



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

The District's Oldest Historic Organization – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 158th Year!

Welcoming Young & Old Alike to Join in Remembering the Past and Working for an Even Better Future

November 2023 / Bulletin 178

*Join us for the next AOI of
DC Luncheon Event!*

**Thursday,
November 16, 2023**

featuring

***Between Freedom &
Equality:***

***How an Untold Story
Became a Movement for
Reconciliation***

***with James Fisher
and Tim Hannapel***

**11:30am
Lunch & Program**

Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Email RSVP to ricmarino@msn.com with your name, names of any guests, and choice of salmon, flank steak, or vegetarian meal. The 3-course lunch is \$40.00 per person. In addition to paying by cash, check or card at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using aioifdc@gmail.com. Please add "Nov. Luncheon" in the comment line.

In addition, AOI members can now RSVP and pay for themselves and their guests by credit card via the **Members Only** portal on our website – <https://www.aoidc.org/401/login.php?redirect=/members-only-portal.html>, password: 1865.

From Our October Luncheon ...

Over 60 members and guests came out for last month's lunch presentation on October 19th. Monthly announcements included several events being planned this fall and spring:

- ❖ AOI field trip on Saturday, Nov. 18th to the **Queen City** memorial in Arlington, led by its creator, local artist Nekisha Durrett: those interested should meet at 10:00 am at Metropolitan Park in Arlington (accessible from the Crystal City and Pentagon City Metro stops);
- ❖ "DC Collections Roadshow," scheduled for April 20 at the Heurich House Museum: start rounding up that DC memorabilia in the attic – stay tuned for more details.
- ❖ The **DC History Conference** is currently accepting proposals for sessions at next spring's symposium through Nov. 12th – see their [website](#) for more details.
- ❖ AOI's **Oral History Initiative** is gearing up – contact AOI President Cindy Gueli for more details about participating in this ongoing effort.

AOI welcomes two new members since our September lunch: **Pat (de Teel) Tiller**, a 4th-generation Washingtonian and NPS retiree; and **Rosa Lee**, who came to us through Roburt Barbuto.

AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder returned to the topic of First Ladies for this month's trivia, inspired by review of one their wills in the nascent DC Public Records Office in the 1980s: with an "e" or without it? Alas, her signature was illegible, but convention now accepts "Dolley" Madison with the extra vowel!

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Above: Conceptual rendering of the new home of the DC Archives on the UDC Van Ness campus (Hartman Cox Architects)

Right: AOI President Cindy Gueli called October's lunch meeting to order with a packed house and full agenda.





2023 Board of Directors

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The Board of Directors meets at the Women's National Democratic Club at 10 a.m. on the Tuesday of the week prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail:
202-342-1865

Website: www.aoidc.org

E-mail: aioifdc@gmail.com

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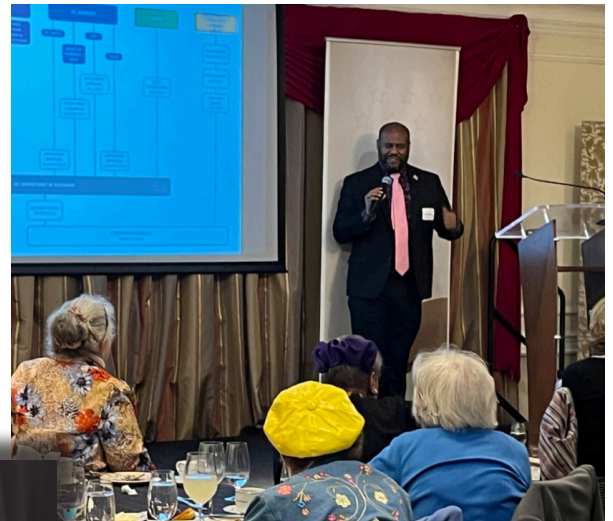
Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org, which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

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From Our October Luncheon, continued from page 1

Our lunch presentation welcomed DC Archivist **Dr. Lopez Matthews**, who gave us an overview of the DC Office of Public Records, its various collections, and a preview of the new permanent home for the DC Archives planned for a prominent location on the UDC campus. Established in 1986 under Marion Barry and AOI member Philip Ogilvy, the DC Archives has



Above: Our featured speaker, Dr. Lopez Matthews, DC Archivist, addressed both the collection and new facility planned for the archives.

Left: AOI board member and DC Council Archives Advisory Group member Kim Bender addressed some questions during the presentation, along with fellow AAG member and architect Neil Flanagan.

long outgrown its current home on Naylor Court and makeshift repositories throughout the area. The new building will contain both the publicly accessible archives as well as the city's record center repository, in addition to a digitization lab, exhibit and meeting/training spaces, all in a state-of-the-art facility scheduled for completion in the winter of 2026.

View the video of the full October luncheon meeting on the AOI website at www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-recordings.html.



Know someone who may be interested in AOI? If so, check out the **AOI Promo Video** created by Past-President Bill Brown on our Facebook page and the AOI YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/vH5GYnesoI>.



AOI was an official sponsor of this past month's Centennial Gala of the **Committee of 100 on the Federal City**, held on the penthouse terrace of Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. Founded in 1923, C100 advocates on issues of city planning and preservation, and since 2021 has received an annual \$10,000 grant from the AOI Endowment, acting as our advocacy voice before neighborhood, city, and federal bodies.

Right: AOI members JR Springman, John Edwards, Ric Marino, and Bill Brown listen to remarks at the Committee of 100 on the Federal City Centennial Gala.

