



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 153rd Year!**

**Bulletin #151
October 2018**

President's Message...

Join Us to Observe the Centennial of the Armistice with the D.C. National Guard:



On Sunday, November 11, 2018, the Centennial of the Armistice that ended World War I will be observed at the D.C. War Memorial. As many familiar with AOI's history of advocacy know, we wrote, testified and spoke out for many years to prevent our city's memorial to its 499 war dead from being taken over by parties advocating for a 'national' WWI memorial on the National Mall.

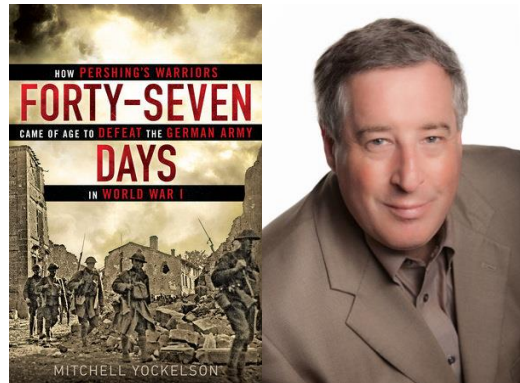
After our success in turning attention to the existing national WWI Memorial in Washington, DC – Pershing Park and the Pershing Memorial – the AOI together with Major General William J. Walker, Commanding General of the D.C. National guard and the units under his command can formally observe the 100th anniversary of the end of the conflict with honor and dignity at **our city's** memorial that forever will bear the names of **our** fallen.

Bill Brown

(More event details are on page 3)

October's Luncheon Event:

"Forty-seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army"
Mitchell Yockelson, Investigative Archivist (NARA) and Military Historian



Please join us...

Friday, **Oct. 19**, 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. 16, 2018. 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., 10/18, 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 153rd Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Nov. 16, 2018 – Warren Belasco, “Washington, DC Culinary History & Highlights” and AOI's annual elections

Jan. 1, 2019 – AOI's Annual New Year's Day Buffet Brunch at the Capitol Skyline Hotel

Feb. 15, 2019 – Stewart Stevens, Sr., “The White House Chandeliers, My Experience While Working for Seven US Presidents”

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 October 19, 2018 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the sixth luncheon meeting of its 153rd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at noon Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 with 70 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the June meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. With no further corrections or additions, a motion made by **Gordon Brown** and seconded by **Lauren Tawil**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: There were no new member applications for consideration. Bill pointed out that this is not a good sign for the continued sustained health of the organization and encouraged everyone to take membership brochures with them and recruit some new members.

Assistant Treasurer **Thomas Neale** presented the Treasurer's Report:

Membership

- We had a number of renewals over the summer and now have 313 members.
- Those who have not renewed have been dropped from our Membership List.

Non-Routine Expenses since the June 2018 Meeting

- \$211.57 Luncheon for WWI Planning Committee, with two reps from DC National Guard & five reps from AOI Board
- \$500.00 to HSW for ½ page ad in program booklet for 2018 Making History Awards

Luncheon Report

- Attendance at our June luncheon was 79.

Tom also took a moment to review for everyone that our primary checking account is held at SunTrust and that our investments are expertly managed by Morgan Stanley/Smith-Barney.

President's Remarks: Bill welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members: **Joseph Akers** had with him **Celeta Hamilton**; **Sherfy Jones** was **Richard Anderson's** guest; and **Dr. Eleanor Sonderman** was present as our guest accompanying our speaker **Dr. Ruth Troccoli**.

Brief Announcements: There was a reminder that the memorial service for Dudley Brown would be held Sat., 9/22, at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 201 Independence Avenue, SE. **Mark Ohnmacht**, AOI member and Arts Club of Washington officer, added that a reception would follow at the Arts Club at 2:30 and that everyone was invited.

Everyone was reminded of our observance of the centennial of the World War I Armistice on Sunday, November 11th at 10:30 am at the DC War Memorial. Our Feb. speakers will be Lynetta and Stewart Stevens on his career as a chandelier cleaner and window washer at the White House under seven presidents. A one-act play based on their book is being presented at the Betts Auditorium at GWU on Dec. 15th. Bill had information available.

