



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

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

**The District's Oldest Civic Organization –
Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 153rd Year!**

**Bulletin #152
November 2018**

President's Message...

You have to eat!

Many members may recall the enthusiastic response that speaker Kathryn Allamong Jacob received when she spoke in April 2017 about the “King of the Lobby” and the extreme efforts to which Sam Ward went to ensure his guests’ (folks he was ‘lobbying’) interests and tastes were paired with the menu he was serving at his events.

AOI members **Francine Berkowitz**, **Shirley Chercasky** and **Randy Clarke** are all members of the Culinary Historians of Washington, D.C. or “CHoW, DC” and together they thought that Dr. Warren Belasco’s ‘take’ on DC food and culinary traditions would be of interest to their fellow AOI members. Bottoms up!

Not your old AOI...

After nearly 20-years as AOI’s President, I’ve worked with the Board, my good friend/AOI recruiter/mentor **Jan Evans** and the nominating committee to suggest that it is time to pass the torch to someone else to take the helm of the District’s oldest civic organization. With the membership’s blessing during our elections on Nov. 16th, Jan Evans (brewer Christian Heurich’s granddaughter) will become the AOI’s **first ever** woman President. She was, after all, AOI’s first officially recognized and admitted female member... I’m not going anywhere as, if elected, I’ll serve as Vice-President and continue to provide the support I have in the past to the organization.

Bill Brown

November’s Luncheon Event:

**"Why Isn't Washington a Culinary Capital? Inventing Food Traditions for D.C."
Dr. Warren J. Belasco, Professor of American Studies, UMBC**



Please join us...

Friday, **Nov. 16**, at the **Capitol Skyline Hotel** (free Parking) 10 I ('eye') Street, SW. (Metro Rail to Navy Yard Station), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m.

(\$35 per person - please make your check payable to “AOI” and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact payment).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, not later than noon **Tues., Nov. 13, 2018**. **This voice mail box number is the only means to make a reservation.** Late reservations make planning very difficult for us and **failure by you to cancel prior to Noon on Thurs., 11/15, will result in you being charged.** Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest’s names for name tags, your meal preferences (***Grilled Salmon with Kang Pao sauce, Grilled Skyline Chicken Breast, Grilled Black Angus Flank Steak, or Braised Ratatouille of Vegetables***) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute event cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 153rd Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Jan. 1, 2019 – AOI's Annual New Year's Day Buffet Brunch at the Capitol Skyline Hotel
- Feb. 15, 2019 – Stewart Stevens, Sr., "The White House Chandeliers, My Experience While Working for Seven US Presidents"
- March 15, 2019 – Rebecca Roberts, "'Suffragists in Washington, D.C.'"
- April 19, 2019 – Kim Williams, "Lost Farms & Estates of D.C."

NOTE: All meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. If our published RSVP line (202-342-1865) is not answering or appears out-of-order, please call 202-342-1638.

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor December/January

Note: The Board of Directors meets at the Heurich House Museum at 10 a.m. on the Monday immediately prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Be Advised: In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the November 16, 2018 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the seventh luncheon meeting of its 153rd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 with 46 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the September meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. **Kate Dell** pointed out it was she and not **Katie Meskill** who answered one of Nelson's questions. With that and no further corrections or additions, a motion made by **Barbara Ioanes** and seconded by **Patricia Clark**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: There were three new member applications for consideration: **Celeta Hamilton** (Joseph Akers); **Eileen Kessler** (Historical Society); and **Erika Jackson** (Joan Smith & Sallybeth Bumbrey). All were added unanimously.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented the Treasurer's Report:

Membership

- We now have a total of 317 members, 14 of whom are new this year.

Non-Routine Expenses since the June 2018 Meeting

- \$61 for printing and mailing invitations for the WWI Memorial program on Nov. 11

Investment Account

- Our investments continue to do well.
- So far this year, we have earned \$3,600 in interest and dividends.

Luncheon Report

- Attendance at our September luncheon was 70.

Board Decisions for 2019

- At our Board meeting earlier this week, we made three decisions:
- We plan to keep the Luncheon cost at \$35.00. This includes a served full meal, gratuity, free parking, and

a program.

- The AOI will continue to subsidize the luncheons by paying for the bartender, the guest speaker's meal and the tax.
- Dues for 2019 will remain \$20.

Lapel Pins and Challenge Coins for Sale

- AOI Lapel Pins are \$5.00 each.
- AOI Challenge Coins from our 150th Anniversary are \$10.00.
- Get yours while the supply lasts!

President's Remarks: **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members: **Kate Dell's** guest was **Ellie Newman**; **Ann Lung** was **Juliette Smith's** guest; and **Charles Asante** was **Charles Szlinker's** guest. We also welcomed two relatively long-time members but whom we haven't seen in a while: **John Kreinheder** and **Jim Landolt**.

Brief Announcements: Everyone was reminded for a final time of our observance of the centennial of the Armistice on Sunday, November 11th at 10:30 am at the DC War Memorial...

Member **Garrett Peck's** new book, *The Great War in America: WWI and Its Aftermath*, is being launched at a book talk and signing at the Woodrow Wilson House on November 8, 2018 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. The location is 2340 S Street, NW, in Washington. The event is free/register on line at www.WoodrowWilsonHouse.org/events. We'll schedule Garrett to give AOI his talk in the spring.

Also, last month's speaker, Dr. Ruth Troccoli, asked to remind everyone about this year's D.C. Historical Studies Conference. The theme is "Mobility, Migration, and Movement." The planners can also use volunteers to sit at the registration desk, etc., in which case registration is free. The opening plenary is on Thursday evening, Nov. 1, at the Sumner School, with "poster" and panel sessions at UDC (Van Ness) on Friday the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd.

Bill used the opportunity to publicly thank Barbara Bates for all her hard work for the past couple of years to assemble programs in recognition of the centennial of World

War I. When Barbara's application for the 2017 annual History Conference was not accepted by their selection committee, we decided instead to invite the four panelists to be speakers at four of our 2018 luncheons. Bill presented Barbara with an AOI Certificate of Appreciation for all of her efforts.

Nelson Rimensnyder challenged the audience with five history trivia questions:

Q: What is the state bird of the District of Columbia?

A: Wood Thrush – **Ann Haas** provided the answer.

Q: What U.S. President was an avid bird watcher? A: Theodore Roosevelt – **Vickie Schwartz** knew the answer.

Q: Only three states allowed Catholics to vote in the first Election. Maryland, Pennsylvania and what other state? A: Delaware – **Kate Meskill** provided the answer.

Q: Under whose command did the D.C. colored troops in WWI serve? A: The French – **Damon Cordom** knew the answer.

Q: In 1862 the emancipation payment to DC slave owners was \$300. What was the payment if the freed slave agreed to emigrate from the U.S. to Liberia? A: \$100 – **Abbey Martin** provided the answer.

The Day's Speaker: Bill introduced Mitchell Yockelson, an investigative archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration, recipient of the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award and a former professor of military history at the United States Naval Academy. He also teaches at Norwich University. One of America's foremost experts on the First World War, he holds a doctorate from the Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University (UK). Yockelson is the author of "Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War I."

The speaker set the stage for his talk by noting that the last U.S. soldier to die in World War I, a Baltimorean, died at 10:58 AM on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice went into effect. The top American soldier in WW I, General John aka "Black Jack" Pershing, was born in Missouri in 1860 and taught school before entering West Point and following a military career. Early service included the American West and the Philippines, and an abortive campaign in 1916 to capture the Mexican guerrilla leader, Pancho Villa. While stationed at the Presidio (San Francisco), a house fire killed his wife and three of his four children.

Having been picked to lead the American forces after declaration of War in April 1917, Pershing sailed to France, insisting on creating an independent U.S. military force before being chosen to lead all the allied armies. After liberating the stubborn St. Mihiel Salient, the American forces played a key role in the Meuse-Argonne assault in spring 1918, succeeding where European troops had been unsuccessful. Key aides of Pershing's who went on to future military fame included George Marshall, George Patton, "Eddie" Rickenbacker, and Douglas MacArthur. Pershing suffered a nervous breakdown in fall 1918 and stepped down as allied Commander-in-Chief but remained head of the AEF (American Expeditionary Forces). Their final attack took place on November 1, 1918. The U.S. government has honored its commitment to bury U.S. war dead either in Europe or in the United States.

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, November 16, when Warren Belasco will speak on "Culinary Washington, DC."

Respectfully submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary

2018 Nominating Committee Report

October 3, 2018

Dear President Brown:

The Nominating Committee has proposed Officers for the coming year and the Directors for 2019-2020. The nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

Officers (1 year terms):

President	Jan A.K. Evans
Vice-President	William N. Brown
Treasurer	Hulit Taylor (incumbent)
Secretary	John P. Richardson (incumbent)
Historian	Nelson Rimensnyder (incumbent)

Directors:

Barbara Bates	Thru 2020
Carl Cole	Thru 2020
Thomas Neale	Thru 2020

The following Directors do not require re-election as they have not yet completed their two-year terms:

Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs	2018-2019
Jessica Hodge	2018-2019
Gary Scott	2018-2019

The members of the Nominating Committee hope this slate of nominees will meet with the approval of the membership.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Drechsler, M. Jean Lockard & Richard Drechsler

November 11th Observance Details...

Where: DC War Memorial, Independence Avenue (Ash Grove) at West Basin Drive across from the MLK, Jr. Memorial

When: Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, 10:30am – 1pm

How: By car – metered parking in West Potomac Park/Ohio Drive; DC Circulator Mall Route. The right lane of Independence Avenue will be restricted by the U.S. Park Police to allow for drop-off and pick-up of passengers.

More Info: on our social media sites (see below)

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: aoidc.org and our email address is: aioifdc@gmail.com. You may also follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org

Address Correction Requested

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants
of the District of Columbia
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW
District of Columbia 20007-2010

Officers:

William Brown, President 202-342-1638
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Wash., DC 20007
Jan A. K. Evans, Vice-President 301-968-4749
John P. Richardson, Secretary 703-534-3577
Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668

Fire Department Liaison:

Jim Embrey 571-436-7774

Past President:

A.L. Wheeler

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library, together with portions of the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library, are now closed while the Carnegie Library undergoes restoration by Apple, due for completion in Dec. For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information.

Directors:

Barbara Bates 202-244-2090
Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133
Thomas Neale 202-333-6946
Gary Scott 202-544-4862



The Heurich House Museum is the former home of the Historical Society of Washington and served as AOI's headquarters from 1956 until 2003.