

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell,  
Frank Scarpa, Joe Angland, Jim Dean,  
Bob Shullman, Fred Wu**

Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

**VOLUME 69 NUMBER 41 May 25, 2022**

**SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON**

*“Washington appears to be filled with two kinds of politicians – those trying to get an investigation started, and those trying to get one stopped.” - Earl Wilson*

With help of **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**'s vigorous bell ringing, President **JOE MANCINELLI**, began the business meeting at 9:45. **GRAN BURGESS** not only led us in the Pledge, but conducted the singing with **JIM SANTORA** at the ivories. The selections were “America the Beautiful,” “Cabaret,” and “(You gotta have....) Heart.”

President **JOE** urged members to join the RMA contingent for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the corner of St. Claire Avenue and Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich at 9 am to prepare for the 10 am parade start. In honor of the holiday, he introduced the showing of a brief YouTube video featuring high school students in Louisville, KY, who on their own organized a massive chorus of fellow students to sing the national anthem from the many floors of a hotel atrium. It has become a tradition over the years.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** delivered a memorial tribute to Carl Van Aken, who died on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the age of 99. Carl lived in Cos Cob for 49 years and joined the RMA in 2000. For many years he organized an RMA investment club. His interesting life from a concentration camp in Germany to a successful business career in the U.S. can be found here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/greenwichtime/name/carl-vanaken-obituary?id=34598448>

**ARNOLD** then asked member **DOUG TAYLOR** to rise and announced that **DOUG** and his wife, Lois, celebrated their 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ARNOLD** offered members some opportunities for interesting town events. Greenwich Library has just announced that it will be conducting staff-led tours of the newly renovated facility on Saturday mornings at 11. It is easy to register in advance via the library calendar here: <https://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/9190449>.

Many members will remember a very entertaining musical presentation that Randall Acheson performed at one of our speaker programs in October 2016. Randall is the music master for the First Presbyterian Church. He is a much-lauded Steinway artist. You can enjoy another wonderful and sometime off-beat concert by Randall on Thursday, June 2, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall at Christ Church. All the profits will go to help Ukrainian refugees and families. For details, see this site:

<https://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/calendar/event/20220602/1856946/piano-concert-with-randall-atcheson>.

Another musical opportunity that might interest members is a free concert by Merlin, a classic rock group that will perform on the lawn behind the Greenwich Historical Society from 6:30 to 8 pm on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. For details, see: [www.greenwichhistory.org/event/merlin/](http://www.greenwichhistory.org/event/merlin/)

Before introducing **TOM HEALY**, jokester for the day, **ARNOLD** subjected the members to some pain with selected puns. Some examples will suffice:

- How does an attorney sleep? First, he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side.
- A cross-eyed teacher couldn't control his pupils.
- My ex-wife still misses me. But her aim is starting to improve.
- What do you call a dinosaur with superior language skills? A Thesaurus.

**TOM HEALY** then related a conversation between a farmer and a woman who finally was able to become pregnant after many unsuccessful attempts. The farmer bragged that he was able to increase his hens' egg productivity by selecting a different rooster than usual. The woman confessed that so did she!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** **PETER STERN** reported that there were 78 live bodies and nine Zoomers in attendance. The birthday boys were **DOUG FIELDS**, 80, **BILL O'DONNELL**, 77, **TOM HEALY**, 84, **LARRY POSNER**, 74, **AL KNIGHT**, 80, and **DICK BERGSTRESSER**, 88. Today's returnees were **BILL O'DONNELL** from Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, FL, and **MARSHALL TOPPO** from Fort Lauderdale, FL. **PETER** gave special recognition for the recent birth of **WILL MORRISON's** granddaughter and **TONY FITZPATRICK's** grandson.

**PETER** then led an induction ceremony for Bill McKiegan, who was nominated by **JOE MANCINELLI** and seconded by **PETER**. **BILL** recently moved to Greenwich from New City in Rockland County where he and his wife raised a son and daughter along with two golden retrievers. **BILL** graduated from the Bernard Baruch School of Business at CCNY, worked in data processing for Standard Data Corp., then joined First Investors Corp as an investment professional and insurance agent. Since 2000 he has been a workman's compensation and liability auditor. Rumor has it that he is on the verge of retiring as a young 80-year-old. He enjoys cooking, tennis, theater and card games, and is a die-hard Ranger fan. Busy **BILL** was also a Eucharistic minister at St. Augustine's in New City and is a member of the New York Knights of Columbus. He thanked everyone for voting him in and told us that RMA has a superb reputation. Welcome and good start, **BILL!**



**Visiting:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that **ED FARRELL** is doing well and hopes to return to meetings in July. He welcomes calls and visits: 203-637-5712 or 203-461-0221; [Ejf1038r@gmail.com](mailto:Ejf1038r@gmail.com).

**Publicity:** The committee arranged for a WGCH interview with **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** which was broadcast on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

**Food Drive:** **JIM SANTORA** reminded everyone that he and **TONY FITZPATRICK** are heading up the RMA food drive to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor. It will occur on Wednesday, June 1. Details regarding what will be collected that day are described in the attachment. For those wishing to donate a personal check, please bring it on June 1 or send it to **TONY FITZPATRICK** at 9 Stanwich Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830. Click here for Neighbor-to-Neighbor attachment:

[INFORMATION REGARDING FOOD DRIVE](#)

**Treasury:** **JEFF JUNKER** reminded everyone that many members have yet to pay their dues; as of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 93 out of a membership of 217 have paid. Make out your \$100 check to RMA and bring it to the meeting or mail it to our treasurer (**JEFF JUNKER**, 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831). The board has approved the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023; a copy was posted on the bulletin board. Members will be asked for approval at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ROMEO:** **DON ROTZIEN** invited everyone to the first bring-your-own picnic of the season at Greenwich Point on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Meet at the knoll behind the second concession stand. Reservations are not needed; there are plenty of picnic tables and great views. Beach cards are required to enter the Point, but if you don't have a current one just mention the RMA ROMEO lunch to the guard and he will let you through. Please notify **DON** if you plan to attend so he can provide you with weather updates if necessary: [dsrotzien@gmail.com](mailto:dsrotzien@gmail.com).

**Pepsico Sculpture Garden Tour:** **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** reported that there is only one spot left for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> event, which involves a walk of about two miles. There is a beverage machine onsite. Be aware that a completed waiver form is required to be admitted to the grounds; it can be picked up at the next meeting. You can also write to **DON CONWAY** ([spiderduck4@gmail.com](mailto:spiderduck4@gmail.com)) for a copy. A waiting list will be created if more than the maximum of 30 people is reached.

**Volunteer Hours:** **WILL MORRISON** summarized the results for the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 113 outside hours by 14 members, and 62 inside hours by seven men. **HOLLISTER STURGES** had the most hours, 28.

**Speakers:** **BOB RIMMER** announced that Greenwich Chief of Police James Heavey will talk today about “Police Accountability: Our Role in the Greenwich Community.” Among the most important responsibilities of any police department is its accountability to its community. As his primary focus, Chief Heavey will discuss the responsibility of his department to the Greenwich community. What is the scope of this responsibility, how is it fulfilled, how is our police force trained to carry it out, and what are the specific programs used for its implementation? This is Chief Heavey’s third appearance at the RMA.

**HOLLISTER STURGES** told us that next week’s speaker will be Edward Farley Aldrich who will describe a little-known story about a crucial partnership that was integral to the success of the U.S. in WWII. His talk will be based on his book, *The Partnership: George Marshall, Henry Stimson, and the Extraordinary Collaboration that Won WWII*. **HOLLISTER** also mentioned that ideas for speakers or topics are welcome from members; contact him at any time.

**Special Recognition:** **JOE MANCINELLI** lauded **BOB BISHOP** and **JIM BUTLER** for their work in arriving early every Wednesday to prepare the meeting set-up. A well-deserved round of applause erupted.

## FUN AND GAMES

**Pickleball:** **PAT MacCARTHY** reminded us that play occurs every Monday and Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm at Christiano Field. To be put on the mailing list, contact **MARK GEIMER** ([mark.geimer@gmail.com](mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com)) or **PAT** ([pmaccarthy415@gmail.com](mailto:pmaccarthy415@gmail.com)). **PAT** offers free lessons, just contact him.

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** said that there will be no Tai Chi and Qigong session on Monday, Memorial Day. The good folks at Tai Chi Labs report that you may be able to tap unlimited sources of energy using an old Chinese art, Qigong (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qigong>). While Qigong and Tai Chi both focus on health and mindfulness, Qigong helps develop internal energy and Tai Chi provides a means to apply it. When taken together, twice daily, the two create the Asian cocktail - The ChiTail. The group meets at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich on Mondays, with a beginner’s session at 8:45 am and a session for the more experienced at 9:30 am. Contact **WILL** to join or find out more: [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com).

**Golf:** **JAY SCHONDORF** reported that on Tuesday, the weather was great for the 15 who played 18 holes and the five who played half as many! Closest to the pin on holes 5, 7, and 15 were, respectively, **RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW**, **TOM HEALY**, and **MIKE SMITH**. **KIP SCHULZ** had the longest drive at hole 8. Birdies were achieved by **RICHARD**, **MIKE** and **PETER TUNLEY**. It was a banner day for low scores: **TONY FITZPATRICK**, 85, **PETER TUNLEY**, 89, with the rest between 92 and 99. Next week's captain is **PETER STERN**.

**Hearts:** **DON CONWAY** provided the news about the eight players at two tables who finished three-and-a-half games. **BOB SHULLMAN** won three of them while **DON** (according to him) was on his way to a win when they were thrown out of the room. **TOM HEALY** ruled the roost with five moonshots.

**Walkers and Talkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** bemoaned the fact that they were rained out last Thursday.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

**BOB RIMMER** introduced Jim Heavey, chief of police for the Town of Greenwich, who was making his third appearance at the RMA. Jim is a native and long-term resident of the town who joined the police force in 1981, rising in the ranks until he was appointed chief in 2011. A graduate of Greenwich High School (as were his children), and a veteran of Operation Desert Shield, he served over 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. He has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice administration from Northeastern University and has completed an online master's degree in public administration from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska. In addition, Jim recently completed training in terrorism response at the National FBI Academy.

Jim showed a brief video created in commemoration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department this year. It traced the history of the force, including the program, ahead of its time, of diversity in hiring minorities and women. Jim then shared some interesting statistics regarding the responsibilities and activities of his department. In their 24/7 operation, they cover the 283 miles of roads and 24 miles of coastline in town, and have a four-man team using electric-assist bicycles that can reach 35 mph, who handle emergencies, parking enforcement and traffic safety enhancement. There are also trained EMTs and scuba divers within the department. There are usually 11 police cars on the road with two always on the Post Road. The dispatch center is operated by 16 civilians

who handle all kinds of emergency calls (crime, fire, medical, etc.). As an example of unusual deployments, he mentioned that as a result of the Texas school shooting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, additional patrols around schools have been added due to the fear of copy-cat assaults. The department offers a women's self-defense class and operates a Citizen Police Academy open to the public. He encouraged people to participate; you can find information here: <https://www.greenwichct.gov/399/Citizens-Police-Academy>

They also periodically offer a Youth Citizen's Police Academy (Police Camp): <https://www.greenwichct.gov/1484/Youth-Citizens-Police-Academy-Police-Cam>

Jim explained that 152 officer slots are approved for the department. There is one open at the moment. Twenty-one percent of the officers are military veterans. The minimum age for a police officer is 21 but there is no mandatory retirement age. Recruitment is a critical issue, especially when there are now 42 officers eligible for retirement and the town no longer offers a pension, creating a competitive disadvantage with some other departments. There will be 11 openings this summer as a result of retirement. Each recruit must attend the state police academy for eight months, formerly three-and-a-half. The academy only accepts a certain number of trainees and there is often a long wait to enlist new candidates. After graduation, each officer must have three months of on-the-job training in town. Officers receive extensive special training, including on use of force, firearms, OSHA matters, and others. They must maintain firearm proficiency through practice at a pistol range in town. Every three years, each officer must undergo six hours of review training. EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) and EMRs (Emergency Medical Responders) must undergo 20 hours of refresher training every year. Other professional development training includes accident investigation, sex crimes, juvenile issues, detective school, and human trafficking.

The Department continues to upgrade its technology with the latest tools, such as mobile data terminals, updates or replacement of surveillance cameras, body cams, patrol fleet dash cams (mandatory for all police vehicles as of July 1, 2022), and new body armor (replaced every five years).

In 2021, there were 30,488 calls for the Department. They included, among others, 5,204 medically related, 266 involving domestic violence, and 1,735 motor vehicle accidents. Reflecting on the fact that 60 cars have been stolen in Greenwich since January 1 this year, all unlocked with keys inside, Chief Heavey urged everyone always to keep their cars

locked and their valuables hidden or taken out. In all of 2021 there were 130 cars stolen. "Lock it or Lose it!"

As a result of the George Floyd case in May 2020, the State of Connecticut has instituted a Police Accountability Rule that requires the following: officers must wear badges and name tags on outer garments, must pass urine drug testing, departments must provide a report on recruiting, retaining and promoting minority officers, and as a condition of hiring and continued employment, each officer must periodically undergo a "behavioral health assessment." There already exists a Civilian Review Board in Greenwich, a town legislative body that reviews the activities of the department and handles complaints. The state has also introduced a Police Accountability Rule covering things such as legal limits on when an officer can request a search of vehicle contents when it is stopped for ordinary (traffic related, etc.) reasons; choke holds which are prohibited unless the situation involves deadly force; officers are responsible for intervening with other officers who use excessive force; and no quotas allowed for traffic tickets or other citations involving fines (most such moneys go to the state, not the town). Chief Heavey proudly mentioned that the Greenwich department meets or exceeds all state mandated requirements. As a community-oriented department, it adheres to its core values: service, respect, fairness and diligence. We are fortunate to have such a strong and committed police department serving Greenwich.

For those interested in seeing the full presentation, go to the RMA website and click on the video at <https://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos>.

### **SPECIAL FEATURE**

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few historical RMA pictures, with a question of the week. There are two questions this week, related to the following picture. "Who just scored a hole-in-one?" and "Is that how you do it?"





If you have any pictures of past RMA activities to share, send them along!

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Dues are now due! Make out your \$100 check to RMA and bring it to the meeting or mail it to our treasurer, **JEFF JUNKER** (9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831).

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next meeting, on June 1, will be →**AV RIVEL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to [av@rivels.org](mailto:av@rivels.org).

**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** 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

Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

## RMA 2022 CALENDAR

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities*</b>			
<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Mondays	8:45 am	QiGong and 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	Various tee times	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – <a href="mailto:ryantomac@netscape.net">ryantomac@netscape.net</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	1:00 pm	Hearts	John Kavanagh - <a href="mailto:Jkct176@gmail.com">Jkct176@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">Mazurek.a.j@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 (resumes in fall)	Andy Holmes - <a href="mailto:Andyholmes56@gmail.com">Andyholmes56@gmail.com</a>

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