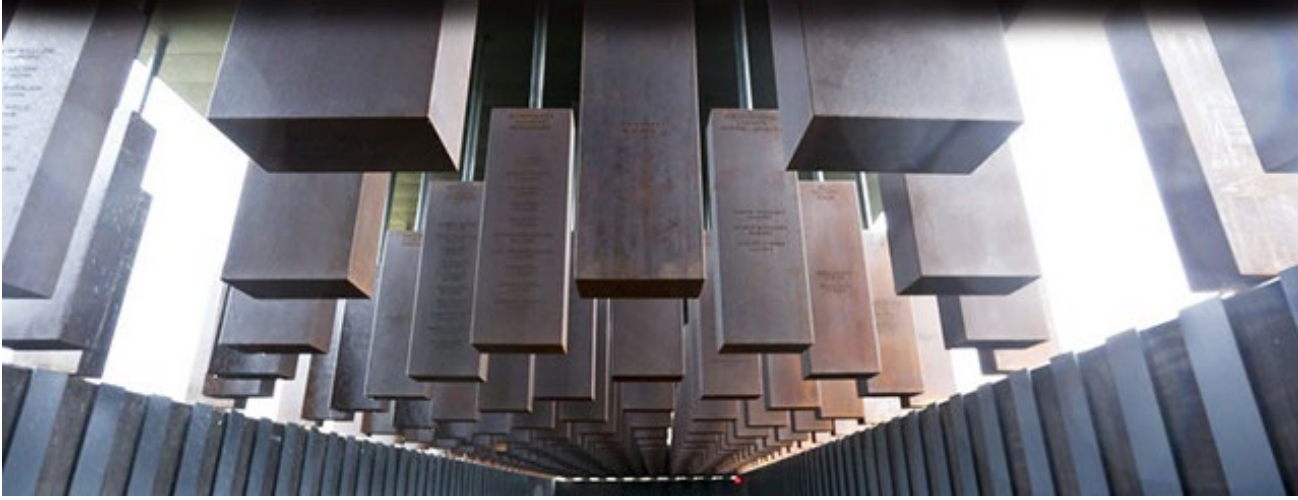


# ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT NEWSLETTER



## January 2024 Edition

---

ACRP Member,

Happy New Year! There are a lot of great opportunities in the next few weeks to get involved and show up for racial and social justice in 2024.

### MLK Celebration

This Monday, January 15, our community will honor and celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. In his honor, a student poster exhibition at Alexandria City Hall will open followed by a city-wide celebration at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.

Last year, a record number of people attended the 50th anniversary event at the Masonic Memorial. Rosa Byrd, Chair of the MLK Memorial Committee, believes many of the new people who came did so because of relationships that were formed during the pilgrimage to EJI and subsequent ACRP events. This Monday, please consider coming out to remember Dr. King and show that his dream of a “beloved community” is possible in Alexandria. The **MLK celebration runs from 4-5:30 p.m.** at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial (101 Callahan Drive). [Click here to learn more and to register for this FREE event.](#)

The annual Student Poster Exhibition for Alexandria City Public School students, grades 2-5, opens in the Vola Lawson Lobby of Alexandria City Hall on Monday, January 15 at 1 p.m. and will run through the end of February. This year's Poster Exhibition, "Living the Dream," relates to Dr. King's dream of the Beloved Community.

---

### Upcoming Events

**ACRP Winter Meeting** The ACRP winter meeting will be held at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum (201 S. Washington Street) on January 27 at 1 p.m. We are excited to hear from Grace E. Hale who will speak about her latest book, *In the Pines: A Lynching, A Lie, A Reckoning*. Hale discovered that her family had lied about her Grandfather's role in a lynching in their southern town. Hale, who is white, reports the truth of what happened and grapples with her family's role in a racial terror event. Books are now available at The Lyceum's Museum Store and will also be available for purchase on the day of the event. A book signing will follow the program. [Register here!](#)

## Scholarship Fundraising

ACRP has partnered with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA) to establish **scholarships in the names of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas**. As part of our fundraising efforts, we launched Tables of Conscience, a series of book-themed dinner parties hosted in the homes of ACRP members. Each dinner provides an opportunity to discuss a social justice themed book while getting to know fellow community members. Tickets are now available for two dinners listed below. We hope you will consider attending one. Thank you to our many hosts and everyone who has attended a dinner to date! You can also donate directly to this important scholarship by [giving on our SFA campaign page](#).

### February 3 *Tables of Conscience Dinner*

Book: *It's the Little Things, Everyday Interactions that Anger, Annoy and Divide the Races*, By Lena Williams

Described as a “sounding board for Blacks and whites concerned with bridging the racial divide,” *New York Times* Journalist Lena Williams book is sometimes amusing, and other times pointed. It is true we no longer live with legal segregation, but a divide between Black and white people still exists, even in Alexandria. We live near each other, but we generally do not have close relationships that cross the “color line” and even when we do, the dominant white culture can cause miscommunication that can generate anger. This frank, funny book helps us understand, and eliminate alarmingly common interactions that cause friction for both Black and white people. [Purchase a ticket!](#)

### February 10 *Tables of Conscience Dinner*

Book: *The Half That Has Never Been Told: Slavery and American Capitalism*, by Edward E. Baptist.

Edward Baptist puts slavery at the very center of this nation’s political and economic past. Deemed a “radical new interpretation of history” this award-winning book details how slavery grew the United States into a modern, industrial, capitalist nation. “In the span of a single lifetime, the South grew from a narrow coastal strip of worn-out tobacco plantations to a continental cotton empire.” In the process of telling this story, Baptist humanizes those enslaved and shares the truth about the brutality they faced through the testimonies of survivors, politicians and entrepreneurs, as well as plantation records and newspapers. [Purchase a ticket!](#)

We hope you will agree that this line up is a great start to 2024. Thank you for your commitment to racial and social justice and our work here in Alexandria. We hope to see you **Monday, January 15th at 4 p.m. at the Masonic Memorial for the 51st MLK Celebration!**

With Regards,

Gretchen Bulova & Audrey Davis

Co-Chairs of ACRP

[Joseph McCoy](#) [Benjamin Thomas](#).

[For more information](#)

[Donate to the Project](#)

[ACRP@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ACRP@alexandriava.gov)

*The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) is a city-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror hate crimes and to work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion.*

**Office of Historic Alexandria  
City of Alexandria, Virginia**



