



Darien Men's Association

Journal
www.DarienDMA.org

September-October 2026

Vol. 49, No. 1

President's Message

As we begin the Darien Men's Association's new year, we have much to celebrate – and even more to look forward to. For nearly 50 years, the DMA has brought men together for friendship, fellowship, learning and service. During the coming year, we will honor that tradition while introducing new initiatives designed to keep our organization active, relevant and welcoming.

The DMA of today has a strong footing thanks to the enthusiasm, fellowship and commitment of our members. The heart of any nonprofit organization is its volunteers, and DMA runs with the able assistance of many of them. We have almost 50 officers, board members, committee chairs and activity leaders who contribute their time and talent to achieve our goal of being best-in-class in whatever we do.

We have two important new initiatives planned this year:

1. Creating the *DMA Healthspan Initiative*, which is a cooperative effort among three community-based organizations: the DMA, the Darien YMCA and Stamford Hospital. The initiative focuses on fitness and healthy aging and offers a new healthcare model exclusively to DMA members for the most important thing in our life: a *healthy* longevity. This eight-week program combines a general meeting speaker followed by weekly private group exercise sessions at the "Y," which is paired with eight private group luncheons at The Goose restaurant. The luncheons will be collegial in nature, and each lunch will feature a different doctor from Stamford Hospital who will discuss his or her medical specialty. That's a total of nine doctors and two certified personal trainers lending their support to the DMA. While lifespan measures the total number of years lived, the healthspan initiative focuses on the quality of those years, aiming to maximize active, independent living. It emphasizes *living better, not just longer*.

President's Message cont'd

2. Celebrating DMA's 50th anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Gala on Friday, April 16, 2027. This milestone event will be held at Wee Burn Country Club and gives us an opportunity to remember the men who built this organization a half century ago, recognize those who sustain it today and consider how we can make it even stronger for the next generation. Planning is already underway, led by **Bob Dawe**, to create a milestone event.

These significant initiatives will not distract us from our core activities.

We have a new, easier-to-use DMA website homepage with no click-throughs needed. Created by **Gary Banks** in consultation with **Jack Carley**, **Chris Conley** and **Bryan Hooper**, our website now opens up to the DMA calendar and has all the information you want: the next speaker, future speakers and upcoming activities. And you can access the site on your cell phone.

Our Wednesday morning meetings will remain at the heart of the DMA. The Program Committee, led by **Rick Agresta**, will continue to bring another outstanding year of speakers covering national and international affairs, history, business, boating, science, medicine, sports, the arts and important developments locally.

Our growing membership is increasingly engaged and now regularly exceeds 125 in-person members attending our weekly meetings with more joining via Zoom. We look forward to the survey questions that **Sam Bridges** has in store for us each week, as evidenced by the fact that we regularly receive nearly 200 responses to our online poll.

The fall activities are off to a strong start. We have ample opportunities for members to participate beyond our weekly meetings. Our activity groups will continue to offer wanderings, investment discussions, pickleball, music, hiking, current events, travel, dining and other shared interests. Stop and think about the diversity of things to do this year to stay engaged!

The DMA has an extraordinary reservoir of experience, knowledge and talent for our commitment to community service, led by **John Craft**. We also appreciate the work **George Gilliam** does as chairman of DMA Cares so that we stay connected to members who are unable to get to our meetings.

Membership development will be another priority. Membership Chairman **Wim Jessup** seeks to welcome newly retired men, longtime residents and newcomers to Darien who would benefit from the friendship and intellectual stimulation that DMA provides. Every current member can help by inviting a friend or neighbor to attend a meeting.

President's Message cont'd

While national and global actions have created a chaotic world, it's important to maintain our shared values, which gives us the opportunity to experience the friendship and civility so critical to our democratic society.

The DMA succeeds because members contribute their time, ideas, energy and friendship. Let's begin this new year with enthusiasm, gratitude and a renewed commitment to one another. I'm honored to assume the role of president and look forward to a memorable and rewarding year together.

