



# Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 4

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

**Darien Men's Association**

**March-May 2025**

## President's Message

Spring has sprung, plants are beginning to bloom, and people are re-emerging after being indoors for the winter months, during which the DMA saw only a minor slowdown in its activities. Some activities that were on hiatus are restarting, offering even more options for our now nearly 350 members to keep busy and connected with each other and our community.

While the hale and hearty Hikers have dealt with the sometimes-uncooperative weather to keep on trekking through the winter, the Happy Wanderers were on hiatus but resumed their trips in April — but, as is their custom, they closed out their hibernation by identifying this year's winners in our uniquely structured March Madness Pool. Our New Wave Singers have three, and possibly more, upcoming performances under their new musical director after taking February and March off due to several members escaping to warmer climes.

Fore! It's time to play golf again. Four golf outings have been scheduled. There is also a plan in the works for a fundraiser golf outing at Oak Hills Golf Course on July 7 to support At Home in Darien. Unless it rains, the pickleballers — ever-growing in number — are likely done playing indoors for the year, although the resurgent bowling group has been challenging them for participation levels. **Steve Gravereaux** keeps doing his best to attract ping pong players while **Ken Hamilton** focuses on the presence of female participants as a reason to try cribbage — perhaps he doesn't know that we have always had female pickleballers in our group.

Even during the cold winter, DMA sprouted a fresh “bud.” A new group — TechTalk — led by **Bruce Lynn**, began meeting to discuss technology challenges and opportunities many of us deal with on a routine basis. Speaking of technology, at the suggestion of Assistant Treasurer **Dan Lew**, we recently purchased a new camera that has significantly improved the quality of our video recordings and Zoom meetings — thank you, Dan, for the suggestion.

Community Service Chairman **Frank Gallagher** and a committee of three DMA members developed a proposal to become a supporter of At Home in Darien as part of our ongoing commitment to community service. The DMA members voted overwhelmingly (93% in favor) to make a special commitment to help At Home in Darien meet its mission “to help seniors live independently, comfortably and with dignity in their own homes and the community as long as possible” — something we can all relate to. We will do this by facilitating individual members’ commitments of time and funds, by organizing DMA initiatives through which our members can volunteer their time, and by selectively pursuing fundraising activities (like the aforementioned golf outing in July). This commitment is in addition to the individual and group commitments we make to other organizations and reflects a new level of commitment to community service for our organization.

Our Social Committee has also been active. It organized several terrific musical, theatrical and dining events during the winter, with a few more planned through the spring, culminating with our annual picnic at Weed Beach in June. And **Ric Grefé** continues to bring us an outstanding lineup of speakers on a broad range of entertaining and informational topics. Due to scheduling conflicts with the DCA, we will carry our meetings into the first week of June, with our last two speakers being Congressman **Jim Himes** on May 28 and our DCA partner’s Executive Director **Erin Noonan**, culminating our year on June 4. With the quality and range of speakers in our program, it’s no surprise that our in-person meetings have approached SRO levels, with many others attending via Zoom.

With only a little more than a month to go in our year, we will soon be voting for next year’s board members as we prepare for the inevitable change in leadership that keeps our organization vibrant and growing. We will need a few new members to replace those leaving the board, as well as replacements for some activity leaders who have decided it is time to move on after, in some instances, several years of leadership. Thanks to all who have held leadership positions and participated in our committees. I encourage all of you to raise your hand to offer to serve, especially our newer members, who are the future leadership of our organization.

Welcome spring! I hope it’s as vibrant as the DMA continues to prove to be.

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

# New Members

## Hank Cuthbertson



**Hank Cuthbertson** was born in Berkeley, Calif. He lived in the San Francisco Bay area until 1962, when his family moved first to Woodcliff Lake, N.J., and then in 1965 to Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Hank graduated from Albion College in 1972 with a degree in religion, then briefly attended the Boston University School of Theology. He stayed in Boston to work for the U.S. Defense Department

After receiving an M.B.A. and an M.S. in computer information systems from Boston University in 1986, Hank moved to the New York area and worked for Swiss Bank Corporation, which merged with the Union Bank of Switzerland to become UBS in 1998. At the bank, he managed the FX Trade Processing Department and helped design and install trade processing systems. In the IT Department, Hank was responsible for the bank's U.S. dollar payment and investigations systems. He also managed the bank's MIS Department and worked on some of the bank's credit systems.

Hank has been married to his wife Jane since 1999. They met in a bereavement group after the passing of his first wife Diana a year after Swiss Bank Corporation moved them to Connecticut in 1996. His daughter Katie died in 1990. His adopted son Dave was born in southern India and lives in Norwalk with his wife Catherine and six-year-old daughter. Jane's son Derek Phillips and his wife Judy also live in Norwalk; their twin boys are both college freshmen.

He is a member of the Noroton Presbyterian Church, where he currently serves as an elder on the mission team.

Hank has been legally blind from birth and became totally blind in the early 2000s. He continues to play guitar and read extensively and is interested in current events and investing. He roots for the Red Sox and the University of Michigan and is a disappointed Lions fan.

## David Earle



**David Earle** was born in Williamstown, Mass., and moved to Darien at age three. He attended Darien High School, then Williams College and L'Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris as a music and theater major, graduating in 1968. His career began with teaching high school French in Arizona and evolved into college textbook publishing, arts administration, public television, cable television, broadcast television, technology consulting and human resources consulting.

David has lived in 14 different places since college, moving to Rowayton from Weston with his wife Susan in 2011. Their three children live in Nevada City, Calif., Fairfield, Conn., and Brooklyn, N.Y.

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.

## Patrick (Pat) Gannon



**Pat Gannon** was born in Manhattan and raised in the Bronx. He received a B.B.A. degree in economics and management from St. John's University, where he played freshman basketball and varsity baseball, pitching for St. John's in the College World Series in Omaha.

After graduation, he joined IBM Corporation in the data processing division in White Plains. Pat met his wife Charlotte at IBM, and they resided in Westchester County before moving to Rowayton 21 years ago. Their four children have blessed them with nine grandchildren.

During his 51 years at IBM, Pat worked in various planning and forecasting positions in multiple divisions, including corporate headquarters, the product group, European headquarters and the PC division. Early in Pat's IBM career, he served for six years as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at Fort Schuyler in the Bronx.

Since retiring, Pat has been an active walking and hiking enthusiast, avid reader and sports fan, as well as being a spectator for all of his grandchildren's events and games. Pat also enjoys attending classes at the CT State College Norwalk's Lifetime Learners Institute.

## Peter Hawkins



**Peter Hawkins** went to Andover, then Rutgers. He started his career in banking at Chase Bank's Global Credit Unit and was an officer in Midtown Manhattan, Chase's largest branch, which is now a giant hole in the ground. Peter next worked (for the stars) in Beverly Hills as a mortgage banker, then came back east and started in the investment advisory business. He has worked with many significant people over the years, including William. F. Buckley. He would chuckle as Henry Kissinger might have to wait for him to finish with Bill. After one meeting, Secret Service

officers started arriving as Ronald and Nancy Reagan were coming for dinner.

He has been married to his wife Phyllis for many years, and they have two grown sons. They expect their first grandchild (daughter) in May.

## Clifford (Kip) Hewitt



**Kip Hewitt** first came to Darien in the mid-70s for a wedding, with no idea this town would become his home for the successive 40 years. He grew up in Falls Church, Va., and graduated from Princeton University, followed by a year of active duty in the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps and graduation from the Harvard Business School.

Healthcare, starting with his service in the Navy, has been the single, continuing thread throughout Kip's career. He held numerous roles in management consulting and investment banking (First Boston) and spent 20 years as an investment

research analyst (at Sanford Bernstein and Legg Mason) — all focused on the healthcare industry. A comment eight years ago by his wife, now deceased, that a lot of people they knew were confused by Medicare led to Kip's current work in health and life insurance at Bankers Life.

Kip's son is a junior at Darien High School and is beginning the college search and application process. Kip has been involved in his son's sports and activities. Kip is a member of Noroton Yacht Club and Saint Luke's Parish.

## Dana Klein



**Dana Klein** was born at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb., and grew up in Westport, Conn. He received his B.S. from Boston University's School of Management and his M.B.A. from Cornell University. He and his wife Sonya moved to Darien in 1997 and raised two daughters, who both now live and work in New York City. Dana spent his career in the banking industry, working in Nassau, Bahamas, and Zurich, Switzerland, before settling in New York City and focusing on corporate loan financing.

He spent the last 27 years of his career at DLJ/Credit Suisse/UBS in the loan capital markets area and managing a corporate loan origination group until retiring mid-2024. His interests include (but are not limited to) cycling, skiing, boating (including sailing), hiking, listening to music and non-fiction reading, as well as active travel.

## William (Bill) O'Donnell



**Bill O'Donnell** was born in Cambridge, Mass., and grew up in Duxbury, Mass. He went to Phillips Exeter ('75) and then to Colby College ('79), where he majored in economics and history. Bill's first job after college was fracking oil wells in California in 1980. After a year of that (and almost getting killed twice), he started a 43-year career on Wall Street, holding managing director roles at Greenwich Capital Markets, UBS, RBS and, for his last nine years, Citigroup as head of U.S. Rates Desk Strategy. Bill met his wife at the Canadian Grand Prix in 1983. They were married in 1984, moved to Darien in 1987 and have no plans or desire to ever

leave. Bill and his wife raised five daughters here, all of whom went to New Canaan Country School before scattering, and Bill and his wife have five grandchildren. Bill's interests include fishing, skiing, hunting (upland birds), swimming and cribbage.



## Jon Olson



**Jon Olson** was born and raised in Huntington, Long Island. He graduated from Cornell University in 1980 with a B.A. in history. Given the limited choices of careers directly supported by that degree, he went to Stanford Law School, graduating in 1984. He worked as an entertainment lawyer for 39 years in New York City; first at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison for two years, then as a business affairs attorney in-house at William Morris Agency until 2000, and finally as head of Business Affairs at Disney Theatrical Productions.

In 2024, Jon undertook health and life coach training and is now a certified (not certifiable) health and life coach.

On the personal side, Jon got married in 1988. His first wife and he lived in Huntington and raised two kids. After getting divorced in 2012, he moved to Long Island City, where he met his current wife Ana. They bought a weekend home in West Norwalk in 2020, in which they have lived full time since his retirement in September 2023 with their two goldendoodles, Lucy and Murphy (pictured with Jon).

Jon's interests include longevity, tennis (definitely NOT pickleball), paddle tennis, fitness, self-improvement and cooking.

## Brooks Ritchey



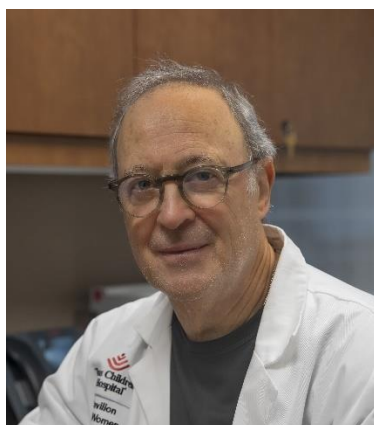
**Brooks Ritchey** recently retired as chairman of K2 Advisors, a \$1 billion hedge fund subsidiary of Franklin Templeton Investments. His 42-year investment advisory career focused on analyzing market and macroeconomic conditions, determining responsible asset allocation tilts, and managing institutional and high net worth portfolios.

Brooks began his investment career in 1982 as a proprietary trader for the NYSE specialist firm of Conklin, Cahill & Co. Starting in 1987, he successfully managed multi-asset institutional and registered mutual fund hedged portfolios while employed by K2 Advisors, Steinhardt Partners, Citibank, Finch Asset Management, Paribas, AIG and ING Baring Securities. During that time, he was

located in New York, Paris, Connecticut and Fort Lauderdale.

He is married to Sarah Griffin Ritchey and has two wonderful daughters, Campbell and Lauren. He enjoys investments and tennis, as well as competitive sailing, and completing and removing items from his “honey-do” list.

## Geoffrey (Geoff) Schnider



**Geoffrey Schnider** is an obstetrician-gynecologist, recently retired and relocated from Houston in January. He was a clinical associate professor at Baylor College of Medicine with a special interest in minimally invasive and robotic gynecological surgery. Geoff and his wife Joan moved to Darien to be close to their son, daughter and four grandchildren, who live in Weston.



# In Memoriam

## Thomas (Tom) Martin Williams



**Thomas Martin Williams** passed away on January 29, 2025, with family at his side at Bedford Hills Center in Bedford, N.H. He was born February 17, 1931, in Olean, N.Y., to Charles and Helen (Fitzsimmons) Williams. After graduating from high school, Tom served in the Army and was stationed in Germany during the Korean War. After being discharged, he attended the RCI Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester. Tom settled in Brockport, N.Y., for a time with his wife and two sons Pete and Paul.

After a divorce, Tom moved around a bit, doing a variety of jobs. He eventually met Frances (Bower) while they both worked at Stromberg Carlson. They married in 1967 and settled in Darien, where they lived for more than 50 years and raised their daughter Karen. Tom worked at United Engineers, was active in the Stamford Kiwanis Club, and enjoyed the Darien Boat Club, where he served as Commodore. He also worked with his wife to start a business in town, Executive Secretarial & Printing.

After retiring, Tom became active at the Darien Senior Center, as well as creating another business, Your Car Driving Service. He loved woodworking and staying busy. He also enjoyed playing cribbage and poker with his friends. In 2023, Tom moved to Londonderry, N.H., with his daughter and her family.

Tom is survived by his sons, Pete (Dori) Williams of Spokane, Wash., and Paul Williams of Seattle, his daughter Karen (Greg) Bottenhorn of Londonderry, N.H., nephew Martin Siegrist of Rochester, N.Y., six grandchildren (Collin, Courtney, Hope, Noah, Matthew and Elliot) and two great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife Fran in 2017 and by his siblings: Chuck Williams of Lafayette, La., Mary (George) Siegrist of St. Augustine, Fla., and Jerry (Pat) Williams of Cuba, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in Tom's memory.

## Benedict (Ben) Nelson Smith



**Benedict Nelson Smith II**, a longtime resident of Darien, died March 11, 2025. He was born March 25, 1935, in New York City to the late Lucinda Huffman and Ralph C. Smith.

Ben is survived by his wife of 60 years, Hester Huguley Smith, his daughter Lucinda S. Wesson (Jonathan), his son David P. Smith (Virginie) and three grandchildren, Violet Smith, Creighton Wesson and Clementine Smith. He also leaves behind nieces and nephews Ronald Huebsch (Amanda), Suzanne Huebsch, Hunter Huebsch and Elizabeth Huebsch. Ben was predeceased by his sister Lucy S. Rowan and his nephew Michael C. Huebsch.

Ben graduated from Middlesex School, Concord, Mass., and the University of Colorado. He started his 37-year career in personal wealth management at Fairfield County Trust Co. (now Wells Fargo Bank). Upon retirement, he held the position of senior vice President and senior portfolio manager. He volunteered at The Darien Nature Center, Darien Historical Society, At Home in Darien, Saint Luke's Parish and the Community Fund.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Benedict's memory to Americares. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, **May 28**, at Saint Luke's Parish, Darien, at 2:30 p.m.

# DMA Speakers Program

## April-June 2025

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

### **Anthony Anthony, “Branding the State of Connecticut”**



Connecticut, as we all know, is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Yet only half of Connecticut residents said they were proud of the state in a recent survey, even though 73% felt it was a good place to live. Part of the challenge is that Connecticut has not defined itself around its resources and attributes; there are few who can describe what is wonderful about our state. While those in Fairfield County might see it merely as a suburb of New York City, Gov. Lamont is determined to change that so people know what makes Connecticut special.

Anthony is an executive marketing and communications professional currently serving as chief marketing officer (CMO) for the State of Connecticut. As the first CMO, he oversees the newly created Office of Statewide Marketing and Tourism, working tirelessly to shape and promote a compelling narrative about Connecticut as an exceptional place to live, work and play. Previously, Anthony served as special advisor and communications director to Gov. Lamont, where his storytelling skills and strategic guidance contributed to the governor’s high approval ratings. Anthony’s expertise was built over the years in the private sector as a creative director and strategist at boutique brand communications agencies in New York City, guiding Fortune 500 brands across the tech, media, consumer packaged goods, hospitality and healthcare sectors.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Anthony enjoys drinking a good cup of coffee, cooking for his wife and two children, and voraciously consuming pop culture from the last 70 years.

*Editor’s note:* Anthony was originally scheduled to speak to the DMA on September 4 but was unable to make his presentation due to a conflict with his official duties. We appreciate that he has rescheduled his presentation. He will review for us progress on creating a clear and lasting impression of Connecticut as a state, with all its character, history, resources and opportunity for an innovative and productive future.

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025**

**Nancy Coughlin, “The Opportunities and Achievements of Person to Person”**



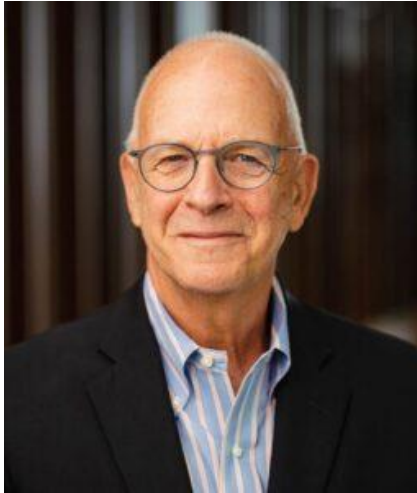
**Nancy Coughlin** is the chief executive officer of Person to Person (P2P), which supports families and individuals as they move toward stability with healthy food, clothing, housing assistance and a path to economic opportunity. Each person that P2P has the opportunity to serve has a unique story. Whether it's a single mother struggling to work enough hours to provide for herself and her children, an elderly man living alone on disability or a young family looking for guidance to navigate housing expenses in Fairfield County, each person has a unique reason for calling on P2P, and P2P is there to serve them all, no questions asked.

Nancy joined P2P in June 2019, bringing expertise and experience in food insecurity, anti-poverty, and women's and children's issues that she gleaned from previously serving for seven years as the executive director at Neighbor to Neighbor, a Greenwich-based organization dedicated to providing food and clothing to low-income families and children. Prior to that, she practiced employment litigation with Baker McKenzie in New York City.

Nancy received a B.A. in psychology from the University of New Hampshire and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School.

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

## Amos N. Guiora, “The Liability of Bystanders Observing Violence”



One of the basic premises of the Bystander Initiative is that there is an entire systemic framework around sexual and other abuse, which **Amos Guiora** has labeled the ecosystem. Guiora’s work focuses on bystanders – individuals who witness the crime — and enablers — individuals and institutions who are in a position to prevent the crime but do not do so. He has previously written books about bystander and enabler complicity in the Holocaust and in sexual abuse in USA Gymnastics and other athletic programs.

Amos is professor of law at the University of Utah’s S.J. Quinney College of Law. He is a distinguished fellow at The Consortium for the Research and Study of Holocaust and the Law of Chicago-Kent College of Law’s Center for National Security and Human Rights Law. Amos is also a distinguished fellow and counselor at the International Center for Conflict Resolution of the University of Pittsburgh’s Katz School of Business. He is on the board of the Lauren McClusky Foundation.

For the past 10 years, Amos has been researching-writing and lecturing on the question of bystanders (originally in the Holocaust) resulting in his books, *The Crime of Complicity: The Bystander in the Holocaust* and *Armies of Enablers: Survivor Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults*. His most recent book, *The Complicity of Silence: Confronting Ecosystems of Child Sexual Abuse in Schools*, and his most recent article, “Holding Enablers of Child Sexual Abuse Accountable: The Case of Jeremy Bell,” address the role of enablers in sexual assault of children.

Amos directs the S.J. Quinney College of Law’s Bystander Initiative, a publicly funded student-staffed initiative to study the role of enablers and bystanders in sexual assaults. He has an A.B. in history from Kenyon College, a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and a Ph.D. from Leiden University in The Netherlands.



**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

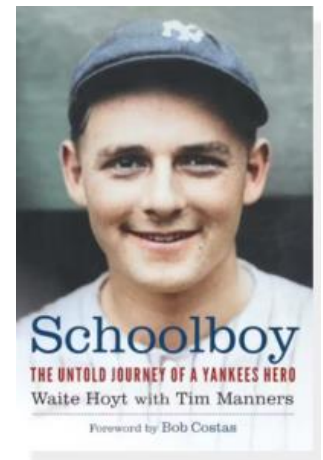
### **Tim Manners, “Schoolboy: The Untold Journey of a Yankees Hero”**



Local author **Tim Manners** will give a special talk about his book, *Schoolboy: The Untold Journey of a Yankees Hero*. Tim co-authored the book with **Waite “Schoolboy” Hoyt**, using a trove of records and writings from Hoyt, who passed away in 1984. Hoyt’s improbable baseball journey began when the 1915 New York Giants signed him as a high school junior, for no pay and a five-dollar bonus. After nearly having both his hands amputated and cavorting with men twice his age in the hardscrabble minor leagues,

he somehow ended up as the best pitcher for the New York Yankees and teammate with legends such as Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. You don’t have to be a fan of baseball to be fascinated by Hoyt’s astonishing life story!

Tim Manners is a writer, communications consultant and baseball fan. A magna cum laude graduate of Tufts University with a B.A. in history, he is a former FM-radio disc jockey, publicist and magazine publisher and was recently a guest speaker at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. He is currently an essay specialist with The Manners Group and also authored *Relevance: Making Stuff That Matters* in 2008.



**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

### **Bruce Putterman, “The Challenges of Local News in Connecticut”**



**Bruce Putterman** is *CT Mirror*’s publisher and CEO, responsible for the strategic direction of the organization, revenue generation, product innovation, reader engagement and all business operations. Before joining *CT Mirror* in 2017, Bruce owned and operated a West Hartford-based consulting practice for 16 years, providing strategic planning and marketing

services to more than 50 nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, public agencies, private equity firms and other for-profit clients. His interest in journalism dates back to his college years when he worked in commercial radio and TV news. Bruce served as an elected member of the West Hartford Board of Education from 2003 through 2015, including three years as chair of the board. He has a B.A. in History and an M.B.A. in Marketing from Cornell University.



**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

### **Congressman Jim Himes, “Perspectives on Current Issues”**



**Jim Himes** represents Connecticut’s 4th District in the U.S. House of Representatives where he is serving his eighth term. He serves as Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and on the House Financial Services Committee. Jim grew up as the child of a single working mom in a small town. As a member of Congress, Jim works hard to provide all American children the same opportunities he had to succeed: access to a first-rate public school, affordable and effective healthcare, a decent and safe home, and a supportive community.

Born in Lima, Peru, in 1966 to American parents, he spent the early years of his childhood in Peru and Colombia, while his father worked for the Ford Foundation and UNICEF. As an American abroad, Jim grew up fluent in both Spanish and English and was raised with an awareness of the unique position of the United States in the world. At the age of ten, Jim moved with his mother and sisters to the United States. Jim graduated from Hopewell Valley Central High School in N.J. and then attended Harvard University. After completing his undergraduate work, Jim earned a Rhodes Scholarship, which enabled him to attend Oxford University in England, where he continued his studies of Latin America, including research in El Salvador.

Prior to his service in Congress, Jim ran the New York City branch of the Enterprise Community Partners, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the unique challenges of urban poverty. Jim’s team led the way in financing the construction of thousands of affordable housing units in the greater New York metropolitan region, often using new green technologies to achieve energy efficiency and reduce utility costs.

Jim’s experience at Enterprise spurred his involvement in politics. Putting his expertise in affordable housing to work, Jim served as a Commissioner of the Greenwich Housing Authority, ultimately chairing the board and leading it through a much-needed program of reforms. Jim went on to become an elected member of his town’s finance board, setting tax and budget policy for Greenwich. Jim has also served as Chair of his local Democratic Town Committee, organizing others in the community to become more active in the political process. Jim began his professional career at Goldman Sachs & Co., where he worked his way up to Vice President over the course of a 12-year career. He worked extensively in Latin America and

headed the bank's telecommunications technology group there. Jim and his wife Mary live in Greenwich (with not frequent enough visits from their daughters Emma and Linley).

**Wednesday, June 4, 2025**

### **Erin Noonan, "DCA, Planning for a Vital Future"**



Located on nearly eight acres in the heart of town, the Darien Community Association is a privately funded nonprofit organization. Since its founding in 1923, the association has made a positive impact on our community through offering educational and cultural opportunities, connection, sustainability and public green spaces. The DCA is an award-winning event venue for corporate events and weddings. Its members, partners, neighbors and over 100 volunteers give back to our community, participate in special programs and make a lasting impact through volunteer opportunities and

scholarships to Darien High School students.

In announcing the appointment of **Erin Noonan** as executive director of the DCA last August, the board described Erin as a seasoned executive with over 25 years of experience in the development of business and brand strategies, digital and communication plans, and integrated campaigns for some of the world's most recognized and most well-loved brands. Those brands include American Express, ESPN, Nike and Pepsi. She has brought her vision and experience to bear on revitalizing the DCA for a new era.

A longtime resident of Darien, Erin has been a tireless community volunteer, serving with local organizations, including Person to Person, OPUS, the Ox Ridge PTO, the RTM and her local church preschool.



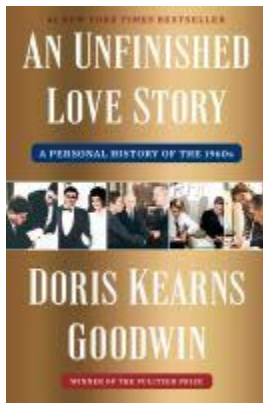
## ACTIVITIES

# Book Group Selections

## May 2025

The last meeting of the **DMA Book Club** this year will be on Wednesday, **May 14, 2025**. The meeting will commence at 2 p.m. Eastern time in person at the Darien Community Association (274 Middlesex Road) in the Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor. DMA members who choose to participate remotely can do so as the room is equipped with audio and video systems, and a video link will be available. To be added to the mailing list, contact group leaders **Rick Agresta** at [richard.agresta@gmail.com](mailto:richard.agresta@gmail.com) or **Harry McLachlin** at [hdmclach@aol.com](mailto:hdmclach@aol.com). Here is the selection for the last meeting.

### ***An Unfinished Love Story by Doris Kearns Goodwin (May 14, 2025)***



**Doris Kearns Goodwin**, one of America's most beloved historians, artfully weaves together biography, memoir and history. She takes you along on the emotional journey on which she and her husband, Richard (Dick) Goodwin, embarked in the last years of his life.

Dick and Doris were married for 42 years and married to American history even longer. Dick was one of the young men of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier, and he both named and helped design Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. Doris was a White House Fellow and worked directly for Lyndon Johnson, later assisting on his memoir. Over the years, with humor, anger, frustration and, in the end a growing understanding, Dick and Doris had argued over the achievements and failings of the leaders they served and observed, debating the progress and unfinished promises of the country they both loved.

The Goodwins' last great adventure involved opening the more than 300 boxes of letters, diaries, documents and memorabilia Dick had saved for more than 50 years. They soon realized they had before them an unparalleled personal time capsule of the 1960s, illuminating public and private moments of a decade when individuals were powered by the conviction they could make a difference; a time, like today, marked by struggles for racial and economic justice, a time when lines were drawn and loyalties tested.

Their expedition gave Dick's last years renewed purpose and determination. It gave Doris the opportunity to connect and reconnect with participants and witnesses of pivotal moments of the 1960s. Importantly, it gave them both an opportunity to make fresh assessments of the central figures of the time — John F. Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy and especially Lyndon Johnson, who greatly impacted both their lives. The voyage of remembrance brought unexpected discoveries, forgiveness and the renewal of old dreams, reviving the hope that the youth of today will carry forward this unfinished love story with America.



## ACTIVITIES (continued)

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



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

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

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

### **Bridge**

**Mike Kadish** is exploring opportunities for in-person play starting in the fall. Anyone interested in playing should please contact Mike at [mkadishsj@yahoo.com](mailto:mkadishsj@yahoo.com).

### **Community Service**

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

For information about the DMA's adoption of the Committee's recommendation that the DMA support **At Home in Darien**, see the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter. Community Service is also co-sponsoring with the Golf group a fundraising event for At Home in Darien at Oak Hills on July 7 that will be open to DMAers and nonmembers.

**Frank Gallagher:**

[francis.gallagher100@gmail.com](mailto:francis.gallagher100@gmail.com)

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



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

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

Cribbage is also a challenging and fast card game. 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



If you enjoy researching and discussing current affairs, then you would enjoy being in the DMA

Current Affairs Discussion Group.

**Mike Wheeler:** [mike@mikewheeler.net](mailto:mike@mikewheeler.net)

**Mark Nunan:** [marknunan12@gmail.com](mailto:marknunan12@gmail.com)

## Golf

The group has arisen from its winter hibernation and has already arranged dates and venues for the upcoming season. The first event will be at Oak Hills Golf Club on May 15, followed by Sterling Farms on June 17, 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.

The group is also co-sponsoring with the Community Service Committee an event at Oak Hills on July 7 that will be open to DMAers and nonmembers to raise funds for At Home in Darien.

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 does not wander during the winter. It resumed regular activities with an outing to Manhattan's Lower East Side on April 3. The next wandering is scheduled for **April 24** to Prospect Park in Brooklyn (for details, see the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter). As usual, we will take the 8:36 a.m. train from Darien and the 8:39 a.m. train from Noroton Heights. We will congregate at the Information Booth on the main floor of Grand Central.

The group's leaders assembled the annual Super Bowl and March Madness pools for this year. Results of the pools appear in the Activity Annex.

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

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



## **Hiking: Second Thursday of the Month**

This year, to minimize conflicts with other DMA events, hikes are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. The group agreed to change the May hike to the third Thursday to eliminate a conflict with another event so our next hike will be on **May 15**, at a location to be announced. As usual, family members and guests are welcome.

Photos of our 3.5-mile hike on March 13 through the Devil's Den Preserve in Weston and our April 8 hike along the Saugatuck Trail follow in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

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 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 [jlpinvest66@gmail.com](mailto:jlpinvest66@gmail.com).

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

The New Wave Singers are developing a repertoire of songs to perform at community organizations in the area and before the DMA. Under the leadership of Music Director Dwayne Condon, the group rehearses every Tuesday 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 three performances in May at the following venues: Atria Senior Living in Darien on May 8 at 3 p.m.; The Osborne in Rye on May 15 at 4 p.m.; and The Residence at Selleck's Woods in Darien on May 22 at 3 p.m. A performance at the Darien Senior Center has also been scheduled 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 a.m.**

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

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

- Dinner at Ralph 'n' Rich's restaurant followed by a Bridgeport Islanders hockey game at the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport on January 18.
- Dinner at Via Sforza Trattoria in Westport. This was followed by the Music Theatre of Connecticut's production of the Broadway play, "Moon Over Broadway," in Norwalk on February 21.
- Private concert with performance by the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet on April 8 at Saint Luke's Parish, with dinner provided (arranged by **Jerry Crowley**).

See the Activity Annex at the end of this issue for photos of the February 21 dinner at Via Sforza Trattoria and the April 8 dinner and concert at Saint Luke's.

The following events are planned:

- **Bob Dawe** is arranging for DMAers and their significant others to explore two of the Bronx's hidden gems on **May 1**. Participants will have a guided tour at the New York Botanical Garden followed by dinner and dessert on Arthur Avenue. See the Activity Annex for details about this event.
- **Alex Garnett** will once again put together a splendid picnic for DMAers and their significant others at Weed Beach on **June 11**. This will be the Social Committee's final event of the season.

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

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



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

the group, download the **TeamReach** app 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.

**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 them.

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 work. If you enjoy working with your hands, this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment that we use for free. Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers and their family and friends. To join up or to make arrangements to repair tables, chairs and other wooden furnishings, please contact **Tom Dempsey** at [tjd3443@gmail.com](mailto:tjd3443@gmail.com).

## **ACTIVITY ANNEX**

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

#### **Community Service**

At the DMA board's request, Community Service Chairman **Frank Gallagher** convened fellow committee members **Jay Bennett**, **Mark Bergen** and **John Craft**, to consider the advisability of supporting a specific charity. On January 27, 2025, the committee brought its findings to the DMA board for consideration. The board agreed that supporting a specific charity would be in keeping with the DMA's mission statement and would provide DMA an opportunity to enhance its reputation in the Darien community and to promote good fellowship among the DMA's members. The board accepted the committee's findings that **At Home in Darien** has the profile that is ideal for potential sponsorship by the DMA — namely, that At Home in Darien applies the preponderance of its resources directly in the Darien community; has a scope of operations and funding that are meaningful but limited enough so that the DMA's contributions of funding and time would be "needle moving"; and would provide volunteer opportunities that would appeal to the DMA's members.

The DMA's board asked the membership to approve the following resolution by responding to a poll distributed via email to all members:

RESOLVED, the Darien Men's Association agrees to pursue an arrangement to support At Home in Darien, subject to agreement by that organization and to the following terms and conditions:

1. The DMA would, from time to time, organize fundraising activities as the primary basis of financial support for At Home in Darien (e.g., conduct a golf outing).
2. The DMA would use its website, publications distributed and other communication vehicles to members to promote fundraising and volunteer initiatives undertaken by At Home in Darien and to encourage the DMA's members to contribute time and make voluntary financial donations to the organization.
3. At Home in Darien would have a permanent place in our *This Week at DMA* and our activity reports to promote/support its activities and needs.
4. The DMA would make a \$1,000 contribution to At Home in Darien in 2025; that would be the only financial commitment the DMA would make to the organization.
5. Sponsorship of At Home in Darien by the DMA will not be to the exclusion of our legacy activities (bell ringing for Darien Human Services, food/clothing drives, relationship with Darien Community Association).

President Frank DeLeo reported that 105 members responded to the vote on adopting At Home in Darien, with 93% in favor of the motion.



## Happy Wanderers

**Coming attraction:** Join the Happy Wanderers on Thursday, **April 24**, as we explore Prospect Park in Brooklyn, followed by lunch. We'll take Metro North — leaving Darien station at 8:36 a.m. and Noroton Heights station at 8:39 — to Grand Central Terminal and then congregate at the Information Booth on the main floor. Come join us to see a beautiful piece of New York City, including the Grand Army Plaza entrance to the park, the memorial to Lafayette, and the Boathouse, all pictured below.



Here is a photo of the winners of the Super Bowl Pool: (seated, left to right) **Bryan Hooper**, **George Gilliam** and **Alex Garnett**, pictured with group leaders **David Mace** (far left) and **Joe Spain** (far right) and pool administrator **Gregory Glashan**.



Photo taken by **Harry Bergen** (pictured in mirror).

This year's March Madness pool was highly competitive. Because so many favorites won their games, the highest possible score was 120, which was the winning score in 2024 (out of a possible 180). This year's winner was **Ed Kweskin**, with a score of 88. Second place went to **Sam Bridges** with a score of 75. Happy Wanderers co-chair David Mace finished third with 74 and **John Bosee** and **Mike Kadish** (the only repeat winner from last year) tied for the fourth and last prize with 73. John was the only winner who did not pick Florida as the champion.



Left to right: Group co-chair Joe Spain, Sam Bridges, Ed Kweskin, Mike Kadish, winner and group co-chair David Mace, and pool administrator Gregory Glashan. Photo taken by **Doug Bora**. John Bosee is on the far right (photo by Gregory Glashan).



## Hiking

These two excellent photographs of the hearty hikers who trekked through the Devil's Den Preserve in Weston on March 13 were taken by **Ian Webb**.





These two excellent photographs of the dozen hearty hikers who trekked along the Saugatuck Trail near Weston on April 8 were taken by **Marilyn Parker**.





## Social Events

Below are photos of the dinner at Via Sforza Trattoria on February 21 taken by **Tom Igoe**.





Here are photos taken by Mike Kadish (except as noted) of the April 8 dinner and Norwalk Symphony Brass Quintet at Saint Luke's Parish.



The DMA's Jerry Crowley, who arranged the event, greets Norwalk Symphony Orchestra Executive Director Sandra Miklave.



Photo by Doug Bora



**Coming attraction:** Join DMA on May 1 as we explore The New York Botanical Garden to see some of the nation's most breathtaking displays of nature at the height of the spring bloom (yup, in the Bronx). The Botanical Garden was founded 134 years ago and has hosted millions of visitors who have enjoyed its 250 acres of beauty and renowned exhibitions. DMAers will be treated to a tram ride and a docent-led tour through parts of the park, with an educational introduction to some of its spectacular horticultural diversity.

Afterward, everyone will trek to Arthur Avenue, known as Bronx's Little Italy, for an authentic Italian dinner at the famous Mario's Restaurant in a private dining room exclusively for our group. In 2003, a scene from the HBO hit series "The Sopranos" was filmed in Mario's. Francis Ford Coppola planned to shoot a mob hit in "The Godfather," but the owner turned him down because he wanted to maintain Mario's reputation as a family-oriented restaurant, not a movie set involving a mob hit. After dinner, everyone will have the opportunity to buy Italian pastries and cookies at Morrone Pastry Shop & Cafe.

To whet your appetite, here are photos of the New York Botanical Garden and Arthur Avenue.





## Speakers Program

Below is a photo of Darien First Selectman **Jon Zagrodzky** briefing the DMA about the state of the Town of Darien on February 26, 2025.



Photo taken by **Dan Lew**.



Here is a photo of DMA President Frank DeLeo interviewing **Ron Darling** as part of Ron's presentation at the DMA General Meeting on January 29, 2025.



Photo taken by Ric Grefé.

#### **Darien Men's Association Newsletter**

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

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

### Tuesday, January 7

Our first session of the new year brought 10 bowlers to Nutmeg, including a new member of our group, **Linc Schoff**. While not an experienced bowler, Linc is an athlete so it won't be long before it clicks for him at the lanes. Under the tutelage of The Professor (**Ed Schechter**), he is in good hands. 😊🎳

Most of us showed some rust after the break. That did NOT include **Frank DeLeo** who was easily the BOD with a 566 series on the strength of a 203 in game two. Unfortunately, he was saddled with "rusty" teammates who did him in — none more so than the Commish, who lost many quarters on the day. Speaking of The Professor, Ed flashed his credentials by finishing with a nice 192 to pace his team to a third game, double-or-nothing win and a sweep for the morning. Kudos to **Bill Tamme** for converting a 5-7 split and to Tom for converting a 2-5-7.

### Tuesday, January 14

Even with four of our regulars absent, we still had eight bowlers make it to Nutmeg. Linc had enough fun last week to give it another go. **Woody Spurgeon** was a sight for sore eyes, as he rejoined us after missing a few weeks.

One thing that did not change today was that **Alex Garnett** was again *en fuego*. He came out of the gate clicking on all cylinders to notch a 221 in game one. He followed that up with a 198 in game two and was in reach of a 600 series. While that was not to be, he did finish with his high series of the season (of his career?) at 578. This was two pins higher than the 576 he rolled two months ago. Well done, Alex!

Another hot bowler was **George Gilliam**, who finished with a 201 and a 481 series, which was +60.

**Marty Milewski** also did well at +45. Kudos also to Linc, whose 137 in game one set a new bar for him, while his series was +25 versus last week.

The single thing close about the team game was that Team Alex had to spot Team Tom only two pins. However, with only Marty showing up for Team Tom, it was no contest in any of the games.

### Tuesday, January 21

Another week, another 500 series for Alex Garnett — on lanes 13/14 no less. His 511 did not, however, earn him BOD honors on this day, as three others were also in the 500s. Ten bowlers braved the cold; only Ed had the common sense to think better of coming out in the 10-degree weather.

Perhaps the strangest game was the first one for **Gehr Brown**. He got out of the gates with a three-bagger and a spare, followed by three open frames, then finished with a four-bagger for a 206. That led his team (Tom, Gehr, **Frank Gallagher**, Linc and **Ben Briggs**) to a win in game one. In game two, the team of Alex, Marty, Bill, George and Woody extracted their revenge with a win. Game three was a barn burner, with the result going down to the final bowler in the final frame. Marty bowled last for Alex's team and had strikes in the eighth and ninth frames. If he rolled a strike in the tenth, it would close out Gehr's team. He did not but still managed a spare for a nice 195 game. That meant that Tom, who had a strike in the ninth, needed to strike on his first ball in the tenth AND get at least nine pins and a spare on his last two balls to tie. He did manage that strike but got eight pins and the spare to allow Alex's team to win

by one single pin and collect that all-important quarter!

While Gehr had a nice 557 series and Tom had a 208 game three for a 552, the bowler-of-the-day (BOD) honor goes to Marty for his +62 and his clutch finish in the third game. The split conversion of the day goes to Alex for making a 5-7 in that third game (and a 3-10 in that game, too).

## Tuesday, January 28

We had 10 bowlers thanks to the initial appearance of **George Hawes**. George has been doing a bit of bowling at Wee Burn and, encouraged by Linc and Frank G., decided to join us. Welcome aboard, George!



Frank D. was up from Florida for a short while and showed little rust with a 505 series. Alex had another (!) good day at 512. Ben had a good day at 449 (+60) as did Woody with a 373 series (+58). Linc was also

in the plus column at +19. But we'll give BOD to the Commish, who overcame the dreaded graveyard lanes (13/14) to bowl a 563 series, including a 199 high game of the day. Special kudos go to Bill, who converted a 5-6 spare, and Woody, who converted a 3-6-7-9!!

## Tuesday, February 4

What a pleasure that on a day when we have two regulars out and one on the injured list, we still manage to have 11 bowlers. That's because we have a new cadre of regulars that have made our sessions that much more enjoyable: Woody, Linc and now George H. We can rest assured that all three are (or should we say "can be") "fully committed" to Tuesday DMA bowling, as each has made the plunge and invested in bowling shoes, ball, bag and equipment kit. The happiest fellow in our group must be Ed, not because of his scores lately but

because he has three new pupils to whip into shape, each of whom showed flashes this morning to encourage them for next week.

Thanks to all who gathered at 8:45 a.m. to accommodate the Commish's need to depart by 11:15. Of course, just as we were in the middle of warm-ups, all the lanes at Nutmeg went dark for 10 minutes. We went on for what would be a very tight game one between the teams. The squad of Frank D., Woody, Ben, George G. and Ed held a narrow lead going into the tenth frame against the team of Tom, George H., Linc, Bill, Frank G. and Marty. Because of Marty's double and Frank DeLeo's spare in the final frame, after Tom got a strike in the ninth frame, he needed a mark and an eight-pin fill to tie. He finished with a spare and a strike to secure the win by two pins.

Frank Gallagher finished with a 478 (+6) and for Tom who finished 233 and 217 for a 613 series. Woody converted a 3-10 and Frank G. a 4-5. But the best finish was by Linc in the game three poker game. Showing just a pair of nines after five cards, Linc proceeded to draw a third nine with his sixth card followed by a seventh card that gave him a full house, thus beating out Tom's trip aces.

## Tuesday, February 11

Notwithstanding a crash on I-95 causing a major backup, we did arrive for a 9:30 start with seven bowlers.

By now we are familiar with the travails of bowling on lanes 13/14; but, today, the three guys on those lanes all bowled at or above their average. Tom's 523 was on his average; Marty's 470 was +23; George Gilliam's 512 was +59. Well, that was the good news. The bad news for that threesome was that they got crushed by the foursome on lanes 15/16. Woody's 325 was +10. Frank Gallagher's 500 was +29. Ed's 540 was +96. Gehr's 574 was +70. While there were no 200 games, Gehr came close with a 199.

## Tuesday, February 18

With some of us being away or under the weather, it was nice to see eight bowlers gather at 9 a.m. It was even nicer to get a phone call from a newbie, **Frank Maturo**, to ask if the was still time for him to drive up and join the festivities. Frank and I are fellow participants in the DMA's table tennis group, where I've been selling him on coming to bowl with us. The problem is that Frank also participates in the DMA's pickleball group, which meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Having gotten positive comments about the fun we have from fellow pickleballers Linc, Woody and Frank DeLeo, and with persistent encouragement from the Commish, Frank arrived just in time to start game one (though with no practice whatsoever). After getting the rust off, he bowled 147 and 124 in the last two games to show off the potential he has to be a very nice bowler. Now he has three game scores for a valid handicap for future team games. Let's hope he decides pickleball can be a Thursday-only activity.

As for the other bowlers, Tom had a nice series of 580, with all three games in the 190s. But the morning belonged to Marty Milewski, who earned BOD honors running away. After an "average" game one of 156, he improved to 171 in game two. Then, in game three, Marty went nuts. After a spare in frame one, he reeled off



capture his shirt that he must have worn on Sunday to watch the Daytona 500.)

six straight strikes followed by three more spares for a 245, which is our high game of the season — and his 572 series was 30 pins higher than his previous DMA best. Well done, Marty! (His heroics called for a photo, which also allowed us to

## Tuesday, February 25

Nine bowlers were on hand this morning, including yet another newbie — well, sort of. **John Bassler** bowled with the group seven or eight years ago but then lost his way. John's re-emergence makes four "newbies" this new year, and we are hoping to have even more in the coming weeks!

There were some fine performances on the lanes. George Gilliam's 472 was +13. Ben's 415 was +28. Tom's 588 (on dreaded lanes 13/14 no less) was +42 and included the day's only 200 game at 227.

The day, though, belonged to our two nonagenarians, Ed and Woody. Woody's 330 was +24 and included the shot of the day as he converted a 3-7-10 split. Ed's 558 was +102 (!) and included a conversion of the tough 2-7-split, earning Ed BOD honors.

Since it would take me too long to explain the team game result, suffice it to say it was 2-1 for Ed's team.

## Tuesday, March 4

We had 10 bowlers today, including yet another first-timer, **Mike Ryan**. Plus we had our first appearance of the season by **John Kammerman**. Nice to have them both. John was up to his usual tricks — he started with a 93, but having gotten the rust off, he rolled a nice 178 in game two. His game three was in the middle. John Bassler returned saying he had nowhere to go but up — and up he went, making steady improvement from 82 to 97 to 117. Mike, who hadn't bowled in years, showed potential but made life more difficult for himself by releasing the ball consistently 10 feet behind the foul line, provoking the Commish to assure Mike that the foul line was not electrified. 😊



Highlights for the day were led by another good performance by Woody, who followed up last week's success with a 346 (+37), earning him BOD honors. In addition, Woody converted a 3-6-7 split for shot of the day. Frank G. rolled a 200 in game three, while Tom had the high game of 210 and high series of 563. Noteworthy was Alex recording a Ben Briggs spare (zero on first ball of the frame).

## Tuesday, March 11

Due to participation of some newer bowlers, we had 11 bowlers, which led to a fair amount of chaos and confusion in getting started — who was going to bowl on which lanes, finding a house ball to use, entering names on the automated scoreboard — but we eventually sorted it all out.

Our “over 90” bowlers provided the highlights. First, Woody, with a 106 average, started out with a game of 153 (his best game to date), averaged 134 for the day, and as he manages to do nearly every week, converted a split. Second, Professor Ed, who is busy each week helping our new bowlers, had the only 500 series of the day (510), finishing with a 202 in game three. The other game of note was Alex's 193, also in game three.

The team of six defeated the team of five in the first two games. Then the team of five decided on a double-or-nothing challenge in game three and pulled it off — winning by seven pins.

## Tuesday, March 18

While there were no special bowling performances today, our group did have quite a milestone to report. For the first time ever, we had 14 bowlers join the action (see photo).



Nutmeg was kind enough to give us a third pair of lanes, and off we went. With three teams, we decided to make it a "winner takes all" in each game. Each team took a game, which seemed appropriate for the first time around in this format.

BOD was John Bassler, who came into the day with an average of 87 for a series average of 261. Today, he started out with games of 135 and 136 on his way to a 368 series, which was +107. Way to go, John!

## Tuesday, April 1

We had 10 bowlers today and many highlights. We had four series of 500+ and we had three games of 200+. With a 200 in game one, Gehr had a 503 series. With a 217 in game three, Tom had a 534. With three games of 170 or better, Ed had a 523 (+67). And with 222 in game two, Frank D. had a 558 (+78), earning him Bowler of the Day honors. It's worth noting that Frank had a six-bagger in his big game.

Other highlights included a 127 in game one by George H., which was his high game this season. We should also note that Ben's “last-21” average has inched up to 140, thanks to some consistently good bowling over the past few weeks — that was the case again today as he bowled a 420 series. There were many splits during this morning, but we saw six of them converted. Gehr made a 5-7 and a 2-4-10. George G. made a 3-10 and a 4-9. Ed made a 3-6-7-10, and Marty made a 3-10. The team



game was 2-1, with all three games won by the 200 bowler's team.

A final word about last week: One of our new bowlers, Mike Ryan, had a 352 series, which was +67, by far earning him BOD honors. After John Bassler's big day the prior week, it was nice to once again see a newbie making progress.

## Tuesday, April 8

Even with two of our stalwarts out today, we had 12 bowlers this morning. With that number, we decided to ask for a third pair of lanes. While that was a wise decision for pace of play, it led to a fire drill atmosphere during the practice session. Tom had his worst series (447) in 10 years, which he attributes to not having time to roll even one practice ball and to being assigned to the graveyard lanes (13/14). Ben tried to console him by saying he'd be happy with that series, but that didn't make Tom feel any better.



| Player     | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | Total |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Ben Briggs | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 178   |
| Ted Helms  | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 188   |

| Player     | Score |
|------------|-------|
| Ben Briggs | 1342  |
| Team 12    | 24    |

We were all delighted to have **Ted Helms** rejoin us for the first time in 2025 following what must have been a successful knee replacement surgery three months ago. Ted was in the Fairfield area the previous day and decided to stop by Nutmeg for a quick practice run to see how his new knee held up. Based on that (nine strikes and a spare for a 268), he gave himself the green light. Ted's 449 was a very nice showing.

High series and high game went to Marty (517/191). George G. wasn't far behind at 488. Split conversion of the day goes to Bill, who made a 7-8. Although others had above-average days, including Ben, Bill, Mike and Woody, the

Bowler of the Day was Linc Schoff. Entering the morning averaging 103 and having missed the past few sessions with a bad hip, Linc had a 385 series for +76 on the day. Bravo, Linc!

## Tuesday, April 15

We had 11 bowlers this morning so we played six versus five on lanes 13-16. For some, lanes 13/14 were again a graveyard, but others did just fine there. For example, after scaring the daylights out of us during warm-up by taking a stumble, Ed Schechter recovered to bowl 523, including 199 in game two. Also, Bill Tamme started a bit slow but rolled 171 and 189 in games two and three. Ted Helms bowled a +17 for the day; Mike Ryan was +5; and Marty Milewski was on his average.

The fivesome on lanes 15/16 fared even better. George G. was +39. Alex, with a 191 in the last game, was +46. Tom, with a 208 in the second game, was +23 at 557. And then there was Frank DeLeo, whose 567 was +75 and included a 245 in game two, making him Bowler of the Day. This shouldn't have come as a surprise though considering that Frank was in Florida last week and always bowls lights out after he returns from Florida. Those four and Woody won the first two games and then won the double-or-nothing challenge in game three by four pins on the final ball of the final game by the final bowler.

There were several Ben Briggs spares this morning, but most noteworthy was that Frank D. and Gehr converted 5-7 splits, while Ed made a 4-5 and George G. made a 2-7-8. Impressive!