



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

DCs Living Archive – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 161st Year!

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

Spring 2026 / Bulletin 192

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

**Thursday,
April 16, 2026**

***The Foggy
Bottom Gang:
The Warring
Brothers of
Washington, DC
with Leo Warring***

**11:30am
Lunch & Program**

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

(One block east of Dupont Circle Metro north exit; \$12 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.

Skip the Line!

In addition to paying by cash, check or card at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using aoiofdc@gmail.com. Please add "April Luncheon" in the comment line. AOI members can also RSVP and pay for themselves and their guests by credit card via the [Members Only](#) portal on our website, password: 1865.

From Our February & March Luncheons ...

AOI secretary Ric Marino hosted a huge turnout for our first lunch meeting of the new year, where we voted in ten new members: **Leah Brown, Rosalyn Coates, Carol Cowgill, Kathy Hochman, Jean Lynn, Linda Cole McCay, Dan Meijer, Nancy Burns Quaranto, Barbara Wells, and Barbara Burns Williams.**

Sisters **Patricia Tyson** and **Theresa Saxton** moderated our February presentation on the [Military Road School Preservation Trust](#), including a panel discussion and Q&A with school alumni. Established in 1864, the Military Road School served the African American community near the grounds of what was to become Fort Stevens, finally closing soon after the 1955 "Brown vs. Board of Education" decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, with students relocated to nearby, newly integrated schools.

Among the last students attending the school, Pat and Theresa set out with fellow alumni to have the school designated as an Historic Landmark in 1998, located fellow alumni and surviving teachers, and used the resources and influence of the MR-SPT to promote the history of the school, its surrounding neighbor-

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Above right: Students gather outside the Military Road School for a May Day celebration, including May Queen Pat Tyson (Photo: MRSPT); Above: Military Road School alumni panelists for our February luncheon presentation included (left to right) Yvonne Betty Collins, William Lucas, Rose Harper, Theresa Saxton, Patricia Tyson, and Mary Hicks.



2026 Board of Directors

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 Military Road School
 Preservation Trust
*(represented by Theresa 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)

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From Our February and March Luncheons, contd. from page 1

hood, the annual Lincoln-Thomas Day, and promote continued education through their awarding of the Donnesa Lucas Memorial Scholarships to deserving students pursuing post-secondary education.

New members voted in at our March luncheon included **Rose Harper, James Kennedy,** and **Patricia Santana.** As part of our Project 160, AOI president Cindy Gueli gave us a whirlwind synopsis of all of AOI's various homes over the years, from our founding at DC's Old City Hall, through various homes and hotels (including the Willard), to the Union Engine House at 19th and H Sts. (the remains of which are lost to time) from 1911-1956, and finally the Christian Heurich House from 1956-2006.



Our featured March luncheon speaker, Chip Reid, spoke on his career in Washington from Senate aide to network news correspondent to author and rescue dog volunteer

are lost to time) from 1911-1956, and finally the Christian Heurich House from 1956-2006.

Our March presentation featured retired CBS News correspondent **Chip Reid**, recalling his three-decade career as a journalist, Senate staffer, and one-time aide to Joe Biden. In addition to anecdotes of his years in journalism, including a stint as White House correspondent, Chip highlighted his time embedded with a Marine unit during the Iraq War for NBC News, whose experiences during and after the war became the basis for his book *[Battle Scars: Twenty Years Later](#)*.

View the video of the full February and March luncheon meetings on the AOI YouTube channel or on our website at www.aoidc.org/aio-luncheon-recordings.html. Podcasts of AOI lunch presentations are also available on [SoundCloud](#) (no memberships necessary – just click any 'X' at the SoundCloud link, and you're good to go).



Don't forget to bring your treasured historical documents and photos to digitize at an upcoming AOI Lunch Meeting! As part of our 160th anniversary year, we will have a flat-bed scanner available at upcoming luncheons where members can scan their family photos and documents as permanent digital records. Digitized materials can be downloaded onto a flash drive if you bring one, or we can email them to you directly after the lunch.



Congratulations to one of our own! AOI Board member **Kim Bender** is trading her former position as executive director of the Christian Heurich House (a long-time home of AOI) to a new position as executive director of the DC chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Based at the [District Architecture Center](#) in Penn Quarter, the job also includes leading staff activities for the non-profit Washington Architectural Foundation. One of the driving forces behind the [DC Archives Foundation](#), Kim was also featured in the "Guest List" column as one of "five people we'd love to hang out with" in the March issue of *Washingtonian* magazine.

Other News ...

