

LIVING LEGENDS *of* ALEXANDRIA



**A PHOTO-DOCUMENTARY RECORD
OF OUR RECENT HISTORY**

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



Congratulations
to the 2016 Class of
Living Legends of Alexandria!
WEBA would like to thank each
one of you for your many years
of service and dedication to
our community.

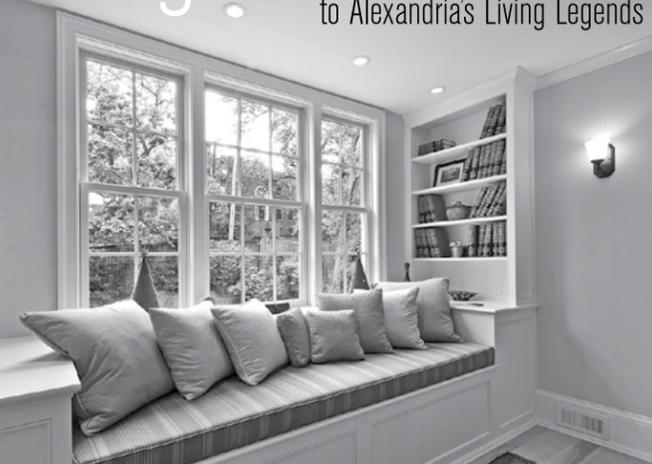


honors our former executive director, Diane Charles, on being named a living legend. Thank you for 11 ½ years of service, building SCAN's focus, strength and sustainability!



congratulates our partner, Lorraine Friedman, on being named a Living Legend. Thank you for partnering to strengthen the parenting skills of teen parents at TC Williams!

Congratulations
to Alexandria's Living Legends



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DIANE CHARLES

AND ALL OF
ALEXANDRIA'S LIVING LEGENDS.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING BACK TO
ALEXANDRIA!



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2016 Living Legends of Alexandria Annual Catalog: A Photo-Documentary of our Recent History

Publisher: Living Legends of Alexandria, P. O. Box 918, Alexandria, Va. 22313

Editors: Kathleen Baker, Pam St. Clair, Mary Anne Weber

Designer: Sharmila Karamchandani

Photographer: Steven Halperson, Tisara Photography

Writers: Kathleen Baker, Sherry Wilson Brown, Amber Healy, Donna Walker James, Gayle Reuter, Carrie Lee Mitchell, Larry Ries, Joseph Shumard, Pam St. Clair, Jeanne Theismann, Trudi C. Van Dyke, Mary Anne Weber, Jordan Wright

Printer: AlphaGraphics, Alexandria, Va.

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Congratulations and Thank you to the 2016 Living Legends of Alexandria
LIVING LEGENDS BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

INVITATION TO NOMINATE A LEGEND

Do you know someone who has given vision, energy and commitment to improve our city of Alexandria? Who is a local hero of our community?

Living Legends of Alexandria invites the public to submit nominations for consideration as Living Legends of 2017.

Living Legends of Alexandria is a nonprofit photo-documentary project to identify, honor, and chronicle those making current history in the City of Alexandria.

Join the history-makers by completing a nomination form and mailing it to Living Legends of Alexandria, P. O. Box 918, Alexandria 22313, or submitting online at AlexandriaLegends.org. *Thank you!*

Congratulations to the 2016 Living Legends

“How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world.” — *Anne Frank*

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Diane Charles**

2016 Living Legend
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The Winkler Botanical Preserve
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Jodie Smolik

Executive Director

For Eighteen Years of Outstanding
Leadership in Environmental Education

HISTORY AND LEGACY OF LIVING LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria.

The idea was conceived in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara, and initiated with support by the Rotary Club of Alexandria and the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

“Living Legends began when within a two-week time in the fall of 2006, the City and the Gazette Packet came to the Tisara Photography studio asking for photos of people who had died to include with stories they were writing. When the photos weren't there, I thought why not photograph people while they're still alive. From there it was a natural step to capture their stories at the same time and create an ongoing historical record. Today the project also inspires people of all ages to creative action in the community.” says Tisara.

To date, Living Legends has told the stories of 221 citizens and how they made a difference in our community. The stories and photographs—the work of area journalists, writers and photographers—form an artistic product of historic value to our City. In 2015 the gift of the Living Legend portraits was accepted by the Office of Historic Alexandria to become part of its permanent collection. Approximately 100 framed prints of Alexandria's Legends from the

project's beginning in 2007 have been donated to The Lyceum, Alexandria's history museum, and additional prints will be added annually.

Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, in a letter to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, wrote, “Living Legends is doing the research and recording the history of today's Alexandria. But as important as that is, Living Legends is also an art project. The individual photographs are of extremely high quality. Different from standard head-and-shoulder portraits, these images are akin to master portrait paintings that tell a story. The settings artfully incorporate something about the subject's passion concerning Alexandria.”

As a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, Living Legends of Alexandria is guided in fulfillment of its historical and artistic mission by a community Board of Directors, assisted by partners from business, education, and the media, and by volunteers from the community.

Living Legends is now translating the founder-director's years of energy and devotion into to new structures of leadership and programs of service. Living Legends continues to honor the legacy and to encourage individuals of all ages to make a difference in Alexandria.

Congratulations!

2016 Living Legend



*Maestro
Kim Allen Kluge*

ALEXANDRIA
Symphony Orchestra

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015 YEAR

Meet the Legends Reception 2015

An enthusiastic assembly of Alexandrians gathered for the 8th Annual Meet the Legends Reception on March 19 at the Patent and Trademark Center in Carlyle. A standing ovation for Commonwealth Academy who created pottery clocks, silk screens, digital photography and an inspiring Tribute Video celebrating Alexandria and the 2015 Legends.

Thanks to Retiring Board Members, Founder

Living Legends' Board gave three cheers in April to retiring Board member Joseph Shumard, and Founder Nina Tisara. We remember with gratitude A. Melvin Miller, board member and Legend, who died on May 10, 2015.

Family Legends at ACPS Summer Enrichment Program

"Tell a legendary story and make a book" says Sushmita Mazumdar, dynamic artist/teacher/bookmaker who teamed with Nina Tisara in 2011 to create the Family Legends program. In July, more than 240 children and their teachers made storybooks about their family legends.

Welcome to New Board Members

Living Legends board members Audrey Davis, Linda Hafer, Bill Kehoe, Pam St. Clair, Rodger Stephens, and Mary Anne Weber welcomed new board members Jennifer Ayers, Peter Baldwin, Jennifer Gniady, Sally Richards, Brian Story, and Paul Williams in September.

Hispanic Heritage Festival, October 15

Harold Little and Cisco Fabian, organizers of the six-week "Cora Kelly Book Club" at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, invited Book Club students, Cora Kelly families and Family Legends to the annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration of culture, achievement, family and foodways. Three of Sushmita Mazumdar's students proudly read their original storybooks. M'oonk Films Devoted, of Washington, D.C. covered the event with videography and podcasts.

Legends Inspire at MacArthur Elementary

PTA Reflections Program participants listened raptly to Legends Char McCargo Bah, Kathleen Baker and Carolyn Griffin's stories of vision, hard work, and commitment to their goal, while creating art on the theme, "Let Your Imagination Fly," for the annual Reflections Contest.

Family Legends Halloween Workshop

Alexandria Black History Museum Director Audrey Davis offered warm welcome and treats for the young and old creating storybooks together with Sushmita Mazumdar of Family Legends on October 31.

First Annual Living Legends Wine Tasting

Brian Story and friends popped more than corks on Thursday, November 19 at Del Ray Tower at a party that was so much fun, we are eagerly awaiting the 2016 version. Brian Story had help from Jessica Dee and Meghan Hacala from The Go To Girls, Marylisa Lichens of FireFlies, Kristin Evans of Society Fair, Rick and Elizabeth Myllenbeck of Sonoma Cellar, Alexandria Yellow Cab, Leroy Amankrah from DMV Podcast and sponsors: Jack Taylor Toyota, The Del Ray Business Association, Speck-Caudron Investment Group, and J.L. Ayers Consulting.

Living Legends, Family Legends at Scottish Walk

Living Legends celebrated ancient and new traditions by once again joining in the Scottish Walk. Luis and Ceajah, students at Cora Kelly Recreation Center and creators of storybooks in their "Book Club" workshops with Sushmita Mazumdar from September through November, brought their families and read their works at Market Square, with cheers from the T.C. Williams Chorus and Market vendors and patrons alike. They joined Legends Kathleen Baker, Joyce Rawlings, Debra Roepke, Nina Tisara, Connie West and Donnie Wintermute and board members Jennifer Ayers and family, Peter Baldwin, Rodger Stephens and Brian Story sent good wishes on foot and from the festive Alexandria Transit trolley.



**Congratulations Janet
on being named a 2016
Living Legend!**

LEGENDS ROSTER BY YEAR

2007-08

David Cleary
Ferdinand Day (1918-2015)
Carolyn Griffin
William B. Hurd (1915-2008)
Vola Lawson (1934-2013)
David B. H. Martin
Stephen Rideout
Debra Roepke
Gladys Seisler (1928-2014)
Patsy Ticer
Marian Van Landingham
Joe Youcha

2008-09

Engin Artemel
Donna (1925-2010) and
Melvin (1926-2013) Bergheim
Bernard M. Fagelson
Thomas "TJ" Fannon
Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud
Carlton A. Funn, Jr. (1932-2012)
Arlene Hewitt
George Pera
Jane Ring
Charlene Schiff (1929-2013)
Eula (1933-2011) and
A. Melvin (1931-2015) Miller
Elbert Ransom, Jr.

2010

Chet Avery
Rosalind Bovey
V. Rodger Digilio
Nelson A. Greene, Sr. (1914-2014)
T. Michael Miller
Alice Merrill and Linda Odell
John Porter
Joan and John Renner
David Speck
Pat Troy
Lois Walker (1939-2013)
Betty Wright (1925-2015)

2011

Mollie Abraham
Lynnwood Campbell
William E. Clayton
H. Stewart Dunn
Timothy S. Elliott

Jon Liss
Peter Lunt
Donald Ferdinand Mela
(1923-2012)
Fran and Gant Redmon
Carlyle C. Ring, Jr.
Jack Taylor
Joseph Viar

2012

Bob Calhoun
Al Grande
Harry "Bud" Hart
Wendy McGann John
William "Bill" Kehoe
Allen Lomax
Jimmie McClellan
Pat Miller
Mike Oliver
Lillian Stanton Patterson
Joseph S. Shumard
The Steuerle Family
Dorothy Turner and
Gwen Menefee-Smith

2013

Willie F. Bailey, Sr.
Kathryn A. Brown and
Marlin G. Lord
Rosa Byrd
Elizabeth C. Chimento and
Poul Martin Hertel
Joe Guiffre
Thomas Young "Jay"
Johnson, Jr.
David M. Martin
Richard E. Merritt
Joann E. Miller
Lonnie C. Rich
William "Bill" Rivers
Lewis A. Stearman

2014

Mike Anderson
Char McCargo Bah
Rose Enevoldsen Berler
Lee Fifer
Charles Eugene "Tony" Gee
Richard "Rick" Allyn Glassco
Ramona K. Hatten
Gregory "Gregg" L. Murphy

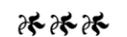
Tricia Rodgers
Shirley N. Tyler
Converse "Connie" West
Donnan "Donnie" Chancellor
Wintermute

2015

Kathleen Baker
Marga Fripp
Alice P. Morgan
Fred Parker
Joyce Rawlings
Gayle Reuter
Nina Tisara

2016

Elizabeth "Betsy" Anderson
Janet Barnett
Herman Boone
Diane L. Charles
Ruth and Bill Cleveland
Wanda S. Dowell
H. Warden Foley and
William McNamara
Lorraine Friedman
Ulysses S. James
Kim Allen Kluge
Steve Nearman
Jodie Smolik



In Memoriam

Legend Ferdinand Day (1918-2015)
Civic and Education Leader

Legend A. Melvin Miller (1931-2015)
Civic Activist and Servant-Leader

Legend Betty Wright (1925-2015)
Literacy Leader and Philanthropist



2015 COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Alexandria Black History Museum

Alexandria City Public Schools

Alexandria Transit

Alexandria Yellow Cab

Canoe Media Services: Beth Lawton

Chadwicks

Colonial Parking

Commonwealth Academy: Susan J. Johnson, Ph.D., Head of School / Cathy Feehan, Director of Marketing, Teachers Ricardo Pontes, Maria Brinza and Ksenya Litvak and Students Robert Bork, Rachel Skopp-Cardillo, Chris Wong, Abeba Ender, Ava Feldstein, MJ Grant, Ben Nathan, Nathan Noyes, Abigail Reinhard, Ben Soulliere, Avery Tentrom, Lila VanderPoel, Adam Webb, Colin Brooke, Simon Brooke, Daniel Grossman, Talia Jackson, David Mehlman, Andrei Thompson, Brammy Wagner, Caroline Albert, Bea Cohen, Amelia Czopek, Caroline Hervey, Lee Keller and Meghan O'Donnell.

Cora Kelly Recreation Center: Harold Little, Regional Program Director / Cisco Fabian, Out of School Time Coordinator and Hispanic Liaison

Dishes of India

DMV Podcast: Leroy Amankrah

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School PTA

Enthuse Creative: Reggie Holmes

Ben Fiore-Walker, Alexandria Town Crier

Fireflies: Marylisa Lichens

Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association

Guillermo Silveira, Composer (Spanish Translations)

Hard Times Café

Jack Taylor Toyota

J. L. Ayers Consulting

Media Partners: Alexandria Gazette Packet, AlexandriaNews.org, Local Kicks, The Zebra

Northern Virginia Community College Music Department

Old Town Farmers' Market: Mae Carroll

Pork Barrel Barbecue

Red Rocks

Society Fair: Kristin Evans

Speck-Caudron Investment Group

Studio Pause: Sushmita Mazumdar

T.C. Williams Choral Boosters Club

T.C. Williams High School Media Department

The Del Ray Business Association

The Go To Girls: Jessica Dee, Meghan Hacala

Volunteers: Lucy Brinkman, Marion Brunken, Margaret Casper, Rachel Cowper, Dan DeBoissiere, Rose Gentile, Arlene Hewitt, Emily Kiernan, Cyndi Lake, Alice Morgan, Maame Nyarko, Jay Palermino, Lillian Patterson, Marilyn Patterson, Kevin Peck, Felicia Saffarinia, Kerry St. Clair, Alanna Varca, Gianna Varca, Donna Walker James, Anna Wolz.

LEGENDS' REFLECTIONS ON VISION, COURAGE AND CHANGE

What a great group of new legends. I am proud of each of them. *Lynnwood Campbell*

Life becomes more meaningful, when you take time out of your busy life to make a difference to a stranger. Even on a cloudy day, the sky is full of sunshine; because you have brightened someone's life. Make a difference! *Char McCargo Bah*

I am proud to be standing beside you. You are the reason this is such a wonderful city to live in. Individually we can make change but together we can transform a community. *Willie Bailey*

I am so glad that Living Legends honors people who have served Alexandria. It is comforting and inspiring to learn the stories of these wonderful community leaders. *Rosalind Bovey*

We are proud to be members of the Legends, with so many august Alexandrians. We are equally honored to have been selected and featured, photographed and written about. We welcome the 2016 class of honored Legends!

Kathryn A. Brown and Marlin G. Lord

We are proud of and grateful to each of you for your continuous efforts that make Alexandria such a GREAT city. *Rosa Byrd*

It is a privilege to be a Living Legend, and I congratulate and welcome this newest class of Legends. I sincerely appreciate the recognition that the Living Legends has given to all of us as we serve Alexandria in so many creative ways. *Carolyn Griffin*

Being one of the first Living Legends, I am so proud to realize how many wonderful endeavors have been accomplished by Living Legends. This past year I worked, with another Legend, Richard Merritt, and others on a health fair and saw the Senior Academy debut. To give back is very gratifying!

Arlene Hewitt

Good People, Good City, that's Alexandria. We're all a part of making this city work, and I'm glad to be a part of it. I'm looking forward to seeing and meeting more Alexandrians. *Bill Kehoe*

Alexandria's a beautiful city, full of diverse, close-knit communities and phenomenal people. Here's to Alexandria's Legends—past, present and future! *Joann E. Miller*

Follow your heart. If there is something that needs to be done and you think you can do it, just step on out there. Chances are, there are others who feel the same way who will join you. Remember, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. *Alice Morgan*

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WMPA is proud to see its wonderful Music Director,

Ulysses S. James

honored as a Living Legend of Alexandria

CONGRATULATIONS
BILL MCNAMARA AND WARDEN FOLEY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.



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LEGENDS' REFLECTIONS CONTINUED...

I view a "living legend" as being one who creates a narrative from his or her example that embodies important societal contributions which will inspire others generation to generation. Our gratitude should go out to these inductees for all that they have given our city. *Gregg Murphy*

What a stellar "Class of 2016." I just gotta say "Go Titans!" because this year's Legends certainly have made a difference in our community! And there are many more Legends out there! *Mike Oliver*

What a great way to honor those many Alexandrians who have played important roles in making our city such a wonderful place to live. Thanks for your commitment to others and to our community. *John Porter*

In every organization, you must beware the "strategizer" and cherish the "doer." The former love titles, love pontificating at meetings and love thinking up chores for others to do. The latter actually do something between the meetings. Legends are doers. *Lonnie Rich*

All Legends do the things about which they are passionate. It is nice when others value the work we have done. And as our kids say, "It's great to be a LIVING Legend!!" *Jane and "Connie" Ring*

I am just one of many dedicated citizens who love Alexandria and want to contribute to it. I greet the new Legends with appreciation for their service and continuing work to keep Alexandria ranked as one of the best places in America to call home. *"Connie" West*

Congratulations to our new and wonderful Living Legends!!!! And thank you for all your many contributions to our beloved City of Alexandria. Keep up the great work! *Donnie Wintermute*

"You can't live a perfect day until you do something for someone who will never be able to repay you."—**John Wooden.** *Joe Shumard*

In the words of Sarah Ban Breathnach, "The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do." Living Legends chronicles the accomplishments of the people who are both dreamers and doers. Contributions of time, talent and treasure helps that mission continue. **Nina Tisara**

THE 2016 LEGEND PROFILES

ELIZABETH "BETSY" ANDERSON *By Sherry Wilson Brown*



Betsy Anderson discovered Alexandria when she took advantage of the League's opening membership to residents outside Virginia. The couple chose to retire in the Alexandria area in part due to her involvement in the League. The Art League, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational nonprofit organization founded in 1954. It is a multifaceted visual arts organization that meets its mission through activities on which Anderson quickly put her stamp as Assistant Executive Director beginning in 1980. Among her accomplishments, she designed the bookkeeping system still used today and responded to the need for a place for members to purchase art supplies by founding the Art Supply Store, which thrives today. She left the position in 1988 to concentrate on her career as an artist, taking a studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. In 1996 she was recruited to join the League's Board of Directors and has served as President 11 times. She strengthened the League's role in the community and established the League's Development Department and Community Outreach Program.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Anderson was nominated as an Alexandria Living Legend by three leading Alexandria arts organizations upon which she has had a significant impact. They were recognizing not just her talent as an artist but her dedication to nurturing the arts and artists in the community. The mission statement of one, The Art League, recognizes that nurturing the artist enriches the community. It is not surprising that the League joined the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association and the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board to nominate Anderson for Living Legends because the vision of the League's mission statement also guides Anderson's professional and volunteer life.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Elizabeth Anne Midlam grew up traveling the world as the daughter of a father in the oil business. At 12, she began developing an interest in art. She continued it while attending Sophia Newcomb College—Tulane University for three years before graduating from Wright State University with a Bachelors of Fine Arts and a Minor in Art History. She married Edwin M. Anderson and as an Air Force wife combined her painting career, working at home during this period of her life, with raising Betsy Malone, E. West Anderson and Allison Hughes.

The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) is a community of more than 200 artists dedicated to creating and exhibiting art and fine crafts in open studio settings and galleries. Members work in a variety of visual media and many work on site at the Factory. Anderson joined the TFAA in 1980 and served as Vice President and later, Treasurer, when she established its bookkeeping practices and other systems to assure fiscal responsibility.

In 2011 when City Council formed the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board (TFACB) to be responsible for the management and operational oversight of the Torpedo Factory Art Center she was appointed by Alexandria City Council as a member representing the League and served as TFACB's Vice President. She was appointed by City Council to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, representing the visual arts, and served six years, including two as Vice Chair.

Simultaneously with these demanding duties, Anderson has sustained an impressive career as a painter with numerous one-woman and group shows. Her works are represented in private and corporate collections nationally and internationally. This talented artist lives her vision nurturing the arts and artists who enrich Alexandria.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Janet Barnett

Diane Charles

Herman Boone

Ruth & Bill Cleveland

Lynnwood Campbell

2011 Living Legend

JANET BARNETT *By Jordan Wright*



Janet Barnett likes being involved in her community. She caught the bug when her children, Susan and Louis, were in the Alexandria school system and she became a volunteer for the PTA. “I didn’t have as many opportunities then as I do now,” she notes. Back then she was the first director of the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center with the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, later becoming Deputy Director of the Department. Barnett credits former Alexandria City Manager and community activist Vola Lawson with teaching her always to be mindful of the citizens who live here.

Afterwards she became executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria from 2007–2013. Barnett says, “I’m so pleased with Senior Services of Alexandria. It grew and got better. If a program did not work, after careful study, we eliminated it and moved on.” During her tenure, she expanded the Meals on Wheels program to seven days; created SSA’s Friendly Visitor program which provides personal visits to seniors; established the Senior Resource Center and started their popular Speaker Series.

Alexandria attorney Deborah G. Matthews describes Barnett’s commitment this way, “With her boundless energy Janet has worked hard both in her former position as Executive Director of Senior Services of Alexandria

and now with SYNERGY HomeCare to help seniors in Alexandria. She seems to know everyone and is quick to use her connections to help others.”

After 32 years of working in city government, she has been able to devote more time to volunteer activities, at her synagogue and with the Board of Lady Managers. Barnett continues to serve the city as president of the Old Town Business and Professional Association where she has learned the challenges for small businesses, and sits on the board of Agenda:Alexandria, an organization whose mission is to provoke non-partisan discussion on topics affecting the citizens of Alexandria. She currently is active in fundraising for the Boys and Girls Club and adds membership to the Rotary Club as another organization she has chosen to support. Her work on the board of the Alexandria Police Foundation has helped raise over \$400,000 to build the new Fallen Officers Memorial at police headquarters in the city’s West End.

Of her work on the King Street tree lights program, the Jamestown Celebration, Supper Under the Stars and the King Street Arts Festival, she says, “When I look at our city and see the actions taken around the city, I see how much things have changed. I feel like I was one of the pioneers. We always kept in mind the delicate balance of the neighborhoods and the visitors to the city. I learned to understand what’s involved in big events and I was fortunate to work with smart people on these projects.”

A longtime resident, Barnett attended Minnie Howard and Frances Hammond High School and has seen the city grow, “We used to take the 4A bus to downtown Alexandria and go to Shuman’s Bakery and Hayman’s, Penney’s and Lerner’s. Woodward & Lothrop on North Washington St. was another favorite stop,” she recalls. She used to think those were long walks but now she logs four miles with a friend every Saturday.

Her advice to young people looking to get involved, “Be confident and be proud of who you are. Surround yourself with people you see as being successful—people who respect the police, firefighters, medics, and our military.” And she recommends encouraging those who have not been involved in community service before, “become invested and take ownership of whatever project you undertake.”

HERMAN BOONE *By Donna Walker James*

Herman Boone’s successful coaching techniques led the T.C. Williams High School football team – the Titans – to numerous victories, the most spectacular of which was the 1971 season when the team was 13 and 0, won the state championship and advanced to the national championship, making them the number two team in the nation. Boone built a cohesive and cooperative football team out of rival teams brought together by integration into a single senior high school. He also sought out and obtained full athletic scholarships for more than 50 African American athletes, none of whom had been provided opportunities for scholarships before his arrival.

Born in 1935 in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina, Boone received his B.S. in biology and physical education and his master’s degree in physical education, both from the University of North Carolina. Beginning in 1958, Boone coached football in Nottoway, Va., and moved in 1961 to become head football and basketball coach, biology and physical education teacher, and janitor at E.J. Hayes High School in Williamston, N.C. He led his teams to 13 state championships. This winning record made him a nationally known figure. Despite this record, the integration of schools in North Carolina threatened to derail his career. With plans to integrate the high school, he was to be demoted to assistant coach, because, “This town just is not ready for a black coach.” He replied, “I’m not a black coach. I am a coach who happens to be black.”

Meanwhile, hearing of his winning record, the Alexandria School Board recruited him as assistant and then head football coach at T.C. Williams High School to help ease racial tensions in Alexandria. Tensions were high as former head football coach Bill Yoast was moved to serve as assistant coach in an approach opposite to that proposed in North Carolina.

Boone held clinics to help players with their homework, keeping them eligible to play and helping them get into college. Boone took an active interest in the lives of players and kept in touch with former players, such as current Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

Boone volunteered with Alexandria Civil Rights organizations, including the NAACP and the Urban League of Northern Virginia. He participated in many civil rights meetings that took place over more than 40 years in Alexandria, but “not in leadership roles, just as



supporting cast.” He revered and learned at the knee of great Alexandria Civil Rights leaders: Ferdinand Day, Nelson Green, Sr., Ira Robinson, and Melvin Miller, among others. He was also part of many “kitchen table” meetings on race relations, civil rights, and helping young people achieve. Boone says that “my goal has always been to be an agent of change for all people.” His inspirational speeches and quotes continue to this day.

Boone is married to Carol Boone. They have three daughters: Sharon Henderson, Monica Merritt and Donna Dulany, who died in November, 2014.



© Living Legends of Alexandria

Photo by Nina Tisara

Leadership is hard to define or quantify. Diane L. Charles' impact on Alexandrians reverberates through her leadership of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) and Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically (ALIVE!). At the helm of these two significant nonprofits for over 12 years, her actions continue to inspire others to dream more, learn more and do more.

Charles takes ideas of her own and others and turns them into action plans, mixes them up with passion and belief and a dash of persistence to make things happen. Sometimes the path is long and convoluted as she juggles the proverbial apples and oranges that so often define the role of nonprofit management.

