



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 #88
October 2, 2009*

President's Message...



The AOI lost a good friend and dedicated member of its Board on August 27th when **John Jay Daly** passed away after a brief illness. As many will recall, John underwent open-heart surgery in April and made a very quick recovery... sufficiently so that he was able to participate in the annual Palisades Fourth of July parade. However, in mid-August John developed an infection and passed away a week later with his devoted family at his bedside.

John will be most remembered by members for his gregarious nature and the open-armed welcome he provided everyone at our monthly luncheon meetings. He will be remembered by his fellow Directors and AOI Officers as someone, based on his years of experience in the marketing and communications arena, who always had great suggestions for promoting the AOI and increasing its membership. John was instrumental in helping redesign AOP's membership brochure.

John had served as an AOI Director and Membership Chair for over four years. He will be greatly missed.

Bill Brown

October's Luncheon Event:

Carroll R. Gibbs

Forgotten Soldiers: The District's Black Dough Boys of World War I



Maj. James E. Walker, Commander, First Separate Battalion, DC National Guard

Please join us...

Friday, **October 16th**, 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@). Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., Oct. 14, 2009.

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., 10/15, may 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 (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, 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 144th Year B Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Nov. 20, 2009 – Author/writer Bob Levey presents an update of his “Bob Levey’s Washington” & Annual Election of the AOI’s Board and Officers
- Jan. 1, 2010 – AOI’s annual New Year’s Day reception. 11:30 – 2pm at the Pier 7
- Feb. 19, 2010 – AOI Members Reminisce
- March 19, 2010 – Anne McClellan: The History of the Cherry Blossom Festival
- April 16, 2010 – Dr. Mark Ozer: “Washington DC – Politics and Place”
- May 21, 2010 – Female Re-enactors of Distinction (FREED) with Patricia Tyson, Theresa Saxton & Friends
- June 18, 2010 – Dr. Joseph Browne and William Gilcher: Adolf Cluss and the Washington Barracks (Ft. McNair)

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, the AOI follows the closing schedule of the Arlington County Public Schools or call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our Sept. 2009 Meeting...

The first meeting of the fall season was held on September 18 at the Channel Inn. President Bill Brown announced that there were a record number of people attending, which turned out to be 112.

Since there was no newsletter prior to this meeting, copies of the draft of the June meeting minutes had been placed by Bill at each table for consideration and approval of the membership. Bill called for additions or corrections to the minutes. Since none were offered a motion to dispense with full reading and accept them was offered by **Allen Beach**, seconded by **Kay Eckles**. The motion was approved.

There were three new applicants for membership: **Paul Liston**, sponsored by Agnes Hill; **Anne Robertson Kennedy**, sponsored by Sally MacDonald; and **William DeCosta** (who attended the recent Gov. Shepherd conference at the Historical Society). A motion to accept them as members was made by **John Gill** and seconded by **Bob Proudley**. The motion was approved.

A brief report of the treasurer was given by Bill in the absence of Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** (who is visiting China). Bill noted that expenses since the June meeting included disbursements to the Historical Society Kiplinger Library (in memory of Director John Daly) \$250; honorarium for services by driver of fire apparatus for July 4th parade \$100; contribution to Rhodes Tavern DC Heritage Society for the Call Box restoration project \$250; membership dues to Federation of Citizens Associations \$60; contribution to African American Civil War Memorial linked to Military Roads School Preservation Trust \$60. The value of our investment account has increased 34% since its low in February but is still substantially less than at this time last year. There were 327 current members prior to today.

Bill spoke of our personal loss due to the passing of Director **John Jay Daly**. John's death in August was due to later complications following heart valve surgery in April. His

recovery had been going well, and he was at the July 4th parade. Bill expressed everyone's feelings in well chosen words which were an insightful moving tribute to this special man and his achievements, who contributed so enthusiastically to AOI. Bill also spoke of the passing of member **Mary Wilson** and Linda Posell, wife of member **Gerald Allan Schwinn**.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** discussed the results of the poll which he had taken at the June meeting, in regard to our preferences for the future quarter coin to honor historic or park sites in each state. Eight-one members voted. [see article on page 3] Nelson also reported on his continuing research on AOI (Colored) Inc.

