

DMA Newsletter

DMA Website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

September – October 2021

President's Message

One of the joys of life as a DMA member is meeting with others on a Wednesday morning at the DCA to grab a cup of coffee and a pastry and have a good chat on every topic under the sun before we are all called to order and the proceedings begin in earnest. So, I thought I would research some old newsletters to see what themes and ideas I could plagiarize from the past to use for discussion points this membership year. You can imagine my feeling of déjà vu when I looked at **Gary Banks'** notes from last September and read "A year ago, who could have imagined we'd be dealing with this pandemic?" And a year later, here we are again! At least we have progressed in the DMA to the point where most members are vaccinated and prepared to top up their immunity with a third inoculation if recommended. However, until we have again reached the stage of safety with this coronavirus where we do not have to wear masks, we will simply revert to what we did last year and zoom right along. Rest assured, we shall be back to holding meetings live and in-person as soon as we can do so safely. Once we are back to the status quo we will also retain the ability to let members join via a Zoom link so that we can cater to those unable to attend in person.

In the meantime, let's recall that we had a wonderful reunion picnic at Weed Beach in June that turned out to be one of our best-attended events ever. Our thanks go to **Jan Selkowitz** of the Social Events committee, and especially to **Alex Garnett** (reputed to be in line for the Jeopardy job) for his usual great work in organizing the picnic, our catering friends at Vavala's, as well as to **Bob Smith** father and son for the music and liquid refreshments. Other activities over the summer break included bridge under the temporary care of **Roman Weil**, golf behind the leadership of **Peter Carnes**, a Happy Wanderers trip to Roosevelt Island directed by **Joe Spain**, and the twice-weekly pickleball games promoted by **Jan Selkowitz**. Also taking place during the summer were intensive preparations for the upcoming season's speaker program by **Charles Salmans**, suggestions for books to be read and reviewed from **Harris Hester**, a planned expansion in attendance at bowling by **Tom Lom** (in between golf games), developing ideas for new current affairs discussions led by **Mark Nunan** and **Mike Wheeler**, and plotting the resumption of bridge under the guidance of **John Podkowsky**. **David**

McCollum and **Bob Plunkett** have already set out the route for hiking expeditions, the Happy Wanderers are laying the groundwork for more forays with **Joe Spain** and **David Mace**, and the Investment Discussion Group under **Jim Phillips** is digging for opportunities in REITs and Business Development Companies; perhaps **Doug Campbell** can provide them with some inspiration from vertical farming in his Money Matters program. Then there's pickleball, the all-weather sport spearheaded by **Jan Selkowitz** and **Woody Spurgeon**. Somewhere there will be woodworking under the leadership of **Tom Williams**, and I am sure **Geoff Rezek** is scheming for more cribbage players to join him. All-in-all, a remarkable array of activities and interests is once more planned by a group of dedicated volunteers.

I also researched a little book that was written in 1987 about the first ten years of the forerunner to the DMA, the SMA – the Senior Men's Association. It's worth reading to discover that the DMA still adheres to being a forum "to provide purposeful leisure time activities and not just a place for men to sip coffee. The fellowship is important, too. We've got a great organization and it's largely because of the informality, the laughs, and freedom of expression, as well as the good programs." While the author notes that "members know it is a great organization for fun and fellowship," he also emphasized that one of the primary purposes is "to participate in affairs beneficial to the community." The late **Mike Heitz**, Member of the Board, and Chairman of the Community Services committee, more than simply participated in the activities aimed at providing a better community milieu. Not only did he perform his duties with ability and attention to detail, but he was always seeking ways in which he could expand our reach to further help the community. We will miss him and the enthusiasm and commitment he brought to his work on behalf of the DMA.

Finally, it's appropriate at the start of our membership year to quote from a poem by one of our resident poets, **Tom Igoe**:

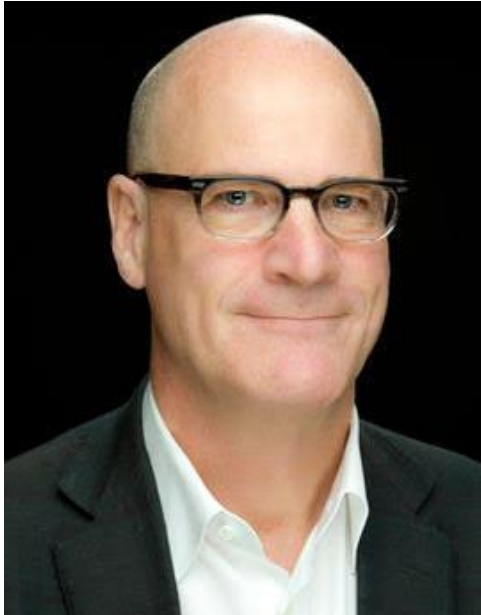
'Tis a challenge to predict the events that will come
With too many forces suffusing the hum
Yet one thing is clear, this we all know for sure
Our DMA culture and friendships endure

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

Bryan Hooper
President

DMA Speakers September-October 2021

Wednesday, September 8, 2021



Grant McCracken is a cultural anthropologist. He will discuss “American Futures: How an anthropologist can help spot, track and predict change.” Grant holds a PhD from the University of Chicago. He is the author of 14 books including *Culturematic*, *Flock and Flow*, and *Dark Value*. His book *A New Honor Code* was published by Simon and Schuster last year. And his next book, *The Return of the Native*, also published by Simon and Schuster, is scheduled to be out at about the time he addresses the DMA. Grant was the founder and Director of the Institute of Contemporary Culture at the Royal Ontario Museum. He has taught at Harvard, University of Cambridge, and MIT. He is a co-founder of the Artisanal Economies Project. He

is the inventor of The Griff, an early warning system for social and cultural change (see www.mapping-the-future.com).

