

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: JOHN KAVANAGH

"Is The Only Lesson of History to Be That Mankind Is Unteachable?" - Winston Churchill

President **JOE MANCINELLI** called the meeting to order, and **PAUL CAMPION** led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. With **JIM SANTORA** accompanying on the piano, **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** led the membership in singing three songs, "America the Beautiful," Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oh What a Beautiful Morning," and Irving Berlin's "There's No Business Like Show Business."

JOE MANCINELLI noted that there will be a Zoom-only meeting on November 23, 2022, and that there will be no in-person or Zoom meeting on December 28, 2022 as the FPC will be closed on that day.

JOE also indicated that the Refreshments Committee is trying to replace the very able **MAURICE KROHN** with a group of volunteers instead of just one person. So far, a few people have stepped forward to help out, but **JOE** indicated we need a few more volunteers. Please contact **JOE** if you are willing to help out.

JOE thanked Mrs. Barbara Oh for the beautiful tray of chocolate cupcakes that she brought to the RMA meeting in honor of the 247th Anniversary of the founding of the US Navy.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** indicated that we need greeters to meet members and their guests as they arrive at the Annual Banquet on November 9. Please contact **JACK WEIR**, if you are willing to volunteer.

ARNOLD advised the members that, if they do not have anything planned for Sunday afternoon, October 16th, they might enjoy the annual sailboat regatta at Binney Park pond. For details, see:

[Annual Sailboat Regatta – Binney Park, October 16th](#)

ARNOLD also noted that members can get free flu and pneumonia vaccine shots at Town Hall on Thursday, October 20th from 3 to 6 pm and Tuesday, October 25th, from 11 am to 2 pm. He pointed out that the pneumonia vaccine is good for your whole life. It is something to consider; and members can get it at no cost.

Reprising his role as RMA Jokester, **ARNOLD**, with his usual wordplay offered some odds and ends and a few groaners. But first he quizzed the members:

“Even though contemporaries, why didn’t the man that invented the Ferris wheel ever meet the inventor of the merry-go-round? They travelled in different circles.”

“What does a dyslexic, agnostic, insomniac do at night? He stays up wondering if there really is a dog.”

“Statisticians have recently determined that the average human has what? One breast and one testicle.”

“A German walks into a bar and asks for a martini. Dry, asked the bartender? The German replied, nein, just one.”

Imparting more pain, he told a story about three vampires in a bar—two ordered blood and one ordered a bloodlite. He then described mistranslations of ad slogans for foreign markets (e.g., Ford trying to sell its Pinto in Brazil without realizing that the word in Portuguese is slang for tiny male genitals). Finally, he read some ads from people seeking romance at The Villages in Florida, including “Looking for person to fill out a six-person burial plot”; and explained one company’s solution to dealing with our tough economy by reducing the number of employees. Its program was called “Retire Aged People Early, with a pithy acronym; you can imagine where it went from there.

Editor's Note: It has been pointed out that jokester **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN's** story was inadvertently omitted from last week's CBB. Read it here!

[Jerry Schwendeman's Story](#)

PETER STERN gave the membership report. There were 93 members in attendance at the Church and eight watching the meeting on Zoom. Those on Zoom included a recent new member, **TOG PEARSON**, Birthday Boy, **ED FARRELL**, and **PETER ARTURI**. Three guests were also present: Gary Berner, guest of **TAD LARRABEE** and **PETER BERG**, Steve Markowitz, guest of **JIM SANTORA** and **TONY FITZPATRICK**, Frank Salem, guest of **JOERG BLASER** and **TOM MORRISON**. Also, **PETER** recognized the following birthdays: **GARY RIDDELL** (66), **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** (87), **ED FARRELL** (84), **MICHAEL LAGAMMA** (71), **DAVID WATKINS** (78), **MARSHALL TOPPO** (89). Returnees include **RANDY MOTLAND** from Morocco, and **HORST TEBBE**, from Denver and Ashville NC.