Doug Bora
2026-2027 DMA President

Communications Director's Message

As I take over as Director of Communications, I want to thank **Mike Kadish** for his work in this role over the last two years. I am especially grateful to Mike for his time helping me to understand my new responsibilities and how to carry them out. He has made himself available when needed to answer questions and solve problems.

Mike, working with **Ric Grefé**, led the effort to create a single comprehensive communications platform consisting of four elements: the DMA Website, *This Week at DMA*, the *DMA Newsletter* and membership emails for specific activities. This work continues, as described below.

- **DMA Website:** With the leadership of **Doug Bora, Gary Banks, Jack Carley** and **Bryan Hooper**, we have launched a new and improved DMA website.
- ***This Week at DMA:*** *This Week at DMA* is rebranded as *DMA Weekly*, with no change in content or frequency of distribution.
- ***DMA Newsletter:*** We are rebranding the *DMA Newsletter* as the *DMA Journal* to reflect the largely retrospective nature of this publication. Consistent with the effort to rely more on the website, the *DMA Journal* will be made available primarily online. We will print very few paper copies.
- **Membership Email Distributions:** Membership email distributions will continue as in the past for *DMA Weekly*, the weekly poll and activity announcements.

Mike assumed many responsibilities as Director of Communications, so much so that we have had to assemble an entire team to replace him! Jack Carley has offered his time to keep the Activity Calendar on the website up to date. He will also answer general mail inquiries not related to membership that **Lee Morrison** previously answered. Jack will back me up on email distributions. **Tom MacDonald** will join Jack and me to continue the effort to update and upgrade the website on a regular basis.

Chris Conley

Darien Men's Association

Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmen & Activity Leaders

<u>Officers & Directors</u>	
President	Doug Bora
First Vice President/Speaker Chairman	Rick Agresta
Second Vice President	Ted Helms
Treasurer	Dan Lew
Assistant Treasurer	Ian Webb
Secretary	Doug Traver
Assistant Secretary	Greg Glashan
<u>Committee Chairmen Directors</u>	
Community Service	John Craft
Social Events	Bob Dawe
Membership/Hospitality	Wim Jessup
Communications	Chris Conley
<u>Directors-at-Large</u>	
1 st Term	Ken Hamilton
2 nd Term	Jay Bennett
<u>Past President Directors</u>	
1 st Term	Ric Grefé
2 nd Term	Frank DeLeo

Darien Men's Association

Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmen & Activity Leaders

Communications	Chris Conley (Jack Carley – Calendar Manager, Tom MacDonald)
Community Service	John Craft
DMA Cares	George Gilliam
DMA Investment Fund	Jim Phillips, Art Baron
Membership/Hospitality (Membership Database Manager)	Wim Jessup (Lee Morrison, Mike Preston)
Nominating	Ric Grefé (Frank DeLeo, Barry Silver, Alec Wiggin & Art Baron)
Social Events	Bob Dawe
Activity and Event Leaders	
Book Group	Jim Phillips, Charles Powis
Bowling	Tom Lom
Cookout	Chuck Andreae, David Smith
Cribbage	Ken Hamilton
Current Affairs	Barry Silver, Charles Salmans, Doug Bernacchi
Golf	Bob McGroarty, Jerry Crowley, Steve True, Jim Kelly
Hale & Hearty Hikers	Peter Smith
Happy Wanderers	Chet Cobb, Harry Bergen
Holiday Party	Wim Jessup (Bob Dawe)
Investment Discussion Group	Jim Phillips, Art Baron

Darien Men's Association

Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmen & Activity Leaders

<u>Activity and Event Leaders (cont'd)</u>	
New Wave Singers	Jim Bragg, David Claiborne
Pickleball	Jan Selkowitz, Jack Dearie
Surveys	Sam Bridges
Table Tennis	Steve Gravereaux
TechTalk	Bruce Lynn
Woodworking	Tommy Dempsey
50 th Anniversary Celebration	Bob Dawe
<u>Other Positions</u>	
<i>DMA Weekly (f/k/a This Week at DMA)</i>	Bryan Hooper
General Meeting Set-up (Vavala's)	Alex Garnett
Tech for General Meeting	Kevin Marks
Webmaster	Gary Banks

New Members

Since the last issue of this newsletter, the following members have joined the DMA.

Richard Chu



Richard Chu and his wife Tina have lived in Darien for nearly 15 years. Born in Shanghai, China, just after World War II, Richard attended primary and secondary schools in Japan run by Marianist missionaries, French Alsatian, Spanish and American brothers who taught classes entirely in English and inspired him to attend college in the United States. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1967 and did graduate work in physics at Stony Brook University before shifting to business school at Columbia University.

Richard spent his entire career with Cowen. He focused initially on Japanese equities and then headed the technology research team in Cowen's institutional equities

and tech banking business — first from New York, then Boston, back to New York and finally Boston.

After more than 20 years in Dover, Mass., Richard and Tina moved to Fairfield County in 2012 to be closer to their two daughters and four granddaughters, who all lived in New York City. Richard and Tina are excited by younger daughter Cathy's plan to move her family to Darien in 2027 to be close to all that this incredible town has to offer, including nearby babysitting help on call!

Richard counts as big challenges: Being a diehard Red Sox and Patriots fan in Connecticut; being an avid tennis player trying to get back into it after triple bypass surgery last year; and staying atop the constant and mindboggling changes in the technology world.

Mark McCarthy



Mark McCarthy grew up in Springfield, Mass. He met his wife Leslie while attending graduate school in Chicago. They have lived in Darien 32 years and raised their sons here. All three, Connor (32), Brad (30) and Ryan (27), attended the Darien public schools and were active in Post 53, lacrosse, and golf throughout their school years. Today, the sons live in Manhattan, and Connor is engaged, with a wedding date set for July 2027.

Mark and Leslie spend winters in Bonita Springs, Fla., and are members of the Bonita Bay Club. They are also members of Woodway Country Club, where Mark is an avid golfer, and Leslie plays on the tennis team.

He has been a member of the Darien Boat Club for more than three decades and enjoys boating and fishing on Long Island Sound. He's an avid music fan and plays guitar. In addition, Mark has been a board member of the Lincoln Center Real Estate Council in New York.

Mark spent most of his career in commercial real estate in New York and recently retired from Shorenstein Properties after 27 years. His responsibilities included real estate acquisitions, dispositions and debt capital markets.

Mark graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a B.B.A. and from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business with an M.B.A. He is also a certified public accountant.

In Memoriam

John Wolcott



John Wolcott passed away on July 13, 2026, at age 82, surrounded by his loving family.

One of the larger-than-life members of the Darien Men's Association, John served as our president in 2018-2019; however, his personality and engaging style extended well beyond his service in that role. He was a sign of spring, always the first to move to shorts at our Wednesday morning meetings, freezing weather notwithstanding. In John's case,

these were vintage Bermuda madras shorts that, seemingly, he acquired some years (decades?) earlier. It was a memorable fashion statement. Among his many other talents, he was also an excellent bridge player.

As DMA president and, before that, speaker chair, John took the podium with witty, incredibly funny preambles to our meetings, and his sense of humor was infectious. He also had strong political opinions and was certainly not afraid to ask challenging questions of politicians brave enough to speak at DMA meetings. But in this, as in all things, he was a gentle man and The Consummate Gentleman. John's sense of humor is reflected in his obituary, which appears to be self-written.

Born in Berkeley, California, to Oliver Dwight Wolcott and Valborg Kjeldsen Rasmussen, John is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of 54 years, Jane; daughters Kristine Braden (Glen) and Dana Grunow (Benjamin); grandchildren Tully, Hannah, Charlie and Whitney; and, of course, Tabitha, the family's much-loved Maine Coon cat.

John's childhood was anything but ordinary. Raised in 23 different homes, including periods in Peru and Trinidad, he eventually graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. He then served three years in the U.S. Army Transportation Corps, including a tour in Vietnam's Central Highlands, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. He left the Army as a captain before returning to Berkeley to earn his M.B.A. in 1973, later teaching accounting to incoming M.B.A. students.

