



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Joe Mancinelli** Graphics: **Av Rivel**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Joe Mancinelli, Chet Risio, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo**
Archivist: **Harold Frost**. Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek**. Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 33 DECEMBER 11, 2019 SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON

"It is better to be looked over than overlooked" and "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful." Mae West

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** opened the meeting at 10:04, when **ARNOLD GORDON** led us in the pledge. Song leader **ERF PORTER** led us in singing *This is My Country, Always, and My Wild Irish Rose*; **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** was at the Steinway. Corresponding Secretary **BOB CAREY** advised those who could not afford the increasing cost of medical insurance, should shoot a politician, go to jail for life and have all expenses paid by the government.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our President warned about online phishing and other scams that seem to be proliferating among some members as a result of co-opted e-mail addresses by the villains. When in Doubt Delete!

He also welcomed **ED PARKER** back from Texas.

The mood was somber when memorials were delivered for two of our recently departed members:

CHET RISIO, a friend of many years, reviewed the "life well lived" by **JIM MacKAY**, who joined the RMA in 1995. **JIM** died on December 4, 2019 at the age of 98. After serving in WWII, he began his career of 43 years at Greenwich Trust Bank on Greenwich Avenue, which over time became Fleet Bank from which **JIM** retired as First Vice President. He was a very active volunteer for church and civic organizations and was an avid and accomplished tennis player. He and his wife of 78 years, Catherine, had two daughters, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Christ Church on December 9th. RIP

Joined at the lectern by members of the A/V team (**DON CONWAY, STEPHEN MYERS, ED PARKER and HORST TEBBE**), **TONY COCCHI** eulogized stalwart RMA member **TED SPOOL** who died on December 6th at the age of 89 after a long bout with cancer. **TED** and **TONY** had been friends for over 40 years and their families were very close. **TED** sponsored **TONY** for RMA membership. As a civil engineer, **TED**

worked on many important projects such as the re-design of the US Embassy in Moscow and the Solow skyscraper building in New York City. Everyone remembers **TED** as an expert behind the video camera for many RMA speaker presentations. He also ran the outdoor tennis program for many years and was a driver for the Red Cross. He also enjoyed walking and bicycling and harvesting clams and oysters at Greenwich Point. He is survived by his wife Flo, two sons, and three grandsons. A Memorial Service will be held on December 22nd, but the arrangements are not complete at this time. RIP

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** told us that **JOHN KNIGHT** is recovering nicely from a second hip surgery and was in fact at the meeting. **RALPH VIGGIANO** was released from Greenwich Hospital and is battling cancer at home; he welcomes messages and calls (914-772-7185; bid2clubs@optonline.net). **JACK WEIR** is back on his feet after hip replacement surgery and bravely made it to the meeting. **DOUG FRANCEFORT**, however, is recovering at Nathaniel Witherell after suffering a broken hip and shoulder. Get well soon compatriots!

PROGRAM: **HOLLISTER STURGES** urged us all to stay to hear Page Knox, an adjunct professor in the Art History Department of Columbia University and a lecturer and educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. At this, her third RMA appearance, her topic is *Leonardo at the Louvre*. **HOLLISTER** then reminded everyone that next week, December 18, in place of our usual business meeting and speaker, we will have our annual RMA holiday party at our usual meeting place. Members, their guests and, for the first time, our community audience is invited to participate. Festivities will begin at 9:30 with refreshments and fellowship; at 11am under the direction of its founder and director Pamela Kuhn, The Angel Choir will perform selections from their repertoire, including holiday songs and Christmas carols. All will be encouraged to join in the singing.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported 87 members present. There were two guests, Peter Dodge (g/o **HORST** and **RON FRIEDMAN**) and Bill Featherston (g/o **PETER UHRY**). One new member was added to the fold. Inductee Mark Fox was introduced by **ANDY HOLMES** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. He received his BS in Chemistry from NYU and his medical degree from New York Medical College. After serving in the Navy as a frogman and battalion surgeon, he had his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and St. Vincent's Medical Center in NYC. He recently retired after 40 years of private and group practice. He and his wife, Janice, live in Cos Cob. A hearty welcome, **MARK**. Happy Birthday was sung to **TOM MORRISON**, 84, **PETER STERN**, 75, and **CHARLES ADAMS**, 76.

SPECIAL EVENTS: **DON CONWAY** and **MAURICE KROHN** invited members to bring their children and grandchildren to the next event, the Big Apple Circus on January 16, 2020 at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. A splendid lunch will follow at Café Fiorello.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **TONY COCCHI** provided the statistics for the week ending December 11th: 423 outside hours by 31 men and 158 RMA hours by 27 men; champ for the week was **BOB ROBINS** with 35 hours. **PLEASE NOTE:** Since there will be no business meeting next week and no meetings on December 25th and January 1st, remember to tally your Volunteer Hours for the next 3 weeks and report them at the January 8, 2020 meeting.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: ED MASTOLONI dealt the details. There were 6 players. Top scores were as follows: **RON FRIEDMAN** and **ANDRE MAZUREK** 1790, **TONY COCCHI** and **ED MASTOLONI** 1420, **FRANK LEE** and **JOHN FEBLES** 1310.

HEARTS: JIM DEAN summarized the 8 games at three tables by 12 men. Winners were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JACK SWEGER, PETER BERG, JOHN STANKUNAS, JOE DOWLING,** and **DON CONWAY**. Moon Shot: **DON CONWAY**. Next week's captain is **RICK HOLZ**.

INDOOR TENNIS: ANDY HOLMES lobbed the December 6th results our way. Court One winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **GEOFFREY BURGE**; Court 2, **RON FRIEDMAN** and **MIKE SMITH**. Captain for this week is **TOM HEALY**.

PLATFORM TENNIS: JIM DEAN reported that at this first outing of the new RMA activity, there were 9 players on December 10th at the two Loughlin Avenue courts. Four teams played six sets. Play is regularly scheduled for Tuesdays at 10am. If interested, contact **JIM** at jhdeanco@gmail.com or 203-550-0657.

TAI CHI: No report in **WILL MORRISON's** absence.

SHAKESPEARE GROUP: GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE mentioned that the group will attend a live performance of Kiss Me Kate, the musical version of the Bard's *Taming of the Shrew*, on January 8, 2020. All comers are welcome to join them. Contact **GEORGE** asap if interested (203-698-0710).

ROMEO: FRANK LEE said that good food, lots of parking, and much fun will be in store at Louie's (136 River Road Extension, Cos Cob; www.louiesrestaurantbar.com) for the first lunch since the "eating outers" reactivated the event. When? Monday, January 13th. Many have already signed up. If you would like to, contact **TONY COCCHI** (203-981-8307; anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu).

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Page Knox who has had many encounters with the works of Leonardo da Vinci, one of the greatest geniuses of all time. She described the contents of the ongoing, but sold out, exhibition of Leonardo's creations at the Louvre in Paris, which has more of his works than anywhere else. It was created for the occasion of the 500th anniversary of his death. Born out of wedlock on April 25, 1542 in Anchiano, a small town in Italy, he is buried in Amboise, France. Page explained that ironically, it is fortunate he was a bastard, which made him ineligible for the notary profession young men in those times would most likely have pursued. The goal of the exhibition was to dispel the common belief that he was just an eccentric genius with no direction. He observed and tried to understand the world and bring things to life. Page showed and explained the history of many of the art and sculpture

works on display; many had been subjected to a new technology, infrared reflectography, which reveals a painting's underdrawing's features which give clues to the evolution of the work and the techniques used. The exhibit was organized along three themes reflecting da Vinci's career and skills: use of light, shade, and relief; freedom to create and use new techniques which influenced all future painters; science, his need to understand the world. Many of his drawings were fantasies and amusements, but great ideas most of which were never put into practice. A polymath, his interests included geometry, mathematics, astronomy, anatomy, and engineering. His most famous painting, the Mona Lisa, which he worked on for 20 years was not part of the exhibition; it is in a separate viewing location. Ms. Knox did spend a lot of time covering the history of probably his second most famous painting, The Last Supper, full of intrigue and symbolism, basically about betrayal.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks of the reservation or the reservation will be canceled. Buses depart from the St. Catherine Church parking lot on Riverside Avenue opposite the church. Contact persons are listed with each event.

On January 16, 2020 the Big Apple Circus will perform at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. **MAURICE KROHN** and **DON CONWAY** said that lunch will be at Fiorello's Cafe at 1900 Broadway. The cost will be \$125 per person. The bus will leave from St. Catherine's at 8:30am. Get your reservations in as soon as possible (no meetings for two weeks after the December 18 holiday party). Contact **MAURICE** (718-536-6916, maurice142@optonline.net) or **DON** (203-962-4844, spiderduck4@gmail.com).

NEXT SPEAKER

Due to the holiday party on December 18th, there will be no speaker. The next meeting will take place on January 8th. The speaker will be Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs, Town of Greenwich: *How Can Greenwich Handle Rising Sea Levels.*

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA
Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

RMA 2019/2020 Calendar

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Platform Tennis	Loughlin Ave. Courts, Cos Cob
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr. 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
RMA Special Events			
January 16, 2020	8:30 am	Big Apple Circus	Lincoln Center