

# **DMA** Newsletter

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

Darien Men's Association

March – May 2022

## President's Message

Shopping one Saturday in the middle of February on a bright, sunny afternoon, we were surprised by a raucous noise emanating from my wife's cellphone. We had just received an emergency severe snow squall warning. Fortunately, I had heard earlier, on a local television weather forecast, a description of this phenomenon: how a blizzard would materialize, reduce visibility, create chaos and then disappear in 30 minutes, leaving slush and confusion in its wake, so I was somewhat prepared, but skeptical. However, about half an hour later we had completed our shopping chores and were returning home in the sunshine when the sky went gray, black, and then white – all in less than five minutes time. We went down to under 100 yards visibility. I most definitely do not recommend driving on I-95 during a snow squall: it's not an experience anyone would want to repeat!

And apropos unpleasant experiences, by the time we publish this spring Newsletter, let us hope that not only the nasty weather but also, more importantly, the nasty virus is basically behind us. We started our meetings this membership year in September on Zoom and progressed to meeting in person back at the DCA in November. By early January, the Omicron variant had forced us back on to Zoom, but the abatement of COVID-19 allowed us to revert to our hybrid format in mid-February. Let's hope we can maintain our progress against the disease and its mutations and complete our return to normalcy. Fortunately, our activity groups have focused on managing events we can do in safety and achieved that very successfully. All the devoted leaders of those activities deserve our praise and thanks for their energetic efforts and commitment to their tasks.

To judge by the weekly reports at the DMA meetings there is certainly a lot of **fun** being enjoyed by participants, so we are meeting part of our objectives as an organization, and the **good fellowship** is getting a chance to make more of a resolute return as we increase the number of members attending in person at the DCA. I am also pleased to report that progress is being made in the third area of our remit, which is to participate actively in **community service**. Those of you who heard Darien's First Selectman, **Monica McNally**,

speak to us recently might remember that member **John Bassler** asked what we as individuals could do to make Darien a warmer, more welcoming town, and her response was that we should consider becoming more involved in town activities. I wrote Monica a note pointing out that our website describes how DMA members are already participating in 30 listed charities and services dedicated to helping our local communities. Some of those efforts were recognized last December when we received the Darien Chamber of Commerce annual award for Volunteer of the Year in the Group category. I also mentioned that our chairman of the Community Service committee, **Frank DeLeo**, is currently working on expanding the list of activities as the Darien Men's Association remains steadfastly committed to helping others. In her considerate response the First Selectman noted that "Our town benefits greatly from member activities that are included on your website, and I am looking forward to learning what additional ideas Frank has. I was also intrigued with **Gary Banks's** thoughts on a group environmental clean-up project and am looking forward to learning more. Thank you for all that the DMA does to help make Darien the thriving wonderful community that it is. It is greatly appreciated."

Let me encourage members to continue to participate in those community ventures and add that we need more volunteers within our own organization to ensure we perpetuate everything the DMA stands for. Our nominating committee is actively considering nominations to the Board for the next membership year. We need more members to step forward to take on some of the roles becoming vacant as current incumbents move on from their positions. Newsletters and directories do not write themselves (as **Tom Igoe** will testify!), and activities require organizers and helpers to make things happen. Let me know if you want to help.

Please, become more involved – and enjoy the rest of our year!

**Bryan Hooper**  
**President**

## DMA Speakers Program, March – May 2022

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

**Prof. Hamish Lutris, “Newspapers in the Civil War”**



**Prof. Hamish Lutris** will speak to us about newspapers in the Civil War. Prof. Lutris is an associate professor of History and Political Science at Capital Community College in Hartford. He has worked in some of America’s premier natural and historical sites, leading hiking and historical programs. He has lectured extensively in the United States, Europe and Canada, presenting programs on wide-ranging historical topics, including Native American history, the Civil War, scientific history, social and cultural history, World War I, World War II and the American West.

*Arranged by Charles Salmans*

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

**Mark Nunan, “The Presidency of Martin Van Buren”**



The presidency of Martin Van Buren is the subject of a talk by DMA member **Mark Nunan**. Van Buren, our eighth president from 1837 to 1841, is not well known, but arguably he transformed U.S. politics, uniting factions into a workable two-party system. Amazingly, having along with Andrew Jackson been instrumental in founding the Democratic Party, late in life he was influential in the launching of the Republican Party. As a boy growing up modestly at the close of the Revolutionary era, Van Buren knew personally Alexander Hamilton and other prominent leaders of the new country. America and its institutions were still young and as Van Buren reached political prominence, he was a keen analyst of the factional, cultural and regional interests of his time. He became critical of Federalist

dominance, including Hamilton's success in establishing the Bank of the United States. It cost him dearly when as president he was blamed for the "Panic of 1837" and he was not re-elected. Van Buren continued to press for financial and labor reforms through three presidential runs at a time of changing politics in the country and the run-up to the Civil War. His career contains lessons about how to mitigate the potential for factional feuds and political violence through the unifying power of a strong and successful party system.

Mark Nunan, who has previously spoken to the DMA about the lives of Robert Moses and Fiorello LaGuardia, was born in Cork, Ireland. At an early age his family moved to Alabama. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1976 and continued his education at Stanford University where he was awarded a master's degree in 1979 and a Ph.D. in 1983. During that same period, he was a Fellow at L'ENS normale superieure at the University of Paris-Sorbonne as part of his Ph.D. program. In 1984, he joined COS Inc., a firm that assists companies and governments in researching and implementing new business opportunities, retiring as a senior vice president in 2018. He splits his time between Darien and Slovenia where he has family connections.

*Arranged by Charles Salmans*

## **Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

### **Jim Palen, Chairman, Darien Board of Finance, "Darien Economics 101: What Makes It So Desirable?"**



The Town of Darien has much to be proud of in terms of fiscal management. The Darien board of finance is responsible for approving most budgets and expenditures and designing the tax and financing plans that fund the town. **Jim Palen**, chairman of the board of finance, will take us inside the process of financial management and discipline in a local Town Economics 101 presentation. Jim has been a member of the board since 2015 and became chairman in 2021. Prior to that time, he served eight years on the RTM, including as chairman of the finance and budget committee, which is responsible for analyzing and reporting on financial and budgeting matters. He also is chairman of Darien's audit committee and has served on various building committees. Additionally, Jim has been a member of the negotiating team for numerous town and school union contracts.

Jim's career includes more than 25 years in investment banking, primarily focusing on the transportation sector. He is currently a managing director at Jefferies LLC, specializing in

airlines and other private sector transportation clients. Previously he had a similar specialty at Credit Suisse and Bear Stearns, including specializing in municipal finance for transportation infrastructure.

Jim and his wife Hallie have three children. They have lived in Darien for 18 years during which time Jim has been very involved in his children's sports activities, has taught boating safety with the Darien Sail & Power Squadron, and has served on and been chair and vice chair of the Darien Republican Town Committee.

*Arranged by John Wolcott*

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

**Martha Peterson Shogi, "The Widow Spy"**



**Martha Peterson Shogi**, *nee* Denny, graduated from Darien High School in 1963 and from Drew University in 1967. Married in 1969, she accompanied her husband, a CIA officer, to Laos. After he tragically was killed in a helicopter crash, Martha joined the CIA and became a case officer, beginning her own 30-year CIA career. After learning Russian, she was one of the first women to be assigned to Moscow, a very difficult operational environment. ***The Widow Spy*** is her first-hand account of that experience, where she walked the dark streets of Moscow alone, placing dead-drops and avoiding the relentless eye of the KGB. Her book chronicles the clandestine activities that eventually led to her arrest and detention in Lubyanka Prison. Martha retired from the CIA in 2003 and now lives in Wilmington, N.C.

*Arranged by Charles Salmans*

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022**

**Dr. John Lader, Cardiologist, Stamford Health Medical Group, “Advances in the Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation”**



Dr. Joshua Lader, a cardiologist and cardiac electrophysiologist at Stamford Health Medical Group (Stamford Hospital), will speak to us about “Advances in the Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation.” This is a condition of irregular heartbeat that especially affects the age group of our membership, with approximately 70% of individuals presenting with AFib falling between 65 and 85 years of age. Dr. Lader graduated from New York University and has a medical degree from the NYU School of Medicine. Through a fellowship at NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Lader conducted research aimed at explaining some of the basic molecular underpinnings of AFib. He believes that when targeted lifestyle modifications fall short, this marks the beginning of an age where heart rhythm disturbances are treated, and even prevented, by targeted treatments at the molecular level.

Dr. Lader is a member of a collaborative team at Stamford Health that addresses rhythm disturbances from a multidisciplinary point of view.

*Arranged by Charles Salmans*

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022**

**Charles Salmans, “The B-29 and the Defeat of Japan”**



Japan surrendered after the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and August 9, 1945. DMA member **Charles Salmans** points out that the B-29 was also essential to the defeat of Japan because the United States needed a way to deliver such bombs. No aircraft had that capability before the B-29 and the design of this aircraft was revolutionary, only to be superseded as a technological achievement by the development of the atomic bomb itself.

Under the pressure of war, both the design and production of the bomber took place concurrently, beginning in 1940. Major design and engineering modifications were still taking place

through 1945 with air crew, in effect, becoming test pilots. The B-29 was a huge technological advance, the first aircraft with a pressurized cabin. It had three times the bomb load and twice the range of any other bomber at the time, made possible in part by a revolutionary wing design. But it required the most powerful engines ever built, and these were its Achilles heel. Furthermore, it was designed for high level, precision bombing before there was understanding of the high-altitude jet stream, which was at its most powerful at the latitude of Tokyo and which blew bombs off target. As a result, bombing was anything but precise. Consequently, General Curtis LeMay had to alter the tactics to low-level firebombing and in a single night raid on Tokyo that bombing caused more civilian casualties than either of the atomic bombs.

**Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

### **James Campbell, “Madoff Talks”**



No name is more synonymous with the evil side of Wall Street than Bernie Madoff. Our speaker, **Jim Campbell**, is the author of ***Madoff Talks***, the result of extensive correspondence with Bernie Madoff and those close to him. Arrested for fraud in 2008 — during the depths of the financial crisis — the 70-year-old market maker, investment advisor and former chairman of the NASDAQ had orchestrated the largest Ponzi scheme in world history, fleecing thousands of investors across the globe to the tune of \$65 billion. To this day, questions remain. Why did he do it? How did he get away with it for so long? What did his family know? Who is the elusive Bernie Madoff?

Jim Campbell is the host of the nationally syndicated radio show “Business Talk with Jim Campbell” and his crime show “Forensic Talk with Jim Campbell.” Jim’s extensive corporate, consulting and entrepreneurial business background includes roles at KPMG Consulting, Dean Witter Financial Services (now Morgan Stanley) and IBM. He is founder and president at JC Ventures, a management consulting business.

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Carla Gambescia, author of “La Dolce Vita University”**



**Carla Gambescia** is an Italian cultural phenomenon, award-winning author, travel journalist, lecturer and avid photographer. She spoke to us several years ago about her then new book entitled ***La Dolce Vita University: An Unconventional Guide to Italian Culture from A to Z.*** Given her popularity, we’ve invited Carla back for an encore so she can share with us her latest thoughts about Italian culture.

Carla’s passion for Italy began early: with her mother’s love of the Renaissance masters and her father’s discourses on Italian geniuses of every calling. In the ensuing decades, she’s written about and toured every region of Italy on foot or by bicycle. Carla was a former partner in the Ciao Bella Gelato Company, conceived and co-led the Giro del Gelato bicycle tour which won OUTSIDE Magazine’s “Best Trip in Western Europe,” and, for a decade, owned and operated *Via Vanti!* Restaurant & Gelateria in Mount Kisco, N.Y. *Via Vanti!* received a “Very Good” from the New York Times and many plaudits for its innovative Italian cuisine, *delizioso* gelato (named “Best Gelato Shop in New York”) and culinary and cultural special events.

Carla’s success as an entrepreneur, cultural educator and engaging storyteller reflects not only her knowledge, but also her passionate and joyful spirit.

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

**Jim Lacey, “My Career in the Secret Service”**

**Jim Lacey**, a former U.S. secret service agent and friend of DMA member **Bob McGroarty**, will join us from Virginia to discuss his career and experiences as a member of the Service. Look for additional information about our future speaker and his discussion topic in the ensuing issues of ***This Week at DMA.***



**Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

**Micki McElya, “Arlington Cemetery: The Politics of Mourning”**



**Micki McElya** is a professor of history at the University of Connecticut. In 2017, her book, *The Politics of Mourning: Death and Honor in Arlington National Cemetery*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction. It is a luminous investigation of how policies and practices at Arlington have mirrored the nation’s fierce battles over race, politics, honor and loyalty. Prof. McElya graduated Bryn Mawr College in 1994 and received a Ph.D. from New York University in 2003. Before joining the faculty at the University of Connecticut, she was an assistant professor of American Studies at the University of Alabama.

Micki is currently working on a book entitled *No More Miss America! How Protesting the 1968 Pageant Changed a Nation*.

*Arranged by Charles Salmans*

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**Ted Aldrich, “The Partnership: Marshall and Stimson and the Collaboration that Won World War II”**



**Ted Aldrich** is the author of *The Partnership: George Marshall, Henry Stimson, and the Extraordinary collaboration that Won World War II*. On September 1, 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland to launch World War II, Gen. George Marshall was sworn in as chief of staff of the U.S. Army. Ten months later, Roosevelt appointed the prominent elder statesmen Henry Stimson secretary of war. For the next five years, from adjoining offices where the door between them was always left open, Marshall and Stimson headed the army machine that ground down the Axis. Their effort, one of the

greatest feats of management in the history of the world, was also one of the most

consequential collaborations of the twentieth century. ***The Partnership*** tells the story of how they worked together to win World War II and reshape not only the United States, but the world.

Ted is a Rowayton native and son-in-law of DMA member **Pete Scull**. He majored in economics and political science at Colgate University and received an MBA in finance from Boston College. He has a career in international finance, primarily in commodities, and has held senior positions at Deutsche Bank, Fortis, and Mizuho Bank and is now with Auramet Trading, one of the world's largest physical precious metals merchants.

Ted has long had an interest in history, leading to his decision to write a book about these two key figures in World War II.

*Arranged by Pete Scull*

### **Wednesdays, April 20 and May 11, 2022**

**Charles Salmans**, who leads the DMA's Speakers Program, is continuing to work on filling these two remaining slots for the spring season with high quality and interesting speakers. He is currently engaged in discussions with several individuals who may be in a position to speak with our group. As these arrangements are finalized, we will advise DMA members through the regular ***This Week at DMA*** missives.

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## New Members

### John Craft



Born in 1953, **John Craft** grew up in Atlanta and graduated from Princeton University and the Wharton School (M.B.A.). After college, John married Ginger, his high school classmate, and they decided to brave the challenges of late '70s New York City. Conditions chased them away from the City, and they moved to Darien in 1980, where they have lived ever since, in the same house since 1984.

John spent 20 years in the institutional fixed income business (Bankers Trust and Merrill Lynch) and subsequently co-founded a technology start-up that developed internet-based applications for the bond market. The co-founders sold the business in 2018 and were relieved of their duties in 2019, resulting in John's involuntary (but ultimately welcome) retirement.

John and Ginger have three children, born from 1983 to 1991. Their oldest graduated from Washington & Lee University and Dartmouth College (M.B.A.), has four children, works for Spencer Stuart, and lives with his family in Rowayton. Their middle child graduated from Princeton University, is a veteran of a number of successful start-ups, and lives in London with her husband and daughter. Their youngest is a Yale University graduate, where he was captain of the lacrosse team. He is a partner in a small sports marketing firm and splits time between New York City and Darien.

John and Ginger are active members of St. Luke's Parish, members of Wee Burn Country Club, and they enjoy bridge and golf. They own a vacation house in Sea Island, Ga., where they spend 2-3 months per year. John is a fanatical student of history and western civilization, as well as an aficionado of great spy and mystery fiction.

## Mike Delaney



**Mike Delaney** was born in Boston in 1949 and grew up in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. He attended Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers, N.Y. and went on to Villanova University where he majored in accounting, graduating in 1971. After a stint in the army, he began his career with the accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst and later joined General Foods in White Plains, N.Y. In 1985 Mike moved to UST Inc. in Greenwich, where he served as general auditor until 2009 when the company was bought out.

Mike and his wife Maricel moved to Darien in 1989. Mike has served as a board member and treasurer of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for many years. He and his wife are members of the Country Club of Darien. They have five married children, all graduates of the Darien school system who are now spread out across the United States from New York City to Seattle, and are blessed with four grandchildren.