Grant consults widely, including with Google, Ford Foundation, Kanye West, Reddit, Netflix, Sony, Boston Book Festival, NBC, Diageo, IBM, Nike, and the Obama White House. He is credited with spotting the rise of Donald Trump, the fall of Second Life (an artificial world that some thought would dominate the Internet), and the disruption of consumer packaged-goods sales in the grocery aisle by Alice Waters and others in the artisanal food movement.

Arranged by Ric Grefé

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Jim Knox, curator of Education for Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo, will speak about “The Rarest Wolf of All.” Once extinct in the wild, enigmatic, and elusive, the Red Wolf’s story is one of unfolding mystery and 21st century discovery. With less than 300 animals in existence, these remarkable creatures are found solely in the U.S., and are among the rarest species on the planet. Join Zoologist and Connecticut’s Beardsley

Zoo Curator of Education, Jim Knox, to meet the animal behind the mystery and learn what we can all do to ensure its survival.

Jim directs educational programming and conducts field conservation for this AZA-accredited institution. Jim is a graduate of Cornell University where he studied Animal Science and Applied Economics. He has studied Great White Sharks in South Africa, conducted field research on Alaskan Brown Bears, field conservation for Atlantic Salmon and written nationally for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



A member of The Explorers Club, Jim has served as an on-camera wildlife expert for The Today Show and The CBS Early Show and has lectured for The Harvard College Conservation Society. Jim has been featured in The New York Times, served as a TEDx Presenter and as a Guest Host for Connoisseur Media Star 99.9 FM Anna & Raven Show. Jim writes a column, Wildly Successful, for The Greenwich Sentinel and serves as a Science Adviser to The Bruce Museum.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, September 22, 2021



Bert von Stuelpnagel will give a presentation on the vainglorious Wilhelm II von Hohenzollern, the last German Kaiser and perhaps the most colorful historical figure opening the door to the 20th Century. How do you explain the fact that the eldest grandson of Queen Victoria led Germany into a deadly fight with the countries governed by his cousins King George V and Tsar Nicholas II? The Great War has been analyzed and discussed in thousands of works, but still to this day many questions remain. Bert has extensively researched the history of the Hohenzollern. In this he has been motivated by the fact that a number of his ancestors worked for the Crown,

including his grandfather who was a senior administrator of the Kaiser. The “Second Reich” was not so called until Hitler engineered the third one – and when the Austrian WW I corporal used, and abused, Prussian traditions and military symbols to legitimize his dictatorship. The 20th Century cannot be understood without examining the impact of the last Kaiser at its onset. Bert’s presentation will try to do just that.

Bert was born in Freiburg, Germany and graduated from Bad Toelz High School in 1969. After military service and training in banking, he worked in the financial industry during his entire career, including 35 years at the New York Branch of BayernLB, a German public sector bank. He retired in 2015 as Executive Vice President, U.S. Capital Markets. He holds a Masters degree in Political Sciences from State University of Bavaria, and an M.B.A. in Finance from Pace University. Bert has served on the DMA board and is now chairman of the Endowment Fund.

Wednesday, September 29, 2021



Art Gottlieb will speak on the subject of “John F. Kennedy and PT 109.” Art is a local historian on subjects of political and military history who has frequently given talks to the DMA over the past few years. He was formerly a professional curator of naval history and the Technical Director of Exhibits at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in NYC. In these roles, Art worked regularly with veterans of all services towards the creation of exhibits accurately illustrating the history of 20th century warfare.

From 1989 through 1997, Art coordinated with all branches of the armed services and National Guard towards the preservation of historic ships, aircraft and armor from around the world, and has facilitated the recovery of scores of artifacts from warships slated for demolition from reserve fleets.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, October 6, 2021



David Fitzpatrick will speak about “Cable News and How It Changed the American Landscape.” A member of DMA and a Darien resident for 35 years, David is a staff writer for CNN’s flagship prime time newscast, “Anderson Cooper 360.” He has been at CNN as an anchor producer, senior executive producer and investigative producer since 2001. Prior to joining CNN, he spent 25 years at CBS News in a variety of editorial positions, including service as a producer in the network’s Washington, Los Angeles and London Bureaus. He has also served as the network’s Bureau Chief in Chicago and later, National Editor. He joined the CBS Evening News as a producer in the late 1980s and subsequently joined “60 Minutes” as a producer attached to the late Morley Safer. Upon leaving CBS

News in 1998, he joined the staff of the ABC News prime time newsmagazine “20/20.”

During his career, David has worked for CBS News, ABC News and CNN on assignment across the world, including time in Iran during the hostage crisis, in Poland during the Solidarity uprising, and throughout the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America. He was also assigned to work in New Orleans during the Katrina disaster, in Indonesia for the devastating tsunamis of 2004/05 and in Malaysia for the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Arranged by Alex Garnett

Wednesday, October 13, 2021



Andrea Stillman will talk about the photographer “Ansel Adams, Up Close and Personal.” Andrea was Adams’ assistant in the 1970s and worked with the photographer at his home in Carmel and travelled internationally to work on Adams’ books, exhibitions, and sales. After the photographer’s death in 1984, for 20 years she acted as an Editor for The Ansel Adams Trust that controls his estate. Among the Ansel Adams photography books Andrea has edited are, “Looking at Ansel Adams: The Photographs and the Man,” “The American Wilderness,” “California,” and

“400 Photographs.” She had lectured on the photographer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, October 20, 2021



Stan Twardy will speak about initiatives undertaken by Republicans for the Rule of Law, a group of life-long Republicans dedicated to defending the institutions of our republic and upholding the rule of law. The group is committed to the principle that laws apply equally to everyone from the average citizen to the highest office holders in government. The group promotes standards of fidelity to the Constitution, transparency, and truth. A partner at Day Pitney LLP in Stamford, Mr. Twardy is a leading corporate litigator. Clients have included Fortune 500 companies, executives of these companies and others involved in federal and state criminal,

regulatory and Securities and Exchange Commission investigations. He has argued many civil and criminal cases in both federal and state appellate courts. In addition, he has been counsel of record in several cases before the Supreme Court of the United States. Previously, Mr. Twardy was a federal prosecutor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut under presidents Reagan and Bush, and Chief of Staff to former Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

Wednesday, October 27, 2021



Dr. Antonio “Tony” Dajer will speak about “Covid-19 and Darwin: Why Does it Keep Surprising Us?” Dr. Dajer, who has been a New York City emergency room physician for 30 years, will relate the strain on emergency department staff as Covid outbreaks peaked, what physicians have learned to reduce death among those hospitalized and, as Darwin would have predicted, how we still face uncertainties about controlling Covid mutations and other viruses that may yet appear. Dr. Dajer treated patients at the height of the Covid crisis -- both at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York and at Stamford Hospital. At the time of the World Trade Center attacks on 9/11, he was the assistant Emergency

Department director at New York Presbyterian – Lower Manhattan Hospital and the attending physician on shift, leading the team that treated hundreds of injured individuals.

Dr. Dajer was born in New York City, raised in Puerto Rico, and received his BA degree at Harvard. He received his medical degree from NYU and was Medical Director of New York Presbyterian Hospital from 2005-2018. Dr. Dajer was interviewed in the March 26, 2020 issue of ***The New Yorker*** about the lessons of 9/11 while treating patients at the height of the pandemic.

See the following link: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/a-manhattan-er-doctor-recalls-the-lessons-of-911-while-treating-coronavirus-patients>.

Arranged by Charles Salmans

In Memoriam

Mike Heitz



Michael George Heitz, 71, died unexpectedly on August 26, 2021 in Darien, CT. He was born on November 14, 1949 in Indianapolis, Indiana to George and Helen Crofts Heitz. While his dad pursued a career at Aetna, his family moved frequently, and Mike could claim Indianapolis, Miami, South Bend, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Peoria, and Simsbury as "home." He credited his attendance at three different high schools for his ease in all social interactions. It gave him the lifelong skill of making friends.

Mike graduated from the University of Illinois in 1971 as a Certified Public Accountant and began a career in Public Accounting at Haskins and Sells in Hartford. He was then hired by Coopers and Lybrand and moved to New York City, where he spent most of his career. Mike earned his law degree from Fordham School of Law in 1980 while working full time. He became a Partner at Coopers and Lybrand in 1984, then moved to Arthur Andersen where he became a partner in 1991. Mike had a private practice in Tax Law and Accounting, and then joined TIAA-CREF as the Associate General Counsel. He ended his career as the Senior Tax Counsel for Voya Financial, Inc., and retired in 2017.

Mike wanted to provide his family with the stability of growing up in one community and chose Darien in 1991. Through the years he coached Little League teams and was on the Boards of the Darien Art Center and the Darien Nature Center. He cheered all of his children on through soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and hockey games. When he retired, Mike became actively involved in the Darien Men's Association and the Representative Town Meeting, serving on the Finance Committee. He never missed a meeting.

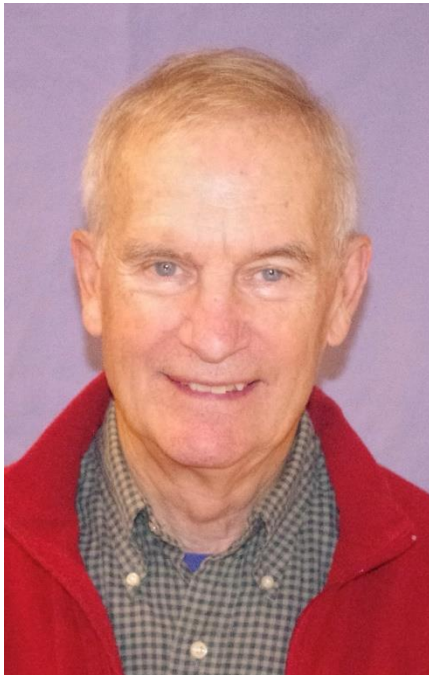
Mike was perpetually curious and had a keen interest in politics and history. He thought before he spoke or wrote and recognized the power of words. He was a true friend to many and kept in touch with friends from every aspect of his life. He had a

wonderful sense of humor and a ready laugh. He enjoyed traveling, meeting new people, and experiencing different cultures. He still did all his own yardwork.

Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, Nancy Wood Heitz. He was immensely proud of son Matthew, his wife, Ashley, grandsons Harrison and Oliver, of Glen Allen, Virginia, daughter Caitlin Sommer, her husband Lucas and sons Cameron and Benjamin of Lake Oswego, Oregon, and son Nick and his wife, Kelsey, of Darien. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Ann Blanc, her daughter Laura, Laura's husband, Adam, and son Hunter.

