

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

Volume 29, Number 1

September/October 2005

NEWSLETTER



SMA Officers and Directors for 2005-2006

From left to right; 1st row: Bill Cox; Treasurer, Bill Donalds; President, Frank Johnson; First V.P., Robert Mitchell; Second V.P., Bill Winship; Secretary, 2nd row: Kent Haydock; Past Pres. and Director, Joe Holmes; Director, Bill Atkinson; Past Pres. and Director, Hal Simpson; Director, Chuck Forman; Director, Pete Scull; Director, Bob Woods; Director. Missing from the photo are Dave Mace and Tom Thomson; Directors

photograph by Bill Swett

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin the 2005-2006 SMA season we look forward to another successful year. I hope that you all had a good summer and are ready for our meetings, programs, activities and special events. Our weekly meetings start on September 7th. We are coming off a good year with our past President, Kent Haydock doing an

outstanding job with his dedication and initiative in resolving some issues. He recruited Frank Kemp to take over the membership directory database from Charlie DuVivier who deserves a large vote of thanks for his work over the past several years. Kent also lined up Stan Pinover and Herm Eckrich to take over as co-editors of the newsletter replacing Sam Stevenson who we also thank for his many years as editor.

MEMBERSHIP:

Our membership roster is healthy with many new members having joined us last year. According to our Membership chairman Chick Scribner, we are close to having a full maximum of 300 but still have room for more, both Darien and non-residents. All members are urged to be active recruiters by inviting friends to come to a weekly meeting or to participate in some of our activities. They can also visit our website at "SMA.darien.org" to get a sense of what we are all about. Also, we have been successfully using our new e-mail database to contact the members and I urge all who have not given their e-mail address to Frank Kemp to do so as soon as possible.

SMA BOARD:

In addition to our new officer board members we have added three new directors at large: Chuck Forman, Pete Scull and Bob Woods. We welcome these new members and look forward to working with them. Also, we thank three members at large whose terms have expired: Dale Pollart, Chick Scribner and Wayne Whitney. Both Chick and Wayne will continue to participate in the board proceedings due to their roles in membership and special events.

PROGRAMS:

Frank Johnson and Bob Mitchell, assisted by Stan Pinover and Bob Baker have been busy scheduling the programs for our weekly meetings. We have been fortunate in having a good schedule of programs over the past several years and we are confident that our new team will follow the tradition.

COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES:

On behalf of all of the membership I thank the various committee chairmen and the activity representatives and all of the other unsung members who, on a weekly basis, keep the organization going with their contribution of time and talent.

SONGSTERS:

We had a good year with our new team of Joe Holmes as director and Bill Flanagan as

administrative manager. This combination spread the workload and enabled Joe to focus on the music, which he did very capably. We also had some new members who helped fill the ranks and we look forward to another good season.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Wayne Whitney and his team have been doing an outstanding job of scheduling some fun activities including the Moodus Jazz Festival and L. I. Sound Brunch Cruise this summer as well as the Goodspeed Opera Musical and the West Point football game this fall.

Welcome to another good year. --Bill Donalds.

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

NEW DARIEN LIBRARY

Louise Berry, Director, And Alan Gray will present a summary of plans for the new building. This includes a schedule for completion, an outline of initiatives to minimize the budget impact on the town, and a discussion of major improvements over the old facility.

Suggested by Kent Haydock

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

BREAKING THE GERMAN ENIGMA

During World War II the Germans used Enigma machines to encode military messages that were sent and received with their military field commanders. They were convinced that it was impossible to break this very complex cipher. Yet the British at Bletchley Park north of London led the Allies effort to do just that. Breaking the code was credited with shortening the war by over two years. A fascinating story presented by Harlan E. Anderson.

Suggested and Arranged by Stan Pinover

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

THE STATE OF THE STATE

State Senator Bob Duff represents the 25th district of Connecticut, which includes Norwalk and a portion of Darien. He was elected in November of 2004 – is Deputy Majority Whip, Chairman of the Housing Committee, Vice Chair of Energy and Technology and a member of the Appropriations and Commerce Committees. He previously served as a State Representative for the 137th Assembly district in Norwalk. He will discuss “The State of the State”.

