**2017 History Conference
Session Descriptions**

**GENERAL SESSION:**

***A World War I Soldier's Story: A Local Hero and His Helmet*by Ed and Nancy Bodmer**

Ed and Nancy Bodmer recount Charles Roszier Bodmer’s heroic experiences in World War I with his uniform, helmet, letters, and pictures.

**MORNING SESSIONS:**

***Jewish Developers and the Built Environment: A History of Early Jewish Community in Montgomery County (1930-1979)*by Clare Lise Kelley**

This talk explores the emergence of Jewish community in Montgomery County, with a focus on the built environment. Jewish developers played a major role in the county’s mid-century building boom and their work served to foster Jewish community life. The presentation features developers who created residential and commercial developments and provided religious centers and recreation facilities which supported and attracted Jewish residents. Representative projects include Indian Spring Golf and Country Club, Montgomery Jewish Community Center, Kemp Mill Estates. Early synagogues dating from the 1950s-1970s were designed by leading modernist architects. This talk draws upon the author’s study of mid-century modern architecture in Montgomery County, published in the award-winning book, *Montgomery Modern*, and also builds on the work of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington’s exhibit and book *Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community*.

***Keys to the Heart of a Community: The Enduring Legacy of the Warren Historic Site***

**by Shelley Stokes Hammond**

This session details Montgomery County’s Warren Historic Site, the only post-Civil War African American enclave in the state of Maryland with all three main community structures—the one-room schoolhouse, church, and meeting house—still extant. It is the story of a group of families who from the eras of slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow and Civil Rights kept alive the spirit of community and the dream of what it means to be an American citizen with full rights and privileges. Preservation and sustainability efforts underway will also be discussed.

***History Gems***

In this session, presenters from Sandy Spring Museum, Agricultural History Farm Park, Woodlawn Visitor’s Center, American Legion Post 295, and National Museum of Health & Medicine each have 5-10 minutes to highlight one object from their collection.

***Location, Locale, and Belonging in Montgomery County: Latino Perspectives*by Maria Sprehn-Malagon, Ph.D.**

Using oral histories, photographs, and historical documents this illustrated talk addresses Latino history in an increasingly diverse Montgomery County. Particular attention will be given to how “places“ within the county are viewed and given meaning through time and from various perspectives.

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS:**

***Oakley Cabin: Revisited*by Heather Boslog**

This presentation will give an overview of the past and present investigations of this African American archaeological site in the heart of Montgomery County, Maryland. Particular attention will be given to Oakley Cabin’s historical context as a “geography of resistance.”

***Twenty years of Historic Preservation Work in Montgomery County,
1984-2004: A Reminiscence and Analysis*by Richard Striner**

This account discusses two decades of preservation activism in Bethesda and Silver Spring, in partnership with various civic allies - including the leaders of Montgomery County civic organizations and government officials - and in opposition to various foes.

***History Tools: How to Protect Your Local Historic Burial Grounds*by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites**

Of the approximately 275 historic cemeteries identified in Montgomery County, one-third of them are abandoned, neglected, or in need of assistance. This session will arm you with resources and courage to protect a burial ground of your choice. Speakers will present local examples and strategies, encourage discussion, invite your questions, and send you home with solid information.

***Tsunami - The Election of 1962*by Bill Offutt**

The shock waves resulting from the local election in 1962 are still being felt. Master plans were shredded, thousands of acres were rezoned and whole communities were deeply and permanently changed. A major part of what we are today can be traced to what happened then.

**GENERAL SESSION:**

***Feast Your Ears: The Story of WHFS 102.3 FM*by Jay Schlossberg, Weasel, Marc Elrich, Mark Segraves, and John Kelly**

Join former WHFS deejay Weasel, WRC news correspondent Mark Segraves, Montgomery County Councilman-At-Large Marc Elrich and film director Jay Schlossberg as they discuss Jay's feature documentary film, “Feast Your Ears: The Story of WHFS 102.3 FM”. The panel, moderated by *Washington Post* journalist John Kelly, will discuss the history of this one of a kind radio station that used to be “High Atop The Triangle Towers” in Bethesda. Started on November 12, 1961 in
a 20’ x 20’ room in the basement of the Woodmont Medical Building, they began to move away from middle of the road programming in 1968 in favor of “free form progressive” music and became one of the most beloved and legendary FM stations in the history of the airwaves. By the mid-1970s, similar stations changed over to formulated “progressive rock,” yet WHFS remained a free form station until 1983, lending incredible support to local musicians and the community at large.