



# 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 #93  
June 4, 2010*

## *President's Message...*

Of approximately 90 buildings designed by architect Adolf Cluss only about 10 survive ... 9 in Washington and 1 in Alexandria.

Many AOI members are familiar with Cluss' buildings: the Sumner School, the Franklin School and the Arts & Industries Building of the Smithsonian. Many are unaware that the Patent Office (American Art Museum) was of Cluss' design and that residences at Ft. McNair (which were conversions from the old prison building) are also his and will be the topic of this month's program. But even Cluss experts AOI member Dr. Joe Brown and Dr. Bill Gilcher were amazed when AOI Director John Richardson 'stumbled' upon five previously unidentified Cluss structures mentioned in the *Evening Star* while he was researching Governor Shepherd.

The most notable demolitions of Cluss buildings include: Portland Flats (Thomas Circle), Agriculture Department (National Mall), Stewart's Castle (DuPont Circle), Shepherd's Row (Farragut Square), Army Medical Museum (National Mall), Lincoln Hall (9th and D NW) the city's largest auditorium after the Civil War, and Center Market (Pa. Ave. between 7th and 9th streets NW).

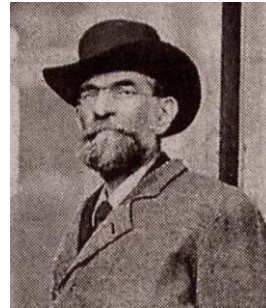
Cluss' Eastern Market recently reopened after a major fire 3 years ago. Now we anxiously await the outcome of the city's decision regarding the future of the Franklin School at 13<sup>th</sup> & K Streets, NW which we hope will be preserved for educational use. For further information on Cluss or the Franklin School, check these sites: [www.Adolf-Cluss.org](http://www.Adolf-Cluss.org) or [Franklinschooldc.org](http://Franklinschooldc.org).

*Bill Brown*

## June's Luncheon Event:

### Adolf Cluss and the Washington Arsenal (Ft. McNair)

Presented Dr. Joseph Browne and Dr. William Gilcher



*Please join us...*

Friday, **June 18th**, 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., June 16, 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., 6/17, 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.

**>>>Note: We have had to re-price our luncheon to \$21 per person. Please bring exact payment!<<<**

## ***Future Meetings...***

The AOI's 145<sup>th</sup> Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

July 4, 2010 – Annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade -- Meet in front of Eng. Co. 29 (MacArthur/Whitehaven) at 10:30am to walk with AOI's 1905 American La France Steam Pumper

Sept. 17, 2010 – Reminiscences kicked-off by Lee Rogers with a slide presentation from the Truax Collection

Oct. 15, 2010 – The Commission on Fine Arts: Their Centennial (invited to attend)

Nov. 19, 2010 – John Richardson presents, “Alexander Shepherd: Unresolved Issues.” & 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 May 2010 Meeting...***

The fourth luncheon meeting of this year was held on May 21 at the Channel Inn. In pointing out that this is our 145th year, President Bill Brown noted that we are but five years away from our own AOI sesquicentennial celebration. There were 83 members and guests present for the luncheon.

**Lee Rogers** moved, seconded by **Al Wheeler**, that the minutes of the April 16 meeting be accepted as printed in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

Bill Brown announced three new applications for membership. They are for **Joseph C. Akers, Jr.**, **Destinie Jones**, and **Stacey J. Kornegay**. All of the applicants learned about AOI after reading John Kelly's column in the Washington Post. A motion to accept the applicants was moved, seconded and approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report on finances and membership. We have 26 new members (of which 12 are the direct result of having read of AOI in John Kelly's column). Bill Brown noted that Rebecca Sheir's story about “What It Takes to be Considered a Washingtonian” was broadcast on WAMU's “Metro Connection” and rebroadcast yesterday on “Morning Edition.” Bill received three membership inquiries as a result.

Bill Brown reported several items of AOI achievement and recognition:

As a partial result of AOP's resolution calling for recognition of the Centennial of Building Height Act, symposium was organized by the National Capital Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission, and was held at the Navy Memorial auditorium this week. Larry Beasley, Vancouver B.C. urban planner, who was a key speaker of the conference, and who is an authority and frequent proponent for tall buildings expressed his view that Washington's height restrictions make the city unique, distinctive, and workable.

As a result of **Lee Rogers** reporting at our last

meeting on the history and plight of DC's World War I 16th Street Tree Memorial, DC Councilman Phil Mendelson introduced a resolution to mark the 90th anniversary (on May 31, 2010) of the dedication. The resolution states, in part, “the Council of the District recognizes and acknowledges the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants for its efforts in reminding us of our fallen heroes and calls upon all of its citizens to pause and reflect on the supreme sacrifice made by its sons and daughters who gave their lives not only in World War I but in all the wars and military actions of the United States.” [Twenty-eight AOI members, neighbors and dignitaries gathered at 16<sup>th</sup> St. & Alaska Avenue on May 31 to commemorate the Centennial and kick-off a guided walk by Lee Rogers of the 2.3 mile long memorial.]

