

DMA

Newsletter

[DMA Website is now at www.DarienDMA.org](http://www.DarienDMA.org)

Darien Men's Association

January – February 2020

Holiday Wreaths



How many men does it take to change 300 light bulbs? **Jack Fitzgibbons** reports that 25 DMA members again this year examined the lights on 90 holiday wreaths just before they were to be mounted on lampposts throughout Darien and replaced some 300 bulbs. This annual volunteer contribution to the town's festivities ensures that the holiday spirit is burning bright, as shown in the picture above on the right.

President's Message

We ended 2019 with a bang. Our Christmas Party with 179 attendees was a superb success. The ambiance, the food and the entertainment were all of five-star quality, and there was a lot of fun and friendship evident among the revelers. Thank you, **Jane and Tony Yezzi** for organizing this outstanding event!



The Christmas Party was a fitting finale to a busy fall season brimming with activities. It wasn't just the superb roster of speakers that filled the auditorium and parking lot to overflow levels; in fact, all our activities enjoyed robust participation. We became avid readers, bowled with greater skill, golfed to victory, matched wits at bridge with Mr. Anonymous, lit up Christmas wreaths, tolled charity bells at Palmer's, hiked with vigor and wandered with pleasure.

We also sought to become financially more astute, dug deep into current policy issues and enthusiastically pickled ball. We sailed the Sound and looked for oysters. We did not ignore culture either, with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Quartet playing exclusively for us. And as if this was not enough, we even managed to fix furniture and antiques with skilled craftsmanship. We gained 18 new members but sadly lost some, including, most notably, **Victor DeVivo** at age 100 and **Marc Thorne**, whose sudden passing came as a deep shock. May their souls rest in peace. We are now entering the slow winter period with several members fleeing

to warmer climes, and hiking and wandering taking a hiatus. On the positive side, this will mean easier parking and more coffee for the rest of us. But let me assure you the quality of speakers will not abate: **Gary Banks** has an impressive list of speakers already lined up. All our other activities will continue full steam ahead. Thank you to all those who organize and lead our many activities and to the Board that keeps DMA functioning smoothly. I wish a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all our members and their families.

Sunil Saxena
President

Speakers

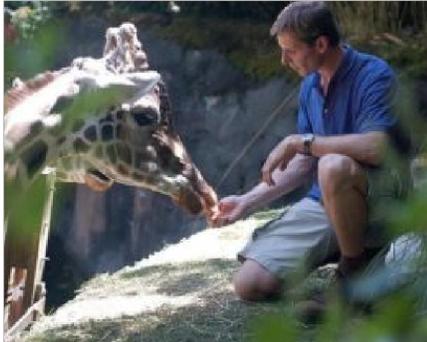
Wednesday, January 8, 2020



James Canton, Chief Executive officer, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, will speak about the history and programs of the organization. The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was founded in 1988 by Paul Newman with a simple premise: to provide opportunities for children with serious illnesses to experience the transformational spirit and friendships that go hand in hand with camp. Newman did just that, not only with fame and money but also with his personal involvement. The Gang has expanded from there to other programs and locations, including programs for siblings and parents and hospital outreach. It's a touching and powerful story.

Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, January 15, 2020



Arranged by Gehr Brown

Jim Knox, Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, will speak on "Saving Animals from Extinction: Tales of Species Recovery in Connecticut and Beyond." Jim is a TEDx speaker with more than 3,000 presentations to his credit. He has studied black rhinos, lions and great white sharks, as well as conducted field research on Alaskan brown bears. He is a graduate of Cornell University, has written for and hosted shows for PBS television, and has appeared on "The Today Show" and been featured in *The New York Times*.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020



Red Jahncke will talk about being "A Conservative Columnist in a Deep Blue State." As a self-trained, later-in-life columnist, he will share how he evolved professionally and what it is like practicing his craft in Connecticut. The format for his presentation will be similar to what we at DMA use for some of our discussion groups. Prior to his talk, he will post some of his articles on our website. He will use these as a springboard for a lively and informative discussion.

Arranged by Alex Garnett

Wednesday, January 29, 2020



DMA member **David Fitzpatrick** will speak on "North Korea: The Last Stalinist State." For two years, North Korea has been the object of President Trump's desire to achieve a major foreign policy success. He and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, have met twice in elaborately staged sessions that have, on the surface, been devoted to the so-called "denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula. But those up-and-down efforts have been criticized by some experts as simply extended photo opportunities, a chance for both leaders to gain worldwide exposure for one of the most intractable military and geopolitical situations on the planet. CNN's Fitzpatrick has traveled to North Korea twice and earned an Emmy Award for his role in a groundbreaking CBS News report on the famine in North Korea. He will examine the North Korea of yesterday and today, which are, in fact, striking in their similarities.

Arranged by Alex Garnett

Wednesday, February 5, 2020



Daryl Hawk, explorer and international documentary photographer, will deliver a talk, “It’s the Journey that Counts.” Hawk has traveled alone to some of the most remote places in the world telling stories with his camera. These are places where time stands still and powerful nature and solitude reigns supreme. Hawk spends weeks at a time documenting and immersing himself in different cultures and landscapes. He is a passionate defender of the world’s remaining wilderness

areas and uses his photography to shine a light on why we need to protect them.
Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, February 12, 2020



Warren Tuttle will share stories and insights about identifying and bringing to market innovative products. Tuttle was the person who, teaming with a Boston-based inventor, orchestrated the overnight success of the television direct response megahit “SmartSpin,” which has sold nearly 10 million units. Tuttle also teamed to initiate the market launch of other innovative kitchen products, including “MISTO, The Gourmet Olive Oil Sprayer,” which has sold over 5 million units, and “The Toss and Turn Pan”, one of the best-selling

cookware fry pans.
Arranged by Bob Howe

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

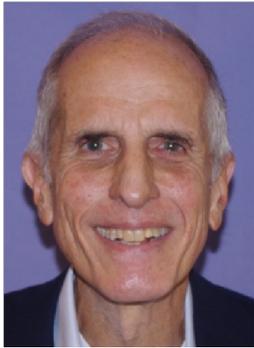


Josh Geballe, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for the State of Connecticut will speak about progress made streamlining the State’s business functions. DAS houses a number of business functions of state government including information technology, human resources, procurement, facilities and real estate, construction services, fleet management, and worker’s compensation, as well as the state’s website, CT.gov. The challenge is obvious.

Arranged by Gary Banks

New Members

DMA continues to grow at a very healthy rate, with 11 new members in November and December 2019.



Michael Critelli was born in Newark, N.Y., in 1948 and grew up in Rochester, N.Y. He graduated from Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester and in 1970 graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.A. in political science and communications and public address. In 1974, he graduated from Harvard Law School with a J.D. cum laude. From 1974 to 1979, Mike was an associate with law firms in Chicago and then joined Pitney Bowes in Stamford as a member of the Legal Department, rising to CEO in 1996 and retiring in 2008. Post Pitney Bowes, he was CEO of Dossia Service

Corporation in Boston from 2010 to 2016; acting CEO of CloudParc in New York; and CEO of MoveFlux, a company providing artificial intelligence solutions for knowledge and talent management. Michael and his wife Joyce live in Darien and have three children. He serves on the board of Eaton Corporation, Wymisical, ConferMED, RAND Corporation, PowerMyLearning, Regional Plan Association, Imagine Solutions, Harvard School of Public Health and Smithsonian Postal Museum. He is a member of Wee Burn Country Club. Any leisure time is spent enjoying baseball, tennis, music (part-time piano player), reading and blogging.

Sponsored by George Hawes



Peter Jaques was born in London in 1951 and grew up in Wembley/Harrow. He graduated from Kingsbury High School and received a degree in town planning and economics from the University of East Anglia, where he was active in rugby, football and athletics. Peter's work history is with Hilton International in London as vice president of Global Business Travel at the British Consulate in New York and CityLife Hotel Group in New York as chief financial officer and vice president, Asset Management. Peter and his wife Susan live in Rowayton and have four children and two (soon to be

three) grandchildren. He belongs to De Laune Cycling Club in London. He enjoys cycling, football, rugby, winter sports, cooking, wine, reading and travel.

Sponsored by Patrick Steele



Michael Wheeler was born in Oak Park, Ill., in 1949 and grew up in Greenwich, Conn. He graduated from Brunswick High School in 1967. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1971 and, 40 years later, an M.A. degree in 2011, both from the University of Missouri. From 1977 to 1982, he was station manager for WGST in Georgia, where he launched the Georgia Radio Network. Next, he was with MTV Networks as regional vice president. Other positions followed, including senior vice president, National Accounts, Showtime at Viacom; chief operating officer of Financial News

Network; executive vice president at NBC New Media; and an executive position with CNBC/Dow Jones Desktop Video. From 2001 to the present, Mike has been the founder and managing director of Westerly Partners, which provides investment advisory services to early-stage companies, and launched one of the first streaming media content sites in partnership with Microsoft and Dow Jones. Mike and his wife Ann live in Darien and have three children and two grandchildren. He is a member of the Darien RTM, chair of Board of Advisors of the Darien TV79, member of the Weekapaug Golf Club, head coach of the Westerly Wildcats Special Olympics Golf Team, coach of Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and teacher at Literacy Volunteers. His hobbies include golf, reading, travel and babysitting.

Sponsored by Bob McGroarty and Dan Benton

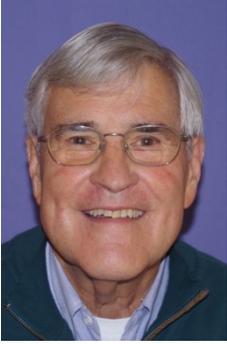


Peter Ludwig was born in Norwalk in 1939 and grew up in New Canaan. He graduated from New Canaan High School and attended the Bridgeport Engineering Institute. Pete served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1961. After discharge, he joined Audiotape as an electro mechanical technician. He moved to Branson Instruments in 1967. In 1973, he joined Pitney Bowes in Stamford, where he worked until he retired in 1999. Pete and his wife Loretta

(Ret) live in Norwalk and have two daughters and four grandchildren. He belongs to the Pitney Bowes Oval Club and Oak Hills Men's Golf

Association. Pete is a snowbird and enjoys golf and history.

Sponsored by Taylor Strubinger



Douglas Goodman was born in Bethlehem, Pa., in 1944, where he graduated from Liberty High School. In 1967, he received a B.S. degree in marketing from Pennsylvania State University, where he was active in Delta Tau Delta and the university choir. After graduation, Doug joined Armstrong Cork Company and worked in the Packaging Materials Division. He moved to Richardson-Vicks in Wilton and worked for eight years in the TLB Plastics Division. He then started his own sales and marketing company in Fairfield, selling plastic components primarily in the cosmetic industry. After 39 years, he dissolved the company in July 2019. Doug and his wife

Katie live in Fairfield and have three daughters and seven grandchildren living in Darien. He belongs to the Institute of Packaging Professionals, Cosmetic Industry Buyers and Suppliers, Penn State Southern Connecticut Alumni Chapter and the Gaelic American Club. For leisure, Doug likes pickleball, paddle tennis and choral singing. He is a volunteer at the Connecticut Food Bank, the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, and the Carousel Thrift Shop. He is a member of the Southport Congregational Church. His favorite pastime is cheering for the grandkids at Darien sporting events.

Sponsored by Frank Zaino



John Feldman was born in Morges, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland, in 1955 and grew up in the French- and German-speaking areas of Switzerland. He completed his primary education in 1971. John studied at l'Ecole Technique du Sentier and became a journeyman tool and die maker. He worked in Switzerland at Looser Presses. He came to the United States and studied at Bridgeport and Fairfield universities. John's area of expertise is mechanical engineering. He worked as a contract engineer in research and development, sales and project management for local branches of companies such as Microtech, Color Film Corporation, Perkin-Elmer, Pitney Bowes,

Clairol, AMF, Bendix Corporation, and IBM. John lives in Darien and has a daughter and granddaughter living in Florida and a son in Switzerland.

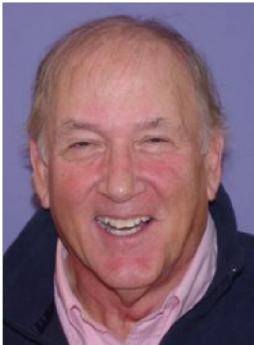
Sponsored by Hendrick Vriesen



Patrick Gentile was born in Flushing, Queens, N.Y., and grew up in Middle Village, Queens. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School and Queens College, City University of N.Y., in 1982 with a B.A. in accounting. From 1982 to 1986, he worked at BDO as a senior auditor. From 1986 to 2013, he worked at American Banknote Corporation as executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief operating officer. From 2014 to 2017, he operated as Patrick Gentile CPA (consulting). Patrick and his wife Teresa live in Darien and have two children. He belongs to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of

CPAs. He is a board member of the Andrew Shaw Memorial Trust. He volunteers as an income tax program coordinator and is an AARP tax aide coordinator for seniors. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, cycling and travel. He is a diehard Mets fan.

