



# 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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*"Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."*  
Writer **James Baldwin**

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, after some vigorous bell wringing, convened the meeting around 10am. **PETER UHRY** led the Pledge of Allegiance after giving a brief history of its origins, which began over 100 years ago, went through several changes, and in 1942 was adopted by Congress, which decreed that the hand that had been raised in a salute similar to the one used by Fascists, would be changed to holding the hand over ones heart.

Song Leader **DON CONWAY** opened the singing with "You're a Grand Old Flag" and followed with "On the Sunny Side of the Street" and "Peg O' My Heart." **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** provided the piano accompaniment.

Treasurer of the day was **JEFF JUNKER**; the Mentor was **JACK WEIR**; the Projectionist was **DAN FREDLAND**; and the Scribe was **GERRY LESSUK**. Corresponding Secretary **AV RIVEL** told three short stories dealing with memory problems.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

RMA apparel is available through **PETER UHRY**. An order quantity of at least a dozen is needed. Adjustable tan caps with the RMA logo runs about \$15, and short sleeve RMA polo shirts in blue would cost about \$30.

**PETER UHRY** gave details of the next ROMEO lunch which will take place on this coming February 24th at Zody's located in Stamford at the E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course. The Menu is Italian served family style. The cost is \$28; the check should be made out to cash.

**PETER STERN** returned from Aspen, Colorado.

Memorial for **PAUL BRADY** given by **JIM BUTLER**: **PAUL** was born in Queens, New York, one of three brothers. He earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from New York Polytechnic University and another Engineering Master's Degree from Columbia University in New York City. He had been an employee of I.B.M.

Inductee Tony Fitzpatrick was sponsored by **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and was voted into membership. **TONY** is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Albany Law School and practiced Corporate Law in New York City. **TONY** and his wife Julie moved to Greenwich in 1989. **TONY** retired from law practice earlier this year. He claims to be an avid skier, an aging but dedicated runner, and a frustrated golfer.

## COMMITTEES

VISITING: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that a recent inductee **BILL FEATHERSTON** fell while playing platform tennis and suffered abrasions and contusions on several body parts. After a visit to ER at Greenwich Hospital his wounds proved to be superficial. He is recovering at home. **DOUG TAYLOR** fell and hit his head and is recovering at home.

PROGRAMS: Today's program was introduced by **TAD LARRABEE**. Author Tom Shachtman will discuss issues raised in his new book *The Founding Fortunes: How the Wealthy Paid for And Profited from America's Revolution*. Next week's program was introduced by **BOB RIMMER**. The program is part of the RMA's series on the future of Greenwich, and the speaker will be Dr. Alan Berry, Greenwich's Commissioner of Human Resources.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** advised that a count of members in attendance was not available. There were two guests: Jim Kingsley, g/o **JOE MANCINELLI**; and Brian Mahoney, g/o **JIM FISHBEIN**. The birthday boys were **ED MILLER**, 77, **JACK SWEGER**, 89, and **JOERG BLASER**, 74.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: For the week ending February 5th, **HAROLD KUPLESKY** reported that there were 341 outside hours by 43 members and 142 inside hours by 24 members. Top honors went to **BOB BISHOP** with 28 hours.

SPECIAL EVENTS: A trip to West Point to attend a West Point football game is planned for December 7, 2020; **DON CONWAY** is working on the details.

A trip to the Goodspeed Opera house for the musical "South Pacific" is planned for either this coming April 23rd or April 30th; **MAURICE KROHN** will be finalizing details. The next Special Event is the Open Rehearsal of the NY Philharmonic set for March 12, 2020. **GERRY LESSUK**

advised that all places were taken. Those who are interested in the possibility of attending should get their names placed on the Wait List. See details below.

## SCOREBOARD

BRIDGE: Seven players participated. **ED MASTOLONI** provided the following scores: **TONY COCCHI**, 3890 points; **PETER DODGE**, 3610 points; and **ED MASTOLONI**, 2960 points.

HEARTS: Twelve players participated using three tables. **JOHN KNIGHT** said that eight games were completed. Winners were **JIM DEAN (2)**, **CHARLES GRAVES (2)**, **TOM HEALY**, and **GRANT PERKINS (3)**. Moon shots were made by **JOHN KNIGHT**, **TOM HEALY (2)**, **JACK WEIR**, **GRANT PERKINS (2)**, and **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Next week's captain is **GRANT PERKINS**.

INDOOR TENNIS: Eight players played two rounds on two courts. The following was reported by **TOM HEALY**: In the Opening Round the winners on Court #1 were **BOB GRAYSON** and **MIKE SMITH**; on Court #2 the winners were **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **RALPH NEWITTER**. In the Final Round the winners on Court #1 were **MIKE SMITH** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK**; on Court #2 the winners were **TOM HEALY** and **RON FRIEDMAN**. Next week's captain is **BILL HOWLAND**.

PLATFORM TENNIS: Eight players participated. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that the winners on Court #1 were **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **MARK GEIMER**; Winners on Court #2 were **TONY COCCHI** and **ANDY HOLMES**. A typical Platform Tennis group shown below.



Left to Right: B.Featherston, M.Ambrosino, J.Dean, M.Geimer, W.Morrison, G.Burge, A.Cocchi

Tai Chi: Take classes with RMA member **WILL MORRISON** on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3pm at the Greenwich Senior Center, and on Tuesdays at 8:30pm at the First Congregational Church on Old Greenwich. There will be no classes at the Senior Center on Wednesday, 2/12 and Monday, February 17th.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to the RMA and must be received within two weeks of making the reservation(s), or the reservation(s) will be cancelled. Buses depart from the St Catherine Church parking lot on Riverside Avenue opposite the Church. Contact persons are listed with each event.

NY PHILHARMONIC OPEN REHEARSAL: March 12, 2020; lunch at Cafe Fiorello; cost \$105; bus departs 8am; status: wait list. Contact **GERRY LESSUK** (203)698-9451.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

Our speaker Tom Shachtman gave us a tour of the American Revolution, with emphasis on the economic climate imposed on the States by Great Britain and the financial obstacles the founding leaders faced to obtain the means to prosecute the war. The British Mercantile System dominated the States prior to the Revolution. There were no State banks or corporations. The States were only permitted to sell goods to Great Britain or other States and were required to buy manufactured goods only from Great Britain, which required payment in cash or letters of credit. When the revolt started in 1775 with the battle of Lexington and Concord, the States were faced with the problems of raising an army, how to pay the soldiers, who would lead the military, and how would they acquire the implements of war. Essentially the war was funded by wealthy individuals and war materials were obtained by selling tobacco directly to France in exchange for war material. After the war, the new Republic needed to replace the former mercantile system. The presidencies of George Washington and John Adams established financial institutions primarily of help to the wealthy. The presidencies of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison changed the focus to more favor those nearer the bottom of the financial ladder.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

Next week's speaker will be Dr. Alan Barry, Greenwich's Commissioner of Human Resources. His topic: "The safety net to self-sufficiency and narrowing the wealth gap."

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## RMA 2020 Calendar

| <b>Weekly Repetitive Activities</b> |                     |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| <b>Date</b>                         | <b>Time</b>         | <b>Activity</b>                         | <b>Location</b>  |
| Mondays                             | 3:00 to 4:00        | Tai Chi Beginner                        | Greenwich Sr. Center   |
| Tuesdays                            | 10:00 am            | Platform Tennis                         | Loughlin Ave. Courts,<br>Cos Cob                                       |
| Wednesdays                          | 10:00am to 11:00 am | RMA Weekly Meeting                      | First Presbyterian<br>Church, One West<br>Putnam Ave.,<br>Greenwich CT |
| Wednesdays                          | 1:00 to 3:00 pm     | Hearts                                  | Greenwich Civic Ctr.<br>90 Harding Road, Old<br>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<br>Academy  |
| <b>RMA Special Events</b>           |                     |   |  |
| February 24                         | 1:00 pm             | ROMEO Luncheon                          | Zody's 19 <sup>th</sup> Hole   |
| March 12                            | 8:00 am             | Open Rehearsal NY<br>Philharmonic       | Lincoln Center,<br>NYC   |
| April 23 or 30                      | 8:00 am             | South Pacific                           | Goodspeed Opera<br>House   |
| July 26                             | To Be Announced     | Baseball Hall of Fame<br>Induction Trip | Cooperstown, NY  |
| December 7                          | To Be Announced     | West Point vs. Air<br>Force             | West Point, NY   |