Mike is a lifelong Yankees supporter and a big fan of Big East basketball. He enjoys golf, bird watching, traveling and spending time with his grandchildren.

## Activities

### Book Group

**Harris Hester**, who, together with **Tom Igoe**, leads our highly engaged book discussion group, provided the following report on our recent and scheduled future reads.

***Books discussed in January and February.*** At its January meeting, the group discussed Desmond Shum's ***Red Roulette: An Insider's Story of Wealth, Power, Corruption, and Vengeance in Today's China***. The author, a young Chinese entrepreneur who was born in Shanghai and grew up in Hong Kong, went to the United States for college and then returned to China to make his way in the business world. Given his exposure to the West, he tried to use his links with American companies that were interested in developing business in China. This book tells the story of Shum's work on behalf of U.S. companies, his transition to working with Chinese companies and marriage to Whitney Duan, and the successful partnership the two of them established. They developed major airport infrastructure and hotel projects and, in the process, gained enormous personal wealth, cultivating connections with the Chinese aristocracy, senior members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and members of Premier Wen Jiabao's family.

The overall image of China that emerges from the book is that of a country under the control of the repressive CCP. The Party's leaders are corrupt and are in the game primarily to acquire power and wealth. China's laws are vaguely written and applied by the CCP in ways that suit their needs. Business ethics, fairness, transparency and morality, all values that are foundational or at least aspirational in the West, have no significant roles in modern China. It's a country characterized by avarice, quest for power and political intrigue, where those caught in the middle of fierce power competition (like Desmond and Whitney) are very much at risk.

In **February**, the group discussed Ernest Hemingway's first novel, ***The Sun Also Rises***, which many have described as a masterpiece and a notable example of the author's spare but powerful writing style. **Mark Nunan's** erudite post-meeting comments are worthy of repeating here:

Like many of us, I haven't read Hemingway since probably my college days. Boy, did I get a lot more out of it this time around. This time it was a revelation. I couldn't help myself investigate further when I noticed all the religious symbols, Jake's comments on Catholicism, and his direct (or at least attempted) religious

actions. He's the only person in the group identified with a religion, except for Robert Cohn, but that's a different case. As far as I know most traditional critics have ignored this, focusing on "The Lost Generation" angle (which is definitely there, but it's not the only angle), or the great Hemingway style.

The more I read, the more I see the same themes in all of western literature as are found in the Bible (or the Greek and Roman classics), particularly in the 19th and 20th century novel. Many of these authors are acutely aware of the spiritual void in their lives (witness Hemingway, exhibit No. 1) and revert whether consciously or unconsciously to the great leitmotifs once they experience their own personal catharsis. They have to, there the truth is found after all their illusions crumble.

The modern era since the romantics tends to look for "differences". A new author is a "genius" because of his or her "difference" and "uniqueness." In reality, the reverse is true. There are so many commonalities between the great writers because the truly great ones treat the human condition, which does not change (even as the human race progresses - this is not pessimism). Yes, their personalities, their excesses or lack thereof, their writing styles and esthetic development are very different, but their findings within the depths of the human heart and human behaviour often are surprisingly similar. *Confessions of an Egotist* by Stendhal is a different treatment of the same obsession with a woman as ***The Sun Also Rises***, written 100 years before. The results are similar though.

Or per Ecclesiastes: *Generations come and generations go. But the earth remains forever. The sun also ariseth and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.*

Or as St. Jerome put it in the vulgate Bible: *Nihil Novum sub Sole*. The sun, there's that word again.

Or the Hemingway corollary: *The Sun (or Son, as homonym subtext) also Rises*. I can hardly imagine he didn't hear the homonym, given his acute sensitivity to words, and especially as he picked the title at Chartres Cathedral with its 167 stained glass windows, one of the more prominent of which is dedicated to Christ's life, death and resurrection.

The earth continues, we continue generation after generation. Some generations find great good fortune (I would certainly say ours), others not (Jake's), but the quest continues no matter what. I have to put Hemingway in the pantheon of the great modern Christian writers, whether Roman Catholic or Anglican. Newman,

Greene, C.S. Lewis, Tolkein, Muriel Spark, Evelyn Waugh, etc. Though he is possibly the least attractive as a *Christian* and a man (as he obviously fails to live up to the ideal and seems at least on paper to barely care), that somehow makes him extremely effective as a writer of Christian themes. The seven deadly sins were on display in today's reading. I have yet to find his version of the Cardinal Virtues to counter those, alas! But as Christ said, "I came to heal the sick."

There are some wonderful letters from Ernest Hemingway to Sherwood Anderson. Sometimes you can't believe this is the same man the literary critics lionize as the macho man; they are simple and affectionate. One opens with: "Dear Sherwood, You sound like a man well-beloved by Jesus." Then goes on to relay the latest updates on the Paris literary crowd. In another letter to Ezra Pound, an early mentor, he tells Pound that he (Hemingway) went into church and said a prayer for Pound, "not that you need it." Maybe Pound should have saved up those prayers for about thirty years later, when he would indeed need them!

"To know all is to forgive all." I believe that's a Benedictine saying, or attributed to St. Augustine? In any case, it applies. After reading this great book I think I know a lot more about Hemingway's mental illness and pathology (I can almost feel it, and it must have been awful), which got worse as he aged. Even though these were part of what made him the great writer he was, I am saddened by his suffering (and that which he caused to those around him, many of whom he actually loved).

**Books selected for discussion this spring.** In **March**, we will take up discussion of an engaging historical narrative about one the great cataclysms of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the book is entitled ***The Great Halifax Explosion: A World War I Story of Tragedy, Treachery and Extraordinary Heroism*** by John Bacon. This work presents a gripping story of the largest manmade explosion before the atomic bomb. It is noteworthy not only for its impeccably detailed account of the events leading up to and following the tragedy but also for its enlightening history of the evolving relationship between Canada and the United States.

In **April**, we'll meet to talk about Eric Berger's new book ***Liftoff: Elon Musk and the Desperate Early Days That Launched SpaceX***, a close-up account of the historic test flights that transformed Musk's shaky space exploration enterprise into a world-class rocket company. And to close out the spring season, during the month of **May** we'll read and share our thoughts on Kati Marton's bestseller ***The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel***, a glowing biography of the famously cautious yet effective chancellor of Germany.

All who may be intrigued by our spring book selections are heartily encouraged to join our group for what will assuredly yield some entertaining and fascinating insights and exchanges of views.

## Bowling

Following the holiday break, **Tom Lom**, our intrepid Newsletter bowling reporter (a.k.a. the "Commish"), filed these reports.

**January 11.** Seven bowlers arrived, which is pretty good considering that it's "snowbird" season as well as the uptick in COVID concerns. With everyone masked up, there's much to comment on, most of it very good.

Let's start with "Shot of the Day." It's not often that this occurs during warmup but that was the case today. Yours truly left a 6-7-10 and made it! When the shots counted, there was one 600 series (Tom) along with three of 500 or better (Alex had 503; The Professor a 525; Gehr a 544). In addition, there were four 200 games highlighted by George recording his first of the season at 209. Gehr also had a 209 while Tom had a 203 and 226.

The team game went 2-1 for Team Brown/Tamme/Gilliam/Briggs. And the George versus Ben game three roll-off went to George with that 209.

Finally, we are happy to report that Laurie made her cheery return after being absent last week with the flu. Nutmeg is blessed to have her as was apparent during her absence.

**January 18.** For a cold January morning, we had eight bowlers, which is pretty good considering. Lots of highlights and, from one bowler in particular, some lowlights.

We had three 500 series: Alex had his best series in a long time at 561, which included a 211 in game one; Ed had a 547, which included a 213 in game one; and Frank Gallagher had a 528, with a 198 in game two. Two others had very good mornings as George had a 491 series, thanks to a 197 in game three, and John Kammerman had a 477.

At the other end of the spectrum was the Commish. Sporting a 199 average for his most recent seven weeks, he managed a nifty 461 which was 136 below his average; this has to be a DMA record. Tom's futility could best be summarized by his third game in which he had five splits and a washout. Mid-game, Ed came up to him and asked, "Where's Tom?" whose only consolation was converting one of those splits – a rarely seen 2-4-6-7-10.



