



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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*"A curved line is the loveliest distance between two points. And too much of a good thing can be wonderful."* Mae West

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** began the meeting in the sanctuary right on time at 10am with a robust command for all to be at their seats for the pledge, led by **MIKE AMBROSINO**. **MIKE HAYDEN** conducted our singing *My Country Tis of Thee, Deep in the Heart of Texas*, and *You Made Me Love You*, with **BOB MORGAN** at the piano. Corresponding Secretary **AV RIVEL** told us about the priest, stopped by the cops for speeding, said he was drinking water even though the policeman said he smelled wine. The priest exclaimed: Oh no, he has done it again! AV then repeated a story told at a recent RMA meeting about an elderly woman driver stopped for speeding who fabricated an outlandish horror story about her and the car, which she denied when a superior officer arrived on the scene, leading to her exoneration.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

El Presidente welcomed returnees **JEFF JUNKER** from Barnegat Light New Jersey and **WILL MORRISON** from London and Cornwall while visiting his son and daughter-in-law in jolly olde England.

**ARNOLD GORDON** reminded us that one of our former members, **GEORGE SUTER**, died on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>; a funeral service will be held at St. Catherine's church on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am.

**GRANVILLE BURGESS** announced the formation of the Greenwich Theater Company, that will perform for their first production, “God of Carnage,” on September 5-8 and 12-15, at the Arch Street Theater, located at 100 Arch Street (next to Roger Sherman Baldwin Park). For details, see [greenwichtheatercompany.org](http://greenwichtheatercompany.org) or call 203-629-5744. Support your local theater!

As **JOE MANCINELLI** reminded us, the annual RMA picnic at Tod’s Point is fast approaching – Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be some old and new games, a lip-sync contest, lots of great food (this year from Chicken Joe’s), and, of course, the 50-50 drawing and an exciting raffle. **ARNOLD GORDON** enticed the members by brandishing a bottle of Prosecco (one among several to be won) and a Seiko watch, while telling them that lots of great prizes are in the offing from many stores, individual donors, and restaurants. Some surprise items will be on display. Save your money for the tickets.

**RUSS HARDEN** announced the date of the annual RMA “Dinner” (we all really know it is lunch!) on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Tamarack Country Club. Table hosts are needed for about 20 tables; see Russ if you would like to be one.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: **MIKE AMBROSINO** told us that **JOHN KNIGHT** was recovering nicely from hip replacement surgery at Greenwich Hospital.

PROGRAM: **STEVE BOIES** urged members to remain for Mark Albertson’s second talk to the RMA, this time on *The Rise of Stalin*. Mr. Albertson will also be conducting a discussion on Stalin at the Greenwich Library from 2 until 3:30; **STEVE** told us that registration is required for the limited-space attendance, and to contact the Library in person or online. Next week’s speaker, as related by **HOLLISTER STURGES**, will be **Wes Haynes**, Executive Director of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy, who will tell us about the history and impact of this historic road and the challenges it faces.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported that 106 members were present as well as one guest, Dave Richards, g/o **KEATING HAGMANN**. Birthdays were celebrated for **MIKE SMITH** 80 and **RON CANTWELL** 77.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES: **CHET RISIO** introduced **STEPHEN MYERS**, who told us his exciting story on *How I soloed in a small plane after 6.5 hours of instruction and why I gave up flying*. While at a job site in Texas, he took several lessons in a Cessna 150 and was told by his cavalier instructor that he could fly solo after only a few hours of training. Proudly he succeeded, even though there were a few bumps along the way. He continued his lessons when he moved back east, but his last one at Bridgeport Airport nearly ended in near disaster. “I spotted an approaching commercial plane trying to land coming in our direction. My instructor, a former marine drill sergeant, responded to my warning by saying ‘Oh my God!’ and suddenly taking the controls and made a violent evasive maneuver to avoid a collision. That experience ended my love of flying.”

SPECIAL EVENTS: **DON CONWAY** reported that there are now about 18 signed up for the October 10<sup>th</sup> trip to Wave Hill; a minimum of 25 is required. See details below.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **GERRY MAYFIELD** provided the statistics for the week ending August 28<sup>th</sup>: a modest 261 outside hours by 22 men and 135 RMA hours by 22 men; leader for the week was **JEFF JUNKER**, with 22 hours.

### FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: Since the YMCA was closed for maintenance, there was no bridge game last week.

INDOOR TENNIS: If you want to get in on the game, the season will begin on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Contact **MIKE AMBROSINO** if interested ([brooklynoil@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklynoil@yahoo.com) or 203-629-1897).

PICKLEBALL: **TONY COCCHI** reported that last Thursday, there were 13 players on 3 courts; on Monday, 7 players showed up. Come every Monday (tennis or pickleball) and Thursday (pickleball only) at the Loughlin Avenue Courts in Cos Cob, from 9-11.

HEARTS: **JIM DEAN** summarized the 6 games at two tables by 8 men. Winners were **LOU TROVATO, JACK SWEGER, JIM DEAN, JOHN STANKUNAS**, and **GRANT PERKINS**. Moon Shots: **LOU TROVATO, JACK SWEGER, JOHN STANKUNAS**, and **GRANT PERKINS**. **JOHN STANKUNAS** is next week's captain. Play is at the Old Greenwich Civic Center on Wednesdays at 1pm.

GOLF: **BOB PHILLIPS** reported that 19 men enjoyed excellent conditions, but lots of confusion and delays by players preceding the RMA gang. The lowest score was 88 by **TONY COCCHI**. Nine of the 14 who played 18 holes finished under 100. **GRAN BURGESS** shot closest to the pin on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole; **JIM SANTORA** did it on 15. **MIKE AMBROSINO** hit the longest drive on the 17<sup>TH</sup>.

TAI CHI: **WILL MORRISON** reminded everyone that beginner sessions are from 3 to 4pm on Mondays, while the advanced class is on Wednesdays, both at the Senior Center. There will be no classes the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>; **WILL** will (love this word combo) be traveling.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

Mark Albertson, an adjunct history professor at Norwalk Community College, was introduced by **STEVE BOIES**. Mark traced the life of Joseph Stalin (born Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili), 1878-1953. He was a Georgian revolutionary and Soviet politician who led the Soviet Union from the mid-1920s until 1953. He was General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1922 (taking over from Lenin, who had suffered several strokes) until 1952 and was then Premier (1941-1953). A communist ideologically committed to the Leninist interpretation of Marxism, Stalin formalized these ideas as Marxism-Leninism; his own policies are known as Stalinism but were administered as a de facto dictator. His father was a drunken cobbler who

beat the young Stalin frequently, which surely influenced his later brutal behavior towards his “enemies.” Although his mother sent him to a seminary, he was only interested in revolutionary literature, left before graduation, and did not have any contact with his mother for 40 years. In his youth, he served 6 prison terms (Siberia gulag) for various crimes (robbery, etc.). Stalin joined with Lenin as head of the Bolshevik faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party determined to bring down the proletariats who used serfs to work the land and factories as indentured servants. After the Russian Revolution in 1917, banks, other financial institutions and large companies were nationalized. Although Stalin is regarded more of a state capitalist than a communist, his name is synonymous with totalitarianism. Although he was responsible for millions of deaths of his own people due to his brutal machinations throughout his leadership, he was responsible for the massive industrialization of the Soviet Union between 1927 and 1949, which was a major factor in their victory over the Nazis in WWII and for making the USSR the second strongest, atomic bomb holding world power. When he died in March 1953, Nikita Khrushchev became Premier.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks of the reservation or the reservation will be canceled. Buses depart from the St. Catherine Church parking lot on Riverside Avenue opposite the church. Contact persons are listed with each event.

**PepsiCo Sculpture Gardens Tour, Sept. 19.** RMA member **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** will lead a guided tour of the 45 works by the 20th century’s leading artists. An upscale buffet lunch will follow at the Doral Arrowood Resort. The full buffet will cost \$40 or the extensive salad bar is \$25. Transportation is self-drive. Contact **JIM FISHBEIN**. Status: Waitlisted.

**Wave Hill, along the Hudson River in Riverdale, October 10th** from 9 to 11am; two-hour guided tour, free gift, and 10% discount on any purchase. See [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org). Lunch with extensive, generous menu (yes, lobster included) at The Lobster House on City Island, \$110pp. Bus departs St. Catherine’s at 8:00am. Contact **MAURICE KROHN** ([maurice142@optonline.net](mailto:maurice142@optonline.net)). Status: Looking for at least 7 more to reach the required minimum of 25.

### **NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER**

**Wes Haynes**, *The Merritt Parkway: History and Future of a National Treasure*

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**RMA 2019 Calendar**

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Mondays	9:00am to 11:00am	Summer Tennis or Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays April through September	Various 8:00am to 11:00am Tee Times	Golf	Harris Griffith Golf Course
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr. 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00am to 11:00am	Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
<b>RMA Special Events</b>			
September 12, 2019	10:30am	ANNUAL RMA PICNIC	Greenwich Point Park
September 19, 2019	10:00am	PepsiCo Kendal Sculpture Gardens	Purchase, NY
October 10, 2019	9:00 to 11:00am	Wave Hill Tour	Riverdale, NY
November 13, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL RMA BANQUET	Tamarack Country Club

