

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

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 46 June 29, 2022

SCRIBE: FRED WU

"Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure that it is not the best. The opinions I have had of its errors, I sacrifice to the public good."

- Benjamin Franklin

First Vice President **JACK WEIR** called the meeting to order and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He stood in for President **JOE MANCINELLI**, who is out of town this week. **TOM HEALY** led a medley of three songs, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "This Is My Country," with **BOB MORGAN** on the piano. **TONY COCCHI** is projectionist.

JACK reminded all to pay their dues, and informed us of the passing of member **ROBERT WHITBY**.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** gave the following report. "We have lost another of our members. You may have seen an e-mail notice a couple of days ago, that **RALPH MASTOLONI**, who had been a member since September 2011, died on June 23rd at the age of 100 years and six days. The funeral mass was held on Tuesday, June 28th, at St. Paul Roman Catholic Church in Greenwich. You probably know that his younger brother, **ED MASTOLONI**, is an RMA member." **ARNOLD** will be in touch with him with regard to a memorial.

He then asked if there were any runners among the members and called their attention to the Greenwich Road Runners, a chapter of the Road Runners Club of America. Information about the friendly group can be found here: <https://www.greenwichroadrunners.org/>

Resorting to his usual attempt at wry humor, he posed some more important questions and things to ponder:

“Did you hear that Stop&Shop and the A&P merged? It’s called Stop & P.”

“Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?”

“Can you buy a complete chess set in a pawnshop?”

“If blind people wear dark glasses, why don’t deaf people wear earmuffs?”

He finished by explaining that a teacher had created a collection of lines obtained from English and history teachers who sent him samples of real student writings. He gave two examples: From a history exam: “Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.” From an English essay: “Shakespeare wrote tragedies, comedies and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter.”

He then introduced the real jokester for the day, **AV RIVEL**, who entertained us with some stories.

HOLLISTER STURGES reminded us of today’s talk by Stephen Heintz, and previewed next week’s speaker, Yascha Mounk, providing two different perspectives on democracies and the risks they face.

PETER STERN gave the membership report. There were 83 in-person attendees (including three guests), plus nine on Zoom, for a total of 92. The guests were Bob Stark, guest of **JIM DEAN** and **BOB PHILLIPS**, Bob Giachinto, guest of **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** and **JIM FISHBEIN**, and Chick Donohue, guest of **STEPHEN MARINO**. Attendees on Zoom included **PAUL CAMPION**, recuperating from hip surgery, **ED FARRELL** recuperating from knee surgery, and **RICK HOLZ**, viewing from Florida. Birthdays were **TOM NACINOVICH**, 82, **PETE UHRY**, 83, and **CRO MARTIN**, 69.

PETER also gave the Visiting report. **DICK BERGSTRESSER** is in Nathaniel Witherell recovering from a fall. He is doing ok and it is ok to visit, but please call first.

JOHN CRAINE reported 420 volunteer hours recorded by 29 members, and 191 inside hours by 21 members. Top volunteer this week was anonymous, who logged 72 hours.

DON CONWAY reminded us of the tour of Yonkers Brewery on July 14 at 11:30. Free beer tasting is included. Attendees should drive themselves; parking is available at meters and in garages. Those interested can buy lunch afterwards at the pub. To sign up, email Maurice142@optonline.net.

WILL MORRISON announced the Sept 14 RMA Picnic at Greenwich Point. He also reported on the 9:30 Monday morning meeting of the Tai Chi group, which is open to women as well.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported on bridge played at Greenwich Library. **ED MASTOLONI** in 3rd place, **RON MURRAY** in 2nd place, **ALEX KOSSEIM** in 1st place. New players are welcome to join.

Golf: **JIM SANTORA** reported that there were 22 players this week, but no holes-in-one. Ten of 17 players finished 18 holes with scores under 100, and three with scores under 90. Best scores went to **PETER TUNLEY** (87) and **GRAN BURGESS** (87). Honorable mentions to **TONY FITZPATRICK** (90), **DAVID WEISBROD** (91), **JIM DEAN** (91), and **TOM HEALY** (93).

Tennis: **JOHN KNIGHT** reported that this week play will be Friday 10-12 at Byram Park.

Hearts: **JIM DEAN** reported the hearts winners: **DEAN, STANKUNIS, HOLMES, BERG,** and **PERKINS**. Moonshots: **CONWAY, STANKUNIS** (2), **BERG** (2), and **HEALY**.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported on a shortened walk leading into the very enjoyable Pepsico Sculpture Garden tour led by **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**. Following are some pictures from the Pepsico tour.



TODAY'S SPEAKER

DAVID WEISBROD introduced the speaker, Stephen Heintz, and interviewed him in Q&A format. Stephen Heintz is President and CEO of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. He was appointed by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as one of three co-chairs of the National Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship in the 21st Century. The commission released its report “Our Common Purpose” in June 2020.

Mr. Heintz described how he had become fascinated with politics at an early age, run for office at age 22 and lost, but then worked his way up from local government to become chief of staff for Connecticut senate majority leader Joe Lieberman. He then served in two Connecticut cabinet positions under Governors Grasso and O'Neill. Later he moved to Eastern Europe for years, then returned to the U.S. to help found the liberal think tank Demos in 2000. Shortly thereafter he was appointed president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

He outlined key recommendations of the “Our Common Purpose” study, in which he was deeply involved. These include such proposals as enlarging the House of Representatives, setting term limits for Supreme Court justices, and introducing ranked-choice voting. Other recommendations addressed civic engagement by the public, such as funding community level organizations and institutions doing things for the common good, introducing publicly funded social media channels (similar to PBS or NPR), and implementing a mandatory year of national service for all young people. In all there are 31 recommendations. He also mentioned proposals that were discussed but not agreed to by a majority of the commission, including whether to eliminate the Electoral College and whether to end the filibuster rule in Congress.

A lively Q&A followed the talk, raising such questions as how to address misinformation in the media, gerrymandering, a law requiring everyone to vote, and investment in fossil fuels. A more detailed summary of the talk can be found [here](#).

For Heintz Transcript [CLICK HERE](#)

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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on July 6, will be →**JIM DEAN**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to jhdeanco@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at 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.



ALL MEMBERS: Volunteers are needed to assist with audio, video and Zoom at our meetings. Please see **HORST TEBBE** if you can assist in this critical need.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. • 37 Lafayette Place • Greenwich, CT 06830 •
USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	8:45 am	QiGong and Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison – wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – ryantomac@netscape.net
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	

			Bob Shullman – bob.shullman@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Friday	11:00	Outdoor Tennis, Bruce Park	John Knight - johnknight7@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis (resumes in fall)	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

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