



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: BOB SHULLMAN

"Learning never exhausts the mind" - Leonardo da Vinci

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting with a warm welcome and then **HENRY FISHER** came to the podium for the Pledge of Allegiance. **BOB MORGAN** and **TOM HEALY** took over and three songs were sung: "The Star-Spangled Banner," "We Are the RMA" and "Get Me to The Church on Time."

The scribe for the day was **BOB SHULLMAN** while the projectionist was **LEN CARUSI**. **DAVID MICHONSKI** and **PETE UHRY** were the Greeters of the Day while **BOB GIAQUINTO** handled the refreshments. **JOE** then made the following announcements:

- The RMA Holiday party is being held in two weeks, on December 21, so please fill out and return the survey letting us know if you will be attending and if you will be bringing any guests with you.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE RSVP SURVEY](#)

- We are still looking for weekly greeters to man the entranceway while we are organizing the front entrance activities.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** came to the podium and offered a friendly reminder that everyone should make sure that they have had their flu shot and the latest Covid-19 bivalent booster. Flu cases are rising rapidly in the U.S., many involving hospitalization, including 20,000 during the week of Thanksgiving. COVID-19 infections are at record highs in China and have started to rise in parts of Britain after months of decline. The WHO and the CDC are warning that a drop in COVID alertness could create deadly new variants. Those over 60, as usual, are particularly vulnerable. Also, he advised those who have not done so to get the two-shot Shingrix series to protect against shingles, a very nasty disease in the elderly.

He then launched into his usual offering of painful puns and bon mots, and urges you not to blame the scribe for including them here:

“I wasn’t originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.”

“I broke my finger last week. On the other hand, I’m okay.”

To the mathematician who thought of the idea of zero, “Thanks for nothing!”

An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

“I took my new girlfriend out on our first date to the ice rink, and entry was half price. She called me a cheap skate.”

“Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It’s a case of in one ear and out the udder.”

“Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow has only 16? The difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.”

“What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? ‘Suture self.’”

PAUL CAMPION was then introduced to give us some real humor and delighted us with two unscripted jokes.

PETER STERN offered the following membership-related news. There are two individuals who are being inducted into the RMA today, Mickey Robinson and Spike Lipshutz.

Mickey was nominated by **GRAN BURGESS** and seconded by **HOLLISTER STURGES**. **GRAN’s** introductory remarks included how he met Mickey and his wife Catherine at Second Congregational Church some 17 years ago. **GRAN** and his wife Reba continued to enjoy many church events as well as numerous dinners together with the Robinsons.

Mickey was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1946. He graduated from public schools including Central High School, the first high school in town, which explains why the athletes' sports letters are H's, not C's. He earned a bachelor of business administration degree with honors at Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis. He volunteered for service in the United States Coast Guard and completed officer candidate school in January 1969. He was assigned to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington as a press officer. It was there that he met Catherine Ladnier.

Mickey graduated from Harvard Business School with honors in 1973 and took a job in Hong Kong where the couple lived for four years. He and Catherine returned to Memphis in 1977. He then took a job as an internal consultant with a large grocery wholesaler that was trying to diversify into retailing. He led the analysis of potential acquisitions and, ultimately, started a new venture into auto parts retailing for the parent company. The new venture was successful and is today known as Auto Zone. After a few years as CEO of Auto Zone, Mickey was recruited to join Melville Corporation, a multi-billion-dollar specialty retailer where he was CEO of the footwear divisions.

After **GRAN** finished his remarks about Mickey, **HOLLISTER** then related the following about Mickey and his wife. Volunteerism has been part of Mickey and Catherine's lives for many years. He has served on the church council at The Second Congregational Church of Greenwich for many years and The Board of Visitors at the University of Memphis and was chairman of two different trade associations. He is presently a member of the Foundation Board at the University of Memphis. He was on the board of Connecticut Public Broadcasting for a term. Mickey and his wife have both endowed scholarship funds at their respective colleges which have aided more than 200 students in the past 25 years. Mickey and Catherine's volunteer efforts have also benefited the RMA. They have recommended several speakers, including last week's presenter Kermit Roosevelt, and hosted five lunches for our speakers and a few RMA members. He has attended several RMA programs over the years and is joining for the fellowship, the programs, golf, and volunteerism.

PETER then returned to the podium and asked for a show of hands vote for Mickey; the ayes were unanimous. **MICKEY** graciously accepted his membership into the RMA.

PETER then turned to **JIM FISHBEIN**, who introduced Spike Lipshutz to the RMA as follows.

With so many seasoned members of the RMA, we should welcome new members from the medical profession. Fortunately, **GEORGE UBOGY** has recruited a noted doctor and I have the honor of nominating Dr. Spike Lipshutz today for membership. First, his professional credentials.

