



# 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 #94  
October 1, 2010**

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

The AOI has hosted numerous speakers and guests at our monthly luncheon meetings over the years. As part of our continuing effort to keep our members informed about preservation efforts by various government and non-profit organizations we have hosted officials from the District Department of Transportation, the DC State Historic Preservation Office, the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service and the US Commission of Fine Arts. These organizations have a direct impact on the maintenance, preservation and promotion of the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans for the city. Additionally, we have hosted authors and scholars whose works have served to promote and interpret many aspects of the District's historic structures, plans and the minds and personalities behind them.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington Historical Studies Conference will be held at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives (17<sup>th</sup> & M Sts., NW). Every year the conference organizers carefully construct a program that invites scholars, authors and interested individuals to participate in panel discussions and presentations that recount and promote the city's history in architecture, design, governance and the performing arts.

Information about this year's event is available on-line via the Historical Society at: [www.historydc.org/events/historicalstudiesconference.aspx](http://www.historydc.org/events/historicalstudiesconference.aspx). Contact information and related links will be posted there as the program schedule is finalized so you can participate.

***Bill Brown***

## **October's Luncheon Event:**

### **The Centennial of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts**

Presented by Thomas Luebke, Commission Secretary



***Please join us...***

Friday, **October 15**, 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. (**\$21 per person** - please have checks 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., Oct. 13, 2010.

**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., 10/14, 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 145<sup>th</sup> Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

Nov. 19, 2010 – AOI Member Lee Rogers presents a slide program drawn from the Robert Truax Collection; Annual Election of Officers and Directors

Jan. 1, 2011 – Annual New Year's Day Reception – Pier 7/Channel Inn, 11:30 – 2:30

Feb. 18, 2011 – Ambassador Gordon Brown: “Incidental Architect: William Thornton & the Cultural Life of Early Washington, 1794-1828”

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 September Meeting...***

President Bill Brown opened the sixth luncheon meeting of AOI's 145th year, held at the Channel Inn. There were 103 members and guests present. This was the first meeting held since the summer break.

There was a special mailing to all members concerning the forthcoming members' only directory. That mailing included opt-out/opt-in responses with a response form for those who did not wish some or all personal information to appear in the directory. Because of this special mailing, there was not a regular newsletter issued. Minutes of the last meeting were placed at each dining table for review and approval. Bill called for additions or corrections to the minutes. **Carl Cole** moved, seconded by **Ann Renshaw**, that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that they be accepted as presented. The motion was approved.

Six new applications for membership have been submitted since the last meeting. Applications were received from: **Anne Elizon Brown** (a member of the Citizen's Association of Georgetown); **Keshini (Kesh) Ladduwahetty** (active member of the Franklin School Coalition); **Sigrid Washington** (nominated by Emerson Melavin); **Arne Paulson** (Foxhall Village neighbor and friend of Bill Brown and Hulit Taylor); **Faye Armstrong** (nominated by Leslie White); and **Elise Fischer** (found us through our web site). **Ann Renshaw** moved, seconded by **Dudley Brown**, that the applications be approved by the membership. The motion was approved.

**Hulit Taylor** presented a brief treasurer's report. As of Sept 16 there are 348 members, of whom 38 are new and 310 are renewals. Total membership is ahead of last year at this time. Expenses paid since the June 19th meeting included a \$250 grant to the Historical Society in memory of Jo Waters; \$300 grant to the Franklin School Coalition; \$60 membership dues to Federation of Citizen's Associations; \$1939 final payment for the bronze plaque for the Shepherd Statue. Our

investment account value increased by \$10,300 over the summer.

Bill introduced the many first timers and returning members.

Bill made announcements and comments of interest to members. He noted the passing of members **Jo (Joyce) Waters, Richard Conroy, Bill Hussy, Margaret (Peggy) Miller, and Judge Peter A. Greenleaf**. He observed that they will be sorely missed.