Charles moved to Northern Virginia in 1982, settled into Alexandria and has never left. As a valued member of the community she has served as chair of the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations Education and Advocacy Committee, Alexandria Federal Emergency Management Agency Board, and the Human Services Coalition of Northern Virginia. In addition she served with the Alexandria Police Foundation for eight years and the Advisory Board of Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for eleven.

Her professional career has provided grassroots opportunities to influence positive changes in the

City of Alexandria. Her problem-solving creativity and perseverance echoes a caring philosophy.

Charles credits some of her success at moving the two nonprofits (SCAN and ALIVE!) forward successfully to understanding the unique workings of Alexandria. Her preparation skills and dedication to problem solving were developed working as the director of the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau for three years and serving as assistant in the offices of Councilman, Vice Mayor, and Mayor Kerry J. Donley for over 10 years.

SCAN, under her professional leadership, expanded to identify and reach more Alexandria residents in need of services. Encouraging and developing educational programming to meet the goals, she helped staff and volunteers reach clients with positive approaches.

Parenting classes, offered in Spanish as well as English, were developed along with support groups where families were welcomed into a safe place to explore and express their needs. Playgroups provided structure and individuals were helped to discover and link to other community resources available to them.

Educating the public and helping non-parents understand the role of the organization as allies for the community is key. In her 11 years as director, the staff grew from three to 11 dedicated professionals reaching numerous Alexandrians. The emphasis on moving forward through education and understanding and providing tools to problem-solve is the legacy of the organization she left behind after 10 years at the rudder.

Now shepherding over 700 volunteers with a small staff, Charles has begun to use her creative problem solving for the growth of ALIVE! Inc. The 46-year-old organization is a robust coalition of faith-based organizations dedicated to reaching out to Alexandrians with a range of programs designed to provide food to the needy; financial assistance to cover utility bills; furniture and housewares for families; an affordable daycare program; a shelter for women and families; and fundraising initiatives such as the "empty bowls" event.

Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence. Charles' imaginative and strong guidance has done that.





Family Legends Workshop, Alexandria Black History Museum.

Making Time for Creativity & Community

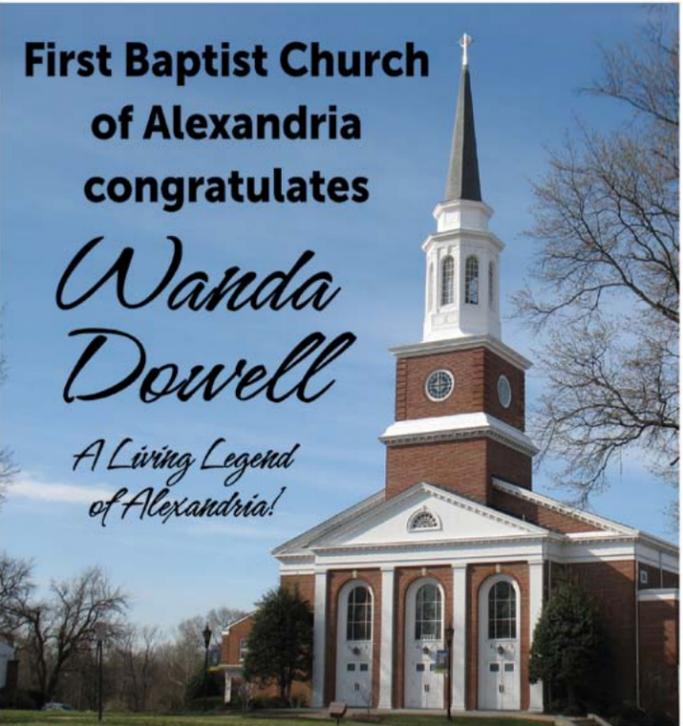
Studio Pause is a space for art, stories, and community, and the working studio of Arlington-based artist, writer, and educator Sushmita Mazumdar. Along with Nina Tisara, founder of Living Legends of Alexandria, Sush co-founded the Family Legends of Alexandria project where she teaches Alexandria children to share stories of their families by making them into handmade storybooks. Sush invites you to visit the Studio and get creative and celebrate the stories of others. "We just don't have the time and we don't think anyone cares. And that's why we need to PAUSE." ~ Sush



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Cora Kelly Book Club and Hispanic Heritage Celebration, portrait workshops, storybookmaking at ACPS Summer Enrichment Program, Scottish Walk.
Photos by Kathleen Baker and Nina Tisara.

RUTH AND BILL CLEVELAND *By Sherry Wilson Brown*

Activism is a wonderful habit. Developed early, it can last a lifetime. It is best when shared with someone special as is the case with Living Legend nominees Ruth and Bill Cleveland, nominated by Living Legends Alice P. Morgan and Lynnwood Campbell. For over 40 years, the Cleveland's have been involved in community activism in Alexandria both as volunteers and professionals. Activism transformed Bill into the first black Republican on City Council where he served fifteen years, including six years as vice mayor.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Bill originally came to the Washington area with the Army and returned after service in Vietnam. In a way he was returning home because his father had been born in Leesburg before migrating to work in the steel mills, which was where Bill assumed he would be heading. Instead he was living with a cousin, one of numerous relatives in this area, and working security at George Washington University when he met Ruth Ann Keys, a native of Washington, D.C. and divorced mother of 5-year old Robert Green and 7-year old Yolanda Green (now Green-Wilson). They married in August, 1974 and moved to Alexandria.

They quickly became involved with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Resident Council and the Parker-Gray Area in efforts to stop drug trafficking in the neighborhood. Ruth graduated with the fifth class of the Citizens' Academy, and worked full time in several careers. One of her favorites was with the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. She began as an administrative assistant and eventually became their event planner, organizing sessions to train the trainers who spread out in the community to teach low-income people how to manage their finances. Meanwhile, Bill became the first black Police Officer at the Northern Virginia Community College before joining the Capital Hill Police Force from which he retired in 2004 after 30 years.

In 1978, Bill began working with the Warwick Village Safety Committee, initially compiling statistics on neighborhood crime. After the move to Warwick Village, Bill formed its first Neighborhood Watch. Bill and Ruth have served on numerous boards and commissions over the years, especially those concerned with community safety. While on City Council, Bill was liaison to several boards and commissions while Ruth has been involved with the Women's Commission and organizations such as the Red Cross and Alexandria Senior Citizen Academy.



Today Bill is especially dedicated to The Untouchables, a nonprofit organization of young men 8 to 17 years old which was started in 1988 by Theodore "T-Tot" Jones, a therapist with Alexandria's Community Service Board and several young men. The club focuses on building the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual capacities of young men of color so they will have the skills to live, work, play and interact with the community in a positive and productive way. The young men who began the club gave it its name because the club's members are "untouchable" from negative influences. Bill is President and Ruth, Secretary. Meeting weekly at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, The Untouchables are learning civic responsibility while giving back to the community. For example, they prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinners for families in the region who would be alone, even hungry, on the holiday. Funded by contributions from businesses and churches but no governments, The Untouchables are learning their own lessons in community activism.

That's what it is still about for Bill, a reluctant Living Legend nominee who is more concerned with "getting the job done" than gaining recognition. By "getting the job done," Ruth and Bill Cleveland's activism has made a difference in Alexandria.

WANDA DOWELL *By Jeanne Theismann*



For nearly four decades, Wanda Dowell was a fixture at Fort Ward Museum. In 1965, she filled out an application to work for the City of Alexandria.

"I wrote on the application that I was interested in Civil War history," Dowell recalled. "That got the attention of Col. Joseph Mitchell, who was director of the newly formed Fort Ward Museum. Not only did Col. Mitchell hire me, he encouraged me to succeed in a field that at the time was dominated by men."

Fort Ward, a former Union Army installation located in the West End of Alexandria, was the fifth largest fort built to defend Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. It is now called the Flagship of the Defenses of Washington and one of the best preserved and interpreted.

"When I first started, nothing was catalogued," Dowell said. "I began doing an inventory and through classes at the Smithsonian, I learned all I could about how to do exhibits and manage collections for small museums."

Dowell's efforts were rewarded in 1981 with appointments as Director of Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site and as a board representative for the Northern Virginia Region for Virginia Civil War Trails. It was under Dowell's tutelage that the museum received accreditation from the American Association of Museums.

"We were one of the first museums in Alexandria to become accredited," Dowell said. "We are also on the National Register of Historic Places and have won state and national awards for our history education programs. Fort Ward is also one of the reasons Alexandria received its first All-American City Award."

Dowell was instrumental in obtaining signage identifying Civil War fort sites that once surrounded Alexandria. Later she collaborated with other City sites in creating an Emergency Disaster Plan for Historic Properties. On 9/11, Dowell kept the museum open to aid anyone in need of help. She developed a conservation plan for the earthwork fort, one of the first such initiatives developed for earthwork fortifications, and was invited to lecture on the topic at an American Association of Museums national conference. She has lectured on small museum management topics for the Virginia Association of Museums and The Smithsonian.

She has been recognized nationally for her preservation and restoration efforts, and her numerous awards include the prestigious James R. Short Award from the Southeastern Museums Conference for "distinguished lifetime service to the museum profession." She tirelessly used her expertise in education and fundraising to develop symposia, historical camp events, programs for children, educational programs and special events. Although she retired in 2002, Dowell remains a member of the Friends of Fort Ward and after retirement served as an officer for the Civil War Roundtable of Alexandria.

"Fort Ward is a unique museum," Dowell said. "It is one of the best teaching tools that we have and gives the public a whole new perspective on what happened here. We have a responsibility to see that it is preserved and I am proud that Alexandria interprets our history – the good, the bad and the ugly – with integrity. Just because you are a small museum, there is no reason you can't be a quality museum."

The 85-year-old Dowell continues to serve the community through the First Baptist Church of Alexandria. She delivers Meals on Wheels, volunteers at The Clothing Closet (providing serviceable clothing to people in need), and sings with the Jubilee Singers. She has participated in mission trips to Cayman Brac and is a volunteer exercise instructor for seniors.

H. WARDEN FOLEY AND WILLIAM MCNAMARA *By Joseph S. Shumard*

In the early 20th century, Gadsby's Tavern and the adjoining City Hotel were in such a dilapidated condition that the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City made an offer to purchase some of the woodwork, including the ballroom, to preserve its history because the destruction of these buildings seemed imminent. The buildings were prominent in the 18th century as a meeting place for patriots of the revolution, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Each of the first five presidents of the United States was entertained there.

In 1928 members of American Legion Post 24, who were veterans of World War I, were seeking to establish a tribute to those who died in that war. They learned that the Gadsby's Tavern buildings were to be razed and decided to acquire them as a memorial to the war dead, to restore one of the most historic buildings in America, and as a home for Post 24. A portion of the purchase funding was raised from donations and members of the Post leadership initially took ownership. In 1932 a corporation was formed to hold the property in trust for Post 24: Gadsby's Tavern and City Hotel, Incorporated.

Harry Warden Foley and William McNamara are veterans of World War II who met in the 1950s at Alexandria's American Legion Post 24. Foley was born in Berryville, Virginia in 1927. He spent his Navy service in the Pacific Theater on the Marinas Islands and with the Seabees on Saipan.

McNamara was born in 1921 in Washington State and joined the Washington National Guard Headquarters Troop 24th Calvary Division at age 15. His unit was called up in 1940 and sent to the European Theatre in 1944. At age 23, he was the youngest Army major in Europe and established Stars and Stripes newspaper operations in the United Kingdom and in France after D-Day.

In the years following WWII, Foley and McNamara rose in standing as members of Post 24. Both served on the Executive Board (Foley still serves there to this day) and each served as Post Commander. They both contributed to maintaining the Gadsby's Tavern buildings, to promote the history of the buildings, and to encourage the Post membership to be involved. They enlisted the support of organizations such as the Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the American Revolution who supported the American Legion Auxiliary in seeking donations of



historic furnishings and in carrying out many history-related activities in Gadsby's Tavern.

Foley did considerable maintenance on the site using his engineering prowess and was there to open the building for historic tours most weekends for decades. McNamara did significant research for grants and other support available from charitable foundations to help defray the ever-increasing costs of owning this historic property. He eventually became President of Gadsby's Tavern and City Hotel, Incorporated.

In 1972, when significant Federal funding became available, Gadsby's Tavern and the City Hotel buildings and furnishings were offered to the City of Alexandria as a gift of American Legion Post 24. Many officers and members of Post 24 were involved with this gift, including 15 members who are still alive today. But because of their positions of leadership at American Legion Post 24 over many decades, and the recognition that this gift would never have happened without them, Warden Foley and Bill McNamara have been selected as Living Legends. They exemplify selflessness in their service to the city and citizens of Alexandria and in their dedication to the preservation of this historic landmark, which has become the cornerstone of Historic Alexandria.

LORRAINE FRIEDMAN *By Kathleen Baker*



“The Dream Dog story: see a Need, Create a Program!” So says, and does, Lorraine Friedman, attorney/mom/volunteer/songwriter/teacher whose creative programs reach broadly and deeply into Alexandria, serving adults and children of all ages.

Daughter of a speech, debate and drama teacher in Dallas, “Rainey” Friedman earned dual degrees in Spanish and in Communications at University of Texas, Austin. Achieving the Juris Doctor at Georgetown University Law Center in 1989, she plunged into early law cases for homeless rights with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. By 1993 she was head litigator on behalf of children with disabilities for the District of Columbia’s Protection and Advocacy system, serving until 1999.

Anticipating the arrival of her two children, Jared and Cameron, Friedman created stories and characters for her boys’ learning and imagining. One of their favorite characters was Jazz, the Dream Dog. Jazz can sense what children need and empower them to find magic in themselves. When children show problem-solving and resilience, Jazz’s brown tail takes on rainbow colors and swirls with delight.

The stories became picture books and CD’s. Friedman’s creative energy became the nonprofit DreamDog Foundation in 2002 with a mission to instill a love of learning through empowerment and literacy programs for children. The publications would support the community programs. “Rainey”

volunteered as a visiting author in Alexandria elementary schools, inviting children to “jump in the book” and act it out.

“Kids Making a Difference” followed, at the boys’ elementary school, Charles Barrett. The entire school made give-back projects each quarter, such as cards for the elderly, blankets and treats for the animal shelter, coats, mittens and books, with artful leaves emblazoning a “giving tree” at holiday time.

“Kids Empowering Kids,” begun in 2007, involves students writing, producing and performing their own music video and sharing it with the school and on YouTube. At William Ramsay, Martin Luther King inspired the topic; the children’s refrain urges us not to judge others “by the color of their skin or the clothes they are in.” At John Adams, the mayor of Alexandria and the superintendent of schools joined students with “The end of bullying starts with ME,” launching a city-wide anti-bullying campaign.

Summer of 2009 saw “Do the Right Write Thing” in a program of daily community service and writing projects. A participant wrote to “Rainey,” “We fly right past normality and spread joy. That’s what your camp is about. . .thanks for showing us how. I love you.”

“Conexciones” began the same year, connecting Latino parents to their children’s school community and resources in Alexandria. “Family Links” debuted in 2010 to assist two dozen teen parents still in high school with support for their current studies and future dreams, plus weekly parenting and life skills lessons and hands-on help for the new moms and babies.

Young authors from elementary to high school have seen their poetry, stories and essays published in 100+ page handsome paperback editions through the “Book of My Own” (BOMO) program. Their writer workshops are based at Alexandria City Public Schools Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Centers and Community Lodgings.

Since 2012, Friedman and DreamDog Foundation have placed some 250,000 free books for children in 35 sites throughout the city of Alexandria through Alexandria Book Shelf.

“I advocate through creative means,” says Lorraine Friedman, who, like Dream Dog, fills a child’s need with energy, commitment, and love. BOMO authors at Community Lodgings wrote in 2015, “Thank you for believing in us and making us believe in ourselves.” “It’s cool to be a joy spreader,” says Friedman.

ULYSSES S. JAMES *By Larry Ries*

In his 31 years of leadership of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA), Ulysses James has emphasized the performance of new and exciting musical compositions, supported local and emerging artists, and worked to make musical performances accessible to the Alexandria community.

James graduated with honors from Brown University in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in music and was accepted for graduate study at both New England Conservatory and Indiana University. However, Uncle Sam notified him of his draft board’s plans; James joined the Navy. He served as a Regular Naval Officer for 20 years, retiring as a Commander in 1979 after 13 Vietnam campaigns and with five Commendation Medals.

James resumed his music studies in cello and conducting, and soon took the podium at two small community-based ensembles practicing and performing near Alexandria, Virginia. The new conductor grew the ensembles into metropolitan-wide symphonic orchestras while keeping their community service and participation roots.

In May 2011 James passed the baton for the Youth Orchestra to Dr. Henry Sgrecci, remaining music director of Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association and conductor of Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA).

Ulysses James’ vision and leadership has guided WMPA’s five year-round programs, which include the WMP ‘Philharmonic’ of auditioned professional, semi-professional and amateur adult musicians performing five concerts in Alexandria and five concerts in Washington, D.C. annually; the 45–50 member Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra for talented high school youth, giving five concerts per year; the 40–45 member Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra for young musicians in grades six to nine, which performs three to four concerts per year; the WMPA Summer Chamber Concerts Series which annually offers 14–16 free concerts at Alexandria’s Lyceum; and the yearly WMPA Composition Competition for new and emerging East Coast composers.

Hundreds of musicians of all ages have had opportunities to display and improve their musical talents with James’ leadership. His musical brilliance, wise guidance, and deep passion for music education have inspired youth and adults as orchestral musicians and sensitive



audience members. In 31 years, except for one many years ago, James has never accepted a salary.

