



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

Darien Men's Association

March-April-May 2023

President's Message

The health of an organization such as the Darien Men's Association is measured not only by the level and quality of leadership, participation and involvement of our full membership (which now tops 320) but also by our ability to attract new members. By both standards, we are a vibrant, healthy organization as illustrated by the range of our activities, the fact that we hosted a coffee for 25 new members in February and have had several new members join since then.

It's always a bit risky to recognize all those who have made the DMA successful, given the danger of overlooking someone. But the activities from January and February, chronicled in the following pages, don't happen on their own.

Our Wednesday meetings continue to be central to our mission and success of the DMA, offering intellectual stimulation and good fellowship. With the leadership of **Tom Igoe**, we heard from eight stimulating speakers in January and February. Speakers addressed history, the contemporary challenges from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the challenge of China and – much

closer – the “State of the Town of Darien,” as well as programs to help Darien seniors live independently.

A January highlight was dinner and hockey, arranged by **Tom Lom** and **Gehr Brown**.

DMA’s annual Super Bowl contest was organized by **David Mace** and **Joe Spain**, and coming up is the annual March Madness contest – less a matter of luck as it rewards accurate predictions of teams that, against the odds, advance through the brackets.

The life experiences and insights of our members come through in our book discussions, moderated by **Tom Igoe**, in which members can draw upon their backgrounds – whether working with a firm such as McKinsey, drawing upon knowledge built over a lifetime, doing business around the world or simply being well-read and engaged.

So far, 2023 has proved to be a challenging investment environment, and **Jim Phillips’** monthly Investment Discussion Group by Zoom were very well-attended. When the market goes down, it appears that the attendance goes up, but this seems a lagging rather than a leading indicator.

The Money Management group, under **Doug Campbell**, also explores the latest trends, most recently ChatGPT and the larger adoption of AI tools.

Bridge and Cribbage also engage members intellectually, with **John Podkowsky** providing a weekly update on Bridge bidding, while **Geoff Rezek** and **Tom Williams** have recruited new members to Cribbage.

In February, as arranged by **Mike Wheeler** and **Mark Nunan**, veteran journalist Forrest Sawyer moderated a Current Affairs group discussion on “Ukraine and the New World Order.”

Even in the winter months, there are a number of activities that keep us fit, whether shown by resolute pickleball players under **Jan Selkowitz** or the bowling organized by **Tom Lom**. Soon, through an initiative by **Dan Lew**, we expect to add ping-pong to the indoor activities that contribute to fitness and the opportunity to socialize.

Hikers, guided by **Dave McCollum** and **Bob Plunkett**, braved January and February weather at Sherwood Island and an urban hike exploring Stamford’s greatly transformed South End.

Finally, led by **Frank DeLeo**, the DMA demonstrated its dedication to community service through a new scholarship for a Darien High School student and a soup drive for Person-to-Person. DMA members **Pat Gentile**, **Charles Hurty**, and **Bert von Stuelpnagel** became IRS-certified to donate their time and expertise to provide free tax return preparation. **George Gilliam** keeps membership informed of those who are ill or who would benefit from a visit and emotional support.

Several of our newest members, including **Lee Morrison** and **Dan Lew**, have dived right in to contribute their talents to the success and vibrancy of the DMA. This bodes very well for our future as an organization. All our activities depend on involvement, support, and the time and talent of our members. But I would emphasize the importance of member involvement under the Social Committee led by **Jan Selkowitz** and Community Service under **Frank DeLeo's** leadership.

We share a common goal: to make the DMA an organization that enriches our lives through good fellowship, fun and the opportunity for community service. We have much of which to be proud as we look at the activities summarized in this newsletter and contemplate what is planned for the spring.

Charles Salmans
President

DMA Institutes a Scholarship Program

Following a 75% majority vote in favor on February 1 by the DMA membership, the DMA Board of Directors approved a scholarship of \$1,000 per year to be awarded to a Darien High School senior or continuing college student who demonstrates support for or brings enjoyment to others through community service.

Frank DeLeo led a working group who studied how a scholarship would be administered. In keeping with the DMA's commitment to community service, the winning scholarship recipient would engage in people-facing activities that make others feel a greater sense of belonging, support and enjoyment. Examples could include volunteering at a senior facility or hospital, working with an organization that engages with children or peers, etc.

The selection process will be done through an established program administered by the Darien Community Association beginning in March. We plan to profile the recipient when an awards ceremony is held at the end of May or in June.

New Members

Doug Bernacchi



Doug Bernacchi was born in 1959 in LaPorte, Ind. One of four children, he grew up on his family's produce farm where he worked from a young age. He attended a private Catholic grade school, served daily as an altar boy, played all the offered sports through 9th grade, and in high school focused on snow skiing at a local ski hill. Over the years, Doug taught more than 1,000 first-day skiers as a ski instructor at Swiss Valley in Jones, Mich., and once beat Stein Ericson in a Giant Slalom Race at Deer Valley, Utah.

He attended Regis College in Denver and was a scholarship college ski team member. With straight A grades, he transferred to the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where his wife-to-be, Susan, worked for the Congressman from South Bend, Ind.. He matriculated at Notre Dame, attending the London program. Upon receiving his M.B.A., Doug entered banking in New York City with Chase Manhattan Bank, while Susan worked at WABC-7. He left Manhattan for Chicago and law school and leased a seat at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to trade eurodollar futures as a member, which he did for decades, also teaching new member orientation and practicing law. He was certified as a specialist by the American Board of Certification in Bankruptcy Law.

They raised their four children, a girl and three boys, including twins, in Long Beach and Granger, Ind., and Sandy, Utah. Doug also coached travel baseball, youth soccer and basketball teams and made time to teach skiing, enjoy many family ski trips, travel sports trips, college visits/parent days and other family vacations.

Since retiring in 2017, the Bernacchis have moved a few times to stay close to their thriving adult children in Chicago, Indianapolis, Charlottesville, Va., Raleigh, N.C., and now Darien, where they dote on their first granddaughter. Doug's aged, yet very active and healthy parents still reside in LaPorte, Ind.

Randy Blosio



Randy Blosio was born and raised in Stamford. He graduated from Westhill High School in 1979, where he played baseball and ice hockey. In 1983, he received a degree in marketing from Central Connecticut State University. Years later, he received his M.B.A. from the University of New Haven while working and raising a family.

Randy is a senior strategic executive with a strong customer contact center and operations background. His experience spans direct marketing, consumer products, healthcare and, most recently, travel. He has led sales and service transformations at several recognizable brands for more than 30 years. For the past nine years at Tauck as vice president responsible for sales and service and a member of the senior leadership strategy team, Randy led transformation programs revamping the organization, practices, processes and technology. Randy is co-founder of the Darien Professionals Networking Group.

Randy met Lisa, his wife of 35 years, after college and settled in her hometown of Darien, where they have raised three children: Teresa, Emily and Rudy. After 24 years in Darien, they moved to Rowayton Avenue in Rowayton in 2015. Randy is co-owner of Home Watch Management, LLC (www.homewatchmgmt.com), a residential home watch business servicing the local area. He treasures spending time with his family and friends, traveling and boating on Long Island Sound. He is an avid ice hockey fan.

David Dysenchuk



David Dysenchuk was born in Hartford in 1952 and was raised in the Connecticut farming community of South Glastonbury. He holds degrees from Bates College, the University of Colorado, and The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He retired in 2018 after a 40-year banking career in New York City, Zurich and Geneva. His principal business focus was commercial real estate finance.

David and his wife Pamela of 42 years raised their three children in Darien, who currently reside in New York City and Houston, and they have three grandchildren.

He enjoys golf, skiing, bowling, hiking and traveling.

Lee Morrison



Lee Morrison grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. As a teenager, he developed a passion for sailing, a sport that he mastered on the waters off Coney Island and still participates in today.

Almost immediately after returning from the 1976 Olympic Trials (competing in the Finn sailboat class), he met his future wife Susan. Five years later, they were married, bought a house on West Avenue in Darien and joined Noroton Yacht Club. Lee remains active in the club, including a stint as commodore in 2015.

Lee attended New York City public schools and earned a degree in computer science from Brooklyn College. As a software developer, he eventually got involved with a start-up that created the first applications capturing supermarket point-of-sale data for marketing and analysis. Following the sale of Retail Marketing Systems in 2000, Lee finished his career working for World Wrestling Entertainment, retiring in 2021. Susan spent her career as an educator, completing it in 2020 teaching in the Middlesex Middle School IDEA program.

Susan and Lee raised twins, Alex and Kristen, who graduated from Darien High School in 2009. Alex attended College of Charleston and is currently assistant manager at Roton Point Club. Kristen graduated from Tufts University and is a storyboard artist in Burbank Calif.

Matthew Perry

Matthew Perry was born in Seattle, Wash., in 1955. He received a B.A. degree from Claremont McKenna College. He attended Yale University Divinity School and earned an M.B.A. from New York University.

He worked at J.P. Morgan from 1979 till 2008, becoming a managing director. After that, he taught at St. Luke's School in New Canaan for a year and then reentered the business world. He joined State Street as a managing director and was head of U.S. Sales. His final position was at Marathon Asset Management as senior managing director. There, he was global head of business development from 2013-2022 and served on the executive committee.

Matthew married in 1984 and has three children. He moved to Darien in 1995. His interests include golf, paddleball, snow skiing, boating and pickleball.

Chip Raymond



Chip Raymond was born in Barrington, R.I., in 1942. He left Barrington to attend Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts for his sophomore, junior and senior years. He received a B.A. from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and completed two years of graduate work at Pittsburgh University and New York University.

Chip has worked for four mayors of the City of New York: John Lindsey, Abraham Beame, Ed Koch and David Dinkins. Two of the positions of note held by Chip were Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development. In addition, Chip was managing director of the New York City Ballet for six years and president of the Citigroup Foundation for six years.

He and his wife Jan have two sons and four grandchildren. Now retired, he enjoys volunteer work for Open Doors in Norwalk, sailing, skiing and model boat building.

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Doug Scott



Doug Scott, aka "Scotty" or "Coach," was born in rural northern California, (Shasta County) in 1959. For eight years of his youth, he rode more than 500 horse races as a jockey until a six-inch growth spurt at age 16 ended that run.

After graduating from high school, he followed a college scholarship opportunity at the University of Dayton. For three years after college, he worked for Arthur Andersen and was based in the Middle East for two of those years.

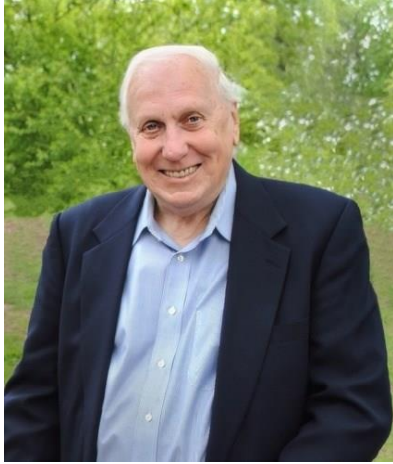
In 1986, he picked up both an M.B.A. and a wife (Jackie) at Harvard Business School. From there, he worked a nine-year Wall Street career, including the first four years as part of Michael Milken's junk bond desk at Drexel Burnham.

After Drexel's demise, he and Jackie moved to Darien in 1990, raised four kids and a foster child, and hosted a foreign exchange student. That overlapped a 32-year basketball coaching

career, which ended as the boys' varsity basketball coach at Greens Farms Academy (GFA). While at GFA, he was selected by his coaching peers as the New England Prep School Coach of the Year three times.

He now spends a lot of his time managing a men's college basketball scouting service called RecruitTheBronx.com, and he hosts a couple of the country's largest college basketball prospect showcases each year.

In Memoriam



William Jerome Bellis (Bill), of Darien, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2023, at the age of 92 surrounded by his family. He had bravely fought lung cancer for over a year.

Bill was born on May 12, 1930, in New York, N.Y., to the late William Bellis and Anne Gallagher Bellis. His parents were immigrants from Liverpool, England and Donegal, Ireland, respectively. Bill graduated from Blessed Sacrament High School in New Rochelle, N.Y., where he played on the basketball and baseball teams. He went on to earn a B.A. in history from Iona College in 1953. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 training for the Korean War.

Bill married the late Norma De Rosa Bellis in 1958 in New Rochelle and moved to Darien in 1965, where they raised their family. He served on the Representative Town Meeting for three terms and as the Personnel Advisory Commissioner for the Town of Darien in the 1970s. Bill was an active member of the Darien Men's Association and founded the Happy Wanderers, who enjoyed many walking tours of New York City through the 1990s and early 2000s.

He worked for 28 years at Olin Corporation in Stamford as a computer programmer and systems analyst. Bill was a dedicated mentor to many of his younger co-workers.

He enjoyed the New York Giants, golf, bowling, movies, cooking, long lunches and dinners of all cuisines, jokes, computers and – above all else – his family. Bill traveled extensively with Norma in retirement, including trips to: Italy, Ireland, England, France, Greece, Egypt, China, and Israel. He also made a cameo appearance in the 2019 feature film: "The Climb."

Bill will be remembered most by his family and friends as a good-natured, loyal, and dependable father, grandfather, and friend. Bill's level-headedness, kindness, advice, humor and generosity will always be valued.

He is survived by three children: Stephen and his wife Barbara Bellis of Shelton; Sandra Bellis Graf and her fiancé Robert Moore of Rowayton; Art and his wife Mary Bellis of Darien; seven grandchildren: Michael and his wife Deanna Bellis, Matthew Bellis, Lindsay and her husband Joseph Druhan, Douglas and Cara Parks, Alison and Sarah Bellis; and two great-grandchildren: Clare and Grace Bellis. Bill's older sister Mary Bellis Keilly passed away in 2020.

Bill was laid to rest at a private family ceremony at Spring Grove Cemetery in Darien. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's memory to the American Cancer Society to help fund Cancer Research. <https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html>



Richard (Dick) Cutler, a father, grandfather and uniquely relational man, passed away at age 93 in his home on January 30 – with family and friends around him.

He is survived by his daughter, Kate Cutler Reichart, his son, David Cutler, plus three grandchildren: Emma (Reichart) Virgl, Tess Reichart and Ned Cutler.

Dick was born September 29, 1929 to Richard and Aaslaug Cutler in Farsund, Norway, followed by his younger brother Tom. The family moved to Cincinnati and later to Philadelphia in 1944. Dick graduated from Friend Select School and the University of Pennsylvania.

Most of his career was based in New York City's publishing world, where he became a prominent figure in the ski industry, working for *Skiing* magazine, Warren Miller Entertainment (producers of the pre-season movies serious skiers and snowboarders anticipated each year) and finally the Ski Industry Association.

The success of his business and personal life was demonstrated by an accumulation of so many friends across the country. Dick would pepper any correspondence with a cheeky *New Yorker* comic (he kept files of these). He'd also save pages of notes with friends' anniversaries, birthdays, special events and would leave five-second voice messages starting with, "Cutler here ...". He cared and loved well in his signature way.

Dick met and married Eileen McKenna in Brooklyn Heights in 1958. With their two children, Kate and David, they moved to Old Greenwich, where they appreciated living in beautiful Lucas Point.

Known as bestafar (Norwegian for grandfather) by his grandchildren, he never missed a birthday, graduation, band concert or game. With his dry humor, 6'5" presence and cheshire grin, he'd always change the atmosphere.

A memorial service was held at The Thomas Gallagher Funeral Home in Stamford in February. Donations may be made to Skiing History, a nonprofit organization Dick supported:

<https://skiinghistory.org/donate>.



Patrick "Pat" Michael Linskey passed away on January 21, 2023, at the age of 86. He was the quintessential Irishman, born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1936, in Chicago, Ill, to Edward and Margaret Hughes Linskey. He attended Niles Township High School in Skokie, Ill, and graduated from Quincy University in Quincy, Ill.

Pat thrived in the golden age of advertising and print media as sales manager for *McCall's* magazine, Advertising Director for *The American Home*

magazine, president and publisher of *Family Weekly* magazine, and publisher of *USA Weekend* newspaper magazine (CBS Publishing). He then became director of Corporate Marketing for the Enquirer-Star Group and American Media and eventually served as chairman and CEO of Sentry Communications prior to his retirement.

He was known as caring, witty, loyal and larger than life. His family and friends will always remember his positivity, infectious smile and adventurous spirit that led him to travel the world from Europe to Asia. He made the most of every day and, as a Pisces, always requested a water view and loved floating in his pool, rafting on the Snake River, swimming in the ocean or cruising on a ship. He enjoyed celebrating with family, playing tennis with the "GOBs" as captain of the Woodway Country Club team and listening to his beloved Sinatra. Every March, he watched "his" St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Amadan Society at the St. Regis in New York City. He was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees, the New York Giants, Notre Dame football and UConn basketball.

As a resident of Darien for more than 45 years, Pat loved spending time at Pear Tree Point Beach and the Darien Library and was an active member and supporter of the Darien Men's Association and the Darien Community Association.

He is survived by his devoted wife Judi Linskey, and his loving family: daughter Anmarie (Dean) Gaalaas; sons Kevin and Scott Linskey; stepdaughters Carol Hammersla and Alison (Jim) Slaba; stepson Scott Hammersla; his eight grandchildren Patrick, Danny, Emily, Amanda, Julia, Jackson, Kaylee, and Kolbe; and several nieces. Pat was predeceased by his parents and brother Edward. There will be a private family celebration of Pat's life as he requested. Donations may be sent to the [Alzheimer's Association](#), the [American Cancer Society](#) or the Darien Community Association.



David Macowan Sinclair, 94, passed away at his home in Darien on December 15, 2022. Dave was born in Philadelphia in 1928. He grew up in Germantown, Pa. When his family moved to Riverside, Conn., in 1941, he spent one year at The Riverside School and then went to The St. Luke's School in New Canaan.

In 1950, Dave graduated with a B.A. in history from Amherst College and immediately began working for T.D. Helprin, Inc. in New York as a marine surveyor. This was the start of a fascinating 50-year career with the same firm, of which he later became the sole owner and president. He loved his job, and it took him all over the world. As an independent hired by major insurance and shipping companies, he investigated and solved cases of how, where, when and by whom multimillion-dollar shipments of goods were damaged, lost or stolen. His loss examinations and findings formed the basis for thousands of major claim settlements. During the Korean War, Dave served for two years in the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and attained the rank of sergeant. In 1957, he received his M.B.A. in foreign trade from New York University.

