

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, 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**

VOLUME 70 NUMBER 6 September 28, 2022

SCRIBE: JOE ANGLAND

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." - Martin Luther King Jr.

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting, and **ED PARKER** led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. With **BOB MORGAN** accompanying on the piano, **GRAN BURGESS** led members in singing "God Bless America," "Sunrise, Sunset," and the challenging "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOE MANCINELLI noted that **MAURICE KROHN** was stepping down as the organizer of our weekly refreshments. After thanking **MAURICE** for his service, **JOE** asked for one or more volunteers to step up and take that role.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** advised members that if they have sensitive papers that they are anxious to have shredded, now is their chance. There will be a paper shredding day on Saturday, October 8th from 9:30 am to noon at Island Beach Parking Lot. Make sure you bring your papers in boxes (roughly 12x12x18); paper bags will not be accepted. Cost is \$3 per box. For more details, go to:

<https://www.greenwichgreenandclean.org/paper-shredding-day>.

PETE UHRY noted that volunteers are needed to help control auto traffic while cars navigate the Island Beach Parking Lot during the October 8th paper shredding event. Over 300 cars are served and they need to be properly directed in the parking lot. The work is outside and not difficult – indeed, it is rather fun as you get to meet lots of folks as they wait their turn to dump their unwanted papers. Contact **PETE** (at 203-637-9482) if you would like to help for some or all of the time.

ARNOLD expressed his amazement at NASA's recent successful crash of a spaceship into an asteroid (which was practice for protecting the earth from a collision with an asteroid). He then alerted everyone to a special referendum on the November 8th election ballot. The proposition is as follows: "Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?" The League of Women Voters reminds us that Connecticut is one of only four states not offering in-person early voting. They point out that it provides more voting flexibility which will mean that more citizens will vote, especially in off-year elections when voting is very low. It has bipartisan support. But note carefully that the item is on the reverse side of the regular election ballot, so turn it over to cast your vote.

ARNOLD suggested that if you have not had your flu shot, you get it by the end of October. The Town Department of Health is offering the shot free at Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. You can also get it at CVS and Walgreen, if not at your regular physician's office. **ARNOLD** concluded by sharing some complaints made to the Thomas Cook Travel Agency by real UK tourists:

"The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."

"It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time – this should be banned."

"When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."

"I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

"My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

TOM HEALY, the jokester for the week, regaled us with the story about the man suing after being injured when his tractor, which had been carrying him and his cow, was struck by a truck. At trial he was confronted with his statement at the scene of the accident, "I am fine," which conflicted with his claim of injury. The man then said that at the scene of the accident a state trooper shot the cow to put it out of its misery, then turned to him, his pistol still in hand, and asked him, "How are you?" **TOM** also shared a story about little Johnny's response when asked by his teacher to use "fascinate" in a sentence, which involved his buxom aunt's ability to only "fasten eight" of the ten buttons on her blouse.

Membership chair **PETER STERN** reported that 97 members were present, nine of them by Zoom. Four guests were also present: Andrew Loebelson, guest of **BOB STARK** and **HORST TEBBE**, Phil Schweitzer, guest of **FRANK SCARPA**, Guido Teichner, guest of **MIKE RYAN**, and Robbie Reich. **PETER** recognized the following birthdays: **MARK GEIMER** (74), **HORST TEBBE** (82), **GEOFFREY BURGE** (65), **BILL HORN** (89), and **BILLY LONDON** (82). **PETER** also recognized two returnees, **SAM MARASSO** from Cape Cod and **RON MURRAY** from the Flight 93 National Memorial, Shanksville (Stoystown), PA.

BOB PHILLIPS previewed the presentation by today's speaker, Susan Herbst, Ph.D., a professor and president emeritus at University of Connecticut, who would speak on "Democracy in Peril." **JOE MANCINELLI** previewed next week's speaker, Retired U.S. Navy Captain Rick McGoey, who will speak about "The Soviet/US Arms Race, How One Submarine Made a Difference."

MIKE AMBROSINO noted that **RUSS HARDEN** has been released from Greenwich Hospital and is awaiting test results. **BOB BISHOP** tested positive for Covid, making this the first meeting he has missed in 20 years.

PETER TUNLEY advised members that volunteers were needed for the Abilis Walk/Run from 9:00 am until noon on October 16. Among other things, volunteers are needed to assist in directing people to parking, passing out T-shirts and snacks, and monitoring the course (which largely involves encouraging the walkers/runners). If you are interested, contact Rebecca Muskus at 203-531-1880, ext. 107, or muskus@Abilis.us.

DON ROTZIEN noted that the next **ROMEO** lunch will be at 1:00 pm on October 6 at Cos Cobber North at the Griff Golf Course.

CHICK DONOHUE reported that the movie based on his best-selling book, *The World's Greatest Beer Run*, would premiere on September 29. The book and movie are based on **CHICK's** experiences during the Vietnam War. While serving in the merchant marines, he made an unauthorized detour to Vietnam to find (and deliver beer to) several friends of his who were serving in scattered places around the country. For more details, see the movie, directed by Oscar-winner Peter Farrelly (and starring Zac Efron as **CHICK**)!

WILL MORRISON thanked the 27 people who helped him organize and run the picnic: **ANDRE MAZUREK, ANDY HOLMES, ARNOLD GORDON, BARRY RICHELSON, BILL McKIEGAN, BOB BISHOP, GRAN BURGESS, JEFF JUNKER, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, JIM BOARDMAN, JIM DEAN, JOE FAHYS, JOE MANCINELLI, JOHN DENNE, JOHN KAVANAGH, LEN CARUSI, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, MIKE LaGAMMA, PAUL BARBIAN, PETER STERN, PETER TUNLEY, PETE UHRY, RUSS HARDEN, TAD LARRABEE, TIM BROOKS, TOM HEALY, and TONY FitzPATRICK.** And thanks to **WILL** for his overall leadership!

HARRY FISHER advised members of a clinical trial of a new Pfizer mRNA influenza vaccine. All participants will receive the vaccine rather than a placebo. If interested, call 844-247-4475 or go to:

<https://clinicalrc.com/enroll-in-a-study/#!/study/350>.

JACK WEIR reminded members that the RMA's annual banquet would be on November 9 at the Tamarack Country Club. The fee is \$70 per person, except for widows of deceased members who pay \$35. We still need more table captains, and those interested in being captains should email **JACK** at JohnKWeir47@aol.com. Once we have a full complement of table captains, **JACK** will send notice to all members encouraging their attendance. **JACK** urged all to attend, as the banquet is one of the principal ways we finance RMA activities.

INDUCTION

PETE UHRY nominated John Heyd for membership. **PETE** said that John will be a welcome addition to the RMA. A Princeton graduate and seriously involved alumnus, John organized his 1959 class reunion 35 years later. While a student at Princeton, he proved his athleticism by playing football and becoming the captain of the lacrosse team as well as becoming a First Team All American in the sport. He later went on the Harvard Business

School where he graduated in 1963. John spent most of his business career in the media world including close to 40 years with Time Incorporated. His final assignment, after working for *Time Magazine*, was to be the promotion director for *Sports Illustrated*. John currently lives at Edgehill in Stamford with his wife Sandy. The two of them have been in the Greenwich/New Canaan area for close to 40 years. They have five children and nine grandchildren. John has given up playing racket sports but loves a game of golf and is happy to go to an opera anytime. He continues to be an interesting and interested person and will undoubtedly lend his humor and wisdom to the RMA.



Uhry, Heyd, Myers

STEVE MYERS seconded the nomination. After a unanimous vote in favor of his admission, John thanked the members, said how impressed he had been in the weeks he had been a guest, and expressed his enthusiasm for participation in the group.

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that pickleball was rained out last Thursday but there were spirited games last Monday. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 am to noon at Christiano Field.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** reported that, despite a gorgeous day, we had only 13 players. Closest-to-the-pin laurels went to **JIM SANTORA** on #5, **KIP SCHULZE** on #7, and **RON MURRAY** on #15. **MARK FOX** had the longest drive. **MARK** also had the day's best score with an 82, followed by **JIM DEAN** (85), **PAT YUEN** (92), **GRAN BURGESS** (93), and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (95). **GRAN** birdied the fourth hole with a fantastic chip in. **MIKE** will be captain for the next two weeks. The annual golf luncheon will be on October 12 at the Field Club, following the RMA speaker. **MIKE** is still awaiting menu selections and payment from some golfers. Mail checks to him at 76 Tomac Ave., Old Greenwich, 06870. We are also seeking gifts of almost any kind for the traditional free raffle.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that last week's walk was rained out.

Tennis: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that opening round winners were **JERRY COLEMAN** and **RON FRIEDMAN**, and **JOHN REESE** and **MICHAEL**. Final round winners were **RON** and **JOHN REESE**, and **JOHN KNIGHT** and **PETER DODGE**. Next week's captain is **JOHN KNIGHT**.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported that the top scorers among this week's nine players were **ED MASTOLONI** (3160), **ALEX KOSSEIM** (3100), and **RON** (2750). Newcomers are welcome, regardless of skill level!

Hearts: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that at table 1, **BOB SHULLMAN** won two games and **MICHAEL** won one, with **BOB** having two moonshots and **MICHAEL** one. At table 2, **GRANT PERKINS** won three games, with **JACK SWEGER**, **JOHN STANKUNAS**, and **GRANT** scoring moonshots. At table 3, **TOM HEALY** won two games and **JACK WEIR** won one.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** said that the group meets Mondays at 9:30 in Old Greenwich. To find out more and to get on the weekly mailing list, contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Paddle Tennis: **JIM DEAN** noted that we will be playing at Loughlin Field beginning October 11, with the season running until the end of March.

Raft-Up: Pictures of the annual RMA Raft Up, organized by **JOHN CRAINE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**, and held on September 8, arrived too late for inclusion in last week's CBB. It was a beautiful, sunny day, enjoyed by all.



HUMAN INTEREST STORY

ARNOLD GORDON played a video featuring a story about a couple that, having trouble conceiving, decided to have another man serve as a surrogate, and the confusion that ensued when the man who showed up at the couple's house was not the intended surrogate (as the wife assumed) but merely a photographer innocently trying to offer his services.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced today's speaker, Susan Herbst, Ph.D. Dr. Herbst received her B.A. in Political Science from Duke and her Ph.D. in Communication Theory and Research from the University of Southern California. She served as president of the University of Connecticut from 2010 until 2019, and now teaches at its Stamford campus where she is university professor of political science and president emeritus. She is the author of five books, the most recent being *A Troubled Birth: The 1930's and American Public Opinion*. Dr. Herbst discussed her views on these extraordinary political times by exploring seven issues.



First, she noted the polarization of the Washington elite. Government had long operated in a bipartisan manner, with some Republicans supporting Democratic initiatives and vice

versa. That changed, she said, with the strategy championed by Newt Gingrich in the 1990s when he introduced his Contract with America that led to the Republicans winning back the House. Although this rejection of any semblance of bipartisanship began with Gingrich, it has been embraced by both parties. The result has been the least productive congresses since the Civil War.

Second, she asserted that the polarization spread to people in general. Until about 2015, Republican and Democratic voters often agreed on specific issues, with voters generally being “down-the-middle” in terms of political views. Since then, however, there has been what political scientists refer to as “sorting.” Voters affiliate themselves with one party, and then they embrace all of the views advocated by that party. While sorting isn’t absolute – e.g., voters in certain geographical areas differ from those in their party elsewhere – there is far less issue-by-issue deviation from party norms than was traditionally the case.

Third, there is less stability in U.S. government than there has been since the Civil War. While in the 1930s heated disputes regarding the depression and immigration were amplified by the growing role of radio, the situation today is more perilous (for one thing, we live in a world with nuclear weapons) and more susceptible to untoward influences (Twitter enabling anyone to get an audience).

Fourth, Dr. Herbst reflected on the schadenfreude that has infected U.S. political discourse. Many people now seem more interested in seeing the opposing political party lose – indeed, suffer – than in seeing their own prevail. She drew an analogy to the Duke-UNC basketball rivalry.

Fifth, she reflected on the impact of social media. More people have become involved in politics, but not in the way that we want. Voting has not increased significantly, but espousing unsupported claims and conspiracy theories has.

Sixth, Dr. Herbst noted that, at least as compared to recent decades, she believes that voters are more likely to have racial issues dictate their vote. While race has long affected voting, it had been secondary to economic issues, but that has seemed to reverse as more Americans are concerned that America is being lost to “the other.”

Seventh, Dr. Herbst emphasized that the old adage that “elections matter” is truer now than ever. Sadly, many potential voters appear not to have grasped that fact. Young people have very low voting turnout, and that disserves them and society as a whole. Using what she called a “political science technical term,” she opined that we were “toast” if they don’t vote. An important element of any solution to this problem would appear to be enhanced K-12 education.

Dr. Herbst then took questions from RMA members. In response to a comment that the two people she had singled out for creating polarization were Republicans – Gingrich and Donald Trump – she agreed that both parties are responsible for it but said that Gingrich merited special note because he had pioneered the approach that both parties came to adopt. With respect to wokeness/cancel culture, she said that they were very damaging, but that fortunately they seemed to be ebbing somewhat. As for what K-12 education could do better, she suggested that a high priority should be teaching students how to better weed through social media posts, analyzing sources and the basis for the claims. She analogized this to how we all learned to dismiss sillier advertising claims. She acknowledged the problem that K-12 education was a “prisoner of zip codes” given its local funding, but she noted that George W. Bush’s No Child Left Behind policy had been somewhat successful on a national level. Finally, she thought ranked choice voting was an interesting possibility which has been shown to reduce extremism of candidates by rewarding those who play to the middle.

[Click Here to See Dr. Herbst’s Full 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 October 5, will be →**PAUL BARBIAN**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to barbian3015@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 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.

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 – 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