

DMA Newsletter

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

November–December 2021

President's Message

Getting back to normal in our activities is like going for that first swim of the summer in the Sound. You dip your toe in the water, as we did by holding some lunchtime gatherings on the terrace in the Garden at the DCA during the past two months. When that experiment is judged favorably, then you move in up to your knees, as we did by opening up hiking and wandering activities, holding some social events, and running a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting at the DCA. Finally, you assess the situation, hold your breath, and take the plunge: November 3 will be that day!

Of course, COVID-19 remains a dangerous virus, as we were reminded by one of our recent speakers, the emergency room physician, Dr. Antonio Dajer, and we remain cautious in our approach. We urge all members who plan to attend meetings in-person to be fully vaccinated and to come only if you are feeling well. The DCA recommends that we wear masks in the building, and we will follow that request. Members will be asked to sign in at the DCA to provide contact points in the event of any possible COVID complications occurring at a later date. For the time being, we are not planning on providing refreshments. Instead, we suggest you bring your own beverage until we feel confident in the health situation and can return to having our caterer, Vavala's, handle our refreshment needs.

Looking back at the past two months, the DMA should be proud of the efforts that have been made by some of our dedicated organizers of activities to persevere so successfully in getting business back to where it should be. The results of those efforts are well-chronicled in writing and photographs in this issue of the newsletter. Looking forward, we hope to host our annual holiday party at The Country Club of Darien on December 16 and encourage you all to sign up when we distribute the invitation in November.

Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the holiday season. Good fellowship, community service and fun. This year especially, let's remember the fun part of our motto!

Bryan Hooper

DMA Speakers, November–December 2021

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Bruce Putterman: “Sustaining News Coverage in Connecticut”



Bruce Putterman is publisher and CEO of the *CT Mirror*, a digital-only, nonprofit, nonpartisan newspaper. At a time when traditional newspapers in Connecticut are disappearing or sharply cutting reporting staff (part of a national trend), the *CT Mirror*'s mission is to produce original journalism that informs Connecticut residents about the impact of public policy, holds government accountable and amplifies diverse perspectives. Some 88% of the *CT Mirror*'s revenues come from reader donations. Before joining the organization in 2017, Bruce owned and operated a West Hartford-based consulting practice for 16 years, providing strategic planning and marketing services to more than 50 nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, public agencies, private equity firms and other for-profit clients. His interest in journalism dates back to his college years when he worked in commercial radio and TV news. Bruce served as an elected member of the West Hartford Board of Education from 2003 through 2015, including three years as Chair of the Board. He has a Bachelor of Arts in History and an M.B.A. in Marketing from Cornell University.

Arranged by Harry Bergen

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Ambassador Thomas Niles: “U.S. Foreign Policy and Current International Developments”



Ambassador Thomas “Tom” M.T. Niles was born in Lexington, Ky., in 1939. Upon graduating from Harvard College in 1960, he joined the U.S. Foreign Service. After assignments in Belgrade, Moscow (twice), and the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, as well as assignments at the Department of State in Washington, D.C., he was named by President Reagan as Ambassador to Canada in 1985. In 1989, he was named by President George H.W. Bush as Ambassador to the European Union in Brussels. In 1991, he was reassigned to

the Department of State as Assistant Secretary for Europe and Canada. In 1993, he was named as Ambassador to Greece by President Clinton. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1998 and became President and CEO of the U.S. Council for International Business in 1999, a position he held until 2005.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Pete Gogolak: “How an Immigrant Changed the Game of American Football”



Peter Gogolak and his family escaped from Communist Hungary during the 1956 revolution. Within eight years of arriving in America, he was making football history. He introduced soccer-style place kicking in both college and professional football. At Cornell University, he made 54 consecutive extra points, a college record. In 1964, he was overlooked by the NFL but drafted in the last round by the AFL Buffalo Bills. The Bills won the 1964 and 1965 AFL championships, and Peter made the Sporting News All AFL Team.

He was the first to switch from the AFL to the NFL, sparking the “war between the leagues” when he signed with the New York Giants, which led to the eventual merger of the two leagues. Peter is still the all-time leading scorer of the New York Giants, and in 2010, he was inducted into the Ring of Honor at Giants Stadium.

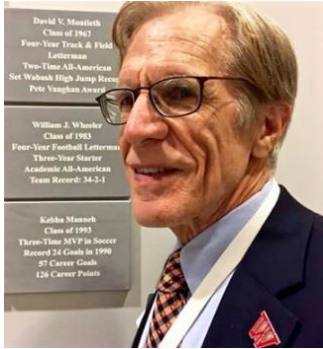
In 2006, he was asked by the White House to be the U.S. Citizen Representative in Budapest at the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. After his playing career, Peter was a longtime sales executive with the financial printing firm R.R. Donnelley.

The New York Times recently explored the reasons teams don’t try to make long field goals even though kickers, kicking techniques and playing conditions all have improved. View the following link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/30/sports/football/nfl-field-goal-record.html>.

Arranged by Alex Garnett

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

David Montieth: “Jumping for Life”



David Montieth is a past World Champion in the High Jump in the 70- to 74-year age group, having won that title at the World Championship Master’s Track and Field meet in Perth, Australia. He has been ranked number one in the world in his age group for six of the last 16 years and has won 28 U.S. National Championship meets during that same time period. He currently holds both the U.S. indoor and outdoor high jump records in the 70- to 74-age group and was named Athlete of the Year by the National USA Track and Field organization for that age group.

While David high jumped during his years at Wabash College, he did not jump again until he was almost 60 years old when he realized he had to take better care of his body. His presentation emphasizes the importance of maintaining one’s health and fitness if we want to enjoy an active and fulfilling life as we age. Prior to retiring in 2011, David enjoyed a 40-year career in Human Resources (HR), where he was head of HR for divisions of Target Stores and Macy’s Department Stores and for his last 20 years was head of HR for Dress Barn, Inc. Since his retirement, he has been very active in consulting and Board work for two volunteer organizations, as well as his local church. Originally from Indianapolis, Ind., David and his wife Karen have lived in Ridgefield for the past 30 years.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Marty Yellin: Hubble Space Telescope



Marty received a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from City College of New York. In 1965, he joined Perkin-Elmer in Wilton and went on to earn a doctorate degree in Biomedical Engineering at New York University (NYU), applying engineering solutions to medical issues. At Perkin-Elmer, he became involved with a top secret program to design and build the largest spy satellite ever to be flown in space. In his last 10 years at Perkin-Elmer, he helped design and manage the Hubble Space Telescope, which has been the most productive space instrument ever built. After retirement in 1998, Marty resumed taking courses at NYU in the fields of genetics and cell biology.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Jayne Stevenson: “Darien’s Accomplishments and Future”



Jayne Stevenson is well-known to our members as Darien’s First Selectman from 2011 to 2021 (she chose not to run for re-election this year). She was twice elected by her bipartisan peers to serve as Chairman of the 18-town Western Connecticut Council of Governments. Jayme served as Chairman of the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency and First Vice Chair of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

She has been married to her husband John for 34 years, and they have five children and two grandchildren. Jayme has a B.S. degree in Telecommunication and Business Management from Arizona State University, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and at one point, worked for Standard & Poor’s as Vice President, Asset-Backed Finance.

Arranged by Charles Salmans



In Memoriam

Daniel Hugh O'Brien, a lifelong resident of Darien and former member of the DMA, passed away peacefully at the age of 83 on October 21, 2021. Born on November 10, 1937, he was the son of the late Mary and Jeremiah O'Brien. After graduating from Darien High School in 1956, Daniel proudly served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Corporal stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., from 1958 to 1961. Being a Marine was an honor Daniel carried with him till his passing. After the Marine Corps, Daniel entered Benjamin Franklin University in Washington, D.C., and completed his bachelor's degree in Accounting and shortly thereafter became a Certified Public Accountant.

In 1963, Daniel met Mary Ellen Roe of Teaneck, N.J., and in June of 1965, the two were married and settled in Darien for the next 51 years. Daniel held leadership roles covering decades in finance at companies, including Christian Dior, Chanel and Pepperidge Farm. In 1985, Daniel joined Thomson Corporation of America, a division of Thomson SA of France (now Thales Group), serving as President for more than 10 years.

After an impressive and successful career traveling throughout Europe, Daniel retired in 2000. Growing up on the edge of Long Island Sound cemented Daniel's love of the water, and over the course of his lifetime, he would own more than a dozen boats. His last boat was named "Irish Lady," a nod to Mary Ellen. Summers were spent with his family and friends on the Sound, water skiing and fishing or, on many occasions, picking up a mooring in Ziegler's Cove. He served as commodore of the Darien Boat Club from 1989 to 1991. Daniel proudly served as a member of the Noroton Fire Department for more than 65 years. He rose through the ranks to become Chief of the department from 1970 to 1972 and again from 1979 to 1982. He was also President of the department from 1986 to 1989 and served as the Town's Fire Marshal during his tenure. He was awarded Fireman of the Year twice, in 1972 and 1989, and received the department's Special Service Award in 2011.

Daniel and Mary Ellen enjoyed traveling with family and friends and entertaining at their homes in New Hampshire and Vermont. Frequent trips up north were a norm when their boys were young. These trips were foundational to building a strong family and remain a tradition their sons have carried on as they raise families of their own.

Daniel is survived by his three sons, James, Daniel, Jr., and William and his wife Sheila, as well as eight grandchildren who loved him dearly. Daniel is also survived by his sister

Geraldine F. Krawiec of Darien. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Ellen and his sister Mary E. Long of Windsor, Conn.

Donations in memory of Daniel can be made to Noroton Fire Department, 1873 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820.



New Members

Donald J. Chiapetta



Donald Chiapetta was born in 1942 in Stamford and grew up in Greenwich. He graduated from St. Catherine's and St. Mary's High School, both in Greenwich, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Villanova University and Bridgeport Engineering Institute. Donald worked with the development team of Night Vision Goggles, a Defense Department project at Machlett Laboratories/Raytheon Corporation. Starting as a Junior Engineer, he completed Raytheon's Middle Management School in Lexington, Mass., and advanced to the position of Production Manager, then Engineering Manager and finally Production Assistant to the President.

In later years, Donald became involved in the computerized newspaper distribution business in New York City, as well as several manufacturing businesses involving production and sales in the United States, Europe and Saudi Arabia.

Donald's main interests are pickleball, golf, upland bird hunting, fishing and sailing.

Howard Washer



Howard A. Washer was born in 1941 and raised in Chicago. He attended Purdue University where he received a B.A. degree in Chemistry with a minor in Chemical Engineering in 1964. After a decade as a sales executive in the chemical products industry, Howard decided to pursue a number of entrepreneurial ventures that included the building of a 50,000-watt AM radio station in Las Vegas, Nev., the purchase and running of a data communications company in Arlington, Va., and the building of a neighborhood shopping center in Freeport, Grand Bahama. Howard returned to the chemical industry in 1983 and became Group Vice President of a Chicago-based company that manufactured and sold agricultural chemicals for crop and insect protection, a position that afforded him travel to six continents. He finished his business career in the telecommunications industry as a Senior Sales and Marketing Representative for a division of The Sprint Corporation.

Howard and his wife Merice lived the majority of their 52 years of marriage in the Chicago area until her death in 2017. He now lives in Redding, Conn. Howard has three children and eight grandchildren. His interests include music, having sung in various choirs over the years, marathon running until 2016 (when knee replacement surgery ended those activities), travel, theater and avid support of the Chicago White Sox.

Stephen Larson



Stephen “Steve” Larson was born in Chicago, Ill., in 1958. He grew up on the south side of the city and went to Marist High School, where he played baseball. He went on to receive an accounting degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign in 1980. He is a Certified Public Accountant who started his career at Arthur Andersen & Co. He continued his education at the University of Chicago, where he received an M.B.A. with a concentration in

Finance, graduating in 1985. He moved to New York and started a career in private equity. He worked for 10 years at CF Capital, a merchant bank focusing on mergers and acquisitions. He joined Cornerstone Equity, the private equity arm spun out of Prudential, in 1997. While semi-retired, he continues to serve on the Board of portfolio companies. Steve and his wife Kate have lived in Darien since 1989 and have two adult children. He is an avid sports fan and follows all “non-Cub” Chicago sports teams. Steve is the former President of the Fairfield County Paddle Tennis League. He is a member of Silvermine Golf Club and Woodway Country Club and enjoys reading, golf, paddle and travel.

John Shaker



John Shaker grew up in Darien, graduating from Berkshire School. He earned a B.S. degree from Syracuse University’s Newhouse School of Public Communications and moved to Los Angeles, where he held positions at CBS TV Network and KTTV (now a FOX station) and created a 90-minute ABC Network Television special, “The World Championship of Trivia” airing in 1976. John returned to New York to join the founding management team at MTV. He became SVP Affiliate Sales/Marketing and co-ran MTVN’s distribution division representing MTV, Nickelodeon, Nick at Night, TV Land, VH-1, Comedy Central and The Movie Channel cable networks. John went on to lead BMI/Broadcast Music’s Licensing, Sales and

Marketing Division as SVP, Licensing. BMI represents the public performance rights of 12 million musical works of songwriters, composers and music publishers. Over his 13 years with BMI, it grew into the world's largest revenue-producing performing rights organization. In 1995, he signed the internet's first ever commercial music license. Following BMI, John formed his own media and music consulting firm working with AT&T Interactive, USA Networks, Discovery Networks, Comedy Central, ASCAP and many early/mid-stage companies.

John has served on the nonprofit boards of the IRTS/International Radio & Television Society, Radio Mercury Awards, AWRT/American Women of Radio & Television, Person-to-Person and volunteered at Future 5. He enjoys traveling, theater, art, hiking, skiing and ice hockey. He is a member of the Darien Winter Club, the CT Olde Crabs Hockey Club, Darien Boat Club and Silvermine Golf Club. His two children live on the West Coast.

James Hutter



James "Jim" Hutter was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1955. He graduated in 1977 from Penn State University and earned his M.B.A. degree in 1979 from the University of Pittsburgh. Jim joined PricewaterhouseCoopers in Pittsburgh before transferring to New York City. In 1991, he joined Chemical Bank as SVP & Assistant Corporate Controller. He survived four large bank mergers resulting in the creation of JPMorgan Chase. During this time, he had varied senior responsibilities, including CFO of Chase Securities and CFO of JPMorgan Partners and One Equity Partners. His last role was founder and CEO of J.P. Morgan Private Equity & Real Estate Services.

Jim then joined Harlem Children's Zone, a not-for-profit whose mission is to end intergenerational poverty in central Harlem. Jim was CFO and also responsible for operational functions. He retired in 2021 but continues as a part-time Executive Advisor on several strategic projects.

Jim and his wife Audrey have lived in Darien since 1989, where they raised their four children. Jim recently joined the Board of Directors of Constructive Partnerships Unlimited, a New York not-for-profit specializing in supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He remains an active Certified Public Accountant and is also a governing Elder at Noroton Presbyterian Church, where he serves as Chair of the Finance Committee. His interests include gardening, boating, travel,

theater, major league baseball, Bible study and time with his wife, children and four grandchildren.

Philip Van Munching



Born in Chicago, Ill., in 1963, **Philip Van Munching** grew up in Darien, graduating from Darien High School in 1981. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School and then handled public relations and eventually advertising for his family's firm, Van Munching & Co., Inc., the (then) exclusive U.S. importers of Heineken, Amstel Light and several other beer brands. After the firm was bought by Heineken, Philip went on to write a marketing column for *Brandweek* magazine, along with several Op-Ed pieces for *The New York Times* and *The Chicago Tribune*. Later, he authored four books, including *The New York Times* bestseller ***Boys Will Put You on a Pedestal (so they can look up your skirt): A Dad's Advice for Daughters***. Philip has appeared on "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "Dr. Phil" and dozens of radio shows around the United States.

After a few decades in New York City, Philip moved back to Darien in 2008. He has taught Westerns to high school seniors at St. Luke's School in New Canaan, served as an advice columnist for *The Darien Times*, and co-created and produced a comic con-themed game show. He has two daughters, both of whom live locally. Philip serves as an advisor to his daughter Anna, who recently co-founded The Harbor Lights Foundation, a nonprofit working with children, teens and families coping with loss.

Philip and his wife Emily moved back to Darien in 2020 (after one more brief stint in New York City). His interests include the cinema, hiking, Broadway, mystery novels, travel and endless debate about which actor made the best James Bond character.

Activities

Book Group

Harris Hester, who, together with **Tom Igoe**, continues to lead our highly engaged book discussion group, provided the following report on our past and present interesting reads.