A memorial service was held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Person-to-Person, 1864 Post Road, Darien, CT.

Bill Miller



William Harlowe Miller, Jr. of Norwalk, Connecticut passed away peacefully at Stamford Hospital on August 30, 2021, after a long bout with dementia. He was born on April 22, 1939 in Mineola, NY to William Harlowe Miller and Martha Clarke Miller of Lloyd Harbor, New York. Bill attended Phillips Exeter Academy (class of 1957) where he played on the varsity soccer, ice hockey, and lacrosse teams. He then attended Princeton University, where he played on the varsity ice hockey team and was a member of the Ivy Club. After graduating from Princeton in 1961, Bill served in the U.S. Navy, during which time he sailed on a destroyer, the USS Strong, and achieved the rank of Lieutenant. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1963, Bill earned his JD from Syracuse University College of Law in 1966. He also married Jean Piersol of

Philadelphia in 1966. After living in New York City for a few years, Bill and Jeanie settled in their current house in Wilson Point, Connecticut.

Bill was a trusts and estates attorney, initially with Humes, Botzow, Wagner, and Miller, and finished his distinguished career as a partner at Davidson Dawson & Clark, LLP of New York and New Canaan. He retired in 2014. Always generous with his time,

Bill leaves a legacy of volunteering and service to the activities and cultures that provided him with so much joy throughout his life. He coached his sons' hockey teams in the Darien Youth Hockey Association, served on the Board of Trustees of Greens Farms Academy, the Board of Directors of the Amateur Ski Club of New York (ASCNY), and the Board of Directors of the Wilson Point Property Owners Association, for which he served as Secretary for 30 years.

In addition to ice hockey and skiing in Vermont and Utah, one of Bill's primary passions was sailing. He grew up racing Atlantics and other one-design boats on Long Island Sound at the Cold Spring Harbor Beach Club. He went on to race in numerous Newport-Bermuda Races, Block Island Races, Vineyard Races, and Halifax Races. He also loved cruising the waters of the northeast with his family. He was a member of the Norwalk Yacht Club, the New York Yacht Club, the Corinthians, and the North American Station of Royal Scandinavian Yacht Clubs. In addition to his accomplishments on the water, and in keeping with his spirit of giving, Bill served as a board member and Chairman of the Junior Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound in the 1980s. He was also a board member of the Norwalk Yacht Club and its Junior Sailing Program, for which he served as Chairman from 1981 through 1984.

Bill was a modest, unassuming soul who was loved and respected by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Jeanie, his two sons, William H. Miller, III (Rachael) of Crested Butte, Colorado and Thomas P. Miller (Sara) of Sammamish, Washington, and four grandchildren, Paige, Ellie, Brooks, and Skyler, who were the little lights of his life. He is also survived by his sister, Martha Miller Massey and his brother, Ludlow Clarke Miller, as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

A memorial service will be held on October 9, 2021 at Saint Luke's Parish in Darien, CT at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Norwalk Maritime Center by posting this link to your browser: <https://www.maritimeaquarium.org/donate>.

Smooth sailing, Grandad.

Patricia Barton

Trisha Barton, wife of DMA member **David Barton**, passed away peacefully at home in Bonita Springs, Florida on August 22, 2021 surrounded by loved ones. Trisha handled a difficult cancer diagnosis with courage, positivity and faith.

Trisha is survived by David, her husband of 52 years, her daughter Melinda Stewart and husband Tarun Stewart of Darien, CT, and her daughter Jennifer Barton and husband Willard Morgan of Alna, Maine. A great joy in her life were her four grandchildren, Malcolm & Rowan Stewart, and Sierra & Zella Morgan. She was close with her sibling, John Robert Young of Bonita Springs, Florida.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, Florida in October. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Trisha's honor may be sent to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Moffitt Cancer Center, The Florida Cancer Specialists, or a charity of your choice.

New Members

Clyde White



Clyde White grew up in Granby, Massachusetts, a small town 90 miles west of Boston. He attended Northfield Mount Hermon School and Tufts University where he earned a degree in economics and played varsity soccer.

Since his teenage years he has been fascinated with markets so he went to Wall Street and joined the equity derivatives department at Paine Webber. He spent many years there and later at Morgan Stanley and participated in the enormous growth of the derivatives markets from the early days of listed options to the wide range of sophisticated products we trade today.

He volunteers for a group called No Labels whose mission is to foster civility and bi-partisanship in Washington – not an easy task. He and his wife Carter have lived in Darien for over 30 years and they belong to the Country Club of Darien. They have two sons. One is a programmer living in Austin, Texas and the other is a rocket engineer living in Los Angeles, California. Clyde enjoys playing golf, skiing, and playing chess.

Howard Zipser



Howard Zipser is a lawyer specializing in the area of land use and zoning and has worked on many of the largest and most complicated zoning approvals in New York City. Included in this list of projects are the Hospital for Special Surgery expansion over the FDR Drive as well as the Citigroup Center.

Howard received his B.A. from John Hopkins University in 1962. He attended law school at Washington University School of Law receiving

the J.D. degree in 1966 and his LL.M. in 1968. Howard is a past Vice President of the NY Junior Tennis League and the current President of Inside Broadway, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the theater arts to public school students. He has been married to his wife Marsha for 54 years and has two children living in southern Connecticut and four grandchildren.

Tim Reis



Tim Reis grew up on Long Island (Wantagh, Syosset and mostly Garden City, with Yorba Linda, California briefly wedged in between). He attended Fairfield University and graduated in 1983 with a degree in English. Tim spent 35 years in the media business, selling advertising at magazines including Fortune and Forbes, founding an independent rep firm in Atlanta and ultimately spending 12 years at Google before retiring at the end of 2019. Tim, his wife Patty and their two (adult) children have lived in Darien for 20 years. Tim continues to guest lecture at Columbia Business School, he loves to travel, holds black belts in karate and aikido, is an avid

gardener, golfer and an unsuccessful singer/songwriter (you can hear his work on Spotify, YouTube, Amazon Music, Apple Music, etc.)

Daniel Kolakowski



Daniel Kolakowski was born in Hartford and raised in Wethersfield, CT. He received his BS in Civil Engineering in 1975 from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado. He served in the military for five years at a Strategic Air Command base in Maine and left the service as a Captain.

Dan moved to Darien in 1980 and began his career with Skanska USA, a large international construction management firm where he became Senior Vice President. He received his MBA from the University of Connecticut. Dan was

responsible for major construction projects in NYC, including the US Air Terminal at LaGuardia, Terminal One at JFK, all the AirTrain stations at JFK, Howard Beach and Jamaica, most of the new piers and parks in and along the Hudson River for the Hudson River Park Trust and the complete renovation of the United Nations Headquarters along 1st Avenue. Dan retired in 2016, but still consults with Delta Airlines on construction projects at LaGuardia.

Dan and his wife Pam live in Darien and are active members of Noroton Presbyterian Church, where Dan has served as an Elder. They have two daughters (Julie Sweeney and Tracy King) and one son (Keith) and seven grandchildren. Both daughters live in Darien and their son lives in Orlando, FL. Dan's interests include most sports, but especially golf, as well as traveling.

Jim Garvin



James "Jim" Patrick Garvin was born in the Bronx in 1948. He worked summers at Yankee Stadium selling hot dogs while attending Cardinal Hayes High School. Jim received a BS in Economics from the University of Dayton. He later received an MBA in Finance and Investments from Baruch College, CUNY, and a Post Grad degree in Accounting, NYU Stern Graduate School of Business. Jim is a CPA, having worked at Coopers & Lybrand in NYC. He worked for 30 years at Citigroup's Corporate and Investment Bank. When his division relocated to Stamford in 1983, the family moved to Darien. For many years, he was an Adjunct Finance Professor at Fordham University Graduate School of Business at Lincoln Center. After 30 years at

Citigroup, Jim changed careers. As University Bursar, for The City University of New York (CUNY), he is involved in setting tuition policies and related student matters.

For the past 25 years, Jim has been serving as an Admissions Officer for the United States Naval Academy. He was a Unit Commissioner for the CT Yankee BSA Council and the Andrew Shaw Memorial Trust Charter Organization Representative for the Darien's Scouting Units.

Jim has been a member of Roton Point for 38 years. He is currently serving on the Board as Treasurer, and Chair of both the Finance and Governance Committees.

Jim and his wife, Judy, have three children and six grandchildren. In his leisure time, he enjoys travel, classical music, reading, playing bridge, and sailing.



Activities

Book Discussion Group

Harris Hester reports that in June the book group discussed *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama, which presents Obama's personal account and analysis of his rise to the Presidency and a detailed narrative of his challenges and experiences during his first two years in office, with particular focus on the 2008 – 2009 financial crisis, domestic policies and legislation and his leadership of the U.S. in foreign affairs, including with respect to ongoing challenges in the Middle East and the pursuit of Bin Laden.

The group will resume its regular schedule after Labor Day. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, at 2 pm, when members will discuss *The Quiet Americans*, by Scott Anderson. This work is a probing history of the CIA's early role from the outset of the Cold War into the 1960s, viewed through the exploits of four American spies. Over the course of the narrative, the author shows how the CIA was increasingly pushed to function as an instrument of politically charged ambitions.

On Wednesday, October 13, at 2 pm, the group will discuss *Empire of Pain*, by Patrick Radden Keefe (the author of *Say Nothing*). The book provides a richly researched account of the Sackler pharmaceutical dynasty, agents of the opioid addiction epidemic that plagues our country today. Keefe exposes the details of how the Sacklers—the first generation of three brothers, followed by their children and grandchildren—marketed their goods, beginning with “ethical drugs” (as distinct from illegal ones) to treat mental illness, Librium and then Valium, which were effectively the same thing but were advertised as treating different maladies: “If Librium was the cure for ‘anxiety,’ Valium should be prescribed for ‘psychic tension.’” By Keefe's reckoning, by the mid-1970s, Valium was being prescribed 60 million times per year, resulting in fantastic profits for Purdue. OxyContin followed in 1996—and then the opioid crisis, responsibility for which has been heavily litigated and for which the Sacklers finally filed bankruptcy even though they “remained one of the wealthiest families in the United States.” Of particular interest is the book-closing account of the Sacklers' legal efforts to intimidate the author as he tried to make his way through the “fog of collective denial” that shrouded them.

A definitive, damning, urgent tale of overweening avarice at tremendous cost to society.

Bowling Group | Last Season's Highlights | Fall Season

This report from Tom Lom: Oh what a year we had...strikes and splits and spares, oh my! Given the pandemic, it was a pleasant surprise that we had a bowling season at all. But we did and we had fun.

While our attendance suffered due to the pandemic, it also suffered because injuries prevented some guys from being able to participate. That changed somewhat in March when both Frank DeLeo and Alex Garnett came off of the DL and returned to the lanes with surgically repaired limbs. Were they rusty? Sure, but you would never know it from their scores.

Once his golf commitments ended in October, Ben Briggs joined us. Ben decided to make a renewed commitment to bowling this year since he knew he would be in town through the winter months. So, he bought a new ball, took a lesson, and was able to bowl more this year than in recent years. All this showed up in improved scores as his average improved by eleven pins year-on-year.

One of the highlights of the season became the "Third Game Series" between Ben and George Gilliam. Aching for some "action", around mid-November, Ben put down a quarter on the table as we were about to start game three that morning and said to George: "Shall we play this one for a quarter?" George couldn't resist so GAME ON. For a number of weeks, the Third Game became something to look forward to. By the time Ben had to pack it in for the new golf season, I think the result was 4-3 for Ben. Or was it 4-3 for George. All I know is that it was nip and tuck each week and went back and forth all winter. And it was great for some trash talk and good laughs.

Now let's move to Who's Up and Who's Down. We do this by looking at season-long average versus average for the last 21 games (handicap average). I'm happy to report that of the six guys who were regulars, all six are UP! Of special note is Gehr Brown whose season average was 172 but handicap average ended at 181 for a +9. Of really special note is George, whose last 21 average of 159 is +14 versus his season average of 145. Not only does this mean George is red hot, I'd also have to say it earns George the award for "Most Improved Bowler." George had a remarkable year when you look at it. Five short years ago, George finished the season with an average of 125. Now his "handicap" average is 159. Talk about improved! Prior to this season, George hadn't recorded a 200 game; this season he had FIVE! And he'd never recorded a 500 series;

this season he had two including a 559. So, congratulations to George for a terrific year.

The award for high game and high series both go to the man who became a strike machine at mid-season: Gehr Brown. For Gehr, this year was a Tale of Two Seasons. During the Fall, he was a basket case. We were all wondering who this imposter was that was bowling with us. Then it all turned around in about January thanks to one thing...SANDPAPER! Yep, Gehr went in to see Chris in the Pro Shop and came away with a little round spongy thing with a gritty surface on one side that better wipes off the oil from the lanes. Presto change-o...the old Gehr returned. From then on Gehr seemed to have at least one run each week of five or six strikes in a row. He started to put together week after week of good series including the high series of the year, a 630. And it seemed that every week he'd have at least one 200 game including a 233, 235, and the high game of the season, a 251. Well done, Gehr! It's so nice to have you back where you belong.

Some other highlights:

Frank and Alex both receive a "Lightening in a Bottle" award. On May 4, Frank rolled his best ever DMA series of 593 which included his best ever DMA game of 224. On April 6, Alex rolled his best ever DMA series of 562 which included back-to-back 200 games and 20 frames in a row without an open in games two and three! This came one week after George had his own Lightening week with that 559 series.

That leaves the award for high average for the year which goes to the Commish, Tom Lom, with a 183. While there were not the fireworks achieved by the other guys, Tom did manage something this year that he'd never accomplished before...every series of the season was 500 or better. So, we'll also give him the "Mr. Consistency Award". Of his 93 games, he bowled 20 of 200 or better and another 14 of 190+.

More important than highlights of strong performances on the lanes was the amount of smiles and laughs that we had all year long regardless of scores. Even our Covid masks could not conceal the delight we all felt just being together for the comradery with one another. It's what DMA is all about.



DMA Bowlers at Nutmeg Bowl, Fairfield

DMA bowlers will resume their competition on Tuesday, September 7. As usual, we convene at 9 am at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Carpooling can be arranged. Already, we have a few DMA members who have indicated they'd like to join in the fun for their first time this season. And know that regardless of bowling skill level, all are welcome. We promise that you'll get some exercise and have plenty of laughs.

Bridge

The DMA Bridge Group was active playing on-line all summer. The top three scores were posted by John Bartlett, Tom Gildersleeve and George Gilliam. We thank Roman Weil for his leadership of the group during the summer. Roman has taken off for California to deal with some medical issues. We hope for his speedy return. John Podkowsky returns from his summer hiatus on September 1st and will resume leadership of the Bridge Group.

We are currently considering whether to return to live play at St. Luke's this fall or continue playing on BBO for the time being. If any Bridge Group member has a strong

preference for live play or for on-line play, please let John Podkowsky know at Jpod912@aol.com.

Current Affairs

The Current Affairs Group plans to resume its regular schedule this fall, following the DMA guidelines for in-person meetings, with the intention of offering a Zoom option as well. The first two monthly discussion topics are summarized below.

September 16. Real Life as a Palestinian – Has America gotten this one right or wrong? As a successful international lawyer, some two decades ago, David Maloof asked: “How could he make the biggest difference in this life?” He decided that the biggest challenge he could undertake was to try to solve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

October 28. Income Inequality. Is it a problem, and if so, what are the solutions? What are the Chinese doing to address their experience with issues of income inequality? Mike Wheeler will moderate the overall discussion. Gary Banks will present and argue for a proposal. Mark Nunan will argue for the opposing side.

Golf

The following summer report from Peter Carnes: We have had good turnouts for the golf events held so far this year and are hopeful of continuing this success in at least one more planned in September.

On July 13, the 32 DMA member turnout at Oak Hills in Norwalk represented one of our strongest showings in years. The weather was cloudy and damp, but the rain held off. There were no reports of unusual personal achievement although there was obvious frustration with the challenge of the large greens claimed to be exceptional within the state.

Twenty DMA golfers gathered again on August 26 at Country Club of Darien, which recently hosted the Connecticut State Open Championship. Opens are characterized by thick and heavy roughs which made the CCD course a more formidable opponent than usual. The day was made even more challenging by being extremely warm.

Nevertheless, the group finished together and retreated to the comfort of the clubhouse to enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon. Again, no claims of personal glory or accomplishments, but everyone enjoyed and appreciated the hospitality and courtesies of CCD and its staff and the opportunity to play on an outstanding golf course.

A third golf event is planned for Tuesday, September 14, commencing at 10:30 am, at Sterling Farms in Stamford, site of many previous DMA events. Sign-up information has been sent to the group. With the prospect of more seasonal temperatures and a convenient location, we are hopeful of another strong turnout.

Below are several photos from the summer DMA golf outing at CCD.





Happy Wanderers – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge | May 25, 2021

We had a grand weather day for our third Wandering of the spring – this time to the Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in the Idlewild, Broad Channel section of Queens, near Rockaway and JFK Airport. Fourteen Wanderers gathered at the DCA parking lot for an 8:30 am carpooling departure. The planning of this outing dates back to the prior autumn when David Mace and Mark Shakley visited the site for a potential outdoor Wandering in the time of Covid. They came back fully thumbs up, but the weather turned raw and we moved this outing to the spring. The bonus this time was that we were able to have three genuine birders among us: Alec Wiggen and his pal Bill VanLoan, plus Dave McCollum’s son-in-law, Scott Isherwood, who happened to be visiting from Maine. These fellows guided and shared their knowledge of the many species of land and water birds at the Jamaica Bay site, and how to listen for, find and distinguish them. They were generous and patient with us neophytes, who were making discoveries beyond our expectations thanks to them. We saw swallows, warblers and finches, some catbirds and blackbirds, many swans, geese and gulls, plus short-legged ruddy ducks and long-billed ibises. It was a grand awakening to nature, even for us seasoned geezers.

After this relaxed and edifying walk around the Preserve’s trail circuit, we went on to view the beauty of the crashing surf along the Rockaway beach, and then went to a fine lunch at Uma’s, a Uzbekistan restaurant on Rockaway Boulevard. Thus inspired and well fed, we drove home after a most enjoyable Wandering.



DMA Wanderers at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Happy Wanderers – Roosevelt Island | June 23, 2021

In their final act of the spring season, nine Wanderers took the morning train to Grand Central Terminal on a spectacular, cloudless, low humidity day. They rode the Roosevelt Island tram over the East River during a six-minute gondola ride that proved to be an eye-filling treat, enhanced by the clarity of the day. Once on the Island, they walked past the brand new Graduate hotel, by the now complete Cornell University Tech College and past the preserved hulk of one of the nineteenth century quarantine hospitals, when the place was named Blackwell’s Island. Next came the entrance to Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, a four-acre inspiring architectural presentation designed by Louis Kahn, directly abeam of the United Nations buildings. The views in all directions from the Park were breathtaking, even for a group of geezers who had seen a lot of the City.

The Wanderers then returned to Manhattan, walking past the new 67-story tower building, One Vanderbilt Avenue, at the entrance to Grand Central which opened in September 2020, then stopping to see the several buildings that make up the campus of the J.P. Morgan Library and Museum, and finally proceeding north on Madison to Mulligan’s Pub, where they had a very fine lunch before heading home. A stunning excursion!



Looking ahead to this fall, the Wanderers have September and October events planned. On Thursday, October 7, we will be led by Mark Shakley on a wandering in Brooklyn Heights, and on Thursday, October 21, Sunil Saksena will lead us in Harlem. Details and information about train times will be provided later.

Hiking | Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, May 2021 | Fall Season

The following report from Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett: On a refreshing cool morning after the heat of the weekend, a hearty group of 12 (plus one dog) spent a delightful two hours exploring a tiny section of the mammoth 4300-acre reservation in Cross River, NY. The park offers not only hiking over miles of trails but also camping, picnicking and horseback riding. Ever on the lookout for fauna, we spotted a fat worm and a tiny frog—wild kingdom!

As on past hikes, here we opted for the Leatherman’s Loop trail which climbs steeply to a scenic overlook of the Cross River Reservoir. Once on top we paused to admire the view and take some photos. As we descended from the viewpoint over a narrow but navigable trail we stopped again for a side-trip up to Leatherman’s Cave, one of the many caves frequented by the legendary “Leatherman” who roamed the northeast around the mid-1800s. Four of our group hiked up the very steep rock path to the cave. Alas, he was not in residence. We returned to the main trail to continue our 3-mile circuit back to the parking lot. A very pleasant hike in a beautiful and rugged park.

Photo at the top of Leatherman’s Loop trail overlooking the Cross River Reservoir.



And below is a massive glacial outcropping in the shape of the head of a vigilant prehistoric creature. Those who walked beneath did so with great care and respect for Mother Nature.



Looking ahead to the 2021 fall season, Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett report that they are planning hikes in September and October on the following tentative schedule:

Thursday, September 30, at 10 am. The Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area, Weston, CT. This area, comprising 1100 acres, is owned by the Aspetuck Land Trust and features a variety of trails including some with a view of the Saugatuck Reservoir.

The group will be hiking a loop of about 3.5 miles of moderate and easy terrain. Dogs on a leash OK.

