



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

"I've learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes."

Andy Rooney

Following the weekly rendition of the RMA anthem President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and noted today is the anniversary of our last RMA banquet and lamented our inability to gather for a banquet this year. He then called on **PETER BERG** to lead us in the pledge.

ARNOLD GORDON reminded everyone that not all Covid-19 protective masks are equal and recommended this article for explanations and recommendations:

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/cdc-confirms-masks-also-protect-the-wearer-outlines-which-ones-are-most-effective-205819204.html?guccounter=1>

ARNOLD also mentioned that all members will have received by now a message concerning an end-of-year RMA celebration event on December 23rd to celebrate the holidays and to kiss 2020 goodbye, having cursed us with the terrible, still prevalent virus pandemic. It will be an opportunity to engage in sorely missed fellowship. In addition to a program of jokes and music already arranged, he is looking for members to participate with contributions of their own choosing, such as stories, an unusual video, a musical performance, and anything your imagination allows. Please see the attached letter of invitation for more details.

CLICK HERE to see the attached link for full details on the RMA Holiday Celebration.

GEOFFREY BURGE told of the fellow on the golf course who was asked by his wife would he re-marry if she died and, if so, would he and his new wife share their bed. He answered no. But he wouldn't share her golf clubs because his new wife would be lefthanded.

GEOFFREY then noted that this year we celebrate the Retired Men's Association's 66th year serving the Greater Greenwich community through our founding principles of Volunteerism, Fellowship and Service. He said this year has been particularly difficult with the current challenging pandemic. Because of the pandemic, organizations like Meals on Wheels and Call-A-Ride, for example, didn't want drivers over the age of 70 anymore, to help protect the more vulnerable, and they had a younger population to draw on. Despite this loss of volunteer opportunities, we still had 135 members contribute 15,206 hours. This is well down from the prior year's reporting of 28,750 hours by 141 members. Our Melody Men contributed 876 hours by 21 men before their entertainment season was also cut short.

Our top three contributors were **PETER BERG, ALAN GUNZBURG** and **JEFF JUNKER**. **ALAN** and **JEFF** were tied for second place with 769 hours each and **PETER** reported 1,434 hours.

PETER has had a remarkably busy schedule volunteering as treasurer for a State House candidate and has spent over 40 hours per week on his campaign. He is a member of his inner circle and produced lists of voters with various criteria for canvassing and mailings. Separately he is chair of a standing committee of the Greenwich RTM, a non-partisan position. Most days, including weekends and evenings he works on civic matters.

JEFF JUNKER we all know as our hard-working treasurer and we thank him for his work.

ALAN GUNZBURG is a continually active Lions Club member and helps build awareness of vision disability challenges, he is an accessibility champion, disability inclusion specialist, blind advocate and more.

Our next ten top volunteers are **MIKE AMOROSO, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, HORST TEBBE, STEPHEN MARINO, WILL MORRISON, BOB RIMMER, MAURICE KROHN, PETER STERN, TAD LARRABEE** and **KEATING HAGMAN**.

The certificates of recognition are in the mail.

GEOFFREY thanked **PETER STERN** for his hard work as the previous Volunteer Committee chairman, and **TAD LARRABEE** for his work on the spreadsheet we use for recording the hours as well as printing this year's volunteer certificates. **GEOFFREY** noted he will be returning to Australia in May, and that **JOHN FEBLES** and **TONY COOCHI** will succeed him as co-chairs of the Volunteer Committee.

President **HARDEN** introduced the RMA Outstanding Service Award selection committee: **TAD LARRABEE, DON CONWAY** and **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**. The committee named **HORST TEBBE** and **HOLLISTER STURGES** as recipients of this year's Outstanding Service Award. The background information on these two gentlemen will be posted soon on our website under "Useful Links/Outstanding Service Awards."

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** noted little change to our financials other than golf receipts from **PAUL CAMPION**.

Membership chair **PETER STERN** welcomed back **ED TAYLOR** and **HENRY BAKER**, who have been absent from recent meetings, and noted the following birthdays: **CHARLEY LAND** (82); **MARK FOX** (73); **FRANK LEE** (90); **DERYCK DUNCALF** (94); **ARNOLD STANCELL** (84).

