



# Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 5

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

**Darien Men's Association**

**Summer 2025**

## President's Message

As we finish another terrific year for the DMA — and the end of my tenure as president — I wanted to share a few final thoughts on the year and, especially, to thank those who have made it so rewarding for me and so successful for the DMA.

Thanks go to all of you who entrusted the leadership of this great organization to me. I found being president to have been a lot more fun than work. The DMA has become an essential part of my life since I retired seven years ago without a real plan about what I was going to do with my time. I wish I could thank the late **Gerrit Lydecker**, who was my neighbor, for bringing me into the DMA. Fortunately, I can thank **Gary Banks** for encouraging me to get so involved. While I knew some of you largely through our children and school life, I now consider so many of you friends and am so thankful to have had the chance to meet and know you. I have truly lived our mission of fellowship, fun, friendship and community service thanks to all of you.

We end the year in a great place in so many ways, with a long list of firsts and accomplishments to which so many of you have contributed. Here's a partial list.

- Thanks largely to **Tom Igoe** and **Bert von Stuelpnagel**, we have a new three-year agreement with the Darien Community Association (DCA), including our Associate Membership Program.
- Our membership has grown to 358 thanks to the enthusiasm of our members recruiting others; we've added 20 new members since January alone.

- Thanks to the hard work and leadership of **Frank Gallagher**, we contributed a record \$5,500 to Darien Human Services and identified At Home in Darien to adopt and support on an ongoing basis.
- Thanks to a suggestion by Bert, we simplified the process for members to make donations to the DMA and integrated it with the dues process. As a result, we generated \$4,500 in donations to help fund our activities. To those who donated, thank you for your generosity.
- Thanks to a suggestion by **Dan Lew**, we have an upgraded camera that enhances the recording of our speakers and remote meeting experience.
- We have a record 90 DMA members who are also DCA members.
- We have a vibrant new activity — TechTalk — thanks to the leadership and initiative of **Bruce Lynn**.

All of this couldn't have happened without these members' engagement, leadership and commitment.

I want to especially thank and recognize those who have done, and continue to do, the hard work that keeps this organization vibrant and growing. I am sure I will forget to mention someone who deserves to be acknowledged so I apologize in advance if I forget to mention anyone who deserves recognition.

- The DCA staff — **Erin Noonan, Julie Callery** and, especially, **Steve McGeachy**.
- Our board, which focuses on doing what's right for all of us and has been so supportive throughout the year. I'd particularly like to thank those who will be leaving the board for their service and contributions — **Chet Cobb**, Frank Gallagher, **Fred Given, Charles Salmans** and **Mike Wheeler**.
- Our activity leaders — without whom we wouldn't have the fellowship and fun that's part of our mission. I especially thank those activity leaders who are moving on from their leadership position — **Harry McLachlin, Mark Nunan, Mike Wheeler, David Mace** and **Joe Spain** (I know David and Joe are leading the Wanderers until the end of December, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to thank them publicly).
- Our tech team — Mike Wheeler, Dan Lew, **Mark Bergen** and, in an emergency, Tom Igoe — who made our meetings come off generally without a hitch and enabled me to lead from afar while I was in Florida.
- Gary Banks for keeping our website up to date and responding quickly to our needs despite having long since moved to West Hartford.
- **Art Baron** — our jack-of-all-trades/Swiss Army Knife who is the unsung hero helping across so many areas, including membership, emails, surveys, the Investment Group and the directory. When someone asked me what to do or how to do something, I came to realize the best response was to send them to Art.
- **Harry Bergen** and **Tom Lom**, who keep us laughing, one way or the other.
- **Doug Bora**, whose enthusiasm helped take our social program to new heights.

- Frank Gallagher, who helped redefine what community service means for the DMA, and **John Craft**, who stepped in so ably for Frank when he was away while recovering from surgery.
- **George Gilliam**, who makes sure we never forget those members who need our support, remembrance and consideration.
- **Ric Grefé** for an amazing group of speakers that made coming to our meetings each week a must-do and drove several standing-room-only sessions.
- **Bryan Hooper** for finding a way each week to make *This Week at DMA* informational and entertaining. I so wish I had his wit and mastery of the Queen's English.
- **Mike Kadish** for herding cats to produce our five newsletters during the past year and overseeing all our communications.
- **Joyce Meurer** for making our (or at least my) writing look like I am better at grammar and expression than I am. Her continued involvement in the DMA is a true blessing.
- **Lee Morrison**, who does triple duty handling membership, sending our emails, and co-leading the hale and hearty hikers.
- Bert von Stuelpnagel for his financial guidance and wisdom (and arm-twisting during dues season), unfailingly delivered with great humor and appropriate perspective. He always made me feel it was okay to ask my annoying questions about our finances.

On a very personal note, a special thank you goes to former DMA presidents Tom Igoe, Charles Salmans, Bryan Hooper and Gary Banks, to whom I always knew I could turn to for guidance when I had a question or concern about anything related to DMA. Like every great organization, the DMA is built on the foundation of its past leaders, and I was blessed to have been able to rely on them.

While it is fitting to reflect on the growth, accomplishments and vitality of the DMA, it's also important to temper our enthusiasm by remembering that we lost several members of our group in the past year. While this reflects the cycle of life for us as individuals and as an organization, it's always sad to lose friends who have made our lives and the DMA better by being part of our group. May they never be forgotten.

As I said at the outset of the year and this message, I have loved doing this job and cherish this organization. Everyone who comes in contact with the DMA raves about it, and I look forward to many more years of fellowship, fun, friendship and community service as part of the DMA. We are in a great place, and I am confident that next year, under Ric's and the new board's leadership, will be our best year ever. My final request is for you to stay engaged and become part of the leadership — we need you to do that, and you won't be sorry that you did.

**Frank DeLeo**  
**2024-2025 DMA President**

# New Members

## Stephen (Steve) Flynn



**Steve Flynn** was born in New York City and was raised on City Island in the Bronx. His father, grandfather and great grandfather were all City Island residents. From this small historic shipbuilding community, he has enjoyed the opportunity to live and work in Switzerland, Germany and other countries, including Australia, Brazil, England, India, Japan, Mexico and Scotland.

He received his B.A. from Binghamton University and his M.B.A. from Cornell University. He is a retired financial services executive, having spent the first 20 years of his career at Accenture (the former Andersen Consulting), where he was a partner and leader of the technology practice for global financial markets. He subsequently held senior executive positions at GoldenSource, BearingPoint, TIBCO, Oracle and OpenLink.

Steve and his wife Ivelisse married in 1987 and have two children. Before moving to Darien in December 2021, they owned a home in Pleasantville, N.Y., for 25 years. They love being close to their daughter, son-in-law and twin three-year-old grandsons, who live nearby. He and Ivelisse are members of Saint Thomas More Parish, and Steve recently became a board member and treasurer for the nonprofit Middlesex Genealogical Society.

## Ronald (Ron) Holtz



**Ron Holtz** is a native of Buffalo, N.Y. He received a B.A. in psychology from the State University of New York and then attended New York University and Whittier College of Law, then in Los Angeles.

As senior vice president of Meyers Parking in New York, Ron was responsible for all real estate transactions in 38 U.S. cities and Puerto Rico. He joined Dean Witter Reynolds in 1995 and Morgan Stanley in 1997, where he was a sales manager and branch manager in New York, New Jersey and Ohio. Later, Ron moved to New York City to manage the U.S. office of Citigold, a division of Citibank. After 2010, he held senior positions in the investment business with Oppenheimer and Edward Jones and is currently at Alliance Global Partners.

Ron and his wife Diane have two children: Melissa, residing in Maui; and Michael, currently enrolled in the joint J.D./M.B.A. degree program at the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law and Wharton Schools.

Ron is involved in many charitable organizations, including the Walk Committee of the Alzheimer Association's Connecticut Chapter and the Rotary Club. A 35-year Rotarian, he is currently the assistant district governor overseeing all clubs located from Greenwich to Westport, including the Darien Rotary Club. Ron has served as membership chair and speaker program chair of Y's Men of Westport/Weston.

His retirement interests include sailing, hiking, golf, gardening, travel, tai chi, woodworking, genealogy and writing. He is currently working on a multi-generational family history and a 100th anniversary project for Noroton Yacht Club.

## Paul Tregurtha



**Paul Tregurtha** was born in 1935 in Orange, N.J. He received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Cornell University and an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1963. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 to 1961 and worked for Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company from 1969-1971.

He then started his career in the water transportation field by joining Moore-McCormack Resources, Inc. in Stamford, for which he worked until 1987, eventually rising to CEO and chairman.

Since 1988, he has been chairman and co-owner of Mormac Marine Group, Inc. in Stamford and co-owner of The Interlake Steamship Company, Moran Towing Corporation, which operates 95 tugboats in the United States and Mexico, and Seastreak Ferry, LLC, a private ferry company operating in the Port of New York and New Jersey and in New England. Paul describes his current role at these firms as “giving advice and not caring if anyone listens.” He had been co-owner and vice chairman of Interlake Steamship Company in 1990 when its flagship vessel was rechristened the MV Paul R. Tregurtha and is now the longest active vessel operating on the Great Lakes.

Paul served on Cornell’s board of trustees in the 1980s and 1990s and rose to become vice chairman of the board. He continues to serve as trustee emeritus. His wife Lee, now deceased, also graduated from Cornell, as did his four children (one born in each of Oregon, Massachusetts, Michigan and England) and 11 of his 14 grandchildren.

He resides part time in Darien, although his permanent address is in Florida. His hobbies, now limited, are golf, boating, skiing, hiking and rowing, and his interests include keeping up with his expanding family, learning to use AI and Chat GPT, and learning to play bridge.

# In Memoriam

## Thomas Mark Brayton



**Thomas Mark Brayton**, beloved husband of Friede Bliss Brayton, passed away on May 17, 2025, at age 82 after a brief illness. Born on October 29, 1942, in Bath, N.Y., Tom was the son of the late Haswell Potter (Pete) Brayton, Jr., and Dorothy (Dot) Carr Brayton. After growing up in Herkimer, N.Y., he attended Eaglebrook School and graduated from Phillips Academy and then Princeton University, majoring in classics.

Tom's career took him from teaching and coaching to public relations to the oil business and then back to teaching. He lived in New Canaan and Darien for the last 50 years. He was a longtime member of The Country Club of New Canaan, where he thoroughly enjoyed playing tennis, squash and paddle. Tom was also a member of the Congregational Church of New Canaan, where Friede and he were married in 1968.

He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and his great love for the New York Yankees and the New York Giants.

Tom is survived by Friede, his wife of 56 years, his elder daughter Lisa B. Platt and her husband Jeff and his adored grandchildren Austin and Serena, and his younger daughter Paige B. Campbell and her husband Tom.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Tom's memory may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306 or online at [T2T.org](http://T2T.org).