Dave was a lifelong accomplished sailor, a respected offshore seaman and a sought-after navigator. At an early age, he learned to sail while summering at Pocono Lake, Pa. His family joined Riverside Yacht Club in 1941, where he entered the Junior Sailing Program, and he later taught sailing at the Pequot Yacht Club. By the time he was 18, he had secured a spot in the afterguard aboard the yacht Niña with DeCoursey Fales. He participated in 11 Newport to Bermuda Races and numerous Vineyard, Annapolis, and Block Island Races on Niña, Walter Hanson's Recluta and on his brother-in-law Tony Widmann's Freebooter. He considered himself fortunate to have sailed once on the fabled Ticonderoga, when she finished first in the memorable 1947 Halifax Race.

At age 16, he was on board the winning Lightning at the 1944 North American Championships, and 42 years later, he was a crew member on the winning boat at the 1986 Sonar North Americans. He joined the Cruising Club of America in 1956, and at the time of his passing, he was the second longest-standing active member.

In 1956, Dave married Susan Widmann. They first lived in Cos Cob before relocating to Darien in 1958. They soon joined Noroton Yacht Club and started racing sailboats together as an inseparable team in their Lightning, Tempest, J-24 and Sonar for the next 40 years. They often cruised the New England Coast and the Virgin Islands. Sue and Dave had an extraordinary relationship. They were completely dedicated to the common interests and activities that they shared together and were supportive, respectful and admiring of each other's individual pursuits. They endured the loss of a 10-year-old son but channeled their grief into nurturing and encouraging their two other children, as well as supporting and mentoring other kids through their own personal endeavors and/or life challenges.

Dave was tirelessly dedicated to serving the sailing community and volunteering in his town and neighborhood. Included among these efforts were co-founding the Darien Junior Sailing Program, chairing the Junior Sailing Association of Long Island Sound and acting as commodore of Noroton Yacht Club. He was a certified U.S. Sailing Judge and Senior Race Officer, a member of the U.S. Sailing Appeals Committee of Long Island Sound, chairman of the U.S. Sailing Area B Junior Championships, founder and chairman of the Five Mile River Commission, treasurer and longtime board member of the Darien Nature Center, president of the Darien Historical Society, and a board member and trustee of the Darien Land Trust. He served on the Darien RTM and the Planning and Zoning Commission. He also consulted on the specifications and purchase of the Darien Fire Boat. Dave held many of these positions concurrently, and it is a testament to his commitment that he was able to manage it all while working and raising a family.

The Darien Nature Center recently established the David Sinclair Volunteerism Award, which "is given annually to an individual in the community who embodies the volunteer spirit and commitment to the land, air and waterways that Dave Sinclair has shown over his 25+ years of service to the Darien Nature Center." In 1982, he received the prestigious Ned Anderson Award for his outstanding contributions to sailing on Long Island Sound.

He had an incredibly inquisitive mind and devoured books and publications covering all subject matters. Though history and the natural world were his primary interests, he knew a lot about most things and a little bit about everything else. Dave even jumped out of a perfectly good airplane at 12,000 feet to sky dive over Block Island on his 85th birthday to "get a different perspective." But he will likely be remembered mostly for his grace, his calm demeanor, his thoughtful and sound decision making, his moral courage, and for his genuine interest in and kindness toward all those who he knew and met. A neighbor wrote after his passing, "This makes me sad. One of my greatest fears has always been that I will become a bitter old man. Dave was an example of the opposite of that. He serves as an inspiration to me as to how I want to be as my life progresses. He is truly a role model."

Dave was predeceased by his wife Susan Widmann Sinclair; a son, Timothy Biddle Sinclair; his parents, Mary Biddle and John Stephens Sinclair; sisters Polly Buck Krakora and Sylvia Carr Berking, and his brother, John Biddle Sinclair. He is survived by his son Craig and daughter Margot, his son-in-law Scott Mannka, and grandchildren Peter, Jason, Chris Mannka and Lindy Sinclair.

He lived a long, meaningful, and regret-free life that impacted many people and many things. Dave is going to be greatly missed by his children, grandchildren, his amazing extended family, and scores of wonderful, caring friends and neighbors. Details regarding a gathering to pay him tribute will be announced this spring.

To help preserve and protect the place he loved most, his family asks that you consider making a donation in his memory to The Block Island Conservancy, P.O. Box 84, 234 Weldon's Way, Block Island, RI 02807 <https://biconservancy.org>

DMA Speakers Program

March–May 2023

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

John McIntire, “Perspectives on Cuba”



John McIntire will speak with us about his personal experiences and history with the island of Cuba: the Cuban diaspora; U.S./Cuba politics; and his role as co-founder and chairman of the Cuba Emprende Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization that sponsors the largest entrepreneur training program on the island. Since 2012, the Foundation has supported programs that have graduated 8,000+ entrepreneurs and supported 6,000+ small businesses.

Based on long involvement in Cuban affairs, John will also share his perspectives on Cuba’s near-term and medium-term outlook. He left Cuba as a child but traveled there more than 20 times between 2004-2016 and was a member of the official U.S. delegations that visited the island in August of 2015 and March of

2016.

John is a member of the executive committee of the policy-oriented Cuba Study Group and chair of the Cuba Working Group of the Americas Society/Council of the Americas. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

John had a 25-year career as an international investment banker in New York and London. He retired in 2004 as a partner of Goldman, Sachs & Co., where he spent 12 years focused on Latin America, including being Goldman’s CEO for the region. Since then, he has been an active investor in and advisor to early-stage companies, primarily in Latin America.

He graduated from Princeton University (1979) with an A.B. in economics. He and his family have lived in Darien since 1991.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Terrie Wood, “Reflections on Service in the Connecticut Legislature and Early Voting and Other Election Proposals”



Terrie Wood will provide general reflections on her years of service in the Connecticut legislature. She will review the early voting and other election proposals currently pending before the legislature, and her 2023-2024 engagement as a fellow of the Yankee Institute.

This organization’s mission is to empower the people of Connecticut to forge a brighter future for themselves and their family. How? by equipping them with the information they need to be knowledgeable, involved citizens and by advancing policies that promote smart, limited government; fairness for taxpayers; and opportunity for all.

Terrie was a seven-term Connecticut state representative (2009-2023) representing Norwalk and Darien and was a 2022 Republican candidate for secretary of the state: a common-sense leader with decades-long experience crafting good policy and sound governance for the public and private sectors.

An excellent listener, Terrie believes in the power of deep curiosity, that listening to the voices of the people is critical and that there is far more that unites us than divides us. Trusting in a bottom-up government, she is known for bringing good people together to solve complex issues.

Ohio born but a Connecticut lifer, she is a wife, mother of three and grandmother of one. Terrie was an art history major and is passionate about photography, the ocean and breaking bread with simple, good food.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Mark Nunan, “Daniel Patrick Moynihan – Government in Thought and Action”



Mark Nunan, who has spoken to the DMA previously on Robert Moses, Fiorello La Guardia and Martin Van Buren, will discuss Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He was a practical theorist about the challenges of governing in the second half of the 20th Century, and a practicing governmental professional from the mid-1950s up until the completion of his fourth term in the U.S. Senate in January 2001.

It is one thing for academics, prophets and philosophers to clamor for ideal government or to decry evil ones (the Books of Kings; Plato; Marx) and quite another for idealistic, pragmatic, ideological, adversarial, unrealistic, unruly, opportunistic or corrupt politicians to legislate. Bismarck rightly compared this with sausage making, advising us not to look at the process if we want to enjoy the result. Daniel Moynihan, in the Lion’s Den, might demur – after all, he wrote about it.

“Pat” Moynihan was a rarity: true scholar, passionate politician, gifted writer. His trenchant wit and knack for capturing complex ideas in memorable aphorisms set him apart. This talent, combined with close study of actual data (which his Ph.D. in sociology taught him to prize) helped him to pinpoint many anomalies of domestic and global politics and compellingly convey the complex issues and dangers these raised.

His analyses and the solutions he proposed appeared to some “ahead of their time” and to others just too much. As a result, he was often “canceled” by adversaries because of what he concluded the data revealed. But he persevered. His life story is Dickensian at its nadir, which came early and fierce. And is Dickensian in what followed, as he was blessed to find the resilience to recover from devastation, clamor for righteousness and succeed.

Mark will explore Moynihan’s impact by analyzing the principal themes of his thoughts on government and society, his practical bureaucratic and legislative battles and achievements, and key moments of his life and career. These range from teenage naval officer to young aid to New York Governor Averell Harriman, to counselor to U.S. presidents, to Harvard professor, to leading U.S. diplomat, to one of the most respected members of the U.S. Senate.

Not bad for a shoe-shine boy.

Mark Nunan holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University and has been a member of the DMA since 2018.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Dr. Alan Addley, “Public Schools in Darien”



Dr. Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools in Darien, will provide a report on the state of the public school system in our town and the most significant issues currently being addressed by the Darien Board of Education and its staff. Alan was appointed school superintendent in July 2019. Immediately prior to that time, he served for 11 years as superintendent of schools in Granby, Conn.

Alan is a Governing Board member for the national superintendents’ association (AASA) and a past president of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) and the Hartford Area Superintendents’ Association. Alan was the recipient of the 2017 UCONN Neag School of Education Outstanding School Superintendent Award and was the 2019 CAPSS Connecticut Superintendent of the Year.

A native of Northern Ireland, Dr. Addley started his career as a mathematics teacher and professional soccer player. Alan has 37 years of administrative and teaching experience in private and public schools in the United States and Ireland.

He earned his bachelor of science degree in education and mathematics from the University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland; a master of science degree in instructional management and curriculum from Western Connecticut State University, and his doctoral degree from the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut.

Arranged by Frank DeLeo

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Phillip Dodd, “An American Renaissance: Beaux-Arts Architecture in New York”



Author and architect Phillip James Dodd takes a close look at some of the finest examples of architecture in New York City – exploring four of the buildings featured in his book *An American Renaissance: Beaux-Arts Architecture in New York City*. While showing public exteriors, Phillip’s talk will also focus on the lavish interiors that are associated with the opulence of the Gilded Age – often providing a glimpse inside buildings not otherwise viewable by the public. Phillip recounts the fascinating stories of some of New York’s most famous and significant architectural landmarks, as well as those that commissioned and built them.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the meeting, courtesy of Diane’s Books of Greenwich.

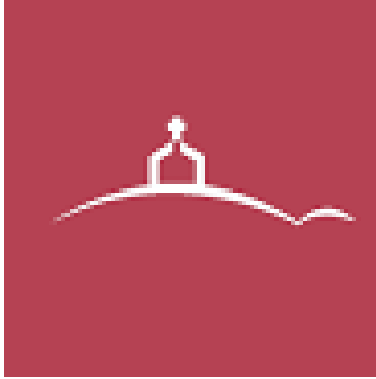
Phillip is a native of Manchester, England. He attended the prestigious Prince of Wales’s Institute of Architecture in London, before moving to America in 1996, where he gained a master’s in architecture from the University of Notre Dame. After training with some of the most recognized residential architectural firms in the United States, Phillip started his own design firm Phillip James Dodd: Bespoke Residential Design in nearby Greenwich. His designs can be found in Manhattan, Greenwich, Palm Beach and as far away as Bangalore, India.

He is a Fellow Emeritus at ICAA – the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art – and an elected Fellow of the INTBAU College of Traditional Practitioners (an international body for practitioners in traditional architecture under the auspices of HRH Prince of Wales), and a commissioner on The Town of Greenwich Historic District Commission. Phillip is the recipient of the 2022 Elizabeth L. & John H. Schuyler Architectural Award and has been named one of the Top 50 Coastal Architects in the Country.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Maureen Neuberger, “Senior Dine Program Sponsored by Catholic Charities”



Maureen Neuberger, director of the Catholic Charities Senior Nutrition Program serving towns throughout lower Fairfield County, including Darien, will discuss the launch of a new initiative called the Senior Dine Program – a restaurant-based meal program where seniors, 60 years and older, can come together in a traditional restaurant setting for a nutritious meal at a subsidized price. There are no income requirements. Partnering with local restaurants, Senior Dine has a flexible schedule and choice of meal. Catholic Charities works to develop menus that are balanced and nutritious. This program, together with the organization’s Senior Cafés located at area senior centers, promotes socialization and independence.

Maureen joined the Senior Nutrition Program eight years ago as the program director. Prior to joining Senior Nutrition, she was working at a private duty agency, working with elderly individuals and their family to arrange care in people’s homes.

Maureen graduated from Iona College with a B.A. in psychology and a minor in communications. She is originally from Stamford and currently resides there. Maureen is an avid cook, enjoys walking the dog and playing golf.

Arranged by Diane Barston

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Kelley Franco Throop, “A Whole New Ball Game: 10 Ways That Baseball Has Changed since We Were Kids”



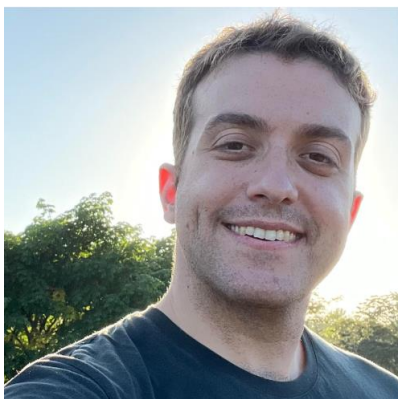
In this upbeat and entertaining presentation, DMA members will be treated to a discussion of how baseball has changed since our youth – whenever that youth may have been. Kelley Franco Throop will discuss how the game has evolved and cover topics such as playoff expansion, the designated hitter, and the impact of analytics on how teams are built and the game is played. Both casual and serious baseball fans will enjoy this engaging presentation.

Kelley is a former guest lecturer at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and a former baseball contributor on CNN’s Financial Network. She is also a practicing attorney in New Canaan at her firm, Franco and Associates. Kelley tweets about baseball at @threeinningfan, and her baseball videos and other information about her can be found on her website, www.threeinningfan.com.

Arranged by Milan Chilla

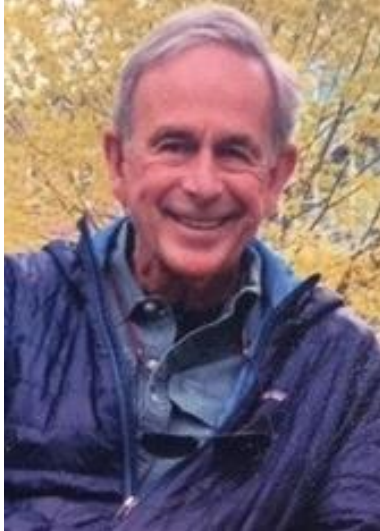
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Marshall Mayer and Ken Bernhard, “Ukraine Aid International”



Marshall Mayer, in conversation with Ken Bernard, will discuss the heroic humanitarian relief efforts young volunteers are bringing to war-torn Ukraine and his unforgettable firsthand experiences. A Westport native, Marshall is a New York City-based finance professional who has been active in Ukraine since the first weeks of the war to coordinate refugee assistance, supply and transport on both sides of the border. He and his brother Brian launched the nonprofit Ukraine Aid International (UAI), and together they have facilitated the shipment and delivery of more than a million pounds of food, medicine, medical supplies and humanitarian aid into Ukraine, mostly to the war-torn regions of Kharkiv, Kherson and Donetsk.

UAI has installed infrastructure support that is providing 120,000 Ukrainians daily with access to clean water, heat and electricity. Working in the nonprofit sector on and off for a decade, Marshall has a passion for helping those in need. In 2013, he founded a nonprofit in the Philippines that responded to Typhoon Haiyan and helped to rebuild island communities that had been devastated by the storm.



Ken Bernhard is a senior partner at the Connecticut law firm of Cohen and Wolf. He graduated from Yale (1966) and NYU Law School (1970) and then served in the U.S. Army as a member of the Judge Advocates Corps, first as trial counsel and then as an associate professor of law at the Military Academy at Westport, where he taught criminal and constitutional law. Ken served eight years as a state representative representing his hometown of Westport in the Connecticut legislature. Ken is also a senior attorney with the Center for International Legal Studies located in Salzburg, Austria. Under its auspices he taught in multiple law schools from Latvia to Mongolia, including Ukraine, which is what motivated him to get involved in what is happening there and teaming up with Marshall and Brian.



Last Mile Delivery

Arranged by Robin Hogan

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Bert von Stuelpnagel, “The Marshall Plan and Its Effect on West Germany”



DMA member Bert von Stuelpnagel will speak about the Marshall Plan and its effect on West Germany. This important initiative of the Truman administration, led by Secretary of State George C. Marshall, made America a "European Power," and its impact can still be felt today, especially in Germany. In 1953, Marshall was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition of the economic rehabilitation of Europe after the war.

Of the 17 countries that benefited from the European Recovery Program (ERP), none was more fortunate to receive financial aid than the former enemy of the Allies. For Germany, the ERP stands for reentry into the Family of Nations, the beginning of the Social Market Economy, membership in the European organizations which soon followed, and the lasting economic progress of the *Wirtschaftswunder* (Economic Miracle). The currency reform and the Berlin Airlift of 1948, the outbreak of the Cold War and the descent of the Iron Curtain make this perhaps the most pivotal moment of the 20th century. Throw into the mix the foundation of NATO in 1949 and Germany's admittance to NATO in 1955, only 10 years after Hitler, and you can draw lessons from that time that may help you to understand current events. Accordingly, Bert thinks that now, at its 75th anniversary, the Marshall Plan is well worth an examination by the DMA.

Bert was born in Freiburg, Germany, in 1950 and graduated from Bad Toelz High School in 1969. After military service and training in banking, he worked in the financial industry during his entire career, including 35 years at the New York branch of BayernLB, a German public sector bank. He retired in 2015 from the bank as executive vice president U.S. Capital Markets. He holds a master's degree in political sciences from State University of Bavaria, and an M.B.A. in finance from Pace University.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Speakers For the Month of May 2023

Discussions are underway to finalize speaker commitments for the five DMA meetings scheduled in the month of May. The DMA will include specific information about each of these speakers and their respective topics in future issues of *This Week at DMA* disseminated by email to DMA members in advance of the meetings.



