



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 #97
May 6, 2011**

President's Message...

Field Trips, the Civil War Sesquicentennial and Partnerships:

AOI kicked off its tribute to the Civil War Sesquicentennial in April with Elizabeth Smith Brownstein's excellent presentation of "Abraham Lincoln's Life in Music." We will continue to celebrate the many historic events associated with the Civil War during the next four years. This month author James Johnston will reveal the memories of Margaret Cabell Brown Loughborough in Richmond and Washington during the war. In June, NPS Park Ranger Alexa Viets will up-date our members and guests with a program dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the District's Circle Fort Parks which during the War protected the Nation's Capital. These are just a few of the programs that we hope will 'connect' AOI members to the sesquicentennial.

On April 29th, AOI member Dr. Mark Ozer and Directors Sherwood Smith and John Richardson took a field trip to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland.



Just last month my wife, Pat, out-of-town guests and I also visited this wonderful museum and enjoyed its depiction of Civil War life through the recollections of the doctors, nurses, ambulance operators and the injured. It is well worth the 30 minute drive to historic Frederick to visit this site.

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May's Luncheon Event:

"The Recollections of Margaret Cabell Brown Loughborough: A Southern Woman's Memories of Richmond, VA and Washington, DC in the Civil War"

James H. Johnston talks about his research and book on the city's well-known family.



Please join us...

Friday, **May 20**, 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. (**\$22 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., May 18, 2011.

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., 5/19, 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 145th Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- June 17, 2011 – Park Ranger Alexa Viets on Washington's Circle Fort Parks and the Civil War
- July 4, 2011 – Walk with AOI members in the annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade. Meet in front of Engine 29 (MacArthur & Whitehaven Parkway) at 10:30am for the 1 mile walk with AOI's 1905 steam pumper.
- Sept. 16, 2011 – Garrett Peck speaks on "Prohibition in Washington: How Dry We Weren't."
- Oct. 21, 2011 – Mark Levitch presents, "The World War I Memorial That Was Never Built."
- Nov. 18, 2011 – Dr. Mark Ozer, "Massachusetts Avenue in the Gilded Age"; Annual Election of Officers & Directors

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 April Meeting...

The third luncheon meeting for this year was held at the Channel Inn on April 15th, with President Bill Brown presiding. There were 97 members and guests attending.

A motion to approve the minutes as printed in the current newsletter was made by **Al Wheeler**, seconded by **John Gill**. There were no additions or corrections, and the motion was carried. The reading was dispensed with as part of the motion.

There were six applications for membership since the last meeting. President Brown read the names of the applicants and provided brief information as applicable. **Anne Renshaw** moved, with second by **Bob Proudley**, that the applicants be accepted as new members. The motion was quickly passed. The new members are **Lt. Col. Edgar Russell, III** (a guest last month); **Elaine Flynn** (a guest last month); **Shirley de la Barre** (guest of Bonnie Duncan previously); **Dr. Cindy Gueli** (A.U. History professor, guest of Bob Barbuto previously); **Stuart Edwards** (nominated by Sally MacDonald); **Nancy Hoffer** (nominated by Barbara Plummer).

Treasurer Hulit Taylor presented a brief report. There are now 277 members total, of whom 25 are new members. This is consistent with data from previous years. Income from dues and contributions also is consistent with expectations. Expenses in March included \$500 to George Washington University for the Phil Ogilvie Award, and \$250 to the Military Road School Preservation Trust. Investment income is approximately \$1,400 dividends and interest. Hulit concludes this is as planned.

Most important is Hulit's return after missing the last meeting due to illness requiring brief hospitalization. The diagnosis is that the illness is from a measles-like childhood disease, and now Hulit is immune from further occurrences. Hulit expressed thanks and appreciation to all who sent well wishes

during that difficult time for her.

Bill Brown called **John Breen** to come forward. Bill then described John's service as the AOI Fire Department Liaison. John is stepping down from that office after more than 15 years service. Bill thanked John for his service and presented him with a plaque which reads as follows: "The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia expresses its sincere appreciation to Chief John Breen for more than 15 years service as AOI's Liaison to the DC Fire Department in matters relating to public safety, history, and the preservation and storage of the AOI's collection of antique fire apparatus." John has been a member of AOI for 38 years and was a member of the DC Fire Department for 37 years. His remarks in accepting this award were delightful and informative. The AOI Board feels that there is only one qualified successor for the Fire Department Liaison role. That is AOI member **Lt. Jim Embrey**, who has agreed to serve.