# DMA Speakers Program

Congratulations to **Ric Grefé** for having organized a fantastic group of speakers this past year. Topics included the following:

- *U.S. and world history*, with presentations from **Thomas Graham**, who discussed the Ukraine conflict from an overall European perspective; **Susan Herbst**, who discussed the 2024 U.S. election from a historical perspective; DMA's own **Mark Nunan**, who explained Slovenia's history in the context of European history in general and the Balkans in particular; **John Odermatt**, who discussed the events of 9/11 from the perspective of his personal involvement as First Deputy Commissioner of New York City's Office of Emergency Management; **Lucia Renshaw** and DMA's own **Don Loomis** on Pan Am's secret supply mission to China during World War II; DMA's **Sunil Saxena**, on the Koh-i-Noor diamond and its place in the history of India and England; and **John Sullivan**, former U.S. ambassador in Moscow, who focused on relations between the United States and Russia.
- *Global and national political, financial and legal issues*, with presentations from **Robert Dillenschneider**, who discussed the impact of media and social media on, and the need for civility in, our polarized society; **Daniel Franklin** of *The Economist*, who discussed global trends, challenges and opportunities; **Amos Guiora**, who spoke about efforts to establish legal obligations on bystanders who have observed acts of violence; Congressman **Jim Himes**, who provided an analysis of current affairs; **Shamil Idriss**, CEO of Search for Common Ground, on his organization's mission to identify common ground among adversaries to achieve change in the nature of conflicts; **Annelise Osborne**, who discussed innovations regarding digital assets in traditional finance; **Richard Stevenson** of *The New York Times*, who discussed challenges facing the news media; and **Marc Wortman** on the roles of Thomas J. Watson Jr., in building the modern IBM and creating the modern digital age.
- *Local developments*, with presentations from **Anthony Anthony**, chief marketing officer of the state of Connecticut, on his oversight of the newly created Office of Statewide Marketing and Tourism; **Nancy Coughlin**, CEO of Person to Person, on that organization's operations; **Erin Noonan**, executive director of the Darien Community Association, on that association's history and current mission and operations; **Bruce Putterman**, publisher and CEO of the *CT Mirror*, on the need for robust local news and the challenges to providing it; **Andrew Traub** of Harvard Business School Club of Connecticut Community Partners (CP), on CP's efforts to provide strategic planning advice to Connecticut nonprofits and specific assistance it gave to Post 53, the Darien Community Fund and the Bruce Museum; Brigadier General (Ret.) **Ronald Welch**, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, on the mission and operations of that department; **William Tong**, attorney general for the state of Connecticut, who gave his views about the roles of states' attorneys general in the

U.S. federal system of government and major legal issues facing Connecticut; and DMA member and Darien First Selectman **Jon Zagrodzky** on the state of the town.

- *Environment and Health*, with presentations from **Juliet Cain** on promoting native plants to create pathways for insect pollinators; **Dr. Amit Khanna**, a prominent colon and rectal surgeon and professor at Yale School of Medicine, on colorectal wellness; **Jim Knox** and **Carolyn Rinaldi**, curators at the Beardsley Zoo, on the ecological benefits of reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone National Park; and **Roger Silva** on the benefits of physical therapy.
- *Culture and Education*, with presentations from **Aaron Cooper**, head of school at New Canaan Country School, on the case for expanding education beyond preparation for tests or college to serving as a foundation for a meaningful life in an uncertain world; **Ron Darling** on his career in baseball and broadcasting (moderated adroitly by DMA's president **Frank DeLeo**); **Kit Hinrichs** on the history of the U.S. flag and its impact on U.S. culture; **Tim Manners** on his book about Hall of Fame Yankee pitcher Waite "Schoolboy" Hoyt; **Marcus Miller**, a jazz saxophonist with a degree from Harvard in mathematics, explaining the relationships between mathematics, jazz, science and art; **Joseph Pulisi** on the history of New York's Lincoln Center; **Bonnie Siegler** and **Helene Stapinski** on their book, *The American Way: A True Story of Nazi Escape, Superman, and Marilyn Monroe*, about the rise of comic books, Hollywood and one family's experience during the Holocaust; and **Ernest Weigand**, a professor of archaeology at CT State Community College Norwalk, who traced the history of inhabitants of Connecticut from 12,000 B.C.E. to the arrival of European settlers in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the presentations listed above, they all are described on the DMA website at <https://dariendma.org/newsletters> and videos are available at <https://dariendma.org/category/speaker-announcements/>. You can search by the name of any of the speakers to access the description of that presentation.

Frank DeLeo set a high bar when he was in charge of the Speakers Program in 2023-2024, and Ric kept the program at that standard of excellence. Next season, starting at our first Wednesday morning meeting on September 3, **Doug Bora**, DMA first vice president in charge of the Speaker Program for the 2025-2026 season, will introduce the first of what we are confident will be many fine speakers. No doubt we will be as educated by the speakers Doug chooses as we were entertained in the past year while Doug served as head of Social Events. We will keep you in suspense for the moment, naming our initial speaker before the September 3 meeting in *This Week at DMA*, so ably written by **Bryan Hooper** and distributed electronically to all DMA members by **Lee Morrison**. See you in September!

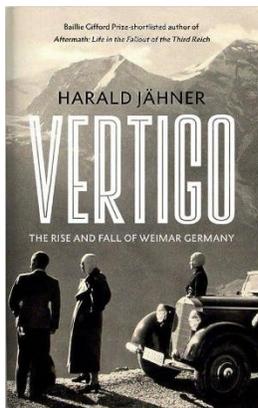


## ACTIVITIES

# Book Group: Summer and Fall Selections

The **DMA Book Club** chooses one large volume to read over the summer to be discussed at the club's first meeting of the new season in September. This year, club members selected the book from five proposed titles 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. The room is equipped with Zoom software, and video and audio systems, allowing DMA members who choose to participate remotely to do so via a Zoom link that will be available. We also picked new books for October and November (see below). To get on our mailing list, contact **Rick Agresta** at [richard.agresta@gmail.com](mailto:richard.agresta@gmail.com) or **Jim Phillips** at [jlpinvest66@gmail.com](mailto:jlpinvest66@gmail.com).

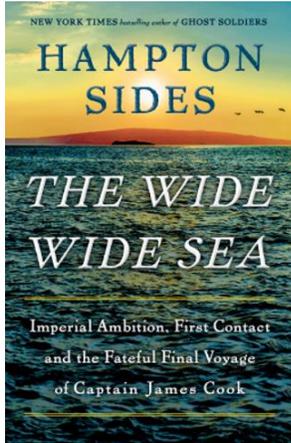
### ***Vertigo: The Rise and Fall of Weimar Germany* by Harald Jähner (September 10)**



This 480-page book (already available in the Darien Public Library) explores the dramatic and consequential history of Germany's short-lived experiment with democracy between the world wars. Out of the ashes of World War I, Germany launched its first democratic government, the Weimar Republic. Named for the city where it was established, it endured for only 15 years before it was toppled by the insurgent Nazi Party in 1933.

In *Vertigo*, prizewinning historian **Harald Jähner** tells the Republic's full story, capturing a nation caught in a whirlwind of uncertainty and struggling toward a better future. In the aftermath of World War I, Germany was buffeted by political partisanship, economic upheaval and the constant threat of revolutionary violence. At the same time, many Germans embraced newly liberated lifestyles. They flouted gender norms, flooded racetracks and dance halls, and fostered a vibrant avant-garde that encompassed groundbreaking artists like filmmaker Fritz Lang, painter Wassily Kandinsky and architect Walter Gropius. This new Germany, however, sparked a reactionary backlash that led to the Republic's fall to the Nazis and, ultimately, the conflagration of World War II. Blending deeply researched political history with the firsthand experiences of everyday people, *Vertigo* is a vital, kaleidoscopic portrait of a pivotal moment in German history.

***The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook* by Hampton Sides (October 8)**



This is an epic account of the most momentous voyage of the Age of Exploration, which culminated in Captain James Cook's death in Hawaii and left a complex and controversial legacy still debated to this day.

On July 12, 1776, Captain Cook, already lionized as the greatest explorer in British history, set off on his third voyage in his ship, the HMS Resolution. Two-and-a-half years later, on a beach on the island of Hawaii, Cook was killed in a conflict with native Hawaiians. How did Cook, who was unique among captains for his respect for indigenous peoples and cultures, come to that fatal moment?

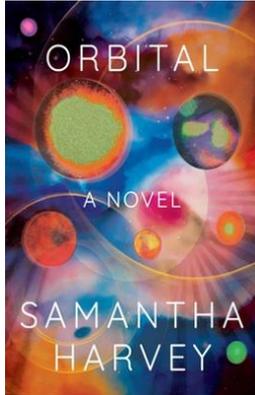
**Hampton Sides's** account of Cook's last journey both wrestles with Cook's legacy and provides a thrilling narrative of the titanic efforts and continual danger that characterized exploration in the 1700s. Cook was renowned for his peerless seamanship, his humane leadership and his dedication to science — the famed naturalist Joseph Banks accompanied him on his first voyage — and Cook has been called one of the most important figures of the Age of Enlightenment. He was also deeply interested in the native people he encountered. In fact, his stated mission was to return a Tahitian man who had become the toast of London to his home islands. On previous expeditions, Cook mapped huge swaths of the Pacific, including the east coast of Australia, and initiated first European contact with numerous peoples. He treated his crew well and endeavored to learn about the societies he encountered with curiosity and without judgment.

Yet, something was different on this last voyage. Cook became mercurial, resorting to the lash to enforce discipline, and led his two vessels into danger time and again. Uncharacteristically, he ordered violent retaliation for perceived theft on the part of native peoples. This may have had something to do with his secret orders, which were to chart and claim lands before Britain's imperial rivals could and to discover the fabled Northwest Passage. Whatever Cook's intentions, his scientific efforts were the sharp edge of the colonial sword, and the ultimate effects of first contact were catastrophic for indigenous people around the world. The tensions between Cook's overt and covert missions came to a head on the shores of Hawaii. His first landing there was harmonious, but when Cook returned after mapping the coast of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, his exploitative treatment of the Hawaiians led to the fatal encounter.

At once a ferociously paced story of adventure on the high seas and a searching examination of the complexities and consequences of the Age of Exploration, *The Wide Wide Sea* is a major work from one of our finest narrative nonfiction writers.

This book will be available in the Darien Library starting August 13.

***Orbital* by Samantha Harvey (November 12)**



The club's first fiction selection of 2025-2026 presents life on our planet as you've never seen it before.

It is the fictional account of a team of astronauts on the International Space Station. Its members collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body — but mostly they observe. Together, they watch their silent blue planet, circling it 16 times, spin past continents and cycle through seasons while taking in glaciers, deserts, the peaks of mountains and the swells of oceans. They witness endless shows of spectacular beauty in a single day.

Although separated from the world, they cannot escape its constant pull. When news reaches them of the death of a mother, it sparks thoughts of returning home. The team members look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe of its magnificence and fearful of its destruction.

The fragility of human life fills their conversations, their fears and their dreams. So far from Earth, they have never felt more part — or protective — of it. They begin to ask, "What is life without Earth?" "What is Earth without humanity?"

This book will be available in the Darien Library starting September 10.



## ACTIVITIES (continued)

### **Bowling: Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield, 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. See the Activities Annex at the end of this Activities section for highlights of recent action.

**Tom Lom:** [tomlom1@aol.com](mailto:tomlom1@aol.com)

### **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.

We thank outgoing Committee Chairman **Frank Gallagher** for his leadership over the past year, including launching DMA’s relationship with At Home in Darien. On May 14, the DMA made a \$1,000 contribution to that organization, and the committee arranged for the DMA to sponsor a golf outing at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk on July 7 as a fundraiser for At Home in Darien.

**Pat Gentile, Charles Hurty and Bert von Stuelpnagel** once again provided no-cost professional tax preparation services through SimplifyCT this past tax season. 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.

