

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: AV RIVEL

"The world would be happier if men had the same capacity to be silent that they have to speak"
- B. Spinoza c 1670

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the last RMA meeting in November 2022 by vigorously ringing the bell and inviting the assembled to sit. Most did. **PETER UHRY**, subbing for **GRAN BURGESS**, led the pledge. The pledge was followed by community singing, led by the dynamic duo of **JIM SANTORA** and **DON CONWAY**. Songs sung were "God Bless America," "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral" and "Winter Wonderland."

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS

President **MANCINELLI** gave a shout-out to all the members that "make the meetings work," the AV, TV, and set-up guys, the food providers, mentors and greeters. He reminded everyone that the December 21 meeting would be our annual Christmas party, with special food and entertainment. Family and friends are also invited. More details below. Finally, he announced a meeting of greeters and mentors during the break to discuss stationing greeters at the entrance door to the hall prior to meetings. The meeting was held as announced.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON ROTZIEN reported that the next ROMEO Lunch will be held on Thursday, December 8th at Tengda Asian Bistro on Field Point Road (across from the library) at 1:00 pm. The space the restaurant allots to private parties holds approximately 20 people. We already have ten signed up, so if you want to attend send an email to **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com at your earliest convenience to get on the list. It should be a fun time; see you there!

DON CONWAY reported on the visit to the Intrepid. The trip will be by bus on January 17 leaving St Catherine's Church parking lot, time to be confirmed. Tour of the ship and sub will be about two to three hours. Lunch will be on the Intrepid, cost about \$12.00. Bus is estimated to cost \$75.00 a person. Admission is free to all veterans. Wives would cost \$25.00. Arrival back to Greenwich should be around 5 pm. Please sign up for the trip this coming Wednesday. More details to follow.

LOU RUPNIK brought an important message re Medicare open enrollment, which ends on December 7. If you know of any seniors who are having trouble navigating the process, the Commission on Aging provides, free, confidential counselling. Its phone number is 203-862-6710.

JIM DEAN is spearheading this year's Salvation Army volunteers' program. Volunteers will stand in front of Acme (formerly Stop and Shop) in Riverside bell ringing for cash. Sign-up sheets for the two-hour gigs are on the bulletin board. Guys, this is a fun gig.

TAD LARRABEE stepped out of his walking shoes to tell us about the Annual Messiah sing at First Congregational Church at 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich. The 57th annual performance will take place on Saturday, December 10, at 4:00 pm. A free-will offering will be received. If you wish to join the chorus for this event, the two rehearsals are on Monday, December 5 from 7:30 – 10:00 pm in the sanctuary/meetinghouse and with the orchestra on Wednesday, December 7, from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Attire is solid color tops and dark bottoms for ladies, and men in dark suits, white shirts, and long solid-color ties. There is a refundable score deposit of \$20. There are no auditions; everyone is welcome. Contact Dr. Craig Scott Symons, craigs@fccog.org, for more information.

TAD also gave a pitch for the Greenwich Choral Society's Holiday concert at Christ Church in Greenwich on Saturday/Sunday December 3rd and 4th.

Info and tickets are at www.gc-ct.org.

With wild anticipation, **JOE** invited Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** to the podium to provide us with good information and sometimes-good humorous tidbits.

ARNOLD commented that most of us receive what seem like endless solicitations from innumerable charities and causes, both by postal mail and online. This is especially true this time of year. Many are worth our support, but how does one know how they spend our money? How does one decide whether or not to donate? He recommended using one or two independent, objective services that assess thousands of charities from all over the world for many factors including whether they provide key financial and operational metrics with full transparency, and what percent of donations are actually used for the intended recipients rather than used for administrative expenses. They are Charity Navigator and Charity Watch.

<https://www.charitynavigator.org/>

<https://www.charitywatch.org/>

For history buffs, Greenwich Library is partnering with the Horseneck chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to present Missy Wolfe, an avid historical researcher who has spent over a decade researching and writing about Greenwich history. She will discuss her new two-volume set, *The Great Ledger: Records of the Town of Greenwich*. Refreshments will be available during a meet and greet with Missy (6:30-7:00 pm). Her presentation will be on Monday, December 5th starting at 7:00 pm, followed by a Q&A. <https://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/9819775>

ARNOLD then asked how many people liked Country & Western music. He mentioned that songs of the genre almost always deal with romantic angst. He shared a few new ones:

“Sorry I made you cry, but at least your face is cleaner.”

“How can I miss you when you won’t go away?”

“I’m so miserable without you it’s like having you here.”

“If my nose was running money, I would blow it all on you.”

“If I had shot you when I wanted to, I’d be out by now.”

The December 21, 2022, holiday party starting at 9:45 am at our usual meeting place is shaping up to be lots of fun with entertainment and great refreshments (remember eggnog?). Our “professional” joke tellers will be at their best, the Melody Men will lead us in a singalong, a surprise video will be a joy, and we will all have lots of quality

socialization. Don't forget to answer the RSVP poll so we know how many people will be coming.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP FOR HOLIDAY PARTY](#)

Then it was time for the real jokester of the day, **AV RIVEL**, who told a couple of knee-slappers about a fictional character and a "closet story" that had nothing to do with gender identity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: **PETER STERN**, in his own inimitable fashion, read out the stats. In-person attendance was 74, plus 10 on Zoom, for a total of 84. In addition, we have four guests.