Bill introduced first timers and guests, and made announcements of interest.

Bill noted the passing of recent member **Janice Noel**, who died while visiting her son in New York. She will be sorely missed from our group. Bill also mentioned the passing of **Ruel Eskelsen** who worked for the Historical Society's Kiplinger Library and was a friend known to many AOI members.

Historian Nelson Rimensnyder discussed several topical aspects including Emancipation Day in the District and Lincoln's role. He also noted that April 15 marked the initiation of the Civil War and the surrender of Fort Sumter 150 years ago. He noted that on that day Alexander Robey Shepherd and his brother volunteered for service in the Union Army. Nelson also mentioned the interest in both World Wars and DC veteran's history and provided some fascinating stories

Our featured speaker today was **Elizabeth Smith Brownstein**, a well known authority on Lincoln who spoke to us a few years ago. That talk followed the publication of her widely read book "Lincoln's Other White House." Today Elizabeth displayed another facet of her extremely interesting multitalented background. Her presentation today was entitled "Abraham Lincoln's Life in Music." She is a very accomplished pianist, and ably demonstrated examples of the music that Lincoln enjoyed, and gave us a rare opportunity to listen to her commentary not only on the songs that she had selected, but also to hear her informed discussion on Lincoln family history, performed with great charm and wit, as well as knowledge of history. She picked the Blue Tailed Fly as the first number based on the Pete Seeger interpretation. This was followed by Ben Bolt, the Last Rose of Summer, Dixie, and then the Mary Lincoln Polka. She concluded with a rousing version of Battle Hymn of the Republic, building to a crescendo exclamation point in music and history for a powerful and very moving finish! It was a wonderful experience.

Respectfully submitted.
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: 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 member of Cultural Tourism DC:



President's Message (Cont'd)...

Interestingly, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine is in negotiations with the GSA and the Friends of Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office to transform the Red Cross founder's 437 7th Street (at E Street) apartment into a museum. As plans for this partnership progress, we will include a program on this exciting development at a future luncheon. In the mean time, I encourage everyone to visit the museum to learn about their mission and imagine what an

alliance with them could portend for Clara Barton's Office of Missing Soldiers. They are located at 48 E. Patrick Street in Frederick. Check their web site at: www.civilwarmed.org for their hours and further information.



Committee of 100's 2011 Vision Awards...

Awarded for a project, program or formal plan that has been developed to benefit D.C. as a whole and which can serve as an exemplary neighborhood achievement to be duplicated in other areas of the city. More information is on-line at: www.committee100.net. The award ceremony will be held Wed., June 1st at 6:30pm at the Belmont Mansion, 1618 New Hampshire Ave., NW.

Federation of Citizens Associations' Annual Gala...

Dear Friends and Members of the Federation of Citizens Associations of DC:

One and all are cordially invited to our **101st Gala Awards Dinner on Wednesday evening, May 11th at historic Ft. McNair, SW**. We have two superb DC government leaders lined up, **DC Council Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, Hon. Phil Mendelson**, and **Interim Mayoral Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, Mr. Paul Quander**. We will present our **5 DC community awards**. We begin at 6:30 p.m. for a reception, followed by dinner at 7:15 p.m. Seats are \$60, or \$400 for tables of 8. **While the deadline was Friday April 29th, seats may still be available by sending a simple e-mail note to Armen Tashdianian at armen01@comcast.net with contact information and meal requested (chicken or vegetarian) for each individual attending. Alternately, just feel free to call **Martin Moulton at 202-422-1161** to confirm your seat(s) and meal preference(s).**

We seek your active support for the betterment of our DC home, and hope to see you on May 11th!

Dave Mallof, Interim President

Address Correction Requested

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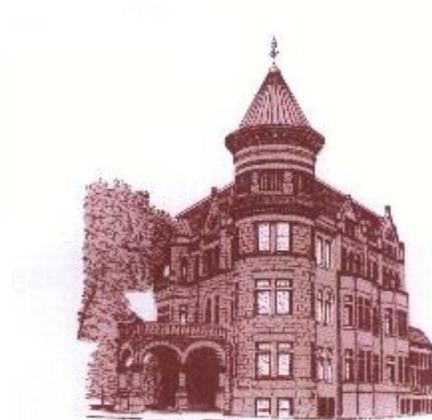
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◆ Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
◆ Visit the Historical Society and Kiplinger Research Library at the Historic Carnegie Building.
www.historydc.org. Library hours: Tue-Sat, 10-5



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