



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

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

***The District's Oldest Civic Organization –
Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 152nd Year!***

***Bulletin #139
April 2017***

President's Message...

Enid Haupt Garden Threatened... Application Filed for Historic Designation

It was first brought to our attention during our November 2015 luncheon that plans were underway which would destroy the design of the Smithsonian's quadrangle complex which includes the Enid A. Haupt Garden, the Renwick-inspired entrance gate and entrances to the Sackler and Freer Galleries, the National Museum of African Art and the Ripley Center.



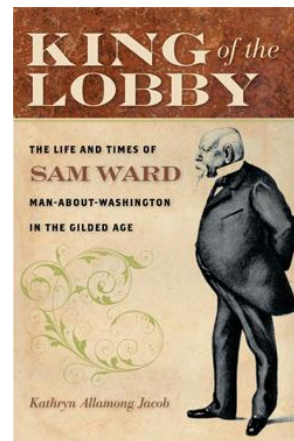
Responding to the reaction of the 73 members and guests present at that luncheon, we wrote to Smithsonian Secretary David Skorton on March 29, 2016 and expressed our opposition to these plans with copies to the Commission on Fine Arts, the NCPD, the DC Historic Preservation Board and select congressional representatives.

Hearings are scheduled for April 27th before DC's Historic Preservation Board seeking Landmark designation. All should write or attend... more at:
<https://planning.dc.gov/page/historic-preservation-review-board> or see AOP's Facebook page.

Bill Brown

April's Luncheon Event:

**“King of the Lobby: The Life & Times of Sam Ward, Man
About Washington in the Gilded Age”
with Kathryn Allamong Jacob**



Please join us...

Friday, **April 21**, at the **Capitol Skyline Hotel** (free Parking) 10 I ('eye') Street, SW. (Metro Rail to Navy Yard Station), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m.

(\$35 per person - please make your check payable to “AOI” and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact payment).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, not later than noon Tues., April 18, 2016. **This voice mail box number is the only means to make a reservation.** Late reservations make planning very difficult for us and **failure by you to cancel prior to Noon on Thurs., 4/20, will result in you being charged.** Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest's names for name tags, your meal preferences (***Grilled Salmon with Kang Pao sauce, Grilled Skyline Chicken Breast, Grilled Black Angus Flank Steak, or Braised Ratatouille of Vegetables***) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute event cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 152nd Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

May 19, 2017 -- Skip Moskey: "Larz & Isabel Anderson: Wealth & Celebrity in the Gilded Age"

June 16, 2017 -- Helena Wright: "The Smithsonian's First Collection"

Sept. 15, 2017 -- Anita Lee discusses her book "A Thread Runs through Herstory"

Oct. 20, 2017 -- "Clara Barton's Office of Missing Soldiers" with Kenneth Burke, National Museum of Civil War Medicine

Nov. 17, 2017 -- Charles Birnbaum, "The Cultural Landscape Foundation"

NOTE: All meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. If our published RSVP line (202-342-1865) is not answering or appears out-of-order, please call 202-342-1638.

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor December/January

Note: The Board of Directors meets at the Heurich House Museum at 10 a.m. on the Monday immediately prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Be Advised: In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the April 21, 2017 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the second luncheon meeting of its 152nd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at 12:30pm Friday, March 17, 2017. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the February 2017 meeting, which were printed in the March newsletter. After a motion made by **Randy Clarke** and seconded by **Patricia Clark**, the minutes were approved and their reading was waived.

New Members: Three new members were nominated: **David & Barbara Ehrlich** (present at Feb luncheon and joined) and **Laura Cohen Apelbaum** (past Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Washington, DC and past AOI speaker). A motion was made by **Marion Buelken** and seconded by **Ann McClellan** to approve the new members and they were approved enthusiastically.

Treasurer's Report presented by **Hulit Taylor:**
Membership

- 283 members, 10 of whom are new and renewals continue to come in

Finances

- We have a little over \$4,600 in our unrestricted fund thanks to your donations
- \$142 to Early, Cassidy & Schilling for the annual Directors' Fidelity Bond
- To date, our investment account has earned \$270 in dividends and interest
- 101 members and guests attended the February luncheon

President's Remarks:

A number of guests were welcomed and

recognized: **Vickie Crawford** had as her guest **Sharon Bauer**; **Bob Drechsler** was **Richard and Barbara Drechsler's** guest; **George Mattingly** had with him **Tom Warring**; and, **Earl Williams** had with him **Nancee Simonson**.

Bill also noted: The portrait of Yarrow Mamout by James Alexander Simpson is on loan to the National Portrait Gallery from its home at the Peabody Room... **Jerry McCoy** wanted everyone to know where they might pay Yarrow a visit. **Barbara Bates** asked that two programs related to World War I be announced:

"Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of WWI" opens on April 4 in the Library of Congress' Jefferson Building; and,

"The Great Crusade: World War I and the Legacy of the American Revolution" opens April 7 and runs through Sept. 17 at the Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

Heurich House Museum Executive Director **Kim Bender** has sent us an up-date on the use of AOI's sesquicentennial donation and how by helping to hire a staff member has nearly doubled the museum's event revenue.

Nelson Rimensnyder challenged everyone with a series of DC history trivia questions:

Q: What were two 'fake news' items that helped prevent the Shepherd statue from being returned in a more timely manner? A: One was that he 'owned slaves.' -- False! **Randy Clarke** provided the answer.

Q: In the 2016 Electoral College vote, who came in 3rd? A: Colin Powell. **Thomas Neale** provided the answer.

Q: In the 2016 Electoral College vote, who came in 3rd for VP? A: Elizabeth Warren. **Nancy Harris** knew the answer; and,

Q: What First Lady referred to Georgetown as "Dirty Georgetown?" A: Abigail Adams. **Betty**

Monkman provided the answer. All 'winners' received unique, Nelson prize bags.

The Day's Speaker:

Bill Brown turned to the panel who would speak on "Bonsai--Stories, Inspiration, Art" and acknowledged that it takes patience to grow a Bonsai. AOI member Anne McClellan, author of "Bonsai and Penjing," introduced Sandra Moore, author of the children's book "The Peace Tree: The Little Bonsai with the Big Story," and Stephen Voss, photographer whose book on Bonsai photos is titled "In Training."

Anne McClellan opened the presentation by stating that the U.S. National Arboretum has the most comprehensive collection in the world. She showed us a slide of a Japanese white pine that is small, smaller than found in nature, and looks old; the top roots have been removed and it relies on under roots and water. "Penjing" is the Chinese term for miniature trees and they have examples of these. The collection began with a gift from Japan in 1976 in honor of our Bicentennial. Tree No. 1 is a Japanese black pine in training since 1895. Fifty trees were given along with three from the Imperial household and six viewing stones. She also showed us a slide of "Mums in Moonlight" from their Gemstone Collection. Natural stones traditionally accompany bonsai and penjing.

Sandra Moore pointed out that there are a variety of bonsai especially Japanese ginko and trident maple. However, the Crown Jewel and oldest inhabitant is a Japanese white pine in training since 1625. It was cared for by generations of the Yamaki family. It and its owners lived in Hiroshima and are survivors. With permission from the family, she wrote the story of the little bonsai as a symbol of peace and reconciliation.

Stephen Voss had known about the collection and that these trees had passed from one generation to the next. He began to spend a great deal of time photographing the bonsai. He made 80 to 90 trips to the National Arboretum to take pictures of one tree at a time and had more than 12,000 images. These included the Kiethma Azalea in training since 1982, Drummond's Red Maple in training since 1974 along with the Chinese Elm and Japanese Black Pine.

Anne McClellan concluded the presentation by stating that the Chinese gave trees to the Arboretum in 1986. She showed the example of the Chinese Elm landscape that had people in it. There is also a North American section. There *Goshin* is one of the most famous in the world--a floral planting by John Naka who used 11 Chinese junipers to represent each of his grandchildren. Others include California juniper, bald cypress, bougainvillea that have been trained as bonsai. She announced that May 13 is World Bonsai Day and will be celebrated at the National Arboretum. People will be selling Bonsai that day.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Brown and Barbara Bates on behalf of John P. Richardson, Secretary

Height Act Still of Interest...

Recently, I spent some time with four students from Bayreuth University in Germany. They were here in DC with 17 of their classmates all studying different aspects of Washington, DC... physical security, bicycle transportation, livability and interestingly the issues concerning the Height of Building Act. As any AOIer knows, this was a BIG battle back in 2013 when California representative Daryl Issa held hearings trying to loosen the restrictions on the building heights which makes our city unique.

"My group" met at the Kiplinger Research Library at HSW -- thanks to Anne McDonough for accommodating us -- so they could hear what the issues regarding the Height Act were from a preservation group's perspective. I arranged for them to meet with Thomas Leubke of the Commission on Fine Arts and with staff from the National Capital Planning Commission. The students were thrilled to have had such access to the two major commissions which govern how our city complies with the L'Enfant, McMillan and Framework Plans.

They'll provide us with a copy of their final report after it is completed. Their professor for the project abroad is Dr. Matthew Hannah originally from the DC area!



Pictured L-R: Janine Kolb, Nicole Rischel, Bill Brown, Saskia Fredrich and Sebastian Schmidbartl.

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: aoidc.org and our email address is: aioifdc@gmail.com

Please check out our redesigned Home Page and listen to the audio of 2016 luncheon talks by our esteemed guests at www.aoidc.org. And, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

Address Correction Requested

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Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The **Historical Society of Washington, D.C** invites you to attend **the 123rd Anniversary Celebration and Visionary Historian Awards** on May 11, 2017, 6:30PM., honoring Dr. Frank Smith, founding director of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum and former City Council Member for Ward 1.

For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information

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Thomas Neale 202-333-6946
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The Heurich House Museum is the former home of the Historical Society of Washington and served as AOI's headquarters from 1956 until 2003.