



# The Association of the 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*

*Bulletin #94  
November 5, 2010*

## *President's Message...*

As AOP's 145<sup>th</sup> year draws to a close and we welcome our 'new year' on December 7<sup>th</sup>, we should reflect on what a successful year this has been.

We have averaged 87 members and guests at our monthly luncheons. We have welcomed a record number of new members to the District's oldest civic organization. We have championed the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the District of Columbia's World War I 16<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Memorial and commemorated it with a D.C. Council Ceremonial Resolution introduced by Council Member Phil Mendelson. We have marched with the League of Women Voters celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment and calling attention to the lack of representation for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

With the encouragement of member Joe Grano, we wrote to numerous organizations asking them to recognize the centennial of the Building Heights Act. This resulted in lectures sponsored by the NCPC, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Committee of 100 for the Federal City. We joined the Franklin School Coalition to help ensure the preservation of Adolf Cluss' architectural gem for educational (vs. commercial) purposes. We were sponsors of the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Washington History Conference.

Finally, on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> we will unveil the bronze plaque we commissioned to commemorate the accomplishments of Governor Alexander Robey Shepherd (see page 3).

I hope you agree this has been a year of which to be proud; and, next year will be no less so with everyone's help.

*Bill Brown*

## **November's Luncheon Event: Highlights of the Robert Truax Photo Collection**

Presented by AOI Member Lee Rogers



**And AOP's Annual Election of Officers and Directors**

*Please join us...*

Friday, **November 19**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU, Metro Bus 70 or Downtown Circulator Bus), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (**\$21 per person** - please have checks completed prior to arrival and made payable to AAOI@ or bring exact change).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., Nov. 17, 2010.

**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., 11/18, may 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 (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef ,Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute cancellation.

## ***Future Meetings...***

The AOI's 145<sup>th</sup> Year B Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Jan. 1, 2011 – Annual New Year's Day Reception – Pier 7/Channel Inn, 11:30 – 2:30

Feb. 18, 2011 – Ambassador Gordon Brown: "Incidental Architect: William Thornton & the Cultural Life of Early Washington, 1794-1828"

March 18, 2011 – AOI Members Douglas Evelyn and Paul Dickson will discuss the latest release of their book, "On This Spot."

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, the AOI follows the closing schedule of the Arlington County Public Schools or call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

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## ***If You Were Not At Our October Meeting...***

President **Bill Brown** opened the October luncheon meeting at the Channel Inn, with 72 members and guests present.

Bill thanked **Doree Damoulakis** of Georgetown University Medical Center for being present and distributing information about their program on stroke awareness.

The minutes of the September meeting were printed in the current newsletter. Bill called for additions and corrections, and none being noted then called for a motion to accept them and to dispense with their reading. The motion was offered by **Al Wheeler**, seconded by **Bob Proudley** and promptly approved.

Six new applications for membership have been received: **Maureen Carnathan** (nominated by Mary Frances Moriarty); **Neome Berg**; **Damon Miller**; **Christopher Martinez** (nominated by Anne Martinez); **Katherine Handiboe** (nominated by Anne Martinez), and **Janice Noel** (nominated by Anne Martinez). A motion to accept the applicants was offered by **Lee Rogers**, seconded by **Allen Beach**. The motion was enthusiastically approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. Membership continues to grow, and there are now 354 members, a new record high. There were no non-routine expenses this past month. Our financial advisor suggested shifting some funds within our investment account, which was done.

Bill introduced new and recent members and guests and made announcements of local events that AOI members may wish to attend.

Bill reported that the plaque for the Governor Shepherd Statue was installed on September 2. A dedication ceremony will be held Tuesday Nov. 16 at 9:30 a.m. That time is about 30-45 minutes prior to the DC Council meeting. It should not take longer than 10 or 15 minutes. Bill pointed out that Council members Evans and Graham were very instrumental in getting the statue back. There were four companies that donated their time to the effort for the statue. They are: Guilford Construction; Miller & Long Concrete

Construction; United Rigging and Hauling; and Associated Builders and Contractors. They will be invited to the event. This information will also be in the November newsletter.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** mentioned an additional forum on the Centennial of the Building Heights Limitation Act to be held on Sept 19 at the Sumner School, and pointed out an egregious violation of the limitation law in this connection. Nelson also displayed photographs he had taken of the memorial that was in the John A. Wilson Building. He described this at last month's meeting. The remains of panels from this, believed to be a World War II memorial, were in the Wilson building, but much was in poor condition or missing. There are lists of names but they are unidentified. Nelson again solicited the assistance of anyone who might be able to assist in solving the mystery of this interesting and unknown portion of DC history.