**Frank DeLeo**, 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.

As a follow-up to the recent talk to the DMA by **Bruce Putterman**, publisher and CEO of the *CT Mirror*, Darien TV79 launched a weekly newsletter, *Best of Darien TV79*, to keep residents informed about local events. You can click on [Link to Newsletter](#) to access the TV79 newsletter, and there are instructions on how to subscribe going forward by clicking on [Dariantv79.com](http://Dariantv79.com).

See photos of Community Service events in the Activities Annex at the end of this Activities section. 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](mailto:jcraft123@gmail.com)

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



**Ken Hamilton** invites you to join the cribbage heads to learn, relearn and play the card game

Cribbage. Playing cribbage is a fun, educational and social activity.

Cribbage is also challenging and fast. A cribbage game typically takes from 10 to 20 minutes to play. Join us at the weekly get-together at the Darien Senior Center. You can also play online anytime against the computer, a friend or a stranger.

**Ken Hamilton:** [1kenhamilton@gmail.com](mailto:1kenhamilton@gmail.com)

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



There will be no meetings this summer. The next Current Affairs (CA) session will be on **September 18**. Our topic for that

month will be available in early September.

Thanks go to **Mike Wheeler** and **Mark Nunan** for ably co-chairing the group from 2023 to 2025 and to all of the CA session leaders who displayed knowledge of and research into varied timely topics over the past nine months. **Barry Silver** takes over the group, to be assisted by **Doug Bernacchi** and **Charles Salmans**. See you in September!

**Barry Silver:** [barry@midnightgreen.net](mailto:barry@midnightgreen.net)

## **Golf**



**Bob McGroarty** and his assistant pros **Cliff van Voorhees**, **Jerry Crowley** and **Steve True** hosted

the first event of the season at Oak Hills Park Golf Course on May 15, followed by an outing at Sterling Farms Golf Course on June 17. On June 25, DMA golfers defeated their New Canaan Men's Club counterparts in a match at Silvermine Golf Club. The group also co-sponsored with the Community Service Committee the July 7 fundraiser for At Home in Darien at Oak Hills. Photos of and details about these events are included in the Activities Annex at the end of this Activities section.

Additional outings are scheduled at The Country Club of Darien on **August 21** and Woodway Country Club on **October 3**. Events are typically limited to 24 members. We will announce the opening of event signups approximately one month before the scheduled date of the event.

For further information or to be added to the email distribution list, contact **Bob McGroarty** at [rgmcg@me.com](mailto:rgmcg@me.com), **Cliff van Voorhees** at [civanv@gmail.com](mailto:civanv@gmail.com), **Jerry Crowley** at [jerrycrowley4@gmail.com](mailto:jerrycrowley4@gmail.com) or **Steve True** at [rstrue123@gmail.com](mailto:rstrue123@gmail.com).

## Happy Wanderers



The group will be on hiatus over the summer. The wandering to City Island in the Bronx scheduled for June 25 was canceled due to oppressive heat and has been rescheduled to **September 18**. A wandering to the Bronx Zoo is scheduled for **October 16**.

For pictures of the group's outing to a FerryHawks baseball game on Staten Island on May 8, see the Activities Annex at the end of this Activities section.

David Mace: [davidmace@optonline.net](mailto:davidmace@optonline.net)

Joe Spain: [jhspain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhspain@sbcglobal.net)

## Hiking



The hale and hearty hikers do not take the summer off. The group hiked in the Roy and Margot Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary in Fairfield on May 15 and in Wilton Town Forest on June 19. Photos of these hikes are included in the Activities Annex at the end of this Activities section.

The group's next hike will be to Bennett's Pond State Park in Ridgefield on **July 17**. The park features a six-trail network through lush forest and around Bennett's Pond. Expect to hike about three miles on relatively flat trails. Pets are permitted on leash. As is the group's custom, we will meet at the DCA at 9:30 a.m., and we will convene for lunch after the hike. There is limited parking available at the park so carpooling is encouraged. If you travel on your own, the trailhead begins almost

immediately after you turn west on Bennetts Farm Road off Route 7, and you can find additional parking in a lot about 0.75 miles past the trailhead on the right side of the road. We suggest hikers bring insect repellent. For additional information about Bennett's Pond State Park, see [www.cttrailfinder.com/trails/trail/bennetts-pond-state-park](http://www.cttrailfinder.com/trails/trail/bennetts-pond-state-park).

For more information, contact **Alec Wiggin** at [alec@aared.com](mailto:alec@aared.com) or **Lee Morrison** at [lee06820@gmail.com](mailto:lee06820@gmail.com).

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



**Jim Phillips** leads our monthly Zoom session. He starts the meeting by laying out the macro outlook.

Then he opens the floor to discussion of different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are considering owning. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. Members with specific investments or themes they would like to cover are welcome to email these to Jim in advance.

An email with a Zoom link and agenda will be sent to participants the week prior to the meeting. To join the group and be added to the email distribution list or if you have questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, contact Jim Phillips at [jpinvest66@gmail.com](mailto:jpinvest66@gmail.com).

## **New Wave Singers: Noroton Presbyterian Church, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.**



Led by Music Director **Dwayne Condon**, the New Wave Singers are developing a repertoire of songs to perform for the DMA and local community

organizations. The group takes the summer off but will resume rehearsing every Tuesday starting **September 9** at 3 p.m. at the Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien. DMA members are encouraged to join regardless of singing experience. Group members will be charged a membership fee designed to cover expenses.

We have scheduled a performance at the Darien Senior Center for **October 9** at 12:30 p.m.

**Jim Bragg:** [jamesbragg77@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbragg77@gmail.com)

**David Claiborne:** [dclaiborne44@gmail.com](mailto:dclaiborne44@gmail.com)

## **Pickleball: Cherry Lawn Park, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9-10:30 a.m.**



The group is at capacity but has a waiting list and continues to try to find ways to let new members join.

The group continues through the summer and plays indoors (space permitting) when the weather precludes outdoor play.

Reminder: We use the TeamReach app for signup. Novices, please take lessons first with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325.

**Jan Selkowitz:** [jankarselkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jankarselkowitz@gmail.com)

**Jack Dearie:** [jdearie683@hotmail.com](mailto:jdearie683@hotmail.com)

## **Social Events**

The Social Committee has hosted the following events since the last newsletter:

- A guided tour at The New York Botanical Garden followed by dinner and dessert on Arthur Avenue on May 1 (arranged by **Bob Dawe**).
- **Alex Garnett** once again put together a splendid picnic for DMAers and their spouses or significant others at Weed Beach on June 11.

See the Activities Annex at the end of this Activities section for photos of these events.

We thank **Doug Bora** for the fantastic job he did all year organizing outstanding social events for the DMA. We have confidence that new Social Events Chairman **Ted Helms** will keep DMAers equally entertained this year.

If you would like to join the Social Committee or suggest an event, contact **Ted Helms** at [thelms125@gmail.com](mailto:thelms125@gmail.com).

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



DMA Table Tennis meets at the Mather Center in the exercise studio (Room 209). If you would like to join the group, download the **TeamReach** app to your phone and enter “DMATableTennis” for the group code. Once you are approved for admission, you can select the dates you plan to attend, and you can also see who else is coming on that date. Please sign up for your selected play dates as early as possible — it encourages other DMA players to sign up if they see there is a group ready to play on the same date.

We play through the summer and are exploring the availability of morning play time — check the TeamReach app for developments.

See photos in the Activities Annex for proof that we actually play!

Steve Gravereaux: [spgarg@optonline.net](mailto:spgarg@optonline.net)

## TechTalk: Meetings via Zoom on Dates and Times to Be Announced



The goal of this group is to share technology-oriented experiences among

DMA members and to serve as a source of information on technical areas like software, hardware, networks and security. The group welcomes members with technical experience or expertise, as well as those who want to learn from those with more experience.

To join the group and be added to the email distribution list or if you have questions or ideas you would like us to cover, contact **Bruce Lynn** at [blynn0480@gmail.com](mailto:blynn0480@gmail.com).

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



The DMA Woodworkers meet every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. and every Friday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey**, who leads this group, encourages members to join and welcomes new pieces upon which to labor. If you enjoy working with your hands, this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment that we get to use for free. Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers and their family and friends. To join up or to make arrangements to repair tables, chairs and other wooden furnishings, please contact **Tom Dempsey** at [tjd3443@gmail.com](mailto:tjd3443@gmail.com).

## **ACTIVITIES ANNEX**

### **Report on DMA Activities since the Last Newsletter**

#### **Community Service**

At the DMA general meeting on May 14, DMA contributed \$1,000 to At Home in Darien. Here is a photograph of **Frank Gallagher** (right), chairman of DMA's Community Service Committee, delivering the check to **Chris Jones**, executive director of At Home in Darien.



*Photo by John Craft*

2025 Darien Memorial Day Parade, May 26



DMAers gather to march at Old Kings Market. Photo by Patricia Glashan



Outgoing DMA President **Frank DeLeo** and DMA's head of Community Service **John Craft** lead DMAers marching down Post Road. Photo by Charles Salmans

## Golf Fundraiser for At Home in Darien

On July 7, the DMA's Community Service Committee sponsored a golf outing at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk as a fundraiser for At Home in Darien. More details and photos will appear in the September-October issue of the newsletter, but here are a few photos of the event.



*Mike Brennan, Linc Schoff and Bill Tamme get ready to play. Photo by Frank DeLeo*



*Photo by Mike Kadish of view from the 11th tee box*



*Mike Brennan watches Linc Schoff tee off. Photo by Frank DeLeo*



*George Gilliam prepares to tee off on the 11th hole. Photo by Mike Kadish*

## Support for Steve McGeachy

On June 21, incoming DMA President Ric Grefé sent the following note by email to all of DMA members.

Dear DMA members,

Many of you know Steve McGeachy, who quietly and faithfully supports all our meetings at the DCA — handling setup, technology and more, always in good spirits. Steve has been an integral part of our successful meetings at the DCA longer than some of us have been members.

Today, we have an opportunity to support him.

You may have noticed he wasn't there for our last meeting of the year. Steve is facing stage 5 kidney failure and a long road ahead — dialysis, surgery and possibly a transplant. With rising medical bills and two children in college, his family is struggling.

We don't usually send notes like this, but Steve is a special case. A Go-Fund-Me page has been set up by friends and colleagues to help ease the financial burden during this incredibly difficult time. If you'd like to make a donation to Steve's Go-Fund-Me page, please click [here](#).

Thank you for your generosity and kindness.



We've included Steve's picture, for those of you who may know him by sight but not by name. The note was sent to DMA members at the request of the Darien Community Association. Within 24 hours after the note was sent, DMA members had contributed about \$4,000 to the fund, and more has been contributed since (and a number of gifts were made anonymously so the amount could be higher). While this was not initiated by our Community Service Committee, it is hard to imagine any circumstance better demonstrating the DMA's commitment to serving our community.

## Golf



**Rick Agresta, Alec Wiggin and Ed Kweskin** relax after the June 17 event at Sterling Farms Golf Course.  
*Photo taken by activity leader and fellow event participant **Bob McGroarty***

On June 25, a team of 20 of our DMA golfers faced their counterparts from the New Canaan Men's Club (NCCM) in the ninth annual match in this fun series. All 40 players on both teams survived terribly nasty heat and thankfully finished their matches without incident. The DMA team won 18-12 and now leads the series 6-3. We thank **John Kammerman** for taking and sharing the following photos.



