



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

DCs Living Archive – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 160th Year!

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

Winter 2025 / Bulletin 186

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

**Thursday,
February 27, 2025**

***Finding Our Voice in a Complicated World**
A Panel Discussion with
Steve Hammond and
the Arlington House
Descendants Family Circle*

**11:30am
Lunch & Program**

Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

(One block east of Dupont Circle Metro north exit; \$10 validated parking across from club at 11 Dupont Circle)

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 "Feb. Luncheon" in the comment line.

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

From Our November Luncheon ...

AOI filled the WNDC Ballroom at our November meeting and lunch presentation. Along with welcoming a host of guests, attendees voted in two new members: **Alexandra (Alex) Boozier**, a descendent of Washingtonian Henry Farmington; and **Elizabeth (Liz) Yearly Groszer**, who lived here from 1958-1962 – and in her own words, "I am old!" Welcome to all!



Above: Our November speaker Loretta Neumann

A highlight of our monthly announcements was recognition of two notable birthday milestones: **Ellie Newman (100)** and **Evelyn Ford (103)**.

For our November program, longtime AOI member **Loretta Neumann** recounted the remarkable life of her late husband Daniel Smith from their memoir *[Son of a Slave: A Black Man's Journey in White America](#)*, which they published just before his death in 2022. Likely the last living child of a man born into slavery, Smith's memoir does not dwell on his father's enslavement but rather on his own challenges and accomplishments, often in the face of systemic racism, offering a first-hand account of the actions, policies, and people that have

helped or hindered our nation from fulfilling the promise that "all men are created equal."

View the video of the full November meeting and presentation (including election of 2025 Board members) on the AOI YouTube channel or at www.aoidc.org/aioifdc-re-cordings.html.

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Above: Members enjoy a primer on AOI history with President Cindy Gueli at the annual New Year's Brunch.





2025 Board of Directors

Officers:

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

Past-Presidents:

Bill Brown
 Jan A.K. Evans

Directors:

Kimberly Bender
 Patricia Clark
 Gary Scott
 Sherri Sewall
 Juliette Smith
 Military Road School
 Preservation Trust
(represented by Teresa Saxton & Patricia Tyson)

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
 YouTube: [@theaioifdc](https://www.youtube.com/@theaioifdc)
 Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org

AOI’s Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



From Our November Luncheon, contd. from page 1

Over 60 members and guests rang in 2025 at AOI’s annual **New Year’s Day Brunch**. As always, this year’s brunch provided the perfect opportunity to gather with old friends, make new ones, and look forward to an exciting year of luncheon speakers, field trips, and special events, beginning with our first luncheon presentation on February 27th. Cheers!



In addition to our November luncheon and New Year’s Day brunch, AOI members also had a table in the Women’s National Democratic Club’s **Annual Holiday Market** this past December at the Whittemore House (our monthly lunch venue). This year’s event featured local woman artists and small businesses selling a range of carefully curated items, as well as free admission, as it coincided with Dupont Circle’s First Fridays Art Walk, in which the club participates each month.



In Memoriam ...

AOI marks the January 7th passing of member **Betty Monkman** at the age of 82, a former White House curator whose long career encompassed the conservation and interpretation of the residence’s vast collection of artistic and decorative treasures. Moving to Washington to take a job at the DC Public Library, she later joined the nascent White House curatorial staff in 1967 and went on to serve for 35 years under eight presidents. She served as chief curator from 1997 until her retirement in 2002. The author of several books on the White House collection, Monkman became known for balancing both respect for the private life of the first families with the historical value of the objects that surrounded them, in the process helping the White House achieve its unique role as both museum and private home.

AOI sadly notes the passing of member **Anne Sellin** (sister of member Charles Robertson) on January 18th at the age of 84. A DC resident since 1974, Anne was active in the historic preservation, planning, and zoning efforts of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and the Dupont Circle Citizens Association. Notable projects she worked on include the St. Elizabeth’s campus, the McMillan Park Reservoir, and the Greater U Street Historic District.

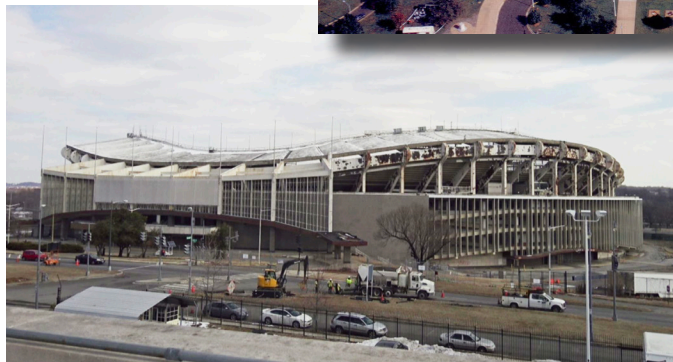
Resurrecting an AOI tradition from days when print newspapers were actually read by most Washingtonians, AOI commemorated members who passed in 2024 with a memorial notice in *The Washington Post* Obituaries section.

