



**Darien Men's Association**

# Newsletter

[www.DarienDMA.org](http://www.DarienDMA.org)

March-April 2026

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## President's Message

In the throes of an uncharacteristically cold winter, the DMA thrived — engaging our members in activities both social and thoughtful. The number of attendees at our General Meetings totaled a consistent 150-200 when we include those in the room and on Zoom, although the latter began to appear distinctly tanner and healthier than those of us who braved the New England winter.

The Wednesday attendance probably reflects both an eagerness to socialize and **Doug Bora's** remarkable slate of speakers. The Book Group and Current Affairs Group under the leadership of **Rick Agresta** and **Barry Silver**, respectively, provided the kind of provocation and stimulation that come from incisive zingers and ponderous commentaries that inevitably emerge when a group of diverse and experienced men come together to discuss their observations — sometimes informed, sometimes opinionated but always thoughtful — of events and literature.

In a noteworthy turn of events, **Steve Gravereaux**, who usually is seeking more players to compete, mentioned that the Table Tennis Group now regularly fills both tables and is considering ways to better accommodate the recent influx of participants. **Tom Lom**, the Bowling Group's "Commish," reminds us in his colorful weekly reports that all are welcome and that on any given Tuesday, the stars may be the bowlers who are the most mature, coming off a long hiatus from the sport and/or recovering from injury.

**Alec Wiggin** led the Hikers into the elements, always suggesting how those who hike are so much more hale and hearty than those who simply wander. Yet the Wanderers were up to their annual winter substitute for chilly wandering by managing the DMA's very own venture of chance, the Super Bowl blind pool, led this year by **Greg Glashan**. Although some would say it is more akin to bingo, then how did **Sam Bridges** win the grand prize both last year and this year?

As we begin to transition into spring, our snowbird members will return from their hibernation, and our warm weather activities will begin to emerge again. Keep the faith. It will be warm soon, and we are all still here!

**Ric Grefé**  
2025-2026 DMA President

# New Members

Since the last issue, the following 13 members have joined the DMA.

## Robert (Bob) Biggart



**Robert (Bob) Biggart** has lived in Darien since moving here with his family in 1955 when he was one year old. Bob graduated from Princeton University and received his law degree from Fordham Law School in 1979.

Bob was a lawyer for over 40 years. He started at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, a law firm in New York City, and then in 1984 joined the PepsiCo law department, where he worked for 30 years. In 2013, he became the general counsel of Fortune Brands (a home products company headquartered in Chicago with consumer brands that include Moen, Master Lock and Therma-Tru Doors) and retired in 2021.

In 1979, Bob married his wife Lynn, who also grew up in Darien. They are the parents of five daughters, including two sets of twins, all of whom attended Darien public schools. Four of their daughters live near each other in the Chicago area, and one daughter is in Seattle. Bob and Lynn also have five grandchildren.

Bob enjoys biking, skiing and playing chess.

## John (Jack) Brewer



**John (Jack) Brewer** moved to Rowayton eight years ago after having lived in North Stamford for 45 years. He graduated from Rutgers University, spent a year working at Bankers Trust Company, attended Columbia Business School and spent the next 55 years building Brewer Yacht Yard Group and finally co-founding Safe Harbors Marinas.

He has been married to his wife Peg for 63 years. They have three children: John, who owns two marinas in South Freeport, Maine; Bill, a real estate attorney in New York City; and Kelly, a homeowner in Rowayton. Jack and Peg have seven grandchildren, five girls and two boys, ranging in age from 25 to 14.

## Daniel (Dan) Bumgardner

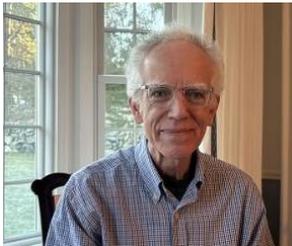


**Daniel (Dan) Bumgardner** and his wife Patti have lived in Darien since moving here from Manhattan in 1999. Their two children Kelsey (29) and Brendan (26) are proud graduates of Darien High School, where they were active in multiple sports and activities. Dan has been a volunteer coach across Darien Little League softball and baseball, youth soccer and Darien Youth Hockey Association. He has volunteered for the Community Fund and has been on the board of The Country Club of Darien since 2022, for which he currently serves as president. Dan was elected to the Town of Darien's Board of Finance in 2019 and has served as its vice chairman since 2021.

Dan worked in the banking sector for over 35 years, retiring in 2016. He managed key corporate and private equity relationships for certain banks that now constitute JPMorganChase and concluded his career in a similar capacity at Wells Fargo. Dan holds a B.S. in finance from Bowling Green State University and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Dan and Patti enjoy travel, golf and racket sports, skiing and attending Rangers games with their kids. He is also a lifelong (and long-suffering) Cleveland sports fan.

## John (Jack) Carley



**John (Jack) Carley** grew up in Stamford. He and his wife Maura have lived in Darien since 1985. They have a son and three daughters, all of whom attended Darien public schools, as well as six grandchildren.

Jack holds an undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a J.D. degree from the University of Chicago. He worked for 43 years at Con Edison, where he served as in-house counsel representing Con Edison and its affiliates before various state and federal regulatory agencies.

He has been a member of St. Thomas More since moving to Darien. His interests include reading, walking, and following the fortunes of the New York Yankees and New York Giants.

## Frank DeLuca



**Frank DeLuca** is originally from Greenwich and now lives in Rowayton with his wife Linda, to whom he has been married for 42 years. He attended Brunswick School in Greenwich and graduated from Skidmore College in 1976 with a degree in early childhood education and psychology. He went on to work in the field of international travel and tourism for a few years before taking over ownership of his family's pharmacy and medical supply business in Old Greenwich.

His relationship with Darien began when he met Linda, who was born and raised here. You could say he was a part-time resident of Darien, spending time and holidays in town with Linda's extended family. After marrying, he and Linda operated the family business together for over 25 years before retiring. Since then, Frank has done volunteer work with Greenwich and Stamford hospitals, the Norwalk Family & Children's Agency and several other organizations. In his ample spare time, he enjoys reading a good book and gardening in his little yard. He owns a 1966 Mustang convertible, and when he is not driving it around town just for fun, he can be found in his garage tinkering with it.

## Mark Filanowski



**Mark Filanowski** was born in Milford, Conn., in 1954, and he was raised there. His mother's family arrived in Milford 400 years ago, and his father's parents came from Eastern Europe in the late 1800s to work a farm in Milford that still operates today.

He graduated from University of Connecticut's main campus in Storrs in 1976 and became a certified public accountant, working for Ernst & Young in New Haven. In 1984, Mark became vice president and controller of Armstrong Tire Co. in New Haven. He obtained an M.B.A. from New York University in 1989 and began a 35-year career in ocean shipping that same year, living in London and New York. His shipping experience includes private ship owner and operator and, most recently, chief executive officer (retired) of Pangaea Logistics Solutions Ltd., a publicly traded dry bulk shipping company with worldwide headquarters in Newport, R.I.

Mark moved to Darien in 1993 with his wife Monica McNally to set up household and raise a family, believing there is no better place than Darien. Mark and Monica led a Boy Scout troop, have been Darien Boat Club members and are today active in many town functions. They are longtime members of Saint Luke's Parish and The Tokeneke Club. Their two children, Helen and Stephen, live and work in New York and Rhode Island, respectively. The family enjoys spending time together at home in Darien, in Bozeman, Mont., and in their travels around the world.

All members of his family are avid skiers, and Mark has tended a large summer garden at home for more than 25 years. Having been raised in a beach community, Mark has always enjoyed the waters of Long Island Sound with some type of boating activity, and he looks forward to renewing his fishing and shell fishing interests in his new retired status.

## Stan Forkner



**Stan Forkner** was born in Newton, Mass., and raised in Greenwich, Conn. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1980, earning a degree in political science. His career started in the grain trading and soft commodities shipping businesses, which had Stan working in both San Francisco and New Orleans. The most exciting and life-changing experience came while living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he scouted out new grain trading business prospects in the South American market for a Germany-based company.

His career took a turn when he was offered an opportunity to return to the New York City area to hold various senior-level sales positions in finance, asset management and financial technology. During this time, he earned FINRA Series 3, 7, 22 and 63 licenses, as well as executive education certificates at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the New York Institute of Finance. Stan has now retired, completing his career at OSTTRA, a leading post-trade technology processing company recently acquired by private equity firm KKR.

Stan and his wife Wendy married in 1985 and, in 1989, moved to Darien, where they raised two children. Their son Brad lives in Darien and works in real estate finance in New York City, while their daughter Dana lives and works in graphic design in Paris.

