

# DMA

# Newsletter

**DMA Website is now at [www.DarienDMA.org](http://www.DarienDMA.org)**

Darien Men's Association

March - April 2020

## Country Music Comes to the DMA



**Chris Snyder** reports that 85 DMA members, including guests, attended a special concert by *Gunsmoke*, performing "A Night at the Opry," a tribute to the legendary landmark in Nashville, Tenn. The concert, partially funded from the DMA's endowment, was held at St. Luke's Community Center and was preceded by a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres. More photos inside.

## President's Message

Throughout January and February, we have experienced a high level of participation in our many indoor activities, but particularly in the Book Club, Current Affairs, Investment Discussion Group, Money Matters, and Pickleball. We also had a hugely successful musical evening featuring the country music band *Gunsmoke*. This was partly funded by the DMA



Endowment Fund, which was established by the generous contributions of past and present members. While the attendance at our Wednesday meetings has dropped off a bit, as it usually does at this time of the year due to the exodus of snowbirds, the quality of our featured speakers remains extraordinarily high and continues to generate favorable

comment. The speakers slated for March and April are equally exciting, and the topics they will present are quite diverse.

During March and April, our activities will gather more steam. Hikers and Happy Wanderers will emerge from winter hibernation and take you to explore trails in Fairfield County and saunter around New York City neighborhoods. The perennial favorite, March Madness, will grab attention in the second half of March. The unique set of rules that govern this DMA pool creates unpredictability and excitement, pitting luck against skill in pursuit of the ultimate prize.

The Social Events Committee is planning a visit to the Yale Art Gallery followed by lunch at the Union League Cafe and a visit to a microbrewery. Also being planned is an excursion to the Bronx Botanical Garden.

From my perch, I can see that the DMA continues to be a robust organization, interest in its activities remains high, and our organization is an ideal place for retirees to remain physically, mentally and socially engaged. For this, I would like to thank our Board, Committee Chairs, Activity Leaders and the many other volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the wheels of this organization running smoothly.

**Sunil Saksena**  
**President**

## Speakers

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**



**Anne Keefe**, Associate Artist, and **Bruce Miller**, Company Manager, will speak to the DMA about the history and future of the Westport Country Playhouse, a 90-year old non-profit institution that is by far the largest and most prestigious professional theater in Fairfield County. The mission of the Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten and engage the community through the power of professionally produced theater worth talking about. Their presentations

will include insights on the upcoming season, including a string of five riveting plays and “Script in Hand” play readings that are intended to deepen relationships with audiences and artists.

*Arranged by Tom Igoe*

## Wednesday, March 11, 2020



**Dr. Daniel Ksepka** of the Bruce Museum will speak about the “Flight of the World’s Largest Bird.” He will detail the discovery, reconstruction and computer modeling of flight style in *pelagornis sandersi*, an extinct bird he described in academic literature in 2014. This species had a wing span of approximately 20 feet, making it the largest flying bird that has ever lived. Dr. Ksepka studied the fossil, unearthed in Charleston, S.C., while he was a fellow at NESCent (a research center on the Duke University campus in North Carolina)

*Arranged by Charles Salmans*

## Wednesday, March 18, 2020



“Ray Hornblower: A Life.” **Ray Hornblower** will speak to us about his remarkable life and family. It will include sports (football at Harvard), law (investigation of the FBI post-Watergate, the KKK, and the Birmingham bombings), and philanthropy (Plimouth Plantation). Perhaps most unexpected is his second career as a professional opera singer (tenor). He plans to perform selected pieces to help tell his story.

*Arranged by Alex Garnett*

## Wednesday, March 25, 2020



**Tom Madden**, Director of Economic Development, City of Stamford, will speak to us about the robust economic health of Stamford and the surrounding towns. He brings a portfolio of facts to support his message -- education, transportation, corporate moves, incomes, and occupancy rates among other data supporting positive economic trends. This is a good news story to consider as we too often focus on the negative.

