



# 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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*At 8:30am, the morning of the RMA Christmas meeting, my car was encrusted in ¼" thick ice. I scraped and scraped until I could see well enough to drive. All the while I cursed Mother Nature. As I drove to the meeting the bare branched trees were also encrusted with ice. The bright sun kept pace with my driving, its rays highlighting the icy branches, sparkling and twinkling as I drove. It appeared that the trees had been decorated. After a while I thanked Mother Nature.*



In place of the usual announcements the Christmas meeting, the last for 2019, focused on fellowship and camaraderie. Sweets, candies and cookies were on two tables and a punch bowl rounded out the festive air. Members, many accompanied by their wives or significant others, greeted each other. Some, like Joe Dowling, wore a red Santa hat. Others wore Christmassy garb.

Everyone enjoyed the casual and joyful gathering as the proposed agenda was totally ignored. One exception was the Special Events announcement by **DON CONWAY**;

He urged all to sign up for the Big Apple Circus on January 16, 2020. In addition to the circus fun there will be a lunch at the excellent Fiorello's Café. The cost is \$115pp and \$65 for children under 10 years old. The bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:30am. To sign up email MAURICE KROHN; maurice142@optonline.net

About 10:30am President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** reminded everyone there would no meeting on Dec. 25 and on Jan. 1. He called all to listen to Christmas humor. **JERRY** started off with a clever parody of a traditional Christmas poem. Here is the first stanza of *A Politically Correct Night Before Christmas*

*Tw'as the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.  
And labor conditions at the North Pole,  
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.*

The rest of this saga finds Rudolf suing Santa, several of the reindeer dismissed in favor of pigs and Mrs. Claus ditching Santa in favor of a single life.

**ARNOLD GORDON** announced the Corresponding Secretary segment as "guys telling bad jokes."

As the laughter subsided **BOB LUCE** stepped to the fore with "35 Things to think about...but not for long." Here are a few.

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.  
I intend to live forever. So far, So good.  
Why do psychics have to ask your name?  
A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.  
If at first you don't succeed, sky diving is not for you.

**AV RIVEL** referenced the Flight to Egypt with Pontius as Pilot and the failure in Washington, DC of a Nativity Scene because Three Wise Men could not be found.

**TOM HEALY** noted that the White House, seeking bids to create a White House Security Fence, was greeted with such blatant overbidding guaranteed to stimulate the pockets of unscrupulous contractors.

**ARNOLD GORDON** related the astonishment of a priest discovering his water bottle contained wine and an elderly couple sharing a meagre meal and their single set of teeth.

The highlight of the morning was the Angel Choir Christmas Concert led by Director and Founder Pamela Kuhn. The group sang some traditional hymns and it was obvious from the start that these were trained singers. Their crisp tones and full range voices filled the hall. One soloist had just flown in from London, yet her lovely voice bore no evidence of strain. The Angel Choir is dedicated to cancer patients and survivors. Their central theme is "Encouragement".

The group showed their versatility by launching into a Celtic version of "O Come Emanuel" accompanied by a flute followed by a finger snapping rendition of "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" and then a "Brazilian Noel" with a samba beat. This prompted Jerry, RMA President, to get up and dance to that vibrant music. The result was "The Schwendeman Soft Shoe Samba."

The group was then joined by "The Silvertones" a group of energetic seniors whose love of singing was evident. They performed "Let it Snow" and finished with "White Christmas". Preceding that was the beautiful "Night of Silence", which morphed into "Silent Night". The music was so delightful that everyone joined the singing. It was an emotional finale.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
to all.*

#### **NEXT SPEAKER**

The next RMA meeting will take place on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs, Town of Greenwich: *How Can Greenwich Handle Rising Sea Levels.*

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

## RMA 2019/2020 Calendar

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Platform Tennis	Loughlin Ave. Courts, Cos Cob
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	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 3:00 pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
<b>RMA Special Events</b>			
January 16, 2020	8:30 am	Big Apple Circus	Lincoln Center