



Newsletter

Vol. 45, No. 2

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

Darien Men's Association

November-December 2022

President's Message

The DMA is off to a robust start in our 2022-2023 year – our 55th as an organization. We launched a wide variety of activities, ably led by a committed leadership team and supported by our membership. And the level of engaging activities, as reported by **Mark Nunan**, will continue in the coming months and into 2023.

Central to our programming, of course, is the fellowship and stimulation of our Wednesday meetings. **Tom Igoe** arranged for eight compelling speakers in September and October, which, notably, included two of our own members -- **Flemming Heilmann**, who has written about the World War II exploits and courage of *The Men in Denmark's Freedom Council*, and **Sunil Saksena**, who spoke about America's most controversial presidential election, that of 1876, when 20 electoral votes were found, under improbable circumstances, to ensure Rutherford Hayes' election. On the subject of America's elections, we also heard from **John Lindback**, who has supervised elections at the state level, as well as acted nationally in an advisory role to election officials. Darienite **John Olmsted** spoke with us about his ancestor, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted of Central Park fame. Of local interest, we heard from **Bobbi Chapman**, who wrote a memoir of Darien in the 1950s, **David Genovese**, who is transforming today's Darien through the Corbin District Project, and **Mark Contreras**, who heads Connecticut Public Television.

Tom has lined up an equally stimulating group of speakers for November and December.

There were a number of opportunities for intellectual discussion, including the Book Group led by **Tom Igoe**, which over the summer tackled a 960-page tome, *Grant*, by Ron Chernow, and in October discussed *Freezing Order*, about Putin's Russia, by Bill Browder. **Jim Phillips** ably guided

the Investment Discussion Group, which had the challenge of parsing a turbulent stock market. In October, the discussion was well-attended. Was attendance level a market barometer, and, if so, was it an inverse market indicator? Jim suggests that we might monitor attendance levels at the monthly discussion to gauge if this is a predictor of market performance.

Doug Campbell, through Money Matters, who tracks interesting local entrepreneurs, introduced us to a young woman, Kira Dineen, who is building a top-tier podcast business. **John Wolcott** led a Current Affairs discussion on global warming/climate change that focused less on rehashing debates about its validity and more on the planning and decision making. John pointed out the resulting consequences, either intended or unintended, that have emerged with recent attempts and may again with future proposed strategies, to deal with climate change, whatever its causes. At the DMA, we have the opportunity to learn from each other through discussions that are civil and draw upon the career, education and life experiences of our members.

There were also occasions to exercise the mind through Bridge and Cribbage. **John Podkowsky** gave members a weekly report on how the cards fell for those playing bridge online. Top scores, we learned, were due to the skill of DMA players, while failures were the fault of the robot. **Geoff Rezek** made progress recruiting new members to join him and **Tom Williams** for cribbage. Geoff has found ukulele conscription more challenging.

Just as important as exercising the mind is the opportunity, through the DMA, to exercise the body. **Tom Lom** gave us entertaining frame-by-frame accounts of the triumphs of DMA bowlers. The sweet smell of victory, we learned, comes as much from achieving a personal best as from achieving the top score. **Jan Selkowitz**, a persistent advocate for DMA pickleball players, was able to lock in playing times at Cherry Lawn and to open slots for those on the waiting list. **Dave McCollum** and **Bob Plunkett** led a hike at the Leon Levy Preserve in September. The Wanderers, led by **David Mace** and **Joe Spain**, explored the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn, a historic and rapidly gentrifying waterside district of New York City. Jointly, Hiking and Happy Wanderers planned an excursion to the Walkway Over the Hudson, billed as “The Longest Elevated Pedestrian Bridge in the World,” as it spans the Hudson River between Poughkeepsie and Highland, N.Y. Though it was canceled due to poor weather, it will be rescheduled next spring.

Bryan Hooper organized the ever-popular oyster boat trip, through host Norm Bloom of Cops Island Oysters in Norwalk. This is a fascinating opportunity to see how oysters are cultivated and harvested in our Long Island Sound backyard.

As head of the Social Committee, **Jan Selkowitz** arranged an outing to the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo in Purchase, N.Y., and to the nearby Neuberger Museum of Art.

Frank DeLeo set up two sessions of CPR training through Darien’s Post 53, one of which led to certification and a shorter session following a Wednesday meeting. The DMA also

demonstrated our commitment to community service through a Selleck's Woods cleanup and through a Person-to-Person coat drive. Included on the agenda is our December bell ringing for Darien charities at Palmer's Market.

George Gilliam ensures that we know of DMA members who are ill, honor those who have passed and keep in touch with the widows of those no longer with us.

Finally, **Jan Selkowitz** as head of the Social Committee, and **Tom Lom**, who is involved in supervising the arrangements, inform us that on December 20, we can look forward to our annual holiday party at The Country Club of Darien, one of the highlights of the DMA year.

Outsiders who have seen the range and quality of DMA activities are impressed. Even more important, several new members have said that the DMA surpasses their expectations. We are delivering on our objective to provide the opportunity to be engaged, to enjoy good fellowship and to have fun.

Charles Salmans
President

New Members

Tom Bell



Tom Bell was born and raised in Flushing, N.Y. (just around the corner from where famed baseball player Tom Seaver lived). And, yes, Tom is still a New York Mets fan. He went to Fordham Prep for high school and liked the campus, staying on to attend the College of Business Administration at Fordham – now called the Gabelli School of Business – receiving his B.S.B.A.

During his college days, he worked part time for IBM installing typewriters, which led to a full-time position after graduation.

He spent 16 years at IBM – eight years in sales and eight years in several different positions inside headquarters, including management and executive assistant roles. After IBM, he assumed various sales and marketing roles for smaller hardware companies across the United States until retiring in the summer of 2022.

As a Darien resident for almost 30 years, volunteering has been important to Tom. He was one of the founding members of the Darien Professionals Networking Group, helping people understand the new processes of networking with others to find their next assignment. He also served as chair of the St. Thomas More Parish Council.

Additionally, for 12 years, he was the state of Connecticut Harbor Master for Darien. Having recently retired from this role, he currently is commodore of the Darien Boat Club. Tom and his wife enjoy boating. They have two grown daughters.

Don Chiarello



Donald E. Chiarello D.D.S. was born in 1932. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School, Queens College, and New York University College of Dentistry.

He served in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant in Dental Corps.

Don resided in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., from 1969 until 2022. He recently moved to Stamford.

He was in private practice from 1960 to 1990.

He served as assistant and clinical coordinator Post Graduate Program at Nassau University Medical Center from 1990 to 2010. He was assistant clinical professor at Stony Brook School of Dentistry from 2010 to 2018.

Don is a member of Whaler's Cove Yacht Club in Cold Spring Harbor and served as commodore. For more than 30 years, he cruised under sail and later under power with his wife and three daughters from 1974 until 2005.

John Del Col

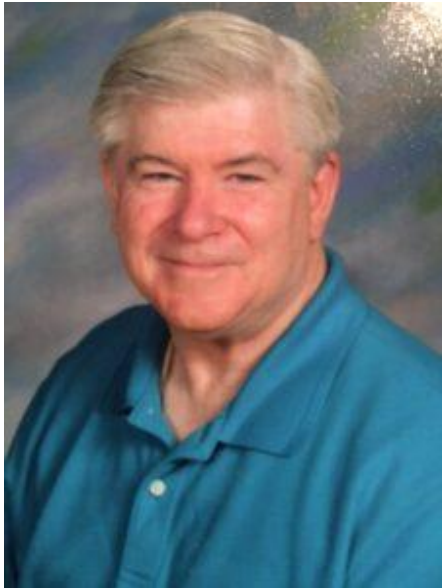


John Del Col was born in 1961 in Vineland, N.J., and grew up in Haworth, N.J. In 1984, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Dartmouth College with an A.B. degree in history. While at Dartmouth, he was a member of the Alpine Ski Team and the Casque and Gauntlet senior society. After graduation, he worked several years marketing telex services for RCA Communications in New York, N.Y., where he met his wife Kathleen. Recognizing the imminent demise of the telex machine, John returned to school, graduating from Harvard Law School *cum laude* in 1989.

He worked in private law practice in New York City at Sullivan & Cromwell and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae, as assistant general counsel at MeesPierson (a Dutch merchant bank) and as general counsel at Chartwell Re Corporation and Trenwick Group Inc. John spent the last 19 years of his career working as general counsel at Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd., an international insurance company headquartered in Bermuda. He retired in 2022.

John and Kathleen were married in 1989 and have been Darien residents since 1996. They have four adult children. John belongs to Woodway Country Club and the Killington Ski Club. For hobbies, he enjoys skiing, water skiing, running, cycling and golf.

Tom Dempsey



Tom Dempsey was born in East Orange, N.J., in 1956. He grew up in Stratford, Conn., and graduated in 1975 from St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull. He was the captain of the swimming and football teams. Tom received a B.S. degree in computer science and a master's degree in education at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Upon completing his B.S. degree, he worked in telecommunications for General Electric Capital in Stamford, where he met his wife Marie.

After a career change, Tom worked as an educator for the New Canaan Public Schools for 27 years, teaching first, third and fourth grades. He recently retired but looks forward to going back as a substitute teacher.

Tom and Marie reside in Darien, where they have lived for the past 40 years. They have two adult children (a son and daughter). He is a member of the Mather Center in Darien. Tom enjoys playing the piano, guitar, Mahjonn and cribbage. He also enjoys woodworking, whittling, stained glass making, hiking, bowling, baseball and football.

Walt Donovan



Born into a large family in Milton, Mass., **Walt Donovan** attended the University of Massachusetts as an undergraduate and Babson College for an M.B.A. while working full time in a factory or driving a Pepsi delivery truck in Boston. Since then, he worked 40 years across various sales and marketing roles in the U.S. grocery business primarily with PepsiCo, Unilever and Nestle. Since retiring in 2020 from Nestle after ~25 years, he has been offering consulting services to beverage clients.

Walt has been married to his wife Maureen for 31 years and has been a resident of Darien for the last 26 years. He loves Darien for its natural beauty, his church community, many new and old friendships in town, and its proximity to

New York City, where three of his four children reside. Walt is appreciative of the excellence of the Darien school system and feels his children greatly benefited from attending the Darien schools, preparing them well for their college experiences and early career. His youngest is now

a senior at Columbia University, which provides him and Maureen a “victory lap” as they write the last of the tuition checks.

Ted Helms



Ted Helms grew up in Scottsdale, Ariz., a small western town at the time. Boy Scouts and tennis were favorite activities. He attended Arizona State University, but after his sophomore year, on a lark, he traveled to Venezuela to teach tennis. What he expected to be a six-month adventure turned into a three-and-a-half-year life-changing event. At the age of 21, Ted was the head tennis pro of the Caracas Country Club.

He left Venezuela to complete his undergraduate studies at Columbia College in New York. Upon graduating with a degree in philosophy, his most marketable quality was being a gringo who spoke Spanish, with a demonstrated record of assimilation in the Latino world. That became his entre into the Latin American group of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, where he spent nine years, including postings in Peru and Venezuela.

In 1991, he left the bank and joined the New York office of *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.* (PDVSA) as a financial representative. With the election of Hugo Chavez in 1999, Ted’s career at PDVSA came to an end. As that chapter was ending, the Brazilian oil company Petrobras was looking for someone with his background. He spent the next 18 years with Petrobras in its New York office, including eight years as the global head of Investor Relations. He left Petrobras in 2017 and ended his professional career in 2020 as the executive director of the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce in New York.

In short, Ted spent 40 years associated with finance in Latin America, largely national oil companies, all because of an impulsive decision in 1975 to teach tennis in Venezuela. Since retiring, he has dedicated most of his time to enjoying a life with few commitments and no commute. He golfs frequently in the summer and skis in the winter. He spends considerable time maintaining a family house in Thetford, Vt., where his Russian great grandparents settled after fleeing the Bolsheviks across Siberia in 1919.

He has been a Darien resident since 1991. Next to supporting his wife Susan in her many community activities, he considers his most meaningful contribution to be the first scoutmaster of Darien Boy Scout Troop 35, succeeded by his good friend and fellow DMA member Pat Gentile. Ted has three children, the two older live in Denver and enjoy the outdoor life of the Rockies. Little chance of them returning to the tame Northeast. His 21-year-old daughter will be graduating from Barnard College in December and will begin a career in finance in New York.

Michael Kadish



Mike Kadish was born in 1954 in northern New Jersey. He earned his B.S. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. Mike started his career in the Legal Division of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., then practiced law with various law firms in California, moved to Darien in 1989, returned to California to practice law with some friends in 1996, and then came back to Darien, where he has remained since 2002. While in California, he represented banks and bankers in complex transactions and litigation. After returning to Connecticut, he served as in-house bank regulatory counsel for Citibank, Deutsche Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland/Citizens Bank, and then joined a fintech firm, Total Bank

Solutions (TBS), in 2017, where he was general counsel until TBS was acquired in 2022. He currently provides consulting services for financial firms requiring assistance with bank regulatory matters.

Mike's maternal grandfather was a sportswriter in New Jersey and imbued Mike with a love for baseball that still endures six decades later, although he horrified his family by becoming a Yankees fan. He has three adult children, all of whom attended school in Darien for some part of their education but are now scattered across the country. His older son, with Mike's two young grandsons, live in northern New Jersey. Mike's wife Sadae grew up in Taipei and Tokyo, and they enjoy occasional trips to those cities to visit her family.

Bob Raidt



Bob Raidt was born and raised in Darien on Blueberry Lane and has spent most of his life living here.

After attending Ox Ridge, Middlesex and Darien High School (class of '77) and spending his summers at Woodway Country Club, he went on to graduate from the University of Richmond with a B.S. in marketing followed by an M.B.A. from Fordham.

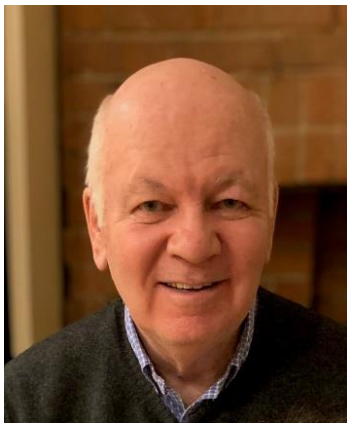
He followed his father into the advertising business on Madison Avenue and worked at several large advertising agencies as a media planner and buyer for large consumer goods advertisers. He then joined *The New York*

Times in advertising sales for a long career in sales management where he met his wife Karen. They have one son who lives in Charleston, S.C., where they visit frequently.

After Bob left the *Times*, he worked for online companies in business development and later worked at several well-known B2B media firms, including Crain Communications and Thompson Media. For the past 10 years, he has worked for smaller media properties in the private equity field. He continues to work from home on a full-time basis but without the commute!

He lives an active lifestyle and enjoys tennis, paddle, golf, hiking, paddleboarding and traveling. As a music lover and drummer, he's hoping to find other musicians to jam with in the DMA.

Ed Sforza



Ed Sforza was born in the Bronx, N.Y., and grew up in Hartsdale, N.Y. He graduated from Iona Prep in New Rochelle and participated in three varsity sports: football, basketball and baseball. He was captain of the football team and a member of the CHSFL and state championship football teams. Ed is also a proud member of Iona Prep's Hall of Fame.

He went on to attend Villanova University on a full athletic scholarship and was awarded three varsity letters in football while being selected game captain numerous times. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in business, Ed pursued a career in sales with the Campbell Soup Company (sales rep), Xerox Corporation (sales manager) and Graphic Management Partners (vice president).

He has been married to his wife Nancy for 42 years, and they have three children: Ted, Caroline and Megan. They are also blessed with three grandchildren: Chloe, Thomas and Tess. Ed and Nancy have lived in Darien for 40 years, where they have made many priceless friendships.

Ed, whose wife suffers from mixed dementia, and his family are dedicated to the Fight to End Alzheimer's. In the last two years, they've collectively raised more than \$35,000 for the Alzheimer's Association, whose mission is to provide resources and education to families impacted by the disease, as well as raising critical funds for research that will (it is hoped) lead to a cure.

Barry Silver



Barry Silver was born and raised in the Philadelphia suburbs and doesn't fully understand why everyone doesn't love Philly, too. Following graduation from Cheltenham High School, he attended the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, graduating in 1982, and began a career in the fixed income markets side of Wall Street. After stops at Merrill Lynch and two other firms, for the last 28 years before retirement Barry was a managing director at MUFG Bank, Ltd., based in New York, and led the corporate client team for the interest rate derivatives business.

He married Akiko, a classical violinist, in late 1986, and they spent three magical years living in Tokyo. Moving to Darien in 1990, they raised a son now residing in New Haven and a daughter who lives in Nashville. Both are the most rabid Philadelphia Eagles fans in their respective ZIP code. Akiko teaches violin and performs regularly in Darien, founded and directs the youth music program at Chamber Music Institute and was for many years a member of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, where Barry served as a board member. Barry also spent years as a volunteer swim referee and meet director for the New Canaan YMCA and at the state level for Connecticut Swimming, Inc. where he served as a board member, committee chair and vice chairman. He has also volunteered in the Darien Little League and Cub Scouts. In the distant past, Barry wandered through Darien town politics, including serving on the RTM for six years.

Barry spends as much time as possible immersed in music and books and enjoys lots of skiing, some biking, and limitless eating and drinking.

John Temple



John Temple and his wife Lilia are snowbirds, living in Miami Beach in the winter and on Holly Pond, Stamford, in the summer. They have four children living in Barcelona, Brooklyn, Los Angeles and Stamford, respectively, and four grandchildren with a fifth on the way.

John was born just outside Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. He graduated from Trinity Hall College, Cambridge University, with an M.A. in natural sciences and joined Consolidated Gold Fields plc (CGF) in the city of London as a management trainee. In 1978, he was seconded as a financial analyst to CGF's steel distribution subsidiary, Azcon, which was headquartered in New York.

After 18 months, he transferred to the United States permanently, obtained a green card and joined The BOC Group in Montvale, N.J., as planning manager. He relocated to Wilton in 1987 after being recruited by a GE Capital-backed private equity group and later moved to Darien. His final career move came in 1995, when he joined and subsequently ran a boutique investment bank, Cambridge International Partners, in New York City, advising on the purchase and sale of asset managers and registered investment advisors. He retired in 2019, happy to give up the commute.

John is an enthusiastic, if amateur, golfer and sailor. He is also vice chairman of The Facial Pain Association, whose mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for those with neuropathic facial pain.

David Xu



David Xu was born 1962 in Wuhu, China. He graduated from high school at age 17 and went to Fudan University in Shanghai. After graduation, he stayed on and worked at Wuhan University, acquiring a master's degree in economics.

He moved to Massachusetts in 1989, serving as a visiting scholar at Brandeis University. He earned an M.S. in computer science from the University of Massachusetts.

He took a job as senior system analyst in The Boston Company in 1993. In 1997, he joined Fidelity Investments and worked there for 24 years. In 2020, he was transferred to Salt Lake

City, where he spent the next 18 months.

Upon retirement in June of 2021, David and his wife moved to Darien to live with their elder son and his family and watch firsthand the everyday antics of their new grandson Ethan. Another son recently graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and works for Meta in California.

Aside from fishing, David plays poker with his Chinese friends almost every weekend. He has taken up pickleball and looks forward to becoming a skilled player.

In Memoriam



Paul C. (Chuck) Richardson Jr. of New Canaan passed away from Alzheimer's Disease September 22, 2022. He was born on April 16, 1938, in Philadelphia to Paul Charles Richardson and Josephine Patterson Richardson. He moved to Darien at age three and lived here most of his life. After graduating from The Lawrenceville School, Princeton, N.J. he continued his education at Dartmouth College, finishing in 1960. He married his wife Mary Bloom, on September 3, 1960, shortly before entering the Marine Corps and shipping off to Quantico. He acted as an Intelligence Officer with a Marine Attack Squadron, including a year in Iwakuni, Japan before returning to civilian life with his family.

In 1963, Chuck started his career in sales, at Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp. in Denver, before moving back to Darien in 1965 to transition into advertising in New York City as account executive at Dancer Fitzgerald Sample, Ted Bates & Co, Inc and J Walter Thompson. He later began an extensive career in the executive search business as an executive recruiter, working for Boyden Associates, Inc. before joining Korn Ferry International as a Senior Partner and Managing Director in the Legal Practice, where he later retired.

It was during his time at Korn Ferry that he became especially devoted to God and his church. He grew up attending Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien and after retirement was fortunate to be able to serve there in various capacities including spending time with the men at Pivot Ministries, counseling through the Stephen Ministries, serving the Norwalk Open Door Shelter, and going on mission trips.

Chuck's other passion was sports. He was a lifelong Phillies fan. He was a ranked tennis player in New England as a junior. He became an avid skier, and a competitive platform tennis and squash player. He also ran over 25 marathons, including New York and London, some alongside his daughter. His best time and one of his proudest sports accomplishments was a 2:59:30 finish. In his later years, he threw his competitive spirit into golf, where he and Mary jointly spent much of their free time. Chuck also loved to play the guitar, entertaining friends and family with his yodeling and songwriting.

Surviving Chuck is his wife of 62 years, Mary, his son Paul C. Richardson III (wife Julie) of Franklin, Mass., and daughter Amy Richardson Shay (husband Chris) of Wilton, as well as his four grandchildren, Alexandra (Ally), Mary Statler (Mimi), Ian and Lola.

A Memorial Service will be held at Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at 11:00 am. Contributions in memory of Chuck may be made to the Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt St., Norwalk, CT 06854. <https://opendoorsct.org/>

DMA Speakers Program

November–December 2022

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Ted Helms, “Venezuela – a Failed State: Story of the Road to Destruction”



DMA member **Ted Helms** will speak with our group about the startling demise of Venezuela in his presentation entitled “Venezuela – a Failed State: Story of the Road to Destruction.” As Ted observes, it is not widely understood or appreciated just how rich and developed Venezuela was, including the wealth of its resource base, and the abject condition in which it currently finds itself. Large numbers of people, representing 25% of its population, have fled the country in desperation, with entire families walking as far as Chile or the United States, literally, to escape starvation. Today, Venezuela is arguably a failed state with no foreseeable possibility of returning to its prosperous and democratic past. Based on his firsthand experience, Ted will highlight the root causes of Venezuela’s road to ruin and explain why, under any plausible scenario, its future remains bleak.

Ted lived in Caracas for three years in the late 1970s, as a tennis teacher to the oligarchy, witnessing the boom years that followed OPEC’s fourfold oil price increase. He returned to Caracas in the 1980s as the country manager for Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company during a period of economic volatility. In the 1990s, Ted was the New York-based financial representative for Petr6leos de Venezuela, S.A., the national oil company, when Venezuela nearly doubled its oil production and became the United States’ leading oil supplier.

In the course of his work in the country, Ted experienced, firsthand, Venezuelan society, politics and economics under six presidential administrations. His direct involvement with the country ended shortly after the election of Hugo Chavez in 1999 so Ted lightheartedly refers to himself as the “first exile” of Hugo Chavez.

Arranged by Tom Lom

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Jim Cameron, “Metro-North and Other Significant Transit Themes in CT”



Jim Cameron, long-time commuter advocate and newspaper commentator, will speak with us on Connecticut’s transportation future: Will riders ever return to commuter rail? Who will pay to keep the trains running when federal money is gone? Where will money be found to repair our highways? How will new residential/workplace trends affect Connecticut’s economy? Jim will explore the options in an engaging, thought-provoking workshop with plenty of time to hear your ideas and answer your questions.

Born and raised in Toronto, Jim attended Lehigh University and then worked in broadcasting and journalism in Hartford, Boston and New York City. He is the recipient of a George Foster Peabody Award for his work at NBC News. In 1993, Jim joined the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council, where he served 11 years as vice chairman and four years as chairman. He later founded The Commuter Action Group to push for reforms on behalf of Metro-North riders.

Since 2003, Jim has authored a weekly newspaper column and blog, “Talking Transportation,” which appears Mondays in four online news websites across Connecticut, including *CT Mirror* and *CT Examiner*. He is also author of the tell-all book: *Off the Record: Confessions of a Media Consultant*.

Jim has lived in Darien for 30 years where he serves as program director of the town’s government TV station, Darien TV79. He also serves on the Merritt Parkway Conservancy and Darien’s Representative Town Meeting but says he has no aspirations for higher office. “The only thing I’m running for is the train,” he says.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Frank Bartolomeo, “Mental Health: the Adolescent Crisis in the U.S.”



Frank Bartolomeo, Ph.D., senior clinical advisor, Adolescent Services, at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, will speak with us on the mental health crisis facing adolescents in America today. As we have seen in recent years, there has been a serious increase in depression and anxiety among adolescents and young adults, viewed from virtually all measures. A high percentage of college students are burdened with anxieties that interfere with their daily functioning. The number of visits by children and young adults to an emergency room for suicidal ideation has increased significantly. And rates of depression have gone up dramatically.

