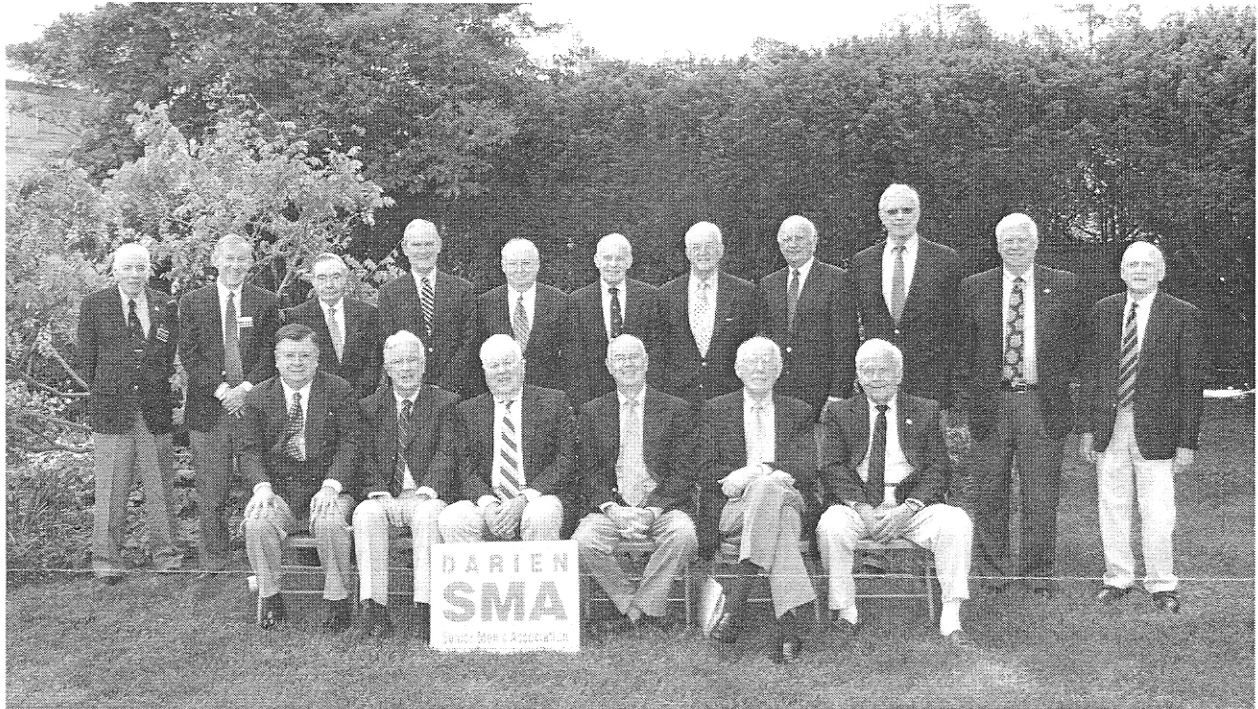


**D A R I E N**  
**SMA**  
Senior Men's Association

Volume 32, Number 1    Sept-Oct 2008

**NEWSLETTER**



**SMA officers and Directors for 2008-2009**

**Photo by Bill Swett & George Walsh**

Front row: John Podkowsky, Kirk Jewett, Bill Winship, Marc Thorne, Bob Miller, Bob Mitchell

Standing: Chick Scribner, Bill Gray, Tom Dunn, Bill Close, Jim Armour, Tom Thompson,  
Bud Corning, Bob Ready, Dick Cutler, Frank Johnson, and Joe Sexton.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome back to our 31<sup>st</sup> year of the SMA, and our 6<sup>th</sup> year associated with the DCA. We are now 270 members strong with the new members joining this fall. Our attendance at our weekly meetings continues to remain strong with well over 100 members attending each week.

Our dues for the year will remain at \$ 50 as our financial position is strong. Your Application/Registration form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please fill it out and return it Chick Scribner along with your check. Please also

consider joining the DCA if you have not already responded to their spring mailing. We encourage you to join the DCA, and enjoy the many benefits membership has to offer.

Our first meeting of the new season will be on September 3<sup>rd</sup> as Labor Day is early this year. We will meet every Wednesday except November 26<sup>th</sup>, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Our last meeting of the year will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009.

Joe Sexton, our Social Events Chair, has lined up some wonderful outings for the fall Thursdays. See details including an insert in this

issue for Oct 16 along the Connecticut River. John Barston will be planning Happy Wanderers trips for the fall, and will tell us about them at our first meeting.

We will continue with all of our other activities; bowling, golf, tennis,, paddle tennis, bridge, computer instruction, songsters, and investment. New activities can be developed as interest arises.

Frank Nelson has led our opening ceremony so well each week for many years without missing a week. He will be relocating to Ohio in the near future, so we will be looking for a new leader once Frank does leave. We would welcome suggestions for his replacement.

The strength of our organization is reflected in all of you who volunteer in various capacities, well over one hundred in numbers. Let's keep the spirit up, and we will have another wonderful year.

**Bill Winship, President**

**PROGRAMS**

Wednesday September 3, 2008

**Railroads in Fairfield County**

Michael Williams will speak to us about the history and future of trains in our area as railroads currently are gaining popularity nationwide. He will cover local history of New Haven Railroad, Danbury and Norwalk Railroad, the Ghost Train, New England States Express, and the railroad ferry at Wilson's Point, cattle ranches in Wilton and Trumbull, plus many other fascinating bits of local railroad lore.

*Arranged by Dick Cutler*

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Wednesday September 10, 2008

**Espionage in the American Revolution**

Bob Berthelson, an amateur historian and speaker well known to SMA will tell us about **Ciphers, Stains and Silver Bullets**, showing us the importance of intelligence activities in winning the American Revolution. This included propaganda, spying, subversion, hidden writing, and secret codes.. Active participants included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, as well as other key individuals less well-known today

*Arranged by Marc Thorne*

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Wednesday September 17, 2008

**Sailing Solo Around the World**

In May 2007, Captain Donna Lange became the fastest American woman to sail solo around the world in her 28 foot sloop. Logging 290 days alone at sea, she survived many storms and hardships rounding both Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn with only two stops in her epic voyage. With enthusiastic passion as an ambassador from, to and for the Sea, singer and song writer Donna will share her journey through photos, video, and original songs playing instruments from around the world. A mother of four with three grandchildren, Donna is an author, RN BSN, USCG Captain and trustee for Oceanwatch NX and founder of "For Love of Oceans"

*Arranged by Dick Cutler*

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Wednesday September 24, 2008

**Modernizing Police Operations**

Darien Police Chief Duane Lovello will speak about organizational and operational changes occurring at the Darien police Department, new initiatives s, challenges, the move towards obtaining State Accreditation, and the Police Headquarters Building project. He will also discuss changes in policing generally and the

need to attract and retain qualified candidates to the law enforcement field.

*Arranged by Marc Thorne*

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October 1, 2008

**Repositioning a Fire and Financially Damaged Cathedral, Learning about Turnarounds**

The Very Reverend Dr. James Kowalski was Rector of Darien’s St Luke’s Parish from 1993-2002. He was elected Dean of the Cathedral of St John the Divine in November after 9/11. Then a devastating fire destroyed its gift shop and ravaged the Cathedral with smoke and soot in December 2001. Since then Dean Kowalski has worked with the Trustees to implement a “real estate initiative” with both a for-profit developer and Columbia University. He has overseen strategic planning and branding as the Cathedral executes rededication and “grand reopening” later this year. In next “launch year” the mission is to reclaim its role as a beloved religious and civic, interfaith and trans-cultural institution around the world.

*Arranged by Wally Pugh*

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Wednesday October 8, 2008

**The Future of Mail**

Mike Critelli, Executive Chairman of Pitney Bowes, will discuss the roles mail plays in a world in which many forms of communications are converting to electronic and digital form. He will focus on mail as both a communications and delivery medium, review some of the threats to the value and the viability of mail, and outline how mail has a brand that will need to change to maximize its potential.

*Arranged by Kirk Jewett*

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Wednesday October 15, 2008

**A Stroll Through the Realms of Gold**

The *Stroll* will have us all pausing at Coleridge Corner, W. S. Gilbert Gardens and related scenic outlooks. With this as the basis or “road map” we will be led on our *Stroll* by our distinguished member, friend and neighbor Mac Marshman.

*Arranged by Kirk Jewett*

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Wednesday October 22, 2008

**Global Environmental Sustainability**

Schooner Dolphin Foundation leader Sequoia Sun is restoring a 65 foot 90 year old wooden schooner to be used for medical and humanitarian relief, ocean research and environmental sustainability programs around the world. Using a multi-media approach he will focus on the state of marine environment and interdependence between life in the oceans and on earth. A sailor for 50 years, Sun has been Illusion Engineer for magician Doug Henning, done comprehensive television work and been sailboat captain for Greenpeace.

*Arranged by Dick Cutler*

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Wednesday October 29, 2008

**Learning all about Avian Flu**

Dr. Michael Parry, Stamford Hospital’s Director of Infectious Disease and Microbiology, and Professor at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons will tell us about the clinical nature of influenza, how new strands of virus are appearing which could lead to a pandemic and discuss the importance of vaccination and preparedness of both individuals and community healthcare systems.

*Arranged by Marc Thorne*

## SMA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Slowly but surely our membership is beginning to grow. There are applications for six new members to be admitted when we meet again. Presently we have 270 members.

**Attention all:** In September we start collecting dues for 2009 which should be remitted by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> in order to prepare the new directory for printing. Your cooperation is requested. **Attention new members:** Our Constitution says “new members joining and paying dues after January 1 of a given year shall not be liable for dues in the following year”. Also members 90 years or older are exempt from paying.

We welcome the following new members.

**Ray Evola** was born in 1919, grew up in Flushing NY and attended Newtown High School in Elmhurst, NY. In summer Ray worked at the New York World’s Fair in 1939 & 1940. Ray worked for Cox & Stevens Naval Architects until 1942 when he joined the US Army Signal Corps. As a First Sergeant he left the Army in 1945.

Graduating from NYU with a BS in Vocational Education, Ray taught trade drawing and math at Thos. Edison High School in Queens, NY and was a guidance counselor. After retiring from education he opened an antique and clock repair shop in Flushing, NY and ran it until 2005.

Ray’s hobbies include woodturning and crafts. He recently moved to Darien to live with his daughter and her family including two grandsons. Ray’s wife of 55 years, Frances, recently passed away.

**James Lang** was raised on Long Island. He graduated from Lawrence School in New Jersey, Dartmouth with an AB in biology and Columbia Graduate School with an MBA in finance.

Jim was a line officer in the US Navy on the USS Meredith (DD890) from 1966 to 1969 and was deployed to the Mediterranean and S. E. Asia. Returning from Vietnam he joined Sperry & Hutchinson Co. in New York from 1970 to 1975

when the American Can Co. in Connecticut recruited him. As Executive VP of Mergers & Acquisition he was one of the team that restructured American Can into Primerica . In 1991 he joined First Atlantic Capital Ltd. as Managing Director. Retiring in 2005 he now consults in private equity and is Chairman of Country Pure Foods and serves on other Boards.

Married in 1972, he and his wife Susan moved to Darien in 1975. They are the parents of three children and have two grandchildren. They belong to Country Club of Darien and Jim enjoys woodworking, boating, tennis and skiing

**Thomas Duffy** was born in New York City in 1933 and attended Rose of Lima in Washington Heights. Joining the US Army in 1951 he was sent to Korea and served in the Infantry and Military Police. After leaving the Army in 1954 Tom started college education at Iona College in New Rochelle. Then for 10 years Tom, in his own words, “followed the money in various pursuits here and in Europe” returning to NYC where he enrolled in Pace College and graduated in 1967 with a business degree and joined Citibank. In their Audit Division he made inspections of international branches leading him to Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia during the 1970’s and 1980’s.

While living in Greece he met his wife Yakut Akman and they were married in Istanbul in 1984. Tom and Yakut returned to the NY area, both with Citibank. Tom retired in 1996 and Yakut took assignment in London where the family then moved as Tom took up residence as a full time parent. In September 2000 they came to Darien as Yakut became a Citigroup EVP.

They have two children, born in Short Hills N.J and educated there, Surry (England) and Darien.

**Ron Freres** was born and raised in Chicago and is an ardent fan of the Bears, Blackhawks and Cubs. He received his BS in Accountancy degree from the University of Illinois.

Ron has spent over 40 years serving the insurance industry. His Career has included positions with Ernst & Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Monarch Capital Corporation. Ron was with E&Y for 22 years and was the leader of its services to the insurance industry; he served four years as CFO of Monarch Capital Corporation and spent 11 years with PwC. He continues as a Consultant to the insurance industry.

Ron is a member of Financial Executives Institute and International Insurance Society.

Ron and his family moved to Darien in 1983. He and his wife Kris have three children and two grandchildren. They are members of the Wee Burn Country club.

**Chick Scribner, Membership Chair**

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Two social events during this past summer were enjoyed by members, spouses and guests.

On June 15 50 members and guests attended annual SMA picnic held at Harbor Yard the minor league Bridgeport BlueFish' attractive ball park and enjoyed the "small town" crowd watching rising stars competing in America's favorite.

On July 19 those journeying to Caramoor enjoyed a marvelous picnic followed by a Wally Pugh led tour of fabulous gardens and topped off with a delightful concert featuring Violinist Sarah Chang and the Orchestra of St Luke's led by Peter Oundjian.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Thursday October 16, 2008

### **Leaf Season Along the Connecticut River**

We'll bus to Essex, travel by steam train to Deep River, board a riverboat cruising to Moodus and then return for lunch at Essex's finest, The

Griswold Inn. Details in the flyer inserted herewith.

Thursday, November 13, 2008

### **Teddy Roosevelt's Sagamore Home and Museum**

After the Roosevelt visit at Oyster Bay Long Island we will lunch nearby at the Milleridge inn, tops on the island. Details to come soon.

Thursday December 11, 2008

### **SMA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

We'll return again to Country Club of Darien for this event, with Joe Holmes' Swing Band entertaining us. Sounds familiar? Are you glad? We hope it's "Yes" & "Yes".

**Joe Sexton, Social Events Chair**

### **THE HAPPY WANDERERS.**



**Farewell to Benny's**

**photo by Bill Swett**

Happy 31<sup>st</sup> year to SMA and all its wonderful volunteers from Your Newsletter Staff

**Bill Gray, Production**  
**Martin Skala, Editor**  
**Frank Kemp Labels**  
**Ed Mulock, Inserts**