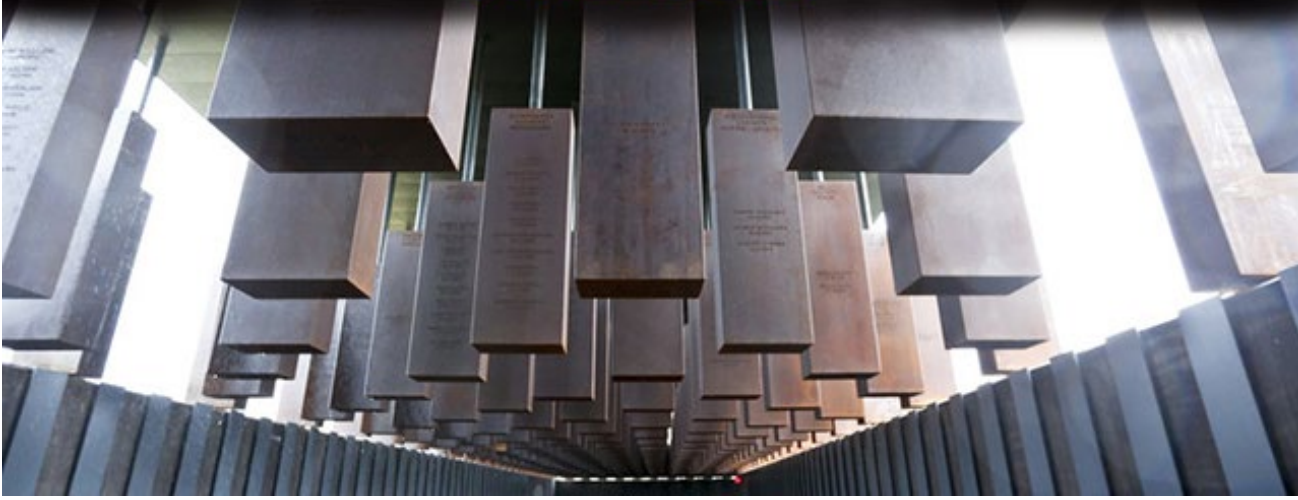


ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

NEWSLETTER



November 2023 Edition

ACRP Launches Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas Scholarships

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project has launched two student scholarships in remembrance of Alexandria's two known lynching victims, Joseph McCoy (1897) and Benjamin Thomas (1899). The racial terror caused by their lynchings impacted the region's entire African American community. These scholarships build upon Alexandria's commitment to acknowledge and apologize for these past injustices while investing in our youth and the future. They represent a step toward remedy – if not repair – and a small step toward justice.

The ACRP scholarships will provide two African American students in the Class of 2024 at Alexandria City High School with a \$3000 award toward educational goals beyond graduation. We hope to ultimately build an endowment of \$150,000 to provide annual support. If fundraising exceeds our expectations, we can increase the dollar amount of the scholarships.

The ACRP scholarship will be in partnership with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA). This fund was started in 1986 as a way to involve the community in helping Alexandria City Public School students beyond high school graduation.

SFA staff and volunteers begin student outreach to youth in the middle school years. They promote the scholarship program and help high school students apply. Staff and board members work with the greater Alexandria community to raise funds and visibility for the need-based awards.

One volunteer, Julie, wrote in 2019 about the [SFA's proven track record](#). "The need for college scholarships at T.C. Williams [sic, now Alexandria City High School] is really enormous. There are a lot of hard-working kids, who are very bright and want to go to college, but come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The SFA works with them to help them apply to and get into college, and works with the community to fundraise and provide scholarships. It is a truly great and meaningful organization that I feel should be replicated in school districts across the area if not the nation."

The following ACRP scholarships have been established in remembrance of Alexandria's lynching victims:

Joseph McCoy Memorial Scholarship
\$3000

This award is for a student planning to go into a trade and can be applied to community college courses, and/or a program to develop skills, and/or to defray the costs of certifications and licensures not covered by an apprenticeship, or by other means.

Criteria: 2.0 GPA, African American student (Male, Female, Nonbinary).

Benjamin Thomas Memorial Scholarship
\$3000

This scholarship is to go towards a four-year college degree program (all four years do not need to be completed at the same institution). Preference for students intending to pursue further education in a social justice or truth telling field, such as but not limited to: African American Studies; History; Journalism; Education/Teaching (especially male students); Law, Art and the ministry.

Criteria: 2.0 GPA, African American student (Male, Female, Nonbinary).

Preference will be given to African American students who demonstrate leadership among their peers, and/or activism on social justice and racial justice issues, and/or a commitment to said issues, including tutoring and other activities that show an interest in becoming a future educator.

The scholarship selection panel will take into consideration and provide preference to students who have demonstrated leadership among their peers, and/or activism on social justice and racial justice issues, and/or a commitment to said issues, including tutoring and other activities that show interest in becoming a future educator.

To date, \$2,250 has been raised toward this year's goal of \$6,000. Please visit [the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria page](#) to donate to these two important scholarships. With your support, we will raise the funds for this year's scholarships and work toward an endowment for regular scholarship support.

The Tables of Conscience Dinners book discussion dinners started this November will continue this January and February. If you are interested in hosting a dinner please contact tiffany.pache@alexandriava.gov. Thank you in advance for your support of this important program.

In The News

[ALXNow wrote about Freedom House](#) (1315 Duke Street) and the city's efforts to make the property resemble what it looked like when it was the headquarters of the largest domestic slave-trading operation.

[ALXNow covered a meeting at the Presbyterian Meeting House](#) at which ACRP Co-Chair Gretchen Bulova and ACRP Project Coordinator Tiffany Pache spoke. When asked whether there were other lynchings in Alexandria, Bulova and Pache shared the story of the Christmas Massacre where an African American soldier, John Anderson was killed by a mob of ex-Confederate soldiers the first Christmas after the end of the Civil War. [Read about it in the December 2021 ACRP Newsletter.](#)

Upcoming Events

Meaningful Conversations

Dec. 14, 7-9 p.m.

Jan. 25, 2024, 7-9 p.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum

Free

Join the conversation once a month to explore and celebrate the diversity of cultures and peoples in our area, confront the attitudes and behaviors that still divide us with the goal of finding remedies that bring us together. The conversations are facilitated and are respectful, honest, and thoughtful focused on race relations, social justice, and more.

Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7-9 PM: The Resurgence of Antisemitism

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 7-9 PM: The Asian American Experience

Kwanzaa How To Workshop

Sat. Dec. 9, 11-12 p.m.

Alexandria Black History Museum

\$3

Learn about the origins, concepts, practices, and foods of Kwanzaa and leave knowing how to do your own celebration. Families of all ages welcome. Get your tickets [here](#).

Committee Reports

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Steering Committee met on Nov. 14 and heard from SFA representatives about the scholarship program and discussed potential speakers for the winter/spring of 2024

Upcoming Committee Meetings

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project Steering Committee Annual Planning Retreat Jan. 4, 2024, ACRP from 9:30-4 p.m. to discuss plans for the 2024 year.

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

[For more information](#)

[Donate to the Project](#)

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**



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