



# 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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*“There are two things that are important in politics. The first is money and I can't remember the second.”*

Sen. Mark Hanna 1891

As the outside temperature crept up past the average age of RMA members and claiming a “robust schedule”, President JERRY SCHWENDEMAN tried to start the meeting early at 9:56am.

When the scheduled pledge leader did not appear, President JERRY (with a J) jumped into the breach and did the honors.

Due to technical problems song words were not available to be screened. Song leader JACK SWEGER enlisted fellow Melody Men TOM HEALY, MIKE HAYDEN and JERRY SCHWENDEMAN to assist him in leading the assembled in *This Land is Your Land, Danny Boy and Has anybody Seen My Gal?* Piano man GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE did his best to maintain musical integrity. The slides are better!

Corresponding Secretary AV RIVEL told a couple of knee slappers about the foibles of men of a certain age.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. TOM HEALY reported that, weather permitting, there would be a musical tribute to The Beatles this night at Roger Sherman Park at 7:15. Rain date 7/18
2. MIKE AMBROSINO announced that RICH BISK, Chair of the Volunteer Committee, was leaving town. People interested in serving in this position should contact JERRY SCHWENDEMAN.
3. ARNOLD GORDON read a note from CHARLIE MARSHALL who is not able to attend meetings or sing with the Melody Men. He would love to hear from any of his RMA friends.
4. JOE MANCINELLI stepped up for his first-of-may announcement about the RMA Picnic. It will be held on Thursday September 12 at the usual spot on Tod's Point.
5. RETURNEES: MARTIN WAINE from S. Dartmouth, Mass

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**VISITING:** There was no report.

**PROGRAM:** Today'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*. GEORGE UBOGI gave a heads' up on next week's speaker **Veronica Bilenkin** the Consumer Health Librarian at Greenwich Hospital who will discuss researching your personal health issues. She will also talk about medical websites that are reliable, informative and impartial.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported that 97 members were present as well as one guest, Bob Simms, guest of RUSS HARDEN and GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE. **Birthdays** were sung to NORMAN MASRI, 88, BOB BISHOP, 85, JEFF JUNKER, 67 and KEITH SMITH, 80.

**HUMAN INTEREST STORIES:** CHET RISIO introduced DWIGHT CHAPIN who was a Special Assistant to President Nixon at the time of the 1969 Apollo Moon Landing. DWIGHT took us into the White House as Nixon and some staff personnel watched the moon landing on TV and then conducted "the longest long-distance phone call in history" as he spoke with the Apollo astronauts. His talk was accompanied by a video showing a split screen with the President on one side and grainy images of the Apollo team on the other. Thank you, CHET, for bringing these real-life stories to us.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** MIKE FERRARESE reviewed pending events. Details below. Please note **the corrected** date for the Wave Hill trip OCT 10!

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** MIKE AMBROSINO provided the statistics for the week ending July 17th: 291 outside hours by 29 men and 130 RMA hours by 24 men. The leader for the week was BRIAN MAHER with 50 hours

## MEMORIAL

ARNOLD GORDON delivered a remembrance of former member JOHN RIIS who passed away on July 3th at his home in North Branford. JOHN was born in Oslo and moved to the United States in 1949. He established the Luxo lamp company in the U.S. and Canada for its Norwegian owners and was CEO for 26 years. Upon retiring from Luxo he bought McGregor Travel and built it into a successful nation-wide company. He retired from McGregor in 1992 and joined the RMA in 2002. He was an avid skier and sailor and a volunteer driver for Call-A-Ride.

## FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** PETER STERN shuffled up to report that there were 4 players. Top scores were as follows: TONY COCCHI with 2,190 and RON FRIEDMAN with 2,740.

**OUTDOOR TENNIS /PICKLEBALL** JOHN KNIGHT served up the news that there were six players at Outdoor Tennis and six at Pickleball. Tennis is from 9 to 11am every Monday at the Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob and Pickleball every Thursday at 9-11am. Good news for Pickleball nuts. The Town is sponsoring Pickleball on Thursday's from 11-1pm. If you've got the moxie, you can now play for four hours on Thursdays.

**INDOOR TENNIS** MICHAEL AMBROSINO announced that an e-mail had gone out to all the usual suspects asking for your "block-out" dates for the coming season. Please respond quickly. Cost will be around \$485

**HEARTS:** JACK WEIR dealt the scores for 7/10: Winners JOHN STANKUNAS (2), RALPH VIGGIANO, PETER BERG, JOHN KAVANAGH, CHARLIE GRAVES and ANDY HOLMES. MOON SHOOTERS: RALPH VIGGIANO, JOHN STANKUNUS and JACK WEIR. GEORGE DIPPY is next week's captain. Play is at the Old Greenwich Civic Center on Wednesdays at 1pm.

**GOLF:** JAY SCHONDORF drove the report. 10 of 21 players shot under 100. Low score was JAMES DEAN at 89. Closest to the pin on #7 TONY COCCHI, on #15 MICHAEL AMBROSINO, longest drive GEOFF BURGE ON #17.

**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).

## 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; arrive by 10 AM. Contact JIM FISHBEIN. Status: 3 openings.

**Wave Hill, along the Hudson River in Riverdale, Oct. 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). Status: open.

NB: Correction on date for Wave Hill – October 10th is the correct date

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

HORST TEBBE introduced his son Nelson, a professor of Constitutional Law at Cornell University Law School. Prof. Tebbe used the recent case of the War Memorial in Bladensburg, Maryland shaped like a large Latin cross which sits on public land as an example of a type of first amendment cases that come before the courts. The Supreme Court ruled, that in this case, it was permissible. He also cited the case of a monument to Robert E Lee in Charlottesville, VA as a secular similar case.

He presented eight strategies used by lawyers to justify, or not, the use of religious symbols by state actors. Pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of each of these strategies in the two cases cite.

It was a deeply informative talk with an active RMA Q&A following

## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Veronica Bilenkin**, Consumer Health Librarian at Greenwich Hospital will discuss researching your personal health issues. She will also talk about medical websites that are reliable, informative and impartial.

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06830 · USA Visit our website at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
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
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 12, 2019	10:30am	ANNUAL RMA PICNIC	Greenwich Point Park
September 19, 2019	10:00am	PepsiCo Kendal Sculpture Gardens	Purchase, NY
October 10, 2019	9:00 to 11:00am	Wave Hill Tour	Riverdale, NY
November 13, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL RMA BANQUET	Tamarack Country Club