



Newsletter

Vol. 45, No. 1

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

Darien Men's Association

September-October 2022

President's Message

We all look back on our childhood when September was "Back to School." Although we probably wouldn't have admitted it at the time, we likely anticipated the return as an opportunity to catch up with our friends, to engage in sports and other school-sponsored activities, and to be challenged mentally.

Think of the upcoming 2022-2023 DMA season in a similar fashion, with the added advantage that there are no report cards, and members can pick and choose from a wide array of activities according to their interests. In common, we have an opportunity to be engaged, to enjoy good fellowship and to have fun.

Not that there weren't opportunities over the summer. While reduced, our summer schedule included a number of activities that enjoyed a high participation rate. At the end of May, **Frank DeLeo**, assisting **Jan Selkowitz** as head of Social Events, arranged for 20 members and their spouse to enjoy a boat trip on Long Island Sound, with Norwalk Maritime Center staff providing a lecture as we enjoyed being on the water.

A highlight as always was the June picnic at Weed Beach, ably led as in prior years by **Alex Garnett**. **Bob Smith's** son provided the music - accompanied this year by a ukulele serenade from **Geoff Rezek** and **Harry Bergen**, with vocals from our president emeritus **Bryan Hooper**.

In late July, **Alex Garnett** reported with pride that our golfers prevailed over our rival, the New Canaan Men's Club, by a single stroke (15½ to 14½) in our annual competition at Silvermine. **Bob McGroarty** reported that another highly enjoyable golf outing was held at the Country Club of Darien in August, hosted by member **Tom Lom**. At the end of August, **Peter Carnes** hosted a golf outing at Sterling Farms.

Other summer activities included Bridge, captained by **John Podkowsky**, and Pickleball, organized by **Jan Selkowitz**. The Investment Discussion Group, led by **Jim Phillips**, traded insights during an uncertain market environment. In anticipation of a September 14 book discussion, **Harris Hester** and **Tom Igoe** encouraged members to tackle the well-written but formidable 960-page biography of Ulysses S. Grant, written by Ron Chernow.

And now we can look forward to an active new season with **Tom Igoe** lining up an impressive list of speakers for our regular Wednesday morning meetings, **Mark Nunan** and **Mike Wheeler** developing ideas for current affairs discussions, **Dave McCollum** and **Bob Plunkett** identifying hiking expeditions, and **Joe Spain** and **David Mace** planning Happy Wanderers expeditions. This is in addition to the full range of our other activities: Book Club, Bowling, Bridge, Cribbage, the Investment Discussion Group, Money Matters, Pickleball and Woodworking. **Frank DeLeo** is identifying community service activities, an important mission of the DMA and a personally rewarding service opportunity for our members.

As we enter the 2022-2023 season, the DMA has never been stronger in terms of membership levels, participation rates and the range of activities ably led by so many of our members. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities.

This is going to be a great year!

Charles Salmans
President

New Members

Jody Hotchkiss



Jody Hotchkiss was born in New Haven in 1955 and grew up in Greenwich. He went to St. Paul's School in New Hampshire. After failing his first pre-med course at Colby College, he eventually graduated with a degree in art history. He first eked out a living at the art book publisher Clarkson Potter, which became profitable only in later years when the company decided to publish the lifestyle books of little-known Westport resident Martha Stewart. Jody left New York to volunteer in the Peace Corps building schools on the equator in Gabon, West Africa (and not a single day of his two years in Africa felt hotter than August in NYC). Returning to New York, Jody worked for studio boss Alan Ladd, Jr., at MGM Studios, eventually becoming the vice president of

East Coast Production and working on movies such as "Moonstruck" and "A Fish Called Wanda." With the sale of MGM to Ted Turner, Jody sensed that regime change was coming when the Academy Award winning producer Darryl Zanuck, Jr., and his wife Lilly waltzed into Jody's office at 1350 Avenue of the Americas and started to measure for drapes (really!). Jody then worked as a literary agent at Sterling Lord Literistic finding articles, books and plays to sell for TV and movies such as "The Day After" and "Goodfellas." After his Darien next door neighbor from Cantor Fitzgerald died on 9/11, Jody questioned his own life/career and opened Hotchkiss & Associates Literary Agency in New York. Now with the name Hotchkiss Daily & Associates, the company has celebrated its 20th anniversary, representing movies such as "American Gangster" and "The Wizard of Lies."

Jody has been married to his wife Kris for 31 years (and friends still mix up their gender-neutral names). He has three children: Sophie in Copenhagen, Graham in New York and Leah in San Francisco. His grandchildren (so far) are Bjørn and Ada. Jody especially loves cycling in Switzerland and France, sailing in Michigan and kayaking in Long Island Sound.

Sunil Sharma



Sunil Sharma was born and grew up in India and left for Germany for a better future on his own at the age of 20 in 1980. He spent the initial part of his career as a software engineer using SAP software that he learned in Germany after his undergraduation from Cologne Business College – Germany. He moved to the United States in 1994 as an experienced SAP software engineer.

About 20 years ago, he embarked on a new ambition (career-wise) to study finance and global markets in the United States. It involved full-time M.B.A. studies (finance) at Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Ariz. Subsequently, he achieved his CFA charter and CFP designation and then founded his own RIA as an independent financial planner/money manager.

Sunil lives in Darien with his wife Neenu. He has two children: a son (21) who is a student at Fordham and a daughter (15) a DHS high schooler.

He is very excited to be an active member of DMA going forward. He enjoys skiing, hiking, gardening and the study of global financial markets.

In Memoriam

Roland J. Holub

DMA member Rollie Holub passed away on July 21, 2022. The service was private. He was predeceased by his wife and is missed by family and friends.

Richard K. Jewett

DMA member Kirk Jewett passed away August 3, 2022, while residing in Mclean, Va. He was 96 years old. The service was private. As his son Richard writes to us, "He was a devoted member of the DMA, believed strongly in its mission, enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship of meetings and outings, and always spoke highly of his time with you all."

Walter "Wally" McCurdy

Walter R. McCurdy, beloved husband of the late Marijane McCurdy, died at age 95 in Palm City, Fla., on June 26, 2022. He was married for 58 years and the father of five. To all who knew him, he was a man of enthusiasm, of faith in God and one who had a great love of his fellows.



The son of Walter F. and Irene McCurdy, Wally was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1926. Wally met Marijane while a lifeguard at Breezy Point. They married in July 1951 and thereafter resided in California followed by Darien and New Canaan. After retirement, they moved to Stuart, Fla., for the last 30 years.

Wally is survived by his children: Bonnie, Mary, Wally, Jr., and his wife Diane; Loraine and her husband Bob Little. He was predeceased by his wife Marijane in 2009 and his son, Matthew, in 2018. In addition, he had six grandchildren who will miss their beloved "Pop Pop" very much: Lila and her husband, Drew Capra; Cade, Johnny and Patrick McCurdy; Redmond and Matthew Little. All of us owe our sense of humor to our dad who loved to joke and could appreciate fun in most things. Walter is also survived by his sister Irene Hanratty and predeceased by his brothers, Dr. Richard McCurdy, and Reverend William McCurdy, S.J.

Wally was a member of Holy Redeemer R.C. Church in Stuart, Fla. He was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis and had been a lector and a minister of Holy Communion for many years. In addition, he loved golfing at Silvermine Golf Club and the Ocean Club in Stuart, sailing at Noroton Yacht Club, walking and biking. A world traveler, fascinated by politics and delighted by people, Wally had a wonderful life. He had a fabulous, fun business career at Bristol-Myers

Squibb, with so many teammates, a loving life mate in Marijane, and boundless energy, optimism and joy. He leaves behind a close, humorous and thriving clan.

Wally was a member of the U.S. Navy V-5 Naval Air Training in World War II from 1945-1947 and served in the Pacific from '51-'53 as executive officer of U.S.S. PC 1141 during the Korean conflict.

Walter received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1950 and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1951. He played varsity basketball there and earlier at St. John's University and Tufts College. He received the MVP award at the undefeated National Champion Iowa Seahawks of the U.S. Navy Training Command. After that, he worked for American Broadcasting Company ('53-'59). Next he worked at Bristol-Myers Squibb from 1959-1985 as vice president of sales. He was chairman of the Sales Executive Club of N.Y. During that time, he was the Distinguished Man of the Year in Marketing at CW Post/Long Island University ('74) and was inducted into the National Sales Hall of Fame ('86). He joined the faculty of the Fordham University Graduate Business School in Tarrytown ('85-'92) as director of the M.B.A. program.

Wally was a strong supporter of many clubs. Besides coaching boys' leagues for many years, he coached the girls' varsity basketball team at Sacred Heart Academy in Stamford for seven years. He was a member of many organizations. These include: the Harvard Club of NY, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in New York (life member), Navy League (life member), the American Legion & Veterans of Foreign Wars (life member) and the Knights of Columbus of Stuart, Fla. In addition, he belonged to the New York Athletic Club, the Coffee Club in Stuart, Fla., the Wild Geese, Senior Men of Darien and New Canaan, and the Rotary Club.

Wally was a person who could see the good in any situation. He believed that all trials offer opportunities to grow. He cared deeply for his children and wife and was a power of example of how to live life well and fully. Most admirably, when his loving wife died, he grieved, but also continued to live and find joy even in his greatest sorrow. He will be deeply missed.



Fred Smith

Long-standing DMA member Fred Smith passed away this summer at age 98. He lived a rich and productive life.

He and his wife Marny, with whom he shared many happy years, are pictured here at a DMA social event.

Longtime members of The First Congregational Church of Darien, Fred and Marny moved to Easthampton Mass., in 2019.

DMA Speakers Program

September–October 2022

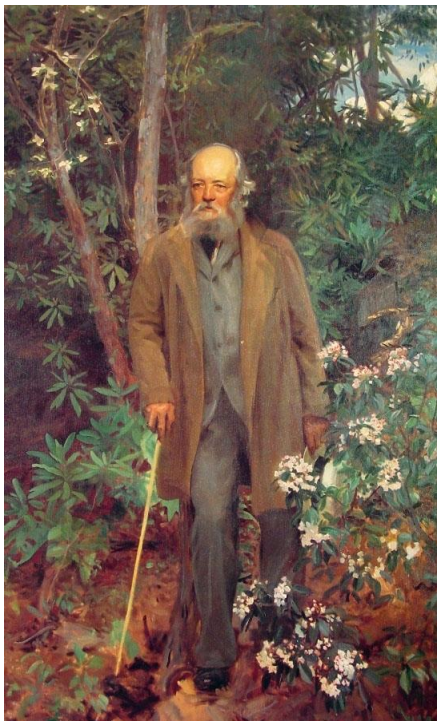
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Jonathan Olmsted, “Two Hundred Years of Frederick Law Olmsted”

Jonathan Olmsted will speak with us about the life and work of **Frederick Law Olmsted** (1822-1903). This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the man known as the “Father of American Landscape Architecture.” He and his family firm were arguably the most influential landscape architects in the United States with more than 500 commissions that included 100 public parks, 200 private estates, and 40 campuses for colleges and secondary schools. These include Central Park in New York (1857), the Buffalo Park System (1868), the Boston Park System (1870), the United States Capitol (1874), the Chicago World’s Fair (1893) and the Biltmore Estate (1895) in Asheville, N.C.

Jonathan was born in Boston, educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and graduated from Stanford University. Frederick and Jonathan are cousins, both descended from James Olmsted, who voyaged to America from England in 1632 and was one of the Founders of Hartford, Conn., in 1636. Jonathan and his wife Janet lived in New York, London and San Francisco before moving to Darien 45 years ago.

Arranged by Ed Barksdale



Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Bobbi Chapman, “Darien Waters”



Bobbi Phelps Chapman will speak with us on her latest book, *Darien Waters*, which describes historical facts and dramatic details of the '40s, '50s and early '60s. In her narrative of growing up in Darien, she writes of wealth, secrets, schemes and intrigue in our beautiful waterside town.

Bobbi graduated from Darien High School in 1961. She attended Pine Manor College and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Noting that “risky but rewarding behavior” was the essence of her life, Bobbi became an international flight attendant in 1965,

working flights to the Orient, Europe and into Vietnam during the height of the war. On a vacation by herself, she became the only tourist (along with 560 business, media and political men) locked up in the Cairo Hilton during the Israel/Egypt conflict in 1967, the Six-Day War. Stories of her airline adventures and experiences are detailed in *Behind the Smile during the Glamour Years of Aviation*.

Bobbi started the Angler’s Calendar and Catalog Company in 1975. Her company won Exporter of the Year in 1993 from the state of Idaho (small business category). With the publication of *Flyfishing Always*, she became an Arnold Gingrich Literary Award recipient from Fly Fishers International. *Sky Ranch*, her book about living on a remote potato farm in Idaho, won a five-star award from Literary Titans and a first-place gold medal from Feathered Quill Book Reviews.

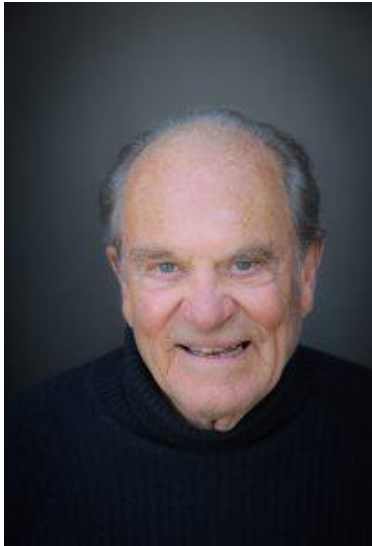
Besides her many awards, Bobbi was a 20-year member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and a nine-year Idaho board member for The Nature Conservancy.

When Bobbi retired and married Larry Chapman (Darien Class of 1959), she continued to write. They moved to Tennessee, and the Authors Guild of Tennessee twice voted her president. Her website is www.booksbybobbi.com.

Arranged by Tom Igoe and Charles Salmans

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Flemming Heilmann, “The Men in Denmark’s Freedom Council.”



DMA member **Flemming Heilmann** will discuss his recently released translation of Halfdan Lefevre’s book entitled ***The Men in Denmark’s Freedom Council***. This seminal work, first published in Danish in 1945, is the story of Denmark’s resistance leaders, their underground movement during Nazi occupation and how they coordinated the nation’s freedom fighters to mount military confrontation of the enemy. Their 11-member Freedom Council went on to form a government-in-waiting in anticipation of liberation to run the country pending restoration of democratic elections. Each member’s family background and career are vividly depicted. Lefevre, from the start of World War II, had documented the genesis and evolution of the resistance movement and its struggle against Nazi occupation since April 1940. He was the recording scribe for the underground Freedom Council and author of illegal leaflets and news communiques

distributed by the resistance. His scholarly account offers details of the German invasion, the government’s quick surrender and then the emergence of the resistance movement, which led to the establishment of the crucial Freedom Council. Flemming has carefully translated this book into English so a broader audience can appreciate the sacrifices these brave men made for their country.

Fleming was born in Malaysia to Danish parents and studied at Cambridge University, where he graduated with degrees in economics and law. He has since held executive and CEO positions in the manufacturing sector focused on the consumer goods packaging industry, mainly public companies listed on the Johannesburg, Toronto and New York stock exchanges, and has most recently been associated with investment in and management of buyouts of distressed businesses, with multiple directorships in public and private companies in South Africa, Western Europe, Canada and the United States.

In 2017, Flemming published ***Odyssey Uncharted***, a memoir of World War II childhood and education on four continents, set in mid-20th century history, and, in 2019, published his second book, ***The Unacceptable Face***, charting a career on three continents under apartheid, extreme socialism and disparate iterations of capitalism. His translation of Halfdan Lefevre’s ***The Men in Denmark’s Freedom Council*** was published in February 2022 by Telemachus Press.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

John Lindback, “A Journey through the Back Rooms of America’s Elections”



John Lindback will speak with our group on the topic of elections administration, voter registration and the possibilities of voter fraud. John first entered the field of elections administration in 1995 and has made it his personal goal for the past 27 years to make voter registration and voting work better for both voters and election officials.

John served from 2014 to 2017 as the executive director of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), the consortium of states using state-of-the-art technology to improve the accuracy of their voter registration rolls and improve access to voter registration for U.S. citizens. Prior to joining ERIC, he served as a senior officer for Election Initiatives at the Pew Charitable Trusts, providing key

leadership on Pew’s portfolio of work in election administration, including a Pew project that assisted with the creation of ERIC.

Prior to joining Pew, John worked for 14 years in state elections administration. He served for eight years as director of elections in the Oregon Secretary of State office. During his tenure with the Oregon Secretary of State, he was elected president in 2008 of the National Association of State Elections Directors. He was also elected to serve on the executive board of the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission’s Standards Advisory Board. Prior to his work in Oregon, John worked as chief of staff to the lieutenant governor of Alaska for six years, which included administrative oversight of the Alaska Division of Elections.

In addition, he served on a National Academy of Sciences panel that studied state voter registration databases. John volunteered as an advisor to Design for Democracy, an organization that assisted elections officials with designing voter-friendly ballots and other elections materials. He has also served as a volunteer international elections observer for the U.S. State Department. He observed elections in Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Georgia.

John holds a B.A. degree in journalism (1976) from the University of Arizona.

Arranged by Ric Grefé

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Vanessa Maczko, “Update on Trusts and Estates Laws for Connecticut Families”



Vanessa Maczko is a partner in Wiggin and Dana’s Private Client Services Department in its Greenwich office. She will brief our group on important recent developments in federal and Connecticut trusts and estates laws that affect estate planning, wills and trusts, distribution of assets to beneficiaries and charitable giving.

She advises individuals and families on multi-generational transfers of assets, such as closely held business interests, marketable securities, art collections, real estate, tangible personal property and insurance policies. Vanessa’s practice focuses on estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax planning. For lifetime planning, Vanessa drafts and analyzes inter vivos trust agreements, such as insurance trusts, grantor trusts and dynasty trusts. She advises clients on the funding of trusts, whether through direct or formula gifting or leveraged sales, as well as on the administration and taxation of trusts. Vanessa prepares and reviews gift tax returns in connection with the transfer of assets and represents clients in gift tax audits with the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, she advises clients on the structuring of new investments and the restructuring of existing businesses with a focus on transitioning wealth and control to the next generation in a tax-efficient manner that maintains continuity.

Vanessa also assists with the preparation of testamentary documents and estate administration, including the probating of wills, the marshaling of assets, the filing of state and federal estate tax returns, the sale of estate assets and the distribution of assets among estate beneficiaries.

She advises clients on charitable giving by forming and administering private foundations, setting up donor-advised funds, papering pledges, and drafting charitable lead and charitable remainder trusts.

Vanessa received her B.A. from the University of Michigan, her LL.M. from New York University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She started her career with the Trusts and Estates group at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and then transitioned to the Private Client Services group at Proskauer Rose LLP. Vanessa lives with her husband and two children in Greenwich.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Sunil Saksena, “The 1876 Presidential Election”



DMA member and past president **Sunil Saksena** will speak with our group on the presidential election of 1876. That election was marred by claims of fraud, voter intimidation, arbitrarily changed vote counts and multiple sets of “certified” electoral college votes. It was followed by four months of chaotic negotiations and backroom compromises involving congressional committees, Supreme Court justices and campaign representatives. Finally, just two days before Inauguration Day, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner by one electoral vote over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, who won the popular vote by a huge margin.

Sunil was born in Lucknow, India, in 1944. He graduated high school from La Martiniere College, Lucknow, and received a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.

He worked at Union Carbide India before proceeding to the University of California at Berkeley for graduate work. He received a master’s degree in engineering, as well as an M.B.A. from Berkeley. He worked as a mechanical engineer at 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 imbibe. For most of his career, Sunil was in finance: initially as an international banker with Bankers Trust Company serving in Mumbai, Singapore and New York and then as an investment advisor with Fidelity Investments from which he retired in 2004.

He and his wife Deepika have lived in Darien since 1985. They have two sons, one a doctor and the other a lawyer.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

David Genovese, “The Corbin District Project in Darien”



David Genovese, who leads Baywater Properties, a privately held commercial real estate company serving Fairfield and Westchester counties, will provide us with an update on the progress of the Corbin District Project, a major undertaking involving the development of a series of new buildings, shops, residential facilities and public community spaces in the heart of Darien that will forever transform and enliven the character of our town.

David founded Baywater Properties in 2001, following a 12-year career in real estate investment banking in New York and London. Prior to founding Baywater, David served as co-head of Real Estate Investment Banking for Credit Suisse First Boston. Previously, David served as a managing director in Bankers Trust Company's Real Estate Investment Banking Group.

Through the course of his career in investment banking, David was responsible for a variety of transactions valued in excess of \$15 billion, including mergers and acquisitions, equity offerings, bond offerings, securitized financings, bank loans and principal investments.

David is an honors graduate of Colby College and The London School of Economics and Political Science. David also received an M.B.A. from The Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania. David is currently a member of the board of directors of The Human Services Council of Norwalk, the Darien Athletic Foundation and the Real Estate Finance Association of Connecticut. David has served as a member of the Board of Overseers of Colby College and as a board member of the Darien Technology and Community Foundation, the Darien YMCA, the Darien Historical Society and Darien Revitalization, Inc. In 2007, David was named as one of the "40 under 40" business leaders in Fairfield County.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

Mark Contreras, “Public Television in Connecticut”



Mark Contreras, president and chief executive officer of Connecticut Public and a member of the board of Public Broadcasting Service, will speak with us on the role of public television in the state of Connecticut.

He has led several media businesses through digital transformation. Prior to his role as dean of the School of Communications at Quinnipiac University, Mark served as CEO of Calkins Media, a privately held local television, digital and local newspaper publishing company. Calkins developed innovative strategies to maximize audience reach, engagement and revenue by embracing streaming media platforms such as Roku, Amazon Fire and Apple TV. He previously led local newspaper publishing and digital businesses for three public companies, including Capital Cities/ABC, Pulitzer, Inc. and The E.W. Scripps Co.

In addition, he served as chairman of the News Media Association and the American Press Institute. He is a fellow of the Millennium Class of Henry Crown Fellows of the Aspen Institute. He serves on the board of directors of Highlights for Children in Columbus, Ohio, and Woodward Communications, Inc. in Dubuque, Iowa.

The son of an Irish American school teacher and a Mexican immigrant, Mark grew up in the Midwest -- first in Minneapolis and later Chicago. He has an A.B. in history from the University of Chicago and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School. Mark and his wife Marybeth Sughrue have one adult son Michael.

Arranged by Tom Igoe and Charles Salmans



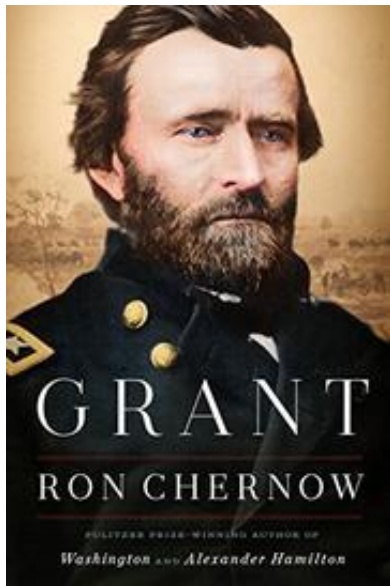
ACTIVITIES

Book Group: Selections

September-November 2022

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on **Wednesday, September 14, Wednesday, October 12, and Wednesday November 9, 2022**. The meetings will commence in each case at 2 p.m., Eastern time. We now plan to resume in-person meetings at the **Darien Community Association** (274 Middlesex Road) in the **Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor**, which gives us the ability to allow DMA members who choose to participate remotely to do so. The room is equipped with Verizon's BlueJeans software and the necessary video and audio systems for remote participants. A video link will be available.

Grant by Ron Chernow (September 14)

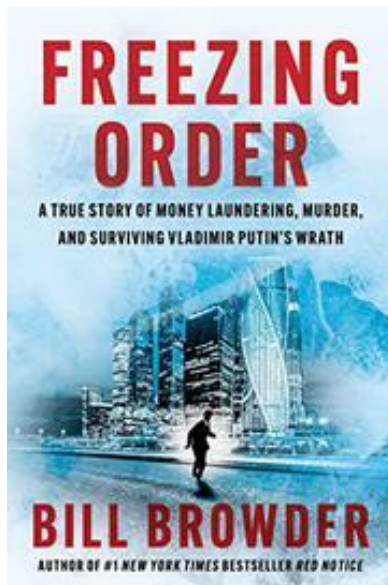


A massive biography of the Civil War general and president, who “was the single most important figure behind Reconstruction.”

Most Americans know the traditional story of Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885): a modest but brutal general who pummeled Robert E. Lee into submission and then became a bad president. Historians changed their minds a generation ago, and acclaimed historian Chernow (*Washington: A Life*, 2010, among others), winner of both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, goes along in this doorstep of a biography, which is admiring, intensely detailed and rarely dull. A middling West Point graduate, though recognized by his classmates and West Point's officer corps as by far the best horseman in his class and one of the best ever to grace that institution, Grant performed well during the Mexican War but a few years later resigned his commission, enduring seven years of failure before getting lucky. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was the only West Point graduate around Galena, Ill., where he then lived, so local leaders gave him a command. Unlike other Union commanders, he was aggressive and unfazed by setbacks. His brilliant campaign at Vicksburg made him a national hero. Taking command of the Army of the Potomac, he forced Lee's surrender, although it took a year.

Easily elected in 1868, he was the only president who genuinely wanted Reconstruction to work. Despite achievements such as suppressing the Ku Klux Klan, he was fighting a losing battle. Historian Richard N. Current wrote, “by backing Radical Reconstruction as best he could, he made a greater effort to secure the constitutional rights of Blacks than did any other president between Lincoln and Lyndon B. Johnson.” Recounting the dreary scandals that soiled his administration, Chernow emphasizes that Grant was disastrously lacking in cynicism. Loyal to friends and susceptible to shady characters, he was an easy mark, and he was fleeced regularly throughout his life. In this sympathetic biography, the author continues the revival of Grant’s reputation. At nearly 1,000 pages, Chernow delivers a deeply researched, everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know biography, but few readers will regret the experience.

Freezing Order by Bill Browder (October 12)



The thrilling follow-up to the author’s bestseller *Red Notice*.

Browder, CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, was one of the leading investors in Russia during the 2000s, and his strategy of “stealing analysis” made Hermitage one of the leading hedge funds in the world. “Instead of analyzing companies’ income statements and balance sheets like normal fund managers,” he writes, “my team and I would research how much was being stolen, how the thieves were doing the stealing and who pocketed the stolen money. We would then use this information to file lawsuits [and] launch proxy fights.”

When his Russian lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, was beaten to death in a Moscow jail in 2009, the author sought to bring the murderers to justice. That crusade, along with his investigation into a \$230 million tax refund scheme that significantly affected

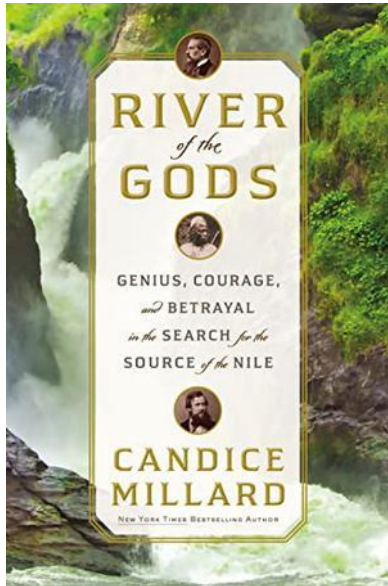
Hermitage’s business, made him an enemy of dangerous Russian oligarchs, including Putin, and he was thrown out of the country. From that point, Browder worked diligently to get to the bottom of the Russian coverup, a journey that took him around Europe and eventually to New York. Along the way, he encountered a number of unsavory characters, including John Moscow, who “had been at the New York District Attorney’s Office for 33 years and was one of their most aggressive prosecutors” before switching sides to defend the Russian oligarchs; Glenn Simpson, a “well-connected and effective smear campaigner”; and former U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, who, along with the others, helped “lubricate that machine that allows Putin and his cronies to get away with their crimes.”

In 2012, Browder’s quest found some success in the passage of the Magnitsky Act, which allows the U.S. government to sanction those it sees as human rights offenders -- and a version of which is now in place in more than 30 countries. The author’s story, a must-read for fans of *Red*

Notice, is revealing and damning, exposing Putin and his minions as little more than greedy international criminals.

A timely book combining mystifying financial shenanigans with a fast-paced crime saga.

River of the Gods by Candice Millard (November 9)



The lure of uncharted territory.

The Rosetta Stone - discovered by French soldiers in 1799, seized by a British envoy, and deciphered 23 years later - set off an obsessive interest in Egypt, including by the newly established Royal Geographical Society, to find the headwaters of the Nile. Bestselling author Millard, a former writer and editor for **National Geographic**, offers a tense, vibrant history of several dramatic expeditions across East Africa that finally resulted in a successful discovery.

Drawing on archival sources and her own multiple trips to Africa following the explorers' paths, Millard creates a palpable sense of the daunting task undertaken by three ambitious men: the magnetic, impulsive and often combative Richard Burton; John Hanning Speke, an aristocratic infantry lieutenant and passionate hunter whose initial interest in East Africa was largely for the animals he could kill; and their devoted and resourceful native guide, Sidi Mubarak Bombay, a former enslaved person whose intimate knowledge of tribes and terrain proved to be indispensable. Guides like Bombay, Millard argues persuasively, formed the indisputable backbone of British exploration.

After abortive starts, the expedition left Zanzibar on June 27, 1857. The explorers and their team, woefully underfunded, faced innumerable hardships: scorching heat, drenching storms, near starvation, massive desertions, and threats from "large, powerful and politically complex" East African kingdoms. Illness and injury dogged them, as they suffered from typhoid, smallpox, infected wounds and bone-shattering fevers. Speke suffered near blindness from ophthalmia, and he became deaf in one ear after a beetle burrowed into his ear canal. For nearly a year, Burton lay paralyzed. Although they became the first Europeans to reach Lake Tanganyika, they could not proceed together to Lake Nyanza, which Speke insisted was the Nile's source. Back in London, Speke cruelly denounced Burton's leadership, securing funding for his own expedition. Although Burton died poor and angry, his legacy, unlike Speke's, has endured.

An engrossing, sharply drawn adventure tale.

Poet's Corner (in keeping with our bookish theme)

Blank Verse

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- *Ernest Hemingway*



ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Bowling: Tuesday, September 6, at 9 a.m.

Bowling has been in hiatus for the summer. We resume on the Tuesday after Labor Day - September 6 - at our usual time and place: 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. For questions, contact **Tom Lom**: tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge: Tuesday, September 6, at 2 p.m.

We resume play on Tuesday, September 6, at 2 p.m. We will continue on Bridge Base Online (BBO) while we explore returning to live play. All who wish to play, please contact **John Podkowsky** at Jpod912@aol.com to ensure you are on the bridge roster.

Community Service: October 5

We are working on a 90-minute Post 53 training session to be held at the DCA right after the weekly DMA meeting on October 5. It will cover CPR/AED training, as well as trauma, allergic reactions and falls. It will be a truncated version of the sessions held in the spring to provide "basic" training and information for as many members as possible. A survey will be sent to confirm interest and get a rough count of attendees. More to follow. **Frank DeLeo**: frankdeleo@hotmail.com

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

Geoff Rezek and **Tom Williams** invite you 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. Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net

Current Affairs: at DCA and via Zoom, October 20 at 2 p.m.

John Wolcott will lead a discussion that was originally planned as Part 2 of our activities last spring. See related articles on the DMA website under the Current Affairs tab.

Last February, **Vince Arguimbau** led a discussion entitled, "Agreed carbon emissions cause global warming, but is it an existential threat?" Continuing, he asks, "If scarce resources were maximally devoted to reducing emissions, then would the result be worth the cost? If not, then how do we efficiently allocate resources to ameliorate and adapt to the changing environment?"

The first Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on the existential threat of global warming was issued in 1990. Since then, the debate has degenerated into two opposite factions

battling from ever more distant ends of the spectrum to the point where each is talking past the other at increasing volume and vehemence.

Accordingly, let's not debate whether global warming is settled by science or merely religion but instead begin a conversation as to how the global warming/climate change/existential threat might be more fully addressed. Join us October 20. John Wolcott: jowdarien@gmail.com.

Golf: Three Unique Golf Outings Held This Summer

See highlights and photos following this Activities section.

Happy Wanderers: Thursday, September 22, and Thursday, October 13

Our first Fall Wandering will be Thursday, September 22, to **Red Hook Brooklyn**. We will take the train to Grand Central, the subway to Wall Street and then a ferry across the East River to Red Hook. This area of Brooklyn was once the hub of the commercial shipping industry that shaped the life of the community for generations. Today, it is gentrified with many fine dining opportunities and views of the river and New York Harbor. As we near the date, we will have more details, but for the moment, mark your calendar for Thursday, September 22.

See the Hiking entry next for information on our second Wandering on October 13 to **Walkway Over the Hudson**, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. If you have any questions, please

contact **Joe Spain**: jhspain@sbcglobal.net, or **David Mace**: davidmace@optonline.net

Hiking: September 15 at 9:30 a.m. - Leon Levy Preserve, South Salem, N.Y.

Bob Plunkett and **Dave McCollum** plan to lead our first hike of the fall to the Leon Levy Preserve in South Salem, N.Y., at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 15. Optional lunch to follow. Further information pending. Dave McCollum: dgmccollum63@gmail.com

Hiking and Happy Wanderers: October 13 at 9 a.m. - Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Join us for a Hiking/Wandering adventure, followed by lunch, at **Walkway Over the Hudson**, "*The World's Largest Elevated Pedestrian Bridge*," which traverses the Hudson River at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and Highland, N.Y. The hike provides magnificent panoramic vistas of the Hudson, and, at 212 feet above the river, this 1.28-mile linear park boasts scenic views north to the Catskills and south to the Hudson Highlands. The structure dates from 1889, when it was first built as a rail bridge. In recent times, it fell into disuse by the railroad but was rebuilt and resurfaced for pedestrian strolling and hiking as part of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail Network. It is a key component of this larger hiking trail network and was reopened, this time to the walking and hiking public, in 2009.

Investment Discussion Group: September 6 at 10 a.m.

As our usual meeting day, the first Monday of the month, falls on Labor Day, we will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, September 6, at 10 a.m. We will discuss the macro outlook, different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are thinking of owning. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An initial agenda will be sent out the week before so members will have a chance to suggest stocks or investment themes. Contact **Jim Phillips** at jlpinvest66@gmail.com for questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover.

Money Matters: Second Monday each month at 9 a.m.

Doug Campbell, who has sponsored Money Matters very successfully, is looking for a co-host who would like to join him in leading this group. We discuss interesting and impactful technologies, products and events that influence our money matters in Fairfield County and the world. We host guests with domain expertise leading to lively group discussions in areas like estates, crypto, vertical farming, new technology developments, local entrepreneurship and regional economic development, just to name some recent examples. If interested, please contact Doug at (203) 952 1161 or by email at dc3tsc@gmail.com.

Pickleball: Cherry Lawn Park 8:30 a.m.

We continue to play Tuesdays and Thursdays at Cherry Lawn starting at 8:30 a.m. Please contact **Jan Selkowitz** at (203)

655 0441 if you would like to join this fun activity.

Social Events

When not playing pickleball, **Jan Selkowitz** is doing his usual splendid work planning for some lively social events, including the Christmas party, which is sooner than we think, and next year's June picnic. **Tom Lom** and **Alex Garnett** have graciously agreed to continue their role there. Jan hopes to have at least two events during the fall, winter and spring, which could include boat trips, museum visits, musical performances, galleries, or theater or sporting events. Jan and **Frank DeLeo** are considering a repeat of the popular Long Island Sound boat trip launched from the Norwalk Maritime Center. In all probability, that event will be held in the spring. Jan and the social committee are always open to new ideas and are looking for a few more members. Please call Jan Selkowitz at (203) 655 0441 if you would like to help. It's fun!

Woodworking

The DMA woodworking team meets regularly at the Mather Center's workshop. Our woodworkers would be pleased to take on a variety of projects. If you have tables, chairs or other wooden furnishings in need of repair, please contact **Tom Williams** at: tmw-1931@outlook.com).

And, of course, if you find yourself *milling* about, dreaming of *sawing*, *paring* and *mortising*, Tom can fill you in if you are interested in joining our group for a spell of *joinery* and other woodworking techniques. This is the one activity where it is fulfilling to be *boring* (wood, that is).

DMA Golf Outings Summer '22

July 20, the Great Victory over New Canaan

DMA golfers played New Canaan Men's team on July 20 at Silvermine - 10 matches with 3 points available per match: One point for the front nine, one point for the back nine and one point for the match. A half point for ties.

It was extremely competitive, but the DMA came through winning 15½ to 14½, while everyone on both teams had fun. See our smiling faces below.

We all look forward to another match in 2023!



August 4, Country Club of Darien

Twenty DMA golfers braved the heat to enjoy the beautiful course at Country Club of Darien hosted by **Tom Lom**. A delicious lunch followed as we shared tales of birdies, bogeys and more.



August 31, Sterling Farms

Green greens beckoned. Over 20 DMA golfers signed up. Peter Carnes and Bob McGroarty



More Summer Fun: DMA of the Adriatic and Mediterranean

Daniela and DMA member **Don Loomis** drove from their seaside town near Naples up to the Dolomites, stopping to visit highlights along the way, including UNESCO World Heritage site Ferrara Italy, Slovenia's capital city Ljubljana and Lake Bled. We met on a beautiful July day. Medieval Bled Castle stands on the high point in the background looking out over the lake.



Daniela and **Don Loomis**, who spend summers at their second home in Italy, visit with **Mark Nunan** (left) at Lake Bled, Slovenia.

The Future of Rock: Harry and the Grandkids!

The world-famous **Harry Bergen** Band featuring Dustina Rose gave a rousing performance August 26 at Grove Street Plaza, playing the “Best Music of the ‘60s.” As you can tell, this is a multi-generational event, with DMA member Harry’s grandchildren Jackson (the blond boy), Juliana and Noah making cameo appearances. The future of American music is in good hands.



Photos courtesy of the *DMA Newsletter's* roving reporter Bert von Stuelpnagel

It was wonderful to get out, travel, play golf and pickleball, go to an al fresco concert and enjoy other outdoor activities this summer after two difficult years. We look forward to an exciting DMA season ahead during 2022-2023.

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, Mark Nunan. Contributing Editor, Joyce Meurer. Speaker write-ups, Tom Igoe. New Member bios, Art Baron. Mailing list and e-communications, Art Baron. This Week at DMA, Mark Nunan.