



# 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*

*October 2022 / Bulletin 169*

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

**Thursday,  
October 20, 2022**

*Featuring*

**A Moderated Forum with  
Adam Bernstein,  
Obituaries Editor at  
*The Washington Post***

**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 cash, check or card at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com). Please add "October 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.aoidc.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 September Luncheon ...***

AOI celebrated a return from our summer hiatus with 57 members and guests attending its September 15<sup>th</sup> luncheon presentation, our first totally in-person meeting since before the pandemic in spring 2020. Membership chair Carolyn Michell introduced several new AOI members: Frank Leone, co-chair of the Foggy Bottom Association's History Project, who joined with his wife Denise Diane Vogt earlier this spring; Richard Best, a retired civil servant who came to us via AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder; Richard Busch, referred by Kathryn Eckles & Charles Robertson III; and Regina Barry, a decedent of DC residents William Hern, John Hern and John Jeffers as well a a member of the Colonial Dames of America. Welcome all to AOI!

In preparation for annual elections to our Board of Directors, President Tom Neale announced our 2022 Nominating Committee: Walter Springman, Winfield Swanson, and Judy Hubbard. The committee will be identifying candidates for two openings on the board, as well as for the position  
*continued on page 2*



*Left: Featured speakers Karin Schierhold and Jeff Jama-wat of the NCPC speak with AOI members prior to their presentation on the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative.*



*AOI members gathered to usher in our first totally live luncheon meeting of the year at the elegant surroundings of our host venue, the Women's National Democratic Club.*



**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, *Newsletter Editor*
- Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs
- Barbara Hopkins
- Ned Rich
- Marcia Rock, *Program Chair*
- 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: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@AOIofDC](https://twitter.com/AOIofDC)

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.

AOI’s Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



***From Our September Luncheon,*** *continued from page 1*

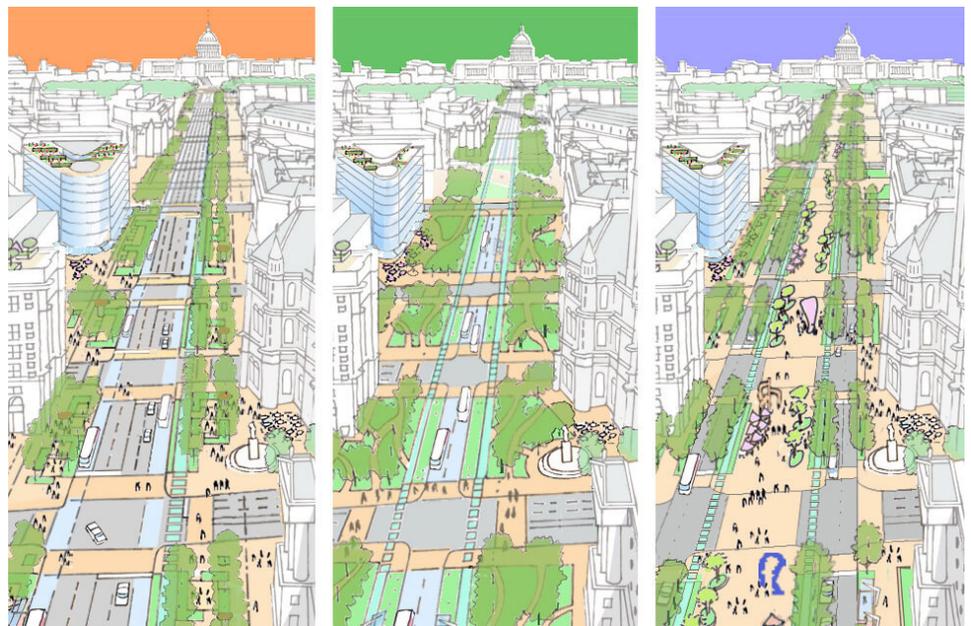
of AOI president, as Tom is retiring from that post after an unexpectedly eventful term. A potential candidate interested in assisting with our membership coordination would be particularly welcomed. The final slate will be announced at our October luncheon and November newsletter, with elections at our November meeting.

