

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

Volume 29, Number 3

January- February 2006

NEWSLETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL



New York Botanical Garden Trip

Some of our members and guests standing on the steps of the Conservatory. Story about this trip on page 4

All photographs by Bill Swett

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We started off the Holiday Season with a delightful luncheon at the Country Club of Darien where a good time was had by all who were able to attend. We thank Frank Johnson who made the arrangements and Joe Holmes and his band who again provided their great style of music for our dancing and listening enjoyment. We hope that

the rest of the Christmas Season will be as joyous and peaceful for all of you and your families and that everyone has a healthy and happy new year. We are looking forward to another great year for the Senior Men's Association in 2006.

As I reflect on the past year with all of the tragic events occurring around the world, I think that we enjoy many blessings as members of our society in this community and in this country and we have much to be thankful for. Also, at this

time let us all remember those members who left us during this past year and say a prayer for their families.

Please don't forget the weather closing routine: listen to the local radio station listed on the front cover of the directory, if the Darien schools are closed, our meeting is cancelled. If you are not sure, use the phone bank listed in the last newsletter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Bill Donalds

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

TRAVELS IN ALASKA

Chris Evers, a naturalist, photographer and Darien native will be taking us on a trip through parts of Alaska. His emphasis will be on the lush flora, myriad of colors, and diversity of wildlife that abounds in this unique landscape. Chris founded Animal Embassy an outgrowth from his experience as a naturalist.

Arranged by Stan Pinover

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

THE STAMFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Our speaker is Ms. Barbara Soroca, Executive Director of the Stamford Symphony Orchestra who will bring us up to date on their future programs. We are very fortunate to have such a fine source for classical music in our neighboring town.

Arranged by Bob Baker

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT PART D

A representative from southwestern Connecticut Agency on aging will try to uncomplicated Medicare Part D for us. We have requested that the majority of time be devoted to

replying to your specific questions, so come prepared to ask them.

Suggested by Bill Donalds

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Darren Oustafine, Assistant Director of Public Works in Darien is our speaker today. He will bring us up-to-date on the various projects that are being scheduled in Darien and how they will affect us as citizens.

Arranged by Bob Baker

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

"WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH AIDS IN AFRICA?"

Blake Robinson will discuss the current trends with the AIDS crisis in Africa, in particular the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS in the East African nation of Malawi. He will speak from his personal experiences there during his recent trip with Global Aids Interfaith Alliance.

Suggested by Kent Haydock

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

TO BE ADVISED

Wednesday February 15, 2006

WHAT'S NEW ON THE INCOME TAX

The only thing consistent about income taxes is that you have to pay them. Our own Bill Cox will bring you up-to-date with all the new regulations about how to prepare them and not get into trouble.

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday February 22, 2006

DARIEN'S FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Evonne Klein, recently re-elected First Selectman, will update us on what is going on in

Darien and will discuss the challenges that face our town, now and into the future

Arranged by Bob Mitchell

SMA –MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Between the new members admitted this fall and the usual number of resignations, we ended up with a total of 277 members, up from 275 from the last report. Do to the recent changes in our Constitution; we have plenty of openings for new members. 12 of our members are 90 years old or older and are exempt from paying dues. To date, a few members have not remitted their dues for the coming year. If in doubt, check with the Membership Committee and/or your checkbook for a cancelled check.

We welcome the following new members:

Paul S. Jarret was born in 1943 in Montreal, Canada. His grade school education started in Montreal, then on to the Bronx, N.Y. and finally Greenwich Ct. where he graduated from St. Mary's High School. After high school he went to work for a few years to finance the rest of his education. He attended Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport Ct. and graduated with degrees in Liberal Arts and Languages. After collage he went to work for companies all over Westchester and Fairfield Counties teaching English as a second language.

After this job, Paul took employment in several other areas. He has lived in New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Connecticut, Montana and back to Connecticut where Riverside Renovations, a family owned business employed him. For the next five years he drove a tractor-trailer cross-country. His final employment was with Harris Realty Management in Greenwich. Paul moved to Darien in 1993 and retired in 2002.

Robert D Ready is a graduate of the Indiana University School Of Business and School of Law. Bob was born in 1933 and lives in Norwalk, CT. His former business affiliation was with Hewitt Associates where his occupation was Consultant-Human Resources. Bob is a Norwalk

Hospital Trustee, Director of Norwalk Community Health Center, Director of Wilson Point Association and is involved with the Norwalk Community College. Bob lists his hobbies as singing, tennis and woodworking.

Dennis G. Devere grew up in Scarsdale N.Y. He received his degree from Amherst College and his MBA from the NYU Stern School of Business. After serving in the Army National Guard, Denny spent most of his career in the financial services industry. He was a Division Executive for Chemical Bank and an Executive Vice President at American Savings Bank. He also headed up the financial services practice at Thorndike Deland Associates-the executive search firm. He currently has his own consulting practice specializing in consumer and small business banking. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of a senior-level career networking organization-the Executive Forum. His wife, Gay, heads up the health care and benefits areas for GE Consumer Finance-Americas. They have two grown children. Denny has lived in Darien for 19 years and his hobbies include golf and traveling.

