

# The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

*The District's Oldest Historic Organization – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 157th Year!*

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

*March 2022 / Bulletin 165*

## ***From Our March Luncheon ...***

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held its first luncheon meeting of the year on Thursday, March 17, 2022, with 37 members and guests present, plus an additional 20 joining on-line.

AOI Treasurer Carolyn Mitchell reported on 10 new member applications since our last meeting: Colbert King, Anna Fierst, George Farr, Valerie Grant, Helen Gleason White, Tim Hannapel, Joseph Spilsbury, S.M. Kay, Andréa Seiger and Kim Bender (who, in addition to being director of the Heurich House Museum – AOI's home from 1956-2003 – also serves as legal counsel to the AOI board). Annual member renewals currently stand at 188 (out of 343

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*One of the two new grand staircases at DC's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.*

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

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022**

**Speaker: MPDC Deputy Chief (Retired) Patrick Burke  
President, The D.C. Police Foundation**

**YOU CAN ATTEND EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM**

**11:30am**

**\*In Person for Lunch and Live Program:**

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

**(One block north of Dupont Circle Metro & \$10 Validated Parking available diagonally across from Club at 11 Dupont Circle-- beware: steep incline)**

*\*Attendees will be expected to follow all city health guidelines upon entering the Club.*

**OR**

**12:30pm**

**Join on Zoom to Watch Meeting & Speaker:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86973026520?pwd=eEZLaGl6cU-dOdnVIWTc5TGVDWmtTQT09>**

Meeting ID: 869 7302 6520

Passcode: 115609

Or join Zoom by phone:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

*Email RSVP to [ricmarino@msn.com](mailto:ricmarino@msn.com) with your name, names of any guests, and choice of salmon, flank steak, or vegetarian meal. The 3-course lunch is \$35.00 per person. Wine, beer, cocktails, and soft drinks are available for purchase before and during lunch.*

**In addition to paying by check or cash at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com). Please add "April Luncheon" in the comment line. Credit cards are not accepted at this time.**



## 2022 Board of Directors

### Officers:

Thomas Neale, President  
 Cindy Gueli, Vice-President  
 Ric Marino, Secretary  
 Carolyn Michell, Treasurer  
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### Directors:

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 Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs  
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 Gary Scott

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

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail:  
 202-342-1865

Website: [www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org)

E-mail address:  
[aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com)

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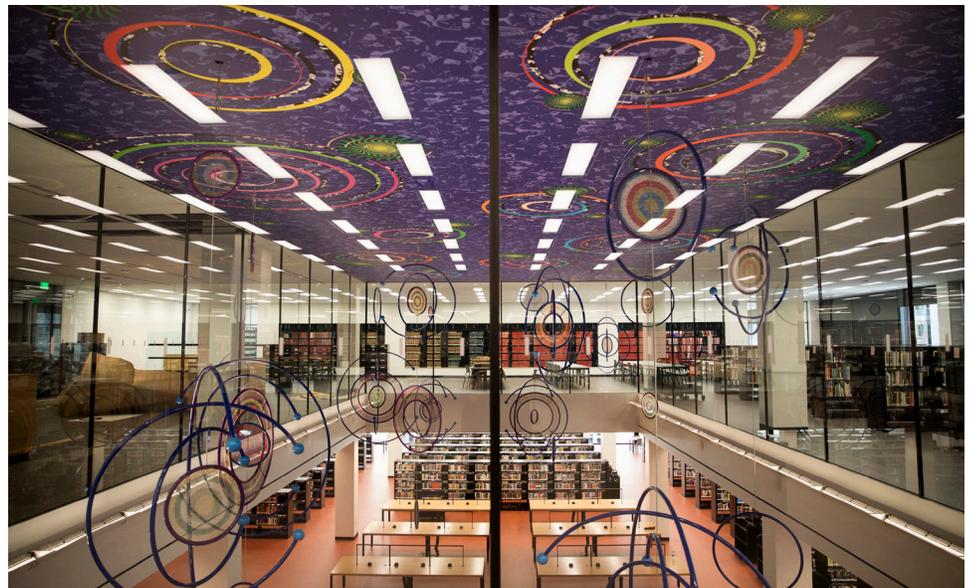


## *From Our March Luncheon, continued from page 1*

members of record). As a reminder, please renew your membership for the year if you haven't done so already – please check our website for renewal options, including now via Zelle. Of note – donations above annual dues are now at an all-time high of \$8,095, including \$1,000 from the DC DAR and \$2,000 from the Kiplinger Family.

As our March lunch coincided this year with St. Patrick's Day, President Tom Neale took the opportunity to highlight DC's two St. Patrick's churches: St. Patrick's Episcopal on Whitehaven Parkway and historic St. Patrick's Catholic Church, the city's oldest Catholic parish. AOI historian Nelson Rimensnyder also quizzed us on other notable Irish connections in the city, including the saga around the statue of 1803 Irish revolutionary Robert Emmet at Massachusetts Avenue and S St. NW.

Our luncheon speaker, DC Library Executive Director Richard Reyes-Gavilan, treated us to a presentation of the spectacularly restored and expanded Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. Recipient of the 2021 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Award, DC's renovated central library, as noted by the speaker, "remembers the past while working for an even better future," re-imagining the architecture of the legendary Ludwig Mies van der Rohe to serve the needs of today's library users, all the while celebrating the living legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a vibrant new center for the DC community. In addition to relating details on the features and process of the library's redevelopment, Director Reyes-Gavilan also highlighted several other recent and future reconstructions within the city's branch library network.



*The new main reading room at DC's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library features artwork by Xenobia Bailey, one of many renowned artists showcased throughout the building.*

Check out the full video of the presentation and the rest of our March lunch meeting on the AOI website at [www.aoidc.org/aio-luncheon-recordings.html](http://www.aoidc.org/aio-luncheon-recordings.html).

### Other News ...

Following up on our November 2021 luncheon presentation with African American Civil War Museum Founder and Director Dr. Frank Smith: Please be sure to visit the museum website at [www.afroamcivilwar.org](http://www.afroamcivilwar.org) while it completes work on its new expanded permanent home at the Grimke School (1923 Vermont Avenue NW) across the street from the memorial. In addition to a wealth of information on history, resources and events, the website also makes it easy to become a member or make an on-line donation to support the foundation's ongoing work.



The centennial commemoration of DC's World War I 16<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Memorial is moving forward! Although not quite ready in time for the February 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the re-dedication marker and plaque produced by AOI is now being installed at the northern terminus of the original memorial tree planting at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Alaska Avenue NW. An official unveiling will be scheduled for later this spring – stay tuned for details.



The National Capital Planning Commission is now accepting public comments on the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative. The proposed vision reimagines Pennsylvania Avenue transformed into America's stage and a street that prioritizes people over cars with inviting and inclusive public spaces. Three concepts explore different potential approaches which can be mixed and matched to achieve this vision. An online story map takes you through the ideas and options. NCPC is accepting comments at [www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/vision/](http://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/vision/) through July 13<sup>th</sup> 2022.



Be sure to check out Congressional Cemetery this spring for another AOI plaque marking the grave of World War I veteran Bertha Ryan Hayes. This is the fourth marker commemorating DC World War I women veterans spearheaded by AOI member Maggie Hobbs.



AOI notes with sadness the passing of long-time member Jim Embrey this past January. Jim served as our liaison to the District Firefighters Association IAFF Local 36, and served as assistant curator of the DC Fire & EMS/ Friendship Fire Association Museum (FFAM). Under Jim's leadership, the FFAM in 2015 accepted custodianship of the AOI's last remaining historical artifacts from our 100+ year relationship with the Veteran Volunteer Fireman's Association.

*Address Correction Requested*

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

c/o 815 Woodside Parkway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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***Mark Your Calendar...***

Upcoming meeting dates and tentative speakers for the AOI's 157<sup>th</sup> year:

- Thurs., April 21 – MPDC Deputy Chief (Ret.)  
Patrick Burke, President, The D.C.  
Police Foundation, “DC Police  
Memorial and Museum”
- Thurs., May 19 – Marc Leepson, “Desperate  
Engagement: How a little-known  
civil war battle saved Washington,  
D.C. and changed American  
History”
- Thurs., June 16 – Peter Sefton, “Nathan Wyeth,  
architect, and the Recorder of  
Deeds Building”
- Thurs., Sept. 15 – Carl Bernstein will speak on his  
recent memoir, “Chasing History:  
A Kid in the Newsroom”

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

*NOTE:* All meeting subjects and speakers have been  
invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative.

*BE ADVISED:* In case of inclement weather call AOI at  
202-342-1865 for last minute recorded information.



*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.*