

D A R I E N

SMA

Senior Men's Association

Volume 34, Number 3a January-February 2011

NEWSLETTER



**Fred Farwell at his 100th Birthday Celebration
with President Kirk Jewett**

Photo by Michael Poler

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to you all !!!

Last year was a plus for the SMA in every respect and all signs point to continued success thanks to the efforts of all of you.

Our membership is strong in numbers, but we still have room for more both from Darien and surrounding communities. So encourage your friends to join us. They will find it a worthwhile part of their lives as you well know.

Bob Ready is keeping our treasury solid. The two coffee donors each week are important factors with their contributions, so please continue to note a special event in your life. Attendance at our meetings fills the hall, so special thanks to John Podkowsky and his program committee for helping to make this a reality. And there are more informative and interesting speakers to come.

Special thanks are also due: Kent Haydock, Frank Kemp, Michael Poler, Chick Scribner, Marc Thorne and George Walsh for our 2010-2011 directory; Frank Johnson and his committee for well received special events including the excellent Christmas lunch (headed by Wally Pugh and his crew) and trip to Goodspeed with Mel Klugman in charge; Chick Scribner for manning the membership operation and others whom I will recognize in future newsletters.

All the outside activities always welcome new participants so check the directory for times and don't hesitate to join them. They have a lot of fun.

With snow coming please do not forget our cancellation policy—no school, no meeting. Please refer to our Nov/Dec newsletter for details or just call me or one of our four officers.

Last but not least, remember we are an all volunteer organization and we need and appreciate your participation—many hands make light work !

Thanks- and have a good winter.

Sincerely, Kirk Jewett, President

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

State of the Town

Cuts in state funding, tax increases, new senior center, affordable housing, deer cull all are issues for the town of Darien. **First Selectman David Campbell.**, who is halfway through his first term, will discuss these and other issues facing Darien as he returns to the SMA podium to give us a current update on the state of our town.

Suggested by John Podkowsky and Arranged by Wally Pugh

Wednesday January 12, 2011

Wikileaks: What's Going On ?

Veteran CBS newsmen, **Al Briganti** will address concerns about Wikileaks disclosures. Can our government keep secrets in the internet age ? Should news organizations that publish details from Wikileaks face criminal prosecution ? What about First Amendment rights ? Al Briganti, nine-time Emmy award winner, will draw upon his nearly 40 years in broadcast journalism to discuss these new challenges posed to our security and our Constitution.

Suggested by Kirk Jewett and Arranged by John Podkowsky

Wednesday January 19, 2011

Presidential Candidates & Voters: What Makes Them Tick ?

Sheenah Hankin, is one of New York's most popular psychotherapists. She is an author of several books and is often quoted in the media and on TV. Sheenah will present personality profiles of potential candidates (Barack, Sarah, Hillary, Huckabee) and explain why they evoke so much positive and negative emotions in voters. She will also provide a clearer understanding of the psychological basis for the decisions we, as voters, make in determining which candidates to vote for or against.

Suggested and Arranged by Dick Cutler

Wednesday January 26, 2011

It's the Journey that Counts

Daryl Hawk, explorer and documentary photographer, will take us on an exciting visual journey to faraway places ranging from Patagonia and Antarctica to New Zealand and Bhutan. With

anecdotes and engaging stories, he will share the same infectious enthusiasm for adventure that enabled him to host the TV show *Unconventional Traveler*.

Suggested and Arranged by Martin Skala

Wednesday February 2, 2011

Economic Outlook: 2011

Kevin Flanagan, Executive Director, Chief Fixed Income Strategist, for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, will review what happened to the economy in 2010 and will share his economic outlook for 2011. It includes an analysis of the “new stimulus” included in the tax agreement between President Obama and Republican leaders, which if passed, could push real GDP about a percentage point higher than initially envisioned. Kevin is a frequent guest speaker on media business networks. His articles have been regularly quoted in respected business press outlets including Wall Street Journal and Financial Times.

Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky

Wednesday February 9, 2011

Doctors Without Borders

Doctors Without Borders is an international organization created by doctors that provides critical aid in nearly 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe. **Dr. Stephen Winter** is the chief of Critical Care Medicine at Norwalk Hospital. He served as a Critical Care Team Leader for the American Red Cross in operation Desert Storm in 1990 and helicoptered into ground zero on Sept. 11, 2001 to set up a triage and evacuation station near the world Trade Center site. He has provided medical relief work in Amazon Basin, Thailand,

Haiti and with Americares operations in Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Suggested by Bob Ready & Arranged by Peter Hallock

Wednesday February 16, 2011

Is Climate Change for Real ?

Dr. David Downie, Director of Environmental Studies at Fairfield University, will present “Weathering the Storm”, a talk on climate change issues including the scientific evidence and public policy implications. We will learn about the factors that affect extreme weather and the global climate, as well as what is being done to protect the future of our planet.

Suggested by John Podkowsky and Arranged by Martin Skala

Wednesday February, 23, 2011

Life and Times of P. T. Barnum

Phineas Taylor Barnum is probably best known for founding the circus that became Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. But more than that, Barnum was an American businessman, politician, entertainer and impresario. **Kathleen Maher**, Director of the P. T. Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, takes her “show on the road” and will present the life, time and history of this famous showman.

Suggested by Andre Guilbert and Arranged by John Podkowsky

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have approached the final phase of chasing down members who have not submitted their dues for 2011. After sending out e-mails and post cards we ended with 14 members who needed to be contacted by phone.

We welcome our latest three new members.

Jan H. Van Nierop, who grew up in the Netherlands, came to the U.S. in 1965 after receiving a college degree in graphic arts. In New York City he entered a family-owned export business that acted as a purchasing agent for factories, utilities and contractors in Europe and Latin America. Jan met his wife Martha, got married in 1970, and in 1973 they moved to Darien.

When his boss retired Jan took over the company and moved it to Stamford where he began importing electronic connectors for computers and cables from Germany. Aided by wife Martha, he now runs a strictly export business from their home. Jan and Martha have two children, Daniel born in 1974, and Emily, born in 1976.

Richard F. Poli, who grew up in Watertown, New York, graduated from Providence College in 1965 with a BA in History. After earning an MBA from Bowling Green University, Dick joined GTE Service Corporation. His work experience includes Crum & Foster Insurance, National Reinsurance and Mutual Marine Office.

Dick and his wife Maureen have lived in Darien since 1985, raising three sons. Keith works for Constellation New Energy and resides in Baltimore. Edward is a fire-fighter in the Bronx and Ken is currently completing his MBA at Sacred Heart University. With two sons having become Eagle Scouts, Dick has been actively involved in scouting for 12 years, including being Treasurer for Boy Scout Troop 53. He is currently an RTM member for District 6, Unit Commissioner for Boy Scout Troop 53,

maintenance coordinator for Darien Book Aid and a member of the Darien Boat Club.

Alexander Y. P. Garnett (Alex) grew up in Greenwich and graduated from Brunswick School and later Norwich University with an English Degree. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army in 1968. Prior to entering the service, he joined Aetna Life & Casualty in their employee benefit-training program. After military duty Alex rejoined Aetna and spent 22 years in a variety of sales, account executive and director level positions, including two years heading up Aetna's London office. After he left Aetna, Alex worked another twenty years with a variety of health care companies in sales, marketing and management positions. He retired November 1st 2010.

Alex and his wife Donna have lived in Darien since 1976, have raised three boys and have two grandchildren. Alex enjoys genealogy, theatre, paddle tennis and golf.

Chick Scribner, Membership Chair

SOCIAL EVENTS

The **November 11** trip to see "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" at the **Goodspeed Opera House** and delicious lunch at **Gelston House**, coordinated by **Mel Klugman**, was a big success as some photos nearby clearly show.

And our **Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 11, with Joe Holmes Swing Band coordinated by Wally Pugh & Peter Hallock**, was enjoyed by all. Over 100 SMAers and their friends in addition to thirteen widows were in attendance for a wonderful holiday opener. A few pictures are nearby.

SAVE THE DATES

Our first event of 2011 on **Thursday January 20** will be a trip to two interesting sites in Harlem and lunch, all as detailed by **Ed Mulock's** flyer insert, This trip is being coordinated by **Bill Winship**.

On **Thursday March 17th** we will visit the Consumers Union in Yonkers NY. The testing of the items published in the magazine *Consumer Reports* is done at this location. We will tour their laboratories and have lunch at the site. **Mel Orr** is organizing the event.

Frank Johnson, Social Events Chair



Happy Campers at Goodspeed & Gelston

Photos, Frank Johnson & Ed Mulock



A Lovely Christmas Luncheon

Happy 2011 from the staff

Bill Gray, Publisher
Martin Skala, Editor
Frank Kemp, Labels
Bob Miller, Proofreader
Dave Jaycox, Printer