



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

November 2022 / Bulletin 170

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

**Thursday,
November 17, 2022**

Featuring

Derek Gray

***“NAACP in Washington, DC:
from Jim Crow to Home Rule”***

plus AOI Board Elections

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 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. Please add “November 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 October Luncheon ...

AOI welcomed 85 members and guests to its standing-room-only October luncheon presentation, our largest showing since before the pandemic in spring 2020. In addition to that welcome turnout, our treasurer and membership chair Carolyn Michell introduced numerous lunch guests and recently joined members, as well as announced one new AOI member since our last meeting, Jacqueline Sapp, voted in by acclamation. Jacqueline is an alumna of H.D. Woodson HS and learned of AOI via NPR.

As is our tradition, AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder treated us to trivia, this month appropriately related to DC's inaugural turn at national elections in 1964 following ratification of the 23rd Amendment – all the more reason to get out and vote!

For our luncheon program, *The Washington Post* obituary editor Adam Bernstein joined us to discuss the art of writing news obituaries and the challenges the writers face in attempting to capture the essence of the subject's life. In a departure from recent presentation, he structured his observations in an interview format with AOI Vice-President Cindy Gueli, responding to hers and the audience's questions. Touching on a number of his most memorable and most significant subjects, he also noted on how the purchase of the *Post* by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos in 2013 allowed the expansion of his work's

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Featured speaker Adam Bernstein and AOI Vice President Cindy Gueli engaged lunch attendees in a lively discussion on obituaries (no pun intended ...).



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

E-mail: aoiofdc@gmail.com

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

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/www.aoiofdc.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 October Luncheon, *continued from page 1*

scope as that of the organization itself expanded to a national and international audience. AOI Program Chair Marcia Rock closed the proceedings with a presentation to Adam of a poster her husband created to, in effect, encourage Adam to write a book and take his story on the road – the audience agreed!

To view the video of the full interview, discussion and October luncheon meeting, click on the website at www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-recordings.html.

In Memorium ...



Above: Georgia Herron in 2019 with Heurich House director and AOI counsel Kim Bender.

We note with sadness the passing of **Georgia Herron**, a beloved and long-time member of AOI along with her daughter, Carolivia Herron. A graduate of Miner Teachers College, which later became the University of the District of Columbia, Georgia was a dedicated educator as well as a founding member and staunch supporter of the UDC Alumni Society. In addition to Carolivia, she is remembered by son Oscar; grandsons Joseph and Jeffrey; great-granddaughter Acacia; great-great grandson Jovani and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Although not an AOI member himself, we note here the extraordinary life of **Dan Smith**, husband of AOI member Loretta Neumann Smith. As the last known living person born to a Black man enslaved during the Civil War, Dan's remarkable life was the subject of several articles in *The Washington Post* – see his obituary here: <https://wapo.st/3Smkr8m>.

We also note the passing of **Delores Mounsey**. While not an AOI member, Delores was granddaughter of William Nixon, president of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants (Colored), Inc., from 1942-62. Delores provided a vital link to records of that sister organization via her grandfather's scrapbooks, resurrected after a serendipitous meeting with AOI member James Goode in 2012.



Above left: William Nixon was the president of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) Inc. (Family photo)

Right: Granddaughter Delores Mounsey had preserved William Nixon's scrapbooks, now housed at the Moorland-Spingarn Library at Howard University. (John Kelly/Washington Post)

AOI Elections ...

The mid-terms are not the only elections before us this November – AOI will hold elections at its November luncheon meeting for open seats on the Board of Directors and board officers. Per our by-laws, full members in good standing (i.e., who have paid their annual dues) and present at the November meeting may vote for all open positions. As of this writing, the Nominations Committee has identified the following persons nominated for service on the AOI board:

President:	Cindy Gueli
Vice-President:	John Edwards
Secretary:	Ric Marino
Treasurer:	Carolyn Michell
Historian:	Nelson Rimensnyder
Director (2-year term):	Gary Scott

One additional board seat remains open at this time. The board is also considering a change to our by-laws to open board membership up to associate members, in addition to full members. Anyone interested in receiving a full copy of the AOI by-laws may do so by contacting our secretary, Ric Marino at ricmarino@msn.com.

Current president Tom Neale and directors Maggie Hobbs and Barbara Hopkins are stepping down from the board at the completion of their terms in December – a hearty “thank you” goes out to them for their invaluable service to AOI over the last several years, about which more will be said at our November meeting!



As part of AOI’s Sesquicentennial Project, we posted membership records on our website dating from 1865 through the mid-1990s. We’ve now updated that resource, with additional membership records from 2005-2022 in a Legacy Membership List. Since 2005, the membership records have been maintained in spreadsheets “inherited” from a mailing list that had been maintained by the staff of the Historical Society of DC. The new Legacy Membership List has been recreated from those records; while the earliest “Date Entered” is 2005, many of those listed here have been members well before that date ... some even overlapping with the Sesquicentennial Project. You can find both resources on our website page [Your Ancestors in the AOI](#).



Did you know that AOI has a YouTube channel? Check out our handles at <https://youtube.com/@theaoiofdc> for videos of AOI’s history, our sesquicentennial gala, WWI history, and our monthly luncheon presentations.

Other News ...

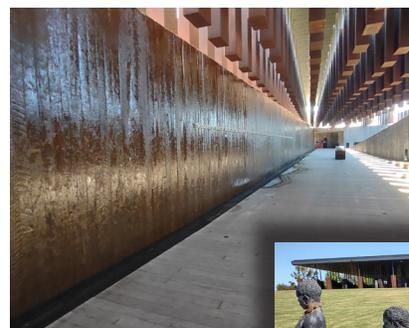
The DC History Center is now accepting submissions for the 49th Annual DC History Conference, taking place March 23-25, 2023. The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the District’s past, present, and future. Scholars across the humanities and related fields, researchers, artists, local organizers and practitioners, and the community-at-large are invited to apply. Participation of students at all education levels is also encouraged. Review the full call and more information on the conference at <https://conference.dchistory.org>.



The Women’s National Democratic Club – our monthly luncheon host – celebrates its 100th anniversary this month with a Centennial Gala on November 17, of which AOI will be a sponsor. Check out their website for more information: <https://democraticwoman.org/event/centennial-gala/>



Many recent residents and visitors to now-cosmopolitan Washington are often unaware of the city’s legacy as a decidedly Southern town, and the complicated history from its founding to the Great Migration and through the later Civil Rights Movement in defining many aspects of the city as we know it today. AOI Past-President Bill Brown recently traveled to Montgomery, Alabama in tribute to his family’s pre-DC roots, including visits to a number of historical sites along the way that touch on much of our shared legacy, including the Rosa Parks Museum at Troy University, the Legacy Museum, and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (aka the Lynching Memorial) – well-worth a visit to better understand the present through the lens of our past.



Some of AOI Past-President Bill Brown’s photos from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL.

Address Correction Requested

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

c/o 815 Woodside Parkway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

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 – “The True Reformer Building” –
stay tuned for more details

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.

FALL BACK ...
*... into the habit of attending AOI programs!
RSVP now for our live November 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.