



Session Descriptions

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Morning Keynote

Richard Montgomery: A Grateful Remembrance

Presented by Robert Plumb

Richard Montgomery—who was this man whose name today identifies our county and 15 others in the United States? Join Robert Plumb as he presents the life of General Richard Montgomery, the first general officer killed in the Revolutionary War and what, if any, connections he has with Montgomery County, Maryland. Plumb will discuss Montgomery’s arrival in the American Colonies, his role in the American Revolution and the ill-fated American Northern Expedition into Canada. The speaker will also cover Montgomery’s relationship to slavery as practiced in 18th century New York.

Afternoon Session 1

Option 1:

Montgomery College at 75

Panel discussion with Sidney Katz, Montgomery County Councilmember; Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, Montgomery College Trustee; Anita Powell, Board of Governors-MC Alumni Association (1979); Fernando Andrade, Germantown Campus alumnus; Marisol & Marcelo Albornoz, alumni and parents of Montgomery County Councilmember Gabe Albornoz

Montgomery College’s origins began with 175 students, mostly WWII veterans, in 1946. Today, more than 55,000 students from about 160 countries attend the college. In celebration of the college’s 75 years, a diverse panel of MC alumni will tell their MC stories about learning, inclusion, equity, and building careers and composing lives in Montgomery County. The conversation will be in English and simultaneously translated in Spanish.

Option 2:

Beyond Policing: Making Freedom in Montgomery County's Historically Black Communities

Presented by Dr. Celeste Winston

Across generations, residents of Montgomery County's historically Black communities demonstrate how to struggle for freedom and sustain Black life in contexts of seeming impossibility. This presentation connects slavery-era and present-day Black community organizing in Montgomery County, Maryland. Dr. Winston will highlight the history of policing in Montgomery County and outline lessons from Black communities for why we must, and how we can, reimagine safety and community well-being without police.

Option 3:

Old Roads, New Histories

Presented by Kacy Rohn

For 25 years, Montgomery County's Rustic Roads Program has protected the historic and scenic roadways that reflect the county's agricultural character and rural origins. An update to the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan is currently in progress. This presentation will describe the work underway to bring new roads and new histories into the program that reflect the diversity of the county's past with previously underrepresented stories of women, freedom seekers, and early African American communities that enrich the historic landscapes traversed by these roadways.

Afternoon Session II

Option 1:

Potomac's Storied History

Presented by Judith Welles

Drawing from her book, *POTOMAC*, published in 2019, Judith Welles dives into never-before-seen photos—many from Montgomery History's collection—that shed new light on the storied history of this area of the county. With the photographs as a backdrop, Welles tells of the impact of the C&O Canal and the Civil War; the story of the Gold Rush and ghosts; the Potomac Hunt; the growth of a bustling commercial and residential area; and much more.

Option 2:

When the Stars Came to Gaithersburg: Remembering the Shady Grove Music Fair

Presented by Ralph Buglass

For most of the 1960s and '70s Gaithersburg was an entertainment mecca for the greater DC area. Shady Grove Music Fair—first under a big-top tent and then in a theater-in-the-round venue complete with a revolving stage—hosted Broadway hits and a wide variety of pop, rock and soul singers. Stars included Simon and Garfunkel, Bruce Springsteen, Aretha Franklin, Bette Midler, Duke Ellington and even the Jackson 5 for a full week with tickets starting at \$4.75. After only 16 years, the curtain came down in 1978—but what a run!

Option 3:*The White House and Montgomery County*

Presented by William G. Allman

From the porticos to the presidents, Montgomery County has many fascinating connections to our nation's "First House." Perhaps most famous is Brookeville for serving as "White House for a day" during James Madison's term, but our County's ties to the White House continue to this day. Former White House Curator William Allman will recollect on the many ways in which Montgomery County has interacted with the President's House and its occupants.

Friday, January 28, 2021**Keynote — in person***Cokie: A Life Well Lived*

Presented by Steve Roberts

Join renowned journalist Steve Roberts as he shares excerpts from his new book *Cokie: A Life Well Lived*. Steve will reflect on his life with Cokie, her passion for history and Montgomery County (where they lived together for 42 years in the house on Bradley Blvd her parents bought in 1952), and her journalistic legacy. Cry, cheer, and laugh along with Steve as he encourages us all to live like Cokie.