James’s passion for the arts is mirrored in civic service. A member of the Alexandria Arts Forum since its founding in 1991, he served as President from 2010 to 2013, strengthening partnerships with Visit Alexandria, (formerly the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association), and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. In 2012 he received the prestigious Alex Arts Award for exceptional contributions to the arts in Alexandria.

Known for his compassionate leadership skills, James is quick to deflect the spotlight from himself, preferring to praise, encourage and mentor those around him.

In James’ own words: “I want to build an audience that looks forward to exploring new music along with the gems of the past. I want to support the musical art of the recent past and the present through performance, and to encourage the creation of music for the future. I also want to build an orchestra that is the finest ‘community orchestra’ in the region, and do it in a way that nurtures and respects every musician and patron who participates in our efforts.”

Alexandria and its arts community will be for years to come, the beneficiaries of Ulysses’ many years of exemplary leadership and service.

KIM ALLEN KLUGE *By Jeanne Theismann*



Photo by Carol Hollins Pratt

It was 28 years ago when a young doctoral student at the University of Maryland beat out 500 other applicants in an international search for the job of music director for the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, a fledging amateur orchestra that performed in the old T.C. Williams High School auditorium.

“There weren’t a lot of people in the audience back then but we came together for the joy of performing,” said Kim Allen Kluge, the young Korean American student filled with hubris and a vision for a world class orchestra in Alexandria. “But there was a magic here from the very beginning. I sensed immediately the enormous opportunity to create an organization that could serve Alexandria in a new and powerful way.”

In only his second year, Kluge professionalized the ASO, and in defiance of skeptics, decided to perform at the Kennedy Center.

“Some thought there was no way we could fill 2,800 seats,” Kluge said. “But we did. We got rave reviews and ended up performing a whole series of concerts at the Kennedy Center, which instilled a new kind of pride in the community and a new sense of possibilities for us.”

Kluge continues to contribute to the rich cultural fabric of Alexandria through his outstanding artistic leadership, a commitment to education and a strong connection to the local community.

In his first season, Kluge greatly expanded the educational offerings not only to school children but also to adults. The ASO became a national leader in arts education by integrating music with art, literature, mathematics history and social sciences.

Under his leadership, the ASO moved to its current home at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center. Because of Kluge, the ASO has attracted high-profile guest artists including Branford Marsalis, Sarah Chang and Midori, who in 2012 selected Alexandria as one of only two communities in the nation to participate in her Orchestra Residencies program. The Washington Post heralded this as “a major coup” for Kluge, the ASO and high school musicians in Alexandria.

Kluge has forged artistic partnerships between the ASO and groups such as Bowen McCauley Dance, Metropolitan Chorus, Heritage Signature Chorale, Virginia Bronze, The Washington Ballet, The Shakespeare Theatre and the National Gallery of Art.

In 2003, Kluge founded the Children’s Arts Festival, which tied public concerts and activities to in-school, curriculum-based programs. For Alexandria City Public School students, he developed mentoring programs and side-by-side concerts, which paired aspiring young musicians onstage with ASO professionals. In 2013, the ASO announced the Kluge Young Composers Competition to celebrate the emerging talent of composers age 18 and under in Virginia.

A valedictorian of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Kluge pursued doctorates in piano and conducting from the University of Maryland and participated in the Tanglewood Music Center Program. In 2006, he received the Wammie Award as Conductor, given by the Washington Area Music Awards, bringing additional accolades to the ASO.

Under his music directorship, the ASO developed the first El Sistema-inspired program in the Washington, D.C. region, ASO Sympatico, which has been honored with a 2015 Yale Distinguished Music Education Partnership Award. In announcing this award, The Washington Post called Kluge “a passionate advocate for music education.”

“It’s very gratifying to look back and see what the ASO has accomplished,” Kluge said. “I hope I have made a lasting contribution to the city that I love so deeply. I truly have a sincere belief in the power of music to transform everyone’s life.”

STEVE NEARMAN *By Pam St.Clair*

Many read news stories or hear about young people doing something dangerous or illegal and then wonder why in the world they did that. Then they move on. Steve Nearman did the same thing until 20 years ago when he decided he couldn’t change things for every young person, but he might make a difference for one child; help them see a different option and take the better fork in the road. A chance meeting at an Alexandria Chamber of Commerce event drew him to Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC). CFNC was begun by Cameron Valley Network, a group of mothers residing in public housing who were determined to help their young children succeed in school. A network of preschools and family services, CFNC provides for three and four-year olds living below the poverty line in Arlington and Alexandria and has served 3500 children since 1984.

In 1999, Nearman, a financial planner, volunteered for the CFNC program at Cora Kelly School “monitoring the boys’ sports games and letting the girls dress me up, cook for me, etc.” He also bought needed materials for the classroom and arranged and paid for field trips to petting farms and an indoor amusement park. CFNC founder and longtime executive director Barbara Fox Mason asked if he would serve on the board. In June, 2015 he retired after serving 13 years as chairman. He led the purchase of 3700 Wheeler Avenue as CFNC headquarters and classroom space. Nearman said one of the biggest challenges was maintaining funding for the programs after the 2008 recession. A major supporter, the Freddie Mac Foundation, began liquidating and cut much of its huge financial contribution to the Washington metro nonprofit world. Eventually all Freddie Mac’s funding ended. Through community fundraising, the programs were kept alive for 50 staff and nearly 200 children as well as support systems for parents and siblings.

Nearman was recognized in 2015 by Volunteer Alexandria with the Joan White Grass Roots award “given to a volunteer in Alexandria who has selflessly committed time, energy and skills to help a nonprofit further its mission.”

Nearman received his bachelor of arts degree in biology and economics from the University of Rochester and his M.B.A. from George Washington University in 1985.



© Living Legends of Alexandria

Nearman also is a passionate member of the running community. He founded the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon and 6k which serves as a fundraising opportunity for area charities, whose first race in 2010 drew 4,000 runners. Locally, both CFNC and RunningBrooke Fund have benefited. He takes great pride in his work on the Visually Impaired (VI) National Half Marathon Championships which brought blind and VI runners from around the nation to run across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. He has been inspired since the mid-90s by a blind runner, Joseph Aukward, whom he has traveled with and guided to VI and invitational meets around the U.S and Canada.

Now he combines his love of running and devotion to young people by coaching cross-country and track at Edison High School, where his autistic 16-year-old son now attends and completed his first season of cross-country.

He would be happy if in 40 years he hears from someone who says he made a difference in their life.



By her own account Jodie Smolik is a very fortunate woman. She found her life's passion early on and gets to wake up every day and go to a job she loves, introducing the children of Alexandria to an urban oasis and all its fascinating life. The Winkler Botanical Preserve, nearly 45 acres of carefully cultivated native plants, bushes, trees and wildlife from foxes to osprey to hawks, is right in the heart of the city, just off I-395.

"Every day I have an encounter with wildlife, more encounters than I did on the 1,500-acre farm I grew up on. This open space off the interstate is a sanctuary and it was worth saving," she said.

Smolik's role with Winkler has been two-fold. At the Winkler family's request, she came to work for them and started an all-encompassing education program in cooperation with the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). Every child in grades one through five in all 13 elementary schools, makes two field trips yearly to the preserve. Their 90-minute lessons are hands-on: digging for earthworms, studying habitat, plants, food chains and simple machines. Combining science, art, and fun is an important part of Smolik's philosophy of education. She shares that joy with the children. So it is no surprise that when the integrity of the preserve was threatened by highway construction in 2010, she led the charge along with supportive parents, teachers

and children, to provide hard evidence that this was a place worth saving.

Smolik began her career in outdoor education at Maymont Park in Richmond running their nature program. With her husband, George, she moved to Washington, D.C. to develop a year-round outdoor education program at Discovery Creek Children's Museum, where the Winkler family found her and asked her to come to Alexandria as their executive director to create a similar program at the preserve. "I was amazed," she said when she went to visit the preserve in late 1997. It was not only a beautiful spot, it provided much more space to do the kind of outdoor programs she wanted to do. Beginning work in early 1998 overseeing the construction of the Catherine Lodge, joining forces with Dr. Herbert Berg, then Alexandria's superintendent of schools, she opened in 1999 with school programs and a summer camp.

Then came 2010 and the effects of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Process (BRAC), which proposed destroying about a third of the Preserve.

Nobody expected the children's crusade that followed. About one-quarter of comment cards sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) were from children. Seventh graders at George Washington Middle School prepared an environmental assessment under their science teacher Mary Breslin. Todd Harris, a teenage Counselor in Training, created a Facebook page that attracted 2,000 followers. Children and parents came to the public hearing and Virginia DOT officials invited to tour the site were much impressed. The citizens won: Alexandria City Council proposed an alternative plan, leaving the Winkler Preserve intact.

The school program does not cost Alexandria taxpayers a dime. The Winkler Foundation pays for it. Mark Winkler's daughter Tori Thomas, a landscape architect by training who created the preserve, remains involved. The teaching lodge was named after Mark Winkler's widow, Catherine Winkler Herman, whose love of plants and the outdoors inspired her to donate the land and create the Preserve.

As for Smolik "my reward is to watch the children grow up." While the education program continues, the preserve is also open seven days a week except for holidays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the public to learn and enjoy.

KEITH BURNER *By Amber Healy*



For Keith Burner, it's all about the kids.

Growing up in the City of Fairfax, Burner spent time in recreation programs after school and during the summer. It was a safe space for kids, where parents didn't have to worry whether their children were exposed to things that might be less than beneficial for impressionable young minds.

It's an experience that stayed with Burner, 50, who moved to Alexandria in 1998 and now lives in Del Ray with his wife of nearly 11 years, Mary, and son Kyle, 10. When working with Lehman Brothers, he was invited to participate in an event sponsored by the Dunbar Alexandria Boys & Girls

Club, and after meeting with some senior leaders there, he became deeply invested in the organization.

He's gone on to work as a coach with the Alexandria Little League for 10 years; co-founded the Fore the Kids annual golf tournament and chaired the George Washington Parkway Classic golf tournament; served on the executive committee of the Alexandria United Way and boards of directors for the Community Foundation of Alexandria and the Alexandria Country Day School, where he's currently the board president; was a member of the Santa Claus Yacht Club; and remains a Board member of the Dunbar Alexandria Olympic Boys & Girls Club, a position he's held for 20 years.

"I started working with kids before I even had kids, mostly because I like children," he explained. The Boys & Girls Club in particular holds a special place in his heart. "I think all kids are at-risk kids," regardless of whether they come from a happy family or one in which parents aren't as engaged. "I think kids benefit from having positive role models in their lives. I like to think,

hopefully, that I'm that kind of person. I just do my part."

For those people just starting out in their careers, who might not have the financial capability to write a big check to help their favorite organization, Burner stressed the importance of being present. "There are many, many ways you can be a positive influence in people's lives. You just gotta get in the game," he said, spoken like a natural coach.

And while he's grateful to pay forward the guidance and support he received from coaches growing up, it's his work with the Boys & Girls Club in Alexandria that means the most to him. Several years ago, he was involved in an effort to renovate the club's facilities in the city, a \$1.8 million project at a time when the club was in danger of closing. "It's a great club, it's a model club in the greater Washington Boys & Girls Club system," he said. "We probably have a roll of about 300 or so, 350 (kids), but average daily attendance is probably 87-92. I wish we had bigger facilities and more money to be able to serve more. We're doing all we can."



YOLANDA "YOLIE" CARRASCO *By Jeanne Theismann*

those diagnosed are male, twenty five percent female. When Yolanda Carrasco gave birth to her first son 18 years ago, little did she know he would become one of those statistics.

"We are luckier than most," said Carrasco. "Marcos is an amazing young man and very capable. But when he started school, I was surprised that the Alexandria public school system did not do more to teach disability awareness."

After informally talking with Marcos' classmates and other parents about Autism, Carrasco (pictured left) joined forces in 2008 with Mildred Rivera (pictured right), the mother of twin boys who have Autism, to launch a disability awareness program at John Adams Elementary.

"Each October we go before the student population and talk about how important it is to get to know the kids in their school with

disabilities," said Carrasco. "We go again in April and focus on Autism."

Carrasco uses the spotlight of Disability Awareness month in October and National Autism Awareness month in April to begin the dialogue about the importance of inclusiveness.

"In a way this has been a blessing," Carrasco said. "Marcos didn't always know he was being made fun of but for others it is heartbreaking." Carrasco worked with Rivera and her "gang of moms" to organize the talks at John Adams Elementary School and is now focusing on Francis C. Hammond Middle School, where she is joined by her daughter, Glory. Her goal is to expand to T.C. Williams High School and throughout Alexandria City Public Schools.

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"I think it's important for kids to hear from a parent or sibling what it's really like for a child with a disability," Carrasco said. "Any staff member can read from a prompter but hearing directly from a parent with a special needs child makes a personal connection and helps teach kids to think of something outside of themselves."

Her presentation includes a short disability quiz, the definition of disability, a slideshow of various visible vs. invisible disabilities and a video about what to do – and just as important, what not to do – when interacting with people with various disabilities.

"It's important to break down barriers and help everyone understand the importance of an inclusive society," Carrasco said.

Carrasco expanded her assembly to include parents of children with disabilities such as Down Syndrome and cerebral palsy while a wounded warrior veteran talked about her injuries and use of a therapy dog and popular teachers spoke of struggles with their own disabilities.

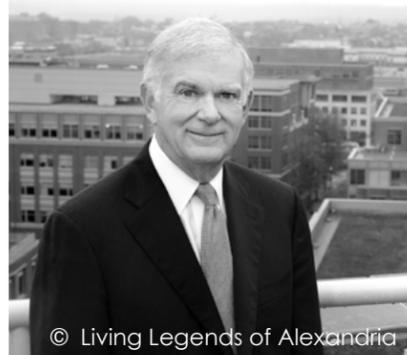
"I am excited about the new school administration," Carrasco said. "Dr. Crawley

is amazing and understands that this is an important message for kids to hear."

In addition to Marcos, Carrasco and her husband Michael are the parents of two other children: Max, 14, and Glory, 12.

At this time, there is no cure for Autism. And even though her son Marcos is no longer in public school, Carrasco does not intend to stop her campaign of disability awareness.

"I will continue as long as I am allowed to do it," Carrasco said. "We as parents need to be part of the solution."



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ROGER PARKS *By Jordan Wright*

lead to potential prospects. He soon realized that he enjoyed being involved in the Chamber's activities and began volunteering with other local organizations. "I discovered so many great non-profits while I was with the Chamber, not just to contribute to financially, but also with my advertising expertise and background."

A prime example of the old adage 'the early bird catches the worm,' Parks rises every day at 4 a.m., planning out his client business for the day in order to devote evenings to his many volunteer activities. As a golf aficionado he spear-headed the golf tournament that benefitted the Alexandria Chamber Foundation and served as chairperson of the Alexandria Marketing Fund Committee. His many interests led him to serve on the boards of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, the Old Town Business and Professional Association, Alexandria Heart Association and the King Street Metro Enterprise Team (KSMET) where he served a term as president. Parks is eager to see the city evolve as well as increase its attraction to visitors. To that end he has worked closely with the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, also known as Visit Alexandria, creating marketing campaigns, including the Alexandria Great Restaurants

coupon book, to draw visitors to the city's burgeoning restaurant scene.

His vision for the city includes a concern for maintaining its historical integrity. "With all the development and the waterfront breaking ground, I hope when it is completed it will not just become another waterfront city. The charm of Alexandria is its history. While running or walking around town I always see something new: an architectural detail or just something I hadn't noticed before that catches my attention. My hope is that we can maintain that charm. It's a debate that continues—that Alexandria can maintain the charm of what it has for many years to come."

His participation on the board of the Alexandria Police Foundation, where he was involved in the marketing of the \$400,000 campaign to build the Fallen Officers Memorial, is something he is especially proud of, noting, "I've got to say, when I see things happen that are good in this city, and I know that I had some teeny little part of it, that motivates me to see what can be. One of the most satisfying things I've done is the Fallen Officers Memorial. You've got to be looking at the big picture."

JOAN SINGER *By Carrie Lee Mitchell*

Joan Daggy Singer, founder/director of QuinTango, the Alexandria-based, international chamber tango quintet, creatively serves Alexandria with bilingual community outreach programs that introduce elementary school children,

immigrant communities and other community groups to the joy and integrating power of music; and for acting as a goodwill ambassador for the City of Alexandria locally, nationally and internationally.

Born in Chicago and raised in North Carolina, Singer began violin studies at age eight. At Earlham College, she earned a bachelor of arts in English Literature. Her first job was teaching English in Queretaro, Mexico, where she learned



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Spanish and developed a sensitivity to second language learners. At DePauw University she earned a Master of Music degree. Before managing QuinTango full-time, she was a successful freelance musician and member of the Baltimore Opera Orchestra. She continues to perform regularly with the Alexandria Symphony.

Singer is married to Irwin Lee Singer, a retired physicist who dances tango once a week! The Singers arrived in Alexandria in 1976, fell in love with the city and made it the family home, raising two children who attended Alexandria City Public Schools.

The idea for QuinTango originated during Singer's international tour with a classical piano quartet. In Holland, they accepted an invitation to jam with the presenter's



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Connecting worlds that don't seem to have much in common is Rev. Lisa Cole Smith's specialty.

By the time she was 10, Lisa Cole, as she was born, had lived in North Carolina, Ohio

tango group. "It totally blew me away," said Singer. QuinTango was the result.

"There is no group like this anywhere else in the world—two violins, cello, double bass and piano performing traditional tango," Singer said. "Our distinctive sound has found audiences on six continents (no Antarctica!). Last quarter, QuinTango was downloaded on YouTube 11,162 times—in thirty countries in Europe, seventeen in the Americas, sixteen in Asia, four in Africa, plus Australia/New Zealand.

In 2011, Singer's desire to use her successful tango repertoire to engage Alexandria's growing international community, especially young people, resulted in an after-school violin club at Ramsey Elementary and StringTango, an opportunity for All-City Orchestra students to extend their musical and cultural learning by studying tango repertoire. Each June, 24 students ages 6–13 perform in concert with QuinTango. "The kids love this music; they play it with all their heart and soul," said Singer. Singer and a colleague co-teach twelve beginning string classes a week at Lyles-Crouch, Mount Vernon and Tucker Elementary Schools to prepare for StringTango.

In 2012, a Boys and Girls Club asked Singer to develop an arts workshop to bring diverse cultures together. Singer created "Tango and Soccer" with an Argentine musician/

professional soccer player and a tango dancer. "Get them interacting in the music, soccer and dancing, and they forget their differences," said Singer. With support from Washington Performing Arts and Running Brooke, Singer leads her workshops throughout the metropolitan area, including three years at Samuel Tucker Elementary School, two at Mount Vernon, and one at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Singer has served on Alexandria School Board's Arts and Humanities Advisory Board, The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, and the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee. She currently serves on the Alexandria Arts Forum Board, and works with the Alexandria Film Festival. Last year she received the Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award.

Singer is passionate about QuinTango and tango repertoire. "Tango was created by immigrants to Argentina at the turn of the century; anyone, but especially those who have been displaced, responds to tango." Whether using her tangos to engage audiences at concerts throughout the world or to engage fifth graders in Alexandria public schools, Singer's mission is to bring people together through the arts, a mission that is helping bridge cultural differences and bring people together in Alexandria.

LISA COLE SMITH *By Amber Healy*

and Saudi Arabia, where her father, a hospital administrator, worked in partnership with western and Saudi physicians before her family landed in Burke. If anything, coming back to the U.S. was something of a culture shock, but the years spent overseas was a formative experience.

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, where she studied drama, Smith then went to California to pursue an acting career, touring with a theater company before returning to Northern Virginia. "That's what I had wanted to do since I was eight years old, be an actor."

She started to ask some larger questions about life and meaning, leading her to a

class in seminary "to explore my faith a little bit."

Smith's introductory seminary class at the John Leland Center in Arlington, VA evolved to a degree, Master of Theological Studies, in 2006. Smith was seeking ways to reconcile her seemingly divergent interests in faith and the arts. It was at that time Fair-Park Baptist Church was in danger of closing its doors due to decreasing membership. Smith was asked by a transitional board what she'd do if given the chance to lead the church in a new direction.

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Fast forward ten years, and now Smith, along with her husband, Jay, and daughter, Larkin, have made their home in the Belle View area of Alexandria, and she's found a way to combine her love of theater and the arts with an ongoing spiritual journey through the Convergence Arts Initiative.

"I put together a crazy proposal of a church that would use all of its space and resources to serve the artist community," she said. "I think it's something really special for a faith community to say to the artist, 'We get you and we think what you do is inherently valuable to our world and our community and we want to support you and love you, wherever you are, wherever you're coming from.'"

It might seem a little far-fetched, but the Renaissance was filled with artists and people of faith working together to beautify their world. "We really feel like these two voices coming together, not just that they can mutually support each other, but that they're meant to be together," she said.

The Church at Convergence created the Convergence Arts Initiative and created a gallery, performance space and classrooms in the main Sanctuary building while a second building, the Lab, is "a black box-type theater space, with a rehearsal room upstairs that's also used for dance." In addition, the Lab houses a recording studio and practice space for local bands and a

music venue fostering a local DIY punk scene. They aim to be a welcoming, safe, accepting space for all.

She's still responsible for all that goes along with leading a church, preparing sermons and worship services, but she also gets to say "yes" to creative projects and help people who are trying to find ways to combine disparate parts of themselves into a singular goal. "It's really the people we connect with, the people that are here and that are willing to share their creative gifts and connect with other people that make what we do happen and make it a success," she said. "I'm amazed to be able to work in this environment with these people."



JEN WALKER By Gayle Reuter and Pat Miller

the Holiday Tree Lighting. Other boards, commissions and organizations include Alexandria YMCA, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, Campagna Center, Leadership Alexandria, Burke & Herbert Bank, City of Alexandria Wayfinding Committee, Del Ray Home Tours, and volunteering with Snow Buddies which shovels snow for the elderly and disabled.

Not only does Jen Walker provide leadership and support for almost everything that happens in Del Ray, but most of the events would be difficult to hold if it weren't for her very generous sponsorships. Besides all the DRBA events, Walker has provided critical financial support to the following: Art on the Avenue, ALIVE!, Mt. Vernon Community School, Miracle Field, Kelly Cares Foundation, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, First Night Alexandria, Senior Services, Alexandria Police Foundation, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc., Northern Virginia Aids Ministries, and Del Ray Citizens Association, to name a few. She even purchased an electric car for the community to use for its events.

When you think of a legend, you think of someone who is responsible for something that will be remembered. Cinema Del Ray is just that. Ten years ago, Walker came up with the idea of Cinema Del Ray, a free outdoor movie shown on a full size screen during the

summer months and has funded it ever since. Years from now, parents will be telling their kids about "this great neighborhood they grew up in where during the summer, they could sit outside on blankets and watch movies on a big screen with their families."

While Walker has been recognized for her years of dedication and service with numerous awards including the Marguerite Payez Leadership in 2014, presented by the Alexandria Commission for Women; the Heart of Del Ray in 2010 voted by the citizens of Del Ray; and the Del Ray Star Award from DRBA for promoting the businesses and community, none of that is what Jen Walker is about. Walker is about quietly working behind the scenes, constantly helping neighbors in need, rounding up volunteers to make sure an event will happen, cheering and encouraging everyone she meets and stepping up every time to sponsor all those events that make a community a community. Her heart and her love for her neighbors and the community is endless and that is why she is so loved. A true legend is never about themselves, it's always about others and the world around them. That is Jen Walker. 🌟

Living Legends of Alexandria Board of Directors

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"There are many ways to get things done, but only one way to start, by taking action. One thing Living Legends of Alexandria have in common with one another is the ability to make something happen. That is, they do and they get done. They have all done something, and all continue to give.

The Living Legends Board of Directors is committed to honoring and documenting the contributions of individuals to our community expressed in artistic works of photography, journalism, and writing, and thereby to encourage people of all ages to value legacy and to act for the future of Alexandria." —Jennifer Ayers

**CONGRATULATIONS
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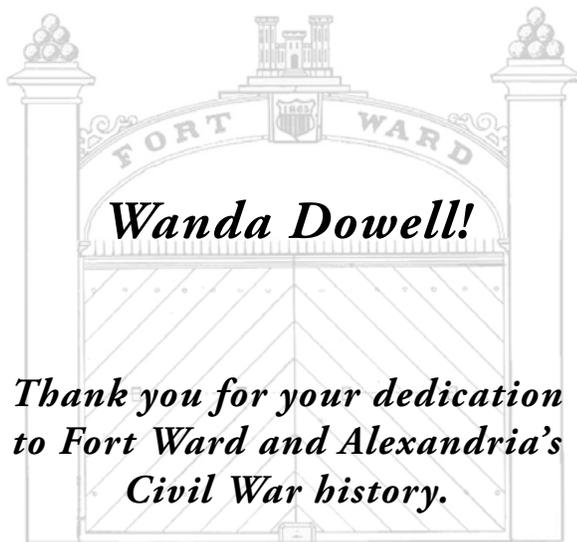
Office of Historic Alexandria

The Office of Historic Alexandria
is committed to documenting and preserving the history of our community
and is pleased to support the work of the Living Legends of Alexandria program.

We are delighted to share that the photographs and biographical information
of the Living Legends of Alexandria
are now a permanent part of Alexandria's museum collection.



***Congratulations
to Alexandria Living Legend***



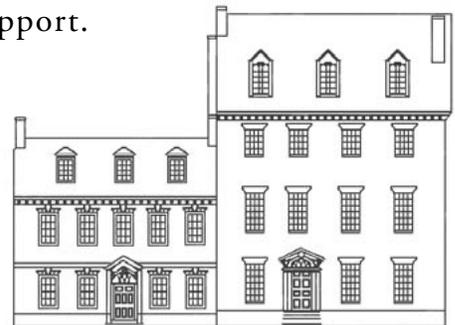
***Thank you for your dedication
to Fort Ward and Alexandria's
Civil War history.***

The Friends of Fort Ward

Congratulations to

***Warden Foley &
Bill McNamara!***

Your work to preserve historic
Gadsby's Tavern is legendary!
Thank you for your years of
tireless support.



Huzzah!

The Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society