

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"We are not what we think, or what we say, or how we feel. We are what we do."

- Gordon Livingston

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** rang the bell to call us to order at 9:45. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** then led us in the Pledge. Accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano, **JERRY** also carried the tune in leading us in "America the Beautiful," "Cabaret" and "You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You."

RUSS HARDEN delivered the report of the Nominating Committee. (He pointed out that 91 of our members volunteer on one or more RMA projects.) The nominees for Board of Directors included the following, to start their terms on May 1, 2022:

For president, **JOE MANCINELLI**

First vice president, **JACK WEIR**

Second vice president, **ARNOLD GORDON**

Third vice president, **WILL MORRISON**

Treasurer, **JEFF JUNKER.**

The membership voted to approve this slate as well as the rest of the nominated Board.

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Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** joined us from Florida. He wanted to remind me (and us, it seems) that the BA.2 variant of COVID is exceedingly contagious. Each sick person is estimated to infect as many as 12 others. This rate of infectivity would put it on a par with measles.

Today's Jokester was **AV RIVEL**, and he knocked it out of the park by reading a bunch of two liners from a book titled "Anglish English." Some of these "Letters to a Welfare Department" like "My doctor had me in bed for a week, but I didn't get any better. I think I need another doctor," were genuine rib ticklers --better than our usual fare (in this Scribe's opinion).

Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO noted that **ED FARRELL** had suffered two falls, and was recuperating from knee surgery at Greenwich Hospital. Visitors are restricted, but **ED** might like a call at 203 863 4269.

MICHAEL also noted that masks are now optional at membership meetings. The "Vaccination Table" is still being staffed for approved entry.

ROMEO luncheon: DON ROTZIEN noted that the ROMEO luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 7 at the Restaurant at the Gaynor Brennan Golf Course. There is plenty of parking. The menu includes Chicken Marsala as the main course. The full price (not including tax and tip) will be \$30. **DON** asks that those planning to attend bring a check for \$30 payable to him at the next RMA meeting on April 6 (or sooner). The late undecideds may bring their check to the restaurant.

Membership: PETER STERN noted 91 members in attendance--76 in person and 15 on Zoom. Total membership is stable at 217. Local Zoom attendees were **PETE ARTURI** and **GERRY MAYFIELD**. **TONY FITZPATRICK**, **ARNOLD GORDON** and **FRANK SCARPA** tuned in from Florida. Returnees were **PETER BERG** from California, **ANDY HOLMES** from Arizona and Utah, **JOE MANCINELLI** from Puerto Rico, and the trio of **BART BARTHOLOMEW**, **AV RIVEL** and **JACK WEIR** from Florida. **ED PARKER** is back manning the audio.

We celebrate three birthdays this week--**BOB RIMMER's** 84th, **JOHN HARKINS' 80th**, and young **SKIP AUCH's 77th**. The birthday song was intoned to the piano accompaniment of **BOB MORGAN**.

Volunteers: **HORST TEBBE** once again requests some volunteers to step up and help with camera work, audio or post-production. He will only be able to produce 21 more speaker videos himself. As an aside, **HORST** gave a shout out to the Metropolitan Opera's current production of *Eugene Onegin*.

JOHN FEBLES reported an abbreviated volunteer hours report: 68 outside hours by seven men and 31 inside hours by six men. **MAURICE KROHN** reported the most with 23 hours.

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

PETER BERG (in Argyle) previewed Greenwich resident Andrew Winston who will speak on "Trying to Build a Thriving World"--giving us a new perspective on the true "purpose" of business.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

STEVE BOIES previewed Ransom Wilson, a renowned flautist and conductor who is a candidate for the position of conductor and music director of the Greenwich Symphony. Mr. Wilson is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts and the Julliard School, and he studied under Jean Pierre Rampal as well as Leonard Bernstein. He has been professor of flute at Yale since 1991 and is currently music director of the Redlands Symphony in Redlands, California.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** noted that the season will start next Tuesday. Season dues are \$20.

Pickleball: **PAT McCARTHY** noted rainouts for the last two weeks. Play is at 11:00 Thursday at Christiano Courts.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** notes that the creators of Joint Oil and the Sky Hook are now bringing you the Gravity Boot. The curious are invited to show up in Old Greenwich on Monday at 9:30 or to contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** reported on eight players at two tables for a total of five games. The winners were **JOE DOWLING, DON CONWAY, PETER STERN, CHARLIE GRAVES** and **BOB SHULLMAN**. **DON CONWAY** and **BOB SHULLMAN** had moon shots. Starting in April, play will take place in the Community Room of the Greenwich Library.

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** noted that the winners on Court #1 were **JIM FISHBEIN** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. Winners on Court #2 were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **DON BREISMEISTER**. Finals on Court #1: **JIM FISHBEIN** and **DON BREISMEISTER**. On Court #2: **PAT MacCARTHY** and **PETER DODGE**. Next week's captain is **LOU RUPNIK**.

Paddle Tennis: **JIM DEAN** noted the end of the season. Play will resume in October, every Tuesday. Interested parties should contact **JIM**.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported seven players. There was a tie for first place with **ALEX KOSSEIM** and **RON MURRAY** each scoring 3590. **JOHN FEBLES** took second with 3470. A small slam was bid and made by **JOHN FEBLES** and **RON MURRAY**.

HUMAN INTEREST

AV RIVEL entertained us with some of the products from his decades-long photography hobby. Many of his illustrations were quite humorous--quirky and "blooper" signs and misspellings from around the world. (He did not include "Bryam" Connecticut on I-95, however!) He also included some somber photos of "stumbling stones" memorializing Holocaust victims, and the dramatic stone memorial on Omaha Beach. **AV** reached a pinnacle of both the "human" and the "interest" on this occasion. Some examples:



TODAY'S SPEAKER

Andrew Winston, a Greenwich resident for 16 years, entitled his talk “Net Positive: Building Businesses That Profit in Volatile Times by Solving the World’s Problems,” modeled after the most recent of three business books that he has written or co-authored.

He started with the premise that shareholder profit as the primary purpose of business is now being challenged. “Capitalism,” he said, is undergoing a reset. Major corporations have seriously adopted an ethos of “sustainability,” and examining their “role in society.” Larry Fink of Blackrock has posited that a company must create value for everyone.

Immediately after World War II, virtually everyone seemed to reap the benefits of a newfound prosperity. Currently there is an inequality such that the top one percent of our society has been garnering most of the benefits. COVID, income inequality, racial injustice and climate change have come to provide a wake-up set of stimuli. Businesses have come to realize that we will lose up to 18% of the economy’s value if we do not manage carbon well. Companies’ investment in renewable energy has increased exponentially, as RE has become significantly cheaper. Environmental, social and corporate governance funds have outperformed initial expectations, and the four largest banks in the country have invested one to 2.5 trillion dollars each.

Even in the search for jobs, Millennials have been searching for “values” and demanding transparency in environmental friendliness. The SEC has mandated public companies to publish environmental risks, and private equity has been doing its own disclosure in this area.

Ajay Banga, former CEO of MasterCard, has thrown out the challenge, “is the world better off because your business is in it?”

Currently, 95% of the world’s largest companies have major “sustainable development” goals, led by Microsoft, Walmart, Google and Apple.

PETER BERG led the audience in an active Q&A session. Mr. Winston proved himself to be a lively, informed and engaging speaker. He concluded with a quote from Gandhi: “Live simply so others may simply live.”

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. The year is 2019 B.C. (Before Covid). What RMA activity are these gents informally engaging in? (Picture courtesy of Joe Mancinelli.)



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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on April 6, will be →**BOB SHULLMAN**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to bob.shullman@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
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*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact