



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 151st Year!*

*Bulletin #136
November 2016*

President's Message...

The AOI of DC was selected by the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. to be honored for "Distinction in Historic Preservation" at its annual Making DC History Awards gala.



In her remarks, HSW Trustee Nikki DeJesus Sertstu said, "...the Historical Society recognizes the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of D.C. as an essential colleague in preserving and telling the stories of Washington, D.C."

Other recipients included The Maguire Family Funeral Service, *Washingtonian* Magazine, the Meyer Foundation and former Mayor Anthony Williams.



HSW Chair Julie Koczela presents Mayor Tony Williams with his award for Distinction in Civic Leadership as Carl Cole and Eleanor Stolar look on.

November's Luncheon Event:

**"The History & Natural History of Rock Creek Park" with
Melanie Choukas-Bradley**



Please join us...

Friday, Nov. 18, 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. 15, 2016.

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., 11/17, 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 151st Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Sun., Jan. 1, 2017 – Traditional New Year’s Day Breakfast/Brunch, 11am – 2:00pm
- Feb., 17, 2017 – John Richardson, “Alexander Robey Shepherd: Man Who Built the Nation’s Capital”
- March 17, 2017 – Panel: “Bonsai -- Stories, Inspiration, Art” with Anne McClellan, Steven Voss and Sandra Moore
- April 21, 2017 – Kathryn Allamong Jacob, “King of the Lobby – the Life & Times of Sam Ward, man about Washington in the gilded age”

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 Nov. 18, 2016 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the seventh luncheon meeting of its 151st year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon on Friday, October 21, 2016. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the minutes of the September 2016 meeting, which were printed in the October newsletter, with the following correction: Member Mary Brown’s guests were incorrectly identified as her ‘daughters’ when, in fact, it should have read ‘daughter-in-law and granddaughter.’ After a motion made by **Betty Walker** and seconded by **George Hutchinson**, the minutes were approved as distributed and their reading was waived.

New Members: Eleven new members were nominated: **Mr. Thomas Buckingham** (Joan Chaconas’ guest last month); **Dr. Morris Chalick** (HSW Gala table mate); **Bridget, Fiona and Clark Forcey, Jr.** (Fiona learned of us by the Historic Washington List-serve); **Josh Gibson** (for Associate Membership, Nelson recruited and is on the DC Council Staff); **Mr. Robert J. Hotes** (Historical Society referral); **Mr. William G. Siebert** (Wally Rossmiller); **Mr. Frank G. Sterrett, Jr.** (Historical Society referral); **Mr. Robert M. Vogel and Ms. Helena E. Wright** (spouses, Bill Brown – Helena is on the HSW Collections Committee with him). **Bill Siebert** was present. **Patricia Clark** moved for acceptance of the new members, the motion was seconded by **Ann Renshaw**, and the new members were approved.

Treasurer’s Report, presented by Treasurer **Hulit Taylor**:

Membership

- We just voted in a number of new members and that raises our total membership to 344.

Non-Routine Expenses since the September Meeting

- None

Luncheon Report

- Attendance at our September luncheon was 88

Bill introduced today’s guests who included: **Annetta Rapp** was **Dorothy & Al Brault’s** guest; **Dr. Dellena Cunningham** was our guest speaker, **David Hamilton’s** guest; **Jacob Straus** was **Thomas Neale’s** guest; **Arne Paulson** had two guests in addition to his wife **Sara** and they were **Carryn Kubinski and Gery Laue**; **Laurea DiJoseph’s** guest was her son **Lawrence DiJoseph**; and we had returning spouses or relatives...**Gwynne Cady (John)**, **Tim Moriarty (with Mary Frances)**; **Ruth Cornelson with Wally Rossmiller**; and **Ben Sando (with Ruth)**.

Bill brought to everyone’s attention the sad news of the passing of member **Bill Gray’s** wife Barbara on Sept. 16th and also the death of **John Cosgrove** a member since 2003. Mr. Cosgrove participated in our tribute to the Kiplinger Editors in 2003.

The acrylic plaque presented to the AOI by the Historical Society at its gala on October 7th was displayed on a side table for everyone to enjoy. Segments of the award gala, held this year at the Newsroom, are available on AOI’s Facebook page and web site.

AOI Secretary **John Richardson’s** long-awaited biography, “Alexander Robey Shepherd: Man Who Built the Nation’s Capital” will be featured at the Overbeck Lecture at the Hill Center on Nov. 7th, Boss Shepherd’s Restaurant on Nov. 9th and as our featured topic at AOI’s February luncheon.

It was also announced that AOI will revive its tradition of a New Year’s Day breakfast/brunch on Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 11am at the Capitol Skyline Hotel with a plated breakfast of eggs, French toast, bacon, home fries, muffins, breads, fresh fruit, juices and a cash bar. The price will be \$30 per person and an invitation will be mailed in mid-December.

Nelson Rimensnyder presented only one trivia question and **Leo Warring**, providing the correct response, received a nice gift bag of Baltimore Orioles memorabilia.

Bill Brown then introduced the day’s speaker, David Hamilton, a retired staff member and planner for the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), who spoke to the group about how monuments and memorials in the D.C. area are approved, as well as commenting on a number of the more unusual ones. This was one of the best talks of the year. Mr. Hamilton said that the approval process usually takes some 10 years from start to finish, with a great deal of input from all sides, particularly when the Mall is potentially involved. The process usually requires creation of a private foundation for the project, a supporting bill in Congress, a site plan, design competition, and numerous stages of review before approval (or rejection/modification). Essential ingredients include “breathing room” for the monument, viewscapes, and mandatory sight lines – particularly on the Mall. The Vietnam Memorial was the most controversial, with veterans’ groups demanding representational figures (Frederick Hart’s three-person group was added later). The speaker noted that all completed monuments and memorials become the property of the U.S. government. Among other intriguing anecdotes, Mr. Hamilton mentioned controversies over selection of a Chinese sculptor for the Martin Luther memorial, inclusion of a wheelchair in the FDR memorial, the absence of so-called unit patches on the figures in the Korean War memorial, and the overbearing character of the initial Eisenhower memorial. Mr. Hamilton pointed out the problems the National Park Service (NPS) has had in maintaining monuments and memorials, particularly those with water features. He noted that the District of Columbia now has authority over projects proposed for its many “pocket parks.”

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the November 18th luncheon which will include our annual election of Officers and Directors and a brief up-date on how AOI’s sesquicentennial grant has helped the Kiplinger Research Library at the HSW in addition to the featured talk.

Respectfully submitted,
John P. Richardson, Secretary

2016 Nominating Committee Report

October 21, 2016

Dear President Brown:

The Nominating Committee has proposed Officers for the coming year and the Directors for 2017-2018. The nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

Officers (1 year terms):

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

Directors:

Barbara Bates	2017-2018
Carl Cole (Incumbent)	2017-2018
Thomas Neale (Incumbent)	2017-2018

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

Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs	Thru 2017
Jessica Hodge	Thru 2017
Gary Scott	Thru 2017

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

AOI’s Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI’s web address is: aoidc.org and our email address is: aioifdc@gmail.com

Please check out our redesigned Home Page and listen to the audio of 2016 luncheon talks by our esteemed guests at www.aoidc.org. And, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

Address Correction Requested

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

Officers:

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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
Jim Embrey, F.D. Liaison 571-436-7774

Past President:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Activities and programs at the **Historical Society's Carnegie Library** have been temporarily suspended while an environmental assessment is conducted.

For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information

Directors:

Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Damon Cordon 301-215-7022
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.