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

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May June, 2012

NEWSLETTER

**March Madness winners**

From left:

Bill Bellis,

Dick Paterniti

Jim Hartzer

Jack Fitzgibbons

John Barston

Photo by Michael Poler

See article on next page

From the President:

This is my final report before handing the gavel to our new President on June 1. I want to start by saying how proud I am to have served as your President during 2011-2012, our 34th year. I can state with confidence this past SMA year has been an excellent one for our organization. Bob Ready and his Programs Committee have arranged a wide variety of interesting and enlightening speakers. Frank Johnson and his Social Committee have organized outings and events that were fully attended and enjoyed by those who participated. The annual SMA Christmas luncheon attended by 110 members and guests continues to be the highpoint. Our financial position is healthy. SMA weekly activities continue to enjoy strong participation. The Happy Wanderers kept up their series of visits to New York City neighborhoods including hiking the full length of the High Line and visits to Chelsea, Greenpoint, and Red Hook neighborhoods;

refreshment breaks at 100 year old taverns and luncheons in local ethnic restaurants are all part of the "Wandering" experience. Congratulations to SMA winners in the Super Bowl and March Madness pools.



I am particularly pleased to report on several new SMA initiatives this year. New player Bridge Lessons led by Bill Atkinson were very successful; we now have 20+ Bridge players meeting regularly at our Tuesday Bridge sessions. A brand new Technology Committee was organized by Ben Briggs and Bob Smith with the objective of updating our SMA Website to make it more informative and user friendly for our membership. Marc Thorne has started an SMA book group that continues to grow in participation.

President's Message cont'd)

I look forward to seeing most of you on Monday, May 28 for the Darien Memorial Day Parade. SMA will meet in the Goodwives Shopping Center at 9:00 -9:15 a.m. We hope to have as many marchers as possible for the 1.25 mile parade route. Cars will be available for those who are unable to march on foot.

Finally, a great big "Thank you" to all our members and, especially, the Officers, Board members, Committee Chairs and volunteers and participants who make our club so worthwhile for all of us. You have really made it a great year.

John Podkowsky

President

March Madness Winners!!!

Barston and Bellis have again managed an exciting pool with the winners almost required to select Kentucky as #1 to get the bonus points. Overall winner collecting \$100 was Jim Hartzler; John Barston won both 2nd and 5th place winning \$65; Dick Paterniti came in 3rd for \$50; and Jack Fitzgibbons was 4th collecting \$50.

The winners had long shots winning early. This year the Cinderella teams were gone before the Elite Eight. The Final Four had two #1 seeds, one #2, and one #4. This year's 5th place winner had 90 points. There were no entries with points in the 80s and only five entries with points in the 70s. The moral: don't concentrate on picking the favorites.

Coming up on May 17, the second walk in New York with the Happy Wanderers. The final walk in June will be announced mid-May. Under consideration is a walk with wives starting at the 125th Street Metro North station and ending at The Cloisters. Stay tuned.

Kent Haydock, SMA 2011-2012 "Volunteer of the Year"

The Darien Senior Men's Assn. nominates Kent Haydock, 15-year chairman of the Town-appointed Deer Management Advisory Board, as its Volunteer of the Year for 2011-2012.

Starting in 1997, with deer population exploding virtually unchecked, Haydock and his committee worked with appropriate Town officials to educate the public on serious deer-



related concerns, which include: the debilitating deer-tick disease pandemic, dangerous deer-vehicle collisions, and serious property damage to plants and trees through over browsing.

Haydock and colleagues initiated press releases, organized the showing of a film at the Darien Library which dramatizes threatening effects of long-term Lyme disease. They recruited volunteers to organize deer culls of overabundant deer population and enlisted private landowners to participate. These remedial actions have gained important state-wide legislative attention, maintained the local deer population below critical levels and helped protect the health and property of our local Darien community and citizens.

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Ernan Ni came from China to be a research assistant at UCONN. He now is a founding partner and managing director of Power Bidding Strategies, a private energy trading company. He will speak on

reviving 5000 years of Chinese civilization and on the Shen Yun Performing Arts of Connecticut.
Suggested by Ben Briggs, arranged by Bob Ready

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Marina Julia Neary will talk about her two books on heroes of the Irish Rebellion (Martyrs & Traitors” and “Brendan Malone”). Both are works of historical fiction that have displayed the author’s wit and sketch the fine line between traitor and martyr.

Suggested and arranged by Bob Ready

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Darien First Selectwoman Jayme Stevenson will discuss issues facing Darien and the state of the town.

Suggested and arranged by Wally Pugh

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Darien High School students will discuss projects on which they have been working, especially those demonstrating innovation and creativity

Suggested and arranged by Marc Thorne

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Our own SMA Senior Songsters, led by Joe Holmes and accompanied by Bunny Erickson will serenade us. Please note that wives/girlfriends are invited to join us at 11 AM to hear the Songsters

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Henry Tang, having just returned from another trip to Asia and China, will discuss recent developments in Asia in general and China in particular.

Suggested and arranged by Peter Hallock

2012-2013 SMA OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

The nominating committee recommended a slate of officers and directors for 2012/2013 on April 18. Floor nominations are opened on April 25 and voting will be on May 2. The recommended slate is:

President	Bob Ready
First Vice President	William F. Ball
Second Vice President	Robert Smith
Secretary	George Brookner
Asst. Secretary	Douglas Wyse
Treasurer	Thomas Taylor
Asst. Treasurer	William Nolte

Directors at Large

First Term:

Alexander Y.P. Garrett

Scott Hutchason

Anthony Murray

Second Term:

Colin Costello

John Fitzgibbons

Thomas P. Lom

Past President Directors

R.Kirk Jewett and John Podkowsky

Committee Chairmen

Frank M. Johnson, Social Events

Charles F. Scribner, Membership and Hospitality

SAVE THESE DATES!!

On April 19th the SMA journeyed to Hartford, visiting the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Connecticut Governor’s residence. In between we enjoyed a filling family style lunch at Vito’s, a fine Italian restaurant in the center of Hartford serving food in the old world taste tradition.

Our next trip is to Belmont Park Race Track on May 24th. While enjoying a delicious buffet luncheon, you will be able to bet on and watch the races from above. You can also visit the paddock area or watch your horse win close-up at the rail. Sign up soon as this is our most popular event. The cost is \$68 pp.

The first trip of the 2012/2013 season is on June 14th. We will tour the interior of the new Yankee Stadium, see the floral displays at the New York Botanical Garden and lunch at LaPanetiere in Rye.

Lastly, mark your calendars for August 16th. We will celebrate at our Annual Picnic on Weed Beach.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Every year starting in September it becomes the responsibility of the Membership Committee to make sure all membership dues are paid. Our Constitution tells us that all dues should be submitted by November 1st. To jog the memories of delinquent members, e-mails and post cards are sent out followed by phone calls. By the end of this year there were still a sizeable number of members who had failed to pay.

After waiting until mid February the Membership Committee mailed personal letters to the remaining delinquent members. This brought the number down to seven. Of these members two are ill but indicated they would pay if and when they are well. The remaining five will be dropped from our rolls.

As of this date there are 17 members 90 years old and older. These members are exempt from paying dues. Currently the membership totals 280.

We welcome the following new members:

Cecil Wade was born in Parkersburg, W. Va., in 1943 and grew up in Middle River, Md. He graduated from St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., in 1964 with a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts.

Cecil's career spans the history of information technology. He started as a programmer trainee working on a vacuum tube computer and went on to help develop and manage the embryonic global positioning system at the Naval Weapons Laboratory, the IBM election projection system at CBS News, a global financial system at Citibank and J.P Morgan Chase's credit card websites. He also was part of a failed internet startup company.



Cecil and his wife, Amy, moved to Darien 17 years ago. He is a member of St. Luke's Episcopal

Church and the Darien Democratic Town Committee. He has two sons who attend Darien schools and two adult daughters each with a grandchild. One daughter is an Oscar winning documentary filmmaker. The other is the author of the book "The Cleaner Plate Club".

Although retired, Cecil maintains an interest in internet development along with reading and learning.

Dieter Wachter was born in Bern, Switzerland, in 1944 and came to New York City in 1965. He became a U.S. citizen in 1970.

Dieter began his business career in New York in 1965 as an administrative trainee with the Inter Continental Trading Company (ITC), an importer and exporter of consumer products to Europe and West Africa. ITC is a subsidiary of UTC, Basel, Switzerland. In 1970, he joined J.P. Stevens Industries, a textile company, in sales and marketing.



In 1976, Dieter became manager of sales and marketing for Clark-Schwebel Fiberglass Corp., a manufacturer of fabrics for industrial, aerospace and defense applications. As part of his work with ballistic fabrics for law enforcement body armor, Dieter served as an advisor to the National Armor Advisory Board and the Office of Technology Assessment Committee of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards. Prior to retiring in 2011, he was vice president of advanced materials for JPS Composite Materials. Dieter and his wife Erika moved from Manhattan to Darien in 1974. They have two children; Stephen who lives in Stamford and Karen who lives in Houston. Dieter is a golf, tennis and skiing enthusiast.

Who is this person?????

The Grand Marshall of Darien's 2012 Memorial Day Parade will be our own **John Geoghegan**. This photo goes way back to when the greatest generation was defending this great country.



Come on out and salute the veterans. Also you might remember someone or something memorable in the Memorial Day issue of the Darien Times.



Governor's Mansion visit



Dining at Vito's



What! The Atheneum isn't open yet?



West Point



A cold Day at West Point

**Taylor Strubinger, Publisher
Frank Kemp, Labels
Bob Miller, Proofreader
Dave Jaycox, Printer**