Some of you know Dr. Lipshutz.

- He was the Chief Medical Officer at Greenwich Hospital for the last 15 years, until he retired in late October.
- His MD and residency were in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.
- In the U.S. Army he served at Walter Reed and Valley Forge General Hospitals where he cared for Vietnam POW's, including Floyd Thompson, the longest U.S. Army POW in history (nine years).
- Practiced Internal Medicine for 25 years in Massachusetts, where he formed a large multi-specialty group that cared for 60,000 people.

I am honored to endorse Spike for RMA membership. And now **HOLLISTER** will introduce him as a person.

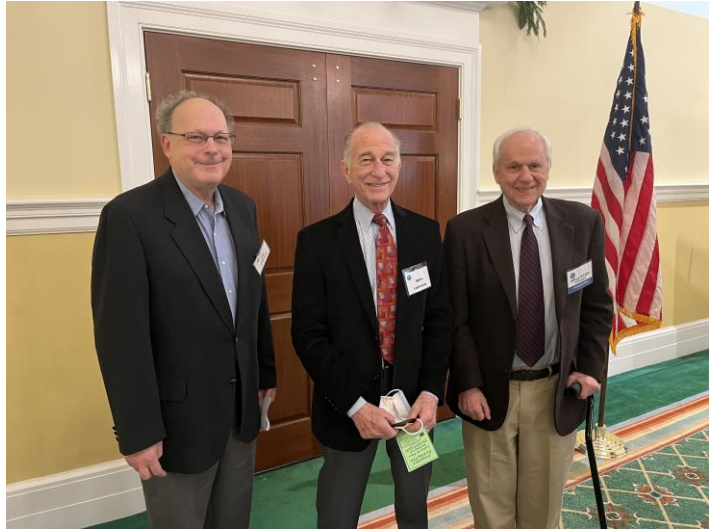
HOLLISTER stated that he and **JIM** met Spike a month ago, when his long-time friend **GEORGE UBOGY** introduced us. By rights, **GEORGE** should be nominating him, but he is in faraway Florida now, watching on Zoom. **GEORGE** said, "we first met when Spike was attending his first Greenwich Hospital medical staff meeting and I was attending what seemed like my five millionth. We were sitting next to one another, he was a newbie, he liked the fact that I was wearing pink socks, and we fell to talking... the rest is history, a pleasant one at that."

Spike and his wife Lisa, an interior designer, have been married almost 48 years. They have three sons, all born in same year; figure that one out! And three grandchildren, ages two, four and six. They live in Cos Cob, formerly in Norwell Massachusetts. Spike enjoys family, friendships, hiking, biking, golf, music (jazz and classical), theater, travel, and the Greenwich Community Garden. He is a superstitious sports fan, deeply committed to Philadelphia teams, especially the Phillies. I too highly recommend him for RMA membership.

PETER then returned to the podium and asked for a show of hands vote for Spike. The ayes were unanimous. **SPIKE** thanked the membership for accepting him into the RMA.



Burgess, Robinson, Sturges



Fishbein, Lipshutz, Sturges

PETER then moved on to his membership report.

- 85 individuals in total were at today's meeting (78 members in person and seven on Zoom). There was one guest.
- There were five birthdays this week. **HAROLD KUPLESKY** turned 84, **DWIGHT CHAPIN** is 82, **PAT YUEN** is 70, **TOM MORRISON** is 90, while **PETER** himself turned 78.
- Peter Joyce was the guest of **RICK HOLZ** and **JIM DEAN**.
- The Zoom attendees included **PETE ARTURI** and **GEORGE UBOGY** from Florida, so he could witness the induction of **SPIKE LIPSHUTZ**.
- **PETER** then noted there was one returnee this week, **SAM MARASSO**, from Budapest and Vienna.

ARNOLD GORDON then came to the podium to preview today's speaker, First Selectwoman of Westport Jen Tooker, who will discuss the multiple challenges facing the towns of Westport and Greenwich and the progress her administration has made in addressing Westport's challenges.

Next up to the podium was **HOLLISTER STURGES**, who introduced next week's speaker, **TIM BROOKS**, who is an RMA member and will be discussing "How Jazz and Blues

Revolutionized American Culture in the 1920s.” This is when African American-derived music, in the form of jazz and blues, exploded into mainstream American culture. Using original recordings as examples, author **TIM BROOKS** will trace how and why during a relatively short period of time the relatively staid, Victorian sounds of the 19th and early 20th centuries era gave way to a multiplicity of musical currents that became truly “America’s music.” It was a period of institutionalized discrimination and segregation, yet black artists such as Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Eubie Blake, Fats Waller, Ethel Waters and others became major stars. White artists too embraced the new sounds. Jazz even invaded the concert hall, with the historic debut of George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” in 1924. In time jazz and blues influenced each other and morphed into such styles as big band swing, western swing, modern jazz, rhythm and blues and rock ‘n’ roll. But it all began in the tumultuous 1920s, when after years of being suppressed or ignored, African American cultural sensibilities became part of mainstream America.