Thursday, October 25, at 10 am. Devil's Den Preserve, Weston, CT. This is the largest nature preserve in southwestern Connecticut. 1700 acres of woodlands, wetlands, ponds and streams. The group will be hiking a loop of about 4 miles over moderate + terrain. Several rocky stretches but lots of flat trail too. No dogs.

At least for the first hike in September, the group will continue its Covid era practice of a hike without a lunch to follow. Depending on the course of the coronavirus, the group may decide to include an optional lunch in October and beyond. As always, Dave and Bob encourage friends, spouses, partners, etc. to join them. Hikers operate as a group and take breaks as needed so that all are comfortable with the pace.

Investment Discussion Group

Report from Jim Phillips: The Investment Discussion Group will resume its Zoom meetings on September 1st at 10 am. Members of IDG are encouraged to present ideas for new investments or simply obtain additional insights on their personal holdings. Macro themes and how to play them are the basis for many of our discussions.

For example, we previously covered cybersecurity as a theme with possible investments in CrowdStrike (CRWD) and Fortinet (FTNT). Another macro theme was the renewable sector, with Art Baron and Chip Schroeder presenting thoughts on Enphase (ENPH), SolarEdge (SEDG), TAN (an ETF), Plug Power (PLUG) and Ballard Systems (BLDP). Jim Phillips provided Hannon Armstrong (HASI) and QCLN (another ETF) as additional renewable investment options.

During our first fall meeting, on Thursday, September 1, at 10 am, we will discuss REITs and Business Development Companies (BDCs) for income generation and review what smart investors were buying and selling during Q2.

Money Matters

The **Money Matters** group will continue to present a program monthly on financial matters (not stocks, bonds or market investments). On Thursday, October 21, at 10 am, there will be a program on Vertical Farming. Doug Campbell asks that you please send him your ideas and thoughts for future sessions by emailing him at dc3tsc@gmail.com.

Pickleball

Jan Selkowitz reports that DMA Pickleball players have had an enjoyable summer, playing every Tuesday and Thursday mornings and occasionally in a smaller group on Saturday. With the conversion to 4 new courts at Cherry Lawn, we have been able to accommodate all members from the DMA who had previously contacted Jan about playing. Although we have yet to receive dedicated times to play from Parks & Rec, in spite of heavy usage we have found a way usually to get 2 or 3 courts.

Pickleballers plan to play year-round on the outside courts. Only inclement weather will keep us away. Parks & Rec continues to give beginners lessons. Some of our knowledgeable members such as Woody Spurgeon may also try to help the inexperienced players.

Again, we ask that any members who want to play call or email Jan and we will try our best to find some time for you.

Social Committee Planning

Jan Selkowitz reports that, because of Covid, the **DMA Social Committee** has nothing set in stone. We do have a date for the Christmas Party but, depending on the extent of Covid, everything could change. We had a wonderful spring picnic in June (see below) and of course we hope to repeat this in 2022. Unfortunately, most of our activities are inside and sometimes involve buses and trains, making the situation more difficult as the pandemic continues. We expect to have a Social Committee meeting in September to discuss all our options.

Late Spring Gatherings

DMA Members in the DCA's Formal Garden | May 26, 2021

During the waning days of spring, with the declining pace of coronavirus infections and hospitalizations and the ubiquitous distribution of Covid vaccines among those over 65, DMA'ers, eager to shake off the enduring isolation of the past 14 months, began to meet again in-person in the welcoming formal gardens of the DCA Meadowlands. Below is a picture of the happy group who assembled following our final Zoom General Meeting of the spring season.



DMA in Memorial Day Parade | May 31, 2021

Undeterred by chilly temperatures, over 25 participating DMA members (and four cars) turned out to demonstrate their shared pride in the DMA's community role. Particularly gratifying were all the smiling faces of clapping bystanders as well as those of members simply enjoying an opportunity sustaining DMA's fellowship spirit.





DMA Picnic/Cookout | June 16, 2021

On a highly anticipated Wednesday evening in June, the DMA hosted its first annual picnic/cookout in two years. The turnout was monumental – over 230 people enjoyed a beautiful evening together in the picnic grove at Weed Beach. What a wonderful personal gathering to cap off a challenging yet rewarding DMA year. The late spring weather was perfect, the food was delicious, the music was most entertaining and the company was superb.

A huge thank you to **Alex Garnett** for taking the lead in organizing this affair. His personal reflections are most appropriate: “I would just say that we have come a long way since the days of our wives bringing the food, the time we moved all the furniture from the DCA in a hired truck and also did our own grilling to now having Danny and his Vavala’s staff do all the heavy lifting.

The beauty of this event and our holiday party is that we have so many wonderful people who really care about one another. As we all age, we may slow down a bit but the hugs, smiles and laughter always help to brighten our lives.”

One DMA member, **Mark Nunan**, was so moved by the perfect weather that the bard in him was inspired to share a short celebratory poem on the occasion:

*Not too hot, not too cold
Still – could have rained out
Ya – but Garnett’s got clout
Our day reigned sun, real gold*







The following image requires no explanation!



Mark Your Calendar – Details on DMA Website

A new 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, DarienDMA.org, and clicking on the caption [Event and Activity Calendar](#) on the right side of every 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 pm, Mather Center

Bowling, Tom Lom, 655.0686, and Gehr Brown, 655.3713
Tuesdays, 9 am, 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*. **New member bios**, *Harry Bergen*. **Mailing list and E-communications**, *Art Baron*. **This Week at DMA**, *Tom Igoe*. **Webmaster**, *Gary Banks*.