



# 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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*"Old men delight in giving good advice as a consolation for the fact that they can no longer set bad examples."*

Francois de La Rochefoucauld

President JERRY SCHWENDEHMAN called the meeting to order at 10 am, and the Pledge was led by STEVE MARINO. TOM HEALY led the membership in singing *The Star Spangled*

*Banner*, followed by *Sixteen Tons* and *I've Been Working on the Railroad*, with GEORGE UBOGY accompanying on the piano.

Corresponding Secretary ARNOLD GORDON entertained us with two tales of "marital harmony"...one of uxorious dominance and another of an attempted medical cover-up foiled by a bathroom mirror.

On a more serious note,

ARNOLD GORDON delivered a fitting eulogy for GEORGE A. SUTER, Jr of Riverside, who passed away on August 19. GEORGE had a long and distinguished career at Pfizer, starting in 1957. His early years were spent in Manhattan, where he lived at the Savoy Plaza Hotel, which his father managed. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1954 and served with the U.S. Air Force in Okinawa until 1956. He worked for Pfizer in Asia until 1984, when he moved to Greenwich as Area President for Eastern Europe and Russia, retiring in 1989. GEORGE is survived by his wife of 59 years and by two children and 5 grandchildren. GEORGE had been a member of the RMA since 2012. His volunteer activities were involved with the Boys Hope Girls Hope in NYC and the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. RETURNNEES: This week's sole returnee is CRO MARTIN, from Maine.
2. BIRTHDAYS: FRED GOODSTEIN celebrates 72, RON CANTWELL turns 76, and SAM MARASSO and JERRY SCHWENDEMAN hit the 80 mark. The members regaled them in song.
3. TOM MORONEY reminded us that Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* is this year's selection for Greenwich Reads Together. The Library has many copies available.
4. JOE MANCINELLI reminded us that the Annual Picnic starts at 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, September 12. It will be held, rain or shine at Tod's Point. He enticed us with the prospects of a great raffle, plenty of good food, games, and a reprise of the "Lip Sync-a Thon".

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**VISITING:** MIKE AMBROSINO noted the presence of JOHN KNIGHT, who is recovering nicely from his hip replacement surgery.

**PROGRAM:** HOLLISTER STURGES previewed the presentation of **Wes Haynes** on the history and future of the Merritt Parkway. BOB PHILLIPS encouraged us to attend next week's program. **Asha Rangappa**, a Senior Lecturer at Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs will address us on *Information Warfare and Social Media: Preserving Democracy in the (Dis) Information Age*, which should be of interest to all of us.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE noted that 103 men were in attendance, including 3 guests;

Dave Richards, a guest of KEATING HAGMAN, as well as guests Richard Roberts and Ed Miller. HORST pointed out that the role of Sponsor, is meant to continue indefinitely and does not conclude at the time of a new member's induction.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** MAURICE KROHN reminded us once again of the October 10 trip to Wave Hill and urged those who have not yet "paid up" to do so.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** JOHN CRAINE reported 371 total outside hours by 37 members and

173 inside hours by 28 members. BOB CAREY notched up 43 hours over 6 weeks.

## FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** FRANK LEE reported 8 players, led by RON FRIEDMAN with 2760, TONY COCCHI with 2720 and ANDRZEJ MAZUREK with 1826.

**GOLF:** GRANVILLE BURGESS reported on twenty-two 18-holers and four 9-holers. Closest to the pin on #7 was ROS CURTIS. Closest to the pin on #15 was JIM BOARDMAN. Longest drive

was by GEOFF BURGE. Two people broke 90: TOM HEALY with 89 and JIM DEAN with an 85. Next week's captain will be GRANVILLE BURGESS.

**INDOOR TENNIS:** ANDY HOLMES announced that the new season will start on Friday, September 6.

**PICKLEBALL:** TONY COCCHI reported on a great turnout on Thursday, August 27 with 14 players. On Labor Day, there were 6 pickle ball players and one tennis player.

**HEARTS:** JOHN STANKUNAS reported on 3 tables with 12 players on August 28:

Winners were LOU TROVATO (3) and GRANT PERKINS (2). Solo winners were RALPH VIGGIANO, JOHN STANKUNAS, CHARLES GRAVES and MIKE AMBROSINO.

Moon shooters: LOU TROVATO (2). Solo "moonsters" were TOM HEALY, GRANT PERKINS, RALPH VIGGIANO, MIKE AMBROSINO and CHARLES GRAVES. (Four men will go unnamed.)

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

**Wes Hayes**, Executive Director of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy ([www.merrittparkway.org](http://www.merrittparkway.org)). He started his scholarly presentation with a detailed history of the Merritt Parkway.

In the early 1920s, the Boston Post Road was essentially southern Connecticut's main traffic trunk. But, by the 1930s, it had become "visually polluted". Helen Binney Kitchel, who decried billboards, and Congressman Schuyler Merritt were two of the prime movers in the initiation of a project to construct a parkway that might extend into

Connecticut from the previously constructed Bronx River Parkway. The essential idea was that the new parkway should blend into the existing countryside. A continuous median divide and the planting of native vegetation would be supplemented by 69 different ornamental bridge designs, and there would be no stop lights. The bulk of the construction was completed over 6 years. The land-scaping involved heavy civic engagement. Mr. Hayes provided detailed information on the designs of the various bridges, including their unique sculptures and bas-reliefs.

In 1938, the Parkway was designed for 45 miles per hour traffic. In 2003, the Parkway saw 57, 000 vehicles per day and 85 per cent of them were traveling at 73 miles per hour. The Parkway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A Period of Renewal was initiated in the 90's. Recent attention has been focused on aesthetic and effective guard rails, 8- foot breakdown lanes and upgrading of the service areas. The issue of reinstatement of tolls in Connecticut poses a threat to the Parkway's architectural integrity and is currently being hotly debated.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Asha Rangappa**, a Senior Lecturer at Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs will address us on *Information Warfare and Social Media: Preserving Democracy in the (Dis)*

*Information Age.*

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### RMA 2019 Calendar

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mondays	9:00am to 11:00am	Summer Tennis or Pickleball	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
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
<b>RMA Special Events</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