

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichtma.org

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SCRIBE: BOB SHULLMAN

"Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die" – Jean Paul Sartre

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance led by **MIKE FERRARESE**. As there was no piano player available at this meeting, the "Star Spangled Banner" was led by a video of the Melody Men singing the song at Citi Field a few years ago. The mentor for the day was **RICK HOLZ**, scribe, **BOB SHULLMAN**, and formatter, **MARK GEIMER**. **MICHAEL** then made the following announcements:

- Reminder that the cigar box \$2.00 donation is for all attendees whether or not you participate in the coffee and pastry.
- Volunteers are still needed for the audio, video, and Zoom presentations – please see **HORST TEBBE** if you are interested in assisting. If you would like to be a scribe, please see **TIM BROOKS**.
- Also, we need a chairman for "visiting."
- **ED FARRELL** had knee surgery at the Greenwich hospital on March 29th. All went well and he will be rehabbing at his home for about four months. As **ED** could not attend our most recent board meeting, **TAD LARABBEE** filled in for him as board secretary.
- **MICHAEL** has introduced **JOE MANCINELLI**, our new president as of May 1, to the church leaders to begin the transition in that relationship.

- With **ARNOLD GORDON** still in Florida, there will be no commentary from our corresponding secretary at this meeting.

*[Ed. note: advised by the editor that he owed us two puns, **ARNOLD** sent the following from Florida: (1) I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian. (2) Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie. (3) And a bonus: A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet."]*

Newly elected members of the board of directors, and other officers, are listed on the attached, which supersedes the list distributed last week.

[[CLICK HERE](#) TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF THOSE ELECTED]

MICHAEL then introduced RMA's jokester of the week, **CARL WHITE**, who delighted everyone with a number of memorable groaners.

Membership chair **PETER STERN** followed with his membership report. There were four birthdays this week:

- **JOHN AWDZIEWICZ** who was 90
- **ALLAN DEERING** who attained 88
- **MIKE FERRARESE** who was 80, and
- **LEN CARUSI** who was 74

Attendance was reported as 55 in-person plus 10 on Zoom with no guests, for a total of 65 members. Plus, it was nice to have back at the meeting **ED PARKER** manning the audio for us, as well as **TOM HEALY**, who has returned from some time in St. Martin. **PETER** then reminded everyone that members should remember to sign-in as a returnee at the member service desk so we can announce it. **PETER** then followed up on **MICHAEL'S** earlier announcement by saying that we needed some members to share the duties at the member service desk. Two members volunteered during the meeting: **MARK FOX** and **CARL WHITE**. Thank you, gents!

Next up was **TONY COCCHI**, subbing for **DON ROTZIEN**. **TONY** discussed the **ROMEO** luncheon scheduled for Thursday at Zody's, the 19th hole at the Brennan Golf Course, in Stamford, for which 12 members were already signed up to attend.

Next up was **RICK HOLZ** who briefly reviewed volunteer hours. Thirteen RMA members devoted 99 hours to outside endeavors while ten members devoted 68 hours to inside endeavors. **MAURICE KROHN** was the top RMA volunteer, with a total of 24 hours.

STEVE BOIES then came to the microphone and discussed the background of Ransom Wilson, today's speaker, with whom he will be conducting an informative question and answer interview regarding Ransom's thinking about his approach to conducting and the music he loves, as well as potentially becoming the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra's musical director and conductor. Ransom is the fifth of the five candidates competing for that position.

On April 9 and 10 at the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra's Concert, Maestro Wilson will conduct "Dance of the Hours" from the opera "La Gioconda" by Amilcare Ponchielli, "Cello Concerto" by Frederick Delius and Johannes Brahms' *Symphony No. 3*.

Then next week's presenter, Dr. Jun Xu, MD, was discussed. Dr. Xu will be giving a very informative presentation about rehabilitation medicine and acupuncture in Africa. Dr. Jun Xu is the founder and president of Africa Cries Out (ACO), a 501C 3 nonprofit organization located in Riverside, CT. He and his team have traveled to Senegal in West Africa to provide medical and humanitarian services to a leprosy village and other jungle villages since 2013, except for 2015 because of Ebola, and 2020-2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Africa Cries Out supports two hospitals in Senegal and is helping to build a trade school. ACO provides students with free room, board, and tuition. The trade school has graduated about 80 students over the past two years, and currently enrolls around 40 students. ACO has finished a 10,000 square foot academic building, a 12,000 square foot student dormitory, and is planning to expand its base hospital with inpatient services and an operating room by 4,000 square feet. Since 2013, ACO has spent about \$30,000 per year to support local villagers with food, vegetable oil, etc.

Dr. Jun Xu has been practicing acupuncture and rehabilitation medicine in Riverside since 2000. He is the owner of the Rehabilitation Medicine and Acupuncture Center. He graduated from Jiangxi College of Chinese Medicine in China and finished his residency training in physical medicine and rehabilitation at New York Medical College in 2000.

Dr. Xu and his medical team recently completed its seventh medical mission in Senegal.

FUN AND GAMES

1. **Hearts:** **DON CONWAY** advised that this week there were eight players at two tables at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. On table one a total of four games were played with all four players winning a game (**MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JOHN STANKUNAS, JOHN KNIGHT** and **BOB SHULLMAN**). **JOHN KNIGHT** and **BOB SHULLMAN** also shot the moon. At table two a total of three games were played. Two games were won by **JACK SWEGER** with one won by **CHARLIE GRAVES**. **JACK** shot the moon twice while **CHARLIE** also did so once.

2. **Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** reported that notable total scores were **RON FRIEDMAN**, 3,230, **CHARLEY LAND**, 2,980, and **JOHN FEBLES**, 2,820.

3. **Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported that after two consecutive weeks of Thursday rain, seven of us finally had good walking weather last Thursday for a nice stroll around Cove Island Park in Stamford. Although it was completely fogged in, we saw many signs of spring and warmer days for walking. An osprey flew overhead on his way to build a nest. We were invited into the Sound Waters headquarters building by a long-time employee who explained the old grist mill remains and showed us historical pictures of the area. All-in-all, it was a very relaxing and fairly slow walk, but one that allowed for lots of good conversations.

4. **Golf:** **MIKE RYAN** reported that 13 RMAers played golf this week at the Griff on a chilly day. The winners were: 7th hole, **TONY COCCHI**, 15th hole, **BART BARTHOLOMEW**, and on the 17th hole, **JOE MANCINELLI**. Notable scores were **BART**, 97, **TOM HEALY**, 97, and **JIM BOARDMAN** shot a 96. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for the next two weeks.

5. **Tennis:** **ANDY HOLMES** reported that this week's opening round winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **ANDY HOLMES**, as well as **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**. The final round winners were **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **ANDY HOLMES**, along with a very rare tie with **PAT MACCARTHY** and **JIM FISHBEIN** versus **LOU RUPNIK** and **RON FRIEDMAN**.

6. **Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** reported there were no tai chi meetings this week. They resume this coming Monday. Bring your stiffest joints and worst balance! Spouses are welcome. Contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com for details.

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN then came to the microphone and gave a delightful rendition of the Kingston Trio's parody song, "The Merry Minuet" ("They're rioting in Africa, they're starving in Spain...").

TODAY'S SPEAKER

After the coffee break, **STEVE BOIES** spoke with Ransom Wilson via a recorded Zoom interview, as Ransom was in California because he had covid and could not get to Greenwich in time for the meeting. They engaged in a very interesting and informative discussion of Ransom's musical background and his thinking about his potentially becoming the musical director and conductor of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Wilson is a world-renowned flutist, chamber musician, music educator and conductor. He is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts and the Juilliard School in New York City, where he met and studied with the world-famous flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal. Mr. Wilson then studied conducting with several well-known maestros. He has served as a professor of flute at the Yale School of Music since 1991. He is currently in his sixth season as music director of the Redlands Symphony in Redlands, California. While he is continually in transit from coast to coast and around the world, Mr. Wilson's home base is in Palm Springs, California.

When asked about his musical background, Ransom responded that he started to play the flute while growing up in Alabama, when he was in either the third or fourth grade. He was totally captivated by the sounds that the flute could produce. As his capabilities with the flute grew, he went to school at the North Carolina School of the Arts for about three years. He then applied to and was accepted by Juilliard School in New York where he met and was instructed by the world-famous flutist, Jean-Pierre Rampal. After Ransom finished his studies at Juilliard, he spent a year studying the flute with Mr. Rampal in Nice and then in Paris as an Atlantique Scholar. One of Ransom's fond memories of Jean-Pierre, who spent most of his time travelling around the world giving recitals, was his telling

Ransom that he saw “fire” and “desire” in him and how he played the flute. Due to his feelings about Ransom’s talents, Rampal agreed to be guest artist at Wilson’s debut recital.

When Wilson concluded that he did not want to travel as much as Rampal, giving recitals, he began to focus on all of music and in particular the strings, which in turn led him to move on to becoming a conductor. He studied under Leonard Bernstein and other well-known maestros. Since 1973 he has recorded over 35 albums as flutist or conductor and has three times been nominated for a Grammy Award. He spent 10 years as the assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera working with James Levine, whom Wilson recalls as one of the best instructors he ever knew. Ransom is also the founder and conductor of Le Train Bleu in New York City, an ensemble of exciting young musicians who perform the work of contemporary classical music composers.

Ransom continues to serve as a professor of flute at the Yale School of Music while also being the Director of the Redlands Symphony in Redlands, California. As this brief summary of the discussion between **STEVE** and Ransom cannot delve sufficiently into the depth of the discussion that occurred, it is suggested that interested members go to <https://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos> to view the full presentation.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Last week’s picture was of a 2019 impromptu, and very informal, session by the Melody Men, in shirt sleeves and shorts.



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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on April 13, 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.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA.
Visit our website at <https://greenwichtma.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
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	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 - tadlarr@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