

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: JAMES DEAN

"Interest in the changing seasons is a much happier state of mind than being hopelessly in love with Spring" - George Santayana.

Welcome: President **JOE MANCINELLI** brought the meeting to order at 9:45 am, with **GRANVILLE BURGESS** leading the Pledge of Allegiance and songs, and **JIM SANTORA** at the keyboard. Additional assistance was provided by projectionist **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI** and audio/video by **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

JOE MANCINELLI advised that based on today's board meeting a decision has been made to suspend required proof of vaccinations as of the next meeting. Members and guests are reminded that no beverages are permitted in the meeting room.

JOE then introduced Deb Rogan, Director of *Coffee for Good*, a program operated by young adults with developmental disabilities. The program, which is located at 48 Maple Avenue in an 1853 home, is a not-for-profit operation serving beverages and light luncheon food to the public. The young adults benefit by learning employment skills. RMA member **ALAN GUNSBURG** added that they "have the best Quiche in Greenwich and the

site has ample parking for visitors.” They could also use potential employers for their trainees.

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that ten of our RMA members had lunch with **ED** and Susan **FARRELL** last Friday. **ED**’s rehab is coming along but he is not yet ready to return to meeting in person. **MIKE** welcomed back bearded **RUSS HARDEN** and advised that **ED BLOOM** would appreciate calls from fellow members.

MIKE reminded members to mark their calendars for the November 11th walk down Greenwich Avenue to support veterans. All are welcome; the group will gather at 10 am in front of Pasta Vera at 48 Greenwich Avenue. **MIKE** then read two poems dedicated to war veterans, “In Flanders Field” and “It Is the Veteran.”

MIKE will be on the Honor Flight Connecticut out of Westchester Airport with 60 other veterans going to Washington, DC, for the November 5th trip where they will visit and reflect at their memorials.

JACK WIER provided his final report on the RMA banquet to be held at Tamarack Country Club on November 9th starting at 10:30. All tables have been filled, however there is one open table for last minute reservations. The cost per member will be \$70.

Corresponding Secretary ARNOLD GORDON provided the following report. **ARNOLD** reported that sadly one of our past members, Dr. Peter Maher, died at the age of 83 on Sunday, October 25th. **ARNOLD** sponsored Peter for his induction on May 14, 2014. He was a physician who practiced in Greenwich for 35 years, many of those in partnership with one of our current members, **Dr. JOEL BLUMBERG**. A memorial will be given at a future meeting. His obituary can be found at

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/greenwichtime/name/peter-maher-obituary?id=36941332>

Neighbor-to-Neighbor is conducting a food drive during this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas when many less fortunate people need help. They have made it easy to contribute at several places around town and at convenient hours. Please try to help.

Details can be found here: <https://www.ntngreenwich.org/how-you-can-help/donate-items/>

Upon completion of the renovation of Greenwich Library's main facility, a project has been initiated to upgrade the Cos Cob Branch. There was a webinar presentation on November 3rd, to inform and obtain input from the Cos Cob community and the Greenwich community at large. The presentation was made by the architectural firm of Peter Gisolfi Associates, the same firm that designed the renovation of the Main Library.

ARNOLD mentioned that the scheduled jokester for the day, **CARL WHITE**, was unable to attend the meeting due to a Covid-related issue. He then proceeded to administer extra pain with his usual groaners and teasers, such as these:

Why don't ants ever get sick? They have anty bodies.

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o'-lantern by its diameter?

Pumpkin π .

Who turns the lights out during Halloween? The lights witch, of course.

What do birds say on Halloween? Trick or Tweet.

Then he offered answers by 16-year-olds to several questions in a yearly exam:

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure: I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Membership Report: **PETER STERN** provided the following update. Attendance today: 93 in-person, eight on Zoom, for a total of 101. There are five guests. No birthdays for today, and no induction of new members.

Guests:

a. Spike Lipschutz, guest of **GEORGE UBOGY, JOHN TONER, JIM FISHBEIN** and **HOLLISTER STURGES**

b. Robbie Reich, guest of **DON ROTZIEN**

c. Anil Nigam, guest of **FRED WU** and **PETE UHRY**

d. Peter Joyce, guest of **RICK HOLZ** and **JIM DEAN**

e. Mickey Robinson, guest of **GRAN BURGESS** and **HOLLISTER STURGES**

Welcome on Zoom:

a. **BO JARNSTEDT** from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Returnees:

a. **JOHN FEBLES** from Palm Beach Gardens, FL

b. **JEFF JUNKER** from Denmark

c. **PETER TUNLEY** from Italy and Spain

d. **PETE UHRY** from California

e. **JOHN HEYD** from Denver

f. **WAYNE DE VRIES** from Maine

SPEAKERS PROGRAM

HOLLISTER STURGES advised that today's speaker is Thomas Graham who will speak on "Putin's Gambit: Why He Chose the War and How It Will End." **BOB RIMMER** advised that on November 16th the speaker will be Paul Kennedy who will speak about his book *Victory at Sea: Naval Power and the Transformation of the Global World Order in World War II*.

