

# Wins Special Award in African American History

Patrick Ostermann-Healey, a student at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria recently competed in the National History Day Contest, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, June 14-20. He received the special award in African American History sponsored by the National Park Service.



Patrick Ostermann-Healey

The 2020 contest theme was Breaking Barriers in History, and this year's unprecedented circumstances added an extra layer of meaning to the theme. Patrick joined more than half a million students globally who completed projects in one of five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Patrick created a paper project titled The 1939 Virginia Library Sit-In: Breaking a Barrier to Read at a Public Library. He was inspired by the Alexandria Library Sit-In Descendants Panel hosted by Alexandria City Public Libraries as part of the year-long commemoration of the 80th anniversary of

the event. Already an active volunteer with the Office of Historic Alexandria's Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Patrick also interviewed staff at the Alexandria Black History Museum as part of his research.

After completing a project, students compete in a series of contests beginning at the local level. The top students from all 50 states, D.C., U.S. territories, and international schools are invited to compete in the National Contest. Patrick's entry was one of five from Virginia recognized at the National Contest.

"To make it to the National Contest in a normal year is a remarkable achievement," said NHD Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "Given the added challenges facing students because of the coronavirus and nationwide school closures, I am even more impressed by what they have done this year. They have shown an incredible level of perseverance amid adversity, and I am confident we will

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# A Senior Year Unlike Any Other

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rising senior Fina Osei-Owusu is banking on taking her SAT in August after having her first one canceled in April. But there's no guarantee that it will happen.

"Everybody is in the same boat," said Beth Lovain of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. "Whatever challenges that they have, every student has."

Despite the pandemic, Pozo argues the barriers many disadvantaged students face when applying to college will persist.

"A lot of low-income people and undocumented people experience the college process a little bit differently," said Pozo. "The college process itself shows how inaccessible college education is."

The Scholarship Fund of Al-

xandria has taken new measures to connect with seniors over the summer and into the fall. The annual workshop for financial aid documents is scheduled to be online in October. Seniors will have access to a texting platform that gives reminders about scholarship and college application deadlines.

"We're very worried about the students," said Lovain. "But at some point, it all will go back to normal." But Osei-Owusu doubts things will return to normalcy anytime soon.

"A lot of things will change," she said. "Our lives will never be the same. Our senior year is going to be really different; I don't think it's going to be normal. I don't think anything's going to be normal."

# FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

## ONLINE CODING

### CLASSES FOR KIDS

CodeWizardsHQ is offering online after school coding classes for kids and summer coding classes for kids with a structured curriculum that is comprehensive, developmental, challenging, and fun. Students get to code a project in every class. Expect the most fun and effective live, teacher-led coding classes for kids with support, including live office hours and 24/7 access to their proprietary coding platform. Their teachers take a students-first approach to teaching Python, Java, HTML/CSS, and JavaScript that guarantees students will reach their potential. New summer classes are starting on August 3. Visit [www.CodeWizardsHQ.com](http://www.CodeWizardsHQ.com).

bring your ticket. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 14 -- "Aladdin"  
Saturday, Sept. 12 -- "Mrs. Doubtfire"  
Reserve your spot - space is limited.  
Reservation and movie details are located at  
<https://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events>

## DRIVE-IN MOVIES

### AT WORKHOUSE

Address: 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079. Film starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$80. Visit the website: [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org).  
Call 703-584-2900.  
Schedule:  
❖ Friday, July 24 -- "The Dark Crystal."  
❖ Saturday, July 25 -- "Labyrinth."  
❖ Friday, July 31 -- "Hot Fuzz."

