



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 – Our 149th Year!***

***Bulletin #120
October 2014***

President's Message...

Since the 90s, the AOI has been a staunch supporter of openness and access to the Pennsylvania Avenue (north) side of the White House. Members carried banners in the 4th of July parade and I testified before Congress in a failed effort to restore vehicular traffic to the 1600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue.

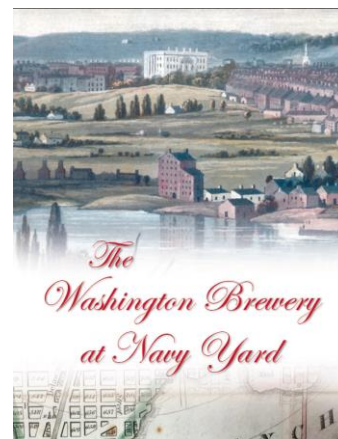
Recent breaches of the White House security perimeter have once again brought attention to the security of not only the grounds and the building but, more importantly, the safety of the First Family. If you followed the news accounts, the U.S. Secret Services' immediate response was to throw up another row of portable, bicycle-rack type barriers a few feet off the wrought iron fence... "While we evaluate recent events..." This is another of what WRC-TV's Tom Sherwood calls the "bollard-ization of Washington." In his *Current* opinion pieces, Tom often rails against the ever decreasing access to L'Enfant's streets particularly around the U.S. Capitol. In response to the latest 'crack down,' the *Post's* Petula Dvorak says, "The Secret Service would rather punish the public and cover the butts of the officials in charge... how about doing what most ordinary folks around the world do? Lock. The. Doors!"

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October's Luncheon Event:

"Washington Brewery at the Navy Yard"

With Garrett Peck



Please join us...

Friday, **October 17**, at the **Capitol Skyline Hotel** (free Parking) 10 I ('Eye') Street, SW. (Metro Rail to Navy Yard Station), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m.

(\$30 per person - please make your check payable to "AOI" and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact payment).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, not later than noon Tues., Oct. 14, 2014 – EARLIER RSVP TIME!!

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., 10/16, will 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 (***Sun Dried Tomato Pesto Crusted Flounder, Grilled Skyline Chicken Breast, Grilled Black Angus Flank Steak, or Braised Ratatouille of Vegetables***) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute event cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 149th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Nov. 21, 2014 – “Washington, D.C. 101” -- Catholic University’s Matthew Green discusses the university’s freshman curriculum which includes an introduction to the District’s history and highlights. Annual Elections
- New Year’s Day Reception – to be determined
- Feb. 19, 2015 – Hayden Wetzal, “History of Animal Control and Dog Pounds in 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 call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the October 17, 2014 luncheon.]

AOI held the fifth meeting of its 149th year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel September 19, 2014, with 74 registered attendees.

The minutes of the June 20, 2014 luncheon meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurers/Membership Report: **Hulit Taylor** gave the combined Treasurer’s and Membership report, and **Bill Brown** named the new members.

Membership: AOI now has 352 members, 27 of whom are new, not counting new members as of today. The five new members are as follows:

Philip Brach (Robert Barbuto); **Mike & Judith Canning** (June’s speakers – Hollywood on the Potomac); **Martin Murray** (Sherwood Smith, also was panelist for 2011 History Conference on Policing in DC/Walt Whitman); and **Mary Ann Upright** (Vince Scalco). All were approved unanimously.

Non-Routine Expense Since June Luncheon:

- \$130 to DCRA for AOI's 2014/2015 corporate registration fee.
- \$135 Gratuity to driver of Steam Pumper for July 4th Parade
- \$1,216 for layout, design & printing 3,000 copies of Membership Brochure in 4 color
-

Luncheon Report: Attendance at the June Luncheon was 92. AOI pays the bar tender fee, as well as subsidizing \$4 per person of the luncheon charge. AOI’s portion of June’s luncheon charge was \$509.

Announcements:

- Bill said that three AOI members are in poor health but declined to give names in order to protect their privacy.

- Two AOI members passed away this summer: **Peg Masi** and **Armin Tashdinian**.

- The Annual Lincoln-Thomas Day event at Ft. Stevens will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, thanks largely to the efforts of Military Road School stalwarts **Pat Tyson, Theresa Saxton, and R. Barbara Johnson**.

- The Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture will hold a conference Nov. 8-9 to focus attention on preserving artifacts from African American history. AOI will host a table at the conference to be held at the Historical Society’s Carnegie Library Building.

- **Mara Cherkasky** will give a talk on the Navy Yard Sept. 20 at 2:00 PM.

- Former D.C. political figure **Sterling Tucker** sent word that Oct. 20 will be the 40th anniversary of the bill providing home rule to the District of Columbia.

- The October speaker will be local author **Garrett Peck** on a brewery once operating in the Navy Yard. The November program will discuss how Catholic University presents a required course on D.C. history. **Hayden Wetzal** will speak in February about the history of animal control in Washington. In the spring **Jerry McCoy** will talk about the renaissance of the Peabody Room at the Georgetown public library since the disastrous fire of 2007.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** noted that in 1983 D.C. voters approved secession from the District of Columbia in order to create the state of New Columbia. He said he will give the October Overbeck Lecture on why D.C. has not been able to achieve statehood. Nelson’s Trivia Question was to name the D.C. Sister City that calls itself the oldest continuous national capital. The answer: Rome, reportedly established April 21, 763 (B.C.). **Randy Clarke** was awarded a gift bag for his correct answer.

Bill Brown introduced the day’s speaker, prefacing her talk by reminding the guests of AOI’s several initiatives in support of commemoration of World War I, including the following:

- Publicizing the commemorative trees along 16th St., NW, which originally carried small plaques with the name of every D.C. resident killed during World War I.

- Publicizing the D.C. soldiers' World War I Memorial, which contributed to successful efforts to refurbish it.
- Publicizing conversion of Pershing Park (across from the Washington Hotel) to serve as the national World War I Memorial, a process which appears to be succeeding, albeit slowly.

The speaker, **Patricia Daly-Lipe**, spoke about her great-uncle, William Hemmick, a Catholic priest and World War I chaplain who eventually became Canon of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. World War I changed the methods and image of war forever: weapons (tanks, machine guns, and aircraft) became more powerful, and everyone, including civilians, became more vulnerable. Father Hemmick, one of eight children, attended school in Rome while his State Department father was stationed in Europe and was ordained by Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore after returning home. Father Hemmick taught for a while at Newman School in New Jersey, where the writer, F. Scott Fitzgerald, was a student. Father Hemmick enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a front-lines chaplain; after the war he returned home briefly but returned to Paris and established a rehabilitation center for wounded veterans. He was called to Rome and served as Canon of Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica before being appointed Canon of St. Peter's Cathedral, the first American to hold the position. He is buried in the Vatican cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,
John P. Richardson, Secretary

AOI's newsletters and publications are produced by:



President's Message (Continued)...

And Philip Kennicott writes, "The Secret Service should examine its own failures before it further humiliates local citizens and tourists who circulate near the White House. It should not be rewarded with yet more control over public space. Nor should any further visual clutter around the White House perimeter be allowed, including any additions to the security fence or any loss of access to the fence itself. This is an institutional, organizational problem; it does not require an architectural solution."

I think most of our members would agree...

Bill Brown



AOI members called for the re-opening of Pennsylvania Avenue in the Palisades 4th of July Parade. (c. 1999). Photo Credit: *North West Current*

Our e-mail address is: aoiofdc@gmail.com
Our web site is <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply "Google" 'Governor Shepherd' and we'll pop-up!



The Military Road School Preservation Trust celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Military Road School on Sept. 28 at the Holiday Inn in College Park and featured guest speaker Dexter Manley (right). Karen Gray Houston, formerly of Fox 5 News, served as Emcee. Nearly 180 MRSPT friends and supporters celebrated this worthwhile event.

Address Correction Requested

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Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

October marks the 40th Anniversary of Home Rule for the District of Columbia. A 40th Anniversary Reception is planned for Oct. 28th, date and location to be determined.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, December 5, 2015 –
AOI's 150th Anniversary Gala. Mid-day event, elegant luncheon, reception, entertainment, awards and more.
Mark your calendars now!

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