



# *Arlington Historical Society*

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

*June 2022*

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### **Arlington Historical Museum**

1805 South Arlington Ridge Road  
Every Saturday and Sunday  
1:00 - 4:00 PM

### **Ball-Sellers House**

5620 3rd Street, South  
Saturday from 1:00-4:00 PM  
through the end of October

### **Virtual AHS**

Website: <https://arlingtonhistorical.org>

Facebook: Arlington Historical Society

Twitter: #ArlingtonHistory

Instagram: ArlingtonHistory

### **AHS Board Meeting**

Board meetings are on the fourth  
Tuesday of every month.

### **President's Dispatch**

Each morning as I leave my house to walk my dogs, I stop at an antique hall tree to pick up their leashes. I often pause and reflect back to standing at this same hall tree as a little girl in my grandmother's front hall. This is just one of the many items in my house that tell the story of my past. A chair in the dining room made the journey on a covered wagon train across the western United States. The glass butter churn in my dining room was used by my grandmother in Arlington to churn butter in the 1930s. These pieces of my past provide a glimpse of the life of the people in my family who came before me.

Artifacts and other material culture provide valuable insight to our past. They are the only way that we can "see" the way of life of people in the past and learn what they valued. They provide a window into lives of people and events that we can only imagine. By learning about our past, it can help inform our future. And this is the reason the Arlington Historical Society operates two artifact rich museums. The six thousand plus artifacts in our two museums have a story to tell.

Artifacts help us learn about people. John Glenn was a famous astronaut who once lived in Arlington. His waterski in our museum tells a unique tale of what he enjoyed doing. Another Arlington resident, the famous scientist, Dr. Charles Drew, enjoyed playing the saxophone that now can be viewed at the museum. And we can learn the food items that John Ball and other Arlingtonians in the colonial era grew when visiting the Ball-Sellers house.

The artifacts in our museum evoke a clearer vision of past life in Arlington. A look at the Necostin Village reminds us that Indigenous Peoples were the first to inhabit our county. A piece of the segregation wall from Halls Hill/Highview Park reminds us of a challenging time in our past where we felt it was necessary to build walls to separate neighborhoods. A piece of the Pentagon from the 9/11 attack reminds us not only of the tragedy of that day but the resilience of the community and the nation in the weeks that followed the event.

Our history is complex and having the opportunity to learn about the artifacts and material culture of the past allows us to better understand the ideas and beliefs, habits, and values of our community. We invite you to visit our museums and view the rich artifacts that tell Arlington's story at both our Arlington Historical Museum and the Ball-Sellers House.

*Cathy Bonnell-Hix*

## Upcoming AHS Events

For more information, updates, and to register for events offering a virtual attendance option, visit:  
[arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/](http://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/)

**Saturday, June 11, 2022, 10-4 pm**

### AHS is at Fort C.F. Smith's Living History



**Day.** During the Civil War, US Army soldiers garrisoned in Arlington and built a defensive line to protect the capital from potential Confederate attack. Ft. C.F.

Smith is the best preserved of Arlington County's defenses. Visit the AHS table to see Civil War artifacts, local maps of the era, and learn more about Civil War history. Ft. C.F. Smith will host walking tours, history activities, and Civil War reenactor demonstrations (*In-Person. Ft. C.F. Smith, 2411 N. 24<sup>th</sup> St., FREE*)

**Saturday, June 25, 2022 10:30-noon**

### Many Voices—One Community: Poetry



The Healing Power of Poetry

### Workshop at the Museum.

Local poet Susan Mockler hosts the 1st of 4 poetry workshops that meld history with voices to elevate diversity in Arlington, raise awareness, and educate all on the long history and current experience

of the marginalized in Arlington. Museum Director, Mark Benbow will highlight artifacts on display that provide historic context for understanding that history. Free to all from high school age and above. To register: email [sbuccimockler@gmail.com](mailto:sbuccimockler@gmail.com) (*In-Person, Arlington Historical Museum, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Rd, FREE*)

