

DMA

Newsletter

DMA Website is now at www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

November - December 2019

Soundwaters Cruise



As one of the more popular annual events for the DMA, **Chris Snyder** reports that DMA members and their spouses filled the 40-guest capacity of the schooner *Soundwaters* on Sept. 19, enjoying a sunset sail out of Stamford Harbor and learning about the “Maritime History of Long Island Sound” from knowledgeable crew members. Many congregated later for dinner at the Crab Shell.

President's Message

As we head into November, all DMA activities are in full swing. Week after week, Gary Banks has presented outstanding speakers and the line up for November and December is equally impressive. The Social Events Committee organized three extremely successful events in the past two months: The Schooner sail in September drew 40 participants filling up the boat, An Evening of Chamber Music featuring the Norwalk Symphony's String Quartet attracted some 100 attendees for a most enjoyable evening and the Oyster Boat outing was fully subscribed.



The next big event is the Annual Holiday Party to be held at the Country Club of Darien with entertainment provided by the Tudor Singers. Please make a note of the date for this event: Thursday, December 19, 2019. Sign-ups will start soon.

The monthly activities which include the Book Club, Current Affairs, Investment Group, Money Matters, Hiking, and Happy Wanderers are all enjoying healthy participation. If you add to these the weekly activities of Bowling, Bridge, Pickleball, and Woodworking, you can see that the DMA offers a comprehensive menu of things in which

to participate to feed both mind and muscle in a welcoming environment amid fun and friendship. So, if you haven't already participated in some of these activities, I urge you to do so. It is a great way to build friendships and enduring relationships.

We encourage you to invite your friends who may be retired or near retirement to attend our meetings. I think they will be impressed with the range of activities on offer. And most will probably end up joining the DMA.

We are now two months into our season and several of our members have still not

paid the annual dues. Please remember to deposit your checks at the membership desk or mail them to DMA, Darien Community Association, 274 Middlesex Road, Darien, CT 06820.

The DMA runs smoothly as a result of the hard work of our many volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Committee Chairs and Activity Leaders for their dedication in keeping the DMA not only running like a well-oiled machine but also a fun place to be.

Sunil Saksena
President

Speakers

Wednesday, November 6, 2019



Carla Gambescia: will speak about "The Alchemy of Italy". What is it about Italy? A cultural superpower, yet merely a mountainous Mediterranean peninsula, Italy has exerted an outsized force on the world, Western civilization and the popular imagination over the course of millennia. Ms. Gambescia will explore the special alchemy of Italy and the "cultural DNA" that has made Italy not only so influential, but also so beloved. This promises to be an inspiring lecture in which she provides fascinating insights about the "Boot's" long history of substance over size. Ms. Gambescia is author of *La Dolce Vita University: An Unconventional Guide to Italian Culture from A-Z: An eclectic compendium of all things Italian*.

Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, November 13, 2019



Nestor T. Carbonell will deliver a talk based upon his forthcoming book, *Why Cuba Matters: New Threats in America's Backyard*. Even after the US restored diplomatic relations with Cuba in 2015 and removed it from the list of states sponsors of terrorism, he notes, the Castro regime intensified repression on the island and bolstered the besieged Maduro dictatorship in Venezuela with intelligence and paramilitary forces. Russia and China have steadily penetrated Latin America while Washington has looked elsewhere.

Mr. Carbonell was born and raised in Havana. He went into exile from Cuba in 1960 and subsequently participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion. Mr. Carbonell earned a Doctor of Law degree from the University of Villanueva in Havana, and holds a Master of Law degree and a Strategic Marketing Certificate from Harvard University. He joined PepsiCo in 1967 as Counsel, Latin America, and progressed through a variety of management positions. He retired from PepsiCo in 2008 as Corporate Vice President in charge of International Government Relations and Public Affairs. Mr. Carbonell is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Board of Overseers of the International Rescue Committee.
Arranged by John Hess

Wednesday, November 20, 2019



Wes Haynes, Executive Director of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, will talk about the "Merritt Parkway's History and its Future as a National Treasure." He will speak about the origin, construction, and impact of this historic road that changed the design of American roads and life in Fairfield County. He will also discuss the challenges it faces and what needs to be done to ensure its future as a safe and beautiful drive. Mr. Haynes has a long career in historic preservation including senior staff positions with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, New York Landmarks Conservancy, Preservation

League of New York State, and New Jersey Historic Trust. He has worked on restorations of Central Park, the New York State Capitol in Albany, the Adirondack Great Camps, and directed a survey of 1,500 historic mills for the Connecticut Trust.

Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, December 4, 2019



Dr. Sarah Kahn, M.D., will speak about “The Interaction of the Gut and the Brain.” We each have 100 trillion bacteria which are living and working in our gut. These microscopic critters, collectively known as the microbiome, help our body to digest food, process nutrients, make vitamins B and K, and produce immune molecules that fight inflammation and heal wounds. Dr. Kahn notes that the most impressive role of this busy workforce may be, surprisingly, in the brain. Dr. Kahn is a well-known and highly respected gastroenterologist at Stamford, Hospital. She received her medical degree from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Arranged by Alex Garnett

Wednesday, December 11, 2019



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

defender of the world’s remaining wilderness areas and uses his photography to shine a light on why we need to protect them.

Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, December 18, 2019



Foster Hirsch, Professor of Film, Brooklyn College, will speak about the House Un-American Activities Committee’s hunt for “subversive activities” in Hollywood, then show clips from two movies — *High Noon* and *On The Waterfront* — to illustrate opposing responses to HUAC, in the face of what we would call today a culture war. Professor Hirsch is the author of sixteen books on subjects related to theatre and movies. A native of California, Hirsch received his B.A. from Stanford University, and holds M.F.A, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University.

Arranged by Gary Banks

New Members



John Turner was born in New York City in 1951 and grew up in Manhattan. He graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School and graduated from Boston College with a BA in English Literature and Speech Debate in 1973. He also participated in the football and baseball programs. John’s career consists of creating value by building businesses. He started with Coca-Cola in 1978 in Houston, followed by executive positions in various companies primarily in the food business. In addition to being based in Houston, he held assignments in New York City, other New York State locations, Pennsylvania, Virginia and California.

John and his wife Kathy live in Darien and have three daughters and six grandchildren. He belongs to the Silvermine Golf Club and his main hobbies are sports, including golf.

Sponsored by Alex Garnett



Scarby Smith was born in Hartford, CT, in 1944. He grew up in Windsor and West Hartford, CT, and graduated from Loomis Chaffee High School in Windsor. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1967 with a BA in History. At St. Lawrence he was active in Phi Sigma Kappa, Varsity Soccer, and The Saints. On graduation he served two years as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In 1969 he joined Chemical Bank where he managed the Tokyo branch until 1985, when he became regional manager for Japan and Korea. He left Chemical in 1991 as EVP and joined Sumitomo Bank as GM Human Resources and Advisor from 2014 to 2017.

Scarby and his wife Carol live in Norwalk and have three children and eight grandchildren. He belongs to the Tin Whistlers, Gulfstream Golf Course, St. Andrews Delray, Weeburn CC, and Old Asian Hands. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, walking, and golf.

Sponsored by Jan Selkowitz



Milan Chilla was born in Berwyn, IL, in 1947 and grew up in Hinsdale, IL. He graduated from Hinsdale Township HS and the University of Kansas where he received a BS in Journalism in 1970. At Kansas he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi and was on the Dean's list. Upon graduation, Milan joined the Tribune Company in Chicago, working for the Chicago Tribune. He was with the Tribune Company for 35 years, 25 of which entailed working in the New York media sales office in various sales and management positions.

Milan and his wife Kristine, a psychotherapist, live in Rowayton. He is a former Vice Commodore of Wilson Cove Yacht Club, a member of the Rex Boat Club, and Oak Hills Golf Club. He is an exhibiting member of the Rowayton Arts Center and Carriage Barn Art Gallery in New Canaan. His hobbies include golf, painting, and boating.

Sponsored by Bob McGroarty



Jeremiah Crowley was born in Providence, RI, and grew up in East Providence. He graduated from LaSalle Academy High School in East Providence in 1961. Jerry graduated from Providence College in 1965 with a BS degree in Business Management. After graduation he served in the US Coast Guard Aviation Reserve. From 1971 to 1985 he worked for Health-tex, Inc., as Director, Operations Planning. From 1985 to 1990 Jerry was a consultant for small business with The Holly Group in Norwalk, and owner of an automated payroll and bookkeeping company. From 1990 to 2000 he was a

Senior Sales Executive with MicroAge Technical Services and from 2001 through 2017 with Acumenic Associates in Norwalk as Principal, providing web-based solutions to various organizations.

Jerry and his wife Nancy live in Norwalk and have two children and ten grandsons. He is past president of the Lions Club (RI), president Harbor View HOA, Oak Hills Park Authority, Vice Chair Norwalk Neighborhood HOA (2003-9), and Wilson Cove Yacht Club (2012-15). Jerry's leisure time activities consist of golf, tennis and personal computing.

Sponsored by Bryan Hooper

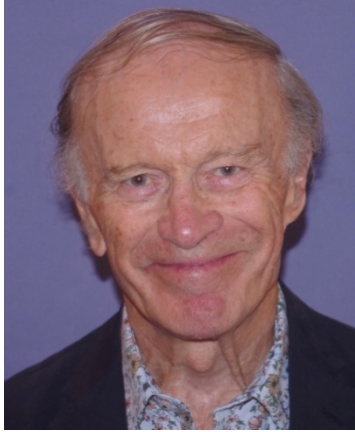


William Tamme was born in St. Louis, MO, in 1952. He grew up in South St. Louis and St. Louis County and graduated from Bayless High School. Bill graduated from Central Missouri University with a BS in Education and also received his MBA from Arizona State University. At the University he was active in the drama club and intramural sports. His post-university career started with four years as a high school history teacher followed by 25 years in equipment and project finance with companies such as Greyhound Leasing & Financial Corp, Household Commercial Finance, and GE Capital. This was followed by 13

years as the owner of Darien Doughnut starting in 2006.

Bill and his wife Carol live in Darien. They have two sons, one in Salt Lake City, UT, and the other in Fort Collins, CO, and two granddaughters. Bill belongs to the Country Club of Darien and Roton Point Association. His leisure time interest is golf.

Sponsored by Russ Peppet



Hendrik Vriesen was born in 1939 in Dinxperlo, The Netherlands, and grew up in De Heurne, which is a suburb of Dinxperlo. He graduated from MULO High School (Meer Ultgebrel Lager Onderwijs) in Aalten, The Netherlands. He graduated with a BA degree from Webster University of Saint Louis, MO, through a program at their Geneva Switzerland campus. Hendrik's work experience started in early 1960 with his initial exposure to the banking industry in Vancouver, BC. He relocated to San Francisco in 1964 and was employed by Bank of America. He was recruited in 1974 by First National Bank of Chicago to work in their overseas offices. He handled assignments in Frankfurt, Geneva, Brussels, and Paris. He started working as an independent financial consultant in 1980. He decided in 1997 to return to the USA, where he has continued his work as a consultant.

Hendrik and his wife Margaretha live in Darien and have one daughter and four grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys swimming, tennis, biking and reading.

Sponsored by Bryan Hooper



Dennis Leibowitz was born in 1941 in Indianapolis and grew up there, attending North Central High School. He then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance with a BS in Economics in 1963. At Penn, he joined Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity. Upon graduation, Dennis was with Merrill Lynch until 1967. From 1967 to 1977 he worked at various boutique firms and E.F. Hutton. He then joined Donaldson Lufkin and Jenrette as research analyst specializing in media and telecom stocks. In 2000 Credit Suisse acquired DLJ and he was appointed managing partner and head of the media analysis group. In 2002

Dennis started and managed a hedge fund specializing in investments in the telecom, media, and technology Industries where he is still active.

Dennis lives in Rowayton and has three children and soon to be six grandchildren. He belongs to the New Mountain Capital Advisory Board and Caron Treatment Centers Board. His leisure time hobbies include tennis, gym, classical jazz and classic rock music, and movies.

Sponsored by Bill Close

Activities

Pickleball



Jan Selkowitz reports that after a good summer of outdoor play at Cherry Lawn, the pickle ballers are now back indoors full time at the Mather Center Gym. Play is every Tuesday and Thursday. Intermediate and Advanced play from 9 am to noon, and beginners play from noon to 2 pm. Now that the outdoor sports are finishing our numbers are increasing and we anticipate days where we will have 16-25 players. Play is free and men and women are welcome.

Current Affairs



Charlie Goodyear reports that the Current Affairs Group had a record turnout in September for a most interesting discussion of Artificial Intelligence, led by **Alan Greene** and **Sunil Saksena**. October saw a lively discussion of Election Laws and Regulations led by **Bob Baker**. Planned for November 21

is a discussion of the Microbiome led by **Gary Banks** and **Dr. Jack Fitzgibbons**. December 19 will feature a discussion of 5G led by **Jim Phillips**. The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month on the second floor of the DCA.

Bowling



Tom Lom reports that bowling action resumed on September 3rd and the season is now in full swing. High games of 246 and 242 were rolled by **Tom Lom** and **Gehr Brown** respectively. But perhaps the biggest highlight so far in the season was from **Tony Yezzi**, who managed to bowl a strike without hitting the head pin! The group is always looking for new bowlers to join the fun no matter the skill level. As with golf, there is a handicap system that allows for lots of friendly competition. You might even end

up winning 25 cents. The action begins at 9 am on Tuesdays at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Car pools are the rule and easily arranged. *Photo: George Gilliam in action*

Investment Discussion Group



Jim Phillips reports that the Investment Discussion Group invites its members to suggest stocks which they own personally, but want a second opinion from the group. Other stocks for discussion reflect changing industry dynamics or trends. In September, the group discussed four stocks: CoreSite Realty (**COR**), a data center REIT with assets that support e-commerce clients in eight major markets; Thermo Fisher Scientific (**TMO**), a high-quality play on biotech; PayPal (**PYPL**), a leader in the digital wallet

space; and **GE** as a value stock play. In October, the group noted that the strong US dollar has generated massive capital inflows to the US equity and bond markets, and the economy is dominated by consumer and government spending, not trade or manufacturing. Stocks discussed included companies with noteworthy insider buying: Kraft Heinz (**KHC**), Ulta Beauty (**ULTA**), Lyondell Basell Industries (**LYB**), Kinder Morgan (**KMI**), Abbvie (**ABBV**), SunRun (**RUN**) and Hannon Armstrong (**HASI**). The group meets at 9 am the first Monday of every month at 30 Old Kings Hwy South, 1st floor.

Money Matters

Doug Campbell reports that the Money Matters Group had interesting, well-attended discussions on topics that can affect DMA members' wealth and wealth planning. In **September** the topic was wealth transfer to children, grandchildren, and others. Tax efficient wealth transfers include the gift of \$15,000 per recipient per year (\$30,000 if both spouses gift). Other methods include help with purchase of a house, either through a loan or by setting up an LLC. College age recipients can be helped with student loans, or by directly paying for college or student health care. Another tax efficient technique is setting up a 529 for benefit of grandchildren before they reach college age. The discussion covered assistance with other major events, such as helping a younger family member establish a new business. In **October** the speaker was successful money manager **John DeSantis** from Civic Financial in Rhode Island, who presented his Annual Report of Trivia and Investable Trends, a lighthearted look at facts that could presage investment opportunities. Money Matters meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 8:45 am to 9:45 am in the Lillian Gade room (before the regular DMA meeting).

Mianus River Gorge Hike



Dave McCollum reports that eleven DMA members and two spouses hiked over a four mile trail at the Mianus River Gorge on September 26. The fine

weather at the start turned a little muggy by the finish but all enjoyed the spectacular scenery and the camaraderie. The trail ends at one of the reservoirs on the river and then retraces over a parallel path back to the start. Side trails to an old quarry and gorge overlook were explored. Most of the hikers enjoyed lunch at the Long Ridge Tavern after the hike. Hikes are planned for November and December and will be announced at meetings, on the DMA website, and through e-mail blasts.

Photo by Dave McCollum

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Hike



Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett led a five-mile hike at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, NY, on a gorgeous October day. This is a 4,000 acre park, the largest in Westchester County. The hike, of moderate climbing along a well-maintained trail, then followed steeply climbing Leatherman's Loop, and led to a spectacular view of the Cross River Reservoir and surrounding countryside. At one point the trail seemed to disappear but **Doug Thompson** forged ahead and found the continuation of the trail. Following the hike, the group had lunch at Blind

Charlie's Café in Scott's Corners.

Bridge

Tony Kwedar notes that the Bridge Group meets every Tuesday at 1 pm in the Taylor Room at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1864 Post Road (corner of Ring's End Road). Players usually arrive by 12:45 pm when partners are selected by the draw of the cards. All levels of play are accommodated and there is adequate room and parking for up to 20 players. At the meetings in September and October, typically five to eight players showed up to play.

Happy Wanderers -- Hudson Yards and Chelsea



In September, **Joe Spain** reports, the Wanderers stepped off to explore the new development of the Hudson Yards (including *The Vessel* (a soaring new landmark consisting of 154 interconnecting flights of stairs and 80 landings), and The Shed (a new arts and performance center). The group then proceeded downtown along a portion of the High-Line to the Chelsea Markets and concluded with lunch.

(Pictured are Barry and Vicki Baldwin, and Nancy and Mike Heitz)

Happy Wanderers – Revitalized Hudson River Park



Joe Spain and **David Mace** report that in October the Happy Wanderers embarked on a windy but interesting walk from the Battery in lower Manhattan up the promenade on the Hudson River to 34th Street. This part of Manhattan has been transformed in recent years with the new Hudson River Park, the development of many new commercial and residential high-rise buildings, and revitalized piers, including a \$255 million park being built on Pier 55 (cost borne by entertainment mogul Barry Diller and his wife, the fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg), and Pier 57, part of the new Hudson Square campus for Google.

Book Club

Harris Hester reports that the Book Club met in September to discuss *Breaking and Entering: The extraordinary story of a hacker called Alien* by Jeremy Smith. Discussion centered around the vulnerabilities in our personal and commercial use of computers, as outlined in the book. October's book, which most felt was well written, was *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century*, by George Packer. Our discussion ranged from what a jerk Holbrooke was to some of his unique accomplishments.

On **November 13** the group will discuss *Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World* by Robert Kaplan. The book to be discussed on **December 11** is *Last Boat Out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao's Revolution* by Helen Zia. Summaries of both books are on the web site. The Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Mather Senior Center Library. You do not have to read the book to attend the meeting. More information about the books is on the DMA website. All books are available at the Darien Library.

Norwalk Symphony Orchestra String Quartet



Bob McGroarty and **John Hess** report that the evening of chamber music, presented by members of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, attracted a full house. All were impressed with the talent of these dedicated professional musicians who perform right in our community, and greatly enjoyed the hour-long program that was held in the community

center of St. Luke's Church. The event, which was partially funded from the DMA's endowment, was preceded by a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres. DMA members are also being offered discounted season tickets by the Orchestra.

Golf Outings – DMA Prevails Over New Canaan Again



On August 15, twenty-four DMA members gathered for a golf outing at Country Club of Darien. The event was organized by **Denny Devere** and hosted by CCD member **Tom Lom**. The group could not have asked for a better day as the sun was shining and temps were in the pleasant high seventies. There were lots of laughs and lots of good golf including rounds in the 70s by **Frank Gallgher** and **Tom Lom**. Golf was followed by lunch on the veranda overlooking the course.



Alex Garnett reports that on September 19, ten foursomes gathered as the Darien men soundly defeated the New Canaan men **20.5 to 9.5** in a fun and competitive match at The Silvermine Golf Club. Following the match, the golfers had a nice luncheon together and told golf war stories. The series now stands 4-2-1 for DMA. We plan to renew this friendly rivalry next Summer.

Copps Island Oyster Tour



Bryan Hooper reports that in late October a party of nine DMA members were treated to a tour of the oyster beds off Norwalk, hosted by the firm of Norm Bloom & Son, who for three generations have been farming and harvesting oysters marketed as Copps Island Oysters. Tour guide was **Don Bell**, the firm's environmental health director. **Norm Bloom** (son of the founder) spent time educating the group about the oyster business, aided by the firm's staff members Jimmy Bloom, Dick Harris, Rachel Precious, and Mike the Lobsterman. The group was taken out on an oyster boat to see oyster beds and

watched oysters raised to the deck of the boat, hosed, and returned to the Sound as part of the process of checking the state of specific oyster beds. The trip featured lectures on the health of the Sound, and an explanation of oyster, lobster, and clam life cycles. At the end of the tour the group watched oysters being sorted for the market.

Mark Your Calendar– Details on DMA Website

Nov. 4 – Investment Discussion Group

Nov. 13 – Book Club: Earning the Rockies by Robert D. Kaplan

Nov. 20 – Money Matters: Clean technology and green economy trends

Nov. 21 – Current Affairs: The Microbiome

Dec. 2 – Investment Discussion Group

Dec. 11 – Book Club: Last Boat Out of Shanghai by Helen Zia

Dec. 18 – Money Matters: Angel Investing strategies and Connecticut Innovation Programs to grow companies in Connecticut

Dec. 19 – Current Affairs: 5G Wireless Networks

Dec. 19 – DMA Christmas Party, 5:30 pm to 8 pm, Country Club of Darien

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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

Activity Representatives

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

Bowling, Tom Lom, 655.0686 and Gehr Brown, 655.3713
Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield

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

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

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

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

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

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

Money Matters, Doug Campbell, 975.0320
3rd Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. prior to the weekly DMA meeting in Lillian Gade Room

Pickleball, Jan Selkowitz, 655.0441
Tuesdays, Thursdays at 9 am to noon for Intermediate and Advanced; noon to 2 pm for beginners

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

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