



Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 2

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

November-December 2024

President's Message

The DMA picked up in September right where it left off last spring, welcoming several new members and getting off to a strong start with our weekly meetings and speakers and a broad range of activities. At each general meeting, we have welcomed one or more new members and guests. Our ranks have swelled to nearly 350 members who all say the same thing—they're attracted to the DMA for the fellowship, friendship and wealth of activities we offer.

Ric Grefé has continued our heritage of lining up outstanding speakers as the centerpiece of our weekly meetings. This year's initial speakers have covered topics ranging from preventative physical therapy to an insider's look into ground zero on 9/11 to the compelling story of Pan Am's crucial role in secret supply missions to China and elsewhere prior to and during World War II. In the process, Ric proved that perseverance and flexibility are keys to success in his role as speaker chairman when our scheduled speaker canceled just days before our first meeting. The speaker's boss, Governor Lamont, needed him in Hartford on that Wednesday morning. Ric quickly found a substitute speaker, and our meeting went off without a hitch, although I'm not sure Ric has fully recovered from the anxiety it caused him! You can read Ric's speaker summaries and view videos of the talks on the DMA website.

Our activities have launched strongly. There has been an activity suitable for every DMA member this fall, including: bowling for quarters on Tuesday mornings; sharing perspectives on the Book Group's latest selection; exploring with the Happy Wanderers in Central Park; hiking in Mianus River Park in Stamford and the Audubon Center in Southbury; trying not to get "pickled" on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; participating in golf outings at The Country Club of Darien and Woodway Country Club; putting some spin on the ball playing table tennis at the Mather Center; providing some TLC to repair damaged furniture with the Woodworkers;

playing cribbage (and teaching the game at the Stamford Senior Center); or preparing for upcoming holiday performances with the New Wave Singers.

We've also had our first Investment Group Zoom meetings—I hope you've made more than you've lost based on what you learned—as well as our first Current Affairs Group meeting, where we were updated on the progress and plans for Great Island. And by the time you read this newsletter, we will have had our first social event, a trip to the Yale Peabody Museum and Yale University Art Gallery with lunch in between at a New Haven hot spot—ZINC.

We have shared the details of the DMA's new agreement with the Darien Community Association (DCA) that ensures we will continue to enjoy the benefits of our ongoing relationship, especially continuing to call the Meadowlands our "home." The agreement affords each DMA member the opportunity to take advantage of DCA events and activities at a discounted rate as an associate member of the DCA. Further, the agreement allows a DMA member's spouse to become a full DCA member at a discounted rate.

I want to thank the many members (currently more than 50) who have supplemented their annual dues with generous voluntary contributions to the DMA to help us fulfill our mission and goals. It's very satisfying to know that our members feel good about who we are and what we do and are happy to contribute to our efforts.

I encourage you to read through the entirety of this newsletter to learn about our upcoming speakers, activities and events and to perhaps be inspired to try something new with the DMA. Thanks to **Mike Kadish** and **Joyce Meurer** for their work creating and editing it and for those who contributed pictures and write-ups on the activities. I also encourage all groups to submit photos and information about your activities to Mike for inclusion in future newsletters so current and prospective members can enjoy seeing what's happening throughout the DMA.

Frank DeLeo
2024-2025 DMA President

New Members

James (Jim) Clarke



Jim Clarke was born and raised in Southern California. After graduating from Boston College, he moved to New York City to begin his career in wealth management. He joined Lehman Brothers in 1994 as a client associate and became an investment representative in 1999, in which role he began advising institutional and high net worth clients. In 2008, he became a director at Barclays Capital upon its acquisition of Lehman Brothers in the United States. Sensing the need to widen the scope of their advice and services to high net worth families, Jim and his team transitioned their business to Merrill Lynch in 2014. He joined the Merrill Lynch office in Darien in 2021. Jim is married to his college sweetheart, Susan.

They have lived in Darien since 2000, where they have raised their four daughters. In his free time, Jim enjoys running, racket sports, skiing and cooking.

Atwood “Woody” Collins III



Woody Collins was born in Hartford in 1947 and attended Hotchkiss School. After graduating from Yale in 1969, he served in the U.S. Army until 1972 as a first lieutenant in the Second Armored Division. He then joined J.P. Morgan Private Bank in New York and Brussels, transferring back to the United States in 1980 and rising to become senior vice president. He joined M&T Bank as executive vice president in 1988. Since retiring in 2015, he has served as a consultant to M&T Bank’s subsidiary Wilmington Trust. He resided in Darien from 1980-2002. After moving to Baltimore for 12 years, he returned to Darien in 2014 and has resided here since then with his wife Cynthia, to whom he has been

married for 53 years. He has two sons and six grandchildren and is a member of Wee Burn Country Club.

Robert “Bob” Vonick



Bob Vonick was born in White Plains, N.Y., in 1952. He graduated in 1970 from Fordham Prep in the Bronx and received a B.A. degree from Kenyon College in 1974. After college, he spent several years working on Capitol Hill for the House Ways and Means Committee before law school. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 1979 with a J.D. degree and from the New York University School of Law in 1986 with an LL.M. (Taxation). He worked as a tax counsel for McGraw Hill before joining Capital Cities/ABC in a similar capacity in 1987. Capital Cities/ABC was acquired by The Walt Disney Company in 1995, and he transitioned to a role as vice president and senior tax counsel at Disney after the acquisition. In the latter part of his career, he was responsible for Disney’s strategic tax planning function. He also served as Disney’s representative on the Tax Committee of the Motion

Picture Association and was a member of the board of directors of the New York State Broadcasters Association for 20 years. He retired at the end of 2018.

He and his wife Carole lived in Wilton for over 20 years before moving to their current home in East Norwalk in 2018. They have twin adult sons, Brad and Jason. Winters are spent at their home in North Palm Beach, Fla. Bob is a member of the Silvermine Golf Club, Bear Lakes Country Club and the Gulfstream Boat Club, and he is vice president and member of the board of directors of the Water Club North Palm Beach Master Homeowners Association. His interests include golf, boating, pilates, travel, cooking and politics.

Ian Webb



Ian Webb was born in Childers, Australia, in 1957. He received a bachelor's and a master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Queensland in 1978 and 1981, respectively, and was the secretary and captain of the University of Queensland Rugby League club. In 1983, he moved to the United States and enrolled in the Operations Research graduate program at MIT, receiving his Ph.D. in 1989. Ian spent several years on the faculty of the UConn business school at Storrs, before transitioning into a career of more than 25 years in multiple areas of risk management in the payments industry—first with American Express and later with Mastercard. Ian and his

wife Lisa have been in Darien since 1996 and have two children. He enjoys travel, photography, reading and sports and is a member of the Tokeneke Club.

Seth Wohlberg

Seth Wohlberg was born and raised in the Five Towns on Long Island. He graduated from SUNY at Albany in 1976 with a B.S. in business administration. He worked for two years at American



International Group and then attained his M.B.A. degree at Emory University. Upon graduating from Emory, Seth spent two years working in Atlanta. He then returned to live and work in Manhattan as a portfolio manager and later as a sales executive at investment management firms. Early in his career, he earned two industry designations: Chartered Financial Analyst and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst. For the last 25 years, he was a senior managing director and partner at Far Hills Group, a boutique investment banking firm in New York City focused on raising capital for alternative investment strategies. Seth has been fortunate to travel the world through his work to the Far East, Africa and Europe. He recently retired from his professional career.

Seth has been married for 40 years to his wife Debra (Deb), an active member at St. John's Church. They have lived in Darien since 1992 and have two grown children, Michael and Grace. Michael was a captain of the Darien High School football team, and Grace was a manager on the girls' swim team.

From 1990 to 2000, Seth was on the board of trustees of the National Psoriasis Foundation in Washington, D.C., where he advocated for research, increased awareness for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and raised funds to expand the organization's efforts. From 2012 to 2014, he

served on the board of trustees of CURE Epilepsy, headquartered in Chicago. In 2010, he founded the RE Children's Project, a 501(c)(3) organization devoted to increasing awareness and funding research into Rasmussen's encephalitis, a rare and devastating condition that involves inflammation of the brain that leads to epileptic seizures. The disease impacted his daughter Grace at the age of 10, and she underwent hemispherectomy surgery.

Seth enjoys eating pizza, always in search of the perfect slice whether in New York City, New Haven or elsewhere. He is also a tennis fan; having played recreationally, he now enjoys watching the tennis tour and traveling to professional tour events. Other hobbies include listening to jazz and podcasts, exploring the neighborhoods of New York City, reading about current events and meeting new people.

In Memoriam

William Frank



William Patrick Frank, age 83, died at home in Darien, survived by his beloved wife Marilyn Mainelli Frank, children Chris (Tricia) Frank, Caroline (Ricky) Lapidus, Bill (Lauren) Frank and Susannah (Scott) Bullard and 12 grandchildren. Born in the Bronx, son of Otto and Mary Brennan Frank, he was predeceased by his brothers Gerard and Paul. He attended All Hallows, Fordham Preparatory School, Georgetown University and Fordham Law School. Bill served as a military intelligence captain in the U.S. Army in Vietnam during the Tet offensive and earned recognition including Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Joint Service Commendation medals.

He was the 23rd associate to join the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom where he served for over 50 years, including as litigation practice leader and New York office leader. Bill was a member of professional and philanthropic boards and received awards too numerous to fully list, including serving as: a founding member of the Wall Street Alliance and Scholarship Fund; a member of the boards of the Practising Law Institute, USO, Georgetown University, Fordham Law, the Gregorian University (Rome) Foundation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, the American Ireland Fund, the Cardinal's Committee for Charity of the Archdiocese of New York, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York; and a Knight of Malta on the Order's Legal Committee. He is the recipient of the Catholic Charities Deus Caritas Est Award, the Georgetown John Carroll Award and the Fordham Law School Alumni Medal of Achievement.

He was a warrior-scholar, humanitarian, voracious reader and family photographer who traveled the world to experience history, culture, skiing, golf, wine and good company. His greatest accomplishments were as a wonderful husband and fiercely devoted father and grandfather. His was a full, happy and generous life.

DMA Speakers Program

November-December 2024

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Marcus Miller, “Beauty and Logic: Jazz and Math”



Marcus G. Miller is a distinguished saxophonist, composer, and music curator from South Orange, N.J., now based in New York City. He began performing professionally in his teens, later graduating from Harvard University in 2008 with a degree in mathematics. After a stint at Bridgewater Associates, he returned to music, making a name for himself in New York’s jazz scene. Marcus has performed at high-profile venues across the world, including the Obama White House, Madison Square Garden, the World Economic Forum at Davos and Carnegie Hall.

Marcus has collaborated and performed extensively with Jon Batiste, including Batiste’s Grammy winning album “We Are,” his documentary *American Symphony* and the nationwide Uneasy tour, which included a date opening for The Rolling Stones.

Marcus’s lifelong fascination with the intersection of math and music has led to residencies at the National Museum of Mathematics, Brown University’s Physics Department and TED appearances. In 2022, Marcus became the music director at Grace Farms Foundation, curating programs like “Voices of Culture,” where he invites, performs with and interviews some of the world’s best musicians, enabling them to share their deep knowledge of their traditions, and “Beauty and Logic,” where he performs while exploring his shared wonder between mathematics and music. Marcus currently is working on an interdisciplinary project, exploring themes of beauty and humanity via music and design in the age of AI.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Susan Herbst, “Social Media and Politics”



Certainly one of the most prominent topics surrounding politics this year is the influence of social media, with its opportunity to publish every personal opinion without an editor focusing on truth, objectivity and balance. This is a central theme of the academic work of **Susan Herbst**.

Susan is university professor of political science and president emeritus at the University of Connecticut, having served for eight years as the 15th president of the institution. She is the author of five books, most recently, *A Troubled Birth: The 1930s and American Public Opinion* published by the University of Chicago Press. Before coming to UConn, Susan was professor and chair of political science at Northwestern University, dean of Liberal Arts at Temple University and chief academic officer for the University System of Georgia. She holds a B.A. in political science from Duke University and a doctorate in communications from the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Shamil Idriss, “Finding Common Ground to Change the Nature of Conflict”



For over 40 years, Search for Common Ground has been building trust around the world, opening opportunities for collaboration between communities and creating breakthroughs for peace. Whether global in nature, such as poverty, hunger or the environment, or closer to home, such as family or community relations, we face daily challenges to our abilities to deal with conflict constructively. Using everything from traditional diplomacy and mediation to video games and virtual exchange, we work one step at a time to change the nature of conflict—from a destructive force to a constructive one.

Stepping back from conflict enables and requires trust and provides the foundation for collaboration to solve complex problems. It allows people to look past differences, have difficult conversations, take shared risks, find common ground and invest in pathways toward a shared future. Search for Common Ground CEO **Shamil Idriss** will discuss the organization’s principles, techniques and accomplishments—perhaps igniting a recognition in us for other arenas in which polarization can be bridged.

Search for Common Ground is the world's largest dedicated nongovernmental peacebuilding organization. In his current position as CEO, and in his previous capacities as president, chief operating officer and Burundi country director, Shamil has led that organization's efforts to end violent conflict in more than 35 countries globally, including some of the most devastating conflict zones in the Middle East and Africa.

In 2005, Shamil was appointed by United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Kofi Annan as deputy director of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations. In this role, he supported high-level political and religious leaders in developing policy recommendations and action plans to improve cross-cultural relations between Western and Muslim-majority countries before, during and after the Arab Spring revolutions. From 2004-2005, Shamil worked with the World Economic Forum to establish the Forum's Council of 100 Leaders.

Shamil is also a pioneer in the use of interactive media technologies for cross-cultural education and collaboration. In 2008-2014, as the CEO of Soliya, he led a coalition to create a market for virtual exchange through partnerships with public and private sector leaders across the United States, the Arab League and the European Union. This led to the establishment of the J. Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative announced by President Obama in February 2015 and the subsequent announcement by the European Commission of its dedicated fund to expand virtual exchange in 2017.

A graduate of Swarthmore College, Shamil earned degrees in economics and philosophy.

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Sunil Saksena, "The Koh-i-Noor: The Story of the World's Most Infamous Diamond"



The Koh-i-Noor diamond is one of the world's most well-known diamonds. It is by no means the world's biggest diamond, but it is by far the most infamous. Its storied history spans centuries—the Koh-i-Noor has passed through the hands of many rulers, dynasties and empires in South and Central Asia, including the Mughal emperors of India, Persian Shahs, Afghan rulers and Sikh Maharajas, before ending up in the British Crown Jewels. This rich history and the curse it allegedly casts on male owners have added to its notoriety, mystique and fame. Its controversial "acquisition" by Queen Victoria has made its presence in the British Crown Jewels a subject of debate. India, Pakistan, Iran and even the Taliban have laid claim to it. **Sunil Saksena's** presentation will recount some of the diamond's history and the myths and legends that surround it. It is an amazing story.

Sunil is a member and past president of the DMA. He was born in India in 1944 and received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.

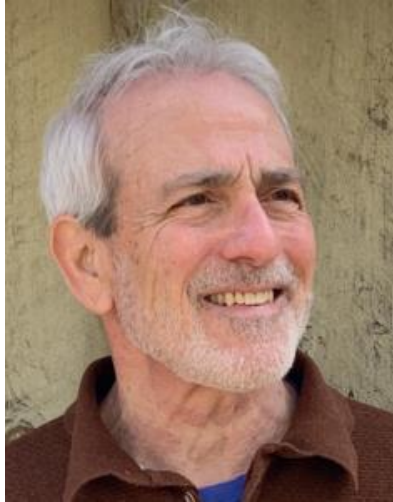
He worked at Union Carbide India before proceeding to the University of California, Berkeley in 1966 for graduate work. He received a master's degree in engineering as well as an M.B.A. from Berkeley.

Sunil worked as a mechanical engineer with American Can Company in San Francisco where his claim to fame is that he designed the machine that puts the can cover on the beer can, making it safe for beer drinkers to safely imbibe. For the majority of his career, he was in finance, first as an international banker with Bankers Trust Company serving in Singapore, Mumbai and New York and later with Fidelity Investments from which he retired in 2004.

Sunil and his wife lived in Darien for 38 years and have just this year moved to Vermont.

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Marc Wortman, “The Greatest Capitalist Who Ever Lived: Tom Watson Jr. and the Epic Story of How IBM Created the Digital Age”



We all have our individual impressions of IBM, many from the 1960s, when the company was seen as the safest source of business processing support. During 40 years of leadership by Thomas J. Watson Sr., IBM was viewed as an enlightened source of mechanical computing capability based on punch cards. There would inevitably be challenges of corporate and family (and technological) succession. Tom Watson Jr. became the internal champion of transitioning the firm to electronic computing. He may have been the only person who could have opposed his father in a company built on yes men; apparently, his own motivation to transform IBM sprang from an intense antipathy toward his father.

Marc Wortman, Ph.D., is a multi-award-winning independent historian and freelance journalist. He is the author of five books on American military, technology and social history, most recently *The Greatest Capitalist Who Ever Lived: Tom Watson Jr. and the Epic Story of How IBM Created the Digital Age* (PublicAffairs, 2023). A *New York Times Book Review* Editor’s Choice, it is the first solo biography of the leader who launched the computer revolution. The U.S. Military History Group named his previous book, *Admiral Hyman Rickover: Engineer of Power* (Yale University Press, 2022), as the outstanding military history book of the year, and it won the 2023 Captain Richard Lukaszewicz Memorial Book Award.

His other books are: *1941: Fighting the Shadow War, A Divided America in a World at War* (Atlantic Monthly, 2016); *The Bonfire: The Siege and Burning of Atlanta* (PublicAffairs, 2009); and *The Millionaires’ Unit: The Aristocratic Flyboys Who Fought the Great War and Invented American Air Power* (PublicAffairs, 2006). A feature-length documentary based on *The Millionaires’ Unit* is available on streaming services.

Following college at Brown University, he received a doctorate in comparative literature from Princeton University. He lives with his family in New Haven.



ACTIVITIES

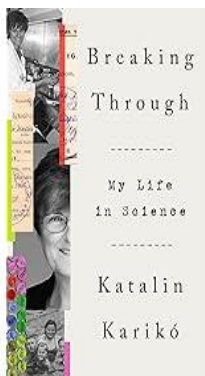
Book Group Selections

November 2024-February 2025

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on the Wednesdays of **November 13** and **December 11, 2024**, and **January 8** and **February 12, 2025**. The meeting will commence on each of those dates 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 or **Harry McLachlin** at hdmclach@aol.com.

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

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



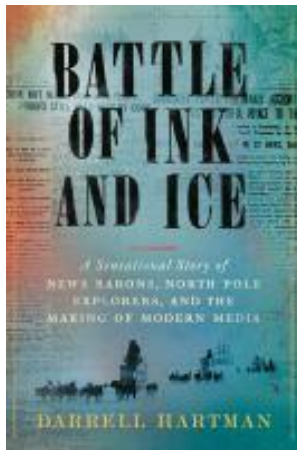
Katalin Karikó has had an unlikely journey. The daughter of a butcher in postwar communist Hungary, Karikó grew up in an adobe home that lacked running water, and her family grew its own vegetables. She saw the wonders of nature all around her and was determined to become a scientist. That determination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

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

Karikó's three-decade-long investigation into mRNA would lead to a staggering achievement: vaccines that protected millions of people from the most dire consequences of COVID-19. These vaccines are just the beginning of mRNA's potential. Today, the medical community eagerly awaits more mRNA vaccines—for the flu, HIV and other emerging infectious diseases. For her work, Karikó was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2023 and was *Time* magazine's Hero of the Year 2021.

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

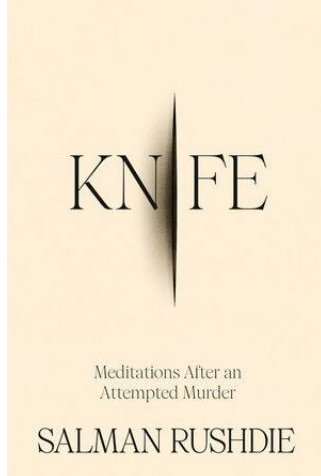
***Battle of Ink and Ice* by Darrell Hartman (December 11, 2024)**



The publisher describes this as the “sensational story of news barons, North Pole explorers, and the making of modern media.” It is the 60-year saga of frostbite and fake news that follows the no-holds-barred battle between two legendary explorers to reach the North Pole and the newspapers that stopped at nothing to get—and sell—the story. In the fall of 1909, a pair of bitter contests captured the world's attention. The American explorers Robert Peary and Frederick Cook both claimed to have discovered the North Pole, sparking a vicious feud that was unprecedented in international scientific and geographic circles. At the same time, the rivalry between two powerful New York City newspapers—the storied *New York Herald* and the ascendant *New York Times*—fanned the flames of the so-called polar controversy, as each paper financially and reputationally committed itself to an opposing explorer and fought desperately to defend him. The *New York Herald* was owned and edited by James Gordon Bennett, Jr., an eccentric playboy whose nose for news was matched only by his appetite for debauchery and champagne. The *New York Times* was published by Adolph Ochs, son of Jewish immigrants, who had improbably rescued the paper from extinction and turned it into an emerging powerhouse. The battle between Peary and Cook would have enormous consequences for both newspapers and help to determine the future of corporate media. *Battle of Ink and Ice* presents a frank portrayal of Arctic explorers, brave men who both inspired and divided the public. It also sketches a vivid portrait of the newspapers that funded, promoted, narrated and often distorted their exploits. The story culminates with an unjustly overlooked chapter in the origin story of the modern *New York Times*. By turns tragic and absurd, *Battle of Ink and Ice* brims with contemporary relevance, touching as it does on themes of class, celebrity, the ever-quickening news cycle, and the benefits and pitfalls of an increasingly interconnected world. Above all, perhaps, its cast of characters testifies colorfully and compellingly to the ongoing role of personality and publicity in American cultural life as the Gilded Age gave way to the 20th century—the American century.

***Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder* by Salman Rushdie (Jan. 8, 2025)**

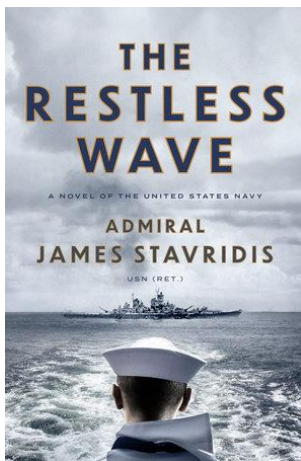
Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder is a searing, deeply personal account of enduring—and surviving—an attempt on the author’s life 30 years after the fatwa that was ordered against him. On the morning of August 12, 2022, internationally renowned writer and Booker Prize winner **Salman Rushdie** was standing onstage at the Chautauqua Institution in



Chautauqua, N.Y., preparing to give a lecture on the importance of keeping writers safe from harm, when a man in black—black clothes, black mask—rushed down the aisle toward him, wielding a knife. His first thought: “So, it’s you. Here you are.” What followed was a horrific act of violence that shook the literary world and beyond. In unforgettable detail, Rushdie relives the traumatic events of that day and its aftermath, as well as his journey toward physical recovery and the healing that was made possible by the love and support of his wife Eliza, his family, his army of doctors and physical therapists, and his community of readers worldwide.

Knife is Rushdie at the peak of his powers, writing with urgency, with gravity, with unflinching honesty. It is also a deeply moving reminder of literature’s capacity to make sense of the unthinkable, an intimate and life-affirming meditation on life, loss, love, art—and finding the strength to stand up again.

***The Restless Wave* by Admiral James Stavridis (February 12, 2025)**



The Restless Wave is a riveting historical novel that charts the coming of age of a gifted but immature young naval officer as he is tested in the crucible of World War II in the Pacific theater. The protagonist Scott Bradley James arrives in Annapolis, Md., as a plebe in the class of 1941 without a terribly good idea of why he wants to be a naval officer, other than because his father was a sailor, and Scott wants to see the world (whatever that means). Scott and his roommate become fast friends, and, after surviving scrapes of their own making, the two fetch up at Pearl Harbor. War is brewing, and their class has graduated early. They have been sent to battle stations. James is a talented young officer but has a lot to learn—and war will teach him.

Admiral James Stavridis is an acclaimed novelist, a decorated military leader, a former NATO commander and a great student of military history. He draws on it all to capture the experience of being storm-tossed by the bloody first years of World War II. *The Restless Wave* offers a gripping account of the U.S. Navy’s astonishing progress through the first three years of the war in the Pacific. This story of a character under pressure in the harshest of proving grounds is written with careful fidelity to the truths of war that have made sea stories essential to the art of storytelling since Odysseus.



ACTIVITIES (continued)

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



The "Commish," the "Godfather of Bowl," the "Professor" and all our 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 at tomlom1@aol.com

Bridge

The Bridge Group will remain in hiatus until further notice, while we explore returning to live play in whole or in part. Anyone interested in playing should please contact **Mike Kadish** at 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, including Wreaths Across America and holiday bell ringing.

Wreaths Across America, Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery

Spring Grove is across the street from the Darien Library. DMA members have volunteered annually for the wreath-laying ceremony, this year to be held on a date in mid-December to be announced. We will place wreaths on the graves of the veterans following a brief ceremony of commemoration. Per Captain John C. Carter, USN (ret.): "It is always a wonderful event that is widely attended by the Darien community."

You can also donate to help fund a wreath for a veteran's grave at the website <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/>; the location code is CTSGVD. Captain Carter reminds us: "There are many wonderful groups that fundraise on behalf of the cemetery, and their link is located at the bottom of that page. Your donation goes that much further if you sponsor a wreath through any of these organizations." Captain Carter is available to answer any questions; his email address is: wreaths06820@gmail.com.

Holiday Bell Ringing We will continue our long-standing tradition of bell ringing to solicit donations from shoppers at Palmer's Market on days in December to be announced. As was the case last year, the beneficiary of the donations will be Darien Human Services (DHS) to help fund its food, clothing, energy and housing support

efforts. By working with DHS, we are assured that all funds will go to Darien residents in need of support. You can volunteer for one hour or multiple hours. Frank Gallagher will be making further announcements at the DMA's Wednesday meetings about how to sign up as the dates approach. This has always proved to be a fun, festive and collegial way to spend an hour (or more) with fellow members while raising money for a good cause. We look forward to getting a full schedule of bell ringers for the three days.

For questions, contact **Frank Gallagher** at francis.gallagher100@gmail.com.

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



Geoff Rezek and Ken Hamilton invite you to join the cribbage heads to learn, relearn and play the standard deck

card game Cribbage. A favorite of seafarers, Cribbage is a derivation of an old English game called Noddy. It was developed in the early 1600s by Sir John Suckling, an English courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find playing Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity.

It is a challenging, frustrating and fast card game. One cribbage game takes less than 10 minutes to play. You do not need a physical cribbage board; we will teach you how to play online anytime against the computer, a friend or a stranger.

Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net

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 should join the DMA Current Affairs Discussion Group.

November 21: Where do you get your news?

On November 21, **Jim Cameron** will review with the Current Affairs Discussion Group the latest online and print options and perhaps show you some new credible resources for keeping up with local happenings.

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com

Happy Wanderers: Hoboken, N.J., November 14; Greenwich Village, December 12

Our next wandering will be on November 14, when **Sunil Saxena** will lead us across the Hudson River to Hoboken, N.J.

On December 12, **Greg Glashan** will lead a wandering to Greenwich Village in Manhattan. As usual, we will take the 8:34 a.m. train from Darien and the 8:37 a.m. train from Noroton Heights. We will congregate at the Information Booth on the main floor of Grand Central.

Photos and a write-up of the September 12 wandering to Central Park appear in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhsain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking



This year, to minimize conflicts with other DMA events, hikes will be scheduled for a specific Thursday each month. Our next hikes will be on November 7 to Pine Creek Marsh in Fairfield and December 5 to a location to be announced. As usual, family members and guests are welcome.

The Pine Creek marshes occupy much of the central part of Fairfield's coastal area south of the Post Road. Within the "Pine Creek Open Space Areas," the Salt Marsh Trail winds 1.4 miles through the Pine Creek watershed and estuary. The Pine Creek Open Space Areas can be accessed from the main entrance off Old Dam Road (formerly a U.S. Nike missile launching site during the height of the Cold War). Parking is available between recreational playing fields off Old Dam Road just before the gated entrance to the Pine Creek Open Space Areas.

Photos and commentary about our first hikes of the year to Mianus River Park on September 26 and to the Bent of the River Audubon Center in Southbury on October 10 follow in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

For more information, contact **Alec Wiggin** at alec@aared.com or **Lee Morrison** at lee06820@gmail.com.

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

Jim Phillips leads our monthly Zoom session, first laying out the recent macro outlook, then opening 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.

New Wave Singers: United Methodist Church, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

The New Wave Singers is developing a repertoire of songs to perform at the DMA and at community organizations in the area. Under the leadership of our music director, Jon Hunt, the group rehearses every Tuesday at 3 p.m. at the United Methodist 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, most of which is the fee charged by our music director.

The group is scheduled to perform on the following three dates in December:

- December 3 at 3 p.m. at Atria Darien, an assisted living community in Darien;
- December 5 at 4 p.m. at Edgehill, an assisted living community in Stamford; and
- December 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the Darien Senior Center.

If you have questions, please contact **Jim Bragg** at jamesbragg77@gmail.com.

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

The group is at capacity but continues to try to find ways to let a few new members join. Reminder: We use the TeamReach app for signup. Novices, please take lessons first with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325. Photos and commentary follow in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarselkowitz@gmail.com
Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com

Social Events

Chet Cobb announced that the annual **Christmas party** will be held **December 18, 2024**, at The Country Club of Darien starting at 5 p.m. We will be welcomed by a pianist playing holiday music during the cocktail hour, with more music provided after dinner by the Camerata Singers, an ensemble of 7th and 8th grade students from Middlesex Middle School. Sign up early, as the event is expected to sell out.

We had a great social event on October 18—a trip to tour two of Yale University’s world-class museums: **Yale Peabody Museum** and **Yale University Art Gallery**,

followed by a DMA-only luncheon in a private dining room at ZINC restaurant. Photos and commentary follow in the Activity Annex at the end of this newsletter.

Doug Bora: 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 for 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 for 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

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



The DMA Woodworkers meet every Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the

Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey**, who leads this group, encourages members to join us 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.

ACTIVITY ANNEX
Reports of DMA Activities since the Last Newsletter

Golf

The DMA squeaked out a very close victory over the New Canaan Men's Association 15 1/2 to 14 1/2 at the Silvermine Golf Club on June 26, 2024. See photos below taken by **John Kammerman**.



After an earlier rainout in August, 28 DMAers gathered for a round of golf at The Country Club of Darien on September 24, arranged by **Tom Lom**. The day was fine, the course was in great shape and 27 DMA golfers enjoyed themselves. Lunch followed on the club terrace (see photo below, also taken by John Kammerman).



The final outing of the year was a fabulous day of golf for 19 DMAers at Woodway Country Club on October 3, hosted by **Jim Kelly**. Afterward, the golfers lunched on the patio overlooking the course.

Happy Wanderers

Eleven DMA Happy Wanderers ventured to Central Park on September 12. We entered the park at the southeast corner on 59th Street, proceeded north through the Mall to the Bethesda Fountain, and continued up to the Belvedere Castle and Great Lawn. We had lunch at the newly renovated Central Park Boathouse restaurant.



Hiking

September 26 at Mianus River Park

On September 26, a hardy band of seven intrepid hikers set off in somewhat sodden conditions to traverse the southern trail at Mianus River Park in Stamford. Wending our way through the hilly ups and downs underneath a leafy canopy, we passed two small stone abodes, starkly reminding us of what living conditions were like in a bygone era, along with some toney Greenwich homes that border the park. With Finn, our spirited canine companion helping **Lee Morrison** ride point, we showed our map-reading chops to navigate a shorter route through mid-forest twists and turns back to the parking lot. Good conversation, good companionship and



good exercise were enjoyed by all.

After the hike, a few of us retired to Zody's 19th Hole to partake in a mid-day repast and some badly needed cold drinks while overlooking the Brennan Golf Course. While some of us changed to dry clothes before dining, unlike the Wicked Witch of the West none of us melted!

October 10 at Bent of the River Audubon Center

Nine hardy hikers went to Bent of the River Audubon Center in Southbury, Conn., for our second hike. This is a beautiful, 700-acre tract of land, a portion of which follows the banks of the rippling Pomperaug River, with relatively flat terrain. We lunched on Italian food at the nearby DiPalma's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria.



Pickleball

The DMA Pickleball Group under the leadership of **Jan Selkowitz** and **Jack Dearie** runs like a well-oiled machine. The group meets every Tuesday and Thursday morning at Cherry Lawn (or during inclement weather at the Mather Center) 12 months of the year. We now have 40 members and could have more if the town of Darien had more court availability. The group is mostly intermediate plus, and the fun and camaraderie are second to no other group in Darien, even with Jan's constant "trash talk" in jest. The perks include a summer picnic at the beach and many new friendships on top of some great exercise. Anyone who wants to join should contact Jan or Jack, although currently there is a waitlist. Several new members have joined recently as Jan and Jack have done their best to welcome additional players as soon as a new spot becomes available.



The Pickleball Group (and spouses) met at Pear Tree Point Beach on Thursday, September 5, for a barbecue picnic that we hope will become an annual end-of-summer social event. The weather was superb and the conversations and company even better. There was even some Jimmy Buffett music in the background to keep the beach vibe going as the sun was setting on Long Island Sound. The event was hosted by Jan Selkowitz and Jack Dearie with the able assistance of **Frank DeLeo, Doug Bora and Art Baron**, along with some generous offerings from several members of the group who brought their favorite salads or desserts. We all enjoyed a festive evening. It truly was a wonderful way to cap the summer season!



The photo below shows how the same group looked when they played pickleball on October 17. Do they look happier when they are partying on the beach or when they are playing on the court? You decide! Keep in mind Pickleball Group founder **Edward “Woody” Spurgeon** is in the October photo below.



Social Events



Posing outside the Peabody Museum

The Social Committee’s first event of the year was held on Friday October 18, 2024. Eighteen DMAers toured two of Yale University’s world-class museums: **Yale Peabody Museum** and **Yale University Art Gallery**.

Highlights of the Peabody Museum tour included the following exhibits:

Minerals, Earth & Space: A vast collection of mineral and energy resources on which our civilization depends illustrating the powerful geologic forces that shaped the earth over the past 4.5 billion years.

Egypt and Mesopotamia: Display of the earliest written records of human thought help explain how cultures from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia continue to shape our world today.

History of Science & Technology: A collection of 15,000 items from over the past 500 years, including a wide range of scientific instruments and a first-generation Apple Macintosh computer, which made some of us feel a bit old.

Burke Hall of Dinosaurs: Display of fossils and models that illustrates how living things evolved from sea-born bacteria and microbes through dinosaurs and the rise of homo sapiens and our current complex bio-diversity.



The group gathers at the Peabody Museum Hall of Dinosaurs



Chris Filmer studies display of modern local birds in the Peabody Museum



Lunch at ZINC

After touring the Peabody Museum, we enjoyed a DMA-only luncheon in a private dining room at ZINC, an award-winning New Haven restaurant that features locally sourced ingredients in globally inspired dishes.

After lunch, we toured the Yale University Art Gallery, which comprises three buildings that span one and one-half city blocks. Galleries showcase more than 4,000 works of art from



ancient times to the present, including vessels from Tang-dynasty China, early Italian paintings, masterworks by Degas, van Gogh and Picasso, textiles from Borneo, treasures of American art, masks from West Africa, modern and contemporary art, and ancient sculptures. DMAers broke into two groups, each of which had a 60-minute guided tour led by a Yale graduate art student.



Tour guide leads discussion of Edward Hopper's "Sunlight in a Cafeteria"

Bowling Reports, Courtesy of the “Commish”

Tuesday, September 3

After a summer off, it was nice to be back on the lanes at Nutmeg and to have 10 guys show up to wish **George Gilliam** a happy belated 80th birthday (see photo)! The birthday celebration was the highlight of



the morning as the bowling showed all the rust accumulated over the past three months. High game belonged to **Frank Gallagher** with a 198 in the third game, while **Tom Lom** (aka, the “Commish”) needed a 187 in the third to record the only 500 series at 508.

Tuesday, September 10

With such nice weather, we lost several bowlers to that “other” game—golf; and with **Woody Spurgeon** still recuperating and **Ted Helms** fishing on the Amazon River, we had only six bowlers: **Bill Tamme**, **Ed Schechter** and **Frank DeLeo**. vs. **Ben Briggs**, **George Gilliam** and the Commish.

Let’s dispense with the results of the team competition quickly—the Commish’s team lost all three games. At least we were smart enough not to go for a double-or-nothing challenge in game three!

The day belonged to Bill Tamme. He rolled games of 162, 210 (including five strikes in a row) and 190 for a 552 series—a 184 average vs. Bill’s season average of 139! Bill went into the week with a “last 21” average of 130. He bowled a 552; because that replaced a series score of 346 to calculate the “last 21,” he raised his “last 21” to 140 for a positive change of +10. *That is the highest positive change from week to week the group has ever seen.*

We also saw Ed Schechter returning to form, finishing with games of 194 and 188 for a 518 series. Frank DeLeo had a nice 192 in game one, and the Commish finished with a four-bagger in game three for a 206.

Overall—an improvement over the group’s slow start the previous week.

Tuesday, September 17

Last week's team that was down 2-0 after two games declined the double or nothing "opportunity." On this day, the opportunity was taken *and* seized. Game one went down to the final frame and the final bowlers. Frank DeLeo and Tom Lom both had strikes working in the ninth with Tom's squad holding a slight lead of seven pins. Frank managed a spare in the 10th frame, but Tom recorded two strikes in the final frame to put that game away for his teammates Ed Schechter, **Alex Garnett** and Ben Briggs. That win was due mainly to

Ben's excellent 163. Game two saw Tom's team members all bowl their average to earn a comfortable win. Thinking things had to improve, the team of Frank DeLeo, Frank Gallagher, Ted Helms and Bill Tamme went for the double or nothing and delivered a resounding 51 pin rout.

No individual did anything special, with only one 500 series (535) by Tom Lom and no game higher than 182.

Wednesday, September 25

Your intrepid publisher was torn as to whether to include this report here in the Bowling section or in the Golf section below. But this is about the Bowling Group so it appears here.

Because a number of members of the Bowling Group participated in the Golf outing at The Country Club of Darien on September 24, bowling was canceled that day. Rather than miss their weekly gathering, the eight bowlers pictured here met at Silvermine Golf Club for a friendly game on September 25. Highlights from



that included a fine 77 shot by Frank Gallagher, a nice 80 by Ted Helms (including a couple of birdies) and a fine 38 on the

front nine by Tom Lom. The biggest feat, however, was by **Joe Holmes**, who at age 85 shot three better than his age with an 82! Undoubtedly, Ed Schechter and Woody Spurgeon were pleased by that.

Of course, the bowlers can't gather for any sport without creating a team competition. Frank Gallagher, Alex Garnett, George Gilliam and Joe Holmes formed "Team Frank" and went up against Ben Briggs, Ted Helms, **John Kammerman** and Tom Lom ("Team Ted") in a best two balls net per hole format. As it was getting late and darkness was approaching, we met in the parking lot to settle our bets. Team Frank came in at -5 under par (adjusted for handicaps) for the day. Team Ted had some scoring issues and needed an audit. After rules official Ben Briggs double checked the card, it was certified that Team Ted was 7 under par. It was a good thing for Team Ted that there were no more holes to be played—they were leaking oil badly at the end. Meanwhile, Team Frank turned things around halfway through and were -4 on the back nine.

Tuesday, October 1

Having heard Monday night that a few regulars would be absent, the Commish was concerned that we wouldn't have many bowlers. NOT TO WORRY! Eight bowlers arrived, including the first appearances of the season by Woody Spurgeon and **Marty Milewski**.

Marty wasted no time by getting strikes in his first two frames. While Woody took a bit of time to shake off the rust, he recorded six spares in game three for a fine 136. Moreover, he won all three poker hands at the table. Marty recorded the season's

fastest ball speed so far with one clocked at a speed of 16.12 mph. Maybe he'll record a "YeZZi" (knocking down all the pins without the ball striking the head pin, a shot named for a DMA bowler known for accomplishing it).

While the team match was especially uncompetitive, there were a few noteworthy individual highlights. George Gilliam had a hot start with a 171 in game one, including converting a 6-7-10 split. After a so-so game one, Ben had two excellent games of 173 and 161 to notch a 458 series (+59 above his last 21 average) to earn Bowler of the Day. Alex Garnett converted a 3-10 split. Finally, Tom Lom was hot in game one, recording a five-bagger on his way to a 220. Sadly, he had 10-pin-itis today, leaving the 10 pin in six frames in game three and converting the spare in only one of those frames. In game three, Tom had four splits in a row but managed to convert a 3-10 and a 2-7, and he also rolled a triple allowing him to get a 546 series.

Tuesday, October 8

Although several regulars were absent, we still had seven bowlers. With the odd number of bowlers, we played one poker hand per game with lots of quarters on the line. Ed Schechter managed to win all three hands. While he wasn't particularly happy with his bowling, he still left to the sound of quarters jingling in his pockets.

One bowler who was happy with the day's bowling was Tom Lom. His first game score was right on his average of 175 without having a single strike—he had eight frames in which he left one pin and made the spare. Things turned around in game two as he had a four-bagger and a double on his

way to a 236. In game three, he had a double and another four-bagger for a 223 and a 634 series (his first 600 in 17 months). He had 12 one-pin leaves and converted them all to spares, including six 10 pins! He also converted two 2-7 splits. Pretty good day indeed!

Other highlights included a nice 466 series by Marty Milewski at +25 and a good game one by Woody Spurgeon of 126. Woody also converted a 1-10 split!

We won't say much about the team competition other than to report that Ed Schechter was on the winning side, adding four more quarters to his stash. It is also worth noting that Ben Briggs edged out George Gilliam by a single pin in their game three bet.

Tuesday, October 15

"UGLY" is the only way to describe the performance of all but two of the day's eight bowlers. The aura of the day is captured by the snapshot of the scoresheet for Ed Schechter's game two in which he had seven (!) splits and was barely able to break 100. Tom Lom managed to leave the same 3-10 split six times as part of his team's 12 splits in a game one loss, but he did convert a spare from a 2-7-9 split. Bowler of the Day honors goes to Alex Garnett, who bowled a 496 series, 58 pins over his average. Marty Milewski bowled a 457, 10 pins over his average, helped by converting a 2-10 split. Frank Gallagher had the high game of 174.

G. 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot + hd
A.G.	8 / 8	18	18	- 9 /	X 7 /	X	X 9	- 8 / 6			168
F.G.	9 - 9 /	X 9 /	8	1 7 -	X 9 /	7	1 9 / 5				143
E.S.	8 - 9 - 6	3 8	1 7	2 8 - 6	3 4 / 8 / 6						95
G.B.	7 - 9 -	X 9 -	X 9 /	X 9 -	X						112
Player	ED SCHECHTER										
Team											m.p.h. 9.81
Diff.	534	TOT. Pin fall	1190	TOT. Hdcp	0	TOT. Bonus	0	TOT. Points	11		

only bowler who beat his average last week, Alex got off to a nice start in game one with a 172, followed by a 179 in game two. Those were mere warm-ups for his game three score of 225. Of special note, the photo of his score below shows that he did this while making a "Ben Briggs Spare" in the fourth frame (spare after a gutter ball)! Alex's 576 was his highest ever DMA bowling series and was 129 pins over his average! Surely worth a "YEAH BABY." 😂

Tuesday, October 22

After the previous week's dismal performance, things turned around for seven of our eight bowlers this week!

Ben had a nice +10. Frank DeLeo returned from his three-week hiatus in Florida to bowl a 495 series (+18). Bill Tamme's closing 173 helped him to a +37 for the day. Woody Spurgeon had his highest series since he joined us with a 340 (+40). Ed Schechter looked like his old self in games two and three, ending up with a 498 (+69). Tom Lom started off with a 235 and finished at 601 (+76). In any other week Woody's, Ed's or Tom's performance might have held up for Bowler of the Day honors; but none of these came close to matching today's Bowler of the Day: Alex Garnett. On the heels of being the

We trust that Alex will report his recent successes to Chris at the Buddies Pro Shop at Nutmeg Bowl, from whom Alex (and Woody) have been taking lessons.

G. 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot + hdcp
B.B.	6 3	X 9 / 9	8 1 9 /	X 9 - 9 - X 7 1							150 150
B.T.	6 / 7	1 8 / 7 / 7 /	X 7 / 7 2	X X 8 /							173 173
A.G.	X X	X - / 8 /	X X	X 9 / 8 / X							225 225
T.L.	9 / 9 /	X 9 / 9 / 9 - 9 / 9 /	X								145 145
Player											m.p.h. 12.36
Team											
Diff.	703	TOT. Pin fall	2016	TOT. Hdcp	0	TOT. Bonus	0	TOT. Points	2016		

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.