

DMA

Newsletter

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

Darien Men's Association

May – June 2020

President's Message



Since mid-March life as we knew it has been upended by the pandemic. Most of us are sequestered at home, venturing out only for essential tasks. The DMA has adjusted rapidly to this changed environment and our meetings are now held online on the Zoom platform. It's amazing how quickly our members have become comfortable with this virtual format.

We are seeing record attendance at our Book Club, Current Affairs, Investment Discussion Group, and Money Matters. The weekly all-member meetings on Wednesday are drawing over 100 attendees and we continue to book high quality speakers. Unfortunately, several of our other activities that don't lend themselves to social distancing have had to be put on hold for the time being.

While I am hopeful that things will get back to normal at some point, as I write

this message it's hard to predict when that might be. My term as President ends with the last meeting in May and I am delighted that Gary Banks has been elected as the incoming President. There is no person better qualified than Gary to lead the DMA through this unpredictable period. He has many new ideas and I have no doubt that under his leadership the DMA will evolve and emerge a stronger and more vibrant organization.

I have enjoyed my tenure as President and I hope members had fun during my term. I certainly did. For this I want to thank a very supportive Board and the talented Committee Chairmen and Activity Leaders who worked hard to make things happen.

Sunil Saksena
President

2020-2021 OFFICER AND BOARD OFFICERS

- **President** Gary Banks
- **First Vice President** Bryan Hooper
- **Second Vice President** Charles Salmans
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- **Asst. Secretary** Bob McGroarty
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1st Term Kevin Davidson

2nd Term Steve True

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1st Term Sunil Saksena

2nd Term John Wolcott

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- **Social Events** Eloy Nava
- **Member/Hosp** Harry Bergen
- **Community Service** Mike Heitz
- **Communications** Charles Salmans

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER Tom Igoe (to work with Charles Salmans, who has multiple board roles).

Fiscal 2021 nominating committee: Harry Bergen, Harris Hester, Bob Hughes, Tom Lom and John Wolcott, Chairman

Speakers

As we adjusted from physical meetings to Zoom meetings, it was necessary to amend our speaker schedule. Peter Igoe, DMA member Tom Igoe's brother, gave a very interesting presentation described below:

Wednesday, April 28, 2020



Peter Igoe led a discussion on US nuclear submarine operations in the 1960s. This period was a tense time when our country and Russia were engaged as fierce competitors below the surface of the Atlantic.

Peter, who served as a Naval officer on two nuclear boats in that era, described operation of the main elements of the submarine's nuclear propulsion system (including design and management of the reactor on board), the central role of Admiral Hyman Rickover in the development and oversight of strict nuclear safety standards for the US sub fleet, the

command structure on board ship, the rules of engagement for a nuclear missile launch, and key advances in nuclear submarine technology that have taken place since the decade of the 1960s.

Peter's PowerPoint presentation can be accessed on the DMA website at:

<https://dariendma.org/wp-content/uploads/Submarine-Igoe.pdf>

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

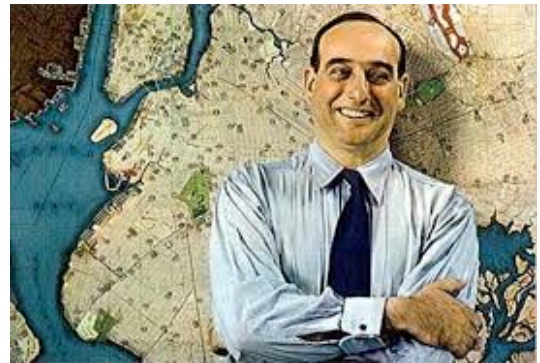


DMA member **Marc Nunan** spoke about "Robert Moses – Master Builder and Political Master of New York". Moses built an empire and lived like an emperor. He was held in fear – his dossiers could disgorge the dark secrets of anyone who opposed him. He was, he claimed, above politics, above deals; and through decade after decade, the newspapers and the public believed in him.

Meanwhile, Moses was developing his public authorities into a fourth branch of government known as "Triborough" – a government whose records were closed to the public, whose policies and plans were decided not by voters or elected officials but solely by Moses – an immense economic force directing pressure on labor unions, on banks, on all the city's political and economic institutions, on the press, and on the Church. He doled out millions of dollars' worth of legal fees, insurance commissions,

and lucrative contracts on the basis of who could best pay him back in the only coin he coveted: power. He dominated the politics and politicians of his time – without ever having been elected to any office. He was, in essence, above our democratic system.

Robert Moses held power in New York State for 44 years, through the governorships of Smith, Roosevelt, Lehman, Dewey, Harriman, and Rockefeller, and in New York City for 34 years, through the mayoralties of La Guardia, O'Dwyer, Impellitteri, Wagner, and Lindsay. He personally conceived and carried through public works costing \$27 billion. He was undoubtedly America's greatest builder.



Robert Moses at Height of Power

Wednesday, May 13, 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, May 27, 2020



Dr. C. Griffith Mann is The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s curator in charge of the Department of Medieval Art and the Met Cloisters. His talk will be, “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. Dr. Mann is responsible for the medieval collections and curatorial staff in the Met's main building, and for staff and operations of the Met Cloisters. He received his B.A. in art history and history from Williams College, and his Ph.D. in medieval art from The Johns Hopkins University. A specialist in the arts of late medieval Italy, he has published on civic patronage, painting, and devotion in Tuscany. As a curator, Dr. Mann has worked on exhibitions on the medieval cult of relics, the art and archaeology of medieval Novgorod, and French manuscript illumination of the 13th century.

Arranged by Gary Banks

New Members



William Cavers was born in Evanston, Ill., in February 1960 and grew up in Wellesley, Mass. Instead of graduating high school in 1978, Bill got a high school equivalency degree in 1980 and then, to speed things up, he graduated from John Hopkins University in 1984 with a BA in Political Science (summa cum laude). He went on to get an MA in Law and Diplomacy (honors) from The Fletcher School at Tufts/Harvard Universities and finally an MBA from the University of Michigan (high honors). Bill's business consisted in financing and investing in large scale power plants (primarily in the field of solar generation). He started with GE Capital, followed by TD

Bank, and then the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bill is currently working for a non-profit and has recently become a Senior Fellow at the Conservation Law Foundation (a Boston-based advocacy group addressing environmental issues for this region). He was appointed to the Darien Coastal Commission where he introduced and leads a coastal water quality sampling program for the town's harbors. Bill has initiated planning for Noroton's rivers and has recently led the town's input for the Long Island Sound Blue Plan. He has taught Marine Navigation with Darien Sail and Power Squadron.

Bill and his wife Laura live in Darien and have two children. Both Bill and Laura enjoy travel, reading and sailing vacations up and down the New England coast. Bill's other passion is sea kayaking after recently earning a coastal rating with British Canoeing.

Sponsored by Gary Banks



Nicholas A. Cioffi was born in 1939 and grew up in Norwalk. He graduated from Norwalk High School in 1957 where he is listed on the school's Wall of Fame. He graduated from St. Michael's College in 1959 with a BA in Political Science and from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1964. Nick joined the Norwalk law firm of Tierney and Zullo and became partner in 1966 when the firm changed its name to Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Cioffi. In 1975 Nick was appointed to the State Judiciary (youngest ever, at 36). He was Administrative Judge of the Stamford/Norwalk Judicial District and voted Trial Judge of the year in 1987 by Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

In the ensuing years, Nick took on a number of significant public service assignments, including Chief Administrative Judge of the Civil Division of State Courts, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Chairman of Connecticut's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and Police Commissioner in Norwalk. He was Chairman of two Norwalk Charter Revision Committees.

Nick and his wife Arline live in Norwalk and have two daughters and five grandchildren. He is a board member of a private corporation, CONAIR.

Sponsored by Sunil Saksena



Lincoln Schoff was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1950 and grew up in Philadelphia. He graduated from Germantown Academy in Philadelphia in 1968, and from Amherst College in 1972 with a B.A. in political science. At Amherst, he played football and was an active member of the Delta Upsilon fraternity. In 1977, Linc graduated from Wharton with an MBA and started a corporate banking career in Boston with The First National Bank of Boston, where he worked for ten years before being transferred to Stamford and buying his current home in Darien in 1987. Linc continued his banking career through the industry's various mergers, concluding a 13-year stint with Bank of America upon his retirement in April 2020.

Linc and his wife of 41 years, Meredith, have three children who went through the Darien school system from start to finish. All live and work in the metro New York area, and three grandchildren live in Rowayton. Linc is a past member of the Middlesex Club and the Silvermine Golf Club and a past elder of Noroton Presbyterian Church. He enjoys golf, tennis, bicycling, travel and spending time with his family.

Sponsored by Ed Sweeney

Activities

Book Discussion Group



Harris Hester reports that the Book Club had virtual meetings in March and April with over 25 participants in each, a turnout that matched our face-to-face meetings. March's selection was *Midnight in Chernobyl* by Adam Higginbotham an investigative report that reads like fiction about the worst nuclear meltdown in history. April's book was *The Sudden Sea* about the 1938 hurricane that almost destroyed Rhode Island and severely damaged our entire area. Bill Close shared pictures and stories of him and his family, taken the day after.