Sponsored by Harry Bergen



Roy Thompson was born in Corning, N.Y., in 1946 and grew up in Marietta, Ohio. He spent the summers on Nantucket Island. He attended The Taft School and graduated from the Sterling School in Vermont in 1964. Roy graduated from the University of Denver in 1968 with a B.A. in mathematics. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Korea. He spent 15 years, mostly with Wang Laboratories, selling computers and office automation equipment followed by 13 years as a general contractor for high-end homes in the Darien/Rowayton area. For the last 11 years (and counting), he

has been selling real estate in this area in partnership with his spouse. Roy lives in Rowayton with his wife Christine and has two children and four grandchildren. He is a member of the Rowayton Yacht Club and the Darien YMCA. He enjoys spending his free time sailing and powerboating, skiing and woodworking.

Sponsored by Bud Bain

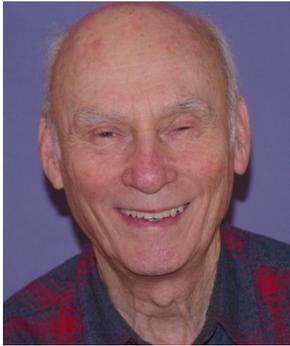


Bruce Lynn was born in New York City in 1946 and grew up in the Rowayton, Westport and Darien areas. He graduated from St. Luke's School in New Canaan and received a B.S. degree in industrial engineering from Lehigh University in 1968. After graduation, Bruce spent five years as a captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and then joined Chase Manhattan Bank in bank operations until 1975. He then moved to Bankers Trust in strategic planning and Ogden Corp. in treasury operations. In 1990, Bruce joined Greenwich Treasury Advisors doing treasury consulting and

continued the same work with The Financial Executives Consulting Group until 2007.

Bruce and his wife Anne live in Darien and have three children and three grandchildren. He belongs to the Tokeneke Club and uses his free time to enjoy photography, architecture, travel, mechanical things and venture capital.

Sponsored by Harris Hester



Francis Schlater was born in Philadelphia in 1941 and grew up in New Hope, Pa, and Ithaca, N.Y. During high school, he began his flying career navigating Piper Cubs from a local farmer's field. In 1960, Frank enlisted in the Air National Guard to train as a mechanic with the hope of becoming a pilot. In 1963, he graduated from Air Force pilot training in Laredo, Texas. He joined Pan Am World Airways in 1965 and flew international routes as a navigator, co-pilot and captain until 1991. For the next 10 years, he flew for Delta Air Lines until his

retirement. Since then, he has worked at Golfsmith and Golf Galaxy in Norwalk. Frank and his wife Nancy live in Rowayton and have two children. He belongs to the Rowayton United Methodist Church, where he is a member of the Board of Trustees, and the Roton Point Association. His sports interests include tennis, golf, skiing and boating on Long Island Sound. He collects and plays with antique golf clubs and enjoys gardening and landscaping.

Sponsored by Patrick Steele



James Goll was born in Plattsburgh, NY, in 1960 and was an army brat, growing up in Plattsburgh, California, Guam, Japan, Nebraska and Wisconsin. He graduated from Homestead High School in Mequon, Wis. He received a B.A. in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1983 and an M.B.A. in finance and accounting from the University of Chicago in 1987. Jim worked for PPG Industries from 1983 to 1985 while obtaining his graduate degree and then joined PaineWebber as managing director in the Investment Banking Division until 2000. In 2001, he joined Bank of

Montreal/BMO Capital Markets as managing director in the Debt Capital Market/Leveraged Finance Group, retiring in 2019. Jim and his wife Debra live in Darien and have three children. He belongs to the NRA and Wee Burn Country Club. In his free time, he enjoys tennis, bowling, gardening and relearning golf.

Sponsored by Jim Demark

In Memoriam – Marc Thorne



Marc Thorne, a long-standing and much-beloved DMA member and our President from 2009 to 2010, passed away suddenly from a stroke on December 16. Marc held a number of positions over the years including serving as a current member and former Chairman of DMA Cares. Marc devoted his life to public and community service. He served as a town selectman from 2015 through the most recent election. In addition, he served on the RTM Finance & Budget Committee, the Consolidated Services Working Group and the Pear Tree Point Beach Building Committee. “Marc was very dedicated to making Darien as good a town as it could possibly be,” said George Gilliam. “The example he set and his demonstrated leadership inspired us all, and he will be missed very much.”

Honoring Two Long-Standing Leaders



Bob Mitchell, 94, has been one of DMA's most active members since he joined in 1991, serving as DMA president in 2007-2008. Bob and his late wife Mary were married for 60 years. He has seven children and 20 grandchildren. Bob was studying at Princeton where he was on the baseball team and a member of the glee club, when service in World War II called. He was an officer on a minesweeper in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. After the war, he graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and began a 39-year career with Union Carbide, heading marketing for Prestone Antifreeze among other assignments. Since moving to Darien in 1970, he has been a

community and church leader. As coach, he was instrumental in getting girls' soccer made a varsity sport at Darien High School. At St. Thomas More, he has served as Lector and as Eucharistic Minister serving the community. In 2018, he was Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade. He embodies the volunteer spirit and community service found in so many DMA members.



Over 25 years, **Taylor Strubinger**, 94, is not only one of our longest-standing but also one of our most active members. Taylor has led many of our Wanderings in New York City, including to the Hall of Fame of Great Americans at the Stanford White-designed buildings of what is now Bronx Community College, as well as to the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, including a visit to The Cloisters. He has been active in tennis and hiking and for four years was responsible for the DMA newsletter. Taylor received a degree in engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and had a long career with two of the

nation's great engineering firms, Bechtel and Fuller Construction. At Bechtel he was manager of operations for projects, including Intercontinental Hotels in Saudi Arabia and China (shortly after the country opened to the West). At Fuller, he was responsible for major construction projects in Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Spain. Taylor remains active in the Book Group, writes the profiles of new members for the DMA newsletter and recently helped with the DMA's annual volunteer effort to assure the town's holiday wreath lights were shining bright.

Activities

Pickleball



Jan Selkowitz reports that after a good summer of outdoor play at Cherry Lawn, the pickleballers are now back indoors at the Mather Center gym. The popularity of pickleball has increased to the point where demand has far outstripped supply. On an average day there are at least 20 players. In the hope of cutting back on the waiting time, the Pickleball Committee is in the process of dividing participants into two groups. We hope to send out an email by the beginning of

January with all details. Play will continue as before on Tuesday and Thursdays with Intermediate and Advanced play from 9 a.m. to noon, and Beginners play from noon to 2 p.m. Parks and Recreation has hired an instructor for beginners and others looking to advance their game. Play is free, and men and women are welcome.

Investment Discussion Group

Jim Phillips reports that the Investment Discussion Group invites its members to suggest stocks that they own personally but want a second opinion from the group. Other stocks for discussion reflect changing industry dynamics or trends. In November, **Mark Nunan** made a compelling case and received a round of applause as he presented Domtar (**UFS**) as a slow-growth value pick. **Jim** updated the group on PayPal (**PYPL**). In December, **Art Baron** presented an analysis of Ansys (**ANSS**), an engineering simulation software company that enables its customers to test products by simulating multiple concepts before the manufacturing or design process is complete, thus saving money prior to production. **Jim** presented American Tower (**AMT**) as a play on 5G. American Tower owns and leases roughly 170,000 cell towers throughout the United States, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. On January 6, **Dennis Liebowitz** will lead a discussion on Disney vs. CBS/Viacom. The group meets at 9 a.m. the first Monday of every month at 30 Old Kings Highway South, 1st Floor.

Bell Ringing for Those in Need in Darien



Mike Heitz reports that 22 DMA members were Salvation Army bell ringers outside Palmer's Supermarket on December 14 and 15. More than \$1,500 was collected, 90% of which will go to the Town of Darien Human Services Department for neighborhood family support (such as the Community Fuel Bank) and other needs right in Darien, and 10% to The Salvation Army for its charitable purposes. Our former DMA President, the late **Marc Thorne**, was instrumental in initiating DMA bell ringing and was known for his kindness to small children who were thrilled when he let them ring the bell.

Bridge



Tony Kwedar reports that new DMA members have recently joined the Bridge Group, which meets every Tuesday at 1 p.m., in the Taylor Room at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1864 Post Road (corner of Ring's End Road). Players usually arrive by 12:45 p.m. when partners are selected by the draw of the cards. All levels of play are accommodated, and there is adequate room and parking for up to 20 players.

Current Affairs



Great turnout at Current Affairs discussions

Charlie Goodyear reports that on November 21, **Jack Fitzgibbons, M.D.** and **Gary Banks** led a discussion on the Microbiome, the genetic material of all microbes (bacteria, fungi, viruses, etc.). It is one of the most promising, yet challenging, topics in modern medicine. On December 9, **Jim Phillips** led a discussion of the pros and cons of 5G Wireless Networks that will transmit data 1,000 times faster than the current 4G systems. More than 25 members attended each session. There is a wealth of background information on each topic on the DMA website under Current Affairs. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month on the second floor of the DCA. On **January 16**, there will be a discussion of U.S. and world cybersecurity led by **Harris Hester**. **February 20** will feature a discussion of Waste Recycling with a focus on Darien led by **Cliff van Voorhees** and **Carolyn Bayne**.

Woodworking



Tom Williams reports that the Woodworking Group meets at the well-equipped wood shop at the Mather Center on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon. The group has the talent and tools to build or repair many things made of wood and welcomes new members. The Woodworking Group encourages DMA members to bring in items that need repairing and, for those who want a hands-on experience, can advise on projects and assist with using the many professional-grade tools in the wood shop, including table, band and scroll saws, sanders, a grinder and router table, a miter saw, a drill press, a mortising chisel and a lathe.

Bowling



Tom Lom reports that the Bowling Group continues to meet every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield for good fun and, for most, good scores. Of course, it should be noted that "good" is in the eyes of the bowler. Someone who averages 120 will be very happy with a 400 series, while someone who averages 175 will be disappointed with a 500 series. That said, there have been quite a few

"good" scores these past several weeks. **George Gilliam** bowled his highest series of the year, and **Kevin Davidson** bowled his best series ever! There were quite a few 500 series, including a recent 564 by **Frank DeLeo**, which was his high series of the season. There was even a 616 series by **Tom Lom**. And we had "Bowler of the Week" results one week from **Ben Briggs** (+68), another from **George Gilliam** (+67) and another by **John Kirkman** (+59). As the winter season settles in, come join the fun and get some indoor exercise to boot.

Money Matters



Doug Campbell reports that the Money Matters Group had interesting, well-attended discussions on topics that can affect DMA members' wealth and wealth planning. In November, **Art Baron** led a discussion on "Clean Tech and the Green Economy," which is now worth \$1.3 trillion. The group discussed the many companies and technologies that are growing and related to recycling, renewable energy, information

technology, green transportation, electric motors, green chemistry, lighting and more. In December, **Doug Campbell** discussed angel investing in Connecticut and the region, and Connecticut Innovations (CI). There are many efforts to fund and grow companies in Connecticut at all levels. Ventureclash, a CI program, has attracted companies from around the world to compete for \$5 million in prizes. Winning companies are moving their headquarters or U.S. operations to Connecticut. Several DMA members have direct experience with CI. Money Matters meets the third Wednesday of every month from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. at the DCA in the Lillian Gade room on the second floor (prior to the regular DMA meeting). On **January 15** there will be a survey and discussion on the role of private equity in the U.S. economy, and its pluses and minuses.

Happy Wanderers – World’s Fair Grounds and Queens Museum



In November, **Joe Spain** reports, nine intrepid wanderers traveled by subway from Grand Central to Citifield in Queens. The group walked across the pedestrian bridge toward the Billie Jean King Tennis Center, Arthur Ashe Stadium, and the 1964 Unisphere. An expanse of parkland and soccer fields now exists where the pavilions of the 1939 and the 1964 World’s Fairs once stood. (In 1964, 80 nations built 110 pavilions on this land.) The group then headed to the Queens Museum, which has a rich history, including the fact it was home to the United Nations General Assembly from 1946 to 1950 while the UN’s current headquarters was being

built. The museum now houses a breathtaking diorama of the City where, from an overlook, visitors can see all the way from the far end of Staten Island to the northernmost parts of the Bronx. Upon leaving the museum, the group had lunch at Park Side Restaurant. It is known to be where the “good-fellas” of Queens wine and dine. Each table has a brass plaque with the name of a special diner who could have displaced us had he shown up.

Happy Wanderers – New York at Christmas



In December, the Wanderers followed their annual tradition of a brisk Manhattan walk to savor the holiday scene and to take in the seasonal display windows at midtown department stores. We walked through the Bryant Park Christmas market stalls to Macy’s Herald Square at 34th Street. Thence by subway, we were at the southeast corner of Central Park to stroll through the Grand Army Plaza at 59th & Fifth to Bonwit Teller, continuing south past Bergdorf’s, and

ducked into St. Thomas’s Church to hear a few stirring minutes of an organ rehearsal. Next we went to Saks, stopping at St. Patrick’s to observe a celebration marking the feast day of Our Lady of Guadeloupe. Our next stop was Rockefeller Center for the skating and the tree and lunch at Bill’s Bar & Burger. We turned back north, past Cartier, Tiffany’s and Louis Vuitton, and up to the Apple Store’s cubed plaza. Then it was east to Bloomingdale’s, where we gazed at our final set of Christmas windows, walked back to Grand Central and caught the train home.

Pomerance/Montgomery Pinetum Park Hike



Led by Woodlands navigator **Dave McCollum**, eight DMA members and three spouses explored four miles of meandering pathways within Pomerance/Montgomery Pinetum Park, a 100-acre property owned by the Town of Greenwich. The opportunity to hone orienteering skills was appropriate because the property was originally the estate of Ernest Seton, one of the co-founders of the Boy Scouts. It was later the home of

financier Maurice Werthem, father of Barbara Tuchman, who wrote the Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Guns of August*, there. The group later had a nourishing lunch at a local institution, Louie's Italian Restaurant & Bar in Cos Cob.

Copps Island Oyster Tour II



Bryan Hooper reports that the Copps Island oyster tour in late October (limited to a group of 10) was so popular that a second DMA group trip

was arranged in November. Members heard that three generations of the firm of Norm Bloom & Son have been farming and harvesting oysters marketed as Copps Island Oysters. The group was taken out on an oyster boat to see oyster beds off Norwalk. The trip featured lectures on the health of the Sound, and an explanation of oyster, lobster and clam life cycles. At the end of the tour, the group watched oysters being sorted for the market, and then had lunch (including raw, fried and baked oysters) at nearby Knot Norm's in East Norwalk. Bryan advises that another tour will be scheduled for the spring, and those who don't make the tour cut (or haven't yet had the experience of eating at Knot Norm's) can join the group for lunch on the day of the outing.

Book Club

Harris Hester reports that the Book Club had an excellent turnout for discussions in November and December. The November selection was *Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World* by Robert D. Kaplan. The author lays bare his thoughts on America's greatness and the fact that we are a nation, empire and continent all in one.

December's discussion was *Last Boat Out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao's Revolution* by Helen Zia. This was a chronicle of four young people of different circumstances caught up in the exodus from Shanghai in the wake of China's 1949 Communist revolution.

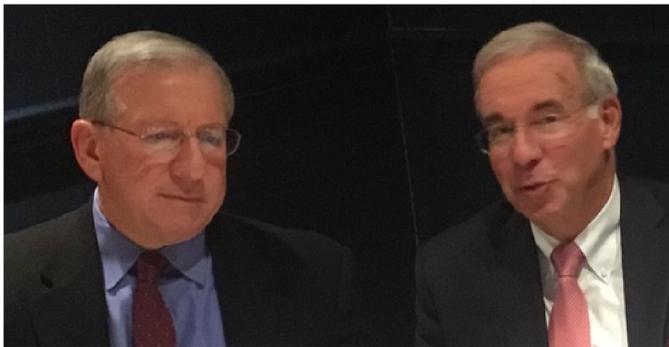
On **January 8** the group will discuss *Thank You for Being Late* by Thomas Friedman. Citing 2007 as the year we reached a technological inflection point, Friedman details increasingly fast-paced globalization and shock to our planet's system such as climate change and biodiversity loss. On **February 12**, the group will discuss *The Overstory*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Richard Powers. This is a collection of narratives about ecology and those who came to be committed to saving old growth sequoias from logging on the Pacific Coast.

The Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Mather Senior Center Library. You do not have to read the book to attend the meeting. More information about the books is on the DMA website. All books are available at the Darien Library.

Christmas Party

Tony Yezzi reports that our 2019 Christmas Party, held at the Country Club of Darien, was attended by 179 guests (members and their spouses), a record attendance. Not only did the evening feature an hour of hors d'oeuvres which allowed everyone to mingle, but the sit-down buffet dinner was excellent. The highlight of the evening was a performance of the Darien High School Tudor Singers.





Christmas party photos by Gregory Glashan and Charles Salmans



Mark Your Calendar – Details on DMA Website

Hockey & Dinner

Tom Lom and **Gehr Brown** report that this year's version of our annual hockey outing will take place on Saturday, **February 8**. The game starts at 7 p.m. Prior to that, we will have a family style dinner at 4:45 p.m. at Ralph-n-Rich's Restaurant—which is an approximate five-minute walk from the Webster Bank Arena. Dinner will include a salad (gorgonzola if you wish), three different entrees (veal parmesan, chicken francaise and salmon piccata), cookie and pastry tray, coffee, tea, soft drinks and wine. Price, which includes a ticket to the game at center ice and dinner, is \$65. Parking is free at the restaurant. Carpools can be arranged. Last year, we had 24 people join the fun -- including eight wives/significant others. This year, we will cap the attendance to the first 26 who sign up and pay. Signup will begin at our first meeting in January.

- Jan. 6 – Investment Discussion Group:** Disney vs. CBS/Viacom
- Jan. 8 – Book Club:** *Thank You for Being Late* by Thomas Friedman
- Jan. 15 – Money Matters:** Role of Private Equity in the US economy
- Jan. 16 – Current Affairs:** Cybersecurity
- Feb. 3 – Investment Discussion Group**
- Feb. 8 – Hockey & Dinner** (see above)
- Feb. 11 -- Gunsmoke Concert:** St. Luke's Community Center
- Feb. 12 – Book Club:** *The Overstory* by Richard Powers
- Feb. 18 – Current Affairs:** Waste Recycling with Focus on Darien
- Feb. 19 – Money Matters**

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Publisher, *Charles Salmans*. **Copyeditor,** *Joyce Meurer*. **New member bios,** *Taylor Strubinger*. **New member photos,** *Michael Poler*. **Caricature,** *Tom Glover*. **Mailing list,** *Frank Kemp*. **E-communications and news coordination,** *Art Baron*. **Webmaster,** *Gary Banks*. **Photo credits this issue,** *Gregory Glashan, Dave McCollum, Michael Poler, Charles Salmans, Joe Spain*.

Activity Representatives

Book Club, Harris Hester, 655.2309 and Tom Igoe, 655.6170
2nd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., Mather Center Library

Bowling, Tom Lom, 655.0686 and Gehr Brown, 655.3713
Tuesdays, 9 a.m., Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield

Bridge, Tony Kwedar, 656.0444
Tuesdays, 1 p.m., St. Luke's Church, 1864 Post Road at Rings End Road

Current Affairs, Charlie Goodyear, 655.6935
3rd Thursday, 8:15 a.m., DCA Lillian Gade Room

Golf, Denny Devere, 353.1758
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

Happy Wanderers, Joe Spain, 655.1264 and David Mace, 655.7555
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

Hiking, Dave McCollum, 853.7080
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

Investment Discussion Group, Jim Phillips, 722.2787
1st Monday, 9 a.m., 30 Old Kings Highway South, 1st Floor

Money Matters, Doug Campbell, 975.0320
3rd Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. prior to the weekly DMA meeting at DCA in Lillian Gade Room, 2nd Floor

Pickleball, Jan Selkowitz, 655.0441
Tuesdays, Thursdays at 9 a.m. to noon for Intermediate and Advanced; noon to 2 p.m. for beginners, Mather Senior Center Gym

Songsters, Joe Holmes, 838.8744
As announced, Wednesdays, 8:45 a.m., DCA

Woodworking, Tom Williams, 655.7398
Mondays, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Mather Senior Center