

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**

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker." - Frederick Douglass

Prior to the opening of the meeting, attendees (both in person and on Zoom) were greeted with a montage of photos taken at the previous week's annual luncheon. Then, at 9:47, with Old Glory waving in the background, **DON ROTZIEN** led the membership in the Pledge. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** then led the membership in singing "This Land is Your Land," "Hey, Look Me Over" and "It Had to Be You," accompanied by **JIM SANTORA** on the piano.

President **JOE MANCINELLI** then took over, recognizing the audiovisual team led by **HORST TEBBE** and **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER** and **PETER DODGE**; also, the projection team of **TONY COCCHI** and **LEN CARUSI. FRANK SCARPA** is scribe.

Special thanks were bestowed upon **JACK WEIR** for his outstanding job managing and organizing the annual luncheon at Tamarack Country Club. **JACK** then rose to note that a few members had been forced to cancel at the last minute for health reasons. Those members are entitled to claim reimbursement by emailing **JACK**.

JOE MANCINELLI reminded us that proof of vaccination is no longer required for attendance, but attendees should remember the \$2.00 in-person meeting contribution. We

could use more volunteers to manage the front desk and gather attendance stats. Next week's meeting will be by Zoom remotely, since the church will not be available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON ROTZIEN noted that the next ROMEO lunch will be on December 8 at 1 pm at the Tengda Bistro on Field Point Road. There will be room for 20, so it would be advisable to get your reservation in to **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com.

DON CONWAY gave advance notice of a bus trip to the USS Intrepid on January 17. Stay tuned for details.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

ARNOLD GORDON noted the recent and sudden death of Theresa Zavattaro, wife of RMA member **FRANK ZAVATTARO**, on November 10th. Funeral services will be held at St. Catherine's Church on Thursday, November 17.

For Theresa's full obituary, [CLICK HERE](#)

Congratulations to members **HECTOR ARZENO** and **STEPHEN MESKERS** who won their elections to the Connecticut Legislature!

ARNOLD then lightened the mood with some quotes from former VP Dan Quayle, for example:

"It is wonderful to be here in the great state of Chicago."

"The loss of life will be irreplaceable."

"I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix."

"Republicans understand the importance of bondage between a mother and a child."

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in the air and water that's doing it."

He then introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMANN**, the official jokester of the day, who provided us with a Holmes/Watson laugh and a story about a thrice widowed 90-year-old who based her choice of husbands upon an Elvis Presley song.

MEMBERSHIP

Official counter **TOM MCGUIRE** noted that 90 members were in attendance, 84 in person, and six on Zoom. **PETER STERN** announced the following guests: Roger Shelly, a guest of new inductee **ROBBIE REICH**; Michael Brown, a guest of **HORST TEBBE** and **JACK WEIR**; Peter Joyce, a guest of **RICK HOLZ** and **JIM DEAN**; and Ashod Kassibian, guest of **SAM MARASSO**. A guest on Zoom was Spike Lipshutz, guest of **JIM FISHBEIN** and **HOLLISTER STURGES**.

Birthdays today (including holdovers from last week) were **GEORGE CATLETT** (76), **DON CONWAY** (85), **BILL WIGGIN** (95), **PETER DODGE** (80), **BRUCE PANTANO** (83), **BOB SIMMS** (81), **BOB SHULLMAN** (76), **STEVE MYERS** (86), **PETE ARTURI** (96), **CHARLEY LAND** (84), **MARK FOX** (75), **FRANK LEE** (92) and **ARNOLD STANCELL** (88).

PETER STERN then moved to inductions, beginning with John Murphy, whose sponsors for membership were **FRANK SALEM**, seconded by **LEE LUNDY**. **FRANK** noted that he has known John for over 30 years. A native of NYC, John was raised in Westchester. He received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown, a masters from Manhattanville and a law degree from St. John's. He has held legal positions worldwide in the pharmaceutical industry, later starting his own law firm. He retired in 2017. He currently resides in Stamford with his wife Reann. John belongs to two book clubs and is active in tennis, skiing, running, paddle tennis and swimming. He has been active in the Stamford school system, and serves as a mentor there. John was unanimously voted into membership.

