



Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 3

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

January-February 2025

President's Message

As 2024 drew to a close, I took some time to reflect on what the DMA is and does. Three year-end activities helped bring this clearly into focus for me, as each reflected our core values of fun, fellowship and community service.

First, our holiday party drew a record crowd, as more than 200 members, spouses and widows of former members attended. Thanks to the hard work of Social Chairman **Doug Bora**, event leader **Chet Cobb** and their committee of DMA volunteers, this complicated event was executed flawlessly. The great food, spirits, music and socializing defined what fun and friendship are all about!

Next, the New Wave Singers, under the leadership of **Dave Claiborne**, **Jim Bragg** and musical director **Jon Hunt**, made their debut performing at three facilities serving the needs of senior citizens. They finished off their holiday "tour" by kicking off our last DMA meeting of the year with a selection of popular and seasonal songs that drew a rousing round of applause. They had fun and enhanced their own friendship while serving the community by bringing the joy of the season to audiences of seniors at Atria Darien, Edgehill in Stamford and the Mather Center In Darien.

Last, but not least, the DMA "rang the bell" for the Darien Human Services Department at Palmer's Market on two consecutive weekends thanks to the leadership of Community Service Chairman **Frank Gallagher** with the support of **John Craft** and more than 30 DMA bell ringers. This fundraiser has become a DMA tradition, and we raised a record \$5,500 — a \$500 increase from last year — thanks to the DMA members who braved the elements to do this. This was community service at its best, and all the participants had fun spending time with other DMA

members while spreading holiday cheer that inspired Palmer's shoppers to contribute generously.

Thanks go to all our activity leaders who continued to make the DMA a vibrant, engaging organization with lots to do and good friends to do it with. As we head into the cold winter months, several activities are on hiatus, and others have moved indoors, but the list of weekly, monthly and special events will be more than enough to keep us all active. Further, our Associate Membership program with the DCA makes additional events available to us.

Special thanks and acknowledgment go to **Ric Grefé**, who has delivered an outstanding group of speakers to entertain, educate and inspire us. His roster of speakers for the balance of the year ensures that our Wednesday meetings will continue to be a highlight of our week.

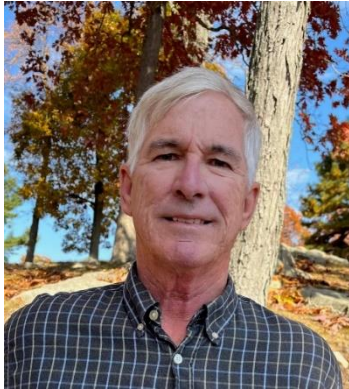
The *2025 DMA Directory*, which is about to be distributed, lists 336 members, up from last year's 324, as we continue to grow, have fun, share fellowship and give back to the community. 2024 was clearly a great year for the DMA, and I anticipate that 2025 will be an even better one.

Frank DeLeo
2024-2025 DMA President

New Members

Charles (Chuck) Andreae

Chuck Andreae was born in New York City in 1956 and grew up in Tenafly, N.J. He received a B.A. in economics from the University of Colorado Boulder. He married his wife Anne in 1982, and after living in Milwaukee, they moved back to the N.Y. area and have resided in Darien since 1993. Chuck has two sons: Mark, a doctor at Bridgeport Hospital, resides with his wife and children in Darien; and his younger son is a software engineer residing with his wife in Queens.



Chuck has been in the wine and spirits business for 46 years, specializing in imports. He is currently self-employed at W&S Craft Connections, a wine and spirits importer that he started in 2020. Before that he served for 17 years as national sales manager for Pasternak Wine Imports, U.S. importer for Les Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite), and as general manager of Nestor Imports (Greek wines specialist), managing relationships with large national accounts.

Chuck is active at Saint Luke's Parish, the YMCA, the Darien Boat Club and Noroton Yacht Club.

Ray Duggins



Ray Duggins was born in Wilmington, Del., where he attended Tatnall School. He graduated from Duke University and attended the University of St Andrews in Scotland and Columbia University. Ray started his career at American Express, holding numerous positions around the world including the United Kingdom, Bahrain, South Africa and Japan. He then served as chief risk officer for GE's consumer lending business in Stamford; as chief risk officer for Standard Chartered Bank's consumer bank in Singapore; and as chief risk officer for Octane Lending in N.Y. Since retiring, he continues to serve as an advisor to Octane Lending; co-founded Mula Financial, a fintech lending startup in Bangkok; invests in fintech startups; and serves on the board of directors of the Darien YMCA. He and his wife Ellen have three children and six grandchildren. Ray is an avid bicyclist, having finished second in the Masters category in the Singapore National Time Trials in 2013.

James (Jim) Gleason



Jim Gleason has lived in Darien for 32 years, where he and his wife Sarah raised four sons. Jim started his career in financial risk management and became a sixth grade science teacher in Stamford after 9/11. He retired in 2017 and enjoys sailing, kiteboarding, woodworking, gardening and traveling. He is an aspiring wing foiler, scuba diver, writer and inventor.

Keith Mackie



Keith Mackie was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. He and his wife Elizabeth have lived in Darien since 1997 and have two sons. Keith started his career with Clydesdale Bank in Glasgow and worked for Barclays Bank from 1979 until he retired in 2022. His interests include motor sport, golf, skiing and general fitness.

Joseph (Joe) Sarbinowski



Joe Sarbinowski and his wife Amy have been residents of Darien since 2002, raising their two sons, George (23) and Will (21). Joe was active in coaching his sons' soccer and baseball teams during their younger years. Now he spends his spare time enjoying tennis, golf, cycling, skiing and his latest passion, boating. Both he and Amy share a love for adventure travel.

Joe recently retired after a 38-year career in business. He spent the first 30 years in the banking industry, primarily at Deutsche Bank, and the last eight years as the COO and partner at a fintech, R&T Deposit Solutions. Joe holds a B.S. in business management and applied economics from Cornell's Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

Richard Shear



For the last 44 years **Richard Shear** and his wife Pam have lived and raised their family in Darien.

Richard is a graphic designer whose 50-year career has been influenced by a fascination with visual history, driven by a curiosity for the culture of retail brands and guided by rich experience in brand identity and package design.

As a founding partner and chief creative officer of Invök Brands, his expertise lies in helping clients uncover the visual heritage of their most iconic brands and using this design equity to help them build and position brands in ways that inform, connect and motivate. He has had the privilege of working with a wide range of global consumer packaged goods clients in the beauty, beverage, food, personal care, household product and retail private brand categories.

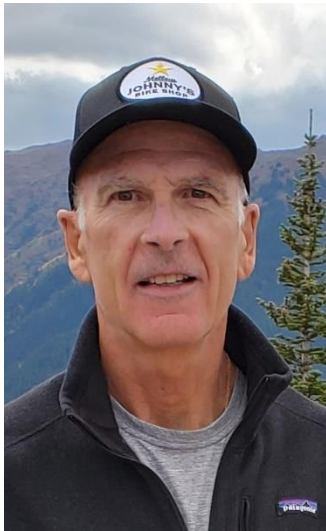
A founding faculty member of the Masters in Branding program at the School of Visual Arts in New York, his course, focusing on the history of retail brands, builds an awareness of the rich legacy and growth of the global consumer culture and its intrinsic connection to the evolution of visual history.