For Dr. Bartolomeo, time is of the essence: “I am driven by the knowledge that if we can intervene in a teen crisis today to help build resilience, we may prevent longer term suffering.” Increasing resilience to Dr. Bartolomeo means having the capacity to bounce back from adversity through the support of meaningful relationships with friends, family or community. It has been a guiding principle for Dr. Bartolomeo over the course of his 30-year career working with 13- to 18-year-olds, as well as emerging adults ages 18 to 29. “And hand-in-hand with restoring that sense of connectedness,” he says, “is helping adolescents develop skills to cope with life on life’s terms.

“Adolescence is a time of great vulnerability,” Dr. Bartolomeo says, “but also presents an opportunity to reduce the likelihood of teenage conditions continuing into adulthood.” In addition to his work with adolescents, he provides group therapy at Steward House, the program for executives and high-profile individuals at Silver Hill.

Dr. Bartolomeo comes from a large Italian-Irish family and grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Massachusetts. He is a first-generation college graduate. He received his B.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and studied abroad at the University of London. Unable to find a job teaching history, he found himself working at a residential program for profoundly disturbed children. Subsequently, he earned his master’s of social work from Boston University and his Ph.D. in social work from Simmons University in Boston. His doctoral research focused on the use of group therapy with resistant teenagers.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bartolomeo has been passionate about the healing power of groups. For the first 15 years of his career, he worked primarily in the public sector, first with adjudicated gang members from Boston's inner city. In 2005, he was introduced to the world of private behavioral healthcare and became the clinical director, then executive director, of a private therapeutic boarding school in the Berkshires for troubled adolescents from affluent families. Dr. Bartolomeo was struck by the similarities in behaviors between adolescents across the socioeconomic spectrum. Counterintuitively, affluence has been found to be a risk factor for adolescent depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

A frequent speaker at the local and national levels, Dr. Bartolomeo volunteers as a consulting editor for the *Journal of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama*. His most recent scholarly publication (2022) was a co-authored book chapter: Bartolomeo, F., Stafford, A., & Gerber, A. (2022). "Emerging Adulthood: A review of developmental perspectives." In Z. Kahn & J. Martinez (Eds.), *Emerging adults in therapy* (pp. 3-19). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Griffith Mann, "Unicorns and Heroes: John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Tapestries at The Met Cloisters."



C. Griffith Mann, Ph.D., will lead a talk entitled "Famous Tapestries on View at The Met Cloisters," an in-depth look at the Unicorn Tapestries and the Nine Heroes Tapestries. The Unicorn Tapestries are among the most beautiful and complex works of art from the late Middle Ages that survive. Luxuriously woven in fine wool and silk with silver and gilded threads, the tapestries vividly depict scenes associated with a hunt for the elusive, magical unicorn. The Nine Heroes Tapestries, representing the Hebrew heroes (Joshua, David, Judas Maccabeus), the Christian heroes (Charlemagne, Arthur and Godfrey of Boullion) and the pagan heroes (Hector, Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar) are thought to have been made around 1385.

By way of background, The Metropolitan Museum of Art possesses the finest, most comprehensive collection of Medieval and Byzantine art in the Western Hemisphere. It is held in two locations: the galleries of the Met's main building on Fifth Avenue and The Met Cloisters

in Fort Tryon Park. This talk will explore the history of these two unique sets of tapestries on view at The Cloisters. Dr. Mann was appointed The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Michel David-Weill Curator in Charge of the Department of Medieval Art and The Met Cloisters in September 2013. In this role, he is responsible for managing the medieval collections and curatorial staff in The Met's main building, and for directing the staff and operations of The Met Cloisters, the branch of The Metropolitan Museum dedicated to the art and architecture of medieval Europe. Dr. Mann received his B.A. in art history and history from Williams College, and his Ph.D. in medieval art from The Johns Hopkins University. A specialist in the arts of late medieval Italy, he has published on civic patronage, painting and devotion in Tuscany. As a curator, Dr. Mann has worked on exhibitions on the medieval cult of relics, the art and archaeology of medieval Novgorod, and French manuscript illumination of the 13th century.

Arranged by Tom Igoe

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Sarah Brooks, "Application of Design Practices to Spur New Ways of Thinking"



Sarah Brooks will speak with us about her leadership and key role in facilitating the application of design practices to make the Veterans Affairs (VA) more human centered in support of veterans and, more broadly, her perspectives in enabling the use of design to spur new ways of thinking to create positive and transformational change.

Sarah arrived at Veterans Affairs as a White House Presidential Fellow in 2014. Working in sprints and using human-centered design-based research, Sarah and her team talked with more than 300 veterans – as well as VA employees – from across the country to establish what their experiences had been, interacting with the VA from start to finish. From there, the team designed journey maps and personas that described veterans' needs throughout their life. The team brought those insights back to senior leaders in a visually engaging way, and soon saw an increase in empathy toward veterans among VA leaders.

Their work was creating cultural change, and Sarah and her team could hear it in the way people at the VA talked about their work: "Has anyone asked the veterans what they want?" became a common refrain. In the end, the team created a Welcome Kit to help veterans understand what the VA offers and how to access services; rewrote onboarding letters and

documentation in plain English; supported the modernization of the VA's contact centers; designed a plan for faster hiring; and helped orchestrate a unified patient experience framework at the VA.

In terms of her background and experience, Sarah is a service designer and practical futurist whose work is aimed at helping teams and organizations reach better outcomes via unified service delivery across digital and in-person experiences. She has worked across enterprise, federal, nonprofit, start-up and hybrid organizations. Sarah is currently a designer at Apple on the Human Interface Design team.

Arranged by Ric Grefé

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Dwight Chapin, "The President's Man"



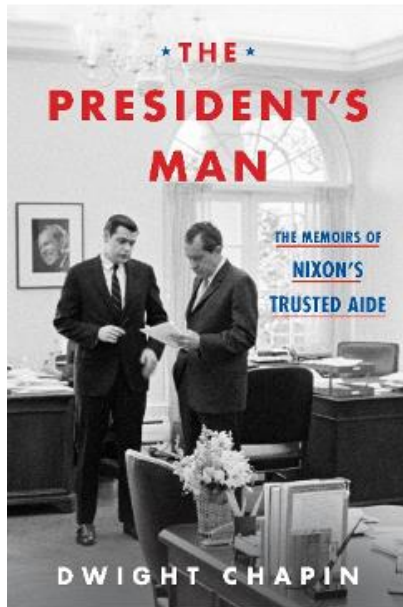
Dwight Lee Chapin will speak with us about his new book *The President's Man | The Memoirs of Nixon's Trusted Aide* (William Morrow). Dwight will share the background on the book and why he wrote it, provide an overview of his relationship with President Nixon, and describe firsthand accounts of the historic and fascinating events and happenings of the Nixon era of which he was an eyewitness.

Dwight was born in Wichita, Kan., in 1940. He was a field worker on Richard Nixon's 1962 gubernatorial campaign while still in college. From 1967 to 1968, he worked as the personal aide to former Vice President Richard Nixon during his presidential campaign. After Nixon's election victory, Dwight became special assistant to the president, serving as appointments secretary. He held that position from 1969 until he became deputy assistant to the president in 1971. Dwight was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men by the Jaycees in 1972 for his contribution to President Nixon's visit to China. Dwight remained in his role as deputy assistant until he left the White House staff in 1973. Revealing in-depth memoirs about his time with Nixon, *The President's Man* is Dwight's first book and was published in February 2022.

From Richard Nixon's "You-won't-have-Nixon-to-kick-around-anymore" 1962 gubernatorial campaign through his world-changing trips to China and the Soviet Union and epic downfall, Dwight was by Nixon's side. As his personal aide and then deputy assistant in the White House, Dwight was with Nixon in his most private and most public moments. Dwight traveled with

Nixon and assisted, advised, strategized and campaigned with him, and Dwight learned from one of America's most controversial presidents.

As Bob Haldeman's protege, Dwight worked with Henry Kissinger in opening China. Dwight eventually went to prison in the aftermath of Watergate although he was not involved in it.



In his memoir, Dwight takes readers on an extraordinary historic journey, presenting an insider's view of America's most enigmatic president. He relates his memorable experiences with the people who shaped the future: Henry Kissinger, Dwight's close friend Bob Haldeman, Chou En-lai, Pat Nixon, the embittered Spiro Agnew, J. Edgar Hoover, Frank Sinatra, Mark "Deep Throat" Felt, young and ambitious Roger Ailes, and John Dean. It's a story that ranges from Coretta Scott King to Elvis Presley, from the wonder of entering a closed Chinese society to the Oval Office, and concludes with startling new insights and conclusions about the break-in that brought down Nixon's presidency.

In 1986, Dwight created his own consulting company, Chapin Enterprises. He also remained active in politics and worked on Ronald Reagan's 1980 and 1984 presidential campaigns and George H. W. Bush's 1988 presidential campaign. Dwight later went on to work as a business consultant, mentor, and public speaker. Currently retired, he resides in Riverside, Connecticut, with his wife Terry. They are blessed with five children between them and 15 grandchildren.

Arranged by Tom Igoe



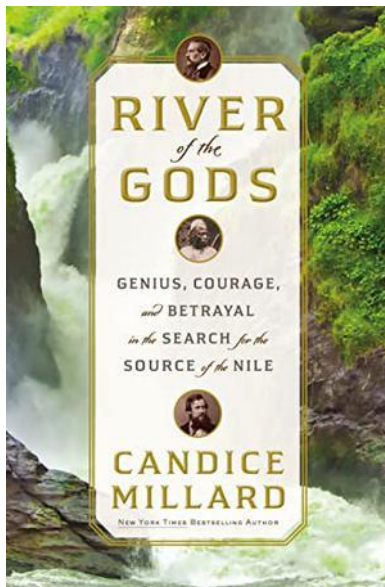
ACTIVITIES

Book Group: Selections

November-December 2022

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on **Wednesday, November 9,** and **Wednesday December 14, 2022.** The meetings will commence in each case at 2 p.m., eastern time in-person at the **Darien Community Association** (274 Middlesex Road) in the **Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor**, which gives us the ability to allow DMA members who choose to participate remotely to do so. The room is equipped with Verizon's BlueJeans software and the necessary video and audio systems for remote participants. A video link will be available.

***River of the Gods* by Candice Millard (November 9)**



The lure of uncharted territory.

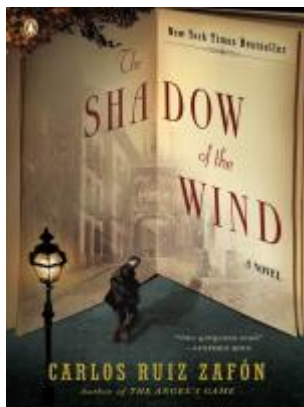
The Rosetta Stone – discovered by French soldiers in 1799, seized by a British envoy, and deciphered 23 years later – set off an obsessive interest in Egypt, including by the newly established Royal Geographical Society, to find the headwaters of the Nile. Bestselling author Millard, a former writer and editor for ***National Geographic***, offers a tense, vibrant history of several dramatic expeditions across East Africa that finally resulted in a successful discovery.

Drawing on archival sources and her own multiple trips to Africa following the explorers' paths, Millard creates a palpable sense of the daunting task undertaken by three ambitious men: the magnetic, impulsive and often combative Richard Burton; John Hanning Speke, an aristocratic infantry lieutenant and passionate hunter whose initial interest in East Africa was largely for the animals he could kill; and their devoted and resourceful native guide, Sidi Mubarak Bombay, a former enslaved person whose intimate knowledge of tribes and terrain proved to be indispensable. Guides like Bombay, Millard argues persuasively, formed the indisputable backbone of British exploration.

After abortive starts, the expedition left Zanzibar on June 27, 1857. The explorers and their team, woefully underfunded, faced innumerable hardships: scorching heat, drenching storms, near starvation, massive desertions, and threats from “large, powerful and politically complex” East African kingdoms. Illness and injury dogged them, as they suffered from typhoid, smallpox, infected wounds and bone-shattering fevers. Speke suffered near blindness from ophthalmia, and he became deaf in one ear after a beetle burrowed into his ear canal. For nearly a year, Burton lay paralyzed. Although they became the first Europeans to reach Lake Tanganyika, they could not proceed together to Lake Nyanza, which Speke insisted was the Nile’s source. Back in London, Speke cruelly denounced Burton’s leadership, securing funding for his own expedition. Although Burton died poor and angry, his legacy, unlike Speke’s, has endured.

An engrossing, sharply drawn adventure tale.

***The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón (December 14)**



The histories of a mysterious book and its enigmatic author are painstakingly disentangled in this yeasty Dickensian romance: a first novel by a Spanish novelist now living in the United States.

We meet its engaging narrator Daniel Sempere in 1945, when he’s an 11-year-old boy brought by his father, a Barcelona rare-book dealer, to a secret library known as the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Enthralled, Daniel “chooses” an obscure novel, *The Shadow of the Wind*, a complex quest tale whose author, Julian Carax, reputedly fled Spain at the outbreak of its Civil War and later died in Paris. Carax and his book obsess Daniel for a decade, as he grows to manhood, falls in and out of fascination, if not love with three beguiling women. The book goes on to describe how Daniel comes ever closer to understanding who Carax was and how he was connected to the family of tyrannical Don Ricardo Aldaya – and why a sinister, “faceless” stranger who identifies himself as Carax’s fictional creation (“demonic”) “Lain Coubert” has seemingly “got out of the pages of a book so that he could burn it.”

Daniel’s investigations are aided, and sometimes impeded, by a lively gallery of vividly evoked supporting characters. Prominent among them are secretive translator Nuria Monfort (who knows more about Carax’s Paris years than she initially reveals); Aldaya family maid Jacinta Coronada, consigned to a lunatic asylum to conceal what *she* knows; Daniel’s ebullient Sancho Panza Fermin Romero de Torres, a wily vagrant working as “bibliographic detective” in the Sempere’s bookstore; and vengeful police inspector Fumero, a Javert-like stalker whose refusal to believe Carax *is* dead precipitates the climax – at which Daniel realizes he’s much more than just a reader of Carax’s intricate, sorrowful story.

The Shadow of the Wind will keep you up nights – and it’ll be time well spent. Absolutely marvelous.

Poet's Corner: click on the link and just listen. Listen again. Then read.

Ithaka

By Constantine Cavafy; recited by Sean Connery

https://youtu.be/h_cYPfovX54

As you set out for Ithaka
hope that your journey is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.
Laistrygonians, and Cyclops,
angry Poseidon – do not be afraid of them:
you'll never find things like that on your way
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
as long as a rare sensation
touches your spirit and your body.
Laistrygonians, and Cyclops,
wild Poseidon – you won't encounter them
unless you bring them along inside your soul,
unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope that your journey is a long one.
May there be many summer mornings when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you come into harbors seen for the first time;
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations
to buy fine things,

mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
sensual perfume of every kind –
as many sensual perfumes as you can;
and may you visit many Egyptian cities
to learn and learn again from those who know.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.
But do not hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so that you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you would not have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
You will have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.



ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Your favorite characters are back! The “Commish,” the “Godfather of Bowl,” the “Professor” and more. People with all levels of experience are welcome to bowl with us Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Highlights and photos of recent action are featured after this section. Strikes and spares abound! For questions, contact **Tom Lom**: tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

We will continue on Bridge Base Online while we explore returning to live play. All who wish to play, please contact **John Podkowsky** at Jpod912@aol.com to ensure you are on the Bridge roster.

Community Service: October Coat Drive and December Bell Ringing at Palmer’s Market

DMA Coat Drive:

We had a successful coat drive for Person-to-Person (P2P) at our October 19 meeting. We collected a careful of coats (literally - see photos later). The generosity of our members is always terrific and greatly appreciated.

If anyone has additional coats to donate, drop them off at the P2P location behind St. Luke’s church on the Post Road (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Holiday Bell Ringing at Palmer’s Market to Benefit Darien Human Services

We will continue our long-standing tradition of bell ringing to solicit donations from shoppers at Palmer’s in December. As was the case last year, the beneficiary of the donations will be Darien Human Services (DHS) to help fund its food, clothing, energy and housing support efforts. In the current economy, the needs are likely to be even greater than in the recent past. By working with DHS, we are assured that the funds will go to Darien residents in need of support.

To ensure we match, or, we hope, exceed, our collection of \$2,500 last year in a more challenging economy, we have reserved a third day at Palmer’s for the activity. So we will be asking for volunteers the Saturday, Sunday and Monday before Christmas (December 17, 18 and 19). Signups will be online and at our weekly meetings beginning in early December.

This has always proved to be a fun, festive and collegial way to spend an hour (or more) with your fellow members while raising money for a good cause. We look forward to getting a full schedule of bell ringers for the three days.

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. Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net

Current Affairs: Is America heading for a Civil War? At DCA and via Zoom, November 17 at 2 p.m.

The November elections will be over. Will the results be accepted? **Mark Nunan** and **Mike Wheeler** will lead a discussion about life today in the Red States and the Blue States. Can the Federal government find common ground? Should more decisions be left to the states? Besides taxes, are there other government issues that would influence a decision on states to which you would or would not move?

[The state-by-state splintering of American Policy](#)

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

Current Affairs: Europe at a Crossroads? At DCA and via Zoom, December 15 at 2 p.m.

How is Europe handling the political and economic winds? Is Putin still in power and at war? What are the key trends that

may determine the future of the EU and NATO? How's the energy situation looking as winter looms? **Don Loomis** will start the discussion with his perspective on Italy (based on his years of experience there) which recently had a sea change in its government. **Mark Nunan** will report briefly on central Europe and the countries' historically slightly different views. Together, Don and Mark look forward to leading a lively discussion. We expect our usual congenial group of DMAers to join us, but all of you with an interest in or ties to Europe are welcome (including friends there who wish to Zoom in). Even if you are not a regular, be sure and join us. We need your valuable insights.

Golf: Sterling Farms, August 31, 2022

We could not squeak this one in for our first DMA Newsletter, but highlights and photo follow this Activities section. Fore!

Happy Wanderers: Thursday, November 17, and Thursday, December 15

November Wandering: The Wanderers will go to Manhattan on Thursday, November 17, and proceed by subway and on foot to the Little Island Park (a park that recently opened) on the Hudson River. We will then walk to the High Line at 14th Street and proceed part way before we exit for lunch. After lunch, we will walk to the birthplace of Teddy Roosevelt on East 20th street and tour the house. Then it's back to Grand Central. Full details will be available soon.

December Wandering: We will go to Manhattan on Thursday, December 15, and proceed to Times Square and then up to Lincoln Center. As the date gets closer, more details will be provided. Stay tuned.

If you have any questions, please contact:
David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net
Joe Spain: jhsplain@sbcglobal.net,

Hiking: November 14 at 10 a.m. – Montgomery Pinetum Park, Cos Cob

Dave McCollum and **Bob Plunkett** will lead our hike at this 100-acre property which is now owned by Greenwich but was originally the estate of Earnest Seaton and later the home of financier Maurice Wertheim. The estate house was demolished by the town after falling into disrepair, but the stone walls remain. Mr. Seaton is credited with starting a boys group called “The League of Woodcraft Indians” which evolved into the Boy Scouts. Mr. Wertheim’s daughter, Barbara Tuchman, lived on the property and wrote the Pulitzer Prize winning book *The Guns of August* there.

This hike is more of a walk in the woods as the trails are wide, relatively flat, and well maintained. It is a very scenic property with mature trees, rock outcroppings and moving water in addition to its historical features. We will hike for about two hours and then enjoy an optional lunch at Louie’s Italian Restaurant nearby in Cos Cob.

Dogs and guests are welcome.

Directions
Google Montgomery Pinetum Park
130 Bible Street, Cos Cob, CT

Contacts

Dave McCollum dgmccollum63@gmail.com
and 203-858-5688
Bob Plunkett rgplunkett1@gmail.com and
203-246-2898

Investment Discussion Group: November 7 at 10 a.m. on Zoom

Led by **Jim Phillips** this session will focus on *Income Earning Investments*. Send your conviction *dividend stock* ideas in advance to Jim. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An initial agenda and Zoom link will be sent out the week before. Future meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month. For questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, or to join the group please contact **Jim Phillips:**
jlpinvest66@gmail.com

Money Matters: Second Monday each month at 9 a.m.

Our next event is expected to be in November. Further information is pending; so watch your email. Led by **Doug Campbell**, we discuss interesting and impactful technologies, products and events that influence our money matters in Fairfield County and the world. Guest hosts bring domain expertise leading to lively group discussions. In September, Doug hosted a fascinating session with Kira Dineen, who runs a top 1% podcast. Contact Doug at (203) 952 1161 or dc3tsc@gmail.com.

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

Our first Pickleball tournament was held October 18 (see photos later). Space is open for players with some experience. Novices, please sign up for lessons with Darien Parks & Recreation. Contact **Jan Selkowitz** at (203) 655 0441.

Social Activities

Hold that date – **12/20/22**. **Jan Selkowitz** confirms our annual Christmas party for December 20 at the Country Club of Darien. **Tom Lom** and **Alex Garnett** have graciously agreed to continue their role. Please call Jan Selkowitz at (203) 655 0441. We had two great outings in October – featuring oysters and art (see photos and descriptions later).

Woodworking: 9:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, Mather Center



Woodworking Group Projects

The DMA woodworkers meet every Monday and Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Williams** and the group welcome new members. **This is an incredible deal! The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment that we use for free.** If you want to get back into woodworking or

hanker to learn more about it, this is the place to be. And, if you are a DIYer, where else is there for those fine finishings like the gentleman is completing in the photo?

Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers, your family and friends. For tables, chairs or other wooden furnishings in need of repair, please contact **Tom Williams** at: tmw-1931@outlook.com

If you find yourself *milling* about, dreaming of *sawing*, *paring* or *mortising*, well, this is your space. *Join us!*



Bowling Reports, courtesy of the "Commish"

Tuesday September 13: Here we go ... **Tom Lom's** first bowling recap of the new season (Tom was absent last week for our first actual session).

After having 10(!) bowlers for Week 1, we managed to get nine today ... thanks to a rainout of some golf activities. I should mention that it was great to see **Tom Robinson** back in action last week after an absence of many months.

G.	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot + hdcp			
F.G.	8	6	7	3	4	9	9	9	8	8	XX9	176 176			
J.K.	9	-	X	9	8	1	X	9	9	3	5	7	8	9	149 149
E.S.	6	2	7	9	7	1	X	8	8	8	1	X	7	1	146 146
G.B.	8	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	9	X	9	1	248 248
Team	m.p.h. 13.31											719 719			
Diff.	719	TOT. Pin fall	1985	TOT. Hdcp	0	TOT. Bonus	0	TOT. Points	1985						

The highlight of the day belonged to the Godfather of Bowl, **Gehr Brown**. Gehr once again put on a clinic of making strikes. In game one, he had two doubles and was frustrated that he scored "only" 181. After an ordinary 169 in game two, Gehr got off to an unlucky start with a split in game three. But, as Gehr often does, he went on a tear: seven strikes in a row followed by a spare and a strike for a smooth 248 ... not bad for Week 2. He lapped the field for high series at 598.

G.	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot + hdcp				
B.B.	7	-	9	-	X	X	9	-	7	-	6	1	8	-	9	112
B.T.	9	7	9	9	9	8	9	8	9	8	1	8	1	9	8	136
A.G.	8	7	3	6	4	5	6	3	8	2	1	0	0	9	1	157
F.D.	8	1	6	1	7	8	1	X	8	9	8	9	8	1	126	
T.L.	9	9	7	1	6	3	8	9	9	9	9	X	9	X	132	
Team	m.p.h. 12.13											681				
Diff.	681	TOT. Pin fall	2178	TOT. Hdcp	0	TOT. Bonus	0	TOT. Points	1985							

The lowlight also came in game three as **Frank DeLeo** managed to be yet another one who tied **Alex Garnett's** unwanted DMA record of having five splits in a game. At least Frank could take some consolation from today as he converted a 5-7 and a 4-5-7 split, as well as a washout.

We'll leave it there and hope that next week some other DMA bowlers can join Gehr in upping their games.

Tuesday September 20: Light attendance, short report.

Happy to see **George Gilliam** for the first time this season. His 457 which included a 179, wasn't too shabby.

The Professor was his steady self at 510, including a 191 finale.

The Commish struggled yet again. Despite a 190 in game two, he couldn't break the 500 barrier thanks to four splits in the last.

G.	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot + hdcp
G.G.	X 9 /	X 9 /	6 2 9 /	8 / 6 2 5 /	1 7							145 145
E.S.	9 / 7 /	X	X 7 /	8 / 6 / 7 2	X X 8 1							191 191
G.B.	X 9 - 9 - 9 -	X	X	X	X 9 /	XX 9						204 204
T.L.	9 / 9 / 8 / 8 / 8 / 8 / 7 / 1 8 / 9 /											117 117
Player												m.p.h. 10.98 667 667
Team												667 TOT. Pin fall 1985 TOT. Hdcp 0 TOT. Bonus 0 TOT. Points 1985

Gehr saved his best for last as you can see from the photo. He was in the pocket every frame and easily could have had a really big game with any luck. Even so, his 204 capped a 540 series.

And so we go to next week.

Tuesday September 27: Tough day on the lanes for many of the eight who showed up. Glad to see **John Kammerman** back in action.

Of the eight in attendance, Gehr, **Bill Tamme** and **Ben Briggs** had a decent showing. Gehr started out red hot with a four-bagger on his way to an opening 216. Although he cooled off somewhat, he had high series of 535. Bill closed out with an 18 in game three for a 477 (+39). And Ben had a nice 410 which was +26.

The team game was back and forth as Team Brown (w/Alex, **Frank Gallagher**, and John) breezed in game one. In game two, Team Lom (w/**Ed Schechter**, Ben, and Bill) needed a mark in the tenth to win it and the Commish delivered. In the tie breaker third game, Team Lom won going away to take the all-important quarters.

That said, there were a few guys who weren't happy with their performance. Take a look at these photos from the Wobbly Pin pub at Nutmeg and see if you can guess which one of them is at the bar drowning his sorrows.



Maybe things will improve next week.

Tuesday October 4: Two possible headlines for today:

- 1) Frank Gallagher's Big Day!
- 2) The Commish Is Back!

Let's do them in order.

1) Since joining the DMA Bowling Group a year ago, Frank G has been a joy: great guy, great sense of humor and a good bowler. That said, on the lanes he's had his moments (last year he had five 200 games and nine 500 series), but he never put three games together for a big series. Well, that changed today as Frank rolled a 189, 188 and 180 for a series of 557. That's 65 above his average! And it's his first DMA series above 550. Well done, Frank!



2) We all know our leader Tom grew up in Philadelphia and still is a big fan of the city's sports teams. Who can forget Tom leading the DMA in singing "Fly Eagles Fly" after their Super Bowl win a few years back. Right now, today, it's again a great time to be from Philly (see photos). The Eagles are flying high, and the Phillies clinched their first playoff berth since 2011.

Maybe good things DO happen in threes as, after three miserable weeks on the lanes, the Commish is back! With games of 206, 211, and 195, Tom rolled the group's first 600 series of the season at 612.

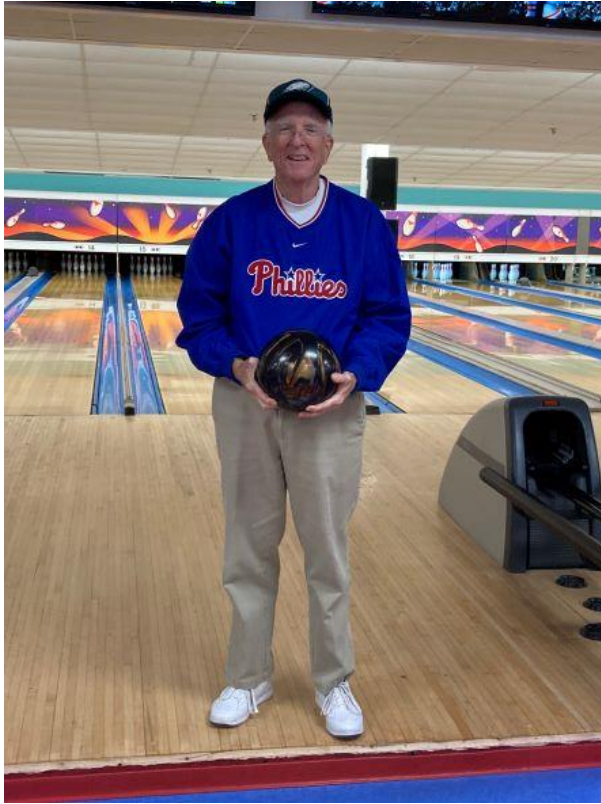
Other results of note were another fine series by Gehr with a 567 series, including a 207 game two, a 466 series by Bill (+19), including converting a 5-7 split, and a 450 series by George (+6).



The team game promised to be competitive given that only seven pins separated Gehr/George/Frank D from Tom/Frank G/Bill. Team Lom took the first two comfortably. A fired-up George convinced his mates to go double or nothing, and game three was close ... but Team Lom prevailed by 13.

The icing on the cake for the Commish was winning two of three poker games, allowing his vial of quarters to be amply replenished.

Tuesday October 18:



Eight bowlers today, and things got off to a fast start.

Frank G had a five-bagger in game one on his way to a 200 on the nose. That was topped by Ed's 212. Since they were on the same squad for the team game (along with Gehr and George), their team cruised in the first.

In game two, Frank D had his high game of the day, a 188, to pace his team (with Tom, Alex and Joe) to a narrow but comfortable win.

With quarters on the line in the third game tie breaker, Frank D's squad squeaked through by four pins. That silly quarter gave even Alex something to smile about.

500 series today from Ed (563), Frank D (513), Frank G (507) and Tom (505)

As seen in the above photo, even his mediocre bowling this morning couldn't wipe the smile off the face of the boy from The City of Brotherly Love given the weekend results from his Eagles and Phillies.

Community Service: DMA Coat Drive

Car full of coats – back seat, front seat, trunk. Thanks, DMAers – Frank DeLeo



One More DMA Golf Outing

August 31, Sterling Farms

Well, this event just missed the deadline for our last newsletter so **Peter Carnes** fills us in on the fun.

Twenty-four DMA stalwarts comprised six foursomes at Sterling Farms on August 31. The weather was ideal, and the course was in excellent condition (and better than most of the golfers). Despite the policy of “What happens at Sterling Farms stays at Sterling Farms” there were no unusual events or incidents to report. **Harry Bergen**, despite having a good round, did offer to conduct private seminars on how to keep score.

The accompanying photo, “Still Standing and Still Speaking,” captures **Chester Cobb, John McKittrick, Peter Carnes** and **Harry Bergen** (and the weather) after completing the 18th hole on their way to the 19th; they were joined by some of the combatants for final accountings and explanations. All seemed to have enjoyed their day.



Hiking Group Report, by Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett

September 15, Leon Levy Preserve, South Salem, N.Y.

Fourteen hikers, including three spouses and one dog, spent two hours traversing the beautiful and diverse Leon Levy Preserve in South Salem, N.Y. The well-marked trail system covers nearly 400 acres of forest, gorge and wetland terrain. The hike leaders made only one small navigation error that was quickly corrected, and no evidence of a potential mutiny was seen. DMA hikers are a mellow group!

We viewed the remaining stone walls of the Black Mansion. Dating from 1900, it was destroyed by fire in 1979. Another highlight was the substantial stone bridge which also dates from around 1900. We had a wildlife bonanza: one frog and one ant!

After the hike most of the group enjoyed a delicious lunch at La Vista Ristorante Italiano in South Salem. We dined on a white tablecloth-covered table overlooking the patio. It truly was a spectacular day!





DMAers and spouses “roughing it” after the hike!



Pickleball Tournament Report by Jan Selkowitz

On Tuesday, October 18, the DMA had its first Pickleball tournament. There were 10 participants. The tournament was organized and supervised by Darien Parks & Recreation professional Steve O'Connell. Each player had the opportunity to partner with another player, and it was a lot of fun. We hope to have another tournament in the near future.

Starting in November, we will move the starting time at Cherry Lawn on Tuesday and Thursday one hour later, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., due to the colder weather.



Social Activities: Copps Island Oyster Boat Excursion, Bryan Hooper



On a rain-threatened October 13, an intrepid group of 10 members and one brave wife assembled at the dock of Norm Bloom's Copps Island Oyster Company facilities in Norwalk to learn about the ecology of Long Island Sound, the part played by oysters in keeping the Sound clean, and the process of raising and harvesting these succulent bivalves.



The introductory talk was followed by a trip out to the oyster grounds and a demonstration of harvesting and replenishing the oyster beds. A tour of the sorting and processing facilities followed plus a visit to the company's museum's collection of canned oysters. Fortunately, none of the cans were opened and offered as samples, but the end of the visit was lunch at Knot Norm's restaurant, where most of us managed to sample oysters in

one form or another. And the rain held off until the end of the meal: most considerate!



Don Bell of CIO, lecturing us about the ecology of the Sound.



Oyster dinner for thousands!



The great Canned Oysters Museum.

Donald M. Kendall Museum and Neuberger Museum, Jan Selkowitz



We had a wonderful full-day outing on October 20. After carpooling from the DCA, we started at the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture gardens at the PepsiCo Campus in Purchase N.Y. The garden is spectacular, with sculpture representing some of the best sculptors of the 20th century. From there we lunched at Trattoria 632 and then proceeded to the Neuberger Museum of Art.



The Neuberger more than met everyone's expectations. We were greeted by excellent docents who helped us appreciate the art not only with stories of the artists but also insightful questions about each piece of art.

Roy Neuberger obviously had a keen expertise in amassing his collection.



A break in the action for a delicious lunch.

DMA members and spouses at Trattoria 632.

Wanderers Report: David Mace and Joe Spain

September 30, Red Hook, Brooklyn Wandering

On a cool September day eight intrepid wanderers took the ferry from Wall Street across the East River to Red Hook, Brooklyn. Once known as South Brooklyn, Red Hook is located on a peninsula projecting into Upper New York Bay. Red Hook (Roode Hoek) was settled by the Dutch in 1636. In 1776 General Israel Putnam ordered the construction of forts on Governors Island and Red Hook (Fort Defiance) to keep the British from moving up the Hudson and East Rivers. After the Revolution Red Hook became a port to off load goods coming to New York from the Midwest via the Erie Canal. Dockworkers of all ethnicities began settling in Red Hook and by the early 20th century the port was one of the most important on the East Coast, receiving ship cargoes from all over the world.

By the 1930s Red Hook had become a neighborhood breeding poverty and crime. It is only recently that Red Hook has begun to attract young New Yorkers and to bring life back to the area. A visitor today can only imagine that in another decade Red Hook with sweeping views all the way from the Verrazano Bridge to the Statue of Liberty will be a spectacular piece of New York City. We were fortunate to see the aircraft carrier HMS *Queen Elizabeth II* sitting at anchor in the bay. Those of us who made the wandering all agree this is a part of New York with an important historical and economic past as well as an exciting future. Along the way we stopped to eat lobster and fish and chips, as well as visit a local distillery to see their production.



The full Merry Band of DMA Wanderers in front of retired historic harbor freighter, *The Mary C. Whalen*.

From left to right:
David Mace,
Sunil Saksena,
Charles Salmans,
Lawrence
Cavanagh, Greg
Glashan, Joe
Spain and Mark
Shakley.



Group Photos above and on previous page by Patricia Glashan, seen in the photo below.



Delicious lunch at the Lobster Pound, Red Hook

**WHAT WE SAW ACROSS THE WATER from RED HOOK:
HMS *Queen Elizabeth II*, in town for the week**



And *in* Red Hook, once *underwater*!

The Distillery: I'll take a side car (barrel).

From DMA member and part-year resident of Formia Italy: Don Loomis

Formia, Italy, Sunday Morning Mass, July 2022, Santa Maria delle Grazie

“He’s over there, behind the two plants,” whispered my church companion.

La signora motioned toward two sizable elephant grass plants to the left of the altar, behind which a priest was discretely seated, holding confession ... waiting, it seemed ... just for me!

As I approached, I recognized the priest and he me. It was Don Carlo, whom I had met several years prior. He was beaming, evidently pleased to see me again.

“Hello, welcome back!” he said, vigorously shaking my hand as I sat down. Good way to start confession, I thought. We’ll see how it ends.

After a few more pleasantries, before getting down to “the task” at hand and knowing we alternate between the United States and our house in Formia, he asked me: “So where do you like it better, here or there?”

I get this question a lot. In answering it, I frequently think of how my widely traveled sister responds, essentially saying, “There are good points and bad about almost all places.” She tries to appreciate and enjoy the best of each and its culture.

“I like both places, Don Carlo. There’re lots of things to like here in Formia: climate, good food, the water, but there’re lots of things we like back home, too.”

Still smiling, Don Carlo led me through confession in my bumbling Italian. Best of all, he did my penance WITH ME!

“Now, repeat after me,” he said, and we mumbled some obscure Latin phrases together, and then I was DONE!

All smiles, I returned to my seat while the congregation, mostly female, resumed the choral chant of this Sunday’s hymns.

So returning to Don Carlo’s query, where do we like it better? To find out, in some instances, comparisons guide us, but in others, things are so unique, they stand alone. Let’s give it a try.

First up, water. Access to the sea and the overall personal experience of enjoying it.

Formia has many beaches and, in particular, a historic, small Roman port nearby. Lovely, but rocky and difficult terrain make access to the water, beautiful though it may be, hazardous. Darien, by contrast, has, in my mind, a little jewel in Pear Tree Point. We’ll call this a tie.



Next some “nuisances,” even outright hazards

Formia, indeed most of Italy, suffers the scourge of “cinghiali”, otherwise known as wild boar. Many dwell in the woods right behind our house. Nocturnal beasts, unless prevented by substantial, robust fencing (recently completed – see below), they descend on gardens transforming them into lunar landscapes as they root about for grubs and watery plant roots. “John Deere” equivalents!



Daniela and Don Loomis’ fence, and house, Formia, Italy

Darien has its nuisances in the substantial deer population. Yes, deer eat flowers, indeed almost anything this year of pronounced drought, but “John Deere” equivalents they’re not. And they are beautiful. We’ll call this one a Darien advantage.

Sports Teams

Italy – Gotta go with our favorite “squadra di calcio,” the soccer team, A.C. Milan. After years of wandering in the wilderness of mediocrity, they finally revamped both the coaching staff and management and – presto! – a championship at the end of the 2021-2022 season.

United States – New York region: The New York Giants look like the mirror image of the “Red & Black”: new coaching staff, new management, new front office. Expecting the 2022-2023 season to culminate in a championship is perhaps a bridge too far, but things ARE looking up. Conclusion? A tie.



The absurd . . .

Formia – Tackling the task of fencing out the cinghiali, and landscaping in general, on several occasions we hired a backhoe to move large rocks and to terrace a portion of the property. Cost? USD \$50/hour! And, boy!, you can get a lot done in an hour with a backhoe. Plus the operator was an artist, a true artisan.

Cost in Darien? Don’t know yet but have to give this one to Formia.



Mismatches

Formia – a truly unique experience. The olive harvest and production of our own olive oil are wonderful experiences.

We don’t have enough trees of our own so last November, after two days’ work (like Daniela is doing in the photo to the left), we added our few crates to those of our American friends in nearby Minturno. Then we headed to the Oleificio (pressing place) and watched a creamy, golden-green liquid fill 60+ liter cans. MAGIC!

Darien – surely a mismatch. But it's sometimes also stunning to see what appears at the Darien Swap Shop. It has all kinds of treasures – from trinkets all the way up to a sailboat. Tell me that's not MAGIC!

Score? You decide

The confessional experience

Formia – Don Carlo is a master at putting you at ease. He leads you through the process and says the penance with you. What's not to like?

Darien – the monsignor is Don Carlo's match. He's great to talk with, etc., but he doesn't say the penance with you. A minor setback but easily offset by his friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Gotta rate this another tie.

So back to the beginning and Don Carlo's question: Where do we like it best?

We like them both Don Carlo ... tutti e due!!

Postscript: Some additional comparisons that are not so tongue-in-cheek:

Fruit and vegetables are clearly tastier and better in Italy because they are fresher. They are also cheaper with some exceptions. Avocados, strangely, are substantially higher than in the United States in part because they are usually not part of the Italian diet.

Restaurants in Formia are considerably cheaper than those in Fairfield County. Dinner for two, including wine, usually costs USD \$30 to \$40. Spaghetti alle vongole (with clam sauce) is typically USD \$10 to \$12 per person.

The price of gasoline fluctuates but was around €1.45 per liter on our most recent visit or \$5.48 per gallon.

Customer service doesn't lend itself to a monetary comparison but is dramatically better in the United States than overseas. Returning an item purchased at a shop in Italy gets you a store credit, not your money back, whereas the customer is king in the United States. Costco even takes back items purchased years earlier without blinking.

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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