



# 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 152<sup>nd</sup> Year!*

*Bulletin #143  
October 2017*

## *President's Message...*

### *Years in the making...*

It was more than 12 years ago at an AOI luncheon that Park Service Historian Gary Scott (now retired and an AOI Director) introduced to our members GSA employee Richard Lyons (now an AOI member, too).



Gary Scott & Richard Lyons at the May 10, 2005 AOI Luncheon

It was the end of his workday, a dark Wednesday evening, Thanksgiving eve, in fact, in 1996 as Richard took one last glance around the upper floors of an old building at 488½ 7<sup>th</sup> Street which was about to be turned over the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation for demolition. But something caught Richard's eye (he tells a far better version of this story...), up over his left shoulder, barely visible up in the rafters. He climbed on a ladder to explore further and found the above sign, "Miss Clara H. Barton." The rest is history and now more than two decades in the making we have Clara Barton's Office of Missing Soldiers restored.

*Bill Brown*

## October's Luncheon Event:

**"Clara Barton's Office of Missing Soldiers"  
with Kenneth Burke**



### *Please join us...*

Friday, **Oct. 20**, 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., Oct. 17, 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., 10/19, 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 152<sup>nd</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Nov. 17, 2017 – Charles Birnbaum, “The Cultural Landscape Foundation”

Jan. 1, 2018 – AOI's Annual New Year's Day Breakfast

Feb. 16, 2018 – To be announced. Our 2018 schedule is being developed with an emphasis on matters related to World War I as the centennial period of the “War to End All Wars” will conclude on Nov. 11, 2018.

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...

[Here are the draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the Oct. 20, 2017 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the sixth luncheon meeting of its 152<sup>nd</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, September 15, 2017 with 66 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the June 2017 meeting, which were printed in the September newsletter. There being no corrections or additions, a motion made by **Dudley Brown** and seconded by **Mary Pat Gaffney**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

**New Members:** Two new members were nominated: **Anne C. Armstrong** (recommended by Barbara Bates) and **Anne Martin** (nominated by Pat Bitondo). \* **present today!** A motion was made by **Barbara Ioanes** and seconded by **Anita Lee** to approve the new members, who were approved enthusiastically.

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

### Membership

- We now have 335 members with a number of renewals over the summer.
- Those who have not renewed their membership for 2017 have been removed from our Membership List.

### Donations

- We have received about \$5,102 for our Unrestricted Fund and greatly appreciate your donations.

### Non-Routine Expenses Since May Luncheon

- \$500 to replace our 7 year old laptop computer

(used for our presentations and record keeping), component adapter and MS Office 2017 software

### Luncheon Report

- 93 Attended our June luncheon

**President's Remarks:** Bill welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members, the following guests: member **Robert and Mary Barbuto** had as their guest **Bob Glamb**; **Marion Buelken's** guest was **Marie Savoy**; **Patricia Fowler** had with her two guests, **Phyllis & George Pierce**; our member and guest speaker today, **Anita Lee**, had three guests with her: husband **Robert** and friends **Gerri Green** and **Geraldine Johnson** and **Anita's** friend **Raphael Branch** was present for the first time as a member since joining last spring; and, finally, this was **Richard Anderson's** first meeting and first time as a member.

Bill also reported that: 1) We lost three AOI members over the summer: **Mary Brown** who everyone should remember being featured in **Cindy Gueli's** book, “Lipstick Brigade;” **Rosemary Reed Miller** who was a member, hosted an AOI program on African American dress designers and was the owner of “Toast & Strawberries” for many years; and, we also lost long-time member **Segrid Washington** known for her tours which gave in German and her years of work with the DC Public Libraries. We will miss them all. 2) AOI Director **Gary Scott** has had a mild stroke and is recovering and many members expressed their well wishes by signing a “Speedy Recovery” note for Gary. 3) Bill noted the Cassini Saturn exploration mission which began in Oct 1997 ended early this morning when the craft was intentionally plunged into the planet. Imagine working on one project your entire career! Bill

praised the genius and perseverance of these scientists.

Brief Announcements: 1) HSW's offices, the Kiplinger Research Library and major portions of the Washingtoniana Collection have been successfully relocated to a floor in the Newseum where they will provide service until Apple re-opens the Carnegie Library as their flagship space and home of the Historical Society targeted for December 2018. Everyone was reminded of this year's Making DC History Awards gala on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> when... the Ruppert Family (AOI members, by the way) will be honored along with: Jose Andres, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Di & Lou Stovall and the Douglas Development Corporation. 2) AOI's newly created web page dedicated to promoting DC-related WWI centennial events has had several thousand page-views. You get to it via either the web site or Facebook.

**Nelson Rimensnyder** challenged everyone with several DC history trivia questions:

Q: Who in the first congress in 1789 had proposed a ridiculously long title for the new post of President: "His Highness President of the United States and Protector of the Same." Who supported this title and later became President himself? A: John Adams – **Tom Walter** provided the answer.

Q: What two Caribbean Islands supplied sugar to Georgetown and later sought statehood? A: Puerto Rico and St. Croix -- **Connie Kerwin** provided the answer.

Q: Colonel John Symington purchased Key West, FL in 1828 and established a local government there. Where in DC is Symington buried? A: Congressional Cemetery. **Ruth Sando** knew the answer.

Nelson also provided several gifts from the late **Joe Grano's** estate to members based upon their interests.

**The Day's Speaker:** Bill introduced the day's speaker, **Anita Lynn Lee**, who spoke about her D.C. family and her 2013 book, "A Thread Runs through Herstory." Ms. Lee also prepared and distributed a helpful, one-page document giving details about some of the historical references in her talk. The speaker noted that she has also written six children's books, one biography, and collaborated on other publications. She said that her book focuses on three generations of her family in Washington that has not been famous but has been led by strong and principled women who have shared their stories and made it possible for the speaker to capture them in print. Ms. Lee's grandmother was born in 1892 and her mother in 1914. Despite the

challenges of segregated Washington, the family always kept moving forward, typified by seeking better housing and sharing the space with boarders that included family members getting on their own feet. The speaker recounted the grim days in 1919 when anti-black race riots spread across the country, and a mob came down their D.C. street looking for blacks to attack. White neighbors came to their defense, however, assuring the mob that no blacks lived on the block. Ms. Lee's mother attended Sumner-Magruder School and Dunbar High School, taking advantage of the D.C. Public Library, which was one of the first desegregated public buildings in Washington. Her mother attended Miner Teachers College on the grounds of Howard University and married "Les" Christian, who came from farming stock in Amherst County, VA and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. The parents later purchased a historic house in Clifford, VA on 100 acres. Anita Lee's mother was a life-long teacher like her daughter and was still volunteering as a docent at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at the age of 92. The speaker spoke candidly and proudly of her family's tradition of work, faith, and family.

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, October 20th, at the Capitol Skyline Hotel, when Kenneth Burke of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine will discuss its operation and restoration of Clara Barton's Office of Missing Soldiers historic site and museum.

*Respectfully submitted by  
John P. Richardson, Secretary*

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: [aoidc.org](http://aoidc.org) and our email address is: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com)

Please check out our redesigned Home Page and listen to the audio of our luncheon talks by our esteemed guests at [www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org). And, follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org](http://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, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library, together with portions of the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library, are now operating from temporary quarters in the Newseum while the Carnegie Library undergoes restoration by Apple. For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information

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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.