Joe Grano reported on the activities concerning commemoration of Rhodes Tavern. It is 25 years since its demolition, and it dies hard. Joe felt that its anniversary should be honored by doing something positive, like restoring the fire call boxes in the Rhodes Tavern vicinity. There are matching grants available administered through Cultural Tourism, for worthy activities, and Joe set to work. He was eminently successful and mentioned the names of individuals who advanced this project, including **John Cosgrove** and **Charles Cassell**. Four call boxes have been restored by this action.

Our speaker today was **Anthony Pitch**. He honored us several years ago with an outstanding presentation after the publication of his book "The Burning of Washington." He has now followed this with another major contribution to Washington History in "They Have Killed Papa Dead," about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The book contains much new information that he has uncovered. His presentation was indeed a masterpiece---apart from his scholarship as historian, his narrative was extremely effective and literally had us entranced throughout. Although his low key and matter-of-fact style minimized hype, he had our intense interest from beginning to end, all the while presenting us with facts that were surprising. Congratulations to Tony on this further most worthwhile presentation!

Respectfully submitted,

Seymour Selig

The Postal Prayer...

At John Daly's well-attended funeral on Sept. 1st, his daughter LuAnne Daly read the following, written by the Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland. It is the Postal Prayer.

"May everything we do be first class. Provide special handling for those of us who are fragile... and keep us in one piece. We have been signed, sealed, stamped and delivered in your image and likeness... and we beg you to keep us in your care as we go about our appointed rounds. And, when our days draw to a close, and we are marked "return to sender" please greet us at Heaven's door so that no one may ever say "undeliverable at this address.""

Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply AGoogle@ Governor Shepherd and we'll pop-up!

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

AOI's newsletters and publications are printed and assembled by the staff of FedEx Office of Georgetown.



AOI is a proud member of Cultural Tourism DC:



AOI Members Vote on New Quarter Coin...

America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008 authorized the minting of 56 new quarters to be released between 2010 and 2021. At its June 2009 luncheon meeting, AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder asked AOI members and guests to vote on their preferences for which National Park or Historic Site should adorn the District's Quarter as part of this program by the U.S. Mint. The partial voting results were: the C&O Canal and U.S. Capitol (tied for 1st place), the Lincoln Cottage (2nd), National Cathedral (3rd), the Washington Monument (4th), Rock Creek Park (5th) and the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (Cedar Hill, 6th),... there was even a write-in vote for "Al Wheeler" as an 'icon worthy of recognition.' The program will feature 5 new quarters per year through the year 2021. The District's quarter featuring Frederick Douglass' Cedar Hill home will be

premiered in 2017 together with Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey and Indiana. In 2010, the program will launch with, among other sites, The Grand Canyon (AZ), Yellowstone (WY) and Mount Hood National Forest (OR). The last in the series will feature the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama in 2021. [Below photos courtesy of nps.gov/frdo website]



Frederick Douglass' Cedar Hill

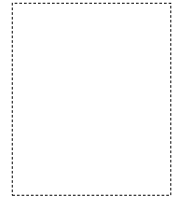


Frederick Douglass

AOI members may recall that Frederick Douglass or his home -- Cedar Hill -- was one of our choices for the DC Quarter Coin (Duke Ellington won out with 36% support of DC residents who voted, 33% for Frederick Douglass and 31% for Benjamin Banneker) and Douglass was also selected, together with Pierre Charles L'Enfant, as one of two important figures in the District's history to adorn Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol; but, as of this date are on view at #1 Judiciary Square as the District has not been permitted to have our prominent figures represented in the U.S. Capitol

Address Correction Requested

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-- Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
-- Free exhibits, book shop and café at the Historical Society are now open Tues. thru Sun., 10am-5pm! (Kiplinger Library, Tue-Sat)
Check HSW's calendar at: www.historydc.org
-- Annual Washington Studies Conf. Nov. 12-14 at the Summer School. Call 202-730-0477 for more information.



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