Charles Evers was born in New York City in 1939. He graduated from St. Johns University in 1961 where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Commerce. He lists his occupation specialty as CPA-Auditor. Chuck served on the National Public Oversight Review Board working on the Public Accounting Profession. He also worked for Peat Marwick Mitchell and was affiliated with the American Institute of CPAs. He lives in Darien with his wife, Carolyn and they are the proud parents of three daughters and on son. Chuck is a member of the Darien Boat Club and for his hobby he is a collector of baseball memorabilia.

C. Scribner, Chairman

**SMA SPECIAL EVENTS
-Wayne Whitney, Chairman**

New York Botanical Garden

On November 19, 2005 forty-two members and guests traveled "just down the road"

to the Bronx where they were taken on a guided tour to see some spectacular Japanese plants (bonsai, maples and chrysanthemums), desert plants and The Holiday Train Show, a marvelous display in the Conservatory. There, as many as 11 large gauge trains zipped along a route past over 100 well known New York City landmark buildings and over bridges made from botanical and natural materials such as leaves, twigs, bark, berries and cones. Some of our members even ventured outside to take the 40 minute narrated tram ride through the grounds. A visit to the Garden Shop topped off a unique day at the Garden. The pictures on the first page and below show part of the good time had by all.

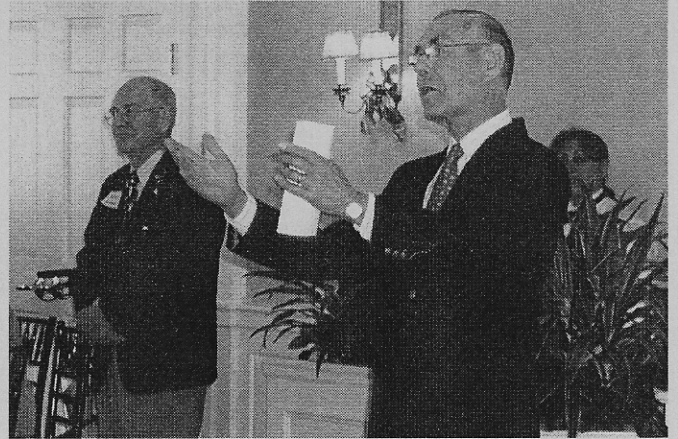


Members and guests in the Conservatory

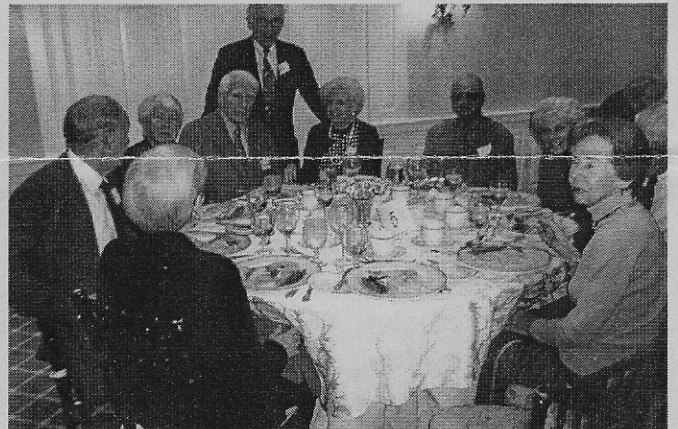
Annual Christmas Luncheon

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on December 8 at the Country Club of Darien. It was a bright, joyous holiday party with members wearing their bright red blazers and Santa Claus ties, and wives and guests dressed in their holiday finery. Joe Holmes and his band played all the music we love to recall as well as holiday music. We had a grand time dancing to many of the songs from the 40's, 50's and 60's. The hors d'oeuvres were tasty and the main course of Broiled Salmon or Chicken Piccata was delicious. Bill Donalds, our SMA President, reminded us that our organization is more than a social club thanks to the many members who volunteer their services to many causes and clinics. Our thanks to

Frank Johnson who arranged and managed the Luncheon for the third year. The following 3 pictures are from our Christmas Luncheon.



Bill Donalds and Wayne Whitney



From left to right – Georgie Brown (Don Brown is standing), Bill and Ineke Atkinson, Bill and Anne Flanagan, Bill and Pat McIntire, Ted and Jean Tharp



Host Frank Johnson

NOSTALGIA

My Mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't get food poisoning.

My Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter and I used to eat it raw. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown bag, not in icepack coolers, but I can't remember getting E-coli.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closers then.

The term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the School PA system.

We all took gym, not PE... and risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Keds (only worn in the gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

Flunking gym was not an option...even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be harder than gym.

Speaking of school, we all said prayers and sang the National Anthem, and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention. We must have had horribly damaged psyches.

I thought that I was to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations.

Oh yeah...and where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played "king of the Hill" on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites, and when we got hurt, Mon pulled out the 48-cent bottle of Mercurochrome (kids liked it better because it didn't sting like Iodine did) and then we got our butts spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics, and then Mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either because if we did, we got our butts spanked there and then again when we got home.

I recall Donny Reynolds from next-door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop, just before he fell off. Little did his Mom know that she could have owned our house. Instead, she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run amuck.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that? We needed to get into group therapy and anger management classes? We were obviously so duped by so many social ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac! How did we ever survive?

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL WHO SHARED THIS ERA- AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T_ SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED. WE WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING.