



# 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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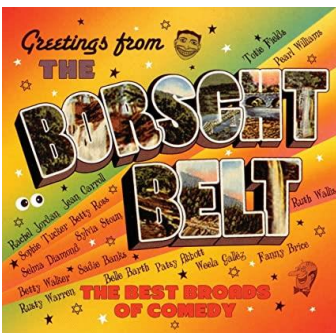
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*“A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.”*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

The day after the national election, our own President, **RUSS HARDEN**, opened the meeting efficiently, with no partisan bickering, at 10:00 am sharp. “We Are the RMA” boomed from our speakers on cue and Old Glory began flapping on our screens. When the designed pledge leader could not be found **RUSS** smoothly filled in and recited the pledge of allegiance as well. (Maybe we should send *him* to the White House!)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS



Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** made a few brief remarks and then regaled the eager throng with a string of COVID and “Borscht Belt” jokes, which were especially funny to those old enough to know what the “Borscht Belt” was (which would be most of the RMA).



Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** followed with a brief report that there were 58 in attendance at the virtual meeting, and that the only birthday of the week was that of **DON CONWAY**, who turned 83. He got a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday” (which is older than any of us and now out of copyright). No guests and no inductees this week.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reports that he has closed out the effort to collect dues from non-renewing members, and turned over to the Membership Chair a list of 20 persons who either did not pay and requested to go on “inactive status,” or did not respond to repeated emails or phone messages about maintaining active status. This leaves us with 219 active, paid-up members.

No report from Visiting this week (which is, in a way, a good thing) but also no Human-Interest story (bad thing). President **HARDEN** threatened to subject us to a story that he has been holding in reserve if someone doesn’t come up with one. Be warned!

This led us to a brief introduction by Program Committee member **PETER UHRY** to this week’s 11:00 am speaker, Marc Jaffe, Chief Executive Officer of the Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County. Next week’s speaker, previewed by **BOB MEANY**, will be historian Dr. Stephen Wertheim, who will speak on the subject of his new book, *Tomorrow the World: The Birth of U.S. Global Supremacy*. He will address the question of whether U.S. military dominance is suited to the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **AND NOW, THE SPORTS REPORT!**

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** announced that last Friday we had four players play three matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. Winning the trifecta with three wins and no losses was **BRIAN MAHONEY**. The winners of the first match were **BRIAN** and **BILL FAKUNDINY**, second match were **BRIAN** and **BILL HOWLAND**, and final match were **BRIAN** and **SAM MARASSO**. Way to go, **BRIAN**! This week’s captain will be **STEVEN STEIN**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** advises members that “Tai chi will improve your balance and flexibility and your golf and tennis games, according to **GRANVILLE BURGESS** and **GEOFFREY BURGE**.” Online sessions are held Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 pm. Zoom info is <https://zoom.us/j/99622029436>, Meeting ID: 996 2202 9436, Passcode: raisehands. Beginners are welcome. Private individual and small group sessions are also available. For further info contact **WILL** at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com).

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** steps in with the following. “Last Thursday’s walk was cancelled due to rain. On Thursday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, ten intrepid RMA walkers hiked a total of 3.9 miles in the Thirteen Bridges trail area of Rockefeller State Park in Westchester County. We also walked

the loop up Eagle Hill where we had a distant view of the Mario Cuomo Bridge and the Hudson River. Again, some mild fall color and many trees still full of green or brown leaves. It was a nice warm day!" Your Scribe can attest that this was a most enjoyable walk.

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** filled in with an impromptu bridge report, saying that "Some members of the Bridge group met Friday afternoon. The following people played: **ANDRE MAZUREK, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, ED MASTOLONI, and TONY COCCHI.**" A good time was had by all.

There was no Hearts report.

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** announced that a new member, **ARNOLD GORDON**, had been added to the Nominating Committee.

**RUSS** then adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 am.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

Beginning at 11:00 am sharp, **PETER UHRY** introduced the day's featured speaker, Marc Jaffe, Chief Executive Officer of the Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County. Marc graduated from Columbia University where he earned a BA in political science and a law degree. He has held executive positions in publishing across many media, including computer software, videogames, ebooks, and publishing, for companies including Vizacom, Simon & Schuster and Rodale Press. He has worked for years with the Harlem-based DREAM Charter School youth program, providing opportunities for, and recognizing individual potential of, inner-city youth. For the last seven years he has been with the CLC.

CLC is a multi-location resource designed to prepare a child for the educational process. Beginning with infants as young as six weeks old, CLC works to empower children with the tools to ensure readiness for traditional schooling.

Among the points made by Marc were that (1) there is a dramatic shortage of early educational opportunities, especially for children under three years of age; (2) this is despite the fact that 90% of brain development occurs before the age of five; (3) CLC of Fairfield serves 23,000 children aged six weeks to five years, at numerous locations; (4) CLC not only prepares the youngest children for further education but also allows their parents to work; (5) CLC is more efficient than the government at this work; (6) CLC primarily feeds students into the Stamford Public Schools and Stamford's Waterside private school; (7) there is a quantifiable ROI (return on investment) in terms of improved performance of the students during their later educational years; (8) the CLC is currently under considerable financial pressure, due to

the COVID pandemic which has caused some locations to close, and caused funding (67% from the government) to dry up. CLC is, he emphasized, under resourced.

Video of the talk may be accessed through the RMA web site or directly at <https://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos>

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Historian Dr. Stephen Wertheim, who will speak about his new book, *Tomorrow the World: The Birth of U.S. Global Supremacy*. He will address the question of whether U.S. military dominance is suited to the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week's CBB scribe will be **JOE MANCINELLI**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **JOE** at [jlmanc@optonline.net](mailto:jlmanc@optonline.net).

**NOTE TO RMA Members:** The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **JOE MANCINELLI** at [jlmanc@optonline.net](mailto:jlmanc@optonline.net) if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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### RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi <b>Beginner</b>	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi <b>Advanced</b>	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com

Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
<b>RMA Special Events</b>			
On Going Through Nov. 19th		RMA New Covenant Center FOOD DRIVE	Michael Ambrosino @ brooklynoil@yahoo.com