*Arranged by Gary Banks*

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**



**Tim Pettee** is president of the Green's Ledge Light Preservation Society, a 501c3 entity whose mission is to restore and preserve Green's Ledge Lighthouse in Long Island Sound. We all know the light as a scenic landmark. It seems very solidly built, but it is at risk without repair and maintenance. Tim will talk about the fascinating history of the lighthouse and what his organization is doing to preserve it.

*Arranged by Peter Tombos*

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020**



**Griffith Mann's** talk is entitled "Medieval Matters: Curating the Middle Ages at The Metropolitan Museum of Art." The Metropolitan Museum of Art possesses the finest, most comprehensive collection of Medieval and Byzantine art in the Western Hemisphere. It is held in two locations: the galleries of the Met's main building on 5th Avenue and The Met Cloisters in Fort Tryon Park. This talk will explore the history of these two collections and consider a selection of outstanding works of art that bring the medieval period compellingly to life.

*Arranged by Gary Banks*

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**



The DMA's own **Ken Coe** will return to speak to us about his conservation efforts in Africa. He's an accomplished photographer and will share some of his best images during the presentation. Africa is a continent endowed with unmatched biodiversity, yet most of Africa is mired in poverty amidst a fast-growing human population. In the past few decades, competition between man and nature for dwindling space has intensified and has resulted in a significant loss of wild habitat. This highlights the need for effective conservation policy on the Continent.

*Arranged by Gary Banks*

## Wednesday, April 22, 2020



How is your recycled waste handled when it is collected by your hauler or dropped off at the Darien dump? **Pieter van Dijk**, CEO of Van Dyk Recycling Solutions, will explain. Recycling is important to us both ecologically and economically. A well-designed and operated solution will result in Darien being paid for recycling waste vs. paying to haul away waste. Van Dyk Recycling Solutions designed the facility in Stamford that City Carting uses to process Darien's single-stream recycling. The firm is a world leader in designing and supporting MRF (Material Recovery Facilities) with more than 200 sites. Besides residential recycling, Peter's company provided solutions for composting commercial waste, waste-to-energy and more. In his talk, Pieter will discuss the changing global market for recyclables, specifically China. He will address the engineering challenges of handling the variety of materials in a recycling program and converting them into usable product. Finally, he will discuss issues specific to Darien and surrounding towns, including the need to educate the public to be active and responsible participants in the process.

*Arranged by Alec Wiggin and Cliff van Voorhees*

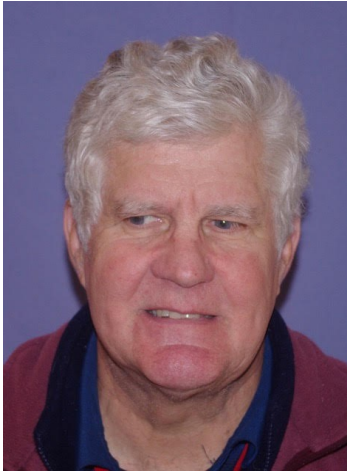
## Wednesday, April 29, 2020



**Harris Hester** will provide an assessment of climate change and the global order. Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to attempt to come up with a plan, the United States remains on the sidelines. Does that matter? What is the rest of the world doing or saying they will do to combat climate change? What impact will the effects and perceptions of climate change have on global geopolitics?

# New Members

**DMA continues to grow at a very healthy rate, with seven new members in the first two months of 2020.**



**Christopher Phillips** was born in 1954 in Philadelphia, Penn., and grew up in Syosset, N.Y. He graduated from Westford Academy in Westford, Mass., and in 1976 received a BSCE in civil engineering, structural analysis from Tufts University. While there, he was active in lacrosse, football and rugby. In 1978, he received an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Michigan, where he was active in lacrosse. His business career began with Baker Companies as vice president of Development and Construction in Pleasantville, N.Y. This involved multi-family development and construction. Since 1989, Chris has been president of Artisans Home Builders, Inc., in Rowayton, doing development and construction of custom-built homes. Chris and his wife Donna

live in Darien and have two children and five grandchildren. He is a member and current president of Silvermine Golf Club, member of Mountain Lake Golf Club, Lake Wales, Fla., and former member of the Tokeneke Club. His hobbies include golf, tennis and painting.

