



# NEWSLETTER

April, 2012  
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SMCNC.ORG

## ONLY IN MINNESOTA (with thanks to Jim D'Acosta)

Rev. Ole is at the local Norwegian Lutheran Church and Pastor Sven is the minister of the Swedish Covenant Church across the road.

One day they are seen pounding a sign into the ground, which said:

**DA END ISS NEAR!  
TURN YERSELF AROUND NOW  
BAFOR IT ISS TOO LATE!**

As a car speeds past them, the driver leans out his window and yells, "Leave people alone, you Skandihooivan religious nuts!"

From the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

Shakin' his head, Rev. Ole says "Dat's da terd one dis mornin'."

"Yaa," Pastor Sven agrees, then asks, "Do ya tink maybe da sign should yust say, 'Bridge Out?'"

## APRIL SPEAKERS (Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Church.)

Apr 6 No meeting. Good Friday.

Apr 13 Our SMC member Dr. Paul Strassmann, a WWII veteran and former chief computer executive of Xerox, the Department of Defense and NASA will speak about the rapid pace of development of techniques for interfering with military command and control communications. The presentation will conclude with guidance what measures to take to function in the era of cyber warfare without incurring personal damage Dr. Strassmann is presently teaching two graduate level courses on cyber operations and serves as the monthly contributing editor to the journal of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Apr 20 Alan Donaldson will speak on trusts and estates and related areas. The negative effect that the new Connecticut laws, reflecting our poor financial condition, have had on the Connecticut Estate and Gift Tax laws is something that should be of interest to all of us. Alan P. Donaldson graduated with honors both from Princeton University in 1970 and Northwestern University School of Law in 1973, where he served on the Editorial Board of the Law Review. He received a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University in 1980 and was admitted to practice in Connecticut and before the Federal District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Apr 27 Dr. Christopher Chivvis will address us. Dr. Chivvis is a political scientist at the RAND Corporation and adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. Dr. Chivvis, who grew up in New Canaan, will speak about a year spent in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he was the Eurasia Security Strategy Officer. He was involved with missile defense cooperation, NATO-Russia relations, and the Russia-Georgia conflict. Dr. Chivvis has published numerous articles, op-ed pieces and books. He received the Office of the Secretary of Defense Outstanding Achievement Award.

**NEW MEMBERS** - We have three new members since the last newsletter: Bill Burnham, Michel Cornier, and Andrew Tarnowski.. Please welcome them when you see them at the meetings.

**INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS FOR THE UPCOMING DIRECTORY** - At the April 13 and April 20 meetings between 9:30 and 10:30, individual photos will be taken of new members, other members who would like individual photos in the Directory, and those who would like to update their current Directory photos.

**SAVE THE DATE** - Senior Men's Club Annual Meeting Luncheon, Friday, May 11 at Noon at the Country Club of New Canaan. \$45 per person (\$50 at the door). Checks to Rad Stone.

## COUTH

We will piggy-back off two Lapham Center events. For each of the first two trips below, we will need a check, payable to Senior Center, to confirm your reservation. Call 203-594-3620 for more information. Buses will leave from Lapham Center's new parking lot near the athletic fields.

- Apr 19 (Thu)** The first is a visit to the Wadsworth Atheneum. You will tour the Atheneum's featured exhibits: *Colts & Quilts: The Civil War Remembered*, an exhibition of costumes, decorative arts and paintings, and *Andrew Wyeth: Looking Beyond*, a collection of paintings, drawings and preparatory studies. The price will be \$75. Your day will include lunch at the Chowderpot in Hartford, a one hour docent-led tour of the featured exhibits, and time to visit other collections in the Museum.
- May 1 (Tue)** The second will be a trip to the Metropolitan Museum. The Metropolitan Museum's collection of American Art reopened their New American Wing Galleries for Paintings, Sculpture, and Decorative Arts on January 16 after a \$100 million restoration. Other special exhibits will be Rembrandt and Degas: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *The Dawn of Egyptian Art*, and several others. The price will be \$30, which is only for your bus trip. You will be dropped off at the Museum door and picked up 3-1/2 hours later.
- May 29 (Tue)** We'll be visiting the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, N.Y. The day includes a private, docent-led tram tour followed by a catered buffet lunch in a private area of the Visitor Center Café. After lunch, we'll have time to visit the Haupt Conservatory or just wander around the Garden. The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory is featuring a stunning tribute to French Impressionist Claude Monet that showcases a seasonally changing interpretation of the gardens that inspired his art. Our bus will depart St. Mark's at 10:00 a.m. sharp and be back by around 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$83 per person. Your hosts will be Mike Allocca (203-966-0547) and Dave Conrod (203-594-1401).
- Sept 2012** National Parks tour. Call Bob Witt for the brochure/application, (203) 966 2892.

## ACTIVITIES (Check the website at SMCNC.ORG for updates)

- Amateur Chefs** The chefs' next meeting will be at 5:30 on April 19. Sign up at the Friday meetings.  
Bert Liebelt (203-966-3696), Nick Zaccagnino (203-966-7217)
- Bridge** Talk with your friends and organize your own games after the Friday meetings. You may play at Lapham or stay at St. Marks.  
Eric Musa (203-966-3125)
- Cycling** We will resume later this spring.  
Les DeVilliers (203-966-9645), Roger Colson (203-966-9258)
- Golf** The season begins on Tuesday, April 24th, at Fairchild Wheeler in Fairfield. 1st Tee time 9:30am, \$35 each including cart when paid as a foursome.  
Harvey Place (203-966-1821)
- Investments** The investment group will meet April 16 at 10:30 at Lapham. Harry Hitch (203-966-1947)
- Mystery Books** In April we turn to Donna Leon's Inspector Brunetti of the Venetian police. Meeting details will be announced at the Friday SMC meetings.  
Brian Hollstein (203-972-0633)
- Paddle Tennis** Play on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 at Waveny. A Rec Department permit is required.  
Steve Rowley (966-2376), John Ross (966-8339)
- Photo/Computer** Stay tuned at the Friday meetings or check the web for our next session.  
Jack Messert (203-966-8754)
- Sidewalks - NYC** Hold these dates: May 9, June 6 and June 27! Details on each walk to follow.  
Pete Stair (203-966-6497)
- Trailblazers** Stay tuned for the next walk.  
Jack Murray (203-966-1416)
- 4F Luncheon** Our informal, relaxing Dutch treat lunch is usually on the Fourth Friday. Details about future lunches will be announced at Friday meetings. All are invited to join in. Sign up at the Couth desk, either before 10 a.m. or during the coffee break.  
Don Tiefenthaler (203-966-5794)