

# 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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**SCRIBE: ED FARRELL**

*"Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets."*

--- Leonardo da Vinci

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting by introducing **JOE DOWLING** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **MICHAEL** then introduced song leader for the day, **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, who, accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano, led us in singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Over the River" and "Cabaret."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** told members that scribes often have difficulty with the reports provided by people making announcements. Written reports provided often are incomplete and written in hieroglyphics or chicken scratchings; many also do not include the name of the person who gave the report. **Please write clearly and proofread your reports. Ideally, you would send them via e-mail on or before the day of the meeting; after all, you know what you will say in advance. It is a great advantage for the scribe, since he can copy and paste the content and edit it as needed, in preparing his draft CBB.** Those of you providing reports on games and the like, please spell out the full names of people you mention; too often only a first name is provided.

**ARNOLD** then offered a moving memorial for our late RMA member, **CHET RISIO**, who passed away on November 6, 2021, at age 93. Please see the attached memorial.

### [Memorial for Chet Risio](#)

**ARNOLD** introduced **AV RIVEL**, who told a story of an obsessive woman who mopped her kitchen floor daily, murdered her husband when he repeatedly tracked dirt on that floor, and wouldn't let the police investigate until the kitchen floor was spotless.

**TAD LARRABEE** announced there will be a Greenwich Choral Society Concert on Saturday, December 18 at 4 pm. The Greenwich Choral Society will be presenting its first live concert in two years. This is an opportunity to share our hope for a better tomorrow with candles, bells, and song. The seasonal music is excellent and includes a number of reasonably short and challenging pieces that should delight. The venue will be the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Greenwich High School, 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich, CT. Tickets may be purchased on-line at <https://www.gcs-ct.org/>. **TAD** noted that all audience members will be required to show proof of vaccination and wear a mask while in the PAC. In addition, all choristers have been fully vaccinated and all will be double tested – negative immediately before the concert.

**TAD** then took a moment to re-introduce the RMA membership to our website. On this site is you will find almost anything you want to know about RMA. The website can be found at <https://greenwichrma.org>; however, if you have difficulty remembering that address, you can always Google “Greenwich old men” and you will see the RMA website link a few bizarre titles from the top.

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reminded members that the RMA **will not** meet on days when the Greenwich schools close because of snow; however, meetings **will be held**, when schools have delayed openings because of snow. **MICHAEL** thanked members for adhering to the First Presbyterian Church's parking restrictions. He also mentioned that human interest story tellers are needed for the December 22 membership meeting, and that the Melody Men will be on-hand to entertain.

**JOHN FEBLES** conveyed his and The Salvation Army's thanks to this year's bell ringers: **JIM BUTLER, GRAN BURGESS, PETER UHRY** and **JEFF JUNKER**. **JEFF** augmented bell ringing by offering selections on the trombone. A little over \$300 was collected. After 11 years of

coordinating bell ringing **JOHN** is stepping down, and is in need of a replacement. Please contact **JOHN** at [jfeblis13@gmail.com](mailto:jfeblis13@gmail.com) or **ANDRE MAZUREK** at [Mazurek.a.i@gmail.com](mailto:Mazurek.a.i@gmail.com).

[Click Here to Read About Salvation Army](#)

**Volunteer Hours:** **JOHN FEBLES** reported volunteer hours for the 28 men reporting in October (outside 258; inside 163) and the 29 men reporting in November (outside 402; inside 238). He noted it is important to let the town know of the RMA's volunteerism, and urged all members to report volunteer activities.

**Visiting:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** advised that **PETER STERN** fell, and badly damaged his shoulder. He will require surgery before the end of the year.

**Membership:** Subbing for **PETER STERN, ED FARRELL** reported 77 members present in person or on Zoom, and two guests present. Guests were: Alex Kosseim, guest of **JON TONER**, and Bob Curry, guest of **HORST TEBBE**. This week's birthday boys are: **DWIGHT CHAPIN** (81); **PAT YUEN** (69); **TOM MORRISON** (86); and **PETER STERN** (77).

**HORST TEBBE** nominated Bob Curry for induction into the RMA. Bob has been a corporate counselor and manager, specializing in transactions, financing and corporate governance. His experience includes sitting with boards of directors and related committees of public companies for more than 35 years, both as inside counsel and as a senior partner in national law firms. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law. He recently became a Greenwich resident. **BOB** was unanimously welcomed to the RMA.



Bob Curry (I) and Horst Tebbe

**Program:** **HOLLISTER STURGES** indicated that today's speaker will be Mark Contreras, President and CEO of Connecticut Public Broadcasting, who will speak on the expanding role of public broadcasting in local communities. **HOLLISTER** said next week's speaker will be Andrew Woelflein, Presiding Trustee, Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University, who will speak on the invasion of Russia in 1812, an account based on the illustrated journal of Faber du Faur, a German artillery officer allied with France.

### **FUN AND GAMES**

**Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, was a delightfully warm day which we enjoyed by starting our walk in Rye, NY, at the Crawford Park and enjoying a long but not too challenging stroll through several of the local villages and neighborhoods. With winter weather approaching, walkers will be focusing on safe walks away from ice and snow. This means that they will be more cautious about the weather and most walks will be in more urban settings; so please join the RMA walkers and send your ideas for where you prefer to walk to **TAD** at [tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net).

