

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

Volume 29, Number 5

May – June 2006

NEWSLETTER



SMA SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAM

Photographs by Ed Mulock

New York Philharmonic Trip attendees enjoying lunch at Savann Restaurant – article on page 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sadly Bill Donalds, our President, passed away on Thursday, April 20th. He had written the

following letter to the SMA for publication in our newsletter two weeks prior to his untimely demise. We wish to share it with you.

"Nothing has made me sadder than my inability to perform my duties as your President for much of this past year. I had been undergoing chemotherapy at Sloan-Kettering since last October. Following a series of tests and exams, my bladder was removed on February 15th. Contrary to what I had been told to expect, the cancer has spread beyond the bladder and metastasized in two places in my spine. For the past two weeks I have been back at Sloan-Kettering on pain medication, receiving radiation therapy. This treatment is scheduled to end on April 26th, at which time I expect to be discharged from the hospital. I do not know what my physical condition will be at that time.

Thanks to all of you for your cards, messages, and expressions of support.

I want to especially thank Frank Johnson for his great job of pinch-hitting for me these past two months at Senior Men.

I am hopeful that my health will improve, and that I will be able to return before the end of the year. Thanks to all of you for your continued involvement, and for your support of our fine organization."

Bill Donalds

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been very difficult—to fill in for Bill these past days. It would not have been possible without the personal help from a number of you and encouragement of all. Thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Looking forward to the next few months, we see a growth in the participation in our club activities and I hope that you take advantage of what is planned. Bridge, Golf and some other weekly events will continue through the summer. Bus trips will go to Belmont Racetrack and to the Jazz Festival, and another Brunch Cruise on Long Island Sound is scheduled for August. The SMA Songsters will entertain us on May 31. Please remember that spouses are invited to this event. Our Wednesday programs wrap up on June 7th.

Don't forget to join us for the Darien Clean-Up Day and march (or ride) in the Memorial Day Parade. Lastly our Annual Picnic is set for June 6th—and all of this should adequately fill your calendar.

My best wishes to all,

Frank Johnson

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

ACABELLA ENTERTAINS

This singing group, made up of fifteen "thirty something" women has performed throughout lower Fairfield County. Their repertoire consists of songs from Broadway to contemporary disco, sung unaccompanied by musical instruments.

Arranged by Bob Mitchell

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

LIONS AND TIGERS-AND BEARS-OH MY!

Gregg Dancho, Director of the Beardsley Zoo will tell us about this long outstanding, but little known, entertainment facility just east of us. Come and learn what's "Gnu" at the Zoo.

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

MORE THAN YOU KNOW

Finding Financial Wisdom in Unconventional Places, Michael J. Mauboussin, who is known throughout the financial world for challenging conventional wisdom, will discuss insights built upon visionary ideas from such figures as Warren Buffett and E. O. Wilson

Suggested by Martin Skala

Arranged by Bob Mitchell

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

OUR STATE BUDGET

Mr. Robert Genuario, Director, Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut will bring us up to date in regard to our state budget. He was formerly a State Senator, and has addressed our group in that capacity a number of times.

Arranged by Bob Baker

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

THE EVER POPULAR SMA SONGSTERS

We are once again pleased to have the annual performance of our Senior Songsters. This is our opportunity to enjoy their singing and to thank them for entertaining so many others. REMEMBER, your spouses or guests are invited to this performance – a gift to our selves

Arranged by Frank Johnson

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

State Representative John J. Ryan returns to give us his annual status report of our Government Assembly in Hartford. John's presentations are always entertaining and pertinent.

Arranged by Bob Mitchell

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our membership total is now 280 members. With 20 openings we have room on both the Darien and out-of-town lists for new members. Members are asked to please pick up your badges upon arrival at the meetings. The missing badges are counted for attendance and when badges are left on the board the member may be considered absent

We welcome the following new members

John Morgan was born in Mt. Vernon New York in 1931. He is a graduate of Middlebury College where he earned a BA degree in Mathematics. He also attended New York University School of Business. John served his country in the United States Coast Guard and attained the rank of Lt. Commander. For his life's work, he was a stock trader, did appraisal work and finally became a self-employed appraiser. John and his wife Joyce live in Darien and their three children attended the Darien Public Schools. He is a member of Woodway Country Club and Person to Person and his hobbies are golf, tennis and paddle tennis.

Robert Biewen was in the publishing business specializing in publishing college textbooks, medical and scientific books. He was affiliated with Bedford, Freeman and Worth Publishers. John was born in 1936 in Austin, Minnesota. He attended St. John's University graduating with a degree in English in 1958 and followed this with graduate school at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife Nancy have two daughters and have lived in Rowayton since 1969. His hobby is golf.

Chick Scribner, Chairman, Membership Committee

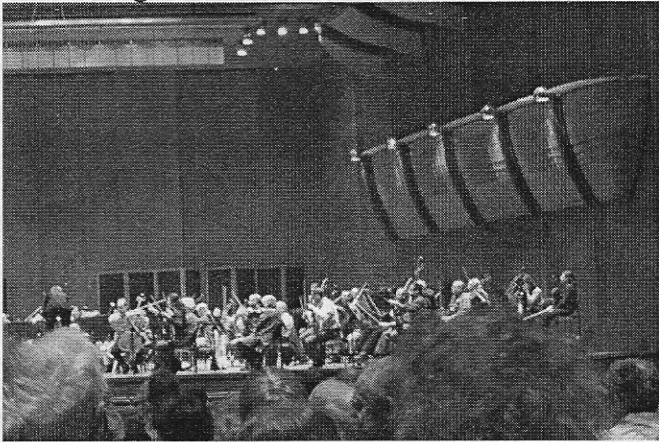
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC TRIP

On Thursday march 16, 44 SMA members and their guests traveled to Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center to attend an open rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic.

The conductor was Xian Zhang, who all of five feet tall led the orchestra with style, spirit, and youthful vitality. Born in China, Ms Zhang received Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Music from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. She debuted with the London Symphony in 2005 and was recently appointed Associate Conductor for the New York Philharmonic.

The first presentation was Rossini's Overture to the Italian Women in Algiers, a comic perhaps even frivolous opera. The overture was light but crisp and very well received by the audience.

The second piece was Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 1 composed in 1816. Ingolf Turban of Germany was the virtuoso. His style and body movements seemed to flow with the music and he was a delight to watch and listen to.



N. Y. Philharmonic Symphony in action

The featured performance was Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Tchaikovsky composed this work in 1888 following a dark period of his life when he suffered from chronic depression. The music reflects these emotions and recovery. This composition is considered an important work and Ms. Zhang brought both force and balance while controlling a work that could otherwise become chaotic as nearly all eighty plus instruments seemed to be playing full tilt the entire fifty minutes.

Following the Performance, the Group enjoyed a luncheon in the Savann Restaurant, An Upper West Side Bistro.

John Podkowsky

SENIOR WANDERS

On Tuesday, March 20, 2006, our Senior Wanders: John Barston, Bill Bellis, Bill Close,

Jack Faulkner, Dick Mathews, Ed Mulock, Sel Shillinglaw, Taylor Strubinger, Bill and Nancy Winship, and Hank Wold, started off our trip with a guided tour of the paper currency and international monetary gold exhibit in the vault of the Federal Reserve Bank for the Second District in Manhattan five stories below street level, on Liberty Street.

They then walked the streets of Dutch New Amsterdam, Colonial New York, South Street Seaport, the now gone Fulton Fish Market, and wound up in the oldest drinking establishment in New York City, The Bridge Café, located in a 1794 building located at the corner of Water and Dover Streets, for a refreshment and rest break.



Our Wandering Seniors



South Street Seaport

The ensuing walk through the Lower East Side (Alfred E. Smith Memorial Park), Chatham Square (the location of the Gay 90's saloons, cabarets, and renown period entertainment area) led us through Chinatown and to the La Mela (The Apple) Restaurant on Mulberry Street in Little Italy for an extended lunch, and a gelato at Ferraro's on Grand Street.



Enjoying lunch at La Mela Restaurant

Then we had a leisurely walk through Lolita and Nolita (NYU growth area) to the Astor Place IRT Station, to Grand Central Station and the trip back to Darien – a fun day for all.

The Senior Wanderers next outing is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2006 which will include South Chelsea, Far West Village, West SOHO, and SOHO. No reservations are needed. If you feel up to it, then join us at the railroad station.

DARIEN CLEAN-UP DAY MAY 6, 2006

Every year the SMA members have joined other town volunteers in cleaning up areas of Darien that are subject to littering. We, as in past years, have been assigned the Darien Railroad Station as our area of responsibility. If you want to feel good about yourself, then join our

members on May 6, 2006 behind the Upper Crust Bagel & Deli a little before 8 am. After a light treat and coffee, we will fan out to the Railroad Station and begin the clean up. It is recommended that appropriate attire be worn with gloves and other essential paraphernalia. Plastic Bags will be provided. There is no rain date. We should be finished by 10 am.

The day is being sponsored by the Darien Chamber of Commerce and the Beautification Commission.

Contact Tony Kwedar for additional information.

Tony Kwedar

SMA SPECIAL EVENTS

The following is a list of the coming events until next season:

May 18 – Belmont Racetrack

A day at the races. Lunch trackside at The Garden Terrace

June 6 - SMA Annual Picnic

The SMA Annual Picnic at Weed Beach

July 29 – Jazz Festival

A Trip to Moodus, Ct. for the Great Connecticut Jazz Festival

August 27 – Sunday Brunch Cruise

A trip from Cos Cob for a Sunday Brunch Cruise on Long Island Sound

Wishing all the SMA members and their families a prosperous, healthy and enjoyable summer.

Stan Pinover, Editor