

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

Volume 34, Number 1 Sept-Oct 2010

NEWSLETTER



SMA officers and Directors for 2010-2011

Photo by Michael Poler

Front row: Harry Emmons, Bill Ball, John Podkowsky, Kirk Jewett, Marc Thorne, Bob Ready, Dick Cutler
Standing: Bob Mitchell, Bill Winship, Frank Johnson, Chick Scribner, John Schlactenhaufen, John Barston
George Cammann

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to a new SMA year. I trust you all had a good, albeit hot, summer and are ready to enjoy and participate in our organization- - - our team has been working hard to make it top notch.

The July Jazz Concert was a great success thanks to Frank Johnson, Jerry Mucciolo and the fine music of Bill Gray's band. The picnic was also the best with special thanks to Coke Costello and his team.

Now, John Podkowsky and his committee have lined up an excellent program of speakers, as you will read, and Frank Johnson will tell us about

some fun special activities when we first meet on Sept. 8. All weekly activities, such as bridge, bowling and tennis, etc. will continue as usual.

With this newsletter you will find two very important documents as inserts: **1) your Annual Dues Notice.** Please pay promptly as we plan to publish the directory in October and want it to be as up-to-date as possible. Also, we ask each member to give serious consideration to joining DCA too. They have a great program of events beyond ours throughout the year. As our "home" they need our support in this way, as many SMA members have contributed in the past. **2) An SMA membership application form.** We have a goodly number of openings for new members from Darien and nearby towns, so please check your friends and neighbors for their interest and

Wednesday September, 15, 2010

invite them to a free meeting or two and ask them to join. As you know, they will find SMA a worthwhile and enjoyable part of their lives.

Due to rising costs, particularly for food, our budget, though balanced, is tight, so new members are important. We are, therefore, going to solicit **Two** refreshment donors each week at \$ 40 from each donor. We have heard that more members like to contribute this way especially to bring attention to a special event -- --birthdays, graduation anniversary, grandchild, etc.

SMA depends heavily on volunteers for all our activities, so please respond positively when asked to help. It keeps the ball rolling for the benefit of all.

I welcome your ideas and look forward to a great SMA year with your support and involvement. Let's have Fun !!

Sincerely, Kirk Jewett, President

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Winston Churchill in World War II

Cal Burns is a history buff, a life-long reader of history and biographies with a special interest in Winston Churchill. Cal states. "He is possibly the most interesting person I have studied. His life stretches from the middle of Queen Victoria's reign (1874) to the era of jet airplanes and nuclear weapons. As a leader he stands above anyone else of the era". Cal will highlight Winston's role in WWII, the terrible odds he faced and speeches he gave to rally the English nation during its darkest moments.

Suggested by Wally Pugh, Arranged by John Podkowsky

Consequence of War

Bradford Higgins is a former Under-Secretary of State for Resource Management and was responsible for financial management of all activities and operations of the State Department. Prior to that Brad served as Senior Advisor to the U. S. Ambassador in Iraq, led two assessment teams to Iraq, which resulted in corrective action plans to the U.S.- funded reconstruction program, and was Chief of Planning for the Iraq Reconstruction Office in Bagdad. Brad will share his experiences with us.

Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky

Wednesday September, 22, 2010

A View From The Bench

Hon. John F. Blawie sits as a judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut and is currently hearing cases in Stamford. He has an extensive background in criminal law with a particular focus on white collar crime. Judge Blawie will give us an overview of the judicial branch and discuss some of the more interesting cases that have come before his bench.

Suggested by John Podkowsky Arranged by Martin Skala

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Passport to the world: Thailand

Sarah Lipman, a native of Stamford, Ct., was a resident of Bangkok for a number of years. In 2010 Sarah became engulfed in Thailand's embittered political crisis which, on May 19th, erupted into that country's worst deadly violence in two decades. Throughout the ordeal, she wrote about the events on the ground for the Stamford Advocate and her personal blog. Sarah will delve into Thailand's political crisis, its effects on the

nation as a whole and its impact on expatriates and foreign travelers in what otherwise would be a "tourism hot spot."

Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Guarding the President

Joseph Petro, who served for 23 years as a Special Agent and executive with the U.S. Secret Service, will discuss the storied history of this interesting agency and describe its evolution into one of the best known but least understood agencies in the world. Besides offering a unique perspective on the inner workings of the White House, he will describe the logistical challenges associated with moving the President outside the White House. He will tell entertaining, fascinating, and often humorous stories that illustrate these challenges and their impact on history.

Suggested and Arranged by Martin Skala

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

The Changing Business Environment in Darien

Dan Dolcetti, a native of Darien and member of the SMA, will discuss the growth and changes in business in Darien, starting in the 1920's and through the numerous changes in downtown Darien in the last few years. He also will provide a glance at possible future developments in the downtown area. Dan and his brother Phil have developed the Dolcetti properties in downtown Darien, including the home where they were brought up, into a vibrant business environment.

Suggested and Arranged by Wally Pugh

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Telescopes in Space

Dr. Heidi Hammel is a world renowned planetary astronomer. Her main interests are ground-and space-based observations of the outer planets. "Why study astronomy? ...because it can answer the fundamental fate of the universe." Heidi will share with us her research insights and some of the most amazing inter-planetary photos you have ever seen.

Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Who Will Control the Next Congress ?

Steven Berizzi, Associate Professor of Political Science and History at NCC, will analyze the upcoming Federal Elections. What are the bell-weather Congressional and Gubernatorial races, the key issues, and the overall mood of American voters this November 2nd He will discuss the impact of the Sarah Palin footprint and the Tea Party movement on the elections and give his forecast of the likely make-up of the 2011 U.S. House and Senate. Time permitting, Steve will also discuss the new make-up of the U.S. Supreme Court and some key cases that may be heard in the next session.

Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky

SMA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Each September it is the responsibility of the membership committee to make sure all dues are paid for the coming year .An insert in this Newsletter should guide all members in paying their yearly dues. It covers options and should answer any questions you may have.

Our Constitution specifies that all new members joining and paying dues from January 1 through June of a given year shall not be liable for dues in the following year. Also members who are 90 years old or older are exempt from paying dues.

We will be starting the first meeting in September with 270 members. We welcome our latest new members.

Keith J. Hanrahan was born and raised in Stamford and attended St. John's School and Trinity High school. He went to the University of Connecticut and graduated with a BSEE degree. At U Conn he was in Air Force ROTC and upon graduation entered the Air Force as an Electronics officer. His assignments took him to Minnesota, New York, Colorado and Iceland.

Upon completion of his military service. Keith worked as a Quality Engineer for defense contractors UTC Norden and Loral Systems. Then he joined Technicon Corp as program quality engineer for their latest blood analysis system. Their equipment is used in many laboratories and hospitals throughout the U.S. Finally, he became quality manager for Danbury-based Branson Ultrasonic, a leading manufacturer of ultrasonic cleaning and plastic welding equipment.

Upon retiring, he performed volunteer work for United Way and Friends of Ferguson Library, both in Stamford. He enjoys reading, hiking and tennis. Keith and his wife Delores have three children scattered to Minnesota, Tennessee and London.

Edward V. Spurgeon, who was born in 1931, graduated from Hindley School in 1943 and Dartmouth College's Thayer School of Engineering in 1954. He married Patricia Flynn from Louisville, Kentucky. He served in the U.S. Navy 6th Fleet (Mediterranean) as engineering officer of USS Spiegel Grove (LSD).

He enjoyed a 38 year career with General Electric, mostly in Salem, Virginia, as Manufacturing Manager of Industrial Controls. Later he worked for GE in Fairfield in corporate manufacturing consulting.

Upon retiring in 1990, he served on various Darien town boards and committees and in 2002 became a volunteer teacher's aide in technical education at Darien High School.

Edward's hobbies include radio-controlled model aviation and woodworking. Favorite sports include windsurfing, golf and paddle tennis.

**Respectfully Submitted, Chick Scribner,
Membership Chair**

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our 2010/2011 kick-off event, the **Summer BBQ and Jazz Concert on July 18**, was a complete success. Seventy-eight SMAers and their guests attended. The music was toe-tapping and the food tasty. Our thanks to **Jerry Muciolo** for organizing this and to the Country Club of Darien's staff for providing such excellent service.

SMA's Annual Picnic was held at Weed Beach on August 26, and as always, a great success. **Coke Costello** and his team deserve our thanks for this end of summer favorite.

SAVE THE DATES

As shown on **Ed Mulock's** insert, our next event will be a trip on **Thursday November 11** to **Goodspeed Opera House** and lunch at **Gelston House**. **Mel Klugman** will have signup sheets and details ready at our September meetings.

Our Annual **Christmas Lunch** is set for **Friday December 10th**. More details to follow.

Frank Johnson, Social Events Chair

DARIEN SMA ACTIVITIES

Our final insert in this issue is a new **Activities information sheet dated 8/25/10**. It lists for each activity: **Time/Day, Location, Leader, and Leader's phone**. We hope you will keep this available and join one or more groups.

GEORGE WALSH PHOTOS

RECORD SMA SUMMER ANNUAL

PICNIC FUN



Belmont Raceway



Memorial Day Parade



BBQ, Dancing and Jazz



Happy 2010-2011 to all SMA'ers

**Bill Gray, Production
Martin Skala, Editor
Frank Kemp Labels
Ed Mulock, Inserts
Bob Miller, Proofreader
Dave Jaycox. Total Printing**