



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 #100
November 4, 2011*

President's Message...

The AOI (Colored) Inc. Mystery... Resolved?!

AOI member James Goode was on University Terrace taking a photo of an Art Deco home he plans to include in his next book. He learned from the current resident that the previous owner, Delores Mounsey, had moved to Silver Spring. James tracked her down and learned that her grandfather, William Nixon, had taught art at Dunbar High School for more than 40 years and that it was he who had designed their home in the Palisades.

James arranged to meet Ms. Mounsey with the idea of obtaining several photos to accompany his story and picture about their residence. Upon chatting with the art teacher's descendent, James learned that she had several scrapbooks containing photos, articles and memorabilia of her grandfather's 20 years service from 1942 to 1962...



...as President of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) Incorporated! I have spoken with Ms. Mounsey and described Nelson Rimensnyder's and my quest to locate the records of the AOI (Colored), Inc., which, as AOI members

(Cont'd. on Page 3)

November's Luncheon Event:

"Massachusetts Avenue in the Gilded Age"

AOI member and author Dr. Mark Ozer speaks on his most recent book about historic Embassy Row



Please join us...

Friday, **November 18**, 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. (**\$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., Nov. 16, 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., 11/17, 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 146th Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Jan. 1, 2012 – Annual New Year's Day Reception, 11:30 – 2:30 PM at the Pier 7/Channel Inn
- Feb. 17, 2012 – Gordon Brown, "The Captain Who Burned His Ships" – Commodore Tingey
- 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."

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 Oct. Meeting...

The Association held its second meeting of the fall 2011 season on October 21, meeting at the Channel Inn, with 98 members and guests attending.

President Bill Brown asked if there were additions or corrections to the draft of the minutes of the September meeting as printed in the newsletter. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Mark Griffin** offered the motion, seconded by **Kay Eckles**. The motion was approved.

Bill added further information in regard to **Elaine Flynn's** presentation in the future. The correct title is "Alice Roosevelt Longworth Channels the First Ladies." Bill said that it is scheduled for March 16, 2012, but not everyone concurred. Bill said that he has a spreadsheet that has all the information and that date is right. Who can argue with a spreadsheet?

Four people have applied for membership since the last meeting. They are **Mrs. Gene Ferris Benedict** (nominated by Jan Evans); **Mara Cherkasky** and her mother **Shirley Cherkasky** (Bill said that Mara has been active in the Historical Society and Historic Preservation efforts, and it was only a matter of time to try AOI). Also **David Landers** (nominated by George Hutchinson). **Lee Rogers** moved that the applicants be accepted, seconded by **Mary Matson**. The motion was approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. There was no substantial change in membership size or income since last month. Expenses include a) \$100 for membership renewal in Cultural Tourism DC; b) \$1,000 for the 2011 Historical Studies Conference (half of this came from an anonymous AOI donor and designated for this purpose) c) \$250 to the Friendship Fire Association Museum, in memory of **John Breen**. This is a restricted donation and is to be used only for the preservation or curatorial needs of the museum. John was AOI's immediate past Fire Dept. Liaison representative and served on the AOI Board for a number of

years. Hulit reported that our investment account is about \$9K less than at the same time last year.

Jim Embrey, our new Fire Dept Liaison, briefly brought us up to date relative to our AOI steamer, some history of Engine Company 19 in its two locations and some very interesting and witty remarks in a brief and excellent presentation.

Bill disclosed that there was a real significant breakthrough in the attempt to find out more information of the key persons in AOI (Colored) Inc., which Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** has been researching. **James Goode** is working on a new book about unusual houses in Washington. He called Bill recently to tell him that he and the photographer working with him were concentrating on a particular house and he went up and knocked on the door to seek permission to do so and the fortunate conversation led to the amazing discovery that the grandfather of the woman who had lived there had been the president of the AOI (Colored) Inc. for many years, and had left her scrapbooks and documentation about the organization. James did some astute detective work to enable these facts to come together, and it's a great example of what serendipity and smart people can accomplish.

Nelson reported on presentations that he and **Joe Grano** had made regarding the Pershing Park and DC WWI matters. Nelson also presented us with an interesting DC trivia tidbit, namely why did Prohibition start in DC by law before becoming the rule nationally? The answer---special act of Congress!

Our speaker was **Mark Levitch** of the National Gallery of Art. His talk, entitled "Colossal Failure: The National World War I Memorial That Almost Was" was about a major building effort for a very important addition on the Mall. It was started, partly built but was ultimately abandoned. Mark carefully discussed how the George Washington Memorial Building & National Victory Memorial project was initiated and why it failed to be realized. It is a truly amazing story of good intentions, inept planning, confused objectives

and failure. Mark's presentation was superb and has many lessons embedded within. It is a bit of history well worth taking to heart by all.

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)

know, we want to ensure are preserved for future generations by encouraging the original documents or copies of them be donated to an accredited institution such as the Moorland-Spingarn Library at Howard University, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. or another repository.

The AOI (Colored), Inc. was incorporated January 15, 1916, and its mission statement was word-for-word that of the AOI, recognizing their membership to be comprised of African-Americans males where the AOI, at the time, was comprised of only white males. At times the organization's membership rolls exceeded 400! At one point they were the guests of 'our' AOI at a joint meeting in recognition of the District's World War I veterans.

James Goode, by having his internal 'search engine' engaged, has made an invaluable connection between our two organizations and helped to resolve our mystery.

Bill Brown, President

2011 Nominating Committee Report

October 29, 2011

Dear President Brown:

This is the report of the Nominating Committee indicating the proposed Officers for the coming year and the Directors for

2012-2013. The nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

Officers:

President	William N. Brown (incumbent)
Vice-president	John P. Richardson (Director)
Secretary	Seymour Selig (incumbent)
Treasurer	Hulit Taylor (incumbent)
Historian	Nelson Rimensnyder (incumbent)

Directors:

Jan A. K. Evans (Houser)	2012-2013 (Incumbent)
Sherwood Smith	2012-2013 (Incumbent)
Leslie B. White	2012-2013 (Incumbent)

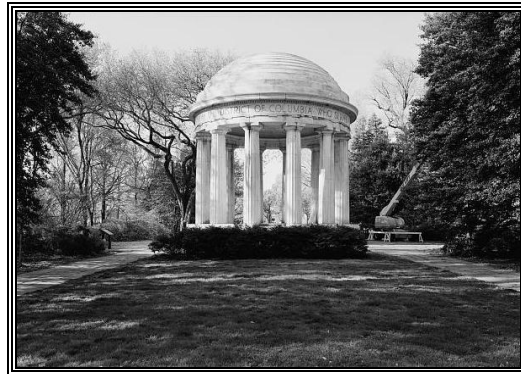
The following Directors do not require re-election as they have not completed their two-year terms:

Carl Cole	2011-2012 (incumbent)
Damon Cordon	2011-2012 (incumbent)
John Gill, Sr.	2012 (filling Richardson's unexpired term)

The members of Nominating Committee hope this slate of nominees will meet with the approval of the membership.

Sincerely yours,

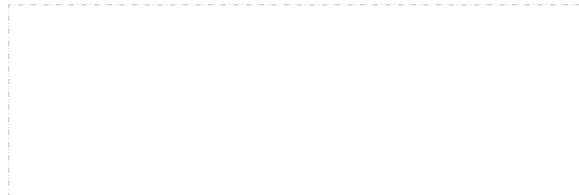
Phyllis Duman, Barbara Drechsler and M. Jean Lockard



The District of Columbia War Memorial is being reopened at 11am on Thursday, November 10, 2011 on the 80th anniversary of its dedication (actually, one day shy of its anniversary...). The memorial is located in Ash Grove along Independence Avenue across from the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Public transportation is always recommended (Nelson Rimensnyder says he found the Smithsonian-Agriculture Dept. Metro Station the easiest walk to the Memorial) or you may find parking along West Potomac Park and then walk across the park past the Roosevelt Memorial and King Memorial, using the crosswalks and signals to safely cross over to the Memorial. The order of the official program was unavailable at the time this newsletter was produced but you may RSVP at: <https://dcpres.wufoo.com/forms/s7p5m7/>. The program is sponsored by: the National Park Service, DC Preservation League, Trust for the National Mall and The World War I Memorial Foundation.

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 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
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 Cordom 301-215-7022
Jan A. K. Evans 301-968-4749
John P. Richardson 703-534-3577
Sherwood Smith 202-686-4107
Leslie B. White 202-265-2560

- ◆ Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
 - ◆ Re-dedication of the District War Memorial is scheduled for 11 AM on Thurs., Nov. 10th.



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