



Newsletter

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Darien Men's Association

January-February 2024

President's Message

At this time of year, it is appropriate to take stock of where we are as an organization. I repeat below, for the benefit of those who did not attend, many of my personal perspectives on the DMA that I shared at the conclusion of our December holiday gathering.

The DMA is truly an amazing group; it is like a large family – organic, constantly changing, adding new members, generating new activities. I reviewed several of the recent DMA newsletters (including this one) with a particular focus on our latest additions: new members reflecting an extraordinary array of lifetime experiences – an international teacher, several lawyers, many holding M.B.A. degrees leading to meaningful business careers, an associate professor, a mechanical engineer, entrepreneurs, financial services professionals, a cellist, a former U.S. military intelligence officer, a real estate broker, a church deacon. Some have well-established commitments to community service. Many are energetic, participating in a wide range of activities and hobbies: reading, hiking, skiing, boating, cycling, jogging, golf, tennis, pickleball. All are devoted to family, eager to engage, willing to contribute.

At 322, we have a stable and growing membership. Many have been part of the DMA for decades. One member, **Taylor Strubinger**, has been with the DMA for 30 years. Sadly, we lose people as they age: **John Podkowsky**, **Tony Kwedar**, **Frank Johnson**. And we have others, like **Harris Hester**, who have experienced serious health challenges and are unable to join us in person, though they remain an important part of the DMA, as do the wives of deceased DMA members, many of whom joined us for the evening.

As a vibrant organization, we are infused with enthusiasm, good humor and camaraderie, intellectual curiosity, mutual respect, civility, a sense of purpose, and an enduring commitment to the charming community in which we live, all of which create value in the lives of so many.

And so, on that clear, starry December night we celebrated again. We experienced the joy and comfort of being surrounded by good friends and colleagues in a warm holiday setting.

I wish all DMA members and your families good health and happiness in the year to come.

Tom Igoe
2023-2024 DMA president

New Members

Morten Anker

Morten Anker was born in 1940 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and graduated from Tønder State Teacher Training College in 1965.

Morten completed military service before taking his first teaching position in 1966-67, for grades 3 and 5, in Blans, Denmark. This was followed by a year of UN Studies in Elsinore at People's International College. Morten took his second teaching position covering grades 5-7 in Levring, Denmark from 1968-71.

He left Denmark for the United States to teach grades 1, 3, and 4 at the UN School in New York City from 1971-2005, except for one-year teacher exchanges at the Frankfurt and Vienna International Schools, both in grade 3. Morten retired in 2005.

James (Jay) A. Bennett



Jay Bennett, born in 1957, was raised in the Philadelphia suburb of Gladwyne so you'll have to put up with his rabid support of the Eagles and Phillies.

After graduating from the Haverford School (1975), Jay attended Princeton University, where he played varsity lacrosse and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in political economy (1979). More importantly, he met his future wife Mary (1981) in his junior year, and they married in 1984. Following graduation, he entered the bank training program of Manufacturers Hanover Trust and earned his assistant vice president title by 1983 before leaving to attend Harvard Business School in 1985.

Jay's 2nd-year job search led him to Greenwich Associates, the leading research-based consulting firm for institutional financial services, where he subsequently spent his entire career. Working directly with the founder, Charley Ellis, Jay became a partner running the firm's equity and investment banking sectors and consulted with the major banks/brokers in the U.S., Canada, London and Hong Kong. Upon the firm's March 2020 sale to CRISIL/Coalition, he shifted his focus to developing a new investment management mandate pricing tool and then fully retired in July 2021.

Jay and Mary moved to Darien in 1992 and were lucky enough to have four children, all of whom attended Darien High School before heading off to college. Their two older daughters are married and have three children between them, while their son is working in New York City and their younger daughter works in Boston.

Since retirement, Jay has been able to spend even more time with his family as well as pursue all the athletic and social opportunities afforded by the Tokeneke Club and Wee Burn Country Club and commit to reading 75 books a year. On the volunteer front, he recently completed a six-year term as a trustee for the Darien Library and then joined Future 5 as a college prep coach. In addition, he is an active supporter of the Norwalk Grassroots Tennis & Education program, GOBS tennis and an Africa-targeted AI-based health platform with his freshman-year college roommate.

Michael Daniska



Mike Daniska has lived his entire life in Fairfield County, initially in Redding and for the last 30 years in Bethel. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, magna cum laude, from the University of Bridgeport in 1988 and an M.B.A. in finance from the New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business in 1999. Mike worked for 10 years at the Sikorsky Aircraft subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, where he designed and developed helicopter rotor systems. His last 25 years have been spent in various financial and business oversight capacities, including investment banking and private equity acquisitions across a variety of industries in Corporate Ventures at Union Carbide. More recently, he has been involved in asset management activities, where he developed a proprietary algorithmic high-frequency trading program. He currently manages a full spectrum of family investment activities along with other financial and various responsibilities through his family office.

Mike's late father-in-law, Howard "Tom" Thompson, was a long-time member of the DMA (then SMA, or Darien Senior Men's Association), including being a former president. Mike and his wife Cynthia, who grew up in Darien, have two children in the Boston area: their son, a biologist, and their daughter, who is currently in grad school and a New England Patriots cheerleader since the team's last Super Bowl win with Tom Brady in 2018. Mike has been a member of the Connecticut Hedge Fund Association for many years and enjoys vintage and newer sports cars, boating, and jogging with his three dogs.

Rob Flowers



Rob Flowers and his wife of 41 years Avery split their time between Rowayton and Park City, Utah. They raised their children (Dan – 35 and Kelsey – 33) in Darien and became “Darien expats” when they sold their house on Nickerson Lane in 2019. Rob grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles and earned a B.A. in 1980 at UC Santa Barbara. After a couple of years each of living in Vail Colo., and then working in commercial banking in Connecticut, he earned his M.B.A. in finance in 1987 at Columbia Graduate School of Business.

After business school, he spent his career in investment management, initially at Alliance Capital Management and then at PPM America, focusing on corporate and structured finance private investments. In 2004, Rob transitioned to special opportunities investment management to focus on transactions backed by distressed assets, loan pools, finance receivables, aircraft and ships. After working at two predecessor firms, he was a partner at Atalaya Capital Management from 2011 until retiring in 2018. He subsequently served as a senior advisor to Atalaya until 2022 and remains close to the firm.

Outside of investing, Rob serves on the board of a homeowners’ association (HOA) in Park City and is president of an HOA in Santa Monica, California. Given the locale of his second home, it may come as no surprise that he loves downhill skiing but also just getting outdoors to exercise – Nordic skiing, long-distance running, and cycling. Rob says he struggles at golf as he has no inherent talent and is enthusiastic but mediocre at racquet sports.

William (Wim) E. Jessup



Wim Jessup is a recently retired general manager of private yacht clubs, president of Rascal-Sailing LLC based in Darien which provides training for recreational boaters, and the former director of training and education for Landfall Navigation in Stamford. He holds a USCG Captains License, and he is a US Sailing certified instructor at Sound Sailing Center in Norwalk.

Wim is a commissioner on the Five Mile River Commission appointed by Connecticut Governor Lamont to represent Darien. He is also the former chairman of Save The Sound which actively advocates for and works to preserve, protect and restore Long Island Sound. Wim has raced and cruised all his life on the Sound and offshore to Bermuda and other distant ports. Most of all he loves sailing with friends and family and just messing around on boats.

Edwin (Ned) Lewis



Ned Lewis was born and raised in Philadelphia and Chester County, Pa. He attended Great Valley High School and went on to receive a B.A. in International Affairs and Russian language at Lafayette College. He graduated from Temple Law School. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence branch and rose to the rank of captain.

Ned began his legal career at a law firm in Pennsylvania and was then vice president and general counsel for Arco Chemical Co. and later Borg Warner Companies in Chicago. He then became Corporation Counsel and ethics officer at Spellman High Voltage Electronics in Long Island. He was an associate professor in the Pace-Lubin M.B.A. program in New York City. He is an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church.

He is married to Liz Bacon, his wife of over 30 years, and is the proud father of their two daughters Kate and Caroline Lewis. Ned and Liz are active members of St. Luke's Parish in

Darien and members of the Noroton Yacht Club. One of Ned's most prized possessions is a 1951 Farmall Cub tractor that currently occupies a bay in his garage and is used to plow his driveway on snowy days in Darien.

Tom Mullaney



Tom Mullaney was born in Sedalia, Mo. in 1955 and spent seven years of his childhood living in Darien. During his time in Darien, he was not caught once by the Darien Police Department for his various delinquent activities, a record of true accomplishment.

After graduating from New Trier High School in Chicago, Tom went to Princeton, where he was president of his class and chairman of the University Honor Committee. Upon graduation, he served a one-year stint in brand management for Procter and Gamble. He then earned an M.B.A. from Harvard and joined McKinsey & Company upon graduation.

Tom left McKinsey for the first of a series of entrepreneurial ventures: the creation of one of the first urgent care chains in the United States in 1984. Despite treating nearly 1,000 patients a day, the concept was way ahead of its time and was sold to several hospitals around the United States, making Tom wiser but not richer.

Today Tom leads the restructuring practice for Jones Lang LaSalle, an NYSE company that acquired Tom's last entrepreneurial venture in 2016 after a spirited bidding war with CBRE: a fitting conclusion to an otherwise modestly profitable history of start-ups on Tom's part.

He and his wife Amelia live in Darien and Santa Barbara, Calif., where they try to keep up with six children, two horses and two dogs. After a long career of auto racing in Sports Car Club of America and Vintage Auto Racing Association (including wins at every major track in the Western United States with his beloved Lotus Elan), Tom now is working assiduously on his pickleball, paddle tennis and tennis games, including regular losses at major courts such as Cherry Lawn, Ox Ridge and Tokeneke Club.

Tom has had a long history of charitable involvement, including serving as a board member of The Urban League of Sacramento, vice chairman of the board of trustees of the Laguna Blanca School, and vice chairman of the board of directors of the Music Academy of The West. He looks forward to helping DMA continue to build on its impressive record of community involvement.

Duncan Rowland



Duncan Rowland was raised in Rowayton in the '40s and '50s. Swimming and sailing were his major sports activities, and he also played the cello in various venues around the area including The Connecticut State Orchestra in his junior and senior years in High School. He graduated from Bethany College, where he started the college swim team and was co-captain all four years.

His business career began at the Hanover Bank, New York City, at which time he also earned an M.B.A. from New York University at night. After a few years in commercial banking, Duncan moved to the Investment side of the business as an institutional equity salesman.

Duncan worked for Loeb Rhoades, Lehman Brothers, Prudential Bache, Brown Brothers and Alex. Brown & Sons until 2007. He was posted for various periods in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and finally Greenwich. Currently, he owns and manages Rowayton Investment Advisors which focuses on covered-call stock investing.

After college, Duncan married his college sweetheart, and they had two children. She passed away suddenly at age 41 of a brain aneurism. Her death occurred shortly after the family moved to San Francisco when Duncan was hired to run the West Coast Institutional Equity operation of Lehman Brothers. Later, the firm was absorbed by Shearson, and Duncan moved back east to Darien. Here he met and married Kathie Gordon Ackerman. They have been married for 36 years and, together, have five children, 10 Grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter due in February. Duncan is a member of Wee Burn where he played golf for many years.

Steven Walker



Steven Walker grew up and attended school in Manchester, England. His siblings and mother still reside near London, and he tries to visit as often as practical. After a brief stint with Nat West Bank in the United Kingdom, he moved to Denmark in his mid-20s, where he began a career in banking, specifically within Foreign Exchange, trading and sales. After close to five years in the Copenhagen area, an opportunity arose to take an ex-pat position in the New York office of one of the largest banks in Denmark, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The initially limited ex-pat stint led to a permanent stay in the United States and

Steven became a proud citizen in 2010. Having moved to Darien with his wife in 1996, they raised two daughters, both of whom went through the public school system in town and are now young adults making their way in New York City.

Steven is a keen golfer, playing mostly at the public courses in our area. Sailing is another interest that he has picked up. He and his family are members of Stamford Yacht Club. Paddle tennis, pickleball and a daily three-mile brisk walk round out the regular activities, though skiing (downhill and cross-country) features from time to time. Travel, especially to the United Kingdom and Scandinavia to catch up with friends and family, is always a treat.

In Memoriam



Frank Mott Johnson, 92, went to be with the Lord on Monday December 4, 2023, surrounded by his family.

Frank was born in Long Branch, N.J., on October 26, 1931, the son of Garrett and Marjorie (Cass) Johnson. Growing up on the coast instilled a lifelong love for the ocean. After 9th grade, Frank moved to Washington D.C., and graduated from high school in 1949. In 1953, Frank earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers University. He then proudly served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, testing guided missiles until 1956. He went on to work for several companies as a sales engineer and

manager selling large capital equipment to major industrial corporations.

Frank lived with his family in New Jersey until 1978 when they moved to Southport. He remained a Connecticut resident until moving to Massachusetts to be near his children in 2020.

After retiring in 1999, Frank demonstrated how one person can impact the world by investing in those around them. He was a docent at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, a guide at the Norwalk Maritime Museum, and a volunteer at the local visitor's bureau. He loved the Christmas season and enjoyed ringing the Salvation Army kettle bell, offering his warm smile to all. Frank served as president of the Darien's Senior Men's Association and was an active member of St. Luke's Parish – especially enjoying serving at the weekly community supper. He enjoyed many hobbies, but excelled at bridge, painting, model building, and writing poetry. He was a phenomenal storyteller with a keen sense of timing.

Frank will be forever remembered as a man of integrity with intelligence, a joyful presence, and a strong faith – known for his love of God and love of family. His legacy will live on in his children and their families – Pamela Johnson Curran of Acton Mass., Garrett Johnson of Brewster, Mass., and Christopher and Heather Johnson of Sudbury, Mass. He was loved and adored by his six grandchildren: Katherine, Meghan, Matthew, Connor, Caitlin and Tyler. A celebration of Frank's life is planned. Donations in his memory can be made to Minuteman Arc for Human Services, 35 Forest Ridge Road, Concord, Mass. 01742.



Tony Kwedar, DMA member and Bridge Aficionado passed away at age 86 on December 5, 2023.

Tony was born at home in Baltimore on February 21, 1937, to the late John J. Kwedar and Albina O. Kwedar of Severna Park, Md. Tony briefly served in the Air Force and graduated from Iona College.

Working as a purchasing agent for Lever Brothers, he moved from Maryland to New York, where he settled in Darien with his beloved first wife Miriam C. Walas (predeceased 2005). He later worked for Unilever and Lipton Tea.

He was dedicated to St. John Church in Darien, where he was a member of the Joyful Praise, one of St. John's choirs under the direction of Frank Porretta, and was involved in many of the church's activities, including their Community Garden, always helping those in need.

He was an active member of the Darien Men's Association and various bridge clubs and was a proud recorder of the scorebook in the PONS Bridge Club. He will be fondly remembered by family and friends as a caring and compassionate gentleman, with a delightful sense of humor.

He leaves behind a loving wife, Sandra S. Kwedar (married in 2008).

"Pa Tony" graciously embraced Sandy's daughters Lori Pipicello (Armando), Kim Davenport (Jeff) and Jill Muller (Allen) and adoring grandchildren Jessica Schmidt (David), Amy Mazza (Sam) and Andrew Speziale.

He was a loving brother of John Kwedar, Alby Halsey and Anna Marie Vitkauskas, and a dear uncle to 16 nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held at St. John Roman Catholic Church on December 12, 2023, with an interment at Spring Grove Cemetery.

Donations may be made to: [Person-to-Person](#), Darien, CT or the [Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation](#)

DMA Speakers Program

January-February 2024

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Olena Lennon, “An Update on the War in Ukraine: What’s at Stake for the U.S.”



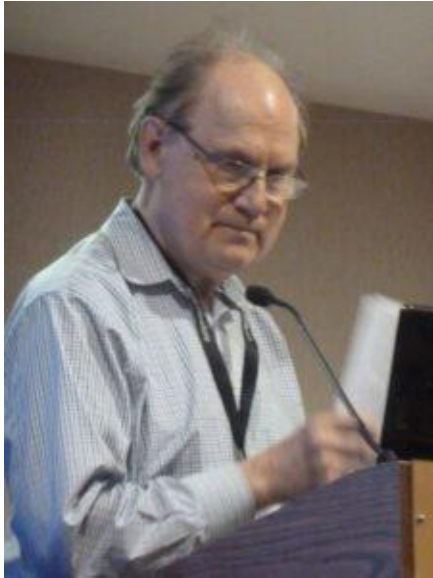
As Russia’s brutal war against Ukraine approaches the two-year mark, fears mount that there will be a disruption in crucial U.S. aid to Ukraine. While Ukrainians continue to endure Russian bombardments, Russia’s determination to keep fighting is based on expectations of reduced Western support to continue the war effort. In her talk, Dr. Lennon will take stock of the current battlefield dynamics, discuss future paths forward and offer her perception of what's at stake for the United States.

Having earned a Ph.D., Dr. Lennon is an adjunct professor of National Security at the University of New Haven, where she

teaches courses such as U.S. Foreign & Defense Policy and International Relations. Formerly a Fulbright scholar from Ukraine, and most recently a scholar at Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., she has dedicated her research to the study of conflict management and identity politics in eastern Europe, focused on domestic and foreign policy of Ukraine. An eastern Ukraine native, Dr. Lennon has been a regular participant in scholarly and media forums related to Ukraine, facilitating a more informed and objective analysis of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war. She also serves as an election observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and has completed several election observation missions in the region. Her work has appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Interest*, *Demokratizatsiya*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, and other outlets.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Tim Brooks, "How Jazz and Blues Became America's Music"



African American-derived music, in the form of jazz and blues, exploded into mainstream American culture one hundred years ago. Using original recordings as examples, author Tim Brooks will trace how and why, during a comparatively short period of time, the relatively staid, Victorian sounds of the 19th and early 20th centuries era gave way to a multiplicity of musical currents that became truly “America’s music.”

Tim Brooks is the author of nine books on media history, including *Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry: 1890-1919* which lays the groundwork for this era, and *The Blackface Minstrel Show in Mass Media: 20th Century Performances on Radio, Records, Film and Television*.

His books have won many awards, including the American Book Award and the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for best book on music. He has also produced a number of reissue CDs, is a three-time Grammy nominee and won a Grammy Award for Best Historical Reissue for the companion CD to *Lost Sounds*. He is the current president of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, a national organization of recording scholars and archivists.

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Jay Dirnberger, "Helicopter Pilot in the ‘Helicopter War’ – The War in Vietnam"



In the late 1960s and early 1970s almost all Americans participated in some way in the Vietnam war. Many were fighting in Vietnam, others were the worried parents, brothers, sisters or spouses of those fighting, almost everyone was watching it on TV every night, and some were resisting American participation in the war. Jay’s plan is to let us know about one young man's year as a helicopter pilot in the heat of battle in the war that was often referred to as “the helicopter war” due to the key role these versatile aircraft played in the war.

In 1968, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Jay Dirnberger was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division’s 227th Assault Helicopter

Battalion. He served as a flight platoon leader and operations officer. Jay participated in the Tet Offensive in the city of Hue, the siege of Khe Sanh and the invasion of the Ashau Valley. He was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 22 oak leaf clusters and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. Jay returned to the US as a captain, and was assigned to the 18th Airborne Corp at Fort Bragg (renamed Fort Liberty) where he was an aide to the commanding general. Jay left the service in November 1970.

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Daryl Hawk, “Distant Journeys through South America”



International documentary photographer and explorer Daryl Hawk will give a special photography presentation and lecture entitled “Distant Journeys Through South America”. This presentation is a culmination of many of Hawk’s favorite excursions throughout South America. He will be sharing work from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Patagonia, and Cuba. He’ll discuss his nonstop, day-to-day adventures, experiences and discoveries and the valuable lessons he learned on these incredibly spiritual journeys. Hawk will share his style, philosophy, and the various techniques he uses when photographing subject matter. Equipment, lighting on location, environmental portraits and travel tips on South America will all be covered.

For the past 30 years, Daryl Hawk has explored some of the most remote and isolated places in the world, telling stories with his camera. His photographs often appear in numerous magazines and publications worldwide. He is a member of the Explorers Club, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Professional Photographers Association. He has been featured several times on NBC’s “Today Show” and Fox 5 television.

Hawk is the author of five published photography books. *Distant Journeys* consists of 250 color images from the Arctic, the Andes, Patagonia, Antarctica, Bhutan, New Zealand, India and much more. *Quiet Moments* is a compilation of 150 black-and-white images of nature, nautical scenes, New York City and images from around New England. *White Pond* is a tribute to a small lake in New Hampshire. *Manhattan* is a color retrospective with 250 landscapes, architecture and street scenes of New York City. His latest book *Into the Heart of Cuba* consists of 300 images from his recent solo circumnavigation around Cuba.

Daryl is the former host and producer of the television show “The Unconventional Traveler,” which features some of the world’s leading explorers, travel photographers and filmmakers

sharing their work from various expeditions and documentaries. He produced over 100 shows over 10 years and some of his guests included Jane Goodall, Buzz Aldrin, Reinhold Messner and George Schaller. For more information on Daryl Hawk, please go to his website: www.darylhawk.com.

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mark Albertson, “The Jewish State and the Palestinians: How They Came to be Neighbors, and Can They Co-Exist.”



Mark Albertson has been providing the DMA with important history lessons for many years. As seems always to be the case, to fully understand current events, it helps to have a solid historical perspective. So it is with the ongoing tensions between Israel and the Palestinians. To this end, Mark will discuss how the Jewish State and the Palestinians

came to be neighbors and if they can co-exist. While this history lesson certainly goes back to the post-war years 1947-48, it also must go back even further. Mark will cover the region of "Palestine," revisiting developments in the early 20th century and even 100 years before that to help us understand the various claims the two sides have on this territory. As with any of Mark's presentations, it promises to be lively and provocative.

Mark Albertson is the historical research editor at *Army Aviation* magazine in Monroe and the historian for the Army Aviation Association of America. Mark has taught history, current events and politics at Norwalk Community College for the Extended Studies Program and the Lifetime Learners Institute. He has published articles in newspapers and magazines and has authored six books. Mark presents at a wide variety of venues on a wide variety of topics, including several previous talks to the DMA. Not counting teaching requirements, he presents upwards of 250 times per year.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Shaun Kelly, "The Sports Betting Market"



Sports betting is a large and growing market, fueled by the legalization of betting in many states and the explosion of online betting. Industry expert Shaun Kelley will provide his perspectives on the industry, the drivers of growth, the key players, and what the future may hold.

Shaun Kelley is a managing director in Americas Equity Research covering Gaming, Lodging and Leisure, based in New York City. He joined Bank of America in 2004 and has covered his current sectors since 2008. Kelley has been ranked in the Top 3 of *Institutional Investor's* annual Americas research poll for 10 of the last 11 years, was Runner-Up in 2009 and received an Honorable Mention in 2008. He also ranked Top 3 in the Greenwich Research Associates Poll from 2009-2013. Prior to joining Bank of America, he was an investment banking analyst and associate in technology, media and telecom, primarily at JPMorgan. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Jeremy Ginsberg, "Planning for Darien's Future"



Recent developments in Darien – three major pedestrian-friendly mixed-use developments and the acquisition of Great Island – have changed the sense of our town when viewed from a distance. We may see it all as incremental change, but to someone considering moving to Darien, the appeal is now two walkable “town centers” in the Corbin District and Norton Heights; great schools and student sports; and a large town property on the Sound. This transformation begs the question of what civic improvements and land use planning opportunities will support the town as it has and will evolve.

To answer this question, Jeremy Ginsberg, Darien's director of land use, will speak to us on what visions of the 2016 Town Plan are still in play and yet to be implemented and how the vision for the future has evolved since that plan was adopted. Jeremy brings to us the

advantage of experiencing planning and land use considerations and initiatives spanning several iterations of leadership at the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Environmental Protection Commission, and the Architectural Review Board.

Jeremy Ginsberg has worked for the Darien Planning & Zoning Department for nearly 30 years in many roles – winding his way from assistant planner, all the way to his current position as the director of land use. He has worked for numerous Planning & Zoning chairmen and first selectmen, and the town has seen tremendous redevelopment during that time. Jeremy has helped oversee numerous technology changes within the Department through the years, including, most recently, software that allows for online applications and permitting without the need to come to Town Hall. It is estimated that in his time in Darien, he has attended over 900 land use board meetings.

Jeremy has a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. This certification requires over 30 annual hours of continuing education training.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Dick Kalt, "Creating a Progressive Rock Radio Powerhouse"



"I Had Such a Good Time, I Should Be Doing Time". How WPLR Became a Progressive Rock Radio Powerhouse in the '70s.

Veteran radio marketer and innovator Dick Kalt will tell his story of moving from Detroit to Connecticut in 1970 and then joining the management team of WPLR-FM where he helped create one of the most listened-to radio stations on the East Coast. He'll talk about the numerous on-air and in-market promotional campaigns he developed as general manager that contributed to WPLR's success, culminating in being named *Billboard's* Station of the Year in 1977 and building a reputation as a heritage progressive rock station throughout the Northeast that lives on today.

Dick will tell an entertaining story of how WPLR made rock 'n' roll history in the '70s using breakthrough promotional approaches, including live events, high-profile interviews and more to create awareness and a powerful brand image for the station.

Dick Kalt retired as executive vice president at CRN International and Sounds Great, LLC. A veteran marketing strategist and innovator, he was a partner in radio marketing organization CRN International, which holds the rare distinction of being named three separate times to *Inc.* magazine's list of America's Fastest Growing Private Companies. Expert in breakthrough digital technologies and monitoring consumer behavior and trends, Dick stayed on the cutting edge of marketing techniques and tactics and has been able to identify new growth segments and media consumption characteristics, including multicultural and generational market segments. Dick was inducted as a charter member of the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dick also managed several sports radio networks (including that of the New York Giants during their first Super Bowl-winning season) and has or still does lecture at several local universities including Columbia, Yale, Brown, Boston College and the University of New Haven.

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

To be announced



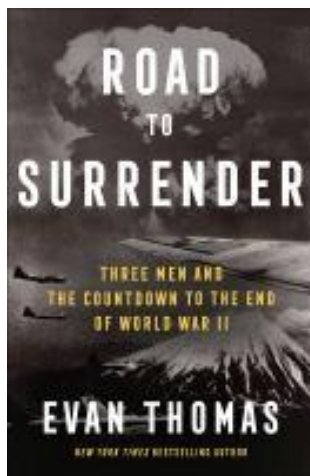
ACTIVITIES

Book Group: Selections

January-February 2024

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on **Wednesday, January 10**, and **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**. 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 video link will be available. To get on our email list, contact group leaders **Rick Agresta** or **Harry McLachlin** at richard.agresta@gmail.com or hdmclachaol.com.

Road To Surrender by Evan Thomas (January 10)



A riveting, immersive account of the agonizing decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan – a crucial turning point in World War II and geopolitical history – with you-are-there immediacy by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ike's Bluff* and *Sea of Thunder*.

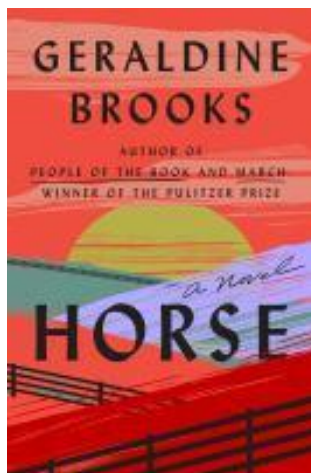
"At 9:20 a.m. on the morning of May 30, General Groves receives a message to report to the office of the secretary of war "at once." Stimson is waiting for him. He wants to know: has Groves selected the targets yet?"

So begins this suspenseful, impeccably researched history that draws on new access to diaries to tell the story of three men who were intimately involved with America's decision to drop the atomic bomb – and Japan's decision to surrender. They are **Henry Stimson**, the American Secretary of War, who had overall responsibility for decisions about the atom bomb; **Gen. Carl "Tooe" Spaatz**, head of strategic bombing in the Pacific, who supervised the planes that dropped the bombs; and **Japanese Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo**, the only one in Emperor Hirohito's Supreme War Council who believed even before the bombs were dropped that Japan should surrender.

Henry Stimson had served in the administrations of five presidents, but as the U.S. nuclear program progressed, he found himself tasked with the unimaginable decision of determining whether to deploy the bomb. The new president, Harry S. Truman, thus far a peripheral figure in the momentous decision, accepted Stimson's recommendation to drop the bomb. Army Air Force Commander General Spaatz ordered the planes to take off. Like Stimson, Spaatz agonized over the command even as he recognized it would end the war. After the bombs were dropped, Foreign Minister Togo was finally able to convince the emperor to surrender.

To bring these critical events to vivid life, bestselling author Evan Thomas draws on the diaries of Stimson, Spaatz and Togo, contemplating the immense weight of their historic decisions. In *Road to Surrender*, an immersive, surprising, moving account, Thomas lays out the behind-the-scenes thoughts, feelings, motivations, and decision making of three people who changed history.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks (February 14)



A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: From these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack.

New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a 19th-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, D.C., 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse – one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

Poet's Corner

DMA member Ric Grefé, guest editor of the Poet's Corner for this issue, selects a poem by a great modern American poet and shares some perceptive comments about it. A link at the end takes you to a lively Bill Moyers interview with Jane Kenyon and her husband, also a well-known poet. Fine work, Ric. Thank you.

Appreciating happiness

Jane Kenyon is considered one of the best of contemporary American poets. She was married to U.S. Poet Laureate Donald Hall; since they lived alone in his family home in Wilmot, N.H., the two are closely linked consistently, even as modern-day "Brownings of America," writing together daily in the 18th-century farmhouse.