Stan likes boating, fly fishing, tennis, paddle tennis and golf. He is a member of The Country Club of Darien and the Darien Boat Club.

## Windsor Hall



**Windsor Hall** spent his career in corporate banking and credit risk management. He obtained his B.A. in economics and philosophy from Brandeis University and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. His wife Elizabeth was a dance and fitness instructor who taught at the Darien Arts Center and the Darien Senior Center.

Windsor and Elizabeth moved from New York City to Darien in 1993. In 1995, they moved with their one-year-old son to Singapore, where Windsor worked for Chemical Bank (now JPMorganChase). After having two more children in Singapore, they moved in 1998 to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where Windsor was country manager for JPMorganChase. The family returned to Darien in 2002. Windsor joined Citigroup in 2003 and then worked for a privately owned investment advisor for six years before working for and retiring from U.S. Bank in 2022.

Windsor has been a trustee and treasurer of the Rowayton United Methodist Church since 2018. He likes to stay very active and particularly enjoys, and hopes to continue as long as possible, running, hiking and biking. He and Elizabeth also enjoy traveling to new places and keeping up with their children and their large, extended families.

## Kevin Marks



**Kevin Marks** and his wife Susan are proud to have raised their family in Darien and to have called it home for the last 36 years. Born in Evanston, Ill., and raised in Barrington, R.I., Kevin graduated from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire in 1981. He joined Eastman Kodak in New York City, where he enjoyed a series of progressive sales and sales leadership roles. In 2002, he joined Pitney Bowes as vice president of sales and marketing. He completed his career at BlueCrest, a Pitney Bowes spinoff, as vice president of global production print and strategy. In October 2025, Kevin made the pivot from the workforce and is actively pursuing a new phase of experiences and adventures.

He is and will continue to be an active and committed competitor. A lifelong sailboat racer, he can be found on a racecourse 12 months of the year and at venues across the East Coast, as well as offshore long-distance ocean racing. A longtime member of Noroton Yacht Club, Kevin plays an active coaching role in the club's Junior Offshore Sailing Training Program. He also leads the annual New Year's Day Polar Plunge community event.

Additionally, he has caught pickleball fever and regularly competes in tournaments at the local, state, regional and national levels. Add in regional Spartan Race and local 5K running events, Kevin is activating his "go-go" plan with speed, focus and purpose.

## Robert McMullan



**Robert McMullan** moved from Dallas to Darien with his wife in 1999. From then until he retired in 2021, he was active in several Darien organizations, including Darien Y Guides and Princesses, Little League (assistant coach for three years), the Darien Foundation for Technology and Community. He was a longtime member of the YMCA and was a member of the Wingmen, an “old guy” rock band that played several times at Darien Summer Nights. After he retired, he and his wife began spending more time in Florida, but they missed Darien and bought a house in Rowayton in 2025 with a plan to spend more time up here.

Robert graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1980 and received an M.B.A. in 1984 from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He started his investment banking career at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette until it was acquired in 2000, after which he moved to Credit Suisse. In 2007, he switched careers and joined Blackstone and, through 2021, raised money for Blackstone's private equity and related funds. After 10 months of retirement, he went to work at a new private equity firm in Miami in November 2022.

He plans to re-retire in the next several months and this time to make it stick. He has three children: Mollie, age 27, and fraternal twins Robert and William, age 23. All of them attended Darien schools through middle school.

## Christopher (Chris) Price



**Christopher (Chris) Price** has lived in Darien since 1999 with his wife Meg. He is a graduate of Middlebury College and Tulane Law School. He practiced commercial real estate law for 40 years in New York City, the last 20 years at Goodwin Procter before retiring in September 2025.

He is chair of the Hindley, Holmes, Royle School Building Committee, overseeing the renovation and expansion of those elementary schools. Chris is an avid boater, skier and scuba diver, and he holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master Captain's license.

Chris and Meg are members of Saint Luke's Parish and The Tokeneke Club. They have three adult daughters, Caroline, Jenny and Eliza, and one grandson, James.

## William (Bill) Spear



**William (Bill) Spear** grew up in southern Colorado and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1968. Soon after, Uncle Sam required his service so he was “requested” to join the U.S. Army. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers and served at several bases in the United States and two years in Southeast Asia. After the Army, he was hired by Pitney Bowes in Stamford. Most of Bill’s civilian career was in corporate real estate with Pitney Bowes, Citicorp and Philips Real Estate.

He and his wife have resided in Darien for the last 35 years. Their son and daughter-in-law and three grandkids also live in Darien. Bill is an enthusiastic golfer and looks forward to meeting and playing with fellow golfers at the DMA.

## Michael (Mike) Vossler



**Michael (Mike) Vossler** was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., and attended grade school in Cheyenne, Wyo., and Denver, Colo., before settling in the small Lake Michigan town of St. Joseph, Mich. He and his wife Heidi moved to Darien in 2001, where they raised their two children, Hanna (now in Brooklyn) and Henry (now in Raleigh, N.C.).

He earned a B.A. in international relations from Michigan State University in 1986 and a master’s degree in international management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in 1988. After working in Brussels between undergraduate and graduate school, he launched his professional career in fintech in Frankfurt, Germany. During that time, not only did the Berlin Wall fall, but Mike met his future bride Heidi (originally from Virginia), who was working at the same firm. They later moved to London to begin their married life before returning to the United States. After a year in New York City, they settled in North Stamford, where a neighbor who was a charter member of The Country Club of Darien introduced them to the community that ultimately led them to Darien.

Mike is retiring this year after a 40-year career in the fintech industry, including 23 years at SunGard followed by time at several start-ups and corporate turnarounds. Serving on numerous committees and the board of The Country Club of Darien, he now looks forward to finally improving his golf game. In addition to skiing, hiking and travel, Mike and Heidi are avid boaters and plan to explore the Long Island Sound and beyond over the coming years.

# DMA Speakers Program

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

- January 7 — **Robert D. Ballard, Ph.D., CEO and Founder, Ocean Exploration Trust**, “What We’ve Learned in 50 Years under the Sea”
- January 14 — **Orin Grossman, Ph.D.**, “George Gershwin: One of America’s Greatest Composers”
- January 21 — **U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal**, “An Update from Washington”
- January 28 — **David Genovese and Kate Perez**, “The Corbin District: Two Decades to Reset Darien’s Downtown”
- February 4 — **Dr. Olena Lennon**, “How the War in Ukraine Could End”
- February 11 — **Ian Murray, Co-Founder and Chairman, vineyard vines**, “The American Dream in Fairfield County Is Alive and Well: Building vineyard vines into an Iconic American Brand”
- February 18 — **Charles Fishman**, “The Great New Moon Race a Half Century after Apollo”
- February 25 — **Eric A. Byrne, Ed.D., Darien Superintendent of Schools**, “How Schools Have Changed since We Were Students”

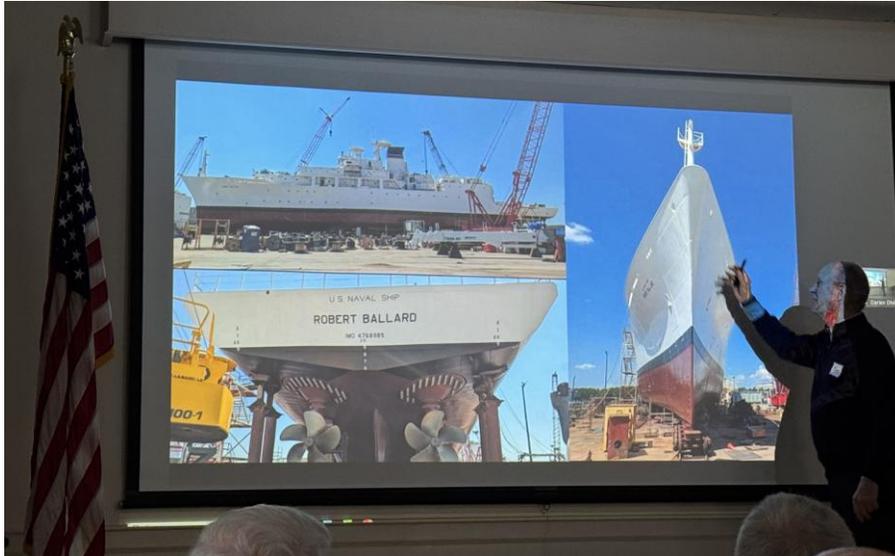
A summary of each of these presentations is available on the DMA website at [Speaker Announcements – Darien Men’s Association](#).



*Orin Grossman plays Gershwin on January 14.  
Photo by Mike Kadish*



*Sen. Blumenthal addresses the DMA on January 21.  
Photo by Joe Spain*



*Robert Ballard addresses the DMA on January 7, showing the ship bearing his name. Photo by Mike Kadish*

## Community Service

The DMA, led by its Community Service Committee chaired by **John Craft**, strives to create increased awareness of charitable organizations in our area and to make members aware of potential volunteer opportunities at these entities. In addition, we engage in annual events to assist certain charitable causes and to raise funds. When the DMA launched a relationship with At Home in Darien in 2025, we made a contribution to that organization.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community service, the DMA once again “rang the bell” for the Darien Human Services Department (DHS) at Palmer’s Market during the holiday season to raise funds to aid Darien residents in need of food, energy support, clothing, household products and more. We presented a check for \$4,500 to DHS on January 12, 2026 (see photo).



*DMA President Ric Grefé (center) and Community Service Chair John Craft presented the check to DHS Director Ali Ramsteck.*

# ACTIVITIES

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

Groups that will be active in March and April are:

- Book Group
- Bowling Group
- Cribbage Group
- Current Affairs Discussion Group
- Happy Wanderers
- Hiking Group
- Investment Discussion Group
- New Wave Singers
- Pickleball Group
- Table Tennis Group
- TechTalk
- Woodworking (if workshop reopens)

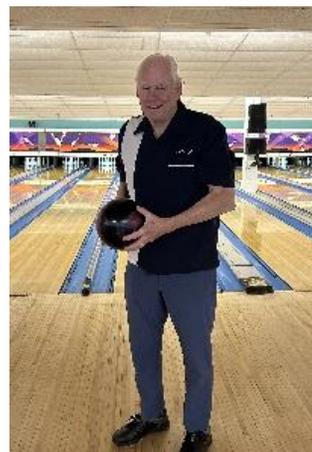
Below are photographs and reports of the activities of some of these groups. Additional information about other groups, including reports of the Bowling Group's weekly outings, is available on the website.

## Bowling

Weekly reports of the Bowling Group's exploits are available on the DMA website at [Bowling – Darien Men's Association](#). Below are photos taken by Commish **Tom Lom** of the group's latest outings.



*George Gilliam, Marty Milewski, Ted Helms & Bill Tamme relax after bowling on January 27.*



*Alex Garnett is Best Dressed Bowler of the Day on February 3 with his monogrammed bowling shirt.*

## Current Affairs Discussion Group

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

Below is a photo taken by Barry Silver of the group's session in the DCA's Lillian Gade Conference Room on February 19, 2026, at which **Ted Helms** led a discussion about Venezuela.



## Happy Wanderers

At the regular DMA weekly meeting on Wednesday, February 11, **Greg Glashan** announced on behalf of the Wanderers the winners of the 2026 DMA Super Bowl LX Contest.



*Pool winners Ric Grefé (left), Sam Bridges (middle) and Tom Igoe (not pictured: Jim Long)*



*Pool administrators Greg Glashan and Fred Given watch George Gilliam eagerly choose his pool box.*

**Ric Grefé** had the winning box for the first quarter, while **Jim Long** and **Tom Igoe** had the winning boxes for the first half and the third quarter, respectively. Each won a prize of \$100. **Sam Bridges** had the winning box for the score at the end of the game and won \$200. This is the second year in a row that Sam has been a winner in the DMA Super Bowl Contest!



*(left to right) Wanderers' leader Chet Cobb, Fred Given, Ric Grefé, Greg Glashan, Sam Bridges and Tom Igoe pose around the pool grid with winning boxes marked with a football.*

## Hiking

**Mike Kadish** took these shots of the Hale and Hearty Hikers who braved brisk temperatures for the January 8 hike at Greenwich Beach Park (known by locals as Tod's Point).



**Fred Given** took these photos of the hearty hikers who found nothing but surf, sun — and snow — at their February 12 hike at Sherman Island State Park in Westport.





## New Wave Singers

Below is a photo taken by **Tom Igoe** of the appreciative audience for the New Wave Singers' performance at the Meadow Ridge senior living community in Redding on January 27.



## Table Tennis

This photo taken by Mike Kadish at our venue at the Mather Center shows **Ted Helms** playing **Dave Claiborne** (foreground) and **Steve Gravereaux** squaring off against **John Olson** (background), with **Ben Briggs**, **Tom Lom** and **John Janiga** waiting to play.



### Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, **Mike Kadish**. Contributing Editor, **Joyce Meurer**.  
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