



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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"A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow."
- George S. Patton

President **RUSS HARDEN** easily overcame some minor technical Zoom difficulties to kick off the meeting at 10:02 am. We were promptly greeted by the "We Are the RMA" with music, song, and even on-screen lyrics (our Zoom technology continues to improve). **RUSS** then led us through the Pledge of Allegiance, with Old Glory patriotically waving in the background on this Veteran's Day. Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** welcomed us all and noted that COVID-19 infections are on the rise in Connecticut. He also called attention to chess enthusiasts and members alike that Netflix is featuring a new miniseries called "The Queen's Gambit," which he highly recommended. He went on to introduce **TOM HEALY** for some humor. Posing as Henny Youngman, **TOM** amused us with a series of one-liners dealing with senility, pest control and marriage. His timing and delivery were excellent, the visual Zoom response was gleeful even though laughter was muted by Zoom.

Membership Report: **PETER STERN** announced the Zoom viewership for this meeting at a total of 59. Birthday boys listed below were greeted with a joyful Happy Birthday tune.

BILL WIFFIN	93	PETER DODGE	78
BRUCE PANTANO	81	BOB SIMMS	59
STEVE MYERS	84		

Treasury Report: **JEFF JUNKER** informed us of a quiet week, indicating that the pursuit of delinquent dues for 2020 has been terminated, and he has turned the final 2020 membership list over to **PETER STERN**.

Programs: **HOLLISTER STURGES** updated us with the fact that the RMA Programs Survey has been completed. The response was good. However, it was limited to approximately 77 members, which primarily represented those members who frequently participate in the Zoom meetings. The key finding was that our members appreciate and like the overall diversity of the weekly topics. Final detailed results will be published soon. **HOLLISTER** also thanked the Survey Team of **JIM FISHBEIN, ARNOLD GORDON, PETER BERG, and ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**.

Human Interest: **RUSS** introduced us to the FABULOUS FARQUAHRE, an American folk band originally from Branford, CT. The group was particularly popular in the '60s and '70s singing humorous folk music and Celtic ballads. **RUSS**, a longtime fan, described one of his personal favorites "My Eggs Don't Taste the Same Without You."



RMA SPEAKERS

BOB MEANY introduced today's speaker Stephen Wertheim, Ph.D. who will present "Tomorrow, the World: The Birth of U.S. Global Supremacy."

ARNOLD GORDON highlighted next week's speaker Damien Cregeau who will discuss "Major General Alexander Hamilton's Military Career." Mr. Cregeau will provide many details about the career of one of our most important and unusual founders. Damien Cregeau earned his B.A. in history from Hillsdale College and his M.A. in history from Colorado State. A native of Fairfield, Damien, an independent historian since 2007, is a nationally recognized scholar of the American Revolution.

FUN AND GAMES

Tennis: This week's captain was **STEVEN STEIN**, who served up the following: A beautiful November day was a good reason to move the game from its usual venue at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy to an outdoor court at the Milbrook Club where the captain was able to book a court as a club member. Thus, on a sunny windless afternoon, the foursome played a close match. Teams in the first round were **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **TOM HEALY**

paired against **DON BREISMEISTER** and **STEVEN STEIN**. Although **BRIAN/TOM** won three of the first four games, **DON/STEVE** ran the table for the next four and came out victors, 5-3. In the second round the team of **DON/TOM** drew even 2-2 with **BRIAN/STEVE**. Long rallies and deuce games stretched the playing time to the full 90 minutes scheduled. The second round was a draw.

Platform Tennis: **RUSS HARDEN** reported competitive games on a beautiful fall day among **JAMES DEAN, TONY COCCHI, WILL MORRISON** and himself. Platform Tennis is available on Tuesday's at 9:30 am at the Loughlin Ave courts. Being respectful of the COVID virus we are maintaining more than 6 feet distance. A concern is the fact that we are all handling the same ball. Wipes will be available next week, and play will be modified to a four-game set to accommodate when we have more than 4 but less than 8 players. This will shorten the wait time between sets. Contact **JAMES DEAN** for further information.

Tai Chi: Better Balance through Tai Chi: According to Harvard Medical Health Publishing, tai chi is a "gentle form of exercise that can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance, and could be the perfect activity for the rest of your life." "Improve your balance and flexibility and your golf and tennis games," according to **GRANVIELLE BURGESS** and **GEOFFREY BURGE**. **WILL MORRISON** reminded us that tai chi has been referred to as "Meditation or Medication in Motion." Online sessions are held Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 pm. Zoom info is <https://zoom.us/j/99622029436>, Meeting ID: 996 2202 9436, Passcode: raisehands. Beginners are welcome. Private individual and small group sessions are also available. For further information contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Bridge: Scores were dealt out by **TONY COCCHI**: **JOHN FEBLES**, 4160, **ED MASTOLONI**, 4080, **RON FRIEDMAN**, 3360. A 6 No Trump Slam was bid and made by both **JOHN** and **ED**. The Bridge players meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. Contact **ANDRE MAZUREK**.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that there were ten intrepid RMA walkers who hiked a total of 3.9 miles in the Thirteen Bridges trail area of Rockefeller State Park in Westchester County. We also walked the loop up Eagle Hill where we had good views of the Mario Cuomo Bridge and the Hudson River. Fall colors were nice, but muted. It was a gorgeous day! And last Tuesday, three walkers biked about 25 miles on the North County Trailway starting just above Elmsford, NY and heading back at the New Croton Reservoir Bridge. It was very enjoyable on a smooth and reasonably level abandoned railroad bed mostly through woods. Contact **TAD LARRABEE** for upcoming walking events.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Drawing on his new book, "Tomorrow, the World: The Birth of U.S. Global Supremacy," historian Stephen Wertheim discussed why the United States first abandoned its traditional aversion to overseas entanglements and decided to become the world's armed superpower. Stephen Wertheim is a historian of the United States in the world. He is Deputy Director of Research and Policy at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and currently a research scholar at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University. Dr. Wertheim feels that the US is at a remarkable moment in history where our role in US foreign policy is up for debate. Many feel that our country is waging warfare continually and unjustifiably. Three quarters of Americans favor bringing troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq. However, many still favor our adherence to military alliances and about 50% favor continued military spending at the current rate. While the last decade has seen a shift in the direction of increased military restraint, it still appears that as long as the US seeks military domination everywhere, it will be fighting somewhere. He argues that America's pursuit of military dominance is inherited from the past. American officials and intellectuals decided as early as 1940/41 that the US would become a post WWII supreme military power. Following WWII, American foreign policy elite feared totalitarian dictatorships in Europe and Asia would not join in American style order and would prevent free trade. We would be isolated from history. Therefore, we needed to police the world through overwhelming military dominance. However, looking at the world situation today, Dr. Wertheim feels that the original decision for military primacy has lost its purpose for two fundamental reasons. First, our original focus for supremacy has outlasted the Cold War against Soviet Communism and secondly, we now live in a world without totalitarian conquerors. We are now experiencing the free exchange of goods and services throughout the world, exceeding anytime in history. So, Americans face a choice of openly supporting endless wars or charting a new course for the rest of the 21st century. His presentation was followed by an informative Zoom Q&A session.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Damien Cregeau will discuss "Major General Alexander Hamilton's Military Career."

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **ED FARRELL**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **ED** at ejf1038r@gmail.com.

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 Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi Beginner	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi Advanced	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
RMA Special Events			
On Going Through Nov. 19th		RMA New Covenant Center FOOD DRIVE	Michael Ambrosino @ brooklynol@yahoo.com