



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Joe Mancinelli** Graphics: **Av Rivel**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Joe Mancinelli, Chet Risio, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo, Tim Brooks**
Archivist: **Harold Frost**. Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek**. Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 38 JANUARY 29, 2020 SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

"If you are the smartest person in the room, you are in the wrong room." – Confucius

Despite furious bell-ringing President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** was not able to get the rowdy membership to order until about 10:02am. From there, however, things went smoothly with **TAD LARRABEE** leading the pledge of allegiance and **TOM HEALY** serving as song leader for show tunes "You're a Grand Old Flag" (by George M. Cohan), "Hey Look Me Over" (from *Wildcat*) and "Cabaret" (from *Cabaret*). **JIM SANTORA** tickled the ivories, providing expert accompaniment.

Corresponding Secretary and Jokester **TOM LUCE** then told some stories about *The Importance of Walking*, including one about grandpa who started walking five miles a day at age 60 and is now 97, "and we don't know where the hell he is."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

According to the prez we had one returnee this week, **AV RIVEL**, from Sarasota. Birthdays were **DIETER BLENNEMANN**, 85; **JACK WEIR**, 73; and **BOB STRONG**, 71. Regarding visiting, **MIKE AMBROSINO** reported that **RALPH VIGGIANO** is receiving outpatient radiation treatment at Greenwich Hospital and is recovering at home. **RUSS HARDEN** delivered a moving memorial tribute for **SANFORD "SANDY" BUCHSBAUM**, who passed away on December 13 at the age of 92. **SANDY** was a longtime advertising and marketing executive, at one time leading his own agency, Stevens and Buchsbaum.

Correction; in last week's CBB **CHET RISIO** made the unforgiveable error of referring to **MIKE HAYDEN** as a "Navy pilot". **MIKE** was stationed aboard an aircraft carrier and was, and is, a United States Marine. As **CHET** said, "My own son is a Marine, I should have known better."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Your scribe **TIM BROOKS** then jumped up and announced that the newly formed RMA Writer's Group, for those who write or are interested in writing, planned to have its first meeting in February. Anyone who wished to join before the date and meeting place were finalized should sign up. **TONY COCCHI** announced that the next ROMEO luncheon (Retired Old Men Eating Out) would be on February 24, at Zody's 19th Hole Restaurant in Stamford. Tariff is \$28 per person, reservations from Anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu. **PETER UHRY** will be the guest host.

Program: **HOLLISTER STURGES** previewed the day's speaker, Howard Husock of the Manhattan Institute, whose topic was *Effective Ways to Lift People Out of Poverty*. **TAD LARRABEE** followed with a teaser for next week's speaker, Tom Shachtman, author of *The Founding Fortunes: How the Wealthy Paid for and Profited from America's Revolution*.

Special Events: **DON CONWAY** announced that there would be a full-day excursion to the Goodspeed Opera House for a performance of *South Pacific*, on either April 23 or 30 (tbd). **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that planning had begun for an excursion to the Baseball Hall of Fame on July 26 for its 2020 induction ceremony. On a melodious note, **GERRY LESSUK** described the upcoming trip to a rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, on March 12, for performances of Stravinsky and Rachmaninov.

Volunteer hours: **GEOFFREY BURGE** volunteered that there were 468 outside hours performed by 44 members in the past week, and 145 inside hours by 25 members. The V-trophy goes to **BRIAN MAHER**, with 66 hours.

SCOREBOARD

Bridge: **PETER DODGE** dealt the bridge numbers, 1st being **RON MURRAY** with 3810, followed by **TONY COCCHI** with 2980 and **FRANK LEE** with 2380.

Tennis: **SAM MARASSO** served up the tennis results, with the winners on Court #1 being **GEOFF BURGE** and **TOM HEALY**, and on Court #2, **SAM MARASSO** and **ANDY HOLMES**. Next week's captain will be **TOM HEALY**.

Hearts, according to **JACK SWEGER**, lovingly saw 2 tables with 8 players. Winners were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO (2)**, **GEORGE DIPPY**, **TOM HEALY**, **JACK SWEGER** and a tie between **DON CONWAY** and **JIM DEAN**. **JACK** patiently explained “moon shots” to your scribe, who still doesn’t understand, but in any event the leaders there were **JACK SWEGER (3)**, **GEORGE DIPPY (2)**, **JOHN KNIGHT** and **TOM HEALY**. Next week’s captain is **JOHN KNIGHT**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** calmly took a three-day Tai Chi workshop with Peter Wayne, author of *The Harvard Medical School Guide to Tai Chi*. Sessions for members continue at 3:00pm on Monday and Friday. Contact Will for details.

Finally, **HORST TEBBE** declared that there was a total of 97 members in attendance, with no guests or inductees. President **SCHWENDEMAN** then promptly closed the meeting, right on time at 10:30am.

TODAY’S SPEAKER

Prior to the speaker being introduced, former member Gary Silberberg made a pitch for members to apply for jobs as census takers in the upcoming 2020 Census. Hours are flexible and pay ranges from \$25.00 to \$27.50 per hour with premium for evenings and weekends. Training and mileage are paid for. Training will begin in mid-March and enumerators will go out in mid-April. In addition to earning some money, Census Takers serve their community by ensuring its accurate representation in Congress and access to government funds for schools, hospitals, roads and more. Please apply online at www.2020census.gov/jobs, or call 855-JOB-2020. For more information contact Gary at (203) 252-7400 (greenwichrealty@aol.com).

Today’s speaker Howard Husock was then introduced. Husock is a senior fellow and contributing editor at the Manhattan Institute, and a longtime print and television journalist and documentary filmmaker who has won three Emmys for his work. He was director of case studies in public policy and management at the Harvard Kennedy School, and a member of the board of directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (2013-18). His latest book is *Who Killed Civil Society? The Rise of Big Government and the Decline of Bourgeois Norms*, and his subject today, *Effective Ways to Lift People Out of Poverty*.

Husock gave an impassioned plea for private entities to be used to address social problems based on positive values, rather than constantly turning to government to address these problems. “He sees today’s massive social service state and government agencies doing more harm than good for struggling communities. He is an advocate for the formative work to be done by civil society through philanthropic activity, as both a source of effective new ideas and a core aspect of democracy and liberty.”

Unsurprisingly this led to a lively (and civil) discussion during the question and answer period, in which questions reflected members' very different views on the role of government in addressing social needs. Husock stated that he himself had once been very liberal on social matters, but had concluded that government, while it should play a role, was not "the answer."

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week's speaker will be Tom Shachtman, author of *The Founding Fortunes: How the Wealthy Paid for and Profited from America's Revolution*. Following his lecture there will be a community discussion with Shachtman on *Money and Wealth in Politics, Past and Present*, at 2:00pm at Greenwich Library. Participants should register for that event using the library's online calendar.

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RMA 2020 Calendar

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Platform Tennis	Loughlin Ave. Courts, Cos Cob
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr. 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
RMA Special Events			
February 24, 2020	To Be Announced	ROMEO Luncheon	Zody's 19 th Hole
March 12, 2020	8:00 am	Open Rehearsal NY Philharmonic	Lincoln Center, NYC
April 23 or 30	8:00 am	South Pacific	Goodspeed Opera House

July 26	To Be Announced	Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Trip	Cooperstown, NY
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