



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 #142
September 2017***

President's Message...

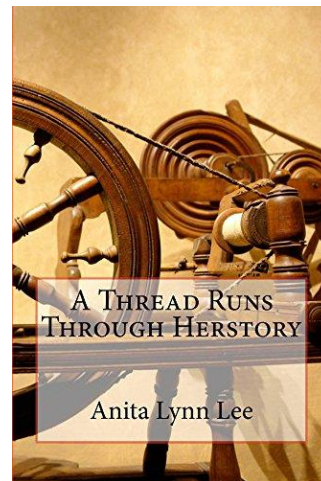
How Time Flies... 18 years of luncheons...

This month AOI member Anita Lee joins us as our 160th+ speaker. I thought it would a fun exercise to see how many current members recall these speakers: Phil Ogilvie & Don Briggs, NPS; Fred J. Maroon; Col. Marcus Ring; Frances Flannigan; Dr. Mark Weiss; Gail Redmann; Rick Schaffer & Bill Fleishel; Police Chiefs Ramsey, Herring & Langston; Mark Shields; Jeanne Fogel; Paul K. Williams; Sally Berk; Rebecca Kingsley; Eugene Dewitt Kinlow; Austin Kiplinger; Gail Redmann; John Jay Daly; Peter Waddell; Judy Capurso; Gilbert Hahn; Paul Dickson & Tom Allen; Harry Ways; Lee Rogers; Anthony Pitch; Cancelled! Hurricane Isabel; Dr. Barbara Wolanin; Jack Ihrie; Jerry McCoy; C. Dudley Brown; Laura Cohen Apelbaum; Nelson Rimensnyder; Ms. Marshall Kiker; Gary Scott & Richard Lyons; Dr. Linda Lyons; Dan Tangherlini; Bill Mayhugh; Linda Harper; Dr. Joseph Browne; Dr. Jeffrey Reznick; Judy Scott Feldman; Mayor Tony Williams; Elizabeth Smith Brownstein; Washington Jazz Arts Institute; Sister Mada-Ann Gell; BF Cooling & Wally Owen & Loretta Neumann-Smith; Mark Plotkin; Marcel Acosta; Tom Sherwood; Don Larrabee & Austin Kiplinger; Rosemary Reed Miller; David Maloney; Sandy Bellamy; Ed Bearss; Carroll R. Gibbs; James Goode; Ken Bowling; Don Hawkins; Candace Shireman; AOI Pres. Bill Brown; Bob Levey; John Kelly; Ann McClellan; Dr. Mark Ozer; Pat Tyson; Dr. Joseph Browne & Bill Gilcher; Thomas Leubke; Paul Dickson & Doug Evelyn; Jim Johnston; Alexa Viets; Garrett Peck; Mark Levitch; Amb. Gordon Brown; Elaine Flynn; John DeFerrari; Michael Lee Pope; Carol Highsmith & Ted Landfair; Davis Buckley; Conrad Reid; Dianne Dale; Sgt. Paul Leeper; Cindy Janke; Erin Bergin Voorheis; Michael Lisicky; Frank Cooling; Mike Canning; Patricia Daly-Lipe; Matthew Green & Larry Poos; Hayden Wetzel; Gail Spilsbury & Don Rothacker; Rear Admiral Mark Rich; Rex Passion; Rohulamin Quander; George Hill & Dave Jackson; Carole Ottesen; Delores Mounsey; Dr. Cindy Gueli; Stephen H. Grant; Robert W. (Bob) Patrick; Earl P. Williams, Jr.; John Michael; David Hamilton; Melanie Choukas-Bradley; John Richardson; Ann McClellan & Panel; Kathryn Allamong Jacob; Skip Moskey; and, Helena Wright.

Bill Brown

September's Luncheon Event:

"A Thread Runs Through Herstory" with Anita Lee



Please join us...

Friday, **Sept. 15**, 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., Sept. 12, 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., 9/14, 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:

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”

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

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 Sept. 15, 2017 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the fifth luncheon meeting of its 152nd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, June 16, 2017 with 92 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the May 2017 meeting, which were printed in the June newsletter. After a correction noting 65 vs. 57 members at the April luncheon and a motion made by **Dudley Brown** and seconded by **Rise Cole**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: Three new members were nominated: **Mary Lee Giblon-Sheahan*** (last month’s guest of member **Laurea DiJoseph**), **Bryant Cole*** (Carl & Rise Cole’s grandson); and, **Richard L. Anderson, Jr.** (Arlington resident, don’t know how he discovered the AOI). ***=present today!** A motion was made by **Rita Champagne** and seconded by **Darwina Neal** to approve the new members, who were approved enthusiastically.

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

Membership

- We now have 313 members and should reach our budgeted number of 330 with ease.
- Those who have not renewed their membership for 2017 by the end of June will be removed from our Membership List.

Donations

- We have received about \$4,900 for our Unrestricted Fund and greatly appreciate your

donations.