Saturday, January 29, 2021**Morning Keynote***The Legacy of Rachel Carson Sixty Years After Silent Spring*

Presented by Dr. Robert K. Musil

Dr. Musil will describe Rachel Carson's legacy of environmental writing, speaking, and advocacy while a resident of Montgomery County, including little-known aspects of her concerns about global warming, factory farms, and environmental justice. Musil also discusses Carson's contribution to the birth of the modern environmental movement, including the founding of the Rachel Carson Council.

Afternoon Session I

Option 1:

The Road to Sprawl: The Intercounty Connector and the Limits of Mobility, Development, and Land Preservation

Presented by John Spiers, Ph.D.

Suburban communities have spent a lot of time dealing with sprawl but keep making the same choices that got them there in the first place. Focusing on the case of the Intercounty Connector, Spiers will discuss how efforts were made to support public participation and environmental review for the highway, but ultimately, the highway's creation was an attempt to build one's way out of congestion without modifying underlying land use policies to support compact growth. Recent proposals to expand I-270, the Capital Beltway, and other major thoroughfares reaffirm that auto-based transportation limit the possibilities for local development and land preservation.

Option 2:

Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad

Presented by Anthony Cohen

Join historian Anthony Cohen for a lecture and preview of the upcoming book *Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad*. A project of The Menare Foundation, Inc. and Heritage Montgomery, the book explores the people, places, and social forces that created a pathway to freedom, forged by self-liberators and their allies from the 1830s to the Civil War.

Option 3:

The Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame

Panelists: Trish Heffelfinger and members of the Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame

Montgomery County has a long history of sporting excellence. Join Trish Heffelfinger, Chair of the Board of Directors, as she discusses the athletic history of Montgomery County with members of the Hall of Fame.

Afternoon Session II

Option 1:

Suburban Wasteland: Punk Culture in Montgomery County from 1977 to 2002

Presented by John Davis

Since the late 1970s, the punk rock subculture has thrived in Montgomery County. The time between the opening (1977) and closing (2002) of Yesterday & Today Records—a punk scene hub that both inspired and employed countless punks—was a profoundly active time for punk music and culture in Montgomery County. This presentation explores the bands, record labels,

fanzines, record stores, and other pieces of the local punk ecosystem that made Montgomery County an integral part of the highly influential Washington, DC-area punk subculture.

Option 2:

Artifacts and Archives: How Museums Collect and Preserve

Presented by Elizabeth Lay

Many museums use the phrase “protect and preserve” in their mission statements, but what does it mean? What are the challenges that museums face regarding their collections? How do we make decisions about accession and deaccession? What are the conditions required to conserve papers, photos, and objects? Elizabeth Lay will reveal the answers as she shares the poignant history of Billy O. Hazard, Jr. using the items assembled following the child's death in 1918, as well as objects from our medical collection. By sharing the story of his brief life, she will weave answers to these questions and consider how collections serves us both today and in the future.

Option 3:

Unearthing the Jackson Homestead: Archaeological Investigations of a Rural African American Site

Presented by Varna Boyd

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration sponsored archaeological investigations of the 19th to early 20th century African American Jackson Homestead site. The homestead is associated with Malinda Adams Jackson, a former slave, and her family. The home was catastrophically destroyed by fire ca. 1915, but historic research, genealogy, excavations within the home, and the analysis of over 160,000 artifacts provided a rare glimpse into the daily lives of the family and historic African American lifeways. Images of the archaeological excavations, historic documents, and a wide range of artifacts will be shown during the presentation.

Closing Film Presentation

“Finding Fellowship”

Presented by Jason Green

Finding Fellowship shares a story from our past to shape our future. The title is a double entendre referencing the importance of unearthing history—Fellowship is the name of the street that the film's producers grew up on, named after the camaraderie of those living on the street. The film is also about the power of people coming together in a shared interest and how that can only be achieved through intention. In a world where we are often told that we are irreconcilably divided, we still believe in finding fellowship, and it's this story that gives us hope.