

# NEWSLETTER



Photo by Michael Poler

**MARCH MADDNESS POOL WINNERS—Sunil Saksena, Dick Cutler, Fred Smith, & Jim Long, (missing Austin Schraff, Bill Winship, Bill Nolte). Foreground, Pool Managers Bill Bellis & John Barston**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our 33rd year has been another top-notch one. Attendance has been consistently good, programs very well received, trips and special events successful, the budget on target, outside activities regularly enjoyed, and town-wide help meaningful as well as appreciated.

We welcomed a goodly number of new members—keep them coming—and celebrated a 100th birthday of a long timer—Fred Farwell. Our Board of Directors kept me on track. All in all we accomplished our mission well, thanks to all of you, with special kudos to all those I have saluted in previous newsletters.

Since there will not be another newsletter until the Fall, let me call your attention to two events this Summer. On Thursday, June 16 we will be going to Old Westbury Gardens on Long Island. It's been well received over the years so study the enclosed flyer and sign up soon. Then on Thursday, August 25 we will have our annual picnic at Weed Beach. This is always a fun time so hope to see you there. Lastly, please join us on Monday May 30 to be in the Memorial Day parade—details to follow.

In my responsibilities this year I have been guided and assisted a great deal by the DCA staff, in particular by Mary Flynn and Steve McGeachy. He is with us every week setting up, making coffee, assuring the AV system works, and standing by. Thanks Mary and Steve.

As I conclude my year thanks to all of you for your support and cooperation and let's all wish Joohn Podkowsky the best for another great SMA year as your new President;

Sincerely, Kirk Jewett, President

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**SMA PROGRAMS MAY/JUNE 2011**

Wednesday May 4, 2011

**Alzheimer's & Dementia**

**Dr. Danilo de la Pena**, Executive Director of the Research Center for Clinical Studies, will give an overview of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, available treatment approaches, and clinical trials that are underway. Alzheimer's and Dementia are difficult topics, but Dr. de la Pena. makes a complicated subject understandable.

*Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky*

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 Wednesday May 11, 2011

**The State of the State**

**Governor Daniel Malloy** has developed a "doomsday" contingency plan that could drastically cut local budgets throughout Connecticut if public sector unions balk at approving \$1 billion in savings and concessions. Dan will discuss this plan and other budget scenarios as well as answer questions about his first 100 days in office

*Suggested and Arranged by Dick Cutler*

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 Wednesday, May 18, 2011

**Maintaining the Character of Darien**

Planning and Zoning Commission. Is one of the most important elective bodies in Darien .They are charged with the implementation of the zoning regulations for the town which ensure that Darien will remain a small, residential New England town. P & Z Chair **Fred Conze** will update us on the challenges that P & Z faces in maintaining this status. A member of P & Z since 1992, Fred was Vice Chairman for a number of years before becoming Chairman in 2007. He is also a Principal of Royle Associates, a real estate consulting services firm.

*Suggested and Arranged by Wally Pugh*

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 Wednesday May 25, 2011  
**Community Theater**

Season after season, community theater companies tell a variety of stories; but rarely ever get a chance to tell their own tale. **Robert Doran**, President of the Town Players of New Canaan, will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of community theater and what it takes to put a show together from auditions through production. Also, two pairs of tickets to this summer's production of *American Songbook: Celebrating the Music of WWII* will be raffled off; but you have to be there to win.

*Suggested and Arranged by John Podkowsky*

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 Wednesday June 1, 2011

**Stout Hearted Men**

After entertaining at Senior Centers, clubs and other senior facilities for the last two months, we welcome back our own **SMA Songsters**. The troop, led by **Joe Holmes** will, as has been our SMA tradition, close our SMA season. We will hear a great selection of familiar favorites from Barbershop to Broadway.

*Suggested by Many and Arranged by Joe Holmes*

**Program Notes:**

As Program Chair, I would like to extend a special note of thanks to the Programs Committee Members, **Dick Cutler, Peter Hallock, Wally Pugh, and Martin Skala** for their diligent work in organizing and arranging quality programs and speakers over this past SMA year and also to all SMA members for your suggestions and input. We hope you have found the programs both enlightening and entertaining.

**John Podkowsky**

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
 May – June 2001

Since our last report we have admitted 6 new members. We had to drop 2 members for non-payment of dues but they may be re-instated simply by paying their dues. At present the membership total is 285 with openings mostly for Darien and a few for out of town members.

We welcome our latest new members:

**Donald G. Piper** was born in 1935 in Brooklyn, NY, lived a few years in Montclair, NJ, and then settled in Stamford where he lives today. He graduated from Stamford High School in 1953 and from Syracuse University in 1957 with a BFA degree and majored in Advertising Design.

After completing his education he spent a few years in the US Army as a photographer and TV producer. This included a tour of duty in Korea where he worked for The American Forces Korea Network. Donald also spent a year at the US Air Defense School at Ft. Bliss, Texas, involved in educational TV Production. He entered the Army as a Private and came out a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He worked close to 30 years in New York City, 1<sup>st</sup> with SSC&B Advertising and the last 20 years an advertising and fashion photographer and AV producer for Burlington Indus-

Donald and his Wife Francesca have two grown children and a couple of grandchildren. He divides his time between this area and upstate New York, where he owns a house on a lake in the Adirondacks. In retirement he volunteers at the local soup kitchen, and almost daily at the Food bank. When in the Adirondacks he works at the YWCA camp kitchen.

**James McCormack** was born January 1940 and graduated from All Hallows High School in New York City. After High School he attended St. Peters College and graduated with a BS Degree in English Literature.

James' occupation specialty was Finance and while pursuing his vocation he served his country with 7 ½ years in the US Army Reserves. He retired from Sun Microsystems in 2007.

Jim and his wife Judy live in Darien. He lists his hobbies as Baseball, Puzzles and Reading.

**GARY BANKS** joined the SMA through his sponsor, that master of bracketology, Sunil Saxena.

Gary has lived in Darien for over 20 years. He finds Darien's beaches and Long Island Sound particularly attractive where he and his wife enjoy sailing, Kayaking and watching the sunset. He enjoys landscaping, woodworking and home improvement projects. He subscribes to the policy that "any project is justification to buy another tool.

Born in Iowa, he grew up in Ft. Lauderdale when it was a small town. His first job was at P&G in Cincinnati where his wife, Martha, also worked. Visiting Manhattan on the bicentennial weekend he and Martha decided NY was where they wanted to be. Fast-forward and Gary was working for Bristol-Myers Squibb and living in Darien. After eight years in Darien the Banks moved to St. Louis to Work for Monsanto. While there they experienced the '93 floods. The Midwest was OK but he jumped at the chance to return to Darien and join Xerox.

His entire career has been in Information Technology. He has most recently been in Private Equity working to turnaround-distressed companies in automotive and textiles. His undergraduate degree is from Tulane. He earned graduate degrees in mathematics and operations research from Penn and Columbia.

Martha serves on the Darien Board of Finance and is active in community service. They have two daughters, Alison and Emily.

Gary looks forward to the people and programs of the SMA.

Chick Scribner, Membership Chairman.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### CHANGING THE GUARD

Our Constitution requires that the Nominating Committee present a complete slate of proposed Officers and Directors for the ensuing membership year at the next to last regular meeting in April. Other nominations may be made by any member from the floor only at the next subsequent meeting. Election shall be by majority vote at the second regular meeting after the Nominating Committee has presented its proposed slate. At our April 20 meeting, this year's Nominating Committee, chaired by Marc Thorne and including Bill Winship, Dale Pol-lart, Wally Pugh and Joe Holmes presenter the following slate of Officers and Directors:

President and Director	John Podkowsky
1st. Vice President and Director	Robert Ready
2nd Vice President and Director	William Ball
Secretary and Director	Robert Smith
Assistant Secretary	Fpilh;sd Eudr
Treasurer and Director	Thomas Taylor
Assistant Treasurer	William Nolte
1st Term Director at Large	George Brookner
1st Term Director at Large	Colin :Coke" Costello
1st Term Director at Large	John "Jack" Fitzgibbons
Social Events	Frank Johnson
Membership & Hospitality	Charles "Chick" Scribner

### SAVE THE DATES

Our next event will be a trip to the Hillstead Museum in Farmington CT on May 19<sup>th</sup>. This 1901 Colonial Revival home's architecture was inspired by Washington's Mount Vernon and its many rooms are crafted in meticulous detail. Inside is the wonderful art collection of Theodate Pope Riddle. Among the many works of art are "Dancers in Pink" by Degas, "Grainstacks, in Bright Sunlight" by Monet and "Symphony in Violet and Blue" by Whistler. After wandering around this 33,000 sq-ft dwelling for a time, you can go outside to enjoy the lush gardens and scenery on the pristine 152 acre grounds.

We will then lunch at the Grist Mill restaurant. Situated on a bluff overlooking the Farmington River, this antique house dates back to the 1640's. A wonderful menu with a selection of dishes will be provided.

This summer we will tour the Old Westbury Gardens on June 16<sup>th</sup>. This 200 acre former Phipps Estate is located on Long Island and in June, the iris, lilies, peonies, roses and rhododendrons will be busting out all over! There will be a docent to guide us around and more time to wander on your own.

We will then dine at Westbury Manor, a traditional Victorian mansion with formal English gardens. Seated in a glass enclosed atrium, we will be served a menu that includes an appetizer, choice of three entrees, and dessert

What a way to celebrate the beginning of summer.

Our last event will be the SMA annual picnic on August 25<sup>th</sup>. More details about this later.

**Frank Johnson, Social Events Chair**



Very Special Member Fred Farwell

Let's Have a Great SMA Turnout for  
the Memorial Service for Fred  
Saturday, March 19, 2:00pm  
Saint Luke's Parish  
1864 Post Road, Darien

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Please note the Insert for SMA Application for Membership in this newsletter. As President Kirk and membership Chair Chick have written, there is plenty of space for new members, so get out there and find one. You can attract them by telling of the multiple activities we enjoy at SMA as photos nearby show



**Belmont Raceway Trip**

#### **Bowling at Rip Van Wilkle Lanes**

**Photos by Michael Poler**

**Taylor Strubinger, Publisher  
Martin Skala, Editor  
Frank Kemp, Labels  
Bob Miller, Proofreader  
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