Induction: Andrew Loebelson was introduced by **BOB STARK**, who said: "I'm pleased to be up here to introduce Andrew Loebelson for membership in the RMA. Andy's lived here in Greenwich for 33 years with his wife, Debbie, and their three grown children. I've known them as friends for all that time. Andy is a graduate of Yale and later from the Yale School of Architecture. He worked as an architectural draftsman in Boston and later as vice president for design and construction at Lehman Brothers as well as Salomon Brothers and Deutsche Bank. Along the way, he earned an MBA at Harvard Business School and a master's degree in math education. He's taught math to high school students and volunteered to teach financial literacy at the Boys and Girls Club here in Greenwich. Andy has been active on the board of Call A Ride and served as Co-President and Board member at the Greenwich Reform Synagogue. Besides his volunteer activities, he finds the time to bike and row along the Mianus River. Andy's an all-around good guy and I know he'll be an active member of the RMA." The nomination was seconded by **HORST TEBBE**, and members unanimously voted to welcome Andy into the RMA.



Stark, Loebelson, Tebbe

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported on visiting. As of Sunday, October 9, **RUSS HARDEN** is in Greenwich Hospital. He has lymphoma in his left cheek and neck. It is expected to be 100% curable. Phone calls and emails are welcomed. **BOB GRAYSON** is in rehab for leg pain from his hip into his knee. This is the reason he has been unable to play RMA indoor tennis this fall. **MICHAEL** indicated that, if you know of anybody who is ill, let him know because we might be able to help out. Last week, a member had a prostate issue and was able to get some useful advice from fellow members.

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

BOB RIMMER announced this week's speaker, Dwight Chapin, an RMA member and author of the book, *The President's Man: The Memoirs of Nixon's Trusted Aide*. **BOB** previewed Dwight's talk. From Richard Nixon's, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore," comment at the end of his 1962 California gubernatorial campaign through his world-changing trips to China and Russia and epic downfall, Dwight Chapin was at his side. He was with him in his most private and public moments.

TIM BROOKS then previewed next week's speaker, Alison Kibler, Ph.D., whose talk "The Long History of Hate Speech" is being co-sponsored by Edgehill Lifecare Community in Stamford. Dr. Kibler is a professor in American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

RMA FOUNDERS DAY PROCLAMATION

FRED CAMILLO, Greenwich first selectman, joined the meeting to declare October 13, 2022, as RMA Founders Day in Greenwich, recognizing the RMA's 68 years of service in the town. He issued the following proclamation.

Whereas, The Retired Men's Association was founded on October 13, 1954, by a group of senior men dedicated to fellowship, volunteerism, and public service; and,



Whereas, For 68 years, RMA members have carried out their strong and unwavering commitment to serving the people of Greenwich in a caring manner, utterly devoid of any self-aggrandizement, partisanship, or self-interest, and

Whereas, Their good works have significantly benefitted the lives of the citizens in our community, especially seniors, and have positively enriched their own lives through acts of fellowship, service, and simple human kindness, and

Whereas, The RMA's membership has through resilience and perseverance been able to meet and conquer the scourge of COVID, and have helped to revitalize our community in its return to normalcy, and will continue to do so going forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRED CAMILLO, FIRST SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF GREENWICH, do hereby proclaim October 13, 2022, as *RMA FOUNDERS DAY* in the Town of Greenwich and urge all citizens to join me in celebrating the Retired Men's Association Founders' Day on its 68th Anniversary.

[RMA PROCLAMATION](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JACK WEIR gave us some updated information on the upcoming RMA banquet and made several requests of the membership.

- 1) Table captains need to get completed captain forms and checks submitted, even if the table is not yet full and whether or not full payment has been made.
- 2) He pointed out that the invitation, which was sent out nine days ago, requested an RSVP, whether an acceptance or a regret. If a member is coming, but does not yet have a table, please so indicate by email to johnkweir47@aol.com.
- 3) Since relatively few new members have signed up so far, **JACK** asked that, if you want to come, whether solo or with a guest, please send **JACK** an email.
- 4) Also, he indicated that any prospective member who has attended at least one meeting is eligible to come to the banquet, even if they will not have been inducted by 11/09/2022. Please send **JACK** an email.