Suggested by Mel Orr

Arranged by Robert Mitchell

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

JUST WHAT IS A “JUST WAR”

Over the centuries, there has been shaped in Western Civilization a consensus definition of a just war. Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele will discuss the guidelines established for this and trace its development over the course of history.

Suggested by Mel Orr

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

ESTATE PLANNING

Our speaker is David J. McClatchie, a Certified Financial Planner, Educator and Seminar Speaker. He is an expert on financial and estate planning decisions, specializing in tax issues and retirement strategies. Mr. McClatchie has been a guest speaker at many non-profit organizations as well as conducting public and private educational seminars.

Suggested by Dale Pollart

Arranged by Robert Mitchell

Wednesday, October 12, 2005

GENERAL PUTNAM’S FAMOUS RIDE

You all know about Paul Revere, but what about General Putnam’s ride. He became a local Fairfield County hero. Come and hear John Savage’s presentation of his gallop from Greenwich to Stamford in the Revolutionary War and other tidbits about colonial times.

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, October 19, 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN NYC

David Tweedy of the NYCDEP will discuss the mission of the Department of Environmental Protection and its role in protecting NYC’s watershed and surrounding waterways. This includes security concerns, air and water pollution, and conformance to changing Federal Regulations.

Suggested by Dick Tweedy

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

THE CENTER FOR HOPE

The Center For Hope helps adults and children living with an illness or grieving a loss and coping with related trauma by providing professional counseling, support and education in an atmosphere of hope and renewal. Today the Center For Hope provides a full continuum of care each year for more than 1,000 clients and their families from all over the region. Chairman of the Board, George Reilly and Executive Director, Peggy Burgess, will make the presentation.

Suggested and Arranged by Stan Pinover

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS

Charles Weiner is an accomplished offshore sailor. He will take us on his Trans-Atlantic adventure where his sailboat was dismasted. All

ended well as you will hear and see as he had on board a professional photographer to record the proceedings.

Suggested by Don Miller

Arranged by Bob Baker

SMA – MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since the last Newsletter, the May – June edition, we have added two members to our roster and lost two. Our membership total is still 282 with 18 openings on the Darien list only. There is one name on the Out-of-Town waiting list.

Members are reminded of the dues renewal sheet in this newsletter. Our Constitution clearly states all dues should be paid by November 1st. This is necessary in order to get the new membership roster up-to-date and ready for printing by December. When dues are delinquent it creates extra and unnecessary work for your membership committee. Every year seventy-to-eighty of our members have to be tracked down with reminder post cards followed by phone calls.

We welcome the following new members who joined in June.

Jack Baker came to us from Sun Valley, Idaho where he worked in Radio Broadcasting for CBS. Jack graduated from Harvard University in 1949 with an AB degree in History. He finished his education with an MA degree from the University of Michigan in 1950.

Jack retired in 1994 and now lives in Darien. For hobbies he enjoys sports, music, reading, current affairs and history.

Carleton Pierpont was born in Worcester, Mass. He graduated from Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1947 and from Harvard College in 1951 with a BA in economics. He left the Merchant Marine School a Third Mate qualified on all tonnage. "Pip" was a Commissioned Officer in the U. S. Navy, worked for the Moore McCormack Line, W. R. Grayson Co., Pan Am Airways and Tracer Laboratory in Boston. He also was the Manager of a Real Estate Brokerage in New York City and is now the owner and President of C. L.

Pierpont Company. He lives with his wife Elizabeth in Darien.

In his spare time "Pip" enjoys water coloring, tennis and sailing.

-- *Chick Scribner*

SMA SPECIAL EVENTS 2004/5

During our SMA Year your Special Events Committee held some eight events. Members enthusiastically signed up for a day at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in October; an outstanding Goodspeed Opera musical (Mack & Mabel) in November, a Radio City Christmas Spectacular and our Christmas Party at C.C. of Darien featuring our own Joe Holmes and several members of his band.