*Sponsored by Ed Sweeney*



**Paul Steinborn** was born in New York, N.Y. in 1955 and grew up in the Bronx and in Larchmont, N.Y. He graduated from Salesian High School in New Rochelle. He graduated from Marist College in 1977 with a B.A. in economics/finance and Pace University in 1983 with an M.B.A. He was granted certification as a CFA in 1988 and an AEMT in 2014. Paul started his career at Salomon Brothers as an analyst and then became a currency trader/salesperson heading various FX desks. He transitioned into investment banking specializing in developing banking related funds management. Currently, he says he is “trading my own book.” Paul and his wife Regina live in Darien and have three children, all living in the Darien

area. Paul is an active sailboat racer and cruiser and is a member of Noroton Yacht Club, and Christman’s Golf Club in Windham, N.Y. Paul’s hobbies include sailboat racing, golf, snow shoeing and skiing.

*Sponsored by Ed Sweeney*



**Frederick (Chip) Weismiller** was born in Rochester, N.Y., in 1953. He grew up in Rochester and graduated from Allendale High School in 1971. He received a B.A. degree in Business Management from Babson College in Wellesley, Mass., in 1974. After graduation, Chip embarked on a long series of accomplishments creating business ventures and selling them when they were in operating condition. He was CEO of a business specializing in sales and distribution of bulk industrial food and beverage alcohol to global markets. The latest business sold was Ultra Pure USA in Darien. His current venture is called Old Estate Rums, LLC. While technically retired, he continues to run entrepreneurship programs and to launch businesses at multiple community colleges under

a program called “Everyday Entrepreneurs”. Chip lives in Rowayton with his wife Stuart, and they have four children and five grandchildren. In his leisure time, he enjoys photography, bicycling, and student mentoring.

*Sponsored by Patrick Steele*



**Richard Kelsey** was born in 1941 in Joliet, Ill., and grew up in Joliet and then Osage, Iowa where he graduated from Osage Community High School. Dick was awarded a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Marquette University in 1964 and an M.B.A. from the University of Denver in 1973. Upon graduating from Marquette, Dick joined the Peace Corps and worked in Ecuador as a construction engineer for three years. Returning stateside, he joined Allis-Chalmers in Milwaukee, Wis. as an Industrial equipment application engineer. He then joined American Appraisal Co. as a machinery appraiser. With the exception of a three-year stint with Bank of America, he remained with American Appraisal until 2008 as the New York office area manager, executive officer and stockholder. From 2010

until the present he has been president of Paragon Business Valuation Services. Dick has lived in Darien with his wife Beverly Fisk since 1987 and they have one son. He has been a SCORE mentor since 2009, and belongs to the Darien Chamber of Commerce (Board Chairman 2012), He enjoys playing golf.

*Sponsored by Gary Banks*



**Michael Harte** was born and grew up in County Leitrim, Ireland, and emigrated to the United States in 1963. He lived in the Bronx while attending Roosevelt High School and Lehman College. He served in the New York National Guard from 1964 through 1970 while also working for Consolidated Edison. His Con Ed career continued until 2012 in construction management on various power projects within the service area. Michael and his wife Eileen moved to Darien in 1979. They have two sons and five grandchildren. He belongs to the Irish American Club in Fairfield. In his leisure time he enjoys travel, reading history, beekeeping, and handiwork. He is a volunteer at the wood shop at the Darien Senior Center and with the Boy Scouts.

*Sponsored by Thomas Williams*



**Albert Briganti** was born in 1946 in Port Chester, N.Y. and grew up in the Westchester County area. He graduated in 1964 from Stepinac High School in White Plains. In 1968, he received a B.A. in philosophy from Saint Joseph's Seminary and, in 1971, a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where he also served as an adjunct professor. Al spent the next 40 years at CBS News where he covered events in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, as well as the near reactor melt-down at Three Mile Island and several presidential campaigns. He was part of the team that created the long-running program *48 Hours*, where he was executive editor. Al retired in 2016. He remains active as a documentary film-maker.

Al and his wife Karen live in Darien. They have twin sons and one grandchild. He belongs to the Tokeneke Club and Saint Luke's Episcopal Church and frequently travels to Cuba for work the church does there. In his free time, he likes to engage in gardening, tennis, learning Spanish, and doing the daily *New York Times* crossword puzzle.

*Sponsored by John Bassler*





**Charles Hurty** was born in 1943 in Wichita, Kan., and attended Southeast High School. In 1965 he graduated from with a B.A. degree from Kansas University with highest distinction. He belonged to SAE fraternity and participated in intramural sports. After graduation he worked a year at Eastman Kodak in Rochester, N.Y., before answering the call from Uncle Sam and joining the army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in artillery. After serving in Korea, he was discharged in 1968 and joined KPMG in its Dallas office. He transferred to New York City in 1979. In 1985 he established an office in West Palm Beach and was made a partner in the KPMG's audit practice in South Florida. He was transferred back to New York City in 1993 and

retired in 2001. Since that time, he has served on the board of directors of four different mutual fund companies and hedge funds and assisted in the establishment and operation of a doggie daycare business, Bandilane Canine Center, in Stamford. Charles and his wife Jeanne live in Darien and have four sons and eight grandchildren. He belongs to the Darien Boat Club, Oronoque Country Club, Wee Burn Country Club, Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, the Greenwich Kennel Club and the PBGV Club of America. For hobbies, Charles enjoys golf, fishing (catching) with grandkids, guitar and piano, and for 20 years he has been showing dogs.

*Sponsored by Bryan Hooper*

# Activities

## Pickleball



**Jan Selkowitz** reports that Pickleball continues to attract a large, fun group of men and women from the area, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday at the Mather gym. To

alleviate overcrowding at any one time the Pickleball Committee decided to divide the group into an “advanced” group and an “intermediate” group. The committee is constantly tweaking and monitoring play for the betterment of the majority. The advanced group plays from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the intermediate group from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Beginners can then play at 12 noon. It is also suggested that beginners contact Darien Parks and Recreation, which has a schedule of clinics for beginners.

## Bowling



**Tom Lom** reports that the Bowling Group continues to meet every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield for good fun and, for most, good scores. In January and February, a couple of milestones were recorded for the DMA bowlers. Tom has been on fire with four 600 series in a row. This included a 691 during which he had a game of 267. But the true milestone was achieved by **George Gilliam**. This is

George's fifth year of DMA bowling. His first year he averaged 125. Since then, he has steadily improved to averaging 130, 135, 140. A 140 average means a 420 series. Recently, George bowled his first ever 500 series, a 520. By doing so, he improved his season average to 148 and his average for the most recent 21 games to 152. That is an inspiration to his fellow DMA bowlers. Bravo George!

## Investment Discussion Group



**Jim Phillips** reports that the Investment Discussion Group features presentations on stocks of potential interest and that

participants engage in a lively discussion on the outlook for both markets and individual investment opportunities. In January, **Dennis Liebowitz** presented an analysis of Disney (DIS) vs. Viacom/CBS (VIAC). Near term, VIAC has better upside; longer term DIS is a solid holding. In February, the group wrestled with the fact that, "It's Hard to Find a Bargain these Days." **Tom Reifenheiser** circulated a J.P. Morgan analysis of the market. **John Hess** discussed the macro outlook, and **Art Baron** presented Keysight Technologies (KEYS), an interesting play on 5G deployment, and Enphase Energy (ENPH), an ESG play. As this newsletter goes to press, at the March 2 meeting Jim plans to update the group on Hannon Armstrong (HASI) performance since it was discussed in October. Along with ENPH, it has benefited from institutional focus on ESG investing, but the question is whether such a focus is here to stay. The group meets at 9 a.m. the first Monday of every month at 30 Old King's Highway South, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

## Bridge



**Tony Kwedar** reports that the Bridge Group meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Taylor Room at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1864 Post Road (corner of Ring's End Road). Players usually arrive by 12:45 p.m., when partners are selected by the draw of the cards. All levels of play are accommodated, and there is adequate room and parking for

up to 20 players.

