

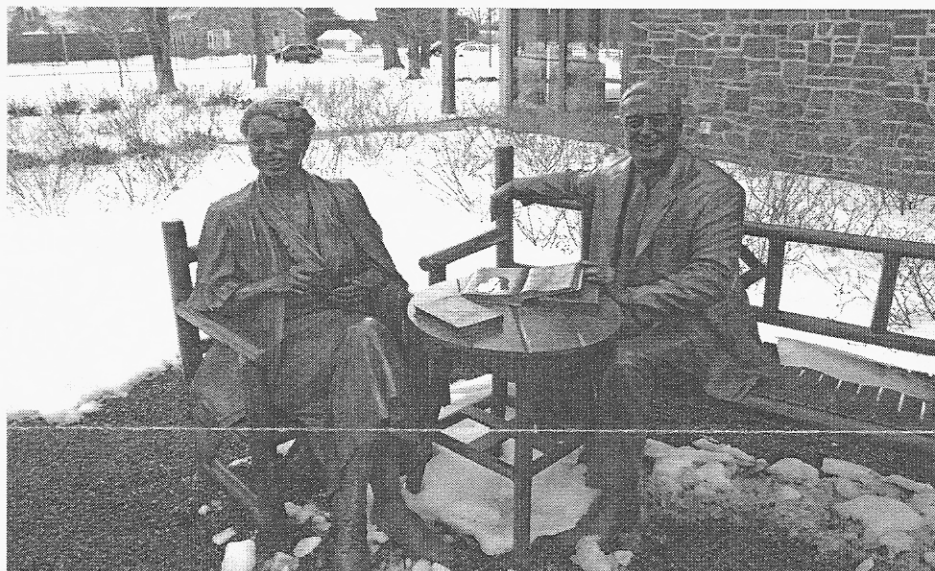
D A R I E N
SMA
Senior Men's Association

Volume 31, Number 4

March-April 2008

NEWSLETTER

SMA Members Tour FDR Home and Library



Eleanor and Franklin in Bronze

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As of the middle of February, we have 266 paid-up members of SMA. Our quota of 300 leaves plenty of room for new memberships for both in town residents and those who reside in neighboring areas. Another interesting aspect of our membership, based on the current directory at this point, is that our average age is 69.6 years. So there is a special incentive for the vitality of the organization to strive to increase our membership, particularly in the younger age brackets. Of course we welcome all who are 55 or over regardless of how much older they may be.

At our recent Directors meeting, we issued a challenge to all 13 Directors to recruit at

Photo by John Podkowski & Ed Mulock

least one new member each before the end of our current year in June. The drive is off to a good start and hopefully we will be able to keep up the momentum.

With this report, I hope to encourage everyone to contact a friend or neighbor whom you feel would be interested in becoming a member of Darien SMA, and of course whom you feel would be an asset to our organization. So please invite him to join us as our guest at one of our meetings. The camaraderie of the group and the quality of the programs should do the rest.

As we greatly enjoyed the trip to The Culinary Institute of America and Franklin D.

Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and look forward to other events planned for the rest of the year, I want to thank John Podkowsky and all members of his Social Events crew for the new and interesting events they have developed.

Sincerely Bob Mitchell

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Polling Methodology, a Particularly Hot Topic in This Presidential Year Because of What Happened in New Hampshire

Doug Schwartz, PhD and Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll since 1995, is responsible for the poll's methodology and all aspects of the survey process. He will speak on "The Methodology of Public Opinion Polling". He will talk about how polls are conducted, how the sample is designed, how to decide topics, how questions are developed and how results are analyzed. Doug will give us his take on possible reasons why "pre-election polls" were off in New Hampshire recently.

Suggested by Bill Winship
Arranged by Dick Mathews

Wednesday March 12, 2008

Tax Update

Brian Sutton, a Darien CPA, will update us on the changes in the Federal and State Income taxes due this April 15 th for 2007. Brian is a practicing tax consultant with many years experience in the preparation of tax returns, and he will answer questions regarding tax issues.

Suggested by Bill Cox
Arranged by Bill Winship

Wednesday March 19, 2008

Election Updates

Al Jones, award winning radio news reporter for 1010WINS News, will discuss with us the road to the White House. He has returned from the Iowa, South Carolina and Florida primaries and caucuses and can discuss first hand his observations regarding the candidates for both parties.

Suggested by Wally Pugh
Arranged by Bill Winship

Wednesday March 26, 2008

Chris Shays, US Congress

We welcome our Congressman home since year before last. Chris will update us on Federal matters and make time for questions. We can ask him about environment and energy matters and make sure he tells us of his brand-new bipartisan proposal for universal health care modeled on the program for Federal employees. Chris maintained his strong support for the Iraq war and says he is looking forward to joining us.

Suggested by Everyone
Arranged by Marc Thorne

Wednesday April 2, 2008

World War II Adventure Story

Peter Hoets will tell us about his World War II adventures in the Dutch underground, his remarkable escape to Sweden and eventual enlistment in the Allied Forces as a member of the Supreme Headquarters Staff of General Eisenhower. This is a truly thrilling and remarkable tale from World war II.

Arranged by Bill Winship

Wednesday April 9, 2008

Acupuncture—What Is It and How
Might You Benefit ?

Acupuncture, the ancient art of balancing channels of energy in the body, has been in existence for nearly 5,000 years. Practiced by people all over the world, it has helped people and animals with a multitude of illnesses, from stress to chronic conditions. Dr Joan-Ellen Macredis is a naturopathic physician and licensed acupuncturist in the states of CT, NY and NJ. She uses various methods of therapy, including homeopathy, herbs, nutrition, and acupuncture.

Suggested by Bill Winship
Arranged by Dick Mathews

Wednesday April 16, 2008

Rykers Island Tales

Rykers Island is the main New York City jail and it is located on an island in the East River. Fellow SMA member, Dr. Quentin Hyder, a psychiatrist at the facility, will share with us some of the many tales about the inmates at this famous institution. This is an experience not to miss for the stories he can tell us.

Arranged by Bill Winship

Wednesday April 23, 2008

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens

Jack Dillon, Executive Director of the Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, will provide a brief history of the Arboretum and its place in the science of horticulture, update us on the current rededication of the Bartlett, and introduce us to various aspects of its collections and outreach

efforts. He will emphasize the multiple opportunities for seniors to participate in Bartlett’s educational and volunteer activities year round.

Suggested by Wally Pugh
Arranged by Bill Winship

Wednesday April 30, 2008

Waveny Care Network, Excellence in Healthcare

Just down the road in New Canaan, Waveny is a not-for-profit group providing comprehensive healthcare serving needs of older adults since 1975. Waveny’s Chief Executive Officer Heather Neff and several of her team will speak on the array of benefits and services provided as a continuum both individually and collectively. Notably, both Waveny Care Center and its separate Village facility have earned the Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

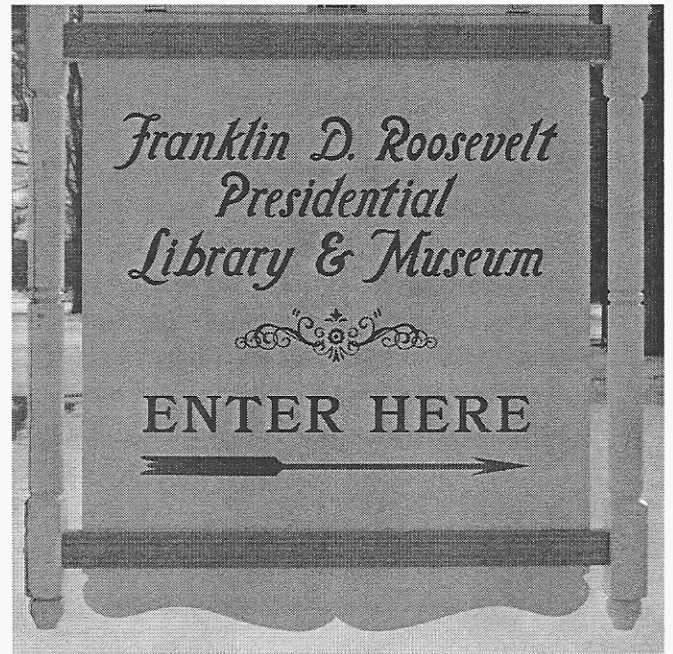
Arranged by Dick Mathews

Social Events, Past and Future

On February 15th 2008 47 SMA members and guests traveled to Hyde Park, New York. The first stop was a gourmet lunch at the Culinary Institute of America. Students at this world renowned college served a meal specially prepared for the SMA and our guests. The first course was a salad Monte Carlo, diced pineapple and oranges on hearts of lettuce dressed with a lemon cream which tantalized the palate. The main course was a Tenderloin of Beef perfectly prepared in a mushroom duxelle coated puff pastry. Desert featured a Raspberry Mouse. The creativity of the menu and the presentations were particularly noteworthy and each of the courses was deserving of SMA stars.

Following the luncheon, a short hop on the bus brought us to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum; we also received a guided tour of the Roosevelt Family home. The Hyde Park house was the home of Franklin's parents, James Roosevelt and his wife Sara Delano. Franklin was born in the house in 1883 and he and his wife Eleanor continued to live there until his death in 1945. In this home the Roosevelts entertained many foreign dignitaries and heads of state including the King and Queen of England and Sir Winston Churchill who reportedly on a very hot night was discovered in the nude on the back lawn. The house was donated as a historical site by Eleanor, shortly after her mother-in-law's passing and it contains the original furnishings.

FDR was the only president ever to be elected to four terms in office. He implemented Social Security from which most of us benefit. He was the only handicapped president, the first to appoint a woman to his Cabinet, and the only president to use his Presidential Library. Both Franklin and Eleanor are interred at an historical site just behind the rose garden.



Hyde Park Photo John Podkowsky

Save the Dates

Thurs. March 27, NY Philharmonic, see Flyer

Thurs. May 15, Belmont Park, see Flyer

Sun June 15 Picnic at Bluefish Baseball

Sincerely John Podkowsky

Membership Report

Our membership seems to be picking up. Besides the new members listed below, one or two more will be admitted soon. We now have 275 members, having recently lost two deceased and one resigned. We welcome the following new members:

Gerge Brookner was born and raised in Pittsfield, MA. After graduating from Syracuse University he entered the USAF and served actively with an F101 fighter interceptor squadron. Following military duty George joined Link Aviation, designing and installing digital flight simulators around the world. The second half of his career was in engineering and new product development with the mail handling business at Pitney Bowes and Neopost. During this time he received a number of US and foreign patents in business methods and security.

George and wife Linda now live in Norwalk and enjoy travel, opera and sports (consistently breaking 100, his golfing goal). They have one daughter completing her PhD in early childhood development and abuse prevention.

Robert A. Munro was born in Valley Stream, New York on May 3, 1932. He lived there for his first 22 years with the exception of one year when he and his family moved to Miami, Florida.. After high school Bob attended Union College in Schenectady, NY and graduated with an AB degree in Economics. Following graduation, he entered the US Army and spent the majority of his two year tour in the Signal Corps in Georgia and Boeblingen, Germany. Adressograph-Multigraph was next with a sales territory on Long Island after which he joined IBM. He spent the next 32 years with IBM in sales , hardware and software development , business planning, networks development and business practices in the U.S., Germany, France and Belgium. After retiring from IBM, he joined Gartner Group in Stamford where he was a Vice President in Gartner Consulting group. After 10 years with Gartner he retired and now enjoys bowling, playing bridge, traveling and working parttime for a small accounting firm in Stamford.

Bob lives in Darien with his wife Christy. They have a daughter living in Denver and a son who lives in Darien.

Bruce Kirby was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada and began sailing with his father and brother at an early age. He likes to say he was born in January but didn't get sailing until June. He attended Ottawa schools and in 1950 went to work at the Ottawa Journal as a reporter and began his career in Journalism that lasted until 1975. He was married in 1956 to Margo Dancey of Ottawa.

Two years before his marriage Bruce took a year to sail around Europe with five friends in a 70-foot ketch,, starting in Southampton, and sailing south in the Atlantic and into the Mediterranean where the voyage ended in the south of France after calling in at Tangier, Algiers and Italy.

In 1956 and 1964 he sailed a single-handed Finn dinghy in the Olympics and in 1968 sailed a Star in the Olympics.

In 1965 Bruce, and his wife Margo moved to Chicago where he became editor of One Design Yachtsman, now called Sailing World. In 1969 the Kirby's moved with the magazine to Connecticut and have lived in Rowayton since that time. Six months later a friend asked Bruce to design a "car topper" sailboat, and the result was the Laser, which hit the market in 1971. The success of this little boat—there are more than 192,000 world wide—inspired the designer to go full time into sailboat design. Since then this one-man design office has come up with more than 60 designs including offshore racing boats, cruising boats, one-design keel boats and shallow draft sharpies. Most recently his design for the planing Pixel has caught on broadly as the hot new boat for junior sailors after they've left their opties.

The Kirbys are members of the Noroton Yacht Club in Darien, The New York Yacht Club, the Ischoda Yacht Club and Bruce is an honorary life member of the Britannia Yacht Club in his hometown of Ottawa.

We also welcome back **Dan Jenkins**. Dan resigned in December 2006 and was re-intsated in 2008

Respectfully submitted

Chick Scribner

Bill Gray, Publisher
Martin Skala, Editor
Frank Kemp, Labels