

# 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: BOB GIAQUINTO**

*"We ain't rich, I'm rich"* - Shaquille O'Neal, talking to his kids.

President **JOE MANCINELLI** started the meeting at 9:47 am with **MIKE HAYDEN** leading us in The Pledge of Allegiance. With **JIM SANTORA** on the piano and **MIKE** as the song leader, we all sang "The Star Spangled Banner," "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "For Me and My Gal." The projectionists were **TONY COCCHI** and **LEN CARUSI**, the mentor was **JOHN TONER**.

As a follow-up to the recent "legs" contest, President **JOE** showed a mystery photo of two legs wearing one black and one brown boot. **JOE** gave no further clues. He also showed film clips giving us glimpses of our distant past life with music from the Statler Brothers' song "Do You Remember These?" The pictures included Howdy Doody, Jimmy Dean, Jackie Gleason, Art Carney, Roy Rogers and many more reminders of our wonderful past.

We then had a guest appearance by Maestro Stuart Malina who spoke about the upcoming opening weekend for the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra. He showed enthusiasm for the performing arts center at Greenwich High School, saying it is one of the best venues that he has experienced in his world travels. He also gave accolades to his joyful orchestra members, saying they were world class musicians living locally and from New York City. Sounds like a must see and hear event.

Following are comments from Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON**. In our series of interviews with prospective conductors for the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra over the last year, we met Maestro Stuart Malina, who has been chosen to lead the orchestra. His debut will be at the 2022-23 season opening concerts on Sept. 10 (7:30) and 11 (3:00) at the Greenwich High School auditorium. In addition to leading the orchestra, which will perform works by Bernstein and Prokofiev, Maestro Malina will perform Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" on the piano. For more information and tickets, and to learn more about Maestro Malina, log on to [www.greenwichsymphony.org](http://www.greenwichsymphony.org).

Greenwich Library has announced that it will no longer fine patrons for overdue materials, effective September 12. The library will remove all fines from current accounts, and there will no longer be any monetary penalties for returning books, movies, or other regular items past their due dates. However, overdue fines will still be charged for late museum passes. This policy change is in line with changes made by many other nationally recognized library systems.

In his latest installment of foreign language signs around the world translated into English, **ARNOLD** served up these:

- \* Czech Republic tourist agency: "Take one of our horse-driven city tours. We guarantee no miscarriages."
- \* Outside a Bangkok temple: "It is forbidden to enter a woman, even a foreigner if dressed as a man."
- \* Paris women's clothing shop: "Dresses for street walking."
- \* Hong Kong dentist ad: "Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists."
- \* Sign at Germany's Black Forest area: "It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for this purpose."

He then introduced the jokester for today, **AV RIVEL**, who related some barber stories. "A Priest came into the barber shop and got a haircut. Upon paying, the barber said 'no charge, I am doing this as a service to the community.' Next day, the priest gave the barber a dozen prayer books."

“A Policeman came in to the barbershop and got a haircut. Upon paying, the barber said ‘no charge, I am doing this as a service to the community.’ The next day the policeman dropped off a dozen donuts.”

“A senator came into the barbershop and got a haircut. Upon paying, the barber said ‘no charge, I am doing this as a service to the community.’ The next day a dozen senators came into the barbershop.”

“The barber, upon seeing a certain boy, told his customer that ‘this kid is really stupid.’ The kid came in and the barber showed the kid 50 cents in one hand and a dollar in the other. ‘Kid, which do you want?’ The kid took the fifty cents. The barber said, ‘see the kid is stupid.’ The customer later saw the kid down the street eating an ice cream and asked ‘why did you take the 50 cents?’ ‘Sir, if I took the dollar the game would be over’.”

**PETER STERN** followed with the membership report. Members present, 91 in-person plus nine on Zoom, for a total of 100. There were six guests. Birthdays this week were **JOE ANGLAND, 73, BRIAN MAHONEY, 75, FRED GOODSTEIN, 75** and **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, 83.**

**PETER** then announced two inductions. The first was Michael LaGamma, sponsored by and words by **PATRICK MACCARTHY**. Michael who was born and bred in the Pelham Bay



*McCarthy, LaGamma, Mazurek*

Park section of the Bronx, went to Cardinal Hayes High School, and has a BA in history from Hunter College and an MBA from Baruch University. His professional career centered on supply chain management and working in senior purchasing positions with Argo International, Avon products, and Unilever. He ended the final 15 years of his career working for the New York Racing Association and overseeing its \$130 million budget. Michael lived in

Mamaroneck for most of his professional life and moved to Greenwich for his retirement. He has one son who lives in Florida with his wife and two children. Michael is a widower, however he has a full life with his partner Karen

Schramm. Michael was seconded by **ANDRE MAZUREK** and was voted in unanimously by membership.

Quintin A. “Tog” Pearson, Jr., was nominated by **SKIP AUCH** and seconded by **ED BLOOM**, with **PETER STERN** serving as **ED’s** proxy. Tog was born in Mineola New York, moved to



Greenwich, attended elementary and middle school and ultimately graduated Greenwich High School in 1966. At GHS he played soccer, pole vaulted and was captain of the swim team with the distinction of being New England’s 200-yard freestyle champion. Tog graduated from UConn with a BA in Economics, and was also a swim and lacrosse team member. After taking a trip around the world he entered Naval OCS and attended the Navy’s anti-

*Auch, Pearson*

submarine weapons school. As a commissioned officer, Tog served one tour in Vietnam on a destroyer and a final tour on the SS Marvin Shields.

Upon honorable discharge in 1974, he worked for ten years for Citibank in various operations management positions. He left to run the Stanton House Inn on Maple Avenue here in Greenwich. This turned out to be a 35-year ownership career and his labor of love. In 2019 he turned the day-to-day management of the bed and breakfast over to his son, Colin. Tog met his wife, Doreen, the love of his life, in college and they were married in 1976. They have four children and now have five grandchildren. A vote was taken and Tog was unanimously elected to RMA membership.

Both new members thanked members for their votes and look forward to RMA membership.

Today’s guests were the following:

Andrew Loebelson, guest of **BOB STARK** and **HORST TEBBE**

Henry Tischler, guest of **JAY SCHONDORF**

John Heyd, guest of **STEVE MYERS** and **PETE UHRY**

John Dietz, guest of **DAVID MICHONSKI**

Phil Schweitzer, guest of **FRANK SCARPA**

Stuart Malina, guest of **FRED WU**

**PETER** offered a special in-person welcome to **PETER TUNLEY**, returning after recuperating at home from knee surgery. He also welcomed **RICK HOLZ** via Zoom from Florida, and returnees **JACK WEIR** from Miami, **JIM DEAN** from Brunswick, Maine, and **STEPHEN MARINO** from Boulder and Denver, Colorado.

**Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that **ED FARRELL's** rehab is progressing nicely, he plans to return for the RMA picnic next week, and hopefully will be back as a secretary for the October board meeting.



**Speakers:** There will be no speaker next Wednesday, Sept. 14, as we attend our RMA picnic. On Sept. 21 our speaker will be Page Knox, PhD, adjunct professor in the art history department of Columbia University and a contractual lecturer and educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on the exhibition "Winslow Homer: Crosscurrents." **Please Note: Attendees must show proof of vaccination and booster at the door for admittance. Masks are optional.**

**Picnic Update: Will Morrison.** The picnic is next Wednesday Sept. 14 at Greenwich Point. The last day for signup was Sept. 7.

**Annual Raft Up: JOHN CRAINE.** We will meet at noon on Thursday Sept. 8 at the picturesque anchorage off great Captain's Island. We have five boats, both sail and power, and plan to cruise the area at our 2:30 conclusion.

**JIM SANTORA** mentioned that he had received Neighbor to Neighbor's annual report in which they referred to their expanded services including health care items and various household goods. The RMA was credited among the donors. **JIM** noted that they have moved to their new facility on East Putnam Ave. (behind Christ Church).

## **FUN AND GAMES**

**Pickleball: PATRICK MACCARTHY.** Ten members played spirited games on two courts last Thursday. Pickle ball   is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until noon on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you would like to be put on the email list confirming play, please contact **PAT** via email at [pmacCarthy415@gmail.com](mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com)

**Bridge: RON MURRAY.** There were nine players on Aug. 31 with results being, #1, **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 3620, #2, **RON FRIEDMAN**, 2710, #3, **RON MURRAY**, 2380. Newcomers are very welcome!

**Hearts: JOHN STANKUNAS.** On Aug. 31 there were two tables, eight players, and seven games completed. Table 1: **GRANT PERKINS** (won 2), and **CHARLIE GRAVES** (1). Table 2: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (won 2), **TOM HEALY** (1), and **STANKUNAS** (1). Moon shots: **PERKINS** (3), **JOHN KNIGHT** (1), **AMBROSINO** (1), **HEALY** (1), and **STANKUNAS** (1).

**Golf: JOHN CRAINE.** There was a rain cancellation on Tuesday Sept. 6. Fifteen golfers were signed up. On Sept. 13 there will be a late morning start. The captain is **MIKE RYAN**. On Sept. 20 the captain is **JACK WEIR**. As a reminder, the RMA golf luncheon is on Wednesday, October 12, at the Field Club. Cost is \$50. Entrée selection is salmon or chicken.

**Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON** reported 15 members on Labor Day.

**Walkers and Talkers:** On Sept. 1 **JEFF JUNKER** led seven (your scribe included) from the Byram Library around the streets and parks of Byram. Having passed through Byram hundreds of times over the years, I saw properties and parks I did not know existed. We even walked on streets named Gold, Silver and Nickel and stepped into at least three pocket parks, which are very small parks along the Byram River.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

Following an introduction by **HOLLISTER STURGES**, Jonathan Lemire, an author, journalist and TV host, talked about his latest book, *The Big Lie: Election Chaos, Political Opportunism, and the State of American Politics after 2020*. He traced the origins and persuasiveness of the disinformation that has shaped our current politics and why such a sizable percentage of the American public is willing to believe it and what he believes the consequences are.

Mr. Lemire worked for the *Daily News* for twelve years, then joined the Associated Press as a political reporter in July 2013, eventually covering Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, including his 2015 Trump Tower speech and over 100 campaign rallies across

the country. In January 2017, Lemire became the White House reporter covering all aspects of the Trump administration, national politics, and the federal government, while working between Washington DC and New York City. He presently covers the Biden administration. Jonathan has contributed to multiple MSNBC and NBC shows as a political analyst and is now the bureau chief of Politico and the host of the MSNBC 5 am morning news show, *Way Too Early*.

The lecture by Jonathan Lemire lasted for over one hour. **HOLLISTER STURGES** did a superb job asking Jonathan interesting questions before opening it up to the audience. According to Lemire, “The big lie” started in August 2016 with Donald Trump saying that 2020 was going to be rigged against him. Eventually he said he lost because of mail-in ballots. Lemire believes his character is shameless and that he operates through intimidation and lies. “One could not trust what he says.” Mr. Lemire stated that he wrote the book because it is an important story and that Trump has never been challenged previously. He stated that Trump knew that he had lost the day after the election, but went forward with his conspiracy theory. According to Lemire, there was no evidence of fraud found in 63 of 64 lawsuits. This, he said, was confirmed by federal judges, local election officers and certified by VP Pence.

Some other points Lemire made in his book were that 35% to 40% of Americans agree with Trump; and polarization started long ago because many folks are not exposed to alternative points of view. Examples of this are ideological cable channels. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Capitol was breached which was made easier because the guard rails were off and many workers were out sick with covid. Trump received 20 times the media coverage of others because he was the more interesting story. The media was at fault because they often didn’t fact check, although Lemire said this is improving.

To see the full presentation, go to <https://greenwichrma.org/> and click on “Speakers.”

**Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker, and do not necessarily represent the views of the RMA.**

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next in-person meeting, on September 21, will be →**FRED WU**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to [fywu.wu@gmail.com](mailto:fywu.wu@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 always 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 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	9:30 am	QiGong and Tai Chi Workout	Register in advance with 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