As an adjunct to his research, he will be publishing *A History of Brands: Origins of Consumer Markets*, scheduled for release by Rockport Publishers in July 2025. He is also a contributing editor of *The Brand Bible*, *The Complete Guide to Building, Designing, and Sustaining Brands*.

Richard has been a frequent speaker at conferences, including those sponsored by HOW Design Live/Dieline and the Design Management Institute, consistently contributing to thought leadership on critical issues facing the retail brand design community. He has been a guest lecturer at colleges, including Columbia Business School, Trinity College and the Fashion Institute of Technology, as well as president emeritus of both the American Institute of Graphic Design's Branding Chapter and the Package Design Council.

Richard has a B.F.A. from Temple University's Tyler School of Art and Architecture and attended Yale School of Management's AIGA program for senior design leadership.

Peter Smith



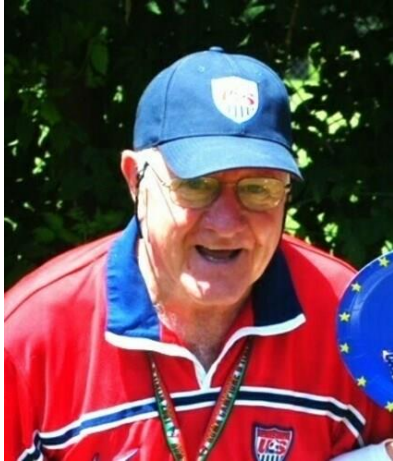
Peter Smith graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1978 and Rutgers Law School in 1981. He has been a partner at Connell Foley LLP for more than 35 years. He assists clients with the litigation and arbitration of construction disputes in New Jersey and New York. His deep understanding of complex construction issues and applicable legislation has been honed by his experience providing counsel in regard to a broad range of public and private construction projects.

He has served on a variety of construction industry arbitration panels, deciding claims involving major commercial, public and quasi-public construction projects and surety matters. He has been Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as civil trial attorney.

Peter moved to Darien in August 2024 from Mendham, N.J., where he raised his family. His wife passed in 2020. His two married daughters and grandchildren live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He enjoys live music, theater, cycling, hiking and travel.

In Memoriam

Richard (Dick) Packer



Richard "Dick" Rice Packer of Rowayton, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2024, at age 90.

Born August 22, 1934, in Philadelphia, Richard was the son of the late Jesse E. and Mary Rice Packer. He grew up in Newtown, Pa., where he developed a love for sports, excelling in soccer, basketball and baseball during his time at The George School. Richard went on to attend Penn State University on a full athletic scholarship, where he played both baseball and soccer. A standout athlete, he was a two-time First Team All-American soccer player and helped lead Penn State to back-to-back national soccer championships in 1954 and 1955. In 1956,

Richard's talent earned him a spot on the U.S. Olympic Soccer Team for the Summer Games in Melbourne, Australia.

After graduating from Penn State, Richard was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and served for three years in Germany. Upon completing his military service, he began a successful career in hotel marketing with Robert F. Warner, Inc. Over the next 50 years, he worked with major Fortune 500 companies, including Hewlett-Packard, Pitney Bowes, Blue Cross, Bell and Howell, Oxford Health, Nationwide Papers and United Healthcare, providing incentive travel and event planning services for clients worldwide.

One of Richard's greatest passions was soccer, particularly the Packer Soccer Camp, a summer camp he co-founded in 1978 with dear friend Peter Gogolak. The camp, which serves children ages three to 14, remains a cherished part of the Rowayton community to this day, continuing under the leadership of Mike Surace and Lisa Anderson. Richard spent countless hours at the camp, supervising and cheering on the campers, right up through last summer.

Richard is survived by his two loving sons: Jeffrey Packer of Lyme, Conn., and wife Margo; and James and his wife Rainy. He was incredibly proud of his beloved grandchildren Whitney, Jeffrey, Jr., Jessie and Kylie, who brought him immeasurable joy and were a constant source of pride. Richard is also survived by his cherished sister, Maryanne Stuart. Richard was predeceased by his first wife, Joan, with whom he shared many years of mutual respect and a lasting friendship.

Richard also leaves behind his loving partner of more than 40 years, Joan Brusven, who was not only his devoted companion but also a partner in both life and business. Their shared journey brought him great happiness. Together, they built a life filled with love, adventure and mutual

support. Through Joan, Richard also embraced her family as his own. He considered Eric Brusven of Santa Cruz, Calif., and Jeffrey Brusven and his wife Cathleen of Laguna Beach, Calif., along with their children Violet and Oscar Brusven, as part of his family. Eric and Jeffrey were like sons to Richard, and the deep bond they shared was a testament to the love and care he gave them as an important part of his extended family.

He was known for his warmth, generosity and dedication to family, friends and community. Richard's legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched through his family, his career and his love of sport.

DMA Speakers Program

January-February 2025

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Ernest Wiegand, “Prehistoric Connecticut”



Archaeological investigations throughout the northeastern United States have shown that the region has been occupied by Native Americans since the end of the Ice Age. In Fairfield County, archaeological digs have yielded evidence of this long tenure by these first occupants. Much of this evidence has been found by both professional and avocational archaeologists working in the area. This presentation will discuss the current state of our knowledge about the region’s first peoples and their cultural and technological adaptations to the changing natural environment of the Northeast. Artifacts from local sites investigated by students from the Norwalk Community College Archaeology Certificate

Program will also be available for inspection. Attendees are encouraged to bring any Native American artifacts they have found in the area for identification.

Ernest Wiegand has been a professor of archaeology at Norwalk Community College since 1975, when the archaeology certificate program was designed to make archaeology accessible for the avocational archaeologist. He received a master’s degree in anthropology from Hunter College, has also been active with the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and has performed many compliance-driven archaeological and historical studies in Fairfield County and Westchester County.

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Daniel Franklin, “The World in 2025”



The Economist has been published since September 1843 to take part “in a severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress.” The newspaper is considered to be neither right nor left, but a blend of the two, drawing on the classical liberalism of the 19th century and coming from what the publication refers to as the “radical centre.” One of its features is its annual forecast of issues and events that are likely to influence our experience of the new year-- this year, “The World in 2025.”

Daniel Franklin has served as executive editor of *The Economist* since 2006 and is currently also serving as its U.S. editor. From 2003 to 2019 he was editor of *The Economist’s* annual publication on the year ahead (at the time called “The World in ...”). In 2017, Daniel published *Megatech: Technology in 2050*, and his book on long-term trends, *Megachange: The World in 2050*, was published in 2012.

He joined *The Economist* in 1983 to write about Soviet and East European affairs. As the newspaper’s Europe editor from 1986 to 1992, he covered the great European upheavals, from the collapse of communism to the signing of the Maastricht Treaty. After a stint as Britain editor, Daniel moved to the United States as Washington bureau chief, covering the first Clinton term. In 1997, he moved back to London as editorial director of *The Economist’s* intelligence unit. From 2006 to 2010, he was editor-in-chief of Economist.com. For the following four years, he was business affairs editor, running the paper’s coverage of business, finance, science and technology. Before the pandemic, Daniel was diplomatic editor, shuttling between Washington, D.C., and London.