The Russian Job by Douglas Smith is May's selection that we will discuss on May 13. It tells the story of the American relief effort organized by Herbert Hoover to feed millions of Russians suffering because of the drought conditions of 1920 and 1921.

The following book is *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larsen covering a critical year in the life of Winston Churchill and the British at the beginning of WW II. The discussion date is to be determined and will be communicated on the DMA website and through e-mail.

Money Matters



Doug Campbell reports that there were three Money Matters discussions in April. On April 14, Chip and Stuart Weismiller talked about their Everyday Entrepreneur Venture Fund which funds startups at four community colleges in the US. They are hoping to raise \$50 million to scale the program to other areas. On April 21, the topic was "Residential and Commercial Real Estate Now and in the Future in Southwest Connecticut" with DMA member Gunnar Edelstein of Berkshire Hathaway Residential discussing that market and John Hannigan, Co-

Founder of Choyce Peterson, discussing the commercial real estate market. On April 28, Hugh Seaton shared his expertise and experience with AI (Artificial Intelligence) and spoke about the trends in the future.

Current Affairs

Charlie Goodyear reports that the subject of the March Current Affairs discussion was “The Purpose of a Corporation,” led by Bob Baker. The topic was provoked by a decision of the Business Roundtable to revise the statement of purpose of a corporation. The “purpose” was previously defined as “Maximize shareholder value.” As revised, the new purpose became “Act to benefit all stakeholders,” to include customers, employees, suppliers, communities and shareholders. In April, the group discussed “The Boeing Debacle” arising from alleged shortcuts taken by Boeing in its launch of the 737 Max. The discussion was led by Tom Igoe.

Still to be determined is whether Current Affairs will conduct Zoom meetings over the summer. Charlie invites members to suggest topics and volunteer to lead a discussion by sending him an e-mail at gogohiho@gmail.com

Investment Discussion Group



Jim Phillips notes 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. For the most part, recent meetings have covered companies likely to benefit in the post COVID world as well as some income-producing REITs and BDCs.

The IDG will meet every other Monday beginning on June 8 at 10 am via Zoom. Given the rapidly changing markets, members should feel free to

email Jim at JLPinvest66@gmail.com with questions or topics for future meetings.

While Jim and other Investment Discussion participants caution that they do not make stock recommendations, the group discussed a list of companies that might potentially be beneficiaries of the environment post Covid-19 and are worthy of tracking:

E-commerce... AMZN, W, COST, WMT, TGT, CHWY

Cloud Services... MSFT, AMZN, GOOGL

Cloud security ... CSCO, OKTA, ZS

Industrial / fulfillment centers PLD, STAG

Cell and 5G services ... AMT, CCI, SBAC

Data centers for storage ... EQIX, DLR, CONE, COR

Streaming... NFLX, AMZN, ROKU, DIS, CMCSA, CHTR, AKAM, AAPL

Smart devices.... AAPL, DELL

Semiconductors.... AMD, NVDA, LRCX ... (demand driven by smart devices, data centers, cloud and gaming)

Online Sports/Gaming ... TTWO, ATVI, EA
Internet ads / video content ... AMZN, GOOGL, FB, ADBE, TTD, GOOGL, FB
and ADBE
Internet payments ...MA, V, PYPL, SQ
Internet communication... CSCO (WebEx), ZM (Zoom video), DOCU
Internet Services...PAYC, INTU
Telemedicine ...TDOC, MASI
Diagnostics...GDX, LH, ABT (rapid care diagnostics), DHR

Mark Your Calendar – Details on DMA Website

May 11 – Investment Discussion Group: Zoom meeting at 10 a.m.
Evaluating Zoom meetings to be held every two weeks on Mondays at 10 a.m.,
depending upon member interest. Contact Jim Phillips.

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

June 10 – Book Club: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson

Check the website, DarienDMA.org for summer events including Zoom sessions.

If restrictions are lifted later this summer, we may restore some activities such as hiking. Our participation in the Memorial Day parade and our summer picnic seem unlikely this year. But wait ‘til next year!

Darien Men’s Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, <i>Charles Salmans</i> . Copyeditor, Tom Igoe. New member bios, <i>Charles Salmans</i> . New member photos, <i>Michael Poler</i> . Caricature, <i>Tom Glover</i> . Mailing list, <i>Bryan Hooper</i> . E-communications and news coordination, <i>Art Baron</i> . Webmaster, <i>Gary Banks</i> .
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Activity Representatives

(Times indicated are those we will follow when we can again meet physically)

Book Club, Harris Hester, 655.2309 and Tom Igoe, 655.6170
2nd 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
3rd Thursday, 8:30 a.m., DCA Lillian Gade Room, 2nd 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
1st Monday, 9 a.m., 30 Old King's Highway South, 1st Floor

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