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# George Washington Birthday Celebration Schedule for 2020

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY CELEBRATION EVENT IS PUBLISHED ON <https://www.WashingtonBirthday.com> by the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee.

The committee maintains a 24-hour phone line that will report any change of status or the cancellation of any event (in case of inclement weather, for instance). Call the EVENTS HOTLINE (703) 829-6640.

**Alexandria Celebrates George Washington!** This year the theme of the Celebration is "Selfless Service to Country" in honor of George Washington. The Rules of Civility he championed will also be published on Social Media. Beginning on October 26, 2019 we will tweet a different rule (there are 110 of them) every day, right up until the Friday before the Parade. Follow us on Twitter via <https://twitter.com/washingtonbirth>, watch for thoughtful contributions to these Rules of Civility in local media, and even contribute your thoughts about our theme.

## Dinner with Washington

You are invited to "Dinner with Washington" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 16th, 2019 at Landini Brothers Restaurant. (A March date is being planned, so check back!) This is to be an informal conversation where the audience is limited to and those in attendance will control the agenda. Tickets are available for \$125 each via [www.washingtonbirthday.com](http://www.washingtonbirthday.com).

## Colonial Christmas Traditions

Colonial Christmas Traditions. "The Rev. Mr. Lee Massey" speaks about his role as a minister and "Mrs. Massey" speaks about the decorations, food, and the responsibilities women had during that time of year. Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Free!

## Chocolate with Gen. Washington

Children (and accompanying adults) are invited to spend an hour with Gen. Washington talking about the events of the revolution, asking questions of our first citizen, and enjoying hot chocolate and delicious comestibles. Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020; Time: 2 p.m. Location: George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Free!

## The "Cherry Challenge"

The "Cherry Challenge" is a competition among the finer restaurants in Alexandria. Each restaurant will develop its own cherry cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and/or dessert, in honor of our distinguished native son, of course! The competing restaurants and their entries will be listed on our website and the winners will be announced on Parade Day. Every day from January 26 through February 9, 2020

## "George Washington's Alexandria" Tours

On every Sunday in February, 2020 (2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd) explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This 90-minute guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including John Fitzgerald's warehouse, Captain's Row, Gentry Row, the Apothecary shop, Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, and Washington's townhouse. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance, in front of Vola's Dockside Grill at 101 N. Union Street. FREE. No reservations required. Every Sunday in February from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## Lecture: George Washington: Commander-in-Chief

On February 20, 2020, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum Professor Peter Henriques will examine how George Washington, despite his limited experience and numerous mistakes, was somehow able to overcome obstacles to win independence for the new country he committed himself to without reserve. Henriques will touch on Washington's view of a professional army, the need to win over the general populace, and the necessity of civilian control of the military, as well as how Washington saved the American cause with his actions at Trenton and Princeton. Tickets are \$12 per person, \$10 GTMS/Volunteer. For more information, visit [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242.

## 18th Century Dance Classes

In preparation for George Washington's Birthnight Ball on February 15, 2020, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum on January 30, February 6 and February 13, 2020, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per class or \$30 for the series. Reservations are recommended. For more information, visit [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242

## Birthnight Banquet & Ball **SOLD OUT!**

You are invited to a re-creation of this famous celebration of Washington's Birthday set in the year 1799. The evening includes an 18th-century banquet, English country dancing, dessert collation, character re-enactors, and General and Lady Washington. Period costume optional; "after-five" attire encouraged. Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020; Time: 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Site Contact: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, telephone (703) 746-4242. Tickets are priced on a tiered basis. Advance reservations required. Purchase your tickets early because this event always sells out! For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: [AlexandriaVA.gov/GadsbysTavern](http://AlexandriaVA.gov/GadsbysTavern).