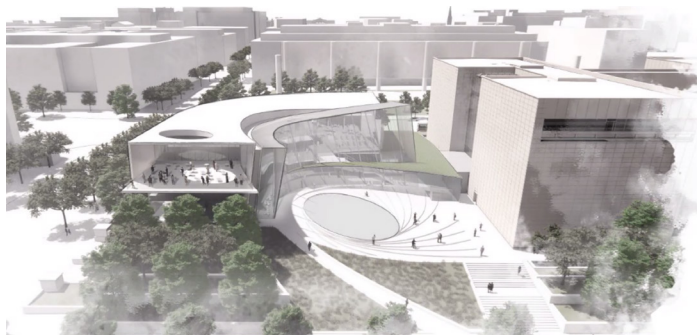


Other News ...

Much is happening on the National Mall now and over the coming years. One of the most exciting innovations is **Beyond Granite**, a series of installations “designed to create a more inclusive, equitable, and representative commemorative landscape,” building on the legacy of landmark temporary commemorations such as the AIDS Quilt, the Apollo 11 50th anniversary “launch” at the Washington Monument, and 2021’s white-flag COVID memorial *In America: Remember*. As envisioned by the Trust for the National Mall, Beyond Granite is intended to demonstrate that the mall “is an extraordinary platform for creating powerful and lasting memories, even and especially for exhibits that last a short period of time.” This summer’s initial installation, *Pulling Together*, featured six different works of art, performance, and programs to “bring new stories and new perspectives to the nation’s most iconic commemorative space.” Follow their website at www.beyondgranite.org for more information on the project and announcements of upcoming installations.

Other “concrete” developments in progress on the Mall include:

- ❖ A revitalization of the **Hirshorn Museum Sculpture Garden** by architect Hiroshi Sugimoto, scheduled to be complete in



Above: Concept study for the Bezos Learning Center that will adjoin the National Air and Space Museum on the Mall. (Perkins&Will)

About Our Members ...

From Bill Pederson, Shreveport, LA:

Roughly speaking, I’ve spent a third of my life in Eugene, Oregon; a third in Shreveport, Louisiana where I teach political science; and a third in DC where my interest shifted over time from the center of the government where I worked as a college student to its “hoods” that I explore annually. This migration of interest broadened my focus on our nation’s capital, allowing me to peel back, over time and especially through activities of the AOI, the layers that form this international city. My Irish ancestors with Viking heritage, along with the Vietnam draft, sparked both my drive to explore and my interest in POWs, which grew out of serving in the POW division of the Provost Marshall’s office. That experience, in turn, generated my interest in Abraham Lincoln’s first major American contribution to international law—



Above: The initial Beyond Granite installation, “Pulling Together,” featured vanessa german’s ‘Of Thee We Sing,’ commemorating Marian Anderson’s 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert in segregated DC. (Photo: AJ Mitchell, courtesy Monument Lab)

2025 and featuring reopening of the passage under Jefferson Drive connecting the garden to the museum’s courtyard.

- ❖ The **Desert Shield/Desert Storm Memorial**, currently in construction on the far western edge of the Mall at 23rd St. and Constitution Ave., and scheduled to open in 2025.
- ❖ The **Bezos Learning Center**, a new Smithsonian-wide education and innovation center highlighting STEAM-related collections and programming. Currently in the design and NHPA/NEPA review phases, the BLC is scheduled for completion in 2026/27.

signing the Lieber Code into law in 1863. I moved to Shreveport in 1981 to teach political science at LSU Shreveport, where, with support from a local philanthropic family, I founded the first Washington Semester at a public university in the South. Rather than learning in formal classrooms, the LSUS Washington Semester students learn via experiential education, much of it gained during walking tours of the city’s multiple neighborhoods as well as the National Mall. The AOI deserves credit for providing the physical, visual and social context for such an achievement and accolade to Abraham Lincoln, America’s greatest president and global touchstone of democratic leadership.

If you are interested in contributing your story, please send it to our AOI email address (aoiofdc@gmail.com) and we will compile it for our archives, as well as feature excerpts in upcoming AOI newsletters.

Address Correction Requested

**The Association of Oldest Inhabitants
of the District of Columbia**

c/o 815 Woodside Parkway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Thurs., Nov. 16 – *Between Freedom and Equality: How an Untold Story Became a Movement for Reconciliation*, with James Fisher (8th-generation grandson of Captain George Pointer (1773–abt.1832)) and Tim Hannapel (Board member of Historic Chevy Chase DC)
- Sat., Nov. 18 – AOI Field Trip to Queen City, with artist/designer Nekisha Durrett
10:00 AM @ Metropolitan Park
(14th St. S & S Elm St., Arlington, VA,
Pentagon City & Crystal City Metro)
- Mon., Jan. 1 – Annual AOI New Year's Day Brunch
- Thurs. Feb. 15 – The Georgetown University
GU272 Memory Project

NOTE: All events, meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. Be sure to check our [website](#) for speaker updates and/or last-minute changes. In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute recorded information.

**DID YOU REMEMBER TO
FALL BACK?**
*Make sure your clocks are back in Standard
Time so as not miss our Nov. lunch meeting
and field trip to Queen City!*



The Whittemore House (1892-94), home of the Women's National Democratic Club, hosts the AOI's monthly luncheon meetings. The National Register property was originally built for Sarah Adams Whittemore, and was purchased by the WNDC in 1927.