**Thursday, July 14, 2022, 7 pm**

### The Red Tape Worm: Army Paperwork in the



**Civil War.** Paperwork could kill. Michael Schaffner will shine light on what it took to get munitions, people, money, equipment, even animals where they were needed for both sides--particularly in support of the Washington D.C.

defensives and what happened when the paperwork failed? (*Virtual on Zoom and in-person at Marymount University Reinsch Library Auditorium, 2807 N. Glebe Rd, FREE*)

**Thursday, August 11, 2022, 7 pm**

### Jewish Arlington: 1900-1940.



Little has been written about the Jewish community in Arlington and our speaker, Jessica Kaplan, will share her research about Jewish immigrants, merchants, families, and community

builders. (*Virtual on Zoom and in-person at Marymount University Reinsch Library Auditorium, 2807 N. Glebe Rd, FREE*)

**Thursday, September 15, 2022**

### Looking Back to Look Forward: An Arlington Neighborhood Event.



Join us as AHS, in collaboration with National Landing Business Improvement District hosts an event that explores the

history of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yards. This ticketed event will include a reception and guest speakers sharing this special history and plans for the future of the area. Details to be shared soon.

**Thursday, October 13, 2022, 7 pm**

### Arlington Mills: A Forgotten History.



Beth DeFrancis Sun has done groundbreaking research on the mills of Arlington County. She will discuss early colonial era mills that were key to area development as well as their

demise during the 1800s and destruction in the early 1900s. (*Virtual on Zoom and in-person at Marymount University Reinsch Library Auditorium, 2807 N. Glebe Rd, FREE*)



## Remembering Gerry Haines by Frank O'Leary

*In April of 2022, AHS lost a dear friend and member of our Board. Dr. Gerald K. Haines, AHS vice-president passed away after a battle with cancer. Gerry had a colorful life and many interesting experiences in his work for the NSA and CIA. AHS lifetime member Frank O'Leary has written a beautiful tribute to Gerry, his best friend, and we would like to share this tribute with our membership.*



My best friend, Gerry Haines, died in April of duodenal cancer. He passed peacefully in his sleep, a little more than a month shy of his 79th birthday. Gerry was unique in many ways. He was: gregarious, fun-loving, fiercely loyal to his friends and his beliefs, the life of every party, and a “fellow of infinite jest.” He will be missed and mourned by many.

My wife, Linda, and I first met Gerry and his wife, Joanne, in 1976, shortly after they moved into their North Highland Street home, a block from our house. I was attempting to rouse the neighborhood in opposition to a scheduled widening by Arlington County of North Highland to four lanes with a connector to South Walter Reed and a new designation as a bus route. Eighteen months later, we won the battle and had become fast friends.

The Haines hailed from Detroit and had moved to the Washington area so that Gerry, more properly Dr. Gerald K. Haines (armed with his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin) could pursue a career as an archivist at the National Archives. Or so it seemed for nearly a decade. Then, in 1984, he suddenly announced that he was now employed by the National Security Agency (NSA) at Fort Meade. Some years later, he moved on to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) at Langley, followed by the National Reconnaissance Office, and an eventual return to the CIA. All this prompted me to ask, “Can’t you keep a job?” The answer became apparent when, in 1997, Dr. Gerald K. Haines was appointed the Chief Historian for the Central Intelligence Agency. Apparently, his game of “musical jobs” had been in preparation for this honor.

