



Darien Men's Association

Newsletter

www.DarienDMA.org

January-February 2026

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President's Message

What a year! Although every DMA president has said the same at this point in the annual cycle, we have had a particularly stimulating and active start for 2025-2026.

Any measure of impact needs to hark back to our organization's stated purpose:

[T]o provide means for the friendly association of men; to promote among them a feeling of fellowship and a spirit of mutual helpfulness; to participate in such undertakings as may be deemed to provide for the happiness, well-being, and usefulness of the membership; and to participate in affairs beneficial to the community.

I believe we have successfully advanced that purpose. This is an extraordinary community of men. There are no clones. Every one of us is distinctly different with our own rich history. And we make use of our experience to support one another, to find shared interests and activities, and to stimulate hearty thoughtful conversations.

Our holiday party drew yet another record crowd, as more than 200 members, spouses, partners and widows of former members celebrated together. Thanks to the dedicated work of Social Events Chairman **Ted Helms** and a Holiday Party Committee staffed by event leader **Chet Cobb** and a cohort of DMA volunteers, this event was executed flawlessly. It was a wonderful setting, with great entertainment by the inspiring Camerata singers and, best of all, great companionship.

Our last general meeting of the year began with a performance by our very own New Wave Singers. All of the DMA's activities are led by members serving members, inviting them into activities (often competitive!) and adventures that keep our members exertive, engaged and stimulated. In addition to providing its participants with an outlet for their vocal talent, the Singers, like our Community Service Committee, serve the community beyond our own fellowship. This holiday season, the Singers also performed for senior citizens in a number of settings under the leadership of **Jim Bragg**, **Dave Claiborne** and musical director **Dwayne Condon**.

Following an annual holiday tradition, DMA members volunteered to fill 48 time slots to ring the bell at Palmer's Market during three days to raise funds for the benefit of Darien

Human Services (DHS). DHS provides a wide variety of services, including supportive counseling and assessments for benefits and program eligibility for any Darien resident.

Thanks go to all our activity leaders who continued to make the DMA a vibrant, engaging organization with lots to do and good (and often new) 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.

Special thanks and acknowledgment always go to our Speaker Chairman. This year's chairman is **Doug Bora**, who has continued our notable history with a slate of speakers who brought us ideas, adventures, entertainment and inspiration ... with a particular dash of sports, entertainment, governance and even the formula for living longer.

Naming only a few of our board members and leaders underestimates the full vitality of the DMA. Our community's strength is in our members and their energy, initiative and motivation. We are a membership organization, a community, and — truly — a fellowship.

Best wishes for the new year.

Ric Grefé
2025-2026 DMA President

Editor's Message

Since my appointment in 2024, my primary responsibility as DMA's director of communications has been to serve as publisher and editor of the *DMA Newsletter*. Recently, reading my role more expansively, consistent with the grandiose title, I have been working with President **Ric Grefé** to spearhead a discussion with other DMA officers and board members about a strategic overhaul of the DMA's communications process. While more organizational restructuring will follow, a decision has been made to increase reliance on the DMA's website, www.dariendma.org, and on *This Week at DMA*, which is emailed weekly to members, for information about upcoming events.

This means that the newsletter will be retrospective in perspective, providing information about members who have joined or passed away and about events and activities that have occurred since the previous issue. I had initially anticipated that this change would cause each edition of the newsletter to be less voluminous. In this edition, however, the deleted material has been largely offset by activity leaders and participants furnishing more photographs and write-ups about their adventures.

I also anticipate that these changes will shorten the production time so that the reports about activities will be fresher, ultimately making the publication more relevant. Concurrently, the DMA's leadership is taking steps to make the DMA website content more timely and robust, and members should make themselves more familiar with the website's content and format. I plan to leverage my position as director of communications to oversee the molding of the various streams of DMA messaging — the *DMA Newsletter*, *This Week at DMA*, the website and bespoke mass emails announcing activities — into a single, comprehensive communications platform.

Each of these streams would work more efficiently if staffed by more than a single person. If you have drafting, editing, word processing or other publishing skills and are willing to spend a few hours a month helping out, please let us know about your interest and availability by responding by email to dariendma@gmail.org.

Mike Kadish
2025-2026 DMA Director of Communications

New Members

Since the last issue, the following 14 members have joined the DMA.

Jay Baker



Jay Baker grew up in Darien. He attended Darien High School (class of 1969) and returned to town later in life. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and received his M.B.A. from Pace University.

He has worked for more than 40 years in the financial services sector, with a specialty in exchange-traded funds (ETF). He was involved in the development and marketing of the first ETF, the SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust. He continued his ETF career at Spear, Leeds & Kellogg and Goldman Sachs. In 2011, he co-founded Exchange Traded Concepts, a white label ETF provider that helps clients create, launch and manage ETFs.

Jay lives in Darien with his wife Robin. They are parents of two adult children. He is an active follower of financial markets and enjoys playing pickleball and golf in his free time.

Ron D'Andrea



A lifelong learner, **Ron D'Andrea** built a strong educational foundation, having attended Greenwich public schools before earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree from Columbia University.

He began his professional life teaching in the Greenwich public schools, then transitioned to lead two prominent sales skills improvement firms as president. In 2013, Ron co-founded his own venture, Global Performance Group, and currently works with large sales organizations and senior executive teams to help individuals gain the skills, confidence and tools to make better business decisions faster.

Ron moved to Darien in 1989 with his wife Emily, where they raised three children: Kathryn, Rebecca and Matthew. In Darien, he was an RTM representative and a Land Trust Board member, as well as involved in Y Guides and youth sports. Ron recently moved to Norwalk, from where he enjoys being involved in the Darien, Rowayton and Norwalk communities. Beyond his professional life, Ron enjoys boating, paddle tennis,

pickleball, a monthly men's book group and traveling extensively for business and pleasure throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

Neil Duncan



Neil Duncan was born in Huddersfield in Yorkshire, England. He grew up in Hemel Hempstead, a suburb of London, and went to Berkhamsted School. In 1980, he went to Nottingham University to study economics. In 1983, he joined Price Waterhouse. In 1987, he qualified as a chartered accountant and moved with Price Waterhouse to New York City.

Neil joined J.P. Morgan (1989-1999) in the Controller's Department and in 1993 moved to real estate investment banking. In 2000, he joined MetroNexus (a Morgan Stanley real estate fund company). In 2003, he partnered with Alex Twining to start Twining Properties, which develops high-rise urban apartments from Boston to New York City. He recently retired from Twining Properties but remains an equity owner.

In 1985, his parents bought a house in Darien and since then have split their time between the United States and England. His two brothers live in Westport and Stamford. Neil met his wife Kara (from Chicago) in Barbados in 1985, and after a year, she moved to live with him in England. In 1987, Neil and Kara moved to New York City, married in Chicago in 1989 and moved to Darien in 1992. They have four grown children.

Neil loves to travel — he has been to 45 states and 44 countries and aims for 50 of each. His other interests are sports, mainly at The Country Club of Darien (golf, paddle, padel, tennis, biking and skiing), history (including art history) and reading.

Bruce Failing



Bruce Failing received a B.A. from Tufts University in 1971. He received his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1973, after which Bruce and his father started ActMedia, the first in-store advertising and promotions company in the United States and took it public in 1983. In 1989, ActMedia was sold to Heritage Media, which in turn was sold to Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation in 1997. ActMedia exists today as News America Marketing.

Bruce was a principal in Lamaze Publishing Company, a for-profit company that licensed the "Lamaze" name to create a series of baby and parenting media vehicles, which was sold to a subsidiary of NBCUniversal in 2006. He was also a principal in the 2000 purchase from GE Capital of Productivity Solutions, a leader in

automated self-checkout solutions for retailers, and its turnaround and subsequent sale to IBM in 2003.

In 2004, Bruce was a founding partner of Alerion Partners and continues in that role. Alerion Partners invests in and provides managerial assistance to companies, focusing on start-ups and turnaround situations. He teaches a course on entrepreneurial development in the M.B.A. program of Palm Beach Atlantic University's Marshall E. Rinker Sr. College of Business.

Bruce is an active sailor and skier. He has five grandchildren who reside in Darien and Greenwich.

Henry (Hank) J. Gioiella



Henry (Hank) J. Gioiella, Jr., was born in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., in 1948. He grew up in Crestwood, N.Y., and graduated from Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains in 1966, where he played baseball and was active in drama. In 1970, he received a B.S. degree in finance from Fairfield University and was a member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity. He received an M.B.A. degree in finance in 1973 from Iona College. Upon graduating, he served in the U.S. Army 42nd Military Police. Hank began his career on Wall Street in 1962 while still in high school, working part time in the summer at the Irving Trust Company. He went on to work as a senior trader at Kidder Peabody, Lehman Brothers and Cantor Fitzgerald. He currently is with Williams Capital.

He and his wife Joan live in Darien and have one son. Hank is a member of the Darien Boat Club, the Darien YMCA and the Connecticut Options Association. He is a board member of the Piedmont Club and Fairfield University Alumni Association. He enjoys painting, boating, photography and traveling, mostly to Italy. He also is an avid car collector, and his collection includes an automobile previously owned by John Lennon. His cars have won awards at the Greenwich Concours d'Elegance and the Porsche National Meet.