## Parade Day!

Monday February 17, 2020

## Breakfast & Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association

Meet special guests, and enjoy a hearty breakfast with members of this historic association. First appearance of the day of Gen. and Lady Washington. Speaker Eugene "Red" McDaniel. **NEW Location:** The Westin Alexandria Old Town, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria 22314. Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.; Ticket Price: \$40. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: <http://www.friendshipfireco.org/>.

## Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution

Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they honor the soldiers of the Revolution. Time: 11:00 a.m. Location: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 So. Fairfax Street, Alexandria 22314 FREE!

## "Hunt for Washington" **NEW EVENT**

A fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt will take you to a few of the places in Alexandria associated with the General. You will learn some fun facts about the father of our country and visit several historic sites around Old Town as you search for the answers to the clues. You can do the hunt as a team or as an individual; adults and children will enjoy playing. It should take 1–1½ hours to complete. You start by picking up a clue sheet at the Parade Reviewing Stand between the hours of 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. There are prizes associated with this free event.



## Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Events Schedule for 2020

### Pre-parade Concert at Market Square

Come enjoy a free one-hour concert before the Parade featuring bands that are performing in the Parade as well as special choirs and other "non-marching" groups, in honor of the General and Lady Washington at Market Square adjacent to the Reviewing Stand at King & Royal Streets. Time: 11:00 a.m. – Noon, Free.

### Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony

Join us as we honor our Nation's Veterans, Active Military, and their families with music and demonstrations. Speakers include Alexandria's Mayor and the commanders of major military installations in the metropolitan area. Sign the Covenant Document and show your support for our Military as we honor our first veteran.

Noon – 1 p.m. at the Reviewing Stand at King & Royal Streets. Free.

## George Washington Birthday Parade

The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of his chosen hometown! 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Old Town Alexandria. Parade Grand Marshal is RADM Robert Shumaker (ret.) who had a distinguished career in the United States Navy. As a fighter pilot during the Vietnam War he was shot down on a mission and spent the next eight years as a POW. At the Pentagon, as a Rear Admiral, he was responsible for coordinating the research efforts of the Navy's air, surface, electronics and space activities and was a finalist in the Apollo astronaut selection. This year the Parade is dedicated to Kathleen Kelly (1944-2019), a volunteer for Historic Alexandria for more than thirty years. For more information, including parking, maps, route and status, visit [www.WashingtonBirthday.com](http://www.WashingtonBirthday.com) or call 703-829-6640. FREE

### Historic Alexandria Sites

#### "Open Houses" on Parade Day

Admission is free to these sites on Parade Day...In honor of the birthday of George Washington.

For more information, please contact each individual site.

#### Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum

201 S. Washington St., Alexandria | Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact: The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum - phone (703) 838-4994

#### Christ Church

118 N. Washington St.: Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: Christ Church, telephone (703) 549-1450

#### Friendship Firehouse Museum

107 S. Alfred St., Alexandria | Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: Friendship Firehouse Museum – phone (703) 838-3891

#### Gadsby's Tavern Museum

134 North Royal Street, Alexandria | Time: 11am-4pm

Contact: Gadsby's Tavern Museum – phone (703) 746-4242

#### Old Presbyterian Meeting House

321 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria | Time: 10a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: Old Presbyterian Meeting House - phone (703) 549-6670

#### Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum

105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria | Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, telephone (703) 746-3852

## Saturday, February 22, 2020

### Events Organized by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

For information about the following events, please go to <https://GWMemorial.org>.

### Symposium

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial hosts leading scholars of the life and legacy of George Washington. The theme of the 2020 George Washington Symposium is "George Washington's Construction of the United States Capitol." The symposium will take place Saturday, February 22, 2020, as part of the Memorial's celebration of Washington's birthday. The lectures begin at 1 p.m. in the Memorial's theater. The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Admission is free and free parking is available.

### George Washington Birthday Gala

Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5:00 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$200. Reservations are required. To purchase tickets, visit [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org) or call 703-683-2007.

## George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

Alexandria, Virginia  
<https://www.washingtonbirthday.com>