*Ted Helms and Jim Crane (left) pose with their NCCM opponents.*



*John Kirkman and Dave McCollum pose with NCCM opponents.*



*Tim Reis blasts out of sand trap.*



*Tom Lom pitches out of bunker.*



*Tom Lom sinks putt.*

## Happy Wanderers

Here are photos of the Wanderers' outing to a FerryHawks baseball game on Staten Island on May 8.



*Photo by Chet Cobb*



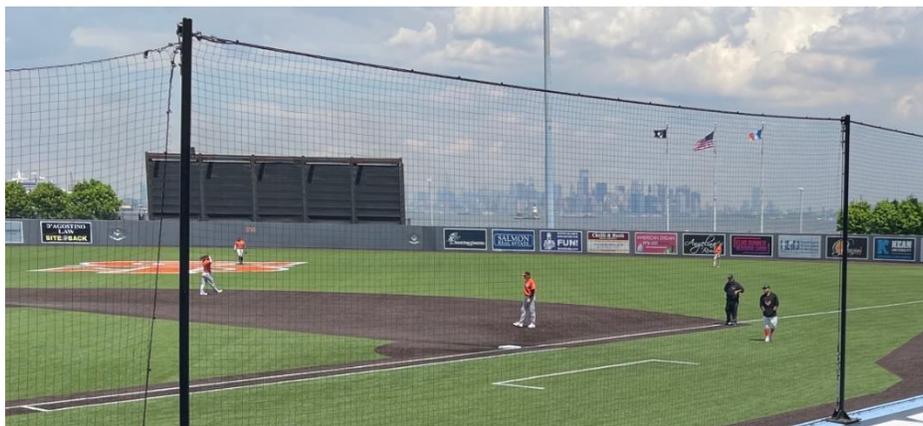
*Photo by Chet Cobb*



*Photo by Fred Given*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*

## Hiking

These are photographs of the hearty hikers who trekked through the Wilton Town Forest on June 19.



*Photo by Mike Kadish*



*Photo by Lorry Given*



*Photo by Lorry Given*

These are photos of the hike at the Roy and Margot Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary on May 15.



Photo by Lorry Given



Photo by Lorry Given

## Social Events

### **Hidden Gems of the Bronx, May 1, 2025**

Below are photos of the DMA trip to The New York Botanical Garden on May 1.



*Photo by Mike Kadish*



*Photo by Mike Kadish*



*Photo by Mike Kadish*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Lorry Given*



*Photo by Lorry Given*

Here is a photo of the dinner at Mario's on Arthur Avenue following the visit to the Botanical Garden.



*Photo by Fred Given*

## DMA Picnic at Weed Beach, June 11, 2025

After days of rainy late spring weather, the Connecticut skies cleared to provide a beautiful evening setting on the shore of Long Island Sound as DMA members, their spouses or significant others and wives of deceased members gathered in fellowship to celebrate the end of another very satisfying season. Enjoy the memories evoked by these photographs thoughtfully provided by **Gregory Glashan** and **Tom Igoe**.



*Photo of picnic organizer **Alex Garnett**. taken by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



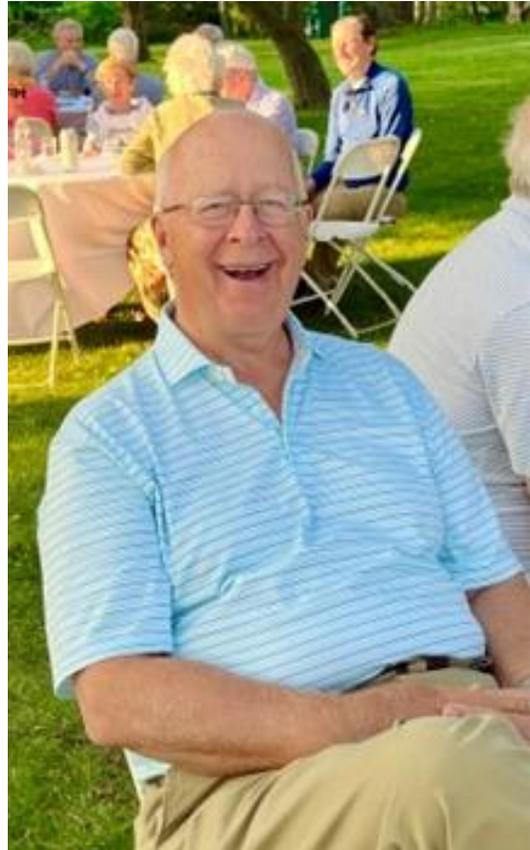
*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Tom Igoe*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo submitted by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*



*Photo by Gregory Glashan*

## Table Tennis



*Steve Gravereaux and John Janiga square off on June 27. Photo by Mike Kadish*



*Mike Kadish prepares to serve to Steve Gravereaux. Photo by John Janiga*

## Bowling Report, Courtesy of Tom Lom (the “Commish”)

### Tuesday, April 22

Ten bowlers today and, though conditions were challenging on both pairs of lanes, there were a few notable performances.

**Mike Ryan** had a nice day at +33. After two games that were a bit above average, a slight delay to finish some scorekeeping led Mike to conclude we were wrapping up for the morning — a rookie mistake. 😊 Having changed into his street shoes, Mike hustled back, got ready and made four spares in a row for a 119, which was 22 above his average. Good thing for his teammates that he stuck around!

**Ben Briggs** had another good morning at +27. **Bill Tamme** had three above-average games for +24. Even the Commish was above average at 544 for the only 500 series and had the high game at 195. Considering that he was assigned to the "graveyard" lanes 13/14, we'll award that performance Bowler of the Day (BoD) honors.