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

William Tong, “Judicial Federalism and Legal Issues Facing Connecticut”



By relegating an increasing number of responsibilities and authorities to the states — the core tenet of federalism — Congress and the Supreme Court raise questions about states’ capacity to meet these expectations and whether state constitutions provide sufficient guidance within states for direction of state governments’ permitted roles and obligations toward citizens’ rights. Our state attorney general will share his perspective on how states can work together on tasks once considered federal and on how human rights in Connecticut can be protected.

William Tong is the 25th attorney general to serve Connecticut since the position was established in 1897. He took office on January 9, 2019, as the first Asian-American elected at the statewide level in Connecticut.

Before his election as attorney general, William served for 12 years in Connecticut’s General Assembly representing the 147th District, which includes North Stamford and Darien. Most recently, William served as house chairman of the Joint Committee on Judiciary. In this position he was responsible for all legislation related to constitutional law, criminal law, civil rights, consumer protection, probate, judicial nominations and the judicial branch, and major areas of substantive law.

During his service in the legislature, William helped lead passage of landmark legislation, including the Connecticut Second Chance Act, Domestic Violence Restraining Order Act, Lost and Stolen Firearms Act, the Act Protecting Homeowner Rights and the Act Protecting Schoolchildren.

A Connecticut native, William grew up in the Hartford area and attended schools in West Hartford. He graduated from Phillips Academy (Andover), Brown University and the University of Chicago Law School. Before his election as attorney general, he practiced law for 18 years as a litigator in both state and federal courts, first at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in New York City and then for 15 years at Finn Dixon & Herling LLP in Stamford.

William is the oldest of five children and grew up working side by side with his immigrant parents in their family’s Chinese restaurant. He and his wife Elizabeth live in Stamford with their three children and too many pets. Elizabeth is vice president of tax for North America at Diageo Corporation.

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Ron Darling, “Baseball!”



Ron Darling serves as a game analyst for SportsNet New York (SNY) covering the New York Mets. He is also the lead game analyst for Turner Sports’ (TBS) MLB regular and post-season telecast coverage and a year-round studio analyst for MLB Network.

Ron joined SNY in 2006 and works alongside former teammate Keith Hernandez and play-by-play announcer Gary Cohen. In addition to his game analyst work, Ron contributes to SNY’s Mets pre- and post-game shows and to the SNY website. Ron won an Emmy Award for best Sports Analyst in his first season with SNY and again in 2011.

Since 2013, Ron has served as an offseason studio analyst, where he regularly appears on the Emmy Award-winning flagship show “MLB Tonight” and the daily offseason morning show “Hot Stove.”

During his playing days on the diamond, Ron spent nine seasons as a starting pitcher for the New York Mets, highlighted by winning the 1986 World Series. During his 13-year career, the Gold Glove winner also played five seasons with the Oakland Athletics after a short stint with the Montreal Expos. He amassed a win-loss record of 136-116 and recorded 1,590 strikeouts with a 3.87 ERA.

Ron was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame this past February.

He founded the Ron Darling Foundation, which raised money for diabetes research, in response to his eldest son Jordan being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 11. He also sits on the board of directors for the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation.

He has authored three books: *The Complete Game: Reflections of Baseball and the Art of Pitching* (2009); *Game 7, 1986: Failure and Triumph in the Biggest Game of My Life* (2016); and *108 Stitches: Loose Threads, Ripping Yarns, and the Darndest Characters from My Time in the Game* (2019).

Ron was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended Yale University from 1979-1981, where he was a two-time All-American, leading the Bulldogs to two Ivy League titles. He and his wife Joanna reside in Connecticut. He has three sons: Jordan, Tyler and Ronald.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mark Nunan, “Slovenia: History and Evolution in the Balkan and European Context”



Mark Nunan, a longtime DMA member and prolific convener and presenter, will provide a focus on Slovenia, its history, and place historically in Europe and in the geopolitics of the 20th century — the nature of the country, its experience in the world wars, its post-war assimilation by Yugoslavia and its eventual emergence as an independent nation.

Slavoj Žižek, philosopher and director of the Birkbeck Institute of the Humanities at London University and the best-known Slovenian public intellectual, has pointed to the many paradoxes characterizing the Balkans, as follows:

“This very alibi confronts us with the first of many paradoxes concerning Balkan: Its geographic delimitation was never precise. It is as if one can never receive a definitive answer to the question, “Where does it begin?” For Serbs, it begins down there in Kosovo or Bosnia, and they defend the Christian civilization against this Europe’s Other. For Croats, it begins with the Orthodox, despotic, Byzantine Serbia, against which Croatia defends the values of democratic Western civilization. For Slovenes, it begins with Croatia, and we Slovenes are the last outpost of the peaceful Mitteleuropa. For Italians and Austrians, it begins with Slovenia, where the reign of the Slavic hordes starts. For Germans, Austria itself, on account of its historic connections, is already tainted by Balkanic corruption and inefficiency. For some arrogant Frenchmen, Germany is associated with the Balkanian Eastern savagery — up to the extreme case of some conservative anti-European-Union Englishmen for whom, in an implicit way, it is ultimately the whole of continental Europe itself that functions as a kind of Balkan Turkish global empire with Brussels as the new Constantinople, the capricious despotic center threatening English freedom and sovereignty. So Balkan is always the Other: It lies somewhere else, always a little bit more to the southeast, with the paradox that, when we reach the very bottom of the Balkan peninsula, we again magically escape Balkan. Greece is no longer Balkan proper but the cradle of our Western civilization.”

That’s a lot to think about! Mark will try to sort it out.

Mark, who currently lives in Slovenia, was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1953. At an early age, he moved to Alabama and graduated from the University of Alabama in 1976. He continued his education at Stanford University, where he was awarded a master’s degree in 1979 and a Ph.D. in 1983. Mark also studied at ENS (the École normale supérieure) and at Paris-Sorbonne University as part of his Ph.D. program.

Mark started his career in 1982 at COS Inc., a private company in Palo Alto, Calif., offering business and economic development services. The firm assists companies and governments by researching, developing and implementing new business expansion opportunities globally. Mark also worked in Paris and then New York City, where he retired as a senior vice president in 2018.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Ambassador John J. Sullivan, “Midnight in Moscow: How U.S.-Russia Relations Hit Their Nadir – and a Playbook for Our Unfolding Confrontations”



John Sullivan, our American ambassador who was on the diplomatic front lines when Putin invaded Ukraine, will share a behind-the-scenes account of how U.S.-Russia relations hit their nadir.

For weeks before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, John J. Sullivan, the U.S. ambassador in Moscow, was warning that it would happen. When troops finally crossed the border, he was awakened in the middle of the night with a prearranged code. The signal was even more bracing than the February cold; it meant that John needed to collect his bodyguards and get to the embassy as soon as possible. The war had begun, and the world would never be the same.

In *Midnight in Moscow*, John leads readers into the offices of the U.S. embassy and the halls of the Kremlin during this climactic period — among the most dangerous since World War II. He shows how the Putin regime repeatedly lied about its intentions to invade Ukraine in the weeks leading up to the attack while also devoting huge numbers of personnel and vast resources to undermining the U.S. diplomatic mission in Russia. He explains how, by giving the order to launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Putin proved that Russia was not just at war with its neighbor: It was also at war, in a very real sense, with the United States and with everything that it represents. But while Putin decided how this conflict started, its ending will be shaped by us.

With his unique perspective on a pivotal moment in world history, John shows how our relationship with Russia has deteriorated, where it’s headed and how far we should be prepared to go in standing up to the menace in Moscow.

John is a partner in Mayer Brown’s Washington, D.C. and New York offices and co-lead of the firm’s National Security practice. He is also a distinguished scholar at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University and a Distinguished Fellow at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University. He serves as a contributor to CBS News, is quoted frequently in international media as a leading authority on foreign affairs, and has written a book on his experiences as ambassador, *Midnight in Moscow*, which was published by Little, Brown and Company in August 2024.

Prior to his post in Moscow, John served for almost three years as the deputy secretary of state after a bipartisan 94-6 confirmation vote in the U.S. Senate in 2017. In this senior role, he was responsible for both the formulation and conduct of U.S. foreign policy and the management of the State Department’s global operations. He was the acting secretary of state in March-April 2018, among the longest tenures in history of anyone in that position.

Previously, John held senior positions in the Departments of Justice, Defense and Commerce in two prior administrations. Until January 2009, he was the deputy secretary of commerce under President George W. Bush, following John's service from 2005 to 2007 as the general counsel of the department. In President Bush's first term, John was appointed deputy general counsel of the Defense Department by Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. In the George H.W. Bush administration, John was counselor to Assistant Attorney General J. Michael Luttig in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

Ambassador Sullivan received his bachelor's degree from Brown University and his law degree from the Columbia University School of Law, where he was Book Reviews Editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. He was a law clerk for Associate Justice David H. Souter of the Supreme Court of the United States and for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Thomas Graham, "From the Ukraine Conflict to a Secure Europe"



Thomas E. Graham is a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. His book, *Getting Russia Right*, was published in September 2023. He is a co-founder of Yale University's Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies program and sits on its faculty Steering Committee. He is also a research fellow at Yale's MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. He has been a lecturer in global affairs and political science since 2011, teaching courses on U.S.-Russian relations and Russian foreign policy, as well as cybersecurity and counterterrorism. Thomas was special assistant to the president and senior director for Russia on the National Security Council staff from 2004 to 2007, during which he managed a White House-Kremlin

strategic dialogue. He was director for Russian Affairs on the staff from 2002 to 2004.

He served as an advisor to Kissinger Associates from 2008 to 2021. He was a Foreign Service officer for 14 years. Thomas's assignments included two tours of duty at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the late Soviet period and in the middle of the 1990s, during which he served as head of the political internal unit and acting political counselor. Between tours in Moscow, he worked on Russian and Soviet affairs on the policy planning staff at the U.S. Department of State and as a policy assistant in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

Thomas holds a B.A. in Russian studies from Yale University and an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Jon Zagrodzky, “State of the Town”



DMA member and Darien First Selectman **Jon E. Zagrodzky** will provide an update on Darien town government, including overall strategy, Great Island, new commercial developments, flooding investments and the FY 2025 budget process. Jon plans to leave ample time for a Q&A and promises that no topic is off limits!

Jon was elected first selectman for the Town of Darien on November 7, 2023. His prior town roles include: member of the Board of Selectmen; member and chairman of the Board of Finance; member of the Town and Police Pension Board; member of the Public Works Garage and Ox Ridge School Building Committee Board; and member and president of the Darien Historical Society.

Until his December 2023 retirement, Jon served as COO and CFO at Rhône Group, LLC, a middle market private equity firm, where he was responsible for finance, operations, human resources, administration, information technology and business planning. Prior to Rhône, he was chief administrative officer and chief compliance officer at Oak Hill Capital Management and before that spent 16 years at McKinsey & Company.

Jon earned a B.A. in economics and romance languages from Washington & Lee University and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School. He is a commercial pilot and owns a Piper Seneca III. Jon moved to Darien with his wife Sara and their two children, Maggie and Jack, in 2005.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Annelise Osborne, “From Hoodies to Suits: Innovating Digital Assets for Traditional Finance”



Annelise Osborne is chief business officer at Kadena, a blockchain technology company, where she is focused on upgrading finance. Annelise has more than 20 years of experience in finance, credit, real estate, family office, risk, structuring, governance and digital assets. She was previously head of institutional for Arca Labs, working with companies to drive blockchain innovation through strategic partnerships and advisory services as well as COO of Propellr LLC, company that creates a platform for digitally held assets. Annelise spent 12 years at Moody’s Investors Service running teams in structured finance. She is a thought leader, board advisor, university lecturer and author. Her

book, *From Hoodies to Suits: Innovating Digital Assets for Traditional Finance*, hit shelves in June 2024. Annelise holds an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and a B.A. in economics from The College of William and Mary.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Bonnie Siegler & Helene Stapinski, “The American Way: A True Story of Nazi Escape, Superman, and Marilyn Monroe”



Bonnie Siegler is the founder and creative director of award-winning, multi-disciplinary, graphic design studio Eight and a Half and was voted one of the 50 most influential designers working today by Graphic Design USA. The author of *Dear Client*, a guide for people who work with creatives, and *Signs of Resistance, a Visual History of Protest in America*, she also taught design in the graduate schools of Yale University and the School of Visual Arts for many years. She lives in Westport.



Helene Stapinski is the nationally bestselling author of three memoirs: *Five-Finger Discount: A Crooked Family History*; *Murder in Matera*; and *Baby Plays Around: A Love Affair, with Music*. She writes regularly for *The New York Times*; her work has also appeared in *The Washington Post*, *New York, Travel & Leisure* and dozens of other publications. She received her B.A. in journalism from New York University and M.F.A. from Columbia, teaches at New York University and lives in Brooklyn.



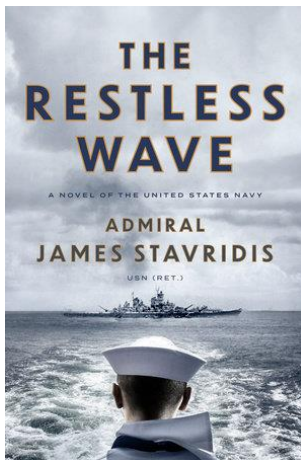
ACTIVITIES

Book Group Selections

February 2025-April 2025

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on the Wednesdays of **February 12, March 12 and April 9** in 2025. The meeting will commence on each of those dates at 2 p.m. Eastern time in person at the Darien Community Association (274 Middlesex Road) in the Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor. DMA members who choose to participate remotely can do so as the room is equipped with audio and video systems, and a video link will be available. To be added to the mailing list, contact group leaders **Rick Agresta** at richard.agresta@gmail.com or **Harry McLachlin** at hdmclach@aol.com.

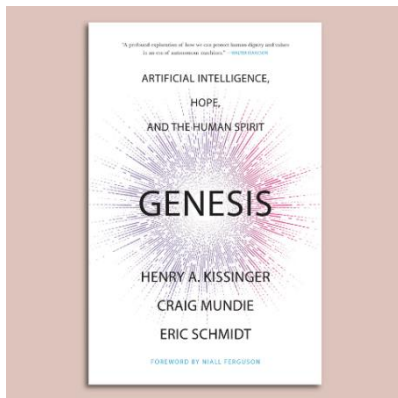
***The Restless Wave* by Admiral James Stavridis (February 12, 2025)**



The Restless Wave is a riveting historical novel that charts the coming of age of a gifted but immature young naval officer as he is tested in the crucible of World War II in the Pacific theater. The protagonist Scott Bradley James arrives in Annapolis, Md., as a plebe in the class of 1941 without a terribly good idea of why he wants to be a naval officer, other than because his father was a sailor, and Scott wants to see the world (whatever that means). Scott and his roommate become fast friends, and, after surviving scrapes of their own making, the two fetch up at Pearl Harbor. War is brewing, and their class has graduated early. They have been sent to battle stations. James is a talented young officer but has a lot to learn — and war will teach him.