## Super Bowl Winners



*Pictured on the couch: Patrick Steele, John Parker, and Bob Howe. They are flanked by the Super Bowl pool organizers David Mace (left) and Joe Spain.*

*Photo by Michael Poler*

**Joe Spain** announced the winners of the Super Bowl pool. **Patrick Steele** was the winner of the first quarter score prize, \$25. **Bob Howe** was the winner of the halftime score prize, \$50, as well as the winner of the third quarter score prize, \$25. And John Parker was the winner of the final score prize of \$100.

## Hockey Night



*Pictured: (Front row) Rick Degraw and Winifred Lom. (Second row) Chris and Anne Snyder, Tom Dunn and his son, Tom. (Third row, left to right) Pete Scull and Nancy Dauk, Gehr and Joanne Brown, and Lynne Pratt.*

**Tom Lom** reports that there was a good turnout at DMA's annual hockey outing in February. Prior to the game, the group had a family style dinner at Ralph-n-Rich's near the Webster Bank Arena.

## Current Affairs



**Charlie Goodyear** reports that the January current affairs topic was cyber-security, led by **Harris Hester**. Technology has changed the geopolitical outlook of nations. The United States was the first to use cyber espionage. In 2010, Stuxnet malware, jointly developed by the United States and Israel, was used to infect and destroy the Iranian centrifuges at

Natanz. But this ushered in the use of such malware by other nations. The discussion focused on potential threats from other nations and non-state actors, as well as the role of cyber security in economics and world trade. In February, **Cliff van Voorhees** and **Carolyn Bayne** gave a presentation entitled “Talkin’ Trash.” The focus was on the Town of Darien’s innovative waste recycling facilities and initiatives in addition to issues such as trash to energy, the challenges that relate to plastic waste and the economics of recycling. Both Carolyn and Cliff have been personally involved in developing and promoting the Darien waste program. Prior to each discussion, there is a wealth of background information on the DMA website under Current Affairs. On March 19, **Bob Baker** will lead a discussion entitled “Business Roundtable: Redefining the Purpose of a Corporation.” Formerly, this was defined as “maximize shareholder value.” The new definition is “act to benefit all shareholders.” The group meets at 8:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month on the second floor of the DCA.

## Money Matters



**Doug Campbell** reports that in February, **Bruce Lynn** led a discussion and provided data on the Private Equity (PE) industry. According to a recent *Financial Times* article (May 2019), the number of companies owned by private equity firms (approximately 8,000) exceeds the number of publicly owned companies by about 2:1. Even more remarkable is that this growth has occurred in a relatively short period of time: the last 20 years. This trend has not gone unnoticed by pension funds or other “accredited investors” that have been increasing their investments in well-known (KKR, Blackstone, Carlyle Group)

and less well-known firms among the 4,000 in the industry. According to a recent E&Y report, investors have placed approximately 10% of their assets in the PE “asset class,” which manages about \$6 trillion of assets. By comparison, public companies are valued at \$30 trillion. The discussion was well-attended with many participating in this very interesting topic. On March 18, the Money Matters topic will be “The Risks and Opportunities of Climate Change to Investors.” On April 15, the group will discuss an entrepreneur venture fund designed to nurture entrepreneurs at community colleges.

## Book Club

**Harris Hester** reports that the Book Club had an excellent turnout for discussions in January and February. The January selection was

*Thank You for Being Late* by Thomas Friedman. Citing 2007 as the year we reached a technological inflection point, Friedman details increasingly fast-paced globalization and shock to our planet's system such as climate change and biodiversity loss. In February, the group discussed *The Overstory*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Richard Powers. This is a collection of narratives about ecology and those who came to be committed to saving old growth sequoias from logging on the Pacific Coast. On March 11, the group will discuss *Midnight in Chernobyl* by Adam Higginbotham, an in-depth investigative report on what happened with the nuclear power plant meltdown and the way the disaster was handled by the Soviet government. On April 8, the book is *The Sudden Sea*, a chronicle of the hurricane of 1938 by R. A. Scotti. On May 13, the group will discuss *The Russian Job* by Douglas Smith about the U.S. relief effort as the country faced famine in 1921.

The Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Mather Senior Center Library. You do not have to read the book to attend the meeting. More information about the books is on the DMA website. All books are available at the Darien Library.

