

**D A R I E N**

**SMA**

**Senior Men's Association**

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Nov.– Dec. 2011

# NEWSLETTER

## SMA SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE



L to R: Frank Johnson, Chairman, Wally Pugh, Ed Mulock, Bill Winship, Mel Orr, Bill Atkinson, Mel Klugman, Bob Smith, Tom Thompson, Peter Hallock. *Photo by Michael Poler*

SMA's Social Events Committee plans and organizes outings, bus trips, and social events such as the Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Country Club of Darien and the Summer Picnic at Weed Beach. Recent outings have included trips to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, Westbury Gardens, and Hillstead Art Museum in Farmington, CT. The next event is a musical, *City of Angels* at the Goodspeed Opera House on November 3. Bus transportation, luncheon at the Gelston House, and the theater ticket are all included at the price of \$89 per person.

The Committee, under the leadership of Frank Johnson, meets several times per year to research and discuss various trip ideas. Once an event is selected, a committee person is charged with planning and organizing that event to include reservations and tick-

luncheon venue and menu, and transportation. Flyers and sign-up sheets are prepared to promote the event and keep track of participants. Once the expenses are known, the ticket price is set. "We budget to break even on each event and we feel great if we come within 2 or 3% of our budgeted number. In the end, the number of attendees will determine whether we make a small surplus or lose money," said Frank Johnson.

*Q./Frank, what do you enjoy most about being Chairman of the committee?* F.J.: I really enjoy working with my committee. I am the coordinator but the Committee does 95% of the work. *Q. What are your biggest challenges?* F.J.: The largest challenges are to find events that most members would

enjoy, including places not often visited by our members, and to keep costs down to reasonable and affordable levels. *Q. Is this why you avoid Broadway shows?* F.J.: Yes, just too costly; in the \$150-\$160 range. *Q. Tell me about the SMA participants.* F.J.: We have a significant number of regulars who attend most events but have room for more first timers to enjoy some great events at reasonable prices.

## Message from the President

I would like to thank all my SMA friends and associates for your cards, telephone calls, flowers, audio books, and in particular for your prayers and well wishes during my recent hospitalization and subsequent recovery period. Your encouragement was very much appreciated and kept me fully engaged during my recovery effort. It was great knowing I had so many people rooting for me.



We had a great response to our SMA survey. The top vote getter was our SMA Programs followed closely by our social interaction. SMA programs were highlighted by nearly every member both for the quality of the speakers and as the key component of our Wednesday meetings. We also received a number of excellent speaker suggestions, along with a willingness to help line up those speakers. Congratulations and an big SMA thank you to our Programs Committee.

Our Social Events received high marks from those who participate. Your favorites are the Christmas Luncheon at the Country Club of Darien and our annual SMA summer picnic at Weed Beach. Members particularly enjoy the outings to musicals at the Goodspeed Opera House.

The survey also indicated an opportunity to reach out better to our new members in order to make them feel welcome and an important part of our organization. This will be a SMA priority this year.

We have a number of initiatives underway to include new member luncheons to give our new members an opportunity to meet other new members and long standing members to help further integrate them into the SMA. More to come on this topic.

*John Podkowsky, President*

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### PROGRAMS

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011**

**Henry Tang** will return to speak on China in particular and Asia in general. Henry has spoken to the SMA before and is a very well known expert on China, and will share his insights on the political and economic scene in China and Asia.

**Suggested and arranged by Peter Hallock.**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2011**

**Paul Strassman** will discuss the growing importance of the internet in future wars. His discussion on cyber wars was very well received at the New Canaan Men's Club. He is a professor of Information Sciences at George Mason School of Information Technology and Engineering, and a former advisor to the Department of Defense. He is also a decorated hero for his actions as a guerilla commando in Czechoslovakia in 1944-45.

**Suggested and arranged by Bob Ready.**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

**Paul Paulson**, President of Paulson & Company Marketing Services, Inc will talk about "the good, the bad and the ugly" in the world of advertising. Paul has an MBA from Wharton and is the former president of Doyle Dane Bernbach and of Isidore & Paulson before starting his own firm.

**Suggested and arranged by Wally Pugh**

**Wednesday, November 23, 2011**

**No meeting, Happy Thanksgiving!!**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

**The founder of Moffly Media** and his son will talk about how they started the series of successful magazines that include Fairfield Living, Greenwich, New Canaan-Darien, At Home, and others. **Jonathan Moffly**, the president and founder will describe how the business got started. His son, Jack, will talk about how the business branched out and grew over time.

**Suggested and arranged by Martin Skala**

### Wednesday, December 7, 2011

**Arthur Gottlieb**, a noted naval historian, will describe how the Japanese Navy strengthened itself prior to 1941, and will describe in detail the events that led to the attack on Pearl Harbor on the 70th anniversary of that attack. Mr. Gottlieb is an Auxiliary Officer of the US Coast Guard currently serving as a Flotilla Commander.

■ **Suggested and arranged by Bob Ready**

### Wednesday, December 14, 2010

**The Blue Notes** will return to entertain the Senior Mens Association on December 14. We have had the pleasure of their entertainment several times over the past years and they always deliver an entertaining and enjoyable concert.

**Suggested and arranged by Wally Pugh**

### Wednesday, December 21, 2011

**Congressman Jim Himes** will return to speak to our group on the political climate in Washington and the outlook for 2012. Congressman Himes is serving his second term as our Congressional representative

**Suggested and arranged by Wally Pugh**

### Wednesday, December 28, 2011

**No meeting, Merry Christmas, enjoy the holiday week!**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Your Membership Committee has been collecting dues since the first meeting in September. All dues should be paid by the first of November. Reminder emails and post cards will be sent to lal delinquent members. Those failing to respond may be dropped from our membership. New members joining and paying dues after January 1 of a given year shall not be liable for dues in the following membership year. Also all members 90 years or older are exempt from paying dues.

Thanks to the excellent programs, our attendance is still high with the exception of the last two meetings where the guest speaker cancelled at the last minute.

At present our membership total is 287. We welcome our latest new members:

**Kevin Monahan** was born and raised in Dobbs Ferry. He graduated from St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, MD with a BS in Economics and from Union's Albany Law School with a JD.

Kevin joined The Bank of New York as attorney and Managing Director in the Wealth

Management Business after practicing law for 5 years. He retired in November 2010.



Kevin and his wife Ellen live in Old Greenwich and spend the winter months in Naples, FL. He is a member of Silvermine Golf Club and his interests include golf, reading American history, his summer cottage at Lake George and, most recently, bowling.

**Russ Peppet** was born and raised in Chicago and graduated from Michigan State with a BS in Mathematics and from Northwestern with an MBA. In 1962 he joined KPMG (Peat Marwick) in Management Consulting practice.



Russ and family moved to Paris in 1972 where he headed up the Continental Europe Consulting practice and in 1978 moved to Darien and ran the New York office. After a move to California, he retired from KPMG in 1990.

After retiring, Russ has been a partner in three private equity firms and is still with Park Avenue Partners. Russ is a member of the Country Club of Darien, Bonita Bay Club, Noroton Presbyterian Church and is deeply involved in microenterprise lending through Fairfield County Microenterprise Investors Council. He travels to Senegal several times each year for this program.

Russ and his wife, Sandy, have 5 children and 12 grandchildren and spend much of the year visiting their offspring and residing during winter months in Bonita Springs. Russ is involved with golf, singing in choir, microlending and his love for France..

**Roland J. Hulob** was born in Boston in 1939 and graduated from St. Michaels College in 1960 with a degree in Economics. Commissioned in the USAF on graduation, he served 7 years, including Vietnam from 1965-66. Leaving the Air Force in '67, he joined McGraw-Hill Publications in Advertising Sales in San Francisco. In '74 he transferred to Chicago as Regional Mgr-Midwest. In '77 he was back in New York as Publisher-Business Magazine and finally as VP Sales and Training Systems.



In '85 he took a management position with Read International in Canada. Read was purchased by Daishona (Japanese) and eventually sold to Enron. It was then bought by a private family business, Brandt Industries in Greenwich. He retired in 2010. Roland moved to Darien in 1977 where he is currently residing with his wife of 50+ years. They have two grown daughters and two grandsons.

**Thomas M. Brayton** attended Eaglebrook School and Phillips Academy and graduated from Princeton in '65 with a degree in Classical Languages (Latin & Greek). After Princeton there was a Teaching Fellowship at Phillips from 1965-66, Gilman School in Baltimore 1966-68, and St. Paul's School in Concord NH from 1968-69. At these schools Thomas taught Latin and Greek, coached soccer, basketball, baseball, and was dorm advisor.



In 1969 Thomas joined Robert Bliss Inc in New York as account executive specializing in public relations and advertising for Fortune 500 Companies. His next move was to

Petroleum Heat and Power in Stamford as manager of supply and distribution in 1970, Jayco Petroleum in Greenwich in 1978 at Senior VP for brokering and supervision of billing and collections. Tom's next move was to PVM Oil Association in Teaneck, NJ from 1991-94 as products broker and then back to Connecticut to take a position at AE Bruggemann & Co in Rowayton doing oil brokerage.

Thomas left the oil business to return to teaching at Rippowan Cisqua School in Bedford in 1996 teaching Latin, Humanities, English Lit and American History as well as coaching varsity soccer, basketball, and soccer. He left Rippowan in 2002 for a short stint at Brunswick School before retiring.

Tom was born in Bath, NY in 1942 and lives in Darien with his wife Frida. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. He enjoys playing trumpet, classical music, tennis, paddle, toy soldiers, and reading.

**James A. Tulacro** was born in 1943 in Waterbury, CT and attended Long Island University where he graduated with an accounting degree. After working at major companies such as Pitney Bowes and ITT, he decided on a career change at age 42 and returned to school at Truro College and Charter Oak College to achieve a BS as Physicians Assistant and also in Human Services Health Science. His occupation is as a physician assistant and he still works part time.



Jim and his wife Arlene have lived in Darien for 32 years and have two grown children and four grandchildren.

**Harry Berkowitz** is a long time resident of Norwalk who just recently moved to Darien. Harry was born in San Antonio in 1933, graduated from Princeton in '55 with a BA in history. Harry's career has been as a retail exec with Neiman-Marcus, Saks 5th Ave, Saksowitz, and a final project before retiring as president of the Yale Coop. Harry has three children and three grand children.



Harry's interests include fly fishing, golf, and volunteering for non-profits.

*C. Scribner, Membership Chairman*

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

On November 3, we will bus to the Goodspeed Opera House to see the musical "City of Angels". This is set in the Big Band Swing era and is the story of a man leading a dual life-in reality a fiction mystery writer and in dreamland, a Sam Spade-type detective hero. It will be a blast.

**Christmas is coming!** The annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 8 at the Country Club of Darien. Joe Holmes will again provide the music for dancing and our enjoyment. Be sure to sign up and be a part of the season's kickoff with your SMA friends.

## SAVE THE DATES

The first of four events planned for 2012 will be January 26, a tour of the British Art Museum and lunch at the Union League in New Haven. Sign ups will start in December.

**A Veteran's Day Salute** to SMA's own George Walsh. This month marks the 70th anniversary of the start of WWII.

George was a Navy dive bomber pilot flying off an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Theater. His principal action was the battle of Philippine Sea. He was awarded the DFC and other medals for his actions. George is 90 and recovering well from a recent stroke.



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The newsletter welcomes the input for this issue of SMAer and Caricature Artist Tom Glover. Tom will be contributing his art to liven up the letters from time to time. **Welcome aboard Tom!!**

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**Greetings from the Happy Wanderers** during their October 20 wandering down the High Line Park and Chelsea. Photo by Ed Mulock



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