



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 154th Year!***

***Bulletin #157
June 2019***

“The Great War in America”

Local author, historian, tour guide, and speaker Garrett Peck addressed the AOI luncheon May 17 on the subject of his new World War I book, “The Great War in America: World War I and Its Aftermath.” [available on Amazon, Politics & Prose, or your neighborhood independent bookstore.] This book, Peck’s seventh, arrives not long after the 100th anniversary of the November 11, 1918 armistice that ended the bloody conflict, and Peck answered his own question, “Why is there so little interest in World War I in America?” Part of the answer lies in the attention given to World War II, where the United States played an even greater role in the victory. World War I was not a triumphant war, since it left several European nations destitute and devoid of young men, the League of Nations was virtually still-born without American participation, major geostrategic questions remained unresolved, and the Depression was quickly followed by World War II. After American entry into the war following Germany’s declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare in early 1917, 4.7 million Americans went into the military, of which two million served in France, where they drove the Germans out in a year and a half. On the home front, President Wilson created a ruthless war propaganda machine in the “Committee on Public Information” (CPI) under George Creel, which generated millions of dollars in war bonds and ruthlessly denounced those who raised questions about the war.

(Cont’d. page 3)

June’s Luncheon Event:

**“Myrtilla Miner’s Normal School for Colored Girls”
with Kimberly Bender**



Please join us...

Friday, **June 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., June 18, 2017. **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., 6/20, 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 154th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Sept. 21, 2019 – TBA

Oct. 18, 2019 – Jenny Masur, “Heroes of the Underground Railroad around Washington, D.C.”

Nov. 15, 2019 – Robert Headley & Pat Padua, “Motion Picture Exhibition in Washington, D.C.”; annual election of officers and directors

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 June 21, 2019 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the fourth luncheon meeting of its 154th year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, May 17, 2019 with 69 members and guests present. **President Jan Evans** was recuperating at home from a fall and unable to preside. **Vice-President Bill Brown** conducted the business meeting. He called for approval of the notes of the April meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. With no further corrections or additions, upon a motion made by **Barbara Ioanes** and seconded by **Patricia Clark**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: There were four member applications for consideration: **Christina van Norman** (parents grew up in Anacostia, found us on Facebook); **Eric Olsson** (Washington Post's John Kelly); **William A. Xanten** (father of member Bill Xanten) and **Richard West** (friend of Jean Lockard's). None were present today. The new members were approved upon a motion, second by **Rise Cole** and **Maggie Hobbs**.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented the Treasurer's Report:

Membership

- So far this year, we have 283 members, 12 of whom have joined since January.
- Those who have not yet renewed will receive a final reminder notice in their June Newsletter.

Income

- As you may know, the bulk of our income comes from dues and donations. So far this year we have received a total of about \$10,000, which is right on target.

Non-Routine Expenses Since the April Luncheon

- Expenses the past month have all been for routine items – newsletter, luncheon, telephone

Luncheon Report

- 71 Attended our April luncheon

- Once again, our thanks to those who, at the last minute, were unable to attend the luncheon, but still paid for it.

Investment Account

- Our investment account was doing very well until this week. Like everyone we hope it will pick up again.

Vice-President Brown welcomed everyone on the Officers' & Directors' behalf and in addition to spouses and family members: **Gayle George** had with her daughter **Masai George...** it was **Dick West's** first time since he joined and his wife **Beryl** was with him; and **Marcia Rock** attended her first luncheon as a new member and her husband **Bill** joined her. In addition to spouses or family members, we had a number of guests here today: **Nancy Harris** had as her guest **Sarah Kirchen**; and, we welcomed twelve students and staff from Louisiana State University who were here with **Dr. Bill Pederson** for his annual Washington Semester Program.

Brief Announcements: We were very saddened to learn that our dear member and President of the Military Road School Preservation Trust **R. Barbara Johnson** had died after a brief illness. Barbara was a frequent attendee at our luncheons and was a great host for MRSPT's annual prayer breakfast and other events. Her service is Thursday, 5/23 at 11am at Asbury United Methodist Church at 11th & K. Streets, N.W. We were also sorry to learn of the death of past AOI member and guest speaker **Dr. Mark Ozer** on April 15th. Mark had spoken to us in the past about several of his books, “Northwest Washington, D.C.,” “Massachusetts Avenue in the Gilded Age,” and “Washington Metroland.” His service was held on April 28th.

Bill encouraged everyone to go to the Historical Society's new Washington History Center (exhibit space) at the newly refurbished Carnegie Library. Apple spent \$30 million rehabilitating the building and it is spectacular. The Kiplinger Library will reopen in July.

Also, you'll recall our February speakers Stewart and Lynetta Stevens who spoke on Stewart's 40 years as a chandelier cleaner and window washer at the White House. His story is going to be presented as a one-act play at TheArc on July 13th... more information will be placed it on AOI's

Facebook page.

