

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell,
Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Joe Angland, Bob Shullman,
Fred Wu**

Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

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SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." - Babe Ruth

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting by introducing **TOM HEALY** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Instead of the usual three song medley sung by attendees, **MICHAEL** called on **LEN CARUSI**, who showed a clip of the Andrews Sisters' rendition of "The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (from the 1941 Abbott & Costello film *Buck Privates*).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHAEL AMBROSINO asked for a volunteer to organize a food and/or clothing drive for a local non-profit organization this spring. He also noted a need for a volunteer to replace him as Visiting chair and reminded all that visiting announcements need to be approved by the member(s) who are being cited.

MICHAEL said a decision whether to continue Zoom meetings in February will be made at the January 26th CBB Board meeting and conveyed to the membership.

ARNOLD GORDON reported that we have lost two more of our members this past week. **JOSEPH W. ROE** died on January 10th at the age of 90. He joined the RMA on January 13, 1993, and was a member until May 1, 2021. He was a long-time resident of Riverside. His family says that he enjoyed the RMA very much; he played bridge and sang with the Melody Men. A

memorial service will be held at St. Catherine's Church in Riverside at 10am on Thursday, January 20th.

[CLICK HERE FOR JOSEPH ROE MEMORIAL](#)

We also learned a couple of days ago that **CHARLIE MARSHALL** passed away while at his daughter's home in Florida. Details will be forthcoming. **ARNOLD** asked for volunteers, who knew **JOE** and **CHARLIE** well, to deliver memorials. Please contact **ARNOLD** at ajgordo@verizon.net or 203-340-9336.

ARNOLD asked if everyone knew that the Government web site for requesting free covid test kits is now operating: <https://special.usps.com/testkits> (several other sites redirect to this address, including <https://www.covidtests.gov> and <https://nachw.org/covidtests>). It is very easy to order your allotment, which will be mailed to your address.

ARNOLD then announced that **PAUL CAMPION** has graciously joined the jokester group, replacing **BOB CAREY**, who has retired. **ARNOLD** introduced today's humorist, **TOM HEALY**, who told of a naked redhead in a bar, who caused the bartender to wonder where she might have the money to pay for her beer. A second story was about a blonde, who thought a diner's raffle prize was advertised as "win a motor home", when it really was "win a bagel."

Membership Report: **PETER STERN** reported 58 members and one guest in attendance. Guest: Gary Riddell G/O **ANDERS EKERNAS** and **FRED WU**. **PETER** announced this week's birthday boys: **JERRY POLLACK** (93); **DOUG TAYLOR** (95); **BILL FISHMAN** (75); **ABBEY SMOLER** (91); **BOB GRAYSON** (77).

VERY IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NOTICE. Anticipating restart of in-person Meetings:

- a. Per Board vote, in-person attendance will be limited to only "fully boosted" members and guests.
- b. RMA will pre-screen members creating a revised VACCINATED and BOOSTED List.
 - i. Members will have to check-in and verify their VAX Status each meeting.
 - ii. Members' booster status will be added to the list for future meetings.
 - iii. Guests must show proof each meeting or speakers program.
- c. We all should be carrying a copy our VAX Card at all times.

- d. To get on the pre-screen members' revised VACCINATED and BOOSTED List, attach (.pdf or .jpg) a copy of your VAX card showing the booster shot to an email and send to:
1. members@greenwichrma.org
 2. In the subject line, please include "VAX booster" and your name.

Program Announcements: **HORST TEBBE** said today's speaker will be Karen Dynan, Ph.D., a Professor of the Practice in the Harvard University Economics Department, who will discuss "What's Next for the U.S. Economy? Prospects for Growth, Jobs and Inflation." **JERRY POLLACK** indicated that next week's speaker will be Anka Badurina, Ph.D., Executive Director, Building One Community: The Center for Immigrant Opportunity, Stamford, who will speak about "immigration Today: Myths and Facts."

DON CONWAY and others have been meeting in an informal luncheon group dubbed "Almost ROMEO." **DON** writes, "I started having lunch with some of the RMA members who lost their wives. We all have that in common and learning how each is coping with that loss is important. From time to time we have men who still have a wife who just want to get out of the house and socialize and that is great also. We meet for lunch



every other Friday at a restaurant that is chosen by the group. Our next meet up will be Friday the 28th in the restaurant across from the Old Greenwich tennis club, in the shopping center. We will meet about 12:45-1:00 PM." If interested in joining them, contact **DON** at spiderduck4@gmail.com.

FUN AND GAMES

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** announced that again, last Thursday, nine walkers were blessed with good winter walking weather. We started by exploring Kosciusko Park on Long Island Sound and then walked north to explore the burgeoning development of corporate offices and apartment buildings in the Harbor Point section of Stamford below I-95. We reached the 3.5

mile mark of level walking by meandering through Woodland Cemetery on the way back to our cars.

JOHN DENNE pointed out that page seven of the Real Estate section of the January 16 *Sunday Times* carried an article about the area that we walked. “Over the past 13 years, the South End of Stamford, Conn., a 322-acre peninsula on Long Island Sound, has gained more than 4,000 new rental apartments, most in fancy high-rises. Part of a master-planned, mixed-use development called Harbor Point, the apartments have helped inject new energy into an area formerly pocked with decaying industrial sites and brownfields... Building and Land has done the bulk of development in the area, including construction or redevelopment of 14 apartment buildings and more than two million square feet of office space. Another 180-unit apartment building is under construction... Directly below Interstate 95 and the Stamford train station, the South End is a jumble of repurposed factory buildings, bodegas, early 20th-century multifamily homes, new apartment towers, small restaurants and pocket parks. Formerly cut off from the rest of Stamford, the neighborhood now is better connected to downtown, where development has been moving south..... The development boom has expanded the population significantly over the past decade, to an estimated 7,500. Corporations are moving in as well.”

Tennis: ANDY HOLMES reported that four matches were played at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy on Friday. In the opening round, winners on court one were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **ANDY HOLMES** and the winners on court two were **PETER DODGE** and **BOB GRAYSON**. In the finals round, the winners on court one were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **BOB GRAYSON** and on court two the winners were **JIM FISHBEIN** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. Next week’s captain will be **PETER DODGE**.

Hearts: ANDY HOLMES said a group of **JIM DEAN**, **JACK SWEGER**, **BOB SHULLMAN** and **ANDY HOLMES** got together on the trickster website and played four games. The winners were **JACK SWEGER**, who won two games, and **JIM DEAN**, who also won two games. There were five moonshots with **JACK** getting three, and one moonshot each for **JIM** and **ANDY**.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

MICHAEL AMBROSINO offered a review of Pasta Vera restaurant.

[CLICK HERE FOR REVIEW OF PASTA VERA](#)

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HORST TEBBE introduced Karen Dynan, Ph.D., a Professor of the Practice in the Harvard University Economics Department. Dr. Dynan chose as her topic for this webinar: “What’s Next for the U.S. Economy? Prospects for Growth, Jobs and Inflation.” She indicated at the outset of her talk that she would be addressing the current status of the U.S. economy, key questions regarding the economy going forward, and the risks to continued economic recovery, as the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

With respect to our current economy, Dr. Dynan suggested that the current rate of recovery is in many ways better than might have been expected. She suggested that it usually takes up to a decade to recover from a severe economic decline such as the one we have recently experienced because of the pandemic, but, in terms of GDP growth, we seem to be recovering more quickly. She suggested economic fundamentals are strong, and indicated that, since the beginning of the pandemic, household economic conditions have improved by 20-40%. This improvement is due, in large measure, to increased wages and government support. These conditions, in conjunction with increased savings, largely because of a slowdown in buying due to the pandemic, have enabled a spending power build up resulting in demand for goods in particular, but not yet so much for services. Pent up demand, as well as bottlenecks in the supply chain, are key reasons for the supply shortages in many sectors and rapid inflation has resulted. The unavailability of semiconductors, for instance, has driven the cost of used cars up 40% and new car costs up 12% since the beginning of the pandemic. Worker shortage has also impacted the economy and driven up inflation. There are currently 2.5 million fewer people employed than two years ago.

In discussing what the future holds, Dr. Dynan sees demand for goods staying strong and demand for services improving. The recent infusion of federal government cash to state and local governments, as well as excess household savings, will accelerate spending. Dr. Dynan suggests there will be an easing of bottlenecks and other supply chain issues, but such easing may be impacted adversely if China “shuts down” to battle the virus. As (and if) the virus subsides, people will return to work, but overall employment might be impacted by childcare issues, fewer older people returning to work or continued immigration shortfall.

Dr. Dynan suggests inflation will end, but it will take time to reach the 2% Federal Reserve objective. How fast that goal will be achieved will depend on Fed policies, which current indications suggest will be less supportive than in recent years.

Dr. Dynan indicated there are risks to achieving “normalization.” Economic recovery may be stymied, for instance, if a new virus variant appears, if the markets are surprised by an unwelcome Fed policy change or if a black swan event occurs (e.g. global financial crisis, new pandemic, cyberattack, geopolitical disruption).

Dr. Dynan concluded her very informative presentation by responding to questions from members and guests. She suggested that a change in control of Congress resulting from November’s election would not likely impact the current path to economic recovery. She also indicated a decline in inflation from current 7% to 2% is likely by sometime in 2023, and that unemployment will be at 3% by fall.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. From the last issue, at center and right are **JOHN CRAINE** and **JOHN TONER** at the 2017 RMA luncheon. But even **PETE** is not certain who is standing on the left.



Do you have any pictures of past RMA activities?

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on January 26, will be →**ARNOLD GORDON**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to ajgordo@verizon.net.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at jfebles13@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members' enjoyment. We welcome new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you are interested.

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA.
Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>.

RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe - onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:45 to 3:30 pm	Hearts at the Women’s Club	John Kavanagh - jjkct176@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge at The Women’s Club	Andre Mazurek - mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	8:00 am	“Tai Chi Fundamentals” – First Congregational Church, Old Greenwich	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Tennis	Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com)

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact