

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

Man needs, for his happiness, not only the enjoyment of this and that, but hope and enterprise and change” – Bertrand Russell

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by **PETER BERG**. Song leader **GRAN BURGESS**, accompanied by pianist **JIM SANTORA**, then led the RMA in singing “America the Beautiful,” “It Had To Be You,” and “On the Sunny Side of the Street.” Mentor for the day was **JACK WEIR**, and Scribe, **BOB SHULLMAN**. **MICHAEL** then made the following announcements:

- There will be no in person or formal Zoom meeting next Wednesday, November 24. However, there will be an informal “chat Zoom session” for those who would like to participate starting at 9:45. Additionally there will be no meeting on December 29.
- The food drive to benefit the Covenant House in Stamford was a major success with the delivery of a large amount of food and 200 pairs of socks. **LEN CARUSI** and **JOE MANCINELLI**, who led the drive, then gave a very informative photo presentation to the membership of the Covenant House’s facilities.
- Thanks to **JOE MANCINELLI** and his committee on a job well done for arranging the annual RMA banquet at Tamarack Country Club last week. (See pictures at end of bulletin)
- On Veterans Day morning, starting from Pasta Verde restaurant, which generously provided a complimentary breakfast, 22 members walked down Greenwich Avenue to participate in the ceremony at the old post office in Greenwich’s annual salute to veterans.

- **MICHAEL** then noted that the \$13.85 in overpayments he had received for the recent golf luncheon was donated to Covenant House.



RMA Volunteers at Covenant House



Marching in the Veterans Day Parade

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** announced that the daily coronavirus positivity rate in Connecticut has jumped to its highest level in 12 weeks, according to data released yesterday afternoon by the state Department of Public Health. The current rate is 4.31 percent, the highest daily COVID-19 infection level since Aug. 31. Many of the infected had breakthrough cases. In Greenwich, there has been a double-digit increase in cases among students, teachers and staff in the public schools. He then highly recommended that members get a booster shot, no matter what vaccine they have already had. And if members want a special incentive and wish to do some traveling abroad, book a trip to Vienna, Austria, where a famous brothel is offering free entrance if one gets a free shot while there.

(<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/rcna5272>).

ARNOLD then announced we have lost a number of our former members recently. James Oliver Starkweather became an RMA member in November 1989. He passed away on October 22nd of this year. Jim was a very experienced and energetic sailor; **ARNOLD** is looking for someone who knew him who can deliver an RMA memorial. Please contact **ARNOLD** (ajgordo@verizon.net; 203-340-9336). His obituary can be found here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/greenwichtime/name/james-starkweather-obituary?id=31277326>

ARNOLD then planned to introduce **BOB CAREY** to tell a joke or two, but since **BOB** could not attend this meeting, **ARNOLD** pinch-hit for him by telling a number of jokes.

Membership chair **PETER STERN** then followed with 12 birthday announcements:

- **DON CONWAY** turned 84
- **BILL WIGGIN** reached 94
- **PETER DODGE** attained 79
- **BRUCE PANTANO** turned 82
- **BOB SIMMS** left the 50's and turned 60
- **STEVE MYERS** hit 85
- **PETE ARTURI** progressed to 95
- **CHARLEY LAND** is now 83
- **MARK FOX** hit 74
- **FRANK LEE** turned 91
- **DERYCK DUNCALF** also progressed to 95
- **ARNOLD STANCELL** attained 85

Attendance was reported as 86 in-person plus four on Zoom, for a total of 90 members. In addition, three guests were welcomed.

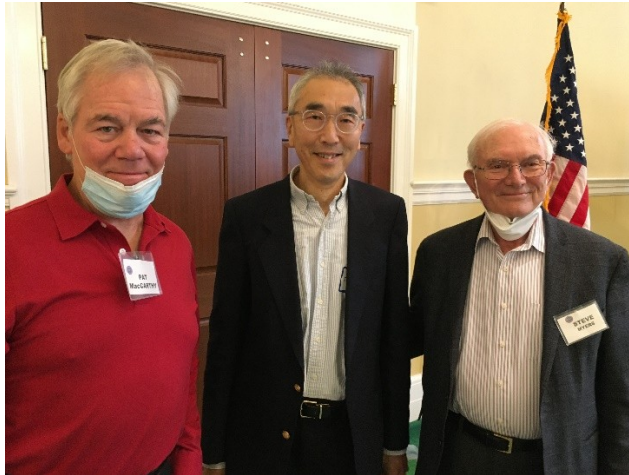
George Catlett, guest of **HORST TEBBE** and **BILLY LONDON**

Tim Alexander, guest of **DON ROTZIEN**

Dick Williamson, guest of **STEVE BOIES**

Inductions: Welcome to...

FRED WU, nominated by **STEVE MYERS**, seconded by **PAT MACCARTHY**, and approved unanimously. **FRED** is a relatively new retiree who attained his Ph.D from MIT and spent much of his working career at IBM. As far as his current involvement in the community, **FRED** is currently the Treasurer of the Greenwich Symphony.



New member **FRED WU** flanked by sponsors
PAT MACCARTHY (l) and **STEVE MYERS** (r)

JACK WEIR then came to the microphone and discussed starting up the Public Relations Committee whose primary role is to publicize the RMA and assist in attracting new members.

Next up was **JOHN FEBLES** who reviewed Volunteer Hours and awarded the RMA Service Certificate to ten members with the most volunteer hours:

RUSS HARDEN, 818 hrs.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO, 748 hrs.

HORST TEBBE, 691 hrs.

ALAN GUNZBURG, 635 hrs.

JEFF JUNKER, 506 hrs.

JOHN FEBLES, 504 hrs.

BOB RIMMER, 287 hrs.

ARNOLD GORDON, 237 hrs.

MAURICE KROHN, 226 hrs.

TIM BROOKS, 221 hrs.



Ten volunteers receive RMA Service Awards

JOHN then switched to another important topic, the Salvation Army's need for volunteers for the Salvation Army Kettles Drive at the Acme Supermarket in Riverside Commons shopping center. The dates are Nov. 26th-27th and Dec. 3rd-4th from 10 am to 6 pm for two-hour shifts. The Salvation Army is in dire need to help the most destitute in these very difficult times. **JOHN** posted the signup sheets on the back of the Meeting Hall and members can also reach him to volunteer and get more information at jfebles13@gmail.com or at 203-550-5049.

KLAUS JANDER then came up to the front to thank those who recently volunteered to assist the Woman's Club of Greenwich Volunteers at their annual Charitable Holiday Boutique on November 12 and 13. Following the event the Woman's Club expressed its sincere appreciation to the RMA for its assistance.

ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN gave a very informative presentation about Grace Farms in New Canaan. On October 20, seven of the RMA's weekly walking group enjoyed an unusual bucolic and architectural experience only a half hour from Greenwich. It was at Grace Farms, an 80-acre nature center in New Canaan, Connecticut, owned and operated by the Grace Farms Foundation, which supports nature and other initiatives, and encourages public participation.

All walkers agreed it was an extraordinary place to visit. Approximately 77 of Grace Farms' 80 acres are preserved in perpetuity as open meadows, woods, wetlands, and ponds with more

than 750 trees, 7500 shrubs, flowers and a vegetable garden. The walkers enjoyed over two miles of easy walking trails during their three-hour visit.

The highlight of the Farms is the award-winning \$67 million building known as the “River” because of the way it meanders through the rolling terrain. It was completed in 2015 after a two-year construction period. The Tokyo-based SANAA architectural firm was chosen to design a structure that is “the fluid integration of inside and outside space, producing environments rich in social and spiritual potential.”

Under the continuous roof are five glass-enclosed dedicated areas that can host a variety of activities and events, while maintaining a constant sense of the surrounding environment. The “River” building sections are: the Sanctuary, a 700-seat amphitheater; the Library, a staffed library with resources related to Grace Farms Foundation's initiatives; the Commons, a community gathering space and dining room (our food at lunch was imaginative, healthy and delicious); the Pavilion, a welcome reception and conversation space; and the Court, a multifunctional recreational space with a basketball court.

Grace Farms has five large permanent contemporary art installations by Thomas Demand, Olafur Eliasson, Teresita Fernandez, Beatriz Milhazes, and Susan Philipsz located around the grounds. Grace Farms offers various programs for visitors. On the day the walkers visited there were programs on materials, architectural elements, highlights of the garden, and family activities. Future events listed on their web page included a fall forest walk, “Design for Freedom & Sustainable Materials Tour”, and an event with the poet Tracy K. Smith. Grace Farms Foundation states its “mission is to pursue peace through five initiatives — nature, arts, justice, community, and faith — and Grace Farms, a SANAA-designed site for convening people across sectors. Our stake in the ground is to end modern slavery and gender-based violence, and create more grace and peace in our local and global communities.”

The site is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday each week, opening noon on Sundays, 10 am on the other days. There is no entry fee but there are charges to individual events. The address is 365 Lukes Wood Rd, New Canaan. Information is available at <https://gracefarms.org> or by calling 203-920-1702.

LEN CARUSI notes that the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services has announced a generous tax amnesty program for taxpayers with delinquent or outstanding tax obligations to the state. It is available until January 31, 2022. The DRS will potentially forgive all penalties and 75% of interest due. If you have questions, you can contact **LEN** at lencarusi@gmail.com.

FUN AND GAMES

1. **Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported that on Thursday, Nov 11, the Walkers met at the Greenwich YWCA and enjoyed a walk in the neighborhood to the north and west, starting with the Putnam Cottage area. Four of the eight then peeled off later to join the RMA Veterans walkers on Greenwich Avenue. On Monday, Nov 15, four Walkers (the guide, **JEFF JUNKER**, plus **JOHN DENNE**, **CRO MARTIN** and **TAD LARRABEE**) went on a nice relaxed hike for about 7.2 miles along the Palisades on the west side of the Hudson River and up to Rockland Lake where they enjoyed their lunch with a nice view over the Hudson, getting back to their car before the light rain.

2. **Tennis:** **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported this week's opening round winners were **ANDRE** and **STEVE STEIN** as well as **PETER ORBANOWSKI**. The final round winners were again **ANDRE** and **PETER** as well as **JOE MANCINELLI** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**.

3. **Platform Tennis:** There were nine players for both courts for lively play on a beautiful paddle day. Members play from 10 am to 11 am on Tuesdays at Loughlin Field in Cos Cob.

4. **Bridge:** There were six players and notable total scores were **TONY COCCHI** at 2730, **ED MASTOLONI** at 2330, **ANDRE MAZUREK** at 2260 and **JOHN FEBLES** at 2250.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Today's speaker, Martin Majkut, was introduced by **HOLLISTER STURGES** and **STEVE BOIES**, a former symphony board member, who then conversed with Majkut for about an hour about his upbringing and musical experiences. Majkut is the second of the five candidates competing for the position of musical director and conductor of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra. He discussed his approach to conducting and the music he loves.

Born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia), Majkut earned his Ph.D. in conducting at the Academy of Performing Arts while serving as Assistant Conductor of the Slovak Philharmonic. Majkut came to the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar in 2003 and earned a D.M.A. in 2008 from the University of Arizona. He also studied with Gianluigi Gelmetti at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy and Salvador Mas Conde at the Wiener Meisterkurse in Vienna, Austria.

Majkut has been serving as Music Director of the Rogue Valley Symphony in Ashland, Oregon since 2010. The RVS has experienced a remarkable growth under his leadership and received national recognition for its ambitious programming. Majkut also discussed his current experiences as the Music Director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra in New York City, a position he has held since 2017 that is very different from his position with the RVS in Oregon. As a surprising finish to his conversation with Steve, Majkut then went to the piano at the front of the hall and gave a delightful and quick excerpt from one of Ravel's melodies.

For those interested in hearing how Martin conducts an orchestra, on November 20 and 21 Maestro Majkut will conduct the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra in a program of John Adams, *The Chairman Dances*; Ravel, *Piano Concerto*; and Beethoven, *Symphony No. 6*.

THE NEXT SPEAKER

On December 1, Gregory Kramer, Ph.D, the Superintendent of Parks and Tree Warden for the Town of Greenwich will be discussing the care and management of trees on town property.

ANNUAL RMA LUNCHEON/BANQUET

On November 10 the RMA held its first annual luncheon/banquet since before the pandemic, at the Tamarack Country Club. Approximately 180 members and spouses attended, enjoying fellowship, a fine meal, and entertainment by the Melody Men.



Meeting at the Reception



Good food and good company



The Melody Men Entertain



Eleven past presidents brought Don Conway
To his knee!

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Last week’s picture (next page) was taken at the 2012 annual RMA banquet and shows **CHUCK STANDARD**, at left, flaunting a boa during the Melody Men performance.



More blasts from the past next issue. If you have any pictures of past RMA activities, contact the Editor.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on December 1, will be the redoubtable →**ARNOLD GORDON**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **ARNOLD** at 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: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members' enjoyment. We welcome new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you are interested. Activity chairs should review the Calendar at the end of the CBB to make sure it is up to date.

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 www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2021 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe - onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:45 to 3:30 pm	Hearts at the Women's Club	John Kavanagh - jjkct176@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:45 to 3:30 pm	Bridge at The Women's Club	Andre Mazurek - mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Wednesdays	4:00 to 5:00 pm	"Tai Chi New Joiners" – Greenwich Commons	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

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