Books discussed in September and October. Our colleague, **Bert von Stuelpnagel**, triggered this exchange in the wake of the group's **September** discussion of ***The Quiet Americans – Four CIA Spies at the Dawn of the Cold War*** by Scott Anderson:

Bert v S: Sorry, friends, my computer ran out of battery without any warning! Anyway, Peter Sichel (one of the main characters in the book) started this wine business after his career ended at the CIA, which he sold for a pretty penny. It was based on his family's wine from Mainz, Liebfraumilch (literally, the Sacred Virgin's mother milk) and, for obvious reasons, not named so in the United States but carried the label Blue Nun. It was a blend of vintages, territories and grapes so that it would taste the same every year. For the connoisseurs who value the year, the grape, the terroir and even the vintner, this is an awful proposition, but the wine was widely popular before Peter Sichel sold it. Does it require similar talents to be a spy and a winemaker? It's up to you to come up with an answer.

You can still get Blue Nun; it's in a blue bottle and sells in 1.5 liter increments at \$12 at BevMax in Norwalk. I bought a bottle, but I will now, in the age of Zoom, have to drink it all by myself, as I did with the vodka from the Ukraine. I am looking forward to meeting in person again and will find an appropriate surprise for a tasting then! Prost! Bert

Mark Nunan's retort: Per Bert's directive: "Does it require similar talents to be a spy and a winemaker? It's up to you to come up with an answer." Here's one.

Spymaster Winemaker

Plant: vineyards, agents, fatal femmes, fake leads

Grow: vines intertwining spy networks divining

Harvest: Malbec Smiley Champagne Bond

Stomp: grapes, counteragents, poseurs

Ferment: your must; your cover stories

Barrel: Sur Lie, On Lies

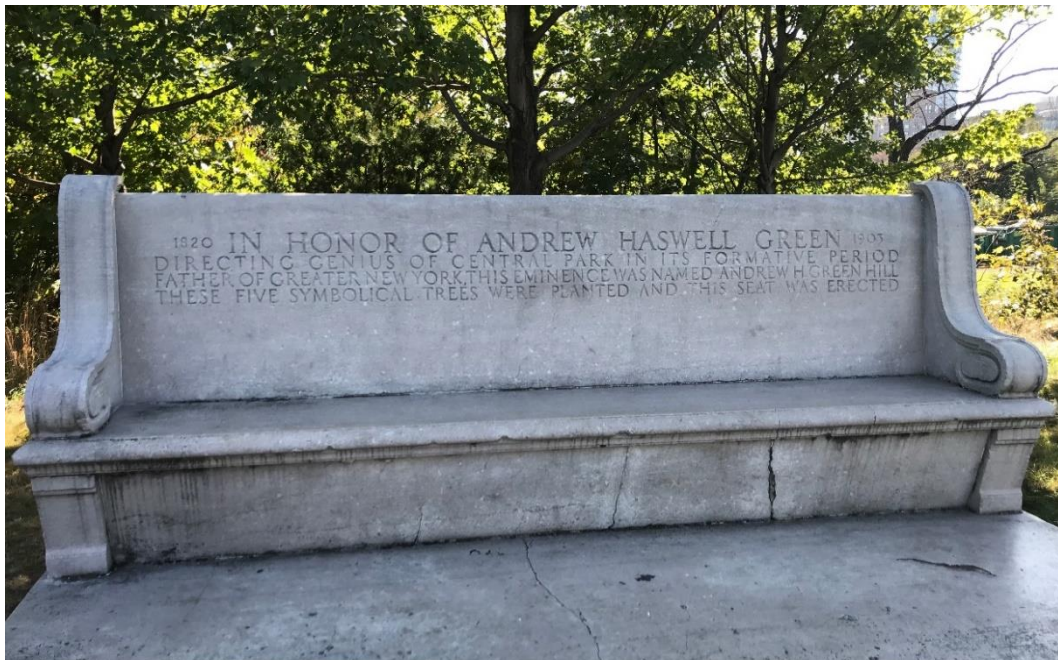
Bottle: Cork it, or Screw-top for Screwtape

Sell: to any government apt to pay;

To any connoisseur with argent to gâter.

In **October**, the group engaged in a discussion of the recently published book entitled ***Empire of Pain*** by Patrick Radden Keefe, a thoroughly researched and detailed chronicle of three generations of the Sackler family in the United States that oversaw the formation and development of Purdue Pharma and the marketing and distribution of opioid drugs that gave rise to widespread addiction, suffering and death. It is a riveting and damning tale that implicates not only members of the Sackler family but also a wide range of other players (federal regulatory officials, corporate sales representatives, doctors, scientists, lobbyists, pharmacies and other stakeholders in the global market for painkiller medications) who facilitated the deadly, destructive distribution of these addictive and dangerous drugs.

Books selected for discussion in late fall. In **November**, we will take up the new novel, ***The Great Mistake*** by Jonathan Lee. A historical novel of New York City at the turn of the 20th century, this is the account of one man’s rise to fame and fortune and his murder in a case of mistaken identity. The victim was **Andrew Haswell Green**, the “Father of Greater New York,” who shaped the city as we know it. Without him, there would be no Central Park, no Metropolitan Museum of Art, no Museum of Natural History, no New York Public Library. It is a unique portrait of a self-made man – farm boy to urban visionary. A photo of the single city monument to him was recently taken by the **Happy Wanderers**.



*In honor of Andrew Haswell Green (1820–1903)
Directing genius of Central Park in its formative period
Father of Greater New York, this eminence was named Andrew H. Green Hill
These five symbolical trees were planted and this seat was erected*

For its final selection of the 2021 year, the group has chosen *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles (gifted author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*). A modern, picaresque novel with a host of characters, competing points of view, wandering narratives and teasing chapter endings, this work should be quite entertaining. The book is an improbable journey, packed with revelations about the American myth, the art of storytelling and the unrelenting pull of history – an exhilarating ride through Americana.

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

Bowling

The following quartet of short stories, authored by **Tom Lom** (well-known as the DMA Bowling “Commish”), reflects his genuine and infectious enthusiasm for this sport and his bowling colleagues. This unique, sequential narrative (lengthy but worthy) represents DMA fellowship at its best!

September 14. Despite the fact that a couple of the regulars chose to join today's DMA Golf Outing at Sterling, we had another good showing with first six then a seventh bowler. What, you say? After an absence of a few years, we were rejoined by none other than "The Professor" Ed Schechter! What a pleasure to have Ed back. Sadly, Ed lost his wife Audrey earlier this summer after 64 (!!) years of marriage. We're sorry for Ed's loss but happy that he plans to be a regular with us again.

With Ed making us six bowlers, we resumed for the first time since March of 2020 our team competition: Ross/Schechter/Lom vs. Brown/Gallagher/DeLeo. With quarters at the ready, we let the game begin. Happy to say there were some fireworks to report though not from last week's star, the Godfather of Bowl, or the Commish. No, the highlights seemed to flow from everywhere else!

Let's start with Frank DeLeo. He came out of the gates flying with a 234, setting a high bar for high game of the season. His game, combined with a clunker by your intrepid reporter, made Game One a runaway. At the start of the game, I asked Ed what we should use as his average. He said to try 175. Well, he's honest ... his series was 530!

Remember that I said we had seven bowlers? Number 7 was Bill Tamme, who sauntered in at 9:20 asking, "Don't we start at 9:30?" He won't ask that question again. Laurie Vaitkus, Nutmeg Lanes' Manager, made the suggestion that Bill bowl twice during round two, adding his name to the roster on both pairs of lanes ... an ingenious solution though

prompting Bill to comment, "I never thought of bowling as an aerobic sport!" That said, Bill managed a 362 series, his best by far as a DMA bowler. Maybe it's that new ball.

Back to the competition, Game Two was a total turnaround as the "Good Guys" prevailed comfortably. This brought us to Game Three for the proverbial "Intergalactic Championship." And what a game it was. First came Frank Gallagher rolling strikes all over the place with his 17.5 mph heater (Tony, he's gonna pass you if you don't get out here) to come in with a 220. His two partners also had good games. With six frames complete, it looked like the "Bad Guys" would run away...but not so fast. Along came none other than Bill Ross, finishing with a flourish with a 210! That's Bill's first 200 game that any of us could recall. Not bad for a guy who bowls 18 games a year. Thanks to Bill's heroics, Game Three came down to the final frame. Ed and Tom needed to mark with good fills in order to win. With Ed unable to convert a difficult split, Tom now needed to double in his 10th. His first ball was a strike. His second ball left a 4-5 split, which even though he converted, left the Good Guys a few pins short.

September 21. Remember last season and those days when someone caught lightening in a bottle? It happened four or five times over the full year. Well, today was the first one of those days this season.

First, let's note that many of the regulars were absent for one reason or another. That left four bowlers to have at it. Three were ordinary (to put it charitably); one was special.

Since I could not attend today, Bill Tamme was kind enough to shoot me an email with the results. When he did, I did a double take. Could this be true? Indeed, it was. None other than Mr. Tamme himself had a spectacular day. First let's set the table.

Bill used to bowl in his youth back in St. Louis (by the way, a town that's a hotbed of bowling and home to bowling legend Dick Weber and his son Pete). Bill then didn't touch a bowling ball for many years before joining DMA and being enticed to come bowl with us. When Bill started out, one could see the vestiges of his youth in his form though it didn't show in his scores. Over the past summer, Bill decided to go up to Buddie's Pro Shop at Nutmeg and invest in a properly fitted ball. After a rough Week One, he showed steady improvement the following two weeks, rolling a 389 series last week raising his season average to 118.

So, today I did a double take when I saw the recap and next to Bill's name were scores of 177, 187, 179 = 543. Talk about lightening in a bottle ... for the record, that would be +189 vs. his going in average. **HELLO!!**

I sent a reply email to Bill to congratulate him for his fine day. He replied "The Professor took me under his wing and gave me a few tips." A few tips? Must have been a damn encyclopedia. So, congrats to Professor Ed for his mentorship and congrats to Bill for his fine performance. I can only imagine the smiles on both their faces when the morning came to an end.

October 19. Maybe it was having the Commish back to energize the athletes, maybe it was having the Godfather of Bowl back in action or maybe it was dumb luck. Whatever the cause, today was one to write home about. Here's the headline:

Everyone Bowled a 200 Game!

Let's start with Professor Ed who rolled a 203 in Game One. Sadly, he had five splits (!!!) in Game Three, but he did have the shot of the day, converting a 6-7-10. Alex had a 204 in Game Two on his way to a 506 series. Gehr joined the party in Game Three with a 200 on the nose for a 537 series. The Commish had a terrible warm-up session failing to make a single strike and missing a few spares. That changed when the chips were on the table as he came out flying with a 245 in Game One...and that included a missed 10 pin spare in frame 10. He closed with a 201 in Game Three for a 625 (his third 600 series in a row), which brings us to the bowler of the day.

Three weeks ago, we reported on Bill Tamme's first ever 500 series. Today, we report on his first ever 200 game, a 208 in Game One. I walked down to Laurie's desk to pay our fee and mentioned that we had three 200 games out of five including Bill's first ever which she announced over the loudspeaker with a resounding "Whoo-hoo!" Well, don't you know that 30 minutes later, I called her on the house phone to report that Bill backed up his first ever 200 with another, a 204 in Game Two ... which she again announced to another "Whoo-hoo!" Then she said to me, "Maybe Bill will bowl a 600 series." I reported her remark to Bill, who said, "Well, that's the kiss of death." Bill started Game Three with a spare followed by three missed spares and figured that the curtain was coming down on his exploits for the day. In my role as cheerleader and motivator, I told Bill that he still could turn things around ... and he proceeded to bowl four strikes in a row. He did finish with a fine 180, which left him eight pins shy of that 600 series. No matter. It was fun to watch him all morning. Perhaps the best summation was from Ed, who said when Bill finished, "Maybe Bill should give *me* a lesson."