Nelson Rimensnyder challenged the audience with five history trivia questions:

Q: What classic D.C. (waterfront?) restaurant has kept a tradition going all these years, and what is the tradition?" A: Rum buns at Hogates – **Sharon House** provided the answer.

Q: In 1795 George Washington established a site for the mint at Tiber Creek at what would be Pennsylvania Ave. NW. What is on that site today?

A: US District Court – **Larry Feinberg** knew the answer.

Q: What president had a son die in both WWI and WWII? A: Theodore Roosevelt – **Dave Landers** provided the answer.

Q: What two presidents used the State of the Union address as a bully pulpit to endorse D.C. voting rights? A: Eisenhower and Nixon – **Kate Meskill** knew the answer.

Q: Who is the only AOI member currently running for office? A: Nelson Rimensnyder – The Cherkaskies and Linda Ingram shared the prize.

The Day's Speaker: Bill introduced the day's speaker, Dr. Ruth Troccoli, District of Columbia Archaeologist in the Historic Preservation Office under the Office of Planning. She received her doctorate from the University of Florida in 2006; her dissertation examined the lives of Native American women chiefs among southeastern American Indian groups. Dr. Troccoli mentioned at the outset that she is a member of the Planning Committee for the D.C. Historical Studies Conference, to be held November 1-4, and urged everyone to attend. Dr. Troccoli noted that Dr. Eleanor Sonderman, her associate, assisted in the talk preparation. The D.C. Archaeologist wears many hats, a major one responsibility for reviewing D.C. construction projects for archaeological overtones. Because her position has state responsibilities and receives federal aid, Dr. Troccoli is also responsible for following federal guidelines. Dr. Troccoli highlighted items of particular interest such as the fact that on the site of the National American Indian Museum were found remains of several Civil War era brothels in what became known as "Hooker's Division," after the Union General responsible for the area. A Native American village has been discovered 80' below ground along the Anacostia River. Dr. Troccoli's office sponsors public education programs, with particular focus on local students in order to broaden their understanding of local history and to develop an interest in archaeology. The Archaeologist's office has just produced the draft of the 2020 Historic Preservation Plan, a required document because of the receipt of federal funding. Dr. Troccoli explained that archaeology is a blend of analysis of material findings and story-telling, the latter being a critical component in bringing the past to life on often limited evidence. The D.C. area has a long and rich archeological record because both the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers continued to flow during the last Ice Age, when vast areas of North America were abandoned. Her office faces a storage problem because of its growing collection of local artifacts. She said, however, that they have been assigned space in the

under-renovation Martin Luther King Library that will ease the storage problem. Dr. Troccoli's principal story concerned excavation of the Georgetown land on which freed slave Yarrow Mamout built his house in the early 19th century; Mamout sat for a now famous painting by Charles Vincent Peale, who painted George Washington and numerous other early American leaders. Much of what we know about Mamout has come from Peale's diaries. The Mamout excavation generated public interest but did not turn up confirmed evidence of his house, which was no longer in existence, in large part because an in-ground pool had been built later on the property. Ground-penetrating radar and other sophisticated analytical tools were loaned or donated to support the research. Dr. Troccoli also gave a detailed explanation of the so-called "Shotgun House" in Southeast D.C., built in 1861, whose detailed study has revealed traces of the original German immigrant colony in the neighborhood, which was near a brewery.

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, October 19 when Mitchel Yockelson will present the final in our series of four programs dedicated to the centennial of World War I. His subject will be: "Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army."

Respectfully submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary

November 11th Observance Details...

Where: DC War Memorial, Independence Avenue (Ash Grove) at West Basin Drive across from the MLK, Jr. Memorial

When: Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, 10:30am – 1pm

How: By car – metered parking in West Potomac Park/Ohio Drive; DC Circulator Mall Route. The right lane of Independence Avenue will be restricted by the U.S. Park Police to allow for drop-off and pick-up of passengers.

More Info: on our social media sites (see below)

AOP's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



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

You may also 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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A.L. Wheeler

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 closed while the Carnegie Library undergoes restoration by Apple, due for completion in Dec. 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.