**January 25.** Ten bowlers today and some big results and some terrific competition. We had five series of 500 or better. Tom had 545; Gehr 547. Some weeks, one of those would be the high series but today; not even close. Ed had a 564; not close. We'll come back to this in a minute.

We had five 200 games. High game of the day went to Frank D who made a surprise (and welcome) appearance, making a short return trip from Florida. He rolled a 234 in game one to remind us all that "he's still got it!" Ed had a 209; Tom a 204; and John Kammerman a 203 *and* a 207. Also deserving of a mention is Ben Briggs' game one of 180, which is 55 above his average.

OK, so with the info about 200 games, you can now probably piece together a guess as to the high series. That went to Frank D with a 597, +87. On most any other Tuesday, that would earn Bowler of the Day honors, but not today. Today belonged to John Kam who bowled a 588 series. While he was behind Frank by a few pins, John's series was +138 (!). Are you kidding me? Way to go John! Also worth mention were above average series from Ben (+53), Ed (+45) and George (+18).

Today's team game was no less exciting. In fact, the result went down to the final shot of the day. In game one, thanks to the heroics of Ben and Frank D, their team won going away. Things turned around a bit in game two as John and Tom rolled 200 games helping their team to a slim 18 pin victory. That put everything on the line in game three. It was close going into the 10th frame with the result hinging on Tom and Gehr's final frames. Tom needed only a mark to clinch but picked 2-4 off the 2-4-5 which opened the door for Gehr who now needed a double and 9 to tie or a triple for the win. His first ball was a "no doubt" strike; his second ball was also squarely in the pocket but left a ten pin. As they say, "every shot makes someone happy." In this case, the team of Kevin/George/John/Alex/Tom went home with the all-important quarter.

**February 1.** There were seven bowlers today. The laughter and camaraderie were great; the bowling was not. The high series was 524. There were three 200 games all in game one. Names are omitted to protect the innocent.

**February 8.** What a difference a week makes! Again, we had seven bowlers but today there were some excellent performances: Frank Gallagher had a nice 507 thanks to a fast start 192 in game one; Ed Schechter had a 235 in game one on his way to a 538; Alex had a 550 thanks to a 224 in game two; Ben got off to a slow start but then bowled two nice games for a 395 (+28); and Tom started off the day with two splits but still rallied for a 606 including a 217 third game.

The Bowler of the Day had to be Gehr who started slow but finished with a bang. He had high series of 611, thanks to an amazing third game of 269 (high game of the season!). Gehr finished that game with eight strikes in a row. Well done Gehr! With his third game heroics, Gehr's team won the rubber game of the team competition in a runaway after two close games were split.

Shot of the Day (other than Gehr's eight in a row) went to one of the ladies who bowls next to us. She converted a 5-7 split. Next week she will be invited to bowl on my team! And in the Ben versus George third game series, Ben prevailed by 21 to grab a quarter from George, and from Tom as well.

**February 15.** Again, seven bowlers and again some fine scores. Five of the seven bowled at or above average: Gehr had high game of 222 and high series of 584; Ed finished with a 204 for a 550; George's 482 was +35; Ben's 409 was +34; and Alex was right at his average.

The team game was swept by the team of Gehr/Ed/Alex/GG. You might guess that Ben was doomed to draw two partners who often bowl well but not today. Tom was -80; Frank G was -70; a long morning for those two but even longer for poor Ben. Shot of the day and maybe the year goes to George who converted an enormously difficult spare – the 4-7-9-10. What fun to see that!

A shout out to John Kammerman who just underwent hernia repair. Wishing you a speedy and full recovery in time for golf opening day.

**February 22.** Only five bowlers today but lots of action anyway. Following a slow start, Frank G came alive with two games in the 180s for a 511 series. Tom seemed to have little going all day but still managed a 567, including a 202 in game three. Gehr once again got on the strike train in game one on his way to a 245. He started game two with a triple which led at least one intrepid reporter to wonder if we would see a really big series. Alas, Gehr came back to earth a bit and could "only" muster a 583 series. He's been on a roll for the past month and is now comfortably King of the Hill.

The team game had some excitement. Gehr/Alex took on Tom/FG/BB. In game one, thanks to Gehr's fireworks, his team romped to victory. Game two was tight all the way with the threesome prevailing by a narrow margin of three pins. With everything on the line in game three, the threesome won going away. Lastly, we should include the Shots of the Day. That would go to Tom who within five minutes of each other converted a 6-7 and 5-7 split; not too shabby.

**March 1.** Lane conditions were uniformly difficult as oily lanes led to lots of grimacing. Among the six bowlers, there were at least 20 ten pin taps with too many of those spare chances missed. There was a bit of good news and there was bad news. First the good news.

One of our six bowlers actually saw his average go up after today's action. That would be Ben Briggs, whose 410 was +38. That would make Ben our Bowler of the Day! He also had one of our two Shots of the Day, converting a 3-6-7-10 split.

Two bowlers managed to roll 500 series but still saw their averages drop: Ed had a 510 along with the other Shot of the Day when he converted a 4-7-10 split. Tom had a 223 in game two for the only 200 game and a 562 series but still saw his 21-game average dip below 180.

Bill Tamme was back from Florida (good news) and his 181 in game three paced his team to a game three triumph. We won't talk about his first two games (bad news) but will chalk them up to getting the rust off.

Finally, George's otherwise off-day ended with a sliver of good news in his game three roll-off versus Ben. With Ben ahead by eight after the ninth frame, he recorded a split in the tenth. George needed a mark and an eight-pin fill to win and, as the photos below will show, did exactly that for a one pin victory. Collecting Ben's quarter was particularly sweet.



A final note of bad news is that our pal Alex decided not to attend today, having what he thought was a bad cold. It turns out he tested positive for COVID so will be quarantining for a bit. We wish him a speedy recovery so we can hear a "Yeah Baby!" soon.

## Bridge

**John Podkowsky** heads the **DMA Bridge Group**, which meets online every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. using the Bridge Base Online website. There is no cost to join. They play 24 hands, changing partners after every eight hands. They are usually finished after two hours. John sends out an invitation weekly. Based on the responses, he assigns each player to a table and nominates a table coordinator. The table coordinator, in turn, seats the players at the table and initiates a four-way conference call so the players can chat, kibitz and/or praise or critique the play of the hand (all in fun). They regularly have eight players at two separate tables. Recently they had two additional players join the group. John is hoping to add a couple more regulars and organize three tables weekly.

The following is a great example of Bridge play in action. The hand below is **Gary Banks** and **Tom Gildersleeve** playing against **John Bartlett** and **Alex Garnett**. Gary with 17 points, but no 5-card major suit, opened 1C. John overcalled with 1H. Tom bids 1S. Gary with 17 points and 4-card support, jumps to 3S. Tom with 10 points knew we had game strength and bids 4S.

W	N	E	S
John Bartl	trgildy	aypg	GaryDMA
♠92 ♥AQJ87 ♦Q109 ♣J82	♠KQJ543 ♥K53 ♦J853 ♣	♠10 ♥10942 ♦742 ♣A9543	♠A876 ♥6 ♦AK6 ♣KQ1076
	1♥	Pass	1♣
	Pass	4♠	Pass
	Pass	Pass	Pass

6♦

4♠ North

0 0

Alex's A of clubs lead is ruffed. Tom flushes the A of hearts and pulls trump. He then runs the diamonds, then the clubs, making 6. In hindsight, Tom's void in clubs and Gary's singleton in hearts give them 33 points – indicating a small slam was possible. Good fun in any case!

With the apparent wane of COVID, John recently took a poll, asking Bridge Group members whether they would prefer to continue playing online or revert to in-person play. Given the efficiency of online play, the convenience for those not feeling well or out of town, the ability to save and discuss interesting hands and review and learn from errors in bidding or play, and other socialization aspects of the BBO platform, the group concluded that they will continue play online into the summer and then reassess.

Anyone interested in joining the Bridge program (or just wanting to assess whether he would like to join) should contact John Podkowsky. They are a very welcoming group.

## Current Affairs

**January and February Discussions.** On **January 28**, the DMA's **Current Affairs** group, in a session organized by **Tom Igoe** and **Mike Wheeler**, addressed the complex and troubling issues raised by the **Quadrennial Report of the National Intelligence Council**, which seeks to define major security issues facing the United States and the world through 2040. In the aftermath of this meeting, **Mark Nunan**, who together with Mike leads the group, delivered this unusual take on the exchange of views expressed that day, one offered by a member's (fictional) granddaughter, a college student. She's a very smart young lady.

“Dear Granddad,

I hope you don't mind, but I sat in via Zoom on your DMA group's **Current Affairs** session this week about the **Quadrennial Report of the National Intelligence Council**. I was definitely impressed.

Mr. Tom Igoe wrote a *White Paper* summarizing the NIC's findings, putting to rest any worries I might have had about reading the whole 144-page NIC document (I did get through it, Granddad, I really did; it's chock-a-block with content). Plus, all the extra articles posted on the DMA website assembled by Mr. Igoe and Mr. Mike Wheeler were a real benefit in helping my understanding of the NIC's themes and findings.

Now I have a much better grasp of the issues. Especially the four major structural forces that the NIC estimates will drive change in the next two decades: *Demographic, Environmental, Economic, and Technological*. And I also know, per Mr. Igoe's awesome summary, that according to the NIC this could lead to five possible outcomes:

- *Renaissance of Democracies.* I really like this one, it means I could see lots of interesting changes in unlikely places during my lifetime. Kazakhstan, here I come! Bigger landmass than the EU and only eighteen million people, with lots of oil, gas and minerals. What's not to like? (well, I never tried the food - yet!)
- *A World Adrift.* Not optimal, but not so bad. My generation is used to going with the flow; after all, we have lived through the "great recession" and the pandemic.
- *Competitive Coexistence.* Not so bad. I suppose we can still give awards for ninth place like we did in kindergarten, it's the top three that everyone covets.

- *Separate Silos.* A bit iffy for trade and commerce, everyone retreating to their corner, so definitely subpar. I get that.
- *Tragedy and Mobilization.* I guess the title speaks for itself. Lots of calamity climate-wise or resource depletion and poverty or some other awful thing. The upside is that it forces nations and NGO's to mobilize and work together to deal with the worst consequences of these events. Speaking for myself, I don't see that happening, unless there are mineral resources or other valuable stuff in the countries affected. Then everybody wants in!

I very much enjoyed the lively and informative discussion Mr. Igoe's introductory comments sparked. What a group: knowledgeable, forthright, willing to speak their minds respectfully without getting all hot and bothered. Plus Mr. Wheeler's three outside guests from the media added to the debate. Climate change, fishing rights and fish depletion, mistrust of government and resulting disillusionment, mass migrations due to societal and economic instability, and many other factors that could make the future pretty miserable – your members covered just about everything. Not exactly like our bull sessions here at college, which are a bit more funky, if you know what I mean. A little beer goes a long way in loosening the tongue, and a lot goes even further (don't worry Granddad, I'm the designated driver, no drinking for me!).

I did notice one comment from one of your members who said his granddaughter told him she and most of her generation don't want to have children because of the deplorable state of the world.

No wonder! Almost nobody (except a couple of guys) said a word about all the positive things that have happened in your own lifetimes, and that are happening even faster now. That technology, medical science, genetic engineering, vaccines, semiconductors, supercomputers, AI, communications technology, data sciences, space exploration, and nearly every other practical domain of arts and sciences known to man (and some not known twenty years ago even) have advanced in the last three decades, and will continue to advance at exponentially greater rates in the next decade and decades. Life expectancy has nearly doubled in the past century, many deadly diseases have been conquered, death has been delayed by years, even decades (as many DMA members are no doubt happy to note), crop yields have exploded, poverty levels have declined, democracy has spread behind the once-sealed "iron curtain" and places like South Africa where there were previously closed autocratic and much more unjust societies. These latter day democracies and/or republics are not perfect, but they are a heck of a lot better than what preceded them.

Many in my generation are likely to live well past 100 years as a result of these advances. Sadly, many of us don't realize that our lives will be lived at the very best time materially, the most rapidly advancing time technologically, in human history. Because we have been told repeatedly by the media, various "experts," our teachers and respected elders that the world is effectively ending, and soon.

And yet my younger generation will live in the most advanced century the human race has ever experienced, and will be blessed by that.

Grandfathers and Grandmothers should remind their grandchildren how really blessed they are to live in this incredible era of advances, and how much they and their future children have to look forward to, especially compared to the past. Maybe that would help change the tune. I think it could - give it a try!

This is not to say there aren't very hard problems to solve: finally eliminating malaria (Bill Gates's pet project, more power to him), solving ground-water issues in India (thanks to Mr. Sunil Saxena for bringing that up), coastal flooding, war, famine, mass migration, etc. The list goes on and on. But that's why my generation is on earth, as is every generation – to help solve the problems of our time, within the skill sets and expertise many like your friend's granddaughter with great educations or just innate brilliance will develop. But the world as we know it is not likely to end in our lifetimes (no guarantees on that, an asteroid could hit us), no matter how many folks wring their hands and say woe is me, there's no more time, the end is upon us already, mankind looks like a blight upon the earth, etc. etc.

Well, the NIC report is a government document prepared by a group headed by the ex deputy director of the CIA. I suppose they need to point out problems, not great advances, in order to justify their large budgets. But to my way of thinking, instead of Chicken Little's and NIC's "The Sky is Falling, The Sky is Falling," we need a smidgen (actually a lot) more of Albert Einstein's: *"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. I'd rather be an optimist and a fool than a pessimist and right."*

He had a great life, was a total optimist even though he knew the power of nuclear weapons, which he helped enable, could obliterate him and all his sublime thoughts in an instant. An Existential threat, just like mankind supposedly faces today, was faced by him and all of your generation - only now we decide it's from climate not from mega-bombs. Now that is a leap of faith! This too shall pass?

Cheerfully, with love

*Eve*

Your Granddaughter”

On **February 18, Vinny Arguimbau** ably led a Current Affairs discussion on the subject of **Climate Change**. Vinny's guidance created a lively discussion where members brought their own perspective, expertise and insights to this subject. The attendees came well prepared, having reviewed the videos and articles that Vinny and Mike Wheeler had posted on the DMA website, which looked at multiple sides (skeptical and/or convinced) of this issue.

The general consensus of the group seemed to be that Climate Change (or excess carbon emissions, however we define it) is not an existential threat to the whole planet as some would have it, or portends the total extinction of mankind as others fear, but that it is a real and/or potential existential threat to certain geographical areas and their more vulnerable populations like low-lying Pacific islands, central India and parts of Africa where scarce water gets even scarcer, and coastal areas affected by sea levels particularly in less affluent regions, but also in places like Venice or coastal Florida, for example. Among the points that resonated were the following:

- **Sunil Saxena's** observation that shrinking ground water and drought will precipitate significant migration from central India, with potentially massive population flight (in the hundreds of millions) out of this and similarly affected areas; something we'll have to pay attention to. Currently, far smaller migration from Libya into Italy and countries beyond is already cause for concern.
- Sunil's reference to the Princeton University research / five-point plan that offers a detailed road map for the United States to reach net zero carbon emissions. It is worth reading, whether or not one agrees with all of their scenarios. Here is the link Sunil provided: <https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu>.
- Highlighting the role technology/government regulation can play, **Gary Banks** pointed out that, due to regulations developed in the '60s and '70s, combined with improved technology, many rivers have been cleaned up over the years, especially when we look back to bad old days of chemical and industrial pollution in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The paper industry, once a major polluter, has also vastly



improved water treatment and reduced air pollution – to the point that often water leaving the mills is cleaner than the water entering. So, technology will be an important part of the equation.

- Vinny's and other members' comments that the "next innovations" in technology, whether privately funded like Bill Gates's nuclear initiative or partially government funded like university research, or Elon Musk's space ventures, will provide new solutions. We live in an era of great technological creativity and innovation. Much can still be expected.
- Several members agreed that nuclear power has emerged as perhaps the best choice for clean power going forward, but will require educating the public and gaining public acceptance as well as strong political leadership. In fact, the poll generated by Mike Wheeler placed nuclear as the top choice among our attendees, among potential future clean energy sources.

In this regard, the case of France reducing its fossil fuel power generation footprint to a very small sliver was pointed to as one successful model. France generates over 70% of its electricity from nuclear (which it adopted as a national policy during the '70s oil shock) with most of the rest supplied from hydro and a growing percent of renewables. Emmanuel Macron in a recent televised address recommitted France to its nuclear strategy, and to constructing new nuclear reactors or replacing older ones. But as **Bob Baker** points out, France, like almost all countries, still has a significant carbon footprint from gasoline and diesel fueled vehicles. Time will tell if they are in a better position than other nations to generate enough electricity to fuel a rapidly increasing number of electric vehicles as they replace combustion engine vehicles, given their expertise in nuclear power.

Some members contrasted this with Germany, which closed many nuclear plants in the past decade (and plans to close them all in the near future), based largely on political considerations. Doing so has increased their carbon footprint at least temporarily, and makes their country more dependent on foreign (read Russian) sources of energy. New Chancellor Scholz faces difficult decisions today because of these policies. Meanwhile public opinion polls in Germany are beginning to show increased wariness about the "no nuclear" strategy, and a greater (though still minority) acceptance of nuclear energy as part of Germany's future. It is

interesting to have two such diametrically opposed strategies in the two key neighboring EU countries. We'll see in the coming years which fares better.

- Solar and wind offer opportunities but have their limitations and still only provide a small minority of energy. Still, they should be in the mix and contribute to the solution.
- Other issues raised included: carbon sequestration, since controlling carbon emissions alone will not be enough according to Climate Change proponents; and regenerative agriculture as an important approach – applied successfully, it also helps retain water, a key resource going forward. Healthy oceans are also an important element in retaining/sequestering carbon.

On the investment front, **Jim Phillips** with his usual succinctness, answered a member's question on the effects of the climate debate on ESG (environmental, social and governance) investing, and some of the established and newer exchange-traded funds and other ESG investments. But he likewise pointed to the blowback that investment leaders like BlackRock and other proponents of ESG investing have received from pension funds and states with large energy-based economies, Texas being one such case.

***Plans For the Spring Season.*** For the Current Affairs session on **March 18**, the topic will be China: Is the country ascending or descending? The discussion will be moderated by **Jan Selkowitz**, an entrepreneur and businessman who has been dealing with Asia for over five decades and has family ties to China. And on **April 22**, the Current Affairs group, led by **Jim Phillips**, will discuss the Electoral College – its history and whether it is still relevant today. There are numerous arguments to change the system, but no folks have come up with a better alternative; and if they did, it would be extremely difficult for advocates to garner enough votes to amend the Constitution. This should be a lively discussion, given how disputes over the Electoral College affected the 2016 Presidential election and others before that.

In terms of the venue, the Current Affairs group has reinstated hybrid meetings, meeting in person in the Garden Wing of the DCA, with folks wishing to participate remotely being able to join in via Zoom.

## **Golf**

**Peter Carnes**, who heads the DMA Golf group, reports that the golf season has started in southern climates but probably remains several months away locally. He states “our plans still are in the formative stages but will include early events at **Oak Hills** and **Sterling**

**Farms**, with follow-ons later in the season. We are investigating the availability and cost at other courses within a reasonable radius for 'road trips;' **recommendations and preferences are encouraged.**"

Peter notes that local clubs will again be targeted but play is dependent on policies, schedules and sponsorship. As the golfing schedule takes shape, save-the-date announcements will be posted in ***This Week at DMA.***

## **Happy Wanderers**

**March Madness.** During March, the Wanderers will have two events: the March Madness competition as its final act of the winter "off-season;" and, as the beginning of the regular spring Wandering season, an outing in the City of New Haven.

The March Madness contest will officially start with the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Selection Committee's naming of the 68 teams who will participate in the annual post season tournament that leads up to the national championship game in early April. They will be named on Selection Sunday, March 13, and will be publicized all over in the media and on the Internet.

At the DMA, **at our regular March 16 weekly meeting**, members who wish to participate in the contest will hand in their entry sheets naming eight teams of their choosing from the 68 ranked teams that the NCAA has placed in its four regional brackets. We will have distributed entry sheet forms at the prior week's meeting, and the form also will be available on the DMA website. The entry fee for each sheet shall be \$5.00, the same as in prior years, and members can submit entries for themselves and for family members, but each entry should include the name of the DMA member who is submitting it.

The contest objective is to name teams that will win in the successive rounds of games in their respective regions. The entry sheet will be awarded points every time one of its eight named teams wins a game in this single elimination tournament. The number of points awarded for each win will equal the NCAA assigned ranking of that winning team in their tournament region. If a member's sheet names a team that ranks five in one of the regions, then five points will be tallied on his sheet each time that team wins a game. If another team named on that sheet is a 12<sup>th</sup> ranked team, then the sheet receives 12 points each time that team wins a game. Teams that lose get no points and are out of the tournament. Only the winning teams continue to play into the succeeding rounds of games over the approximate two weeks when the tournament games will be played at the more than a dozen game venues all over the country.

Each entry sheet should have a circle drawn around the name of *one* of its teams, indicating that the entrant has chosen that team to be the tournament winner and National Champion. Circling the correct choice of the tournament winner means the sheet could be awarded an additional 25 bonus points in the contest tally. That circled team will have won all of its tournament games, right up to the championship game on Monday, April 4, and each win will have earned points for the entry sheet equal to its NCAA tournament ranking in its assigned division. But if it is the champ, it probably was placed high in the rankings, and every win will have yielded only a few points – save for the handsome bonus of 25 points for becoming Champion.

And, yes – there will be prizes. The winning sheet, the one with the most total points, gets the first prize of \$100. And the runners-up get \$50 each, until we have handed out all the funds that came in as entry fees. We hope we have a strong showing on the entry line on March 16 when we shall be receiving the entries.

**We will hand out entry form sheets at the Wednesday, March 9 DMA meeting, and will have them again at the March 16 meeting, plus members can print their own sheet from the file that will be on our website.** There may be some members who want to enter but are not yet ready to come to our Wednesday in-person meetings at the DCA. To accommodate them, the Wanderers plan to stay late after the meeting on March 16 for about half an hour, so members can drop by when most of the crowd has dissipated and make their entry in the vestibule, or outside, if the weather is dry.

Astute DMA members will, by now, have figured out that the entry sheet that has a high chance of winning our contest is one that names teams that received somewhat low rankings in their assigned region by the NCAA Selection Committee, but in reality, turn out to be much better than the rank the Committee gave them. They may be a nine or a thirteen ranked team, but they can defeat the higher ranked teams that they will be facing in each tournament round. And each win will yield bountiful points for their entry sheets. These are often called the Cinderella teams, and an entrant would do well to choose such teams for seven of the teams listed on his sheet. As for the eighth slot on your sheet, that is reserved for the team who will win the tournament, so make sure its name is circled. It doesn't matter that it may receive only one or two points every time it wins, for the pay-off there is when your circled team keeps on winning and brings home the 25 bonus points. It may turn out that several entrants' sheets have named and circled the same winning team to become the champ. If so, all such sheets will receive the 25 bonus points.

***Actual Wandering.*** But even before all the tournament games are done, the Wanderers will be starting their spring semester of walks through nearby interesting places, mostly in New York City. However, the first outing will be a walking tour of the core districts of

**New Haven on Thursday, March 31.** There are many interesting current and historic places in the Elm City, and we shall cover as many as we can fit into a day's visit, with, of course, a stop for a nice lunch. More details on that Wandering as the date approaches.



The other spring season outings are Thursday, April 28 to Flushing, Queens; Thursday, May 26 to Coney Island, in Brooklyn; and Thursday, June 23 to Governor's Island and historic lower Manhattan. Stayed tuned for more details on these spring wanderings by regularly viewing the weekly issues of ***This Week at DMA***.

## **Hikers**

***Sherwood Island, January 24.*** After a little semi-threatening snow in the morning, the weather turned mostly sunny but cold for 18 (count 'em 18) DMA hikers and friends to walk and talk for 90 minutes at beautiful Sherwood Island State Park in Westport. For those who have not been to Sherwood Island, there are trails through wooded areas in

addition to the vast open expanse of lawn and beach. The Park contains a 9-1-1 Memorial to all those Connecticut residents who died in the attacks. The memorial is sited on a point of land which has a direct line-of-sight to Manhattan. Select photos follow.



**Greenwich Point, February 24.** “An enthusiastic group of 16 braved cold and windy, but bright conditions ... ” That was the start of our report after the December 9 tour of Greenwich Point. Copy that for this day! Sixteen of us, including three new hikers plus two dogs, encountered the very same weather on this trip around the peninsula. If we get the same weather this coming December, we’re going to send the data to ***The Old Farmer’s Almanac***. Once they print it, we’ll pick another day! Despite the cold, all had a great time with only one slight mishap when **Tom Igoe** tripped but was rescued on the way to the ground by **Charles Salmans**. Teamwork is what the DMA is all about!

We’ll have one more winter hike at Waveny Park in New Canaan on Monday, March 21. In April, May and June, we will return to our traditional hikes in area forests. Stay tuned!





*Looking south to the Isle of Manhattan*



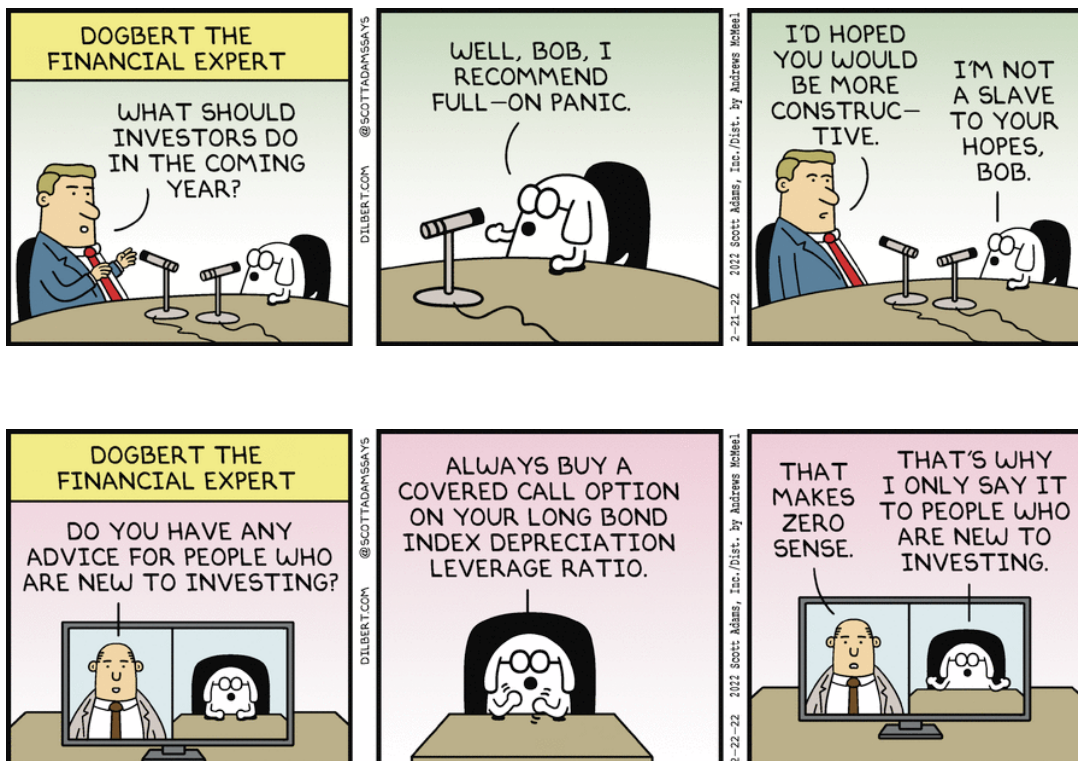
## Investment Discussion Group

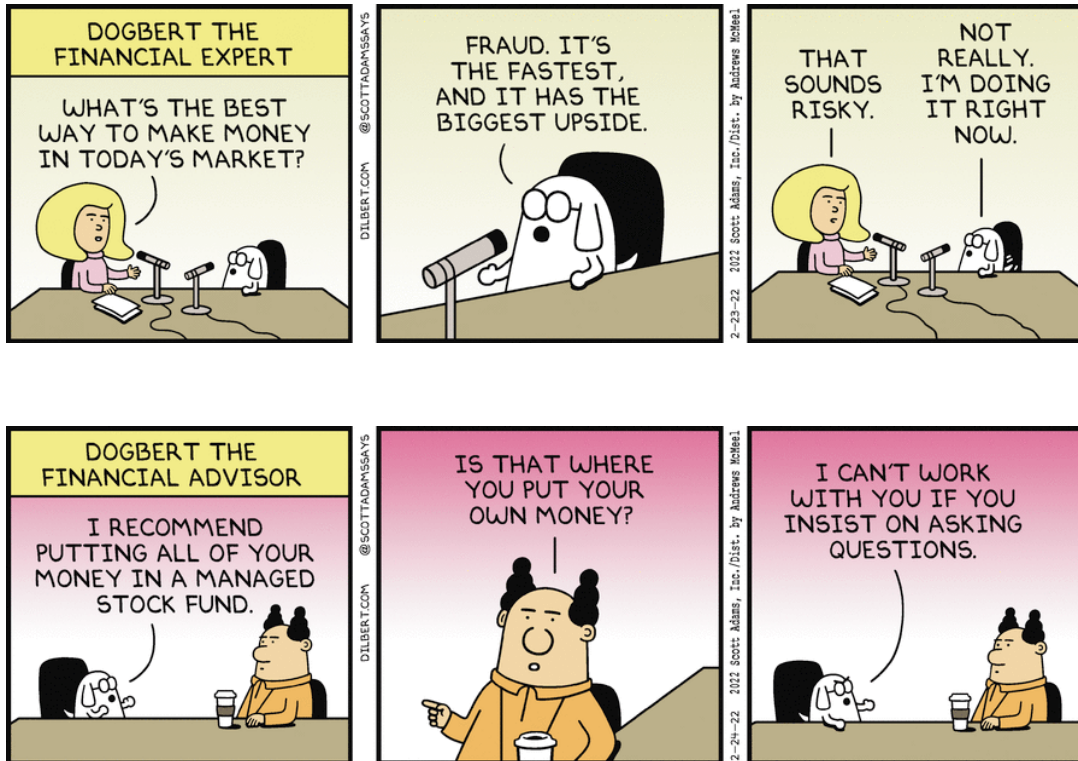
**Jim Phillips** heads the Investment Discussion Group (IDG) which meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. The IDG permits members to discuss individual stocks and various investment themes, and in particular, to receive alternate views and opinions from members which may increase/lower their confidence for a position they own, or are thinking of owning.

In **January** and **February**, the group covered investment ideas in cybersecurity, fintech, energy and digital ads/video content. Various members offered ideas as to how one should play these trends. For example, PANW (Palo Alto Networks) and FTNT (Fortinet) were suggested as solid cyber plays. The IDG went on to develop a Conviction Buy List for members to take advantage of any potential sell-off (now).

For **March**, the group will further its discussion of “conviction buy” ideas, cover the macro outlook following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and explore any potential investment ideas to play the shortages in the semiconductor industry.

When all else fails, consult Dogbert, the Financial Expert:





## Money Matters

On **February 14**, **David Pritchard** spoke with the Money Matters Group about OHM Dynamics and its development of a line of strength and cardio training equipment based on proprietary resistance technology. Unlike conventional exercise modalities, which define the force a user is required to produce in order to engage in exercise, OHM is able to accommodate the highly variable capabilities of each individual user through complex functional movement patterns in real time. The result is a dramatically improved and differentiated exercise or rehabilitation experience that is safer, more effective and efficient and more natural, functional and motivating. For more information on this technology, check the DMA’s website under the Money Matters heading.

On **March 14**, **Conor Horrigan** will join the Money Matters group to talk on building a brewery and a community in Stamford. Conor has built the successful Stamford-based Half Full Brewery, a thriving co-working space called Third Place. He also helped to launch a beer hall astride the outdoor rink at Mill River Park. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn how Conor created a great community and connected many businesses and entrepreneurs. On **April 11**, the group will gather again to hear two knowledgeable investors, **Eric Monies** and **Nick Johnson**, talk on the subject of cryptocurrency and “NFTs” (non-fungible tokens that are part of the Ethereum blockchain).

## Pickleball

Pickleball competition continues like clockwork every Tuesday and Thursday at Cherry Lawn Park. Check in with **Jan Selkowitz** on start times, which are usually at 11 a.m. but may vary depending upon conditions. As we continue through the heart of the winter season, Jan advises that, in the event of inclement weather (rain, snow, ice, wind, etc.), arrangements have been made with Darien Parks & Rec and the Mather Center to bring DMA Pickleball indoors. The DMA participants comprise an enthusiastic group enjoying the fastest growing sport in the United States. These live action photos tell the true story.



