

PEOPLE

Alexandria To Lose Historian Noted author and historian Ruth Lincoln Kaye moves to Crozet.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Her name is almost synonymous with Alexandria — Ruth Lincoln Kaye. The woman who served for generations as a walking history book is moving away from the city she has painstakingly documented for decades. Later this week, the moving truck will pull up at her home and pack her house full of antiques so Kaye can move to Crozet, a sleepy suburb of Charlottesville. Kaye's health has been declining for years, and now she is moving to be in a facility near her daughter.

"She is an institution," said Oran Warder, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where Kaye is the official historian. "I keep three books on my desk: a prayer book, a Bible and Ruth Lincoln Kaye's history of St. Paul's."

Kaye is perhaps best known for being the author of almost 400 histories, a cottage industry that



Ruth Lincoln Kaye.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

she helped create more than 30 years ago. Owners of historic properties wanted to know the history of their houses, and Kaye had the skills to dig through archival records and old newspaper clippings. Now that she is leaving town, Kaye is donating her collection of house histories to the Local History Special Collections Department of the Barrett Branch Library, where generations of future historians will have the benefit of her decades of painstaking research.

"Ruth has done all the work in terms of documenting all of this history," said George Combs, director of Local History Special Collections. "I guess that's just Ruth being Ruth, thinking about people who will come after her."

A NATIVE of Buffalo, N.Y., Kaye was raised in Daytona Beach, Fla. She studied history and English at Randolph Macon College in Ashland before heading off to New York City, where she took a job doing office work for \$62 a month

at the Rockefeller Foundation. She married her college sweetheart, Frank Boan, and moved to Alexandria, where he worked at the Alexandria National Bank. That marriage did not work out, and she eventually divorced and married Merwin Kaye. And, yes, she is in fact related to Abraham Lincoln.

"We had a common ancestry in the 1500s," she said with a smile. "That's so long ago, you can barely count it."

In 1980, Kaye started writing the house histories that eventually made her an Alexandria superstar. Others have tried to enter the market, but a house with a Ruth Lincoln Kaye history has a cachet all its own. Kaye is also well known for documenting ghost stories of Alexandria, researching genealogy and collecting off-beat stories about the city she has called home since the 1940s.

"I feel terrible about it leaving," said Kaye, "I've lived here for more than 60 years, and all my interests are here. But I've got to go."



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SUMMER FUN



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Fort Ward Civil War Day

Susan Cumby displays headquarters flag that that was designed and made by camper Brendan Pagona after a lesson in Civil War flags and symbols. Brendan used the 5th Army Corp emblem, the Maltese Cross. Fort Ward will celebrate Civil War Fort Day on Saturday, June 8, 2013.

Summer Fun in Alexandria

Summertime and the livin' is easy in Alexandria, where the calendar from Memorial Day to Labor Day is filled with holidays and events that celebrate our city and culture — both American and for the traditions of some of the many ethnic communities that make up the colorful and diverse fabric of the city.

The fun kicks off this weekend with the Alexandria Art Market. Sponsored by the Del Ray Artisans, the market features local artists and musical performances from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Colasanto Park on the first Saturday of each month through September. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Throughout the summer, enjoy free concerts in Market Square, street musicians at the City Dock and the First Thursday celebrations in Del Ray. The June 6 First Thursday theme is The Dog Days of Summer and July 11 (delayed one week) is Main Street Celebrates.

Alexandria celebrates its own birthday July 13 with a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra under the stars at Oronoco Bay Park and a fireworks display at the waterfront.

No need to wait for the Dog Days of August to enjoy the Alexandria tradition of Doggy Happy Hour at the Hotel Monaco, Yappy Hour at Artfully Chocolate Old Town or a Thursday night Canine Cruise with the Potomac Riverboat Company. A Pirates Cruise is a must for the Jack Sparrow crowd and the Skipjack Minnie V. offers a unique sailing experience along the historic Potomac riverfront.

Want to support fellow Old Town resident Davey Johnson's team by heading to a Washington Nationals game? There is no better way to get to Nationals Park than the Baseball Boat. Take it from the Alexandria City Dock right to the stadium. Available games and more information can be found at www.potomacriverboatco.com. Note that July 20 is Davey Johnson bobblehead night.

For the landlubber, Bike and Roll of Old Town offers historic tours of Alexandria and Mount Vernon

in addition to bike rentals and specialized group tours.

It wouldn't be summer without a few blockbuster productions from The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Opening this weekend is the comedy Twentieth Century with the Tony award-winning Broadway musical "Avenue Q" making its debut on July 27. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Festivals abound in Alexandria, beginning with the Armenian Festival June 1, the Taste of Del Ray June 9, Alexandria's Food and Wine Festival June 22, the Friendship Firehouse Festival Aug. 3, and the Irish Festival Aug. 10 at Waterfront Park.

On June 8, Fort Ward will hold a Civil War Fort Day where various aspects of military life in the Defenses of Washington will be portrayed by interpreters in period dress. Visit www.fortward.org.

And the award-winning barbershop Alexandria Harmonizers, who have been invited to participate in the D-Day 70th anniversary ceremonies in Normandy next summer, makes an appearance with a free performance at Market Square on Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Don't overlook the many offerings available through the Alexandria Library, which hosts classes like Tech Zoo Tuesdays, where you can learn about the latest e-reading devices or get help with your own device.

The Charles Beatley library will feature an Older Folks Film Festival throughout the month of June. Calendar Girls kicks off June 9 at 2 p.m. followed by The Bucket List on June 16 and Away From Her on June 23.

You can find your literary better half at the June 13 Library Speed Dating event or head over to the Kate Waller Barrett branch on June 29 for a tutorial on how to check out e-books from the library. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

With so much to offer, you don't have to look very far to get your own summer of 2013 party started.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Christmas in July

Sam and James visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus dressed in summer attire at the co-sponsor of the weekend event, Christmas in July last summer.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Sounds of Summer

A cappella street musicians After the Storm entertained a crowd filled with Rolling Thunder bikers, tourists and residents with their signature Motown sound on King Street in Old Town May 25, 2012. The summer is filled with music from free concerts and street musicians.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Summer Classes. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Ceramics Exhibition. Through Sunday, June 2 at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Come to an exhibition of non-functional ceramic artwork. Free. For more information, go to www.torpedofactory.org/target.

Theater Performance. MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., presents "Ghost-Writer." Performances are Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. extended through Sunday, June 16. Tickets are \$45-\$55; \$25/student. Visit www.metrostage.org or 703-548-9044 for tickets.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, June 16,

see artwork by Sandy LeBrun-Evans and Danny Conant at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free. Hours are Thursdays from noon-9 p.m., all other days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Student Design Competition. Come see Woodlawn transformed from a historic house museum into a comfortable and stylish home for 21st century living. Through Sunday, June 16. \$20. Call 703-780-4000.

Watercolor Exhibit. Through Sunday, June 23, see "Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorist" at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Hours at the Historic House are Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. and at the Horticulture Center are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. Visit potomacvalleywatercolorists.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Tuesday, June 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at River Farm Gardens, East Blvd. Come see "Elegance of Spring."

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

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