



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

**Invites you to its meeting **June 12** at 11:00 a.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT**

## **Granville Burgess**

### **“Shoeless Joe Jackson, the Black Sox Scandal, and Life in a South Carolina Mill Village”**



This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of baseball’s most notorious scandal, the Chicago Black Sox scandal. Eight Chicago players were accused of throwing the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds and were banned from baseball for life by the league’s commissioner. The most celebrated of these players was “Shoeless Joe” Jackson, a country boy born in Pickens, South Carolina, who was regarded by many as the greatest natural hitter of all time. While some players clearly participated in game-fixing, Shoeless Joe’s guilt has always been in doubt. He batted .375 in the series and played errorless ball.

In his historic novel, “The Last At-Bat of Shoeless Joe,” Granville Burgess (a Greenwich resident) has reimagined the life of the disgraced star player after his fall. Granville portrays the former athlete as a shadow of his former self, no longer caring about baseball, and just trying to make ends meet with as little attention to his past as possible. Granville grew up in Greenville, SC. He never knew that living nearby in the Brandon Mill textile complex just west of the city of Greenville was one of the most famous baseball players ever. Why didn’t he know it? Because Joe was considered a “cheater,” someone who had deliberately thrown the World Series of 1919; he was *persona non grata* in his hometown.

At the RMA Granville will delve into Jackson’s character and the culture of a small village with a textile mill. He offers a story of intrigue, corruption, and redemption rooted in the Deep South.

Granville Burgess is a playwright, director, producer, lyricist, composer, actor, novelist, and teacher. His plays and musicals have been produced in New York, nation-wide, and on network and cable TV. He has written for the soap opera *Capitol* and *Tales from the Darkside*, and wrote the musical, *Conrack*, which had a sold-out run at Ford’s Theatre. He is the recipient of many awards, including an EMMY nomination, a CBS/Foundation for the Dramatist Guild production award, and several grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has an MFA in directing from The Catholic University of America. Granville is co-founder and CEO of Quill Entertainment Company, a non-profit dedicated to creating and producing original historical musicals.

A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Mr. Burgess majored in History at Princeton University, graduating magna cum laude, and was President of the Princeton Triangle Club.

**Next Week: June 19, Alex Bergstein, State Senator, “State of the State: What’s Ahead for Connecticut.”**

*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 10:40 AM followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00 AM. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org)*