



Newsletter

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Darien Men's Association

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President's Message

It is somewhat of a DMA tradition that the outgoing president provides a “farewell address,” and so I reprise my remarks to those members who attended the last general meeting of this DMA season.

I joined the DMA in 2017, encouraged by **Harris Hester** to attend the weekly meetings. I stepped into a friendly, open environment and a large room full of interesting and experienced people, most of whom I had never met (having grown up in the Midwest and spent 45 years as a lawyer in New York City). I felt nervous about my future “in retirement” and how I might become more fully engaged in the Darien community. Looking back over the past seven years, I found, through the DMA, new purposes in life and many new friends in the process of taking on more responsibilities: first as chair of the Book Club, then as editor of *This Week* and the *DMA Newsletter*, later as chair of the Speakers Program, and, last, for this season, as your president. It has been a wonderful ride.

What did I learn?

- I learned that the DMA is an extraordinary organization, defined by the depth, diversity and quality of its sponsored programs and events, by the broad experience and background of its members, by their curiosity and thoughtfulness (exhibited in the weekly speaker Q&A sessions, book discussions and current affairs programs), and by the devotion of its members to the goals of fellowship, fun and community service.
- I learned that the DMA provided me opportunities to read books that I would not otherwise have considered, to explore a range of timely and important topics, to learn from knowledgeable speakers, and to engage in informative discussions with others, all of which enhanced my understanding of and perspectives on life and provided me with new and interesting areas of focus.

- I learned how to better navigate digital technology and to assemble and edit photographs and texts in ways that I never would otherwise have tackled or understood.
- I learned about the importance of our caring for one another as we age, of taking the time to provide friendship and comfort to those who are not as well physically or mentally as they used to be.
- I was moved by the strong character of the men of the DMA, how they treat one another with decency and respect, and how they endeavor to engage outside speakers with thoughtful and respectful questions, even when a particular speaker's presentation may make that a difficult task.

In sum, the DMA is a community gem, one that we need to protect, nurture and cultivate in the years ahead. To that end, I offer four recommendations:

- The DMA By-Laws provide that the association shall be non-partisan in its policy and non-sectarian in its programs. We all know that our nation is experiencing severe political and social turbulence in these troubled times and that we have the responsibility, as citizens, to stay informed, to be engaged in promoting good government, and to speak and work for the well-being of our federal and state government, in each case as we deem appropriate. That said, the DMA has not been, and should not be, a forum for partisan debate. This fundamental policy has served us well in the past and will continue to do so in the future.
- The vitality of our organization depends upon the steady, continuing admission of new members. This encompasses their integration into the fabric of the DMA and the follow-on thoughtful and timely development of new leaders. These new leaders will need to take on the tasks associated with the financial and organizational aspects of the DMA, the administration and oversight of its existing programs and social events, and the creative development of new DMA activities, programs and projects. We must continue to encourage new members to become involved and to urge capable leaders to "get on the ladder."
- Over its history, the DMA has been well-managed in terms of its finances. We have balanced revenues and expenses and set annual dues at a level that is appropriate for an organization of our size and scope. That said, we are not a business enterprise. We are a tax-exempt voluntary, nonprofit unincorporated association whose primary purpose is to serve the men of the DMA and the community in which we reside. We remain in sound financial condition and are blessed with a long-term investment fund that is available to support DMA activities and programs. While we need to remain

financially prudent, we should not be reluctant to draw freely upon the investment fund where it makes good sense to do so.

- My final recommendation relates to the Darien Community Association. I served on the DCA board the past four years. The DMA and the DCA, both important town institutions, complement each other quite well. In my view, there is no other organization that can provide to us what we currently enjoy at the DCA Meadowlands – an attractive, high-quality venue in the heart of Darien with a friendly, capable staff, ample parking and an enduring commitment to technology that supports the DMA’s weekly meetings, including the outstanding speakers program. The DMA is close to finalizing a new multi-year arrangement with the DCA that I believe will serve us well into the future. As part of this arrangement, the DMA and the DCA should work collaboratively to create joint programming and events for the benefit of both organizations and their members.

I have had the privilege to serve as your president over this past year and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Our new president, **Frank DeLeo**, is highly competent and will do an outstanding job for us.

Tom Igoe
2023-2024 DMA president

New Members

Kirk Bowman



Kirk Bowman and his wife Laura moved to Rowayton about three years ago from California. They left Healdsburg, located in the Sonoma County wine country, because the wildfires there were beginning to look like they would become an annual event. Kirk and Laura moved here to be closer to their daughter, Alison, and only grandchild Sam, who live in Chappaqua, N.Y. Their other daughter, Amy, will soon be moving back to the States from Belgium with her husband AJ, who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence officer who was on loan to NATO.

Kirk was born in Oakland, Calif., in 1941 but grew up on a 12-acre property near Walnut Creek, where his family had 250 walnut trees. He graduated from the University of the Pacific, located in Stockton, Calif., in 1962 with a degree in international relations. At Pacific, he met Laura, his wife of 60 years.

After receiving his M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1967, Kirk moved to Chicago where he began his career in venture capital at The First National Bank of Chicago. He moved back to California in 1972 when he joined Bank of America's venture capital subsidiary. From there, he became a partner at WestVen, which was co-founded by Weiss, Peck & Greer and BankAmerica Corporation. Kirk joined Hambrecht & Quist (H&Q) in 1981 where he and three partners ran its venture capital operation. In 1985, he and one of his H&Q partners, Grant Inman, co-founded Inman & Bowman, which they successfully ran until 1998. After retiring, he made a number of private investments and participated in several volunteer activities, including serving as a member of the Board of Regents at the University of the Pacific and board member of the Healdsburg Education Foundation.

Over the years, Kirk has enjoyed playing golf in many places worldwide but does not play much anymore. Being an avid golfer and a good golfer are two separate things, and Kirk would describe his game as "30 years of beginning golf." He and his wife started taking bridge lessons at the DCA shortly after moving here and are enjoying the game. However, it is starting to feel like "30 years of beginning bridge." They also enjoy traveling and reading.

Fred Elliott



Fred Elliott was born in Bronxville, N.Y., and grew up in what is now known as Eastchester but then was part of Scarsdale. He attended Kent School and then Marietta College in Ohio, graduating in 1976 with a B.A. in economics and business management.

Fred began his career with NCR Corporation in sales within its Systemedia Division (business forms and supplies) the week after graduation. During 37 years with NCR, he served in various roles, including sales, sales management, product management and product development.

After leaving NCR, Fred did sales work for a few years with small companies before retiring to become a caregiver for his wife.

While at Kent, he was a member of two crews that rowed at the Henley Royal Regatta (in Henley-on-Thames, United Kingdom) in 1971 and 1972. A British acquaintance commented, “There are two ways to row at Henley: lose in the first round and enjoy the regatta – or win the damn thing!” That’s exactly what happened – his crew lost in ’71 yet in ’72 completed an undefeated season (U.S. Schoolboy Champions) with a Princess Elizabeth Cup win at Henley.

After Kent, Fred continued rowing at Marietta with an undefeated freshman heavyweight boat (Small College Champions) followed by three years in either the varsity lightweights or heavyweights. He met his wife Pam while at Marietta, and they were married in 1975.

With NCR, they called Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., Severna Park, Md., and Centerville, Ohio, “home” before moving to Darien in 1988. Their third and youngest son Mark was born here, while Peter arrived almost nine years earlier and Andrew six years earlier.

Fred and his family have had three addresses in Darien, the last two on the water, allowing him to take up rowing again. Beginning in 2006, he has competed in various “Head” races in his single scull, such as Head of the Charles, Head of the Schuylkill, Head of the Fish and others. Fred is a member of the Vero Beach Rowing Club, as well as the Leander Club (in Henley-on-Thames) and the Kent School Boat Club.

Since moving to Darien, Fred has been involved in volunteer opportunities, from Darien Youth Hockey to Person-to-Person. He has been active in a variety of outreach programs through Saint Luke’s Parish where he is currently serving a second stint on the Vestry and is a member

of its Executive Committee. Fred is also a member of the Darien Sail & Power Squadron, serving as its executive officer. He is the proud owner of his mother's 1966 Mustang and 1969 Chris Craft powerboat, moored off Noroton Yacht Club where Fred has been a member since 1991.

Fred's wife Pam was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2011, which quickly morphed into Lewy Body dementia. Because it was the right thing for him to do, he left his career to become her primary caregiver in 2015. She passed away in 2021. He states that he would not trade those years for anything—when he learned more about love than he ever imagined.

Today, he writes, carries a full commitment to volunteer work, continues to row and thoroughly enjoys having his two grandsons nearby in Fairfield.

Ed Kweskin



Ed Kweskin was born and raised in Stamford. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968 with a B.A. and earned a juris doctor degree from George Washington University Law School. After practicing law for two years with Community Legal Services, Inc., in Philadelphia, Ed and his wife Helen moved to Rowayton. He began practicing law in Stamford with Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky, and he remained a partner for more than 50 years.

Ed is a past president of the Stamford-Darien Bar Association. Two organizations, Connecticut Legal Services and the Connecticut Bar Association, honored him with their Pro Bono Awards in 2016.

Ed served 17 years as a commissioner in Rowayton, including 10 years as commission chairman. Additionally, Ed is a past president of the Bell Island Improvement Association, Temple Sinai in Stamford and the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Club of Fairfield County. He is a member of Silvermine Golf Club and Rowayton Yacht Club.

Ed and Helen have lived on Bell Island since 1977. They have two children who grew up in Rowayton. Ed and Helen enjoy traveling especially to see their three young grandchildren who live in Geneva, Switzerland. Their three other grandchildren live in nearby Armonk, N.Y.

