

# 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: JAMES DEAN**

*"Summer is a sailor in a rowboat and ice cream on your dress when you're old. Summer is a man with his coat off, wet sand between your toes, the smell of a garden, an hour before moon rise. Oh, summer is silk itself, a great geranium, and music from a flute far away." - Michael Brown*

**Welcome:** First Vice President **JACK WEIR**, president in training standing in for **JOE MANCINELLI**, brought the meeting to order at 9:45 am, with **DON CONWAY** leading the Pledge of Allegiance and songs, and **BOB MORGAN** at the keyboard. **JACK** reminded the membership that the annual RMA dues should be sent to **JEFF JUNKER**, treasurer.

Reminder: Next week August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a regular in-person meeting.

Reminder: November 9<sup>th</sup> is the RMA Annual Banquet--mark your calendar.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reminded us that caution is still advisable regarding the transmission of the latest and most prevalent Covid-19 variant, Omicron BA-5. In discussion with President **MANCINELLI**, he was asked to inform the membership of the following: "Please be advised that there have been recent reports by members who have been present at meetings who have contracted the virus. Accordingly, you should be alert to any covid-like symptom that you may experience and take the proper follow up precautions." Fortunately, the cases were reportedly mild.

On a more positive note, the cancelled July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks have been rescheduled for Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at both Binney Park and Greenwich Point Park. The approximate times will be 7:55 pm at Binney Park and 8:20 pm at Greenwich Point Park.

As expected, he then offered some off beat (off the wall?) word play:

“Did you ever want to know how to make holy water? You take some regular water and boil the hell out of it.”

“What did the grape say when it got stepped on? Nothing-but it let out a little wine.”

“A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into the blood bank-the rabbit said-I think I might be a type O.”

“At my age ‘getting lucky’ means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for.”

For the real jokester of the day, he introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** who gets three forks and a knife for his two jokes.

### **Membership Report by PETER STERN.**

1. Attendance: 66 in person, plus 10 on Zoom, for a total of 76 members.
2. Birthdays: **WALT ANDERES**, 94, **DICK WILLIAMSON**, 74, **JOHN KAVANAGH**, 76, **TONY RIGGI**, 90, **SAL DEANGELO**, 99.
3. New member induction.
  - a. Bob Stark, MD, nominated by **JIM DEAN**, seconded by **BOB PHILLIPS**.
  - b. The members voted unanimously to accept Bob into membership.
  - c. Bob was welcomed into RMA and presented with the official lapel pin, decal, badge, and parking pass. Bob provided acceptance remarks.



Dean, Stark, Phillips

4. Four guests were welcomed:
  - a. Andrew Loebelson, guest of **HORST TEBBE** and **BOB STARK**
  - b. Donn Reinelt, guest of **BILL FEATHERSTON** and **BOB BISHOP**
  - c. Jim Buckely, guest of **JEROME COLEMAN**
  - d. Special in-person welcome back after a long absence was given to **KLAUSS JANDER**. Welcomed on Zoom were local regulars **ED FARRELL**, **TOM HEALY**, and **PETER SCHIEFERDECKER**; and from the Sunshine State, **RICK HOLZ**.
  - e. Returnees included **JIM DEAN** from Nebraska, **JOHN KNIGHT** from Chincoteague Island, VA, and **WILL MORRISON**, Keuka Park, NY.

**Speakers Program:** **HOLLISTER STURGES** previewed this week's speaker, Barry Strauss, Ph.D. Professor of History and Classics, Cornell University, speaking on his new book *The War That Made the Roman Empire: Antony, Cleopatra, and Octavian, at Actium*. **PETER BERG** announced that next week's speaker will be Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo, and asked that members forward to him questions they would like addressed.

**Visiting:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** announced that **TOM HEALY** has Covid and is recovering nicely.

**Volunteer Hours:** **BARRY RICHELSON** reported that for the week ending July 23<sup>rd</sup> there were 232 outside hours by 15 members and 67 inside hours by 11 men. Total hours were 299. The outstanding volunteer was **TAD LARRABEE** with 103 hours completed.

**Announcements:** **WILL MORRISON** reported on the picnic scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> at Todd's Point. The Committee is looking for donations for raffle prizes by members who can solicit prizes valued at \$100 or greater from local businesses or merchants.

**ROMEO:** **DON ROTZEIN** reported that the next ROMEO lunch will take place on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> behind the main concession stand at Greenwich Point. The time is 1:00 pm.

### **Games Members Play**

**Pickleball:** **PAT MACCARTHY** reported that pickleball is played weather permitting 10 am -12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. Pat's email is [pmacCarthy415@gmail.com](mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com).

**Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** reported that eight players participated this past week. First place went to **RON FRIEDMAN** with 2,940 points, second place to **ED MASTOLINI** with 2,700 points, and third place to **RON MURRAY** with 2,920 points. Newcomers are welcome.

**Hearts:** **DON CONWAY** related that one table with four players completed three games. Winners were **PETER BERG, DON CONWAY,** and **JOHN KNIGHT**. Moon shooters were **PETER BERG** twice and **JOHN KNIGHT** once.

**Outdoor Tennis,** per **JOHN KNIGHT**. One doubles match was played on an extremely hot day.

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** says come join us Wednesdays in Old Greenwich at 9:30 am.

**Golf:** **JAY SCHONDORF** related that two foursomes signed up. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** was closest to the pin on Hole 7, **BOB SHULLMAN** was the long drive hitter on Hole 8, and **PAT YUEN** shot a ninety-seven for the round. **BOB PHILIPS** wins honors for chipping for a birdie on the 11<sup>th</sup> Hole and again on the 13<sup>th</sup> Hole. Next week **PETER TUNLEY** will serve as captain.

**RMA Raft-Up:** “Ahoy Mates,” says **JOHN CRAINE**, the annual Raft-Up will be held starting at noon on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. The event will include both Rag-Haulers and Stink-Potters. Our rendezvous location is the picturesque anchorage off Great Captains Island. Plan to bring delectable edibles, frosty beverages and enjoy friendly scuttlebutt with old and new friends. To join call **JOHN** at (203) 693-0118

### **Business Meeting Adjourned**

**Today’s Speaker:** Barry Strauss on *The War That Made the Roman Empire*



Barry Strauss is a professor of history and classics at Cornell University, The Corliss Page Dean Fellow at the Hoover Institution, and a leading expert on ancient military history. He has written or edited several books,

including *The Battle of Salamis*, *The Trojan War*, *The Spartacus War*, *Masters of Command*, *The Death of Caesar*, and *Ten Caesars*.

America's foremost popular classicist, he brought the story of Actium to life as noted in the following review by Merionwest.com: "High on a hill astride a peninsula lying between the sea and wide and marshy gulf, in a seldom-visited corner of western Greece, stand the ruins of one of history's most important but least acknowledged war memorials.' It is easy to forget war memorials scattered across the Mediterranean basin. After all, the ruins of cities, memorials, and ships dot the body of water sometimes called 'the sea at the center of the world.' But this ruined war memorial is deserving of our attention, for our civilization is the direct descendant of the event it commemorated, the Battle of Actium.

"In 31 B.C., over 600 ships built of wood and bronze and over 200,000 soldiers gathered on the western slopes and waters of Greece to contest for the future of Rome and the Western world. On one side was Octavian, the future emperor Augustus, and his entourage, which included the faithful Agrippa. On the other side was Mark Antony, one of Julius Caesar's faithful lieutenants made famous by Shakespeare, and the most famous woman of antiquity, Cleopatra. Actium was one of the decisive battles on which the 'hinge of history' would turn."

"The descent toward Actium was the culmination of a long period of republican decline which erupted in civil war, the murder of Julius Caesar, the defeat of the Optimate armies of Brutus and Cassius at Philippi (sublimely re-imagined even if wholly inaccurately in HBO's *Rome*), and the power struggle between spirited and politicking souls. Eternal names are involved in this struggle: Octavian (Augustus) Caesar, his sister Octavia, Antony, and Cleopatra.

"The Battle of Actium, again, was a hinge upon which history turned. We forget that prior to Rome, the nexus of 'Western' civilization was found in the eastern Mediterranean basin. Greece is closer to Asia than the British Isles, France, or Scandinavia. Greek colonies under Alexander the Great stretched out as far as the Indus River valley in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. Greek script came from Phoenicia. Alexandria stood as the intellectual and cultural capital of the world, even as Roman and Egyptian warships battled each other off the coast of Greece. Alexandria would also be the intellectual capital of the nascent religion of a Nazarene messiah and a center for diaspora Judaism, which would remake Judaism and Christianity. In 31 B.C., on the eve of the Battle of Actium, Alexandria, and the

broader east, including Jerusalem, was the gem of civilization and the heart of the Roman imperium. The infamous Rome of marble columns and gigantic buildings that we see today had not yet been built. Its builder was the man who won the Battle of Actium and took inspiration to remake Rome in the image of the great eastern cities that now fell under his dominion.

“As Strauss recounts, the battle for supremacy of the Roman Empire seemed lopsided at first. Antony controlled the richer provinces, had a multiethnic and multicultural alliance of kings, queens, soldiers, and sailors which included Moors, Celts, Egyptians, Armenians, Greeks, and Romans, had a seemingly endless supply of money—though it was debased and inflated to pay for his massive army and navy—and command of the seas with a larger and more powerful navy. Octavian, and his trusted lieutenant Agrippa, by contrast, had a smaller treasury and smaller army but a few far more important things going for them: Latin-Roman propaganda and a spirit of daring.

“Part of the war between Octavian and Antony was media manipulation or what we call today ‘fake news.’ Both hurled insults and jabs at each other through their entourage of writers and intellectual networks skilled in the art of what we would consider propaganda. Both utilized coinage, poetry, and pamphlets to wage a war of information to strengthen their respective positions. However, Antony’s divorce of Octavia and alliance with Cleopatra made him an easy target for Octavian’s Romanist policies. Octavian presented himself as a defender of Roman matrimonial honor (against Antony’s supposed betrayal and humiliation of Octavia), a traditional guardian of masculine Roman virtues (against Antony’s supposed corrupted effeminacy), and the sole protector of Roman interests (against Antony’s supposed intent to make Egypt, read: Cleopatra, the new hub of Roman imperium). This command of Roman honor against eastern infidelity and enslavement allowed Octavian to rally Roman Italy to his cause.”

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 August 3, will be →**BOB SHULLMAN**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to [bob.shullman@gmail.com](mailto:bob.shullman@gmail.com) .

**ALL MEMBERS:** The CBB team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at [tbroo@aol.com](mailto:tbroo@aol.com) if you can support this continuing effort.

**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.

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### RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	8:45 am	QiGong and Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison – <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Mondays	10:00 am	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	Bob Shullman – <a href="mailto:bob.shullman@gmail.com">bob.shullman@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	10:00 am	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	11:00	Outdoor Tennis, Bruce Park	John Knight - <a href="mailto:johnknight7@gmail.com">johnknight7@gmail.com</a>
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor 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