Bill noted that the Shepherd statue plaque has been installed. He added that an official dedication date will be established after it is worked out with the Secretary of the DC Council. He reported on activity with the Franklin School Coalition. He commented that our grant to the coalition went to creating nine large acrylic panels which tell the history of the Franklin School. They are on display at the Historical Society until Sept 26, after which they will travel to the Wilson Building, the Sumner School, and some other locations. He also commented on the future 37th Annual Washington History Conference and noted that his suggestion for a panel on DC historic records has been accepted as part of the program.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** told of a binder he prepared regarding a damaged memorial plaque he located at the Wilson (District) Building. It is thought that the broken glass shards he found had been part of a memorial in the Wilson Building commemorating DC veterans who had served in WWII. The binder Nelson prepared contains the names of seven persons, and it may be that they are names of those who were lost as casualties; however, that is not certain so Nelson solicited information from anyone who can help in clarifying this.

**Joe Grano** spoke of the 500th anniversary of the birth of the man who is considered by many to be the most important architect in history: Andrea Palladio. To commemorate this, there is an outstanding exhibit at the National Building Museum, in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects. There are over 350 drawings by Palladio in the RIBA collection, while in all of Italy there are only 31. Palladio had great influence on Thomas Jefferson's

thinking on architecture, and it is because of this that much of American public buildings' architecture is derived from designs by Palladio, not only in Washington but throughout the country and the world. Joe has been a factor in making this exhibit come to our city.

Our key speaker was AOI Director **John Richardson**, who has devoted much of the past several years to researching and writing a book on Alexander Robey Shepherd. It has been a labor of love, and keeps John ever expanding his discoveries regarding Shepherd's biography. John presented some of his findings in a fascinating presentation that considered the issues that swirl about in discussions on Shepherd's life, viz. corruption, and whether he was a political "Boss", and his views on race, and his life in Mexico. John concluded his talk with some mysteries still unsolved. He carefully and obviously left us anxiously straining to hear more from him on one of his favorite topics.

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: [aoidc@verizon.net](mailto:aoidc@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:



### ***Georgetown Branch Library and the Peabody Room to Re-open Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>...***

Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> will celebrate the re-opening of the Georgetown Branch Public Library and its historic Peabody Collection located at 3260 R Street, NW (Wisconsin Avenue & R Streets). The library was nearly destroyed and the Peabody Room collection severely damaged in a devastating fire in April 2007. Now, 3-years later with the vision and perseverance of the DC Public Library System, the DCPL Foundation, the Georgetown Community and numerous supporters and donors, the library will re-open with greatly improved facilities, grounds and user services.

On the occasion of the library's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the improved facility will feature: an outdoor reading terrace; the Peabody suite with gabled window views of the Book Hill garden and terrace; a large, sunny children's room; restored woodwork and architectural details; and multiple conference rooms.

As part of the DC Public Library's Special Collections, the Peabody Room contains books, documents, photographs, and artwork spanning three centuries of Georgetown history – one of the most significant collections of neighborhood history in the nation. Many of the archival materials in the collection were water damaged from the April 30, 2007 fire that heavily damaged the library.

The Alice and Russell True Foundation is matching every dollar up to \$50,000 of donations received by the DCPL Foundation to benefit conservation of the Peabody Room's collections by November 1, 2010. To kick off the fundraising effort, the True Foundation has already made a donation of \$10,000.

Many AOI members have joined in this initiative, but if you have not already participated in this challenge, please make donations payable to the "DC Public Library Foundation" and note "Peabody" in the memo section of your check. Checks may be mailed to DCPL Foundation, 901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. You can also donate online at [www.dcpfoundation.org](http://www.dcpfoundation.org) and click "yes" when asked if you'd like your donation to go to the Georgetown Fund.

### ***Membership Directory Reminder...***

In September, we mailed a letter which contained the information we have in our records about you: name, address, telephone and email information. If there are additions or corrections, you should make them on that label and return the form to us. For those who do not want their contact information included in the directory, there is an 'opt out' box for you to check and mail back. If you choose to 'opt out,' that is to not have your contact information included, then only your name will be listed in the directory. We want this effort to be useful to members and accurate; however, we will respect the wishes of anyone who does not wish to be included. We have had a high level of 'participation' (e.g., only a few members have asked to be excluded and a number have provided corrected information). The deadline for corrections/opting out is Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>; so, please return your form if you have changes or want to opt out.

As the AOI's Sesquicentennial draws near (2015), we will be looking for opportunities to continue to make these next five years informative and meaningful for members.

*Address Correction Requested*

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.  
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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](http://www.historydc.org). Library hours: Tue-Sat, 10-5
- ◆ AOI Member Directory Changes/Opt-Out Forms Due Back to the AOI by Fri., Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>!!!!



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