So what about the team game, you ask? Only 14 pins separated Team Tom (Lom, Tamme, **George Gilliam, Woody Spurgeon** and **John Bassler**) from the underdog Team Frank (**Frank DeLeo, Ed Schechter, Ben Briggs, George Hawes** and Ryan). Their first two games were won by Team Frank thanks to a 14-pin cushion. Team Tom went for double or nothing in game three. The battle see-sawed and came down to the last shot of the day only because Frank left an unlucky split in the 10th frame, opening the door slightly for Tom. Tom's nine/spare/eight finish left the game exactly tied, with Mike's Team Frank teammates happily shaking his hand.

### Tuesday, April 29

On this gorgeous spring morning, we had 12 bowlers, and the competition was spirited!

Going with three foursomes, we had team captains Tom (with Bill, Ted and John), Gehr (with Ed, Woody and George H) and Frank (with Alex, George G and Mike). Gehr's team wasted no time winning game one, as Ed rolled a 202 and Gehr a 183. They took game two as well thanks to a 130 by Woody and a 111 by George H. Game three came down to the wire. Tom converted a 5-7 AND a 2-7-8 split late in the game, and Teammate Ted also converted a 5-7 to help their team to a narrow win.

On the individual side, we had several good performances. Woody was +5. Mike was +20. Alex was +29 thanks to a 192 in the opener. George G was +42 as he converted two 3-10 splits. Tom was +52 at 586 on the strength of a 203 and a 202 in games one and two, respectively. Ed was +53 at 512. Gehr was +54 at 543 with three good games.

But Bowler of the Day goes to Ted, who was +65 with a 488. Great to see him bowling well now that more than three months have passed since his knee replacement — certainly a positive testimonial for his surgeon and for Ted's overall fitness. "I'll have what he's having!" I should mention that Ted did suffer one disappointment today during the game two poker game at his table. The good news: Ted had a full house with three deuces showing after six frames! He was looking forward to his first winning poker hand of the calendar year. The bad news: Tom drew an ace after frame eight (same poker hand), giving him an aces-up full house. Alas, Ted will have to wait at least another week to collect some poker coinage. 😊

## Tuesday, May 6

What happens on a rainy Tuesday morning in May? Fourteen bowlers have no conflicts and come to have some fun at Nutmeg! While all enjoyed the camaraderie and a few laughs, some enjoyed their bowling more than others. 😊

**Linc Schoff** returned from a couple of weeks in the Carolinas and was +13. Tom started out on fire with the high game of the day at 225 on his way to a 567 series for +33. Ed had 500 on the nose for +41, which equaled Alex, whose 503 was also +41. Ted's 483 was +54. But BoD honors go to **Marty Milewski**, who had three strong games to end up with a 546, which was +63 (bowled on 13/14 no less). Kudos also go to **Gehr Brown** for converting a 5-7 and to Frank for making a 2-4-10.

Three teams competed for the quarters, captained by: Tom (Ben, Ed and George H); Gehr (Linc, George G, **Ted Helms** and Marty); and Frank (Woody, John, **Alex Garnett** and Bill). Game one was a barn burner with all three squads bowling well and the match coming down to the wire. Tom rolled four strikes in the last two frames to push his team to a four-pin win over Team Frank and an eight-pin win over Team Gehr. In game two, the quality of bowling dipped, but there was another tight finish as Tom's team eked out a one-pin victory over Gehr's group. Thanks to Marty's consistently strong performance, Gehr's team got some measure of revenge in the third game, winning by a wide margin.

## Tuesday, May 13

With only two more sessions left in our season after today, we had 10 bowlers at Nutmeg. At the end of last week's report, I said let's hope for continued strong performances, and our bowlers more than fulfilled my wish! Eight of the 10 bowlers were above their average. Further, we had three 200 games and four series above 500, including three above 550! We had two great split conversions and a Ben

Briggs spare (gutter ball followed by spare). Happily, we split up into three teams, and each won a game. Quite a morning.

Let's start with Woody, who had three games over 100 for a +8. George H was +11. Tom had high game at 221 and high series at 560 for +26. Frank came out of the gate on fire with a 205 in game one on his way to a 554 series for +41. Mike had his highest game so far with a 139 and ended +43. He also converted a 5-7 split! Alex had a 202 in the middle game and a 519 series for +51. He converted a 3-6-7-10! Gehr didn't have a 200 game but did have two games in the 190s on his way to a 555 for +57.

But BoD on this day belongs to Linc, who had three good games and was +64 on the day. His 388 series was his high for the season. And he had a Ben Briggs spare. Well done, Linc!

## Tuesday, May 20

Last week, we were great. This week, we stunk. Nothing else worth reporting.

## Tuesday, May 27

We had 11 bowlers for our farewell session of the season. Nutmeg had not oiled the lanes the previous day so conditions were very difficult, with the ball curving way more than usual. Enough said! 😞

The highlight of the day was our season-ending lunch. We had 12 in attendance at Papparazzi



*Photo by Tom Lom*

and shared good food and good conversation (see photo). The lunch would not have been complete without a round of "Name That Bowler." It should be noted that every single

bowler earned BoD honors at least once during the season. Ed bowled the most games. Marty had the high game at 245, while Tom had high series of 635. Alex had a 578 series, which was his personal best ever.

A special shout-out goes to each of our 2025 newbies. Inspired by Woody joining us last season, we had four more guys become regulars: Linc, John, George H and Mike. Their additions meant even more camaraderie, laughs and quarters. 😊

The Commish would be remiss if he didn't say "thank you" once more for the card and generous gift of a meal at Via Sforza Trattoria in Westport — and a Phillies bucket hat. My role as Commish is a labor of love. Our group is the best, and I look forward to our get-together every Tuesday! Wishing you all a great summer. See you in September.

### **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.