



Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 1

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

September-October 2023

President's Message

As we have come to experience every day, through newspaper and television reporting, online news sources and social media, we are living in a world that appears increasingly to be in disarray, from almost every perspective: our acrimonious politics; the frequent mass shootings and violence; the recurring natural disasters; the continuing brutal war in Ukraine; the international challenges and threats from China, Russia, North Korea and Iran; the disruptions in the economy occasioned by the COVID pandemic, the increase in our national debt and the concomitant rise in inflation; the growing public dissatisfaction with many of our nation's long-established institutions, including the Congress, the Executive Branch, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Department of Justice; and the emergence of troubling federal and state criminal indictments leveled against those involved in national governance.

It is inevitable, indeed totally human, that all these factors and swirling currents should give rise to personal feelings of intense anxiety, uncertainty, loss of confidence and fear. That said, I believe that the Darien Men's Association has been and will continue to be a valuable and enduring source of stability and happiness in our lives. We sponsor a wide range of activities and programs that engage us socially, expand our knowledge across a diverse spectrum of topics, strengthen our bodies, channel our desire to serve and support the extraordinary community in which we live, and, above all, afford us satisfying opportunities to build new friendships and instill renewed purpose in our lives.

While much of the regular DMA programming took a pause during the summer months, DMA golfers continued their history of summer play, with successful outings at Oak Hills and Sterling Farms organized by **Bob McGroarty** and **Peter Carnes**, respectively. **Jim Phillips** continued to

lead Investment Discussion Group meetings in June and July, pickleball play never ends and our cribbage members enjoyed a robust competition with a group of women on Bastille Day.

As we look forward to a full range of activities commencing in September, we are blessed with new leaders who have stepped up to manage important DMA programs. **Frank DeLeo**, with help from **Ric Grefé**, has taken over the Speakers Program, producing an outstanding line-up of fall speakers. **Rick Agresta** and **Harry McLachlin** are now running the DMA Book Club, and, in collaboration with the Darien Library staff, are offering excellent readings for fall discussion. **Mike Kadish** has assumed responsibility for the DMA bridge group, co-captained by **Gary Banks**. **Gehr Brown**, with able assistance from **Bert von Stuelpnagel**, has taken charge of our organization's financial affairs. **Frank Gallagher** has succeeded Frank DeLeo in leading the DMA's community service and volunteer activities. **Bryan Hooper** has reclaimed his earlier role as a superior editor of *This Week at DMA*. And a capable team of **Mike Wheeler**, **Lee Morrison**, **Gary Banks** and **Dan Lew** is committed to ensuring that our audio/visual technology will continue to support delivery of high-quality programming to DMA members both in-person and online.

I urge you to read this newsletter from end to end. Thoughtfully produced and edited by **Mark Nunan** and **Joyce Meurer**, it reflects an extraordinary array of upcoming programs, activities and events, all dedicated to the DMA's three fundamental goals of good fellowship, community service and fun.

On a personal note, I feel privileged to serve as your president for the ensuing program year. I am inspired and humbled by the leadership of those many men who have held this position before me and so capably served our organization. I commit to each of you that I will remain open to your ideas, thoughts and concerns, will endeavor to provide support and assistance across our organization whenever I can, and will respect the history of the DMA and uphold its guiding principles and high standards to the best of my ability.

Tom Igoe
2023-2024 DMA president

New Members

Jim Cameron



Jim Cameron was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. Immigrating to the United States in 1964 with his family, he attended Dobbs Ferry High School and then Lehigh University, where he graduated cum laude in sociology in 1972. In his college years, he encountered his true passion: radio, serving as founder and program director of WLVR-FM, the campus radio station.

After graduation, he worked at WLIR/Long Island, WQIV/NYC, WHCN/Hartford and WCOZ-WHDH/Boston before being recruited by NBC News as founding news director and anchor of its new young adult radio network, The Source. There he

received a George Foster Peabody Award and a Major Armstrong Award for documentary excellence.

In 1982, Jim launched [Cameron Communications Inc.](#), a media consultancy specializing in media training and public speaking. He has trained hundreds of C-level executives, authors and professionals as described in his book *Off the Record: Confessions of a Media Consultant*.

In 1992, he moved to Darien with his wife Mimi Griffith, where their daughter Kathleen attended school. He has served on the RTM and is currently chairman of The Board of Ethics. He's also program director of [TV•79 Darien](#), the town's government TV station.

Jim has always been active in transportation advocacy having served 19 years on the CT Metro-North Rail Commuter Council, four of those as its chairman. He is author of the weekly commentary column, "[Talking Transportation](#)," which appears in the *CT Mirror*.

In Memoriam



John Podkowsky of Darien died on Sunday, July 9, 2023, peacefully at home. He was 78 years old. John was born on September 12, 1944, in New York, N.Y. He was raised in Woodside, Queens, where he attended St. Sebastian Elementary School, followed by Bishop Loughlin High School in Brooklyn, and then graduated from Fordham University in 1966. John completed the U.S. Army ROTC program while in college and served as an active-duty officer in Vietnam immediately following his graduation. In 1972, he married Patricia Morris, and they had two sons, Neil and Douglas.

John worked in the banking industry for his entire career, including 25 years as an executive for Citigroup's Corporate Finance division. His career took him and his family to an overseas assignment in Tokyo, Japan, and the Far East, then to Arlington Heights, Ill. Since 1984, they resided in Darien.

In his early years, John was an avid skier and for decades enjoyed sailing with Pat. They also delighted in traveling the world together, including to six of the seven continents. John loved reading and playing bridge and was a loyal supporter of the New York Yankees, Rangers and Giants. He and Pat held a residence in Block Island, R.I., where they spent many wonderful years visiting, hosting friends and family, and engaging with the local island community, including the Harbor Baptist Church, Block Island Yacht Club and the Block Island Bridge Group. John also served since his retirement in 2003 as an active member and president of the Darien Men's Association.

In addition to his wife and sons, John is survived by his five loving granddaughters.

A number of DMAers joined John's family and friends at his funeral service, which was held at the Talmadge Hill Community Church in Darien on July 17, with burial the following day at Riverside Cemetery in Shelton, Conn.

We thank you, John, for all you did for the DMA and your community.

DMA Speakers Program

September-October 2023

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Bob Heussler, “The Voices of New York Sports, a Brief History”



From Marty Glickman to Marv Albert, from Bill Mazer to Mike and the Mad Dog, the New York sports scene has been narrated, discussed and debated by some of the most talented and compelling personalities in the history of sportscasting. We'll explore their stories and some of the memorable New York sports moments that they helped bring to life.

Bob Heussler is a veteran radio and television sportscaster with more than 35 years of experience working in New York and Connecticut. He was an update anchor for the country's first all-sports radio station – New York City's WFAN – for 30 years and remains with the station part time. He has a long association with the Fairfield University men's basketball program as the radio and television play-by-play announcer, recently completing his 35th season. He was the radio and television play-by-play announcer of the WNBA'S Connecticut Sun for 17 years, beginning with its 2003 inaugural season. He remains a backup radio announcer for the NBA's Brooklyn Nets.

Bob was a sportscaster for the Connecticut Radio Network for more than 15 years, serving as the radio play-by-play announcer for UConn basketball and football and covering the Pilot Pen Tennis tournament and PGA Greater Hartford Open. He is a former network anchor for ESPN Radio and remains a part-time anchor with the CBS Sports Radio Network. Bob is a former sports director at WICC in Bridgeport, has been an instructor of student broadcasters at Yale and Fairfield universities and was the longtime director of public relations at Milford Jai-Alai. A graduate of the University of Bridgeport, Bob resides in Stamford.

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ted Aldrich, “The Decision around Dropping the Atomic Bombs on Japan”



Ted Aldrich will be speaking about the factors that went into the decision by President Truman to drop atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945 and about some of the key figures who influenced the decision. In his 2022 book, *The Partnership*, Edward (“Ted”) devoted a chapter to the discussions among members of the high command about how to end the war in Japan. Since the publication of his book last year, he has been invited twice by Colgate University to lecture to a class studying all aspects of the atomic bomb. This past spring, Ted served on a panel with historian Evan Thomas and journalist/author Barbara Slavin at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., which was devoted to addressing the reasons for using the atomic bomb on Japan.

DMA members can expect to hear about the misconceptions regarding the decision that have emerged over the years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ted will attempt to take the audience back in time to July 1945 and firmly in the shoes of those saddled with the terrific responsibility of ending a war that had already killed 420,000 Americans and wounded another 670,000.

Ted was born and raised in Rowayton. He attended Colgate University majoring in economics and political science before receiving an M.B.A. in finance from Boston College. He then began a career in banking with UBS, spending 13 years in New York, Zurich and London, specializing principally in commodities. Ted then held senior positions at Deutsche Bank and Fortis before launching a trade and commodity finance business at Mizuho Bank, a business he ran for 11 years. Ted is currently head of corporate development for Auramet Trading, one of the world’s largest physical precious metals merchants in the world.

His love of history began on the day Ted entered second grade at Rowayton Elementary School and saw portraits of all the U.S. presidents on the wall of his classroom. His first book, *The Partnership: George Marshall, Henry Stimson, and the Extraordinary Collaboration that Won World War II* (published last year) was written on his commute to Manhattan over a seven-year period. Ted spoke with the DMA about *The Partnership* last May and is still on a book tour.

Ted and his wife Susan Scull Aldrich (a Darien native and daughter of DMA member Pete Scull) have lived in Westport since 1999, where they raised three sons. Along with history, Ted’s main interests are soccer (he played four years at Colgate and still plays in a Westport men’s league), piano and gardening (his wife is a prominent landscape designer who designs landscapes from Greenwich to Fairfield).

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Leon Krolikowski, “Darien School Safety and Security”



Darien Public Schools Director of Security, Leon Krolikowski, will discuss how the Darien School District is embracing best practices in school safety and security. The talk will include discussions about the district's armed school security officers, campus monitors, training, accreditation, best practices and related initiatives that will enhance the district's safety and security.

Leon has been the Darien Public Schools Director of Security since January 9, 2023. Prior to that, Leon was a member of the New Canaan Police Department for more than 34 years. Before becoming chief there in June 2013, he served in many different department roles and ranks of increasing responsibility.

While working full time, Leon earned an M.B.A. and a law degree, completed an executive education course at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and began coursework toward a Ph.D. He is admitted to practice law in the states of Connecticut and New York, Connecticut Federal Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the United States Tax Court. Leon is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Vir., and he is a Marine Corps Infantry Combat veteran.

Leon has lived in New Canaan for 32 years. He has been married to his wife Anna for 29 years, and they have three children: Morgan, Kelsey and Ryan.

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Michael Curran, “The French and Indian War: The Role of Native Americans as a Prelude to the American Revolution”



Michael Curran will present an overview of the various French and Indian wars of the 17th and 18th centuries with a focus on the final war that started in 1755 at the Battle of the Monongahela and ended in 1760 with the capture of Montreal. He will provide context on the conflicts highlighting the role of Native Americans, including their key role in initiating and expanding the final conflict. The French and Indian War was a critical prelude to the American Revolution and influenced the colonists politically and militarily. As such, it should be a better-known part of our shared understanding of America’s founding moments.

Michael is a retired management consultant with 35 years of consulting and financial industry experience. His areas of focus include board of director and executive management advisory work, strategic compensation design projects, and regulatory issues related to the interaction between risk and incentive pay. His clients included most of the major U.S., Canadian, European, and Japanese banks and investment banks, as well as leading private equity firms and hedge funds.

Upon retirement in 2016, Michael enrolled in and earned a master’s degree with honors from the University of Buckingham. His thesis was on the role of Native Americans in the French and Indian War. Subsequently, he wrote a history of the various conflicts between the French, British and Native tribal groupings, as well as a historical novel focused on one of the leading French commanders.

Michael has held board positions in several philanthropic organizations, including ABC of New Canaan, Regis High School, St. Joseph’s University and Cornell University. He is a graduate of Cornell University’s School of Industrial & Labor Relations. A Bronx native, he has lived in Connecticut since 1981 and spends summers on Cape Cod.

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Speaker TBA, "Subject Pending"

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Beka Sturges, "Beauty and Community: Exceptional Landscapes as Public Spaces"



Can landscapes of great natural beauty and cultural legacy also become generous public spaces that serve their immediate communities and afford destinations for visitors? How can we interpret and adapt these landscapes to meet contemporary needs? How can we program them appropriately and operate them to ensure they are economically and environmentally sustainable?

Reed Hilderbrand is an American landscape architecture firm recognized for many award-winning projects that have guided the growth and change of significant landscapes from Boston's 527-acre Franklin Park to Patagonia's Parque Nacional Corcovado. In addition to advising private residences and working on university and museum campuses, Reed Hilderbrand collaborates with organizations and communities on strategic and transformative projects. In Cambridge, the firm completed an Urban Forest Plan to advance city-wide green infrastructure. It is currently guiding the transformation of a private estate into a new Audubon Society sanctuary on the Concord River and the adaptation of a famous summer camp into a new park and civic center for the Town of Brewster on Cape Cod.

Beka Sturges is partner and principal of Reed Hilderbrand and a senior critic at Yale University School of Architecture. She leads the practice's office in New Haven. Her projects include the landscapes of The Clark Art Institute in the Berkshires, Storm King Art Center in the Hudson Valley, Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., and Elizabeth Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

In "Beauty and Community," Beka reinterprets contemporary American landscape architecture through the careers of Beatrix Ferrand and Cornelia Hahn Oberlander to arrive at Reed Hilderbrand's unique design approach to place, community and beauty. As communities and institutions continue to evolve in the 21st century, Beka considers how Connecticut's diverse landscapes might be best positioned to serve goals of climate resilience, equity, environmental justice – and beauty.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Janet King and Susannah Lewis, "The Community Fund of Darien and the Thriving Youth Darien Survey"



Janet King



Susannah Lewis

Janet King will provide an overview of The Community Fund of Darien (TCF) and its key elements: Grants, Thriving Youth Darien, Human Services Planning Committee, The Volunteer Hub and Youth Programs. She will share data and trends on key social and welfare issues in our area and explain how they relate to the work of TCF. She also will discuss TCF grant process and funding goals, as well as the Grant Panelist program and volunteer opportunity.

Susannah Lewis will provide an overview of the recently completed bi-annual survey (to be made public in October 2023) of Darien middle school and high school students that provides insight into their mental health and substance use patterns.

Janet has been the executive director of The Community Fund of Darien since 2018. In that capacity, she oversees all the operations of TCF, which since 1951 has granted \$27,000,000 to local nonprofits. The Community Fund of Darien also convenes Thriving Youth Darien and Human Services Planning Council, and runs four youth volunteer programs for middle and high school-aged students, as well as The Volunteer Hub for Darien adults looking for volunteer opportunities.

Prior to joining the Community Fund of Darien, Janet was the former director of volunteers at Person-to-Person, where she recruited, trained and organized more than 4,000 volunteers, working alongside clients, corporate teams and community groups. She has experience in program and special event management, employee training, marketing and fundraising from a variety of companies, including Western Athletic Clubs, Brooks Brothers, Esprit de Corp and

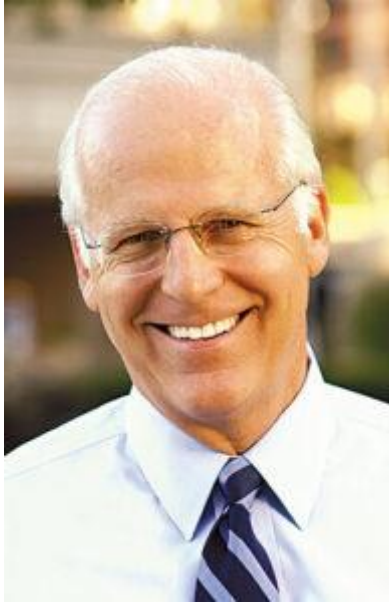
May Company. She was raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and is a graduate of The Ohio State University. She has volunteered with Tokeneke Parent-Teacher Association, Saint Luke's Parish, Darien Junior Sailing Team, Darien Youth Soccer, Stamford Hospital and Chi Omega alumnae. She serves on the Town of Darien Human Services Commission. Janet has lived in New York City and San Francisco and currently resides in Darien with her husband and enjoys the company of their two sons, a golden retriever and two cats.

Susannah works in the field of public health, currently as director of community relations and the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan. Prior to this role, she was mental health program coordinator for correctional services with New York City Health and Hospitals. She is currently a board member of The Community Fund of Darien and co-chairs Thriving Youth Darien. She is also the treasurer for the Connecticut chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Susannah is a past vestry member at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan and chaired its Development Committee.

Susannah received her bachelor of arts in ancient Greek and Latin from Wellesley College and her master's of public health in epidemiology from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Susannah and her husband William have lived in Darien since 2015 and are members of Saint Luke's Parish. They have a year-old daughter, Annabelle, and an exceptional rescue poodle, Master Kippy.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Christopher Shays, "Public Policy in the Era of Political Extremes: Getting Back to the Center"



Former Congressman Christopher Shays will talk about the challenge of having both political parties playing to their extremes and what the general public can and must do to help bring public policy back toward the middle of the political spectrum. The discussion will include what we should expect/demand from our elected officials.

Christopher represented the 4th District in Connecticut from 1987 to 2009 in the United States Congress. Before that, he served 13 years in the Connecticut General Assembly. A moderate Republican, socially progressive and fiscally conservative, Christopher had a strong and successful record of reaching across the aisle to address our nation's problems.

The only Republican congressman from New England re-elected in 2006, he was consistently recognized for his bipartisan leadership. During his 21 years in Congress, Christopher rose to become a senior member of the Budget (vice chair), Financial Services, Homeland Security and Government Reform (vice-chair), committees and chaired the Reform Committee's National Security Committee with oversight of the Defense and State departments.

Christopher was the primary author of the laws requiring Congress to live by the acts it writes for the rest of the nation; Congressional gift ban; lobby disclosure; and campaign finance reform. As chairman of the National Security Committee, he helped establish the 9/11 Commission, served as director of National Intelligence and was involved with the Department of Homeland Security. He led 19 oversight trips to Iraq, meeting with our troops, Iraqi government officials, Shia and Sunni leaders, and their followers.

After Congress, Christopher co-chaired the Commission on Wartime Contracting. Then he served as a Distinguished Fellow in Public Service at the University of New Haven and later as a Resident Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, Institute of Politics.

Christopher and his wife Betsi were Peace Corps volunteers (Fiji). As a former volunteer, he championed the Corporation for National and Community Service, helping create AmeriCorps.

He is a graduate of Principia College, New York University's Stern School of Business (M.B.A.) and its Wagner School of Public Administration (M.P.A.). Christopher and Betsi have a daughter Jeramy Alice and now reside in Easton, Md.



ACTIVITIES

Book Club: Selections

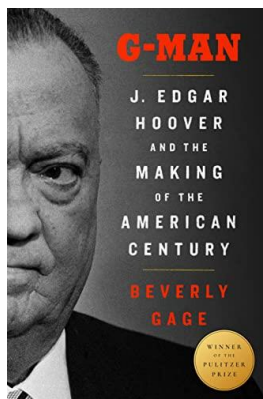
September-October 2023

The following are the DMA Book Club selections for discussion on Wednesday, September 13, and Wednesday October 11. The meetings will commence in each case at 2 p.m., eastern time in-person at the Darien Community Association (274 Middlesex Road) in the Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor, 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 BlueJeans video link will be available.

To get on the distribution list, contact **Rick Agresta**: richard.agresta@gmail.com or **Harry McLachlin**: hdmclach@aol.com.

Rick and Harry provided the following report on the two books selected for discussion in September and October, respectively.

September 13, 2023: *G-Man | J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* by Beverly Gage



Copies are available at the Darien Library but in limited supply. This doorstop biography (864 pages) of J. Edgar Hoover (1895-1972), who exercised outside power for half a century, is a welcome re-evaluation of a law enforcement legend, now much scorned, who so often operated above the law. The book also offers a review of changes and challenges to the FBI's mandate and areas of jurisdiction from inception and a great background for the public discussion of these issues going on right now.

For more on the book, see: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/beverly-gage/g-man-j-edgar-hoover/>.

October 11, 2023: *The Wager* by David Grann



The book is available for pickup at the Darien Library starting August 9. The author of *Killers of the Flower Moon* returns with a rousing story of a maritime scandal.

In 1741, the British vessel the *Wager*, pressed into service during England's war with Spain, was shipwrecked in a storm off the coast of Patagonia while chasing a silver-laden Spanish galleon. Though initially part of a fleet, by the time of the shipwreck, the *Wager* stood alone, and many of its 250 crew members already had succumbed to injury, illness, starvation or drowning. More than half survived the wreckage only to find themselves stranded on a desolate island.

Drawing on a trove of firsthand accounts – logbooks, correspondence, diaries, court-martial testimony, and Admiralty and government records – Grann mounts a chilling, vibrant narrative of a grim maritime tragedy and its dramatic aftermath. For more on the book, see: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/david-grann/the-wager-shipwreck-mutiny/>.

Poet's Corner

A Late Night for the Vintner

Have you ever seen the headlights?
In your neighbor's vineyard at midnight?
That's devotion.

The tractor rolls: forth and back
Between his vine rows
Even at God o'clock.

He mists his vines
To protect them,
Like any good grower will.

Soon we'll have new wine here.
One man's midnight devotion.

– Mark Nunan, July 2023

Wallace Stevens was Connecticut's great 20th-century poet while also having a successful career as an insurance executive in Hartford. There, "Wallace Stevens Walk," named in his honor, leads to the entrance of the Hartford Insurance Company, where he worked. It is part of the path he followed along Asylum Avenue on the two-mile walk he regularly took to and from his home and his office. Along those walks, he conceived some of his best-known poems.

In the linked video/reading below, Bill Murray does fine renditions of two short Stevens poems: *The Planet on the Table* and *A Rabbit as King of the Ghosts*. Apparently, Murray is a poetry aficionado. This reading was held to help raise funds for New York City's **Poets House**, 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City. Clearly a labor of love for him: again, devotion.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaT_2cL33R4



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Once again in September, the “Commish,” and the gang will welcome all on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. **Tom Lom:** tomlom1@aol.com

Bridge: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

We play on Bridge Base Online. We will pick it up again in early September, with **Mike Kadish** as our captain and **Gary Banks** as co-captain. We will have some new guidelines to make the bidding process easier for new players while also satisfying more advanced players. All who wish to play and to ensure you are on the Bridge roster, contact:

Mike Kadish: mKadishsj@yahoo.com or
Gary Banks: garymbanks@gmail.com.

Chess Anyone?

Caitlin Stote, the new program specialist at the Mather Senior Center has reached out to the DMA on behalf of the Connecticut State Chess Association to gauge interest in setting up regular chess matches at the Senior Center. The first session was held on August 30. We all know chess can be intellectually stimulating and fun. If you would like to join, please contact **Jim Cameron:** jim@mediatrainer.tv.

Community Service

This year **Frank Gallagher** will be picking up where **Frank DeLeo** left off last year, with new community service activities and volunteer opportunities. Stay tuned for more or if you have ideas of worthy activities, reach out to Frank. **Frank Gallagher:** francis.gallagher100@gmail.com

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

Geoff Rezek and **Tom Williams** continue to 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.

On July 14, Geoff commented on summer play and future goals, “We had three DMA members, one potential new member and four women last week. When we get 10 or more regular players, we can join the American Cribbage Congress: my five-year plan.” Here’s hoping Geoff can reach this goal this DMA year! [American Cribbage Congress Website](#)

Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net

Current Affairs: Third Thursday of the Month at 2 p.m. at the DCA and on Zoom

September 21 at 2 p.m.: Jim Phillips to lead a discussion on “The Future of Social Security: What are the Options?”

There are several options to fix Social Security. Some of the most common proposals include raising the payroll tax, lifting the cap on taxable wages, adding means-testing of benefits, providing incentives to take the benefits later, privatizing social security, etc. We anticipate a lively discussion on what are reasonable solutions. Whether or not they could pass Congress is anyone’s guess, but, ideally, we need solutions that would have broad appeal and support.

October 19 at 2 p.m.: Vincent Arguimbau to lead a discussion about how Darien should develop Great Island

How Darien should develop its purchase of Great Island rests primarily on the Italian Palazzo mansion and the horse stable with arched ceilings taken from Grand Central Station. These two monumental assets require enormous expense to refurbish and maintain, which taxpayers will resist shouldering. Our town will have to consider the whole gamut of possibilities, from commercial development, for example the palazzo privately developed into a Relais & Châteaux hotel by a group holding a long-term lease, to a complete teardown of the buildings, clearing that space for parkland.

A link to some important background material that includes a video tour of Great Island is available at the DMA website under the Current Affairs tab.

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Golf

Over the summer, DMA golfers held two very successful outings.

June 6 at Oak Hills Golf Club, organized by **Bob McGroarty**.

August 2 at Sterling Farms Golf Course, organized by **Peter Carnes**.

Write-ups and photos on each are featured later in this newsletter. Enjoy!

One more golf outing will be announced in September.

Peter Carnes: picarnes@gmail.com

Bob McGroarty: rgmcg@me.com

Happy Wanderers September 14, Far Rockaways, New York

The Wanderers will be off to a fast start this fall as the first wandering is on **Thursday, September 14**. Our destination is the Far Rockaways. This is a wandering that was rained out in June, but the September weather should be perfect for this beach destination. Before leaving Grand Central Station we will visit the new Madison Grand Central LIRR commuter rail station. We will then travel out to our destination on the subway and walk across the Broad Channel Bridge to reach the Rockaways beach

where we will have lunch before returning on a ferry journey to Wall Street. As usual we will depart on Metro North at 8:34 a.m. from Darien and Noroton Heights at 8:37 a.m., then gather at the information booth on the main floor of Grand Central Station before we start wandering. Prepare yourself for a spectacular trip from Manhattan to Brooklyn and Queens before returning to Manhattan and from there back to Darien.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking

September 7 at 9:30 a.m.: Hiking the Saugatuck Trail, Redding, Conn.

The Saugatuck Trail is a part of the Centennial Watershed State Forest that covers parts of Easton, Redding, Weston and Newtown and is a partnership between Aquarion Water Company, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and The Nature Conservancy.

Created in 2002, the property was developed to conserve 15,300 acres of land for water supply protection. It encloses the Saugatuck Reservoir and consists almost entirely of forested rugged terrain with rock outcroppings. While most of the trail is somewhat distant from the reservoir, it can be seen through the trees in several spots. The forest scenery is spectacular!

We will be hiking about four miles (two+ hours) on mostly well-groomed trails with the usual roots and rocks. There are a few fairly steep places on the trail, and walking sticks would be helpful but not at all

necessary. We rate this hike as medium plus. NO DOGS are allowed but, as always, bring friends and family!

There is limited parking so we will organize some carpooling from the DCA leaving at 8:45 a.m. The Google address is "Saugatuck Universal Access Trail, Redding, Conn."

No lunch is planned after this hike.

Dave McCollum: dgmccollum63@gmail.com

Bob Plunkett: rgplunkett1@gmail.com

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

Jim Phillips leads our monthly Zoom session, first laying out the recent macro-outlook, then opening the floor to discussion of different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are thinking of owning. Group participation and interaction is encouraged. Any members with specific investments or themes they would like to cover please feel free to email these to Jim in advance. The week prior to the meeting an email with a Zoom link and agenda will be sent out to IDG participants.

To join the group and get on the email distribution list or for questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, contact:

Jim Phillips: jlpinvest66@gmail.com

Money Matters

Doug Campbell's Money Matters meets the second Monday of the month on Zoom at 10 a.m.

This group focuses on local and regional innovative businesses, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial activities.

Anyone interested in presenting a unique business or technology or other Money Matters, especially if they are based in Fairfield County or Connecticut, contact:

Doug Campbell: dc3tsc@gmail.com

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

Pickleball never ends, especially in summer. **Jan Selkowitz** writes of continued fun in the sun: "I do not expect there to be many changes in the pickleball area. It is a well-greased machine. The summer continues with a good turnout every Tuesday and Thursday morning, which will continue into the fall at Cherry Lawn. I hope we can find a way to let a few new members join our group even though we are still at capacity. The quality of play continues to improve."

Reminder: We now use the TeamReach app for signup.

Novices, please take lessons first with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com.

Social Activities

Jan Selkowitz, tireless leader of the Social Committee, looks forward to adding to his string of many successful social events. Or as he says: "We hope to begin in late September with a new list of activities. These may include a museum trip, music events, a trip to art galleries, a possible theater event, an oyster boat trip, an athletic event, Christmas party, summer picnic and perhaps some new events the social committee may discover. We hope to pick the fall events in early September."

Some of these Jan handles on his own; others are organized and led by DMA members who have expertise in or enthusiasm for certain activities or just want to organize an interesting outing. Many of you have added your special touch in this regard, and our DMA participants and spouses have been the beneficiaries.

As always, Jan **appeals to any members with ideas for new social events or who want to "captain" a social event** in the coming year. We want to hear from you!

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

Table Tennis

Mondays and Fridays at 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Check the TeamReach app for details. If you have questions about how to use TeamReach, contact **Mike Kadish** at mKadishsj@yahoo.com.

We meet at the Mather Center in the exercise studio (room 209).

To join the group, download the **TeamReach app** for your phone and enter "DMATableTennis" for the group code.

Once approved for admission, select the dates you plan to attend, and you'll be able to see who is coming on those dates and times.

Please sign up for your selected play dates as early as possible – it encourages other DMA players to sign up, too, when they see there is a group ready to play at the Mather Center on the same date.

Mike Kadish: mKadishsj@yahoo.com

Woodworking: 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Mather Center



The DMA woodworkers meet every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey**, who leads this group, encourages members to join us and welcomes new pieces upon which to work.

If you enjoy working with your hands, this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment that we use for free.

Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers, your family and friends. To join up or to make arrangements to repair tables, chairs and other wooden furnishings, please contact:

Tom Dempsey: tjd3443@gmail.com

Summer Golf

June 6, Oak Hills Golf Club, Norwalk



Bob McGroarty organized this event and writes: “On June 6, we had a DMA golf outing with 23 members playing at Oak Hills Golf Club. The one missing player, **Jim Phillips**, had a legitimate excuse as his daughter delivered his first grandchild. Congratulations to you and your family, Jim.

“As for the play, we started off in rainy and cold conditions, but by the back nine, it was sunny and mild. The group reported a good time

playing the course with fast greens. All finished, and many stayed on to have lunch.”



June 6, Oak Hills (continued)



June 6, Oak Hills (continued)



August 2, Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford



Peter Carnes organized this game. Peter writes: “We had a 28-member turnout at Sterling Farms Golf Course for the second golf event of the summer. A list of attendees follows. The weather was absolutely spectacular, and the course was in excellent condition, both before and after we played. The talent pool claimed its usual near-normal distribution of scores although a paper trail of evidence never materialized. Nevertheless, a sufficient number of players showed their faces in the Stillery bar (19th hole) at the conclusion to verify that it was a great day for golf and that a good time was had by all.

“Thanks goes to the Stamford Golf Authority for providing annual support of our outings and for maintaining such a well-groomed and attractively priced facility.”

Barksdale	Ed
Bergen	Harry
Brennan	Mike
Carnes	Peter
Chilla	Milan
Claiborne	David
Cobb	Chet
Devlin	Mike
Fitzpatrick	David
Frayer	Jim
Garnett	Alex
Gilliam	George
Goedkoop	Wouter
Greene	Alan

Helms	Ted
Holmes	Joe
Hughes	Bob
Kelly	Jim
Markowski	Gene
McGroarty	Bob
Meck	Todd
Piersol	Dave
Plunkett	Robert
Schoff	Linc
Shaker	John
Steele	Patrick
True	Steve
van Voorhes	Cliff

August 2, Sterling Farms (continued)



August 2, Sterling Farms (continued)



Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and publisher, Mark Nunan. **Contributing editor**, Joyce Meurer. **Speaker write-ups**, Frank DeLeo. **New member bios**, Art Baron. **Mailing list and e-communications**, Art Baron, Lee Morrison. **This Week at DMA**, Bryan Hooper. **Webmaster**, Gary Banks.