformed into a massive Civil War hospital) and Marshall House (site of the first Northern and Southern deaths due to violence in the Civil War), had closed. Guests will discover how tavern keeper Samuel Heflebower was able to remain in business as he catered to the new customers arriving in Alexandria.

For more information, please call 703.746.4242.

**Now on Exhibit – *Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital***

*Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 North Fairfax Street*

Come see the site that inspired *Mercy Street*, the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. The six-episode program revolves around the doctors, nurses, and patients of Mansion House Hospital, a former luxury hotel owned by James Green, a prominent Alexandria businessman who resided in Carlyle House.



James Green purchased Carlyle House and the adjacent Bank of Alexandria in 1848. While living in Carlyle House with his family, he converted the Bank Building into the successful Mansion House Hotel. The hotel thrived, and Green expanded it in the 1850s. In November of 1861, the Union Army took over both the hotel and the mansion, turning the hotel into a hospital and the house into doctor and officer housing. The new exhibit recreates the days of Union occupation and tells the true stories of those who lived and worked here during the war. This is where *Mercy Street* really happened. Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 p.m.;

Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m. For further information please visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703.549.2997.

**Now on Exhibit – *The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History***

*The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street*

This new exhibition highlights the history of The Lyceum, as well as its role today as a place for exploring Alexandria's past. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in museum's collection, and about how these tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history.

Museum visitors can also explore artifacts relating to commemorating or celebrating something important in someone's life, or that serve as a memento representing an organization, business, or event. For example, five World War II service medals from a local soldier are on view, as well as a china pitcher promoting William Henry Harrison's campaign for the presidency, and a colorful hand-worked quilt commemorating the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976. The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History includes a variety of items providing a glimpse into different types of work in Alexandria since the community was founded in the 18th century. Objects range from circa 1796 wares marked by Alexandria silversmith Adam Lynn, a circa 1880 dresser manufactured by James F. Muir and Brothers, to a collage of original photographs – circa 1970 -- documenting the Alexandria, Barcroft & Washington Rapid Transit Company.

Open Monday through Saturday 10 am to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information call 703.746.4994, or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

**Now on Exhibit – *Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery***

*Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street*

A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Free, but donations are appreciated. Tuesday to Saturday: 10 am to 4 p.m., Sunday and Monday: Closed. For more information, please call 703.746.4356.

**Now on Exhibit – *Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812***

*Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco Street*

A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. For more information, please visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703.548.1789.



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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA



On December 24, 1953, the Alexandria City Council passed a resolution supporting construction of a proposed \$20 million bridge at Jones Point, provided that the full cost was paid for by the Federal government. First announced in August 1952, the new Potomac River crossing was initially planned to connect the Shirley Highway at Springfield with Overlook Avenue in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Later the bridge was incorporated within the circumferential highway that circled the District of Columbia after the Interstate Highway System was approved in 1956. The new bridge, renamed the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, opened on December 28, 1961 almost eight years to the day of City Council's resolution of support.

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## ON SALE NOW

The Office of Historic Alexandria is pleased to announce that this year's Historic Alexandria commemorative ornament features the historic Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, located at 105 S. Fairfax Street. Established as an Apothecary business by Edward Stabler in Alexandria in 1792, the Apothecary Museum today includes two commercial buildings that were used as a pharmacy and wholesale drug business from 1805 until 1933. 2016 marks ten years of ownership and operation by the City of Alexandria, Office of Historic Alexandria. The Apothecary Museum welcomes more than 15,000 visitors annually and hosts an array of public programs and specialty tours. To order this, and other collectible ornaments created by the Office of Historic Alexandria from previous years, please click [here](#).

