



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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"People ask me what I'd most appreciate getting for my eighty-seventh birthday. I tell them, a paternity suit."

George Burns

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** frantically rang the bell at 10:00 sharp but the unruly crowd did not settle in the sanctuary until 10:04 when **STEVE MARINO** led us in the pledge. Without piano accompaniment or lyrics projection, **DON CONWAY** conducted us A Capella in *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Shine on Harvest Moon*, and *Ain't She Sweet*. Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON**, wearing a black mask and carrying a scary witch doll for a Halloween theme, challenged the audience with some groaner puns (e.g., fat Jack-O-Lantern is a plumpkin), resulting in boos all around, an appropriate response for the occasion; then he turned a few stomachs with a story about vampires who ordered a blood and a blood-lite in the bar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHAEL AMBROSINO asked members to remember the Food Drive he is conducting on behalf of the Covenant House in Stamford. Please bring whatever you *can* (ha ha) to the next meeting.

El Presidente welcomed returnees **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** from Key Largo, FL and **REID McINTYRE** from Hilton Head and Washington, DC.

BOB LUCE delivered a memorial tribute for member **LEN SAARI** who died suddenly of a massive stroke on October 19th. **LEN** graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Lehigh University and the University of Michigan Law School. He had a successful law practice. **LEN** was an avid sailor and a member of the Riverside Yacht Club. He also enjoyed skiing, golf, and tennis. He also loved music and sang in many groups, including the Melody Men. **LEN** joined the RMA in May 2003 and was an active member until his death. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 11th at 11am at First Congregational Church, 106 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich. Contributions can be made to the church or a charity of your choice. RIP

JOE MANCINELLI, Chief Editor for the CBB, is recruiting new scribes; this elite group is rather small, and we will lose some members who go south for the winter. We rotate as meeting note takers and CBB writers so that each scribe typically occupies the seat once every two months or so. If interested, contact **JOE** (jmanc@optonline.net; 203-588-9197). He also reminded members that it is crucial that anyone making an announcement must provide something in writing to the scribe that is legible, complete, and has all names spelled out, including the announcers. Avoid abbreviations that may not be familiar to all. If you want the information presented accurately in the CBB, please follow these instructions.

PETER STERN, standing in for **RUSS HARDEN**, reminded everyone that the annual RMA Banquet (lunch) will take place on Wednesday, November 13th, at the Tamarack Country Club starting with “morning cocktails” at 10:30am. If you have NOT paid (\$60.00/person) or have not made your meal selection (Chicken, Salmon, Beef, or Vegetarian) they must be done by the next meeting (November 6th). You can contact the Banquet Chairman, **RUSS HARDEN** (203-661-9886 or russellhrdn@aol.com) with questions or to make meal selections.

JIM DEAN invited those interested to sign up for platform tennis (aka paddle tennis), an outdoor game that is played throughout the winter months. There are several courts in Greenwich and arrangements will be made with the Town to reserve a time for RMA members to play, probably at the courts on Loughlin Avenue in Cos Cob. Membership for the season is \$25. Contact **JIM** if interested (jhdeanco@gmail.com or 203-550-0647) or add your name to the sheet on the bulletin board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** told us that **JOHN KNIGHT** had a setback from his hip replacement surgery with an infection and a necessary graft to his hip muscle; but he is now recovering well at home and expects a full recovery soon.

PROGRAM: **BOB ROBINS** urged members to stay for today’s special program, a piano concert by Randall Atcheson, music director at First Presbyterian Church and a popular world-class performing artist. **ARNOLD GORDON** informed us that next week we will hear from Curtis Fisher, Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation’s northeast region, on *Offshore Wind Energy in Connecticut and Beyond*. He will review

the economics and pros and cons for its use as a technology to address the impact of fossil fuels on climate change. Come to the talk and be blown away!

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported 101 members present. There was one guest, Len Carusi (g/o **CARL WHITE** and **JACK CUFF**). Two new members were added to the fold. Inductee Tom Higgins was introduced by **BOB STRONG**, who also spoke for the second sponsor, **DAVE WEISBROD**, who was absent. **TOM** received his medical degree from George Washington University, then served as a medical officer in the Air Force. He was trained in pathology at Lenox Hill Hospital and Columbia University. He was the Chief of Pathology, among other senior positions, at Westchester Hospital in Mt. Kisco until his recent retirement after 50 years of working in various hospitals. Inductee Tim Brooks was introduced by **JEFF JUNKER** and **AV RIVEL**. **TIM** is a 31-year Greenwich resident who graduated from Dartmouth College and Syracuse University, served in the Army in Vietnam, and had a career in media audience research. More recently, as a writer/historian, he has published nine books and many articles mostly about the media. He was the recipient of a Grammy award for his reissue of historical black recordings. A hearty welcome to **TOM** and **TIM**, new members of the RMA. **DON SARGEANT**, (74) and **FRANK SCARPA**, (78) were the **birthday boys** for the week.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Don Conway brought us up to date on pending events. In addition to the details below, the tentative schedule for the next few months is as follows: February – Goodspeed Opera House for *South Pacific*; March – New York Philharmonic rehearsal; April – New York Botanical Gardens, Easter Show; May – trip to a casino; June – Belmont Race Track; July -?; August – Rockefeller Estate (Kykuit); September – PepsiCo Sculpture Garden; October – Wave Hill tour.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **DON HERMANN** provided the statistics for the week ending October 30th: 378 outside hours by 40 men and 167 RMA hours by 24 men; champ for the week was **DICK BERGSTRESSER** with 40 hours.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** dealt the details. There were 8 players; top scores were as follows: **TONY COCCHI** 5550; **TONY** and **ED MASTOLONI** won a 7-spade grand slam. **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** had 3920 points and **JOHN FEBLES** 3220 points.

INDOOR TENNIS: **GEOFF BURGE** served the results: Court 1 winners, **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**; Court 2, **TOM HEALY** and **GEOFF BURGE**.

PICKLEBALL: **TONY COCCHI** reported that on Thursday the 24th there were 9 players and on the 28th, 8 players. Rain likely on the 31st so the last opportunity to play this season will be Monday, November 4th, 9-11 at the Loughlin Avenue courts. The town has some fall pickleball sessions remaining at the Eastern Civic Center and you can "drop-in" and play for a \$5 charge. You can also register for the Town Winter Session beginning in January. Check the Town web site (<https://www.greenwichct.gov/451/Adult-Programs>) for more details.

HEARTS: **GEORGE DIPPY** summarized the 8 games at three tables by 12 men. Winners were **GRANT PERKINS, CHARLIE GRAVES, JACK SWEGER, JIM DEAN, JACK WEIR** (2 games). Moon Shots: **LOU TROVATO, GRANT PERKINS, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, CHARLIE GRAVES,** and **JIM DEAN**. Next week's captain is **GRANT PERKINS**.

GOLF: **MIKE RYAN** bemoaned the fact that there were only 4 players who braved the bad weather; the usual competition was abandoned with so few players. He reminded the group that the annual Golf Luncheon would take place after today's meeting at the Field Club.

TAI CHI: **WILL MORRISON** invited all comers to the usual sessions on Monday (for beginners) and Wednesday afternoons at 3pm at the Senior Center on Greenwich Avenue.

TODAY'S PERFORMER

BOB ROBINS introduced Randall Atcheson, a Steinway artist who has performed as conductor and soloist on five continents. He has a versatile repertoire encompassing classical, pop, and gospel music; he frequently plays gospel across the country. Randall has been a guest soloist with numerous orchestras, here and abroad. With a nearly full sanctuary, he opened his program by asking everyone to rise and sing the *Star-Spangled Banner* to his virtuoso rendition on the piano. Then without intermission, he played a challenging program of classical pieces: J. S. Bach's Partita in B-flat major, the Chopin Sonata in B-flat minor ("Funeral sonata"), two Scriabin Etudes (C-sharp minor and D-sharp minor), and a bravura finale, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 6. After a standing ovation, he played as an encore his arrangement of a medley of the US military branch theme songs and ended with *God Bless America*. Randall will celebrate his 14th concert at Carnegie Hall on Wednesday, November 6th at 8pm.

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.

DON CONWAY said the RMA is planning a trip in January to see *5 Guys Named Moe* at the Westchester Dinner Theater; details to follow.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Curtis Fisher, *Offshore Wind Energy in Connecticut and Beyond*.

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 06830 · USA Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

RMA 2019/2020 Calendar

Weekly Repetitive Activities		
Date	Time	
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai
Tuesday, Nov. 5	3:30pm	M
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00am	RMA V
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai C
Wednesdays	1:00 to 4:00pm	
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RM
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Inc
RMA Special Events		
November 13, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL
January, 2020	TBD	Five Gu
February, 2020	TBD	So