



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 #109
March 1, 2013*

President's Message...

Like a Phoenix...

...under new leadership and with a new, long-term agreement with Events D.C. (the Convention Center), the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. along with its renowned Kiplinger Research Library is on a path to greatness. Relieved of its burdensome utility costs, maintenance and security costs under the new lease agreement and with the leadership of Board Chair Julie Koczela, not only is the publication schedule of *Washington History* back on track (with a 'new look' to be unveiled this summer) but the library has reopened. Jennifer Krafchik has been named Library Director and the Small-Alper Gallery exhibit "Windows to Washington" features prints, maps and photos selected from the recent, generous donation of the Kiplinger Collection by the Kiplinger family.

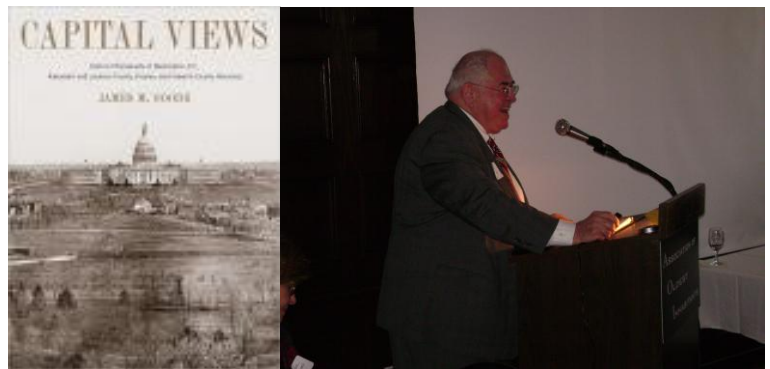
Admittedly, the past few years – no, the last decade – have been very difficult for the HSW but with the support of nearly 1000 members, the corporate and foundation community and the history/heritage community there is no reason to...



Family portraits at the Kiplinger Research Library entrance.

March's Luncheon Event:

"Capital Views" With James Goode



Please join us...

Friday, **March 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. (**\$24 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., March 13, 2013.

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., 3/14, 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 148th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

April 19, 2013 – Conrad Reid, “Security Storage: Moving the Presidents”

May 17, 2013 – Dianne Dale, “Anacostia: The Village That Shaped Us”

June 21, 2013 – Paul Leeper (Sgt., MPDC, Retired), “The Watergate Break-in and Other Behind the Scene Stories”

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 call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.



If You Were Not At Our Feb. Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the March 15th 2013 luncheon.]

AOI began its 2013 program of luncheon meetings at the Channel Inn Pier 7 restaurant on February 15. There were 113 members and guests attending. Upon opening the meeting President Bill Brown reminded us that we are now in our 148th year of membership, and that planning for our sesquicentennial gala has already begun and that the event is not that far off in time.

Since a newsletter was not sent out prior to today's meeting, copies of the draft minutes of the last meeting (Nov 16, 2012) were placed at each luncheon table for approval or modification today. Bill called for additions or corrections, and hearing none called for a motion for acceptance of the minutes. **Allen Beach** offered the motion, seconded by **Barbara Ioanes**. The motion was approved.

There have been applications for membership for six people since the last meeting. They are from **Cornelius Brown** (nominated by **Mary Brown**); **Ida Jones** (nominated by **Brenda Nellum**); **Ronald Sann** (who learned of us in John Kelly's Washington Post column); **Lisa and Richard Snyder** (Washington Guild of Tour Guides); and **Garrett Peck** (author and speaker on Washington history). A motion to accept the applicants as new members was offered by **Bob Proudley**, seconded by **Cindy Janke**. The motion was warmly approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief review of membership and financial information for CY2012. At the end of the year we had 362 members. The average luncheon attendance was 98 people. The value of our investment account was \$207K. Hulit reported that eight years ago we started mentioning on our membership renewal forms that we would accept donations for special causes associated with AOI, and the renewal form was modified so that such donations could be paid together with our low annual dues. This included contributions for the Ogilvie Award, the Shepherd statue maintenance, the HSW/Kiplinger Library, and an unrestricted account for other AOI needs. Contributors could indicate on the form the amount for each fund and add it to the dues. This has become a well-received option. Hulit said that \$7K funds were contributed in supplementing CY2012 dues, and that \$37K has been donated in the eight years. Hulit expressed the Board's appreciation and thanks for the generosity of AOI members who made these donations.

After Hulit finished her report, Bill Brown mentioned that he never gives his wife **Pat** credit for the help that she has provided with various necessary tasks for AOI. (such as labels, envelopes,

etc.) He made an exception this time and said that the idea of including donations for these designated funds was Pat's idea, and AOI has gained over \$37,000 for worthwhile causes due to her smart thinking!

Bill introduced 'first timers' (new members attending now not as a guest); members we haven't seen for a while; and guests of members. Bill made brief announcements of news and events of likely interest.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** presented one of his fascinating history questions (which magically turned into 3 questions) for our enjoyment and testing to see if the answer was known by someone in the audience. He said that since gun control is much in the news in Washington, his question was what first lady was authorized to carry a gun in her purse, for over 40 years? The answer was Eleanor Roosevelt. It seems that when President Roosevelt was Governor of New York she was driving home alone at night and her car was run off the road. The driver of the other car waited silently, but eventually drove off. Mrs. Roosevelt reported the incident to the state police. They responded by training her to shoot a handgun and to carry it with her. When FDR became President she still maintained this capability, and would practice her shooting on the FBI firing range. One person in the audience knew the answer to Nelson's question: our own sharpshooter on Washington history -- **Cindy Janke**.

Nelson also referred to a previous question about the British invasion of Washington and the saving of the Metropolitan Bank Building. It was saved by Mrs. Sweeny, the bank charwomen, who tricked the British into not burning the bank ---by telling a ruse about ownership of the building. Subsequently the bank rewarded her for her action by giving her the equivalent of two month's salary for a clerk in the Federal government. Nelson asked what was that two month salary? No one knew the answer; Nelson said it was \$100 in 1814. Nelson said that the bank building became Rhodes Tavern until it was torn down in 1985. Nelson himself was one of the preservationists vigorously opposing the destruction of Rhodes Tavern, a building with so much history in it.

Nelson had a third question: In 1802, Congress authorized the construction of the first local government building in Washington. What was that building? The answer – It was the jail.

Our speaker for today was **Mark Ozer**. Many AOI members are unaware that Dr. Ozer was formerly a professor of neurology at the Georgetown University Medical School. In recent years he has published several books on Washington history. He is the author of "Washington, DC: Politics and Place" and "Massachusetts Avenue in the Gilded Age" He has spoken to AOI before and has become a favorite drawing card. His love of history is most compelling and is marked by motivations to find

explanations for events. His most recent book is "Northwest Washington, DC: Tales from West of the Park."

Mark believes that one should look to basic geography and geology to discover why cities have grown up where we know them to be. He feels that trade is a key factor in influencing this. In discussing NW Washington he starts the story with a lone island in the Potomac (now called TR Island but known by other names at various times, such as Mason's Island, and Analostan and others). While this island has little impact on modern DC, it was vital during the formative years, for here was a location between Maryland and Virginia where the river could be crossed, thus trade or troops could be moved on a north/south highway. Mark outlines the course of history and takes it from there. He related how it was the fall line that prevented navigation from proceeding further up the Potomac, so the city (Georgetown) developed below Great and Little Falls, and a port on the river could import goods and export tobacco. His presentation was fascinating. He remarked that he enjoys writing books because he learns a great deal by doing so. His communication talent is not a an author alone, for he is a superb raconteur of Washington history whose delivery was delightful as well as making us think, A lively Q&A session followed, with impressive interaction with the speaker and audience.

Respectfully submitted

Seymour Selig, Secretary



President's Message Continued...

...believe that nothing but good things are in store for this 119 year old institution.

The improved relationship with Events D.C., prudent fiscal oversight, competent consultation by the Arts Consulting Group, the dedicated, unwavering support of the small, dedicated staff and large cadre of volunteers certainly puts its finances and reputation on a more solid footing.

The October fund-raising Gala was a huge success with nearly 180 members and guests in attendance – imagine... some who wanted to attend had to be turned away. They'll need a larger space for the gala this coming fall! Loyal HSW members, foundations and corporate donors filled the Great Hall to celebrate three Washington, D.C. families: the Kiplinger Families, the Walter Washington Family and the Albert Small Family.

In order for this distinguished institution to continue on its path to success you must **join** as a member, **renew** your membership (particularly if yours has lapsed) and **donate** beyond your membership to ensure its stability. If you have done none of the above, I strongly encourage you to do so. You can keep abreast of programs, exhibits and hours as well as donate on-line by going to: www.historydc.org.



Mary Washington, Austin Kiplinger, Albert Small & Knight Kiplinger – HSW's 2012 Legacy Families of Washington.



A reception and viewing of the exhibit preceded the gala dinner and awards ceremony.

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@gmail.com

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.



Address Correction Requested

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



Officers:

William Brown, President 202-342-1638
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Wash., DC 20007
John P. Richardson, Vice President 703-534-3577
Seymour M. Selig, Secretary 301-292-1054
Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668
Jim Embrey, F.D. Liaison 571-436-7774

Past President:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Directors:

Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Damon Cordon 301-215-7022
Jan A. K. Evans 301-968-4749
Lucinda (Cindy) P. Janke 202-546-9057
Gary Scott 202-544-4862
Sherwood Smith 202-686-4107

The Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society has re-opened under the direction of new Library Director, Jennifer Krafchik. Check HSW's web site: www.historydc.org for events and hours.

View AOI's web site at:
www.aoidc.org or email us at: aioifdc@gmail.com



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