RMA HOURS FOR OCTOBER 2022

- **WILL MORRISON** reported that 49 members contributed a total of 891 hours of work; 38% were provided for the RMA and 62% provided to external organizations. Twenty-three members provided over 15 hours of volunteer work.
- Thirty external organizations received 644 hours; 11 of the organizations received over 15 hours of volunteer service. The top five recipient organizations were:
 - Call-A-Ride-150 hours
 - GCTV-46 hours
 - Town of Greenwich-45 hours
 - Religious Organizations-41 hours
 - Co-op/Condo-37 hours

NEW: Record your volunteer hours right after you have served by going to the RMA web site and filling out the online form. This replaces emailing your hours to **WILL**.
www.greenwichrma.org/log.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

Pickleball: **PATRICK MACCARTHY** reported that spirited games occurred on both Christiano courts last Monday and Thursday. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. Please contact **PAT** via email at pmaccarthy415@gmail.com if you would like to be put on the email list.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported that there were seven players on October 26th. Top scoring were:

- **RON FRIEDMAN**, 2620 points
- **ED MASTOLONI**, 2620 points
- **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 2180 points

Hearts: **MIKE AMBROSINO** reported that there were three tables with a total of 12 players:

- Table 1 Winners: **PETER BERG** won one game and had two moon shots. **GRANT PERKINS** won two games.
- Table 2 Winners: **TOM MORONEY** won two games and **ANDY HOLMES** won two games. **TOM HEALY AND JOHN KNIGHT** had moon shots.

- Table 3 Winners: **JACK SWEGER** had one win and three moon shots; **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** won two games and had two moon shots; **BOB SHULLMAN** had one moon shot.

Tennis: ANDRE MAZUREK reported the results of the matches:

- Opening Round Winners
 - Court 1: **RALPH NEWITTER** and **ANDY HOLMES**
 - Court 2: **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **JIM FISHBEIN**
- Final Round Winners
 - Court 1: **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **ANDY HOLMES**
 - Court 2: **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **JEROME COLEMAN**

Next week's tennis captain will be **ANDY HOLMES**. Contact **ANDRE** with questions about the games.

Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE reported the following. Last Thursday morning we went to one of our favorite places, the Thirteen Bridges and Eagle Hill trails in Rockefeller State Park in western Westchester County. We carpoled from Glenville and had a very enjoyable walk of about 3.5 miles. The Fall weather cooperated again and it was beautiful although the foliage was a little past its peak color. If a member wants to join our walks, please provide **TAD** your email address to add to the weekly notice.

Platform (Paddle) Tennis: JIM DEAN welcomes the newest player **JOHN REESE**. With no prior platform tennis experience **JOHN** moved around the court with great agility and added to lively play. Those attending included **ARN WELLES, ANDRE MAZUREK, FRED WU, JOE MANCINELLI, MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **JIM DEAN**. Sign-up sheets for next week, November 8, will be on the bulletin board.

Tai Chi: To develop balance and prevent falls, join **WILL MORRISON** at 9:30 on Mondays for a relaxing yet effective workout. Contact him at wdmorrison@gmail.com to find out more and get on the mailing list.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced the day's speaker, Dr. Thomas Graham, who spoke on the topic "Putin's Gambit: Why He Chose the War and How It Will End."



Dr. Graham's talk addressed such questions as are you upset about the war in Ukraine? Interested in the history leading up to Russia's invasion of the country and the motivation for the invasion? Concerned more currently about 1) Russian President Putin's order for partial mobilization to replenish Russian military forces resulting in the departure of tens of thousands of conscription eligible citizens from Russia, 2) Putin's annexation of several regions

in eastern Ukraine, 3) his threat to use nuclear weapons and his apparent disdain for repeated calls at the United Nations to deescalate?

Dr. Graham described in detail how post-Cold War Russia lost its supremacy and under the leadership of Putin is looking to retrieve the countries within its former borders. By annexing Crimea and now the Ukraine this will further protect Russia from encroachment of NATO and regions he believes are being supported by western powers. In 1991 the USSR broke up and Moscow lost power and authority over independent states. In addition, Russia has a need to maintain control of its Black Sea ports giving its navy access to the seas.

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It is the second largest European country after Russia which it borders to the east and northeast. Ukraine covers approximately 600,000 square kilometers. Prior to the war it was the eighth-most populous country in Europe, with a population of around 41,000,000 people. Dr. Graham suggests Russia has determined this is the time for an aggressive move given Putin's lack of regard for President Biden, Chancellor Merkel stepping down as Germany's leader, changes in leadership in the United Kingdom and weakness in the French government.

Dr. Graham summarized his comments by stating the Ukraine war may turn out to be one of attrition, with no real winners. He believes the United States will take an active role in securing a settlement ending in peace and providing some type of guaranteed security.

A lively question and answer session followed, from a record attendance (for a recent RMA talk).

Thomas Graham is a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a cofounder of the Russian, East European and Eurasian studies program at Yale University and sits on its faculty steering committee. He is also a research fellow at the MacMillan Center at Yale. He has been a lecturer in global affairs and political science since 2011, teaching courses on U.S.-Russian relations and Russian foreign policy, as well as cybersecurity and counterterrorism. Dr. Graham was special assistant and senior director for Russia on the National Security Council staff from 2004 to 2007 during which time he managed a U.S.-Russia strategic dialogue. He was director of Russian affairs on the staff from 2002 to 2004. Dr. Graham served as an advisor to Kissinger Associates from 2008 to 2021. He was a foreign service officer for fourteen years and his assignments included two tours of duty at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the late Soviet period and the mid-1990's. He holds a BA in Russian studies from Yale University and an MA in history and a PhD in political science from Harvard University.

Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker. They are not intended to represent the views of the RMA or its members.

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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the banquet, on November 9, will be →**BOB GIAQUINTO**←. This will included only banquet-related material. He can be reached at bgq19@live.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 at www.greenwichrma.org/log.

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.

Editor's note: Thanks to **ANDY HOLMES** for the photo this time.

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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 – wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Resumes in Spring	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	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact