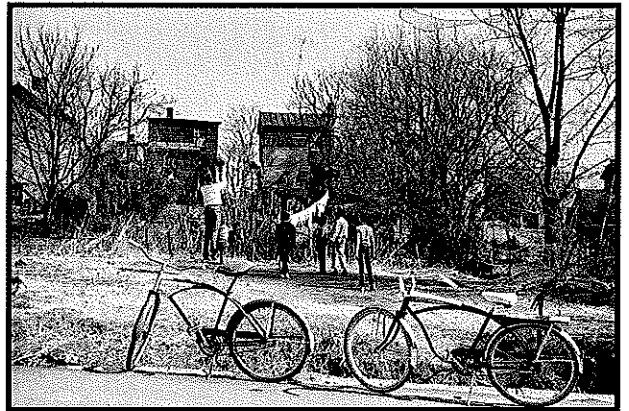
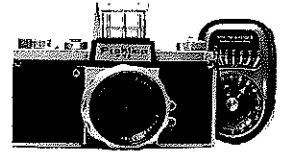




Time Capsule of Vinegar Hill 1963

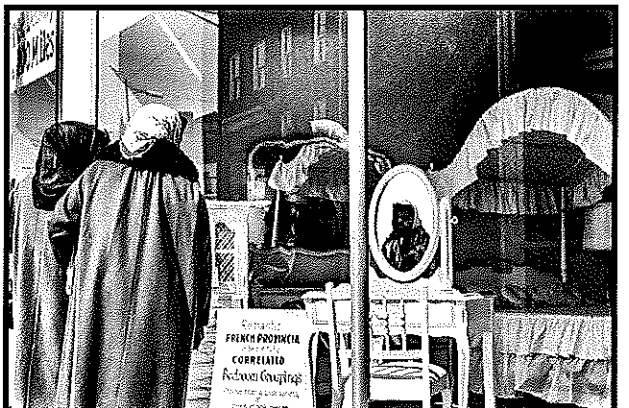
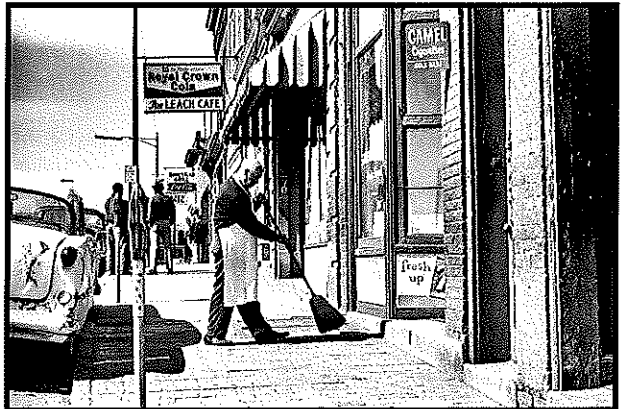
Life in the Neighborhood



A 16-year-old photographer, **Gundars Osvalds**, documented the African American businesses and homes of the Vinegar Hill Neighborhood, adjacent to the center of Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1960, Charlottesville voters approved a referendum authorizing the redevelopment of Vinegar Hill. In 1963, Mr. Osvalds was an Albemarle High School student and a volunteer-photographer for the school newspaper and yearbook. His vision was one day to work for the *National Geographic Magazine* as a photojournalist to report on people around the world.

Mr. Osvalds read in the newspaper that the Vinegar Hill Neighborhood area was going to be destroyed. He decided to take the challenge of being a photojournalist and document the people and the community. He did a walking tour of the 20 acre area and captured candid images of the life in the neighborhood with people working, shopping, obtaining haircuts, children playing on the streets, and images of the homes and commercial buildings.

In 1965, the city government razed the Vinegar Hill as an Urban Renewal Project, after the city council passed a law that "unsanitary and unsafe" properties could be taken over by a housing authority. One hundred thirty homes, thirty Black-owned businesses, and a church were destroyed. Many displaced community members were relocated to Westhaven public housing. The businesses were not rebuilt, resulting in a loss of self reliance and gathering places for the community. This "urban renewal project" was done in the name of "progress."



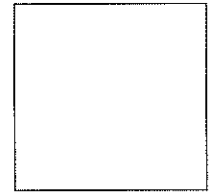
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT by GUNDARS OSVALDS

VINEGAR HILL 1963, Life in the Neighborhood

A Photojournalist's look at a thriving African American community before it was razed by "urban renewal" in the name of "progress"



Opening Reception Saturday, February 2, 5-7 PM,
Inclement Weather Date February 9
Exhibit: February 2 to 28, M-TH (9 AM-9 PM), F & S (9 AM-5 PM)
The Mary Condon Hodgson Art Gallery
Visual & Performing Arts Center
Frederick Community College
7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702
Free and open to the public
Contact: Wendell Poindexter, Arts Center Director at wpoindexter@frederick.edu



PRESENTATION by GUNDARS OSVALDS

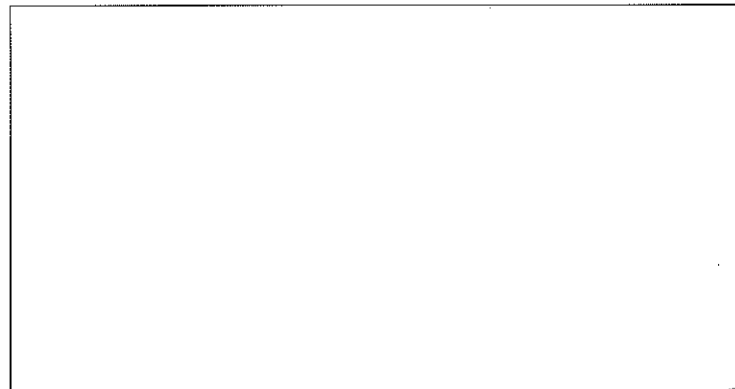
Time Capsule of Vinegar Hill 1963

7 PM on February 20 at the Jack B Kussmaul Theater located in the FCC Visual & Performing Arts Center. Free and open to the public

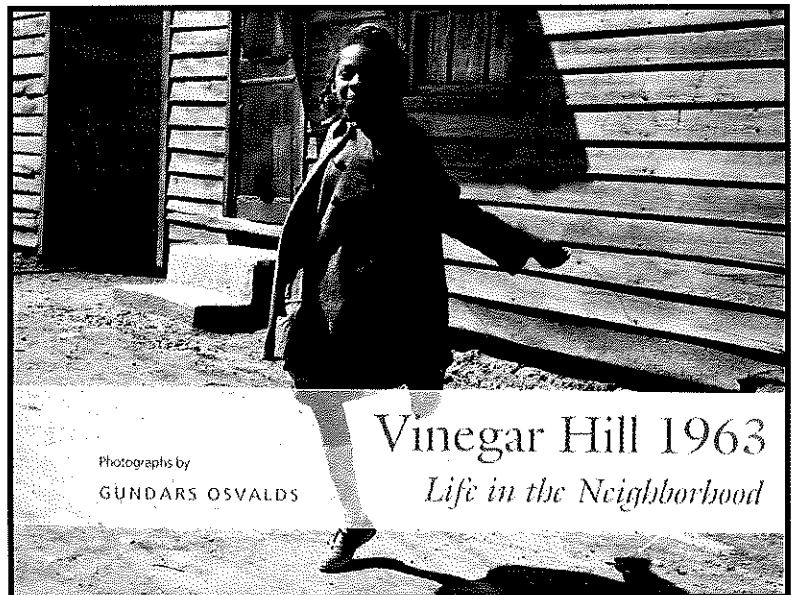
The Frederick Camera Clique will host a presentation with the photojournalist's view of what he discovered about Vinegar Hill through his photographs. He will show the process and techniques that were used to print the images.



For Frederick Camera Clique information Contact:
Cam Miller, President at cam.miller@comcast.net
For Catalog and Image purchase: osvaldsphotography.com
Contact Gundars Osvalds at gundars.osvalds@gmail.com
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In 2015, **Gundars Osvalds** discovered in his basement the negatives and contact sheets of photographs he documented in 1963 of the Vinegar Hill neighborhood. He showed the contact sheets to Dr. Andrea Douglas, the director of the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was delighted. "The first thing I thought was that people need to see these images. When you look at most of the other images of Vinegar Hill they show just the buildings. These pictures show the human element within Vinegar Hill." The result is an exhibit at the Center and a published exhibit catalog.



Dr. Scot French, the Director of the Vinegar Hill Memoryscape Project, led University of Virginia students on a project documenting Vinegar Hill. His view of the images: "The photos represent a unique contribution to the visual record of life in the Vinegar Hill. Images of the buildings had been captured during the redevelopment elsewhere, but here through young Osvalds' viewfinder we see the people of Vinegar Hill up close, at home, at work, and at play, on the main thoroughfares and back streets of the neighborhood."

A Catalog of photographs with articles on the history of Vinegar Hill will be available at the Opening Reception and at osvaldsphotography.com