

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: BOB SHULLMAN

"Your first and foremost job as a leader is to take charge of your own energy and then help to orchestrate the energy of those around you." - Peter Drucker

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Song leader **TOM HEALY**, accompanied by pianist **BOB MORGAN**, then led the RMA in singing "You're A Grand Old Flag," "Tie A Yellow Ribbon," and "Sunrise, Sunset." Mentor was **JIM SANTORA**. Scribe for the day was **BOB SHULLMAN** and projectionist was **TONY COCCHI**. **JOE** then made the following announcements:

- Members should save the dates for the annual picnic on Wednesday, September 14 and the annual banquet on Wednesday, November 9.
- It's a new fiscal year and members need to pay **JEFF JUNKER** their annual dues of \$100.
- The RMA is planning on having some members march in this year's Memorial Day parade. Details to be announced at the next meeting.
- Members with human-interest stories, restaurant reviews, book reviews, etc., are encouraged to speak with **JOE** about them and potentially present them at a future meeting.
- Volunteers are still needed to assist with audio, video and Zoom at our meetings. Please see **HORST TEBBE** if you can assist in this critical need.

Other announcements included:

- **PETER UHRY** and **TAD LARRABEE** invited members to Greenwich Green & Clean's upcoming fundraiser at the Sleepy Cat Farm that will occur on Thursday, May 26. For further details about the event, please [click here](#) for the flyer.
- **JIM SANTORA** and **TONY FITZPATRICK** are heading up the RMA food drive to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor that will occur on Wednesday, June 1. Details regarding what will be collected that day are described in the attachment. For those wishing to send a personal check, please send it to **TONY FITZPATRICK** at 9 Stanwich Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830.
[click here](#) for Neighbor to Neighbor attachment
- **DAVID MICHONSKI** then came to the podium and discussed "rebound Covid" that has been occurring to some individuals who are infected with Covid who decide to take the Pfizer Paxlovid pills. **DAVID** encourages anyone who may be planning to take these pills to go to Google and search for "rebound Covid."
- Then **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** came to the microphone and announced a special tour of the PepsiCo sculpture garden on Thursday morning, June 23, for RMA members and possibly a spouse or friend. At our May 25th meeting there will be a brief presentation on the tour and an opportunity for anyone to ask questions. Those members who are interested can sign up at the end of the meeting and receive some additional material on the tour. The tour will be limited to a total of 30 individuals. If you can't make the May 25 meeting but want to sign up, you can email Don Conway at spiderduck4@gmail.com by May 25 to sign up.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** then came to the podium and announced that we need someone to deliver a memorial for Carl Van Aken. Also, the federal government is making more Covid test kits available for free. Members can easily order eight of them by clicking on the following: [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). The kits will be delivered for no charge by the USPS. Please remember that they do have a shelf life and will not be useable forever. For more information about the kits, please read this article: <https://www.verywellhealth.com/covid-test-kits-expiration-5209949>. Also, if you still need a Covid vaccine booster, members can easily make a reservation, among other places, at any convenient CVS, at www.cvs.com/vaccine.

ARNOLD then read some real headlines from a few English language papers from around the world:

- “Iraqi head seeks arms”
- “Prostitutes appeal to Pope”
- “Shot off woman’s leg helps Nicklaus to 66”
- “Typhoon rips through cemetery; hundreds dead”
- “Never withhold herpes infection from loved ones”
- “Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian takes over”

He then focused on the following signs and sayings that have been notes in various places around the world:

- Woman’s rest room in Bozeman, Montana – “Make love, not war; hell, get married and do both.”
- The Irish Times* – “God made pot, man made beer. Whom do you trust?”
- Office of a doctor in Rome - “Specialist in women and other diseases”
- Acapulco hotel – “The manager has personally passed all the water served here”
- Tokyo Bar – “Special cocktails for ladies with nuts”

ARNOLD then called **CARL WHITE** to the microphone who entertained those at the meeting with a number of enjoyable jokes.

Next up was **HAROLD KUPLESKY** who briefly focused on volunteer hours for the prior week which totaled 230 hours. Outside hours totaled 155 hours while Inside hours totaled 75. The member with the highest total of hours for the week was **HOLLISTER STURGIS** who spent 48 hours on RMA efforts.

PETER STERN then came to the podium to focus on the following membership-related news:

- 81 individuals in total were at today’s meeting (80 members and one guest), 12 attendees were on Zoom.
- There were eight birthdays this week as follows:

BOB	PHILLIPS	81
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JIM	FISHBEIN	76
JAY	SCHONDORF	85
DICK	FRANCK	86
MAURICE	KROHN	73
JAMES	CLEMENTS	75
KLAUS	JANDER	82
KIP	SCHULZE	83

- Bill McKiegan was the guest of **JOE MANCINELLI**
- **PETER** then noted there were three returnees this week:

BART BARTHOLOMEW from Jupiter, FL

JOHN CRAINE from Minneapolis, MN, then driving to Iowa and back to MN.

BARRY RICHELSON from Vero Beach, FL.

Next up was **BOB PHILLIPS** who presented the following bio of this week's speaker, Ed Hajim.

At the age of three, Ed Hajim was kidnapped by his father, driven cross-country from St. Louis to Los Angeles, and told his mother was dead. He pressed his face against the car window, watched the miles pass and wondered where life would take him. Probably not where you would expect. As recounted in *On the Road less Traveled: An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Boardroom*, Hajim's story is an improbable one of being bounced from foster homes to orphanages after his father left him to go to sea as a radio operator. Ultimately, however, he came to live the American dream as an accomplished Wall Street executive, proud father of three, grandfather of eight, and charitable benefactor to a world which seemed intent on rejecting him. Many years into his adulthood and sometime after the passing of his father, he discovered his mother was in fact alive in St. Louis, adding a totally new and unexpected dimension to his life's story. In 2015, he received the Horatio Alger Award, given annually by the Horatio Alger Association to 10 to 12 Americans who exemplify the values of initiative, leadership and commitment to excellence, and who have succeeded despite personal adversities.

Mr. Hajim, whose father was a Syrian immigrant, had a very successful career on Wall Street spanning more than 50 years. As described in his book, he held senior management positions with the Capital Group, E.F. Hutton and Lehman Brothers before becoming

chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Furman Selz. He has been chairman, co-chairman and/or CEO of several ING group related entities and of MLH Capital. He currently serves as chairman of High Vista, a Boston-based money management company. Mr. Hajim is a graduate of the University of Rochester & Harvard Business School and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He began an eight-year tenure as chairman of the University of Rochester's board of directors in 2008, the year in which he also donated \$30 million dollars to support scholarships and endow the Edmund Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. His family foundation has made generous donations to organizations that promote education, healthcare, arts, culture and conservation. He has close ties to Greenwich having resided here for 33 years, started Greenwich Management Company, served on the board of trustees and chair of Brunswick School, and served as a trustee of Greenwich Hospital.

Bob then turned the podium over to **BOB RIMMER** who presented the following biography of next week's speaker, Chief James Heavey of the Greenwich Police Department. Among the most important responsibilities of any police department is its accountability to its community. As his primary focus, Chief Heavey will discuss this responsibility of the Greenwich Police Department to the Greenwich community. What is the scope of this responsibility, how is it fulfilled, how is our police force trained to carry out this responsibility and what are the specific programs used for its implementation? This is Chief Heavey's third appearance at the RMA.

Heavey, a Greenwich native and current resident, is truly experienced and knowledgeable about the Greenwich community. Jim rose through the ranks of the Greenwich Police Department. He joined the police department as a dispatcher in 1981, becoming a part-time special police officer a year later while attending Northeastern University in Boston. After moving to a full-time police officer in 1986, he was promoted to sergeant in the Patrol Division in 1999, and lieutenant four years later. In 2010, he was promoted to captain and then deputy chief. He was chosen to be chief in 2011.

A veteran of Operation Desert Shield, Heavey served over 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. He has a bachelor of science in criminal justice administration and completed an online master's degree in public administration from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. In addition, Jim recently completed training in terrorism response at National FBI Academy.

The Heavey children are graduates of Greenwich High School.

FUN AND GAMES

1. **Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported that the walkers lucked out last Thursday with another nice day, and took a **JEFF JUNKER**-guided tour of Glenville. In fact, one long-time resident of Glenville who joined our walk said that we visited some areas of Glenville that he was not familiar with. That's one of the pleasures of an intimate view of our geography that only a walk gives you the leisurely pace and perspective to appreciate. And while walking, we benefit from the exercise and also enjoy some good conversations!

Which brings me to a challenge: Although I am the chair of the walkers, I would appreciate anyone who wants to walk with us to act as a guide and take us into the lesser-known areas of your own neighborhood or even a nice walking area elsewhere that you would like to show us and let us see for ourselves why it is one of your favorite spots. Join us for a walk as our guide and we would happily explore your favorite spots with you. Unfortunately, the budget for your guide services is nil, but the walk is free.

As you know, the walkers visit many different spots in the greater Greenwich area, including Westchester County. I certainly don't know every interesting place to walk. And after many years of organizing walks, I sometimes consider my choices a bit stale. We all enjoy walking in new and interesting areas, particularly with someone who knows that area intimately. And it usually keeps us from getting lost! So please think about showing us your favorite places to walk and give us a guided tour!

2. **Pickleball:** **PAT MCCARTHY** reported that six players played pickleball this week and he is now offering RMAers the opportunity to learn how to play pickleball as he is now giving lessons to interested individuals. If you are interested in learning how to play, you can reach Pat at pmaccarthy415@gmail.com.

3. **Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** reported the following notable total scores: **JOE WATTS**, 3220, **FRANK LEE**, 2570, and **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 2370.

4. **Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** reported that the good folks at Tai Chi Labs are embarrassed to announce that their recent efforts to discover an unlimited source of personal energy - that's right, no climate change or support of invasive authoritarians, no coffee? - has been

anticipated by prior art from Asia - Qigong. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qigong>] While Qigong and Tai Chi both focus on health and mindfulness, Qigong helps develop internal energy and Tai Chi provides a means to apply it. When taken together, twice daily, the two create the Asian cocktail - The ChiTail - Tai Chi Labs approved. Come by and sample a ChiTail, Mondays, 9:30 in Old Greenwich. Contact **WILL MORRISON** for specifics, wdmorrison@gmail.com

5. Golf: Members are currently playing on Tuesdays at the Griff. **PETER STERN**, this week's captain, reported that 20 players came to the Griff to have some fun with 16 playing 18 holes and four playing nine holes. On the challenge holes **JIM SANTORA** was closest to the pin on #5, **JIM MANCINELLI** was closest to the pin on #7 while **MARK FOX** had the longest drive on #8 and **PETE UHRY** was closest to the pin on #15. Six members who played 19 holes broke 100: **GRAN BURGESS** at 91, **TONY FITZPATRICK** at 93, **JAY SCHONDORF** at 97, **JIM SANTORA** at 98, and **MARK FOX** and **JIM MANCINELLI** at 99. Among the nine holers, **BART BARTHOLOMEW** shot a 45. Next week's Captain is **JAY SCHONDORF**.

6. Tennis. Indoor tennis ended for the season last week, and the players held their annual luncheon on May 13 at the Riverside Yacht Club. Here is yet another reason to participate in one of the RMA's most popular activities!



7. Hearts. There were 12 hearts players last week at three tables. At Table 1, **JOHN STANKUNAS** won one game, as did **GRANT PERKINS** and **RICK HOLZ**. **GRANT PERKINS** also shot the moon once. At Table 2, **PETER BERG** won two games and also shot the moon four times. Finally at Table 3, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **JOHN KNIGHT**, **ANDY HOLMES**, and **TOM HEALY** each won a game. There were also four moon shots at this table: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** had one as did **JOHN KNIGHT**, while **TOM HEALY** had two.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

After the coffee break, **BOB PHILLIPS** and Ed Hajim then sat up front and engaged in a very interesting and informative hour-long discussion of Ed's very challenging childhood living in orphanages and foster homes after his father left him and went to sea as a radio operator. When asked why he wrote this memoir about his life, Ed 's response was because both his family and the University of Rochester, where he graduated with his bachelor's degree and then became chairman of the board years later, wanted to know who he really was. Why? As he said during the discussion, "...I buried my background." His mantra was to stay hidden. By writing the book that took him seven years, he learned a lot about himself. When asked about growing up, Ed focused on the Catholic nuns who educated him, along with the families with whom he lived—some who were very hugging and loving, and some who were very cold and housed him solely because they were paid to do so. Looking back on his youth and thinking about moving from family to family, Ed realized his life was not enjoyable as a youth but it made him figure out how to survive in challenging circumstances. As Ed said "...I was a survivor..." and "schools made me successful." Big picture, when he started working after graduating from Harvard Business School, his experiences growing up had taught him that he needed to deal with whatever he was asked to do and do it well. He learned he had to be persistent and resilient. Based on living and working that way, he has concluded that "...education is a lifelong process..." and "...it was my ticket out."

Later during the discussion, Ed recounted what it was like to reunite with his mother when he was 60 years of age, 57 years after he was told she had died, and also to discover he had a younger brother who is a doctor and with whom he is now very close. His mom was 81 when they reunited and she died at 93 so he had 12 very good years with her. Notably, Ed stated that like himself "she was not a feeler." Like himself, his mom was a "thinker."

For those interested in listening to more of this fascinating discussion, it is suggested you go to the RMA website and click on the video of the presentation at <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. Last week we asked “who are these Salvation Army Santas?” The answer: Mike Hayden, John Febles, and Jeff Junker. Year, uncertain.

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).

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on May 25, will be →**ARNOLD GORDON**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to ajgordo@verizon.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	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