

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,
Frank Scarpa, Joe Angland, Jim Dean,
Bob Shullman, Fred Wu**

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

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 38 May 4, 2022

SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON

On aging:

(1) *"First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down."* - Leo Rosenberg

(2) *"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get."* - Robert Orben

Fresh from the usual month-beginning board meeting, our new President, **JOE MANCINELLI**, began the business meeting at 9:45. **ERF PORTER** led us in the pledge, followed by some spirited singing led by **DON CONWAY** with **JIM SANTORA** at the ivories. The selections were "The Star-Spangled Banner," the calypso hit from Harry Belafonte's days, "Marianne" (popularized by Terry Gilkyson & the Easy Riders), and "The Yellow Rose of Texas."

President **JOE** wistfully remembered that it was three years ago when he was tapped by **PETER UHRY** to become Third VP, and now suddenly he has the reins. He gave special thanks to outgoing President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** for shepherding us through some difficult times over the past covid-laden year while establishing a stronger relationship with the Church, maintaining our excellent financial status, and keeping our membership numbers stable. He expressed his goal to follow the examples of all our previous presidents and lead us into another banner year for the RMA. He also mentioned that in honor of the traditional Mexican celebration day on May 5th, refreshments during the break would include chips and salsa, and there was also some sangria and Margarita mix

(ay caramba, where's the tequila?). **JOE** also reminded everyone that today's speaker program on the development of the covid vaccines had to be cancelled; the speaker, Gregory Zuckerman, had ironically contracted the disease and was unable to appear. His talk will be rescheduled, probably for some time in August.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** opened with the sad news that two former members have died. Carl Van Aken died last week at the age of 99; he joined the RMA in June 2000 but could not continue after May 2021. **ARNOLD** asked for a volunteer who may have known him well to deliver a memorial at a later meeting; please contact him at ajgordo@verizon.net or 203-340-9336.

[Carl Van Aken Obituary](#)

Ron Cantwell, died two weeks ago at age 78. He joined in 2017 but was unable to continue his membership after May 2021. **ARNOLD** then introduced **GRAN BURGESS** who delivered a personalized memorial for Ron.

[Ron Cantwell's Obituary](#)

ARNOLD then reminded members of the recently formed group, Waste Free Greenwich, that is devoted to sharing relevant information and news to build awareness and educate residents toward a waste free community. They have a catchy slogan: The 6 R's – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair and Rot. This Saturday, May 7th, they will be holding a family friendly Rethink Waste Fair at Christ Church Parish Hall from 11 am until 3 pm. You can drop off recyclables and engage in a variety of activities including a student art show, vintage clothing boutique, sculpture building, and lots more. For details, see:

[Details for Waste Free Greenwich](#)

As a reminder, Household Hazardous Waste Day is also being held on Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Island Beach parking lot.

[Household Hazardous Waste Day Information](#)

Finally, **ARNOLD** surprised the crowd by showing what he claimed was a long-lost, secret video of **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** as a tot, who showed at an early age why he became the famous dancer that he is today. The real crowd pleaser can be seen here:



[View Jerry Schwendeman Video](#)

As luck would have it, **JERRY** was the scheduled jokester for the day. He related the tale of a surgeon who underwent a grilling by an IRS auditor who wanted to know how he accounted for his surplus supplies. When asked what was done with foreskins after circumcisions, the surgeon gleefully answered: I send them to the IRS who eventually sends me a p---k!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: **PETER STERN** reported that there were 51 live bodies and 10 Zoomers, including **TONY FITZPATRICK** and **JEFF JUNKER** from afar. Birthdays were celebrated for **MIKE WARNER**, 79, **MARIO BONAPARTE**, 97, and **JOHN DENNE**, 83. Returnees were **BOB MEANEY** from Germany and Florida and **KIP SCHULZE** from Port Charlotte, Florida. He asked everyone to remember to sign-in at the membership desk as a returnee when appropriate so it can be announced.



We gained a new member, **JEROME COLEMAN** (l), who was inducted following nominating remarks by **PAT MacCARTHY** (r) with a second by **ANDY HOLMES**. **JEROME** is a graduate of Princeton where he played varsity basketball as well as rugby. After receiving a law degree from Georgetown Law School, he embarked on a 47-year legal career specializing in employment law, trade secrets and non-compete agreements. He has received several awards for his pro bono

work. He retired last year from Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hirson. **JEROME** and his wife Amy have two daughters. They live in Rye, NY, where he is an active volunteer in many civic and club organizations. He enjoys tennis, paddle tennis, squash and more recently pickleball. He confesses that he takes most of his orders from his German Shepherd.

President **JOE** reminded everyone that we are in desperate need of new volunteers to help with the audio/video/Zoom operations. Adding to the woe, cameraman **PETER DODGE** has contracted covid and is wisely staying home. Whether you are tech savvy or not, it can be a rewarding and satisfying experience that does not take a lot of time. **STEP UP TO THE PLATE, SPORTS FANS AND PLAYERS! YOUR HELP IS REALLY NEEDED.** Please call or write **JOE** (jlmanco@optonline.net or 973-886-1798) or **HORST TEBBE** (oneHorst@optimum.net or 203-219-0389).



Dues are now due! Make out your \$100 check to RMA and bring it to the meeting or mail it to our treasurer, **JEFF JUNKER** (9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831). **JOE** also reminded us to put, not our two cents, but \$2 in the cigar box when entering the meeting room.

Speakers: **BOB PHILLIPS** told us that next week's speaker will be Phillip Vitiello Sr. who will describe the amazing stories of Titanic's older sister ship the Olympic and younger sister ship Britannic, who built them and why, and what happened to them.