ACTIVITIES

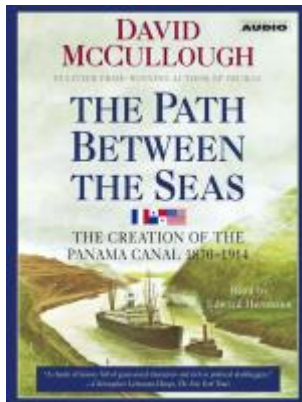
Book Group: Selections

March–May 2023

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on **Wednesday, March 8**, **Wednesday, April 12** and **Wednesday, May 10**. The meetings will commence in each case at 2 p.m., eastern time in-person at the **Darien Community Association** (274 Middlesex Road) in the **Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor**, which gives us the ability to allow DMA members who choose to participate remotely to do so. The room is equipped with Verizon's BlueJeans software and the necessary video and audio systems for remote participants. **A BlueJeans video link will be available.** To get on the distribution list, contact **Tom Igoe**: thosigoe@gmail.com.

Tom, who leads our highly engaged book discussion group, provided the following report on three books selected for discussion in March, April and May.

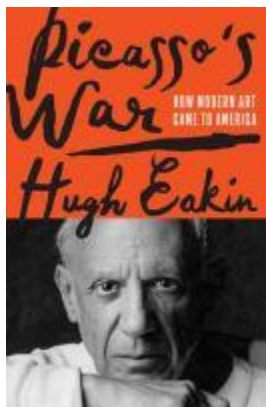
***The Path Between the Seas – The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870 - 1914* by David McCullough, March 8, 2023**



On March 8, we will discuss a first-rate drama of mobilization and diplomacy "not unlike that of war." When 15 years of struggle by Suez veteran Ferdinand de Lesseps to build a canal through the Panamanian isthmus collapsed through tropical disease, logistical barriers and financial disgrace, two Americans managed literally superlative accomplishments: moving billions of cubic yards of dirt, harnessing one of the world's most savage rivers, developing an unprecedented lock and electrical system and, not least, defeating the Anopheles mosquito. In an open, vigorous style, author David McCullough contrasts the manic-depressive attitude of French and American populations and leaders toward the canal with the cool perseverance of his two heroes: the engineer John Stevens, a former common laborer who took charge of the collapsing canal project and realized that the problem was not digging but transportation; and Dr. William Gorges, who conquered malaria and yellow fever in a region where hospital rooms used to literally shake from patients' chills.

Ironically, it was the often jingoistic "Manifest Destiny" rhetoric and the medical experience of the brutal Spanish-American War that provided congressional backing and scientific leads for the Panama task. A further twist was the origin of the Panamanian republic, which permitted the canal to go through: French adventurer Philippe Bunau-Varilla executed a coup against Colombia in 1903 for "the greater glory of France," then, according to McCullough, promptly put the new nation and its treasury under the wardship of the U.S. State Department and the House of Morgan, respectively. Meanwhile, viewing the French example, Congress so feared possible graft in Panama that it threw horrific red tape around the canal project. But Stevens was able to recruit the greatest engineering minds of the period – and the book is able to recapture their breakthroughs.

***Picasso's War* by Hugh Eakin, April 12, 2023**



On April 12, we will turn to the world of international art. In January 1939, Pablo Picasso was renowned in Europe but disdained by many in the United States. One year later, Americans across the country were clamoring to see his art. How did the controversial leader of the Paris avant-garde break through to the heart of American culture?

The answer begins a generation earlier, when a renegade Irish American lawyer named John Quinn set out to build the greatest collection of Picassos in existence. His dream of a museum to house them died with him, until it was rediscovered by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., a cultural visionary who, at the age of 27, became the director of New York's new Museum

of Modern Art (MoMA).

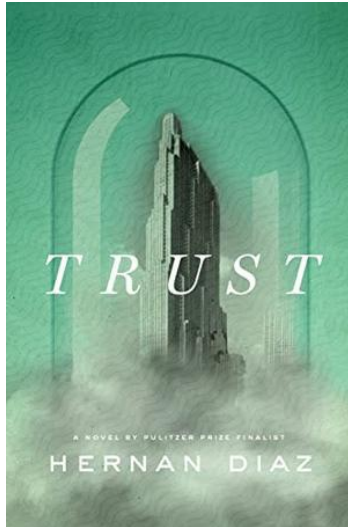
Barr and Quinn's shared goal would be thwarted in the years to come – by popular hostility, by the Depression, by Parisian intrigues and by Picasso himself. It would take Hitler's campaign against Jews and modern art and Barr's fraught alliance with Paul Rosenberg, Picasso's persecuted art dealer, to get Picasso's most important paintings out of Europe. Mounted in the shadow of war, the ground-breaking exhibition "Picasso: Forty Years of His Art" would launch Picasso in America, define MoMA as we know it and shift the focus of the art world from Paris to New York.



Picasso's War is the never-before-told story about how a single exhibition, a decade in the making, irrevocably changed American taste and, in doing so, saved dozens of the 20th century's most enduring artworks from the Nazis.

Through a deft combination of new scholarship and vivid storytelling, Eakin shows how two men and their obsession with Picasso changed the art world forever.

Trust by Hernan Diaz



Finally, on May 10, the book group will meet to discuss a tale of wealth, love and madness told in four distinct but connected narratives. Pulitzer finalist Hernan Diaz’s ingenious second novel – following *In the Distance* (2017) – opens with the text of *Bonds*, a Wharton-esque novel by Harold Vanner that tells the story of a reclusive man who finds his calling and a massive fortune in the stock market in the early 20th century. But the comforts of being one of the wealthiest men in the U.S. – even after the 1929 crash – are undone by the mental decline of his wife. *Bonds* is followed by the unfinished text of a memoir by Andrew Bevel, a famously successful New York investor whose life echoes many of the incidents in Vanner’s novel. Two more documents – a memoir by Ida Partenza, an accomplished magazine writer, and a diary by Mildred, Bevel’s brilliant wife – serve to explain those echoes.

Structurally, Diaz’s novel is a feat of literary gamesmanship in the tradition of David Mitchell or Richard Powers. Diaz has a fine ear for the differing styles each type of document requires: *Bonds* is engrossing but has a touch of the fusty, dialogue-free fiction of a century past, and *Ida* is a keen, Lillian Ross-type observer. But more than simply succeeding at its genre exercises, the novel brilliantly weaves its multiple perspectives to create a symphony of emotional effects: What is underplayed by Harold is thundered by Andrew, provided nuance by *Ida* and given a plot twist by *Mildred*. So the novel overall feels complex but never convoluted, focused throughout on the dissatisfactions of wealth and the suppression of information for the sake of keeping up appearances. No one document tells the whole story, but the collection of palimpsests makes for a thrilling experience and a testament to the power and danger of the truth—or a version of it—when it’s set down in print. A clever and affecting high-concept novel of high finance.

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

Poet's Corner

"I couldn't find emotions other ways that actors could. You know, other actors could stand in front of a bunch of dirt and somebody would say, that's your grandma's grave, and then they would just feel emotional and cry, and that just wasn't my way. So, I had to find poetry and recite it in my head. I had to find things that were words, particular words that were moving to me, and if the words that I spoke on screen weren't moving to me, I had to come up with words that were." – Jodie Foster, Interview with Will Schwalbe, April 18, 2018

Foster holds a degree in literature from Yale University and speaks French and Italian fluently. She is also wonderful with words in the English language, knows the weight of each, the pause, the quiet moment at the end of a verse, the emphasis that certain images and phrases require. Below are links to two of her fine poetry recitals.

First, in *The River Merchant's Wife*, Foster recites American poet Ezra Pound's recreation of Li Bai's 8th century Chinese poem about a letter to her husband from a young woman like so many in her era who enters an arranged marriage as a teenager and after first feeling uncertain about this, comes to love her husband and is most wistful when he goes away on extended business. It is simple yet effective. Li Bai is considered one of China's great poets. Pound admired Chinese Confucianists and literature and was deeply influenced by them.

Yes, he betrayed his country in World War II, for which he paid a deservedly high price (and barely escaped execution thanks to the intervention of U.S. poet Archibald MacLeish, who served in various government positions, including director of the Library of Congress). In fact, Pound wrote many of his great later *Cantos* at the U.S. mental institution where he spent a dozen years after his capture and trial. He is still controversial but also considered critical to the evolution of modern poetry. And he was a great editor and cultivator of other poets' work, almost indispensable for T.S. Eliot.

Jodie Foster recites Pound:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY-UM8NOhQE>

At this second link, Foster recites the poem *Musée des Beaux Arts* by a contemporary of Pound, the English poet W.H. Auden. The poem arises from a museum visit where Auden contemplates great works by Old Masters, especially *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus* attributed to Breugel the Elder at the Beaux Arts Museum in Brussels.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLTvFg5xXH0>



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

The "Commish," and the gang welcome DMAers with all levels of experience to bowl with us Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. See highlights and photos later in this newsletter. For questions, contact **Tom Lom**: tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

We continue on Bridge Base Online. All who wish to play and to ensure you are on the Bridge roster, please contact **John Podkowsky**: jpod912@aol.com.

Community Service: late April Person to Person Activity

First, thanks go to all who donated on February 8, when DMA collected 100 cans of soup for Person-to-Person's (P2P) annual "Souper Bowl" drive. And especially, we thank **Fred Given**, **Dave McCollum** and **Alec Wiggin** for managing the collection and delivery of the soups to P2P in Stamford.

Person-to-Person Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Person-to-Person will again be partnering with postal mail carriers to distribute bags and collect food in early May. P2P has asked us to help prep the bags again this year.

There is no stapling involved this time, merely applying stickers to pre-printed bags so the work should be much simpler. There will be a sign-up sheet in April for those willing to give an hour or so after one of our Wednesday meetings to help accomplish this task. Stayed tuned for details.

Hudson Link Clothes Donations

Several members have asked about donating clothes to Hudson Link.

As Hudson Link is making changes to the "boutique" and can't accept items before June, we will not be collecting again until the fall. Frank DeLeo is contacting P2P and Goodwill to see if they need clothes as an alternative for this spring. Contact **Frank DeLeo**: frankdeleo@hotmail.com

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

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

Current Affairs: March 16 at 2 p.m. at DCA and on Zoom. Sunil Saxena moderates “Generative AI: Hype or Reality? Its promises, pitfalls and implications for the future of work”

On November 30, 2022 Open AI released a user-friendly application called ChatGPT. It took the world by storm – within five days, it had 1 million users, and within two months, that number had exploded to 100 million. It was the fastest diffusion of new technology in history. Known as “Generative AI,” it can generate impressive content on almost any subject at any level of expertise and answer almost any question with confidence in a user-friendly way. This technology is sometimes wrong but never in doubt. Its rapid acceptance by the public has set off an arms race among the big tech companies (Microsoft, Google, Baidu, Alibaba, Meta) to incorporate it into their products.

As an indication of its expertise and versatility, ChatGPT has passed medical school and bar exams and the Wharton M.B.A. final exam.

But it also has problems: it cannot distinguish truth from falsehood, it displays bias and never reveals its sources. Once these problems are resolved, the impact of this technology on different kinds of jobs is likely to be enormous, potentially reducing the marginal cost of labor to zero.

Sunil Saxena will lead a discussion on this emerging technology as we will consider whether society is adequately prepared for this revolution.

Related articles are posted on the DMA website.

Join us for this important conversation. To get on our email list, please contact:

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

April 20 at 2 p.m. at DCA and on Zoom: John Wolcott moderates a discussion on “Voting Integrity”

Last year, we had a lively discussion on voting rights. The flip side is voting integrity. Having made his career in accounting for the world’s biggest corporations, which requires great accuracy, DMA member and CPA John Wolcott will look at how our elections’ votes are cast, collected, stored and counted. Disputes in this process have created recent mistrust. John will also review some possible solutions to assure that future election counts are less subject to dispute by any party or faction.

May 18 at 2 p.m. at DCA and on Zoom: Jan Selkowitz moderates a discussion on “China and the U.S.”

Jan, who has spent much of his career working in Asia and doing business with Chinese companies, will review the current difficulties in the U.S.-China relationship and raise some key issues for our group discussion based on his knowledge of Chinese culture, business and political practices.

For the April and May sessions, check *This Week at DMA* and the DMA website as the dates approach for more details.

Happy Wanderers: March 15, March Madness; Thursday March 30, Torrington Wandering; April Great Island escorted tour

In winter hibernation, the Wanderers had one major activity over the past two months, the inimitable Super Bowl contest. See highlight photos later in this newsletter.

March 15 is the date to submit **DMA March Madness contest** entries, which is more of a game of skill and knowledge focusing on the NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Tournament.

With improving weather, the Wanderers also get back to their regular business with the spring season of Wanderings on four Thursdays: March 30, May 4, June 1 and June 22. The opening outing will be in Connecticut, this year to **Torrington in the Naugatuck Valley** on March 30. The remaining three spring Wanderings will be in **New York City**. Check *This Week at DMA* as the dates approach.

Sometime in April (date TBA), town officials will escort DMA members through **Great Island**, the property the town is buying from the Ziegler estate. Contact:

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

Hiking: Thursday, March 23, at 10:30 a.m. Cranbury Park

Our next hike will be on Thursday, March 23, at 10:30 a.m. at Cranbury Park in Norwalk. The park's expansive 227 acres

surround the historic Gallaher Mansion, a classic example of Tudor Revival style of architecture, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Beyond the great lawn and mansion, Cranbury Park offers a series of meandering and wooded trails and a dog-friendly environment. This hike has a few moderately difficult sections but otherwise has trails that are generally flat and well-maintained. Contact:

Dave McCollum dgmccollum63@gmail.com
Bob Plunkett rgplunkett1@gmail.com and

**Investment Discussion Group:
Monday, March 13, @ 10 a.m.
on Zoom**

The March IDG meeting, led by **Jim Phillips**, will be held the second Monday, March 13. We meet on Zoom and discuss the macro-outlook, different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are thinking of owning. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An email with a Zoom link and agenda has been sent out to all IDG participants.

Future meetings (April and May) are normally held the first Monday of each month. The Zoom link is sent in advance.

To join the group and get on the email distribution list or for questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, contact **Jim Phillips** at: jpinvest66@gmail.com.

Money Matters:

Doug Campbell's most recent session on January 23 moderated by Whit Rothe covered the fascinating world of **ChatGPT and the Adoption of AI Tools**. Whit comes out of the venture capital industry and presented some very interesting concepts about this subject as an investor. His well-crafted presentation led to a lively discussion and gave us much insight into this fast-evolving technology. Contact: **Doug Campbell**: dc3tsc@gmail.com.

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

Space is open for players with some experience. Novices, please sign up for lessons with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325. Contact **Jan Selkowitz**: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

Social Activities

January 21, 2023 – Dinner & Hockey, Total Mortgage Arena, Bridgeport

See photos later in the newsletter. This is the first time we've had this social event since 2019 (pre-COVID). It was great fun.

March 21, at 9:30 a.m. Metropolitan Museum Cloisters Tour with Docent

John Bassler has organized this cultural event where we will be visiting the Met Cloisters Museum in New York City. We leave by carpool at 9:30 a.m. from the DCA and meet our docent at 11:30 a.m. After our tour we will have lunch nearby.

Movie Music Concert at St. Luke's: April 26, at 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Bob McGroarty leads this event featuring five musicians from Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Music from well-known movies is the theme. The cost is \$30. Catering is by M. Joseph. The location is St. Luke's Church Darien auxiliary building behind the church.

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served at 6:30 p.m. with music from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Join us for a pleasant evening of socializing and music with good friends. Contact **Bob McGroarty**: rgmcbg@me.com

For May 30, a Long Island Sound boat trip is being organized by **Frank DeLeo**. More information is coming on this, stay tuned.

Oyster Boat outing this spring (date TBA): **Bryan Hooper** is arranging for another magnificent event where we will learn more about this delicious edible. Final details are pending and will be featured later in *This Week at DMA*.

Tuesday, June 13, is the date of the **2023 DMA Annual Picnic** (rain date June 14). We chose Tuesday this year instead of the usual Wednesday to make parking more accessible as there is another event at the beach that Wednesday. **Alex Garnett** is looking for volunteers to help out. The heavy lifting is done by our caterer Vavala's, so it's light work. And fun! Contact:

Alex Garnett: aypgarnett@gmail.com

Jan Selkowitz, tireless leader of the Social Committee thanks John, Bob, Frank, Alex

and Bryan for leading these events. Jan also **appeals to any other members with ideas for new social events or who want to "captain" a social event** for April-May-June. It's great fun. We want to hear from you!

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

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

Tom Dempsey: tjd3443@gmail.com.

Woodworking: 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Mather Center



Woodworking Group Projects

The DMA woodworkers meet every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey**, who has recently assumed responsibility for this group, welcomes new members and new pieces on which to work.

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

Bowling Report, courtesy of the “Commish”

Tuesday, January 3: Our first session of 2023 saw eight bowlers ready for action. One of them, **Ted Helms**, was ready to christen his new equipment purchased from Santa at Buddies Pro Shop at the end of our previous session. The new ball appears to be a worthwhile investment as Ted bowled his first 400 series, a 415 (+55) AND had the Shot of the Day, converting a 6-8-10 split.

Gehr Brown came back from the break *en fuego* with a five-bagger out of the gate on his way to a 223 high game of the day game one and a 549 series. **Ed Schecter** had a case of ten-pin-itis but still managed a 502 series with three almost identical games (165/167/170). **Frank DeLeo's** third game 205 helped him to a 564 series. **Tom Lom**, aka the Commish, fresh off of his career series last outing, managed two games of 201 and a 575 series. And **George Gilliam**, always energized by the third game duel versus **Ben Briggs**, saved his best for last with a 199 game three.

The team competition was spirited as always. The team of BB/GG/FD/TL spotted 11 pins to **Frank Gallagher/TH/ES/GB**. With Gehr's big game pacing his squad, they won in a romp by 100+. In game two, Tom's squad steadied their ship to eek out a 25-pin win. The rubber game proved no contest thanks to George's big game and 200s by Frank D and Tom.

So we are off and running for another year of fun and friendship with some occasional heroics on the lanes. Cheers to all. 🍷

The Commish

Tuesday, January 10: Everything is relative ... never truer than with the DMA bowlers and never more true than today!

We often report on the exploits of the high average bowlers, but this time, we report on the exploits of one of us who entered the day averaging 129. That someone rolled two games of 169 and another of 141 for a series of 479, which was +92 versus his average and his highest series in recent memory. That someone would be Ben Briggs, our Bowler of the Day (BOD).

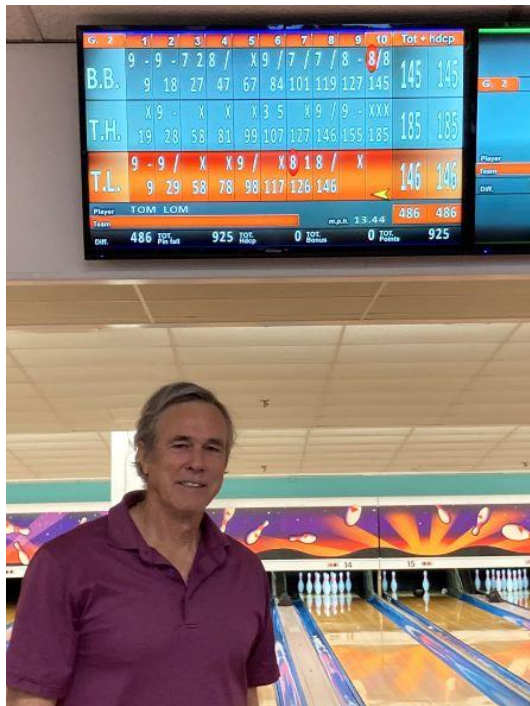
There were three 500 series: Tom at 537, Ed at 534 and Gehr at 533. Frank D was not far behind at 499, and **Alex Garnett** was right on his average with a 441. Ed opened with a 222 for high game. Tom had the other 200 game at 206 and converted the only one of the group's many splits, making a 3-10.

The team game was the closest in a long time with all three games coming down to the final bowler in the final frame for each team. The team of GB/ES/AG gave two pins to TL/FD/BB. In

game one, thanks to Ed's big game, his team's margin meant that Tom needed to double in the last for the win. He buried his first ball for a strike causing much banter between the two teams. Alas, he tapped a ten pin on his second ball, allowing Gehr's squad to breathe a sigh of relief with their two-pin victory. Game two saw both Tom and Gehr enter the tenth frame with doubles. Gehr needed two more strikes to put big pressure on Tom but could only manage a spare. Tom, on the other hand, finished with three strikes, allowing his team to gain the win. In game three, everyone saw his own score dip ... except Gehr. After a slow start, he finally got his train rolling and finished with a 192. Tom needed a double in the last to cause trouble, but it wasn't to be as Gehr's team won by 23 pins. The competition was fierce but not without laughs and a modicum of trash.

Now we eagerly wait to see who will come up big next week.

Tuesday, January 17: The new kid has arrived!



So, you know about his athletic pedigree; you know about the new ball/shoes. etc.; you know about his breaking the 400 barrier last time out. Well, today, the "new kid," Ted Helms, bowled a 500 series at 522. Especially impressive was his second game (see photo) in which he rolled eight strikes out of 12 shots on his way to a 185, which tied for high game of the day. Just to spice things up, he also recorded a "Ben Briggs Spare" (a spare after a gutter ball) in game three. To our Bowler of the Day, well done!

Other individual highlights (if one can call them that):

- Tom had a series of 531, which was nothing special except that he had nine(!) splits on the day. Good news was that he converted four of them, including a 4-5 and a 5-7.
- Gehr broke 500 at 501 with three games within five pins of each other and converted a 2-7-8 split.
- Alex missed a 500 series by one pin thanks to two games in the 170s.
- George had a 180 in game two on his way to a very nice 484. More important, he beat Ben in game three in which GG broke away with a double in frames 7 and 8.
- After a slow start, Ben rolled two games in the 140s AND had a modified "Yezzi." For those who don't remember, a "Yezzi" is a strike when the ball does not hit the headpin. Ben's modified Yezzi did hit the headpin but appeared to leave a 2-5 spare until a pin bounced off the 5, knocked it forward into the 2 for a strike ... magic!

The team game was once again very spirited. Making the most important decision of the morning, the Commish was asked by Ted which side he should bowl on. Tom, being no dummy, put Ted on his team along with last week's BOD, Ben. They went up against Gehr/Alex/George. Paced by Alex's 179 and helped by clunkers from Tom and Ben, Team Brown prevailed by 28 pins. Game two was a turnaround for the good guys as Ben and Tom took it up a notch to go along with another strong game by Ted, allowing Team Lom to win by 41. In game three, Ted and Ben again led the way to a 26-pin win for their team. At least the Commish can pick teammates!

Let's see what magic awaits next time.

Tuesday, January 31:

I was out again this week, but Gehr Brown was kind enough to send me a brief recap, which I am happily forwarding.

Please note a "lifetime achievement" by **Ben Briggs** ... his first 500 series since I joined the DMA bowlers in 2010. That's hot stuff, Ben. Sorry I missed it.

Also note that Gehr has a new ball with which to tackle those pesky ten pins. Watch out! Frank DeLeo, will you be next?

Ed just keeps rolling along (pun intended).

See you next week. Yes, I *will* be wearing my Eagles shirt and hat.

Tuesday, February 7:

Gehr and I were driving up to Nutmeg this morning, and I was telling him who might join us. Ben and George were both expected. Ed and Frank G, too. Alex called in sick, but Ted was a maybe. And, I said to Gehr, maybe we'll get a surprise visit from **John Kammerman**, who'd mentioned to me in a holiday email exchange that his back was better and that he hoped to return in February. Well, wouldn't you know that as Gehr and I got out of the car in the parking lot, there, in the flesh, was John Kammerman!

So, with seven bowlers, we split up four and three with TL/BB/FG getting 175 pins from GB/ES/GG/JK. After just three frames with Gehr's team recording way too many "Xs," game one was over before it had even started. Ed had a 223, making up for Gehr's slow start, while their teammates held their own. On the other side, Tom's team seemed to need high-test coffee or something as they were beaten by 40 pins.

In game two, Team Lom improved by 65 pins with Tom rolling a 210, but it barely mattered as Team Brown improved by 78. Gehr rolled a 203, which, by itself, was 75 higher than his game one, George and Ed scored in the 180s, and John came in in the 160s. Licking their wounds, Frank, who kicked in the extra quarter for his team's losses in games one and two, urged his mates to go double or nothing in the third to which they agreed. And it's a good thing! Frank and Ben had their best games of the morning (with Ben comfortably topping George) and Tom recording a second 200 game at 202. This was enough to overcome John's best game of the day (173) as Team Lom won by 56 pins.

Kudos go to Tom for his 598, to Ed for his 568 and to Gehr for his 510 even with his awful game one start. And here's to hats off to John for his 488, which was pretty darned good after his extended absence. In fact, one "reporter" was heard to say after John missed a spare: "Well, we know John is back because he's talking to himself over in the corner." 😊 Welcome back, John ... we love ya.

Poker games were extra valuable this week as the stakes increased with seven bowlers. Ben won game one with a pair of aces, while Tom and George won the next two with straights.

More fun is expected next week. Maybe **Kevin Davidson** will make an appearance ... or even **Tony Yezi**. Miracles do happen.

And here's a note to let our friend **Bill Tamme** know that his bowling pals miss him and are thinking of him.

Tuesday, February 14:

We had nine bowlers today, which, for February, is very good. The highlight was Bill Tamme's return to the lanes. The last time we saw Bill was in the autumn when he and Carol were about to embark on a two-week trip to Hawaii. After enduring too many misadventures to enumerate, let's simply say that it was great to have him back with us.

As for the bowling, there were precious few striking scores to spare. We did have a 507 series by John Kam and a 501 by George. Steady Eddie had a solid 534. There were no 200 games. High game of the day went to Gehr with a 191. The Commish, at the other end of the spectrum, was 78 below his average at 501.

This brings us to the team competition. Considering the load that Tom bore for his team, things were closer than expected. In fact, the team of TL/GG/BT/TH actually won game one by 36 pins. Game two was a blowout for GB/ES/AG/BB/JK, which left it all up to the rubber game. Thanks to George's 184, the game was close till late, but Team Brown prevailed by 18 to

walk away with the quarters. And Ben didn't put up much of a fight in game three against George's big game.

Lots of splits today with some impressive conversions: Ed made a 4-7-10; Alex a 3-6-7-10; George a 4-5-7.

Let's hope we get another big turnout next week but with better scores.

Tuesday, February 21:

Eight bowlers turned out today with three performances of note. Plus there were quite a few split conversions.

Let's start with Ben. He finished last season with a 127 average for the year. This year his average to date was 135 going in to the day, and his average for the "last 21" was 143 ... nice! Those numbers will improve yet again thanks to another fine series of 460.

Next there's Frank G, who was coming off a month he'd sooner forget. After a so-so game one, Frank marked in 19 of 20 frames in games two and three for a much more Gallagher-esque series of 513.