As a CPA, John began his career with Price Waterhouse in San Francisco before transferring to the firm's National Office in New York. He and Jane soon discovered Darien, deciding it was the ideal place to raise their family. John later served as chief financial officer for several private wealth management firms, traveling extensively throughout the world. Asked what he did for a living, he liked to say, "Colleagues made the money; my job was to make sure we kept it."

John often said he fell in love with Jane at first sight while sitting on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during their blind date. Fortunately, it took Jane only a little longer to reach the same conclusion. They married the following spring after just 19 days together in person, building a remarkable partnership that spanned more than five decades. Their greatest pride was their two daughters and the grandchildren who followed. Together they shared a lifelong love of travel, visiting destinations around the globe and passing that sense of adventure on to their family.

John loved skiing and spent many winters with his family in Snowmass in Colorado. His favorite moments weren't the double-black runs but the quiet chairlift rides with his daughters, lending them his warm gloves while enjoying uninterrupted conversations. Later, he happily traded the Rockies for warm beaches, making Hawaii and Nantucket favorite destinations with Jane.

An enthusiastic community volunteer, John served as treasurer of both the Middlesex Club and The Country Club of Darien and held numerous leadership positions with the Darien Men's Association. He also served on Darien's Board of Finance. In recognition of his military service and dedication to the community, he was honored as Grand Marshal of Darien's 2022 Memorial Day Parade. He was also a longtime member of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco.

John approached life with intelligence, wit and an unwavering sense of humor. He hoped to be remembered as "Only stubborn when right," though those who knew him best might smile and choose instead: "Often wrong, never uncertain."

A memorial service was held at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church on September 11.

Memorial donations may be made to Greenwich Hospital or Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Online condolences may be left at LawrenceFuneralHome.com.

DMA Speakers Program

The following speakers made a presentation to the DMA since the last issue of the newsletter.

May 6 — **Mike Chinoy**, “Taiwan: The World’s Most Dangerous Next Flashpoint?”

May 13 — **Kathleen Silard**, “The Business of Health Care Today: Making the Case for an Independent Health System”

May 20 — **Bill Hesbach**, “The Critical Role of Bees, the Dynamics of Bee Flight and the Queen’s Sexual Reproduction”

May 27 — **Hamilton E. (“Tony”) James**, “The Business World in 2026 and Beyond”

June 3 — **Laurence Jurdem**, “Making Teddy: The Rough Rider and the Professor (Theodore Roosevelt and Henry Cabot Lodge)”

A summary of each of these presentations is available on the DMA website at [Speaker Announcements – Darien Men’s Association.](#)

Social Committee Calendar 2026-2027

We will provide the cost closer to the event date.

Event	Date	Time	Location
SoundWaters Sunset Cruise	September 29 (rain date October 1)	5-7 p.m.	SoundWaters Cohen Harbor Center, Stamford
Frick Museum and Boat House Luncheon Trip	November 12 (rain date November 19)	12:15-4:45 p.m.	New York City
Holiday Party	December 15	5:30-11 p.m.	Country Club of Darien
DMA Golden Jubilee Gala	April 16	5:30-11 p.m.	Wee Burn Country Club, Darien
DMA Picnic	June 17	5-7 p.m.	Weed Beach, Darien

Community Service

Golf Fundraiser for At Home in Darien

July 13, 2026

On July 13, the DMA sponsored the second annual DMA/At Home Golf Outing at Oak Hills Golf Course in Norwalk. The event was organized by the following: former DMA Community Service Chair **Frank Gallagher**, his successor **John Craft**, At Home in Darien Executive Director **Chris Jones**, DMA Community Service Committee member **Jay Bennett**, DMA Golf Group Co-Leaders **Bob McGroarty** and **Jerry Crowley**, and DMA member **Bob Conologue**. We thank them for their outstanding effort. Under cloudless skies and moderate heat, 92 lfers showed up for a relaxing outing in a scramble format.

After purchasing mulligans at the check-in desk from DMA volunteers Bob Conologue and John Craft, the lfers took to their carts, received rules and instructions from Oak Hills Head Pro **Nick Novak** and were reminded that they were expected to complete their rounds in roughly four hours. Just before 1 p.m., the players headed to their respective starting hole for the shotgun start. The lfers played in a scramble format — each lfer hit his or her shot, and the foursome then picks the best of the four after each subsequent shot until the ball is holed. Oak Hills uses an electronic scoring system through Golf Genius, in which lf scores are uploaded via smartphone, enabling each group to monitor its performance. Several foursomes were bunched at the top of the leaderboard with 14 holes to , but the app went down, and two teams left the field in the dust. The team of Frank Gallagher, **John Karcher**, **Dave Frank** and **John McLean** won the grand prize, and the team of **Pat Hackett**, **Peter Gonye**, **Andy Gordon** and **Tom Smith** were runners up. Several other groups were within screaming distance.



Grand Prize Golf Team: Frank Gallagher, Dave Frank, John Karcher, John McLean.
Photo courtesy of John Craft.

Players enjoyed a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres, provided by Odeen's kitchen. The fundraiser netted \$10,000 for At Home in Darien. Many thanks to the staff at Odeen's and Oak Hills for their flawless execution of the event. We also thank the sign sponsors for their contribution to the effort.

Report on Activities since the Last Newsletter

Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2026



The DMA team gathered to march in the Memorial Day Parade.

Bowling

May 26, 2026

The DMA Bowling Group held its season-end luncheon at Paparazzi Italian Restaurant in Darien. As always, the group had a good time with lots of laughs as they reviewed the highs and lows of their season on the lanes.



From left to right: George Gilliam, Woody Spurgeon, Alex Garnett, Bill Tamme, Dave Smith, Mike Ryan, Tom Lom, Ed Schechter, Frank DeLeo, Linc Schoff, Frank Gallagher. In attendance but not in photo: Gehr Brown, Marty Milewski.

Golf

Darien Men's Association vs. New Canaan Men's Association

June 24, 2026

Silvermine Golf Club

The Darien Men's Association vs. New Canaan Men's Association Annual Golf Match was held on June 24 at Silvermine Golf Club. All 40 players from both sides are pictured below on a beautiful day. The DMA team prevailed. Photo courtesy of **Alex Garnett**.



Darien Men's Association
August 20, 2026
Country Club of Darien Summer Golf Outing

The Darien Men's Association Summer Golf Outing was held on August 20 at The Country Club of Darien with 24 golfers. Photo courtesy of **Steve True**.



Front row left to right: Bob Hughes, John Lawton, Geoff Schnider, Steve True, Joe Sarbinowski. Second row: Kevin Davidson, David Maloof, Rick Agresta, Chet Cobb, Jim Solberg. Third row: Bill Spear, Linc Schoff, Steve Larson, Alan Greene, Bob McGroarty, Ed Barksdale. Last row: Todd Meck, Mike Delaney. Missing from photo: Michael Brennan, Fred Conze, Alex Garnett, John King, George Reilly, John Temple.

Hale and Hearty Hikers

Huntington State Park

August 13, 2026

On Thursday, August 13, the Hale and Hearty Hikers made their way to Huntington State Park in Redding, Conn. This expansive, 1,000-acre park showcases ponds, fields and densely wooded pathways. The hikers, their spouses or significant others and dogs traversed a 2.3-mile section that offered an excellent sampling of the varied terrain. Photos courtesy of **Fred Given** and **Mike Kadish**.



Post-hike, the Hale and Hearty Hikers enjoyed a repast at The Olde Blue Bird Inn in Easton.

Happy Wanderers

Brooklyn Bridge

May 21, 2026

On May 21, 13 fearless Wanderers traveled to Brooklyn and braved windy and rainy conditions while wandering across the Brooklyn Bridge from Brooklyn to Lower Manhattan.