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that **GERRY MAYFIELD** and his wife were in an automobile accident that totaled the car; luckily, their injuries were minor and they are recovering well. They prefer not to receive calls or e-mails.

Charity Golf Tournament: **ERF PORTER** invited golfers to participate in a charity tournament by the Greenwich Old Timers Club on May 16th at the Fairview Country Club on King Street, Greenwich. For details see:

www.greenwicholdtimers.org

If you would like to put together a foursome, get in touch with **ERF** (203-637-8192, erfporter2@yahoo.com).

Volunteer Hours: RICK HOLZ said that for the week ending May 4th, there were 129 outside hours by 13 men and 61 inside hours by eight men. MIKE RYAN hit the jackpot with 45 hours.

Service Dog Presentation: ALAN GUNZBURG introduced his new dog, Suki, a German Shepherd, who is replacing his recently retired dog. With him was the dog's trainer, Spencer, from Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation in Bloomfield, CT. She offered the following advice on interaction with such dogs: do not distract them, avoid eye to eye contact. She also fielded a few questions about different breeds and their behavior. A well-trained dog costs about \$65,000. For more information and opportunities to donate to this worthy organization, see:

www.fidelco.org

Cinco De Mayo: JOHN FEBLES, whose parents were from Mexico, explained that it is the celebration of the anniversary of the Mexican victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Strangely, it is popular in the United States but not widely celebrated in Mexico. The true Independence Day for Mexico is September 16th, when Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla rang the church bells in a call to arms against the Spanish. He described how Mexican women followed their men into battle during that revolution under Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata to overthrow dictator Porfirio Diaz. Those women were known as soldaderas. His parents came from the town of Merida Yucatan, which is located in the southern part of Mexico, the area once populated by the Mayan Indians. JOHN also spoke of the "Golden Age of Mexican Cinema" from 1936 to 1956 which he enjoyed as a young man, speaking fondly of cowboy films with their gorgeous actresses. Here are photos of a Mayan pyramid, the soldaderas, and a celebrated movie star with whom JOHN was infatuated as a young man.





GAMES RMA MEN PLAY

Indoor Tennis: **PETER UHRY** told us that the season is winding down with this coming Friday the last session; **BRIAN MAHONEY** will be captain. For last Friday, April 29th, round one winners were **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **PAT MacCARTHY** on Court 1, and **JOE MANCINELLI** and guest player Susie Orbanowski on Court 2. For the final round, winners were **RON FRIEDMAN** and **ANDRE MAZUREK** on Court 1, and **JOE MANCINELLI** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI** on Court 2. **ANDY HOLMES** reminds everyone that the tennis group has a luncheon planned on May 13th at 12:30 at the Riverside Yacht Club. Contact **ANDY** for further details (203-615-3351 or andyholmes56@gmail.com).

Outdoor Tennis: Anyone interested in playing, please contact **JOHN KNIGHT** (917-683-1460 or johnknight7@gmail.com).

Golf: Yesterday was a cloudy, calm and cool day with five RMA golf groups of four teeing off starting at 11:20 am, so said **PETER UHRY**. **ANDY HOLMES** took photos, including some of the new, colorful sign promoting the RMA posted at the ninth tee. It was nice to see **ERF PORTER** return to play after many years' absence. Eighteen men left after nine holes.



Highlights for the duffers were as follows. **MIKE SMITH** scored a low 44 on the front nine, eight over par; he was closest to the pin on five. **JOE MANCINELLI** was closest to the pin on the par three seventh hole. **TOM HEALY** had the longest drive on eight (we now call him Hulk Healy). **TONY COCCHI** was closest to the pin on the par three 15th hole. The real showstopper of the day? **TOM HEALY** got fired up on the back nine and shot a six over par 41, including a birdie with three shots on the 428-yard 17th hole. He sunk his approach shot from 100 yards out. **PETER UHRY** is captain next week. Come join the group. We have fun, we laugh and some of us actually play pretty darn good golf.

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** lamented that they were rained out last Thursday but plan for better luck this week, as usual at Christiano Field from 11 am to 1 pm. To be put on the mailing list, contact **MARK GEIMER** (mark.geimer@gmail.com).

Hearts: **RON FRIEDMAN** gave the results. **ED MASTOLONI**, 2970 points, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 1760, and **RON MURRAY**, 1760. The group meets at the Greenwich Library Café on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm. Newcomers are welcome.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** invited all interested to the regular Monday morning sessions. He promised to explain at next week's meeting how we can develop our chi! For information, contact **WILL** (203-912-8695 or wdmorrison@gmail.com).

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** told the group that last Thursday, they enjoyed a cool but enjoyable walk in the Mianus River Park, starting on the Stamford side and meandering to the Greenwich entrance on Cognewaugh Road and then back. He confessed that in spite of having a decent map, he misled the group and got them lost for a while (but in a way it added to the fun). That's his "excuse" and he is sticking with it. They successfully found their way back to their cars where all appreciated the comfort of sitting down after about 3.7 miles of nice woods trails. The trees were still only budding, so it allowed them to see vistas that are not possible once the leaves appear. With warmer weather on the horizon, please consider joining the group by emailing tadlarra@optonline.net.

Hearts: **ANDY HOLMES** gave the results for the April 27th session with four players and four games. Winners were **ANDY** (two games), **GRANT PERKINS** (one), and a tie between **ANDY** and **BOB SHULLMAN** (one). **GRANT** and **JOHN** each shot the moon once. This week's captain is **PETER BERG**.

After the meeting came to an end, members enjoyed an extra-long refreshment session given the speaker cancellation. More calories were consumed than usual!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on May 4, will be →**JIM DEAN**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to jhdeanco@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 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	Various Tee Times	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan - ryantomac@netscape.net
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