This year's [DC History Conference](#) will run from May 1-2 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The conference's mission is to highlight outstanding recent scholarship and engagement with the history of Washington, DC and to share that knowledge with an interested community of scholars, neighbors, students, history enthusiasts, policy makers, activists, artists, and more. Since 1973, trained scholars and community members have had the opportunity to present their work at this welcoming annual gathering. This interdisciplinary community conference prioritizes the local city but includes the federal city, as well as nearby Maryland and Virginia. Sponsored by the DC History Center, Humanities DC, and the DC Public Library, sessions of this year's conference will play out on the backdrop of the nation's 250th anniversary, as well as including the open History Network on May 1, connecting individuals and organizations doing humanities-based work in DC, and DC Research Showcase on May 2.



Taking a cue from the successful renaming of Jackson-Reed HS in 2021, AOI submitted testimony to the DC Council in favor of rebranding Capitol Hill's Robert Brent ES as **Gardner Bishop Elementary School** when the completely rebuilt public school reopens in 2027. The school's original namesake, Robert Brent (a brother of one of AOI's founders, John Carroll Brent), was not only DC's first mayor, but also a proponent of the repressive 1808 & 1812 "Black Codes," which severely restricted the daily lives of free and enslaved Black persons in DC. The proposed renaming will honor DC activist Gardner Bishop, who spearheaded the 1947 school boycott of unequal Black public education that eventually led to the end of legal school segregation in Washington in 1954. Thanks go to AOI Board member Tim Hannapel for penning our eloquent testimony – you can read it on the AOI website [here](#).

As passed by the DC Council, the new school on the Brent Elementary site (as seen here from D St. SE) will be named in honor of Gardner Bishop (aka, the "Barber of U Street"), whose activism ultimately led to official DC school desegregation in 1954. (Image: DLR Group)



The Washington Commanders have released renderings of the new [RFK Memorial Stadium](#). Slated for the same riverfront site of the now-demolished stadium (originally built as DC Stadium in 1961), the new \$2.7 billion venue, designed by the firm HKS, will have a 65,000-seat capacity and is scheduled to open in 2030. Featuring a modern, stylized colonnade and transparent dome, the new stadium's swooping roofline harkens back to the old RFK form familiar to DMV patrons and preserves the site's unique positioning on axis with the Capitol and National Mall to the west. With the climate-controlled dome enabling a projected 300 events per year, the new RFK will anchor an 180-acre redevelopment engaging the Anacostia riverfront and featuring new civic spaces and parkland, a new \$89M DC SportsPlex, 5,000-6,000 new housing units (at least 30% affordable), new retail and commercial outlets, enhanced access to Metro and bus transit, and maintenance of the existing Fields at RFK community sports venues.



It's that time of year again – DC's own [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#) runs this year from March 20 through April 12! Featuring everything from kite festivals to taiko performances to blossom-themed art showcases – and, of course, lots and lots of cherry blossoms – the annual festival has become one of Washington's signature events for both residents and tourists alike, bringing 1.6M visitors to our city every spring. BloomFest, the festival hub, will be at the south lawn of the Jefferson Memorial this year with over 100 free intercultural performances and experiences. Other events will take place in venues throughout the city, culminating in the Festival Parade on Constitution Avenue on April 11.

Address Correction Requested

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

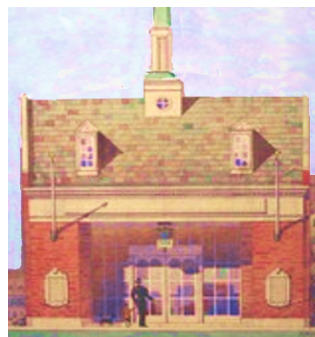
c/o 8900 Ellsworth Court
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Thurs. April 16 – *The Foggy Bottom Gang: The Story of the Warring Brothers of Washington, DC*, with Leo Warring
- Thurs. May 21 – *Washington Legacy Family: The Boggs/Roberts*, with Rebecca Boggs Roberts
- Thurs. June 18 – *A Conversation with Bluegrass Hall of Famer Tom Gray*, with WRC reporter Mark Seagraves
- Thurs. Sept. 17 – *The Golden Era at The Washington Post*, with former Post columnist Bob Levey
- Thurs. Oct. 15 – *Washington Legacy Family: The Grahams*, with Donald Graham
- Thurs. Nov. 19 – *Preserving Washington's Federal Buildings*, a Panel Discussion with Rebecca Miller, DC Preservation League

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.



Footnote ...

In 1958, congressional legislation was passed to give AOI the right to purchase an old fire house in the 3200 block of M St., NW to become its headquarters. The transaction was never completed and 'The AOI's New Clubhouse in Georgetown' never came to fruition.