Robbie Reich was sponsored by **DON ROTZIEN** and **PETER STERN**. Robbie was born in the Bronx and attended CCNY and Baruch College. His vocation was in the print and direct mail business, but his lifelong passions have involved volunteering, travel, coaching and lifelong learning. Robbie had been married for 37 years before his wife passed away in 2019. Much of his volunteering has been in youth sports and in Westchester's Meals on Wheels. He was 2017 Volunteer of the Year and, in 2020, he was inducted into the Westchester Seniors Hall of Fame. He is an NBA fanatic. He was also welcomed to membership with enthusiasm.



Lundy, Murphy, Salem



Rotzien, Reich, Stern

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES and RECOGNITION

TOM McGUIRE thanked the members for contributing to the efforts toward helping the residents of the Nathaniel Witherell have a happy Christmas. Last year, they received over 1,400 Christmas cards. RMA members were a large part of that effort. **TOM** is urging a repeat effort. Also, "practical" gifts, such as bed socks, blouses, and nighties would be appreciated. Simply send gifts (or checks marked "Christmas Gift") to The Nathaniel Witherell, 70 Parsonage Rd.; Greenwich, Ct. 06830

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#)

ARNOLD GORDON noted that many of us have clothing that we no longer use. He recommended donating such items to the American Red Cross Veterans Clothing Drive. There are drop boxes around town. Other opportunities for donations may be found at <https://greenwichct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/33774/Holiday-for-Heroes-Veterans-Clothing-Drive2022>

JIM DEAN reminded us of RMA opportunities to participate in this season's Salvation Army Drive. The RMA will staff two posts, one at Betteridge Jewelers and the other at Acme Riverside. Men will work in two-man teams for two-hour stints over four Saturdays. Contact **JIM** if interested.

In addition to the three top volunteers recognized at last week's luncheon (**HORST TEBBE, MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **HOLLISTER STURGES**), **WILL MORRISON** gave a shout out to the next ten in number of volunteer hours: **PETER STERN** (over 1000

hours!), **WILL MORRISON, BO JARNSTEDT, ALAN GUNZBURG, JEFF JUNKER, DON CONWAY, MAURICE KROHN, BOB RIMMER, BOB BISHOP** and **JOHN FEBLES**. Additionally, **WILL** expressed appreciation to previous volunteer chair **JOHN FEBLES** for his many years of service in the position.



Volunteer Award Winners: Stern, Rimmer, Conway, Gunzburg, Bishop, Morrison

Members can now log their hours from wherever they are, whenever they want, using a new online form. Drive for Call-A-Ride and log it before you forget it. The form can be found at greenwichrma.org/log. The paper log by the meeting entrance will remain a fixture.

SPEAKERS

BOB RIMMER previewed today's speaker, Professor Paul Kennedy, the J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History at Yale. He will speak on the topic of his recent book *Victory at Sea: Naval Power and the Transformation of the Global World Order in World War II*. **HORST TEBBE** previewed next week's speaker, Pat Craig, the director of a wild animal preserve in Colorado. A few months ago, **HORST** himself tantalized us with a description of this project. He notes that animals from the Kiev Zoo have found refuge there. This will be a remote lecture, with both speakers and audience on Zoom.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Hearts reported by **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Table 2 winners: **GRANT PERKINS (2x), JACK SWEGER** and **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Table 1 winners: **BOB SHULLMAN, DON CONWAY, JOE DOWLING** and **RICK HOLZ**. Moon Shots: **SHULLMAN (2x), DOWLING, STANKUNAS, SWEGER, PERKINS** and **TOM HEALY**. Hat Tricks: **PERKINS** and **SHULLMAN**.

Tennis reported by **ANDY HOLMES**. There were eight players on four courts at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. Opening Round winners on Court 1 were **ART DELMHORST** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**. On Court 2, **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **BILL HOWLAND**. Final Round, on Court 1 **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **BILL HOWLAND**, on Court 2, **RON FRIEDMAN** and **JIM FISHBEIN**. Next week's Captain is **JEROME COLEMAN**.

Bridge reported by **ANDRE MAZUREK**. Top scorer was **ANDRE** with 2,280. Second was **ED MASTOLONI** with 2,170. Third was **JOE WATTS** with 1,690.

Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE covered the two most recent walks. On the first Thursday of November, the walkers visited the Rye Marshlands Conservatory, which contains the Jay mansion and extensive grounds. There is a variety of woodland paths



Cynthia McKay points to Siberian Cranapples, in Stamford

plus a marsh path leading out to an interesting peninsula leading to Long Island Sound. Some deer and wild turkeys were spotted as well as a school of baitfish being attacked from below by a larger predator fish. The subsequent Thursday brought a trip to Scalzi Park in Stamford. The walkers proceeded up and down the Rippowam River paths. Stamford is slowly stitching together a series of these paths. The best part of the walk was spent at Mill River Park, a peaceful oasis near the center of town.

HUMAN INTEREST

After thanking the membership for their good showing on Veterans Day, participating in the Walk Down Greenwich Avenue, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** graced us with an account of his "Honor Flight" on November 5. The Honor Flight is a regional charitable office and part of a national organization. The aim is to honor veterans of America's foreign wars. Of the

68 veterans on this flight, three were WWII vets and three were Korean War vets. **MICHAEL**, a Vietnam vet, had googled the organization several years ago and was placed on a waiting list.

Each veteran had to be accompanied by a "guardian." In **MICHAEL'S** case, this role was assumed by his son. The group met at Westchester County Airport at 6 am, where they were provided with breakfast and a water cannon salute. After a 57-minute flight to D.C., another warm greeting awaited the vets. They boarded four buses, where they were provided with a lunch, and then were driven around (with a police escort) to all the war memorials and to Arlington Cemetery. **MICHAEL** provided us with appropriate historical information. The highlight of the return flight was "Mail Call," each veteran receiving cards and well wishes from friends and family who had been notified secretly and in advance. **MICHAEL** aptly described the emotional impact of this experience.



RMA at the 2022 Greenwich Veterans Day Parade

SPEAKER PRESENTATION

The RMA was graced today with a lecture that was not only informative but truly mellifluous. Introduced by **BOB RIMMER**, Professor Paul Kennedy, the J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of British History at Yale, graced us not only with the contents but also with the story of the genesis of his recent book *Victory at Sea: Naval Power and the Transformation of the Global World Order in World War II*. On account of a "trick knee" condition, Professor Kennedy was forced to speak to us in the sitting position. This

had no adverse effect on his presentation, which was delivered in a clear, crisp and authoritative British accent, worthy of auditioning for his own audiobook!

This book was germinating in Kennedy's mind when he befriended Ian Marshall, a paragon of British marine artists, who had been influenced by Constable and Turner. They decided to collaborate on what would become a 170,000-word book. Unfortunately, Marshall passed away during the creation of this project, but not before supplying several signature paintings of warships and airplanes of the era.



Professor Kennedy highlighted the year 1943 as the turning point and linchpin of the Allied victory in the War, with special emphasis on sea power. The French historian Henri Braudel posits the theory that the history of the war proceeds at three levels: the "history of events" (e.g., Pearl Harbor), changes attributable to tactics and technology, and geographical issues. Kennedy pulled all this together in his lecture, relying heavily on technological and industrial accomplishments of the U.S. and Great Britain. A new fleet of destroyers and carriers was produced at the rate of one per month, peaking in June of 1943. Ships were even "traded"--The British ship "Victorious" became the "U.S.S. Robin," which became part of Halsey's fleet.

Even before the war, the U.S. protected bauxite mines in Dutch Guinea and Papua, New Guinea. Aluminum was produced and was essential in the construction of 22 Essex Class carriers and the Grumman F6F Hellcat, a carrier-based fighter. Kennedy illustrated a "sausage-chain" concept from bauxite to aircraft and ship construction to the winning of crucial battles. By the end of 1943 the Allies were outproducing the Japanese by a factor of six to one. German Admiral Donitz was launching 20 U-boats monthly. In the Atlantic, the crucial development of radar by the Allies allowed the steady destruction of the U-Boat "wolfpack," thereby allowing safe passage of troops and materiel through the northern route to Europe and Russia, where U.S. tanks proved critical.

BOB RIMMER led a lively Q and A session, which included topics such as drones, and the current Chinese Navy.

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. They are not intended to represent the views of the RMA or its members.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on November 23, will be →**ARNOLD GORDON**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **ARNOLD** at ajgordo@verizon.net, as this will be a Zoom meeting.

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.

Thanks to ace photographer Andy Holmes for pictures this issue.

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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