

**D A R I E N**  
**SMA**  
Senior Men's Association

Volume 30, Number 3

January-February 2007

**NEWSLETTER**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**



**Happy Leaders and Wives at Christmas Party**

**Photo by Bill Swett**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The holidays are over and you have probably taken down, or are about to take down, the decorations. Your thoughts now will skip over the doldrums of January and February and move right into spring. But there is one thing that keeps moving right on through these months---the SMA activities. Bowling goes rolling along. So does bridge and paddle and table tennis. The Songsters are tuning up and the lesser athletic groups---computer and investments---continue meeting. I assume the golfers are polishing their clubs and the Wanderers are waiting for the winter chill to leave to leave the NYC air.

Each of these groups is headed by a member or two who work week to week to arrange these

get-togethers. They have earned our applause and thanks---and rightly so ! If you have time on your hands in these next two months, come on out and join the fun !!

The 2007 SMA Directory is now available for pick-up at the greeting desk when you come on Wednesday. Thanks go to Kent Haydock and Frank Kemp for putting together this invaluable aid to all of us.

In September, the Board of Directors put out an appeal to all members to financially support the DCA and, at the same time, adequately pay for our use of this wonderful facility. I am pleased to report that, in response to this call, 180 members and their wives have joined the DCA and, along

with others, have given almost \$ 1,000 in voluntary contributions. This is one giant step forward and I expect this momentum to continue next year.

Lastly, there are a number of men who have recently been given membership to the SMA, but whom we seldom see on Wednesdays. This is an organization based on active participation and we would like to have those who join ,show up. You don't know what you are missing.

Best Regards and Season's Greeting

Frank Johnson

## **PROGRAMS**

Wednesday January 3, 2007

### **Life Options**

Jim Pugliese, who gave an interesting talk on the marketing of existing life insurance policies recently, had so many questions that he didn't have time to discuss the second phase...premium financing. He will be back by popular demand to cover the second phase.

*Arranged by Bob Mitchell*

Wednesday January 10, 2007

### **Evonne Klein—Darien's First Selectwoman**

Evonne will once again give us an update on the state of affairs in Darien. She will tell us about projects and plans for the coming year.

*Arranged by Bill Winship*

Wednesday January 17, 2007

### **Community Fund of Darien**

Darien residents Bob Wells and Kicki Karpen will present the scope and the objectives of the

Community Fund of Darien, and be ready to answer questions from SMA members.

*Suggested by Bill Cox*

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

### **A Family Odyssey**

Rowayton resident Scott Kuhner has a presentation about a four year trip around the world in a 40 foot sailboat with his wife Kitty and their 9 and 11 years old sons

*Suggested by Bob Baker*

Wednesday January 31, 2007

### **Innovative Thinking for Business.and for Life !**

Bryan Mattimore and Gary Fraser, principals in Growth Engine Co., an innovation agency in Norwalk, will share some of their tools and techniques that helped them create new product successes for such companies as Unilever, Sears/Craftsman and Pepsi. Barry and Gary will share both "the story behind the story" and creative thinking tools that led to breakthroughs. They will also facilitate a brainstorming exercise on a creative challenge by our membership. Their humorous speaking styles promise to make for an entertaining and fun meeting.

*Arranged by Dick Mathews*

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

### **The Future Energy Outlook**

Ellen K. Hannan, a member of the National Association for Petroleum Investment Analysts and the Oil Analysts group of New York, is an expert on energy securities. She will discuss the future of energy companies, Government policy and resources and their effect on a possible impending energy crisis.

*Suggested by Joe Holmes*

Wednesday February 14, 2007

### **Richard Branson and Virgin Atlantic**

What did Richard Branson and Virgin Atlantic do to differentiate themselves from the airline competition? Speaker Chris Rossi, VP Sales & Marketing, at Virgin Atlantic Airways will discuss efforts he led in the United States to define the powerful Virgin Atlantic brand for the future, taking inspiration from the Golden Age of Travel. Their successful "Go Jet Set, Go" campaign, designed to be the leader in the emerging alternative business culture, has brought passenger numbers to levels not seen since before 9/11.

*Arranged by Dick Mathews*

Wednesday February 21, 2007

### **Radar Developments for War and Peace**

Lee Davenport developed radars during WW II that allowed anti-aircraft guns to destroy enemy bombers in Europe and the Pacific. They also resulted in peacetime benefits such as micro wave ovens, quartz watches etc. Lee has been a faculty member at MIT and Harvard and worked with Sylvania, Corning, PerkinElmer and GTE.

*Arranged by Dick Cutler*

Wednesday February 28, 2007 To be announced

### **SMA-MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Every year while the dues are being collected we seem to get a number of resignations. This year was no exception and as a result our membership is down to 264. With plenty of openings and

excellent program offerings, the time is right to attract new members.

We welcome the following new members:

**Paul Wilks** grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, and received a degree in engineering from Harvard in 1944. He joined the Perkin-Elmer Corporation that same year and helped create their analytical instrument division. He specialized then, and still does, in developing infrared spectrographic equipment. He has founded four instrument companies and still manages the fourth, Wilks Enterprise, Inc.

