



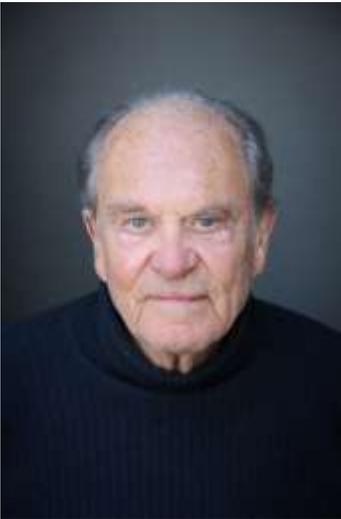
RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)

Invites you to its meeting **May 30, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.**

First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT

Flemming Heilmann

Odyssey Uncharted, from World War II Malaya to Australia to Cambridge



Industrial executive, humanitarian, and author, Danish-American Fleming Heilmann discusses “Odyssey Uncharted,” a memoir of his World War II childhood and education on four continents, set in mid-20th century history. This is a coming of age story, grounded in hard reality, against a backdrop of historical events and shaped by immersion in cultures in Southeast Asia, Australia, Denmark, and England. This is not the tale of a super hero, but the evolution of a flesh and blood protagonist who learned about facing realities, adapting to change, and navigating the unfamiliar.

Flemming was born in 1936 in Malaya of Danish parents. He spent his early childhood there until the threat of a Japanese invasion forced an evacuation to an unknown Australia in 1941. Joined later by his father who escaped Singapore as the city fell, the family spent World War II as refugees. When the war ended in Europe, but before the Japanese capitulation, the family traveled home to Denmark on a troopship, evading kamikaze attacks in the Pacific.

Flemming’s peripatetic school years were spent in Australia, Denmark, and the United Kingdom where he attended ten different schools. He spent four uninterrupted years at Gresham, an English boarding school and later graduated from Cambridge University with a law degree.

He embraced public school life and gained an appreciation for western democracy, free market economics, and rugby. A pivotal moment came when his father visited him at school and laid out the options for the fourteen year old boy. He told his son, “You’re about to take real responsibility for yourself. . . Fleming, you’re now in charge.” By his senior year, Fleming established himself as a leader and instigated a not altogether successful mutiny against the autocratic headmaster. If his efforts to do the right thing, speak truth to power, and stand up for his convictions proved somewhat futile, they taught him something of how the world works. His passion for justice remained undiminished, but he managed to reassess the naiveté of his youthful expectations.

“Odyssey Uncharted” is a testament to the importance of decision making and leadership. For Fleming the role of risk was brightly illuminated by the upheavals and ever changing experiences of his early years. Clear-eyed, humane, resilient, Fleming credits his itinerant childhood and student years for equipping him with the skills to make his own choices and set his own course.

After a 35 year successful career as a business executive in South Africa, Canada, and the United States, Fleming served as a director for the Jacob Riis Neighborhood Settlement in New York, its chairman for six years. His honors include Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, appointed by the Queen of Denmark. Today he lives in Connecticut with his wife Judy. They have four sons, a daughter, and nine grandsons.

Next week, June 6: Jerry Shereshewsky, Digital Marketing Executive, “Social Media and the Communications Revolution” *The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at 10:40AM followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00AM. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave. in Greenwich. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org or contact info@greenwichrma.org*