The Phil W. Ogilvie Award for 2010 was presented on May 13 to Lisa D' Almeida of the George Washington University for academic excellence in the accelerated Master of Tourism program. The award has a scholarship stipend of \$500, contributed annually by AOI in memory of Phil Ogilvie, former AOI president. Lisa had a 4.0 grade-point average. Her name has been added to the plaque for Ogilvie Awardees.

The DC Federation of Citizens' Associations, at its centennial gala dinner ceremony on May 12, awarded AOI its Sustained Civic Activism Award, citing AOI's dedication to the preservation of the L'Enfant and the McMillan plans; our partnering with the Military Road School Preservation Trust; the Heurich House Museum; the Franklin School Coalition; our participation in the annual July 4th Parade; and our attempt to generate information and possible records of the former Association of Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) Inc., our counterpart organization from the time of segregated District of Columbia.

Today's speaker was not one, but an entire six-pack of speakers. We had the distinct pleasure of experiencing the masterful performance of FREED--the Female Reenactors of Distinction. The six woman acting team recreated the roles of historic figures in African American history as recreated in the Civil War Era. The reenactors were **Pat Tyson, Joyce**

**Bailey**, Theresa Saxton, Helen Hassel, Nia Kuumba and Alma Harris. Pat portrayed Hallie Quinn Brown, an abolitionist and teacher. She was born in Pittsburgh in 1845. She attended Wilberforce College in Ohio. She became known as a lecturer and teacher, traveling to Europe. She lived in England and was presented to Queen Victoria twice. Returning to America she fought for civil rights for blacks and suffrage for woman. Other historic figures depicted in one-woman vignettes were Mary Celeste Chelsea, of Norfolk VA, Charlotte Forten Grimke of Washington DC., Susan Baker King, Elizabeth Keckley (Mrs. Lincoln's confidant) and Harriet Tubman. The reenactors were outstanding and the parts they played were fascinating as well as educational. Truly enjoyable...

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](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:



### ***AOI Member 'Captain' South Lynn Receives Prestigious Preservation Award...***

The 2009 John Frye Historic Preservation Award was presented to **"Captain" South Lynn** in recognition of his efforts to promote historic preservation in Washington County, Maryland. "Captain" Lynn is the owner and restorer of the historic Kennedy Farm. He carefully restored and maintained the Kennedy Farmhouse for over thirty-five years.

To gain the extremely rare National Landmark designation, South Lynn went through arduous efforts to demonstrate that this was the house that was used by John Brown for planning and staging the infamous Raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. The John Brown Raid is known as the spark which started the Civil War. The Kennedy Farm was the headquarters for Brown and his men, for several months prior to the October 1859 historic event.

The Kennedy Farm House is part of Washington County's history and heritage, and is part of the Washington County

Association of Museums and Historic Sites. "Captain" Lynn has invested a significant amount of financial resources, time, and effort in restoring and maintaining the Kennedy Farm. The house is a completely restored two-story log farm house, furnished as it was in 1859. For several months it served as the residence for John Brown and his army of 21 abolitionists who ate, slept, and armed themselves for the Raid on Harper's Ferry. In 2009, the country commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John Brown's Raid, and the more than 100 events that took place during the anniversary observances received a Top 100 Event in North America Award by the American Bus Association.

Tom Riford, CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau said, "The story of John Brown cannot be told, without the historical context of the carefully restored Kennedy Farm."

### ***AOI Undertakes Membership Directory Initiative...***

For many years now a number of AOI members and Directors have asked us to consider publishing an AOI Member's Directory. We acknowledge and appreciate everyone's privacy, and this effort will do everything to ensure that this publication lands only in the hands of AOI members in good standing. We envision the directory to be commemorative (yet useful and timely) and we want to reflect the AOI membership as of 2010. The directory portion of the booklet would contain members' names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. But, don't despair! If you do not want your contact information made available to your fellow AOI members there will be an opportunity for you to 'Opt Out.'

Our plan is this: In September, rather than mail a postcard announcement for the luncheon, we will mail an individual mail-merge letter to all members. This letter will have affixed a label inside which contains 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 will be 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.

You will receive the label and full details of this initiative in the September mailing and luncheon announcement. We are looking forward to a high level of 'participation.'

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*

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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
- ◆ Support the Restoration of Documents & Artifacts at Historic Peabody Room [www.dcpfoundation.org](http://www.dcpfoundation.org)



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