



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.  
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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**SCRIBE: ED FARRELL**

“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.” Anon.

Following the weekly rendition of the RMA anthem President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and lead us in the pledge.

**ARNOLD GORDON** suggested that members who use United Health Care (Medicare Advantage Only) as their insurance provider consider obtaining a free “Well at Home” kit they are offering that contains a supply of Tamiflu (should you have flu symptoms), a digital thermometer, and a Covid-19 test kit. Free consultation with a medical professional by phone to review any signs or symptoms of flu or covid-19 is provided. For details, see [www.wellathome.com](http://www.wellathome.com).

**Tad Larrabee** reminds us that we have a photo gallery of past RMA events: [RMA Photo Gallery](#).

**GEOFFREY BURGE** told of the fellow who was pleased that his young son was assigned the role of a 22-year-old married man in the school play and added a tale about Tiger Woods stopping for gas at an Irish gas station and having to explain to the attendant that tees were used to hold up his balls.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported that there was minimal activity over the holidays, so our funds remain stable in the treasury.

Membership chair **PETER STERN** welcomed **NORMAN MASRI**, who hopefully will be a regular attendee. PETER also offered a warm welcome to snowbirds attending from Florida: **GRAN BURGESS, FRANK SCARPA, & PETER TUNLEY**.

**PETER** noted that 64 members in attendance, and wished happy birthday to **JOHN FARRAUTO** (81), **JOHN CRAINE** (84), **KEATING HAGMANN** (75), **MIKE HAYDEN** (89), **JAN MEYER** (86), **BILL FAKUNDINY** (89).

Visiting chair **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that **JIM DEAN** had cataract surgery last week and is doing fine.

Volunteer Hours chair **JOHN FEBLES** asked members to send him a note indicating their actual or estimated inside and outside volunteer hours from October 1, 2020, to the present. NOTE: If your email signature does not have your name, please include your name in your note.

If you have any questions email or call **JOHN**. ([jfebles13@gmail.com](mailto:jfebles13@gmail.com), c 203 550 5049 h 203 869 5343)

Human Interest: **FRANK SCARPA** noted that 2020 was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the trials of many Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany. He recalled that his father-in-law, William Coogan, was the allies' chief documentarian responsible for finding and cataloging a vast number of Nazi documents that led to the conviction of participants in many atrocities. **FRANK** read from a document prepared by Mr. Coogan describing his activities as documentarian. He noted that the Nuremberg trials were the first that relied more on incriminating documentation than witnesses.

## PROGRAM

**BOB RIMMER** said today's speaker will be Michael Mason, Chairman of the Greenwich Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET), who will discuss "Budget Challenges for the Town of Greenwich – Fiscal Year 2022."

**PETER BERG** noted next week's speaker will be Matthew Ritter, Prospective Speaker of the House of Representatives for the State of Connecticut, whose topic will be: "Issues Facing the 2021 CT Legislative Assembly."

## FUN AND GAMES

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** noted the bridge group plays every Wednesday at 1PM (Virtually using the Trickstercards app). Please contact Tony ([Anthony.Cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:Anthony.Cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu)) if you are interested in joining the group and/or learning how to use the app.

**TONY** reported last week's top scorers were: **JOHN FEBLES** (3420), **RON FRIEDMAN** (2970), **ED MASTOLONI** (2850).

Pickleball: **TONY COCCHI** said Winter Outdoor Pickleball was cancelled last week due to wet weather. The group plays on Mondays, currently at 10:00 AM, but is considering changing to a later time (when it should be warmer). Please contact **TONY** ([Anthony.Cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:Anthony.Cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu)) if you are interested in joining the group.

Walking: **TAD LARRABEE** reported rain delayed last Thursday's walk until 1 PM, when eight walkers had a nice walk at Greenwich Point. Those who stayed for the full walk went about 3.5 miles accompanied by much enjoyable conversation.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** noted that Tai Chi is the only movement exercise where you are asked to relax to improve focus, flexibility, balance, and your overall health. How hard can it be? The Mayo Clinic recommends Tai Chi in its article "[Tai Chi: A gentle way to fight stress](#)".

Join the Tai Chi group Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Other times can be arranged. Contact Will Morrison, [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com)

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** announced that due to the tennis group being in its winter break, there are no results to report. The Spring season will commence on Friday, January 8th with **JOE MANCINELLI** as captain. The Spring schedule was sent out via email a week ago. If any participant did not receive a schedule, contact **ANDY** immediately.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

**BOB RIMMER** introduced Michael Mason, Chairman of the Greenwich Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET). Mr. Mason has an extensive resume of service to the town, having served on many town sub-committees since 1992. He has been BET chairman since 2017. Mr. Mason noted that the BET is responsible for the administration of the financial affairs of the town, including the issuance of the annual recommended budget and setting the town tax mill rate. His presentation focused on how the annual budget is prepared and the role of the BET in guiding its development in cooperation with the First Selectman's office and the various town departments. Mr. Mason explained the major line items of the budget, and how they are impacted by contractual obligations (e.g., labor contracts) and other considerations that together lead to the establishment of a mill rate for property taxes. He noted the annual budget must be balanced, and that an initial suggested budget is prepared in October of each year. Following a review by the town departments, the First Selectman prepares a proposed budget. The proposed budget is reviewed in January at a public hearing. The budget is then presented for review by the RTM, which is responsible for approving it by May 15. Mr. Mason noted the town's fiscal position is strong, but Covid-19 has had an impact on this year's budget. That impact has been softened to some degree by grants received by several town departments. He also noted that the town's biggest challenge is managing unfunded liabilities, such as the town's pension fund, which currently stands at about \$200,000,000. Mr.

Mason suggested Greenwich needs to maintain fiscal discipline, while it continues to offer quality amenities and services, so that it remains a desirable community. Mr. Mason's presentation offered real insights into the budgeting process, and for those interested in exploring the subject in more detail, please see his full presentation on the RMA web site [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).

**NOTE:** The RMA weekly speaker program is rerun on GCTV cable on the following Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5:30pm and the week following that on Monday and Friday at 11:00am.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

On January 13 our speaker will be Matthew Ritter, Prospective Speaker of the House of Representatives for the State of Connecticut, whose topic will be: "Issues Facing the 2021 CT Legislative Assembly."

**NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week's CBB scribe will be **AV RIVEL**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **AV** at [arivel@optonline.net](mailto:arivel@optonline.net).

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### RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com

Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com