Visiting chair **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** recalled meeting with **JOE BOLDT**, who is doing well in his recovery from hip surgery. **ARNOLD GORDON** advised that **LARRY REBAK**, who is experiencing health issues, would welcome calls.

HOLLISTER STURGES reviewed the results of the recent speaker preference survey. He noted that 77 members responded to the survey and that the leading topics of interest included national/political, financial, legal, and social issues. Detailed survey results have been sent to all members. **HOLLISTER** noted that the Program Committee recognizes that some speakers, particularly political speakers, may take what to some are controversial positions on issues. The committee feels that, if the presentations are fair, controversial content is acceptable and to be expected, but that speakers will be advised that RMA meetings are not venues for advocating political positions.

JOHN FEBLES announced The Salvation Army has asked for kettle bellringers this holiday season. **JOHN** needs to identify the number of volunteers for the following locations and dates ASAP:

Acme, in the Riverside Shopping Mall each Friday and Saturday from November 27 through December 19.

Stop & Shop at 147 W Putnam each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from November 27 through December 20.

First Lights (if it is still on) in Old Greenwich on Dec. 5th.

Volunteers are asked for a two-hour commitment. Please let **JOHN** know, if you would like to volunteer for any of the locations and dates above. (c 203 550 5049; h 203 869 5343).

JOHN also reminded members that The Salvation Army Virtual Auction has been extended. Interested? Contact **JOHN** at (c 203 550 5049; h 203 869 5343; jfebles13@gmail.com).

ALAN GUNZBURG advised that The Greenwich Lions Grapefruit Sale is underway. This year's LIMITED-EDITION inventory of 500 cases Texas Ruby Red grapefruit and 100 cases navel oranges can be purchased at \$26 per case (Cash or check Made out to Greenwich Lions Foundation). Order by phone: Perrot Library 203 637-3888 and leave quantity needed and date and time you would like to pick up at the library.

Also look for Lions in bright yellow vests at their familiar Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich, Greenwich Point entrance, Cos Cob Firehouse, and the Transfer Station/holly hill lane (weather permitting.)

Despite having to postpone their spring fundraiser, the Lions succeeded in rejuvenating the Low Vision Center, conducting pediatric eye screenings at all elementary schools across Town, Funding summer camp scholarships for visually impaired youngsters, making grants to local agencies working to alleviate food insecurity, and much more.

Please support the Lions by purchasing a case or more of Texas Ruby Red Grapefruit on sale now. People can also make a direct contribution the Lions via the annual appeal. Checks to Greenwich Lions Foundation can be mailed to P.O. Box 130 Old Greenwich 06870

HUMAN INTEREST

JOE MANCINELLI recalled an incident in his teen years, when he and his friends decided to visit



a mysterious castle in Livingston, NJ. Abandoning their cars at the entrance to the castle grounds, they proceeded up a long driveway to a garden filled with flowers and statuary, including a statue of a well-dressed man on horseback, the Godfather's Garden. From the garden, they approached the castle, but they encountered barking dogs and heard a gunshot. Frightened, they ran. Joe was separated from his

friends, but was shortly found by police, who wanted to know what he and his friends were up to. They learned that the castle was the home of a Mafia Don. Joe later learned that the Don was the model for Tony Soprano of the popular TV series.

PROGRAMS

ARNOLD GORDON noted that today's speaker will be Damien Cregeau, a nationally recognized scholar of the American Revolution with ancestry from that era. He is a sought-after speaker on Revolution subjects. He will tell us about some surprising history of Alexander Hamilton, one of our most important and celebrated founders. Damien has an interesting history in his Cregeau's presentation will be on "Major General Alexander Hamilton's Military Career" ARNOLD suggested more interesting talks and articles on the Revolution by today's speaker and others can be found at these sites:

<https://allthingsliberty.com/author/damien-cregeau/>

<https://damiencregeau.wixsite.com/misterhistory>

<http://discoveringhamilton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Opening-a-Door-to-Their-Emancipation-Alexander-Hamilton-and-Slavery.pdf>

Next week's speaker will be Radley Horton, Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Science, Associate Reach Scientist at the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University. His topic will be: "The Heat id on: The Climate Imperative."

RMA FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the RMA membership, the Fifth Annual Stamford New Covenant House Food Drive was a huge success. As a result of the RMA generosity, approximately \$2300.00 was contributed to purchase food items for those in need. **CLICK HERE** to see **MICHAEL AMBROSINO'S** "Thank You Letter" and a "List of Items Purchased" for this worthy cause.



FUN AND GAMES

DON CONWAY reported that on Nov 12th Hearts addicts **MICHAEL AMBROSINO, TOM HEALY, JOHN STANKUNAS** and **GRANT PERKINS** played 5 games. **GRANT** won twice and the others each won one. Moon shot (1) by **TOM HEALY**.

On Nov 17th - the same group played again, 5 games in all. This time **JOHN** won two games and the others won one apiece. Moon shots came from **TOM HEALY** and **JOHN STANKUNAS**.

On Nov 17th, **ANDY HOLMES, JACK SWEGER, TOM MORONEY** and **DON CONWAY** played 5 games. **JACK** won three games and **ANDY** won 1 1/2 and **DON** won the other half (tie game). Moon shots came from **JACK** (2) and **ANDY** (1).

WILL MORRISON suggested practicing Tai Chi to achieve better balance – no pain, big gains!

- **Lower your risk of falling*** — by as much as 43% ... and your risk of injury by half!
- **Lift your mood*** — In 82% of studies, tai chi greatly improved mood and lowered anxiety. Plus, it's effective for treating depression drug-free.
- **Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00pm via Zoom.** Spouses are welcome. Several are regulars. Classes are almost full.
- Interested? Drop in at <https://zoom.us/j/99622029436>, passcode: raisehands
- Contact: **WILL MORRISON:** wdmorrison@gmail.com; *Harvard Medical School data

TAD LARRABEE said that last week's walk was cancelled due to weather. He said the walkers are planning a Marshlands walk on Thursday, Nov 19, which will be reported on next week. If you wish to join the walkers, please email **TAD LARRABEE** at tadlarra@optonline.net to add you name to the walker's list.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

ARNOLD GORDON introduced historian Damien Cregeau, who is a nationally recognized scholar of the American Revolution. Mr. Cregeau, speaking from the 1775 home of Revolutionary leader Jedediah Huntington, which he now owns, offered an intriguing look into the fascinating military career of Alexander Hamilton. Most Americans remember Hamilton as the country's first Secretary of the Treasury, who was instrumental in establishing the U.S. banking system. Before he became so engaged, he played a major role, as a military planner and aide to George Washington, in the success of the American Revolution. Through the 1770s, 80s and 90s he rose from captain to Major General and at the death of Washington was the highest ranked officer in the U.S. Army. As an artillery officer, he participated in several of the early engagements of the Revolution, including the battles at Trenton and Princeton. Because of his military skills, several generals requested he become their aide, but he rejected such offers until he was asked to become aide to Washington. Hamilton was noted for his organization skills. He secured the supplies that made it possible for Washington's army to survive Valley Forge, and he took the best ideas of Washington's generals and reorganized the Continental army. He managed successful spying operations and negotiated the repatriation of prisoners of war. He spoke French fluently and was Washington's chief liaison with the French military. At Yorktown he personally led a silent (bayonets only) attack on a key British position that led to Cornwallis' surrender. Following the Revolution, Hamilton was instrumental in putting down the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania, the first significant challenge to federal authority, and he founded the U.S. Coast Guard first known as the U.S. Revenue Service. Mr. Cregeau's presentation provided members and guests with important insights into the life of one of America's founding fathers.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

On November 25, our speaker will be Radley Horton, Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Science, Associate Reach Scientist at the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University. His topic will be: "The Heat id on: The Climate Imperative."

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **AV RIVEL**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **AV** at arivel@optonline.net.

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 Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	9:30 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	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
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com