The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

DC's 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 ***Autumn 2026 / Bulletin 195***

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

Thursday,
November 19, 2026

DC Preservation 101: A Panel Discussion and Thanksgiving Buffet

11:30am
Lunch & Program

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

($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 "Nov. 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 September & October Luncheons ...

Our first two lunch meetings of fall 2026 brought out near-record attendance, with 100+ members and guests attending our October event. New members voted in at our September and October meetings include: **David Beveridge**, **Sarah Shapiro**, **Marc Thompson**, **Keith Wall**, **Diana Gilpatrick**, **Troy Donte Presswood**, **Solangel Childs**, **Edward Purcell**, **Bill Largess**, and (through the generosity of AOI member Jeffrey Slavin), our October speaker **Donald Graham**. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, our September meeting provided the opportunity for members to relate their memories of that tragic day in the DMV. Other announcements in September and October included: updates on DC's ongoing preservation controversies (see more on the **Section 106 Coalition** this issue); the debut of the new on-line news outlet ***Washington Sun***; election of AOI member **Phil Pannell** as DC's Democratic National Committeeman; the 102nd Lincoln-Thomas Day celebration at Ft. Stevens; and updates on AOI's podcasts, social media, and ongoing document preservation efforts.

Our featured speaker at the September luncheon, retired journalist, columnist, and AOI member **Bob Levey**, regaled attendees with memories, anecdotes, and an insider's take on the "golden days"

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***Bob Levey** (left) our September speaker, treated a full house of AOI members and guests (including former DC Councilmember Jack Evans, right) with reflections on the heyday of the Washington Post, including adjoining desks with Metro staff reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward (left, with Post publisher Katherine Graham) as they broke the Watergate story that brought down a president.*

2026 Board of Directors

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Timothy Hannapel
Gary Scott
Juliette Smith
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**

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From Our September & October Luncheons, *contd. from page 1*

of *The Washington Post*. With over 36 years at *The Post*, including 23 authoring the daily column "Bob Levey's Washington," Levey was the first reporter hired by legendary Post editor Bill Bradley, and had the distinction, if only accidental, of sitting between Metro reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein during the pivotal Watergate scoop. Though voicing some disappointment in *The Post*'s current trajectory under Jeff Bezos, Levey had nothing but praise for the journalistic integrity of the paper's reporters and editorial staff over the years, with particular kudos to longtime publisher Katherine Graham. A book author in addition to a journalist, Levey co-authored *Washington Album: A Pictorial History of the Nation's Capital* with his wife (historian and AOI member) Jane Levey, as well as the political novel (with not-entirely-veiled autobiographical details) *Larry Felder, Candidate*.

Our October lunch featured a near-record turnout enjoying AOI camaraderie and a lively discussion with our featured speaker, ***Donald Graham*** *(left center, with AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder and AOI member & former DC Council member Carol Schwartz.).*

Although best known as the publisher of *The Washington Post* from 1979-2000, our featured speaker in October, **Donald Graham**, has worn many hats over his long career, including as an information specialist in the US Army's 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War and as a patrolman in the DC Metropolitan Police in the late 1960's. Drawing on his decades of experience as a civic leader in DC, Graham focused his remarks on the financial future of the District, noting that the days when the city could largely depend on the industry of the federal government are quickly passing (if not already gone). Despite having several former DC Council members in attendance, Graham opined that recent political leaders may not have been as forward-thinking as they could have been in foreseeing the demographic shifts in the city's economic base, exhorting the new leadership coming in after this years' elections to tackle the issue head-on.

Our October meeting also took time to remember **Theodore W. Noyes**, longtime editor-in-chief of *The Evening Star*, Washington's most widely-read paper for much of the 1900s, and AOI's longest serving president, from 1908-46. A prominent city leader, Noyes started his long tenure as AOI president after the death of his father, DC philanthropist **Crosby Stuart Noyes**, AOI vice-president (1905-08) and a publisher of the *The Evening Star* from 1867 until his death in 1908.

View the video of the full September and October luncheon meetings on the AOI YouTube channel or on our website at **www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-recordings.html**. Podcasts of AOI lunch presentations, as well as other DC memories and member stories, are also available on **SoundCloud** (no memberships necessary – just click any 'X' at the SoundCloud link, and you're good to go).

Other News ...

Coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the grassroots **Section 106 Coalition** is actively fighting a massive proposed regulatory overhaul that would dismantle core protections of NHPA's Section 106 review process, which would have a disproportionate impact on historic properties in DC. As of this writing:

- *The ACHP Rulemaking Vote:* The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation voted to move forward with a comprehensive rewrite of the regulations governing Section 106. The fast-tracked email vote passed but was not unanimous, as the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers voted against it.
- *Current Status:* The draft rewrite has moved to White House interagency review for publication in the *Federal Register*, afterwhich opens the decisive public comment period where advocates plan to flood the docket with opposition.
- *What's at Stake:* Preservation groups warn that the proposed changes would narrow the definition of historic properties, severely limit the public's ability to weigh in on federal actions, and make consultation optional rather than mandatory – effectively allowing federal projects to damage historic sites without proper oversight.

The campaign is currently coordinating outreach strategies and preparing public response tools, including a detailed open letter to Congressional representatives outlining the dangers of this move and urging action to block it, to which the AOI Board has added its signature, as well as a rally planned at the US Capitol on November 9. Updates and a link to the upcoming public docket can be tracked through various coordinated organization websites, such as **106Strong** (Cultural Heritage Partners), the **Save Section 106 Campaign Hub**, or our own **DC Preservation League** – and don't miss AOI's panel discussion on the Section 106 process, and specifically how it affects historic properties in our city, at our November lunch meeting.

DC HISTORY CENTER + HumanitiesDC

The **DC History Center** and **HumanitiesDC** have officially entered into an agreement to merge into a unified nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Washington, DC's history, culture, and humanities. For decades, the two organizations have advanced complementary missions, with their partnership growing through collaborations like the DC Oral History Collaborative, the DC History Conference, and *hometown DC*. Operating out of the DC History Center's current home at the historic Carnegie Library, **District Voices**, as the merger will be known, will build on those strengths, combining the programs, grants, collections, and community partnerships of both groups to strengthen local humanities funding, educational programming, and historical preservation across all of the District's wards. Throughout this process, the two groups have been guided by a shared belief that DC deserves an organization that can preserve the city's stories, support those telling them, and connect the past with the present in ways that strengthen civic life for generations: *"In this new chapter, we will strengthen our ability to keep DC's stories alive – not just documented and preserved, but understood, taught, and shared ... We believe that curiosity and scholarship build a more engaged community, and that everyone in DC deserves to see themselves in the city's cultural identity."*

In continuation of AOI's longstanding material and financial support of the DC History Center, the Board has agreed to join the new organization's Founders Circle, "dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Washington, DC and ensuring they have a vital place in our city's future."

AOI Elections ...

In accordance with the AOI By-Laws, notice is hereby published for the 2027 AOI Board of Directors elections at our business meeting on November 19, 2026. Members in good standing and present at the meeting may vote for all open positions. the Nominations Committee has identified the following persons nominated for service on the AOI board for two-year terms:

Director:	Patricia Clark	(term 2027-2028)
Director:	Juliette Smith	(term 2027-2028)
Director:	Military Road School Preservation Trust (represented by Patricia Tyson)	(term 2027-2028)

In addition to these nominees, our By-Laws also provide for nominations from the floor at the November business meeting.

The following board members do not require re-election as they will continue to serve the second year of their current two-year terms: Kimberly Bender, Gary Scott, and Timothy Hannapel.

We also give our hearty thanks to departing board member Theresa Saxton, who will complete her two-year term at the end of this year representing the Military Road School Preservation Trust, which she has done together with her sister, Patricia Tyson, for the past two years.

Address Correction Requested

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants
of the District of Columbia
c/o 2747 Linden Lane, Unit 105
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Thurs. Nov. 19 – *DC Preservation 101: A Panel Discussion* with David Maloney (DC SHPO), Rebecca Miller (DC Preservation League), and Peter May (NPS)

Fri. January 1 – AOI Annual New Year's Day Brunch

Thurs. Feb. 18 – *U Street Legacy Business: Lee's Flower Shop*, with Stacie Lee Banks

Thurs. March 18 – *Behind Closed Doors: An Insider Look at DC Politics*, with Jack Evans & Carol Schwartz

Thurs. April 15 – *Palaces of the Public: A Cultural History of Washington, DC's Hotels*, with John DeFerrari

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 on the third Thursday of the month, unless otherwise noted, at the Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW.

Footnote ...

Longtime AOI president ***Theodore W. Noyes****' leadership of The Evening Star, together with that of his father, Crosby Noyes, before him, was responsible for much of the prominence of AOI in its first 80 years. Learn more inside!*