## Hiking

**Dave McCollum** reports that the spring hiking season will kick off with a long-delayed trip to Greenwich Point on Thursday, March 26. The group will meet in the parking lot at 10:30 a.m. for a two-mile plus circuit of the park and then gather for an optional lunch at Applausi Osteria Toscana restaurant in Old Greenwich. The group plans to hike at least once a month in April, May and June at sites to be announced. Wives, significant others, friends and sometimes dogs are all welcome on our hikes.

## Happy Wanderers

**Joe Spain** reports that after a January-February hiatus, the Happy Wanderers will resume with a March 19 walk in the Flatiron and Chelsea districts of Manhattan.

# Country and Western Music

A "Night at the Opry" performed by *Gunsmoke*. DMA members enjoyed the food and the music.



## Mark Your Calendar – Details on DMA Website

**Mar. 2 – Investment Discussion Group:** Stocks That Could Benefit from ESG Investing

**Mar. 11 – Book Club:** *Midnight in Chernobyl* by Adam Higgenbotham

**Mar. 18 – Money Matters:** Investment Risks and Opportunities from Climate Change

**Mar. 18 – Clothing Drive:** For Hudson Link

**Mar. 19 – Happy Wanderers:** Exploring the Flatiron and Chelsea Districts of Manhattan

**Mar. 19 – Current Affairs:** Business Roundtable: Redefining the Purpose of the Corporation

**Mar. 26 – Hiking:** Greenwich Point

**Apr. 8 – Book Club:** *Sudden Sea: The Great Hurricane of 1938* by R.A. Scotti

**Apr. 15 – Money Matters:** Chip and Stuart Weismiller on Everyday Entrepreneurs Venture Fund

**May 13 – Book Club:** *The Russian Job* by Douglas Smith

**May 25 – Memorial Day Parade** (save the date)

**June 3 – DMA Picnic** (save the date)

Darien Men's Association Newsletter
-------------------------------------

<p><b>Editor and Publisher,</b> <i>Charles Salmans</i>. <b>Copyeditor,</b> Joyce Meurer. <b>New member bios,</b> <i>Taylor Strubinger</i>. <b>New member photos,</b> <i>Michael Poler</i>. <b>Caricature,</b> <i>Tom Glover</i>. <b>Mailing list,</b> <i>Bryan Hooper</i>. <b>E-communications and news coordination,</b> <i>Art Baron</i>. <b>Webmaster,</b> <i>Gary Banks</i>. <b>Photo credits this issue,</b> <i>Gregory Glashan, Michael Poler, Charles Salmans</i></p>
--



## Activity Representatives

**Book Club**, Harris Hester, 655.2309 and Tom Igoe, 655.6170  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., Mather Center Library

**Bowling**, Tom Lom, 655.0686 and Gehr Brown, 655.3713  
Tuesdays, 9 a.m., Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield

**Bridge**, Tony Kwedar, 656.0444  
Tuesdays, 1 p.m., St. Luke's Church, 1864 Post Road at Ring's End Road

**Current Affairs**, Charlie Goodyear, 655.6935  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 8:30 a.m., DCA Lillian Gade Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Golf**, Denny Devere, 353.1758  
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

**Happy Wanderers**, Joe Spain, 655.1264 and David Mace, 655.7555  
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

**Hiking**, Dave McCollum, 853.7080  
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

**Investment Discussion Group**, Jim Phillips, 722.2787  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 9 a.m., 30 Old King's Highway South, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**Money Matters**, Doug Campbell, 975.0320  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. prior to the weekly DMA meeting at DCA in Lillian Gade Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Pickleball**, Jan Selkowitz, 655.0441  
Tuesdays, Thursdays at 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for Advanced players; 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon for Intermediate players. Beginners can then play at 12 noon. Mather Senior Center Gym. Beginners seeking instruction can contact Darien Parks and Recreation which has a schedule of clinics for those learning to play.

**Songsters**, Joe Holmes, 838.8744  
As announced, Wednesdays, 8:45 a.m., DCA

**Woodworking**, Tom Williams, 655.7398  
Mondays, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Mather Senior Center