



Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 1

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

September-October 2024

President's Message

As the saying goes, time flies, and it seems to fly faster for me with each passing year. The summer of 2024 has been no exception as we anticipate the beginning of fall, bringing a new football season where everyone's team starts out with the same record and there is hope that "this is their year" – plus it's the start of a new season for the DMA.

We begin the year on an incredibly strong footing thanks to the enthusiasm, fellowship and commitment of our members. Our membership has grown to more than 340, requiring us to amend our bylaws to accommodate our continued growth. In-person attendance at our weekly meetings regularly exceeds 125, with up to 25 more attending via Zoom. We look forward to the survey questions **Mike Wheeler** has in store for us each week, as evidenced by the fact that we get nearly 200 responses to our online polls. Combine this level of engagement with activities that often require us to cap the number of participants due to demand, and you have the picture of a healthy, strong and dynamic organization positioned for continued growth. Thanks to Zoom, we have been able to include members who cannot get to our meetings in person for geographic or health reasons but whose participation is important to the spirit of the DMA. I know we all appreciate the work **George Gilliam** does as chairman of DMA Cares to ensure we stay connected to members who can't get to our meetings, and I encourage you to reach out to them on your own whenever possible.

Thanks to the hard work of **Tom Igoe**, **Bert von Stuelpnagel** and others, we have a new agreement with the Darien Community Association (DCA) that serves a number of the DMA's critical needs, not the least of which is the continued use of the newly renovated DCA building as our home base for the foreseeable future.

While many of us have been off doing whatever it is that makes our summer special, several of our groups have continued to engage in DMA-sponsored activities. The Pickleball and Table Tennis groups have continued to play weekly, and the Book Club has been hard at work reading in preparation for its first meeting in September.

We've seen the passing of the baton from venerable leaders **Art Baron, Gehr Brown, Doug Campbell, Bryan Hooper, Mark Nunan, Dave McCollum** and **Jan Selkowitz** to new board and activity leaders **Doug Bora, John Craft, Fred Given, Mike Kadish, Dan Lew, Lee Morrison** and **Alec Wiggin**. Now the trick will be to see if they can fill their predecessors' very big shoes! I'm confident they can.

Our fall activities are set for a strong start. **David Mace** and **Joe Spain** have scheduled the first Wandering on September 12 to Central Park, Alec Wiggin has selected four dates for the fall hikes (weather permitting) and Doug Bora has scheduled the first social activity – a trip to the newly renovated Yale Peabody Museum and the Yale University Art Gallery – for October 18. Perhaps most important, **Ric Grefé** has put together an outstanding Speakers Program that will continue to make our Wednesday meetings the highlight of our week.

From a national and global perspective, things certainly haven't calmed down over the summer with the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Israel and the topsy-turvy world of American politics. The excitement and excellence of the Paris Olympics provided a much-needed opportunity for shared national pride and a brief escape from some of the continual turmoil. But reality has a way of grabbing one's attention, and this fall's election will bring compelling theater to our nation. With all this drama, the DMA remains a wonderful opportunity for us to share fun, fellowship and service with our community. Our differences on many of the issues are real but less important than our shared values, and our weekly meetings and activities give us an opportunity to experience the friendship and civility so critical to a productive democratic society.

I want to especially thank Bryan Hooper and Mike Kadish (as he succeeds Mark Nunan as Communications chairman) for agreeing to undertake the yeomanlike tasks of recording and communicating the activities of our group on weekly and bi-monthly/quarterly bases. It is a huge task chasing down the content for these publications, but I know they will do it with grace, humor and a little arm-twisting to deliver what we need when we need it. I must add my thanks to **Joyce Meurer** for her continued commitment to make sure the publications meet the editorial and grammatical standards worthy of our group.

As I begin my term as president, I want to thank you for entrusting me with maintaining what those before me have built. As a marketer, I think about the DMA as a brand with incredible equity, and it's my job to see that the brand is not only sustained but enhanced. We continue to attract new members who want to be part of this great organization because of who we are and what and how we do things. I'll do my best to make sure that doesn't change, and I

encourage those of you who are new – or not so new – to look for opportunities to lead and invigorate our group by your participation in leadership roles and on activity committees. Thanks in advance for your participation and involvement.

