



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

The District's Oldest Historic Organization – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 158th Year!

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

January 2023 / Bulletin 171

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

**Thursday,
February 16, 2023**

Featuring

John DeFerrari & Peter Sefton
**“Sixteenth Street NW:
Washington, DC’s
Avenue of Ambition”**

**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 \$40.00 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 “February 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 November Luncheon ...

With a packed turnout of 54 members and guests, AOI passed the torch at our November meeting, electing a new slate of board members (see p. 3) led by new president Cindy Gueli accepting the gavel from now past-president Tom Neale. In addition, our treasurer and membership chair Carolyn Michell introduced several lunch guests and two new AOI members: **Peggy Robin**, a website editor who learned of AOI via member Judy Hubbard; and **Joseph Prefontaine**, a retired architect who came to us via member Charles Robertson.

In the absence of the traveling AOI historian Nelson Rimensnyder, past-president Bill Brown hosted our monthly trivia, concerning our first First Lady to integrate the annual White House Easter Egg Roll (that being Mamie Eisenhower).

Our featured luncheon speaker, **Derek Gray**, archivist at the DC Public Library’s “People’s Archive” (aka, the Washingtoniana Division), presented highlights from his book *The NAACP in Washington, DC: From Jim Crow to Home Rule*. Describing in detail the various personalities involved in the formation and development of DC’s NAACP branch, the presentation painted a vivid picture of the ongoing tension between a more moderate organization work-

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Above: Featured lunch speaker Derek Gray

Above (L-R): Patricia Tyson of the Military Road School Preservation Trust, AOI Treasurer Carolyn Chapman Michell, Sherri Sewall, Theresa Saxton of the Military Road School Preservation Trust and Dayo Akinsbeye, Past-Principal of the Marie T. Reed School and widow of the U.S. Colored Troops Cadet Academy founder Dexter Akinsbeye, gather around the framed ceremonial 1915 resolution honoring the AOI (Colored), Incorporated’s founder and first President Jerome A. Johnson; Sherri’s great-grandfather, George T. Sewall, was a signatory on the certificate.



2023 Board of Directors

Officers:

- Cindy Gueli, President
- John Edwards, Vice-President
- Ric Marino, Secretary
- Carolyn Michell, Treasurer
- Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian

Past-Presidents:

- Thomas Neale
- Bill Brown
- Jan A.K. Evans

Directors:

- 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 Tuesday of the week prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail:
202-342-1865

Website: www.aoidc.org

E-mail: aioifdc@gmail.com

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

YouTube: [@theaioifdc](https://www.youtube.com/@theaioifdc)

Follow us on Facebook:
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 November Luncheon, continued from page 1

ing incrementally toward the elimination of segregation versus a more militant presence fighting for civil rights. Both the speaker and our audience comments noted the unique impact that the high level of education and relative affluence of Washington’s Black community had on this balance, as well as the prominent role women and the fight for gender equality played within the branch. While always playing a leading role, we learned how that didn’t always mean the NAACP was the most influential, particularly with the advent of more forceful civil rights groups such as the SCLC and the Black Power movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

To view the video of the full November luncheon meeting, click on the website at www.aoidc.org/aioi-luncheon-recordings.html.



63 members and guests gathered for our first New Year’s Day Brunch since 2020.

Above: Margot Lyddane and Hulit Taylor.

Left (L-R): Alan Cole, Carl Cole, Monica Cole, Robyn Person, Bryant Cole, Rise Cole and Jonyce Cole.



AOI Annual Dues Renewals ...

At its October meeting, the AOI board gave final approval to a small increase in annual member dues – the first rise in over ten years – in order to help offset rising expenses and limit further increases in the cost of our lunch program. Starting with our membership renewals in January 2023, annual dues will increase from their current rate of \$20 up to \$25 per year. This came as part of ongoing consideration of also hiring a part-time administrator to handle the routine business of the association – such as our finances, membership, lunch coordination, website, and newsletter – all of which board members currently handle as a volunteer effort. A cost-benefit analysis, however, indicated that part-time staff would require a significantly larger dues increase than the board felt was warranted, and it accordingly agreed to forego a staff hire at this time, allowing the dues increase to be kept at a minimum. Renewal reminders will go out in January to all current members, so keep an eye out for that and/or check our website for complete renewal information.



AOI wishes hearty congratulations to past-president **Jan Evans**, who turned 90 in December, and member **Evelyn Ford**, who this past November celebrated being 101 years young! Happy Birthday Jan & Evelyn!

AOI Elections & By-Laws ...

At our November meeting, AOI members elected five board officers and one director to new terms on the board:

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

Three additional board seats remain open at this time. The board and Nominating Committee are currently soliciting interest in those positions, with the intention to put forward candidates for election at a future membership meeting.

At our February luncheon meeting, the board will ask members to vote on additional amendments to the AOI By-Laws to clarify a number of organizational items, including:

- ❖ Making board officer terms two-year;
- ❖ Allowing associate members to serve on the board;
- ❖ Clarifying benefits of membership in good standing;
- ❖ Clarifying various position duties for board officers;
- ❖ Updating the board committee structure.

Anyone interested in viewing a full copy of the By-Laws and the proposed amendments may do so by visiting the Members Only portal of our website at [here](#) (password: 1865), or by contacting our secretary, Ric Marino at ricmarino@msn.com. Full members in good standing (i.e., who have paid their annual dues) and present at the February meeting may vote on the amendments.



AOI members pose for a shot from 6 November 1868, published in the Sunday Star, 6 December 1931 (shared by Theresa Saxton from family clippings found by AOI member Sherri Sewall).

Other News ...

DC's Wilson Building (our city hall) is currently hosting an exhibition of one-of-a-kind photographs of the 28 monu-



mental statues adorning the building's parapets. Created by sculptor Adolfo de Nesti and carved by Ernest Bairstow in 1904, the statues were not readily visible up close until DC photographer Colin Winterbottom shot them from the ledges and scaffolding shrouding the building from 2016-2019.

Visitors can view the photo installation along the grand staircases of the Wilson Building Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5:30 PM.



The Committee of 100 on the Federal City is celebrating its centennial in 2023 with a schedule of seven public conversations over the course of the year on topics of local interest. *Envisioning the Future of DC: Conversations on Planning and Citizen Engagement* kicks off January 25 at the First Congregational UCC, 945 G St. NW – check out their website at <https://committeeof100.net> for more information on upcoming topics and dates.

Since 2021, AOI has also delegated to the Committee of 100 our primary advocacy functions. Among the recent items upon which they have testified before city agencies include: the restructuring of the dysfunctional DC Housing Authority; including affordable housing requirements in the conversion of downtown office structures to residential use; support of the Green New Deal for Housing Amendment Act of 2022; and discussions around potential revisions to the 1910 Height of Buildings Act. You can stay up-to-date on these and other issues by subscribing to the C100 newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/b3ecf6958f30/newsletter>.

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., Feb. 16 – John DeFerrari & Peter Sefton,
“Sixteenth Street NW: Washington,
DC’s Avenue of Ambition”
- Thurs., March 16 – WNDC Centennial, featuring
Anna Fierst
- Thurs., April 20 – TBD
- Thurs., May 18 – TBD
- Thurs., June 15 – Martin Moeller, author of
“AIA Guide to the Architecture
of Washington, DC”

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.

NEW YEAR | RENEW
*Including your AOI membership!
Check your mail for your membership renewal,
or visit our website to renew on-line.*



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.