



Newsletter

Vol. 45, No. 5

DMA website is www.DarienDMA.org

Darien Men's Association

Summer 2023

President's Farewell Message, June 2023

As is our tradition, we capped a successful year at the Darien Men's Association with a wonderful and well-attended picnic at Weed Beach. Again this year, **Alex Garnett** displayed his organizational and leadership skills to ensure that this popular event went off flawlessly.

Indeed, the range of DMA activities continues to impress and often astound new members and other organizations and individuals who become aware of all that we do.

Central to our strength as an organization are our weekly Wednesday morning meetings. **Tom Igoe**, our incoming president for 2023-2024, ensured that we had a fascinating range of some 36 speakers, culminating at the end of May when Congressman Jim Himes engaged in a dialogue with Tom and our membership. Over the course of the last year, we heard from historians, authors, experts on mental and physical health, town officials and – not least – fascinating talks by our own members.

Plainly, the strength of our organization is the involvement and leadership of our members.

In that regard, one measure of the health of our organization is when members for the first time step up to take on new responsibilities. **Rick Agresta** and **Harry McLachlin** will lead the book group. **Mike Kadish** has taken responsibility for table tennis, a new activity. Former president **Bryan Hooper** has stepped up to take responsibility for the *This Week at DMA* email beginning in our new season. Earlier in the year, soon after joining the DMA, **Lee Morrison** took over the technical work of sending out the weekly DMA emails and other important email messages to our members.

In my final address as president, I named 23 individuals, or about 7% of our membership, who directly led some of our activities, and I'm sure I left out some names.

But there are several of our members who, year in and year out, have contributed their time and talent. In addition to Alex Garnett, these include **George Gilliam** (Darien Cares), **Jan Selkowitz** (Pickleball, Social Events), **Tom Lom** (jokes, Bowling, the Christmas Party). **Mark Nunan** (our link to Slovenia) has handled the *DMA Newsletter* and *This Week at DMA* in addition to being an erudite commentator at book and current affairs discussions and a Wednesday morning speaker. **Frank DeLeo**, who is assuming responsibility for lining up speakers in 2023-2024, has been a driving force behind community service. **Mike Wheeler** has devoted many hours to working on our Zoom feeds (thankless because it's a job that rises to awareness only when something goes wrong) and has led our Current Affairs group with distant help from Mark. **Art Baron** manages new member intake, including the photos and bios seen in this publication, and keeps our membership records up to date.

Others ensure the success of a range of our activities: **Dave McCollum** and **Bob Plunkett** (hikes), **Joe Spain**, **David Mace**, **John Bassler** (Wanderers), **Jim Phillips** (investment discussions), **Doug Campbell** (Money Matters), **Peter Carnes** and **Bob McGroarty** (golf), **Geoff Rezek** (cribbage and ukuleles), **John Podkowski** and **Gary Banks** (bridge).

In the coming year, I urge many of you who have enjoyed membership but who have not volunteered to take on responsibility for our activities to do so. In particular, Community Service and Social Events are two initiatives that can always use ideas and help. But it's safe to say that any one of the leaders of our activities would appreciate your involvement.

Finally, we complete a year when, arguably, the DMA has never been stronger, with a membership level of over 320 at its highest yet, and in a solid financial position thanks to treasurer **Gehr Brown** and assistant treasurer **Bert von Stuelpnagel**.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president this past year, and I look forward to an exciting year to come under the leadership of Tom Igoe.

Charles Salmans
2022-2023 President

New Members

Jon Bigelow



Jon Bigelow was born in Mineola, N.Y., then moved to Darien as a child. After graduating from Darien High School and Brown University, he launched a career in healthcare publishing and communications. He began as a medical writer and editor on a series of practical and widely read clinical journals for physicians and eventually rose to become president of Cliggott Publishing.

Jon then joined with a private equity sponsor to acquire, and serve as president and CEO of, a group of businesses in the United States, the U.K. and Germany, which he brought together as KnowledgePoint360 Group. This grew to become the largest privately held medical communications firm, providing publication planning, launch strategy, market access strategy, digital services, commercial benchmarking and workflow solutions.

Since selling KnowledgePoint360, Jon has divided his time among serving as executive director of the Coalition for Healthcare Communication, and serving on the board at two companies and an ocean sciences laboratory. He has also been engaged in consulting and speaking on healthcare policy and communications. He has long been active in the First Congregational Church of Darien and in community organizations.

Jon and his wife Mariann split their time between Wilton and a summer cottage on the Maine coast. Mariann is an editor and tutors high school juniors and seniors in writing skills. Their son, James, is a software engineer and product manager in Manhattan. Jon spends free time running, hiking, sea kayaking, traveling and reading.

Jim Bragg



Jim Bragg was raised in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., where he graduated from high school, and went on to attend Franklin & Marshall College and New York Law School.

Jim's first job after law school was as an assistant district attorney in the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. After a few years, Jim then joined the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in Washington, D.C., where he met and married his wife Dee. After a successful career in sales and management at IBM, Dee retired as a director of strategy.

After leaving the SEC, Jim worked as in-house counsel for PaineWebber and later Morgan Stanley, where he switched careers from law to finance and worked in Morgan Stanley's Equity Derivatives Group.

Jim continued his career in finance working in equity sales for several European investment banks, including BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole, ODDO BHF and Kepler Cheuvreux, from where he retired in 2018.

Since his retirement, Jim has mostly worked for nonprofit organizations such as the Arthritis Foundation and the PAWS Animal Shelter in Norwalk, although he occasionally does some investor relations consulting work and serves as an arbitrator for FINRA.

Jim has two daughters, Lindsey, who married Darien resident Scott Scholtz, and Christine, who is engaged to Alex Ryan from San Anselmo, Calif. Lindsey and Scott live in San Francisco, and Christine and Alex live in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

John McIntire



John McIntire left the island of Cuba as a child and came to the United States. He graduated from Princeton University in 1979 with an A.B. in economics. Thereafter, John had a 25-year career as an international investment banker in New York and London. He retired in 2004 as a partner of Goldman Sachs & Co., where he spent 12 years focused on Latin America, including being Goldman's CEO for that region.

Since then, John has been an active investor in and advisor to early-stage companies, primarily in Latin America. In addition, he co-founded and serves as chairman of the Cuba Emprende Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization that sponsors the largest entrepreneur training program on the island. Since 2012, the Foundation has supported programs that have graduated 8,000+ entrepreneurs and supported 6,000+ small businesses. John traveled in Cuba over 20 times between 2004 and 2016 and was a member of the official U.S. delegations that visited the island in August of 2015 and March of 2016.

John is on the Executive Committee of the policy-oriented Cuba Study Group and chair of the Cuba Working Group of the Americas Society/Council of the Americas. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. John and his family have lived in Darien since 1991.

Per Sekse



Per Sekse is a seasoned entrepreneur and C-suite executive with an over 40-year track record in private equity, investment banking, risk management, commodity trading and insurance. As an entrepreneur, he has founded or led several startup companies over the past 13 years, raising more than \$30 million in private equity for the various ventures. Most recently, Per was CEO & CFO of Presidium USA, Inc., a private equity backed chemical technology company. At the end of 2022,

he led a management buyout of Presidium’s chemical business through a new company (Novellus Resin Systems) he established in partnership with Presidium’s former CTO. While launching the new venture takes some of his time, Per offers fractional CEO/COO/CFO consulting services to startups and early-stage ventures in his spare time.

Per holds a B.A. in economics from Colgate University and has been a longtime alumni mentor in Colgate’s student entrepreneurship program Thought into Action. Per is a past board president of Person-to-Person and remains active as a volunteer and board emeritus.

Kevin Treesh



Kevin Treesh was born and raised in Indiana. He grew up on a small family dairy farm, and his parents wanted him to take over the reins, but they balanced that desire with strong encouragement to go where he wanted or needed to go. That “where” started at Indiana University (’83), took him to a Ph.D. program at the University of Rochester, where he met his wife (she was his T.A. in mathematical modeling), and eventually to Yale Law School (YLS) (’91) and a career as a New York tax attorney. Muddy shoe to white shoe, he would say he is happy, and lucky, for every bit of it.

Kevin and Madeleine’s son was born three weeks after Kevin graduated from YLS so he studied for the New York Bar exam with an infant on his lap much of the time, moments he cherishes. This may have contributed to their son becoming a lawyer, too. However, why their

youngest is also a lawyer but the middle child earned her Ph.D. and became a consultant is less easily explained.

Kevin commuted to New York for many years and became a tax partner at Kirkland & Ellis, where he practiced until retiring in 2016. He enjoyed the puzzles presented by tax law, where he specialized in private equity investments, but doesn't miss the commute at all. Nor does he miss the difficult balance of providing client service and trying, mostly successfully, not to miss any band concerts, dance performances or swim meets. (There were many "3:00 meeting out of the office" entries on his calendar but required late, late, late nights afterwards.) He now finds ample time to volunteer, ride his bicycle, play paddle, ski at their Vermont home, and learn to play pickleball and bridge.

Kevin and Madeleine have lived in Darien since 1993. They have three children, all of whom benefited from attending Holmes, Ox Ridge and after their first move within Darien, Middlesex and Darien High School. The kids are now engaged or married, and Kevin and Madeleine couldn't be happier to have the in-laws they have. Having strongly entertained the notion of downsizing and moving to Stamford or Rowayton, COVID living arrangements with their kids who were fleeing or relocating from various urban areas made them glad they had space for all, when needed, in the lovely town of Darien. Their children are currently located in New York and the Boston area so Kevin and Madeleine are unlikely to leave Fairfield County any time soon. Kevin looks forward to getting to know more of his fellow townsmen than he ever could have done while standing on the Noroton Heights platform, waiting for the "lawyers, advertisers and sometimes ladies who lunch" train (i.e., not the 5:45) every morning.

In Memoriam



John Stephen Geoghegan a longtime Darien resident, died on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at his home. He was 98 years young, born February 11, 1925, in Memphis, Tenn. The family moved to Stratford, Conn., in 1927 and then to Cos Cob, where John attended Greenwich High School. Early in World War II, he joined the Navy at age 17 with his father's written consent as he was still legally too young to enlist.

The Navy put him through both the Navy Aviation Radio School in Jacksonville, Fla., and Navy Gunnery School in Yellow Water, Fla. This, and his studies at the RCA Institute for Electronics in New York City, prepared him for his post-war civilian career with defense electronics and industrial companies after his return to Connecticut.



John was a decorated WWII Navy veteran and war hero, receiving a Purple Heart for being shot in the line of duty. That didn't stop him. Refusing transfer to a hospital ship, he stayed with his squadron and was back in action within two months. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for guiding his aircraft to a safe landing onto the USS Wasp aircraft carrier with the use of radio controls. Post-war, he served in the Navy Reserves until 1975. He had a love for flying and continued to fly planes until his late 70s.

John was married to his beloved wife Betty for almost 60 years until her death in 2004. They had three children.

He had a successful career at several major companies here in Connecticut, including Bunker Ramo (now part of Honeywell), Heim and Norden Systems in Norwalk, from where he retired in 1988.

John was predeceased by his parents, John Geoghegan and Lily Geoghegan, his sister Edith Bell, his wife Betty and his son Robert.

He is survived by his sisters Lily Wildey and Lois Doherty; his sons John Geoghegan and Edward Geoghegan; his daughter-in-law Stephanie Maker-Geoghegan; and his five grandchildren, Jessica, Johnny, Madelyn, Elizabeth and Skylar.

John was a member of the Darien Men's Association and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was a longtime member of the United Church of Rowayton.

He will be loved and missed.



Robert Sherman Mitchell, 97, a longtime resident of Darien, passed away peacefully on June 4 while surrounded by family. Born on August 24, 1925, in Richmond Hill, N.Y., to Walter B. Mitchell and Anna Sherman, Bob dedicated his life to family, friends and community.

Bob began his college career at Princeton University, where he combined his studies with playing on the baseball team and singing with the a cappella group, the Nassoons. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bob did not hesitate to volunteer for the U.S. Navy. He served on a minesweeper in both the Atlantic and the Pacific theaters. He ended his naval career as the executive officer of the USS YMS-117. He was awarded the

American Theater Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal, and the World War Victory Medal. In recognition of his military service, Bob was the Grand Marshal of Darien's Memorial Day Parade in 2018.

When the war ended, Bob resumed his college studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating with a degree in economics. He then started what became a 39-year career at Union Carbide Corporation, where his responsibilities included heading marketing for Prestone antifreeze.

Since moving to Darien in 1970, Bob has been a community and church leader. Among other activities to which he dedicated his time and experience, Bob volunteered at Norwalk Hospital in the Emergency Department for 25 years, was a lector, eucharistic minister and on the Parish Council for St. Thomas More Church, and president and member of the Darien Men's Club.

The most important aspect of Bob's life was family. He met Mary Meskill at The Jug End Barn, a ski resort in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, and they married in 1958. He cherished the nearly 61 years, seven children and 20 grandchildren they had together. There were family and extended family trips of sightseeing, skiing and beach time. Bob loved playing tennis and golf, singing, telling stories, reading history, and watching his kids' and grandkids' shows and games.

Bob is survived by his son Tom (May) and children Sarah and Emily of San Jose, Calif.; son John (Alex) and children Sydney and Nicholas of Westlake Village, Calif.; son Bob and children Dylan and Andrew of Cushing, Maine; daughter Kara Gregory (Mark) and children Connor, Ryan, Megan, Matthew and Clare of Darien; daughter Barbara Weingold (Daniel) and children Shea, Eamon and Catherine of Alexandria, Va.; daughter Mia Cortellesi (Charles) and children Thomas and Sophia of New York, N.Y.; and daughter Joan Carlo (John) and children Mary Cate, Grace, Caroline and Jack of Darien. In addition to his parents and wife, Bob was predeceased by his sister, Marianne Mitchell.

In recent years, Bob lived at Atria Senior Living in Darien, where he had many close friends among the staff and residents, whom he truly considered to be part of his extended family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the [Connecticut Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation](#).



Roman Lee Weil, Jr., 82 of Evanston, Ill., passed away on February 1, 2023, after a year-long battle with cancer. He was born May 22, 1940, in Montgomery, Ala., the son of Roman Lee Weil, Sr., and Charlotte Weil, née Alexander.

He is survived by his three children Alexis Weil (Brad Laesch), Charles Weil (Anne) and Lacey Weil Ogbolumani (David), as well as eight grandchildren: Isabella, Lily, Greta, Charlie, Baillie, Allie, Conrad and Emeka.

Roman was a professor of accounting at The University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, for most of his career and visited at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Stanford, UC San Diego and others. He coauthored 12 accounting textbooks, some of which are required reading at top U.S. business schools.



He published more than 100 scholarly articles in academic and professional journals and others for a lay audience in publications such as *Barron's* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He received his B.A. in mathematics and economics from

Yale in 1962 and his Ph.D. in economics from Carnegie Mellon in 1966.

Outside of teaching, he served as a consultant to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Treasury and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. He also chaired an audit committee affiliated with New York Life Insurance and designed continuing education courses for partners at two of the major accounting firms and several corporations.

Closer to home, Roman was a member of the Darien Men's Association during the couple of years he recently lived in Darien. He ran the DMA Bridge program one summer. He had planned to speak with us about the (regrettable) accounting illiteracy of many board members who have Audit Committee responsibility at Fortune 500 companies, a subject about which he had deep knowledge. Alas, he never got the chance.

His passions included his family, rare books, sabermetrics (look it up if you must!) and oenology. Your editor of the *DMA Newsletter* and compiler of this summary remembers well Professor Weil's lively presentation to us about his beloved rare book collection. Gentleman and Scholar: the words truly apply.

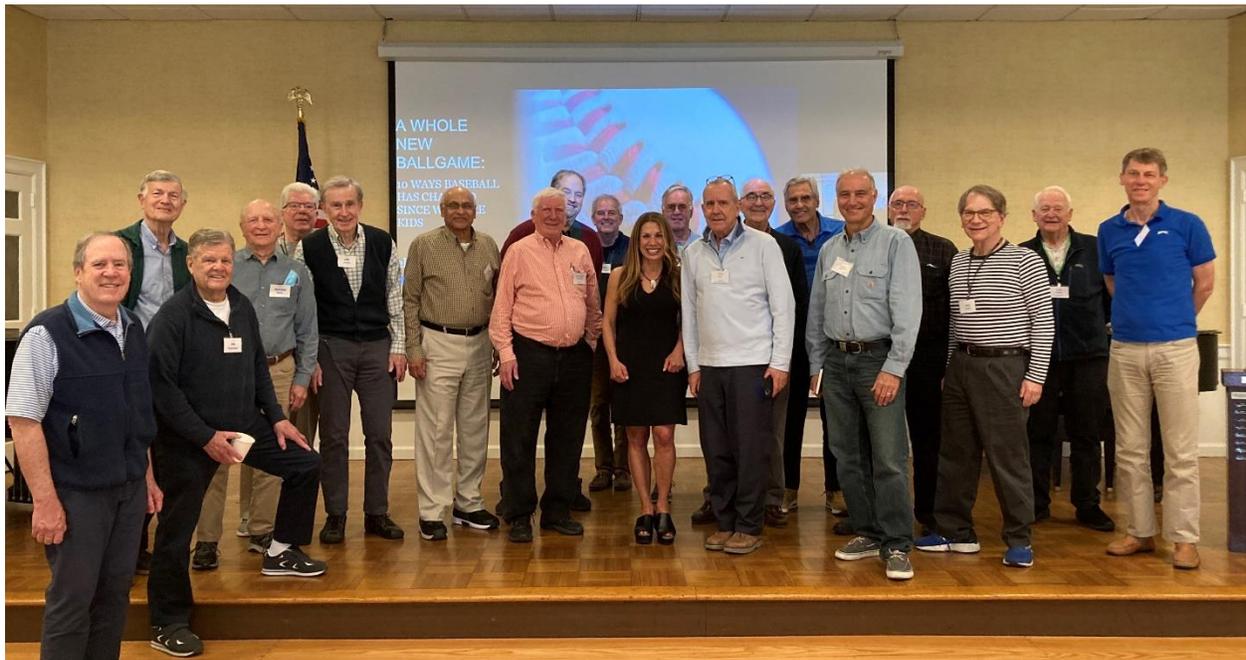


ACTIVITIES

DMA Wednesday Morning Speakers

Just a few words and images to congratulate **Tom Igoe** for a great lineup of speakers all year. We have been regaled by comedy, dazzled by changes to baseball, reminded of history and sobered by recent world events, all delivered by a group of intelligent and compelling speakers who enable DMA members to reach beyond our own views and experiences. And to bring our important questions and points of view to these speakers, which enriches them, too.

Tom has also been an innovator in how our Wednesday speakers deliver, especially in the recent six weeks, when two of the speakers spoke in a conversational question-and-answer setting from the stage. One of these had Tom himself in discussion with Kathryn du Pree about autism, which was eye opening and effective. The other, a “Fireside Chat” interview of retired Blackstone COO and current Costco Chairman Tony James by DMA member John Craft, was wide reaching and a real attention grabber. These are just two of many fine examples we have had the pleasure of witnessing this year.



Speaker Kelly Throop (here with her DMA fan club) hit a home run in her talk about baseball.



DMA member **John Craft**, standing at podium, introduces Tony James. John then took the other chair on stage and asked Tony a series of well-prepared questions that elicited very lively responses. The Q&A session after was also fun and informative.

In their questions, DMA members displayed much knowledge and interest in a range of topics from modern finance and politics to international relations and global challenges and, of course, Costco.

Standing room only!

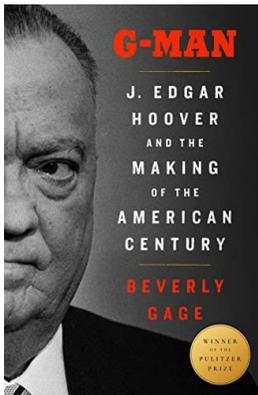
Book Club: Selections

September–October 2023

Below are the **DMA Book Club** selections for discussion on **Wednesday, September 13**, and **Wednesday, October 11, 2023**, starting at 2 p.m., eastern time in person at the **Darien Community Association** in the **Lillian Gade conference room on the second floor**. For DMA members who choose to participate remotely, the room is equipped with Verizon’s BlueJeans software and the necessary video and audio systems for remote participants. A BlueJeans video link will be available. To get on the distribution list, contact **Rick Agresta**:

richard.agresta@gmail.com or **Harry McLachlin**: hdmclach@aol.com.

September 13, 2023: *G-Man | J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* by Beverly Gage



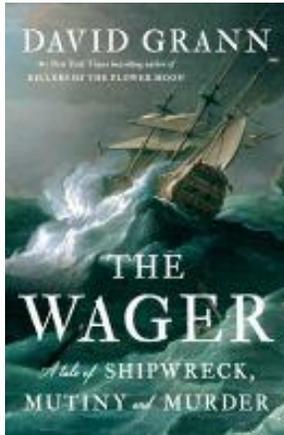
Copies will be available this summer at the Darien Library around July 10. For more on the book, see: (<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/beverly-gage/g-man-j-edgar-hoover/>) excerpted below.

This doorstop biography (864 pages) of J. Edgar Hoover (1895-1972), who exercised outside power for half a century, is a welcome reevaluation of a law enforcement legend, now much scorned, who so often operated above the law.

Hoover believed that the “thoroughly American” FBI honored the federal government’s progressive duty to make life better for “real” Americans while snipping leftist political thorns and suppressing minorities. Largely sidestepping the longtime speculations about Hoover’s sexual preferences, the author also notes that, while many writers have long thought that Hoover amassed power by blackmailing presidents and attorneys general, he stayed at the helm of the FBI because important people throughout the federal government wanted him there. One ally was Richard Nixon, and Gage breaks news by showing that although the FBI is supposed to be politically neutral, Hoover fed Nixon information about the Kennedy campaign during the presidential race. Nixon honored the debt by not firing Hoover, as much as he wanted to, as Watergate—whose exposure owed much to internal dissensions within the bureau—began to bring down his presidency. When writing of a younger, more idealistic Hoover, Gage acknowledges his intellect and organizational skills—even as a teenager, he was keeping dossiers on everyone imaginable—while also noting that Hoover was committed to a racist fraternity that would influence his entire career path. “Taught as a young man to regard segregation as a bedrock of the social order,” writes the author, “he did not simply abandon those ideas when the Supreme Court declared otherwise.” His hatred of Martin Luther King, Jr., however, seems to have been based less on race than on his conviction that King was a

communist, the worst thing anyone could be in Hoover's eyes. Gage closes by concluding that for all Hoover's flaws and legally questionable programs, making him a scapegoat exonerates too many other guilty parties: "His guilt restores everyone else's innocence."

October 11, 2023: *The Wager* by David Grann



The author of *Killers of the Flower Moon* and *The Lost City of Z* returns with a rousing story of a maritime scandal.

In 1741, the British vessel the *Wager*, pressed into service during England's war with Spain, was shipwrecked in a storm off the coast of Patagonia while chasing a silver-laden Spanish galleon. Though initially part of a fleet, by the time of the shipwreck, the *Wager* stood alone, and many of its 250 crew members already had succumbed to injury, illness, starvation or drowning. More than half survived the wreckage only to find themselves stranded on a desolate island. Drawing on a trove of firsthand accounts—logbooks, correspondence, diaries, court-martial testimony, and admiralty and government records—Grann mounts a chilling, vibrant narrative of a grim maritime tragedy and its dramatic aftermath. Central to his populous cast of seamen are David Cheap, who, through a twist of fate, became captain of the *Wager*; Commodore George Anson, who had made Cheap his protégé; formidable gunner John Bulkeley; and midshipman John Byron, grandfather of the poet. Life onboard an 18th-century ship was perilous, as Grann amply shows. Threats included wild weather, enemy fire, scurvy and typhus, insurrection and even mutiny. On the island, Cheap struggled to maintain authority as factions developed and violence erupted, until a group of survivors left—without Cheap—in rude makeshift boats. Of that group, 29 castaways later washed up on the coast of Brazil, where they spent more than two years in Spanish captivity; and three castaways, including Cheap, landed on the shores of Chile, where they, too, were held for years by the Spanish. Each group of survivors eventually returned to England, where they offered vastly different versions of what had occurred; most disturbingly, each accused the other of mutiny, a crime punishable by hanging. Recounting the tumultuous events in tense detail, Grann sets the *Wager* episode in the context of European imperialism as much as the wrath of the sea.

A brisk, absorbing history and a “no-brainer” for fans of the author's gripping and suspenseful historical thrillers.

To top it off, Mr. Grann speaks at the Darien Library on June 27 at 7 p.m.

Poet's Corner

Excellence in Small Places. Great things come not only from expansive hives of activity like New York, London or Tokyo but from small places like Gulfport, Miss., or Kranj, Slovenia, and others.

Small place Number 1: Gulfport, Miss. Natasha Tretheway, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, was U.S. Poet Laureate from 2012 to 2014. Born in Gulfport in 1966 of mixed race parents (Canadian father, American mother), she grew up there until age 11 and spent summers there for years after at her grandmother's home. *Letter Home* is a heartfelt poem that presents someone in her grandmother's generation, also mixed race, as a young woman. Like Ms. Tretheway, she is a lover of words but seeking her way in life in a quite different time – the early 20th century. The more times you read it, the better it gets. The more times you read it, the better.

Letter Home

By Natasha Tretheway

--New Orleans, November 1910

Four weeks have passed since I left, and still
I must write to you of no work. I've worn down
the soles and walked through the tightness
of my new shoes calling upon the merchants,
their offices bustling. All the while I kept thinking
my plain English and good writing would secure
for me some modest position Though I dress each day
in my best, hands covered with the lace gloves
you crocheted--no one needs a girl. How flat
the word sounds, and heavy. My purse thins.
I spend foolishly to make an appearance of quiet
industry, to mask the desperation that tightens
my throat. I sit watching--

though I pretend not to notice--the dark maids
ambling by with their white charges. Do I deceive
anyone? Were they to see my hands, brown
as your dear face, they'd know I'm not quite
what I pretend to be. I walk these streets
a white woman, or so I think, until I catch the eyes
of some stranger upon me, and I must lower mine,
a negress again. There are enough things here
to remind me who I am. Mules lumbering through

the crowded streets send me into reverie, their footfall
the sound of a pointer and chalk hitting the blackboard
at school, only louder. Then there are women, clicking
their tongues in conversation, carrying their loads
on their heads. Their husky voices, the wash pots
and irons of the laundresses call to me.

I thought not to do the work I once did, back bending
and domestic; my schooling a gift--even those half days
at picking time, listening to Miss J--. How
I'd come to know words, the recitations I practiced
to sound like her, lilting, my sentences curling up
or trailing off at the ends. I read my books until
I nearly broke their spines, and in the cotton field,
I repeated whole sections I'd learned by heart,
spelling each word in my head to make a picture
I could see, as well as a weight I could feel
in my mouth. So now, even as I write this
and think of you at home, Goodbye

is the waving map of your palm, is
a stone on my tongue.

Small Place Number 2: Kranj, Slovenia. Gimnazija Kranj, in Kranj Slovenia, is a high school in the foothills of the Slovenian alps. It is known for excellence in mathematics, music and science. The Gimnazija's youth orchestra is renowned. Many of the musicians playing in this 2010 recording have gone on to a career as a professional musician performing throughout Europe and the world. Conducted by their teacher at the time, the composer and conductor Nejc Bečan, they perform Rimsky-Korsakov's popular musical rendition of *Scheherazade*, inspired by the middle eastern *poems* collected in *One Thousand and One Nights*.

Scheherazade

By Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, 1888

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i6TsIVKByM>



ACTIVITIES (continued)

Bowling: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Once again in September, the "Commish," and the gang will welcome all on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at Nutmeg Lanes in Fairfield. Highlights and photos later in this newsletter. **Tom Lom:** tomlom1@aol.com

Bridge: Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

We play on Bridge Base Online. Though suspending play this summer, we will pick it up again in early September. All who wish to play and to ensure you are on the Bridge roster, please contact **John Podkowsky:** Jpod912@aol.com.

Community Service

We had four great events during the past three months, as you will see later in the photo pages of this letter. Thanks to **Frank DeLeo** for his commitment and work in organizing these. frankdeleo@hotmail.com

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

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

English courtier, poet, gambler and game player. We find playing Cribbage to be a fun, educational and social activity. Contact **Geoff Rezek:** grrezek@optonline.net.

Current Affairs

Our final three sessions of the season are featured later in the photo section of this newsletter. Each was excellent, as were the moderators who volunteered to lead them.

Mark Nunan: marknunan12@gmail.com

Mike Wheeler: mike@mikewheeler.net

Happy Wanderers

With improving weather, the Wanderers got back to their regular business with the spring season of Wanderings on four Thursdays: March 30, May 4, June 1 and June 22. Plus, there was "March Madness."

See the photo section that follows for a resume of the action. Contact:

David Mace: davidmace@optonline.net

Joe Spain: jhspain@sbcglobal.net

Hiking

No hikes this summer, but we had three great hikes this past quarter. Photos and highlights follow. Contact:

Dave McCollum dgmccollum63@gmail.com

Bob Plunkett rgplunkett1@gmail.com

Investment Discussion Group: First Monday of the Month @ 10 a.m. on Zoom

Our fearless leader **Jim Phillips** will continue over the summer to meet on Zoom and discuss the macro-outlook, different investment themes and individual stocks that members own or are thinking of owning. Group participation and interaction are encouraged. An email with a Zoom link and agenda will be sent out to IDG participants.

To join the group and get on the email distribution list or for questions or investment ideas you would like us to cover, contact:

Jim Phillips: jlpinvest66@gmail.com.

Money Matters

May 8 @ 10 a.m. **Doug Campbell's** recent **Money Matters** via Zoom featured **Mark Strauss**, founder of



Mark discussed **“Drones and New Technologies.”**

WaveAerospace headquartered in Stamford builds unmanned aircraft/drones that are unique. When compared with all other aerial systems they have the ability to fly in wind and weather that grounds other aircraft. Whether the mission is reconnaissance, communications or tactical logistics, WaveAerospace flies day or night.

Doug and Mark and other DMA members discussed this fast-emerging market, how Mark serendipitously got into this sector, and WaveAerospace's business and flight technologies.

Anyone interested in presenting a unique business or technology or other Money Matters, especially if they are based in Fairfield County or Connecticut, contact:

Doug Campbell: dc3tsc@gmail.com

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

We continue to play through the summer. All 34 of our players are now on the active list as our full wait list was earlier authorized to play.

We now use the TeamReach app for signup. Novices, please take lessons first with Darien Parks & Recreation: (203) 656 7325.

Contacts:

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com
or Pickleball co-chair **Jack Dearie**, at:
idearie683@hotmail.com.

Social Activities

Let's just say we had a very busy quarter. See highlights and photos on the next pages. There truly was an abundance of riches:

March 21, Metropolitan Museum Cloisters

John Bassler organized this hugely successful cultural event at the Met Cloisters Museum in New York City.

April 26, Movie Music Concert at St. Luke's with five Norwalk Symphony players

Bob McGroarty led this event featuring five musicians from Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. Music from well-known movies was the theme. We had a full house.

May 12, The New Bruce Museum, with docent, organized and led by **Jan Selkowitz**, our Social Activities maestro. Great photos follow. What with the Cloisters and the Bruce, we are a most cultivated group.

May 30, a Long Island Sound Boat Trip organized by **Frank DeLeo** took place. See photos on following pages. The weather cooperated beautifully, too.

June 13 is the **2023 DMA Annual Picnic** (rain date June 14). **Alex Garnett**, as always, did a great job. And **Bert von Stuelpnagel** managed the purchase of liquid refreshment. Contact:

Alex Garnett: aypgarnett@gmail.com

Jan Selkowitz, tireless leader of the Social Committee, thanks John, Bob, Frank, Alex and Bert.

Jan also **appeals to any other members with ideas for new social events or who want to "captain" a social event** next year. We want to hear from you!

Jan Selkowitz: jankarlselkowitz@gmail.com

Table Tennis

Monday and Friday at 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We also play starting at **8:30 a.m. on Thursdays for the Summer only.**

Check the TeamReach app for details. If you have questions about how to use TeamReach, contact Mike Kadish at mKadishsj@yahoo.com.

We meet at the Mather Center in the exercise studio (room 209).

To join the group, download the **TeamReach app** for your phone and enter "DMATableTennis" for the group code.

Once you are approved for admission, you can select the dates you plan to attend, and you can also see who is coming on that date and time.

Please sign up for your selected play dates as early as possible – it encourages other DMA players to sign up, too, if they see there is a group ready to play at the Mather Center on the same date.

For any questions, please contact: **Mike Kadish**, mKadishsj@yahoo.com.

**Woodworking: 9:30 a.m. on
Tuesdays at the Mather Center**



The DMA woodworkers meet every
Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Mather Center

workshop. **Tom Dempsey**, who leads this group, welcomes new members to join us and new pieces on which to work.

If you enjoy working with your hands, this is an incredible deal. The workshop provides expensive tools, technology and equipment that we use for free.

Our woodworkers will take on a variety of projects for DMAers, your family and friends. To join up or to make arrangements to repair tables, chairs and other wooden furnishings , please contact:

Tom Dempsey: tjd3443@gmail.com.

Bowling Report, courtesy of the “Commish” (aka Tom Lom)

March 7: There were five bowlers today and **Mr. Anonymous (MA): George Gilliam (GG), Ted Helms (TH), Alex Garnett (AG), Frank Gallagher (FG) and Ed Schechter (ES)**. The teams were MA, GG & ES (Team 1) vs. AG, FG & TH (Team 2). Team #1 gave Team 2 31 pins.

Game 1 – Team 2 won going away by 82 pins. AG had the high game with a 166. MA had a smooth 91, which included three splits, nine open frames and one mark, a spare, that came in the 10th.

Game 2 – Team 2 won this game +3 even though Ed had the high game at 213, which included a BB Spare in the 10th. GG had a 181 and TH a 189.

Game 3 – In spite of MA's horrific day, Team 1 went double or nothing and lost by two pins, thanks again to MA. GG once again had the high game with a 190; needless to say, he won the side bet against MA by 78 pins. AG had a BB Spare in game 3.

Splits made: ES – 2/7 and FG – 1, 2/7

The game ball should go to GG, who had a 517 series, 14 pins over his average. ES had a 513 series plus he was exhausted after trying to get MA on track. TH gets an honorable mention for his 454 series, 11 pins over his average, which included the 189 in game 2.

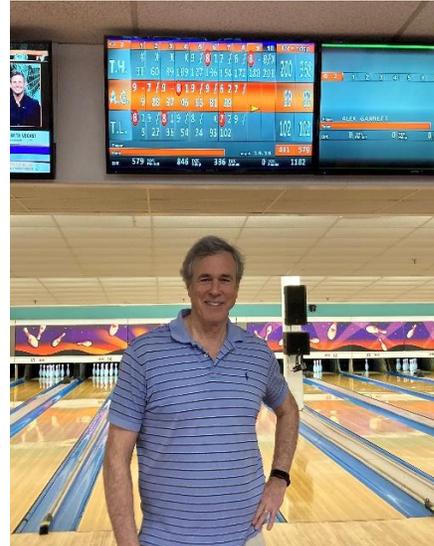
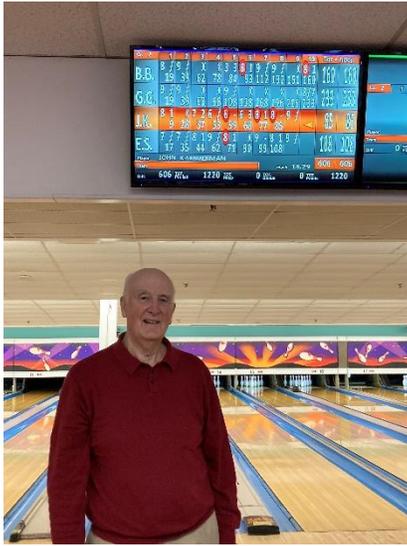
“Acting Commish” Ben Briggs

March 14: Your intrepid reporter is back after a week away. Happy to report that seven bowlers made it to Nutmeg, and two had career achievements. As the attached photos show, George Gilliam had a best ever 233 in the middle game, while Ted notched his first-ever 200 game with a 200 even in the same game. In his game, George had a four bagger and a double along with no opens. Ted started with four strikes in his game, which, as he noted, tied the all-time record for the first four frames. George finished with yet another 500 series at 519, best of the day, while Ted ended up at 491.

Other individual highlights were few, but there was fierce competition in the team games. The **Tom Lom (TL)** threesome – TL/AG/TH – took on a foursome, including **John Kammerman (JK)** and **Ben Briggs (BB)** teaming with ES/GG with a 168 cushion. While Ed's 166 was the highest game 1, Ben's 157 helped his team prevail by 11 pins. Game 2 went down to the last ball as Ed's 10th frame spare overcame Tom's triple in the 10th for a one-pin victory for Team Ed. With Alex urging his mates to take the double or nothing, his team was rewarded as each of them rolled an above-average game to recoup earlier losses. We'll also note that Ed gets an asterisk next to his score this week because his primary ball was in with Chris getting “maintenance,”

which meant that Ed was forced to use his plastic ball on all shots ... "It w'sn't pretty." As they sa', "Wait till next wee'!"

Finally, I want to congratulate Ben for filing the report for last week and showing that he has the journalistic chops to earn another shot at "Acting Commish." Thank you, Ben.



March 21: What a difference a week makes.

First, with the appearance of **Frank DeLeo** (FD), who has returned from his winter in Florida, we had eight bowlers. Welcome back, Frank.

Second, following last w'ek's trials without his regular bowling ball, which was "in the shop" for maintenance, Ed had his ball back and was in fine form opening with a 204 for high game on his way to a 560 high series of the day. Third, of the eight, three others joined Ed in the 500 Club with John at 504, Frank at 501 and Tom at 521. No splits were converted, but Frank and Tom each made spares after a washout. It's worth a mention that Ben made a 4-5 in warmup. Also worth noting is that Ted tied our DMA record with five splits in one game in the second.

With the team game lineups being TL/GG/TH/BB +27 vs. ES/FD/AG/JK, one might expect a clean sweep for Ed's team. Indeed, five frames into game 1, Tom's team agreed that they were now getting ready for an improved game 2 as they lost by 120 pins. Game 2 was closer but only by half as Ed's squad won by 65.



With the trend line so pronounced, Tom's team took the double or nothing challenge ... had to get better, right? According to the scoreboard, it looked like it was all down to the last bowlers in the 10th frame as we thought Ed had fixed the computer to build in the +27 into Team Tom's score. After Ed's strike/strike/spare finish in frames eight, nine and 10, we all thought Tom needed to mark in the last for the win ... which he did. Turns out that the +27 did show on Ben's line but *not* on the team line so the margin was actually 35.

A final note as to the attached photo. A most unusual leave in bowling is the headpin that Ted managed in the first game. He almost made a Yezzi (a strike without hitting the headpin). Speaking of which, we are still waiting for an appearance by **Tony and Kevin Davidson**. We still love you both.

March 28: Kinda says it all when the highlight of the morning is having two Ben Briggs "Spares" bowled in a single game. That happened in game 2 today almost in succession by John Kam and the Commish. Turns out that it was John's second BB Spare of the day.

Six bowlers met, including **Bill Tamme (BT)**, who returned to action. When Ed arrived, he had a pleasant smile on his face as he reported that he had a 670 and 630 series late last week. Clearly, his reconditioned ball was working. Sadly, that success didn't carry over for Ed this day as he failed to break 500. In fact, the high series was a dismal 512 by Tom. His day was marred by too many ten pins and too many misses of those.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tot + hdcp
X 7	2 8	1 9	- 7	2	X 8	-	X 7	2 X7	2	128
19	28	37	46	55	73	81	100	109	128	128
7	-	X 8	1 7	2 7	1	X 8	/ 9	- / 9	-	129
7	26	35	44	52	72	91	101	120	129	129
X 9	/ 9	/ 9	- 9	/ 9	9	- 7	- 8	/ 8	1 X-	149
20	39	58	67	86	95	102	120	129	149	149
m.p.h. 12.70										406
406 TOT. Pin fall		406 TOT. Hdcp		0 TOT. Bonus		0 TOT. Points		406		

That didn't deter Tom from giving some pointers to teammates John and Ted, who were also struggling with ten-pin conversions. Guess how that instruction worked out. Recall that John and Ed were teammates last week, and, under the watchful eye of The Professor, John broke 500. This week, the substitute teacher was worthless as John was left muttering to himself as he departed. Not to worry, John; I turned in my coaching credential card at the desk on the way out.

While the individual highlights were nonexistent, the team game was spirited. TL/JK/TH took on ES/GG/BT with only a two-pin differential. Game 1 was a runaway for Ed's team as Tom's squad tried to tie the record for most splits in one game. Game 2 was a turnaround making game 3 for all the marbles. Ted got off to a slow start but finished with a flourish in the final three frames ... strike, strike, strike, strike, nine. Said Ted when he left one on his final ball: "If I had made a strike there, I would have tied the all-time record for best last three frames." Pretty sharp from the newbie 😊. Ted's 180 and Tom's 196 helped compensate for John's 102 as Team Lom won by 22 pins. Let's hope we have some improved bowling next week.

April 4:

After a few weeks of uninspired bowling, I'm pleased to say today was another story for our day's five bowlers.

Perhaps the best way to tell the story is to say that the team of Tom and Frank D, with series of 631 and 502, lost convincingly to the team of Ben/Bill/George. In game 1, it was Bill's 198 that was the difference. In game 2, all three were above average. And in game 3, in spite of Tom's 245 game in the double or nothing game, the threesome combined to roll a 520 for a razor-slim victory. Bill's 516 (+81) was his first 500 since the fall and was great to see (I speak as a reporter, *not* as a competitor!). Ben's 449 was +41, and George's 493 was +13.

For Frank, the good news was that he won two poker games to make up for the losses he had in the team game (especially since he had to put up the extra quarter in all three games).

Spare conversions were a 5-6 by Bill and two 2-7s by Ben.

Let's hope the strong performances continue next week!

April 11:

Eight bowlers came to Nutmeg today, but none was more a sight for sore eyes than **Gehr Brown** (GB), who had been absent for the past eight weeks on the DL. And it didn't take long for Gehr to return to form. He had respectable games of 162 and 172 and began the third game with three opens in the first five frames. But then Gehr was Gehr ... five strikes in a row on his way to a 211 (high game) and a 545 high series. The only other bowler of note was Ed, who had another steady 531. Since Gehr and Ed were teammates, the team game was rather one-sided :)

Bill and Tom both converted 5-7 splits, while Bill also made a 4-7-9. Otherwise, the day was nothing to write home about. But all was right given that Gehr was back.

April 18:

Filling in for the Commish, Gehr Brown reports:

We had seven bowlers yesterday with some interesting scores and split conversions. First up – George Gilliam, who put together three consecutive games of 145. Second up – Frank DeLeo, who had games of 175, 176 and 177. My high series of the day, 530, was not enough as we lost two out of three games to the team of Briggs, Tamme, Helms and Schechter.

Frank DeLeo's series of 528 was closely matched by Bill Tamme's 526 with Bill rolling four bagger (four strikes in a row) for the high game of the day of 200 in game 3.

Regarding split conversions (turning a split into a spare), George Gilliam made a 3-7 split in game 1, Ed Schechter a 6-7-10 in game 2 and Ben Briggs a 5-10 also in the second game.

A non-bowling highlight was Ted Helms' pictures of the biggest and ugliest fish you have ever seen that Ted and his group caught during their fishing trip to the Amazon River.

April 25:

Seven bowlers today with some strong performances, including three series in the 560s. However, the best was the team game, which we will get to later.

Gehr and Tom both rolled 213 in game 3. That helped Tom to a 561 and Gehr to a 566. Bowler of the Day, though, goes to Frank D, who had a 215 in game 2 on his way to a 567.

Ted, Bill and George were a hair below their average. Steady Eddie took a detour to Splitsville this morning, including tying the group record with five splits in game 2.

The team game was, shall we say, "interesting." Gehr/Frank/George got 144 pins from Bill/Ted/Ed/Tom. While neither team bowled its average, Gehr's squad won by a comfortable +25. In game 2, thanks to Frank's heroics along with solid games from his mates, Gehr's squad won by +105. Undaunted, Tom urged his team to go double or nothing, figuring things had to improve. Sure enough, Bill improved by 50, Ed by 54 and Tom by 34, while Ted hit his average, which allowed them to prevail by +28.

May 2:

It's not very often that we report that of the eight bowlers who made it this morning, seven bowled 500 or better!

Let's start with a "Yeah, Baby!" Alex rolled his first 500 of 2023 with a 507, including a third game 213 ... his season high.

George was very consistent at 520 with three good games.

Ted had his second 500 series of the season with a 530, thanks to his season best 224 in game 2.

Tom had a 532.

Ed got off to a strong start at 209 in game 1 on his way to a 540. Frank D was strong all morning, finishing with a 202 for a 581.

Finally, there was Gehr, who rolled his first 600 of the season on the nose, thanks to the day's high game of 237.

There were even a few spare conversions: Frank made a 4-5; Tom made a 4-5-7 and a 2-5-7; Ed made a 5-7, a 2-5-7 and a 4-7-10. That's the third one of those he has made this season.

The team game was interesting ... for a game. The team of Tom/Ed/Frank/Mr. Anonymous spotted 27 pins to Gehr/Alex/Ted/George. Game 1 went down to the final ball of the game with Tom's team winning by four pins. They then proceeded to lose the next two by a combined 239 pins. 'Nuff said.

Let's hope the strong bowling continues next week!



May 9:

Due to injuries, travel and other activities, we only had four bowlers today.

Last week's strong scoring didn't carry over to this week. Only one 200 and one 500 series, both by Ed Schechter (201, 546).

There were a few other highlights:

- Alex converted two splits: the 3-10 and the 5-8-10.
- George had a Yezzi – he made a strike without hitting the headpin.

In the team competition, it was Frank and Alex vs. Ed and George. Ed and George took the first game comfortably. The second game featured poor bowling but good competition with Alex and Frank prevailing in a close game. The last game was a runaway for George and Ed so they were the big winners with 25 cents each.

With just two more weeks in the season, we hope to have a bigger group next week.

May 16:

With the Commish absent today, Gehr Brown writes:

Despite the ninth consecutive day of beautiful weather, five bowlers showed up yesterday for our next-to-last session of the season. Our 3 vs. 2 competition with a 32-pin handicap in favor of the team of three produced some interesting results.

First, we had three bowlers with better than a 500 series. Yours truly had the high series of the day with a 566 and the high game of 234 – the latter with nine strikes but, sadly, two open frames. Professor Ed Schecter was his usual steady self with games of 171, 190 and 191 for a 538 series, and Frank DeLeo rolled a 512 set.

Alex Garnett bowled a bit over his average. George Gilliam fell a little short of his average but hung in there for all three games despite having to alter his delivery due to some discomfort.

After splitting the first two games, yours truly and Frank DeLeo fell off the cliff and lost game three to Ed, Alex and George.

We had two bowlers, who shall remain nameless, with Ben Briggs Spares – a gutter or, pardon me, channel ball followed by a second ball strike. Frank DeLeo had two nice split conversions – a 9-10 and a 3-10.

So we wrap it up next Tuesday – to be followed by our season-ending luncheon on June 6.

May 23:

“Acting Commish” for a second week – Gehr Brown writes:

Four bowlers showed up yesterday for our final session of the season. Frank DeLeo had both the high game of the day (200) and the high series (546). Frank and Gehr took game 1 vs. Alex Garnett and Professor Ed Schecter and then managed to lose games 2 and 3 – despite Frank’s 200 score in game 3. Ed rolled a 190 in game 3, and Alex came alive with a 174 – featuring six strikes – all on the left or Brooklyn side – which is not what one would expect from a right-handed bowler.

We were initially thrown off balance at the start since Laurie at the desk forgot that we were bowling this week and booked lanes 1 to 24 for a small army of students from Andrew Warde High School. She helped us move to lanes we had never bowled on but picked up the unzipped “bowling bag” with all our records, pencils, quarters, etc., spilling all over the floor. To compensate for all our pain and suffering, we were provided free coffee.

Community Service, Frank DeLeo

Frank DeLeo and his team of volunteers, with contributions from scores of DMA members, accomplished much this past quarter.

DMA Scholarship Award



The inaugural Darien Men's Association scholarship was awarded this year to **Griffin Acevedo** at a ceremony held at Darien High School on May 25 by DMA Community Service Chair **Frank DeLeo**.

Griffin graduates from Darien High School this June and will be attending Northeastern University, majoring in biology.

He is very appreciative of our scholarship. The DMA scholarship is one of four that Griffin was awarded, reflecting his deservedness from the perspectives of both accomplishments and need.

We congratulate Griffin and wish him every success in his next endeavor. He is pictured here with Frank DeLeo.

April 19, DMA members donated spring and summer clothing to help restock Person-to-Person's (P2P) inventory. It was a tremendous success. Frank DeLeo filled the back of his SUV with member donations. Thanks to you all.

April 26, eight DMA volunteers helped with the P2P Stamp Out Hunger Mail Carriers event after the meeting on April 26. They stickered and bundled 3,000 bags for delivery to homes in Darien.

May 29, Darien Memorial Day parade

For his final Memorial Day parade, past DMA president, WWII Navy veteran and longtime Darien resident **Bob Mitchell** rides along with **John Schlachtenhaufen**. Godspeed, Bob.





DMA President **Charles Salmans** bears the flag and leads our members in the parade.



Next year's DMA President **Tom Igoe** drives with passenger, Past President **Bryan Hooper**.

Cribbage at The Depot Youth Center, May 18



DMAers **Geoff Rezek**, **Greg Glashan** and **John Parker** with Terry Williams of The Depot and two Darien High School students learning the fun game of Cribbage from seasoned veterans. A great experience for all.

Current Affairs

March 16: Sunil Saksena, *Generative AI – Hype or Reality?*

April 27: John Wolcott, *Voting Integrity*

May 18: Jan Selkowitz, *The Future of China*

Current Affairs generally meets the third Thursday of the month, starting again in September. Over the past three months, we have had a slate of lively discussions led by our three moderators.

Sunil Saksena covered some of the fascinating benefits, and potentially grave dangers, of Generative AI. We all have heard much about this in the press and have seen both serious and silly examples of its use, but Sunil gave us the real nitty-gritty. Stay tuned, there is much more to come on this fast-developing technology.

John Wolcott, CPA gave us an accountant's analysis of how voting is handled, or should be handled, from distribution of ballots to casting of votes to their counting, tabulation and storage, along with some possible solutions to mitigate any future possibility of fraud or accusations of fraud. A bean counter's paradise, or an election official's purgatory?

Jan Selkowitz took us through his excellent review of the issues facing China and the U.S. – China relations, from the effect of Chairman Xi's gathering of near absolute power over the past decade, to his oft-stated goals regarding Taiwan, to China's demographic issues, China – U.S. economic competition, and our diplomatic and military challenges. Jan pointed out that the next five years could be decisive. As they say: *May you live in interesting times.*

Thanks to **Mike Wheeler**, co-group leader for Current Affairs, seen below on the right at his command station, as always playing a critical role in organizing the CA events and making them come off smoothly in the hybrid world of physical meetings at the DCA and virtually on Zoom.

Thanks also to all you DMA participants who made these discussions lively and informative.



Jan Selkowitz leading the May 18 Current Affairs session.

Happy Wanderers Report: David Mace and Joe Spain

March 30: Torrington in Connecticut's Naugatuck Valley



The Wanderers had our first Spring Wandering March 30 in **Torrington and the Naugatuck Valley**. This area was one of the industrial hubs that helped to create Connecticut's initial prosperity and is now a modern scenic venue. On Thursday, the opening day of Major League Baseball, 11 hardy Happy Wanderers gathered at the DCA parking lot for an 8:30 departure on their first outing of the spring season. The weather was sunny and bright, albeit brisk.

Our destination was the public library of Torrington, at the edge of this small city's historic downtown. Our first stop was Coe Park, directly adjacent to the site of the two principal brass foundries that harnessed the waterpower of Naugatuck River in early 19th century Litchfield County. A sleepy town that had some wool spinning mills was transformed by brass into an industrial center that lasted over the period of more

than a hundred years that followed. After World War II, the city transitioned back to its early place along the river that it is today as the only city in this rural county but now with a great economic and cultural history.

We walked from Coe Park and crossed over the river toward the center of downtown, where we stopped at Brinx Coffee Shop for a mid-morning break. We then crossed Main Street to see The Warner Theater, a fully restored edifice built in 1931 by Warner Brothers Studio as one of the largest movie houses in the state, with seats for an audience of 1,700. It now features year-round concert, stage and screen performances. Our tour of the facility by the assistant manager was one of the highlights of our trip.

Our walk then took us to City Hall, where a passing official showed us an impressive display that listed all Torrington residents who have served in the active military from the Civil War to present day conflicts. We then walked farther north to see the impressive campus of the Torrington Historical Society and its three Gilded Age homes and support buildings.

We proceeded next to Giovanni's Ristorante for a very fine lunch, after which we made our way back across the river to the library parking lot. Our carpooling group headed for home but made one further stop about 10 minutes south, at Thomaston. This was the home of Seth Thomas, the famous craftsman who during the 1800s established his clock factory in the town that now bears his name. Our stop was at the ornate multipurpose

building called the Thomaston Opera House, which in 1894 was built on the upper floors of the town hall and the central fire and police stations.

Our visit there was to see the very impressive display of the Congressional Medal of Honor that was awarded posthumously in 1942 to Thomaston native Thomas James Reeves. Navy Chief Reeves served on the battleship USS California at Pearl Harbor during the December 1941 air attack. His valor and heroic service was in leading a party of seamen in support of their ship's antiaircraft batteries while under heavy bombardment, which cost him his life.

We then proceeded home, arriving back at the DCA at 4:15.





April 5: March Madness Winners announced

Wouldn't you know it? The grand prize goes to **Sunil Saksena**, who claims to have no system or particular knowledge about basketball or pools.

Notice that grin on his face? Think he's hiding something? Esoteric knowledge? We'll find out next year.

Other winners were **George Gilliam, Tom Igoe** and **Bob Baylis** pictured with Sunil below.

Congratulations to you all and to **David Mace** and **Joe Spain** for continuing this annual tradition.



May 4: New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York City

On a brisk spring day, the Wanderers strolled through the world-renowned New York Botanical Garden. We were fortunate to have DMA member **Jack Korpi** as part of our group. Jack acts as an official guide at the Garden. It was wonderful to benefit from his deep knowledge of the Garden and the plants there, so many of which are in bloom this time of year. Thank you, Jack.



Lunch at the Botanical Garden's Hudson Garden Grill.

June 1: The Brooklyn Bridge and South Street Seaport

On a beautiful sun-filled day, the Wanderers took the train and subway to Brooklyn and then proceeded to walk across the Brooklyn Bridge surrounded by magnificent views of Brooklyn, Manhattan, the East River and New York Harbor.

Upon reaching the Manhattan side, we strolled down to South Street Seaport for a delicious al fresco lunch. The weather could not have been better, and the newly renovated South Street Seaport area was a pleasure.

From our experience, we can tell you that the Brooklyn Bridge is one of a kind and truly fits the epigram: "Only in New York folks, only in New York."







Hiking Group Report by Dave McCollum and Bob Plunkett

March 13, Cranbury Park, Norwalk

On the Thursday morning of March 23, 18 hikers and two dogs explored the trails of Cranbury Park in Norwalk. The park's expansive 227 acres surround the historic Gallaher Mansion, a classic example of Tudor Revival style architecture, which is on the National Registry. Beyond the great lawn and mansion, Cranbury Park offers a series of meandering and wooded trails, which are generally flat and well-maintained. The few light raindrops that started to fall during the hike soon turned into a refreshing early spring mist.



April 27, Larsen Wildlife Sanctuary, Fairfield

The forecast for this day was occasional showers with a probability of rain of about 50% during the hike's two-hour window of 10 a.m.-12 p.m. However, at about 8:30, the skies opened up in Darien, which apparently had a sobering effect on many DMAers' desire to hike. Your hiking captains Robert and Dave were not deterred and drove to Fairfield ready to push ahead.

As it turned out, five other DMAers were not deterred either, and the seven of us set out pretty much on schedule to tour the spectacular sanctuary. The weather was just fine for a hike: cool

but no rain. We set out on the main trail and detoured for a one-mile trip through Deer Meadow (no deer!) before resuming on the main path, which then took us past two beaver ponds and into the forest of giant trees and many streams and ponds. We hiked 3.2 miles in under two hours.

The overcast weather kept more than hikers inside: Most wildlife stayed away, too! We did see two Canada geese, a few other birds and a squirrel. Thanks to all who turned out!



June 8, Mianus River Park, Stamford



This hike had to be canceled due to wildfires in Canada congesting our air in Connecticut.

The photo at left was taken at Mianus Park in June a few years ago, right about now.

We'll be back next season in September. If you find any great local hiking trails this summer that you want to suggest we do next year, let Dave or Bob know.

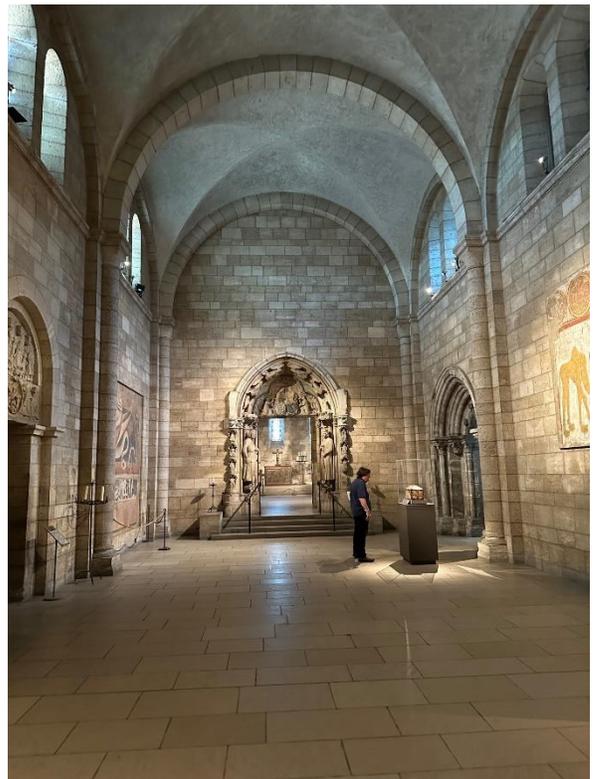
Social Activities: Jan Selkowitz, with other DMA members

March 21, 2023: The Metropolitan Museum Cloisters, John Bassler

An interested group of our members accompanied **John Bassler** to the Cloisters Museum in Fort Tryon Park, New York City. The Cloisters focuses on medieval art, tapestries and sculpture. Our docent accompanied us throughout the tour of the museum, providing insight and background on pieces in the collection.

Dr. Griff Mann, head of the Cloisters and of the Medieval Collection at the Metropolitan, is a frequent Wednesday speaker at the DMA and joined us partway through to share more of his knowledge. You will recognize him in the top two photos that follow.





April 26: Movie Music Concert at St. Luke's, Bob McGroarty

Bob McGroarty led this event featuring five musicians from Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. The concert, preceded by a wine and cheese reception, was sold out as the photo illustrates. The quintet put on a splendid performance, including a new composition dedicated to the DMA.



May 12: The New Bruce Museum, organized by Jan Selkowitz



Jan did a magnificent job of putting together a docent-led tour of the new Bruce Museum after its \$60 million renovation and expansion. Our docent in the photo to the left and in the center of the photo below provided lively commentary. Lunch was served in curatorial style in one of the museum's conference rooms.





The mineral collection at the Bruce draws much attention – as do the paintings.

May 30: Long Island Sound Boat Trip, Frank DeLeo

This year's Long Island Sound boat trip organized by **Frank DeLeo** was both fun and educational. The cruise was fully booked. Our docent **Ed Hynes**, a previous speaker at the DMA and always informative, talked with us about the revolutionary war period's events on the Sound's islands.



As you can see from the photo, it was a perfect day for sailing.



Frank DeLeo, seen here, also spoke with the group regarding the details of Great Island, a timely topic. He came prepared and spoke knowledgeably about this expansive property as we sailed west from Norwalk toward Darien and near Great Island, which is now owned by the Town of Darien.

Thank you, Frank and Ed.

June 13: Annual DMA Picnic, Alex Garnett and Bert von Stuelpnagel















Jan Selkowitz, DMA's Social Events leader, with our wine connoisseur and beer meister, **Bert von Stuelpnagal**. Thank you Jan and Bert.



Here's to a great year, from the Organizer-in-Chief of our picnic. Thank you **Alex Garnett**.

Grace Note, from Your Editor

Thank you outgoing DMA President **Charles Salmans**: Your dedication, experience and leadership spurred us on to achieve so much over the past year.

Welcome incoming DMA President **Tom Igoe**: We look forward to another grand year with you at the helm. Full Speed Ahead in 2023-2024.



Darien Men's Association Newsletter

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