

**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette place, Greenwich, CT**

GORDON BEINSTEIN

**CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP BETWEEN LOW AND MORE
AFFLUENT UPPER/MIDDLE INCOME STUDENTS**

Education has historically been considered a great equalizer in American society, capable of lifting less-advantaged children and improving their chances for success as adults. But recent research suggests that the achievement gap between rich and poor children is widening. Sean F. Reardon, a Stanford University sociologist, authored a study that found that the gap in standardized test scores between affluent and low-income students has grown by about 40 percent since the 1960s. It is a well-known fact that children from affluent families tend to do better in school. Yet American educators are hard pressed to overcome the income divide and raise the achievement level of low income students.



Gordon Beinstein, the principal of Greenwich's Western Middle School, will address this challenge to American education in a talk titled "Closing the Achievement Gap between Low and More Affluent Upper/Middle Income Students." When hiring Mr. Beinstein to lead the middle school two years ago, Greenwich Superintendent William McKersie said, "Mr. Beinstein has demonstrated success in improving student performance with a diverse middle school population.

Mr. Beinstein received his Bachelor of Science in History from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, in 1988; a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport, in 1992; and a Sixth year Degree In Educational Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven in 1997. He began his career in education teaching at Central Middle School in Greenwich in 1988.

In 2009, Mr. Beinstein was appointed principal of the Harborside Middle School in Milford. Under his leadership Harborside experienced a three-year increase in academic achievement in grades 6-8 and all subject areas on the Connecticut Mastery Tests. He was responsible for restructuring Harborside's teacher teams to focus on student data in order to drive instructional practices, and expanded both academic and extracurricular after school opportunities for students at Harborside, doubling the number of students who remained after school for academic support.

In his presentation Mr. Beinstein will discuss the practices he has implemented at Western Middle School, a school with a high proportion of low income students.

RMA meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:40am for our social break (coffee & cake), followed by our speaker at 11:00am. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. For additional information , contact: jim.fishbein@verizon.net