

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: JAMES DEAN

*"I entered my seventies a decade ago.
My span here on earth has been quite a good show.
I owe a great deal to my relative peace,
And I'm terribly grateful for such a long lease."
- Cecil Baxter*

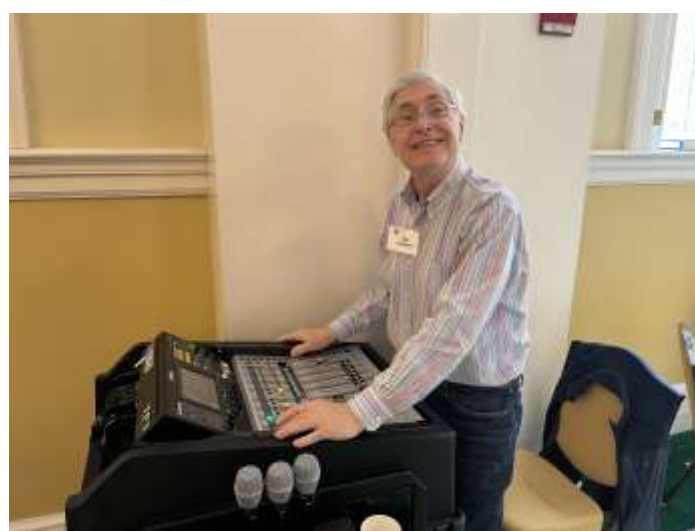
President **JOE MANCINELLI** called the meeting to order at 9:45 am, with **MIKE HAYDEN** leading the Pledge of Allegiance. We joined in singing "Marine's Hymn" with **MIKE's** accompaniment on his harmonica, followed by "Blue Skies" and "Ain't She Sweet." Piano music was provided by **BOB MORGAN**.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** provided statistics on the increase in Covid infections and said "keep your guard up." **PAUL CAMPION**, our jokester for the day told a humorous tale about Timbuctoo. Good memory, **PAUL**.

Membership Chair **PETER STERN** reported in-person attendance of 72, plus 10 on Zoom, for a total of 82 plus one guest, Bill McKiegan. Birthdays were celebrated this week by **PAUL CAMPION**, 85, and **JACK CUFF**, 74. The attendance star was **JEROME COLEMAN**, with a 100% attendance record (hint: he joined last week). Joining us on Zoom were **ED FARRELL, BO JARNSTEDT** and **FRANK SCARPA**. Returnees were **TONY FITZPATRICK, JEFF JUNKER, JOHN KAVANAGH, HAROLD KUPLESKY** and **PETER TUNLEY**, all snow birds.

Future events for RMA members and guests. **DON CONWAY, MAURICE KROHN, and JEFF JUNKER** presented the possibility of trips to Goodspeed Opera House for the production of *Cabaret* in July, and to Saint John the Devine and the Cloisters in New York City. **TOM HEALY** said the venerable trip to Belmont Raceway would be possible and would require forty participants. Round trip bus service from St. Catherine's would be included. Past President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** proposed a trip to Coney Island, lunch at Nathan's and a ballgame to see the Brooklyn Cyclones. More to come, stay tuned.

A reminder from **HORST TEBBE** that we are in desperate need of new volunteers to help with the audio/video/Zoom operations. 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 MANCINELLI** (jlmanc@optonline.net or 973-886-1798) or **HORST TEBBE** (oneHorst@optimum.net or 203-219-0389). See what fun it can be?



FUN AND GAMES

Golf: **PETE UHRY** reported golf at the Griff under sunny skies and warm temperatures. We had a mix of nine and 18 holers playing. **JIM SANTORA** won closest to the pin on holes #5 and #7, **TONY FITZPATRICK** won longest drive on #8, **GRAN BURGESS** claimed closest to the pin on #15 and **JIM DEAN, TONY FITZPATRICK, and GRAN** carded scores of under 100. Golf captain next week is **PETER STERN.**

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES**, our three-sport member, reported the following tennis matches. Opening round winners court 1 were **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **JOHN KNIGHT**, on court 2 winners were **RALPH NEWITTER**, **BOB GRAYSON** and **BILL HOWARD**. The new indoor tennis season will start in September. All interested should see **ANDY** or email him at andyholmes56@gmail.com

Special Interest: **JOE DOWLING** returned from the Minto US OPEN Pickleball Championship matches in Florida with a first-place gold medal. Congratulations, **JOE**, we applaud your stellar performance.

The Melody Men have resumed their schedule of singing at nursing homes and senior centers in the area. Under the stiff baton of maestro **TOM HEALY**, 16 members performed before a sold-out audience in Pleasantville NY at the Clinton Street senior center.



Joe with President Mancinelli

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** continues to lead RMA members and guests on interesting walks around the Greenwich area. Please see **TAD** if you would like to join the group for one or more walks. tadlarra@optonline.net. On May 5 the group walked in the area around Binney Park in Old Greenwich, encountering a most unusual park bench dedicated to our own **PETE UHRY**. It bore the inscription, “volunteers aren’t paid, they’re priceless.”



Tad Larrabee and Cynthia MacKay, at rest

TODAY'S SPEAKER

The RMA speaker today was Phillip Vitiello, Sr., discussing “The Titanic and Her Sisters.” The RMS Olympic, Titanic and Britannic were sister ships built by the White Star Cruise lines in Belfast, Ireland. These three ships were designed on a scale never seen before in the industry. The Titanic’s immense hull made it the largest movable man-made object in the world at the time. In New York, White Star Line used Pier 59 but the new ships were too long for the pier, requiring an extension of over 100 feet to accommodate them.

Titanic and Olympic were built in 1909. The shipyard had thousands of laborers and was the largest employer in Ireland. The Titanic had huge electrical generating capacity, enormous anchors, and boilers that burned 600 tons of coal per day to provide steam and power. Four stories high, it had low power turbines that balanced the reciprocating engines. The engines were built outside the ship, tested, then reassembled inside the ship.

The Titanic was launched May 11, 1911, without its propellers, which were added after launch to allow it to pass through the dry dock. The ship initially sat high out of the water as it was an empty shell to which engines, equipment and furnishings were later added. It had beautiful palm courts and gorgeous woodwork was added by Harland and Wolff carpenters to grace the 50-foot promenades. The Grand Staircase was graced on each side by statues representing honor and glory. In 1912 the cost of a suite on the Titanic was \$1,200, which today would equate to \$44,000. The ship had a gym and a saltwater swimming pool as amenities. Advertising by White Star emphasized the size of the ships.

One ad showed the Titanic set on end and compared to the tallest buildings of the time, including the Woolworth building, and the Lincoln Memorial.

Captain John Smith had worked his way up to commodore of the White Star Line and captain of the Olympic. He then named captain of the Titanic for its maiden voyage. Captain Smith stated that in his 40+ years of sailing he had never had an accident worth speaking of.

The Olympic had an accident on a later voyage when it crashed with the Hawk and had to be sent to shore for repair. This delayed work on the Titanic. The Hawk was a British war ship with a reinforced bow for ramming in battle. A second accident for the Olympic broke the propeller so the propeller was removed from the Titanic which further delayed the completion of the Titanic. Those delays put the Titanic into the iceberg season. It was said at the time, "If the Titanic could talk, she would blame her demise on the Olympic."

First class patients on the maiden voyage included many well-known socialites including the Astors and the Straus family, which owned Macys. There was also actress Edith Russell and her famous toy pig, and Molly Brown, wife of a wealthy mining executive, who kept such calm among the survivors that she earned the name "Unsinkable Molly Brown." The few surviving photos of the ship were taken by a priest who departed the ship in Queensland.

Although the Titanic exceeded the number of required lifeboats, they were not sufficient for all passengers. The belief was that there would always be nearby vessels and the boats would be used as a taxi service to get passengers to a nearby boat. The reinforced hulls had a critical design flaw in that each compartment was not separated by a wall above the waterline. This allowed water to flow further into the ship as its bow sunk. The Titanic almost collided with another ship, the New York, in the harbor before it sailed on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England.

At the time of the disaster the Titanic was the first passenger ship to use the SOS distress call. The Titanic's distress call was at 12:15 a.m. but the closest ship, the California, had turned off its radio at 12 midnight and never heard it. The Titanic fired rockets trying to attract the attention of the California. The California did see the rockets but did not react. Another ship 68 miles away, the Carpathia, reacted swiftly and came at 17 knots but it

arrived too late and was only able to pick up 702 survivors. Hypothermia killed most of the Titanic's passengers.

After the disaster the Olympic had its lifeboats refitted to make them safer. The Olympic later became a military transport ship and was painted in "dazzle" to confuse the German submarines. The Olympic was attacked four times by submarines and was able to outrun them. In one case, the Olympic turned and rammed and sunk a submarine.

The Britannic was refinished during the war with reinforced bulkheads and had 58 lifeboats, three times as many as the Titanic. It became a hospital ship and its beautiful furnishings were left at the shipyard. It was sunk by a German mine in 1916.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Ed Hajim, a former Greenwich resident of thirty years, has written a book titled *On The Road Less Traveled: An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Boardroom*.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few historical RMA pictures, with a question of the week. This week, to get you into the mood for summer, the question is "who are these Salvation Army Santas?"

If you have any pictures of past RMA activities to share, send them along!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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.

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on May 18, 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 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://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 |
| 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 (resumes in fall) | Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com |

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact