



# NEWSLETTER



## BLOCKBUSTER PARTY

Hearty congratulations to the Social Committee and especially Tom Brayton and Alex Barnett for a great kickoff of the winter season.

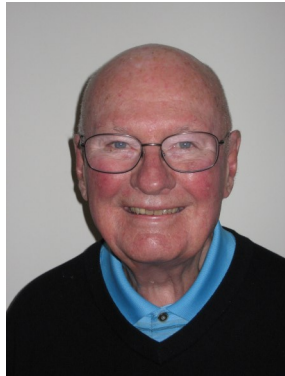
More than 160 members and guests gathered in our DCA meeting room which was decorated in a festive theme. The bars were open from 5:30 until 6:15 when the Blue Notes entertained us with a medley of Christmas and Holiday songs. A great time was had by all.

The committee is meeting in January to plan the trips for spring. Under consideration are a visit to the World Trade Center Memorial and a Circle Line tour around Manhattan. Stay tuned for another great time of trips with your fellow DMAers.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have had seven new members since the current term started in September. At present there are 281 members. This total is below the ceiling in our constitution and there are openings for both Darien and non-Darien residents. Tell your friends what a good deal this is with the trips, meetings and speakers, group activities, and opportunities to volunteer for projects in the town. Meet our new member:

**Paul Harmeier** was born in 1930 in Pittsburgh, Penn., and graduated in 1948 from the Westinghouse Memorial High School, Wilmerding, Penn. He received a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University in 1953 where he was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Following graduation, he served for three years as a Lieutenant (jg) engineering officer on the battleship U.S.S. Wisconsin that included six months in Korea.



He began work as a chemical engineer at the Mobil Oil Corporation Paulsboro Refinery in 1956. He joined the company's New York City headquarters in 1966 as a planning engineer that involved assignments in the Middle East setting up manufacturing facilities. He retired in 1986.

A resident of Darien since 1966, he and his wife, who passed away in 2012, have two children and three grandchildren.

Paul is a member of the Silvermine Golf Club and the Middlesex Swim and Tennis Club. He enjoys using the software program called Photoshop as well as playing golf and tennis.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SPEAKERS—JAN/FEB 2015**

### **Wednesday, January 5, 2015**

**Jack Cavanaugh** will talk about the renowned U.S. Army Heisman Trophy winners Glenn Davis and Felix Blanchard. Called "Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside," they were the best-known college football players in the country during 1944-46. Army was the nation's top-ranked team under legendary coach Red Blaik. The Black Knights' had three consecutive National Championship seasons, including the 1946 "Game of the Century" between Army and Notre Dame, the only college game to date with four Heisman Trophy winners. Jack will also talk about World War II's impact on the Army team's success on the football field—because it's players were already considered to be in the military and thus deferred from active duty while students at West Point.

**Arranged by Alex Garnett**

### **Wednesday, January 14, 2015**

**Stephen Roach's** opinions on the global economy have been known to shape the policy debate from Beijing to Washington. He lays bare the pitfalls and the opportunities of the current China-U.S. economic relationship in his most recent book, "Unbalanced: the Codependency of America and China" He was formerly chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia and the firm's chief economist, heading up a highly regarded team of economists around the world. Mr. Roach's current teaching and research program focuses on the impacts of Asia on the broader global economy. He will also talk about trade policy and the capital markets implications for global imbalance. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Mr. Roach served on the research staff of the Federal Reserve Board and was also a research fellow at the Brookings Institution. He holds a PhD in economics from New York University and is currently a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute of Global Affairs where he introduced new courses on "The Next China" and "The Lessons of Japan."

**Arranged by Tom Lom.**

### **Wednesday, January 21, 2015**

**Les de Villiers** calls his talk, "Gorillas in Our Midst." A long-time leader of South African safaris and author of many books on the region, De Villiers will talk about his recent first time visit to the gorillas that can only be found on the slopes of the Virunga Mountains. He took the trip to see why people are so smitten with the endangered primates. He notes that older male gorillas are easy to spot because the hair on their backs grows white which gave them the name "silverbacks." He will share photos and a short video of his encounter. De Villiers turned to shooting photos rather than guns when his trigger finger started trembling while hunting a huge kudu bull. Growing up in the farm country of South Africa, he learned to appreciate nature, horse riding, hunting and playing rugby. After a diplomatic career that put him in contact with decision makers and heads of state in Africa, he joined a consulting firm in New York City and went on to set up a publishing company of his own specializing in books about Africa. He travels to wildlife sanctuaries several times a year and arranges safaris with a team of associates in Africa.

**Arranged by Alex Garnett**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2015**

**Mark Daniel Luschini**, will talk about the investment outlook for 2015, the current conditions in the capital markets, portfolio asset allocations and the development of investment strategies. With more than 25 years in the business of investing, he is now Chief Investment Strategist for Janney Montgomery Scott LLC where he manages more than \$3 billion in assets. Mark also directs Janney Capital Management, the firm's discretionary investment management division and is a Trustee for Janney Montgomery Scott's Pension & Profit Sharing Plan. A frequent speaker at seminars and conferences, he talks about investment planning and asset management. His comments and written articles have been published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the New York Times, Barron's, USA Today, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Money magazine and Worth. He has appeared on CNBC, Bloomberg Television, CNN, Fox Business News and PBS's Nightly Business Report.

**Arranged by Alex Garnett**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

**Art Gottlieb** will talk about the "Invasion of Normandy" that began on D-Day, June 6, 1944, during World War II and was the largest amphibious invasion ever to have taken place. "Operation Overlord" began with night time parachute and glider landings, massive air attacks and naval bombardments. In the early morning, amphibious landings began on five beaches code named Juno, Gold, Omaha, Utah, and Sword. Among the allied forces that morning were Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. In the weeks following the invasion, Polish forces arrived plus troops from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece and the Netherlands. Many countries provided air and naval support including Australia, New Zealand and Norway. Art is a local historian on political and military history. At the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in New York City, he was curator of naval history and technical director of exhibits. He works regularly with veterans of all services toward the creation of exhibits illustrating the history of 20th century warfare. He has worked on the preservation of historic ships, aircraft and armor from around the world including recovery of scores of artifacts from warships slated for demolition.

**Arranged by Alex Garnett**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015**

**David Shafer** will speak about the "Salk Polio Vaccine and the Story Behind the Story." He will explore this complex and messy picture and also address today's vaccination controversies. The 1950s was a scary time in America – commies under your bed, the McCarthy hearings, UFO sightings, the Cold War nuclear threat, and worst of all – the polio epidemic sweeping the country. Parents were terrified their kids would get it and end up in an Iron Lung. When Jonas Salk and his polio vaccine saved the day he was treated by a euphoric country almost like a god. But there is a largely unknown story behind this story. In the intense rivalry between Salk and Sabin, with different vaccines, Salk failed to credit his co-workers who did much of the work, a no-no in science. Few people got polio, despite the extreme media frenzy about it, and by the time the Salk vaccine was introduced the polio "epidemic" was over. Screw-ups like the Cutter Labs vaccine disaster actually gave people polio and a monkey virus that causes various cancers was given to 90 million Americans.

**Arranged by Andre Guilbert**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2015**

**Eric Chandler** will talk about the first commissioned cavalry in the history of the United States that was largely made up of men from Connecticut. Called Sheldon's Horse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Light Dragoons, it went on to form the first pony express and the first organized spy ring under General Washington. Commissioned December 12, 1776, the regiment operated extensively in the Hudson River Valley, the Mohawk Valley, lower New England and across Long Island Sound. Sheldon's Horse executed the first cavalry charge by US forces on American soil. Twenty of its members were part of Washington's official entourage and were with him at the Siege of Yorktown. They were the only force to achieve victories on foot, on horse and at sea and a member of the unit was among the first recipients of the Order of Merit – the Purple Heart – for bravery in action against the enemy. The regiment played a significant role in winning the American War for Independence and a key role in unwinding the Arnold-Andre affair.

**Arranged by Andre Guilbert**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

**Art Gottlieb** will speak about Hitler's attempt to recapture the important harbor of Antwerp by launching the "Battle of the Bulge" in the densely forested Ardennes forest. The move caught the allied forces completely off guard with the United States troops taking the brunt of the attack. The result was the highest casualties for any operation during World War II. The phrase was coined by the press to describe the way the front bulged inward on wartime news maps. The offensive was planned by the German forces with utmost secrecy, minimizing radio traffic and moving troops and equipment under cover of darkness. Near-complete surprise was achieved by a combination of Allied overconfidence, preoccupation with Allied offensive plans, and poor aerial reconnaissance. The Germans attacked a weakly defended section of the Allied line, taking advantage of heavily overcast weather conditions that grounded the Allies' overwhelmingly superior air forces. Improved weather conditions permitted air attacks on German forces and supply lines, which sealed the failure of the offensive. In the wake of the defeat, many experienced German units were left severely depleted of men and equipment, as survivors retreated to the defenses of the Siegfried Line.

**Arranged by Alex Garnett**

\*\*\*\*\*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Bell Ringing at Palmers  
Bob and granddaughter Megan**

As we approach the midpoint of my term as president I thought I would provide my views in this newsletter on the changes we have made and some of the ideas we are considering going forward.

The feedback I have received on using Carolyn Eddy to provide our refreshments and to make them available before the business meeting has been largely positive. I know that the pastries are gone early in the break and we probably need to increase the amount. I plan on discussing this issue at our next Board Meeting to decide what we should do to balance the costs with the amount served.



We had about 165 attendees at the Christmas Season Cocktail Party and we all need to thank Tom Brayton for taking the lead in planning the event. The feedback Alex, Tom and I received was largely very positive. We performed a post mortem and identified changes we need to make if we are able to make this an annual event. I have posted photos of the event on our website so take a look.

Jack Fitzgibbons, the Committee Chairman of Community Services, and I are discussing ideas for expanding beyond the Memorial Day Parade and Repairing the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Wreaths.

We recently did a clothing drive for Hudson Link, an organization that provides college education, life skills, and re-entry support to incarcerated men and women. With a limited effort we were able to donate about fifty business suits plus shirts, ties and other items. Hudson Link considered this an outstanding success. I believe this is something we should do again.

Bob Riith has been working with getting the Town of Darien to schedule some of our DMA members be bell ringers in front of Palmers. I understand that Marc Thorne and Martin Skala did their turn as a bell ringer. Next year Bob hopes to get enough DMA volunteers to fill a weekend schedule..

If anyone else has some ideas to expand our involvement in Community Services please let me know.

\*\*\*\*\*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE



On November 13, DMA members turned out for their annual renovation of the Darien Christmas wreaths that the DPW attaches to lampposts around town. All wreaths are removed from storage cartons, lighted by Dmaers working in pairs, and all broken or used up bulbs replaced. The wreaths are then replaced in their storage cartons ready to be placed on the lampposts.



Looking at the replacements needed so that all the wreaths will be ready.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Happy Wanderers** visit the completed phase 3 of the High Line Park.



On November 20, twelve Wanderers hiked the entire length of the High Line Park including the recently completed section over the Hudson Rail Yards that are soon to be covered over by the latest West Side development.



\*\*\*\*\*

Join the Book Group on January 14 for a discussion of “**A Spy Among Friends**” telling the story of Kim Philby’s almost 30 years of betrayal of friends and country as a spy for the Soviet Union and the many narrow escapes in avoiding exposure and capture.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Taylor Strubinger, Publisher**  
**Frank Kemp, Labels**  
**John Geoghegan, Proofreader**  
**Dave Jaycox, Printer**