



# 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 #83  
November 7, 2008*

## ***President's Message...***

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the Military Road School Preservation Trust and the Black Heritage Society co-sponsored an awards banquet at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Conference Center.

The event, attended by nearly 150 MRSPT and BHS friends and partners, celebrated the two organizations' successes and was a Salute To Educational Excellence. *Legacy of Educational Excellence* awards were presented to: Mrs. Dayo Akinsheye, Principal of the Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center; Ms. Gloria Minott, host of *Metro Week* on WPFW-FM; Mrs. Nancye T. Suggs, recently retired Director of the Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives; Mrs. Eleanor Stewart, Director of the DC Boy's Choir; Mr. Robert Parker, site manager for the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House; and, The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia. The AOI became a partner with the MRSPT when Past-president Dr. Phil Ogilvie encouraged the alumni of the Military Road School to seek Historic Landmark status for their building. Since then the AOI has not only supported MRSPT programs and scholarships but joined with them in supporting Dexter Akinsheye's 1<sup>st</sup> United States Colored Troops Cadet Regiment of Washington, D.C.

The AOI supports its partners in "Remembering the Past."

***Bill Brown***



Bill Brown with MRSPT's Chair Ruth Johnson, Pat Tyson & Malcolm Beech, Sr.

## **November's Luncheon Event:**

### **Historian Carroll R. Gibbs**

**"Black Explorers"** – A wide-ranging survey of the little known achievements of explorers of African descent from ancient times to modern days while also revealing a few heretofore hidden connections to the nation's capital

***Please join us...***

for our Luncheon Meeting on Friday, November 21, 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 our new voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., Nov. 19, 2008.

**This NEW 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., 11/20, 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 143<sup>rd</sup> Year B Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Jan. 1, 2009 – AOI's Annual New Year's Day Reception, Noon until 2pm at the Pier 7/Channel Inn

Feb. 20, 2009 – Reminiscences kicked-off by James Goode with the release of his new "Outdoor Sculpture of Washington."

March 20, 2009 – Historian Kenneth Bowling presents: "Peter Charles L'Enfant: The Man Behind the Plan"

April 17, 2009 – Architectural Historian Don Hawkins presents: "L'Enfant: The Plan"

May 15, 2009 – "Historic Blair House" presented by Curator Candace Shireman

June 19, 2009 – Former AOI Vice-present and retired DC Police Chief Ernest Brown (1876-1966) will 'return' to this month's AOI luncheon to reminisce about his years on the police department.

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.

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## *If You Were Not At Our Oct. 2008 Meeting...*

The October AOI meeting was held at the Channel Inn Pier 7 restaurant on the 17th of the month, President Bill Brown presiding. There were 96 members and guests in attendance.

The preliminary minutes of the September meeting were printed in the October newsletter. **Allen Beach** moved that the minutes be approved as printed, **Lee Rogers** seconded. The motion to adopt was approved.

**John Daly** presented the membership report. There were three new applicants for AOI membership. They are Pier 7 owner **Manuel V. Fernandez** (nominated by Bill Rice); **William Richardson** (website); and **Armen Tashdianian** (retired tour guide, nominated by Sally MacDonald and John Daly). Lee Rogers moved, seconded by Allen Beach, that the nominees be accepted for membership, and the motion was promptly approved.

The November newsletter will have more information on membership recruiting. President Brown reminded us that it's always helpful to recruit a friend.

**Hulit Taylor** presented the treasurer's report. She noted that there were 322 members prior to today's new

member acceptance. Of that total 287 were renewals. In regard to the current financial picture our investment account has declined because of the national financial situation. However we are operating in the black and income is adequate to meet current expenses.

Bill announced that there will be a new phone number to call in order to make a reservation to attend AOI luncheon meetings. The new number will be published in the next newsletter.

Bill commented on the successful commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Wilson Building. He noted that much credit for this is because of the work of **Nelson Rimensnyder**, who inspired and motivated the efforts throughout. Bill also called upon Nelson to comment but noted that Nelson is currently a candidate for office in DC and that AOI policy prohibits electioneering at our meetings. Nelson then quipped that he had prepared a letter stating that "...in case he was unsuccessful, it was due to the rural Washington DC vote not materializing for him."

The speaker for today's program is **Edwin C. Bearss**, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service. (He is the only Chief Historian ever to be honored with the emeritus title upon retirement from NPS). Ed's tours of Civil War battlefields and other historic sites are world famous and he has a large number of intensely enthusiastic fans. He regaled us

with several examples of humorous incidents involving the U.S. Presidents, and in which he had a role. These events not only were entertaining but illuminated some of the forces which work behind the scenes. He related stories involving President Johnson, and also President Carter. He gave us some background regarding bills to establish presidential boyhood homes as historic sites. He noted interesting episodes of political correctness impinging, as in the story of Osceola--today there are some Native Americans who are proud of the use of the name Seminoles by the athletics teams of Florida State University. Ed's fascinating presentation left us wanting to hear more, and undoubtedly added new names to his many fans and groupies.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Seymour Selig**

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

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### ***AOI Gift Memberships...***

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**2009 AOI Gift Membership Form:**

Please immediately enroll the following as a new member in AOI:      Gift Membership: **\$25.00**

(Print) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(If known) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Please provide some background info (alumni, friend, relative, etc.):

AOI's membership remains strong because our members renew annually, recruit new members into the organization and introduce new members and friends by means of Gift Memberships. Please consider a Gift Membership in the AOI during the coming season of gift-giving. (See below)

### ***Nominating Committee Report...***

October 8, 2008

The report of the Nominating Committee is submitted for consideration by the Members at the regular meeting on November 21, 2008. All of the Nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

OFFICERS – Year 2009  
President            William N. Brown  
Vice-president    John W. Gill, Sr.  
Secretary          Seymour Selig  
Treasurer          Hulit Pressley Taylor  
Historian           Nelson Rimensnyder

DIRECTORS – Year 2009-2010  
Carl Cole  
James C. Gaffney  
John C. Richardson

The following Directors will continue to serve for the Year 2009:

John J. Daly  
Jan A.K. Evans Houser  
Sherwood Smith

Nominating Committee:  
Phyllis Dunan  
Joseph A. Smith  
Doreathea Zeis

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9 Please send the gift acknowledgment to the above; OR,

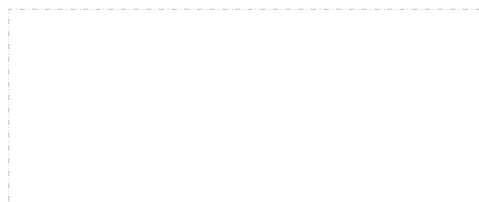
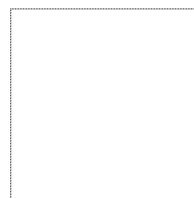
9 Please send the gift acknowledgment to me to give in person:

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And mail with \$25 to: AOI Gift Membership, 4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Washington, DC 20007-2010

*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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**Officers:**

William Brown, President 202-342-1638  
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Wash., DC 20007  
John Gill, Sr., Vice-president 202-338-5001  
Seymour M. Selig, Secretary 301-292-1054  
Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203  
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668  
John Breen, F.D. Liaison 301-586-8866

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

**Past Presidents:**

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-3177  
Harold Gray 202- 248-3625

**Directors:**

Carl Cole 202-889-8813  
John Jay Daly 301-951-9110  
James Gaffney 202-363-6688  
Jan Evans Houser 202-234-6251  
John P. Richardson 703-534-3577  
Sherwood Smith 202-686-4107

-- Help keep AOI alive and growing: invite a friend to join! See Gift Membership form inside.  
-- November 11, 2008, Rally for DC Vote – Upper Senate Park (Constitution/Delaware Aves., NE). Noon to 1:30pm!  
-- The exhibits, book shop and café at the HSW



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