Birthdays this week were **STEVE MARKOWITZ**, 65, **BART STEINFELD**, 67, **WILL MORRISON**, 73, **ROGER CLARKE**, 76, and **DON HAMILTON**, 79. Guests this week are:

Peter Joyce, guest of **RICK HOLZ** and **JAMES DEAN**

Spike Lipschutz, guest of **JIM FISHBEIN** and **HOLLISTER STURGES**

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

Phil Scibona, guest of **BOB GIAQUINTO** and **PAUL CAMPION**

Welcomes on Zoom were **FRANK SCARPA** from Florida, **ED FARRELL** (RMA Secretary), and **PETE ARTURI** (a Zoom regular). As for returnees, we welcome back to the RMA **MARK FOX** from Conway, SC, and **RON MURRAY** From Palm Springs, CA.

Program Committee: **HORST TEBBE** gave the heads' up on this week's speaker, Kermit Roosevelt III, David Berger Professor for the Administration of Justice, University of Pennsylvania Law School, on his new book *The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story*. **ARNOLD GORDON** (again) announced next week's speaker, Jen Tooker, first selectwoman of Westport, on "Important Issues common to Westport and Greenwich."

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** shared the fact that before he informs us of members who are ill, in the hospital or in rehab, he gets their permission to share the information. Often, he does NOT get permission, so that he cannot announce it. He can announce that **PETE ARTURI** is homebound and would love to receive emails. Parturi1@optonline.net.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

WILL MORRISON stood up straight and reported. He urged us all to join **JIM DEAN** in his efforts to organize support for the Salvation Army fundraiser. This is our singular project for the holiday season. As you heard, he needs help filling the slots at the Acme Food Market in Riverside.

Are you a board member of a nonprofit or have been during the last few years? He would like to explore how the RMA membership might better serve your organization's goals. Please drop **WILL** a note at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

What's new at www.greenwichrma.org/log?

1. You can now see when you last logged your hours.
2. View the list of the nonprofits we support and the members that support them.
3. Log your activities - Log 'em before you forget 'em!

Want to know more about one of the supported NPOs? Just ask one of the nonprofit's volunteers the next time you see him at the coffee break!

THE SPORTS PAGE

Walkers. **TAD LARRABEE** suggested that all of us take a healthy walk with family after Thanksgiving dinner to burn off some of the "gravy." We walk regularly on Thursday mornings at 9 am. Please join us.

Tai Chi. **WILL MORRISON** started his announcement by demonstrating why standing straight is good for you. If you are not standing up straight, you are falling. You are using your back or stomach muscles, e.g., working, to keep you upright. If you want to stand without effort, and without falling, let your muscle structure drape over your shoulders like a suit from a hanger. To develop balance and prevent falls, join **WILL** at 9:30 on Mondays for a relaxing and healing workout. Contact him at wdmorrison@gmail.com to find out more and get on the mailing list.

Hearts. TOM HEALY dealt out the results. Winners were JACK WEIR (2 games), JOHN STANKUNAS (1). Moon Shots were scored by STANKUNAS (2), WEIR (1), JOE DOWLING (1). Next week's captain will be MICHAEL AMBROSINO.

Bridge. RON MURRAY did the honors. Number one was TONY COCCHI, 3390, #2 CHARLEY LAND, 3360, and #3 ED MASTOLONI, 3120. All are welcome, we're a friendly group.

Platform Tennis. JIM DEAN served the report. Five players played 12 four-game sets. FRED WU made several impressive "DIGS" and JERRY COLEMAN had several booming serves for aces.

Indoor Tennis. ANDY HOLMES aced the report. Opening winners were BILL HOWLAND and JOHN REESE on court 1 and RON FRIEDMAN and RANDY MOTLAND on 2. Finals Round: JOHN REESE and RANDY MOTLAND on 1 and PETER UHRY and BILL FAKUNDINY on 2.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HORST TEBBE introduced today's speaker, Kermit Roosevelt III, Professor of constitutional law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, a former clerk for Supreme Court Justice, David Souter and the author of several fiction and non-fiction books.



Professor Roosevelt started his talk by demonstrating a dichotomy in understanding the words in the Declaration of Independence, "*all men are created equal.*" To the founders who were denying the divine right of kings, it meant that no man was greater than his neighbor and had the implicit right to rule over him. To the founders, he maintained, "man" meant white males to the exclusion of women and people of color, to wit slavery was OK.

To Abraham Lincoln and as embodied in the 14th amendment, the phrase meant that governments have an obligation to treat all of their citizens equally. There could not be separate laws for some citizens.

In his new book, *The Nation That Never Was--Reconstructing America's Story*, Roosevelt argues that there is a common story we tell about America, that our fundamental values as a country were stated in the Declaration of Independence, fought for in the Revolution, and made law in the Constitution. But, with the country increasingly divided, this story isn't working for us anymore—and what's more, he said, it's not even true. Roosevelt argues in his reinterpretation of the American story that our fundamental values, particularly equality, were not part of the vision of the Founders. Instead, they were stated in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and were the hope of Reconstruction, when it was possible to envision the emergence of the nation committed to liberty and equality.

Roosevelt stated that we face a dilemma these days. We want to be honest about our history and the racism and oppression that Americans have both inflicted and endured. But we want to be proud of our country, too. In his book, Roosevelt shows how we can do both those things by realizing that we're not the country we thought we were. Reconstruction, he argues, was not a fulfillment of the ideals of the founding but rather a repudiation: we modern Americans are not the heirs of the Founders but of the people who overthrew and destroyed that political order. This alternate understanding of American identity opens the door to a new understanding of ourselves and our story, and ultimately to a better America.

A spirited RMA Q&A followed the talk

To see Professor Roosevelt's 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 December 7, will be →**BOB SHULLMAN**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **BOB** at bob.shullman@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 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.

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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	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