TIM BROOKS is the author of nine books on media history, including *Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry: 1890-1919*, which lays the groundwork for this era, and *The Blackface Minstrel Show in Mass Media: 20th Century Performances on Radio, Records, Film and Television*. His books have won many awards, including the American Book Award and the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for best book on music. He has also produced a number of reissue CDs, is a three-time Grammy nominee and won a Grammy Award for Best Historical Reissue for the companion CD to *Lost Sounds*. He is the current president of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, a national organization of recording scholars and archivists.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOE returned to the podium and welcomed **ED FARRELL** back after a lengthy absence.

HARRY FISHER informed the membership that Greenwich is considering privatizing The Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home and is holding a forum on the future of the home on November 15th at 4 pm. Interested individuals who wish to speak at the online forum and share their point of view of the future of the home should sign-up at this link.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO SPEAK AT ONLINE FORUM](#)

DON ROTZIEN announced that the next ROMEO lunch was scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, December 8th at Tengda Asian Bistro on Field Point Road at 1:00 pm. We currently have 10 people signed up but their space can hold up to 20 so if you planned on attending but got busy and forgot to reserve a slot, we will fit you in. The food is excellent and the prices are reasonable. Plan on tipping 20%. See you there!

DON CONWAY then discussed the plans for a busload of members and guests to visit the Intrepid on the Hudson River on Tuesday, January 17. Members were asked to come to the table at the front of the hall during the intermission break before the presentation to sign up if they plan to join the fun. At the next meeting **DON** will start collecting the fee to go on this trip. If you are interested in joining the fun and haven't yet signed up, please contact **DON** or see him at the next meeting.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

TOM MCGUIRE focused the membership again on the Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home by describing how lonely it can be for many of the residents there who have no family or friends to visit them during the holidays. He then discussed how giving them a gift can brighten their holidays. The attached flyer describes how members can contribute towards gifts for these residents.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW NATHANIEL WITHERELL FLYER](#)

JIM DEAN discussed the RMA's volunteer staffing of the Salvation Army's fundraising bell-ringing at the ACME Supermarket in Riverside this past weekend. More volunteers are needed for the upcoming weekends. Please contact **JIM** if you can assist. **DAVID MICHONSKI** followed **JIM** and recounted three compelling stories about three of the many contributors at ACME, who in total contributed about \$1000 to the Salvation Army's fundraising at ACME this past weekend.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO indicated that the Stamford Food Drive, previously held in December, will be occurring in January. He will be back with more details after the holidays.

WILL MORRISON discussed volunteer opportunities that members can join, referring members to the list of organizations that RMA has assisted on the bulletin board in the

back of the meeting room. He also asked members who assist non-profit or volunteer organizations that are not included on the list to let him know.

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reminded members that pickleball is still being played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you would like to be put on the email list confirming play or have a free pickleball lesson, contact **PAT** at Pmaccarthy415@gmail.com.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** announced that bridge is being played after the meeting at the Greenwich Library at 12:30, downstairs in the cafeteria. The results from the bridge games on November 30 were as follows. Eight members played. In first place was **ALEX KOSSEIM** with 3830 points, **TONY COCCHI** came in second with 3040 points and **FRANK LEE** came in third with 2830 points. There were three slams as follows: **ALEX KOSSEIM** and **FRANK LEE**, **ALEX KOSSEIM** and **RON MURRAY**, and finally **TONY COCCHI** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**.

Tennis: **ANDRE MAZUREK** announced last week's results. The opening round winners were **ANDRE & PETER ORBANOWSKI** on Court 1 and **RALPH NEWITTER** and **ANDY HOLMES** on Court 2. The final round winners were **ANDY HOLMES** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI** on Court 1 and **DON BREISMEISTER** and **JEROME COLEMAN** on Court 2. This week's captain is **JOHN REESE**.

Hearts: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported the results from the eight members who played at two tables. At Table 1, four games were completed with **BOB SHULLMAN** winning two games and **DON CONWAY** and **JOE DOWLING** each winning one game. **TOM HEALY** shot the moon two times and **JOE DOWLING** shot it once. At Table 2, four games were also completed with **GRANT PERKINS** winning two of them with **JACK SWEGER** and **ANDY HOLMES** each also winning a game. **PERKINS** and **SWEGER** each shot the moon twice.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that we met at Crawford Park in Rye and had a very nice walk around many nearby neighborhoods. Even though the temperatures were cool, our walking and conversations kept us warm. Our cold-season walks going forward will be mostly on roads and walkways to avoid wet or frozen parks which might be slippery, so please consider joining us for some enjoyably vigorous walks.

Paddle Tennis: **JIM DEAN** reported there were eight players who occupied both courts on Tuesday. The weather was perfect and play was very lively. If you are interested in playing, please speak with **JIM**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** reminded everyone that once a week he leads some members in Tai Chi in Old Greenwich. If any other members are interested in participating, please contact him for more details.

JOE then returned to the podium and adjourned the meeting for the coffee break.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

After the coffee break, **HOLLISTER STURGES** introduced Jen Tooker, the first selectwoman of Westport, who spoke on "Important Municipal Issues Common to Greenwich and Westport."



Jennifer (Jen) S. Tooker is completing her first year of a four-year term as Westport's first selectwoman. Previously, she served as Westport's second selectwoman and served as a member of the Westport Board of Finance, the Westport Board of Education, and the Westport Conservation Commission. Jen received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She had a 22-year career as an executive with Gen Re. Upon retirement,

she served on the Board of Directors for the Women's Business Development Council, the Board of Directors of the State Education Resource Center, Bishop Frank Caggiano's Education Commission for the Diocese of Bridgeport, and as a board member of the Adam J. Lewis Academy in Bridgeport. In 2019, Jen launched Westport Together, whose mission is to promote the positive development of children. Jen also created and hosts Westport Means Business, a series of events focused on the local business community. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, she served as chair of the ReOpen Westport Advisory Team. She

has also served in various capacities with a number of local organizations, including the Westport-Weston Family YMCA Board of Trustees, the Westport Sunrise Rotary Club, the Sunrise Rotary 21st Century Foundation Board, the Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund Committee, and as a coach for the Westport Soccer Association.

There are five challenges that Jen and her colleagues must address in Westport, and she is confident that they are also issues in Greenwich. They include, in order of priority in Westport, the following:

- Traffic,
- Parks & Recreation Facilities,
- The Downtown Area,
- Flooding and
- “Everyone Belongs”

Based on her prior business and volunteer experiences, she considered each of these five challenges and focused on them while seeking community input from the town’s nine neighborhoods. This resulted in over 400 suggestions from the community. The suggestions were then broken down as follows.

- Which suggestions can we address immediately?
- What is a great suggestion that’s feasible to address in the near future, and how much money and time can we allocate to this idea?
- Which are suggestions that, for the time being, we can do absolutely nothing about?

Following are very brief summaries of Jen’s thoughts regarding these five challenges and how Westport is currently addressing them (recounting her thinking in detail would take many pages, but they can be viewed on the video of the talk on the RMA website).

- **Traffic:** A very big problem. Why? The Saugatuck River passes through the middle of the town and is adjacent to downtown, and there are only two ways to get to the Merritt and I-95. What community suggestions did she hear about traffic? The community wants the town to address speeding and reckless driving throughout the town. So, there were changes to how the police department was organized and now there are two officers whose only focus is traffic safety; they are working on many safety-related initiatives.

- **Parks & Recreation Facilities:** Just like Greenwich, Westport has recreation facilities by the Long Island Sound and throughout the town. With the pandemic hopefully ending, Westport is now conducting a capital planning project to determine where to invest in its parks and recreation facilities.
- **The Downtown Area:** Just like Greenwich, Westport has a downtown area full of fine retail and dining establishments where our residents and visitors come to shop and dine. Plus, Westport’s main street is adjacent to the Saugatuck River and the town wants to include that in its planning for now and the future. It’s an incredibly booming downtown that just like Greenwich has traffic and parking challenges that need to be addressed.
- **Flooding:** As in Greenwich, when it rains, flooding becomes a major issue. In addition to the Saugatuck River, there are seven streams that flow through Westport’s nine neighborhoods. When it rains hard, as it does from time to time, there is flooding which is expensive and time-consuming to address. To address it, Jen and her colleagues have invited the homeowners who live around the seven streams to come to town meetings to discuss the flooding challenges and how they potentially can be addressed.
- **“Everyone Belongs”:** Again, like Greenwich, Westport residents have different points of view regarding the first four challenges and others that Jen addressed during the Q & A session that followed. All residents need to put their political views aside and work together to improve the town for its residents and guests.

Jen then asked if there were any questions from the audience and, as expected, a number of hands went up. Those interested in the questions asked and Jen’s responses are urged to go to the RMA website and click on the video of the discussion. 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 December 14, will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **JOE** at jangland@optonline.net.

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.

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	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