Stephen (Steve) Gruppo



Stephen (Steve) Gruppo was born in East Orange, N.J. When he was five years old, his parents moved their family of six children to Buenos Aires, Argentina, then to São Paulo, Brazil. When he was a teenager, his family settled in Greenwich, where he met his future wife Allison. Steve and Alli have lived in Darien since 1990, where they raised their son Will and daughter Emy. They currently split their time between Darien and Edgartown, Mass.

Steve graduated from Greenwich High School in 1977 and received a B.A. in economics from Hobart College in 1981. He kicked off his career in the credit training program at Chase Manhattan Bank, which was his introduction to a career in risk management in banking, investment banking, capital markets and asset management.

He was employed by Chase, Kidder Peabody, CS First Boston, Lehman Brothers and financial services firm TIAA. Steve retired from full-time work in 2018 following 10 years as the chief risk officer and Executive Committee member at TIAA. He has remained engaged in board work, investments and advisory assignments.

Steve's interests include travel, reading, cooking and spending quality time with family, including his toddler grandchild. Steve likes to stay active playing golf, tennis (really, any sport with a racquet or paddle), biking and skiing. He is a member of the Country Club of Darien and the Boathouse and Field Club in Edgartown.

Chris Hughan



Chris Hughan and his wife Karen have called Darien home since 2000. Born and raised in the Northeast, Chris moved to Atlanta after college, where he met Karen in 1984 while they worked for the same interior landscape company.

Chris's career began in traditional publishing at Time Inc. before he shifted focus to health care publishing in the mid-1990s. In 1998, he joined WebMD as one of its first employees, an experience that launched him directly into the world of digital health. He spent the rest of his career in this field, most recently helping to launch innovative digital health platforms like C Space Health, Medisafe and Alex Therapeutics. These platforms partner with pharmaceutical companies to leverage technology for improving patient engagement and health outcomes.

Chris and Karen moved to Darien in 2000, following Chris's transfer to Manhattan by WebMD. They chose to live in Darien for its small-town feel, excellent schools, beautiful beaches and manageable commute. They are active members of the community, attending Saint Luke's Parish, where Chris serves as an usher.

They have shared a passion for landscaping throughout their 41 years of marriage. Karen has turned that passion into a local business, Good Gardens LLC, a landscape design firm based in Darien. Since retiring in May of this year, Chris has traded his work schedule for travel plans and an ever-present "to-do" list for the house. When not working in his home garden, you'll likely find him at the beach or enjoying a round of golf.

Chris and Karen are the proud parents of two grown daughters, both graduates of the Darien school system. The family continues to grow, and Chris and Karen have shifted their focus to being grandparents. Their older daughter Kirsty lives in Atlanta with her

husband and two daughters. Their younger daughter Madison resides in Boston's South End with her husband and daughter.

Thomas A. (Tam) Murray



Thomas A. (Tam) Murray moved to Rowayton from Alexandria, Va., with Lauren, his wife of 43 years, in the spring of 2025.

Tam earned an undergraduate degree in history from Williams College in 1979 and an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business in 1985. Following business school, he worked in Northern Virginia's commercial real estate market before founding Community Wireless Structures (CWS) in the late 1990s. CWS developed and owned the structures that enable wireless services. CWS's business was focused geographically in Northern and Central Virginia and strategically on developing the difficult tower sites that caused perennial holes in carrier coverage. He served as the chair of the Wireless Infrastructure Association. Later, in 2022, he sold the majority of CWS's tower portfolio.

In recent years, Tam has devoted professional time to a handful of business opportunities on the family farm outside of Charlottesville, Va. He and his six brothers have a goal of sustaining the 836-acre farm as open space.

As a newcomer, Tam finds coastal Connecticut to be a good fit for his active lifestyle. On any given morning, you may see Tam in a swim lane at the Darien YMCA, and he participated in the September Ladrigan Swim Races from Green's Ledge Lighthouse to Bayley Beach. Tam frequently participates in road rides sponsored by the Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club. He enjoys playing nine (and an occasional 18) holes at Oak Hills, Sterling Farms and Longshore golf courses. Daily walks with his Australian shepherd Hank keep him on the trails of many local parks.

Periodically, Tam finds time for multiday biking and backpacking. He biked the Great Allegheny Passage trail in the summer of 2025, and hikes have included portions of the Appalachian Trail, the Colorado Trail and various national park trails in the West. When indoors, he is an avid reader who participates in a remote book group that hatched during the COVID pandemic.

Tam and Lauren have four adult children and two grandchildren. Moving to Rowayton has given Tam and Lauren the opportunity to be closer to family in Brooklyn and Providence, making possible the nearly weekly visits with the grandkids that are one of the great joys in this new chapter in life.

Reed Nolte



Reed Nolte was raised primarily in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and has resided in Darien since 1985. He graduated from Denison University with a degree in economics in 1977 and received an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 1979. He retired in 2020 after a 40-year career in corporate financial management, including over two decades working for Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation and 21st Century Fox.

He and his wife Leslie raised three children in Darien. All three attended the Darien public school system and were active members of Post 53. His older daughter lives in Huntsville, Ala., with her husband and seven-month-old son. Reed's other daughter and son live in New York City.

Reed and his family spend much of the summer on Martha's Vineyard, where Reed enjoys his passion of saltwater fly fishing, as well as hiking and biking. Other interests include traveling, skiing, cooking, and staying abreast of financial and political news. He is a member of the The Country Club of Darien, the Darien Boat Club and the Ocean Club of Florida in Ocean Ridge, Fla.

Glenn Ritch



Glenn Ritch was raised in Greenwich, where his family has lived for more than eight generations. His great grandfather Heneri Ritch sold his farm in Stamford and moved to Greenwich in 1687. Glenn's parents were both working people; while they helped with the cost of college, Glenn needed to work while attending school. He was fortunate to secure a position as caretaker on a large private estate in North Stamford, not far from his home. While his ambitions were to pursue a career in business, the experience of working on the estate would ultimately

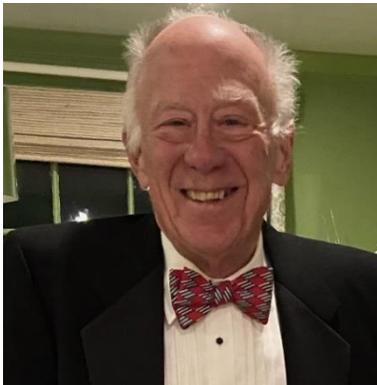
lead to his lifelong career in commercial real estate.

After graduating from Pace University with a B.B.A. and a major in marketing, he began working in sales. Glenn has worked for the estate owners for more than 30 years and still looks after one of their children in a minor way. After several successful years in sales, Glenn realized that he was not satisfied. He searched for a career that paralleled the work he did on the estate, which brought him to commercial property management. After returning to school, completing a certification in property management from New York University and securing a real estate broker license, he embarked on a 45-year career in commercial property management.

Glenn very much enjoyed his work, as it gave him a broad spectrum of skills and a variety of challenges to navigate. He managed multiple properties with responsibility for operations, budgeting, leasing and construction. He mastered the skills to help negotiate property sales and leases and other contracts, which sometimes led to him being accused of being a lawyer. He worked for CBRE Group, Hines Interests Limited Partnership, Galbreath, Lasalle Investment Management and, for the last 12 years of his career, The Ashforth Company. He retired in March 2025 and looks forward to pursuing his passions for travel and outdoor sports, including hunting, fishing and boating. He is also passionate about cooking and entertaining. Most important, he enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Glenn has lived in Darien for about 12 years. Influenced by his parents, He believes it is important to give back to the community. Toward that end, he serves as board president of Middlesex Commons and was just re-elected for a third term on the Darien Board of Assessment Appeals.

Donn Smith



Donn Smith was raised in Hamden, Conn., and graduated from Yale University in 1967 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in English. He spent his professional career in publishing. Following management positions at Time Inc., *Newsweek* and *Harvard Business Review*, he joined a Greenwich-based multi-title newsletter publisher. In 2001, he formed his own consulting business, providing copy and creative services to a number of leading magazine and book publishers.

He has been a Darien resident for the past 33 years. He served two terms on the Darien Representative Town Meeting and has volunteered at Person to Person and St. John Church. Current volunteer activities include serving as archivist for The Mather Homestead Foundation and genealogist for the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford.

Donn is married to Mary Ellen Quirk, who grew up in Darien and who he was lucky enough to meet in New York City in 1978. Their daughter Sarah followed her mother's path through the Darien schools and her father's footsteps through Yale. She subsequently received her J.D. from Michigan University Law School.

He is a member of the Roger Sherman Branch of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, St. John Church, the Darien YMCA, the Tokeneke Club and the Yale Club of New York City.

Chris Trompeter

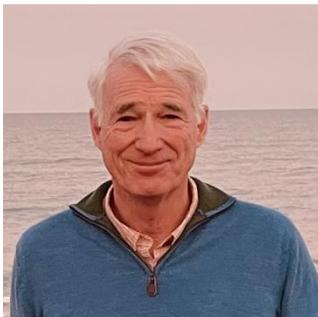


Chris Trompeter was born in Rochester, N.Y., and grew up in the Rochester and Syracuse suburbs. He earned a B.A. degree from St. Lawrence University in 1978 with a double major in economics and government and a chartered financial analyst designation in 1985.