Our featured speakers, Karin Schierhold and Jeff Jamawat of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), presented the three concept schemes NCPC is studying for re-envisioning America’s Main Street – **Pennsylvania Avenue:**

- ❖ *Urban Capital* establishes a ‘complete street’ with comfort amenities and service that create a go-to place and respite for locals and tourists;
- ❖ *Linear Green* prioritizes transit, people, and bikes and creates a unique destination for outdoor gatherings and connection to nature;
- ❖ *Civic Stage* centers pedestrians within a large median promenade with flexible public spaces that create iconic venues for a range of national and international events.

While each concept was built around a unique approach to the character and use of the avenue right-of-way, the final recommendations will almost certainly mix-and-match elements from all three concepts to coalesce a coherent framework addressing the avenue’s multiple uses, ambitions, and stakeholder concerns. We rounded out the presentation with a lively and informative discussion exploring aspects of both the proposed concept elements as well as lessons learned from the history of past endeavors to revitalize this and other corridors in the city.

Closing out the meeting, AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder as always treated us to trivia – this month featuring presidents who advocated for DC home rule. Check out the video of this, our September announcements, and the full Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative discussion at [www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-recordings.html](http://www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-recordings.html).



*Above: The three concepts presented as a basis for discussion around redevelopment of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor from Pershing Park to 3rd St. NW: Urban Capital; Linear Green; and Civic Stage. The final design will likely adapt elements from all three concepts.*

### Other News ...

At our September meeting, the AOI board approved a number of fee adjustments, to take effect beginning in February 2023. To offset increased costs, our monthly luncheon meeting tickets will increase from \$35 to \$40 (cash, check or via Zelle), which is still a bargain for the gourmet 3-course cuisine at our new venue AND a full speakers program. Guest tickets will also increase starting in February to \$45 per person.

As noted last month, we also now take credit card payment at the door or via the RSVP function on our website (note: payment by card includes a \$1.32 processing fee). When using the online RSVP, please remember to fill out all the required fields, including name, number of attendees, and entrée preference. Access it all at our *Members Only* portal: <https://www.aoidc.org/401/login.php?redirect=/members-only-portal.html>, password: 1865.



As noted in an earlier newsletter, Congressional Cemetery on Capitol Hill has completed place-

ment of grave markers sponsored by AOI for three DC women vet-



erans killed in World War I: Mattie Bushee, Bertha Ryan Hayes, and Blanche Pierce. A fourth marker, for Pauline Lawrence, has been provided by the Dept.



of Veterans' Affairs at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. AOI has tentative plans to commemorate these veterans at either this coming Veterans Day or Memorial Day - stay tuned for more details.



Times are a-changing: the last vestige of the old Woodrow Wilson High School name has been replaced with new signage for Jackson-Reed High School. Rechristened in honor of the school's first African-American teacher, Edna Burke-Jackson, and former principal Vincent Reed, the change is the culmination of years of calls by students and alumni to rename the school due to President Wilson's discriminatory policies that displaced Black residents in the school's Northwest DC neighborhood.



DDOT has submitted the final site development plans for the [11th Street Bridge Park](#).

The project re-uses the existing infrastructure from the old 11th Street



Bridge to create an urban destination over the Anacostia River, linking the Navy Yard/Capital Riverfront neighborhood with downtown Anacostia. With community input, Building Bridges Across the River and the Office of Planning developed the main programming of the bridge park, which includes Amphitheater, Café, Central Plaza, and Environmental Education Center. Branches of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail bound the project on both the north and south banks. Pending final approvals, the new bridge park is slated for completion by 2025.

*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., 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”

*plus* Board of Directors elections

Wed., Dec. 14 – Holiday Market, with the Women’s  
National Democratic Club

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 events, 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.

**SUMMER  
MAY BE GONE ...**  
*But our Fall programs are just getting started -  
RSVP now for our live October luncheon meeting!*



*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.*