Nelson Rimensnyder challenged the audience with a number of trivia questions and provided ‘prizes’ consisting of historic documents, pamphlets and memorabilia from his collections and archives. Nelson’s three questions, answers and those who won are available on the luncheon audio on AOI’s web site.

The Day’s Speaker: [see cover story] AOI member and author Garrett Peck who, now retired after 30 years with Verizon, will have even more time to write... spoke on “The Great War in America.”

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, June 21, 2019 when Kim Bender will discuss, “Myrtilla Miner’s Normal School for Colored Girls” which eventually became D.C. Teacher’ College, the Federal City College and now the University of the District of Columbia.

Respectfully submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary

[AOI’s programs may be heard at <http://www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-audio.html>]

“The Great War in America” (Continued from page 1)

Certainly Wilson faced opposition from, inter alia, German- and Irish-Americans opposed to helping Great Britain and the women’s suffrage movement, which marched in front of the White House and conducted a hunger strike until Wilson agreed to the women’s vote in exchange for an end to the strike. The American war effort started virtually from scratch, with a small army and virtually no military production but became a production juggernaut by the end.

World War I brought several unintended consequences, not least the ca. 116,000 American dead, most of whom were victims of the “Spanish” flu of 1918 rather than enemy bullets. The Treaty of Versailles – never ratified by the U.S. Senate – reflected French Premier Clemenceau’s determination to punish Germany for starting the war. In the United States the “Red Scare” of 1919 was an overwrought reaction to fear of radicalism from the overthrow of the



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 2016-2019 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.

Russian monarchy, leading to large-scale deportations and imprisonments before it abated. Some 25 race riots, with white mobs attacking black communities, occurred in the early 1920’s, only partly generated by economic conditions. Returning black soldiers, some 450,000 in all, expected to be thanked for their service but were often set upon by whites. One positive outcome of the war was the 19th amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Another, albeit less positive, outcome of the war was the 18th amendment instituting prohibition, a reflection of anti-German sentiment because of the large role of German-American beer brewers, including Washington’s own Christian Heurich. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, inaugurated on the third anniversary of the November 11 armistice in 1921, was another outcome of World War I. The official World War I museum is in Kansas City, Missouri, although Washington has its own memorial to World War I dead on Ohio Drive, NW, which lists all 499 war dead by name and without differentiation by race (common at the time). Conversion of Pershing Park in northwest D.C. to a national memorial to World War I is underway, thanks in no small part to the efforts of AOI. The speaker, who serves on the advisory council of the Woodrow Wilson House in Washington, has become a major chronicler of the Washington region and its role in the nation’s life.

Recounted by John Richardson

Membership (non-) Renewals...

Each year we send out our annual membership renewals in January with a personal appeal and return envelope. If members haven’t renewed by June (our summer hiatus) then these members are removed from our rolls and no longer receive mailings. If you are listed below, we haven’t received your 2019 renewal. If you still wish to remain a member in good standing, please mail your \$20 renewal to our address on the outside of the newsletter. We hope you will continue with us.

Ms. Fay Armstrong
 Ms. Pamela J. Barton
 Ms. Virginia Ann Baxter
 Dr. Joseph L. Browne
 Mr. Bryant Cole
 Mr. Joseph M. Coleman
 Mr. Lawrence DiJoseph III
 Mr. Roger Drissel
 Mr. Robert Ellis
 Douglas E. Evelyn
 Ms. Patricia Arnold Fowler
 Mr. Neal W. Gilbert
 Mrs. Margaret H. Gunning
 Richard E. Hage
 Ms. Celeta Hamilton
 Ms. Preston Huey
 Ms. Anne Robertson
 Kennedy
 Ms. Carryn C. Kubinski
 Mr. Gerhard W. Laue
 Ms. Shannon K. Lawrence
 Mr. Bob Levey
 Mr. William C. Lewis, Sr.

Ms. Betty Lichtenstein
 Capt. & Mrs. South Lynn
 Ms. Anne Martin
 Brenda Kelley Nelum
 Ms. Betsy O’Day
 Philip Pannell
 Mr. Andrew Parker, Jr.
 Mr. E. George Pazianos
 Ms. Eleanor Pernia
 Ms. Johanna Pezzullo
 Ms. Jayne H. Plank
 Mr. Gerald Allan Schwinn
 Mr. Gary Shorter
 Ms. Kathleen Bowen Simons
 Mr. Donald Smith
 Mr. Frank G. Sterrett, Jr.
 Mr. Thomas W. Walter
 Ms. Abigail B. Wiebenson
 William G. Williams
 Mr. Calvin G. Zon
 Mr. Elliot R. Wolff

Address Correction Requested

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Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668

Fire Department Liaison:

Jim Embrey 571-436-7774

Past President:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its new Washington History Center (exhibits) have reopened at the newly restored Carnegie Library. The Kiplinger Research Library is scheduled to reopen at Carnegie Library's Washington History Center in July. For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-516-1363 for further information.

Directors:

Barbara Bates 202-244-2090
Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133
Thomas Neale 202-333-6946
Gary Scott 202-544-4862



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