

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 2

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

November-December 2023

President's Message

Like a well-oiled machine, the DMA restarted its engines in early September and immediately throttled into high gear as the new season got under way. Energized by the admission of 11 new members this fall, the DMA membership count hovers at around 325. We look for these new members to join an array of DMA-sponsored activities and contribute their ideas and talents as they become more fully integrated into our group.

The DMA Speakers Program continues to be the core element of our regular Wednesday meetings. **Frank DeLeo**, supported by **Ric Grefé** and others, produced an extraordinary lineup of talks in the first two months of the season. Engaging speakers covered diverse topics such as:

- American history (the French and Indian War and the decision to drop the atomic bomb)
- Darien school safety and student mental health
- the riveting world of New York sportscasting
- special insights into the evolution of constitutional law on the right to bear arms or the challenges of fashioning public policy in the current era of political extremes
- recent trends in landscape architecture with particular relevance to development of Darien's newly acquired Great Island property

You can view video recordings of all these outstanding presentations and the related Q&A sessions by visiting the Speakers section of the DMA website.

During these last two months, the DMA provided rich opportunities to further our knowledge and understanding of a broad range of subjects and engage with fellow DMA colleagues. Beyond the Wednesday meetings, DMA members participated in a broad range of activities for mind and body described in the following pages of this newsletter.

We have something for everyone: The Book Group discusses outstanding works of literature. The Investment Discussion Group explores financial and investment market trends. Our Current Affairs sessions provide a platform for keeping up with topical issues. We explore the flora and fauna of nature through hikes with our Hiking team. We develop a better understanding of the history and culture of the many unique New York City neighborhoods or other historic towns in our region on treks with the Wanderers. Read on to learn about the latest adventures.

In addition, those who enjoy friendly competition continued to hone their skills in bowling, bridge, cribbage, pickleball and table tennis. Woodworkers manned the large carpentry shop at the Mather Center, ready to welcome new projects and those wishing to learn more about this craft.

DMA social events also dotted the calendar. In early October, members enjoyed an educational tour of one of our nation's largest aquaculture operations, Norm Bloom's Copsps Island Oysters, to learn about the life cycle of oysters and lobsters. Later in the month, members and their wives were treated to a lecture tour of the Morgan Library & Museum in Manhattan, home to an extraordinary collection of rare books, including three Gutenberg Bibles, as well as ancient works of art, murals, tapestries and painted dome ceilings.

As always, I urge you to read through this newsletter from end to end, not only for a more detailed description of the events past but also for those scheduled for November and December: the speakers, the book discussions, the various other group activities, outings and events, and the DMA's commitments to community service. In this context, I would like to express a special note of gratitude to **Mark Nunan** and his talented editor **Joyce Meurer**, who work together across continents to write, edit, assemble and produce, on behalf of the DMA, the text, the photographs and the themes that inform the bimonthly newsletter, shining a bright light on the DMA's amazing offerings and programs and those who contribute so much of their valuable time and energy to bring these activities to life.

In conclusion, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the "Poet's Corner." Our editor-in-chief and faithful scribe never ceases to surprise. He always finds the right muse for the occasion. Mark, keep those thoughts coming!

Tom Igoe
2023-2024 DMA president

New Members

Bob Callahan



Bob Callahan was born and raised in Greenwich, where he graduated from St. Mary High School in 1963. He earned a B.A. in economics from Fairfield University in 1967 and an M.B.A. from Columbia University in 1969. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1968-1974, with active duty at Fort Bliss, Texas. He started his business career as a financial analyst at the IBM manufacturing facility in Endicott, N.Y., in 1969. In 1973, he joined the newly formed Xerox Latin American Group, with increasing responsibilities in marketing direction and operations support to the affiliate management in each country, including South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

Following his retirement in 2006, he started a second career as a real estate agent in the local area. This has proved to be a rewarding transition, finding success over the past 18 years helping and negotiating for both buyers and sellers of homes and properties. Bob and his wife Sharon have been together since high school, moved to Darien in 1978, and have three sons and five grandchildren, all of whom live in Darien. Bob is a member of the Darien Boat Club, with a 21' center console the whole family shares and enjoys on the Sound.

William Carney

William T. Carney grew up in Salem, N.H. He received an A.B. degree in philosophy from Dartmouth in 1975 and an M.B.A. degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. He began his business career at Ford in Dearborn, Mich. Positions in finance and operations with American Can, Pechiney, Trudy and Universal Voltronics Corp. (UVC) followed. He retired as president of UVC in 2012.

He has been involved in several volunteer activities. He is the president of At Home in Darien.

Bill and his wife Debbie have lived in Darien since 1980. They have two sons and two granddaughters. He enjoys cycling, cooking and France. He is working on pickleball.

DMA Speakers Program

November-December 2023

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

U.S. Senator from Connecticut, Chris Murphy, will provide his perspectives on key issues currently facing the United States



Chris Murphy is the junior U.S. senator from Connecticut. He serves on the Foreign Relations Committee, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and the Appropriations Committee. Before the Senate, Sen. Murphy served for three terms in the U.S. House representing the state's fifth congressional district. In Congress, he is acknowledged as a leading voice for stronger anti-gun violence measures, a smarter foreign policy and reform of our nation's mental health system.

Before being elected to Congress, Sen. Murphy served for eight years in the Connecticut state legislature. He graduated with honors from Williams College in Massachusetts and received his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is married to Catherine Holahan, an attorney, and they have two sons, Owen and Rider.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Heather Wagner, "Good Vibrations: Music and Well-Being"



Heather Wagner, Ph.D., MT-BC, a board-certified music therapist will share how to harness the potential of music in your life and improve your well-being. This presentation will include both information and music experiences. No musical skill is necessary, just an appreciation for music!

Lifelong engagement in music has benefits in many areas of life, including our physical, psychological, spiritual and social well-being. Being more intentional in how we use music in our everyday lives can enhance these benefits.

Heather is a music therapy educator, clinician and supervisor with more than 25 years of experience. She is an assistant professor and coordinator of the music therapy program at Southern Connecticut State University and adjuncts for the master's program at the University of Chulalongkorn in Bangkok, Thailand. She has extensive clinical experience with children and adults in medical, rehabilitation and mental health settings, focusing on an integrative approach to health and recovery.

Heather is a fellow of the Association for Music and Imagery and is a trainer of the Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music. She has a long history of service to the American Music Therapy Association both nationally and regionally. Her leadership of the Connecticut Music Therapy State Task Force resulted in legislation in 2023 for state licensing of music therapists. Heather's research and scholarly efforts currently focus on music therapy and pain, trauma-informed practice, resilience and self-determination theory.

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Harlan Stone, "An Inside Look at the U.S. Open"



Harlan Stone, sports marketing pioneer and innovator and former chief business officer for the United States Tennis Association (USTA), will provide an inside look at the business of the U.S. Open. He will provide an insider's view of what this entails and how he redefined marketing for the Open at the USTA. He'll also share some fun stories and trivia sure to entertain us all.

Harlan has spent 40 years in the sports marketing industry and is widely recognized as one of the leading practitioners in the sponsorship discipline. He began his career as a promoter of "Legends" tennis events and then became director of Sports Marketing for *Golf Digest* and *Tennis (New York Times magazines)* in 1985 at the age of 27.

Following two years at the magazines, Harlan became vice president of marketing for Advantage International, which later became known as Octagon. Harlan became president and one of five partners when the firm was sold to IPG in 1997. In his 13 years at Octagon, he led the growth of its Marketing division to one of the largest sports marketing companies in the world.

Harlan moved within the IPG family to become CEO of Momentum Worldwide in 2000 (part of McCann Erickson) and then in 2002 joined Velocity Sports and Entertainment. As one of five partners, he helped drive the growth of Velocity across all sponsorship disciplines and led a

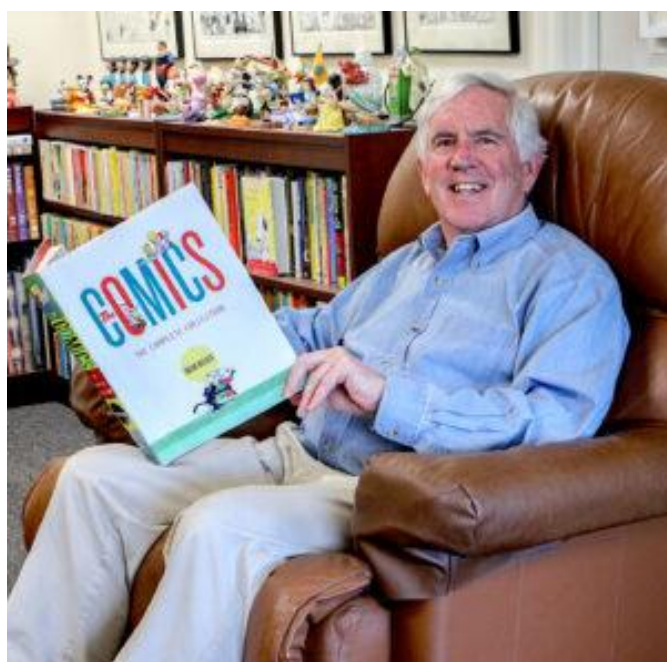
variety of client assignments, including USTA, Cirque du Soleil, Little League Baseball, Visa, and USA Track and Field, among others.

After the sale of Velocity in 2007 to Aegis/Dentsu, Harlan did a brief stint as president of Major League Gaming and then was recruited to become the chief business officer for the USTA, where he was responsible for all commercial aspects of the USTA's business, most importantly the U.S. Open. He set records in securing sponsorship during his tenure and doubled domestic television rights primarily through a landmark \$825 million ESPN rights agreement. In 2011, Harlan started SJX Partners, which quickly became one of the country's leading sponsorship sales organizations. SJX was acquired by London-based Chime Sports Marketing in 2014, and Harlan remained chairman of Chime until the end of 2019. In 2021, he was named a recipient of the *Sports Business Journal's* Champions of Sports Business award, annually given to "pioneers and innovators who have made a distinct and sustainable impact on the sports industry." He was recently inducted into the New England Tennis Hall of Fame.

Harlan is now partly retired, spending time on local charity work and occasional consulting. He has three grown children and two grandchildren, continues to play competitive age-group tennis, and splits time between San Diego and Darien.

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Brian Walker, "A Life in Cartoons – Growing Up and Working in the Cartoon Business"



Brian Walker, cartoonist and longtime Wilton resident, will give a PowerPoint presentation about growing up and working in the cartoon business. He has written, edited or contributed to 45 books on cartoon art, including the definitive history, *The Comics: The Complete Collection*, as well as numerous exhibition catalogs and magazine articles.

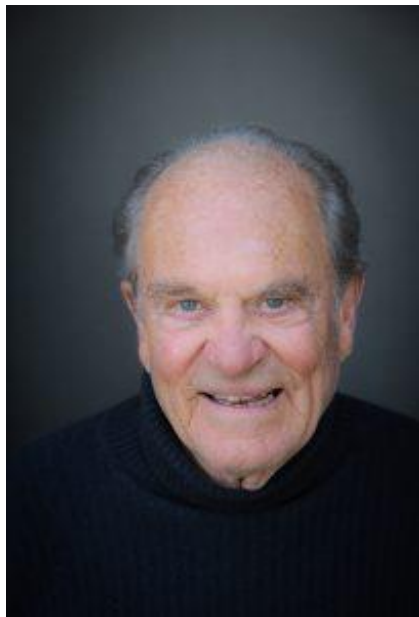
Our speaker is part of the creative team that produces the comic strips *Beetle Bailey* and *Hi and Lois*. The setting for *Hi and Lois* resembles Wilton and often features familiar settings such as The Silvermine Market, Cobbs Mill Inn, Orem's

Diner, Scoops Ice Cream and Silvermine Tavern.

Brian has a diverse background in professional cartooning and cartoon scholarship. He is a founder and former director of the Museum of Cartoon Art, where he worked from 1974 to 1992. He taught a course in cartoon history at the School of Visual Arts from 1995 to 1996. He served as curator for 75 cartoon exhibitions, including three major retrospectives: *The Sunday Funnies: 100 Years of Comics in American Life*, at the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport; *100 Years of American Comics* at the Belgian Center for Comic Art in Brussels; and *Masters of American Comics* at the Hammer Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. He was editor-in-chief of *Collectors Showcase* magazine from 1997 to 2000 and is the founder and current chairman of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Cartoonists Society.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Flemming Heilmann, “The Muddle over Egalitarianism, Equality and Equity”



Individual freedom for all law-abiding citizens, alongside equal rights, and equal treatment under the law are the prerequisites of true and sustainable democracy. Egalitarian theories and the quest for some definition of equality are the subject of infinite debate and writings. Even the most respected English language dictionaries struggle with and differ in their views and definitions of egalitarianism. Against this imprecise background of semantics and interpretations, there is plenty of room for confusion, muddled thinking and misconceptions about these notions. DMA member **Flemming Heilmann** will try to bring some clarity to this confusion and offer some thoughts on solutions on how to address the challenges of trying to ensure equality, equity and justice for all.

Flemming was born in Malaysia to Danish parents and studied at Cambridge University, where he graduated with degrees in economics and law. He has since held executive and CEO positions in the manufacturing sector focused on the consumer goods packaging industry, mainly public companies listed on the Johannesburg, Toronto and New York stock exchanges. He has most recently been associated with investment in and management of buyouts of distressed businesses, with multiple directorships in public and private companies in South Africa, Western Europe, Canada and the United States.

In 2017, Flemming published *Odyssey Uncharted*, a memoir of World War II childhood and education on four continents, set in mid-20th century history, and in 2019 published his second

book, *The Unacceptable Face*, charting a career on three continents under apartheid, extreme socialism and disparate iterations of capitalism. His translation of Halfdan Lefevre's *The Men in Denmark's Freedom Council* was published in February 2022 by Telemachus Press.

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Olena Lennon, "An Update on the War in Ukraine: What's at Stake for the U.S."



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

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



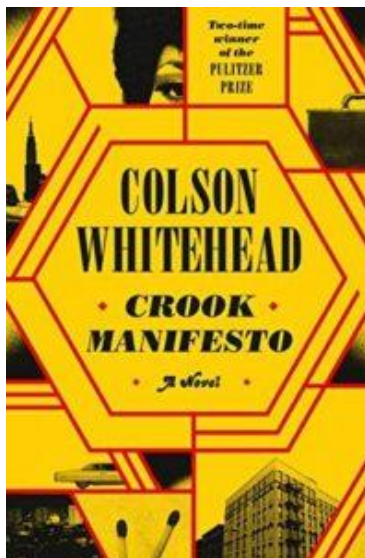
ACTIVITIES

Book Group: Selections

November-December 2023

The following are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on **Wednesday, November 8,** and **Wednesday, December 13, 2023.** The meetings will commence in each case at 2 p.m. Eastern time in person at the **Darien Community Association** (274 Middlesex Road) in the **Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor**, which gives us the ability to allow DMA members who choose to participate remotely to do so. The room is equipped with Verizon's BlueJeans software and the necessary video and audio systems for remote participants. A video link will be available. To get on our email list, contact group leaders **Rick Agresta** or **Harry McLachlin** at richard.agresta@gmail.com or hdmclachaol.com.

***CROOK MANIFESTO* by Colson Whitehead (November 8)**



It's not just crime fiction at its craftiest but shrewdly rendered social history.

With this recently released (July 2023) novel, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Whitehead continues his boisterous, incisive saga of late-20th-century Harlem and of a furniture dealer barely keeping his criminal side at bay.

The adventures of entrepreneur, family man and sometimes fence Ray Carney, which began with *Harlem Shuffle* (2021), are carried from the Black Citadel's harried-but-hopeful 1960s of that book to the dismal-and-divided '70s shown here. In the first of three parts, it's 1971, and Carney's business is growing even amid the city's Nixon-era doldrums and the rise of warring militant groups like the Black Panthers and the Black Liberation Army. Carney barely thinks about sliding back into his more illicit vocation until his teenage daughter, May, starts hankering to see the Jackson 5 perform at Madison Square Garden. And so he decides to look up an old contact named Munson, a seriously bent white NYPD officer and "accomplished fixer," who agrees to get free "up close" seats for the concert if Carney will fence stolen jewelry stuffed in a paper

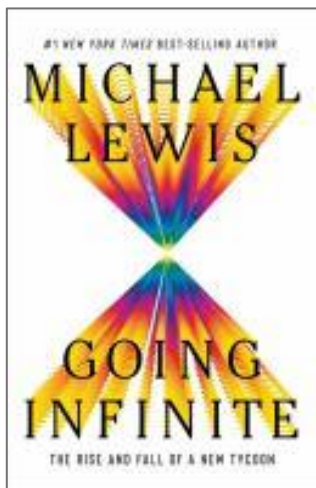
bag. But the job carries far more physical peril than advertised, culminating in a long night's journey into the day with Carney getting beaten, robbed and strong-armed into becoming Munson's reluctant, mostly passive partner in the cop's wanton rampage throughout the city.

In the second part, it's 1973, and Pepper, Carney's strong, silent confidant and all-purpose tough guy, is recruited to work security on the set of a blaxploitation epic whose female lead inexplicably goes missing.

The third and final part takes place in the bicentennial year of 1976, the nadir of the city's fiscal crisis, marked by widespread fires in vacant buildings in Harlem and elsewhere in New York's poorer neighborhoods. When an 11-year-old boy is seriously injured by a seemingly random firebombing, Carney is moved to ask himself, "What kind of man torches a building with people inside?" He resolves to find out with Pepper's help.

What recurs in each of these episodes are vivid depictions of hustlers of varied races and social strata, whether old-hand thieves, crass showbiz types, remorseless killers or slick politicians on the make with the business elite. Whitehead's gift for sudden, often grotesque eruptions of violence is omnipresent, so much so that you almost feel squeamish to recognize this book for the accomplished, streamlined and darkly funny comedy of manners it is. If its spirits aren't quite as buoyant as those of *Harlem Shuffle*, it's because the era it chronicles was depressed in more ways than one. Assuming Whitehead continues chronicling Ray Carney's life and times, things should perk up, or amp up, for the 1980s.

***Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon* by Michael Lewis (December 14)**



When Michael Lewis first met him, Sam Bankman-Fried was the world's youngest billionaire and crypto's Gatsby. CEOs, celebrities and leaders of small countries all vied for his time and cash after he catapulted, practically overnight, onto the Forbes billionaire list. Who was this rumpiled guy in cargo shorts and limp white socks, whose eyes twitched across Zoom meetings as he played video games on the side?

In *Going Infinite*, Lewis sets out to answer this question, taking readers into the mind of Bankman-Fried, whose rise and fall offers an education in high-frequency trading, cryptocurrencies, philanthropy, bankruptcy and the justice system. Both psychological portrait and financial roller-coaster ride, *Going Infinite* is Michael Lewis at the top of his game, tracing the mind-bending trajectory of a character who never liked the rules and was allowed to live by his own--until it all came undone.—Publisher's write-up.

Poet's Corner

Poet Saint: Foundation Stone of Modern Western Culture?

Dante Alighieri is considered the greatest Western writer/poet since the Middle Ages along with Shakespeare. Dante referred to Francis of Assisi as a new sun rising over Western culture and the world. In Canto 11 of Book 3 (*Paradiso*) of his *Commedia*, Dante focused on Francis as the apex of Western thought and spiritual realization up to Dante's time.

In paradise he introduces Francis in the circle of the sun, the domain of the *Sapienti* (wise, scholarly souls). Paradoxically, he has Thomas Aquinas (considered the greatest intellect of the era and one of the *Sapienti*) depict Francis as the renewal of a transcendent understanding of the divine and human. In a sense, for Dante Francis is greater than Thomas himself, possessing a sapience melding mind, heart, soul and body – through the fire of love.

This is a wonderful literary touch, having the great Dominican intellectual and hierarchical superior pay homage to the (apparently) simple and superficially un-intellectual saint, the lowly Franciscan friar and “poverello” of Assisi. But Francis was not so simple. As much as he drove reform in religion (and politics), he reformed and re-animated our literature.

How? By composing his lyrical and mystical chants and poems in the Umbrian dialect that he and those around him spoke. He wanted to *reach people and bring them light*, not to impress the elites or create a new literary fashion. But, in fact, this created a movement in the Italian-language(s) literature, which Dante himself eventually followed (admitting the influence of Francis) of writing for all the people, not just the elites, by eschewing Latin for the Italian vernacular, whether that be a Tuscan, Umbrian or some other dialect.

Francis's *Canticle of the Creatures* (aka *Canticle of the Sun*) is recognized as the first poem by a named author in the Italian vernacular. Like much of his short oeuvre, it has been translated into practically every language, attesting to a greatness that perseveres eight centuries later. He worked on it for several years, completing it shortly before his death in 1226. Like others of his literary creations, it succeeds not only because he understands how to use techniques like meter, alliteration, rhyme, repetition and incantation but also because he turns conventional literary images and tropes of chivalric literature – which he and his peers grew up on and imitated (and which he later rejected) – into understandable religious or transcendental images. For example, he writes of “Lady Poverty” instead of “La Belle Dame,” the almost clichéd object of desire in chivalric poetry; and his “Laudato si', mi' Signore” (Praise be to you my Lord) is not homage to some aristocratic poetic patron of the Chivalric tradition but to his divine inspiration. He drops the clichés for a higher expression.

In Canto 11, Book 3, Dante pays Francis one more homage. The hendecasyllabic meter (11 beats) is for Italian verse the equivalent of iambic pentameter to English poetry. The *Commedia* is a poem written in hendecasyllabic verses, arranged in tercets (3-line stanzas with interlocking rhyme schemes invented by Dante, called *terza rima*). Francis's Canto is number 11 in book 3.

Dante often uses numerical values – and their placement – to reinforce verbal meaning, i.e., Francis is the Foundation Stone in Dante’s eyes, represented by the 3 (tercet) and the 11 (hendecasyllable). In addition, $3 \times 11 = 33$, a foundational number for Dante. There are 33 verses in each Canto, for example, and 33 cantos in each of the three books *Inferno*, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*. The same number is the reputed age of Christ at death. For Dante, the number 33 is mystical and provides the architectural structure of his greatest work. Dante honors Francis by positioning him in the *Paradiso* as the most fundamental figure (11, 3), the very cornerstone of the whole work. He underlines this by dedicating the *Paradiso* to Francis, the only such dedication in the *Commedia*.

There are easily accessible texts of Francis’s *Canticle* with side-by-side English translations. Click this link to follow one of them, Umbrian Italian on the left, and English on the right:

<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/cantico-della-creature-canticle-sun.html>

A fine audio of the poem is available on the same site: https://youtu.be/BGGD_5J2uI

Speaking of translation, in 1948 a young Franciscan monk living in a monastery at Champfleury France, named Brother Jérôme, sent French translations of four prayer poems by Francis of Assisi to his great uncle, a well-known musician and composer. He wondered if the musician could put them to music for the monks to chant. You have most likely heard the result – the magnificent *Quatre Petites Prières de St. François d’Assise* by Francis Poulenc.

These inspired a cappella compositions, combining elements of Gregorian chant with modern polyphony, attest once again to the poet saint’s influence over the centuries. They were first performed by Brother Jérôme and his fellow friars. They still resonate, with many great choral groups and orchestras performing this short sequence of four prayers. Here is just one:

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



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

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

Tom Lom: tomlom1@aol.com.

Bridge: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Caitlin Stote: cstote@darienct.gov

Community Service: Wreaths across America, December 16 at Noon, Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery

Spring Grove is across the street from the Darien Library. DMA members have volunteered annually for the wreath-laying ceremony, this year to be held Saturday, **December 16 at noon**. We will place wreaths on the graves of the veterans following a brief ceremony of commemoration. Per Captain John Carter: “It is always a wonderful event that is widely attended by the Darien community.”

You can also donate to help fund wreaths for each veteran's grave at the website <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/> where the location code is **CTSGVD**. Captain Carter reminds us: “There are many wonderful groups that fundraise on behalf of the cemetery, and their link is located at the bottom of that page. Your donation goes that much further if you sponsor a wreath through any of these organizations.” Capt. Carter is available to answer any questions. His email address follows.

CAPT JC Carter, USN (ret.):
wreaths06820@gmail.com.

**Holiday Bell Ringing at Palmer's
Market on Saturday, December 16,
Sunday, December 17, and Saturday,
December 23**

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. By working with DHS, we are assured that all funds will go to Darien residents in need of support.

We will seek volunteers for the weekend of December 16-17 and again for December 23. You can volunteer for one hour or multiple hours. **Frank Gallagher** will be making further announcements at the DMA's Wednesday meetings about how to sign up as the date approaches.

This has always proved to be a fun, festive and collegial way to spend an hour (or more) with 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 Gallagher: francis.gallagher100@gmail.com

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

Geoff Rezek and **Ken Hamilton** invite you to learn, relearn and play the standard deck card game Cribbage. A favorite of seafarers, Cribbage is a derivation of an old English game called Noddy. It was created in the early 1600s by Sir John Suckling, an English

courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity.

Geoff Rezek: grrezek@optonline.net

Ken Hamilton: 1kenhamilton@gmail.com

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

**November 16 at 2 p.m. Gunnar
Edelstein will lead a discussion on
how far we have come in aviation,
from the Wright Brothers to the
Space Shuttle**

What are the effects of deregulation on commercial air travel? How are airlines trying to reinvent air travel as business travel declines? What will artificial intelligence mean to aviation? Are spare parts the airlines are using safe? What happens in the cockpit of a Navy jet when it is strafed by a Chinese jet? DMA member **Gunnar Edelstein**, a pilot all his career, will tell us things we never knew about aviation.

**December 14 at 2 p.m. Bert von
Stuelpnagel will lead a discussion on
the Fed's post-pandemic efforts to
fight inflation, what went wrong –
and what to expect now**

The last Current Affairs (CA) unit of the year will explore the role that the Federal Reserve played coming out of the pandemic. How did the Fed deal with its mandate to preserve price stability? What could Jerome Powell have done differently? We will examine the three most significant

policy tools available to a central bank in fighting inflation: interest rates, quantitative tightening, and coordination of monetary and fiscal strategies. Since the viewpoints on these matters vary widely among the media and the public, discussions at this CA session are expected to be lively. Bert von Stuelpnagel will start with an introduction to the subject and moderate the talk. He says that his two objectives for the session are (i) to better understand what happened but also (ii) to allow participants to assess what interest rates might do going forward.

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Happy Wanderers: Thursday, November 9, and Thursday, December 14

The Arrival of the Dutch: On November 9 we wander in lower Manhattan to trace the Dutch migration to what was soon named New Amsterdam and later New York City. **Sunil Saxena** will lead us in this excursion.

December Wandering: We will go to Manhattan on Thursday, December 14. The itinerary will be announced soon.

The Wanderers and Hikers also shared a joint excursion to the **Walkway over the Hudson**, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on October 26. Photos and a write-up appear later in this newsletter. It was a perfect day for this wandering with fine views all around.

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking: Thursday, November 2, Norwalk River Valley Trail, Wilton

On November 2, there will be a hike along the Norwalk River Valley Trail in Wilton from near the Orem's Diner on U.S. Route 7 for 2.4 miles through thick woods up to Skunk Road where the completed section ends. When finished, the new trail will be a multi-use 30-mile hike stretching from Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk to Danbury. The part we will hike is well-groomed and a fairly easy walk.

Dogs and guests are welcome.

Dave McCollum:

dgmccollum63@gmail.com, 203-858-5688

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

Investment Discussion Group: Friday, November 3, and Monday, December 4, at 10 a.m. on Zoom

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, though November's date will be changed to the first Friday due to our leader's travel schedule. Led by **Jim Phillips**, these sessions cover the macro environment, recent market developments, commentary from leading market watchers and some individual stocks or ETFs of interest to members. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An initial agenda and Zoom link will be sent out the week before. For questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover or to join the group, please contact Jim.

Jim Phillips: jlpinvest66@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Jack Dearie: jdearie683@hotmail.com.

Social Activities

Christmas Party – Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **December 19, 2023**. **Jan Selkowitz** confirms our annual Christmas party for that date at the Country Club of Darien. More information will be forthcoming.

We had a couple of great social events in October. The first was held on October 6 and featured education about oysters and lobsters at Copsps Island Oysters in Norwalk, arranged by **Bryan Hooper**.

The second, a tour of the Morgan Library & Museum on October 20 organized by Jan and led by Bryan was also a great success.

Photos and commentary on both events follow in later pages of this newsletter.

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



Woodworking Group Projects

The DMA woodworkers meet every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center workshop. **Tom Dempsey** and the group welcome new members. As we have said before, **this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment along with plenty of space to work 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.

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 see Tom. Or just stop by on a Tuesday morning.

Tom Dempsey: tjd3443@gmail.com.

Bowling Reports, Courtesy of the “Commish”

Tuesday, September 5

What's there to do when it's 90 degrees in September? Kick off the new bowling season, that's what! And so it was this morning as 10 (!) DMAers came to Nutmeg. After smiles and handshakes all around, it was time for the games to begin.

For some, it took a while to get the rust off (three games for one team 😊). For others, they were in mid-season form from the get-go. In the latter group, **Gehr Brown** had what may be the high game of the season in week 1, rolling a 248. For the series, he had a 627, which was 84 above his average. Well done, Gehr! His performance solidifies his position as King of the Hill. **Ed Schecter** and **Tom Lom** managed 500 series with 522 and 518, respectively.

The team game was a runaway for Team Gehr. After two blowout games, one of the players on the losing team had the bright idea of going double or nothing in the third. His rationale? "It only costs a quarter to keep one's self-respect."

Two notable spares were converted: **Ben Briggs** made a 9-10 and Tom made a 2-5-7.

Let's hope we have another good turnout next week.

Tuesday, September 12

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 good to see that **Tom Robinson** was back in action last week after an absence of many months.

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 1, he had two doubles and was frustrated that he scored "only" 181. After an ordinary 169 in game 2, Gehr got off to an unlucky start with a split in game 3. 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.

The lowlight also came in game 3 as **Frank DeLeo** managed to be yet another one who tied Alex's unwanted DMA record of having five splits in a game. At least Frank D 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 others can join Gehr in upping their games.

Tuesday, September 19

Six bowlers made it past the Exit 16 mess to get to Nutmeg this morning (though not your intrepid reporter). After the carnage of last week, at least there were some highlights.

The high bowler was Ed with a solid 528. The high game was by Gehr with a 205 in the last, which barely got him over 500 for his series at 505.

Bowler of the Day has to go to **Alex Garnett** with a fine 487, which was +16 vs. his rolling average.



Now on to the final "highlight." For seniors like the DMA crowd, in golf, it is a real accomplishment to shoot one's age. Just ask **Joe Holmes** who does it regularly. Well, today at Nutmeg, one of the guys bowled his age!! Ben Briggs, age 81, rolled an 81 in game 2. As you can see from the photo, Ben was nothing if not consistent with nary a mark in the game (my guess is that he did NOT win the poker game either 😊). Gotta hand it to Ben, though, who hung in there to break 100 in his third game (101!). Of note, however, Ben reports that his team won two out of three games ... congrats to his teammates!

Let's hope we have better highlights to report next week.

Tuesday, September 26

Last week it was I-95 construction that led to a slightly delayed start. This week it was that darned alarm clock that led to the no-show of one of our regulars. That said, seven guys made it today.

The one guy who's glad he bowled these past two weeks is Alex, who was Bowler of the Day for the second week in a row! His 509 series was the only one over 500 with no one else anywhere close. His 201 in game 3 was high game by 30 pins. For everyone else, the carnage continued. Perhaps the best (and only?) way to maintain one's average is not to show up. Alas, we bowlers are a stubborn bunch 😊.

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

Tuesday, October 3

Despite dire warnings about construction on I-95, eight bowlers made it to Nutmeg today without incident.

Happy to report that the Commish returned to action after a three-week hiatus. In fact, after getting the rust off in a mediocre game 1, he rolled today's high game of 217 in the second on his way to the only 500 series of the group at 552. Some other performances of note were those of **Frank Gallagher** at 481 (+28), as well as **Ted Helms** at 457 (+22), which included the second high game of 185.

G.	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot	hdcp						
B.T.	9	-	9	-	6	-	6	3	6	7	-	7	2	9	8	/	XXX	134	172
F.G.	8	1	7	/	X	X	9	/	X	9	7	2	8	1	X	7	/	173	173
T.H.	9	9	6	/	X	7	6	3	7	2	9	/	X	XX	6	/	185	185	
T.L.	X	X	6	/	X	X	9	/	8	9	-	X	XX	6	/	217	217		
Player	BILL TAMME												+38	709	747				
Team													m.p.h.	1	2	2	8		
Diff.	747	TOT. Pin fall	1252	TOT. Hdcp	76	TOT. Bonus	0	TOT. Points	1328										

Today must have been Laundry Day as the group left at least 10 washouts for the session. But the highlight of the day came late in game 2 (see photo) in which Team Tom managed to roll 10 strikes in the final two frames, eight of which came in frame 10 on its way to a rout of Team Gehr. That tied the team game at one each but supplied ample momentum for the Commish's squad to prevail in the third.

Let's hope there are better scores to report next week.

Tuesday, October 10

Nine bowlers today, including the first appearance of the season by **John Kirkman**.

Only one game and one series of note rolled by the Commish, who had a 212 in the third on his way to a 599 series.

Two splits were converted by Frank G, a 5-10 and a 5-6, while **Bill Tamme** made a washout and **George Gilliam** made a great final effort to lead his team in winning the quarters.

The highlight of the day was the team competition. Team Tom (TL/ES/GG/JK) got 144 pins from Team Gehr (GB/FD/FG/AG/BT). Thanks to three-baggers by both Gehr and Frank D, that team won by 13 pins. George, having his team's low net score, paid up the extra quarter. Game 2 was also close, but George was having his issues (he got a spare in the 10th frame to score a 106). Once again, George paid up the extra quarter. Undaunted, he looked over at the 10 quarters lined up neatly on the other table and urged his mates to go double or nothing. "Has to get better, right?" he said. With the pressure on, George followed up his 106 with a 184, pacing his team to a comfortable victory. You can imagine his smile as he distributed those 10 quarters among his mates while keeping four for himself.

Tuesday, October 17

Only six bowlers today but plenty of "action" nonetheless.

Individually, little to say other than Ed was high bowler with a steady 548. No 200 games.

Shot-making achievements by Frank D, who converted a 4-5 and a washout, as well as John, who made a 4-5-7. I don't normally comment on practice shots, but during warmup, George made a 1-5-10 ... rarely seen, let alone made!

The team competition went down to the final shot of the morning. Team Ed (ES, GG, FD) won the first two against Team Tom (TL, JK, BT), who took the double-or-nothing bet. With only Ed and Tom left to bowl, Ed needed an extra mark vs. Tom for the W. Tom went first and rolled a strike. Ed followed with a strike. Tom went next and tapped a 10-pin, which meant that Ed still had a chance. And he did ... another strike! So all the quarters went to his team. 😞

Finally, we bowlers are all too familiar with our poker game. (For the newcomers, in a game of seven-card stud, each bowler starts with one hole card and "earns" up to six additional cards for a strike or spare). Game 3 was notable today. After six cards, George showed three 10s. After six cards, Bill showed two pairs: sixes over threes. George still had a chance at a seventh card in the final frame but just missed his spare opportunity so no seventh card. Bill got a spare in his last frame to earn a seventh card, which was ... a THREE! Full house for Bill, which made him the winner of the pot. Lamented George, "If I had made my spare, I would have drawn the three that gave Bill his full house." Oh, the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat! 😊

No matter our scores, we sure have fun.



Happy Wanderers and Hiking Group Report, October 26: Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., David Mace, Dave McCollum, Bob Plunkett, and Joe Spain

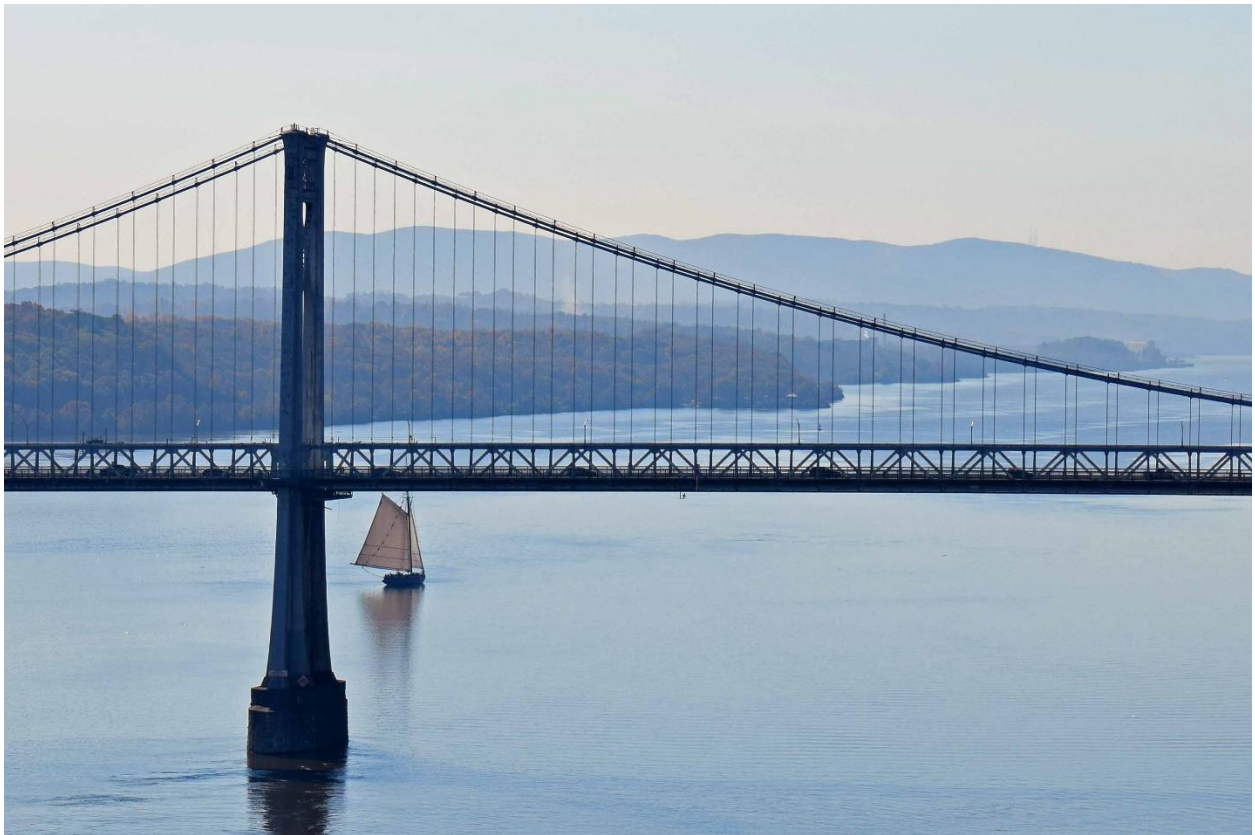
Dave McCollum writes that on this late October day with weather more like early September about 35 DMAers, spouses and friends crossed the Hudson River on the spectacular repurposed railroad bridge from the 1890s. At its peak, the bridge carried more than 3000 train cars a day. A fire in 1974 closed the bridge but it was reborn in 2009 as the “Walkway.”

Usually, we can get an accurate headcount but here walkers came from different points and at slightly different times due to the distance from Darien. All of us traversed the 1.25-mile length to the west side of the river and then wandered back across, stopping often to admire the fantastic views of the river below and for miles up and down. The only boats visible today were an oil barge pushed by a tug and a sailboat moving slowly in the light wind.

Most enjoyed a sandwich lunch at Lola’s situated under the bridge on the Poughkeepsie side. Lola’s has really good food but seating is limited and it is popular so it took some patience for most to be fed. A smaller number opted for lunch at Tavern 23, a short walk from the bridge.

All agree it was a day well spent despite the long trip. Thanks to all who participated!









Social Activities: Copps Island Oysters Visit October 6, Bryan Hooper

Seven DMA members on October 6 were given an educational tour of one of the nation's largest aquaculture operations, Norm Bloom's Copps Island Oysters in Norwalk. Thanks go to **Bryan Hooper**, who organized this outing. Bryan joined us at the beginning to set things up and later returned for lunch with us at Knot Norm's. This has been for several years an annual field trip for DMA members, who always learn much about the life cycle of oysters and lobsters that they didn't know before.

Bloom's is a sophisticated operation. Decades ago, much of the oyster harvesting was a freelance operation as oysters in Long Island Sound were in abundance. Although some oystermen owned or leased oyster beds, others harvested in unrestricted waters of the Sound. But the Bloom family for many years has brought advanced aquaculture techniques and sound management practices to the business. Along the way, they have acquired smaller oyster operations as well.

Foremost among the priorities in successful oyster harvesting is ensuring water quality. The nurturing of oysters has become much more scientific to provide the ideal environment for newly spawned oyster larvae and uses old oyster shells as a solid surface to which the young oysters can attach. Over the 18 months to two years until the oysters grow to an ideal three-inch size, a Bloom fleet of boats raises oysters from the seabed three or four times to wash them on deck and return them to their habitat. This is necessary so that the oyster beds do not become so covered in silt that the oysters cannot survive. Each oyster filters between 40 and 60 gallons of water a day.

Similarly, the group heard about the life cycle of the lobster from Mike Kaloman, one of the last of the lobstermen this far west in the Sound. He showed the group how to tell a female from a male lobster, how lobsters stay in traps as long as there is food, the changing predators of lobsters, and how lobsters grow by molting their old shells and growing a new carapace.

Water conditions did not allow the group to be taken by boat out to the oyster beds, but tour guide Don Bell offered to schedule such a trip in the future.

Photos of this visit follow.



Separating the oysters



Grading



CIO's Don Bell explains how oysters are cleaned.



Norm's vintage collection of canned oysters.



DMA members were shown by Dick Harris how to tell a female lobster from a male lobster and told to pay attention as this question might be on the exam.



Most important of all: enjoying the oysters at Knot Norm's.



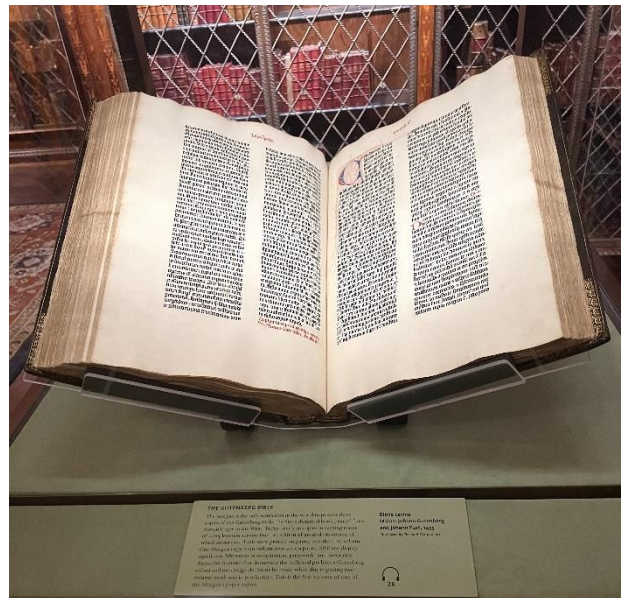
Or Take-Out!

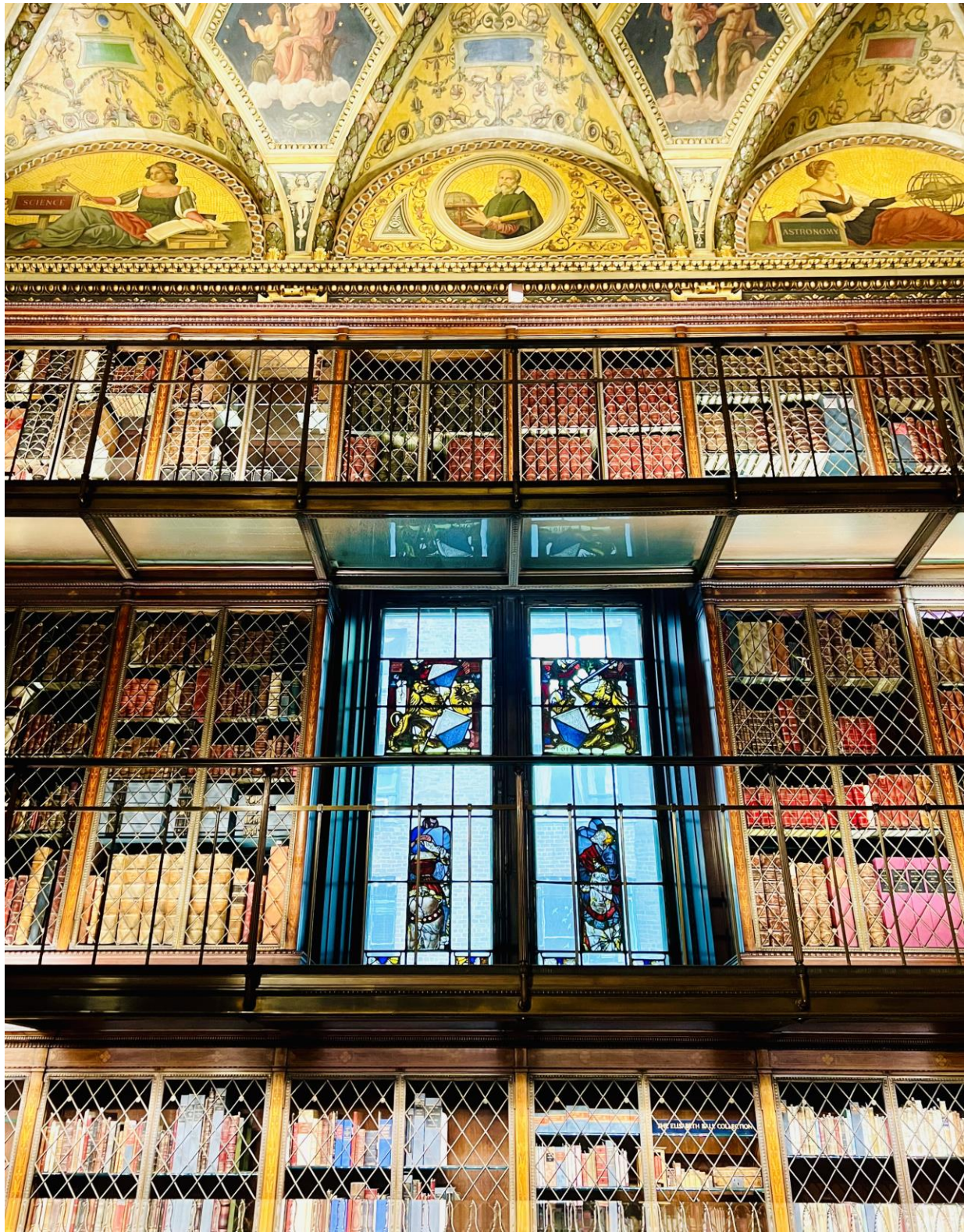
The Morgan Library & Museum, New York City, October 20, Jan Selkowitz

Charles Salmans reports that The Morgan Library & Museum was a perfect outing for a rainy day, and 17 of our members journeyed to Madison Avenue at 36th Street. The group had about an hour for independent exploration of what had been J.P. Morgan's mansion and library, then enjoyed a good lunch within the museum itself, followed by a tour and lecture by a museum docent. Included among the highlights was a rare display of all three of the Gutenberg Bibles owned by the library (of some 70 in existence worldwide), Cuneiform tablets dating from 4000 B.C. to 2000 B.C. (representing the first examples of writing), the unfurled images from Mesopotamian cylindrical seals and much more. All this is housed in a magnificent and richly decorated mansion built by J.P. Morgan and features commissioned murals, as well as tapestries and ceiling panels collected from Europe. We were shown hidden staircases and were told about other secret passageways that were repositories for rare books. The library houses some 15,000 volumes, and the Morgan continues to collect rare books to add to the collection. For those who have not visited the Morgan Library recently, 2022 saw the completion of a renovation that features considerable expansion of the museum space and a modern covered courtyard. Those on the visit missed **Jan Selkowitz**, who organized all this but came down with COVID the day before our outing. So, **Bryan Hooper** filled in as excursion leader for the day. Happily, Jan is already back in action and attending Wednesday meetings.



A history of our written communications from Mesopotamian cylinder rolls circa 3000-2000 B.C. to the Gutenberg Bible, A.D. 1455.





East Room: On the ceiling, allegorical figures of science (upper left), astronomy (upper right) and others alternate with historical figures like Galileo, Socrates, Columbus and more, presiding over rare manuscripts and books, including the Gutenberg Bible seen on the previous page.



DMA members (with docent in the middle) enjoy the West Room, J.P. Morgan's personal study.



Central portion of the Rotunda ceiling.



Recently renovated Morgan Library exterior.



Synchronicity: Bryan Hooper sent your editor his fine photo of one of the Morgan's Rotunda ceiling paintings. This scene represents the medieval period, from Arthurian legend to Dante. Perhaps Bryan is a mind reader, as this is the one panel that includes Dante, who is also coincidentally featured in this issue's Poet's Corner. He's on the lower right in the green robe, behind his muse Beatrice and next to the Roman poet Virgil, his guide through the *Inferno*.

Thank you, Bryan and all our great photographers, who enliven this newsletter.



A fine lunch for DMAers at the Morgan.



Birds in the Sanctuary: The DMA's own **Chris Filmer** designed this mural for the DCA's dining room. Among his many other accomplishments, Chris is an ornithologist and a fine painter. Chris painted this over three days with two assistants. Take a look next time you are there.

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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