

# 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: FRANK SCARPA**

*"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." - Samuel Johnson*

After a wide-ranging Zoom chat session, during which **HORST TEBBE** repeated his appeal for volunteers to assist him with the CBB video production, president **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** called the Zoom Membership Meeting to order by inciting **DON CONWAY** to lead the pledge. Then **LEN CARUSI** treated us to a video of Beyoncé singing the National Anthem. **MICHAEL** then noted that there would be no RMA meeting next week (12/29). The next meeting, on January 5, may have to be held on Zoom, pending discussion with the First Presbyterian Church on their COVID restrictions on that date.

**Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that **PETER STERN** will be undergoing surgery for his fractured humerus in the very near future. **KLAUS JANDER** is recovering well from his fractured leg.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** enhanced our knowledge of the eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah (or Festival of Lights), which extended this year from November 28 to December 6. The title of the feast day translates to "dedication" and harkens back to the second century BC and the dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. A single vial of olive oil was salvaged there, and it was able to last eight days in lighting the Menorah. Food is an important component of the festival, notably latkes (potato pancakes) and donuts.

**ARNOLD** then introduced today's three humorists. **STEVE MYERS**, in his debut appearance in this role, graced us with a story of some desperate nuns who were able to recruit some converts by using a gasoline-filled bedpan. **WAYNE de VRIES** then bestowed a new golf story upon us. Finally, **AV RIVEL** left us with a malaprop about "Round John Virgin".

**Outrageous Tie Contest:** There was a four way "tie" here, with excellent showings by runway models **AMBROSINO, PARKER, RIVEL** and **SCHWENDEMAN**.

**Membership:** **PETER STERN** noted 60 members in attendance on Zoom. **PETER** applauded the birthdays of **JOHN STANKUNAS**, celebrating his 81<sup>st</sup>, and **LYN KAUFMAN**, reaching 95. A raspy a cappella birthday song came through unmuted.

**Today's Speaker:** Andrew Winston will be re-scheduled. **Next Speaker:** **HORST TEBBE** noted that the January 5 speaker will be Méliisse Brunet, candidate for the Greenwich Symphony's Music Director. She is a cellist and a conductor with a fine resume.

#### **HUMAN INTEREST: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL EDITION**

**JIM SANTORA** took us back to his childhood days in the late 40's, describing his infatuation with Lionel trains and his anticipation of setting up his train set over a two-day period. He detailed his family participation in this "project" and the sense of competition with his neighborhood peers. A great nostalgic story. (**ARNOLD GORDON** provided a link to the Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany, and a detailed explanation on YouTube.)

<https://www.miniatur-wunderland.com/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACkmg3Y64\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACkmg3Y64_s)

**PAUL CAMPION**, with the video assistance of **LEN CARUSI**, provided us with a colorful and informative history of the Christmas tree. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries German citizens and settlers from Germany set up small evergreen trees with lighted candles. Used in Canada as early as 1780, they were still a rarity in the U.S. Then, in England, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (who was German) introduced the concept there. The practice then came to the US in 1852. Then, in 1853, President Franklin Pierce initiated the tradition of a Christmas tree on the White House lawn. In 1890, the first electric light bulbs were used here. 1931 marked the first Rockefeller Center tree. A beautiful history lesson from **PAUL**.

**JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** then entertained with a version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas", targeting political correctness. His take home message was "Peace on Earth". So very fitting.

### **GAMES PEOPLE PLAY**

**Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON** announced that two new classes will be offered at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich starting in January. The first "Tai Chi Workout" is a drop-in style class that focuses on developing balance, flexibility and resilient strength without having to learn a choreography. The second "Tai Chi Fundamentals Form" leverages a pre-set series of movements to develop mindfulness and improved health. The Workout class will be held at 9:30 am Mondays and be available through Zoom. The Fundamentals class starts 8:00 am Thursdays. Contact Will if you are interested, [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com)

**Bridge: ANDRE MAZUREK** reported eight players. Top scorers: **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 4,220, **JOHN FEBLES**, 3,930, **RON MURRAY**, 3,680, and **RON FRIEDMAN**, 3,600. **JOHN FEBLES** won two slams (one with **RON FRIEDMAN**), and **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **ALEX KOSSEIM** won one.

**Pickleball: PAT McCARTHY** reporting. Despite 29-degree weather on Monday, seven stalwarts showed up. All are welcome on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Courts.

**Hearts: JOE ANGLAND** reported on three tables. At one table, winnings were divided among **JOHN KNIGHT**, **JOHN STANKUNAS** and **JACK SWEGER**. At Table #2, **JIM DEAN** won two games and had a moon shot. **JACK WEIR** also won a game. At table #3. **PETER BERG** and **TOM HEALY** each had a win and a moonshot, and **RICK HOLZ** won one game.

**Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE** reported on a full dozen walkers around the back roads of Byram, under the guidance of **JEFF JUNKER**. A total of 3.5 miles were covered on a surprisingly warm day.

**Tennis: PETER UHRY** provided us with a poem that allowed a lot of names to get "immortalized" in the CBB.

T'was the last time for tennis.

The Wackers were ready

The scores were all over

Some players more steady.

**MAHONEY** and **FRISHMAN**

Proved winners on one.

**MANCINELLI** and **UHRY**

Lost-but also had fun.

**HOWLAND** and **GRAYSON**

Went down in defeat.

**DODGE** and **BILL FAK**

Found winning quite neat.

**Paddle Tennis:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that eight players had an enjoyable time.

**NEXT MEETING:** January 5, hopefully in person.

### SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. These photos are courtesy of **TAD LARRABEE**. At left: from last week, L-R that’s **WIN ADKINS** and **CHUCK STANDARD** (in Navy uniform) along with two Mets officials at a 2014 game where the Melody Men performed. At right: who is the Mets player presenting the American flag to **CHUCK**?



More blasts from the past next issue. Do you have any pictures of past RMA activities?

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next meeting, on January 5, will be →**FRED WU**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **FRED** at [fywu.wu@gmail.com](mailto:fywu.wu@gmail.com).

**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.

**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 <https://greenwichrma.org>.

## RMA 2021 CALENDAR

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities*</b>			
<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison - <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
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	12:30 pm	Bridge at The Women’s Club	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</a>
Thursdays	8:00 am	“Tai Chi Fundamentals” – 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