In February, members and guests attended a N.Y. Philharmonic rehearsal at Lincoln Center featuring Mahler's 7th Symphony. This was followed by a trip to the New England Air Museum at Windsor Locks and a day at the races at Belmont where several of our members and spouses were able to demonstrate their ability at picking winning horses (or jockeys?). Our annual SMA Picnic at Weed Beach dodged a rain squall and as usual drew a large crowd of members, wives and guests.

We began the new season with fourteen members/guests joining with New Canaan's Senior Men's to attend the New England Jazz Festival at Moodus, CT. July 30. A Sunday Brunch Cruise on Long Island Sound is planned for Sunday, August 28. We'll be going back to Goodspeed Opera September 9 for a performance of The Boyfriend, directed by Julie Andrews and back to West Point Oct. 8 for a Homecoming game, Cadet Review and lunch at The Thayer Hotel. As this story was being written we had openings for one couple on the Brunch Cruise and several openings for the West Point trip. Please contact Wayne Whitney (655-9467) for details.

Special thanks for member support and for the efforts of the Special Events Committee who organized and implemented these events: Frank Johnson, John Podkowsky, Bill Atkinson, Tom Thompson, Bob Woods, and Ed Mulock. Please

extend your personal greetings and thanks to these members when you see them.

-- *J. Wayne Whitney, Chairman*

**West Point-Oct. 8, 2005 Trip
Special Opportunity**

Although this trip is fully subscribed (one 56 passenger bus), we will contract for a second bus if there is sufficient member support.

We need additional paid subscribers – eight members and eight guests (total 16) by Sept. 14 to make it happen. These 16 are in addition to members already on our Standby List.

The trip includes a Cadet Review, lunch at The Thayer Hotel, the historic on-campus hotel where Douglas McArthur's mother stayed to keep an eye on her son during his undergraduate days and a Homecoming football game. As an added convenience, we will be able to keep our buses as we move about the campus.

Please contact Bob Woods, Class of '45, (655-9845), or Wayne Whitney (655-9467) with a check to DCA/SMA for \$158 per couple (\$79/person).

JAZZ FESTIVAL AT MOODUS

The Darien SMA and the New Canaan SMA joined forces to go to the 2005 Connecticut Jazz Festival held at the Sunrise Resort in Moodus on July 30th. It was a perfect summer day. There were 15 different bands playing alternately under 4 large tents scattered enough so as not to interfere with each other. One of the highlights was a 9 year old jazz violinist named Jonathan "Jazz" Russell. All of the bands and singers were excellent. There was also a "Dance Tent" where one could learn all kinds of dances: a different one every hour like swing, the Charleston, the Lindy Hop, Cha Cha, Tango etc. Some of us went to the Salmon River to go for a canoe ride.

This event exists not only to encourage and enjoy the performance of traditional jazz but also to underwrite and support "Horns For Kids", an educational outreach program that provides and

enhances musical education for youngsters throughout the state of Connecticut. All the personnel from the Board of Directors to the golf cart drivers are volunteers. It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile trip.

-- *Ray Pace*

SMA CARES

Ex-President, Kendall Jackson spent the early part of the summer in the Stamford Hospital and the Tandet Center with leg problems compounded by a broken hip. He came home the first week in August and is recuperating at home.

SMA Cares tries to keep the membership informed regarding members who are incapacitated in one way or another but depends on you to get this information. One of the committee members can always be found at the table in the rear of the meeting room on Wednesdays during the meetings or feel free to contact me at home.

-- *Don Brown, Chairman*

HAPPY WANDERERS

The 2005-2006 Senior Wanderer's will be in their fifth year. There are a great number of locals yet to be discovered in our walks. Perspective tours, in no particular order are: The Four Squares (Madison Union Stuyvesant and Gramercy); walk over the Williamsburg Bridge and through Williamsburg and Greenpoint; The Small museums of the Financial District; The Hudson River Esplanade and Greenway; Kips Bay – Tutor City – Turtle Bay; Brighton Beach – Coney Island – Little Odessa; The Far West Village; Museum Mile – Yorkville; 125th Street Harlem – Morningside Heights – Columbia University – St. John, The Divine Cathedral; Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island. Popular demand will assist us in determining where we go.

-- *John Barston and Bill Bellis*