

# 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, John Kavanagh, Frank Scarpa, Joe Angland, Paul Barbian, Jim Dean, Bob Giaquinto, David Michonski, Bob Shullman, Fred Wu**  
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

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**SCRIBE: FRED WU**

President **JOE MANCINELLI** called the meeting to order at 9:45, followed by **RON MURRAY** leading the Pledge of Allegiance. **TOM HEALY** led the group in a medley of songs: "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "Memories are Made of This," and "Walkin' My Baby Back Home," accompanied by **JIM SANTORA** on the piano. This week the projectionists were **TONY COCCHI** and **LEN CARUSI**, and the mentor was **JIM SANTORA**.

In the president's comments, **JOE MANCINELLI** remarked on his experience at the opening concert of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra's season. It was his first time attending a GSO concert. He said it was spectacular, and he was pleased to see many RMA members there. In recognition of the date, September 11, the GSO played the "Star-Spangled Banner," and hearing a full orchestra perform the national anthem was breathtaking. The featured work, "Rhapsody in Blue," was magnificent with Stuart Malina both playing the piano and conducting!

**JOE** went on to describe the RMA picnic on September 14 as "splendid," and projected a series of slides taken by **ANDY HOLMES**, showing members and their guests enjoying the games, the food, and each other's company. Thanks to **WILL MORRISON** (at right), **JIM DEAN**, **ANDY HOLMES**, and all the other organizers and helpers!





Welcome to the picnic!



Carefully pulling blocks from "the tower"



There was plenty of food



"Elvis" Schwendeman entertains

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** made the following announcements. First, join the YWCA Greenwich for a community-wide walk to raise funds for the YWCA Greenwich Domestic Abuse Services. It is hard to believe, but domestic violence is the most reported violent crime in Greenwich. In fact, one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. This is well worth your support. Sunday, October 6, 2022, at Bruce Park; registration begins at 8:30 am. For details, see:

<https://ywcagreenwich.org/>

Most of us have a supply of Covid-19 home testing kits stamped with expiration dates. The FDA has extended the use-by dates as long as they have not been exposed to heat. Most are still perfectly good to use. See: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

For some mild exercise and an outdoor learning experience, you can explore Montgomery Pinetum with a guided walking tour on October 16<sup>th</sup> that highlights the historic park's impressive and inspiring display of natural beauty. It is organized in association with the Greenwich Tree Conservancy and will be led by the curator of the Town Arboretum and the director of horticulture at the Greenwich Botanical Center. Details at <https://greenwichhistory.org/>

In case you did not know, the Friday night film series at the Greenwich Library is on again. A very good comedy, *The Duke*, will be shown this Friday night at 7 pm. It is based on the amazing true story of the theft of Goya's painting of the Duke of Wellington from The National Gallery in 1961. Helen Mirren stars.

Some clever observations and general truths:

\* Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?

\* "Politicians and diapers should be changed often and for the same reason." - Ronald Reagan

\* "At every party there are two kinds of people – those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other." - Ann Landers

\* "Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night."  
- Dave Barry

He then introduced **CARL WHITE**, official jokester for the day. **CARL** told us about Norm Crosby, a comedian known for his accidentally-on-purpose malapropisms. **CARL** gave a few choice examples.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Speakers Program:** **HOLLISTER STURGES** gave a preview of today's talk by Page Knox about the Winslow Homer "Crosscurrents" exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **BOB PHILLIPS** previewed next week's talk by Susan Herbst. Dr. Herbst will speak on the topic, "Democracy in Peril."

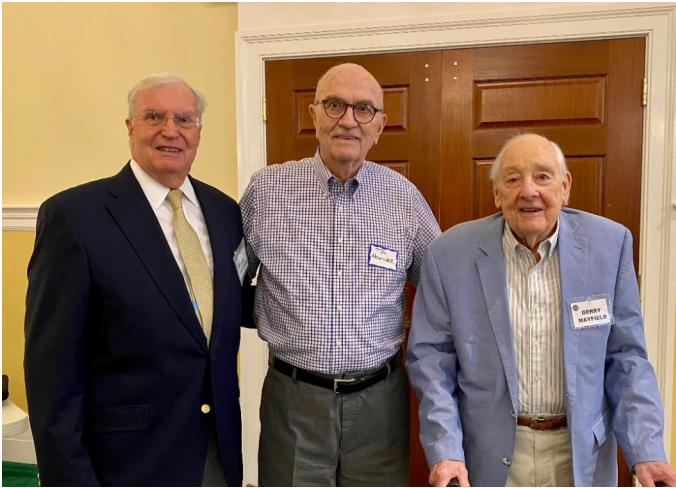
**Membership Report:** **PETER STERN** gave the following membership report. In-person attendance was 84 (including three guests), with ten on Zoom, for a total of 94. Birthdays

in the past two weeks were **ED PARKER**, 77, **STEVE LEIFER**, 84, **PETER GERHARD**, 75, **PETER ORBANOWSKI**, 78, **JIM SANTORA**, 81, **BOB SAMUELS**, 79, **JOHN TONER**, 76, **GEOFFREY HORNBECK**, 79, **JERRY STINSON**, 75, **STEPHEN MARINO**, 93, **CARL WHITE**, 74, and **DAVE RICHARDS**, 77.

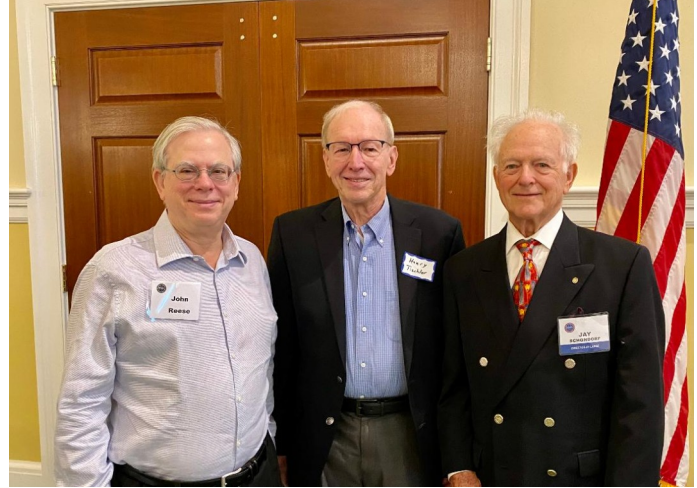
**Inductions:** Two new members were inducted. **TIM ALEXANDER** was nominated by **GERRY MAYFIELD**, who met **TIM** at a men's breakfast group of At Home in Greenwich. **TIM** was born in Pasadena, CA, and spent the first third of his life in California, attending Stanford University and receiving a degree in philosophy. He served in the army in South Korea and Berlin, returning to the U.S. in 1965. His army experience and "hot" locations turned out to be formative in his appreciation of a variety of people, places and social justice. **TIM** began his career at the Library of Congress where he supported the Congressional Research Service. He specialized in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where he helped start the National Coastal Zone Management Program. This was a fast introduction to the power of geographic analysis to integrate science and practical applications. Later **TIM** became a private consultant and earned a PhD in physics. Several themes emerged during this period, including the importance of mapping and graphics in communicating and finding common ground to manage environmental problems. His experience includes use of satellite imagery, especially NASA's Landsat, as well as commercial observations, and Global Positioning System (GPS) for GPS-based mapping. In retirement, **TIM** has volunteered and taught at Westchester Community College. **TIM's** nomination was seconded by **DON ROTZIEN**.

**HENRY TISCHLER** was nominated by **JAY SCHONDORF**, who met him just last month, while enjoying Tod's Point on a Friday evening. **HENRY** sat down next to **JAY** and his wife, and started a conversation. **HENRY** had recently moved to the area and was intrigued by **JAY's** description of the RMA. **HENRY** was born in Shanghai, China after his parents fled Nazi Germany. He came to the U.S. at the age of two and grew up in Philadelphia, where he attended Temple University. He went on to graduate school at Northeastern University and received a PhD there. He taught sociology at Framingham State University for 51 years, and is the author of multiple textbooks, including 12 editions of *Introduction to Sociology*. **HENRY** has a daughter and two grandchildren in Greenwich, and a son and two grandchildren in Atlanta, Georgia. He was married for 42 years to Linda Tischler, a writer and editor at *Fast Company* magazine. **HENRY's** nomination was seconded by **JOHN REESE**. Both nominations were approved unanimously by the members present.





Rotzien, Alexander, Mayfield



Reese, Tischler, Schondorf

The three guests today were Andrew Loebelson, guest of **BOB STARK** and **HORST TEBBE**, John Heyd, guest of **STEVE MYERS** and **PETE UHRY**, and Steve Markowitz, guest of **JIM SANTORA** and **TONY FITZPATRICK**.

**ED FARRELL** is recuperating at home from knee surgery. **RICK HOLZ** is still attending from the Sunshine State on Zoom, and **MIKE SMITH** has returned from cruising the Rhine River.

**Volunteer Hours:** **HAROLD KUPLESKY** reported that for the two weeks ending September 21, outside hours totaled 168 by 17 members, and inside hours totaled 76 by nine members. Top volunteer was **JIM DEAN** with 35 hours.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Banquet:** **JACK WEIR** reported that final preparations are underway for the RMA Annual Banquet on November 9 at Tamarack Country Club. Also, arrangements are being made for First Selectman Fred Camillo to attend the RMA meeting on Oct 12 to make a proclamation recognizing the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RMA.

**Raft Up:** **JOHN CRAINE** and **BARRY RICHELSON** reported that the annual RMA raftup was held on a beautiful September 8<sup>th</sup> afternoon with a favorable rising tide and a moderate breeze. The participants rafted up off Great Captains Island using Mary and **JOHN CRAINE's** Endeavour 33 sloop as a base. A great time was had by the 20 participants with three sloops and three power boats. The turnout was a recent new record for the

RMA fleet. **BOB GIAQUINTO's** crew got the award for distance traveled. Four mates were aboard from the Rye Marina. Lots of memorable and a few not so memorable cruising and land experiences were exchanged by the mates and no one overboard.

**Special Events:** **PETE UHRY** announced that on October 8 Greenwich holds its annual Paper Shredding Day at the Island Beach parking lot, Saturday 9:30 am - 12:00 noon. RMA volunteers are needed to help with traffic control for the roughly 300 cars expected to show up. Contact **PETE** if you can help: 203-637-9482. For more info, <https://www.greenwichgreenandclean.org/paper-shredding-day>

**HARRY FISHER** announced a unique opportunity to help serve the town at the polls on Election Day. **HARRY** has worked at absentee ballot counting (but it is practically a volunteer job). The work day is long, from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, but very rewarding. To help, contact [traci.carney@greenwichct.org](mailto:traci.carney@greenwichct.org), or go to <https://greenwichct.gov>, click on "How Do I..." at the upper right, and click on "I Want to Work at the Polls."

### **GAMES MEMBERS PLAY**

**Platform Tennis:** **JIM DEAN** announced the third year of RMA platform tennis, Tuesdays at the Loughlin Avenue paddle courts. The season runs from October through late March. Typically, there are about ten members playing each week.

**Pickleball:** **PAT MACCARTHY** said that pickleball play continues on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 am at the tennis courts next to Christiano field.

**Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** reported the results from the September 7 game. There were eight players and the top scorers were **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 4520, **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 4420, and **ED MASTOLONI**, 3090. New players welcomed!

**Tennis:** **PETER DODGE** reported the results from September 16. Winners were **PETER DODGE/DON BREISMEISTER** on court 1 and **JOHN KNIGHT/ANDRE MAZUREK** on court 2. Finals winners were **MAZUREK/BREISMEISTER**.

**Hearts:** **BOB SHULLMAN** told us that there were eight players at two tables on September 7. Winners on table 1 were **DON CONWAY, BOB SHULLMAN, JACK WEIR**, and **JOHN**

**KNIGHT**, with moonshots by **JACK WEIR** and **JOHN KNIGHT**. Winners on table 2 were **JOHN STANKUNIS** and **GRANT PERKINS** with a moonshot by **TOM HEALY**.

**Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE**

was one of eight walkers on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, who enjoyed a comfortable three-mile walk in Rockwood Hall, a western portion of the Rockefeller State Park with nice wooded trails and some paths overlooking the Hudson River with a very nice view of the Mario Cuomo Bridge, or Tappan Zee bridge if you prefer. The old Rockefeller estate is no longer there, but the remains of the extensive grounds and carriage paths remain. Last Thursday the group walked around Bruce Park.



Walkers at Rockwood Hall

**Tai Chi:** We meet Mondays at 9:30 in Old Greenwich. To find out more and to get on the weekly mailing list, contact **WILL MORRISON**, [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com).

**RMA Picnic:** WILL added that he urges members to take the following survey and give us your comments. We endeavor to make the picnic more fun and easier to organize each year. Please take a moment to share, anonymously, what you feel was done well and what could be improved.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjPb\\_qfB71NJ0iF1PnOtRNVWHSrIMA422U3c\\_qF4x7SKfoeg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjPb_qfB71NJ0iF1PnOtRNVWHSrIMA422U3c_qF4x7SKfoeg/viewform)

**Human Interest:** **JIM FISHBEIN** alerted us that the NASA mission to test our ability to redirect an asteroid will be reaching its critical phase in the next few days. He showed two charts about the mission that was 10 years in planning, 10 months in transit to the asteroid 6.5 million miles away, and is due to make contact with the asteroid on Monday, September 26 between 6:00 and 7:30 pm EDT. The event can be live streamed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21X5lGIDOfg>

**TODAY'S SPEAKER**

**HOLLISTER STURGES** introduced Page Knox, adjunct professor in the Art History Department of Columbia University and lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This was her sixth time speaking at the RMA, and her subject was the recent exhibition of Winslow Homer's works, "Crosscurrents," at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Crosscurrents" closed in July and is now on exhibit at the National Gallery in London. When first conceived, this exhibition was going to focus on Homer's watercolors. But then the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement happened, and plans had to change. Suddenly "The Gulf Stream" painting, featuring a Black man struggling against the life-threatening forces of Nature and society, became the most appropriate centerpiece.

Winslow Homer is often seen as the quintessential American artist. He never took training in Europe, and was mostly self-taught. Every major American art historian has written about him. Until this year, the largest retrospective on Homer was in 1996 at the Metropolitan. A catalogue raisonné of Homer was published in 2014. Crosscurrents focuses on Homer as *the* artist of the Atlantic. Much of his life was spent on the Atlantic shores of the United States, and his travels took him to the Caribbean, to Cuba, England, and Paris, crisscrossing the Atlantic. He was interested in the Gulf Stream and how it affects life on the Atlantic.

Homer was born in 1937, and grew up in Boston. He became a war reporter for *Harper's Magazine* during the Civil War, and was very influential to the reading public of the Northeast.

Dr. Knox showed a series of slides of Homer's works that demonstrate his fascination with struggle, from the Civil War and Reconstruction to hunting and rescues. For example, Andersonville was a horrific prisoner-of-war camp in Georgia. His painting "Near Andersonville" (1865) shows a black woman watching Union soldiers hoping that they will free her, but actually they are being marched into the prison camp. Some of his paintings were made after the war but based on his experiences during the war. "Prisoners from the Front" (1866) shows the disparate nature of the Confederate soldiers – an old man unfit to fight, and a young man unsure what they are fighting for (only a small percentage of Southerners were slaveowners). In the background, instead of the usual lush greenery of landscape paintings we see devastation caused by the war. "The Veteran in a New Field" (1865) shows a soldier who has thrown down his uniform and taken up a scythe to build the future. Actual scythes in use had multiple blades for



efficiency, but Homer changed this one to have a single blade, like the one associated with the grim reaper.

Homer returned to the South to see how people's lives had changed. "A Visit from the Old Mistress" (1876) is a scene from the end of the Reconstruction, in which an old white woman, no longer the mistress of the estate, is standing near her former slaves. In "The Cotton Pickers" (1876) not much has changed for these two black women, yet they have very different attitudes. One woman seems resigned to her lot; the other seems ready to break out and start a new life, but the cotton plant is clinging to her, as if preventing her from leaving. In "Dressing for the Carnival" (1877) Blacks are not invited to the carnival, so we see them holding their own festival. People are wearing African colors, keeping their culture and traditions, but the little boy is holding an American flag. "Weaning the Calf" (1875) is about segregation – a black boy is teaching two white boys how to wean a calf, metaphorically saying that the South must wean itself from slavery and segregation.

Later Homer works center on life on the Atlantic Ocean. For example, "Waiting for Dad (Longing)" (1873) shows life on the coast – a boy waiting for his father to return from the sea. Homer visited the Cullercoats coastal settlement in northeast England and painted "Undertow" (1886). This painting depicts two lifeguards rescuing two women and shows his talent for painting water. "The Fog Warning" (1885) was painted in Newfoundland. The Gulf Stream meets the cold Labrador current and frequently creates fog, but it's also a productive fishing area. A fisherman has gone too far out, and the approaching fog puts him in grave danger.

After his mother died, Homer went to the Bahamas for a vacation. His paintings may have been depicting the impact of colonialism. For example, "A Garden in Nassau" (1885) shows a Black child outside a wall, looking in. He often showed the hardships of black people trying to make a living. His watercolors show local scenes and landscapes, but he inserts symbols of imperialism, such as the barely visible British soldiers in "Coral Formation" (1901). "The Gulf Stream" (1899) is the centerpiece of the Crosscurrents exhibition. It is one of a series of watercolors showing black fishermen catching sharks. The 1906 reworked version also includes stalks of sugar cane, the foundation of slavery. This painting may be symbolic of Homer's aloneness, having lost his parents, and remaining unmarried. It is an image of desolation.

Homer lived the last 27 years of his life at Prout's Neck, Maine, where the sea was ever-present. Some see Homer as a predecessor of abstract artists like Rothko, de Kooning, Pollack. "Driftwood" (1909) was Homer's last painting; it shows how small a man is compared with the forces of nature and the sea. In "Fox Hunt" (1893) the fox is itself being hunted by large predatory birds. The shape of Homer's signature implies the fox represents Homer. Finally, "Right and Left" (1909) depicts two hunted birds being shot. It symbolizes mortality and the end of life. It includes his lifelong themes of water, nature, and conflict.

Through this series of examples of the best-known works of Winslow Homer, Dr. Knox gave us an insightful overview of the ideas and passions that drove Homer's creativity. His themes of racial struggle, war, and the forces of nature are just as relevant today as they were when he captured them on paper and canvas.

\* Note: no video was made of this presentation

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

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next in-person meeting, on September 28, will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to [jangland@optonline.net](mailto:jangland@optonline.net).

**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.

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	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