**Bridge:** **ANDRE MAZUREK** noted last week's winners were: Alex Kosseim (2540); **TONY COCCHI** (2490); **JOHN FEBLES** (2200); **ED BERMAN** (2180). **ANDRE** offered special recognition to **ED BERMAN** on his successful debut. **ANDRE** said bridge players meet at the Greenwich Women's Club each Wednesday at 1:15pm. Newcomers are welcome. Contact **JOHN FEBLES** at [jfebles13@gmail.com](mailto:jfebles13@gmail.com).

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** noted that due to the weather the Tai Group now meets at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich at 4:00 pm on Thursdays. Please email **WILL** at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com) to register and be notified of schedule changes. To learn more about Tai Chi visit [experiencetaichi.org](http://experiencetaichi.org)

**Indoor Tennis:** **JOHN KNIGHT** reported the following results from play on December 3. Opening round court one winners were **JOHN KNIGHT** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. Court two winners were **JIM FISHBEIN** and **RALPH NEWITTER**. Final round court one winners were **JOE MANCINELLI** and **RALPH NEWITTER**. Court two winners were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **STEVE STEIN**. Next week's captain will be **RANDY MOTLAND**.

**Platform Tennis:** **JAMES DEAN** reported platform tennis is played every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. On December 7, seven players played 20 games.

**Hearts:** **JOHN KNIGHT** provided the following results from last week's games: Table one winners were **JACK SWEGER** (2); **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (1). Moon shots: **JACK SWEGER** (3); **JOHN STANKUNAS** (1). Table two winner was **DON CONWAY** (3). Moon shots: **ANDY HOLMES** (1). Next week's captain will be **JACK SWEGER**.

**Book Review:** **AV RIVEL** offered a review of the book, *Deacon King Kong*, by James McBride. The story takes place in Brooklyn in the 1960s, when a shocked community learns that a respected deacon of a local church has shot a teenager in a public place. A cast of Damon Runyon like characters searches for the deacon's motive for the shooting and discovers all is not what it seems to be.

### **Today's Speaker**

**HOLLISTER STURGES** introduced Mr. Mark Contreras, President and CEO of Connecticut Public Broadcasting, who spent 30 years in the newspaper industry with Scripps and Pulitzer publications and several years as Dean of the School of Communications at Quinnipiac University, before joining Connecticut Public Broadcasting. Mr. Contreras began his remarks by citing the decline in U.S. newspaper readership in recent years that has led to the demise of many newspapers, especially local and family-owned newspapers, as well a significant drop in the number of reporters. These conditions, he suggested, have contributed, at least in part, to declining trust in the news and in government; however, he believes there is a real and

growing thirst for local news. Connecticut Public Broadcasting's role, as he sees it, is to satisfy that thirst through a focus on local programming and, through its affiliation with national public networks PBS and NPR, the best in national programming. To this end, Mr. Contreras explained Connecticut Public Broadcasting is in the process of expanding its reach into all areas of the state with a current focus on Fairfield County. He noted the installation of new local signal power, recently improved radio reception the length of I95, and the upcoming assignment of eight reporters to the area to illustrate Connecticut Public Broadcasting's growing commitment to comprehensive coverage of topics of interest to Fairfield listeners, including art, science religion, government, children's topics, etc.

Mr. Contreras said listeners' interests are tracked to ensure various interest groups' needs are addressed, and he cited the program, *Report for America*, as evidence that special needs are being met. In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Contreras said that the content of programming on Connecticut Public Broadcasting's 43 platforms remains politically neutral. He noted that listeners are shareholders, and that his company is dependent, in part, on listener contributions.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Contreras said his goal for Connecticut Public Broadcasting is to make it the one place on the dial listeners will choose for "all-about-Connecticut" stories.

### **SPECIAL FEATURE**

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few "historical" RMA pictures, with a question of the week. At left: from last summer's picnic, that's **FRANK SCARPA** eyeing one of the games. At right: who is that arriving at the 2017 RMA banquet? And what college did he build to academic excellence?



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 15, will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **JOE** at [jangland@optonline.net](mailto:jangland@optonline.net).

**ALL MEMBERS:** Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at [jfebles13@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

Visit our website at <https://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 – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Mark Geimer – <a href="mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com">mark.geimer@gmail.com</a>
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - <a href="mailto:jhdeanco@gmail.com">jhdeanco@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe - <a href="mailto:onehorst@optimum.net">onehorst@optimum.net</a> or Len Carusi at <a href="mailto:lencarusi@gmail.com">lencarusi@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	12:45 to 3:30 pm	Hearts at the Women’s Club	John Kavanagh - <a href="mailto:jjkct176@gmail.com">jjkct176@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	1:15 to 3:30 pm	Bridge at The Women’s Club	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</a>
Thursdays	4:00 to 5:00 pm	“Tai Chi New Joiners” – First Congregational Church, Old Greenwich	Will Morrison - <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - <a href="mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net">tadlarra@optonline.net</a>
Thursdays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Mark Geimer – <a href="mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com">mark.geimer@gmail.com</a>
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Tennis	Andy Holmes - <a href="mailto:andyholmes56@gmail.com">andyholmes56@gmail.com</a> )

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