His tenure in that office was marked early on, when he became the Agency’s official spokesperson for explaining the CIA’s unintended role during the late 1940’s and early 1950’s in the creation of the UFO phenomenon. In his role as a TV personality, Gerry explained that the so-called governmental “weather balloons” explanation of UFO’s was only partially true. To learn more about Gerry’s life go to <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/2022/05/in-memorial-to-dr-gerald-haines/>

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### 2022-23 AHS Officers and Board Elected at May Annual Meeting

On May 12, 2022, the Arlington Historical Society held its annual meeting. The hybrid event was held at both Marymount and on Zoom. During the meeting, the new Board was seated. The President Cathy Bonneville Hix, Treasurer John Tuohy, and Secretary Sean Denniston were reinstated for another term. David Pearson was elected as the new Vice-President. Additionally, the following Board members were elected to remain on the Board: Annette Benbow, Charles Clark, Tom Dickinson, Patrick Hope, Tracy Hopkins, Jessica Kaplan, and Michael Schaffner. Katherine Aselford, Sandy Newton, and Dale Smith were welcomed as new members of the Board. One seat on the Board was not filled in memory of Dr. Gerald K. Haines, who served on the Board for 4 years prior to his passing in April. Dr. Mark Benbow has agreed to continue as the volunteer director of the AHS museum, making him an ex-officio member of the Board.

We officially thanked Annette Marrero-Oliveras, Lara McCauley, and Karl Van Newkirk who stepped down from the Board, for their excellent service to AHS. The annual meeting was followed by a free public lecture on *Lost Arlington County* by local author and AHS Board member Charlie Clark.



## **AHWC's Continued Care for the Hume School**

Over the years, AHS has been proud to partner with the Aurora Hills Women's Club. The members of this organization are great stewards of the Hume School. Founded in 1958, their mission of continuing community commitment has led to their support of the upkeep of our museum. Each year, they raise money through projects such as their annual wreath selling event. The monies they collect are used to improve their community. AHS has used the funds they have provided to do needed maintenance at the museum. This May, they once again honored

us with a donation that will be used for our current preservation and renovation project. We are so thankful for the continued support by this community organization. In addition to the Hume School, they support other local charities, clearly living up to their mission.

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## **Update on Preservation/Renovation Project**

These past few months have been busy ones as we prepare to launch our window restoration project. The windows are phase one of the four phases we plan to accomplish at the museum. For the past year we have been identifying storage options for our artifacts during window restoration, applying for Virginia tax credit assistance, meeting with county officials for support and seeking donations to pay for the preservation and renovation of the museum.

We are thrilled to have secured temporary storage space from JBGSMITH Cares and are packing up artifacts not on display for the move to this storage facility in Crystal City. Our tax credit application has been submitted and we are working with the Milner Division of MTFA to prepare bidding documents for the window work which we plan to begin this summer. We continue to seek funding for this work. To learn more about the project and/or make a donation go to <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/2021/06/preservation-and-renovation-of-the-arlington-historical-museum/>

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## **JBG SMITH Cares Supports AHS**

AHS would like to thank JBG SMITH Cares for providing a \$5,000 grant in support of Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington (MEA) and free storage space for the AHS artifact collection while the Arlington Historical Museum is renovated. Their generosity in partnering with AHS enables AHS to explore the history of slavery in Arlington and educate our community about our findings. Providing an in-kind donation of safe, environmentally sound storage near our museum allows AHS to begin rebuilding the windows of our 1891 Hume School House this summer.

Who is JBG SMITH Cares? It's the community giving arm of JBG SMITH, a development, management, and property owner in the Washington, DC region. It provides monetary, in-kind donations, and volunteer work in the communities where it does business. Most of its funding is directed toward affordable housing, but it also supports the arts, health and wellness, education, and environmental responsibility.

JBG SMITH is a company native to the DC region and has been involved in the development of Crystal City for decades. It is currently reimagining and redeveloping National Landing (Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yards) in Arlington. Their National Landing portfolio spans 6.3 million square feet of existing office space, 2,856 residential units, and 7 million square feet of additional development opportunities. They also serve as Amazon's development partner.

Thank you JBG SMITH, for being a good neighbor and supporting AHS's mission to educate Arlingtonians about the rich history of our county.

## Artifact Spotlight: C.V. Dorman Apothecary Bottle

This apothecary bottle (1891-1927) held a homeopathic remedy and was recovered from a garbage dump site in Rosslyn during construction and was donated to AHS by Tim Landis. The bottle is embossed with raised lettering that reads: C. V. DORMAN 1007 H ST NW WASHINGTON, DC.

According to an 1896 advertisement, the Washington Homeopathic Pharmacy at 1007 H St. N.W. was owned by Dr. C.W. Roberts until 1889 when his assistant, Miss C.V. Dorman bought the business in 1891. She ran it until 1927 when she sold it. A homeopathic advertisement stated that the concoction contained predigested beef, malt, and a little wild cherry juice. It was “ready for immediate use” and cost 75 cents for 16 ounces. The product claimed to help you feel better if you were tired or convalescing. It was also recommended as an additive in babies’ milk.



In the late 1800s homeopaths believed that a substance that causes symptoms of disease in healthy people could cure similar symptoms in sick people or that “like cures like.” It had no basis in science and there were no US laws yet requiring truth in ingredients lists. So we don’t know what was really in it. Like many throughout the country, Rosslyn residents would have thought they were buying a cure-all.

### Save Yourself Time and the Arlington Historical Society 58 Cents!

Most AHS memberships (except for Life members and members who joined March 2022 or later) are due for renewal **June 30, 2022**. Save yourself and AHS time and 58 cents by renewing online now! Go to:

<https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/online-application/>

Your membership dues support AHS’s mission of preserving, promoting, and interpreting Arlington County’s history. All members get the following benefits:

- Subscription to annual Arlington Historical Magazine
- Ten percent discount at Arlington Historical Museum shop and our online store
- Subscription to our periodic newsletter
- Invitations to members-only events
- Priority ticketing and discounts for annual banquet and other ticketed events

Sponsor and Life members also get:

- Free admission/shop discounts at over one thousand cultural institutions through North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association
- Recognition in Arlington Historical Magazine and annual banquet program

Business/Organization members also get recognition in each issue of the Society’s newsletter, Arlington Historical Magazine, and annual banquet program.

Thank you for your continued support of AHS!

### Renew your Membership at the Sponsor or Life Level!

Many members do not realize that Sponsor (\$100 annually) and Life (\$1000) memberships include an identification card for the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). Since the Arlington Historical Society is a member of NARM, our members receive benefits.



Two longtime AHS members, Richard and Mileva Hartman (pictured), use their NARM card to receive discount admission to museums around the country and locally. More than twenty

local museums participate, including the National Building Museum, the Phillips Collection, Dumbarton House, and the Hillwood Estate. There are more than one thousand NARM member institutions.

Check out the NARM website, <https://narmassociation.org/members/> and join or renew as a Sponsor or Life member!

## AHS 2022 Essay Contest

Each year the Arlington Historical Society, in collaboration with Cherrydale-Columbia Masonic Lodge 42, sponsor an essay contest to encourage student writing about the history of Arlington. Our 2022 essay contest is open to students in grades 8-12 and focuses on the following topic:

*Arlington was once a rural area but has now developed into an urban community with modern infrastructure and population density. Amid this ongoing change, how can we Arlingtonians remember and preserve our history? In what ways has Arlington successfully preserved its history that can help guide us in the future?*



The deadline for submission of the essay is **June 30, 2022**. Financial prizes are awarded for the winning essays. Details can be found at <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/2022/05/2022-ahs-essay-contest/>

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### Preston's Pharmacy

*By Alexander Aguilera*

Preston's Pharmacy has served Arlington residents as the pharmacy of choice since 1934. Bill Preston first opened Preston's doors at its original location on N. Monroe Street in Cherrydale where he successfully ran the pharmacy for more than 50 years until he sold the business following his retirement in 1985 to John Eklund.

Eklund, an upstate New York native, had originally moved to Northern Virginia to work at Peoples Drug Store. When Eklund noticed a colleague having success running independent stores, he sought to do the same. When Preston sold the pharmacy to Eklund, it stood in the Glebe Lee Shopping Center at the corner of Lee Highway and N. Glebe Road. Despite high rent in the shopping center, Eklund was able to remain competitive with other chain-store pharmacies before moving to take over a former Texaco station at a more affordable storefront location down the road. Eklund was able to redesign the building to occupy a unique presence in the community. The new location boasted gooseneck lamps and refashioned the old Texaco sign for the storefront.



