

DMA

Newsletter

[DMA Website is now at www.DarienDMA.org](http://www.DarienDMA.org)

Darien Men's Association

September - October 2019

Officers and Directors 2019-2020



Seated l. to r.: John Wolcott, past president; Jan Selkowitz, Asst. Secretary; Bryan Hooper, 2nd VP; Sunil Saxena, President; Gary Banks, 1st VP; Charles Salmans, Communications; Bob Hughes, Secretary. Standing l. to r.: Chris Snyder, Social Events; Bert von Stuelpnagel, Treasurer; Bob McGroarty, Director at Large 2nd term; Tony Yezzi, Asst. Treasurer; Jack Fitzgibbons, Community Service. Not in photo: Tom Lom, past president.

President's Message

As we begin our new program year, I would like to thank my predecessor, John Wolcott and the leaders of various activities for propelling this organization into the vibrant state it is in today: financially sound, bustling with well-attended activities which stretch you both physically and intellectually, along with social events that provide



friendship and fun. We currently have 309 members. Many of your friends over 50 in our community could benefit from membership. They may be retired, semi-retired, or have work schedules that would permit them to be active DMA members. Please circulate this Newsletter, which captures all our activities, among your friends who might be candidates for the DMA and invite them to

attend one of our Wednesday meetings. Make sure that their wives also see this Newsletter, as often it is they who are even more enthusiastic that their husbands join the DMA!

The DMA's biggest draw is our Speaker's Program. I am quite sure you'll be impressed by the caliber of speakers scheduled in September and October, as outlined below, as well as by the diversity of topics they will be presenting. My thanks to **Gary Banks** for organizing this superb roster. And don't forget that spouses are invited to the Speaker portion of our weekly meetings.

Chris Snyder and his Social Events Committee are planning some exciting outings with the first one, an evening sail on Schooner *Soundwaters*, scheduled for September 19. For October, **Bob McGroarty** and **Chris** are hard at work to present, exclusively for us, a classy evening of chamber music featuring performers from the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Stay tuned

for more information about this event in the coming weeks.

After a most successful summer cookout organized by **Alex Garnett**, arrangements for the Holiday Dinner at the Darien Country Club are already afoot. The date is December 18, and **Tony Yezzi** confirms that the Tudor Singers will once again be the featured attraction. So mark your calendars.

After the summer break, all our other activities will be swinging into high gear in September. Whether it is bowling or book club, current affairs or investments, happy wandering or hiking, golf or pickleball, choose one or all to feed both body and mind. And remember it's all about fun and friendship.

We look forward to a wonderful year! See you on September 4.

Sunil Saxena, President

Speakers

Wednesday, September 4, 2019



Russell Jones, CEO of the Stamford Symphony Orchestra, will speak about the challenges and fun of running a major cultural organization – selecting the season's program, managing the musicians, fundraising, marketing and community outreach. He brings a wealth of experience to that role. Jones is a violinist who sang with the London Symphony Chorus. In the UK he held posts with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Scottish Chamber Orchestras, and was director of the Association of British Orchestras before moving to the US in 2007. He was vice president of marketing and membership at the League of American Orchestras between 2007 and 2012, when he moved to the New York Philharmonic as director of friends and planned giving, and later held positions including director of major gifts. *Arranged by Gary Banks*

Wednesday, September 11, 2019



Jody Hotchkiss will speak on “How Books Become Movies”. This includes the process of adapting source material such as books, articles, and life stories and negotiating the rights for these to become film and television. He will also discuss how the industry has changed with new players such as Netflix and Amazon. Jody, president of Hotchkiss Daily & Associates, was previously a VP of production at MGM and a literary agent at Sterling Lord Literistic. His agency has sold dramatic rights including *The Loudest Voice* with Russell Crowe, *The Wizard of Lies* with Robert De Niro, *The Kite Runner*, *American Gangster* with Denzel Washington, and *The Assassination of Jesse James* with Brad Pitt. *Flag Day*, starring Sean Penn, is currently in production. *Arranged by Alex Garnett*

Wednesday, September 18, 2019



Ed Gray (left) and Alan Gray (right) will speak on “Watergate: In Nixon’s Web.” They are the sons of L. Patrick Gray III, acting director of the FBI during Watergate. Their talk will be based on the book of the same title. The book is Gray’s firsthand account of what really happened during his crucial year as acting director of the FBI. Gray was a lifelong Republican, but Richard Nixon considered him a threat. Closing in on the conspiracy, Gray became the target of one of Watergate’s most shocking acts – Nixon’s