Frank DeLeo
2024-2025 DMA President

In Memoriam



Robert "Bob" Johnson

Robert (Bob) Johnson passed away peacefully at home on July 6, 2024, from consequences related to leukemia. He was born March 1, 1938, in Rochester, N.Y., to Grace and Jasper Johnson and grew up with his three brothers and two sisters.

The family moved to Needham, Mass., when he was 12 years old, where he attended the public schools and was captain of the high school football and basketball teams and president of his class. He attended Williams College, playing football, and later transferred to the University of Michigan, where he graduated with a degree in economics.

Growing up, Bob's family summered on Lake Winnepesaukee, N.H., where he met the love of his life Barbie Grad, daughter of Gladys and Linden Grad of Meredith, N.H. It was there that Bob captured Barbie's attention as a member of the water ski team. They were married for 60 years and have resided in Darien for 45 of those years, raising their two children and participating in the community in myriad ways.

After college, Bob enrolled in Officer Candidate School, joining the U.S. Marine Corps in 1961. Upon being commissioned as a second lieutenant, he entered the flight training program and became a naval aviator, stationed in southern California. He served in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and accomplished more than 300 missions there. After completion of his active military duties, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve, where he continued to fly helicopters and relished the camaraderie of his fellow officers.

He was hired by TWA, with whom he flew 727s to 747s for over 30 years. As an airline captain, he flew mostly international flights out of JFK. Sharing travel with his family was among his greatest joys, and Bob loved more than anything to take them to see the many beautiful and cultural sites throughout Europe.

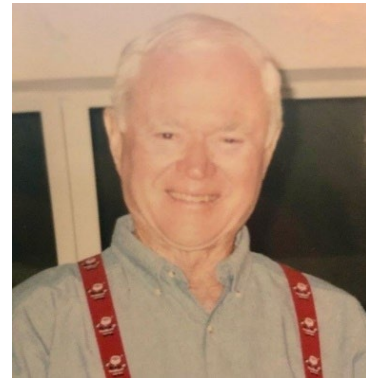
After retiring, Bob found great happiness in his two passions: boating and oil painting. From captain in the air to captain at sea, he excelled at navigating the waters of Long Island Sound in his boat, Bellwether, where many happy memories with family were created. It was his rekindled love of painting, however, that truly animated his later years. He joined the Silvermine Guild of Artists, where he honed his skills and participated in many local art

exhibitions. In his home studio, he produced numerous landscape paintings that are treasured by friends and family.

A true gentleman, Bob will be remembered for his unflagging integrity, his kind smile and his devotion to family. He is survived by his wife Barbara; his siblings, Christel, Peter and Don, daughter Amy and her husband Devin, and his two beloved granddaughters, Avery and Ingrid. He was preceded in death by his son Eric.

Robert E. “Bob” Wolkwitz

Robert E. Wolkwitz passed away on June 29, 2024, with his family by his side. He was 80 years old. Bob remains loved by his wife Robin Ackerman; his four children: Alicia (Lex) Mills, Bob, Michael (Araceli Moreno) and Rick (Theresa Mataras); his seven grandchildren; and three brothers. Born in January 1944 to Dr. Robert E. and Margaret Wolkwitz, Bob and his brothers grew up on Staten Island, N.Y.



Bob began his career at Philipp Brothers as a commodities trader. In 1999, he joined Louis Dreyfus as vice president and managing director of International Trading. After 10 years and a short-lived retirement, he consulted and guided international trade business teams for Gama Polymers, Turkey and then Capital Hill, China. In 2014, Bob officially retired.

He was passionate about his hobbies, especially drag racing. As a member of the National Hot Rod Association, he built and raced his own cars under the “Wolkoworld” logo. He enjoyed gardening, stamp collecting and occasional trips to the casino. Bob will be remembered and missed by all.

DMA Speakers Program

September-October 2024

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Anthony Anthony, “Making Connecticut Feel Like Somewhere”



Connecticut, as we all know, is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Yet only half of Connecticut residents said they were proud of the state in a recent survey, even though 73% felt it was a good place to live. Part of the challenge is that Connecticut has not defined itself around its resources and attributes; there are few who can describe what’s wonderful about our state. While those in Fairfield County might see it merely as a suburb of New York City, Gov. Lamont is determined to change that so people know what makes Connecticut special. And for that, he has turned to Anthony M. Anthony.

Anthony is an executive marketing and communications professional currently serving as chief marketing officer (CMO) for the State of Connecticut. He will review for us progress on creating a clear and lasting impression of Connecticut as a state, with all its character, history, resources and opportunity for an innovative and productive future.

As the first CMO, he oversees the newly created Office of Statewide Marketing and Tourism, working tirelessly to shape and promote a compelling narrative about Connecticut as an exceptional place to live, work and play.

Previously, Anthony served as special advisor and communications director to Gov. Lamont, where his storytelling skills and strategic guidance contributed to the governor’s high approval ratings.

Anthony’s expertise was built over the years in the private sector as a creative director and strategist at boutique brand communications agencies in New York City, guiding Fortune 500 brands across the tech, media, consumer packaged goods, hospitality and healthcare sectors.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Anthony enjoys having a good cup of coffee, cooking for his wife and two children, and voraciously consuming pop culture from the last 70 years.

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Kit Hinrichs, “America’s National Icon: Stars and Stripes”



September 11, 2001, disrupted much of our society, our security, our sense of safety. It also changed our relationship with our flag. After 9/11, the flag became ubiquitous—flying in communities, by businesses, at events and “flying” flat as decals everywhere. It has also been co-opted by partisanship. Yet we all remember an earlier time when it was not just about patriotism; it was also a whimsical theme that celebrated Americanism ... just an easier way of life for us, perhaps with greater innocence. No one can remind us of the imagery of that era like Kit Hinrichs, with his rich collection of amusing and idiosyncratic applications of the stars and stripes.

Kit, a noted graphic designer and American flag collector, will give a profusely illustrated talk on America’s national icon—the stars and stripes. His conversation will include facts, myths and legends behind the flag over its nearly 250-year history. He will discuss how this single piece of cloth has enmeshed itself into our American culture from its 18th century origin until today.

Kit’s assemblage of American memorabilia numbers in the thousands. His only family heirloom, a 36-star wool flag handsewn by his great great aunt in 1865, is the cornerstone of the collection.

In addition to historical flags, the collection now includes Navajo weavings, toy soldiers, antique quilts, political buttons, patriotic posters, children’s toys and games, anti-war images, postage stamps, tobacciana, historic photographs and collectible ephemera.

Kit served as principal in several design offices in New York and San Francisco and spent 23 years as a partner in the international design consultancy firm Pentagram before opening Studio Hinrichs in 2009. His design experience incorporates a wide range of projects, including brand development, promotion, packaging, environmental graphics, editorial and exhibition design. Kit is also a noted American flag collector and founder of the Stars & Stripes Foundation.

His work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Denver Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Letterform Archive. In addition to authoring *Narrative Design*, he has co-authored other books on design, including *Typewise* and *The Pentagram Papers*. He co-founded *@issue: The Journal of Business and Design*.

Kit has had flag exhibitions in museums across the country, including Doylestown (Pa.), Los Angeles, Louisville, New York, Reno and San Francisco. He is an author of *Long May She Wave: A Graphic History of the American Flag*. He is in the process of creating a new American flag book for the 250th anniversary of the United States titled *Broad Stripes/Bright Stars*.

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Robert Dilenschneider, “Power, Influence and Civility”



Robert Dilenschneider, a longtime Darien resident and DMA member, is frequently called upon by the media to provide commentary and strategic public relations insights on major news stories. He has counseled major corporations, professional groups, trade associations and educational institutions and has assisted clients in dealings with regulatory agencies, labor unions and consumer groups, among others. Bob formed The Dilenschneider Group in October 1991. Headquartered in New York and Chicago, the firm provides strategic advice and counsel to Fortune 500 companies and leading families and individuals around the world, with experience in fields ranging from mergers and acquisitions and crisis communications to marketing, government affairs and international media.

Bob has written a number of books, including last summer’s *The Ultimate Guide to Power & Influence: Everything You Need to Know*.

Prior to forming his own firm, Bob served as president and chief executive officer of Hill & Knowlton from 1986 to 1991, tripling the firm’s revenues to nearly \$200 million and delivering more than \$30 million in profits. He was with the organization for nearly 25 years.

He started his career in public relations in 1967 in New York, shortly after receiving a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and an M.A. in journalism from The Ohio State University.

In 2012, The Dilenschneider Group established the Civility in America Lecture Series, which features many of the nation’s leading thinkers from a wide variety of professions and provides a perspective on what must be done to restore civility in our country.

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

John Odermatt, “Present at the Destruction: Ground Zero on 9/11”



John Odermatt began his career in 1982 in the New York City Housing Authority Police Department, patrolling public housing developments. After internal promotions, John joined the New York Police Department (NYPD), where he rose to the rank of assistant chief. His assignments included executive officer of the NYPD’s Intelligence Division, where, as coordinator of the 55th United Nations General Assembly, Special Session, he was responsible, in coordination with federal agencies, for the security of more than 300 dignitaries visiting New York City.

In 2000, John was detailed to New York City’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) as the first deputy commissioner, located at 7 World

Trade Center. After the 9/11 attack, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani assigned John responsibility for the coordination of over 100 agencies for disaster recovery. In 2002, Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed John commissioner of the OEM. During his tenure, John led recovery efforts for several notable New York City emergencies, including the 2003 Blackout.

Following a distinguished career of more than two decades in law enforcement and emergency management, John joined the private sector in 2004 to lead the Office of Business Continuity for Citigroup. He re-engineered the program to be a leader in resiliency, crisis response and pandemic planning. In 2011, John was named global head of a new fraud surveillance unit. Finishing his assignment at Citi as global head of Security Services, he was responsible for governance oversight for physical security at Citi facilities around the world and for Citi’s crisis management program. He and his team provided centralized coordination, management and mitigation of countless crisis events ranging from incidents at local branches to significant international events across the globe.

Under John’s leadership, Citi became known as a leader in resiliency, crisis response and pandemic planning. John demonstrated leadership and expertise in emergency management, working with functions across the firm as it navigated through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. John and his team helped save lives throughout his tenure by organizing deliveries of critical supplies to employees impacted by the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010; assisting with recovery efforts after the hurricane in the United States in 2012 and the Caribbean in 2017; spearheading the company’s response to COVID-19; and supporting the safe evacuation of Citi employees and their families from Ukraine.

In February 2023, John started his own firm, [Ashwood Advisors](#), to provide clients with resiliency, business continuity and security services. Additionally, he is concurrently the director of Crisis & Incident Management for [Charter Communications](#) in Stamford.

John is a graduate of St. Joseph's College from which he also received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2003. He holds a master's degree in management from New York University and is a graduate of Columbia University's Police Management Institute.

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Lucia Renshaw and Don Loomis, "Pan Am's Secret Supply Mission to China"



As the daughter of a Pan Am captain in the '60s, Lucia Renshaw learned to navigate before she learned to drive. She had a full passport before she had a savings account. And she knew the Pan Am flight schedule better than she knew her class schedule. What she didn't know was the story about her father's role in World War II.

Not that she didn't try. One time, while holding up a calendar of famous Pan Am "first flight" planes, she asked her father, "Which ones did you fly?" He replied simply and shortly: "All of them."

Four years ago, she started poking around to find his story. When she uncovered a thread of a story about her father, then Lt. C. Downer Renshaw (U.S. Army Air Corps), flying photo reconnaissance in the Caribbean in 1939, she pulled the thread. What she found launched her into the story of pre-war political intrigue, Pan Am's roles in World War II and the excitement of the then new field of aviation.

In elaborate deals forged by Pan Am's founder Juan Trippe and FDR himself, the airline created a supply chain that ran from Miami all the way to the top of the world in China. One of the pilots was the father of our DMA member **Don Loomis**.

Lucia, whose father also took part in this vital war effort, will tell the story of these secret missions and give the history of the airline throughout its wartime operation.

Lucia was born and raised in Westport and went to Staples High School. In 1975, she graduated with degrees in business and political science from the University of San Francisco. It's a long way from Westport made even longer by the fact that to get to the West Coast on Pan Am, she had to fly first to London or Guatemala.

After a 35-year career in marketing management in financial services, she was able to expand her hobby of family history research. Her real passion lies in helping people discover the history

of their ancestors who served in the Civil War and World War II. She is currently using her skills to find the children of her father's colleagues from the war years of Pan Am to share with them what she has learned. Don Loomis, Jr., was one of those treasured finds.

Lucia currently lives in Phoenix with her husband Bruce Covill.



Don is an active DMA member, having presented recently in the Current Affairs group on Voting Rights and with Mark Nunan on the war in Ukraine.

Don is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He spent three years in active duty with the U.S. Navy, concluding as CIC officer aboard USS Hammerberg DE-1015. He resided in Rome for eight years while working as a consultant with Synchronamics. He returned to the United States in 1978 to work in shipping, finishing his career as senior consultant with Fisher International in Norwalk, where he acquired language skills in French, Spanish and Italian that were instrumental in building a worldwide database of the pulp and paper industry. Don has been retired since

2014. He and his wife Daniela divide their time between Darien and her family home in Formia, Italy, when not visiting daughter Deborah and three grandchildren in Washington, D.C.

Both Don's and Lucia's dads joined Pan Am in August 1940. They went on to participate in what became a crucial logistics supply route across the South Atlantic, over Africa, then to India from where supplies were flown "over the hump" (the Himalayas) into China. This vital logistics lifeline became known as the Cannonball Express.

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

No Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Richard Stevenson, “News Media Challenges Today”



There is little question that the news media have been severely disrupted over the past two decades. News gathering has suffered from a broad loss of faith in institutions, including established media. While social media and the siloing of new sources and their discrete audiences have challenged basic tenets of news gathering, *The New York Times* has also found ways to enhance the publication of news and its understanding with a comprehensive digital strategy. One of its former managing editors suggested that newspapers may be in a slump, but journalism, in all its forms, has never been more robust.

Dick Stevenson is currently editor in the Washington bureau of *The New York Times* with a particular focus on the Supreme Court.

Dick joined *The New York Times* in 1985 as a reporter trainee in “BizDay.” He went on to become a correspondent in the Los Angeles bureau from 1986 to 1992 and in London from 1992 to 1996. He then went to Washington, D.C., where he covered economics and then the White House before becoming deputy bureau chief in 2006, a role he held until 2011. He was also politics editor for the 2008 and 2012 cycles.

In 2013, he served as Europe editor, first in Paris, where he oversaw the *International Herald Tribune’s* transition into *The New York Times* International Edition, and then in London. After a stint working in New York, he returned to the Washington, D.C., bureau as enterprise editor.

He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and the London School of Economics.

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Amit Khanna, “Promoting Colorectal Wellness”



Amit Khanna, M.D., is a New York City native and completed his undergraduate education at Johns Hopkins University. Returning to New York, he received his medical degree from Mount Sinai/NYU School of Medicine and completed a master’s in public health with a concentration in health policy and management from Columbia University. He completed general surgery training at the University of Rochester followed by a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Florida.

His special interest areas are in complex colorectal disease, colorectal malignancy, anorectal disease and minimally invasive robotic surgery. Dr. Khanna has been named five times as a Castle Connolly Regional Top Doctor and *Philadelphia* magazine Top Doctor in Colon & Rectal Surgery and Top Doctor for Cancer. He has served as an appointed member of national committees of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons in video-based education, health economics, new technology and website development.

Dr. Khanna currently holds the position of assistant professor of surgery, Yale School of Medicine, regional director of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and director of Colon & Rectal Surgery, Bridgeport Hospital.

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Jim Knox and Carolyn Rinaldi, “The Wolves of Yellowstone”



In 1995 after an absence of more than half a century, North America’s most iconic apex predator returned to the pristine wilderness of the world’s first national park. In 2023, after more than a decade of planning, students from the national award-winning Conservation Discovery Corps launched a field study on the wolves of Yellowstone. Join Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo curators Jim Knox and Carolyn Rinaldi to hear their story ... and experience the adventure of a lifetime.

Jim serves as curator of education for the Beardsley Zoo, which is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. In that position, he directs educational programming and conducts field conservation. Jim is a graduate of Cornell University, where he studied animal

science and applied economics. He has tracked gray wolves in Yellowstone National Park, conducted field research on Alaskan brown bears and overseen field conservation for Atlantic salmon. He has written articles for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and for *Natural History* magazine.

A member of The Explorers Club, Jim has served as an on-camera wildlife expert for “The Today Show” on NBC and “The Early Show” on CBS. Jim has lectured for The Explorers Club and served as a guest speaker for the Yale School of the Environment, the Harvard College Conservation Society and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has been featured in *The New York Times*, served as a TEDx presenter and acted as a guest host for Connoisseur Media Star 99.9 FM “The Anna & Raven Show.” Jim writes a column, “Wildly Successful,” for the *Greenwich Sentinel* and is proud to serve as a science advisor to the Bruce Museum.



Book Group Selections

September-November 2024

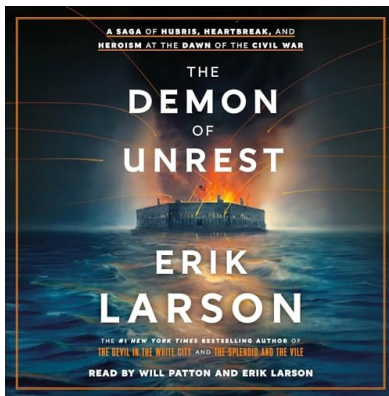
The **DMA Book Club** meets on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 2 p.m. at the Darien Community Association (274 Middlesex Road) in the Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor. DMA members who choose to participate remotely can do so as the room is equipped with audio and video systems and Zoom software. To be added to the mailing list, contact **Rick Agresta** at richard.agresta@gmail.com or **Harry McLachlin** at hdmclach@aol.com.

Last spring, DMA Book Club members were given the opportunity to make book selections for the fall. **Barry Silver** designed and managed a process using rank-order voting to determine the preferences. Each member was asked to select one title out of a choice of five.

Because of the summer hiatus, it has been common practice to choose a much longer book for the September meeting than the usual size. The members' choice this year was Erik Larson's riveting 880-page chronicle that provides an in-depth look into President Abraham Lincoln's first months in office.

The Book Club's first session will be **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**, the second will be **Wednesday, October 9**, and the third will be **Wednesday, November 13**.

***The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson (September 11)**



On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds: Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter.

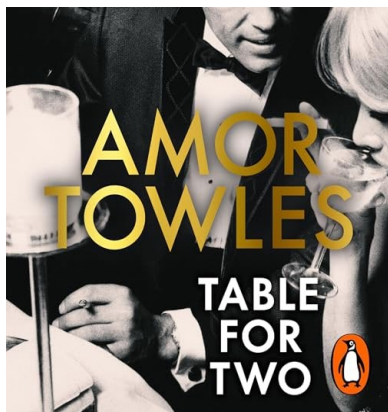
Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter – a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and

betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were “so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.”

Three persons are at the heart of this suspense-filled narrative: Major Robert Anderson, Sumter’s commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between them. Caught in the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln, battling with his duplicitous secretary of state, William Seward, as the president tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don’t see a cataclysm coming until it’s too late.

Table for Two by Amor Towles (October 9)



Amor Towles’s fans are in for a treat as he shares some of his shorter fiction: six stories based in New York City and a novella set in Golden Age Hollywood.

The New York stories, most of which take place around the year 2000, consider the fateful consequences that can spring from brief encounters and the delicate mechanics of compromise that operate at the heart of modern marriages.

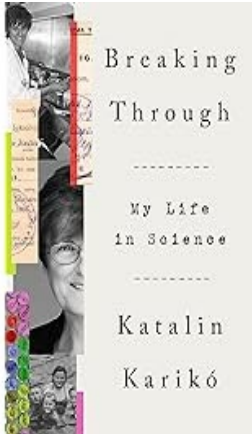
In Towles’s novel *Rules of Civility*, the indomitable Evelyn Ross leaves New York City in September 1938 with the intention of returning home to Indiana. But as her train pulls into Chicago, where her parents are waiting, she instead extends her ticket to Los Angeles. Told from seven points of view, “Eve in Hollywood” describes how Eve crafts a new future for herself—and others—in the midst of Hollywood’s Golden Age.

Throughout the stories, two characters often find themselves sitting across a table for two where the direction of their futures may hinge upon what they say to each other next.

Written with his signature wit, humor and sophistication, *Table for Two* is another glittering addition to Towles’s canon of stylish and transporting historical fiction.

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

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



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

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

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

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



ACTIVITIES (continued)

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



Once again in September, the “Commish” and the gang will welcome all on Tuesdays at our usual time and place: 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. We resume on the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 3. For questions, contact **Tom Lom** at tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge

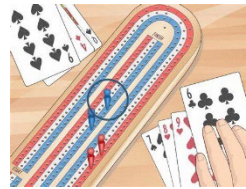
The Bridge Group will remain in hiatus until further notice while we explore returning to live play in whole or in part. Anyone interested in playing should please contact **Mike Kadish** at mkadishj@yahoo.com.

Community Service

The DMA, led by its Community Service Committee chaired by **Frank Gallagher**, strives to create increased awareness of charitable organizations in our area and to make members aware of potential volunteer opportunities at these entities. In addition, we engage in annual events to assist certain charitable causes and to raise funds. Examples include bell ringing in front of Palmer’s Market during the Christmas season to raise money for the Darien Human Services Department. We have also participated in food and clothing drives organized by Person to

Person. Our website lists a number of local charitable organizations in which DMA members are active and who can be contacted directly by other DMA members seeking to get involved. Periodically at the DMA meetings on Wednesdays, the Community Service chair will speak for a few minutes about specific organizations and review upcoming activities related to community service. For questions, contact **Frank Gallagher** at francis.gallagher100@gmail.com.

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



Geoff Rezek and Tom Williams invite you to join the cribbage heads to learn, relearn and play the standard deck card game Cribbage. A favorite of seafarers, Cribbage is a derivation of an old English game called Noddy. It was developed in the early 1600s by Sir John Suckling, an English courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find playing Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity.

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

Geoff Rezek: grrzek@optonline.net

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



Vinnie Arguimbau will moderate a discussion with Selectman Monica McNally about

Great Island.

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Golf

Bob McGroarty: rgmcg@me.com

Jerry Crowley: jerrycrowley4@gmail.com

Cliff van Voorhees: civanv@gmail.com

An outing at The Country Club of Darien scheduled for August 20 was canceled due to the August 18 storm. The group will try to schedule an outing before the season ends.

Happy Wanderers: Central Park,



Thursday, September 12

Our first Fall Wandering will be Thursday, September

12, to Central Park. We will enter the park at the southeast corner on 59th street. We will proceed north through the Mall to the Bethesda Fountain on up to the Belvedere Castle and Great Lawn. We will have lunch at the newly renovated Boathouse restaurant. We will exit the park at the Metropolitan Museum on 82nd Street. As usual, we will take the 8:34 a.m. train from Darien and the 8:37 a.m. train from Noroton Heights. We will congregate at the Information Booth on the main floor of

Grand Central. **Chet Cobb** will be our leader. We hope you will join us to see an important piece of New York's history and its beauty.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking



This year, to minimize conflicts with other DMA events, hikes will be scheduled for a specific Thursday each month. We hope this will attract more hikers. For the first part of the upcoming season, the following dates have been selected:

- September 26
- October 10
- November 7
- December 5

Please note these Thursdays on your calendar now. As usual, family members and guests are welcome.

Opening Hike: For our inaugural hike on September 26, we will be polishing a chestnut: Mianus River Park on Merriebrook Lane, Stamford. Accessing the yellow path that runs through the southern section of the property, we will traverse new terrain and experience a fresh aspect of this beautiful, close-at-hand treasure.

Distance: Approximately 3.0 miles

Terrain: Modest ups and downs, a few heavily rooted areas; some stonewall step-throughs and rivulet rock crossings. In these

spots, you will be well-served if you curtail conversation and focus on your footing. (Given the voluble nature of our chatty coterie, this sensible suggestion will be honored in the breach no doubt!)

Dogs: Permitted; leash only

Lunch: Similar to last season, we will dine at Zody's 19th Hole located at 451 Stillwater Road, Stamford, at the Brennan Golf Course. *Please signal your lunch intentions before we set out.*

For more information, contact **Alec Wiggin** at alec@aared.com.

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

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

To join the group and be added to the email distribution list or if you have questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, contact **Jim Phillips** at jlpinvest66@gmail.com.

Money Matters: Second Monday of the Month at 10 a.m. on Zoom

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, technology or other Money Matters topic, especially if based in Fairfield County or Connecticut, contact **Doug Campbell** at dc3tsc@gmail.com.

New Wave Singers: United Methodist Church, Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

The New Wave Singers is developing a repertoire of songs to perform at the DMA and at community organizations in the area. Under the leadership of our music director, Jon Hunt, the group rehearses every Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Darien. DMA members are encouraged to join regardless of singing experience. Group members will be charged a membership fee designed to cover expenses, most of which is the fee charged by our music director. If you have questions, please contact:

Jim Bragg at jamesbragg77@gmail.com.

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

The group is at capacity but continues to try to find ways to let a few new members join. Reminder: We use the TeamReach app for signup. Novices, please take lessons first with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com

Social Events

Yale Peabody Museum and Yale University Art Gallery Tour, October 18, 2024

The Social Committee's first event of the year will be held on Friday, October 18, 2024, with a trip to tour two of Yale University's world-class museums: **Yale Peabody Museum** and **Yale University Art Gallery**. A DMA-only luncheon in a private dining room will be held at ZINC restaurant, one of New Haven's hottest eateries.

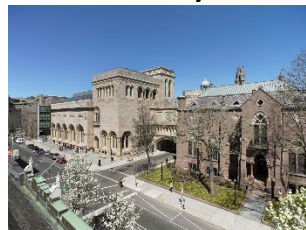
Yale Peabody Museum

"The Peabody" is unarguably Connecticut's greatest museum. Its renowned collection of more than 14 million objects tells the story of Earth, its life, history and culture. The museum is 158 years old, with roots 50 years earlier, and has just re-opened after *four years and a \$160 million* upgrade to reinvent itself for the 21st century. The museum is expected to become one of the largest visitors' attractions in Connecticut, and it will further enhance the state's premier university in the role as a major center of scientific education.

Major exhibits include:

- How Earth Was Formed: Minerals, Earth & Space – At 4.5 billion years old, Earth was shaped by powerful geologic forces. Our civilization depends on Earth's vast mineral and energy resources; some of the largest and rarest mineral specimens of their kind are on display.
- The Hall of Dinosaurs – The exhibit displays how living things evolved from sea-born bacteria and microbes through dinosaurs, the rise of homo sapiens and the complex biodiversity we have today.
- The Earliest Written Human Records – The first records of human thought appeared in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, and many of the ideas and institutions originating from those civilizations continue to shape our world.
- The History of Science & Technology – The exhibit encompasses a collection of 15,000 items from more than 500 years of history, which includes a wide range of scientific instruments.

Yale University Art Gallery



Covering 1-1/2 city blocks in three buildings, the museum features more than 4,000 works on display.

Galleries showcase artwork from ancient times to the present, including vessels from Tang-dynasty China, early Italian paintings, masterworks by Degas, van Gogh and Picasso, textiles from Borneo, treasures of American art, masks from West Africa, modern and contemporary art, ancient sculptures and more. We are tentatively

scheduled for a 60-minute private guided tour for groups of 10 DMA members led by a docent. The experience is discussion-based, and DMA members will be encouraged to look closely, ask questions and talk about what they see.

If you have any questions, contact Social Events Committee chair **Doug Bora** at dougbora@outlook.com.

Table Tennis: Mather Center, 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 **Steve Gravereaux** at spgarg@optonline.net. 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 day.

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



The DMA Woodworkers meet every Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey**, who leads this group, encourages members to join us and welcomes new pieces upon which to work. If you enjoy working with your hands, this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment that we use for free. Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers and their family and friends. To join up or to make arrangements to repair tables, chairs and other wooden furnishings, please contact **Tom Dempsey** at tjd3443@gmail.com.

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, Mike Kadish. **Contributing Editor**, Joyce Meurer. **Speaker write-ups**, Ric Grefé. **New Member bios**, Lee Morrison. **Mailing list and e-communications**, Lee Morrison. **This Week at DMA**, Bryan Hooper. **Webmaster**, Gary Banks.