



# 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 #105  
June 1, 2012*

## *President's Message...*

### **Membership Year Half Way Point**

As we enter our summer hiatus, I hope everyone will reflect on our initiatives and accomplishments for the first half of this membership year.



**Archivist Jerry McCoy, Bill Brown, FD Lt. Tim Jones, the Post's John Kelly and NOAA Researcher John Reghi at Lee's Memorial Service**

Sadly, we commemorated the life of member Lee Rogers at his up-beat memorial service (see above photo) but rejoiced in the fact that Lee put us on the path to celebrating & recognizing the D.C. citizens who gave their lives during World War I. This, obviously, has focused us on preventing the 'nationalization' of the DC War Memorial and has fixed our attention on promoting Pershing Park as a fitting site for a national World War I memorial. I spoke at the 76<sup>th</sup> annual commemorative ceremony at the DC War Memorial; AOI has been recognized at the Memorial Day celebration at Arlington Cemetery; we submitted a Ceremonial Resolution which the DC Council has endorsed; and, we have been the subject of numerous op-eds, opinion pieces and editorials. We have amassed a huge collection of documents related to this subject which can be viewed on our web site at [aoidc.org](http://aoidc.org).

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## **June's Luncheon Event:**

### **"The Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C."**

Michael Lee Pope discusses his book that looks back on a period when Alexandria *was* part of the District of Columbia



*Please join us...*

Friday, **June 15**, 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 make your check payable to "AOI" and have it completed prior to arrival 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., June 13, 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., 6/14, 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 147<sup>th</sup> Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

July 4, 2012 – Annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade (see page 3 for details)

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

Oct. 19, 2012 – Architect Davis Buckley discusses several projects including the DC War Memorial and Clara Barton’s Civil War Apartment

Nov. 16, 2012 – Mark Ozer discusses his book, “Northwest Washington, D.C.”

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 April Meeting...*

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the June 15<sup>th</sup> luncheon.]

President **Bill Brown** opened the fourth luncheon meeting of our 147<sup>th</sup> year at the Pier 7 Restaurant of the Channel Inn. There were 82 members and guests attending.

Bill noted that the minutes (draft) of the April meeting were printed in the May newsletter. Bill asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed. **Al Wheeler** so moved, seconded by **Margo Lyddane**. The motion was approved.

There are three new applications for membership. They are from **John Huennkens** (a member of the Historical Society); **Babe King** (nominated by Sally MacDonald); **Jacqueline Arguelles** (nominated by Nelson Rimensnyder). **Sister Anne Cecile Coxen** moved, seconded by **Alan Beach** that the applicants be accepted as new members. The motion was readily approved. Before speaking of personal milestones, Bill noted the passing of two former AOI members, **George Douglas** and **Dr. Aldo Giusti**. They will be missed.

Bill introduced first timers, members with their guests and members whom we haven't seen for a while.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report, noting that there are still some members who have not yet renewed their membership. She announced that those who have not renewed by next month will become "inactive" members and will be removed from the mailing lists, including the newsletter. Hulit said that it costs us approximately a dollar per person to print and mail each newsletter, and about half of our dues is for this purpose. She requested that if you know of members who have not renewed, please remind them. She also reported that we have earned about \$1500 on our investment accounts in interest and dividends this year. There were no non-routine expenses since the last meeting.

Bill announced further serendipitous progress in the effort to restore the records of the AOI (Colored) Inc. He received an email on our web site---it was a message from a woman in Richmond, who is affiliated with Virginia Commonwealth U. Her name is **Iris Holliday**. She had Googled her father's name, **Ira Holliday** and the response mentioned that he was a member of AOI. She then Googled AOI and the response mentioned AOI (Colored) Inc. and provided our web site. She contacted Bill, who then learned that her father was **William Nixon's** successor as president of AOI (Colored) Inc. and that she has her father's documentation. This will now all become part of the Moorlan-Spingarn Archives at Howard University and Bill is justifiably proud and enthusiastic about this, which quickly came about primarily due to his and AOI Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder's** efforts.

Nelson's Trivia tidbit raised the question of how much did Bob Short pay in 1968 to buy the Washington Senators? The answer---10 million dollars.

Our guest speaker today was **James H. Johnston**, who is an attorney, writer, Washington history book author, and lecturer. He spoke to us a year ago on Margaret Loughborough's 1912 book of recollections for which he provided much valuable original supplementary material to comprise a new unique publication.

His talk today was on his recent book "From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout and the History of an African American Family." He said that it's a case study for the history of race in America. And indeed that is very true. Yarrow Mamout was a West African Muslim brought to America as a slave in 1752. Jim Johnston has performed historical and genealogic research spanning six generations of Yarrow's relatives. The book has been very well received with outstanding reviews. Yarrow became so successful that his portrait was painted by Charles Wilson Peale, a famous picture. Jim's presentation was extremely fascinating and noteworthy for the strong analytical approach of the author. He has figured out the cause and effect relationships prevailing in several historical 19<sup>th</sup> century scenarios.

Undoubtedly the book will influence the course of future research and narrative.

Respectfully submitted  
*Seymour Selig*, Secretary



### ***2012 Philip W. Ogilvie Award...***



This year's Dr. Philip W. Ogilvie Award was presented on May 17<sup>th</sup> to Melissa Spitz who obtained the highest GPA in George Washington University's Advanced Masters of Tourism Administration program. The AOI presents the award annually in memory of our past President Phil Ogilvie. This year's reception was held at the Arts Club of Washington.

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

But we must also remember all of the other benefits we've provided to our members and the city's heritage community, at large. Our luncheons have consistently seen an average of 90+ members and guests and have promoted the historical research of scholars and member-scholars alike. It never ceases to amaze me how many serendipitous 'connections' are made at our luncheons. (I discovered a new-found cousin there!)

So, with all of this said, to those of you have received this newsletter via a special mailing and personalized letter encouraging you to renew your membership... we sincerely hope that you do so... I've tried to make a good case for it.

*Bill Brown*, President



### ***Join AOI at the Annual Palisades' Fourth of July Parade...***

... Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11am (arrive/form up at 10:30) in front of Engine Company 29 (MacArthur Blvd./Whitehaven Parkway, NW) and ride/walk with AOI's 1905 American La France Steam Pumper concluding at the Palisades Recreation Center for complimentary hot dogs, drinks and watermelon.



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: [aoi\\_of\\_dc@verizon.net](mailto:aoi_of_dc@verizon.net)

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



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*Address Correction Requested*

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Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Join fellow AOI members on Wed., July 4th and  
march in the annual Palisades Parade! (see inside for  
details)

View our re-designed web site at:  
[www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org)



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