His career was in the asset management industry as an equity analyst and portfolio manager, beginning at Bankers Trust Company and then Citibank and Brundage, Story & Rose. In 2000, Chris and two colleagues founded Tradition Capital Management, a registered investment advisor focused on equity and fixed income separately managed accounts, which were merged into Cary Street Partners in 2019. He retired from Cary Street Partners in October 2025.

Chris moved to Darien from Manhattan with his wife Rosie and son Dan in 1997. Rosie is an active member of the Darien Community Association Greenhouse Group, avid pickleball player and yoga enthusiast. Their son Dan works for a private equity firm in Manhattan. Chris coached flag and tackle football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse in Darien. His personal athletic interests are currently centered on tennis and paddle.

Jim Tweedy



Jim Tweedy grew up on Nearwater Lane in Darien with his parents and three brothers in the house he lives in today. He attended Hindley and Mather Junior High in Darien and graduated from The Taft School in 1973. He graduated from Colorado College in 1978 and Columbia Business School in 1981. In 1987, Jim and a partner purchased a manufacturing business in Milford, Conn., which they operated for 35 years.

In 1985, Jim married Meg McGoldrick, who grew up in Darien and graduated from Darien High School in 1975. They raised two boys in Darien who attended Hindley and Middlesex Middle School and who currently live and work in New York City.

Jim likes to play tennis, paddle tennis, golf, pickleball and guitar. He also likes to ski and boat. He is a member of the Tokeneke Club, the Silvermine Golf Club and the Darien Boat Club.

David Upson



David Upson and his wife Carlyle have lived in Darien for 15 years. He grew up in Cincinnati and graduated from Walnut Hills High School in 1982. He went to Colgate University, where he graduated in 1987 with a degree in economics.

David discovered his passion for investing while at Colgate and was one of the founders of the Investment Club and a member of the fraternity Beta Theta Pi. Following graduation, he moved to New York City, where he started his career in the investment business. He was most recently director of hedge fund research for the family office investment advisory firm CTC | myCFO, a division of BMO Wealth Management.

David has also been involved in the community and his children's activities. He was a board member from 2011-2015 at Person to Person and coached sports teams for both of his children throughout their childhood. He has been a lifelong enthusiast of tennis, squash and golf. In 2019, he became a founding member of the Ox Ridge Riding & Racquet Club (Ox Ridge) and is currently a member of its board. He continues to be an enthusiastic racquet sports player and plays singles and doubles squash at Ox Ridge and plays on the Wee Burn Country Club tennis and paddle teams. His favorite sport is golf, and he is a member of three golf societies: Junior Senior Golfing Society of Connecticut; Friars Golf Club; and Thousand Greens.

David and Carlyle like to socialize with family and friends, travel and experience new things together. They have two children and a 10-year-old terrier named Pepper. Their older child Stewart (18) is a senior at Greens Farms Academy, and Daphne (16) is in 10th grade at Cheshire Academy. Carlyle has been a professional artist since 2001 and is represented at Ceres Gallery in New York City, with a focus on landscapes and abstracts in oil and acrylic.

In Memoriam

William H. (Bill) Anderson



William H. (Bill) Anderson passed away peacefully at his home on December 3, 2025, at age 95. Born November 24, 1930, in South Bend, Ind., Bill grew up in a football family. His father, Heartley “Hunk” Anderson, coached at Notre Dame and the Chicago Bears. His mother Marie was a teacher and homemaker. The youngest of three children, he was cherished by sisters Shirley Simpson and Joann Wilcox, both of whom predeceased him.

At Duke University, Bill excelled in track and was an ROTC member. A church supper introduced him to Margaret “Mugsie” Worrell, the love of his life. After graduating cum laude, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War but not before they married in Palm Beach, starting a 67-year union.

Bill spent 26 years at IBM, rising through the ranks and relocating often to support his family. Later, as CIO at Prudential Securities, his leadership earned him a board seat. He retired after two decades and is remembered for integrity, mentorship and treating his teams like family.

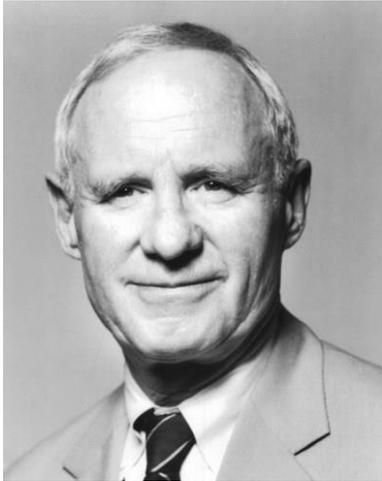
Family was always at the heart of Bill’s life. He and Mugsie, along with their four boys, cherished summers boating and winters skiing. Bill continued to nurture those bonds by hosting countless family gatherings that created shared experiences and lasting memories. Bill was a man of faith and generosity, devoting his time, talent and resources to every church he served — especially St. John’s in Hingham, Mass., and Saint Luke’s Parish in Darien. He held roles from youth leader to warden to usher, reflecting his deep commitment to his faith community. Bill also championed outreach initiatives, supporting Person to Person in Darien and the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance. He lived his faith through action and kindness.

Bill was predeceased by Mugsie and his son Mark Worrell Anderson. He is survived by son William (Oz) and his wife Cindy of Cameron Park, Calif.; son Jeffrey and his wife Karin of Hingham, Mass.; son Daniel and his wife Julia of Stamford; and daughter-in-law Christine of Manchester, N.H. Bill was blessed with 12 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at Saint Luke’s Parish on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Person to Person, 1864 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820, or The Episcopal Parish of St. John the Evangelist, 172 Main Street, Hingham, Mass. The family wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude for the love, prayers and support shared during this time. Bill’s life was a gift to all who knew him, and his

legacy of kindness, faith and devotion will continue to inspire the family. You are invited to join the family in celebrating his remarkable life and in keeping his memory alive through acts of love and generosity.

Robert (Bob) B. Fiske Jr.



Robert (Bob) Bishop Fiske Jr., devoted family man and esteemed lawyer, died peacefully at his home in Darien on December 4, 2025. He was 94. The cause was pancreatic cancer.

Born in Brooklyn on December 28, 1930, Bob spent his formative years in Darien. He met his future wife, Janet Tinsley, when they were teenagers. They remained happily married for 71 years, often repeating the phrase "together forever."

Bob's greatest joy was his family. Many of his happiest moments were spent sharing adventures with them. He cherished trips to Block Island, Nantucket, Steamboat and special times together at a second home in Vermont. An avid outdoorsman, he hiked the Long Trail in Vermont, the Appalachian Trail and New Zealand's Milford Track. He took particular pride in completing the New York City Marathon and the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, as well as riding for many years in the Pan-Mass Challenge. He was a longtime member and sailor at Noroton Yacht Club and an enthusiastic fly fisherman at the Balsam Lake Club in Livingston Manor, N.Y. Bob embraced every opportunity to be outside, turning boating, skiing and countless other activities into treasured family memories. He continued playing tennis and kayaking on Long Island Sound well into his 90s.

An alumnus of Pomfret School, Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School, Bob was a distinguished partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell. He served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) from 1976 to 1980, leading one of the nation's most prominent prosecutorial offices. He personally led several high-profile cases, including the conviction of "Mr. Untouchable," Harlem drug kingpin Nicky Barnes. While at the SDNY, Bob began his dedication to the hiring and advancement of women in the legal profession.

In 1994, Attorney General Janet Reno selected him to serve as the independent counsel investigating President Clinton's involvement in the Whitewater matter, a role for which Bob was universally praised across the political spectrum for his sterling reputation, non-partisan decision making, integrity and prosecutorial excellence.

Bob's professional achievements and reputation garnered him numerous awards and distinctions. In addition, he served as president of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Federal Bar Council.

Reflecting his belief that exposure to both public and private practice cultivates more experienced lawyers, Bob created the Fiske Fellowship Program at the University of Michigan Law School in 2001 to financially support graduates beginning their career in public service. He was deeply committed to public service and the communities he loved. Bob devoted many years to the Board of Trustees of Vermont Law School, helping to shape and strengthen the school's future, and to the Vermont Natural Resources Council, reflecting his long-standing passion for conservation and the environment. Closer to home, he served as the Darien Police Commissioner for many years.

In 2014, he published *Prosecutor, Defender, Counselor: The Memoirs of Robert B. Fiske Jr.*, reflecting on his legal career and personal life. After retiring from Davis Polk, Bob continued to work on legal matters, serving on committees and participating in pro bono cases until his death.

Bob had a remarkable intellect and memory, matched by his kind and generous nature. He had a rare ability to connect with anyone, taking a genuine interest in their life. His dry wit and understated manner often belied his outgoing nature and boundless energy. His zest for life shone through in the way he loved planning gatherings with family and friends. Many of these grew into lasting traditions, particularly attending Yale and University of Michigan sporting events.

Bob leaves behind his beloved wife Janet; their children Linda, Robert and Susan (Rusty Williams); five grandsons: Ryan (Ellen), Calvin (Milena), Robert "Roby" Williams, and George and Sam Fiske; and great-grandson Owen Williams. He is survived by his brother John and predeceased by his brother McNeil.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 31, at 2 p.m. at Saint Luke's Parish in Darien. To watch online, visit <https://www.saintlukesdarien.org/event/funeral-for-robert-fiske/>.

The family suggests that, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Robert B. Fiske Jr. Fellowship Program in Public Service, <https://giving.umich.edu/um/w/robert-b.-fiske-jr.-fellowship-program-in-public-service-575174>, Soundwaters, <https://soundwaters.org/donatenow>, or a charity of your choice.

Robert (Peter) Edwin Kenyon III



Robert Edwin Kenyon III, known as Peter, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on December 21, 2025.

Peter was born in Chicago on July 27, 1938, to Robert Edwin Kenyon, Jr., and Doris Bokum Kenyon. They moved to Old Greenwich when Peter was six years old. He graduated from Kent School in 1957 and Columbia University in 1962. Shortly after graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy in San Diego and served for two tours of duty on the destroyer Bausell (DD845), on which he saw action off the coast of Vietnam. After his active military service, Peter went on to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve for another 20 years.

He met the love of his life, Kathleen O'Neill, in San Diego. They moved to Darien in 1972, where Peter enjoyed a long, distinguished career as both a reinsurance underwriter and broker. He retired from Guy Carpenter & Co. in 2014.

Peter was most proud of his family, and nothing was more important to him than the time he spent with them. He shared his love of the water with them, spending many a beach vacation together in Nantucket over the years and taking his kids out early in the morning on fishing trips, where he painstakingly taught all of them how to cast and reel one in. Peter taught his kids and grandkids many of his own passions, including, but not limited to: sports and the importance of teamwork; traveling, both exploring new places and going back to favorites; all things food-related; anything related to the Navy; and the impact of volunteering and community service. Most important, both Peter and Kathy would drop everything to be there for their loved ones, and that had an everlasting impact on the family.

Upon moving to Darien, Peter became a devoted volunteer of many organizations. He served on the RTM for District II and was elected moderator of the RTM for six terms. He was a parishioner at Saint Luke's Parish, serving on its vestry, being an usher and faithfully staffing the dessert table at community suppers. Peter coached his son's Darien Youth Hockey team, served on the PTO at Tokeneke School, worked on Darien's Environmental Protection Commission, raised funds for the Darien Old Timers Athletic Association, mentored candidates of the Navy SEAL Recruiting District Assistance Council and supported the Middlesex Genealogy Society.

Peter was blessed by the gift of life, having received a heart transplant in early 2002. Both Peter and Kathy felt strongly about honoring his donor by giving back through volunteering at Yale New Haven and mentoring patients waiting for a transplant and those living with a left ventricular assist device.

Peter is survived by his wife of 59 years, Kathleen O'Neill Kenyon; his daughters Kelly (Dave) Wheeler, Michelle Kenyon (Frank Persico) and Robyn (Mark) Kammerer; his son Jonathan (Janine) Kenyon; his grandchildren Jack, Charlie and Ali Wheeler, Benjamin and Isadora Kammerer, and Jonty and Nicky Kenyon; his sister Pamela Force; and many nephews and nieces.

DMA Speakers Program

The following speakers made presentations to the DMA since the last issue of the newsletter:

- November 12 — **John Blankley**, “What Would Alexis de Tocqueville Think of Our Democracy Today?”
- November 19 — **G. Warfield “Skip” Hobbs, IV**, “Harnessing Vulcan’s Might: An Overview of Geothermal Energy”
- December 3 — **Gary Zenkel**, President, NBC Olympics
- December 17 — **Carla Gambescia**, “Unexpected Stories behind Beloved Christmas Traditions”

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

Here is a photo of DMA’s **Mike Wheeler** interviewing Gary Zenkel on December 3.



Photo by Mike Kadish

Community Service

The DMA, led by its Community Service Committee chaired by **John Craft**, 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. In 2025, the DMA launched a relationship with At Home in Darien, as part of which we made a contribution to that organization.

DMA members have honored the service of the 2,200 veterans buried at Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery by donating to Wreaths Across America to place wreaths on those veterans' graves. On December 13, 2025, there was a ceremony to honor their sacrifices. **Frank Gallagher** provided the following photographs.



*DMA member **Kevin Davidson** attended with his grandsons Peter and Drew.*



Volunteers prepared to lay wreaths.



*Father **Samuel Scott** of St. John Church blesses the wreaths.*

DMA members also serve the community by bell ringing in front of Palmer's Market during the Christmas season to raise money for the Darien Human Services Department (DHS) and by participating in food and clothing drives organized by Person to Person. Periodically at a DMA Wednesday meeting, the Community Service chair will speak for a few minutes about specific organizations and review upcoming activities related to community service.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community service, the DMA once again "rang the bell" for DHS in front of Palmer's Market during the holiday season. This fundraiser has long been a holiday tradition for the DMA. Our members filled 48 time slots during this year's three dates: December 20, 21, and 22, 2025.

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 was \$4,500. This was impressive given that the temperatures were frigid all three days. As costs remain high for many goods and services, the need for support has never been greater.



Tom Igoe, Mike Kadish, John Craft and Ted Helms "ring the bell" at Palmer's Market. Photo by Sadae Kadish

For information about organizations that are supported by DMA members and that serve our community, see the DMA website at <https://dariendma.org/category/community-service/>.

John Craft: jcraft123@gmail.com

Social Events

The Social Events Committee plans and executes various activities from September through June, including the annual Holiday Party in December and picnic at Weed Beach in June.

The Social Events Committee held its first event of the year on October 28, 2025 — a tour of The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, followed by lunch at the Grand Central Oyster Bar & Restaurant. Here are photographs of that event.



Photo by Fred Given



Photo by Tom Igoe



Photo by Fred Given



Photo by Tom Igoe



Photo by Fred Given



Photo by Tom Igoe



Photo by Tom Igoe

The annual Holiday Party was held Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at The Country Club of Darien. **Gab Kallay** played Christmas and other music during the cocktail hour, and the **Camerata Singers**, an ensemble of 7th and 8th grade students from Middlesex Middle School, reprised last year's after-dinner performance.

Here are photographs of the party.



Photo by Lorry Given



Chet Cobb welcomed everyone to the Holiday Party.
Photo by Lorry Given



DMA President Ric Grefé thanked everyone who made the party possible. Photo by Mike Kadish



The Camerata Singers entertained the DMA with an array of holiday music. Photo by Mike Kadish



Photo by Mike Kadish



Photo by Gregory Glashan



Partygoers were focused on the performance of the Camerata Singers. Photo by Mike Kadish

ACTIVITIES

Updated information about Activity Groups' meeting times and events can be found by using the following links to the Activities section on the DMA website, [Activities – Darien Men's Association](#), or the DMA Calendar at dariendma@gmail.com.

Groups that will be active from January through February are:

- Book Group
- Bowling Group
- Community Service
- Cribbage Group
- Current Affairs Discussion Group
- Happy Wanderers
- Hiking Group
- Investment Discussion Group
- New Wave Singers
- Pickleball Group
- Table Tennis Group
- TechTalk
- Woodworking

Here are photographs and reports of the activities of some of these groups. Additional information about other groups, including reports of the Bowling Group's weekly outings, is available on the website.

Bowling

Weekly reports of the Bowling Group's exploits are available on the DMA website at [Bowling – Darien Men's Association](#). These photos were furnished by "Commish" Tom Lom of the Bowling Group's outing at Nutmeg Lanes on December 9.



*Front: Ed Smith, Ben Briggs, Ed Schechter, Dave Smith, Mike Ryan
Back: George Gilliam, Alex Garnett, Frank DeLeo, Bill Tamme, Tom Lom, Marty Milewski, Ted Helms*



Ted Helms (left) and Tom Lom pose to celebrate noteworthy performances.



The bowlers wished Alex Garnett happy birthday on October 28.



Alex Garnett celebrates a milestone birthday at Numeq.

Current Affairs Discussion Group

The Current Affairs Group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. at the DCA and via Zoom. If you enjoy researching and discussing current affairs, then you should join the DMA Current Affairs Discussion Group. The topic and Zoom link for each meeting will be published in the edition of *This Week at DMA* for the week during which the meeting will be held. For further information or to be added to the distribution list, contact **Barry Silver** at silver.barry@gmail.com.

Below is a photo taken by Barry Silver of the group's session in November 2025, at which **Art Baron** led a discussion on innovation in the age of artificial intelligence.



Happy Wanderers

These photos of the Wanderers at the Bronx Zoo on October 16, 2025, were taken by Joe Spain except for the first, which was taken by Fred Given.





These are photos of the Wandering to the New York Transit Museum on December 11, 2025.



Photo by Chet Cobb



Photo by Chet Cobb



*Did Fred Given photograph **Harry Bergen** about to change into a New York Transit uniform?*



Photo by Chet Cobb



Photo by Joe Spain

Hiking

These are photographs taken by **Mike Kadish** of the November 13, 2025, hike at Cranberry Lake Preserve in West Harrison, N.Y.



These are photographs taken by **David Earle** of the December 4 hike at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, N.Y.



New Wave Singers

The New Wave Singers performed at the beginning of the DMA's general meeting on December 17, 2025. Here is a photo of their performance taken by Mike Kadish.



Table Tennis

These photos were taken by Mike Kadish at our tables at the Mather Center. The top photo shows **John Olson** playing **Tom Lom** (foreground) and **Steve Gravereaux** squaring off against **John Janiga** (background). The bottom photo shows John Janiga rallying with Steve Gravereaux (foreground) and Tom Lom facing off against **Ted Helms** (background).



Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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