



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 #101
February 3, 2012*

President's Message...

The AOI Loses a Treasured Member

Long-time member, frequent and beloved luncheon program presenter and friend Lee Rogers died December 21, 2011 at the Washington Hospital Center after a brief illness.

Lee's presentations to his fellow AOI members and guests on DC streetcars, trains, bridges and historic snowfalls were some of the best-received and most anticipated programs of our luncheons. A transportation consultant by day, Lee's love of streetcars and trains made him an avid collector of photos, slides and memorabilia of a past age.



One thing about Lee that until now I have not shared with my fellow AOI members is that Lee was always ready in the wings with a stand-by program "just in case your invited speaker is unable to get here." Yes, Lee always had a tray of his famous slides in the trunk of his car, ready at a moment's notice to bail me out and provide an impromptu narrated slide presentation to ensure that our 'planned' event succeeded... even if it was not the one we intended. I always felt comfortable arriving on the 3rd Friday of each month knowing that Lee 'had my back' should our featured guest be unable to make it.
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February's Luncheon Event:

"The Captain Who Burned His Ships" – Commodore Tingey

AOI member and author Gordon Brown speaks on his most recent book about our Navy Yard and a dramatic War of 1812 incident



Please join us...

Friday, **February 17**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU or Metro Bus 74 [Circulator Bus discontinued]), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (**\$23 per person** - please have your check completed prior to arrival and made payable to "AOI" or bring exact change).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., Feb. 15, 2012.

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., 2/16, 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 a last-minute cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 147th Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

March 16, 2012 – Elaine Flynn, “Alice Roosevelt Longworth Channels the First Ladies”

April 20, 2012 – John DeFerrari, “Lost Washington”

May 18, 2012 – Jim Johnston, “From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout”

June 15, 2012 – Michael Lee Pope, “Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.”

Sept. 21, 2012 – Carol Highsmith & Ted Landphair on “Historic Union Station”

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 Nov. Meeting...

The final luncheon meeting for the year 2011 was held at the Channel Inn on November 18th. President Bill Brown presided and noted that this was the eighth luncheon of our 146th year. There were 117 members and guests attending.

The draft of the minutes of the October 21 meeting was printed in the newsletter (under the heading "If you were not at our Oct Meeting..."). President Brown called for additions or corrections to the minutes. Since none were raised, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes and to dispense with their reading. The motion was made by **Joe Grano**, seconded by **Lee Rogers**, and approved.

Bill called upon **Phyllis Dunan**, Chairperson of the AOI Nominating Committee, to conduct the annual election of officers and directors. The Nominating Committee is **Phyllis Dunan** (Chair), **Barbara Drechsler**, and **M. Jean Lockard**.

All potential officers and directors agreed to serve if elected. The Committees selections were announced: For President (incumbent) **William N. Brown**; for Vice-president (incumbent Director) **John P. Richardson**; for Secretary (incumbent) **Seymour Selig**; for Treasurer (incumbent) **Hulit Taylor**; for Historian (incumbent) **Nelson Rimensnyder**. For Directors: Incumbents **Jan A.K. Evans (Houser)**, **Sherwood Smith**, and **Leslie B. White**. Following the reading of the candidate names Phyllis asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made, and Chairman Phyllis asked for a motion that the nominations be closed, which was offered by **Don Larrabee** and seconded by **Kay Eckles**. The motion was approved. Phyllis then called for a motion to approve the slate by acclamation which was moved, seconded and approved with enthusiasm. Phyllis concluded the elections and expressed appreciation for everyone's cooperation.

Bill expressed gratitude for the committee's work. He mentioned that **John Richardson** has become Vice-president and that the unexpired portion of John's director's term will be filled by **John Gill, Sr.** Directors **Carl Cole** and **Damon Cordon** do not require reelection as their 2 year terms continue until next year's election. Bill noted that John Richardson is Chairman of the AOI Sesquicentennial Committee. That event will take place on Sunday December 6, 2015 in the afternoon.

There were 5 new applications for membership. The applicants are **David Landers** (nominated by George Hutchinson); **Ilona Melstrads** (nominated by Steve and Esther Timlin); **George Mattingly** (nominated by John Wigglesworth); **James Johnson** (nominated by Margo Lyddane); and **John McManus** (husband of Shirley McManus). **Allen Beach** moved that the applicants be accepted as members, seconded by **Helen Tsintolas**. The motion was quickly approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented our financial and membership data for the period since the October meeting. Non-routine expenses were \$500 for the Heurich House Foundation, \$100 for membership renewal for Committee of 100, \$93.60 for DC Flags for rededication of the DC War Memorial, and \$14.95 to renew the Domain Name for the AOI Website. The Board has decided that dues will remain at \$15. Bill pointed out that our expenses do not include costs for services such as web site management, newsletter management, program management and all executive staff services which are performed by volunteers, predominantly our president, without remuneration or material compensation.

Bill sadly noted the passing of long time cherished member **Irving Lindenblad**, widower of past AOI Director Jo Waters. Irv was an astronomer and was retired from the US Naval Observatory. Bill mentioned that AOI member and colleague USNO astronomer **Randy Clarke** was not here now because he was attending the

service for Irv at this very moment.

Bill pointed out the importance of some of **Joe Grano's** activities in regard to saving the DC War Memorial for the memory of those from DC who served and sacrificed. Joe became a champion for making Pershing Park into the national memorial in Washington for that war. Joe also generated support for honoring Constantino Brumidi for his work as the Michelangelo of the US Capitol, with a Congressional gold medal. Bill expressed how much Joe has contributed with his tireless work in the past year alone.

After introducing members' guests, first timers, long lost returning members, Bill and Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** provided more information on progress regarding the search for records and personal recollections of the history of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) Inc., which was nicely described in the November newsletter. And, Bill brought us further information about the Historical Society of Washington and its substantial progress, and the future which now seems much brighter.

The speaker for today was **Dr. Mark Ozer**. He is a retired Professor of Neurology at Georgetown. Now that he is retired he has returned to another of his passionate interests---the love of History, and Washington history in particular. He spoke to us a year ago and made a big hit after writing of DC. Now he has written a second DC history book about Massachusetts Avenue in the Gilded Age. His presentation was an amazing blend of people's stories as well as accounts of architecture and topography. He doled out a most fascinating mix of history, thoroughly laced with information and spiced with widespread touches of scandal. He instantly had our group in the palm of his hand straining to hear tales of those who made it big in DC society and what led them to it. Mark remarked that AOI is the only place in Washington where these names mean something to everybody. He seemed to enjoy his presentation as much as we did. He is a master of timing and we look forward to further success from this amazing speaker!

Respectfully submitted by,
Seymour Selig, Secretary



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

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

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



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



President's Message (Continued from p. 1)



Lee Rogers together with (L-R) Nelson Rimensnyder, Bill DeCosta and Jerry McCoy at the re-opening of the DC War Memorial on Nov. 10th.

I learned of Lee's untimely death when Barbara and Bill Gray, long-time friends of Lee's, reached out to me the last week of December with the sad news of Lee's death. Barbara and Bill attended our New Year's Day reception to share the news of Lee's passing and recall his many fine qualities with us.



Barbara & Bill Gray, long-time friends of Lee Rogers, join AOI members on New Year's Day 2012 to share memories of Lee (pictured with Carl Cole & Pat Tyson).

A memorial service is planned for later in the spring and I will ensure that every effort is made to alert our membership to the details.

Lee Rogers will be greatly missed by our membership... his friends.

Bill Brown, President

Address Correction Requested

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- ◆ Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
 - ◆ Watch for news regarding the re-opening of the Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society.



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