## TYSONS CORNER

### DRIVE-IN MOVIES

Tyson's Corner Center is hosting Drive-In Movie Nights, in partnership with the Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center, on the second weekend of each month. Located along Fashion Blvd. between Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's, will open for parking, be sure to

## DRIVE-IN MOVIES

### AT SOUTH RIDING

South Riding Town Center in Chantilly will host a free Summer Drive-In Movie Series each Tuesday evening now through August 18. Attendance is limited to South Riding residents and advanced registration is required. Spectators

must remain in their car during the movie but may roll down their windows. South Riding Inn and Dominos will be available for delivery to vehicles and other food options are available for takeout. No alcohol. Registration is available on the events page at [www.southriding.net](http://www.southriding.net). The movie begins at sunset and lineup for the summer is as follows:

July 28 -- "A Classic Underdoll Story"  
Aug. 11 -- "Aladdin"  
Aug. 18 -- "The Lego Movie"

## MOSAIC DEBUTS OUTDOOR

### DRIVE-IN MOVIES

EDENS Mosaic has launched a new outdoor drive-in movie series this summer. Located on the top level (7) of Market Garage across from Mom's Organic Market and Hyatt House. Check-in is on level 6. Address: 8295 Glass Alley, Fairfax. The films begin at 8 p.m. The lineup includes:

Friday July 24: "Toy Story 4" at 5:15 p.m.; and "Jurassic Park" at 8:45 p.m.;  
Friday Aug. 28: To Be Announced  
There is a \$28 fee to reserve a design-

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## Obituary

## Obituary

### FREDERICK JAMES LEES, CDR. USN (RET)



**Frederick James Lees, 89**, of Harrisonburg, VA, passed away peacefully on July 17 at Sentara RMH in Harrisonburg, VA. Born to John T. Lees and Helen Evans Lees on August 26, 1930, in Scranton, PA, Mr. Lees became a gifted scholar and an Eagle Scout who enjoyed baseball and track and field. He graduated from Central High School, attended University of Virginia on a Naval ROTC scholarship and graduated in 1952 with a B.A. in Physics. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy and served during the Korean War. After leaving active duty, he served in the Naval Reserves, retiring with the rank of Commander.

On December 19, 1953, he married Romayne Lloyd, his high school sweetheart and the love of his life.

Following his active service in the Navy, he was employed as a patent examiner in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. While working at the Patent Office, he earned his law degree from The American University Washington College of Law, graduating in 1961. Mr. Lees then joined the legal staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, practicing intellectual property law there during the heyday of space exploration. He served concurrently as the chairman/chief administrative judge of the NASA Board of Contract Appeals and chairman of the statutory NASA Inventions and Contributions Board. He was awarded an Exceptional Service Medal by NASA for his leadership and management abilities at the agency, from which he retired after a 24-year career.

In 1985, he joined the law school faculty at The George Washington University. He was appointed co-director of the Government Procurement Law LLM Program in 1993 and E.K. Gubin Professor of Government Contracts Law in 1995. An avid sports fan, Mr. Lees was a George Washington University basketball season ticket holder and had many happy memories of attending games with his wife during his tenure there.

While at The George Washington University, he also served as special master, ombudsman, arbitrator, neutral advisor, expert, and counsel in various government contract cases. His work took him around the globe and brought him great fulfillment. He retired from The George Washington University as E.K. Gubin Professor Emeritus of Government Contract Law in 2002, remained active in the field of alternative dispute resolution and continued consulting in both the public and private sectors for many years.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Lees was equally engaged in his local community. He served as a deacon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he was a member for more than 60 years. He was president of the Mt. Vernon Park Association, president of the Groveton High School Booster Club, a Fort Hunt Little League baseball coach and a basketball referee for the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association. In 2014, he moved with his wife Romayne from their home in Alexandria, VA to Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community in Harrisonburg, VA, where he remained until his death.

Mr. Lees was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 63 years, Romayne Lees, his son, Frederick Lloyd Lees (Linda), his parents and his sister, Dorothy Davis.

Surviving are his daughter Susan Arnold (Kevin) of Harrisonburg, VA, daughter Lisa Lees of Reston, VA, son Jeffrey Lees (Leigh-Anne) of Harrisonburg, VA; loving grandchildren Timothy Lees (Denise), Allison Lees, Jessica Arnold, Evan, Gillian and Nathan Lees; and several nieces and nephews.