## Darien Community Service

**Frank Deleo**, who heads the DMA's Community Service committee, reports on several important upcoming activities that are being planned as part of the DMA's enduring commitment to the Darien community:

- ***Men's or Women's Clothing Donations for Hudson Link***, an organization that educates, trains and prepares recently incarcerated men and women to help them productively re-enter society and the work force. Hudson Link made a presentation to the DMA a few years ago. It's a great program making a real difference in helping people dramatically change their lives. To aid their efforts, we will be collecting men's and women's dress and dress casual clothing at our **April 6** meeting. They are looking for suits, sports coats, pants, shoes, shirts, dresses, blouses, etc. that are appropriate for the business workplace.
- ***Emergency Medical Training and Certification by Post 53***. As a follow-up to our CPR and AED training a few years ago, Post 53 will be providing updated training in these two areas, including certification for the participants. This is very important since their goal is to increase the number of certified people in town who can help in an emergency (the first 4 minutes are critical to improving the odds of success for someone having a cardiac event, so people who can provide immediate treatment before emergency responders can arrive are critical). They will also be providing training for trauma and falls (one of their most frequent reasons for being called for help). These trainings will likely occur on two separate days. We are looking to tie this in with a presentation on the current state of Post 53. These training sessions will require sign-ups, so they know how many of us to expect. Dates and details to follow. **Likely dates are in late April/early May.**
- ***Spring Clean Ups***. As in the past, we will be helping out with clean-ups for various town park lands and beach areas. This has historically been tied into Earth Day and helps protect the environment and keep our open spaces clean for all of us to better enjoy. **Dates and details to follow.**
- ***Memorial Day Parade***. As in the past, we are planning to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on May 30.
- ***Adopt-a-Cause Survey***. Soon Frank will be conducting a survey among the DMA membership to assess interest in the DMA's "adopting" a cause that we would be involved with on a sustained basis. Frank will be meeting with town officials to get

an understanding of needs/opportunities they might have but would also welcome other ideas from the membership. We already do a lot individually and collectively; that said, Frank would like to assess whether we want to do something beyond our current activities more formally as an organization.

- One last reminder and plea for volunteers to help at the **P2P Food Pantry**. Details were provided in past weekly newsletters. If anyone is interested or has questions, please reach out to Frank DeLeo ([frankdeleo@hotmail.com](mailto:frankdeleo@hotmail.com)).

Thanks to each of you for what you are doing to make our community a better place for all who live here and, especially, those who need extra help in their lives. Frank asks that if any of you have updated information about any activities or organizations that you'd like included on our website, please let him know.

## **DMA Social Activities**

As we emerge from COVID, the DMA Social Committee, led by **Jan Selkowitz, Gehr Brown** and **Bob McGroarty**, has been seeking to schedule a variety of events and activities for this spring. Plans are in preliminary stages, with many options being considered, including musical performances, sporting events, trips to museums, sorties on Long Island Sound and the June DMA picnic. The first event is a catered musical performance on **March 31**, at **St. Luke's**, by **The Melissa Newman Quartet**. The Quartet, which has been together since 2012, will be performing standards from The Great American Songbook.



The musical ensemble includes the following talented performers:

**Melissa Newman, Vocals:** In addition to her vocal talents, Melissa has appeared in many television series (“Bonanza”, “Entertainment Tonight” and “The New Perry Mason” to name a few) and movies (“Mr. and Mrs. Bridge”, “See How She Runs”, etc.). You will also have heard her singing on many commercial jingles. In addition, Melissa is a sculptor and works with ceramics and has volunteered her time to teach art, singing and drawing at correctional facilities for women. She is currently working with the publisher on a previously unreleased memoir by her father, Paul Newman.

**Phil Bowler, Bass:** Phil graduated with a music degree from The University of Hartford in 1972 and has since played with a long list of jazz greats such as Roland Kirk, Hugh Masekela, Wynton Marsalis, Slide Hampton, John Faddis, Max Roach, Horace Silver and the Count Basie Orchestra. He also hosted *Jazz Adventures* on WHKN in Bridgeport from 1999-2009.

**Tony Lombardozi, Guitar:** Tony has been a jazz guitar instructor and ensemble director on the Wesleyan University music faculty since 1986. He has performed at many famous jazz venues such as the Blue Note and Lincoln Center Jazz in New York City and at many jazz festivals. Since the ‘70s he has performed with a long list of jazz greats such as Clark Terry, Les Paul, Kenny Barron, Rufus Reed and others too numerous to mention.

**Matt Moadel, Drums:** Matt is a working drummer as well as a teacher. Armed with a degree in percussion from Western Connecticut State University, he has studied many different drumming styles from traditional drum set styles and rudimentary snare drumming to Middle Eastern and African drumming. Matt has performed in many settings—from Jazz and Reggae to Flamenco and Funk to marching bands and pit orchestras.

**St. Luke's Youth and Community Center, at St. Luke's Parish, 1864 Post Road, Darien  
Wine and Hors d'oeuvres, 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m./Music 7:30 p.m.—8:45 p.m.  
Catering by Carolyn Eddie's Absolutely Fabulous Events  
Cost: \$20 per attendee for DMA members and spouses/significant others**

Sign-up sheets will be available during the DMA’s general meetings at the DCA, starting later in the month of March. Make checks payable to the Darien Men’s Association and either deliver them when you sign up or mail them to the DMA, attention of Tony Yezzi, 274 Middlesex Road, Darien, CT 06820. Plan to join us for a wonderful evening of food, drink and an outstanding musical performance!

The Social Committee will continue to keep DMA members advised as plans and arrangements are finalized in the coming days and weeks. For example, we are completing arrangements for a second musical event at **St. Luke's Parish** on **April 27**, featuring players from the **Norwalk Symphony Orchestra**. We will provide updates on all these activities in the coming issues of ***This Week at DMA*** and in supplemental eblasts from Art Baron.

## **2022 Super Bowl Contest**

The winners of this year's Super Bowl Contest were **Matteo Harding** (represented by his grandfather Dick H. ), who won the first quarter prize; **Tom Taylor**, who won the half-time prize; **Carol Hooper** (represented by her husband Bryan), who won the third quarter prize; and **Tom Taylor**, who came through again to win the Grand Prize based upon the final score of the game. Thanks to the organizers for all their hard work and support for the DMA 2022 Super Bowl Contest!



***Super Bowl Contest Organizers, Victors and Victor Representatives***

## Notes



## Notes

# Notes

## Mark Your Calendar – Details on DMA Website

A Google calendar providing scheduled dates and times for the many and varied DMA events and activities planned over the next several months may be viewed by accessing the DMA's website, [DarrenDMA.org](http://DarrenDMA.org), and clicking on the caption [Event and Activity Calendar](#) on the right side of each page.

### Activity Representatives

For those activities over Zoom, dates and times apply unless otherwise amended. Locations refer to venues when resumption of in-person meetings is possible.

**Book Club**, Harris Hester, 655.2309, and Tom Igoe, 655.6170  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 2:00 p.m., Lillian Gade Conference Room at the DCA

**Bowling**, Tom Lom, 655.0686, and Gehr Brown, 655.3713  
Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m., Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield

**Bridge**, John Podkowsky, 329.8181  
Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m., online using the BBO platform

**Cribbage**, Geoff Rezek, 820.7077  
As announced from time to time

**Current Affairs**, Mark Nunan, 655.0443, and Mike Wheeler, 856.8414  
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

**Golf**, Peter Carnes, 655.9518  
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

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

**Hiking**, Dave McCollum, 853.7080, and Bob Plunkett, 246.2898  
As announced at meetings and through eblasts

**Investment Discussion Group**, Jim Phillips, 722.2787  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 10:00 a.m., online

**Money Matters**, Doug Campbell, 975.0320

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom, or as otherwise announced from time to time

**Pickleball**, Jan Selkowitz, 655.0441

Tuesdays, Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. at Cherry Lawn Park

**Woodworking**, Tom Williams, 943.9715

Mondays and Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Senior Center

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Darien Men's Association Newsletter</h2>
<p><b>Editor and Publisher</b>, <i>Tom Igoe</i>. <b>Contributing Editor</b>, <i>Joyce Meurer</i>. <b>Speaker write-ups</b>, Charles Salmans. <b>New member bios</b>, <i>Harry Bergen</i>. <b>Mailing list and e-communications</b>, <i>Art Baron</i>. <b>This Week at DMA</b>, <i>Tom Igoe</i>. <b>Webmaster</b>, <i>Gary Banks</i>.</p>