

DMA

Darien Men's Association

Newsletter

www.DarienDMA.org

November–December 2025

Vol.48, No.2

DMA Officers and Directors 2025–2026



Seated left to right: **Rick Agresta**, 2nd Vice President; **Tom Igoe**, Past President; **Chris Conley**, Secretary; **Ric Grefé**, President; **Doug Bora**, 1st Vice President; **Gregory Glashan**, Assistant Secretary; **Frank DeLeo**, Past President; **Art Baron**, Director-at-Large. Standing left to right: **Dan Lew**, Assistant Treasurer; **Ted Helms**, Social Events; **Bert von Stuelpnagel**, Treasurer; **Lee Morrison**, Membership; **John Craft**, Community Service; **Jay Bennett**, Director-at-Large. Not pictured: **Mike Kadish**, Communications. Photo by **Julie Callery**

President's Message

This fall, the temperatures dropped slowly, but the DMA was quick out of the blocks with another season of stimulating programming and engaging activities. Our 15 officers and directors and roughly 30 additional activity leaders, to say nothing of countless other volunteers, have launched the new program year with enthusiasm, a sense of all of our interests and, needless to say, great humor. This is what makes the DMA special — a community of seasoned gentlemen with a wide range of interests and the energy to lead, organize and share those passions with other members.

Perhaps we all have noticed that when we invite someone from the medical profession to speak, they laud our experience in being social, involved and active ... all harbingers of healthy aging.

Doug Bora is attacking the most challenging of roles at the DMA — Speakers Program chair — with the gusto we expect of him. Our speakers include significant leaders in fields ranging from sports management to economics, Hollywood, health, maritime growth and safety, and local services — with more to come in November and December.

The Book Group provides a chance for thoughtful and critical conversation; our community service activities and support for At Home in Darien reinforce our contributions to the community, as do the New Wave Singers; and our Current Affairs Group challenges us to think through the social challenges of the day. Social activities are warming up with a tour of the Museum of Modern Art and our holiday party in December.

Our Happy Wanderers and Hearty Hikers keep our heart rates up. Golf outings have generated contributions to community organizations; those outings, along with bowling, pickleball and table tennis, reinforce sporting fellowship. For those who prefer their activities seated, we offer cribbage, Investment Group discussions (which usually reflect the awe and mystery of anticipating the market) and TechTalk sessions, which seek to free those of us who feel like Laocoön of Greek mythology, crushed by the serpentine entanglements of our apps and hardware. Our weekly survey seeks to reveal our perception of ourselves, even as we try not to take ourselves too seriously.

Listing here all who have made this an incredible start of a new year would be a fool's errand. It is easier to urge you to read the whole newsletter (so ably edited by **Mike Kadish** and **Joyce Meurer** from text and photos diligently provided by the DMA's activity leaders) to admire how well we have channeled the experience and expertise of so many of our members for the benefit of the entire organization. If you have an idea for a new activity, just ask, and we will set you up with an opportunity to lead a new group. We encourage all members to provide us with photographs of their participation

in our activities so that we can share them with an even larger audience, demonstrating the involvement of so many DMAers.

Fortunately, we were able to bring the DMA to many in Darien when we were featured as the cover story in the October issue of *Darien Living* magazine — see <https://dariendma.org/wp-content/uploads/Darien-Living-on-DMA-Oct-2025.pdf>. We like to think of many men in Darien as “not yet members” even as our membership number continues to grow, topping out over 350.

There are two notable life events on which I want to spotlight. We celebrated the 100th birthday of **Taylor Strubinger**. Taylor was an early leader of the Happy Wanderers and former editor of the newsletter who still attends our general meetings. And we send our wishes for a full recovery to **Steve McGeachy**, who for a number of years was always there for us in setting up and supporting our meetings at the Darien Community Association (DCA). Steve had to step back from his role at the DCA as a result of health challenges. We miss him, his efforts on our behalf and his good nature.

Finally, you may notice a few changes in the way we communicate with you going forward. We are trying to distinguish among our various approaches to keeping all of you informed and engaged. We are shifting toward making our website the principal location for long-form reports on activities and evergreen content, such as the calendar of events and description of each activity. *This Week at DMA*, the email bulletin you receive at the beginning of each week, will focus on immediately upcoming activities and announcements for future events where advanced planning is needed. The *DMA Newsletter*, published five times a year roughly every two months, will focus on the most recent past events, including photos of activities.

These changes will reduce duplicative materials and redundant editing effort and will provide clarity about where to find the information you need about the DMA’s activities and events. We intend the changes to make our activities more transparent to a public audience while reducing the amount of materials we encourage you to read. We welcome any comments you may have to support our efforts to improve communications.

Ric Grefé
2025–2026 DMA President

New Members

Peter Bowen



Peter Bowen received his B.S. in business administration and management from the University of Maine and an M.S. in accounting from Northeastern University. After graduate school, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army. Two years later, he started at Arthur Andersen in Boston as a certified public accountant. After eight years, he went on to be the chief financial officer of several small companies. In 1980, he went off on his own as a financial consultant, founding the Concord Funding Group, of which he remains president. When his two children moved to Rowayton, his wife and he did as well.

When he was younger, Peter was an avid tennis player and skier. Now he and his wife take pleasure spending time with family, watching their six grandchildren grow up.

Paul Hendrickson



Paul Hendrickson has been a resident of Darien off and on since 1962. He was born in 1951 in Minneapolis and lived in Arkansas and Mississippi prior to moving to Darien. He spent sixth grade in Tokeneke Elementary School, and he graduated from Mather Junior High School in 1966 and from Darien High School in 1969.

He graduated from the U.S Naval Academy in 1973 with a B.S. in mathematics, after which he spent five years on active duty and 25 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve. His shipboard time was in Charleston, S.C., with approximately 50% of the time at sea. Paul spent the last year of his active duty teaching at the Naval ROTC Unit at UCLA.

After leaving active duty, he attended Harvard Business School and graduated in 1980 with an M.B.A. He worked for Westvaco for two years and then IBM for the next 26 years, primarily in financial functions, finishing his career there working in pension plan administration. He took early retirement from IBM in 2008 and spent the next 17 years as the chief financial officer of three school districts in Connecticut — Ridgefield, Plymouth and Trumbull. He retired from Trumbull on June 30, 2025, and currently does interim work for school districts.

In Darien, Paul was a coach for youth basketball and baseball. He is currently a member of the Darien Board of Finance and in prior years was a member of the Board

of Selectmen. His wife Joan is the Darien Town Treasurer. Paul and Joan have a son Robert, who lives in Chicago.

Charles (Chuck) Holek



Chuck Holek was born and raised in Lindenhurst, Long Island. He received a B.S. in business from SUNY Oswego and an M.B.A. in finance from Baruch College. He and his wife Meleisa married in 1986 and have lived in Darien since 1999. They have two daughters, Samantha (31), who resides in San Diego, and Lindsey (28), who resides in Stamford.

Chuck recently retired from New York Life Insurance Company as a corporate vice president after a 40-year career in finance. He is an active member of the Darien United Methodist Church, where he participates in various mission and outreach activities and is a trustee and treasurer. Chuck is an avid Mets fan who follows the team closely and attends several games a year. He also spends his spare time playing pickleball and working out at the gym.

Charles (Chuck) Jackson



Chuck Jackson has lived in Darien since 2003. Prior to that, he lived in Bronxville Village, N.Y. Although Chuck lived in 11 different places growing up, both his and his wife's family are originally from the Boston area; hence his enthusiasm for the Red Sox.

Chuck holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

He retired in 2024 after 36 years with what originally was R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company. Currently, he is mentoring young entrepreneurs through the University of Connecticut Business School's Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, imparting business and business development skills.

Chuck has been a member of Saint Luke's Parish since moving to Darien and served as the church's senior warden from 2017 to 2019. He also was a board member of the Darien Professionals Networking Group.

Beyond community interests, he loves sailing, and he founded a men's book club in 2004 in which author participation is the signature feature. During the past 20 years, the club has included multiple winners of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award.

Tim Moran



Tim Moran recently retired from IBM after a career that spanned over 40 years. In his executive positions in sales and finance, he had the opportunity to travel extensively and visited more than 60 countries. He has an undergraduate degree from St. Bonaventure University, where he received an athletic scholarship for Division 1 basketball. He also has an M.B.A. from Syracuse University and a master's in finance from New York University's Stern School of Business.

Tim recently returned to Darien after living for the past 10 years in Boulder, Colo., and Charleston, S.C., with his longtime girlfriend. Prior to that, he lived in Rowayton for three decades. He enjoys outdoor activities.

Frank Persico



Frank Persico was born and raised in New York City. He has been a resident of Darien for almost 35 years. He received a B.A. from Hunter College, an M.S. in chemistry from Rutgers University and an M.B.A. from New York University. He retired after a long executive career at Pfizer, PricewaterhouseCoopers and, most recently, IBM.

He has two adult children, a son and a daughter, both of whom are products of the Darien school system, and both are married.

Frank is a lifetime learner with a wide range of interests. For fun, he collects and restores art, and he is an avid book reader and collector.

Peter Ritchey



Peter Ritchey is brother to current DMA member Brooks Ritchey and son of the late DMA member Jack Ritchey. Peter was born in 1962, currently lives in Westport and resided in Darien from 1995 to 2005.

His two daughters attended Darien schools. He was elected for three terms to the Darien Representative Town Meeting representing District V and served as secretary of the Town Government, Structure and Administration sub-committee.

During his professional career of more than 40 years, Peter held human resources leadership roles in organizations across four different industries — financial services, telecommunications, IT managed services and retail — and two municipal entities (Norwalk Board of Education and Town of Fairfield). In those roles, he supported and advised individuals ranging from entry-level employees to C-suite executives.

Peter is an active USTA tennis player and competitive sailor. He enjoys competing at the regional level in both sports.

David (Dave) Smith



Dave Smith and his wife Kathleen moved from New Jersey to Darien in July 2025. Dave was raised in Stamford and graduated from Stamford Catholic High School. He received a B.A. in political science from Saint Michael's College in Vermont, an M.A. in Latin American studies from Tulane University and an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a focus in marketing.

Dave started his career in 1975 with General Motors in New York City. He then joined Sterling Drug Company (later purchased by Kodak); after working in its International Division in the New York City headquarters, he had overseas assignments in Mexico, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. In 1981, he joined American Cyanamid Company (now part of Pfizer), in its Wayne, N.J. headquarters. During his 14-year career at American Cyanamid, "la familia Smith" lived in Puerto Rico and Madrid, Spain. The family has fond memories of living overseas, and it's no surprise that Dave speaks fluent Spanish. He worked for Mark E. Smith & Associates in Stamford from 2001–2011, and from 2013–2016 while also serving as an adjunct marketing and management professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in

Teaneck, N.J., Concordia College in Bronxville, N.Y., and Bergen Community College in Paramus N.J.

He retired in 2019 after serving for three years as executive director of The Leo House, a Catholic guesthouse in New York City established in 1889 by a papal certification from Pope Leo XIII, for whom it is named. As executive director, Dave was tasked with enhancing brand recognition. One of the key means to advance that goal was an annual Pope Leo XIII Award Gala, a fundraising event at which the Pope Leo XIII Award was given to Catholic clergy, religious and lay persons or organizations recognized as embodying the ideals and values cherished by Pope Leo XIII.

Dave and Kathleen have three children and have been blessed with nine grandchildren. He still cherishes his interaction and dialogue with students and intends to return to academics as a college professor.

Gregory (Greg) Staples



Greg Staples graduated from Columbia College in 1981 and received an M.B.A. from New York University's Stern School of Business. He retired in 2023 from a long career in institutional asset management, most recently as the head of U.S. Fixed Income for DWS Group.

He moved to the Darien/Norwalk community from New York City with his wife Cristina in 1988. Since then, they've been active within Fairfield County, raising children and pursuing athletic, cultural and broader interests, including gardening, travel, cooking, reading and tennis.

Greg and his wife have two children: Allegra, who lives with her husband John outside of Seattle, raising Greg's three young granddaughters; and Mitchell, who lives in Manhattan and works for a Japanese bank.

Marlon Varsace



Marlon Varsace has resided in Stamford for more than five decades, although he also maintains a residence in Fairfield and lived in Noroton Heights for a brief period. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and is currently a vice president at Charles Schwab Corporation in Stamford, where he provides investment management advice to high-net-worth individuals and to entities such as trusts and corporations. Before joining Charles Schwab, he held a similar role at Merrill Lynch, and before that, he

was at the Westport office of A.G.P./Alliance Global Partners, where he concentrated on advising about investments in foreign currencies, natural resources, commodities and precious metals. He began his career in 2004 at Oppenheimer & Co. in New York City.

Marlon is president and a member of the board of FISH of Stamford, an all-volunteer transportation program that provides rides to medical appointments for Stamford residents who have no other means of reaching health facilities. He is a member of the New Canaan Men's Club and participates in the World Affairs Council of Connecticut.

He recently married his wife Anastassia He has a stepdaughter Jazlyn and a Bengal kitten named Bingo.

Steven Wright



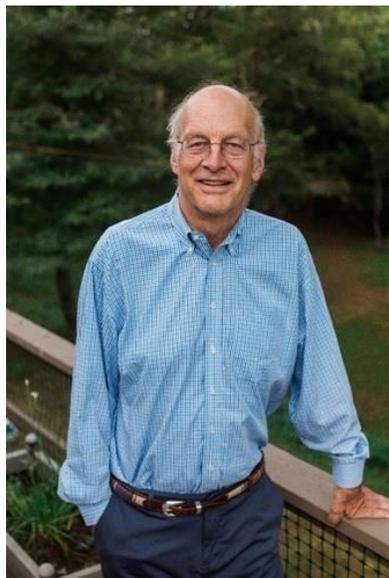
Steven Wright was raised in Darien and has lived here since moving back in 1997. He spends seven months of the year in Palm Coast, Fla., and the summer months in Darien.

He graduated from Darien High School in 1979 and received a B.S. in economics from Middlebury College in 1984. He retired in July 2025 from a career as a managing director of institutional fixed income sales, most recently at Stifel Nicolaus & Company.

Steven and his wife Alison have two adult daughters and an adult son. Steven's hobbies are golf, tennis, pickleball, skiing and boating. His interests include travel, reading, financial markets and investing, and volunteering. He is a member of the Country Club of Darien, the Darien Boat Club and Hammock Dunes Club in Palm Coast, Fla.

In Memoriam

Douglas (Doug) Campbell III



Douglas Campbell III, age 72, passed away on September 2, 2025, at his home in Stamford with his wife and kids at his side after a courageous four-year battle with ALS. He went peacefully thanks to an abundance of love and support from family and friends and because he was able to watch the University of Michigan football team win its first game of the season a few days prior.

The son of the late Douglas Campbell Jr. and Elizabeth MacColl Campbell, Doug was born on March 6, 1953, in Detroit and grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. He graduated from The Hotchkiss School in 1971 and received a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire in 1975. After a stint at the U.S. State Department, he received an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business in 1980.

In 1972, Doug met Gwynne (MacColl) Campbell in Portland, Ore., and in 1978, they became engaged in Italy. They married on Cape Cod a year later and relocated to Darien, where, together, they opened the first Sylvan Learning Center on the East Coast, providing tutoring and test prep for 36 years.

In 1995, Doug founded The Success Coach to help CEOs and their teams reach business goals. Simultaneously, he taught M.B.A. classes for almost two decades at Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University and ran monthly "High Talent Creatives" networking meetings until 2014. In 2019, he helped launch and co-hosted the Stamford Ferguson Library's Entrepreneur in Residence Program.

He served on many local boards, including the Darien Chamber of Commerce, Darien Men's Association, Darien Land Trust and Connecticut's Angel Investment Forum. In recognition of his service to The Hotchkiss Fund, Doug received the school's Armitage Award in 2023. He wrote books titled *Where To Go From Here: Reinventing Your Business and Your Career* and *The 16-28 Solution: Unleash the Passions of Your Youth*. He co-authored *Major Issues of the Law of the Sea* with his professor at the University of New Hampshire after graduating from there.

Doug was most proud of the family that he and his wife raised. He is survived by son Colin and wife Tara Craft and their two daughters, Alma and Chloe, and his daughter Caroline and husband Robert Dickie and their two sons, Brooks and Miller. Doug cherished his grandchildren and loved playing tickle monster and games with them. He

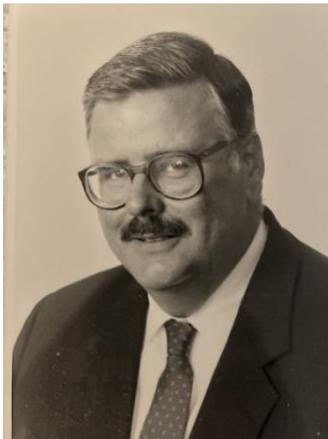
loved coaching Colin and Caroline on their youth ice hockey, baseball and softball teams. A lifelong golfer, fisher, biker, ice skater and swimmer, Doug loved being active and supporting his teams. He spent many summers hiking in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and continued to enjoy the outdoors at the family house in Matunuck, R.I.

Doug was a member of Noroton Presbyterian Church where he served on the missions board and co-founded a multi-denominational men's Bible study group, now in its 18th year. Doug also helped establish micro lending initiatives in Ecuador and El Salvador. He enjoyed his many trips abroad, visiting all continents except Antarctica.

In early 2022, Doug was diagnosed with ALS and vowed to fight the terminal illness with positivity, science, humor and diligence, inspiring his family, friends and business community until the very end.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to [ALS United Connecticut](https://www.alsunitedct.org) (4 Oxford Road, Suite E4, Milford, CT 06460, www.alsunitedct.org) or the Darien Land Trust (5 Brook St., Darien, CT 06820, <https://darienlandtrust.org>).

David Andrew Dever



David Andrew Dever, 83, a Darien resident for 52 years, passed away peacefully at home on October 8, 2025.

The phrase, "whoever dies with the most tools wins" was more than just a motto for David — it was a way of life. A lifelong tinkerer and fixer, he found joy in restoring anything that could be mended, from engines to household gadgets long past their prime. Whether in his garage or his beloved barn in Maine, David was happiest with a wrench in hand and a project to work on. There was not a machine he couldn't coax back to life, including his beloved 1950s Sears Suburban blue tractor once owned by his father and now driven by his grandson.

David possessed many skills that he learned from his father and lovingly passed on to his own children.

Born on June 20, 1942, in Manhattan to the late Elizabeth Sanders and Andrew Joseph Dever Jr., David spent his early years in the city and attended Trinity School before the family moved to Huntington, N.Y. From the age of eight, David spent most of his summers on Bremen Long Island in Maine with his family — a place that inspired his lifelong love of boating and sailing, a passion he proudly passed down to his children and grandchildren. He graduated from Huntington High School and later attended the New York Institute of Technology.

David built a distinguished career in television and motion picture engineering, production and sales. He began at Kleigel Brothers, Inc. in New York City, designing

and selling studio lighting systems, before moving to Washington, D.C., to work for Berkey-Colortran, where he marketed and sold professional lighting equipment for television and film. Among his achievements while in Washington were providing production lighting for Lynda Bird Johnson's White House wedding and serving as lighting designer for the National Shakespeare Festival. It was during his years in Washington that David met the love of his life, Betty Anne Regan.

After their marriage, David and Betty Anne lived in New York City with their beloved Great Dane Heineken, before settling in Darien, where they raised their children Anne and David Jr., alongside a succession of loyal black lab mutts. Among friends who became like family, David was known for his warm and loving personality, quick wit and love of laughter — always up for a good joke and ready to partake in holiday shenanigans.

In New York and Darien, David continued his career at Industrial Video & Control as a broadcast sales engineer, later joining Quantel, where he worked for more than 25 years. At Quantel, he held several leadership positions, including vice president of sales for the New England region and vice president of network sales. Throughout his career, David was an active member of the Illuminating Engineering Society and the Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers (SMPTE), serving on SMPTE's board of governors. He also served on the Technical Emmy Awards Committee of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, David was deeply woven into the fabric of the Darien community. He was an early board member of the Depot Youth Center and remained active long after his children had graduated — often found repairing, maintaining or improving the building and grounds. He played a key role in the early days of the Darien Junior Sailing Program, founded Darien's local television station TV79 and served as commodore of the Darien Boat Club.

David was predeceased by his brother John Dever and his son-in-law Kevin Cullinan. He is survived by his beloved wife Betty Anne, cousin Maribeth Proshan, daughter Anne Cullinan, son David Jr. (Courtney) and five grandchildren: John, Regan, Ryan, Elyse and Michael.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 22, at 1:00 p.m. at Saint Luke's Parish in Darien. In lieu of flowers, donations in David's memory may be made to At Home in Darien, Post 53 or the Depot Youth Center.

Frank Badart Kemp



Frank Badart Kemp of Darien passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2025, due to heart failure.

Born on September 30, 1943, to Blanche and Lemuel Kemp, Frank was raised at their home in Catonsville, Md. He graduated from McDonogh School in Owings Mills, Md., in 1961.

As an American studies major at Yale's Davenport College, he was active in campus programs, especially the Yale Political Union, taking great pleasure in hosting guest speakers of national reputation to a seminar chat, dinner and then presentations to the larger student body.

He enlisted in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps and, upon graduation in 1965, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry. His initial assignment was at Camp Casey, Tongduchon, Korea, 40 miles north of Seoul and near the Demilitarized Military Zone. He started as an infantry platoon leader before being promoted to first lieutenant and the battalion staff. Prior to his discharge from the Army, he taught marksmanship to basic trainees at Fort Dix in New Jersey.

At Columbia University, he earned an M.B.A. in 1969, majoring in finance and information management and was hired into a start-up training program for liberal arts graduates by Arthur Young & Company. There, he learned the consultant's discipline and thrived on projects devoted to computer systems and development.

While at Columbia, he met and courted Judith Ann Budding, who had graduated from Connecticut College while he was in the U.S. Army. Their marriage in the fall of 1969 marked the beginning of 44 years of bliss, starting in Murray Hill and then Brooklyn Heights in New York City, with a final move to Darien in 1987. Once settled in at Seagate Road in Darien, they began their commuting careers, together in the morning but unable to coordinate the timing of their trips home.

With a love for sailing, clearly inherited from his dad, Frank ventured with Judy all over Long Island Sound, enjoying weeks-long cruises to places where they could anchor out and enjoy the sunsets. In later years, the sailing platform was an 18' Marshall catboat, a sturdy craft found mostly in the middle of the pack: neither the first nor the last. After the years of sailing, he recently "went to the dark side" with a sturdy 19' center console boat, taking it to Hartford, the Erie Canal and around Manhattan several times, for the pure joy of it.

Following a career at Arthur Young, Frank served as chief information officer (CIO) for the Municipal Bond Investors Assurance Corporation and the law firm of Mudge Rose

Guthrie Alexander & Ferdun. He completed his career as CIO at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants just after Y2K computer issues were resolved.

On their retirements in 2000, Frank and Judy launched into a most vigorous era of public service projects within Darien. Frank was recognized as a volunteer of the year in 2006, served on the board of Person-to-Person and of the Darien Arts Center and on the vestry of Saint Luke's Parish. He served as president of the Darien Arts Center for several years and as commander of the Darien Sail & Power Squadron. He relished the challenges of organizing the squadron's flare-up session, as well as the boat camp, involving more than 100 camper students and many volunteers' boats.

Upon the loss of Judy in 2013, Frank returned to active participation in yet more civic activity, including teaching boating courses for the Darien Sail & Power Squadron. It has been estimated that he and his colleagues taught and certified more than 3,000 participants for their Connecticut boating license — many of whom remained good friends.

He was one of the longer-serving members of Darien's Representative Town Meeting and was chair of the committee that has been revising the town's charter and ordinances.

He is survived by his partner Margaret MacMillen and a great cloud of honorary nieces and nephews and their kids.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frank's memory to [Person-to-Person](#), 1864 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820, or [East Coast Contemporary Ballet](#), 15 Yew Street, Norwalk, CT 06850.

John (Sandy) McDonald



John “Sandy” McDonald passed away at the end of the summer. Sandy was commodore of the Noroton Yacht Club from 1981 to 1982. During his term, Sandy established a Senior membership category, which opened up the membership cap. When the club hosted the Sears Cup, Sandy developed a group rate to buy J24s for the event. Sandy was a very active one-design sailor in the Ensign and Sonar fleets. Sandy and his wife Gebby were longtime residents of Noroton Bay, where they raised their three sons. They “hosted” the Noroton launch during Superstorm Sandy when it landed in their front yard.

Sandy was honored by the Town of Darien in 2014 for his lengthy service to the harbors and shoreline of Darien. Sandy was one of the town's harbor commissioners and the former chairman of the Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters and was highly instrumental in the dredging of Darien Harbor's channel. He helped keep Darien's town leaders informed on important issues dealing with our local waters, promoting safe boating in the process, and made sure Darien's shorelines reflected the best practices of various state and federal maritime and environmental agencies. Sandy was also awarded The Philip Coddington Moon Award in 1999 for overseeing the dredging of the harbor.

DMA Speakers Program

November–December 2025

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, “An Update from Washington”



Sen. **Richard Blumenthal** will discuss relevant current topics, including Ukraine, AI, veterans, the economy, workforce development, tariffs and manufacturing. Sen. Blumenthal served as a U.S. attorney for Connecticut from 1977–1981. He then served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1984–1987 and the Connecticut State Senate from 1987–1990. From 1991–2011, he served as Connecticut’s attorney general for an unprecedented five terms.

Sen. Blumenthal was sworn in to represent Connecticut in the U.S. Senate in 2011. Having been re-elected in 2016 and 2022, he is serving his third term. He is a member of the U.S. Senate’s Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging. He has built a longtime advocacy for consumers by holding companies accountable for the safety of their products and is working to bring Connecticut’s transportation systems and infrastructure into the 21st century. Working with Connecticut’s congressional delegation, he has secured billions of dollars of federal funding to improve rail safety, promote climate resiliency, and protect Long Island Sound and Connecticut’s rivers and streams.

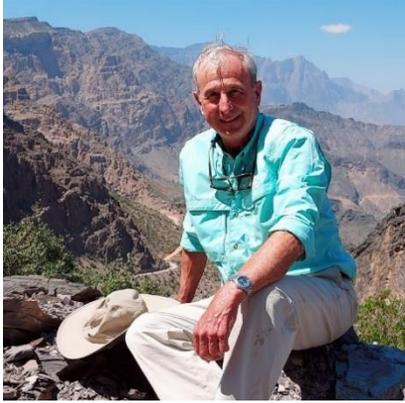
His father, who fled Nazi Germany at age 18, and mother, who left Nebraska’s farmland to become a social worker, raised Sen. Blumenthal with a deep dedication to public service, a duty to give back by helping others and a bedrock belief in hard work. Those values carried him through his childhood and his education at Harvard College and Yale Law School. At Harvard, he was editorial chairman of *The Harvard Crimson* and achieved Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude recognition. In law school, he was editor-in-chief of the *Yale Law Review*. He also worked as assistant to Daniel Patrick Moynihan when he was assistant to the President of the United States.

After graduating from law school in 1973, Sen. Blumenthal clerked for then U.S. District Judge Jon Newman and then for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Sen. Blumenthal then transitioned to lead the staff of Connecticut’s U.S. Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff as an administrative assistant (a position now known as chief of staff).

Arranged by Bob Fiske

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

**G. Warfield “Skip” Hobbs, IV,
“Harnessing Vulcan’s Might: An Overview of Geothermal Energy”**



The earth’s natural heat flow could theoretically provide an unlimited 24/7 “green” energy resource for America’s power generation and heating. For example, Iceland, which sits on a geologic hot spot with more than 200 volcanoes, gets 66% of its primary energy from geothermal sources, including 27% of its electricity and 90% of its residential power. Conversely, geothermal power currently provides only 0.4% of the United States’ electricity generation (3.7 gigawatts), although there is potential to provide 20 times as much (8%) according to some experts.

G. Warfield “Skip” Hobbs will discuss the geology of hydrothermal resources, how the resource is identified and developed, technical and economic barriers, and the traditional and exciting new “enhanced” and “closed loop” geothermal systems. The cost and economics of geothermal power compare very favorably with other renewable energy systems and fossil fuel resources.

Skip is a geologist and founder and managing partner of Ammonite Resources, a firm of international petroleum and mining geotechnical and business consultants that has been headquartered in New Canaan since 1982. He holds a B.S. in geology from Yale College and an M.S. in petroleum geology from Imperial College London’s Royal School of Mines. Prior to founding Ammonite, Skip worked internationally in the 1970s as an exploration geologist for Texaco and Amerada Hess. He has served as an officer of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. From 2004–2012, he served on the Executive Committee of the American Geological Institute, a federation of 50 geoscience professional societies representing more than 250,000 members in every earth science discipline and served as its president from 2010–2011. Skip was also a member of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents in Washington, D.C., from 2009–2024, where he served as co-chair of its Committee on Energy and the Environment and as a board member. He is a fellow of the Geological Society of America.

From 2000–2014, he was a trustee of the New Canaan Nature Center and served as its president from 2012–2014. He writes and lectures frequently on energy economics, energy policy and environmental issues. In his spare time, Skip manages a family farm in Massachusetts that produces organically grown vegetables, honey, maple syrup, grass-fed beef and timber.

Arranged by Doug Bora

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

**Laurence Jurdem, “Making Teddy: The Rough Rider and the Professor
(Theodore Roosevelt and Henry Cabot Lodge)”**



Theodore Roosevelt was a uniquely gifted figure. While he employed his abilities to rise from an unknown New York legislator to become the youngest man ever to assume the presidency in 1901, that rapid success would not have occurred without the assistance of the powerful New Englander Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge. Lodge helped Roosevelt get every job he ever had, including that of being president.

Eight years older than Roosevelt, from a prominent Massachusetts family, Lodge was one of the most calculating, combative politicians of his age. From 1884–1919, Lodge and Roosevelt encouraged one another to mine the greatness that lay within each of them. As both men climbed the ladder of power, Lodge focused on dominating the political landscape of Massachusetts while serving as the future president’s confidant and mentor. That included advising Roosevelt on political strategy while helping him obtain positions in government that would eventually lead to the White House.

Lodge earned four degrees from Harvard, was a widely published historian and a powerful U.S. senator who served from 1893–1924. His close friendship with Roosevelt began in 1884 and lasted their entire lifetime, even surviving Roosevelt’s bolt from the Republican Party in 1912.

Despite the love and respect that existed between the two men, their relationship eventually came under strain. Following Roosevelt’s ascension to what would become a muscular presidency, his desire to expand the social safety net clashed with his friend’s more conservative, partisan point of view. Those tensions finally culminated in 1912, when Lodge’s refusal to support the former president’s independent bid for a third term led to a political breakup that was repaired only by each man’s distaste for the policies of Woodrow Wilson and his Treaty of Versailles. Despite their political disagreements, Roosevelt and Lodge remained devoted friends until the Rough Rider (Roosevelt) took his final breath in 1919.

Laurence Jurdem, Ph.D., is a visiting assistant professor of history at Fairfield University. He is the author of *Paving the Way for Reagan: The Influence of Conservative Media on U.S. Foreign Policy* and *The Rough Rider and the Professor: Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Cabot Lodge and the Friendship that Changed American History*. Laurence’s newest book, *41: George H.W. Bush and the End of the American Establishment*, is scheduled for release in 2026. A frequent writer on American politics,

his articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Laurence lives in Darien.

Arranged by Doug Bora

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Gary Zenkel, President, NBC Olympics



If you love the Olympics, you've watched them exclusively on NBC since 2002 and every Summer Games going back to 1988. A major contributor to that coverage has been Gary Zenkel, who began his Olympic journey with NBC in 1992 and was named president of NBC Olympics in 2005. By the end of an agreement that he spearheaded with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in March 2025, to extend through 2036 the exclusive U.S. media rights of NBC Universal (NBCU) to the Olympics, Gary will have played a critical role in the coverage of 21 Olympic Games [see the table at the end of this bio].

As president of NBC Olympics, Gary oversees the company's Olympic business, planning and operations. He works closely with the IOC, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the organizing committees for each Olympic Games and NBCU's distribution partners, stations and external media companies to advance coverage, distribution and marketing. He does all that while navigating a constantly changing media landscape. We believe he's earned a gold medal for his leadership in providing Olympic coverage in the United States for an astounding number of Games.

In 2024, Gary oversaw the Paris Olympic Games, regarded as one of the most successful in the history of NBCU. The company's coverage from Paris reached 67 million viewers per day across its broadcast, cable and streaming platforms. Fans streamed 23.5 billion minutes of NBCU's coverage— which was 40% more than *all* prior Olympic Summer and Winter Games *combined* — led by Peacock. NBCU's coverage of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games topped the 46th Sports Emmy Awards with 10 wins, including Outstanding Live Special - Championship Event.

Since the acquisition of NBCU by Comcast in 2011, Gary has led three successful media rights agreements with the IOC. The first, in 2011, awarded NBCU the rights to the Sochi 2014, Rio 2016, Pyeongchang 2018 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The second agreement was negotiated in 2014 and granted NBCU the U.S. media rights to all Olympic Games through 2032, making it the longest U.S. media-rights agreement in

Olympic history. The third agreement was completed in March 2025 and awarded NBCU the rights to Salt Lake City 2034 and Olympic Games 2036.

Gary was also instrumental in major soccer acquisitions for NBCU, including Telemundo's exclusive Spanish-language U.S. media rights to FIFA World Cup Soccer from 2015–2026 and NBC Sports' three-season Premier League acquisition in 2013. He served as executive vice president of NBC Olympics from 2001–2005. From 1997–2001, he was senior vice president for business development and marketing for NBC Olympics. Before that, from 1994–1997, Gary was vice president of NBC Sports and executive assistant to NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol, during which time he played a major role in NBC's acquisition, contract negotiations and renewals of the Olympics, French Open, Major League Baseball, Notre Dame Football, PGA Tour, U.S. Golf Association championships and Ryder Cup. He joined NBC Sports in 1990 as director of sports contract negotiations. Prior to joining NBC Sports, he was a corporate law associate with Cahill, Gordon & Reindel, a New York City-based law firm.

Gary graduated from the University of Michigan in 1983 and from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1987. He was a two-year letterman on the Wolverines golf team.

[DMA Note: The following table listing the Olympic Games in which Gary Zenkel played a role in broadcasting illustrates the phenomenal chronological and geographical scope of his efforts.]

1992 Barcelona	2006 Torino	2016 Rio de Janeiro	2026 Milan Contina
1996 Atlanta	2008 Beijing	2018 Pyeongchang	2028 Los Angeles
2000 Sydney	2010 Vancouver	2020 Tokyo	2030 French Alps
2002 Salt Lake City	2012 London	2022 Beijing	2032 Brisbane
2004 Athens	2014 Sochi	2024 Paris	2034 Salt Lake City
Note: 1994 and 1998 Winter Games were broadcast on CBS.			

Arranged by Mike Wheeler

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

**Carla Gambescia,
“Unexpected Stories behind Beloved Christmas Traditions”**



Carla Gambescia is an award-winning author, lecturer, travel journalist and photographer who will discuss the fascinating history of our Christmas traditions. Get in the Christmas spirit early, as the DMA holiday party will be held on the same day as Carla’s presentation.

Have you ever wondered how some of our most cherished holiday traditions came to be? For example, where does the custom of giving presents originate, and why do we hang stockings by the chimney? Why do we decorate Christmas trees with candy *canes* and not candy *rings*? The ritual celebrations we hold closest to our heart have themselves been subject to considerable improvisation over the centuries.

Santa Claus has had a much longer historical journey with far more twists and turns than his annual one-night circumnavigation known to billions. The progenitor of today’s Santa was born in the eastern Mediterranean region — not in Europe — at the time of the Roman Empire. His legend evolved over the centuries as far away as northern Europe. But who was the ancestor of Santa? How did he evolve into the modern-persona of a rotund, jolly old fellow in a red suit who brings Christmas presents down a chimney to children? Various known through history as Santa Claus, Sinter Klaus or Kris Cringle, you’ll be surprised to learn that he was originally St. Nicholas of Bari who was a bishop in what is today’s Turkey.

Carla spoke to the DMA in 2019 about her book *La Dolce Vita University: An Unconventional Guide to Italian Culture from A to Z* and then again in 2022 about Italian culture. She has written about and toured every region of Italy on foot or by bicycle and conceived and co-led the Giro del Gelato bicycle tour, which *Outside* magazine rated a Best Trip in Western Europe. For eight years, she owned and operated Via Vanti! Restaurant & Gelateria in Mount Kisco, which won plaudits for its innovative Italian cuisine, extraordinary gelato (named Best Gelato Shop in New York), and ongoing program of culinary and cultural events.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

ACTIVITIES

Updated information about Activity Groups' meeting times and events can be found by using the following link to the calendar of scheduled events on the DMA website: dariendma@gmail.com.

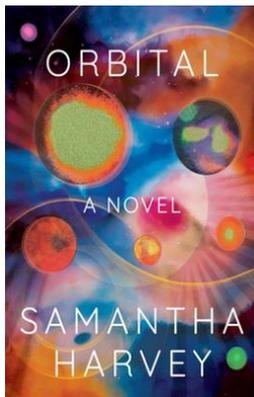
Book Group Selections November 2025–January 2026

If you enjoy reading and discussing books you have read, then you should join the DMA Book Club. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June from 2–3 p.m. in the Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor of the Darien Community Center (274 Middlesex Road). 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 club's mailing list, contact group leaders **Rick Agresta** at richard.agresta@gmail.com or **Jim Phillips** at jpinvest66@gmail.com.

The Darien Library supports the activities of the Book Club by furnishing up to 10 copies of many of the chosen books. In light of the broad range of DMA book selections, the library is not always able to supply our group with enough copies, and, in those situations, members need to obtain the book from other local libraries or purchase their own copy.

The following are the Book Club's selections for discussion on the Wednesdays of **November 12** and **December 10** in 2025 and **January 14** in 2026.

Orbital by Samantha Harvey (November 12)



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

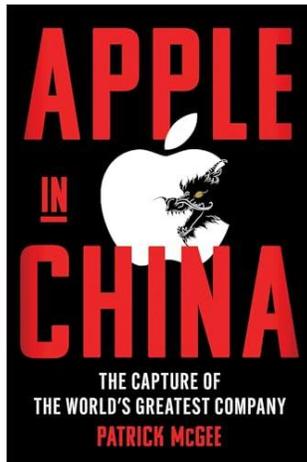
It is the fictional account of a team of astronauts on the International Space Station. Its members collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body — but mostly they observe. Together, they watch their silent blue planet, circling it 16 times, spin past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

Although separated from the world, the astronauts cannot escape its constant pull. When news reaches them of the death of a mother, it sparks thoughts of returning

home. The team members look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe of its magnificence and fearful of its destructive force.

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

***Apple in China: The Capture of the World's Greatest Company* by Patrick McGee
(December 10)**



This is a riveting look at how Apple helped build China's dominance in electronics assembly and manufacturing only to find itself trapped in a relationship with an authoritarian state making ever-increasing demands.

Apple isn't just a brand; it's the world's most valuable company and creator of the 21st century's defining product. The iPhone has revolutionized the way we live, work and connect. But Apple is now a victim of its own success, caught in the middle of a new cold war between two superpowers.

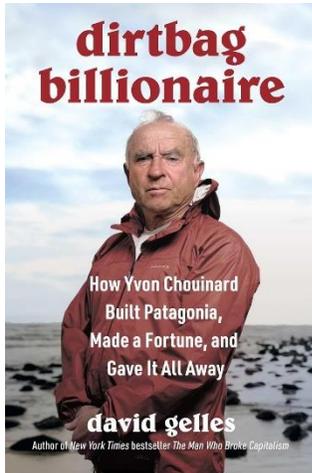
On the brink of bankruptcy in 1996, Apple made a strategic move to offshore its operations. By 2003, it was being lured to China by the promise of affordable labor that allowed the company to churn out premium products at an unprecedented scale. For years, the Silicon Valley giant sent thousands of America's top engineers to China and spent tens of billions of dollars on equipment, spurring the transformation of a cheap labor country into the world's most sophisticated electronics manufacturing powerhouse.

Now 90% of iPhone assembly happens in China. Despite capturing less than 20% of the global smartphone market, Apple's operations allow it to rake in 80% of the sector's profits. Beijing, however, has tightened its grip, incentivizing Apple to work with more Chinese companies in its production, exerting control over what Chinese users can do on the iPhone and requiring customer data for its citizens to be stored in state-backed data centers. The visionary company that Steve Jobs dreamed of finds itself in a tight spot. No other nation can match China's quality, volume and flexibility as a producer of nearly half a billion iGadgets yearly. Apple isn't keen to abandon a market where it generates more profit than even China's own tech giants.

Investigative journalist Patrick McGee draws on 200 interviews with former Apple executives and engineers to reveal how the company's choice to anchor its supply chain in China has increasingly made Apple vulnerable to the regime's whims. Both an insider's historical account and a cautionary tale, *Apple in China* is the first history of Apple to go beyond the biographies of its top executives and set the iPhone's global domination within an increasingly fraught geopolitical context.

Dirtbag Billionaire: How Yvon Chouinard Built Patagonia, Made a Fortune, and Gave It All Away by David Gelles

(January 14, 2026)



New York Times reporter and bestselling author **David Gelles** reveals how Patagonia became a global leader in doing well by doing good and how other companies are adopting its principles.

This is the inside story of one of the most extraordinary brands in the corporate world, the rare company that is driven by environmental activism instead of cutthroat capitalism. Founded in 1973, Patagonia has grown into a wildly popular producer of jackets, hats and fleece vests, with a cultlike following among hardcore alpinists and Wall Street traders alike, posting sales of more than \$1 billion a year.

But it's not just the clothes that make Patagonia unique. For decades, the company has distinguished itself as a singular beacon for socially responsible business, the rare company that can legitimately claim to be doing its damndest to make the world a better place while also making a profit. From its early efforts to take exemplary care of its employees, to its extensive work trying to clean up its supply chain, to its controversial activism, Patagonia has set itself apart from its peers with one unorthodox decision after another, proving that there is another way to do capitalism.

Patagonia's founder, the legendary rock climber Yvon Chouinard, lies at the heart of the story. A perennial outsider who forged one of the most impressive resumes in the outdoor world, Chouinard also established himself as a pivotal figure in the history of American business. Guided by his anti-authoritarian streak and his unwavering commitment to preserving the natural world, Patagonia came to exert a powerful influence on other companies, paving the way for a new era of social and environmental responsibility. He started out as a dirtbag — a term affectionately bestowed on poor, itinerant outdoorsmen so uninterested in material possessions they are happy to sleep in the dirt — and he became a billionaire.

Chouinard also proved that there was another way to be a philanthropist. In the twilight of his career, he gave away Patagonia, renouncing his wealth and committing all its future profits to fight the climate crisis.

Drawing on exclusive access to Chouinard and the Patagonia team, *Dirtbag Billionaire* offers new insights into the key moments that informed their priorities, shaped the company and sent ripples across the corporate world.

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!

For details about the bowlers’ recent exploits, see the Bowling Report at the end of this newsletter.

Tom Lom: tomlom1@aol.com

Community Service



The DMA, led by its Community Service Committee chaired by **John Craft**, strives to create increased awareness of charitable

organizations in our area and to make members aware of potential volunteer opportunities at these entities. In addition, we engage in annual events to support certain charitable causes, including At Home in Darien in addition to those detailed below.

Wreaths Across America

DMA members have volunteered annually for the wreath-laying ceremony at Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery, across the street from the Darien Library. This year’s ceremony will 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.wreathscrossamerica.org/>; the location code is CTSGVD. Captain Carter stresses that your donation goes further if you sponsor a wreath through any of the outstanding organizations listed on that website that raise funds on behalf of the cemetery. Captain Carter is available to answer any questions by email at 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 **December 20, 21 and 22**. 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. John Craft 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 raising money for a good cause and increasing the DMA’s profile in our community. We look forward to getting volunteers to fill all the

times that Palmer's allocates to our bell ringers.

Pickleball Fundraiser for At Home in Darien

At Home in Darien is hosting a Pickleball fundraising event on Saturday, **November 8, 2025**, from 5–8 p.m. at Pickleball America in Stamford. The cost is \$75 per participant (reflecting a \$25 discount for DMA members) and includes play, lessons from pros, food, beer, wine and soft drinks. Register through At Home in Darien on its website at <https://athomeindarien.org/pickleball-event> or by phone at (203) 655-2227.

For information about organizations that are supported by DMA members and that serve our community, see the DMA website at <https://dariendma.org/category/community-service/>.

John Craft: jcraft123@gmail.com

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 this card game.

Playing cribbage is a fun, educational and social activity.

Cribbage is challenging and fast. A game typically takes 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

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.

The topic and Zoom link for each of the November and December meetings will be published in the edition of *This Week at DMA* for the week during which the meeting will be held.

Barry Silver: silver.barry@gmail.com

Golf



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

True hosted an outing at Woodway Country Club on **October 3**. See photo and commentary in the Activities Annex at the end of this section. The group will recess until spring.

Bob McGroarty: rgmcg@me.com
Cliff van Voorhees: civanv@gmail.com
Jerry Crowley: jerrycrowley4@gmail.com
Steve True: rstrue123@gmail.com.

Happy Wanderers



The next planned wanderings are to Governor's Island on **November 20** and to downtown Brooklyn and the

New York Transit Museum on **December 11**. Further details will be

announced. See the Activities Annex at the end of this section for photos of the wandering to City Island in the Bronx on September 18.

This will be the last Happy Wanderers newsletter posting from **David Mace** and **Joe Spain**. We thank them for their steadfast and enthusiastic service over the past years — a cursory search of past newsletters reveals they've led the group or some wanderings since at least 2017. We're sure that **Chet Cobb** and **Harry Bergen** will uphold the group's tradition of camaraderie and joy.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking



We endeavor to schedule each hike on a specific Thursday each month to minimize conflicts with other DMA events. Family members and guests are welcome. Our next hike will be on **November 20** at a location to be announced.

Photos and commentary about our first hikes of the year at Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Pleasantville, N.Y., on September 11 and at the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, N.Y., on October 9 follow in the Activities Annex at the end of this section.

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please signal your interest by emailing **Lee Morrison** at lee06820@gmail.com. For more information, contact **Alec Wiggin** at alec@aared.com or **Geoff Schnider** at gschnid@icloud.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 summarizing the macro outlook. Then he opens the floor to discussion of different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are considering acquiring. Group participation and interaction are encouraged.

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

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



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

Jim Bragg: jamesbragg77@gmail.com

David Claiborne:

dclaiborne44@gmail.com

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



The group is at capacity with 40 exuberant and enthusiastic members but has a waiting list and continues to try to find ways to let new members join.

Games are played 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.

For photos and commentary about the group's September 4 picnic at Pear Tree Point Beach, see the Activities Annex at the end of this section.

Jan Selkowitz:

jankariselkowitz@gmail.com

Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com

Social Events



The Social Events Committee plans and executes various activities from September through June, including the annual holiday party in December and picnic at Weed Beach in June.

The Social Events Committee's first event of the year — tour of The Museum of Modern Art in New York City and lunch at the Grand Central Oyster Bar & Restaurant — was scheduled for October 28, too late for photos and commentary to appear in this

newsletter. We'll save that for the January-February edition.

The annual holiday party will be held Wednesday, **December 17, 2025**, at The Country Club of Darien starting at 5:30 p.m. **Gab Kallay** will again play Christmas and other music during the cocktail hour, and the **Camerata Singers**, an ensemble of 7th and 8th grade students from Middlesex Middle School, will reprise last year's after-dinner performance.

The signup sheet for the holiday party will be available at the DMA general meetings beginning on November 12. The cost is the same as last year, \$70 per person.

This price includes passed hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, two bottles of house wine (one red and one white) on each table of 10 and the live musical entertainment described above. Tickets for additional glasses of house wine or mixed drinks (\$12 per ticket) and tickets for a domestic or imported beer (\$7 per ticket) may be purchased at or in advance of this event.

The deadline for signup and receipt of payment to attend the party is December 3. The event sold out last year and is expected to be popular again, so we encourage members who want to be assured of attending to sign up and pay by check at the November 12 or November 19 general meeting.

Payment for the cost of this event and tickets for any pre-purchased drinks may be made by a check payable to the DMA. For those who do not pay when signing up, checks may be mailed to the Darien Men's Association, c/o Darien

Community Association, 274 Middlesex Road, Darien, CT 06820, Attention: Chet Cobb.

DMA members who have questions should contact **Chet Cobb** at chetlc@aol.com or **Ted Helms** at thelms125@gmail.com. Contact Ted if you would like to join the Social Events Committee or suggest an event.

Table Tennis: Mather Center, Mondays at 12:30–1:30 p.m., Thursdays at 10–11:30 a.m., Fridays at 12:30–2:15 p.m.



DMA Table Tennis meets at the Mather Center in the exercise studio (Room 209).

Our Monday time slot is back by popular demand!

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

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 competency, as well as those who want to learn from participants with more expertise.

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.

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 DMA members to join and welcomes new pieces upon which to labor. If you enjoy working with your hands, this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools,

technology and equipment that we get to use for free.

Our woodworkers 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.

ACTIVITIES ANNEX

Report on DMA Activities since the Last Newsletter

DMA Cares

At our general meeting on October 15, we celebrated the 100th birthday of DMA member **Taylor Strubinger**. Our thanks go to the event organizers **George Gilliam** and **Alex Garnett** — especially for the cake. We thank **David Mace**, the current co-leader of the Happy Wanderers, for his heartfelt and witty speech covering the contributions Taylor made over the years to the DMA activities, with a focus on the various wanderings he led. We sang “Happy Birthday” and “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.” Here are photos of the celebration.



This photo of Taylor's birthday cake was taken by Tom Igoe.



This photo of Dave Mace (right) with Taylor Strubinger and his son-in-law was taken by **Joe Spain**.



Harry Bergen and Tom Igoe lead the DMA to sing *Happy Birthday* to Taylor Strubinger.
Photo by Joe Spain



Photo by Joe Spain

Golf

This is a photo of 19 of the 26 DMA members who participated in the golf outing at Woodway Country Club on October 3. The other seven golfers were still playing when the photographed members gathered for the photo at lunch.



Photo by Bob McGroarty

Happy Wanderers

These photos of the Wanderers at the Boatyard Condominiums at the outset of their trek to City Island in the Bronx on September 18 and at lunch were taken by **Gregory Glashan** — thanks, Gregory!



Hiking

These are photographs of the hearty hikers who circumnavigated Swan Lake at Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Pleasantville, N.Y., on September 11. We thank **Marilyn Parker** and **Lorry Given** for these wonderful photos. The group enjoyed lunch at Pubstreet in Pleasantville so much that no one remembered to snap a photo.



Photo by Marilyn Parker



We started in the forest, then hiked through the meadow. Photo by Marilyn Parker



At a crossroads, leaders keep us on the right trail. Photo by Marilyn Parker



*Tom and Susan Igoe check the trail map.
Photo by Marilyn Parker*



Photo by Lorry Given

Here are photographs of the hike on the Reservation Loop Trail in the southwest area of the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, N.Y., on October 9.



The hale and hearty Hikers gather at the beginning of the Reservation Loop trail. Photo by Lorry Given



Hikers gather around the Bear Rock petroglyph.
Photo by **Mike Kadish**



*Hikers trudge uphill on Reservation Loop trail.
Photo by Mike Kadish*

Pickleball

On September 4, the DMA pickleball group held its second annual picnic at Pear Tree Point Beach. It was a huge success, and we shared good food along with our usual camaraderie. Mother Nature threw in a beautiful evening. We thank **Art Baron**, **Bob Conologue**, **Frank DeLeo** and **Jan Selkowitz** for setting up tables and being the evening's chefs, but we especially thank chief organizer **Jack Dearie**, who performed the lion's share of the work. We thank **Min Selkowitz** for the following photos of the event.





This is the volunteer crew responsible for the picnic: Front row, left to right: Jack Dearie, Frank DeLeo, Jan Selkowitz. Back row: Art Baron, Bob Conologue.



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

Tuesday, September 2

It's always a pleasure to begin another season of DMA bowling — not because of our scores but because it's good to see friends we've not seen for three months! Today, we made a new friend, as Professor **Ed Schechter** brought along another good (and nice) senior bowler from Stamford with whom Ed bowls at other times of the week. A big welcome goes to **Ed Smith**. Ed Sm wasted no time establishing himself, bowling a 512 series with a 195 in game two.

Eight other bowlers got into the action, and there were a number of other highlights. **Ben Briggs** rolled a 173 in game one on his way to a 404 series. **Bill Tamme** had a 195 in game two, ending up with a 486 (+51). **George Gilliam's** 483 was also +51, thanks to a 187 in game two. **Ted Helms** was unusually consistent with a 478 (+40). **Frank DeLeo** had three nice games for a 515 series. Then there was the Commish — Tom started with a clunker of a first game and appeared totally lost, even rolling two gutter balls; but the Professor suggested a move to the outside, and things turned around with a 201 and a 196 for a 541 series.

Split of the Day went to Bill, who converted a 5-7. We also had our first Ben Briggs Spare (BBS) of the year (but I can't recall who made it).

I look forward to several more bowlers joining us next week after allowing various injuries a little time to heal. Please bring along a dollar bill as Nutmeg has raised our price to \$16. We can't complain, given that we had no increase for the prior two years.

Tuesday, September 9

Even without three of our avid regulars, we had 13 bowlers show up ready for action. As was the case last week, we had a new bowler join our merry band: **Dave Smith** (not to be confused with Ed Smith). Dave is a new DMA member who introduced himself to me at last week's general meeting. While it's been a loooong time (50 years) since he last bowled, Dave was eager to give it a go with us on Tuesday mornings, and we are delighted to have him join us.

In keeping with the lead comment from last week, it was good to see several other guys after our summer off. **George Hawes** was in the house, along with **John Bassler**. **Frank Gallagher** joined us for the first time since his shoulder operation last May even though his doctor said no bowling with that right shoulder until January. Not to be denied, what did Frank do? He bowled lefty! Clever as he is, he asked for help from Ed Sc (not to be confused with Ed Sm).

John Kammerman made an early-season appearance, which brought smiles to many faces. Sadly, he tweaked his right shoulder and had to "retire" after one game. Maybe Frank G can give John a tip on rehab. And we saw **Marty Milewski** for the first time after he spent much of the summer at the South Jersey shore.

I write all this social update to delay having to discuss today's bowling results. Three bowlers went away fairly content: John B at +12, Bill at +22 and George G at +29. Bill and George both had a Ben Briggs spare. One guy walked out feeling very happy, and that would be the Commish. Despite having splits in the 10th frame of games two and three, he bowled a 594 series, including a 211 in the third.

Happily, Nutmeg gave us a third pair of lanes. Unhappily, with both **Gehr Brown** and Ben out, we didn't have a third deck of cards. But we improvised by having 13 guys split between two games. So with six or seven quarters on the line per game, a lot was at stake. 😊

Tuesday, September 16

Just seven bowlers today, but the competition was still strong.

Some days we get off to a flying start, but other days not so much, and so it went for a few of us who started slowly but ended well. George G started poorly in game one, but his 184 in game two helped him to a 463 (+37). We should mention that George's day included not one but two BBSs. 😊 Frank D started slowly, but his 185 in game three helped him salvage a 479 series. Marty's 182 in the third got him to a 476 series. And Tom's 202 in the third got him to a 529 series despite a 139 in the middle game.

There were lots of splits left today. Two noteworthy conversions were a 5-10 by Ed Sm and a 4-5-7 by Bill.

The team game had Team Frank (BB, GG, E Sm, FD) and Team Tom (BT, MM, TL) split the first two with Team Tom taking game three by just 14 pins.

With seven bowlers, we had just one poker hand, which made Marty happy twice and George happy once.

Tuesday, September 23

I'm happy to say that the size of our group is now such that on any given Tuesday, we get a good turnout even when several of our regulars are absent. So it was again today as we had 10 bowlers.

I'm also happy to report that two of those who carry lower averages had a good day

— John B, whose series was +24, and George H, whose series was +39. That said, Bowler of the Day (BoD) honors have to go to **Alex Garnett**, who made his first appearance of the season and who bowled a very fine 514 series for +43. Let me hear a "Yeah, baby!" Other "plus" series were rolled by Ted (+9) and by Tom, who had high game of 207 and high series of 567 (+15). "Lefty" Frank G improved from last week on his experiment as a left hander. Alas, Mr. Anonymous had a 299, which was -109, one of several "minus" results.

There were two BBS frames.— one by George H and one by Lefty. Two nice split conversions were made, one by Tom (3-6-7-10) and the other by Alex (5-8-10).

We had a very tight team competition today as Team Frank D (JB, GG, TH, DS) got 10 pins from Team Tom (AG, FG, GH, BB). All three games were close. Game one went to Team TL by 16. Game two went down to the final frame with Team Frank D holding a two-pin advantage. After Tom finished spare/strike, Frank D needed a spare/9 to win — which is exactly what he got. In game three, Team Frank D went out to a big early lead as both Ted and GG started off with doubles. Their lead dwindled bit by bit, though, and they lost by seven pins. Talk about "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat!" Well, there's always next week. 😊

Tuesday, September 30

With a traffic accident at I-95's Exit 18 causing significant delays, today's festivities got off to a late start. For some, the wait was worth it; others should have stayed home. We'll never know for the one bowler who forgot to bring his bowling ball and went home. 😊

Let's start with the first group. Frank D was on fire most of the morning. He started with the day's high game — a 198 in game one

in which he had a triple AND a double. He started game three with a four-bagger on his way to a 190. To say he was disappointed with a 538 (+40) high series would be an understatement. George G's third game of 192 helped him to a 493 series (+55). He was especially sad that Ben had a conflict today. Our BoD was one of our nonagenarians, Professor Ed Schechter. Ed had a 489 series, his best in some time, which was +75! It is noteworthy that his score improved from game to game to game ... not bad for a super senior. Super-duper, I'd say.

In the "should have stayed home category," Mr. Anonymous had a 489 series (-60), thanks to a game one in which he started with five opens in a row. The only good news was that Mr. A somehow managed to win all three poker games on his lanes, including one hand with a pair of threes!

We had no BBSs today but did have three nice spare conversions by George G (3-10), Alex (3-10) and Tom (9-10).

The team competition was another close battle. Frank D's team (FD, AG, E Sc, GH, DS) gave 50 pins to Team Tom (TL, GG, FG, E Sm). Game one was a runaway for Frank D's squad. Game two saw them win by "only" 19, which gave Tom's team the cajónes to go double or nothing. When Frank D started his third game with a four-bagger, things looked bleak for the doublers. But when the dust settled, Tom's team squeaked home with the win.

Tuesday, October 7

Many thanks go to the bowlers who arrived a little early to accommodate the Commish and his need to get to a noon golf date. Ten bowlers showed up and provided lots of material for this report, as seven bowled at or above average!

Let's start with George G, who bowled three games within five pins of each other and was +1. Marty started out with a 196 on his way to a 498 series for +24. "Lefty" Frank G was +39, continuing his week-over-week improvement as a lefty. Ben's first game of 171 put him on his way to a +46. Ed Smith had the day's high series of 553, for +61. On any other day, Bill's 510 for +75 would earn him BoD honors. But on this day, BoD had to go to Dave Smith. Recall from the September 9 report that until last month, Dave hadn't bowled in 50 years. The average score of his first three sessions was 71. Today, Dave broke 100 twice and had a 312 series, which was +99! At least a bit of credit must go to Dave's teammate for the day, Marty, who gave some tips along the way. So we gave Marty the designation of "Graduate Teaching Assistant" at the Professor Schechter Bowling Institute.

Ben and George G resumed their game three match for a quarter. It looked like Ben had the game wrapped up until he opened in the 10th, while George got a double to pocket the coinage. Speaking of coinage, Team Tom lost its double-or-nothing game three to Team Ed, which included George G. As we were packing up, George was asking Tom whether some of his team needed to pay up. George had neatly arrayed five piles of quarters for each team member, some but not all with six quarters. Needing another six quarters to fill out the piles, George held out his hand. The "shortage" was resolved when Tom pointed out that each pile only required four quarters, so there was in fact no shortage. Nice try anyway, George. 🤔

Tuesday, October 14

We had 14 bowlers today. As is often the case with our bowling group, a bowler returning after a layoff seems to do well — and so it was today.

Joining us for the first time this season were **Woody Spurgeon** and **Mike Ryan**. Woody bowled a +18 series, and Mike scored +46 — a pretty good start for both. Also continuing his improved bowling was last week's BoD Dave, who this week was +98! While worthy of another BoD, he had to defer this week to George G., who had today's high game (201) and high series (547), which was +91, making George our BoD. Well done to all.

Other noteworthy accomplishments included split conversions by George G (2-7), Ted (3-10), Tom (5-7), Mike (2-7-10), Dave (4-5) and Bill (9-10) — and Ben had a BBS!

The final highlight of the day was our group celebration (see photo) of a milestone birthday for Ted, who turned 70 last week.



Photo by Tom Lom

Both the Professor and Woody, our resident nonagenarians, thought that Ted should be in diapers at only 70 😊 — but nevertheless it is a special milestone.

Tuesday, October 21

Bill Tamme led the charge today in the Commish's absence, as 13 bowlers took part. Looking at the scoresheets, the Commish awards no BoD. High series went to Ted at 466, with Marty close behind at 462. George G had high game of 187. A kudo (with a small k) goes out to John B for rebounding from last week's bummer of a day, knocking down 93 pins more than he did last week — a reminder to us all that there is always next week.

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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