Behind the Glass Wall
Alexandria history at one’s fingertips.

By Shirley Ruhe
Gazette Packet

“W hat’s Behind the Glass Wall?”
The sign sits outside the Local History and Special Branch of the Alexandria Library on Queen Street. It indicates that behind the glass walls are over 40,000 photos and images, 14,500 books and historical journals and 3,140 rare books plus 200 maps.

Tricia Walker, the new director of three weeks, holds a glass plate with three images, which was an early photo format from the mid-1800s. She says there is some damage in the emulsion. Walker explains the library has been given 100 of these including Lantern slides trapped between two pieces of glass, donated by W.F. Smith, so she is doing a one-time project to evaluate and preserve them.

Walker will encase the negative side in buffered paper to rectify the acidic content. Walker urges people to label their photos because in one or two generations no one can identify the people anymore.

She added that moving around the country has caused some of the problems. But after being a processing archivist in the 1920s to identifying a family member from the Civil War. Also there is a lot of administrative work like upgrading policies and procedures — and looking for grant funding to care for their collection. In addition, she searches for good projects for digitalization from what is high use to what is in the public domain.

Walker came to the Alexandria Library form the Linden Resources that provides cloud-based call center development services to adults with disabilities and other barriers to employment. www.Linden.org.

A Time to Remember
Ceremony to honor local veterans.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The Friends of Rocky Versace 15th Annual Veterans Day ceremony will be held Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The event is open to the public.

The Friends of Rocky Versace organization is also spearheading efforts to identify all Alexandrians killed or missing in action during the Vietnam conflict with a photo. Of the 66 Vietnam veterans from Alexandria, only nine remain without an identifying photo: Ross Collins, Jr.; Darrell Gibbons; James King; Jeron Valentine; and David Wurczak. If anyone has information on these men, contact Kevin Rue at ForV59@gmail.com.

The Friends of Rocky Versace will host the city’s 15th Annual Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. The indoor ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. and honor posthumous Medal of Honor recipient Captain Rocky Versace, the 66 other Alexandrians who died during the Vietnam War and all veterans in attendance.

Located at 2701 Mount Vernon Ave., the center is the home of the Rocky Versace statue and Alexandria’s Vietnam Veterans Wall. The event is open to the public.

Peluso Leads Linden Resources

Ralph Peluso of Alexandria was elected chair of Linden Resources, Inc.’s board of directors at its annual meeting in September. Peluso has served on the board for the past three years, most recently as secretary/treasurer.

Peluso’s career includes more than 40 years of executive leadership of high-growth, troubled and/or distressed companies. Since 2003, he has served as the managing director of Sundial Strategies, a consulting company specializing in helping businesses achieve their valuation objectives. In 2012, he engineered the sale of Teluar Wound Services, Inc., a company he co-founded in 2009 that provides cloud-based call center technologies. Prior to 2002, he held executive positions with several major corporations, including MCI, WinStar, and Cisco Systems.

In 2014 he fulfilled a life-long dream when he published his first novel, 512, a historical fictional account of the career of the legendary baseball icon, Babe Ruth. Peluso earned an MBA in Finance from Bernard Baruch College (Zicklin School of Business) and a BS in Accounting from Hunter College both of the City University of New York.

Linden Resources provides workforce development services to adults with disabilities and other barriers to employment. www.Linden.org.

People

Tricia Walker pulls out a drawer of maps — Presbyterian Cemetery, Alexandria to 1760. A number of people are researching the history of their homes.

Tricia Walker inspects a glass plate negative, an early photographic format from the mid 1880s.

Tricia Walker unlocks the rare books section of the library at Barrett Branch on Queen Street. She pulls out several books that are protected in inert polyester covers to protect the leather that gets rot.

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