He married Laura Parsons in 1947 and settled in Darien where their three children went through the Darien School system. Laura passed away this past September.

Paul served on the Darien RTM for over 20 years and was ultimately Chairman of the RTM Planning and Zoning Committee. More recently he was a member of the Town Conservation Commission.

**Odoardo Carta** was introduced to Darien SMA by Tom Thompson, liked what he saw and decided to join. He was born in Venezuela in 1939 into a family of ten 10 children. All were sent by their parents to Michigan to study. Upon finishing their education the ten siblings returned to Venezuela. Odoardo graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in business. He studied Insurance and Reinsurance in England, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. He was a superintendent specializing in insurance claims.

Ten years ago he moved to the U.S, with his wife Morella and three sons. One son works for U.B.S., another attends the University of North Carolina and the youngest is a senior at Darien High School.

Chick Scribner, Membership Chairman

## SMA SPECIAL EVENTS- Fall 2006

### October 27 Kykuit Trip

On October 27 16 SMA couples and 2 “old men” bussed to Tarrytown, N. Y. to visit the spectacular 300 acre Rockefeller complex. First stop was their exquisite stone church featuring priceless stained glass windows by Matisse and Chagall. With sunlight streaming through the windows, many felt this was a spiritual experience.

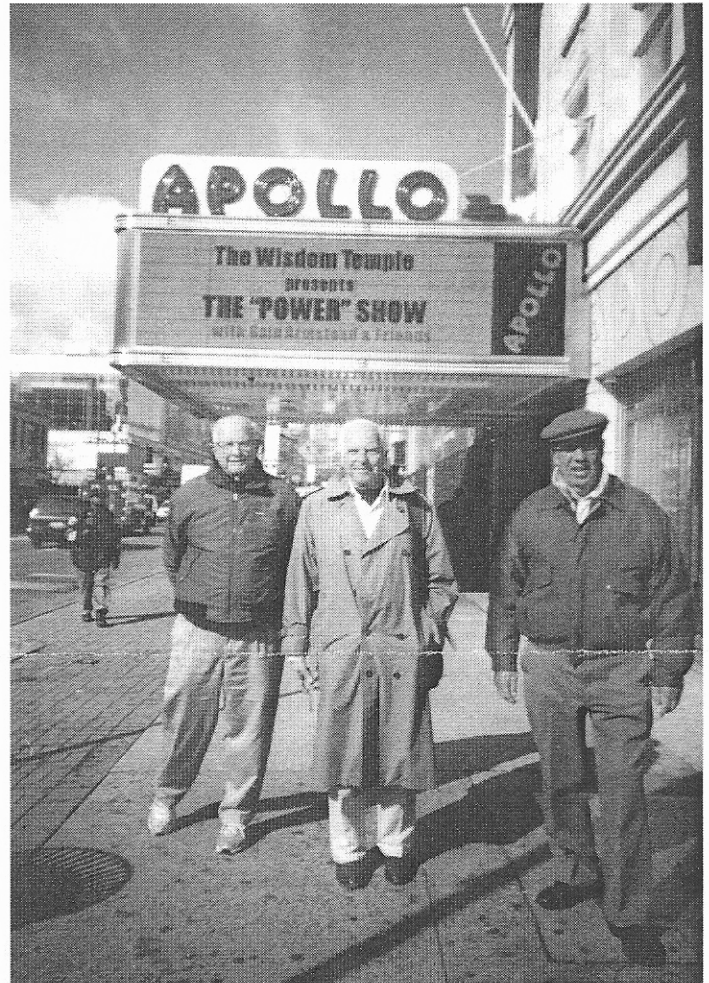
After an Italian lunch at Lago di Como, the group visited Kykuit (“High Place”), John D. Rockefeller’s beautiful beaux-art villa perched 500 feet above the Hudson River with its manicured landscape, stables and carriages (both horse and gas) and a museum of modern art. The group thoroughly enjoyed this unique home of America’s first billionaire which was also home to four generations of Rockefellers.

Don Miller

### SENIOR WANDERERS

On a warm November day 12 Happy Wanderers toured Harlem and Manhattan’s Upper West Side. We strolled past soul food restaurants, the famous Apollo Theater, and the Adam Clayton Powell government building—now Bill Clinton’s headquarters. Along Riverside Avenue we visited the tomb of President Ulysses Grant and his wife. Passing Riverside Church we crossed the beautiful Columbia University Campus and after a libation at Heights bar lunched at the Dive restaurant. After lunch it was on to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the largest in the US and finally the distinguished Dakota and San Remo apartments. And then, it was happily homeward.

Don Miller



Apollo Theater

photo by Don Miller



**SMA's Lovely Christmas party on December 7**

125 fortunate SMAers and wives danced happily to "our kind of music", artfully played by Joe Holmes and his swing band, and were serenaded by lovely Mary Giarratana,, wife of Sal.



**Mary Giarratana**



**Photos by Bill Swett**

**Happy Holidays from Bill and Martin**