Third, we'll report on the Commish. After last week's dumpster fire 501, today he rebounded with a 659, including games two and three of 239 and 227, respectively. Yes, he bowled on lanes 15/16.

The team competition was very tight ... for a while. TL/AG/FG/BT spotted 25 pins to ES/JK/TH/BB. Game one went down to the wire. With the pressure on, John Kam faced a 4-5 split and made it, enabling his team to win by four pins. Game two saw Ted bowl a 170 and Ed a 185, but they could not make up for Tom and Frank's performance. Game three was splitsville for Ed's squad, and they were buried.

Speaking of splits, in addition to John's heroics, Alex made a 9-10 and Ted a 6-8. Ed and Ted converted 3-10s.

And the day was complete thanks to a "Ben Briggs Spare" recorded by John.

We're hoping for more excitement next week.

Tuesday, February 28:

Yes, there is a report! Five bowlers braved the roads and made it to Nutmeg. It's fair to say that our group did way better than the Tashua guys who had maybe a dozen people show up.

As we were getting ready to practice, Laurie said "Good luck ... lots of oil on those lanes." Boy, was she right. That said, Ed was not worried as he rolled a smooth 578, including a 203 in the third. The Commish had a 558 with a 200 in the second. Both these guys were shaking their heads often, especially Tom, who left two eight pins. George was fresh off the plane from Asia – no problem as he bowled a nice 471, including a 178 middle game.

The team game was very lopsided as Tom and Bill took on Ed/George/Ben. Game one was close, but Ed's team prevailed by 12 pins. Game two was a rout. Game three saw Tom and Bill get off to a decent start, but Ed had to jinx them by saying, "Well, that double or nothing choice looks pretty good right now." You know what that means as he reeled off three in a row mid-game to pace his team to the win.

Not only did Ed have high series, but he also won two of the three poker games both with a full house. Along with his bowling winnings, that's a lot of quarters!

As usual, there were lots of splits and several conversions. Bill (twice), Ben and George all made 3-10s. Tom, channeling his inner Ed, converted a 6-7-10!

I'll be away next Tuesday so bring a deck of cards. Have fun.

Current Affairs

February 16: Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Forrest Sawyer moderated a discussion about the Ukraine War to 60 members on Zoom and at the DCA

In his presentation, Forrest Sawyer talked about why this happened, dating the initial causes back to the early '90s and Vladimir Putin's ascendancy, to the U.S. and NATO failing to respond to Russia's takeover of Crimea in 2014, and to Putin's unchallenged Syrian military incursion using banned weaponry even after the sitting U.S. president had declared use of such weaponry "crossing a red line." He reviewed the Ukrainian battlefield from when this war started to where it now sits – with illustrative progressive maps of troop movements – and the equipment both sides will have when the anticipated full-scale battle begins once the spring mud and rains have cleared.

Forrest noted that Russia is now emptying its prisons and is sending every available male to Ukraine after two weeks of training, relying on "human waves" of ill-equipped infantry soldiers attacking entrenched front lines much as in World War I, with the now predictable slaughter of these troops. He illustrated through a dramatic slide how once again Putin is using horrifically devastating illegal weaponry to target Ukraine's civilian population in a campaign of terror. Another consequence: More than 1 million Russian men of fighting age have fled from Russia to Poland, other neighboring countries and across the world. This is potentially devastating to the future of the Russian people already in severe demographic decline.

In closing, Forrest raised a critical issue facing Ukraine – whether the West will continue to support it at the levels and with the materials the country needs. He feels that Western support will fade by the end of 2024 if there is not a resolution. As for Russia, he stated that Putin has set his country back a generation. If Putin were replaced, many fear it would come at the hands of the more hawkish element within Russia.

At the end of his presentation, Forrest challenged participants to think of effective solutions as if we were the U.S. Secretary of Defense or Secretary of State. The resulting discussion was lively and wide ranging, with many interesting questions raised by our members.

Here's a final note from your editor. As **Mike Wheeler's** co-group leader for Current Affairs, I thank Mike for arranging this event and for effectively managing the debate that followed Forrest's commentary and well-prepared slides. Kudos go to both of you. Mike did the heavy lifting here for the DMA and deserves all the credit. Thanks Mike!

The 60 DMA members who participated at the DCA and online came away with more knowledge and much to think about regarding this deadly and world-altering war.

Hiking Group Report by Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett

January 30, Sherwood Island, Westport

Well, the third time was certainly the charm for our “hike” at Sherwood Island. After two postponements due to rain, a baker’s dozen DMAers and guests (plus two dogs) enjoyed sunny skies and mild temperatures as we walked a little over three miles in an hour and a half. Following the hike, seven of us enjoyed a lunch at the Little Barn in Westport. It’s described as rustic-chic!

The initial portion of the hike took us along the beach west before turning inland onto a loop trail through a section of forest. The trail then turns north along a field with open views of the salt marsh and finally back south toward the beach.



The 911 Memorial sits on a point of beach facing Ground Zero where we paused to reflect and take a group photo.

The remainder of the hike was eastward along the beach until we turned and headed back to the parking lot.



February 23, Stamford South End Urban Hike

The temperature was 38 degrees, and a light mist was falling at 10:30 in the morning, but 22 hardy DMAers and guests gathered in the Harbor Point parking lot for an hour and a half walking tour of the new South End. The area bounded by the east and west branches of the Rippowam River (“South End”) in Stamford has been redeveloped over the past several years into an impressive complex of apartments, restaurants, other retail establishments and offices. We toured much of that new area and hiked around Kosciusko Park for a total of 2.2 miles in a little under 1.5 hours.

We paused to pose for Marilyn Parker to take the group photo (below) but otherwise kept walking, talking and looking at the scenery.

Sixteen hikers stayed on for a burger lunch at Bareburger, which set up a long table for us. It was a delightful way to spend a late February morning.



Social Activities: Dinner and Hockey, January 21, 2023: Gehr Brown and Tom Lom



Dinner at Ralph & Richie's was great. Unfortunately, the home team Bridgeport Islanders lost 3-2 to the Wilkes-Barre Penguins in a close game. It was a lot of fun nonetheless!



Wanderers Report: David Mace and Joe Spain

February 15: Super Bowl Contest Winners Receive Their Winnings



Two of our four Super Bowl Contest winners, **Mike Wheeler** and **John Feldman**, holding their winnings and being congratulated by **Taylor Strubinger**, **Joe Spain** and **Greg Glashan**. The two other winners, **Jim Long** and **Dick Harding**, were not present for the photo. Also **David Mace**, Joe Spain's partner in sponsoring the contest could not be present. Thanks to you both and congratulations to all four winners. Below is a photo of the winning contest board.

		AFC Team: Chiefs		K.C.		SUPER BOWL LVII - 2023						
		4	0	9	7	3	8	2	5	6	1	
Phil. Eagles NFC Team:	9	Lee M.	Bob Hughes	Bill Close	HARRY McLACHLIN	JIM LONG	Bob Hughes	Tom Bell	MACE	CHARLES SALMANS	TBS	
	1	JOE SPAIN	Doug Bara	JIM Kelly	John Wozniak	BARRY SILVER	FLEMING HELLMANN	Harold Johnson	Alec WIGGIN	Mike Kadish	Ed Sweeney	
	5	BARRY SILVER	Billiam	Tom Igce	Jim Tulaceo	Fred GIVEN	Richard Harding	Mike Wheeler	Rob & Obia	Doug Barnacchi	Steve Spurni	
	3	HARRY BERGEN	Fred Given	Billiam	Bya Harp	Tom Low	SAM MARBONE	Doug PRATT	Gehr Brown	Bob BAKER	Gust Barnacchi	
	8	CHARLES SALMANS	GREG GLASHAN	Jim Fletcher	FLEMING HELLMANN	TBS	Jim Fletcher	Jim Tulaceo	Doug Bara	Dan Low	JIM Kelly	
	7	JIM LONG	Gehr Brown	Dan Low	Doug PRATT	JOHN SEMARANTEN	Richard Harding	SAM MARBONE	John B	BVS	JOE SPAIN	
	0	John B	Chet Cobb	Rosa SATH	Rob Obia	Patricia GLASHAN	Gina Tulin	Bya Harp	JILLIAN NIEROP	Art Baron	Patron Steale	
	0	Chet Cobb	Ken Hamilton	JILLIAN NIEROP	Tom Low	JACK DEARIE	BILL CLOSE	John Wozniak	Tom Igce	Lee M	John Parker	
	7	MACE	Mike Kadish	Flora Smcatov	MIKE Wheeler	Harold Johnson	BVS	Rob Roberto	Gene Tulin	Tom Bell	John Feldman	
	6	DAVE McCallum	HARRY McLACHLIN	Bob BAKER	Patrick Steale	Steve TRUE	Steve TRUE	ALEC WIGGIN	John Feldman	DAVE McCallum		

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, Mark Nunan. **Contributing Editor**, Joyce Meurer. **Speaker write-ups**, Tom Igoe. **New Member bios**, Art Baron. **Mailing list and e-communications**, Art Baron, Lee Morrison. **Contributing reporter**, Tom Lom. **This Week at DMA**, Mark Nunan. **Webmaster**, Gary Banks.