William Looney



William (Bill) Looney was born in late December 1953 in the North Country of Vermont—it goes without saying he is very familiar with the last light of day. An early memory was watching his father build by hand a lake cottage in the Sandwich area of New Hampshire—a place that remained in his family for more than 60 years and inspired some epic father/son bonding trips into fields, streams, bogs and mountains where the destination was not always clear.

After this early education in the woods, Bill went to school at Connecticut College where he spent semesters at the London School of Economics but mostly traveled to wild places in Cornwall and Wales. He moved to New York as a graduate student at the Columbia University School of International Affairs, receiving an advanced degree in 1979. His working years began shortly after that as an analyst and writer for the Economist Intelligence Unit where he was assigned to cover the Canadian market. He spent many long winter weeks in Ottawa reporting on Quebec separatism and the country’s dalliance with economic nationalism. Later, he was among the first to uncover the rise of the global consumer movement after the Union Carbide chemical disaster in India, work that gave him the tagline “Bhopal Bill.”

That led in turn to a long stint in the pharmaceutical industry where he handled public affairs and policy issues in the United Kingdom, Japan and other non-U.S. markets for Warner-Lambert and later Pfizer, trying as well to keep the CEOs happy at the Davos World Economic Forum and other ego-embellishing events. Then came the role of editor of two pharmaceutical trade publications for which he received awards for excellence in editorial commentary. Currently, Bill contributes part time to content and event management for a French company, the Galien Foundation. The organization was co-founded by the late author and holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel to promote medicines innovation as an instrument for global growth, development and peace. He also works with DMA Secretary Mike Wheeler as an English tutor for new immigrants in a program run by Family Centers of Greenwich/Stamford.

Bill lives in Darien with his wife Andrea, whom he met early on at his first job. His boss told Bill to offer his seat to the fresh new face from the firm’s Washington office. Reluctantly, he did. Forty years later, Bill still has that bentwood office chair, now at home, and continues the (now not so easy) practice of offering his spare seat to a stranger—because you never know what good can happen when you do.

Dougal Munro



Dougal Munro was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1951. He attended Trinity College, Glenalmond where he played cricket avidly and was captain of the school team. Dougal graduated from the University of Leeds in England with a B.A. (Hons.) in textile design in 1975. He joined the British luxury textile company Holland & Sherry, taking a sales executive position in the United States. In 1981, he became president of Holland & Sherry Inc., traveling extensively and often to the United States. His efforts helped drive the growth of the company, including under his watch the founding of the luxury textile interior design division in New York in 1998, which has since spread globally.

In addition to his sales and corporate responsibilities, he spent much of his career teaching retailers and their salespeople in the custom clothing and apparel industry about luxury natural fibers and the design and manufacture of fine woven textiles. He retired in May 2023 after 47 years with Holland & Sherry. Dougal and Becky, his wife of 45 years and a real estate agent with Brown

Harris Stevens, moved to Darien in 1987. They have two adult children, Katrina and Rob, both of whom attended Darien High School.

Dougal became a U.S. citizen in 1994. He and Becky have been active members of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Darien since 1987 and are longtime members of The Country Club of Darien. Dougal is a member of Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York, founded in 1756, was on the board of managers of the Society for two four-year terms, and served as first vice president from 2014 to 2015. Dougal currently serves on the Scholarship Committee of the Society.

He is a member of the Robert Burns Society of the City of New York and served for several years as a trustee. He is also a member of the Connecticut State Seniors Golf Association, Darien Boat Club and The New Club (in Edinburgh). Dougal and his wife enjoy the performing arts, reading, traveling with friends to culturally interesting destinations, boating on Long Island Sound, swimming at the Darien YMCA and in the Sound, and walking their dog. In retirement, Dougal is keen to play more golf, rekindle some of his dormant creative interests in photography, painting and writing, and become a useful, participating member of the DMA.

Lou Rawden



Lou Rawden grew up in Cheshire, Conn. He graduated with a B.S. degree from Bryant University in 1978 and an M.S. degree from the University of Hartford in 1980. He started his career as a CPA with Deloitte & Touche in Stamford and over the years transitioned to banking. In 2022, Lou retired from Apple Bank in New York City after a 30-year career where he last served as chief financial officer.

Lou lives in Darien with his wife Kathy. They moved here in 1985. Their two children Katie and Lou, Jr., were educated in the Darien public school system. Lou was active with Darien Little League, serving as a coach and commissioner and was involved in the initial fundraising for the McGuane baseball fields. Over the years, he has held several board positions at

the Middlesex Club, where he and Kathy are long-time members. He enjoys racquet sports, biking, hiking and golf.

Bernie Smith



Bernie Smith was born on Staten Island in 1942. He graduated from Curtis High School in 1960. After graduating from Nichols College, Bernie was employed by Moody's Investors Service in the Municipal Bond Department. His position involved analyzing municipalities, utilities and school districts and issuing a quality assessment in the form of a municipal bond rating.

In 1972, he was hired by The First Boston Corporation to create a Municipal Bond Research Department. In 1985, he joined Bond Investors Guaranty (BIG), a start-up company that insured municipal bonds issued by municipalities, utilities and school districts nationwide. BIG was bought out in 1990 by a competitor. Bernie then joined Enhance Financial Services Group and managed the municipal bond insurance group until his retirement in 1996.

Bernie and his wife Sonia have two children, both of whom are graduates of Darien High School (DHS). Their daughter Christine graduated in 1987. She attended Trinity College in Hartford and received her law degree from The George Washington University Law School. She and her rowing partner won three World Rowing Championships and a bronze medal at the 2000 Olympics in Australia. Christine (Collins) is now an attorney in the legal division of Boston

University. Son Bernie, after graduating from DHS in 1990 and Guilford College in 1994, started his own company, Stealth Components, in Charlotte, N.C. The company also has an office in Europe and brokers electronic components worldwide.

Bernie and his wife were members of The Country Club of Darien from 1987 until 2012. He was a member of the board of directors for four years and president in 2009. Bernie and Sonia now reside in North Falmouth, Mass.

Jeff Taebel



Jeff Taebel was born in Elmhurst, Ill., in 1956 and grew up in Los Angeles and Seward, Neb. Jeff earned a B.S. in life sciences from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in urban planning from Texas A&M University.

He began his career with the City of Houston Planning and Development Department. He later moved to the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he was director of community and environmental planning for 35 years.

Jeff is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and served as a site visitor for the Planning Accreditation Board, which reviews and accredits collegiate urban planning degree programs.

In 2022, after 41 years in Houston, Jeff and his wife Kathy retired and moved to Darien to be near their daughter Sarah, her husband and their two granddaughters.

Jeff serves on the Town of Darien's Great Island Advisory Committee. He enjoys playing guitar and basketball.

Thomas Tyler



Thomas Tyler grew up in Darien in the third generation of Tylers. He graduated from Darien High School (DHS) in 1967 and attended Sacred Heart University. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1969, serving in Texas, Vietnam and California as an education specialist and an aircraft cargo loadmaster on C141s in the Pacific. Following military service, he attended the University of Connecticut, working summers as a shipyard laborer, casino cook, engineering intern and independent painting contractor.

After graduating in 1977 with a degree in civil engineering, Thomas worked for five years as a structural design engineer in Texas, Stamford and New Canaan. He became a licensed professional engineer (PE) in the state of Connecticut in 1982. He then worked with Hardesty & Hanover in New York City for 16 years, focusing on construction management and resident engineering. He served as the owner's representative on major bridge

rehabilitation and replacement projects, including the Yankee Doodle over the Norwalk River and two moveable bridges in the Bronx.

The next 25 years were spent with the Slattery Contracting Company (later renamed Skanska USA Civil NE) serving as quality manager for mega projects, including the JFK AirTrain, the Kosciuszko cable-stayed bridge, reconstruction of the World Trade Center and Moynihan Train Hall at Penn Station on 33rd Street. During this time, Thomas became a member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and served as a voting member on committees, becoming secretary and chair of one of them, as well as a contributing author, editor and champion on several ACI publications.

Thomas is a registered PE in Connecticut and New York and holds certifications with ACI, the American Welding Society, the International Code Council and the American Society for Quality.

His wife, Nancy Anderson Tyler, recently passed away. They made their home in Darien. She was a pillar for her family, providing guidance and motivation for both Thomas and their daughter Lindsay, and helping numerous family members in various ways. Some of his best memories are home renovation projects from early on, time spent with her parents in Fairfield, family trips to Cape Cod and many great weekends at Dartmouth to cheer at Lindsay's swim meets. Aside from her thoughtfulness and sharp memory, Nancy had a competitive spirit and generosity that reached friends and teammates in the community. Both Nancy and Lindsay were active at the Middlesex Club and the Darien YMCA.

Daughter Lindsay was salutatorian of the DHS Class of 2011 and graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College. She was the varsity swim team captain in her senior year at both schools. Lindsay now lives in Manhattan and works as an executive director at Morgan Stanley.

Thomas recently retired and is in the process of restructuring his life after a 47-year career and a 38-year marriage. He intends to spend more time outside, get more exercise (and a bit better at golf), and finish the numerous projects he never had the time to complete. He enjoys yard work, history channels, anthropology, articles in the *Science Times*, Mexican food and BBQ. His favorite sports to watch include baseball, football and college basketball. He likes country, folk and blues (old stuff) and can play a little on guitar and harmonica (better harmonica than guitar). Thomas looks forward to seeing how he can contribute to the DMA.

In Memoriam



William (Bill) Forrest Close, age 92, of Norwalk passed away peacefully on April 23, 2024, at Regional Hospice in Danbury surrounded by his loving family.

Bill was born September 30, 1931, in Washington, D.C., son of the late Forrest Close and Margaret Wood Holmes. He attended Summit High School in New Jersey and Princeton University, Class of 1953, where he was awarded an NROTC scholarship. His senior year, he was made midshipman cadet commander. After he was commissioned as an ensign in 1953, he was stationed for three years on the fleet destroyer USS Warrington (DD 843). Near

the completion of active duty, he was promoted to lieutenant JG.

Following Princeton, he attended Harvard Business School, graduating with an M.B.A. in 1958. His business career spanned 32 years as a broker on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

From a young age, Bill enjoyed sailing at Sachem's Head Yacht Club in Guilford. He raced in nine Newport to Bermuda Races, winning the race in 1962, cruised with many clubs and sailed trans-Atlantic in 1984. He was a member of Sachem's Head Yacht Club, the Cruising Club of America and the Storm Trysail Club.

In 1991, he married Stephanie Illes and happily acquired two stepchildren, Brian Ladewig (wife, Nicole) of New Canaan and Kim Risley (husband, Dane, step-grandchildren Michael, Lauren and Kate) of Fairfield. Following his retirement in 1994, Bill and Stephanie enjoyed hiking, traveling, and cruising around the world with family and friends.

Bill won his battle with alcoholism for 50 years with the good graces of Alcoholics Anonymous, during which time he helped so many on their path to sobriety. Bill is survived by his wife Stephanie of 32 years and by his four children from two previous marriages and nine grandchildren: Forrest Close of Wilton and his wife Nicole (Madelyn, Gaelen), George Close of Rowayton and his wife Mallory (Brynley, Bennett, Forrest, Kyle), Carolyn Garth of Newport, R.I. (Cally, Penelope), William Close (Phoenix) of Los Angeles, Calif., and Bill's sister Mardee Moore of Madison, Conn.

A celebration of Bill's life was held on May 25 at The United Church of Rowayton. Donations may be made to The United Church of Rowayton, 210 Rowayton Avenue, Rowayton, CT 06853.

To plant a tree in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

Tom Gildersleeve passed away on March 24 at age 96. The following message to the DMA was received from Mark Gildersleeve, Tom's son:

My brother and I are deeply appreciative of the condolence card that we recently received. It is a nice touch to have so many signatures.

My father must have belonged to your group for upwards of 20 years. He always enjoyed the speakers. He participated in your tennis group for many years up to the age of 86 or so. After that, he became an active member of your bridge group, which provided many hours of entertainment in his last decade. You provide a great service to the community, and my father was quite fortunate to have been able to be a part of it.

Regards,
Mark



Robert Woodhull Hopkins, 95, passed away April 6 at Stamford Hospital. He was husband to Joan Dreher Hopkins, the son of Robert Carl and Eleanor Adams Hopkins, and brother of Sylvia Hopkins Siegler. He was a beloved husband, son, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother.

Bob was born in Orange, N.J., on February 9, 1929. The family moved to Connecticut a few years later, and Bob became a proud, lifelong resident of Darien. He attended Kimball Union Academy, class of 1947, in Meriden, N.H., where he excelled academically and athletically, twice serving as class president. From there, Bob went on to Dartmouth, following in the footsteps of his uncles, Ernest (who went on to be the 11th president of Dartmouth) and Louis, and his father Robert. At Dartmouth, he continued to excel, majoring in economics and playing baseball, hockey and varsity soccer. Dartmouth, and

Hanover, would be a treasured community in Bob's life for years to come, marked by many reunion trips and close bonds with his fellow '51 classmates.

After graduating from Dartmouth, Bob married Joan Dreher Hopkins, daughter of Monroe Franklin Dreher and Elizabeth Stirling Dreher, also of Darien, on April 11, 1953. They had met eight years prior, in Darien, at a Cinderella Dance. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1951 as a naval cadet, enrolling in the flight training program in Pensacola, Fla. He was commissioned as an ensign. He flew propellor Corsairs, then jet Banshees, serving as a lieutenant from 1953-1955 during the Korean War on the aircraft carrier USS Valley Forge.

However active his life may have been, Bob's true love and dedication were to his wife Joan and his three daughters Christina, Elizabeth and Susan. Three generations of the Hopkins family were fortunate to spend decades together in Darien and Delray Beach, Fla. In recent years, Bob had greeted into the world two great-granddaughters, both of whom will cherish early memories and photographs of him.

As a passionate golfer, Bob was a member of Woodway Country Club in Darien, where he served as president, and the St. Andrews Club in Delray Beach. He was an active member of the Connecticut State Golf Association, serving as president from 1995-1996. In his later years, and up until not that long ago, he was a course rater, rating and playing almost every golf course in the state. Memorial remembrances may be made to Kimball Union Academy, 7 Campus Center Drive, Meriden, NH 03770.



Tom Taylor, a 45-year resident of Darien, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2024. Tom was born to Alva and Mary Taylor in Coshocton, Ohio, and earned a B.A. from Duke University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. After graduation, he lived in Cleveland, where he met his wife-to-be Janet Hausser. They moved to the Washington, D.C., area in 1974 and to Darien in 1979 with their two children, Thomas W., Jr., of Oak Park, Ill. (Jody Evenson) and Kathleen T. Nash of Fairfield.

Tom was employed for nearly 40 years by the Comptroller of the Currency, a bank regulatory agency of the U.S. Treasury Department. He represented the agency as a member of the National Commission on Electronic Funds Transfers and established the first formal consumer protection office.

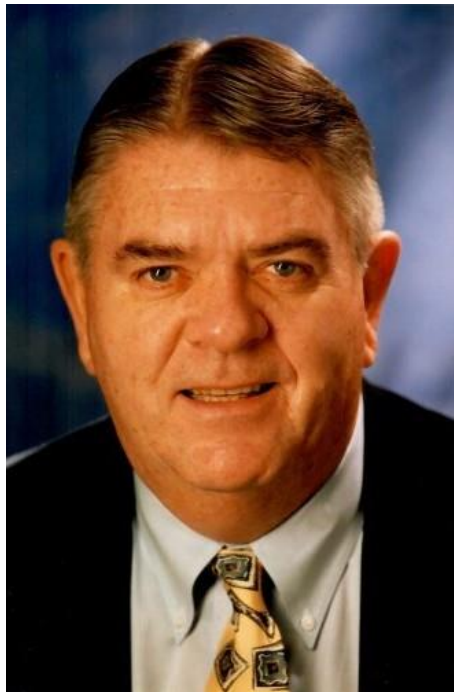
Upon retirement, he became a volunteer at Person-to-Person, became a member of the Darien Men's Association, and served as treasurer and board member of the Darien Community Association. He was an active member of the Noroton Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder and deacon, as well as a long-time member of the

Finance Committee. He was also active in the Presbytery of Southern New England for many years in several capacities, including treasurer, and as a member of the Committee on Ministry, Nominations, Trustees and Council.

Despite his faith, he suffered as a devoted Cleveland Indians and Browns fan.

He is survived by four grandchildren, Betsy, Gavin and Daphne Nash, and Sam Taylor, by his brother Richard A. Taylor of Coshocton (Judy Taylor), by his sister Elizabeth Reid of Columbia, Mo. (Robert Reid), by his sister-in-law Jeanne Lipps of San Marino, Calif., and by two nieces and four nephews. His wife Janet and his brother Joseph F. Taylor, predeceased him.

Donations may be made to Noroton Presbyterian Church at <https://www.noroton.church/give-online/>.



Richard "Dick" Wharton, a cherished father, grandfather and member of the Darien community for over five decades, passed away on April 23, 2024, under the care of Autumn Lakes Healthcare in Norwalk. He was 85 years old.

Born in Long Branch, N.J., Dick was the beloved son of Carleton and Edna Wharton of Keyport, N.J.

He graduated from Keyport High School and earned his B.S. from Monmouth College, followed by an M.B.A. from Fordham University.

Dick served with distinction as a major in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was recognized for outstanding performance and dedication to his duty as a platoon commander and executive officer.

Throughout his career, Dick held prominent roles, serving as senior vice president and board member at Direct Marketing Agency Inc. and as a division executive at Chase Manhattan Bank.

In high school, he began playing the trombone and continued for decades in groups like The Bob Button Band. A devoted and faithful member of Noroton Presbyterian Church, he could be found in his usual pew by the window. This past Easter, he especially loved joining in the Hallelujah Chorus.

His knuckleball and arm led him to a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field.

He is survived by his two loving children, Todd Wharton (Jodi Wharton) of Whitefish, Mont., and Heather Stramandinoli (Todd Stramandinoli) of Darien, along with their mother, Sandra Peppet of Norwalk. He was the adored grandfather of William and Olivia Stramandinoli, Colby Wharton and Carson Wharton, U.S. Marine Corps.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents and his two sisters, Carol Pollinger and June Feigenwinter. He was also predeceased by his father's second wife Mabel Wharton.

Memorial donations may be made to the [Horton Scholarship Fund at Noroton Presbyterian Church](#), 2011 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820, or online at:

<https://www.noroton.church/give-online/>

DMA Speakers Program

Congratulations to **Frank DeLeo** for having organized a fantastic group of speakers this year. Topics ranged from U.S. and world history delivered by authors such as Mark Albertson, Ted Aldrich and Michael Curran, to local developments presented by DMA member and First Selectman **John Zagrodzky** and Darien P&Z director Jeremy Ginsberg, to analysis of current affairs by political figures Senator Chris Murphy and retired Congressman Chris Shays. And we got an update on the war in Ukraine from foreign policy expert Dr. Olena Lennon.

Also featured were veteran DMA speakers **Flemming Heilmann**, **Sunil Saksena**, **Cliff van Voorhees** and **Alec Wiggin**, who spoke, respectively, on equality and equity, colonialism in India by a private corporation, the success of charter schools and the opportunities for bird watching in the local area.

DMA member **Dan Kolakowski** and Steve Aspden, project managers for airport engineering and construction projects worldwide, took us through the renovation of the new LaGuardia Airport, which had to be completed while the existing one was in full service. They managed to achieve this through brilliant project management and effective coordination with the airlines.

And then there were some less weighty topics, including Brian Walker's lively life in cartoons, Jeff Kalt's amusing tale of creating a rock radio powerhouse right here in Connecticut, and Michael Friedman's photographic and illustrated tale of lost rock 'n' roll negatives. Not to mention Shaun Kelley's speech on the sports betting market: the nec plus ultra must be our own March Madness, a tradition that requires much skill and a bit of luck.

And this doesn't cover even half of our speakers this year. Indeed, they were all winners, thanks to Frank.

Next season, starting at our first Wednesday morning meeting on September 4, **Ric Grefé**, DMA speaker chairman for the 2024-25 season will introduce the first of many great speakers that will no doubt rival those we have heard this past year. We certainly look forward to that but will keep you in suspense for the moment, naming our initial speaker in the early September issue of *This Week at DMA*, so ably written by **Bryan Hooper** and distributed electronically to all DMA members by **Lee Morrison**. See you in September!

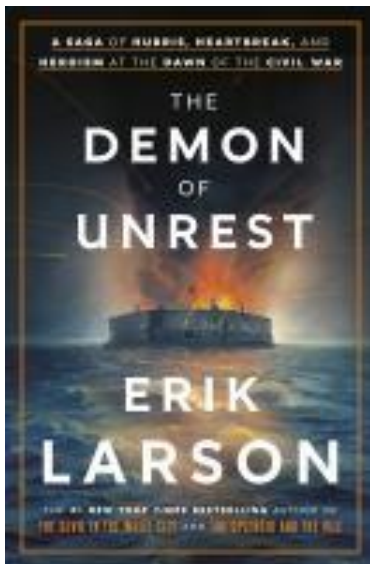


ACTIVITIES

Book Group: Summer and Fall Selections

The **DMA Book Club** chooses one large volume to read over the summer to discuss at our first meeting in September. This year, club members selected one book among five proposed using rank-order voting. We thank **Barry Silver**, who designed and managed the successful voting process. Book Club meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month starting 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**, which gives us the ability to allow DMA members who choose to participate remotely to do so. The room is equipped with Zoom software, video and audio systems for remote participants. A Zoom link will be available. We also picked a new book for October (see below). To get on our mailing list, contact **Rick Agresta** or **Harry McLachlin** at richard.agresta@gmail.com or hdmclachaol.com.

The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson (September 11)



On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter.

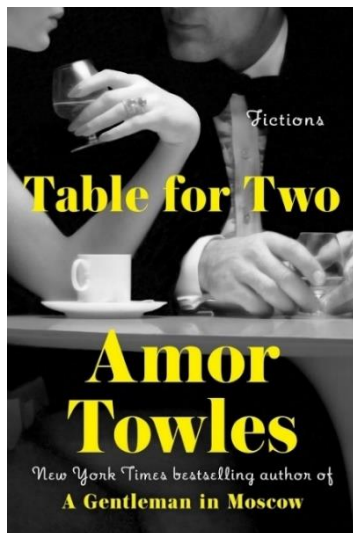
Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and dangerous ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were “so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.”

The trio of characters central to this suspense-filled narrative are Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every

opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and the parallels between them. The overwhelmed Lincoln is in the midst of it all, battling with his duplicitous Secretary of State William Seward. Pressured from all sides, between his election and the first shots fired on Sumpter the month after his inauguration, Lincoln tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.

Table for Two by Amor Towles (October 9)



“In his first collection, Towles sequel-izes his debut novel, *Rules of Civility* (2011), with a 200-page novella and adds six short fictions involving unlikely encounters and unexpected outcomes.

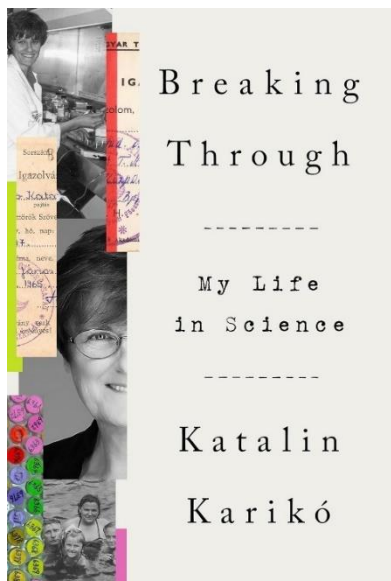
Set in the late 1930s, the novella, *Eve in Hollywood*, extends the story of Evelyn Ross, nervy sidekick of *Rules* protagonist Katey Kontent. On a train from New York to Los Angeles, the flinty, facially scarred blond, impulsively rejecting a return to her home in Indiana, strikes up a friendship with widowed former homicide cop Charlie Granger. They meet months later in LA when Eve's cutely met new friend, starlet Olivia de Havilland, is blackmailed over surreptitiously taken nude photos. In classic noir fashion, an untrustworthy man of significant girth is at the heart of the plot.

The book's other lively pairings include a used bookseller and a young would-be writer who finds his calling forging signatures of famous authors (Paul Auster plays a key role); a newly committed concertgoer and an older patron who drives him to distraction by secretly recording the music; and two travelers stranded at the airport who share a cab ride to a hotel, where one of them transforms from a harmless nice guy into a raging alcoholic and the other attempts to drag him away from the bar on desperately phoned orders from the man's wife.

Towles has fun leaping ahead with his narratives. In a cruel twist of fate, a peasant in late-tsarist Russia pays a price for daring to profit from holding people's places on excessively long food lines in Moscow. Towles sometimes lays on the philosophical wisdom and historical knowledge a bit, but the novella and all the stories are treated to his understated (and occasionally mischievous) irony.

A sneakily entertaining assortment of tales” – Kirkus Reviews

Breaking Through: My Life in Science by Katalin Karikó (November 13)



This book is a story of perseverance and the power of convictions from the groundbreaking immigrant scientist whose decades-long research led to the COVID-19 vaccines, hailed as “an inspiration” by Bill Gates.

Katalin Karikó had an unlikely journey. The daughter of a butcher in postwar communist Hungary, Karikó grew up in a one-room home that lacked running water, and her family grew its own vegetables. She saw the wonders of nature all around her and was determined to become a scientist. That determination eventually brought her to the United States where she arrived as a postdoctoral fellow in 1985 at the age of 30 with \$1,200 sewn into her own toddler’s teddy bear and a dream to remake medicine.

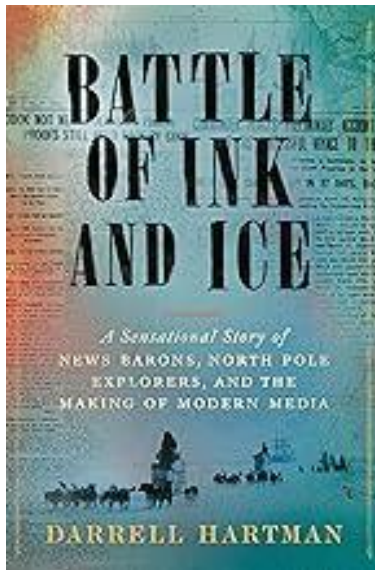
She worked in obscurity, battled cockroaches in a windowless lab, and faced outright derision and even deportation threats from her bosses and colleagues. Karikó balked as prestigious research institutions increasingly conflated science and money. Despite setbacks, she never wavered in her belief that an ephemeral and underappreciated molecule called messenger RNA could change the world. Karikó believed that someday mRNA would transform ordinary cells into tiny factories capable of producing their own medicines on demand. She sacrificed nearly everything for this dream, but the obstacles she faced only motivated her, and eventually she succeeded.

Karikó’s three-decades-long investigation into mRNA would lead to a staggering vaccine that protected millions of people from the direst consequences of COVID-19. These vaccines are just the beginning of mRNA’s potential. Today, the medical community eagerly awaits more mRNA vaccines—for the flu, HIV and other emerging infectious diseases.

Breaking Through isn’t just the story of an extraordinary woman—it’s an indictment of closed-minded thinking and a testament to one woman’s commitment to laboring intensely in obscurity—knowing she might never be recognized in a culture that is more driven by prestige, power and privilege—because she believed her work would save lives.

(Goodreads)

***Battle of Ink and Ice: A Sensational Story of News Barons, North Pole Explorers, and the Making of Modern Media* by Darrell Hartman (December 11)**



"Absolutely gripping ... a perfectly splendid read—I highly, highly recommend it."—Douglas Preston, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Lost City of the Monkey God*.

This is a 60-year saga of frostbite and fake news that follows the no-holds-barred battle between two legendary explorers to reach the North Pole and the newspapers that stopped at nothing to get—and sell—the story.

In the fall of 1909, a pair of bitter contests captured the world's attention. The American explorers Frederick Cook and Robert Peary both claimed to have discovered the North Pole, sparking a vicious feud that was unprecedented in international scientific and geographic circles. At the same time, the rivalry between two powerful New York City newspapers—the storied *Herald* and the ascendant *Times* — fanned the flames of the so-called polar controversy, as each paper financially and reputationally committed itself to an opposing explorer and fought desperately to defend him.

The *Herald* was owned and edited by James Gordon Bennett, Jr., an eccentric playboy whose nose for news was matched only by his appetite for debauchery and champagne. The *Times* was published by Adolph Ochs, son of Jewish immigrants, who had improbably rescued the paper from extinction and turned it into an emerging powerhouse. The battle between Cook and Peary would have enormous consequences for both newspapers and would help determine the future of corporate media.

Battle of Ink and Ice presents a frank portrayal of Arctic explorers, brave men who inspired and, at the same time, deceived the public. It also sketches a vivid portrait of the newspapers that funded, promoted, narrated and often distorted their exploits. It recounts a 60-year saga of frostbite and fake news, one that culminates with an unjustly overlooked chapter in the origin story of the modern *New York Times*.

By turns tragic and absurd, *Battle of Ink and Ice* brims with contemporary relevance, touching as it does on themes of class, celebrity, the ever-quickening news cycle, and the benefits and pitfalls of an increasingly interconnected world. Above all, perhaps, its cast of characters testifies—colorfully and compellingly—to the ongoing role of personality and publicity in American cultural life as the Gilded Age gave way to the 20th century—the American century.

(Goodreads)

Poet's Corner: "Address to a Haggis"

Scots commonly honor their great national poet Robert Burns by holding a celebration every year and reciting his famous (and a bit satirical) "Address to a Haggis." This Burns Night generally takes place on his birthday, January 25. Like this excellent poem, haggis is a uniquely Scottish delicacy. Best taken with a *wee dram* of scotch whiskey, methinks.

The DMA was treated to a Burns ceremony at our April 3 meeting when Bill Hong from the Greenwich Pipe Band led a procession that wended its way around the DCA Garden Room. Next came a be-kilted **Doug Bora** bearing the traditional haggis, followed by **Ken Hamilton** in his tartan kilt toting two bottles of scotch whisky and **Lee Morrison** wielding the ceremonial knife. Completing the line-up was new member **Dougal Munro**, who has a well-earned reputation for reciting the Address with great gusto at various venues. Most notable among them is the



Roberts Burns Society of the City of New York which hosts an annual Burns Night. Dougal's DMA performance was filled with appropriate dramatic flourishes and a slash of the ceremonial knife at just the right moment. It was an enjoyable and lively reminder of the wonderful writings of *Robbie* Burns and a fine tradition involving a unique national dish.



Abraham Lincoln admired Burns's poetry, reciting it daily, and drew much inspiration from it. Just days before he was killed, Lincoln called the governors and senators of the states to the White House to plan the reconstruction and rebirth of a broken nation. After dinner, he recited Burns's poem "To a Mouse."

Lincoln then told his assistant John Hay: **"Now we have won this great war, I must make good on my promise to go to Scotland and pay homage to the man without whom everything would be different. Tomorrow you must book my passage."** Hay booked the passage, but the ship sailed without our great leader. Lincoln was no longer living by the scheduled date.

Reciting the poem at that last dinner was Lincoln's final homage to the revered poet.

Address to a Haggis

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great Chieftain o' the Puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a *grace*
As lang 's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your *pin* wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see Rustic-labour dight,
An' cut ye up wi' ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve
Are bent like drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
Bethankit hums.

Is there that owre his French *ragout*,
Or *olio* that wad staw a sow,
Or *fricassee* wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect sconner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Thro' bluidy flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

Address to a Haggis Translation

Good luck to you and your honest, plump face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.

The groaning trencher there you fill,
Your buttocks like a distant hill,
Your pin would help to mend a mill
In time of need,
While through your pores the dews distill
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour wipe,
And cut you up with ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like any ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm steaming, rich!

Then spoon for spoon, the stretch and strive:
Devil take the hindmost, on they drive,
Till all their well swollen bellies by-and-by
Are bent like drums;
Then old head of the table, most like to burst,
'The grace!' hums.

Is there that over his French ragout,
Or olio that would sicken a sow,
Or fricassee would make her vomit
With perfect disgust,
Looks down with sneering, scornful view
On such a dinner?

Poor devil! see him over his trash,
As feeble as a withered rush,
His thin legs a good whip-lash,
His fist a nut;
Through bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit.

But mark the Rustic, *haggis-fed*,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll make it whissle;
An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned,
Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a *Haggis*!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his ample fist a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
And legs, and arms, and heads will cut off
Like the heads of thistles.

You powers, who make mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill of fare,
Old Scotland wants no watery stuff,
That splashes in small wooden dishes;
But if you wish her grateful prayer,
Give her [Scotland] a Haggis!



Statue of Robert Burns in New York City's Central Park.

**"From Shakespeare I
learnt the sonnets.**

**From the Bible, the
scriptures.**

**But it was from that
man [Burns] I learnt
humanity".**

**-Abraham Lincoln,
Diary entry on the
night of his dinner
with the senators
and governors
where he recited
Burns in public
that last time.**



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Bowlers take the summer off. The “Commish,” the “Godfather of Bowl,” the “Professor” invite you to join us again in September, when DMAers of any level of experience are welcome to bowl with us on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Highlights and photos of recent action are featured after this section.

Tom Lom: tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge: TBD

We eliminated the weekly Bridge game at Bridge Base Online. Alternative approaches, such as a monthly game, possibly in-person, may be considered. Anyone interested in helping to restructure the Bridge activity should contact Mike Kadish.

Mike Kadish: mKadishsj@yahoo.com

Chess, Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Mather Center

Caitlin Stote, program specialist at Mather Center, would like to hear from DMA members who are interested in playing chess. Games are played every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. To join, please get in touch with Caitlin directly.

Caitlin Stote: cstote@darienct.gov

Community Service:

Frank Gallagher leads this activity. Recently, he has featured one local volunteer or charitable organization at our weekly DMA meetings to help us become more aware of the benefits provided to our community and point to opportunities to volunteer for those who are interested.

Pat Gentile, Charles Hurty and Bert von Stuelpnagel this tax season once again provided no-cost professional tax preparation services through SimplifyCT. This is a fine example of the kind of service that volunteer DMA professionals provide to DMA members and the broader community in Fairfield County.

Tom Dempsey and the woodworking team contributed to the 203 Project renovations of the DCA building by assembling 16 beautiful new chairs for the Lillian Gade conference room.

Tom Igoe, outgoing DMA president, led our DMA contingent marching or riding in the annual Darien Memorial Day Parade. It was a fine occasion to demonstrate once again the DMA’s commitment to this community.

See photos of these activities later.

Frank Gallagher: francis.gallagher100@gmail.com

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

Geoff Rezek and **Ken Hamilton** invite all “Cribbageheads” 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 created in the early 1600s by Sir John Suckling, an English courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity.

Lest you think this is not a world-famous group, know that Geoff Rezek is mentioned twice in the January 2024 issue of *Cribbage World*, the official and very informative publication of the American Cribbage Congress (ACC). ACC is the largest Cribbage organization in the world. Geoff knows his Nibs from his Nobs, that’s for sure!

Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net
Ken Hamilton: 1kenhamilton@gmail.com

Curling: Nutmeg Curling Center, Bridgeport

Ken Hamilton leads this new group. No, it is not made up of would-be hairdressers! Curling is a respected and long-lived sport in which age is less important than skill and finesse so it’s a perfect find for the DMA.

Look at the photos of the inaugural session later in this newsletter, and you will want to join the DMA fall curling season. Stay tuned.

Ken Hamilton: 1kenhamilton@gmail.com

Current Affairs: Third Thursday of the Month at the DCA and on Zoom

There will be no meetings this summer. The next Current Affairs (CA) session will be on September 19. Our topic for that month will be available in early September.

Thanks to all of the CA session leaders who displayed your knowledge of and research into your varied timely topics over the past nine months. See you in September!

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com
Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Golf

Bob McGroarty and his assistant pros **Cliff van Voorhees** and **Jerry Crowley** hosted the first event of the season at Oak Hills Park Golf Course on Tuesday, May 14.

This was followed by an outing to Sterling Farms Golf Course on Tuesday, June 11.

There will be another DMA golf date this summer at the Country Club of Darien on August 20, so follow your foursome to a hole-in-one. Sign up with Bob, Cliff or Jerry.

See the photos later in these pages for some of the exciting action thus far.

Bob McGroarty: rgmcg@me.com
Cliff van Voorhees: civanv@gmail.com
Jerry Crowley: jerrycrowley4@gmail.com.

Happy Wanderers

The group will be on hiatus over the summer but has been busy the past three months. See highlights and photos on the following pages of recent events, including:

Wandering Hartford, March 28
Wandering Central Park, April 11
Wandering Forest Hills, May 9
Wandering Williamsburg, Brooklyn, June 6

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net
Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking

DMAers and the hiking group thank **Dave McCollum** and **Bob Plunkett** for once again organizing magnificent hikes over the past three months. They pulled this off despite some stubbornly uncooperative weather earlier this season. Dave and Bob, who have run this group for five years, will be handing it off to **Alec Wiggin**. Stay tuned in September for information from Alec on the first fall hike.

Photos and highlights of recent hikes follow later in the newsletter, including:

Sherwood Island, Westport, March 14
Mianus River, Stamford, April 21
Greenwich Audubon Center, Greenwich, May 20

Dave McCollum: dgmccollum63@gmail.com
203-858-5688
Bob Plunkett: rgplunkett1@gmail.com
203-246-2898
Alec Wiggin: alec@aared.com

Investment Discussion Group: First Monday of Each Month on Zoom

Led by **Jim Phillips**, we will continue during the summer. Sessions cover the macro environment, recent market developments, commentary from leading market watchers and some individual stocks or ETFs of interest to members. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An initial agenda and Zoom link will be sent out the week before. For questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover or to join the group, please contact Jim.

Jim Phillips: jlpinvest66@gmail.com

New Wave Singers: Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. at Methodist United Church

The New Wave Singers hold practice sessions on Tuesdays at the Methodist United Church at 345 Middlesex Road.

Members interested in joining the group should contact Jim or David.

Jim Bragg: jamesbragg77@gmail.com
David Claiborne: dclaiborne44@gmail.com

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

We are now up to 34 people as Darien Parks & Recreation Department has allocated us an additional court. If you are not in the current DMA Pickleball group, there are two extra courts on the same days open for all seniors. Some of our overflow participants are using those open courts.

Darien Parks & Rec now uses its **new online reservation system**. We have also adapted our own DMA online reservation platform, the **TeamReach** app for pickleball scheduling. If you are a novice, Darien Parks & Rec provides intro-level training.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com, (203) 655 0441

Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com

Social Activities

We can't say enough to thank Chairman **Jan Selkowitz** for his many years of service leading DMA social activities so effectively. His tireless work arranging often very complex outings demonstrates his creativity in selecting them and his astonishing organizational capabilities in managing them. Well done, Jan, as so many DMAers have enjoyed countless varied and interesting events.

Next season, the equally gifted **Doug Bora** will assume leadership of this group. We all look forward to Doug continuing this long and lively DMA tradition of social activities.

Many DMA members have also stepped up to lead individual social events. All are welcome to do this: If you have an idea, speak with Doug. See photos later in these pages of recent events:

Bruce Museum, March 15: Organized and led by **John Bassler**. It was a great success.

An Evening of Jazz, April 17: Our annual musical concert was organized by **Bob McGroarty** with his usual panache.

Cruise around Manhattan, May 30: This unique opportunity to see New York City from a sea-level view was led by **Doug Bora**.

DMA Annual Picnic, June 12: The inimitable **Alex Garnett** has once again managed a very successful picnic on Long Island Sound. See photos in the coming pages.

Anyone who wants to join the committee or contribute to an event, please contact the new Social Committee chairman.

Doug Bora: dougbora@outlook.com

Table Tennis: Mondays and Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. (June through August only)

DMA Table Tennis meets at the Mather Senior Center in the exercise studio (room 209). As the group's leader **Steve Gravereaux** reminds us, there is no waiting list, you can just come and play. But like pickleball, you will get great exercise using a simple ball and paddle. If you don't have your own paddle there is an ample supply in the room.

To join the group, download the TeamReach app for your phone and enter DMATableTennis for the group code.

Once you are approved for admission (don't worry—you most certainly will be), you can use TeamReach to select the dates you plan to attend; 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, too, if they see a group ready to play at the Mather Center

on the same date. As a courtesy to other players, if you sign up and then find you cannot participate, please go back to TeamReach and delete your sign-up.

Steve Gravereaux: spgarg@optonline.net

Woodworking: 1:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Mather Center



Woodworking Group Projects

The DMA woodworkers meet every Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and

every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop.

Tom Dempsey and the group welcome new members. If you want to get back into woodworking or hanker to learn more about it, this is the place to be.

Our woodworkers take on a variety of projects for DMAers, your family and friends. For tables, chairs or other wooden furnishings in need of repair, contact Tom. Or just stop by at the workshop when we're in the building.

For just one example, see the photo later in this newsletter of the 16 elegant yet comfortable chairs recently completed by DMA woodworkers for the DCA Lillian Gade conference room. Great craftsmanship!

Tom Dempsey: tjd3443@gmail.com

Bowling Report from the “Commish”

March 5

There’s no report today, as the Commish is away. However, here is some humor, courtesy of Steve Govoni.



March 12

With three of our "regulars" away or rehabbing, we still managed nine (!) bowlers today. **Woody Spurgeon** can now be considered a regular, making his third session in a row. And we had a newbie in the person of **Marty Milewski**. Marty is new to the DMA. In the recent newsletter featuring his bio, Marty listed bowling as an interest. **Ben Briggs** brought that to my attention and suggested I make a recruiting call. Not only is Marty a bowler, he's from Philadelphia so we can commiserate about the Eagles, the Phillies, et al.

The bowling action had its share of highlights. Woody and Marty were thrown right into the team competition. The squad of Briggs/Garnett/Lom/Milewski/Spurgeon took on Gallagher/Gilliam/Kammerman/Tamme with 95 pins. Paced by Woody's best game to date of 131, his team prevailed by 17 in game one due, in no small part, to Frank getting off to a slow start. In game two, however, Frank came back with a vengeance, notching a 191 and helping his

team win by 46. In game three, **Tom Lom** had seven strikes, including two triples to score 207 and pace his team to the rubber game W and the all-important quarter.



Speaking of quarters, Woody's game one heroics were also rewarded by a winning poker hand of two pairs (see photo), enabling him to get his first poker win with us. Can Marty be far behind?

Other highlights came from Tom with high series of 545, Frank who converted not one but two 5-7 splits, Bill who converted two 2-7 splits, Alex who converted a 5-6 and Woody who converted a seldom-seen let alone made 1-5-7.

March 19

We had another strong turnout today with 10 bowlers! There are two themes for this report.

First, welcome back **Frank DeLeo**. After a couple of months in Florida, Frank rolled a 555 series highlighted by a 214 in game two. They were high series and high game.

Second, save the best for last! Five of our 10 bowlers had a strong third game to have each looking forward to next week. **Ted Helms** had a four-bagger for a 183, 38 above his average. **John Kammerman** had a 168 (+18). Ben Briggs had a 165 (+34). Marty Milewski had a 164 (+46). Woody Spurgeon had a 121 (+25).

In addition to Frank D, **Frank Gallagher** had a strong day with a 533, which is his high series of the season. And Ben Briggs had a 419, which was +26.

With both Franks on the same side along with Ted, Alex and Marty, the team game was a rout. The only bright note for the losing side was the decision to pass on the double-or-nothing bet.

Just a note: I traded emails with Ed Schechter, who reports that he is making progress slowly but is not yet ready to try bowling. He said he misses us as we do him.

March 26

We had 11 bowlers today and lots to report!

First, we had a guest join us. Chris McDougal, GM at Silvermine Golf Club, was with us. Chris hadn't bowled for a long time, but he is very much the athlete as we saw with his ball speed approaching 20 miles per hour. Just as with his colleague Stuart Waack, Chris is welcome to join us anytime.



As for the regulars, we had some strong performances and a spirited team competition. Frank DeLeo took on the Lanes 13/14 Curse and said "What, me worry?" He had his high series of the year last week (555) and beat that with a 561 today ... and that was without a 200 game. Ben Briggs had another fine series at 429 (+33). Tom had the day's high game with a 202 for a 543. **George Gilliam** had a 530 series, which was by far his best of the season and was +113! On most days, that would earn BOD honors. But the Bowler of this Day goes to Marty Milewski. Marty's average going into the day after two prior sessions was 128. Not anymore 😊. After a nice 159 in game one, Marty recorded five strikes in a row to close out game two for 190 (see photo). He continued that strong bowling with a 188 in game three for a 547, which was +163. That calls for a "Yeah, Baby!" BTW, Marty's average after three sessions is now 146.

The team competition also had some fireworks. Alex, Ben, Frank D, George, and John Kam got 14 pins up against Bill, **Gehr Brown**, Marty, Ted and Tom. Game one went to Team DeLeo by 45 pins. In game two, Frank needed a double in the 10th for the win and got it by a nine-pin margin. After such a tight game, Team Lom had no hesitation in accepting the double or nothing in game three. Again, Frank had a chance to double in the 10th for the win, but this time he could not, allowing Tom's team to prevail by 11.

Some nice split conversions were made today by Ben (4-5), Frank (4-5-7) and John (3-10 twice). Plus we saw our first "Yezzi" in a long time thanks to **Bill Tamme** (a Yezzi is making a strike without hitting the headpin).

Happy Easter to all.

April 2



What a strange day at Nutmeg for today's seven bowlers. After the first 10 minutes, it looked as though several of us would have a big day, what with Frank D, Marty and Tom each starting off with a double. Alas, it was not to be for those three, but it was a big day for one of our veterans.

What if I told you that high game of the day, 181, was bowled by someone whose average is 130? And what if I told you that the same someone bowled a 477 series for his best series of the season by far? That someone, of course, is Ben Briggs, who was *en fuego* all morning. Look at the smile on his face in the above photo. The only bad news for

Ben today was that he lost the side bet in the third game to both George and Ted, who each had their best game in the third.

That third game had another story. In the first two games, the team of Briggs/DeLeo/ Milewski thrashed the squad of Gilliam/Helms/Lom/Spurgeon by 96 pins. Game two was also one-sided at 35 pins. With little reason for optimism but lots of incentive to keep their self-respect, his mates convinced Tom to go double or nothing in the third. Thanks to a good game by both George and Ted along with Woody's best game of the morning, Team Lom won by 37.

Winning the award for the Most Ironic Performance of the day was Tom. At 495, for the first time all year, he failed to break 500. However, he did manage to win all three poker games (with seven players and seven quarters in each) for a net profit of 18 quarters. Just another testament to the adage that there are lots of ways to leave Nutmeg with a smile.

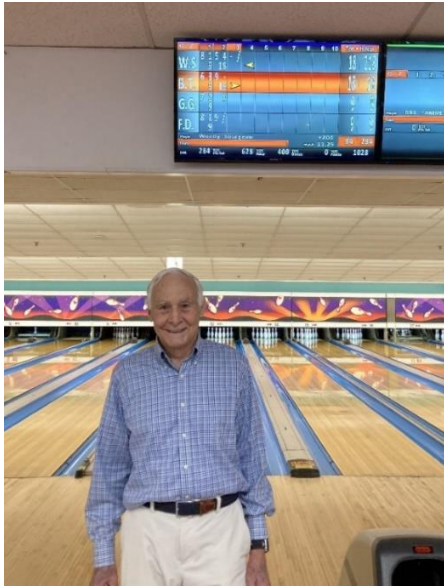
April 9

"*Saving the best for last.*" That's the headline of today's report.

Seven bowlers again today, and for at least two of them, they saved their best for the last game. But there is more to that story.

Both Tom and Gehr were licking their chops as they teamed up on their preferred Lanes 15/16 along with Ben versus Bill, Frank D, George and Woody, with Tom's team getting 65 pins. Suffice it to say that Frank's team won by a mere 54. In game two, it only got worse with Frank's squad winning by 75. With all three of Team Lom bowling like slugs, they figured it had to get better so they went for the double or nothing in the third. Wouldn't you know that all three each had, by far, their best game of the morning? Ben had a 148 (which allowed him to beat out George in their side bet), Tom had a 213 (for high series of 563) and Gehr finished with a

five-bagger for a 224 (and a 521 series). Let's be kind and say that they got all of the team quarters back.



Other bowling highlights included Frank notching yet another 500 series at 514 and George starting out red hot with a 172 and 190 in his first two games. Woody got to experience another DMA bowling milestone, recording his first-ever "Ben Briggs Spare" in the third frame of game two (see photo). Ben converted a 4-5 split, while Tom converted a 5-7.

With the poker game once again having all seven bowlers in one game, the stakes were high. Happily, there were three different bowlers each winning a hand, including Woody recording three of a kind with only six cards.

Let's see what late heroics come to pass next week.

April 16

On a day that's a perfect 10 spring day, we had 10 bowlers. For at least your intrepid reporter, it was far from perfect.

With Chris McDougal joining us again, we had a five-on-five match. Sadly, with Tom "anchoring" his team with his worst DMA series ever (463), his fivesome lost four quarters each.

Now let's get to some highlights.

Frank DeLeo once again led the pack with a 563 series, including games of 200 and 215. Gehr also had a 200 game for the other 500 series at 506, which included converting a 4-7-10 split. After failing to break 100 in game one, Ben turned things around to record a 411 series. George finished with a 189. Bill had a 450 series, while Alex had a 465. And Chris got better with each game for a 422 series.

At least there were two highlights for the Commish. He also made a 4-7-10 (in practice) but, more important, won two poker hands to help finance his bowling losses.

Well, there's always next week 😊.

April 23

Another beautiful spring morning and another good group ... eight this time.

The team game was close ... till it wasn't. In game one, Team Lom (AG/BB/TH/TL) gave 23 pins to Team Brown (FD/GB/GG/WS). Team Lom had its mojo working and comfortably won game one. Team Brown came back to comfortably take the second. Game three was close for a few frames before Frank and George took over and led their squad to an easy win.

George Gilliam was a spare-making machine all morning. His 499 was +49 and would have been even better till he opened in both the ninth and 10th frames at the end. Tom's 197 was high game of the day as was his 541 series, the only 500 of the morning. Alex converted a 4-5 split, while Ben made a 3-10. Poker winnings were spread around so no fireworks there.

Maybe next week will bring more "action"!

April 30

With the calendar turning to May and the golf season starting in earnest, I was reminded of what we are told by the CCD caddie master before each round: "Play well, play fast. Play badly, play faster." Today, our five bowlers gathered at 8:45 a.m. and had a chance to put that advice to work given that Tom had to be in Nassau County by 12:30 to help a friend get to a doctor's appointment.

High game and high series once again were bowled by Frank DeLeo, who started out with a 190 and a 202. Sadly, he couldn't solve the evolving oil patterns in game three and ended with a 533 series. Tom also started with a 190 on his way to a 513. And kudos go to Bill Tamme, who was +19 for the morning, including converting a washout. Woody Spurgeon started great with four marks in game one for a 112, his third highest game of the season.

The team game was a barn burner. Bill and Tom, plus 113, won game one by a mere two pins over Alex, Frank and Woody. Game two went down to the final shot with Tom needing 20 pins in the 10th frame to tie. He managed a spare and needed to fill with a strike ... which he did. With at least four bowlers bowling well, the first two games took exactly one hour. Game three saw the worst game of the day by four of the five of us, but at least it went equally fast so was a bit less painful for Frank's second-place team.

I know we'll have more to celebrate next week 😊.

May 7

Today's report writes itself!



First, yesterday was Ben Briggs' birthday so we came prepared to sing and celebrate as you can see from the photo. There were hugs and handshakes all around.

Second, you'll notice a dear old friend in the photo ... none other than Ed Schechter. What a sight for sore eyes to see him for the first time since early December! There were even more hugs and handshakes all around. Woody was able to finally meet his nonagenarian bowling contemporary and even get a couple of tips. And Ben, at 82, felt like a kid.

And, yes, there was even a little bit of bowling action.

Gehr and Tom shared high game honors at 192 with George not far behind with a terrific 189 in the last. Tom had the day's only 500 series with a 529. Birthday Boy had a 165 in the third on his way to a +10 series, while George was +15. And Ed enjoyed just being back on the lanes with his new 10-pound ball. A very happy day!

May 14



The seven of us who arrived at Nutmeg today had the place all to ourselves. Kind of eerie.

Some highlights:

Ed and Woody were all smiles (see photo to the left) representing the "experienced" side of our group at a combined 183 years of age.

Gehr got on his "train" for a while scoring 182 in game one and 222 in game two. His train took a severe detour in game three 😊, but he still managed the sole 500 series of the morning.

Frank D converted a 4-5 split, while Tom converted a 3-6-7-10. At the completion of play, Tom immediately went to Buddy's Pro Shop where Chris confirmed that Tom's 13-year-old bowling ball was "shot" ... so Tom went out and shot it (so to speak) and bought a new ball. As with any good athlete, poor performance has to be the fault of inferior equipment, right? Well, that's Tom's story, and he's sticking with it! 🤔🤔🤔

Next week the Commish will be out of town, so there will be no bowling report, though there will be bowling. Don't forget the Bowling Lunch on May 28 at Paparazzi Restaurant, 171 Boston Post Road in Darien, after we bowl that morning.

May 28

Well, we wrapped up another bowling season in style today. First, we bowled a bit (when we established that Tom's slump had nothing to do with his bowling equipment), and then we went to lunch (see photo below on left) to toast, eat, laugh, play "Name That Bowler" and recap the highlights of the season.

We were fortunate this year to have two bowlers become new "regulars" – Woody and Marty, both of whom made Tuesday mornings even better. We recalled two noteworthy bowling achievements. One was the opening day performance by Gehr, who kicked off the season with a 627 series, including a 246 high game for the season. Wow! The other was the birthday performance by Ed, who bowled three 200 games for a season-high 634 series one day after his 90th birthday. Double wow!

And we said goodbye (see photo below on right) to our dear friend behind the Nutmeg desk, Laurie Voitkus, who will be moving to Florida later this summer. Laurie's smile and kindness toward us will be hard to replace.

Here's wishing everyone a great summer as we look forward to our new season in September.

– the Commish



Curling: Ken Hamilton

Ken Hamilton led the DMA's first day of Curling at Nutmeg Curling Center in Bridgeport. **Fred Given**, one of the DMA curlers, proclaimed it a success, writing:

"Great time curling today. Much harder than expected. Balance and practice are key. Here are some photos." Thank you, Fred, and Ken.



Community Service Report: Frank Gallagher

DCA 203 Project



The Darien Community Association's 203 Project: a DMA-led woodworking team of **Tom Dempsey** (center) flanked by **Jeff Gerwig** (left) and **Lee Morrison** (right) was responsible for assembling 16 chairs for the Lillian Gade conference room.

2024 Darien Memorial Day Parade, May 27



Gene Markowski is a DMA member and the Grand Marshal of the 2024 Darien Memorial Day Parade.

After graduating from West Point, Captain Markowski served in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also served in Germany and the United States. Thank you, Gene, and all DMA veterans for your service.



Over 40 DMA members marched or drove in the parade, led from the starting point at Good Wives Shopping Center by our flagbearer, DMA president **Tom Igoe**, seconded by proud American **Bert von Stuelpnagel** waving his flag in the background.



Harry McLachlin and John Schlachtenhaufen rev up John's vintage Corvette.



Incoming president Frank DeLeo with past president Charles Salmans.



Dual flag bearers Frank DeLeo and Tom Igoe march side by side from Goodwives onto the Post Road followed by our DMA banner carried by Joe Spain (left side) and Chet Cobb (to right).



March Madness

In a time-honored DMA tradition, this year **Greg Glashan, David Mace** and **Joe Spain** once again organized our **March Madness** contest where participants use skill (and perhaps a bit of luck) to pick the top winners of the annual March NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Below is a photo of the awards ceremony, with the happy winners and contest sponsors.



Left to right: Organizer **Joe Spain**, **Jim Tularco**, 2nd Runner-Up, **Mike Kadish**, 3rd Runner-Up, **Fred Given**, Grand Prize Winner, **Frank DeLeo**, 1st Runner-Up, and organizers **Greg Glashan** and **David Mace**.

Congratulations go to the winners. And thanks to the organizers.

Golf: Bob McGroarty, Cliff van Voorhees and Jerry Crowley

The photos below are from the DMA golf outing at the Sterling Farms course on June 11, provided by **Bob McGroarty**. It was a fine day for golf.



Happy Wanderers Report: David Mace and Joe Spain

Wandering Hartford, March 28: Joe Spain notes that the spring wandering season kicked off with a visit to Hartford. The first stop was the capitol building and its chambers before wandering to the historic district: Bushnell Park, the oldest publicly funded park in



America, the Old State House (the country's oldest, completed in 1796), Christ Church dating back to 1792, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the Travelers Tower, once the seventh tallest building in the world.



Wandering Central Park, April 11



Here our group is at the park's south end with the Plaza Hotel in the background.



And here we are in front of the Egyptian obelisk on the east side of the park near 81st Street.

Wandering Williamsburg, Brooklyn, June 7

Joe Spain writes: Eight Wanderers strolled through the vibrant Brooklyn neighborhood of northern Williamsburg. On a clear and breezy day in the low 80s, we stopped first to see the modest Macri Public Triangle Park under the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway with a bocce court and a memorial plaque dedicated to the Williamsburg military veterans who lost their life in World War II. From there, we went south to Brooklyn's Continental Army Plaza and its statue of General George Washington on horseback during the grueling Continental Army encampment in the winter of 1777-1778. This moving memorial was erected in 1906 and is entitled Valley Forge. Proceeding northwest, we walked a short block on Fillmore Street where over a dozen brick row houses erected in the early 1850s are preserved as one of the few existing examples of pre-Civil War working-class housing in the city. Walking north, we paused at a sleek beverage bar at Driggs & Metropolitan (The Farmer's Daughter) for cold refreshments.

We continued north by the shrine church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, famously known for its annual July Festival featuring immense "Giglio" floats supporting large statues and full performing musical bands. In devotion to the festival's patron saints, the floats are carried along the street on the back of dozens of hefty men from the parish in tribute to their Italian ancestors who came to the neighborhood for work in the industrial trades that shaped this district in the 19th century. Parish men who are the "lifters" pass on this honor in their family from generation to generation, and funds raised by the annual festival support local charities.

Our next stop further north was McCarren Park. This large park forms the Williamsburg district's northern frontier and contains the city's largest public outdoor swimming pool with a capacity of 6,200 people. Walking west again through the park toward the East River, we passed the Brooklyn Brewery and the new tall William Vale Hotel. Reaching the East River, we were at the northwest corner of Williamsburg and turned south.

Making our way along the riverfront, we went into Bushwick Inlet Park. This was the site of a small bay and harbor where two streams flowed into the river in the 1800s. The ironclad frigate USS Monitor was constructed here at the Continental Ironworks for the Union Navy in 1862. Continuing south through Johnson State Park, past the North 5th Street Pier and through Grand Ferry Park, we walked on to the new Domino Park on the riverfront. This marks the site of the Domino Sugar Company, which in the late 1800s was the largest U.S. sugar producer.

It was time for lunch, and we had a fine one at Aurora on Grand Street near Wythe Avenue. After lunch, we walked toward the ferry and got a good view of the Domino Sugar Refinery Shell, recently completed and occupied as a modern office and residence building within the surviving frame of the Domino Sugar Company's main factory building. We then took the ferry north and across the river to Manhattan's East 34th Street terminal. Debarking, we walked north and west back to Grand Central, where we caught the train home.

Hiking Group Report: Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett

March 14: Sherwood Island, Westport

Bob Plunkett writes: We finally had some beautiful weather with mild temperatures and sunny skies for our hike at Sherwood Island. A total of 32 hikers came out to enjoy the day. Our walk of just over three miles included a stroll on the beach followed by a hike in the woods on a loop trail and then onto various paths nearby and along another part of the beach. We also spent time reflecting at the meaningful 9/11 memorial. Following the hike, 12 of us enjoyed lunch at the Little Barn in Westport.



April 22, Mianus River, Stamford

Dave McCollum and **Bob Plunkett** write that a cloudless sky, 54-degree temperature and Earth Day to boot made for a memorable two-hour hike through the spectacular Mianus River Park. A total of 21 DMAers, spouses and two dogs spent the first half hour walking upstream along the full and rapidly moving river. Two of the party members retraced that section back to the parking area, but the rest continued over the inland portion of the trail, which is hillier and more rugged through scenic views of rocks and trees. This park is well-used by the public, and it is easy to see why.

We encourage hikers who would like a shorter hike to come with us. There is almost always an intermediate point where there is an option to return to the start. As long as there are at least two for that option, we can offer it on most hikes.

After the hike, a smaller group ate lunch at Zody's 19th Hole restaurant at the E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course. Lunch there, by the way, is excellent and well-priced.



May 20, Greenwich Audubon Society, Greenwich

Dave McCollum and **Robert Plunkett** summarized their final hike of the season as follows.

We looked up our report on our hike here in May of 2022 at which we had a total of 12 hikers. Today we had 19 who enjoyed a beautiful day hiking about 3 miles in around two hours. We are very happy that more DMAers are coming on the hikes! This hike is really a tale of two different types of trails. About half is relatively flat and the other half is pretty steeply up and down as the property drops over 160 feet from top to bottom. All hikers handled the terrain with minimal difficulty. Alas, your hike leaders missed one turn which required a short backtrack but there were only a few random comments about the goof. As we should have learned from past hikes, talking while navigating trails sometimes doesn't work out well!

Eight hikers stayed on after the hike and enjoyed a delicious Mexican lunch at Ole Mole on High Ridge Road in Stamford. All in all, a wonderful day!

This concludes our hikes for the 2023-24 season. We had seven hikes averaging over 20 hikers and finally got to traverse the Walkway Over the Hudson in October. Thank you to all who participated! The next hike will be in September 2024.



New Wave Singers: Jim Bragg and David Claiborne

The DMA launched another new activity group recently, as evidenced by the photo below of the inaugural performance of the New Wave Singers at the DMA regular Wednesday meeting on May 29. They will be singing at other venues around town and in Fairfield County.



Social Activities Report: Jan Selkowitz

March 15, Bruce Museum, Greenwich

John Bassler led a group of 33 DMAers and spouses to the Bruce Museum. The recent renovation is splendid and as you can see from the photos, the collections and displays are engaging and unique. The group also enjoyed a delicious lunch. Thank you, John, for arranging this enjoyable cultural event.



April 17, Evening of Jazz Music, Darien

Bob McGroarty organized this annual DMA musical tradition at St. Luke's in Darien. DMAers were treated to a jazz ensemble consisting of five wonderful Norwalk Symphony Orchestra musicians. The music was preceded by drinks and delicious hors d'oeuvres catered by Darien's food icon the "absolutely fabulous" (ask her, she'll tell you what it means) Carolyn Eddie. DMAers **Jerry Crowley** and **Chet Cobb** kindly volunteered to assist Bob the evening of the event, which went off without a hitch. Thanks to you all.



Jan Selkowitz introduces the musicians.



A full house enjoyed the concert.

May 30, Cruise around Manhattan, New York City

Doug Bora organized and led us on this beautiful and informative tour, the only sightseeing cruise that completely circles the island of Manhattan, including all three rivers. Along the way, DMA members saw approximately 130 landmarks. These included the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the United Nations, the Empire State and Chrysler buildings, Yankee Stadium, Spuyten Duyvil, the Cloisters, the newly constructed Hudson Yards neighborhood, One World Trade Center and the revitalized Wall Street area, the newly gentrified Brooklyn and Queens waterfront, the Hoboken and Jersey City coastline, the Highline and Little Island. We also saw too many tugs, ferries and cruise ships to count while circumnavigating Manhattan Island and passing under 20 bridges, including the Brooklyn Bridge and the George Washington Bridge.

That's a lot to see—and all in less than three hours! Thank you, Doug.



Jan Selkowitz, his wife Min, and Doug Bora.



Fine views from our cruise.





June 12, DMA Annual Picnic, Weed Beach, Darien

Alex Garnett once again put together a splendid picnic for DMAers and their spouse. The weather cooperated, the food and libations were great as always, and the friendship and camaraderie were unsurpassed. Thank you once again Alex.



Weed Beach is set up for the DMA picnic.



Bryan Hooper, Frank DeLeo, Alex Garnett.



Connie and Harry Bergen with Bryan and Frank.



All is well, **Bert von Stuelpnagel** has manned the bar!



There is one more important note of thanks, and that is to **Joyce Meurer**. Joyce is the single individual who has provided the *DMA Newsletter* with continuity over the past decade, acting as our proofreader, copy editor, and phrase master, with a fine eye for detail and a precise grasp of the English language. We benefit from the knowledge she has deployed for decades editing publications for Fortune 500 clients. Joyce's late husband **Ray Meurer** was editor of the *DMA Newsletter* some years ago. Ever since, we have had the good fortune to have Joyce's expertise available for each subsequent editor, including me. I can say with certainty that Joyce makes this publication far superior to what it would be without her knowledge, expertise and professionalism. Thank you, Joyce. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Mark Nunan
Editor and Publisher

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, Mark Nunan. **Contributing Editor**, Joyce Meurer. **Speaker Write-ups**, Frank DeLeo. **New Member Bios**, Art Baron. **Mailing List and E-communications**, Lee Morrison. **This Week at DMA**, Bryan Hooper. **Webmaster**, Gary Banks. **Contributing Reporter**, Tom Lom.