AOI OF DC

THE AOI OF DC
 The Officers, Directors and Membership of The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of those association members we lost in 2024:
Richard A. Best, Jr., Barbara Drechsler, Ms. Dominica Hill, Robert Kreinheder, Brother David William Richardson, Seymour Selig, William G. Siebert, and Helen Tsintolas.
www.aoidc.org

Other News ...

In a last minute surprise, the outgoing Senate unanimously passed the **RFK Stadium Campus Revitalization Act** on 21 December 2024, sending it to President Biden’s desk for signature in the waning days of his administration. Passed by the House earlier in the year, the bill allows for city control of the 177-acre RFK Stadium site in a 99-year lease from the National Park Service. With its glory days as home to Washington’s football franchise (and later, its baseball and soccer teams as well) long gone, demolition of the crumbling 1961 stadium is commencing in late January/ early February. Redevelopment of the site is slated to include a new residential community, neighborhood commercial uses, recreational venues, and parkland, in addition to a potential new stadium. All indications are that the Washington Commanders’ new ownership will reach a stadium agreement with the city to build a new state-of-the-art venue, bringing football back into DC after nearly 30 years in the Maryland suburbs. Stay tuned for further details!



Above: RFK Stadium, in its heyday. Left: The stadium’s dilapidated current state; check out Events DC webcam at <https://eventsdc.com/venue/rfk-stadium/live-demolition-camera> for daily updates on the stadium’s demolition.

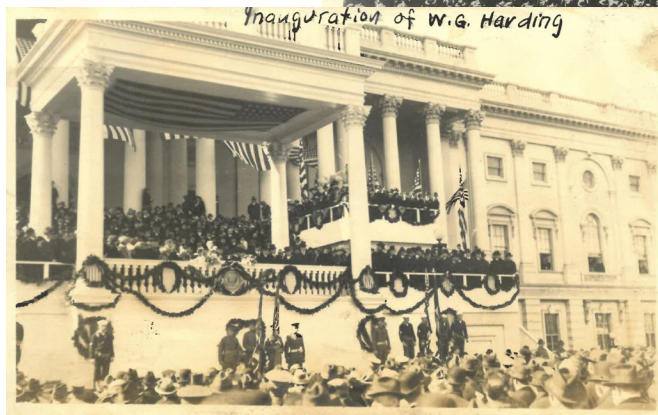
AOI Election Results ...

Our November meeting was also our annual business meeting, featuring the election of 2025 officers and board members:

- President: Cindy Gueli
- Vice-President: John Edwards
- Secretary: Ric Marino
- Treasurer: Carolyn Michell
- Historian: Nelson Rimensnyder
- Director: Patricia Clark
- Director: Juliette Smith
- Director: Military Road School Preservation Trust
(represented by Theresa Saxton and Pat Tyson)

In addition, Kim Bender, Gary Scott, and Sherri Sewall round out the 2025 board, completing the second year of their two-year terms.

Unusually frigid temperatures on January 20th moved this year’s presidential inauguration indoors for the first time since Ronald Reagan’s second inaugural in 1985. In lieu of the canceled outdoor swearing-in and gala parade, we scoured our trunk of old photos to find a few showing how Washington marked such occasions in days past.



Above: WWI Victory Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in September 1919 (complete with the temporary triumphal arch erected at 15th St. & Pennsylvania Ave.). Left: **President Warren G. Harding’s Inauguration** in March 1921 (on the Capitol’s East Front, as was the tradition at that time).

Address Correction Requested

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

c/o 8900 Ellsworth Court
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming events of interest, AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Thurs. Feb. 27 – *Finding Our Voice in a Complicated World*, a panel discussion with Steve Hammond & the Arlington House Descendants Family Circle
- Thurs. March 20– *A Stereoscopic View of Arlington in the 1920s*, with historian and author Peter R. Penczer
- Thurs. April 17 – *Kiplinger: A Civic Life*, a conversation with Knight Kiplinger, editor emeritus of the Kiplinger Letter
- Thurs. May 15 – *Walt Whitman: A Capital Poet*, with Marin Murray

NOTE: All events, meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. Be sure to check our [website](#) for speaker updates and/or last-minute changes.

Regular monthly AOI lunch meetings (Feb.-June, Sept.-Nov.) run from 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

BE ADVISED: In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute recorded information.

TIME TO RENEW!
Check your mail for your annual renewal notice, or renew online at www.aoidc.org/members-renewal.html



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.