Preston's has always differentiated itself from the large pharmacy chains by offering a more personal experience. Eklund installed a compounding laboratory to offer innovative approaches to modern pharmaceuticals and offer superior customer service to its patrons. Many Arlingtonians have fond memories of the store's welcoming staff, clean rooms, and gift department, all of which make Preston's a favorite spot for Arlingtonians. Preston's also offers medical equipment, next-day delivery, immunizations, testing, and courier delivery, and mail service.

John Eklund sold Preston's Pharmacy upon retirement to Frank Odeh in December 2016. As a pharmacist in McLean, Odeh was a well-known colleague of Eklund's. Eklund and more recently, Odeh, have preferred to keep the name Preston's Pharmacy as a nod to Arlington's past.

## AHS in the Community: April - June 2022

AHS operates two local museums, the Arlington Historical Museum (built 1891) and the Ball-Sellers House (built c.1750). We have also been active in the community with the following events:

- April 4: A *Colonial Games Festival* at the Ball-Sellers House heralded the opening of the season for this house museum.
- April 14: *Selina Gray: Her Life and Legacy* presented by the Fort C.F. Smith Park historian John McNair. This free public lecture hosted by AHS provided an in-depth look at Selina Gray from her enslavement at the Custis Estate to her enduring legacy as one of Arlington's founding families.
- April 27: AHS President Cathy Hix brought artifacts and spoke to Williamsburg Middle School about life in Arlington during World War II.
- May 12: *Lost Arlington County* presented by local author and AHS Board member Charlie Clark who highlighted varied Arlington's architectural past.
- May 13: AHS Treasurer and Civil War reenactor, John Tuohy, spoke to the Discovery Elementary School about life as a Civil War soldier.
- May 26: the Ball-Sellers House hosted 70 second graders from Carlin Springs Elementary School.
- June 4: Ball-Sellers House volunteers helped the Glencarlyn Association celebrate its annual Heritage Days by participating in their neighborhood parade.
- June 9: *Bennett v. Garrett: When Arlington Became Arlington* with Sean Denniston who explained why Clarendon wanted to secede from the county and how the 1922 court case helped make Arlington what it is.

### Members Only: 10% Discount at the AHS Online Book Store

<https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/shop/>



AHS Members get 10% off all purchases online just as you would if you visited our museum shop.

Use this Coupon Code at Checkout:

**AHSMEMBER10**

AHS offers the largest selection of books on Arlington history anywhere. Some are not even available on Amazon or Barnes and Noble! Every book you buy helps support the AHS mission to strengthen our community by improving the understanding of our shared history.

### Stewardship of Your Money

The AHS depends on donations and membership fees to allow us to carry out our mission. Your financial donations have allowed us to continue the following work:

- Addressing plumbing issues at the Arlington Historical Museum
- The management of a zoom account that we now use to live stream events so we can have both in-person and virtual presentations
- Initial work on the restoration of our windows
- Supplies for the anticipated off site storage of museum artifacts

### Thank You to Our Business and Organization Members

Aurora Hills Women's Club  
John Marshall Bank  
JBG SMITH Cares  
Fairlington Historical Society  
Marymount University  
MTFA  
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## History Awaits Come Visit!

### **Arlington Historical Museum**

1805 South Arlington Ridge Road

Arlington, VA 22202

Open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm

Year Round

FREE

### **Ball-Sellers House Museum**

5620 Third Street South

Arlington, VA 22204

Open Saturdays 1-4 pm

April through October

FREE

The **Arlington Historical Society**, founded in 1956, is a non-profit organization incorporated under Virginia laws. The Society supports research, collection, preservation, discovery, and dissemination of Arlington County's history. Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Arlington Historical Museum at the Historic Hume School and are open to the public.



Website: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

Email: [info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org)

Facebook: [ArlingtonHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonHistoricalSociety)

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