



# 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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**VOLUME 67 NUMBER 11 JULY 10, 2019 SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON**

*"I must say I find television very educational. The minute someone turns it on, I go into the library and read a good book."* Groucho Marx

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** began the meeting at 10:03am and called on **PETER STERN** to lead us in the pledge. **GRAN BURGESS** then energetically conducted our singing *You're a Grand Old Flag, Don't Fence Me In, and You Are My Sunshine*. **JIM SANTORA** played the Steinway with extra flourish.

Corresponding Secretary **RICH "TEX" BISK** presented **ARNOLD GORDON** with a humorous script based on a Christmas song and urged him to arrange for a musical version presentation to the RMA at holiday time; **GRAN BURGESS**, we have to talk!

**RICH** then told two clever stories. (1) A dying man could not pay his doctor's bill; so, doc gave him 6 more months to live. (2) Three competitive fence contractors bid for a White House job, not all on the up and up! Sorry, you had to have been there to hear it!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. El Presidente welcomed returnees HORST TEBBE from Crested Butte and Denver, Colorado, STEPHEN MARINO from Denver, Colorado (were you two colluding?), and SAM MARASSO, all dried out from his kayaking adventure on Cape Cod.
2. JAMES CLEMENT urged members to aid in the Salvation Army's food drive on Thursday, July 18 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Bring non-perishables (cereals, canned goods, peanut butter, pasta, paper products, ....) to the Town Hall Meeting Room. Nothing beyond expiration date please. The collection will benefit the Neighbor-to-Neighbor food pantry and the Department of Human Services. Start searching your cupboards!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**VISITING:** There was no report.

**PROGRAM:** HOLLISTER STURGES stepped in for GERRY GIBIAN who was dutifully picking up today's speaker, Jennifer Pehr, at Greenwich train station; he urged us to stay for her talk on *Evolving the Future American Aesthetic: A Strategic Plan for North America*. Next week's speaker, as related by HORST TEBBE, will be his son Nelson, an expert on Constitutional law, who will speak on a recent Supreme Court case: *The Supreme Court Decision in the Bladenburg Cross Case: Government Expression of Religious Equality*. Nelson will also be conducting a discussion that afternoon from 2:00 until 3:30 at the Greenwich Library on *The Supreme Court's Legitimacy in an Era of Polarized Politics*. Registration is required for the limited-space attendance, contact the Library in person or online.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported that 93 members were present as well as one guest, Billy London, g/o ARNOLD GORDON and JOEL BLUMBERG. Birthdays were celebrated for BUD SPANN, 89, WAYNE WRIGHT, 86, GEORGE DEY, 76, TOM CAHILL, 88, DAN GRIMSICH, 88, and BOB LUCE, 82.

**HUMAN INTEREST STORIES:** CHET RISIO introduced MARIO BONAPARTE, who joined the Navy after high school graduation and went to gunnery school for extensive training. As part of a crew on a Privateer plane, he flew on many land-target missions from the Philippines to China and Indochina. On one fateful mission 74 years ago, along the Formosa coast (now Taiwan), they spotted a huge Japanese aircraft that they decided to attack so they could join their fellow crews in having shot down an enemy plane. Down to 150 feet above sea level they went with the target clearly in sight, when suddenly they were bombarded with endless firepower from all directions; their fuselage was being ripped apart and they almost lost hope that the plane would be able to fly. Fortunately, they were able to get away with no casualties and made it back to the base. As MARIO commented: not much has bothered me since then! Photos from that

era of young MARIO and the aircraft were displayed on the table at the front of the room.

In addition, CHET RISIO mentioned that in honor of the 50th anniversary of the 1969 moon landing of Apollo 11, next week one of our members, DWIGHT CHAPIN, who was Special Assistant to President Nixon, will tell us his story. DWIGHT worked with the White House Team to bring news of the momentous event to the world.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** MAURICE KROHN brought us up to date on two pending events. Details below.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** HAROLD KUPLESKY provided the statistics for the week ending July 10th: 378 outside hours by 42 men and 214 RMA hours by 36 men. The leader for the week was BOB RIMMER with 50 hours (Bob, getting much sleep?).

### MEMORIALS:

ARNOLD GORDON delivered a remembrance of former member DAVID LEE DOWNS, who passed away on July 4th at his home in Greenwich. He had served in the Navy, worked for Hanover Bank, rose to VP at Manufacturer's Hanover Trust, and was Chairman of Topper toys out of Hong Kong. He returned to the US and pursued interests in the publishing, real estate and travel industries. DAVID joined the RMA in 1998. A full obituary can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/greenwichtime/obituary.aspx?n=david-lee-downs&pid=193340888&fhid=11211>.

### FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** TONY COCCHI dealt the details. There were 7 players; top scores were as follows: FRANK LEE 2520, JOHN HOFFMAN 2740, and RON MURRAY 3120.

**OUTDOOR TENNIS:** JOHN KNIGHT lamented that they were rained out this week. Play is from 9 to 11am every Monday at the Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob.

**PICKLEBALL:** TONY COCCHI reported that 6 RMA players and 4 guests showed up on July 4<sup>th</sup>; no fireworks were lit but lots of good games were played. All are welcome Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 at the Loughlin Avenue Courts in Cos Cob. Learn about this fastest growing sport here: <https://tinyurl.com/y478zxrh>.

**HEARTS:** PETER BERG summarized the 4 games at two tables by 8 men. LOU TROVATO and JACK SWEGER won two games each. Moon Shots: LOU TROVATO, MIKE AMBROSINO, JACK SWEGER and JOHN KNIGHT. JACK WEIR is next week's captain. Play is at the Old Greenwich Civic Center on Wednesdays at 1pm.

**GOLF:** GEOFFREY BURGE reported that 22 men enjoyed perfect conditions. Five players scored under 100, with KIP SCHULZE beating the pack with a 90. He also

drove closest to the pin on 7 with MICHAEL AMBROSINO doing it on 15. GEOFFREY hit the longest drive, on the 17th.

**TAI CHI:** WILL MORRISON reminded everyone that beginner sessions are from 3 to 4pm on Mondays at the Senior Center, while the advanced class is on Wednesdays at the same time and place.

**SHAKESPEARE GROUP:** GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE invited those interested to a showing of King Lear at the home of KEITH SMITH, 37 Jones Drive, Riverside, on Wednesday, July 24th. Call GEORGE if you would like to attend (203-698-0710).

**NOTE:** The CBB will now include an addendum with a running RMA Calendar that will list the wide variety of RMA activities scheduled for the upcoming year. The Calendar will be updated on a weekly basis. Please contact JOE MANCINELLI with any errors or omissions at [jlmanc@optonline.net](mailto:jlmanc@optonline.net).

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

**Jennifer Pehr**, a Senior Planner with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill's City Design Practice, was introduced by Presenter GERRY GIBIAN. With her degrees and background in urban planning and public health, she put into perspective the cultural, economic, legal, and political factors affecting the use of our land and resources throughout North America with a focus on the United States. For example, the prevalence of diseases related to lifestyle (diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular) is influenced by how urban and suburban housing are designed (need for a car vs walking, close or far-away access to good food sources, etc.). She explained that the three main drivers society must consider for optimum use of its spaces and resources are: Land Use (how we use it, build on it), Landcover (what is there – cities, buildings, malls, parking lots, agricultural land, etc.) and Zoning (the legal regulations, if they exist, that can help control the use and cover of the land). While it is tempting to consider a national/central approach to the aesthetic and practical aspects of how we use the land in our country, in practice the real planning and debates occur at the local and regional level. A good example is transportation (roads vs rails, e.g.), which would benefit from a country-wide approach, but for political and economic reasons, it remains the purview of states. Many good questions from the audience and Jennifer's articulate answers added to the high quality of the presentation.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

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

PepsiCo Sculpture Gardens Tour, Sept. 19. RMA member ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN will lead a guided tour of the 45 works by the 20th century's leading artists. An upscale

buffet lunch will follow at the Doral Arrowood Resort. The full buffet will cost \$40 or the extensive salad bar is \$25. Transportation is self-drive. Contact JIM FISHBEIN. Status: Five openings.

Wave Hill, along the Hudson River in Riverdale, Sept. 10th from 9 to 11am; two-hour guided tour, free gift, and 10% discount on any purchase. See [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org). Lunch with extensive, generous menu at The Lobster House on City Island, \$110pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:00am. Contact MAURICE KROHN ([maurice142@optonline.net](mailto:maurice142@optonline.net)). Status: open.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Nelson Tebbe**, The Supreme Court Decision in the Bladenburg Cross Case: Government Expression of Religious Equality

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### RMA 2019 Calendar

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Mondays	9:00am to 11:00am	Summer Tennis	Loughlin Ave. Courts
Tuesdays April through September	Various 8:00am to 11:00am Tee Times	Golf	Harris Griffith Golf Course
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr. 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00am to 11:00am	Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts

Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
<b>RMA Special Events</b>			
July 24, 2019	TBD	Shakespeare Group King Lear	Home of <b>KEITH SMITH</b>
September 10, 2019	9:00 to 11:00am	Wave Hill Tour	Riverdale, NY
September 19, 2019	10:00am	PepsiCo Kendal Sculpture Gardens	Purchase, NY
July 25, 2019	4:30pm to 8:30pm	Melody Men Luncheon	Queen Ann Building Greenwich Point
September 12, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL RMA PICNIC	Greenwich Point Park
November 13, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL RMA BANQUET	Tamarack Country Club