Non-Routine Expenses Since May Luncheon

- None

Luncheon Report

- 85 Attended our May luncheon
- There is a correction to my Report last month – 65 attended the April luncheon, not 57 as I had reported

President’s Remarks: **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members, the following guests: member **Rod Ross’** guest **Judy Schwartz**, **Laurea DiJoseph’s** guest **Louise Gaardsmoe**, and **Charles Robertson’s** guest **Anne Sellin**. **Bill** also welcomed back to our membership **Catherine Paunov**, a past member and daughter of long-time member **Bill Pennington** (now 94 years old), who renewed membership for both.

Bill also reported that: 1) Directors **John Richardson**, **Maggie Hobbs** and he attended an NCPC meeting on June 1st that formally detailed **Apple’s** plans for the historic Carnegie Library, which seem not only to be in keeping with conserving and improving the historic structure but also appear to provide ample room for the Historical Society, to include the entire 2nd floor and large portions of the basement level for storage and processing. (Watch for announcements of future meetings for public input not expected until the fall.) 2) AOI’s newly-created web page dedicated to promoting DC-related WWI centennial events has had several thousand page-views in the past 6 weeks. You can reach it via either the web site or Facebook. (3) There will be a commemoration at Ft. Stephens July 8 that will include re-enactors. (4) The 1905 pumper fire engine formerly belonging to AOI is likely to be part of the Palisades 4th of July parade. (5) **Bill** mentioned the updated AOI webpage, whose WW I entries have been greatly

strengthened by Barbara Bates' scholarship and diligence.

Nelson Rimensnyder challenged everyone with several DC history trivia questions:

Q: What US President was at a baseball game when he learned his party nominated him? A: Abraham Lincoln – **Ruth Sando** provided the answer.

Q: Who reached out to the families of 12,920 Civil War victims at Andersonville Prison and urged commemoration of the site? A: Clara Barton. **Connie Kerwin** provided the answer.

Q: The 23rd Amendment to the Constitution provide for DC's vote in the Presidential Election. What 8 states didn't support it? A: The former Confederate States. **Cathy Paunov** knew the answer.

Q: Federal law requires the US Flag flown at what locations during elections? A: Polling Places. **Mary Lee Giblon-Sheahan** provided 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, **Helena Wright**, a print curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, who spoke about her book, "The Smithsonian's First Collection." Ms. Wright said that there has always been competition at the Smithsonian between factions favoring scientific or library acquisitions. Ms. Wright noted that while the Smithsonian Institution has long been associated with science and technology, its first acquisition was purchase of an extensive collection of European engravings from George Perkins Marsh, a polymath Congressman, lawyer, collector, philologist, and diplomat from Vermont. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Marsh was a philologist fluent in several languages and author of an acclaimed work on the English language. He was United States representative in Constantinople (1850-53) and Rome (1861-1882). Marsh was one of the nation's earliest environmentalists, having published "Man and Nature" in 1864. Joseph Henry, first Secretary of the Smithsonian, chose Marsh's print collection for its first acquisition in 1849, for which he paid \$3,000. As a print collector, Marsh dealt with a number of American and European dealers who recognized his exceptional taste and erudition. A fire in the Castle Building in 1865 required temporary relocation of many of its collections to the Library of Congress, and construction of the new Jefferson Building caused a multi-year tug-of-war for the Smithsonian to recover them, including Marsh's prints, which had not been fully inventoried. Marsh lobbied

consistently for the Smithsonian to be designated the "national library," since at the time the Library of Congress had severely limited users, but he was not successful. Ms. Wright, who has worked at the Smithsonian for 33 years, said that the search to identify Marsh's many contributions to the Smithsonian remains "a work in progress."

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, September 15th, at the Capitol Skyline Hotel, when **Anita Lee** will discuss her family story and book, "A Thread Runs Through Herstory."

*Respectfully submitted by
John P. Richardson, Secretary*

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: **aoidc.org** and our email address is: **aoiofdc@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. 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.

Dear Members and Friends of the Historical Society,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the Historical Society Board of Trustees has signed a Tri-Party Agreement to share the historic Carnegie Library with Apple and Events DC (Washington Convention and Sports Authority). The future Carnegie Library will house the Historical Society above a new Apple Global Flagship Store, which will be located primarily on the first floor.

The new arrangement will restore the exterior of the historic 1903 Carnegie Library. The interior spaces will be renovated, and the redesigned building will provide the Historical Society's valuable collections with a museum-quality environment. The restoration will also provide expanded access for students, professional researchers, scholars, and the general public to engage with the Historical Society's museum and library. The Historical Society's new footprint includes state-of-the-art storage facilities, a renovated Kiplinger Research Library, two new galleries, and public program space on the second floor.

During the renovation, the Historical Society will occupy space on the third floor of the Newseum. Research services will resume on September 19, 2017. Located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, the Newseum will serve as the home to the Historical Society's library and collections to allow for the Carnegie Library restoration. The public will be able to access the Historical Society and Washingtoniana collections from the Newseum's Group Entrance, located on C Street NW. Photo ID will be required for admission. As always, admission to the Historical Society is free. To make an appointment, please email library@dchistory.org.

Julie Koczela, Chair, Board of Trustees HSW

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, will be 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.