It is those people, along with a wide variety of friends, colleagues, and students, who brought him the greatest joys of his life. He loved couples bridge, playing competitive badminton at the Pentagon Officers Athletic Club, cheering on his children and grandchildren in their sporting events, attending Redskins football games, reading and sharing his Bethany Beach home - the setting of a lifetime of memories for his children, grandchildren and friends.

Mr. Lees was a strong patriot with a friendly spirit. He was exceptionally kind, intelligent, generous, patient, loyal, warm and witty. All who knew him will mourn his passing.

A memorial service will be held when it is feasible, and burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sunnyside Retirement Community Fellowship Fund, The Community Foundation of Harrisonburg-Rockingham COVID-19 Community Response Fund, or The George Washington University Law School Government Contracts Program.

FROM PAGE 5

and at risk of eviction.

Mary Horner, Staff Attorney for the Legal Services of Northern Virginia, who handles these eviction cases for the City of Alexandria, breaks down the eviction situation into three phases. She says phase one eviction cases were filed pre-COVID where people had fallen behind in their rent prior to March. "Some judgments against them are pretty high because although the courts were closed the rental payments kept accumulating."

Phase two is people who have fallen behind in rent payments due to the impact of the coronavirus job loss. It is difficult to estimate how many cases are in this phase. Horner says these cases are much more manageable because the rents have not been accumulating so long.

She said the cases tend to be filed by lawyers in waves.

"Just yesterday there were over 100 cases, many from Southern Towers, a 4,000 unit complex." Horner says the number of cases filed for Southern Towers between mid-March to present is triple the number of cases filed between January to mid-March. Southern Towers is one of the few affordable housing that is not subsidized in Alexandria and thus not under the protection of the CARES Act on evictions. It is a less expensive place to live but quick to evict.

Horner says she anticipates phase three will come in about two months when the CARES Act protecting people from eviction has expired and the 60 day continuance period has run out. She says when people come to court because they have fallen behind in their rent there is a procedure available to delay action for 60 days but it requires people to fill out an affidavit. Legal Services has been successful in getting some tenants in danger of eviction to fill out the forms but a number of people are unaware of the law, terrified of

court or feel going to court is currently unsafe.

Horner says Legal Services usually has a table outside the courthouse Monday-Thursday offering general legal advice and information as well as information on food distribution. "We just helped 20-22 people fill out an affidavit to delay eviction. The 60-day continuance is good because it gives time to work on solving the problem, to get the unemployment benefits or to find a way to pay the rent."

Horner says she has been compiling court data since May. "This allows us to reach out. Horner says one of the relationships that is part of the Alexandria team effort is with the Sheriff's office.

"No one wants to be evicting people right now. Believe me.

The sheriff agrees to wait until the last minute so there is enough time to help solve the problem."

Horner says due to the rapid implementation of the new laws some attorneys are uninformed about the CARES Act protections for tenants living in subsidized housing. As a result they were able to get a dozen cases dismissed the last couple of days.

But she adds that unfortunately when tenants receive an eviction notice to vacate in 5 days (even if it was based on misinformation), many self evict and then they can't find them.

Gray says, "Reflect on what you might do. Every dollar counts."

Horner adds, "We have boots on the ground. We are triaging emergencies. This partnership with the City and faith-based community and non-profits is unique to Alexandria. It is the benefit of our size and our tight knit community. Everyone is on the same team."

Horner says, "I am blown away by our community's ability to act due to established relationships."

To donate to the ACT Now COVID-19 Response Fund: <https://www.givegab.com/campaigns/act-nowcovid19fund>

# Wins Special Award in African American History

FROM PAGE 9

continue to see great things from all of these students. The critical thinking and research skills learned through competing in NHD, especially now, will help these students achieve success in college and their careers." More than 300 historians and education pro-

fessionals served as judges for the students' work, and as with all other aspects of the contest this year, the judging was conducted remotely online. More than 100 students from across the country were awarded cash prizes between \$500 and \$2,000, each, for superior work in particular judging categories.