“smoking gun” attempt to have the CIA stop the FBI investigation. A witches’ brew of intrigue and perfidy permeated Washington and the White House threw him to the wolves. John Ehrlichman famously advised that he be left to “twist slowly, slowly in the wind.” The book tells the story of Gray’s complex relationship with his top deputy, Mark Felt, raising questions about the motives of the man purported to be Deep Throat. Ed Gray is a naturalist writer and the founder of Gray’s Sporting Journal and helped complete and expand the book. Alan Gray is Director of the Darien Library.

Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, September 25, 2019



Robert Steven Williams and **Richard “Deej” Webb** (shown here flanking the Fitzgeralds’ granddaughter **Bobbie Lanahan**) will speak about “Gatsby in Connecticut: The Untold Story.” The belief has been that F. Scott Fitzgerald was thinking of Great Neck, on Long Island, for West Egg. The “white palaces of fashionable East Egg” and

the green light at the end of the dock that Jay Gatsby could see before he disappeared in the “unquiet darkness” were across Manhasset Bay, probably in the area of Sands Point, an enclave north of Port Washington that was once mostly large, lush estates. But maybe not. Williams, a music producer-turned filmmaker, and Webb, who taught high school history for 25 years, make the case that the literary location may in fact be inspired by Westport as much as Long Island. *Arranged by Gary Banks.*

Wednesday, October 2, 2019



Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, **Andrew J. McDonald**, will speak about the Connecticut Constitution and why it matters. His talk will include what makes the Connecticut Constitution unique, and how it affects politics, businesses, and residents. He will also address the legal process and the type of cases that end up before the Connecticut Supreme Court. Finally, he will review some of the landmark cases in the Court’s history. Justice McDonald is a native of Stamford, received a B.A. degree from Cornell, and a Juris Doctor degree, with honors, from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He was a State Senator

from 2003 to 2011 and served as Senate Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. *Arranged by Gary Banks*

Wednesday, October 9, 2019



Ed Hynes will speak about “The War on Long Island Sound”. During the War for Independence, Long Island was predominantly Loyalist and Connecticut was predominantly Patriot, notes Hynes. Families and communities were ripped apart as Patriots in Connecticut expelled Loyalists and Loyalists on Long Island banished Patriots. Some raids across the 10 miles of Sound were small but other raids involved hundreds of men. Ed Hynes was born and raised in Wilton, graduated from The George Washington University, and spent most of his career as an equity analyst, institutional salesperson, and trader. In 2001 he became a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and

is currently a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Westport.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019



Susan Filan (*left*) and **Courtney George** (*right*) will discuss the #MeToo Movement and the impact and legal ramifications of sexual harassment, as well as strategies for recognizing and preventing harmful conduct and building a culture of respect. Although sexual harassment was recognized as an unlawful form of sex discrimination in the 1980s, the rise of #MeToo and #TimesUp movements have shown that these problems continue to thrive in the workplace and in society at large. Weston

native Susan Filan is a former MSNBC Senior Legal Analyst and NBC News legal analyst, and former Connecticut state prosecutor. She is now Of Counsel to Cohen and Wolf in Westport. Courtney George is a principal and chair of Cohen and Wolf’s Employment and Labor Group in Bridgeport. *Arranged by Gary Banks*

Wednesday, October 23, 2019



Lou Del Bianco discovered at age 8 that his Grandpa Luigi was the Chief Carver on Mount Rushmore. His talk, “Out of Rushmore’s Shadow”, is based on the painful discovery that Luigi was not mentioned in the most definitive book on Rushmore. Lou and his uncle Caesar unearthed historic documents from the Library of Congress that tell Luigi’s story and, over 25 roller coaster years, gain Luigi the recognition he deserves. Lou Del Bianco has been an actor, singer, and storyteller for 30 years. He has won awards for his children’s story CDs and co-authored a young readers’ historical novel and screenplay about the carving of Mount Rushmore.

Arranged by Gary Banks

Wednesday, October 30, 2019



Steve Mandel, Teach for America Board Chairman, will discuss the unique approach Teach for America is taking to address the challenges of educating children of color from low-income communities. Teach for America is a nonprofit organization that recruits and selects graduates from top universities around the United States to serve as teachers. They commit to teaching for at least two years in a public or public charter K12 school in one of 52 low-income communities that the organization serves. Since it was established in 1990, more than 42,000 have completed their commitment to Teach for America. They have collectively taught more than five million students. Steve Mandel is an investor and philanthropist who founded the hedge fund Lone Pine Capital after working as the managing director at Tiger Management. He graduated from Dartmouth and has an MBA from Harvard. *Arranged by Gary Banks*

New Members



John Wolcott and other DMA officers hosted a new members coffee in May.



Steve True was born in Newburyport, MA in 1945 and grew up in Portland, ME. He graduated from North Yarmouth Academy in Yarmouth, ME. He graduated from Boston University with a BS degree in Public Relations. After graduation, he joined Lindenmeyr Paper Company in New York as a salesman in the Book Publishing Division and has spent the remainder of his career working with major book publishers and printers throughout the northeast supplying book paper for best sellers, textbooks, hymnals and bibles. After 52 years with Lindenmeyr Paper, Steve retired in December 2018. Steve and his wife Elaine live in Darien and have three children and three grandchildren. He belongs to the Bookbinders Guild of New York and the Country Club of Darien. In his free time, he enjoys golf, travel, and cheering for the Red Sox.

Sponsored by Harris Hester



Everett Schenk was born in Providence, RI in 1949 and grew up in Glen Rock, NJ. He graduated from Glen Rock HS in 1967. Everett received a BA in International Relations from Brown University in 1971 where he ran cross country, indoor and outdoor track and was co-captain of the track team in '71. He received his MBA in 1973 from Dartmouth College in 1973. His business career was in finance starting with energy finance with Chemical Bank in 1973. In 1989 he started with Banque Paribas as head of New York Corporate Banking activity. This assignment included three stints in Paris. In 2000 he joined BNP Paribas where he was CEO of BNP Paribas North America until he retired in 2012.

Everett and his wife Sally live in Darien and have two sons residing in Stamford and Boston. He is currently a partner in Social Venture Partners of CT, Vice Chair of the Board and Treasurer of Family ReEntry, and Steward along with his wife of the West Branch Preserve of the Nature Conservancy in Delaware County New York. For leisure time enjoys family travel and all outdoor activities such as Skiing, hiking, water skiing and wake boarding.

Sponsored by Alex Garnett



Kenneth Coe was born in Seoul, South Korea in 1964. He grew up in Seoul until age 11 when his family moved to Orange County, CA. Ken graduated from Fountain Valley High School and on to UCLA where he received a BA in Economics and the Wharton School of Business for an MBA in Finance. Ken's business has been in finance starting with Houlihan, Lokey, Howard & Zukin in NYC and with Talek Management in Greenwich from 1999 to 2018 when he semi-retired.

Ken and his wife Karla live in Darien and have two sons. He belongs to The Nature Conservancy where he is a trustee of the Africa Program. His interests include nature travel, nature photography, and golf.

Sponsored by Gary Banks



Michael Flanagan was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1946 and grew up in Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park in Queens. Mike graduated from Archbishop Molloy HS in 1963. He graduated from St. John's University in 1967 with a BA and was active in intramural sports, Semper Fi Club and Tau Kappa Epsilon. He received his MBA also from St. John's in 1974. Mike's work history was interrupted by service in Vietnam as an officer in the United States Marine Corps from 1967-1970. His business history includes work at AT&T Commercial Sales

Management, JP Morgan, EAB, and Citibank doing management and IT work. Mike and his wife Cathleen have lived in Darien since December 2018 and have three children and four grandchildren. He belongs to the VFW and Jupiter Dunes Golf Club in Jupiter, FL.

Sponsored by Jim Frayer

In Memoriam – Ray Meurer



Ray Meurer, a long-standing member of the DMA, died in July. Ray, as editor of this newsletter and head of communications, supported by his wife Joyce, set a new and high standard for chronicling our many activities and keeping members informed of upcoming events. Ray will be greatly missed for his positive attitude and his dedication to the DMA and other Darien organizations. His passion in life was boating, and he was past commodore of Wilson Cover Yacht Club, a member of Rowayton Yacht Club, and Harbor Superintendent of Five Mile River for 13 years.

Ray and Joyce Meurer

Honoring Two Long-Standing Members



Vic DeVivo, DMA's oldest member and our longest active member (since 1985) celebrated his 100th birthday in August. A birthday party in his honor was held by his family at the Mather Senior Center.



We also wish the best to **Fred Smith**, another long-standing member, who is relocating to Easthampton, MA, with his wife Marny. They will be near Marny's daughter and their grandchildren. **Alex Garnett** reports that Fred has already lined up two bridge games a week – with mostly women. But he says they are good players and he loves the competition.

Fred was a bowler with the DMA and many of us saw him throw eight strikes in a row when he was 88. Fred joined the DMA in 1988 so he was one of our longest serving members. We will miss him very much.

Events & Activities

DMA in Memorial Day Parade



Jack Fitzgibbons notes that the Darien Men's Association was well represented at Darien's Memorial Day parade along the Post Road, with some 30 members marching. The weather was beautiful and we were greeted by many friends and family members along the route. Leading the march is our President for 2019-2020, **Sunil Saxena**.

Book Club

Harris Hester reports that the Book Club met through the summer, reading *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley in June, *Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson* by Gordon S. Wood in July, and *Madam Fourcade's War* by Lynn Olson in August. Schedule going forward: **Sept. 11:** *Breaking and Entering* by Jeremy Smith; **Oct. 9:** *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* by George Parker; **Nov. 13:** *Earning the Rockies: How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World* by Robert D. Kaplan; **Dec. 11:** *Last Boat Out of Shanghai* by Helen Zia. Regular winter schedule resumes: Second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Mather Senior Center Library. You do not have to read the book to attend the meeting. You can find more information about the books at the DMA website. All books are available at the Darien Library.

Investment Discussion Group



Jim Phillips reports that the Investment Discussion Group invites its members to suggest stocks which they own personally, but want a second opinion from the group. Other stocks for discussion reflect changing industry dynamics or trends. For example, how to play the conversion to 5G wireless or falling/rising rates. Recent meetings have discussed quality tech companies with high returns on invested

capital and strong operating margins, attractive income or dividend stocks (REITs, energy MLPs/C-Corps, BDCs, etc.) and ETFs for diversified exposure to an industry. So far this year the group has discussed and tracked 14 stocks and as of mid-July, some 11 of these have increased in value since they were discussed and three have declined. Jim cautions that the market has generally been strong so that must be taken into consideration for a group of stocks that ranged from a 40% gain to a 6% loss since they were on the discussion agenda. The group meets at 9 a.m. the first Monday of every month at 30 Old Kings Hwy., 1st floor.

The Group's next meeting will be September 9th with discussion of Coresite Realty (COR) and Thermo Fisher (TMO)

Money Matters



Doug Campbell reports the successful launch of a new group, Money Matters, which will look broadly at topics that can affect DMA members' wealth. It will meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 8:45 am to 9:45 am in the Lillian Gade room before the regular DMA meeting. (This group supplements the Investment Discussion Group which focuses on the stock market outlook and specific equity and fixed income investments.) The group held three meetings in the spring, attracting more than 30 attendees. Topics included Trust and Estate planning, led by **Gary Banks** and **Tom Igoe**, investing in farmland in the US and Brazil, led by **Tom Haack**, and 5G Networks, led by **John Hess** and **Doug**. On Sep. 18 the topic will be an update on bonds, negative interest rates, and 2019 investable trends. Meetings also scheduled for Oct. 16 and Nov. 20.

Current Affairs

Jim Phillips led a discussion on the complex issue of illegal immigration on June 20. Following is a partial list and overlap of ideas among the participants. **Cliff Van Vorhees**: Dramatically increase the number of judges to quickly establish those eligible for refugee status and send back economic opportunists. **John Schlach**: Offer a path to citizenship for dreamers. **Bryan Hooper**: Recognize that we need immigrants from all educational levels to support economic growth and provide a path to becoming legal for undocumented immigrants already here. **Charlie Goodyear**: Make the E-Verify system mandatory for all employers with ten or more employees, heavy fines and jail for repeat offenders. **Sunil Saksena**: Two categories of green cards, skilled workers for the long term, seasonal visas for unskilled agricultural workers. Among skilled immigrants, preference to STEM graduates from US universities. **Jim Phillips**: Implement a citizen's ID and use technology such as biometrics to make forged IDs impossible. **Future Programs**: On Sept. 19, **Sunil Saksena** and **Alan Greene** will lead a discussion on Artificial Intelligence. On Oct. 17, **Bob Baker** will lead a discussion on Election Legislation (past, present, and future).

Hiking in the Neighboring Woodlands



Devil's Den Hikers (left) and Trout Brook Valley Hikers (right))

Sunil Saksena reports that the hiking group went on two hikes in the May/June period. Fourteen hikers participated in the strenuous 5 mile hike at the Devil's Den in Weston on May 7 and 10 hikers comfortably hiked the 3 ½ mile trail at the Trout Brook Valley Preserve in Easton on June 4. Blessed with fine weather and the beautiful wooded environment, both hikes were most enjoyable. The camaraderie and banter continued over lunch that followed each hike. Four hikes are being planned for the Fall, one each in September, October, November, and December. Details will be announced at the Wednesday meetings and through e-blasts to members. New members are especially welcome. If you are looking for exercise and relief from urban din, come join us.

Bowling



In an enjoyable luncheon, DMA Bowlers marked the end of a season of comradeship, and reminisced about the triumph and travails of individual performance from one week to another, according to **Tom Lom** and **Gehr Brown**. As the season resumes in September, all bowling skills are welcome. The Bowling Group meets on Tuesdays through May from 9:00 a.m. to 11

a.m. at the Nutmeg Bowl at 802 Villa Avenue in Fairfield. After a summer hiatus beginning in June, bowling will resume on September 2.

Happy Wanderers in Historic Downtown Brooklyn



Photo by Gregory Glashan



In May, the Wanderers stepped off for Downtown Brooklyn, led by **Joe Spain**. The Wandering covered a series of historic locations dating from when Brooklyn started as a village that grew up around the ferry slip connecting Long Island to Manhattan. It then became a City in its own right in the 19th Century, before becoming a borough of New York City at the beginning of the 20th Century. The Wanderers visited a number of historic places including the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument at Fort Greene Park and had lunch at Rucola Restaurant in Boerum Hill.

Happy Wanderers in Rockaway, Queens

The Happy Wanderers embarked on their final Wandering of the spring season in June to Rockaway, Queens. From Wall Street's East River Ferry Pier, the group took the ferry to Rockaways. The visit included historic sites in the Rockaways, as well as some new developments, including the restored boardwalk that was damaged by Storm Sandy.



This Fall, the Wanderers will kick off the season Sep. 17 with a walk through Hudson Yards, the new development on the West Side of Manhattan. Nestled among new skyscrapers are two special structures, the Vessel and the Shed. The day's walk will proceed along a portion of the High Line to Chelsea Markets and lunch. Later walks are planned along the Hudson River walkway from Battery Park to 34th St. and an excursion to the Flushing section of Queens, walking through the sports centers and the site of the '39 and '64 World Fairs and a visit to the Museum of the City of New York. As Christmas approaches, a walk is planned through the Manhattan shopping districts.

DMA Annual Picnic at Weed Beach

One of the DMA's most popular events is the annual picnic and cookout held in June. **Alex Garnet** reports that, "Again this year the picnic/cookout was a huge success. We had around two hundred attendees, including 15 widows. The weather was lovely, the food provided by our Vavala friends was excellent and **Rob Smith's** entertainment was terrific. We did not run out of ice or wine and everyone went home very happy."



Photos by Gregory Glashan







Golf Outing



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

Mark Your Calendar– Details on DMA Website

- Sep. 9 -- Investment Group:** Coresite Realty (COR), Thermo Fisher (TMO), GE
- Sep. 11 – Book Group:** Breaking and Entering by Jeremy Smith
- Sep. 17 – Wanderers:** Hudson Yards (The Vessel and The Shed), High-Line
- Sep. 18 – Money Matters:** Update on bonds, negative interest rates
- Sep. 19 – Current Events:** Artificial Intelligence
- Sep. 19 – DMA – New Canaan Men’s Club Golf Tournament**
- Sep. 19 – Soundwater Cruise**
- Oct. 9 -- Book Group:** Our Man: Richard Holbrooke by George Packer
- Oct. 17 – Current Affairs:** Election Legislation (past, present, and future)

Darien Men’s Association Newsletter

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

Activity Representatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pickleball, Jan Selkowitz, 655.0441
Tuesdays, Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. for beginners and 11 a.m. for experienced

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

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