



Coming Events – January

Date	Event
Jan 5	Current Events with Joe D. SMAS Business Meeting Speaker: Mayor Martin – State of the City
Jan 12	Technology Group SMAS Business Meeting Speaker: Chris George – Dispelling the many misconceptions concerning refugee resettlement in the United States
Jan 19	Finance With Lori Price SMAS Business Meeting National Executive Services Corporation
Jan 26	Investing With Joe D. SMAS Business Meeting Speaker: Cristina Crain – Stamford Senior Center

Page	Inside This Issue
1	Monthly Events/Birthdays/Anniversaries
2	Holiday Luncheon
3	December Speaker Review
5	Future Speakers
7	Save The Date
7	New Members
7	In Memory
7	Fellowship

Membership

As of December 31, 2016, SMAS had 238 active members 43 of whom are Lifetime members.

Celebrations This Month

Birthdays January	Anniversaries January
Don Axleroad	Bob Alswanger
Franco Becchi	Steve Cole
Manny Bernardo	Paul DeBartolomeo
Howie Breslow	Warren Hayes
Joe DeBartolo	Tom Lombardo
Jim Duffy	Tony Totilo
Arthur Egol	Joe Traina
Steve Fischer	
Jerry Fishman	
Uri Giat - 91	
Jack Jablonski	
Craig Johnson	
Dave Kaplan	
Mike Kepchar	
Bob Langenhan - 93	
Pete Loughran	
Jaspal Mayell	
Dan McCarthy	
Bob E Meyer	
Stu Sobel	
Arnold Steiger	
Larry Willinger	



Holiday Luncheon



Pictures Courtesy of SMAS Member Stu Madison
[See All Holiday Luncheon Photos at Our Website\(click here\)](#)

Last Month's Speakers

December 1: Catalina Samper-Horak, Executive Director of Neighbors Link Stamford, on Immigration Today, Myths and Facts. Connecticut's population is 14% foreign born. Stamford has 36%. CT has 25% of children 8 years and younger foreign born. Of the 120,00 people in Stamford, 30,000 are Hispanic. 9.5% of business in Stamford are owned by Hispanics. Most are from Central America. Mexico deports more people from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador than the US does to Mexico. A large majority of women that travel thru Mexico to immigrate to the USA are raped or assaulted. In Central America children are raised by grandparents, have malnutrition, and have relatives in the US. 10% of Guatemala's GDP comes from remittances. Family members who have gotten to the US send as much as 50% of their wages back to family in Central America. There are Immigration Myths, such as Family has come here legally, which they usually do not. They steal jobs from Americans, but they do the low paid unskilled jobs. They do not pay taxes, but they end up paying 14 million dollars in taxes in CT alone. They are a burden on Public Benefits, which is not true. Lots of barriers to Immigrate Integration. They get cheated by employers, no legal representation and no access for health care. An affluent area such as Fairfield County creates a demand for low paying service jobs and the immigrants fulfill that need. 49% of children in Stamford Public Schools are eligible for free or reduced fee lunches. Neighbor Links support the immigrant community. They are run by volunteers, with no government support and they Build Trust + Community + Skills = Integration. The election results scare the undocumented workers.

December 8: Dan Burke who showed us a DVD on Stamford's 375th Anniversary. The Mianus River was the boundary line between Indian tribes. In 1600's our area was call Rippowan. Most Stamford people were farmers and mill workers. Many Stamfordites fought for the British in the French and Indian war and then fought for the American colonies against the British. In earlier days, to go to New York City required a long hard stagecoach ride or a steamer ship. When the railroad came to Stamford in the 1840's it allowed Stamford to grow. In the late 1800's Yale and Towne opened their factory. Stamford has had many citizens go off to fight for our country. The Historical Society's DVD showed us pictures of various types of transportation that Stamford has had, what entertained us in theater, music, arts and dancing. It also showed us that some famous people lived or visited us in Stamford. It was a very enjoyable DVD.

December 15: Art Gottlieb on The Eisenhower Interstate System. The system was named for President Dwight David Eisenhower in 1956. Highway systems are essential for the economic growth of a country. Military concerns were a feature in planning road systems. In 1919 Ike was tasked to go across the country via the Lincoln Highway. He needed to see if troops and equipment could travel across the country. He determined that the road system was not adequate to support the military's needs. Before the beginning of World War II, Germany built the Autobahn, which Ike thought was excellent for the military's needs. In 1955 the Clay Committee voted and recommended an Interstate Highway System. It began in 1956 in Missouri. All construction would be uniform. All road lanes would be the same width, all bridges would be the same height from the road, etc. The Eisenhower Interstate System would be able to be used to get the population away from the city centers if we were being attacked. Some of the Interstate roads are toll roads and they are primarily privately owned and maintained by the state, not the Federal Government. It is amazing to see this complex system that was all planned and done without the use of computers.

December 22: Melissa Shapiro, Director of Community Relations, The Salvation Army Stamford Corps. The Corp is located on the West Side of Stamford. The Salvation Army started as a Christian organization in England in 1865. It is run as a Military Organization, with Military titles. They provide funds to buy necessities for under privileged children. They get corporations to sponsor families in need to provide the basic necessities. They have a 5-person office here in Stamford. The “Bell Ringers” this time of year, come from shelters and they are paid workers. Approximately 87% if the funds collected go to the charity

December 29: NO MEETING

SMAS SPEAKERS – January 1, 2017 to March 30, 2017

Jan 5, 2017 - State of the City – Mayor David Martin will speak following his swearing in of our 2017 officers.

Jan 12 – Dispelling the many misconceptions concerning refugee resettlement in the United States – Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services will discuss how IRIS resettles approximately 200 refugees each year. Currently, IRIS’s refugee clients come from Afghanistan, Congo, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Sudan and other countries.

Jan 19 – National Executive Services Corporation – Deb Brennan, Regional Director, will discuss NESC which was founded in 1977 to strengthen America’s nonprofits. They have completed over 2,000 consulting projects for 1,200 nonprofits of all sizes in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut tri-state area, helping them deal effectively with their challenges and capitalize on their opportunities.

Jan 26 - Stamford Senior Center – Cristina Crain, MSW Director of Stamford Senior Center, whose mission is to provide programs that will help older adults over fifty to be active, healthy and contributing members of the community by providing them with exercise programs, intellectual challenges, socialization, entertainment and information and assistance in a welcoming environment that is both functional and attractive.

Feb 2 – Bridge of Spies, etc. – John Donovan provides first hand experiences of his famous father. Particularly during the Cold War, the Soviet Union captures U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers after shooting down his U-2 spy plane. Sentenced to 10 years in prison, Powers' only hope is New York lawyer James Donovan recruited by a CIA operative to negotiate his release. Donovan boards a plane to Berlin, hoping to win the young man's freedom through a prisoner exchange. If all goes well, the Russians would get Rudolf Abel, the convicted spy who Donovan defended in court.

Feb 9 – Osborne Home Care – Laurie Pensiero, Business Development Manager will discuss how most people get nervous when they hear Home Care and things about aging, but really people’s belief on Home Care and aging are usually misled. Many people have said after they hear about “How to age safely and wisely” and about all the aspects it actually starts a very good conversation with people and their families and opens the lines of communication.

Feb 16 – Simply Smiles Inc. – Bryan Nurnberger is the President and Founder of Connecticut based charity. Simply Smiles works to provide bright futures for impoverished children, their families, and their communities in Wa-Ha-Ka (Oaxaca) Mexico and The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota.

Feb 23 – Nutrition - Cora Ragaini, Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist, Shop Right, will join us again to update us on matters of food and nutrition impacts on health.

Mar 2 – Inside Sing Sing – Jacqueline Labatt-Simon, Facilitator for an association of community, school, and prison-based groups presents a power point tour of Sing Sing as she tells its history and about the way it is at present...

Mar 9 – Norwalk Community College – David Levinson, Ph.D, President discusses an inspiring story about how NCC continues to make a difference in cost and quality of education in Lower Fairfield County.

Mar 16 – The Two Korea’s – Donald Gregg is currently chairman of the Pacific Century Institute (PCI) and chairman emeritus of The Korea Society in New York City. He will discuss his interest in establishing normal relations with North Korea, and his active support through the PCI of unofficial meetings between Americans

with specific experience in Korea with North Korean officials. He led a PCI delegation to North Korea in February 2014.

Mar 23 – Aquarion Water Company – Jeff Ulrich will discuss drought and other water issues.

Mar 30 – Stamford Mineral Society – Howard Heitner, President will speak about gems, fossils and minerals.

Apr 6 – Famous Art Selections - Helane Rheingold is a docent at the Neuberger Museum of Art, instructor at Learning in Retirement, and an arts enrichment facilitator for adults and children. She will lead us in another wonderful and interactive presentation of the world of art.

Apr 13 – Domus Kids – Mike Duggan, Executive Director will discuss this human services nonprofit organization that serves more than 1.100 of the most struggling youth in Stamford and New Haven.

Apr 20 – CT State Government – William Tong serves the 147th District in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He is House Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and is the Co-Chairman of the Commission on Economic Competiveness. He will bring us up-to-date on what is happening in our State.

Apr 27 – A Passion for Music – Dr. George Ubogy is a retired physician in Greenwich, and besides medicine he also has another life passion: music. He will perform for us and discuss his passion for music.

May 4 – Medical Marijuana’s Showdown with Federal Law – Matthew Maddox, a prominent local attorney will how the Federal is .facing off against Connecticut medical marijuana law, but it’s not the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) that’s leading the fight.

May 11 – River House Adult Day Center – Donna Spellman, Executive Director discusses a number of services to aging adults in the Greenwich and Stamford communities, ranging from adult day care for people who suffer from dementia, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other challenges that make it difficult to be alone, to information, education and support groups for the community, covering topics such as “adjusting to the changes associated with dementia,” “how to talk to friends and family members about Alzheimer’s,” “resources for aging at home,” “Financial Planning,” and so on. My goal is to make sure that our community knows that we are here as a resource.

May 18 – Top Crises Facing America Today – Mike Baker, President/Americas & Co-founder Diligence LLC will discuss ISIS, global terrorism, cybersecurity, and the challenges confronting the U.S. in Syria, Iran, Russia and North Korea.

May 25 -

Jun 1 -

Jun 8 -

Jun 15 -

Jun 22 -

Jun 29 –

Wives, friends and neighbors are always welcome to our talks beginning at 11 a.m. at Agudath Shalom. SMAS follows the Stamford School System to determine if a meeting is cancelled due to weather. If the schools close, we are closed. If the schools are open, even if delayed, we are open. Our speaker schedule is subject to changes announced at SMAS meetings, and noted on our web site, <http://www.stamfordmen.org>. For questions about any of our speakers contact V.P. of Programs, Bob Loop at bole1327@gmail.com

SaveThe Date

Welcome to New Members



Be on the lookout for the red and blue dot on the member's badge indicating a new member and welcome them.

In Memorial

Fellowship

Any News Contact Bill McGirr
Telephone (203) 912-4058 or e-mail goldcoastbill@hotmail.com

Our Purpose

The Senior Men's Association of Stamford (SMAS) is a nonprofit educational organization. It is built on friendly association, intellectual and physical stimulation, community service and outreach. We are probably the best kept little secret in Southwest Connecticut. Our logo, a ship's wheel, steers us on a course of activities, programs and events throughout the year.

Who We Are

The SMAS is as varied as our community. We are a group of more than 200 men over 55 who are tradesmen and professionals, married or single, all creeds, colors and religions, running the gamut of the political spectrum. Members include retired and semi-retired teachers, businessmen, doctors, writers, craftsmen, printers, merchants, engineers, chemists, lawyers and more, who come together to share interests and friendship in mutual enjoyment for the betterment of our community and ourselves. The SMAS is involved collectively and individually.

Where We Meet

Although we are non-denominational, our meetings are held every Thursday at Congregation Agudath Sholom on Colonial Road at Strawberry Hill Avenue. The business meeting begins at 10 AM, followed by a coffee break. Our weekly program starts at 11 and ends at noon. There always is time for questions.

When Do We Meet

We take a summer break when meetings and activities are suspended from the end of June until Labor Day. And in the winter months, our meetings are cancelled whenever Stamford schools are closed -- not delayed -- because of bad weather.

Mark your calendar and **be our guest** on a Thursday morning.

Check our website at www.stamfordmen.org

Strangers Are Friends We Haven't Met

Visit our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/stamfordmen>

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