

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBES: ED FARRELL assisted by TIM BROOKS*

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." - Jimi Hendrix

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting by introducing **JIM BUTLER** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. With **BOB MORGAN** on the keyboard, **TOM HEALY** led us in singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Hey, Look Me Over" and that old sentimental favorite, "Peg 'o My Heart."

In a timely and moving departure from the normal course of the meeting, **MICHAEL** then presented a video of **HORST TEBBE's** daughter Emma, with the Kantorei Choir, performing "Prayer for Ukraine." This is a choral anthem that has been sung as the last hymn of virtually every church service of every denomination in Ukraine since 1885. Although Emma does not speak Ukrainian, in two days, coached by her mother Lisa, she learned the words and delivered them beautifully. The video can be seen here:
<https://vimeo.com/689817402>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In late breaking news, the RMA Board has announced that the First Presbyterian Church has eased its COVID restrictions. "Effective immediately, masks will be optional at membership meetings and speaker presentations, and we will no longer be checking vaccination status of our members and guests. The Board of Directors thanks the

membership for adhering to these challenging restrictions in the past to keep our members and guests safe.”

President **AMBROSINO** noted that **JIM SANTORA** and **TONY FITZPATRICK** have volunteered to organize a food and/or clothing drive for non-profit organization Neighbor to Neighbor this spring.

MICHAEL also noted that volunteers are still needed to help with the audio, video and Zoom functions at meetings. If you are interested in contributing in these areas, please contact **HORST TEBBE** after the meeting or contact him via email at tebbe@berkeley.edu, or phone 203-698-2334.

MICHAEL thanked members who participated in the Greenwich St. Patrick’s Day parade. There was a nice turn out to honor RMA member and Grand Marshal **JOHN TONER**.



Proud RMAers Ready to Step Off, John Toner at Center



On the Avenue

RUSS HARDEN stepped to the mic to deliver a memorial to member **JAN MEYER**, who passed away in February at the age of 87. A memorial service for **JAN** is planned for June 11, 2022, at the First Congregational Church. **RUSS** was followed by **ERF PORTER**, who delivered a memorial to **CHARLIE MARSHALL**, who died in January, aged 91. **MARSHALL**, an Air Force veteran with several commendations for heroism, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. One of his proudest moments was participating with other Greenwich veterans on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC in 2018, in recognition of their military service. Full obituaries for **JAN** and **CHARLIE** were in the CBB for March 9, 2022.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, **RUSS** notes one more time that “Attached is the Nominating Council 2022 slate for RMA Board of Directors. We will vote on its acceptance at our March 30 RMA Members Meeting. If you prefer to vote via email, address your vote to Jeff Junker, jjunker@optonline.net.”

[For Nominating Council candidate list, [CLICK HERE](#)]

Substituting for the irreplaceable **ARNOLD GORDON**, **TOM HEALY** took mic in hand to deliver the secretary’s report. This included a discourse on “How to Lock Your Car.” Although it may seem obvious—press the little button on your key fob—thieves have developed a system that intercepts the wireless code and allows them to unlock and enter

your “locked” car after you walk away. This has happened to many people, including **TOM**, who noticed that his car was mysteriously unlocking itself as he walked away from it. The solution is to manually lock your car door by pressing the lock button *inside* the car as you exit. Then no code is transmitted or can be intercepted.

TOM then regaled members with an amusing story about Aunt Carol.

Membership Report. **PETER STERN** reported that 70 members were in attendance, including nine on Zoom (look, there’s **ARNOLD!**). Others included **PETE ARTURI, ED PARKER, GRANT PERKINS**, and snowbirds **TONY FITZPATRICK** and **FRANK SCARPA**. One returnee was noted in the hall, **BOB MEANEY**, from Germany and Florida. **PETER** urged returnees to sign in as such so he can announce that fact.

Three birthdays were noted in the latest period.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----|
| TONY | KANE | 72 |
| JIM | BOARDMAN | 79 |
| TAD | LARRABEE | 81 |

In today’s new member induction, sponsors **BOB MEANEY** and **HORST TEBBE** nominated **DAVID MICHONSKI** for membership in the RMA. **DAVID** is a long-time resident of Greenwich and Stamford and is active in real estate brokerage for high end private clients. The founder and CEO of Quigler, Inc., he has taught and lectured on real estate around the world, and written several books on the subject. He and his wife Linda have two grown children. **DAVID** was unanimously voted into the RMA and presented with the RMA name badge, lapel pin, decal, and all-important parking permit.



David Michonski

Volunteer Hours. **BOB MEANEY** announced that for the week ending March 23, nine RMA members reported devoting 106 outside hours, and five members reported 23 inside hours. The top scorer was **WILL MORRISON** with 40 hours (accumulated).

DON ROTZIEN informed members that “our next **ROMEO** lunch is scheduled for Thursday, April 7th at 1:00 pm. It will be held at Zody’s 19th Hole Restaurant at the

Gaynor Brennan Golf Course, 451 Stillwater Avenue, Stamford. All reports are that the food is delicious and the parking is plentiful. We will be using their 'basic family style' menu which consists of Rigatoni Pomodoro, Mixed Green Salad, Chicken Italiano and Sausage & Peppers. The price of \$24 includes coffee, tea & soda. It does not include tax and tip. I expect the full price to be around \$30. If you want an adult drink, that's on you. They will prepare one bill for our group which I will pay for but that means I will need a check from everyone who attends. I will have an exact figure by next week's meeting. Zody's is a large place so the number of attendees is not a problem but please email me (dsrotzien@gmail.com) if you want to attend so that I can provide an accurate count to the restaurant. It should be a fun afternoon!"

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLLISTER STURGES said that today's speaker will be Robert Henrey, who will discuss his experience in China following the death of Mao Zedong and during Deng Xiaoping's emerging leadership. Next week's speaker will be Andrew Winston, whose topic will be "Net Positive: Building Businesses That Profit in Volatile Times by Solving the World's Problems."

FUN AND GAMES

Tennis: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that four matches were played at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy on Friday. In the opening round, winners on court one were **BRUCE SOCKET** and **ANDY HOLMES**. On court two winners were **LOU RUPNIK** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. In the finals round, the winners on court one were **HOLMES** and **MANCINELLI** and on court two the winners were **BOB GRAYSON** and **PETER URHY**. This Friday's captain will be **STEVE STEIN**.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** swung and announced that while the Griff officially opens this Monday, March 28, the RMA season opener will be on Tuesday, April 5. Sign-up sheets were at the back of the room and he hopes for a big turnout on April 5. **MIKE** is collecting dues and also looking for weekly captains.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** proclaimed the March 16 scoreboard, which featured three tables and 12 players. Winners were **CHARLIE GRAVES** (twice), **JOE DOWLING** and **GRANT PERKINS**, **TOM MORONEY** (twice), **TOM HEALEY**, **RICK HOLZ** and **BOB SHULLMAN**

(twice). Moon shots were by **JOE DOWLING, GRANT PERKINS, TOM HEALEY** (twice), **JOHN STANKUNAS** (thrice!) and **BOB SHULLMAN** (twice). Next week's captain will be **BOB SHULLMAN**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** smoothly intoned into the microphone, "This just in from Tai Chi Labs: Tai Chi Labs has isolated what is believed to be a fundamental component to tai chi's effectiveness - the SKY HOOK. This hook attaches to the head top and pulls it gently upward, straight upward, in fact. But only enough to align the head, spine, pelvis over the center, the foot. Everyone has a sky hook even if they don't know it. Some are users - watch a ballet, modern dancer or athlete walk down the avenue. Can't find your sky hook? FIND your sky hook Mondays 9:30 in Old Greenwich. Get in touch to join, wdmorrison@gmail.com."

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** reported results from March 16. There were seven players, with the top scorers being **TONY COCCHI** (2970), **ALEX KOSSEIM** (2720) and **ED MASTOLONI** (2380).

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reminded members that pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 11 am until 1 pm Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you would like to be put on the email list confirming play please contact **MARK GEIMER**, mark.geimer@gmail.com.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** announced last week's walk was cancelled due to inclement weather.

BOOK REVIEW

JIM DEAN spoke about a new novel, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Set in 1954, it vividly profiles several characters who each face significant challenges as they set out on a fateful journey across the U.S.A.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Robert Henrey, whose talk was entitled "China 1981." Henrey explained how it took Mao Zedong's death in 1976 to bring the Cultural Revolution to an end and allow China, under Deng Xiaoping's emerging leadership, to

embark on a modernization campaign that would have profound and unforeseen long-term consequences for the global economy. Without access to foreign technology, know-how, and risk capital, the giant that was China could never have emerged from decades of its self-imposed nightmare.

In the Fall of 1980, Henrey, a partner in the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, participated in a training course in Shanghai designed for Chinese Ministry of Finance officials who would be negotiating joint ventures. He was therefore among the first foreigners to be invited into China as part of its embrace of modernity and his firm the first authorized to open a representative office. His rediscovery of a handwritten record of his firsthand impressions of that unusual experience has become the basis of a just completed memoir, *A Month in Shanghai*. Mr. Henrey discussed his reflections on China and how much the world was about to change in 1980.

He described how China was just emerging from a 50-year “nightmare”: occupation by the Japanese (1930s), civil war within the country (1940s), Mao’s disastrous program of collectivization and “The Great Leap Forward” (1958, 20 million dead), confrontation with Soviet Russia (1961), and The Cultural Revolution (1966, unknown number of deaths, possibly millions). After Mao’s successors the Maoist “Gang of Four” had been purged, the previously purged Deng Xiaoping reemerged to become the Paramount Leader. Deng was determined to modernize China and open it to the world.

Henrey explained how four principal areas needed modernization: agriculture, industry, defense, and science. With 22% of the world’s population, China was rich potential market and firms like Henrey’s offered international credibility and relationships. It was a case of mutual usefulness, he said. Multinational firms wanted a foothold in China, and China wanted a conduit to the outside world. Only later, he said, would we learn that the longer-term strategy was to steal foreign know-how and technology and become its own powerhouse. He also described the attitudes of the different generations in the hundred-person group he was responsible for training, some older and more experienced, some middle aged, and some from the younger generation.

Henrey addressed a number of interesting questions in Q&A at the end, including whether the Chinese were ever really interested in becoming more like a democracy (as some in the West hoped), how the country drifted back to the extreme authoritarianism of the

current regime, and what the future may hold. The full presentation can be viewed by accessing <https://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos>.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Last week, the question was “When were these RMAers willing to part with their money in exchange for raffle tickets and the 50-50 drawing?” Answer: it was at the 2017 RMA picnic, five short years ago.



Do you have any pictures of past RMA activities to share?

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on March 30, will be →**FRANK SCARPA**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to frankjscarpa@gmail.com.

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 Scribe Tribe. 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.

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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 | 1:00 pm | Hearts at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center | John Kavanagh - jjkct176@gmail.com |
| Wednesdays | 12:30 pm | Bridge | 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

*Ed suffered an injury during the production of this CBB; it was completed from his notes by the editor.