Admiral James Stavridis is an acclaimed novelist, a decorated military leader, a former NATO commander and a great student of military history. He draws on it all to capture the experience of being storm-tossed by the bloody first years of World War II. *The Restless Wave* offers a gripping account of the U.S. Navy's astonishing progress through the first three years of the war in the Pacific. This story of a character under pressure in the harshest of proving grounds is written with careful fidelity to the truths of war that have made sea stories essential to the art of storytelling since Odysseus.

***Genesis: Artificial Intelligence, Hope, and the Human Spirit* by Henry A. Kissinger, Craig Mundie and Eric Schmidt (March 12, 2025)**



John McCarthy, the computer scientist who coined the term “artificial intelligence” in 1955, defined it as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines.” Nearly 70 years later, AI — as we now call it in almost jaded shorthand — is present in every facet of life. It can be used (to name but a few applications) to cheat on a college essay, treat cancer, play chess and design spaceships. It can also be used to wage war and sabotage elections.

AI is an invention that has the capacity to revolutionize human life on a par with fire, electricity, the printing press and atomic power. Its profound importance can be gauged from the fact that the late **Henry Kissinger** focused more intently on AI in the last years of his life than on any other subject. In 2018, at age 95, he startled everyone by writing an essay on artificial intelligence in the *Atlantic* magazine. In 2021, he co-authored *The Age of AI* with **Eric Schmidt** (a former chief executive of Google) and Daniel Huttenlocher (an MIT professor), a book that compared the advent of AI with the 18th-century Enlightenment for its ability to shape the human mind. Now, more than a year after Kissinger’s death, we have in our hands another book, titled *Genesis*, about “artificial intelligence, hope, and the human spirit,” which Kissinger co-authored with **Craig Mundie** (a former chief research officer at Microsoft) and (again) Mr. Schmidt.

Henry Kissinger was one of the great statesman-sages of his time, and the brief but moving “In Memoriam” section at the start of the book describes him as a “student of the nineteenth century, master of the twentieth, and oracle of the twenty-first,” the last accolade referring in part to his drive to educate us on the complexities of AI. In *Genesis*, the Kissingerian imprint — that elegant mix of idealism and realism — is evident everywhere. The tone and thrust of the book, write its three authors, is one of “sober optimism,” which, in fact, encapsulates Kissinger’s outlook on life.

If there is a key question that animates *Genesis*, it is this: Should AI become more like humans, or should humans become more like AI? Put another way: Should we control, or be controlled by, AI? The authors stress throughout that, when it comes to artificial intelligence, the worst thing we could possibly do as a civilization — or species — is to drop our guard; “to declare too early, or too completely, that we understand it.”

If Messrs. Kissinger, Mundie and Schmidt sound resigned in places to the primacy of artificial intelligence in human life, it is because of the irrefutable computational and problem-solving superiority of AI — or “AIs,” as they often pluralize it, acknowledging that “there will not be just one supreme AI but rather multiple instantiations of superior intelligence in the world.” How could it be otherwise when the average AI supercomputer is (as the authors tell us) already 120 million times faster than the processing rate of the human brain?

Genesis is as much a philosophy book — drawing on all that is best in the Western tradition — as it is a book that grapples with a techno-scientific phenomenon. It raises tough, often disconcerting, sometimes harrowing questions. The authors point out that AI allows humans “to *know* new things ... but not to *understand* how the discoveries were made.” The internal processes of the machine are beyond our grasp so we must resort to a kind of faith in the machine’s logic and authority. Will the age of AI, the authors ask, “catalyze a return to a premodern acceptance of unexplained authority?” Are we, they ask, on the verge of a “dark enlightenment”?

The development of ever more sophisticated forms of AI, we’re told, is “a project led almost exclusively by private corporations and entrepreneurs.” Could corporations form alliances to compound their already immense clout, even accruing military and political power in the process? What impact would that coup have on diplomacy, global stability and the Westphalian order of sovereign nation-states?

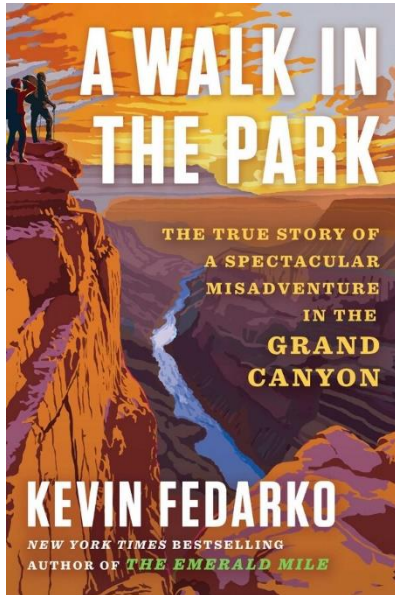
While celebrating the role that could be played by AI in the curing and prevention of disease and talking up its potential to be an almost heaven-sent “library of pharmaceuticals” for the benefit of mankind, Messrs. Kissinger, Mundie and Schmidt address moral questions that should make us squirm. Just as we have begun to use AI to “correct” congenital disease, might we not start using it to “install congenital advantages” in our offspring, “advantages that may not belong to either biological parent or, in the extreme, to any other human”? Would we redesign the human race? “What does the perfect human look like?” they ask. “Should we attempt to find out?” Would such genetic alterations cause the human species to “split into multiple lines?”

AI even raises theological questions. If humans come to believe that they’ve been replaced by machines as the foremost intellectual entities on earth, might not some people “attribute a kind of divinity to the machines themselves, thereby potentially spurring further human fatalism and submission”? While the authors don’t offer answers, it is quite right that they have prompted us to search for them.

Genesis is a wise and deeply sane book. But it’s at its least convincing in its expressions of belief that our political and scientific leaders must — and therefore will — find a way to act in a coordinated global fashion to instill into machines the core values of human “dignity.” Machines, the authors write, must be “compelled to build from observation a native understanding of what humans do and don’t do.” They must, in other words, learn how to be human from the examples that humans set.

Therein lies the problem. Messrs. Kissinger, Mundie and Schmidt call for “the inscription of globally inclusive moralities onto silicon-based intelligence.” These moralities include some — Communist Chinese, Putinist Russian and Islamist Iranian — that fall far short of our own standards. Our definition of dignity is quite unlike theirs — so much so that our machines may one day be benign and merciful, while those of our foes may be exactly the opposite.

***A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon* by Kevin Fedarko (April 9, 2025)**



This book is described as a “deeply moving account of walking the Grand Canyon, a highly dangerous, life-changing 750-mile trek.

The Grand Canyon is an American treasure, visited by more than 6 million people a year, many of whom are rendered speechless by its vast beauty, mystery and complexity. Now, in *A Walk in the Park*, author **Kevin Fedarko** chronicles his year-long effort to find a 750-mile path along the length of the Grand Canyon, through a vertical wilderness suspended between the caprock along the rims of the abyss and the Colorado River, which flows along its bottom.

Consisting of countless cliffs and steep drops, plus immense stretches with almost no access to water, and the fact that not a single trail links its eastern doorway to its western terminus, this jewel of national parks is so challenging that when Fedarko departed fewer people had completed the journey in one single hike than had walked on the moon. The intensity of the effort required him to break his trip into several legs, each of which held staggering dangers and unexpected discoveries.

Accompanying Fedarko through this sublime yet perilous terrain is the award-winning photographer **Peter McBride**, who captures the stunning landscape in breathtaking photos. Together, they encounter long-lost Native American ruins, the remains of Old West prospectors’ camps, present day tribal activists and signs that commercial tourism is impinging on the park’s remote wildness.

An epic adventure, action-packed survival tale and a deep spiritual journey, *A Walk in the Park* gives us an unprecedented glimpse of the crown jewel of America’s national parks, an iconic landscape framed by ancient rock whose contours are recognized by all but whose secrets and treasures are known to almost no one. Its topography encompasses some of the harshest, least explored, most awe-inspiring terrain in the world.



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield, Tuesdays at 9 a.m.



The "Commish," the "Godfather of Bowl," the "Professor" and all our other bowlers welcome DMAers of

any level of experience to bowl with us on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Strikes and spares abound! Photos and commentary about the group's activities appear in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

Tom Lom at tomlom1@aol.com

Bridge

The Bridge Group will remain in hiatus until further notice while we explore returning to live play. Anyone interested in playing should please contact **Mike Kadish** at mkadishj@yahoo.com.

Community Service

The DMA, led by its Community Service Committee chaired by **Frank Gallagher**, strives to create increased awareness of charitable organizations in our area and to make members aware of potential volunteer opportunities at these entities. In addition, we engage in annual events to assist certain charitable causes and to raise funds, including Wreaths Across America and holiday bell ringing.

Wreaths Across America was held on December 14. DMA members joined many others to honor our deceased veterans in person by laying wreaths at Spring Grove Cemetery or by making a contribution to fund the wreath ceremonies. Thank you.

Holiday Bell Ringing at Palmer's Market on December 14, 15, 21 and 22 was rewarding!

Our tradition of bell ringing at Palmer's once again closed out our community service activities for the year. The beneficiary of the donations we collected, Darien Human Services, uses them to help fund its food, clothing, energy and housing support efforts for Darien residents in need. Thank you to all the volunteers who manned our table. The good fellowship and festive bell ringing inspired shoppers to contribute more than in previous years. See further commentary and cheerful photos in the Activity Annex at the end of this issue.

More Community Service opportunities are in the planning process for 2025. We look forward to seeing you there.

Frank Gallagher:
francis.gallagher100@gmail.com

Cribbage: Darien Senior Center Tuesdays at 12:30-2 p.m.



Ken Hamilton invites you to join the cribbage heads to learn, relearn and play the standard deck card game Cribbage. A favorite of seafarers, Cribbage is a derivation of an old English game called Noddy. It was developed in the early 1600s by Sir John Suckling, an English courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find playing Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity.

It is a challenging, frustrating and fast card game. One cribbage game takes less than 10 minutes to play. You do not need a physical cribbage board; we will teach you how to play online anytime against the computer, a friend or a stranger.

Ken Hamilton: 1kenhamilton@gmail.com

Current Affairs: Third Thursday of the Month at 2 p.m. at DCA and via Zoom

If you enjoy researching and discussing current affairs, then you would enjoy being in the DMA Current Affairs Discussion Group. Note, there will be no meeting in January.



On December 19, more than 60 DMA members attended in person or via Zoom a discussion on artificial intelligence

led by DMA member **Dan Lew**.

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com

Happy Wanderers

Wandering is on a winter break while our leaders assemble the Super Bowl pool for this year. Details will be announced.

Photos are included in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter of the Wanderers' October 24 excursion to Sheepshead Bay and Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn, their November 14 wandering led by **Sunil Saxena** to Hoboken to visit sites along the Hudson River, including the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Depot and Stevens Institute of Technology, and the December 12 excursion led by **Greg Glashan** to Greenwich Village.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhsain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking: Second Thursday of the Month

This year, to minimize conflicts with other DMA events, hikes are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. Our next hikes will be on February 13 and March 13 to locations to be announced. As usual, family members and guests are welcome.

Photos and commentary about our November, December and January hikes to the Pine Creek Estuary, Deer Pond Farm and the Norwalk River Valley Trail, respectively, follow in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

For more information, contact **Alec Wiggin** at alec@aared.com or **Lee Morrison** at lee06820@gmail.com.

Investment Discussion Group: First Monday of the Month at 10 a.m. on Zoom

Jim Phillips leads our monthly Zoom session, first laying out the recent macro outlook, then opening the floor to discussion of different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are considering owning. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. Members with specific investments or themes they would like to cover are welcome to email these to Jim in advance. An email with a Zoom link and agenda will be sent to participants the week prior to the meeting.

To join the group and be added to the email distribution list or if you have questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, contact **Jim Phillips** at jlpinvest66@gmail.com.

New Wave Singers: United Methodist Church, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

The New Wave Singers is developing a repertoire of songs to perform at the DMA and at community organizations in the area. Under the leadership of our music director, **Jon Hunt**, the group rehearses every Tuesday at 3 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Darien. DMA members are encouraged to join regardless of singing experience. Group members will be charged a membership fee designed to cover expenses.

The group gave a rousing performance to kick off the DMA general meeting on December 18. New Wave is scheduled to perform at two senior living facilities in

Westchester County on two dates in February to be announced at The Osborne in Rye and at Broadview at SUNY Purchase College.

See the Activity Annex at the end of this issue for photos of the group's December 3 performance at Atria in Darien, December 13 performance at the Mather Center and December 18 performance for the DMA.

Jim Bragg: jamesbragg77@gmail.com

Pickleball: Cherry Lawn Park, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m.

The group is at capacity but has a waiting list and continues to try to find ways to let new members join. The group plays indoors (space permitting) when the weather precludes outdoor play. Reminder: We use the TeamReach app for signup. Novices, please take lessons first with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com
Jack Dearie: idearie683@hotmail.com

Social Events

A record crowd of more than 200 DMA members, spouses and widows of DMA members celebrated the holidays at the DMA Christmas Party on the evening of December 18 at The Country Club of Darien.

The party got off to a fast start with a well-attended cocktail hour that featured the performance of festive and classic Christmas songs by the musician **Gab Kallay**. After the tasty buffet dinner that followed, choral director **Becky Parnoff** led the Camerata Singers from Middlesex

Middle School in an enthusiastic and heartwarming performance of a selection of holiday songs. While the party was supposed to conclude soon after the performance by the Camerata Singers, many attendees lingered and continued to enjoy each other's company well past the scheduled conclusion of the party.

Chet Cobb and Social Committee Chairman **Doug Bora** created an evening that drew compliments from all for the flawless planning and execution of the event despite its unprecedented size and complexity. **Jerry Crowley** and **Bob Conologue** provided invaluable assistance at the party, while **George Gilliam** invited and coordinated the attendance of many deceased members' wives.

See the photos in the Activity Annex at the end of this issue.

The Social Committee is hosting a fun-filled dinner and hockey night on Saturday, January 18, to watch the Bridgeport Islanders (the top affiliate of the NHL New York Islanders) play the Springfield Thunderbirds (the top affiliate of the NHL St. Louis Blues) at the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport. The evening will start at 4:30 p.m. with a family-style dinner at Ralph 'n' Rich's restaurant, a short walk from the hockey arena. We will dine in a separate area exclusively for DMA members. The game starts at 7 p.m. and should end around 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$80 per person, which includes parking. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January 8 and January 15 DMA meetings. If interested, please bring a check payable to "DMA" or you may reserve by contacting **Gehr Brown** directly (203-655-3713 or

gwbrown@optonline.net). Attendance is limited to 24 people.

If you would like to join the Social Committee or suggest an event, contact **Doug Bora** at dougbora@outlook.com.

Table Tennis: Mather Center, Mondays and Fridays at 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.



DMA Table Tennis meets at the Mather Center in the exercise studio (Room 209). If you would like to join

the group, download the **TeamReach** app for your phone and enter "DMATableTennis" for the group code. Once you are approved for admission, you can select the dates you plan to attend, and you can also see who else is coming on that date. Please sign up for your selected play dates as early as possible — it encourages other DMA players to sign up if they see there is a group ready to play on the same date.

Steve Gravereaux: spgarg@optonline.net

**Woodworking: Mather Center,
Mondays at 1:30 p.m., Tuesdays &
Thursdays at 9 a.m., Fridays at 12:30
p.m.**



The DMA
Woodworkers meet
every Monday from
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.,
every Tuesday and

Thursday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. and every
Friday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the
Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey**,
who leads this group, encourages members
to join and welcomes new pieces upon
which to work. If you enjoy working with
your hands, this is an incredible deal. The
workshop provides expensive tools,
technology and equipment that we use for
free. Our woodworkers will take on a
variety of projects for DMAers and their
family and friends. To join up or to make
arrangements to repair tables, chairs and
other wooden furnishings, please contact
Tom Dempsey at tjd3443@gmail.com.

ACTIVITY ANNEX

Reports on DMA Activities since the Last Newsletter

Community Service



As part of its ongoing commitment to community service, the DMA once again “rang the bell” for Darien Human Services (DHS) in front of Palmer’s Market during the holiday season. This fundraiser has been a long tradition for the DMA and has grown from two days on one weekend in mid-December to four days on two consecutive weekends. This year’s dates were December 14 and 15 and December 21 and 22.

Thanks to Palmer’s generous donation of the space in front of its store, and the generosity of shoppers, the amount collected to provide aid to Darien residents in need of food, energy support, clothing, household products and much more has grown from \$1,000 to \$5,500 over the past few years. As costs remain high for many goods and services, the need for support has never been greater.





DHS director **Ali Ramsteck** recently spoke to the DMA about her department, the many programs it supports and the ongoing need for economic assistance. All the money collected at Palmer's stays within Darien to help residents in need.



DMA Community Service Committee Chairman **Frank Gallagher** delivers proceeds of 2024 bellringing to Ali Ramsteck of DHS.

Happy Wanderers

Below are photos of the Happy Wanderers' excursions to Sheepshead Bay and Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn on October 24, to Hoboken to visit sites along the Hudson River on November 14, and to Greenwich Village on December 12. We're sure you'll agree that the wanderers look like they had a lot of fun. The outing to Hoboken started with a train from Darien/Noroton Heights to Grand Central Terminal, followed by a subway ride to Port Authority Bus Terminal, a bus ride through the Lincoln Tunnel to destinations on the west side of the Hudson River, and a return trip commencing with a PATH train ride from the historic Erie Lackawanna Ferry & Train Terminal to Manhattan.



Wanderers dine at Rosemary's restaurant in Greenwich Village.



Wanderers en route to Sheepshead Bay.



Wanderers explore Washington Square.



Wanderers explore the Jefferson Market Library.



Wanderers explore Manhattan Beach.



Wanderers gather for lunch at the restaurant at the W Hoboken hotel.



Wanderers at the Frank Sinatra monument on the waterfront in Hoboken.



Wanderers visit the campus of Stevens Institute of Technology.

Hiking

The next four excellent photographs were taken and provided by **Marilyn Parker**, wife of DMA member **John Parker**. We are indebted to her for these photos.



On November 7, a group of 19 (Yippee!) leg-benders (pictured above) coordinated by group leader **Alec Wigg** explored the salt marshes of Fairfield, hiking a trail that accompanies the Pine Creek estuary as it meanders through broad spartina fields on its way to Long Island Sound. With little elevation change, this sea-level route prevented our heart rates from reaching optimum aerobic levels. Inversely proportionate to our low pulse rates, however, was the animated energy expended on nonstop chatter. Some took advantage of the unusually mild weather and were rocking the shorts, as evidenced in our group photo.



On December 5, a modest group of eight (pictured above) braved the wet and sometimes slushy ground and threatening weather to explore the expansive woody acreage of Walter Wriston’s 850-acre estate in Sherman, Conn. known as Deer Pond Farm, bequeathed to and now administered by the Connecticut Audubon Society. Our 2.85-mile route on the Kirby View Trail via the Agneil, Meadow, Big Bear and Dave Beers Trails, looped across the state line into New York, providing an elevated, western-oriented valley view. The gravel trail is unusually wide with excellent footing and a few benches along the way. Overall, there is about a 300-foot elevation change, but at mild grades that are not too taxing. Site director **Cathy Hagadorn**, who oversees the staff that administers the property, graciously accompanied us as an expert guide.

The photo on the left shows Alec Wiggin standing in Connecticut and **Mike Kadish** standing in New York.



Afterward, we enjoyed a post-hike meal at a nearby restaurant, American Pie. As you might expect, the specialty of the house is a robust assortment of dessert pies. (Taste tests showed that both the key lime and pumpkin offerings were sumptuous, and so was the chicken pot pie.)

Sadae Kadish took the photo on the right showing **Art Baron**, Alec Wiggin, **Barry Silver**, **Ken Hamilton**, and Mike Kadish braving the frigid air to hike the Norwalk Valley River Trail on January 9, 2025.



New Wave Singers

The New Wave Singers performed a range of spiritual, popular and holiday songs to bring joy to local organizations and senior groups during the holiday season as part of the DMA's community service commitment. Below are photos of New Wave's December 3 performance at Atria in Darien, December 13 performance for Darien seniors at the Mather Center and December 18 performance for the DMA.



The New Wave Singers gather around the staircase at Atria in Darien after entertaining the residents on December 3.



The New Wave Singers perform for Darien seniors at the Mather Center on December 13.



The New Wave Singers perform for the DMA at its December 18 meeting.

Social Events

Below are photos that reflect the festive spirit at the Christmas party on December 18 at The Country Club of Darien (see write-up at pages 24-25 above).



Middlesex Middle School's Camerata Singers, led by director **Becky Parnoff**, entertain the guests.





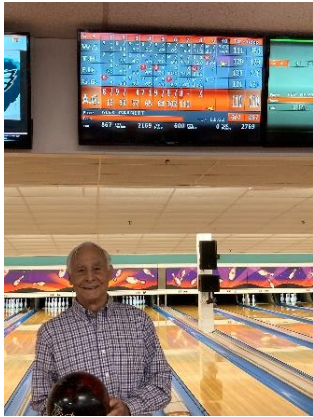
Doug Bora checks in arriving guests.



Bowling Reports, Courtesy of Tom Lom (the "Commish")

Tuesday, October 29

Ten bowlers today and lots of highlights.



Let's start with **Woody Spurgeon**. After a slow start, he came alive in game three to record his best-ever score of 151! This is from a guy whose average was 102. He had seven marks in the game and in the 10th frame he

needed a mark plus a fill of nine or 10 to break 150. So he went ahead to make a spare and fill with a strike for his 151. As the photo shows, Woody was all smiles at the game's end.

Next let's mention **Ben Briggs**, who had a 171 in game two and ended up +18 for the morning. **Ted Helms** returned after his vacation to bowl +28. **Ed Schechter** continued his improved bowling with a +45. **Bill Tamme's** game two 183 helped lift him to a +60. **Alex Garnett** had another fine day at 533 (+62) with a 198 in the third. This almost earned him Bowler of the Day ("BOD") for the third consecutive week -- but not quite. And kudos go to the Commish who took on lanes 13/14 today and managed a 544 (+7) thanks to an opening game of 202.

All that said, Bowler of the Day has to go to **Frank DeLeo**. His middle game 206 was the high game of the day; his 546 series (+66) was high series. Well done!

After losing the first two games convincingly, the team of **Gehr Brown**, Frank DeLeo, Alex Garnett and Ted Helms took the double or nothing third game in a rout thanks to the

heroics of Woody and Alex. Let's give another tip of the cap to their Nutmeg bowling instructor, Chris, in Buddies Pro Shop.

Tuesday, November 5

We had eight bowlers today, and again we had some good bowling. Included among the individual highlights was a 525 series by **Frank Gallagher** (his first 500 series of the season) and a 205 game three by Ed Schechter (his first 200 game of the season). We'll give them shared BOD honors. Also, Tom Lom continued his solid bowling with a high series of 548, while Frank DeLeo rolled a 497.

The team competition was lively with **Tom Lom**, Ed Schechter, **Marty Milewski** and Woody Spurgeon getting seven pins from Frank Gallagher, Frank DeLeo, **George Gilliam** and Ben Briggs. Team Frank handed out a drubbing in game one. In game two, it looked like Team Tom would win comfortably until its bowlers collapsed in the final three frames. With the game on the line, Frank DeLeo got a strike and a spare in the 10th, while Tom got six down on his first ball, working on a spare. Even though Tom made his spare and filled with nine, his team lost game two by three pins. With the agony of defeat still stinging, Team Tom accepted the double or nothing, which was a good call. Marty and Woody bowled their best games of the morning, and Ed's big game carried his team to an easy win.

Tuesday, November 19

The presence of nine bowlers today forced a five vs. four competition and a 100-pin handicap for the group of four. Two of the games were extremely tight -- pin differential (including handicap) was only 8 in game one and 16 in game three with two of the three games going to the team of Spurgeon, Briggs, Tamme, Garnett and Brown.

Gehr Brown returned to form (finally) with a high series of 543 and high game of 185. Frank DeLeo was very consistent in bowling a 512 series.

When you bowl and the result is a split, the scoreboard embarrasses the unfortunate bowler by placing a big red circle in that frame. Alex Garnett was snake bitten with 12 red dots in three games! But there were some very good split conversions — Alex and Gehr both converted 5-7 splits; Alex also converted a 2-5-10 split. The best conversion shot of the day, however, was by Frank Gallagher — a 6-7-10 in game one.

Tuesday, November 26

It being the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we had only six bowlers today. On most Tuesdays, 209 would be high game and 551 would be high series — but not today. The Commish had a good day, but Frank DeLeo had a great day, rolling a 216 in the third game for a 581 series. Bravo! Notably, Frank converted all but one of his several ten-pin spares. Also of note, Ed Schechter's third game was 189.

With Frank and Tom on the same team, it's no surprise that that threesome took two out of three games. The surprise was that the team of Gehr Brown, Alex Garnett and Ed held on to win game two in which both Gehr and Alex had their best game of the session.

Tuesday, December 3

We had nine bowlers today with many highlights.

First, we had difficult splits converted by Frank DeLeo, a 5-7, and Ed, a 3-6-7-10.

Second, five of the nine bowlers recorded a 500 series: a 501 by Frank DeLeo; a 520 by Alex Garnett; a 523 by Ed Schechter; and a 537 by Tom Lom (thanks to a 211 in game one).

But Bowler of the Day goes to the one with the fifth 500 series, George Gilliam. We've been waiting for several weeks for George to break



out of his "fall funk," and he did so today! After a decent game one of 146, he started game two with a four-bagger on his way to 208 (see photo). This, his first 200 game of this season, helped him to a 515, which was also his first 500

series of the season and was +113 above his season average. Bravo George!

Other accomplishments of note include Ben Briggs's 468 series (+87!), thanks to a game one 189 and Bill Tamme's 474 (+18) series with a 188 game one. Ed Schechter's 192 in the opener helped him break 500 (+55).

Tuesday, December 10

We had eight bowlers today with two strong performances. George Gilliam followed up last week's gem with another good day at 483 (+69). BOD goes to Frank Gallagher, whose 520 was the only 500 series and was +60. Frank was steady all morning, and his 182 in the third paced his team to a game three win.

Speaking of the team game, the squad of Tom Lom, Ed Schechter, George Gilliam and Ted Helms went up against Frank DeLeo, Frank Gallagher, Alex Garnett and Ben Briggs, giving 8 pins. Down by 83 pins after five frames in game one, Tom threw in the concession towel and told his team to prep for game two. That must have flipped the switch, as both George and Ed recorded triples in the final frames, while the opponents collapsed, resulting in a 28-pin come-from-behind victory. Team "Franks" ran away with game two, due in no small part to Frank DeLeo's faux "concession" in frame three ("It worked for them so maybe it'll work for us," said Frank). Game three looked like a runaway for Tom's team as he started off with a four-bagger. But he and his team squandered their lead and fell by 7 pins. It's rather remarkable how much pressure bowling for 25 cents can be.

Tuesday, December 17

We had a noteworthy performance during our final session of 2024 from Gehr Brown, who flashed his old form with a 602 series, including two games in the 220s. Talk about a great way to close out the year! Let's hope he keeps this up in 2025. Another thing worth reporting from that session was what might be a near record for the gap between high and low game for his day by Ted Helms. He bowled a terrific 192 to start but finished 90 pins lower in his third. Kind of reminds me of my golf game 😊.

The end of the year spurred the Commish to reflect and review the final tally of all bowlers' averages. It's rewarding to see that we have had 12 "regulars." We hope that continues and that we can recruit new members to the group. Wishing you all a happy new year filled with good health and more than a few strikes.

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, Mike Kadish. **Contributing Editor**, Joyce Meurer. **Speaker write-ups**, Ric Grefé. **New Member bios**, Lee Morrison. **Mailing list and e-communications**, Lee Morrison. **This Week at DMA**, Bryan Hooper. **Webmaster**, Gary Banks.