Jane was 20 years younger than Donald. Tragically when she was in her 40s, she was diagnosed with bipolar II disorder and shortly thereafter with leukemia. She died in 1995. Yet one of her last poems, even as she was adapting to a bone marrow transplant, focused on the elusiveness and comfort of happiness, sometimes arriving unexpectedly.

At this moment in human history, when there seem to be so many challenges to the patterns of our lives, an exploration of happiness seems quite appropriate, lest we forget.

Within *Happiness* Kenyon explores what it means to lose and gain happiness and the different forms it might take in one's mind as it comes and goes. She is interested in exploring themes of unhappiness, happiness, and human life. Kenyon's tone is contemplative and considerate as she depicts the different ways happiness can enter one's life.

Happiness by Jane Kenyon

There's just no accounting for happiness,
or the way it turns up like a prodigal
who comes back to the dust at your feet
having squandered a fortune far away.

And how can you not forgive?

You make a feast in honor of what
was lost, and take from its place the finest
garment, which you saved for an occasion

you could not imagine, and you weep night and day
to know that you were not abandoned,
that happiness saved its most extreme form
for you alone.

No, happiness is the uncle you never
knew about, who flies a single-engine plane
onto the grassy landing strip, hitchhikes
into town, and inquires at every door
until he finds you asleep midafternoon
as you so often are during the unmerciful
hours of your despair.

It comes to the monk in his cell.
It comes to the woman sweeping the street
with a birch broom, to the child
whose mother has passed out from drink.
It comes to the lover, to the dog chewing
a sock, to the pusher, to the basketmaker,
and to the clerk stacking cans of carrots
in the night.

It even comes to the boulder
in the perpetual shade of pine barrens,
to rain falling on the open sea,
to the wineglass, weary of holding wine.

References

[Interview](#) with Bill Moyers A Life Together: Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon, December 17, 1993

[Jane Kenyon: The Making of a Poet](#) by Dana Greene , University of Illinois Press, 2023.



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

The “Commish,” the “Godfather of Bowl,” the “Professor” and all our bowlers invite you to join us. DMAers of any level of experience are welcome to bowl with us on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Highlights and photos of recent action are featured after this section. Strikes and spares abound!

Tom Lom: tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

We continue on Bridge Base Online. New players who wish to join, don't hesitate.

Mike Kadish: mKadishsj@yahoo.com or
Gary Banks: gary.m.banks@gmail.com.

Chess, Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Mather Center

Caitlin Stote, program specialist at Mather Center, would like to hear from DMA members who are interested in playing chess. Games are played every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. To join, please get in touch with Caitlin directly.

Caitlin Stote: cstote@darienct.gov

Community Service:

Wreaths Across America was held on December 16.

DMA members joined many others to honor our deceased veterans in person by laying wreaths at Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery or by their contributions to fund the wreath ceremonies. Thank you.

Holiday Bell Ringing at Palmer's Market on December 16, 17, and 23 was rewarding!

Our tradition of bell ringing at Palmer's once again closed out our community service activities for the year. **The beneficiary of the donations we collected, Darien Human Services (DHS)**, uses them to help fund its food, clothing, energy and housing support efforts for Darien residents in need. Thank you to all the volunteers who manned our table and collected donations with a strong dose of good fellowship and festive bell ringing. See the cheerful photo later in this issue.

More Community Service opportunities are in the planning for 2024. We look forward to seeing you there.

Frank Gallagher: francis.gallagher100@gmail.com

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

Geoff Rezek and **Ken Hamilton** 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 created in the early 1600s by Sir John Suckling, an English courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity.

Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net
Ken Hamilton: 1kenhamilton@gmail.com

Current Affairs, third Thursday of the month at the DCA and on Zoom:

January there will be no meeting as the DCA has another event scheduled on our usual date.

February's session is postponed to March 7 at 2 p.m. Bob Baker and Mike Wheeler will lead a discussion on **Affordable Housing**.

What is the status of Affordable Housing in Darien? What is the Darien Affordable Housing Plan of 2022? What is happening at the state level? What would a Fair Share requirement mean to Darien? Should Darien be funding its Affordable Housing Fund? Among the experts joining us are DMA and P&Z member **George Reilly**.

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com
Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Happy Wanderers held two great wanderings in November and December (see photos later in this newsletter)

November 9, we explored **The Arrival of the Dutch** to what was soon named New Amsterdam and later New York City. We thank **Sunil Saksena** who led this excursion, while he informed and entertained us with many interesting facts about this period.

December 14, we wandered in a different part of Manhattan to visit the **Moynihan Train Hall at Penn Station**, the **James. A. Farley Building** and **St. Francis of Assisi Church**, ably and informatively led by **Greg Glashan**. Thank you, Greg.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net
Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking: Sherwood Island State Park in Westport on January 4, 2024.

We will be walking about 3 miles through Sherwood Island State Park on mostly hard and gravel paths. Very little up and down. We will meet in the Pavilion parking lot at 10:30 a.m. The Park hugs the Sound shoreline and is often quite windy. Dogs are permitted on a leash and, as always, bring anyone with you who would enjoy a one hour plus walk in a beautiful setting. We will have an optional lunch after at the Little Barn in Westport.

History

Sherwood Island State Park is the oldest state park in Connecticut dating to 1914. The island itself was first settled by Daniel

Sherwood in 1787 where he built a grist mill. Over the next 70 years the land was farmed by many others. Around 1860 the property became known as “Sherwood’s Island.”

After the Connecticut State Park Commission was formed in 1911, the search was on for suitable shorefront property to buy. The first piece of the existing park was purchased in 1914, making this the oldest state park. The park officially opened in 1932, but the Army Corps of Engineers did not build the jetties and extend the beaches until 1950. The Pavilion opened in 1959, and a 911 Memorial was added in 2002.

Directions

This one is easy. Take Exit 18 off I-95 (Sherwood Island connector) and turn right towards the Sound. The road goes directly into the park. Keep straight onto the wide roundabout and take the exit marked “Pavilion Parking”. We’ll meet at the front of that lot up toward the Pavilion.

Enjoy photos and write-ups from our two previous hikes in later pages of this issue.

November 2, the Norwalk River Valley Trail in Wilton.

December 7, Greenwich Point Park.

Dave McCollum:

dgmccollum63@gmail.com, 203-858-5688

Bob Plunkett: rgplunkett1@gmail.com,
203-246-2898

Investment Discussion Group: Monday, January 8, and Monday, February 5, at 10 a.m. on Zoom

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (except January this year as it is New Year’s Day). So we start the year on January 8, on Zoom. Led by **Jim Phillips**, these sessions cover the macro environment, recent market developments, commentary from leading market watchers and some individual stocks or ETFs of interest to members. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An initial agenda and Zoom link will be sent out the week before. For questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover or to join the group, please contact Jim.

Jim Phillips: jlpinvest66@gmail.com.

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

We are limited to 30 people because of space restrictions, but if you are not in the current DMA Pickleball group, there are two extra courts on the same days open for all seniors. Some of our overflow participants are using those open courts. Darien Parks & Rec now uses its **new online reservation system**. We have also adapted our own DMA online reservation platform, the **TeamReach** app, for pickleball scheduling. If you are a novice, Darien Parks & Rec provides intro-level training.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com,
(203) 655 0441

Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com.

Social Activities

On Saturday, December 19 the DMA Christmas Party was held. We had the largest attendance ever. **Jan Selkowitz** and his team did an excellent job organizing this annual event once again. Photos and highlights follow in this issue. Enjoy!

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, Gehr Brown and Tom Lom are organizing a 'Dinner & Hockey' evening. We will carpool to Ralph & Rich's restaurant in Bridgeport for a family-style dinner beginning at 4:30 p.m. to be followed by a short walk to Total Mortgage Arena for the 7:00 p.m. game between the Bridgeport Islanders and the Hartford Wolf Pack, the American Hockey League affiliate of the New York Rangers.

There will be a sign-up sheet starting at our first Wednesday meeting in January. The cost is \$75. The group is limited to 22 people. If you wish to reserve for the evening now, please contact Gehr (203-655-3713 or gwbrown@optonline.net) or Tom (203-655-0686 or tomlom1@aol.com).

January 26, "A Foreigner Called Picasso" at the Gagosian Gallery, 522 W. 21st Street in Chelsea, New York City

This is a large exhibit dealing with several decades of Picasso's paintings.

As the gallery's notes for this exhibit state, "No other artist has provoked as much passion, debate, and controversy. But what were the obstacles that faced the young genius who first reached Paris in 1900, without speaking a word of French? How did Picasso navigate the multiple spheres –

Spanish, French, Andalusian, Catalan, anarchist, and communist – in which he was categorized? How did his status as a foreigner in France drive the strategies he deployed in his life and work?

Despite the triumph of his oeuvre, his position as the leader of the avant-garde, and his international fame as the most important modern artist in France, Picasso's sole application for French citizenship was denied in 1940, and his paintings were rejected by French institutions until 1947.

"A Foreigner Called Picasso" aims to reframe our perception of Picasso and focus on his status as a permanent foreigner in France. His odyssey as an outsider and his agency as an artist thus become powerful models for our times.

This exhibition is organized in association with the Musée national Picasso-Paris and the Palais de la Porte Dorée-Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris. It is part of Picasso Celebration 1973-2023: 50 exhibitions and events to celebrate Picasso, a transnational program taking place in cultural institutions across Europe and North America to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Picasso's death."

Jan Selkowitz offers that we also hope to possibly visit another gallery to be selected early in January. Stay tuned for that.

To join the social committee or contribute to an event please contact Jan, Social Committee Chairman.

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

Table Tennis: Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

DMA Table Tennis meets at the Mather Senior Center in the exercise studio (room 209). If you would like to join the group, download the TeamReach app for your phone and enter 'DMATableTennis' for the group code. Once you are approved for admission, you can select the dates you plan to attend, and you can also see who else is coming for that date. Please sign up for your selected play dates as early as possible – it encourages other DMA players to sign up too if they see there is a group ready to play at the Mather center on the same date.

Steve Gravereaux: spgarg@optonline.net

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



Woodworking Group Projects

Great news: The DMA woodworkers have added a couple of new days and now meet every Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. as well as every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey** and the group welcome new members. If you want to get back into woodworking or hanker to learn more about it, this is the place to be.

Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers, your family and friends. For tables, chairs or other wooden furnishings in need of repair contact Tom. Or just stop by at the workshop when we're there.

Tom Dempsey: tjd3443@gmail.com.

Bowling Reports, Courtesy of the "Commish"

Tuesday, October 31

Twelve bowlers arrived at Nutmeg bright and early to celebrate (a day early) **Ed Schechter's** 90th birthday. And what a morning it was!

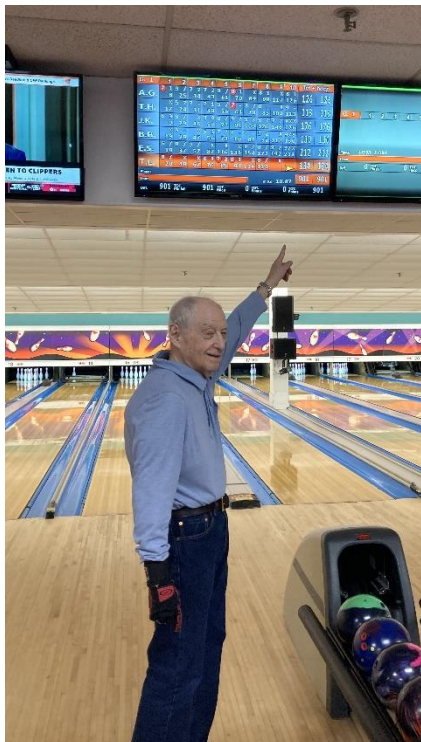


First, one of us (guess who?) arrived dressed as his spooky self in the "spirit" of Halloween.

Second, following game one, we took time out to sing to Ed, watch as he blew out his candles, and present him with a small gift. Oh yes, and we ate brownies and muffins 😊.

Third, wouldn't you just know, Ed bowled lights out ... 212, 211, 211 for a 634 series. This from our 90-year-old wonder.

I have commented many times about just how special our bowling group is. I've been part of it since 2011. We get some exercise. We have a lot of laughs. We even get to satisfy our gambling desires. But more than anything, we enjoy each other's company in the truest sense of DMA fellowship. And today we were once again inspired by our friend Ed.



NUTMEG BOWL											
802 VILLA AVENUE - FAIRFIELD											
(203) 367-7741											
10/31/2023 Score 12:09:11PM											
Team			Lane 15			Game 1			10/31/2023		
Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
ED SCHECHTER	6 / 8 / 9 /			X	X	X	9 / 8 / 9 / 9 / X				
Hdcp	0	18	37	57	87	116	136	154	173	192	212
	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○
	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Team			Lane 15			Game 2			10/31/2023		
Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
ED SCHECHTER	X	X	9 -	X	9 /	X	X	8 /	X	X 7 2	
Hdcp	0	29	48	57	77	97	125	145	165	192	211
	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○
	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Team			Lane 15			Game 3			10/31/2023		
Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
ED SCHECHTER	9 / 9 / 9 /	9	-	X	X	9 -	X	X	X	X 9 /	
Hdcp	0	19	37	45	74	93	102	132	162	191	211
	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○	○○○○
	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○	○○
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Statistics											
Player	Games	Strikes	Spare	Splits	Splits conv.	Gutters	Fouls	Avg	High game	Low game	Diff
ED SCHECHTER	3	17 - 52 %	12 - 40 %	2 - 7 %	0 - 0 %	3 - 6 %	0 - 0 %	211	1 - 212	3 - 211	1



Tuesday, November 7

What a difference a week makes!

Six bowlers "elected" to come out today, and four of the six went home happy. That was no truer than for **Gehr Brown**, who last week felt under the weather and his bowling showed it. This week he shined with the day's high game of 226 for a series of 572 which was 159 pins better than last week and +101 versus his recent average. Also happy were **Frank Gallagher** whose 475 was +31, **Frank DeLeo** whose 496 was +48, and **Tom Lom** who had the day's high series of 586 including a 202.

Not so happy was last week's birthday boy, Ed. To be sure, Ed reported that he had a festive week which included several parties. It also included a 268 game later in the week. Alas, the party was over for Ed today as his 456 was 178 pins less than last week.

Since Frank G, Frank D and Gehr were teammates in that competition, the team game was a rout. Just to show the gap, in game two their combined gross score of 591 was 137 above their own average let alone adding a handicap to that. When Ed was asked by his teammates if they

should go double or nothing in the third game, Ed replied "I didn't get to be my age by being stupid!" 😂 Wise words.

Tuesday, November 14

A jack-knifed tractor-trailer caused major issues northbound on I-95 through Norwalk delaying but not deterring seven brave bowlers. And for at least some, the effort was worth it.

G.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
G.G.	9	7	2	X	X	9	8	8	-	-	109
F.D.	X	6	2	8	8	17	7	/			70
G.B.	9	6	2	4	5	X	X	-	/		73

Player: FRANK DELEO
 Team: [red bar]
 m.p.h. 9.85
 Diff. 272 TOT. Pin fall 272 TOT. Hdcp 0 TOT. Bonus 0 TOT. Points 2

Let's start with Gehr. After his first two games, he could be seen giving himself a pep talk. Must have worked as he got red hot for a 233 in the third game.

Then there was Ed who tried his best to keep pace with the Godfather bowling a 215 in the third for a high series of 581.

And finally, there was Tom who had a 201 in the first and a 209 in the third on his way to a 551 series. Along the way, he managed to convert a 4-7-9 split.

G.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
B.B.	9	-	5	4	X	1	7				
J.K.	9	9	/	8	-	-	/				
E.S.	7	7	-	9	/						
T.L.	X	9	/	X							

Player: BEN BRIGGS
 Team: [red bar]
 m.p.h. 12.5
 Diff. 183 TOT. Pin fall 183 TOT. Hdcp 0 TOT. Bonus 0

This season, we have unfortunately had plenty of opportunities to make a "Ben Briggs Spare". Today, we actually saw two of those made, one by Gehr and one by **John Kammerman**.

And we also christened a new nickname for a rarely seen event during our bowling. As of today, we'll call it a "Kammerman". What's a Kammerman?

As the photo shows it's when you have a chance to record a Ben Briggs Spare and proceed to roll a second gutter ball. His "Kammerman" helped John go from a very respectable 169 in game one to 111 in game two. As John explained it, he was trying to apply the learning from one of many mid-game tips dispensed by his teammate, the Professor. John said it's similar to getting a mid-round tip on the golf course with similar success 😂. Undaunted, John said he plans to bowl again next week and work on his lesson during warm-up. Good luck.

G.	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B.B.	8	17	16								
J.K.	0										
E.S.	X										
T.L.	X										

Player: JOHN KAMMERMAN
 Team: [Red Bar]
 m.p.h.: 7.34
 Diff.: 26 TOT. Pin fall 680 TOT. Hdcp 0 TOT. Bonus 0 TOT. Point 0

The final highlight of the day must be the results of the Poker Games. When we have seven bowlers, we have seven quarters on the line ... high stakes!

Today, three guys had good hands worthy of winning: Ed won with a full house, while John and Tom won with ace-high flushes. As John can attest, no matter how one bowls, there is always satisfaction in going home with coins jingling in one's pocket.

Tuesday, November 21



Seven bowlers arrived at Nutmeg today happy and smiling in anticipation of Thanksgiving. The Commish had another reason to smile (see photo) following last night's comeback victory by his Eagles over the Chiefs in a "Monday Night Football" rematch of last year's Super Bowl. Today's bowling gave some of us more reason than others to keep smiling.

Frank G had reason to smile with his 472 series which was +22. Ed had reason to smile thanks to a 552 series(+24) paced by a 212 middle game. **Ben Briggs** had reason to smile as his 385 series was +28. **Bill Tamme's** third game of 160 put a smile on his face and put him +5 for the day. Tom kept smiling as his 212 game one led the way to a 584 series, which was +32. Even **George Gilliam** managed a wry smile when he converted a 5-6 split, while Gehr salvaged an otherwise forgettable morning with a 193 in the third.

In the team game, the team of TL/FG/GG took the first two with relative ease. Having just given his teammate

Gehr a tip, Ed sensed a rebound coming and accepted the double-or-nothing bet for game three. Smart move as GB/ES/BT/BB cruised to an 80 win, putting smiles on their faces.

Here's hoping that smiles abound for all on Thursday. Happy Thanksgiving!

Maybe we'll have better news to report next week.

Tuesday, November 28

Your intrepid reporter arrived at Nutmeg this morning still in good humor (albeit without the uniform) due to the Eagles' amazing comeback win in OT on Monday Night Football last week. He then had to suffer through catching glimpses of the ESPN talking heads asking whether the 49ers should be favored versus the Eagles this Sunday (IN Philly no less) followed by those clowns asking if this is the year Dak and the Cowboys finally make it to the Super Bowl. There was no mention that the Eagles have beaten the 8-3 Cowboys, the 8-3 Chiefs and the 8-3 Dolphins. GIVE ME A BREAK! But I digress...

Six bowlers made it today ready to roll, and there were some strong performances. Frank D got out of the gate with a three-bagger on his way to a game one 182. Frank G had a 178 and **Alex Garnett** a 177 in the same game. Alex finished at 494 for a +29. Ed had another fine series of 571 (+34) including a 201 in the third. Tom had a 591 (+30) including a 201 and a 200. He also missed four ten pins 🙄. Even George had a highlight making the lone split of the day, a 3-10.

The team game was spirited as always and close. Team Tom (TL/FG/AG) won game one comfortably. In game two, Team Ed (ES/FD/GG) needed a double in the tenth frame by Ed to eke out the win by 11. Game three was close at the halfway mark but Ed's teammates ran out of gas, allowing Tom's gang to take the all-important quarter. Ed didn't mind since he won two of the three poker games to leave with coins jingling in his pocket.

Tuesday, December 5

Following my clunker of a bowling session today, Winifred and I had lunch with a dear friend with whom she went to graduate school in 1971-72 and with whom she has stayed connected. The friend is a retired nun who is a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and resided for many years on Beldon Hill Road in south Wilton. She now lives in Bridgeport at The Watermark.

After lunch, we visited in her apartment where we saw photos of her life's journey including time living in Liberia in the '80s working with the poor and ill and in Manhattan in the '90s working with AIDS patients. More recently, she worked with ailing fellow sisters at SSND Beldon Hill. At age 83, she can now fit her important earthly possessions into a proverbial shoe box, but she seems as content as could be. As we were leaving to go back downstairs, we noticed she didn't lock the door to her apartment. "What for?" she said, "Anyone can take anything that's here. But I do lock the door for the night." Driving home we reflected on her life of giving and

its rewards and all her blessings. It sure put things in perspective and took my mind off a few splits and missed spares!

Among the seven bowlers today, there were some stellar performances. Our Bowler of the Day was Frank DeLeo who got out of the gates "en fuego," rolling eight strikes in game one for a 213, his first 200 game of the season. His 537 series (+78) was his first 500 series of the season. I said to Frank as we were packing up to head home, "I've been waiting for you to break out all year," to which he replied, "Me, too!"

Game two belonged to Gehr, who strung together five strikes in a row on his way to a 211, helping him to the high series of the day at 543 (+45).

The worst news of the day was that Frank and Gehr were teammates in the team game. For some unexplained reason, their opponents took the double-or-nothing bet in game three and were thoroughly trounced for a third time. We should have heeded Ed's advice from a few weeks ago when he turned down the double or nothing bet saying, "I didn't get to be my age by being stupid."

Community Service: Holiday Bell Ringing at Palmer's Market

Early on a crisp but dry Saturday morning in December, Frank Gallagher and Alec Wigen stood and rang their bells for the good cause of those in need of assistance in our town. They are just two of the DMA volunteers who once again this year helped DHS fund needed services.



Happy Wanderers Report: David Mace and Joe Spain with Sunil Saksena exploring New York City's "Dutch Origins"

On November 9, writes **David Mace**, 14 DMA Wanderers went into Manhatta (the Dutch name) to trace the history of the arrival of the Dutch in 1624. **Sunil Saksena** was the able narrator and guide for the day's wandering. We thank Sunil for his excellent research and informed commentary.

In 1624, 31 families arrived on the shores of Manhatta to begin a new life and to prosper from the beaver trade. The original settlement was on Nut Island, the land known today as Governors Island. The settlers soon moved across the harbor to the area we call the Battery at Bowling Green and named their new community New Amsterdam. They erected their fort on the ground now occupied by the Alexander Hamilton Customs House. Peter Minuit was the titular leader as the families began to spread out up the coastline into Connecticut and up the Hudson as far as Albany.

The perimeter of the Manhatta settlement included Greenwich Street on the west side and Pearl Street on the east. What we see today beyond those boundaries is landfill. The Wanderers circumnavigated the boundaries on the east, including Broad Street, which was formerly a canal, and went to Wall Street, where the Dutch built a wall designed to keep out foreign intruders – including the British. On Wall Street, we looked at the plaque commemorating the signing of the Buttonwood Agreement in 1792, which created the Stock Exchange. Further up Wall Street, we passed Federal Hall, where George Washington was inaugurated President in 1789. Beyond Wall Street, there were farms and other places of business.

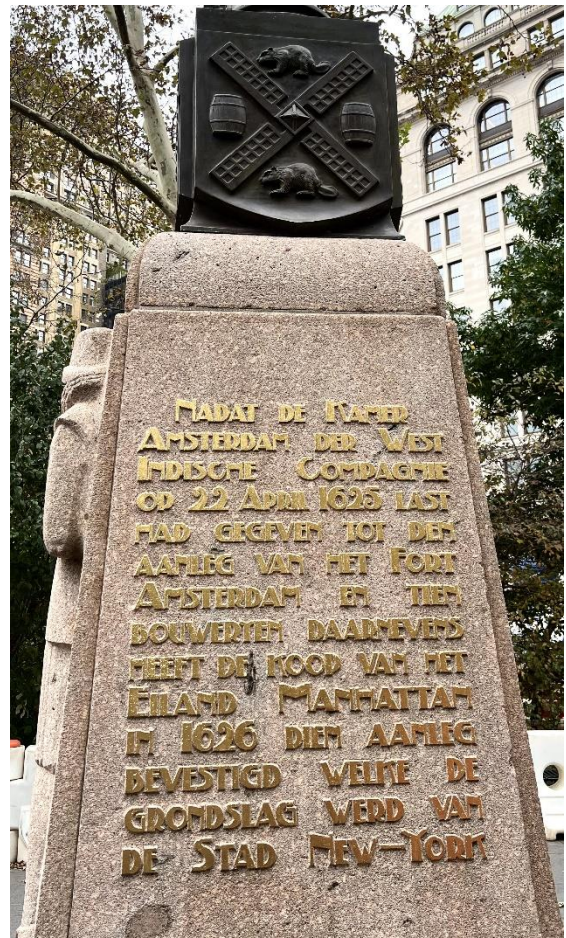
The slave trade in the settlement was large. It is estimated that there are as many as 15,000 slaves buried in the African Burial Ground National Monument in an area near City Hall. A portion of that ground with approximately 500 African burials is now a museum, which we visited. The Collect is located beyond the burial ground. It was once a freshwater pond covering 48 acres. Up to 60 feet deep in some places, it was fed by an underground stream that supplied potable water for the settlers.

The impact of the Dutch is still felt today, but their reign as rulers of New Amsterdam was short lived. In 1664 the English took over the ruling authority in exchange for giving the Dutch greater access to the spice trade in the East Indies. The New York City Seal dated 1625 includes a windmill in the center with two beavers and two flour barrels signifying the city's earliest traded goods.

Our wandering was interrupted only by lunch at a Creole restaurant where we drank some beer and ate gumbo. It was a wonderful day as seen in the following photos.



Nieuw Amsterdam





Intrepid DMA Wanderers in “Manhatta”



The aptly named “Stone Street” in the oldest part of the city, the early Dutch settlement

Hiking Group Report: Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett

November 2: Norwalk River Valley Trail

Dave McCollum writes that on the coldest day of the fall, 26 hearty DMAers and guests hiked the 4.5-mile roundtrip of the new Wilton Loop of the Norwalk River Valley Trail. This was an out and back trek since the new trail is not finished past Skunk Road on the east side of Route 7 in Wilton. As advertised, the trail is wide and made of crushed stone, giving a smooth surface now covered by leaves. There was some ice on the several bridges, but all traversed safely. As is typical on our hikes, we saw little wildlife but many other hikers and a couple of bikers.

With such a large group, we got strung out quite a bit, but all gathered at the Skunk Road terminus for a group photo (see below) by Marilyn Parker. The different speeds also meant we arrived back at the parking lot in small bunches. Many hikers stayed for lunch at Orem Diner nearby, but we were prevented from having a group lunch because of a large college group which was already in the diner. All does not go as planned all the time!

But as you can see from the photos it was a lovely day, even if chilly.





December 7: Hiking Greenwich Point

The scenery at Greenwich Point never disappoints. Even on a cold and cloudy day, there is so much to see along the shore and inside the park itself. A hearty group of 23 DMAers and guests (plus two dogs) walked about three miles in an hour and a half. Some in our group were first timers to the site and were impressed with its size and beauty, not to mention the history of the Tod family's ownership and the remains of the original mansion. Marilyn Parker's superb photographs (see below) capture the day perfectly.

The ingenuity of DMA members was on display again at lunch after the hike. Out of the original 23 hikers, 16 opted to join the lunch at Lugano restaurant in Old Greenwich. An additional three skipped the hike and just came to lunch! Apparently, the post-hike lunches have become an attraction in themselves.

Our next hike will be at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport on January 4. We are planning a lunch afterward at The Little Barn in Westport which we may feature as an event in itself!





View of Manhattan from Greenwich Point



Social Activities

The **DMA Annual Christmas Party** was a festive occasion at the Country Club of Darien. As you can see from the photos, it was a great success – full of great friends, good cheer and delicious food. Our DMA grows ever stronger, and it shows: We had more attendees at this event this year than in any previous year. We were melodiously entertained by world class harpist Eilidh McRae, who has performed across the globe with orchestras including the Bangkok Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic and the Singapore Symphony.

Thanks go out to **Jan Selkowitz** and his team at the DMA Social Committee who organized and planned the party. Their diligent work behind the scenes in the months before these occasions is not always visible to all of us, but it really shines through when we see the result.



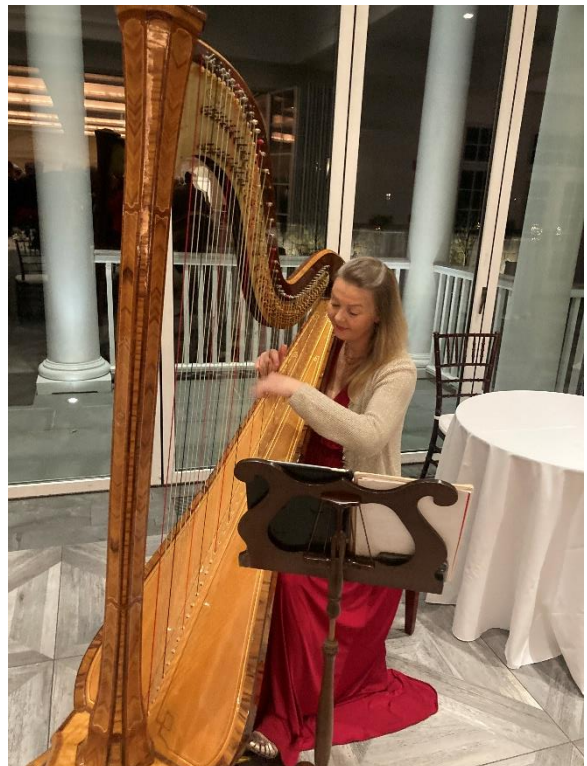














Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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