PETER UHRY advised the group that there is an interesting program available on Saturday, October 15. Called "Allies for Art: Work from NATO-related Countries," the

program is put on by the World Affairs Forum in conjunction with browngrotta arts. It features fifty artists in the exhibition of one hundred works of art. The program begins with a private tour at 4 pm. At 5 pm, there will be a talk by Cindy Maguire and Rob McCallum, both PHD's, in the area of arts and culture, and the many aspects of the role it plays in individual and community identity and development, in areas in the world under or recovering from conflict and repression. The talks will be followed by a reception from 5:30-7:00 pm, with international canapes and a curated signature cocktail where members can socialize, network, and view and learn more about the exhibits works of art. Members of the RMA who would like to join with a guest on a complimentary basis should contact Jessica F. Anderson, Executive Director of World Affairs Forum by email at ExecutiveDirector@worldaffairsforum.org or by phone at 203-356-0340.

FRED WU informed the membership that the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra would be performing on Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 pm and again on Sunday, November 13, at 3:00 pm at the Greenwich High School Performing Arts Center at 10 Hillside Road. The program for November 12/13 includes *Fantasia on a Theme* by Thomas Tallis, Vaughn Williams, Piano Concerto No. 23, Mozart featuring Rachel Naomi Kudo on piano, and the Brahms Symphony No. 2. As you may know, the GSO has arranged with seven local restaurants to offer discounts —Mumbai Times, 25%, Asiana and Tsuki, 20%, Kumo, 15%, East End, Mediterraneo, and Terra, 10%--to GSO attendees on concert weekends. If you plan to attend one of the November concerts and are interested in a pre- or post- concert dinner at one of these restaurants with fellow RMA members, please sign up on the sheet at the next RMA meeting, along with your date and restaurant preferences. I am hoping that your sign-ups will encourage others to join you.



DON ROTZIEN reported that the latest ROMEO lunch took place on Thursday, October 6 at the Cos Cobber North at the Griff Golf Course. It was a beautiful 70 degree fall day. Thirteen RMAer's attended and had a good time. Due to the Annual Banquet, there will be no ROMEO in November. The next lunch will be in early December and he will keep you posted as to time and place.

WILL MORRISON reminded members that the non-profit organization that is by far the most supported by RMA members is Call-A-Ride. He then introduced **DON CONWAY**, a CAR Board Member, who in turn invited the more than a dozen active CAR drivers in the audience to come up behind him at the podium. **DON** went on to describe the benefits volunteering for the organization brings to not only the elderly served but also to the drivers. There are three cars, which are available from 9 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Driving is done by volunteers who agree to take a morning or afternoon shift. The cars are fully insured. There is no pressure to be on time and the priority is safety. It is a great way to meet lots of different people, have pleasant conversation, and learn more about the Town of Greenwich. **HORST TEBBE** who is vice-president of the Call-A-Ride Board of Directors, indicated that they have 20-30 half day shifts to fill to provide the needed service. Unfortunately, the current pool of drivers, which includes several RMA members, is too small to meet the current demand. So, it would be great if more of our membership could help out by taking a shift.



GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** indicated that they had spirited games on both Christiano courts last Monday and Thursday, with picture perfect pickleball weather. Pickleball is

played weather-permitting, from 10 am to 12 pm 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 (pmacCarthy415@gmail.com).

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** indicated that, on October 5, a total of 20 boards were played by five players. Each player played 16 boards with different partners. Results were: **FRANK LEE** with 1680 points, **RON MURRAY** with 1500 points, **JOE WATTS** with 1460 points, **ED MASTOLONI** with 1320 points, and **TONY COCCHI** with 1040 points.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** noted that, on October 5, there were two tables playing hearts. At Table 1, four games were played and each of the four players (**JOHN KNIGHT, TOM HEALY, DON CONWAY, AND BOB SHULLMAN**) won a game while **JOHN KNIGHT and TOM HEALY** both shot the moon twice and **DON CONWAY and BOB SHULLMAN** shot the moon once. At Table 2, three games were played with **GRANT PERKINS, JACK SWEGER, and JOHN STANKUNAS** each winning a game. **JACK SWEGER** shot the moon twice while **JOHN STANKUNAS** shot the moon once.

Tennis: **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported the results for the past week. Winners in the opening round were **ANDRE** and **PETER DODGE** on Court 1 and **JIM FISHBEIN** and **BILL FAKUNDINY** on Court 2. Winners in the finals round were **ANDRE** and **JIM** on Court 1 and **RON FRIEDMAN** and **JEROME COLEMAN** on Court 2. **PAT MACCARTHY** will be next week's captain.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** reported that, on the most beautiful day of the entire golf season, they had 18 members playing. Winners were: on hole 7, **CHARLIE ADAMS**, on hole 8, **PAT YUEN**, and on hole 15, **JIM BOARDMAN**. Notable scores were 99 for **JOE MANCINELLI** and **JIM BOARDMAN**, 98 for **BOB MENDELSON**, 96 for **TOM HEALY**, and 94 for **PAT YUEN**. Sign-up sheets for next week, October 18 and the following week are on the bulletin board. October 25 is their last golf get together of the season and they will be having a best ball competition on that day. Please sign up.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** indicated that last Thursday, they had a relatively short walk of two and a quarter miles at Pear Tree Point in Darien, all road and minor hills. The weather cooperated with a warm fall day and many nice views over Long Island Sound. That area is experiencing a number of new homes being built plus others being

renovated. It is one of the wealthiest areas that we have walked since it is not yet a gated community. All in all, a pleasant day!

Platform Tennis: **JAMES DEAN** reported that the new paddle season started 10/1/22, with blue skies and warm temperatures. Members, **JAMES DEAN, MARK GEIMER, ANDY HOLMES, ANDRE MAZUREK,** and **JACK WEIR** were in early season shape for six sets. Play is scheduled for Tuesdays, October through March on Courts #1 & #2 Loughlin Field, Cos Cob at 10 am.



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.

JOE MANCINELLI adjourned the meeting.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB RIMMER introduced the day's speaker, Dwight Chapin, author of the recently released *The President's Man: The Memoirs of Nixon's Trusted Aide*.



From Nixon's, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore," at the end of his 1962 California gubernatorial campaign, through his world-changing trips to China and Russia and his epic downfall, Dwight Chapin was at the president's side. He was with him in his most private and public moments. While still in his twenties, Chapin served as Nixon's personal aide and then as deputy assistant in the White House. He travelled with him, advised, strategized, campaigned, and learned from America's most controversial president.

Chapin had an interesting and unusual life. He was born in humble beginnings on a farm in Kansas in 1940. Even as a young boy, he had to work hard and contribute to the responsibilities of running a family farm. When his family moved to California, he experienced a major culture shock. He went from classrooms that covered three grades to a high school with fourteen thousand people, but he adapted. He was energetic and motivated. He went to college at the University of Southern California, where, in a pivotal move, he got into political organizing for the Republican Party. In 1962, during Richard Nixon's run for governor of California. He worked for HR Haldeman setting up local Republican offices in several different California counties. Although Nixon lost, he impressed Haldeman and was offered a job at the big advertising agency, J. Walter Thompson. He continued the relationship with Nixon and Haldeman and, in 1968, he became Nixon's personal aide, crisscrossing the country with Nixon and his team, raising money. This experience gave the young Chapin a unique perspective on Nixon, having worked so closely and personally with him for so many years.

Chapin shared with us that he saw Nixon as a man of incredible resiliency, one who suffered terrible defeats and made serious mistakes, but who managed to keep going. He lost a presidential election to Kennedy and a gubernatorial election, but still returned to run for and ultimately win the presidency. After he resigned in disgrace in 1974, he continued working, writing nine books.

Chapin suggested that Nixon was very adaptable, learning, for example, how to use TV to his advantage when he finally became president, even after previous failures. He was very hard working and analytical and had a rigorous mind. Chapin also showed examples of Nixon privately reaching out to Hubert Humphrey in Humphrey's moment of defeat and to Coretta King after her husband's death. Further, he was prepared to do the unthinkable to advance interests of the United States, as when he normalized relations with Communist China, even though he had been a staunch anti-communist throughout most of his political life. In short, Chapin asked us to judge Nixon by his whole life, not by his most egregious failure, just as Bill Clinton suggested we should do in his eulogy to Nixon in 1994

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

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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next in-person meeting, on October 19, will be →**DAVID MICHONSKI**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to david@quigler.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 **WILL MORRISON** at wdmorrison@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