So, five bowlers, 15 games, and seven of them were 200 or better – quite a day.



Laurie and Ben

Ben! Hope that you'll be back as a regular. George especially misses you, has his quarters ready, and wants some action.

Bridge

John Podkowsky reports that online bridge activities will continue into the late fall season on Tuesdays, with the usual team of eight regular players.

October 26. Given that we canceled bowling this morning due to inclement weather and questionable driving conditions, you'd think there would not be a report today. Well, you'd think wrong! As they say, "Someone did not get the memo." That someone would be one who so far this season had yet to put in an appearance. Not that he didn't want to (having been a regular all last season). It was due to that someone being on the DL having had hip surgery just this past August. That someone got up this morning and felt good and said to himself, "Self, let's drive up to Nutmeg." Self did not check his email so he arrived there only to see lanes 9-13 were very empty. Checking in with Laurie at the desk, he learned that the DMA bowlers called in sick (well, not literally). Now that you've checked out the photo, you know that self is Ben Briggs. Ben proceeded to tell Laurie that he hadn't bowled yet all season due to the aforementioned surgery but that he was there to try out the new hip. Laurie told Ben to go bowl a game "on the house". So he did.

Did you hear the fireworks? After an open frame to start, he then went on to mark in the next eight frames, including four strikes in a row in frames 4-7. Needing a mark in the 10th for a 200, Ben fell just short, but his 190 was his high game in quite some time and this from a guy whose normal average is 125! Well done,

Current Affairs

At its meeting in October, the Current Affairs group conducted its first hybrid session, with members wearing a mask in the Garden Room of the DCA joined by fellow DMA'ers participating via Zoom. The group utilized the newest audio and visual technology installed by the DCA. Taking on the challenging topic of **Income Inequality**, members engaged in a panel discussion that was moderated by **Mike Wheeler**, with **Gary Banks** present in-person and **Mark Nunan** participating remotely, each presenting opposing points of view. Topics included different perspectives on how to analyze and interpret relevant data, the efficacy of efforts by different governments to redistribute wealth among their populations, the complex factors involving opportunity, mobility, income and intergenerational wealth that make creation of government solutions so challenging, and the role of different tax strategies in effecting economic and social change.

On November 18, Bert von Stuelpnagel will host a discussion of Europe's war against technology companies. Europe's stance has been driven by at least two principal motives: (1) the fear that American technology companies, while clearly ahead of their European rivals, do not provide sufficient privacy protection and (2) the widespread opinion that they do not pay their fair share of taxes, given their outsized income. The Current Affairs discussion will address two questions: Are these valid concerns? Should the European point of view be shared by Americans?

On December 18, Don Loomis will moderate a discussion on the Voting Rights Act, H.R.1, H.R.4 and the actions being taken by various states to reform their voting laws, with focus on the following questions: (1) What does it all mean for future elections? (2) Free and fair elections have been the bedrock of our democracy. Where do our voting rights come from, and how did we arrive at our current troubled situation and the various disputes over voting rights?

Golf Outing

Sterling Farms, September 14. We were blessed with a beautiful day at Sterling Farms where 24 members arrived for 18 holes of golf on the Stamford course. Remarkably, there were no last-minute cancellations. Since the event was oversubscribed, this meant that at least half a dozen members were not able to play. There were no reports of unusual accomplishments, good or bad, which is probably more attributable to modesty or embarrassment than reality. The course was in excellent condition, which is a tribute to the staff members to whom we again are grateful for their annual hospitality to the DMA.



Happy Wanderers

Brooklyn Heights – October 7. Ten DMA members, ably led by **Mark Shakley**, met at the Information Booth at Grand Central Terminal and proceeded by subway to Borough Hall in Brooklyn, where we began our wandering through the bucolic neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights. We admired beautifully restored brownstone homes and the Brooklyn Heights casino, where Mark played tennis during the many years he lived in the neighborhood, as well as the famous St. George Hotel built in 1885. We walked to the promenade looking across to lower Manhattan, underneath which is the Brooklyn Queens Expressway about to undergo a multi-year restoration.

The most memorable stop was at the Plymouth Church where Henry Ward Beecher was appointed the first Senior Minister in 1847. Beecher drew large crowds of worshippers from Brooklyn and across the river in Manhattan. He was a fierce abolitionist, and Plymouth Church played a vital role in the underground railway during and after the Civil War. While he was President, Abraham Lincoln visited Beecher at the church and asked Beecher to go to Fort Sumter in South Carolina to preach when the war was over as a way to begin healing the North and the South. Beecher agreed, but Lincoln was assassinated before the service was held. Thousands from New York followed Beecher in boats to Fort Sumter to attend the worship service.

From the church, we proceeded to Dellarocco's Italian restaurant for an outside lunch of pizza and Brooklyn lager. We then walked to the ferry, which departs underneath the Brooklyn Bridge, and traveled across the river to 34th Street, where we disembarked and trudged back to Grand Central Terminal. All of this on a warm sunny day in New York.



Northern Central Park, City College and North Harlem – October 21. On a beautiful, sunny fall day, 10 Happy Wanderers, ably led by **Sunil Saxena**, explored northern Central Park, City College and north Harlem. The group took Metro-North, disembarking at 125th Street in Harlem and then proceeding via subway to 103rd Street. Our Wandering consisted of two parts: first, a stroll through the northern section of Central Park – a lesser known section of the park but no less beautiful; second, a visit to the City College of New York (CCNY) and various points of interest in northern Harlem.

We entered Central Park at 102nd Street, visited the Conservatory Garden and its dancing fountain sculptures (see photo below), and proceeded on to the site of Fort

Clinton, which played a role in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Along our journey, we visited the **Andrew Haswell Green Memorial Bench** (the star of the DMA Book Club's November discussion). Wanderers then explored the Ravine in the North Woods, viewing waterfalls, great arches and other aspects of nature (including a wedding party fully engaged in the nuptial ceremony!).

A short subway ride took the group to 135th Street and the highlight of the second part of this Wandering; namely the **City College of New York** campus and Alexander Hamilton's home. The central CCNY campus is surprisingly attractive with its Gothic architecture. It was originally designed by renowned architect George B. Post, and many of the buildings have achieved landmark status.

The college has graduated 10 Nobel Prize winners, one Fields medalist, one Turing Award winner, three Pulitzer Prize winners and three Rhodes Scholars. Famous alumni include Henry Kissinger, Bernard Baruch, Felix Frankfurter, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Abraham Beame, Ed Koch, Henry Morgenthau, Colin Powell, Robert Wagner, Julius Rosenberg, Woody Allen, Stanley Kubrick, Zero Mostel, and a long list of writers and journalists, among many others.

Wanderers paused for a delicious lunch at Fumo Harlem restaurant and then strolled by various historic sites in north Harlem, including the magnificent townhouses of Striver's Row and the Abyssinian Baptist Church. We also got a peek at the famous WPA murals by black artists, which are displayed at Harlem Hospital, and viewed the Astor Row homes. By the end of the trek, this energetic group had walked five and a half miles. Having experienced a full day of learning, exercise, culture and fellowship, the happy group headed home.

Looking ahead to early **December**, the Wanderers, led by **Greg Glashan**, will explore midtown Manhattan south of Grand Central Terminal, including lower Fifth Avenue, the Flatiron District, Madison Square and Washington Square, among other haunts.



Selected photos of the October wandering are presented below.



Northern Central Park Conservatory Garden



Waterfall in northern Central Park

The **Untermyer Fountain** in the Conservatory Garden of northern Central Park, shown below, features a bronze cast of Walter Schott's ***Three Maidens Dancing***, completed in Germany in 1910. Named after American lawyer and civic leader Samuel Untermyer, the fountain was donated by his children following his death in 1940. This captivating sculpture, installed in 1947, depicts three young women, holding hands in a circle, whose dresses cling to their wet bodies as if they were perpetually in the fountain spray.



The final Wandering photo below shows a congenial gathering of CCNY “freshmen!”



Hikers

Trout Brook Valley Preserve, September 30. A small but enthusiastic group of seven spent a delightful two hours hiking the Green and Orange Trails at Trout Brook Valley Preserve in Weston. It was a cool and invigorating day to be in such a beautiful place. The 730-acre preserve was purchased in 1999 by the Aspetuck Land Trust from the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company that was planning to sell it to a developer who wanted to construct more than 100 luxury homes and a golf course. The \$11.3 million purchase price was raised jointly by the state of Connecticut and Aspetuck. Actor Paul Newman was among the contributors. The trails we hiked were well-maintained and of variable difficulty but nothing our group could not handle. We pretty much had the whole preserve to ourselves as we saw very few other hikers, which contributed to the quiet attractiveness of the trails. We crossed three brooks, one of which must have been Trout Brook but saw no trout or other fauna except for a worm or two. So much for the wild kingdom! As usual on our hikes, the opportunity to talk with each other was a highlight.



Devil's Den Preserve, October 25. Not deterred by an overnight rain that left the trails a bit wet, a hardy group of 10 hiked about five miles in three hours over the Perry, Godfrey and Aspetuck trails at the 1,700-acre Devil's Den Preserve in Weston. The damp ground was offset by very mild and occasionally sunny weather. The trail markings and signage at Devil's Den are very good, and we navigated the course with nary a wrong turn. Oh, wait a minute, the navigation excellence was actually more the result of various hikers' backwoods savvy and a nose for the correct direction!

The preserve's ownership by The Nature Conservancy dates to 1966, but the property records go back to 1767. While forestry and agriculture were the principal uses of the land, for eight decades the property was chiefly used to produce charcoal. On this hike,

as was the case at Trout Brook Valley in the prior month, we saw very few humans and only a worm and a toad for wildlife. These animals, which surely reside in preserves such as Devil’s Den, must somehow know we are coming and spend the day in hiding.



Photo by Marilyn Parker, the “10th” member of the party

The next DMA hike is scheduled for the **Zofnass Family Preserve in Pound Ridge, N.Y.**, on Thursday, November 18. As of now, we plan to resume the optional lunch after the hike. Spouses, friends and any others are encouraged to join us. Dogs on a leash are allowed in the preserve.

Investment Discussion Group

The Investment Discussion Group (IDG), led by **Jim Phillips**, generally meets the first Monday of every month via Zoom. The format is an open forum to explore whatever issues members consider important to discuss, as well as specific stocks. We usually start with the macro outlook, followed by current macro themes to consider and then move to specific stocks to play out the various themes. We also discuss any stock/company that

someone may own in his portfolio on which he would appreciate a second opinion from the various attending industry experts embedded in our DMA membership.

At its meeting in **September**, the IDG discussed the macroeconomic outlook for the balance of 2021 and beyond, informed by various views of leading market professionals, including Fed Chairman Jay Powell, Jeremy Siegel of Wharton, Mike Wilson of Morgan Stanley, Michael Frederichs of BlackRock, David Kostin of Goldman Sachs, Ed Yardeni of Yardeni Research and many others. Following a discussion of their differing views, the group discussed possible specific conviction buys intended to weather a significant (15%+) market correction.

For the early **November** IDG meeting, the group plans to cover different ways to play rising inflation (think energy, real estate, commodities) and rising rates (banks, BDCs, etc.). That said, the group rarely sticks to its agenda, especially when someone gets excited about an idea and everyone else chimes in.

Jim noted that this fall should prove interesting, given the current “wall of worry,” which seems to fuel rising equity markets with few alternatives in light of the negative outlook for bonds. To learn more, members are encouraged to join the Monday meetings.

Money Matters Group

Doug Campbell reports that the Money Matters Group will host two meetings before year-end. In **November**, the topic for discussion will be “**Vertical Farming: A Rapidly Growing Industry.**” Urban vertical farming is one of the fastest growing trends in food production. Though there are even more, the four main health benefits that come with vertical farming are fresher food, increased urban availability, pollution reduction and no chemical use. At the group’s **December** meeting, **John Winkel** of the **Stamford Partnership** will lead a discussion on the organization’s efforts to improve the quality of life for Stamford’s residents, workforce, businesses and stakeholders. The Partnership is part of the Stamford growth story, and its initiatives include public-private partnerships, ecosystem development and talent development. Check the [Events & Activity Calendar](#) on the DMA website for meeting times and other information regarding these meetings.

Pickleball

Jan Selkowitz reports that DMA pickleballers intend to continue playing outside during the late fall at Cherry Lawn Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays, commencing at 9 a.m. During inclement weather, the group will try to confirm arrangements with the Town to use the Mather Center gym. A short photo gallery follows – new courts, old friends.





DMA Social Activities

DCA Garden Lunches

A number of DMA'ers gathered in the DCA Garden with DMA member **David Fitzpatrick**, longtime staff writer for CNN's flagship prime time newscast, "Anderson Cooper 360." The group explored how various cable news networks are changing the American landscape, focusing on opinion and creation of controversy as opposed to the historical practice of reporting factual information, largely driven by the nature of social media and the economics of business.



Below, another DMA gathering was held in the DCA Garden in mid-October to discuss a myriad of topics, including the day's presentation by DMA speaker Stan Twardy on the rule of law and the Republican Party in America, as well as lawlessness on the Merritt Parkway, exploration of the oyster business in Norwalk and thoughts on recent DMA Book Group reads.



Copps Island Oysters Visits

In two separate late October outings, two dozen DMA'ers visited the processing and laboratory facilities of **Copps Island Oysters by Norm Bloom**. They enjoyed a ride on one of the boats to see oysters being harvested. Afterward, having learned about the oyster trade, they descended upon Knot Norm's seafood restaurant for lunch, where they sampled seafood in a variety of dishes. It was reported that the reigning champions at the first seafood luncheon were **Alex Garnett** (12 oysters) and **Joe Holmes** (12 oysters *and* 12 clams). Select photos follow.







Our Man in Bermuda

Important Lessons on Foreign Travel and COVID 19



October 29 report from Harry Bergen in Bermuda: Bermuda is a beautiful place but not when you're quarantined in your room for 10 days. On arriving in Bermuda, we all tested negative for COVID. Four days later, in compliance with Bermuda law, we were tested again. One in our party, Ken, tested positive even though he had been triple vaccinated.

A Bermuda government case worker was assigned to our situation, and she gave us the following rules and regulations regarding Ken and those who had been with him: 1) Ken was required to isolate in his bedroom for a period of 10 days and 2) the rest of us needed to quarantine in the villa for 10 days, awaiting a retest.

This was not all bad news. During our isolation, we were able to enjoy some very fine cuisine, delivered to our door. And we were soothed by the beautiful view of the Bermuda harbor. That said, there was plenty of time for storytelling and fun. Though my

companions appeared to be enjoying my jokes day after day, I fear I may have told some of them more than once.

Tomorrow, we are to receive our Day-10 test. If our test is negative, we will be free to travel back to the United States and leave our lovely villa. If any one of us tests positive, however, he or she will have to quarantine or isolate for an additional period. The time, ranging from four to 14 days, is based upon our understanding of somewhat nebulous and conflicting information we received from the Bermudian authorities. A negative test will satisfy the U.S. requirement of a negative COVID test obtained within three days of departure. With fingers crossed, we booked a flight on JetBlue leaving Bermuda on November 1.

In light of our travails, I offer a bit of advice for those travelers currently planning trips outside the United States:

When you plan the trip, make sure you thoroughly understand all the rules pertaining to COVID-19 regarding departure, arrival and subsequent departure from your destination back to the United States. This includes all testing requirements, documentation and knowledge of what to do should you become infected with the virus during any part of your trip.

Be prepared for a government-mandated extended stay by bringing a reasonable supply of all required medicines, toiletries and any other items you may require for your normal day-to-day activities.

Obtain contact information for the U.S. embassy at your destination should you require embassy staff to intercede with government authorities or at the very least provide some clarity on what may seem to be confusing and conflicting information.

Mark Your Calendar – Details on DMA Website

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

Activity Representatives

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

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

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

Bridge, John Podkowsky, 329.8181
Tuesdays, 1 p.m., St. Luke's Church, 1864 Post Road at Ring's End Road

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

Current Affairs, Mark Nunan, 655.0443, and Mike Wheeler, 856.8414
3rd Thursday, 8:30 a.m., DCA Lillian Gade Room, 2nd Floor

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

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

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

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

Money Matters, Doug Campbell, 975.0320

3rd Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. prior to the weekly DMA meeting at DCA in Lillian Gade Room, 2nd Floor

Pickleball, Jan Selkowitz, 655.0441

Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9 a.m. at Cherry Lawn Park

Songsters, Joe Holmes, 838.8744

As announced, Wednesdays, 8:45 a.m., DCA

Woodworking, Tom Williams, 943.9715

Mondays, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Mather Senior Center

Darien Men's Association Newsletter

Editor and Publisher, *Tom Igoe*. **Contributing Editor**, *Joyce Meurer*. **Speaker write-ups**, Charles Salmans. **New member bios**, *Harry Bergen*. **Mailing list and e-communications**, *Art Baron*. **This Week at DMA**, *Tom Igoe*. **Webmaster**, *Gary Banks*.