

# 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*

*Summer 2022 / Bulletin 168*

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

**Thursday,  
September 15, 2022**

Speakers: Jeff Jamawat & Karin Scheirhold, National Capital Planning Commission

***“Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative”***

**11:30am  
Lunch & 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)***

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 “September Luncheon” in the comment line. In addition, AOI members can now RSVP and pay for themselves and their guests by credit card via the new **Members Only** portal on our website – <https://www.aoiofdc.org/401/login.php?redirect=/members-only-portal.html>, password: 1865.



***Note that AOI has returned to fully live luncheon programs. If unable to attend in person, be sure to check out the meeting synopsis in our next newsletter, and view the program archived on our [website](#).***

***From Our June Luncheon ...***

AOI welcomed 33 members and guests to its June 16<sup>th</sup> luncheon presentation, plus an additional 23 members joining via Zoom. Membership chair Carolyn Michell introduced four new members, who were voted in by acclamation: Allie Lattimer, a Howard Univ. Law alum and organizer of Federally Employed Women (FEW); Denise Diane Vogt, whose parents are also members; Cheryl Chapman Henderson, a graduate of Western HS (and sister of treasurer Carolyn Michell); and Pamela Johnson, chair of the Educational Foundation here at the WNDP. A warm welcome to all our new members!

Our featured guest, author and historian Peter Sefton, walked us through the history and significance of DC's Recorder of Deeds Building, currently moth-

balled, on the edge of Judiciary Square. Designed in 1941 by DC Municipal Architect Nathan Wyeth, who also designed the original White House West Wing and the Key Bridge, the building stands out as containing some of the city's most notable New Deal-era wall murals, all of which showcase historic events featuring the contributions of African-Americans – mostly in scenes of

*continued on page 2*



*Left: Author Peter Sefton, speaking at our June meeting on DC's Recorder of Deeds Building, including its treasure-trove of New Deal public art.*



*“The 54th Massachusetts regiment, under the leadership of Colonel Shaw in the attack on Fort Wagner, Morris Island, South Carolina, in 1863,” by Carlos Lopez, one of seven commissioned New Deal-era murals inside D.C.'s Recorder of Deeds Building.*



## 2022 Board of Directors

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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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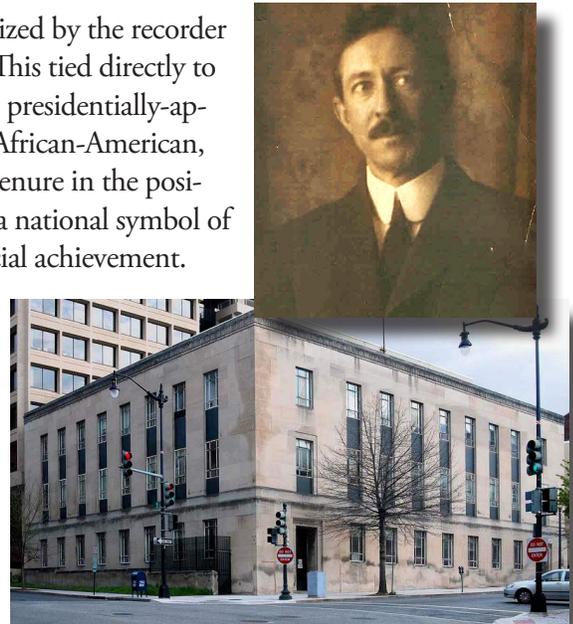
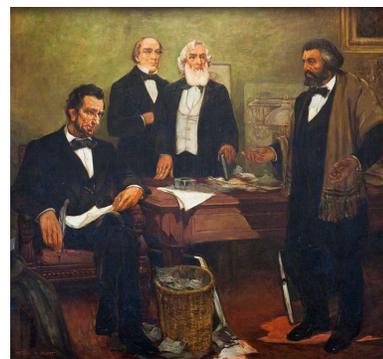


## From Our June Luncheon, continued from page 1

national unity, symbolism emphasized by the recorder at the time, William Thompkins. This tied directly to the post-Civil War tradition of the presidentially-appointed Recorder of Deeds being African-American, starting with Frederick Douglass' tenure in the position (1881-87) and continuing as a national symbol of African-American political and social achievement.

On a related note, after the presentation, one lucky attendee at each table won of copy of Living New Deal's excellent map of New Deal-era art and landmarks in DC – check it out at <https://livingnewdeal.org/>.

As is our tradition, AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder closed the meeting with trivia – this month featuring First Ladies: who refused to attend any segregated events in the city? (Mamie Eisenhower); who failed to pass the DC Bar exam despite being a Yale Law honors grad? (Hillary Clinton); and who testified in favor of DC self-government and Congressional voting rights? (Eleanor Roosevelt).