Notwithstanding the challenging weather, the Wanderers first enjoyed the picturesque views of Lower Manhattan and New York Harbor as the group wandered on the Brooklyn Heights Promenade beginning at the monument commemorating the site of George Washington's headquarters. The Wanderers also wandered on the well-maintained streets of Brooklyn Heights, admiring the well-preserved architecture and beautiful landscaping. They paused at the historically significant Plymouth Church, sometimes referred to as "the Grand Central Depot" of the Underground Railroad, and viewed the statue of its founding pastor Henry Ward Beecher.

Of course, the highlight of the day was wandering over the architecturally impressive Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan. When first opened in 1883, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world, spanning roughly 1.1 miles. The Wanderers then trekked past City Hall and down Fulton Street to the South Street Seaport. There, the happy Wanderers dried off and enjoyed a tasty seafood lunch at The Fulton by Jean-Georges with its impressive views of the Brooklyn Bridge and the East River before taking the subway back to Grand Central Terminal.

A photo of the wandering is shown below.



Wanderers **Bill Waters, David Helgans, Letty Helgans, John King, Harry Bergen, Howard Courtemanche, Bob Hughes, Joe Spain, Albert Duryea, Mary Kay Cobb, Chet Cobb and James Hansford** facing wind and rain while traversing the Brooklyn Bridge. Photo by Sam Bridges.



Wanderers Albert Duryea, Joe Spain, Howard Courtemanche, Harry Bergen, Bill Flowers, Sam Bridges, Bob Hughes, Letty Helgans, Mary Kay Cobb, John King, James Hansford, Chet Cobb and David Helgans preparing to enjoy a well-earned lunch.

Central Park June 25, 2026

On Thursday, June 25, 25 Wanderers were happy to experience warm and sunny weather during a wandering across the northern end of Central Park. Entering Central Park through the ornate Vanderbilt Gate at 105th Street and Fifth Avenue, the Wanderers were immediately impressed by the well-landscaped beauty of the Conservatory Garden, including the Italianate Center Garden with its semicircular pada, the French parterre North Garden with its Untermeyer Fountain and statue of the Three Dancing Maidens, and the English style South Garden with its Burnett Fountain.

The Wanderers passed the scenic Harlem Meer, the historic overlook and cannons at Fort Clinton, Nutter's Battery, McGowan's Pass and the architecturally acclaimed Davis Center with its large swimming pool. They also toured the North Woods, the largest woodland in Central Park, which contains unusual physical features that include the Ravine, the Loch and the Pool. The Wanderers' last stop in Central Park was at its oldest surviving building, the Blockhouse, built in 1814 as a lookout tower with openings for guns.

The Wanderers then exited Central Park onto 110th Street and wandered 15 blocks north on Malcolm X Boulevard to lunch. Due to the large size of the wandering group, the Wanderers split into two groups, and each Wanderer enjoyed a well-deserved lunch at either Sylvia's Restaurant or the nearby Red Rooster restaurant. After lunch, the Wanderers wandered a few more blocks to Metro-North's 125th Street Station for the train ride home.



Wanderers standing on the stairs leading to the pada in the Conservatory Garden.
Photo by Sam Bridges.



Fred and Lorry Given taking a break after wandering through the North Woods.
Photo by Chet Cobb.



Jack Carley, Harry Bergen and Doug Bernacchi standing behind Fort Clinton's cannon with Bill Flowers standing in the line of fire. Photo by Chet Cobb.



Wanderers successfully locating and assembling at the Blockhouse. Photo by Chet Cobb.



Tom Igoe relaxing at the Blockhouse. Photo by Chet Cobb.

DMA Picnic at Weed Beach, June 17, 2026

Thank you **Alex Garnett** for 14 years of organizing the annual DMA picnic at Weed Beach. As we do every year, DMA members, their spouses or significant others and wives of deceased members gathered to celebrate another year of fellowship on a pleasant, warm day. Photos courtesy of Greg Glashan.









Darien Men's Association Journal
Editor and Publisher, Chris Conley. **Contributing Editor**,
Joyce Meurer. **New Member Communications**, Wim Jessup.
DMA Cares, George Gilliam. **Webmaster**, Gary Banks.