

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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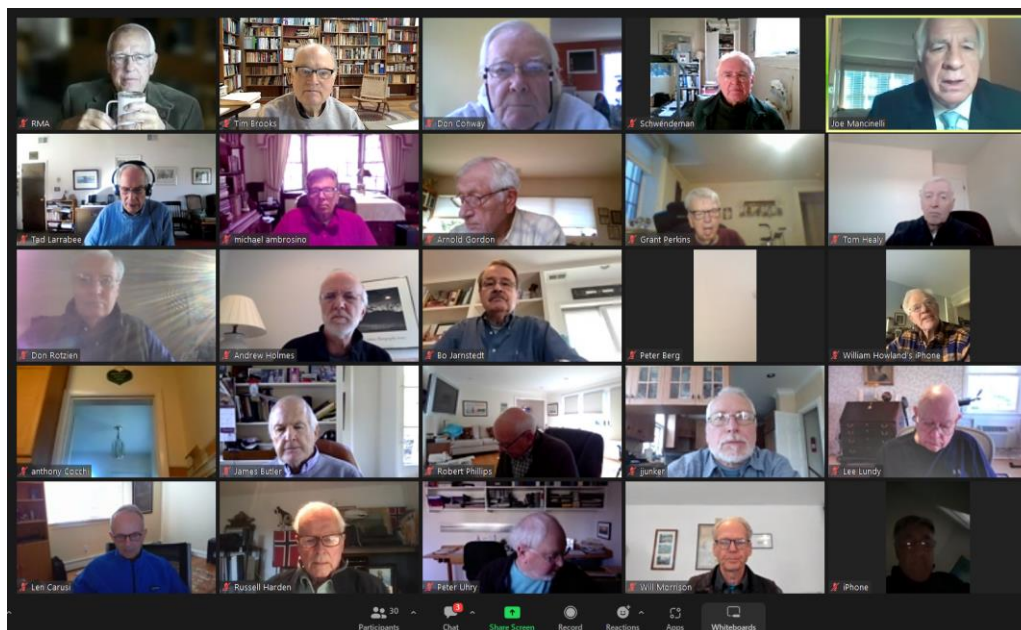
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SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON

“The best time for men to have babies is when they’re eighty. That’s when they have to get up ten times a night anyway.” - Milton Berle

President **JOE MANCINELLI** began the Zoom-only business meeting at 9:46 am, **LEN CARUSI** flew the American flag, and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** led us in the pledge. No songs, no piano, no mellifluous voices 😞. By the end of the meeting, there were 34 members dutifully attending.



President **JOE** reminded everyone to respond to the recently issued survey on planned attendance at the December 21st holiday party. A good estimate is needed to ensure that sufficient refreshments will be made available for this annual celebration; remember, all guests are welcome (no pets please). More information on the planned event will be forthcoming. **JEROME COLEMAN**, with **MICHAEL AMBROSINO'S** help, has volunteered to be responsible for the refreshments. **JOE** also expressed concern about the seemingly chaotic situation at the entrance to the Social Hall now that there are no monitors at the door since Covid vaccine checks are no longer required. He requested that mentors and others with relevant duties meet with him at the end of the November 30th meeting to establish procedures to ensure that guests are greeted, the \$2 donations are made, and volunteer hours are recorded.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** informed members that the The Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich will host its festive Annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 3 from 8:00-11:00am. Whether you bring grandchildren or not, it is your chance to get in your Christmas present orders with Mr. Claus. Details here:

[Annual Pancake Breakfast](#)

After you have filled your tummy, on that afternoon you can visit the Bush-Holley House for a special festive holiday demonstration of early twentieth century Christmas and holiday traditions enjoyed by adults and children of the Holley family in the era of the Cos Cob Art Colony. Tours last approximately 45 minutes and are appropriate for adults and families with children ages 5 and older. Details here:

[Bush-Holley House Tour](#)

As scheduled jokester for the day, he then launched into his usual important comedic news by relating some little-known but famous sayings:

George Washington as he was crossing the Delaware: "I can't understand it. I paid for a seat."

Jack the Ripper's mother said to her son: "How come you never go out with the same girl twice?"

A cannibal wiped his mouth daintily and said: “My wife makes great soup but I will miss her.” He also ate a missionary – he wanted a taste of religion.
Moses said to God: “Let me see if I have it right – the Arabs get the oil and we get the right to cut off the tips of what?”

As if that was not enough, **ARNOLD** quoted from the book *Disorder in the Court*, a collection of real exchanges during trials. A couple of examples:

Lawyer: “What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?”

Plaintiff: “He said ‘Where am I, Cathy?’” Lawyer: “Why did that upset you?” Plaintiff: “My name is Susan.”

Lawyer: “So, the date of conception of the baby was August 8th?” Plaintiff: “Yes.” Lawyer: “And what were you doing at that time?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Substituting for **PETER STERN, MICHAEL AMBROSINO** mentioned that there were no birthdays to announce or inductions to administer. We now have 221 members, larger than other senior men’s groups, with a healthy 15 candidates in the pipeline. He credited **PETER** for his work in helping to make our growth possible. **MICHAEL** took the opportunity to report that the annual Covenant House Food Drive he helps with, and to which RMA members always contribute, will take place in January, later than usual. He also mentioned that the staff at Pasta Vera, the restaurant at the top of Greenwich Avenue where RMA members congregate prior to the Veteran’s Day Walk down the Avenue, apologized for not having the usual free continental breakfast available on Friday, November 11th. He will remind them in the future.

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** had no report.

Speakers: For today’s speaker, **HORST TEBBE** announced that Pat Craig, Founder and Executive Director of the Wild Animal Sanctuary outside Boulder, Colorado, will present “The Wild Animal Sanctuary and its Role in Ending the Captive Wildlife Crisis.” Part of his presentation will cover their recent rescue of lions and tigers from a zoo in the embattled Ukraine. **HORST** also described next week’s speaker program featuring Kermit Roosevelt III, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, former clerk for Supreme Court Justice David Souter, and the author of the books *The Myth of Judicial Activism*, *Conflict of Laws*, and the national campus bestseller, *In the Shadow of the*

Law. He will talk about “The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story,” positing a new understanding of our history, and ultimately the way to a better America.

ROMEO: DON ROTZIEN reminded everyone that the next lunch is scheduled for Thursday, December 8th at 1:00 pm at the Tengda Asian Bistro on Field Point Road (across the Post Road from the Library). Their private party space holds approximately 20 people, so get your reservation in early by sending an email to **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com. He looks forward to seeing you there for a fun time!

Melody Men: TOM HEALY mentioned that they will be giving a performance at the brand new Waterstone Senior Housing facility on High Ridge Road, Stamford, on Monday, November 28th at 2:30 pm.

Greenwich Choral Society: TAD LARRABEE informed us that their first concert of the season will take place on the first weekend in December. It is called “Legends and Traditions” with three performances: Saturday, December 3rd at 4 pm and Sunday, December 4th at 2:30 pm and 5 pm. For information and tickets, see

[Greenwich Choral Society](#)

Special Events: DON CONWAY invited members to join a scheduled special tour of the USS Enterprise in Manhattan on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. A bus has been reserved; lunch will be at a nearby restaurant. More details will be given shortly. You can contact **DON** at spiderduck4@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

WILL MORRISON reported that 68 members, 30% of our membership, have logged volunteer activities for 43 different organizations since October 1. He urged everyone to work toward getting the participation rate well over 50%. The list of organizations will be posted next week. He reminded everyone to log their activities online or at the meeting.

[CLICK HERE TO LOG YOUR HOURS ONLINE](#)

In the spirit of the holiday season, **WILL** hoped that we all do what we can to assist those most in need. In particular, try to support those non-profits you hear about during our

meeting announcements. He also issued a special request. If you are now or have been on the Board of a non-profit organization during the last five years, please let him know (wdmorrison@gmail.com). He would like to explore how the RMA membership might better serve your organization's goals.

ARNOLD GORDON reminded everyone about the American Red Cross holiday season Veterans Clothing Drive. To donate clothing and other personal items, select from their wish list and bring them to the local Chapter at 99 Indian Field Road or to some drop boxes around Town. Good opportunity to clean out the closets. See this for details:

[American Red Cross Veterans Clothing Drive](#)

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** flew away for the holiday so there was no report! However, play does continue every Monday and Thursday from 10 am to noon at Christiano Field. To be put on the mailing list, contact **MARK GEIMER** (markgeimer@gmail.com) or **PAT** (pmaccarthy415@gmail.com). **PAT** will inform the group in advance if conditions are conducive for play. He also offers free lessons; just contact him.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** reminded us that the group usually meets at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich on Mondays at 9:30 am. "If you are not standing up straight, you are falling," according to **WILL**. To develop balance and prevent falls, try Tai Chi. Contact **WILL** to join or find out more: wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** reported that last Friday eight players had four matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the opening round, the winners on court 1 were **JEROME COLEMAN** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. On Court 2 the winners in a tiebreaker were **JOHN REESE** and **RON FRIEDMAN**. In the finals round, there wasn't a winner on Court 1; the match ended in a tie at 5-5. On Court 2, the winners were **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **ANDY HOLMES**. This week's captain will be **RANDY MOTLAND**.

Golf: No Report.

Hearts: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that there were eight players on two tables. Winners on Table 1 twice each were **RICK HOLZ** and **JACK SWEGER**; **GRANT PERKINS** scored a moonshot. At Table 2, **JOHN STANKUNAS** and **TOM HEALY** won one game each and **MICHAEL** won twice. **JOHN** achieved two moonshots.

Bridge: No report. Play takes place in the main library cafe at 12:45 on Wednesdays. Contact **JOHN FEBLES** if interested: c 203-550-5049, h 203-869-5343.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that last Thursday, the group met at the Kensico Dam and enjoyed a cool but nice walk that started with **JERRY POLLACK**, our oldest walker, shaming the rest of the group by strongly leading us up the long stairway from the 9/11 memorial to the top of the dam. They continued across the top of the dam and then down to and around the Town of Valhalla before returning to their cars. The local ice cream shop was closed, so they did not “cool off” with a special treat. Walks will continue during the next few months to visit more urban areas instead of natural parks to avoid slippery conditions or paths covered with fallen leaves that hide obstructions. So please consider joining the group to walk and talk! Contact **TAD** at tadlarra@optonline.net.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HORST TEBBE, who introduced Pat Craig, explained that during a trip to Colorado he and his family were so impressed with the noble work by the Wild Animal Sanctuary and its facilities outside Boulder under Pat's direction that he invited him to make a presentation to the RMA.



Pat Craig, Founder and Executive Director of the Sanctuary gave a Webinar talk on the development of the enterprise and its role in rescuing wild animals from lives of miserable captivity. Pat began saving captive wildlife after learning that thousands of “surplus” animals were being kept in tiny cages in the back of zoos across the country – with many being euthanized daily. He set out on a mission to help save these animals by building a small rescue facility on his family farm outside Boulder. Pat became the first person to build a sanctuary dedicated to saving large carnivores. Created in 1980, the 10,473-acre facility is situated on grasslands in Keenesburg, Colorado; it specializes in

rescuing and caring for large predators which have been ill-treated. This state and federally licensed zoological facility is the oldest and largest nonprofit sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere dedicated exclusively to the rescue of captive exotic and endangered large carnivores that have been abused, abandoned, exploited, or illegally kept.

Pat has 40 years of experience in captive large carnivore behavior and sanctuary development and is a leading expert in the field. He has participated in The Association of Sanctuaries and the American Sanctuary Association, on whose board he served. He lectures nationally on captive wildlife rescue and transportation, great cat behaviors and their diets. He teaches about the captive wildlife crisis and sanctuaries at Colorado State University and has worked tirelessly toward better protection for these animals. He works together with the USDA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and many other state, national and international organizations in the never-ending rescue of animals in need.

About 90% of the animals he rescues originate through court ordered confiscations by the USDA, and U.S. and state fish and wildlife services. Much of the mistreatment of lions and tigers came to light for the public following the Netflix series "Tiger King," a true crime documentary about the life of former zookeeper and convicted felon, Joseph Allen Maldonado-Passage, known professionally as Joe Exotic and nicknamed "The Tiger King." The first season was released on Netflix on March 20, 2020. It exposed the horrible conditions for the animals; the Sanctuary eventually rescued 148 lions and tigers from that facility.

Throughout his talk, Pat showed still photos and videos of their expansive properties, which over the past 40 years have grown to become the largest carnivore sanctuary in the world, not only by the number of animals rescued and cared for, but also through the size and scope of their operations. Their educational facility, located near Keenesburg, CO, is built on 794 acres of beautiful open grassland, the kind typically found on the plains of Colorado. It currently hosts over 550 lions, tigers, bears, wolves and other rescued animals and is open to the public for educational purposes. Although lions and tigers can coexist peacefully, other animals are separated into different compounds. A special feature of the site is the "Mile Into The Wild" elevated 1.5 mile walkway, which has changed the way animals are viewed; the bridgework provides unwavering protection to hundreds of animals and ease of viewing for visitors. A much larger site, 9,752 acres of forested land that offers, endless hills, buttes, bluffs, valleys and grasslands for current and future

rescues, is not currently open to the public due to difficult access to the remote area. There is also a third property under the Sanctuary management, a 41-acre site in Boyd, Texas, that is home to more than 70 of the same types of carnivores. For all three facilities, it takes about 1000 pounds of food per week for the animals; each site has one or more full time vets and a hospital.

Using specially built trailers, Pat and his staff collect animals from all over the U.S. One of the more insidious sources are the breeding compounds, where owners care only for the offspring they can sell, but dispose of the adults by starving them or by outright euthanasia. At such sites, they first rescue the mothers and cubs and return for the rest of the adults. Other countries face the same problems with regard to mistreated and abandoned animals, including Bolivia, Canada, Argentina, Spain, Uruguay, South Korea, Lebanon, Panama, Saipan, and Mexico. Mexico appears to be the worst of the lot, having no rules governing the ownership of animals. A particularly bad situation for bears exists in South Korea, where they are housed in “bile farms” that extract gall bladder bile for sale as a folk medicine and waste away by the hundreds. The practice is illegal and after a tedious and lengthy six-month permit process, the Sanctuary has brought more than 300 bears to the Colorado facility. Working with the South Korea Animal Welfare Association, they helped establish a permanent sanctuary there for the remaining bears.

One of the most challenging recent efforts has been the rescue of lions from the zoo in Kyiv, Ukraine, where they are under constant threat due to the ongoing war. Several bureaucratic barriers had to be overcome to obtain special permits. The animals were first taken to Odessa and then to Romania for temporary housing, which was limited to six months. Obtaining permits from the U.S. Government ordinarily takes up to a year but the Sanctuary was able to obtain an emergency permit. In September of this year, the animals were brought to the airport in Bucharest from where they were flown on a special plane, first to Qatar and then to Dallas, Texas. They were then transported in special cages on trucks to the Sanctuary in Colorado. It is considered the largest wartime effort in history to rescue animals.

[Information about Animal Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

A book about the Sanctuary has been published on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, *Forever Wild, Forever Home*:

[Information About Forever Wild, Forever Home](#)

To see the full presentation, go to this link and click on “Speakers”:

<https://greenwichtma.org/>

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 30, will be →**AV RIVEL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **AV** at av@rivels.org.

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.greenwichtma.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.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichtma.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	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	Resumes in Spring	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