Above: DC architect Nathan Wyeth and his 1941 Recorder of Deeds Building on Judiciary Square.

Below: "Frederick Douglass appealing to President Lincoln and his cabinet to enlist Negroes," mural by William Edouard Scott, at the Recorder of Deeds Building.

Check out the full video of the presentation and our June lunch meeting at [www.aoidc.org/aioi-luncheon-recordings.html](http://www.aoidc.org/aioi-luncheon-recordings.html).

## In Memoriam ...

AOI remembers here several of our members who have recently passed:

- ◆ **Dolores Burton** (d. 6/29/2022): a native of Shreveport, LA, found AOI via the web and joined us in 2006.
- ◆ **Fr. Joseph Doyle, S.S.J.** (d. 11/2/2021): a Baltimore native who joined AOI in 2018, ordained at Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian Church, Washington, DC, and a long-time educator for the Josephite Order in New Orleans, LA.
- ◆ **Farley Fisher** (d. 3/20/2022): Formerly with the National Science Foundation, and an AOI member since 2013.
- ◆ **Anne Robertson Kennedy** (d. 7/2/2022): a Scots native who moved to Washington to work at the World Bank, also an active member of the Arts Club of Washington.

### Other News ...

The AOI website introduces a new special feature this month – a **Members Only** portal, through which AOI members in good standing will be able to RSVP to our monthly luncheons, make secure on-line credit card payments, and read our most recent newsletter. Check it out here: <https://www.aoidc.org/401/login.php?redirect=/members-only-portal.html>, password: 1865.

In addition, starting with our September luncheon meeting, we will be accepting credit card payments at the door via Square. Note that to cover the Square transaction fee, credit card payments for the luncheon meetings will increase by \$1.32 to charge your card \$36.32 – payments by cash, check or via Zelle remain \$35. (Also, you may know that AOI subsidizes each member/guest lunch for the DC Meal Tax – if you want to help defray this cost, please feel free to add \$3.50 for each meal.)



Each year, AOI recognizes the highest academic achievement of a graduate student in George Washington University’s Master of Tourism Administration program. The \$750 award, funded through a \$25,000 donation by AOI as part of its sesquicentennial celebration, honors the legacy of Dr. Philip W. Ogilvie, AOI’s 1997-99 president, retired archivist of the District of Columbia and professor of tourism studies in the GWU program. This year’s three Ogilvie Award co-recipients are **Sarah-Jane Johnson**, **Casey Canevari** and **Romain Frederic Sylvain Blondel**. Congratulations to all three on your achievement!



Did you know AOI is on Twitter? In spite of our name, we’re fully in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century – follow us [@AOIofDC](https://twitter.com/AOIofDC).



AOI has a new tote bag! Coming this fall, AOI will be providing our luncheon speakers (and trivia quiz winners) with memorabilia in a new canvas tote bag featuring the AOI logo. You can check them out in-person at one of our upcoming fall luncheon meetings.



*The Union Station Expansion Project envisions a contemporary new train hall addition to Daniel Burnham’s 1908 landmark, Amtrak’s second busiest railroad hub.*

At their July meeting, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) reviewed two projects with significant impacts on the region’s transportation capacity. The Commission provided positive feedback on revised plans for the Washington Union Station Expansion project, which seeks to expand and modernize multimodal facilities to meet anticipated 2040 demand. The Commission praised changes that reduced proposed parking by 50% and reconfigured the bus facility design to better align with the new train hall.

In addition, the Commission approved preliminary planning for a new span of the Long Bridge rail corridor, including recommendations for enhancement of the project’s new pedestrian and bicycle span across the Potomac River.



Since 2021, AOI has largely delegated its advocacy work to several like-minded city organizations that we support via our Legacy Endowment, including the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. This past June, the Committee of 100 issued a letter to the NCPC in response to its plans for the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative (the subject of our next luncheon presentation). You can read the Committee’s full comments here: <https://committeeof100.net/download/planning/C100-Comment-to-NCPC-on-A-New-Vision-for-the-Avenue-7Jul22.pdf>.

*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:

Thurs., Sept. 15 – Jeff Jamawat & Karin Schierhold/  
NCPC, “Pennsylvania Avenue  
Initiative”

Thurs., Oc. 20 – Adam Bernstein, Obituaries Editor  
at *The Washington Post*

Thurs., Nov. 17 – Derek Gray, “NAACP in  
Washington, DC: from Jim Crow  
to Home Rule”

Sun., Jan. 1 – New Years Day Brunch

Thurs., Feb. 16 – TBD – stay tuned!

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor  
December/January. Be sure to check our [website](#) for  
speaker updates and/or last-minute changes.

*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.

**REMEMBER –  
NO ZOOM IN SEPTEMBER!**  
*Don't miss out on our September speaker - RSVP  
now for our next luncheon meeting in person!*



*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.*