

# 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*

*May 2022 / Bulletin 166*

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

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**

Speaker: Marc Leepson

*“Desperate Engagement:*

*How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C. and Changed American History”*

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

**11:30am**

**In Person for Lunch & 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)**

**OR**

**12:30pm – Join on Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86973026520?pwd=eEZLaGl6cUdOd-nVIWtc5TGVDWmtTQT09>

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.

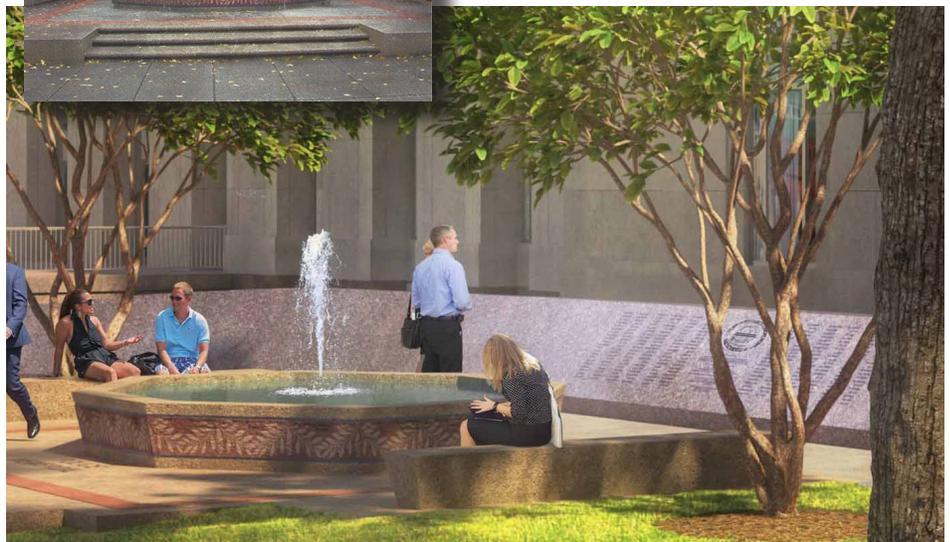
In addition to paying by check or cash at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using [aoiofdc@gmail.com](mailto:aoiofdc@gmail.com). Please add “May Luncheon” in the comment line. Credit cards are not accepted at this time.

## **From Our April Luncheon ...**

At its second meeting of the year, held on Thursday, April 21, 2022, AOI President Tom Neale welcomed 34 members guests to its luncheon presentation, plus an additional 15 joining via Zoom. AOI Treasurer Carolyn Michell reported that annual renewals stand at 219 (out of 347 members of record – if you haven’t yet renewed, please do so!), with current dues income at \$4,380 and additional donations at \$8,270. The treasurer’s report and minutes from our March meeting were approved by acclamation.

In addition to the ten new member applications noted last month, four more applications were put before the membership since our last meeting: Melissa Klopfer, who discovered AOI through the obituary of her great-grandfather Benjamin (a member inducted in 1906); Anne Sellin, referred to us by member Charles Robertson; Christopher Oliphant, a 7<sup>th</sup>-generation Washingtonian who found us through the DC Firefighters Association; and Kirby Vining, a complimentary member as president of the Committee of 100. All 14 new members were officially voted in by acclamation – welcome all to the AOI!

*continued on page 2*



*The current DC Metropolitan Police Memorial fountain at 300 Indiana Avenue NW (top), with a rendering of the renovated fountain and new memorial wall to be added.*



## 2022 Board of Directors

### Officers:

Thomas Neale, President  
 Cindy Gueli, Vice-President  
 Ric Marino, Secretary  
 Carolyn Michell, Treasurer  
 Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian

### Past-Presidents:

Bill Brown  
 Jan A.K. Evans

### Directors:

John Edwards  
 Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs  
 Barbara Hopkins  
 Ned Rich  
 Marcia Rock  
 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)

Follow us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org](https://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 April Luncheon, continued from page 1*

With the absence of AOI historian Nelson Rimensnyder, there was sadly no quiz this month, but we did get an update on the four women WWI veterans' grave markers noted in last month's newsletter – thanks go out again to Barbara Bates and Maggie Hobbs for spearheading this effort.

Our featured speakers, Patrick Burke (MPD Asst. Chief, Ret., and executive director of the DC Police Foundation) and Nick Breul (MPD Lt., Ret. and MPD historian) gave us an update on the plans for the renovation and expansion of the DC Metropolitan Police Memorial and Museum. While the U.S. Marshal Service dates back to 1789 (including DC's first African-American marshal, Frederick Douglass, in 1877), the DC MPD dates only to 1861 – and in the ensuing 160+ years has become one of the most diverse big city forces in the country. The historical collection of the DC Police Foundation chronicles that rich history, including both physical artifacts and an extensive photographic record, covering everything from the 1919 Race Riots to the 1977 Hanafi siege to the recently re-launched Officer Friendly Program. Formerly housed at the old police headquarters at 300 Indiana Ave. NW, new digs at 441 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW (One Judiciary Square) are due to open in 2023. Plans for renovation of the DC Police Memorial Fountain, dedicated in 1942 outside 300 Indiana Ave., are currently underway, including the addition of a memorial wall enhancing both the prominence and memory of the DC officers it commemorates. Be sure to visit the

memorial's website for more details at <https://www.dcpolicememorial.org/>.

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



*Items in the DC Metropolitan Police Museum collection include an extensive photo archive (including William Beall's Pulitzer Prize winning shot, above left) as well as historical artifacts like the c.1857 "clacker" (above right) and handcuffs used on Garfield assassin Charles Guiteau in 1883 (left).*

### Other News ...

Join AOI at 1:00 pm Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day) for the unveiling of the new commemorative plaque for the District of Columbia World War I 16<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Memorial. The rededication ceremony will take place at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Alaska Avenue NW, the northern terminus of what was originally a two-mile stretch of 530 Norway maples lining 16<sup>th</sup> Street from Varnum Street up to Alaska Avenue. Each tree, accompanied by a copper medallion, memorialized one of



*The re-dedication marker awaiting its official unveiling at 16th Street and Alaska Avenue NW (above), with one of the few remaining original memorial medallions (above right).*

the 530 DC citizens who gave their lives in World War I. Originally dedicated on May 30, 1920, the memorial trees and medallions were largely forgotten until AOI took up their cause. A 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration in 2010 kicked-off a ten-year effort to rededicate the memorial, with the new centennial wayside to be unveiled this month (albeit delayed a few years due to pandemic restrictions). The official unveiling will be open to the public and include a reading of names of the fallen as well as brief remarks by invited officials, including DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson, DC Council members, and the Ambassador of the French Republic. Check out the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Tree Memorial page on the AOI website [here](#) for more details.



The latest new building in West Potomac Park has broken ground. Situated in the Ash Woods between the U.S. Korean War Memorial and the DC World War I Memorial, the new stable and visitors center for the U.S. Park Police Horse Mounted Unit will replace a “temporary” facility on the site dating back to the Bicentennial. Check out the whole Commission of Fine Arts presentation [here](#).



AOI remembers here member Darwina Neal, FASLA, who passed away this past September 4, 2021. A 44-year veteran of the National Park Service and past-president of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Darwina was a trailblazer and leader in the landscape architecture profession and landscape preservation, with accomplishments ranging from Lady Bird Johnson’s Beautification Program to preservation of DC’s Meridian Hill Park. We remember her here as a beloved colleague and friend.

*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 AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers  
(check our [website](#) for any last-minute changes):

- 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 memoire, “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.

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG  
REMEMBER TO RENEW!**

*If you haven't renewed for 2022 already,  
please check out our website for easy ways to  
pay your dues - now including Zelle.*



*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.*