Bill mentioned the 37th Annual Conference on Washington DC Historical Studies, to be held at the Sumner School Nov 5-6. AOI is a sponsoring entity. One of the sessions will deal with the current plight of DC's historical records. It will take place at 3:30p.m. on Nov. 5, and was organized by Bill, who took part in an initial session five years ago. It's scheduled as a 90 minute session.

The speaker for today was **Thomas Luebke**, Secretary of the US Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission of Fine Arts was established in 1910 and this is its centennial year. The commission consists of seven presidential appointees, augmented by a staff of 11 persons. Its expertise includes architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, painting and sculpture, parks preservation and other specialties. It reviews and provides advice for the federal government on matters of design and aesthetics in Washington DC. Mr. Luebke provided us with an outstanding illustrated lecture which gave the history of architecture for public buildings in the capital, and the architects who created them. His presentation showed modern design achievements as well as classical starting points done by Robert Mills and others. A most excellent and informative talk!

In closing this successful meeting Bill Brown reminded the members that our next meeting in November

will be the annual election meeting. He also urged us to examine the excellent pictures in the back of the room which were taken by Nelson of the memorial panels mentioned, in the hope that this may trigger the spark of recognition needed now.

Respectfully submitted,  
Seymour Selig, Secretary

Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply AGoogle@ Governor Shepherd and we'll pop-up!

Our e-mail address is: [aoi\\_of\\_dc@verizon.net](mailto:aoi_of_dc@verizon.net)

AOI's newsletters and publications are printed and assembled by the staff of FedEx Office of Georgetown.



AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



### Report of the Nominating Committee...

October 29, 2010

Dear President Brown:

This is the report of the Nominating Committee indicating the proposed Officers for the coming year and the Directors for 2011-2012. The nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

**Officers:**

- President William N. Brown (incumbent)
- Vice-president John W. Gill, Sr. (incumbent)
- Secretary Seymour Selig (incumbent)
- Treasurer Hult Taylor (incumbent)
- Historian Nelson Rimensnyder (incumbent)

**Directors:**

- Carl Cole 2011-2012 (incumbent)
- Damon Cordon 2011-2012 (incumbent)
- John P. Richardson 2011-2012 (incumbent)

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

- Jan A. K. Evans (Houser) 2010-2011
- Sherwood Smith 2010-2011
- Leslie B. White 2010-2011

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

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Duman, Barbara Drechsler and M. Jean Lockard

### Governor Shepherd Statue Plaque Dedication...

On January 29, 2005 the U.S.J. Dunbar statue of Governor Alexander Robey Shepherd was returned to the grounds of the John A. Wilson (District) Building by the AOI with the support of Council Members Jim Graham and Jack Evans, the DC DOT, and the D.C. Council Secretary. The statue was rigged, transported and re-erected by a coalition from the building community including Miller & Long, United Rigging, Gilford Construction and Associated Builders & Contractors. To further enhance its visibility, the statue was illuminated through the generosity of the M. C. Dean Company in January 2009. Now, the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia has placed a commemorative plaque at the base of the statue to explain Shepherd's accomplishments to city residents and visitors. We hope you will join us for a brief unveiling ceremony on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., S.E. corner 14<sup>th</sup> St. & Pennsylvania Ave. at the John A. Wilson (District) Building. Council Member Muriel Bowser is hoping that students from Shepherd Elementary School will participate in the unveiling. (Rain or Shine Event)



The Shepherd Plaque was fabricated and installed by R.S. Kinnaird Memorials of Thurmont, Maryland.

*Address Correction Requested*

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Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203  
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668  
John Breen, F.D. Liaison 301-586-8866

**Past President:**

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

**Directors:**

Carl Cole 202-889-8813  
Damon Cordom 301-215-7022  
Jan A. K. Evans 301-968-4749  
John P. Richardson 703-534-3577  
Sherwood Smith 202-686-4107  
Leslie B. White 202-265-2560

- ◆ Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
- ◆ Visit the Historical Society and Kiplinger Research Library at the Historic Carnegie Building.  
[www.historydc.org](http://www.historydc.org). Library hours: Tue-Sat, 10-5
- ◆ Join us Tues., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am at the Wilson Building for the unveiling of the Shepherd Plaque



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