

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: AV RIVEL

"If you live to a hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past the age of a hundred."
- George Burns

In what has become a rare occasion, a "Zoom only" RMA meeting, President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened his penultimate (love that word) meeting on time at 9:45 am EDT. His opening was followed by **ED PARKER's** recitation of the pledge of allegiance and techmaster **LEN CARUSI's** playing of an illustrated version of "America the Beautiful."

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS

*Next week's meeting will be in-person, and as of today, all future meetings as well.

*We still need volunteers for the video working group. See **HORST TEBBE** for details and to sign up.

*We still need a Visiting chairman, see **MICHAEL** for details.

***JIM SANTORA** and **TONY FITZPATRICK** will be leading a food (and possibly clothing) drive next month to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor. Stay tuned for details.

***Visiting: ED FARRELL** is rehabbing at home and would welcome emails and phone calls.

***Publicity Committee.** Reporting for **JACK WEIR**. Tomorrow **JACK WEIR** and **MIKE RYAN**, the golf chairman, will be meeting with the golf course staff to sponsor a hole at the Griff. There will be a sign on the designated Tee Box with the name of the RMA on it. The cost is \$600 + \$125 (for the sign). The cost will be taken from the publicity committee budget, as approved by the board. The sign will be displayed from approximately early May to mid-December.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOHN FEBLES asked new RMA members to consider helping as recorders of volunteer hours. Recorders enter members' volunteer hours and announce the results. It is an easy way to help the RMA and get to know members. One would only be scheduled once a quarter. Contact **JOHN** at 203-550-5049.

JOHN STANKUNAS reported that playing cards in the library was a pleasant experience except that, at exactly the end of the allotted time, 3:00, they had to leave as another group was waiting to use the room.

TAD LARRABEE gave a pitch for the Greenwich Choral Society's coming concert. The Greenwich Choral Society is presenting an unusual concert at 4:00 pm on Saturday, April 30. Even though the main piece is called "Missa Latina," which means a Mass in Latin, it is a very South American piece with some interesting syncopation, Caribbean rhythm and Latin jazz. So, if you enjoy live music and want to hear something different, please consider buying a ticket to hear the Greenwich Choral Society sing outside their usual comfort zone. In addition, following the concert, we are celebrating with an end-of-year reception for the audience that will include sangria and some Latin American snacks. So come and have some fun! For additional information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

Corresponding Secretary: ARNOLD GORDON then stepped up to the virtual podium to give his weekly update. The public is invited to a Cos Cob Town Meeting via Zoom on the current state of local zoning and how it affects our community. It will take place on Monday, April 25th, at 7:00 pm. Among the panelists will be Fred Camillo and our very own Peter Berg.

For details and registration to obtain the zoom link:

<https://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/9066323>

Greenwich Parks and Recreation is hiring dozens of teens and seniors for spring and summer flexible positions. Make some money and help the town. Log on to www.greenwichct.gov and click on Jobs, just below the picture at the top.

ARNOLD then riffed humorously on the effect of the current inflation on some select members of society. He then ushered on to the screen, **AV RIVEL**, who entertained us with two knee slappers: one about an amorous bull and one about sex in the age of Medicare.

Membership: As the laughter inspired by these two funny-men subsided, **PETER STERN** delivered the membership report. Attendance: 57, all on Zoom. On Zoom was local but loyal **DAVID MICHONSKI** (1st time). Long Distance Zoomers were **TONY FITZPATRICK** and **PETER TUNLEY**. Birthdays were celebrated by **AV RIVEL**, 86, **JOE DOWLING**, 83, **BRIAN MAHER**, 81, **TIM BROOKS**, 80, and **PAT MACCARTHY**, 73.

ROMEO: Arriving a bit late is the picture on the right of the smiling (and well fed) attendees at the latest **ROMEO** luncheon, held on April 7. (Picture courtesy of **JOE MANCINELLI**.)

PROGRAM

BOB RIMMER did the honors on both this week's and next week's distinguished speakers.

This week David Richards, retired New York City lawyer and Kipling scholar and collector, will speak on "Kipling's Kim, The Great Game, and Anglo-American Spies and Spy Novelists." Next week: Sean McMeekin, Ph.D., Professor of European History and Culture at Bard College and author of *Stalin's War*, will speak on "Stalin's War: A New History of WW II."



THE SPORTS PAGE

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reminded members that pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 11 am until 1 pm on 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.

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** dealt up the details. We had nine men and one quest who uses she, her, & hers. High scorers were **JOHN FEBLES**, 3020, **ED MASTOLONI**, 2790, **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 2620. A slam was bid and made by **ED** and **JOHN**. We meet at the library lounge at 12:30.

Hearts: **JOHN STANKUNIS** reported that seven games were completed. Winners were **JACK SWEGER** and **JIM DEAN** (two games each), and **ANDY HOLMES**, **GRANT PERKINS** and **CHARLIE GRAVES** (one game each). Moon shots were by **JOHN KNIGHT** and **JIM DEAN** (two each), and **GRANT PERKINS** and **JOHN STANKUNAS** (one each).

Golf: **TONY COCCHI** advised that this past week's play was rained out. If you want to play next week, contact **MIKE RYAN**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON**, looking very relaxed, shared the following. We will be back in full swing with the tai chi basic moves that generate the renown benefits of balance (via the Sky Hook) and relaxed joints (via Joint Oil) Monday, 9:30, in Old Greenwich. Contact Will at wdmorrison@gmail.com to get the details, and of course answers.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** stepped up to report that The Walkers enjoyed a short-sleeve spring day by exploring the area around Kensico Dam in north White Plains and walking across the dam. We even considered a stop at a local ice cream shop, but they weren't yet open. **TIM BROOKS** may include our picture in the CBB! Our walks will soon move away from our cold season venues toward more walks in the woods, so please join us in exploring our geographic area on foot while enjoying good conversations! Email your contact info to Tadlarra@optonline.net.



As requested. Walkers by the 9-11 Memorial; Memorial and Plaza from walkway atop the Dam.



Atop the dam. Walkers and Talkers were John Denne, Jerry Pollack, Joe Watts, Jim Fishbein, Jeff Junker, Tad Larrabee and Tim Brooks.

(Ed. note: Other activities are urged to submit pictures to the CBB.)

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** served up the report. Last Friday at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy, four tennis matches were played. In the opening round, the winners on court one were **RALPH NEWITTER** and **BILL HOWLAND**, and on two, **JOE MANCINELLI** and **BRUCE SOCKET**. In the finals round, the winners on court one were **NEWITTER** and

SOCKET, and on two **RON FRIEDMAN** and **PETER DODGE**. This week's captain will be **PAT MACCARTHY**.

TODAYS SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced today's speaker, David Alan Richards, for his third talk to the Greenwich RMA about Rudyard Kipling.

David Alan Richards is a retired real estate attorney who practiced in Manhattan, where his projects included many high-profile cases. He served as the chair of the Real Property Section of the American Bar Association, which published his book on commercial leasing in New York City, and chair of the Anglo-American Real Property Institute. He graduated from Yale College and the University of Cambridge, with degrees in American and European history, and then Yale Law School. His collection of the first editions, manuscripts, and letters of Kipling, now at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale, is the world's largest. In 2010, the British Library published his *Rudyard Kipling: A Bibliography*, now the standard reference cited by Sotheby's, Christies', and leading antiquarian book dealers here and abroad. In July 2021, he was elected president of the London-based Kipling Society, in whose journal he has published several articles about the writer.

His talk today began with the history of the "Great Game" in the mid-19th century which saw the competition between Great Britain and Russia for influence in the Indian subcontinent. Rudyard Kipling introduced the reading public to the romance of the international spy in his great novel of 1901, *Kim*. The plot centers on the training of the Anglo-Irish Indian orphan Kimball O'Hara, recruited to the Empire's secret service to help expel the foreign agents stirring up trouble on the northwest frontier. But was that spy network real, with its agent numbers like "C25 1B", or made up? And what impact did the story have on actual spies, such as the most notorious member of the Cambridge spy ring, "Kim" Philby, or on American spies, like CIA Director Allen Dulles in Washington, CIA officer (and Theodore Roosevelt's grandson) Kermit "Kim" Roosevelt in Egypt and Iran, and CIA agent Edward Lansdale in Viet Nam? And finally, how did its theme influence Kipling's literary successors in the genre, like John Buchan (*Greenmantle*), Ian Fleming (the Bond novels featuring "007"), and our greatest contemporary spy novelist, the late John Le Carré?

Richards went on to show the influence of the book on the establishment of the British intelligence service MI5 and MI6. He offered evidence to show that many of the spy-masters of 20th century, on both sides in the cold war, were fans of or influenced by the book. Kim Philby, one of the most notorious Russian moles in the British intelligence services took the *nom de guerre* of Kim, although his given name was Harold. Richards also showed Kipling's influence on famous contemporary spy novelists such Ian Fleming, John Buchan and John Le Carré. He illustrated this point by pointing out similarities in some of Le Carré's novels and Kipling's.

A short by spirited RMA Q& A followed.

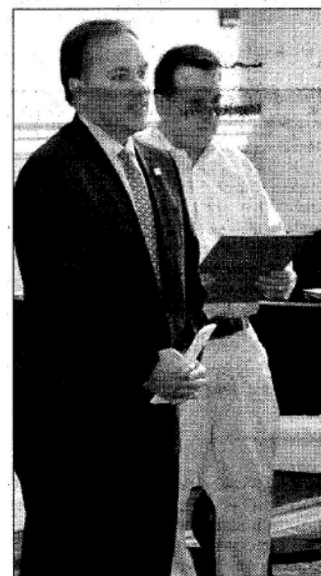
To view the full presentation, visit <https://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos>.

(Note: This week's ink-stained wretch thanks all reporters for getting their reports in, in a timely fashion.)

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few historical RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Last week we presented a somewhat grainy newspaper clipping and asked, who is the man on the left, and what is he doing at the RMA? For those unable to sleep for the past week, wondering, the answer First Selectman Peter Tesei in 2014, reading a proclamation celebrating the RMA's 60th anniversary!

Moving from the sublime to the ridiculous, what were the gents in the following picture doing that made it so appropriate to wear those silly hats at a meeting of the organization Mr. Tesei was celebrating? Although the picture was taken six years ago, hopefully you will recognize some of them.



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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on April 27, will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to jangland@optonline.net.

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

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	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 - 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