



The Association of the 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*

*Bulletin #80
May 2, 2008*

President's Message...

The District Building, now designated the John A. Wilson Building, celebrates its centennial this July 4th. Plans are being made to officially celebrate the building's anniversary during the month of September. Meanwhile, AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder has been representing the AOI at a series of planning meetings convened by Cynthia Brock-Smith, Secretary to the Council, at the direction of Council Chair Vincent Gray. The goal of the committee is to plan and implement appropriate displays and activities to showcase the history of the building. In addition, Chairman Gray has introduced legislation to establish the "John A. Wilson Building Centennial Fund" to be used for the purpose of providing resources for the commemoration of its 100th anniversary. Doing so will permit the city to designate funds and to seek donations and private financial support for the activities.

If you have historic photos, artifacts or other memorabilia related to the District Building or have suggestions for the celebration, please pass them along to Nelson Rimensnyder (phone number on page 4).

Bill Brown



The District Building (John A. Wilson Building) was dedicated on July 4, 1908.

May=s Luncheon Event:

AJewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community@

Laura Cohen Apelbaum, Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Washington, DC discusses the Society's recently published book on Jewish life in Washington

Please join us...

for our Luncheon Meeting on Friday, May 16, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU, Metro Bus 70 or Downtown Circulator Bus), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (\$20 per person - please have checks completed and payable to AAOI@), concurrent with our Business Meeting and followed by our Feature Presentation.

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. **202-383-1813, no later than noon Wed., May 14, 2008.**

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., 5/15, may result in you being charged.

Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest=s names, your meal preferences (Fish, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef, Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or last-minute cancellation.

Future Meetings...

The AOI=s 143rd Year B Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

June 20, 2008 – District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer David Maloney will speak on the city's Historic Preservation efforts, codes and issues.

Sept. 19, 2008 – AOI Members Reminisce PLUS Historical Society of Washington, DC's Executive Director Sandy Bellamy will give a report to AOI on the progress and resurgence the HSW has experienced during its period of renewal

Oct. 17, 2008 – National Park Service Historian Emeritus Edwin C. Bearss will share his more than 40-years of Park Service experiences including those as DC's preeminent tour guide.

Nov. 21, 2008 – Program To Be Announced; Annual Election of Officers & Directors

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, the AOI follows the closing schedule of the Arlington County Public Schools or call HSW at 202-383-1813 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our April 2008 Meeting...

The third luncheon meeting of 2008 was held at the Channel Inn on April 18. President **Bill Brown** opened the meeting and promptly moved ahead to allow the unique presentations ample time to develop. There were 78 members and guests in attendance. Additionally, three Catholic University graduate students were present who interviewed a number of members about their involvement in AOI and life in various city neighborhoods. (Subsequently, we received a very nice 'thank you' note from Chris Cassleman, Faye Frempong and Franklin Perry for assisting them with their project. [Ed.]

Minutes of the previous meeting (March 21) were approved as published in the newsletter, following a motion and second.

John Jay Daly announced the names of six new applicants for membership. They are **Nancy Clayton Smalibroek** (nominated by Josie Beagle), **Vincent J. Scalco** (nominated by Josie Beagle), **Leslie White** (nominated by Bill Brown), **Paul Dickson** (past guest speaker), **Ben Fisher**, and **Shirley McManus** (sponsored by Bonnie Duncan). A motion for acceptance was made by **John Gill**, seconded by **Al Wheeler** and quickly approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. We now have 275 members, including 18 new members. There was little financial activity since the last meeting.

Sadly, Bill acknowledged the death of long-time AOI member **Douglas Dawson** on March 30th and asked that everyone keep member **Betty Smith** in their thoughts and prayers in

that Betty has been in declining health. Betty, Doug, and **Doris Goff** are all carpools to AOI events with **Bob Proudley**.

Bill Brown mentioned that all AOI members are invited to a reception by the Military Roads School Preservation Trust and the Marie H. Reed Civil War Cadets, to be held on Friday, May 2. He presented contact information for responding. Bill also announced other meetings and activities that may be of interest to members. Bill also noted that there were problems in connection with delivery of our newsletter, with a number of members not receiving their copies in satisfactory condition. Some actions to prevent this from happening further are being tested. This will be monitored carefully.

The focus of today's program was the role of African American dress designers and dressmakers in shaping fashion. The principle speaker was Rosemary E. Reed Miller, author of the book "Threads of Time, the Fabric of History: Profiles of African American Dressmakers and Designers, 1850 to the Present." This book is now in its third edition. Her presentation was fascinating and warmly received by all. She was assisted by two contemporary women of design, Cindy Williams and Sahara Peerzada. A fine addition to the program was the modeling of examples of their creations. The models included **Bernice Watts**, **Jean Adams**, **Patricia Royal**, **Shirley McManus**, **Bonnie Duncan** and others. Rosemary Reed Miller was the proprietor of "Toast and Strawberries", which was a famous boutique here in Washington for 35 years. The program was thoroughly enjoyable!

Respectfully submitted,
Seymour Selig

Please Renew Your Membership Now If You Have Not Already Done So!

The AOI's membership year runs January 1st through December 31st and payment is due January 1st. Each January we mail out our annual renewal appeal to all members. As of April 30, we have had heard from 275 of our 347 potential renewals. Our by-laws state, "Any member in arrears in payment of dues for six months or more after the first day of January of any year shall be considered to be not in good standing and shall not be entitled to vote or hold office."

If your mailing label on this month's newsletters shows an "EXP!", then as of April 30th we have not heard from you. Please use the tear-off form below to renew your membership and consider an additional contribution in support of one of our partners or initiatives.

Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply [AGoogle@ Governor Shepherd and we=ll pop-up!](mailto:AGoogle@GovernorShepherdandweillpop-up!)

Our e-mail address is: aoi_of_dc@verizon.net

AOI is a member organization of:



AOI Members Model Designs by Cindy Williams & Sahara Peerzada...



AOI Ladies prepare for the April fashion show as Bob Wilson looks on.

Our newsletters and publications are reproduced and assembled in Georgetown by:



2008 AOI Membership Renewal/Contribution Form:

(Make check payable to AOI and send it to: AOI, 4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Wash., DC 20007-2010)

Name: _____

Renewal: **\$15.00**

Address: _____

Phil Ogilvie Award: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Shepherd Statue: _____

Phone: _____

HSW Library: _____

E-mail: _____

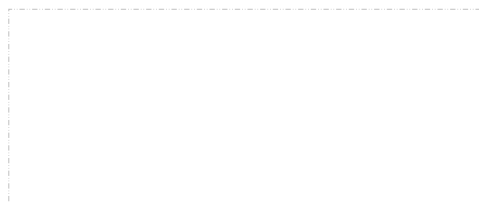
Other: _____

(AOI does not publish its membership list and only coordinates its mailings with the Historical Society of DC.)

Total: \$_____

Address Correction Requested

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-2010



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-- Please renew your 2008 AOI membership if you have not already done so.
-- Help keep AOI alive and growing: invite a friend to join!
-- Visit the Kiplinger Research Library at HSW now open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am – 5pm.



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