

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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**SCRIBE: JOHN KAVANAGH**

*"The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or Communist, but the person for whom the distinction between fact and fiction and between true and false no longer exists."*

- Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

President **JOE MANCINELLI** called the meeting to order. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Then **DON CONWAY** guided the membership in singing three songs: "You're a Grand Old Flag," "Peg o' My Heart," and "Enjoy Yourself." **JIM SANTORA** accompanied on the piano.

**JOE** indicated that The Publicity Committee has been working on upgrading the RMA website, [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org), and introducing some new features. We need some help. The site is built on the WordPress platform, using HTML as the underlying language. If you understand that last sentence, and are familiar with the WordPress software, please contact **MARK GEIMER** ([mark.geimer@gmail.com](mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com)). **MARK** has already done a lot of excellent work on the site, but now needs some assistance. We'd like to avoid having to pay for an outside consultant if there is a knowledgeable member within our membership.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** once again reminded members that the latest, widely circulating Covid-19 Omicron variant, XBB.1.5 is extremely contagious, even for those vaccinated and/or previously infected. He recommends that everyone read this article and the links provided:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2023/01/06/covid-update-xbb-variant-symptoms-reinfection/10995204002/>

He suggested that members might want to attend a program with the highly respected Fareed Zakaria, host of Fareed Zakaria GPS on CNN, columnist for *The Washington Post*, and bestselling author, who will have a conversation with Gideon Rose, former editor of Foreign Affairs and member of the Council on Foreign Relations. It is part of the Signature Series at Greenwich Library and will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm in the library auditorium. They'll discuss the geopolitical and international relations issues currently trending in the news. Register here for in-person seating, starting at 7 pm on Thursday, January 12th: <https://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/8981235> It will be a very popular program.

**ARNOLD** then offered a reminder lesson about unusual English language constructions by explaining paraprosdokians, which are sentences or statements with an unexpected ending. It means “against expectations” in Greek. Some examples:

“Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen.”

“What’s the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.”

“I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case.”

“Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today? I don't know and don't really care.”

“You’re not completely useless. You can always serve as a bad example.”

“Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.”

**CARL WHITE** then took the stage as jokester of the day. **CARL** began by saying that he didn’t think any celebrity had done more for the game of golf than Bob Hope. Bob was the face of the Bob Hope Golf Classic from 1965 to 2003. As a result, he was able to raise \$37 million for forty different charities. If this were not enough, Hope entertained our troops in 56 USO Tours from 1941-1991. He was born in London in 1903 and moved to the United States at the age of four. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He competed as a boxer and several years later, he became a comedian and dancer in vaudeville. Eventually, he would begin acting on Broadway. By 1934, he was a regular on radio and film. Golf was an integral part of Bob Hope’s life. It remained so until he died in 2003, at the age of 100. One

of Hope's regular partners was President Gerald Ford, who became the butt of many a joke. Here are few of Hope's golf one liners, mostly about the president.

"The last time I played golf with President Ford, he hit a birdie, an eagle, a moose, an elk, and an aardvark."

"We have 51 golf courses in Palm Springs. President Ford never decides which course he will play until after the first tee shot."

"Whenever I play with President Ford, I usually make it a foursome: the president, myself, a paramedic, and a priest."

"Gerry Ford is easy to spot on the golf course. He drives with a red cross painted on top of his golf cart."

"It's not hard to find Gerald Ford on the golf course. Just follow the wounded."

"My old friend, Jack Benny, has played with only one golf ball most of his life. Recently, he lost it...the string on the ball finally broke."

**PETER STERN** reported that there were 88 people in attendance at the FPC and nine people on Zoom today, including **GRAN BURGESS, TONY FITZPATRICK,** and **PETER ARTURI.** He welcomed **JOHN HYDE,** acknowledging that this was the first time **JOHN** had been in a meeting in a while, and also **MARK FOX,** who returned from knee surgery. He indicated that there were four birthdays: **MIKE HAYDEN** is 91, **FRED WU** is 70, **DENNIS MONSON** is 76, and **LOU RUPNIK** is 81.

**PETER** reported that there were five guests in attendance today, including Kurt Wood, the guest of **JOE MANCINELLI** and **DON ROTZEIN,** Peter Cruikshank, the guest of **JOHN KAVANAGH,** Paul Coughlin, the guest of **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **JEROME COLEMAN,** Howard Chickering, the guest of **DAVID MICHONSKI** and **SKIP AUCH,** and John Binnie, the guest of **HARRY FISHER.**

### **SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

**HOLLISTER STURGES** announced that today's speaker is former pro football player Pete Gogolak, on "How an Immigrant Changed the Game of American Football." **HOLLISTER** also announced that next week's speaker would be Captain Michael Freddie, speaking on "The United States Coast Guard and Its Role in U.S. Homeland Security." Captain Freddie has served as the Coast Guard Academy's Director of Admissions since 2018 where he has led the recruitment, selection, and onboarding efforts for the Academy classes.



Your dedicated Program Committee hard at work identifying future speakers. Photo: Pete Uhry

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** told members that the Covenant House Food Drive to benefit the new Covenant House soup kitchen in Stamford would be next Wednesday, January 18. He asked that members bring food or contribute cash or checks that he can use to buy more food. He also indicated that he needed help transporting the food from the FPC.

**MIKE RYAN** told the group that we had a wonderful response to last week's request for help for the 20 Ukrainian families that had moved to the area. He and his wife, Susan, expressed great appreciation the outpouring of help for the RMA Ukrainian Families Assistance Program—in one form or another—from RMA members including **JIM BUTLER, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, BOB BISHOP, CHARLEY ADAMS, KEATING HAGMANN, SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ, RON MURRAY, BOB PHILLIPS, JOHN REESE, ROBBIE REICH, WILL MORRISON, JOE MANCINELLI, FRANK SCARPA, HOLLISTER STURGES, BRUCE PANTANO, TIM ALEXANDER AND TOM HEALY.**

**MIKE** was hopeful that others of our membership will step up. A number of these Ukrainian families truly are in dire straits, lacking the funds to pay for rent and utilities—and also lack basic household goods. Contact **MIKE** if you are interested in helping in any way.

**WILL MORRISON** directed attention to an innovative fundraising concept that **PETER STERN** shared during last week's meeting. To the invitations for their holiday dinner party, **PETER** and his wife simply added the line, "Bring a food donation for Neighbor 2 Neighbor." Not only was the party a success, the occasion helped address those in need. This is a great model for us to adopt for our personal social gatherings.

In holding Tai Chi classes for RMA members and the general public, **WILL MORRISON** serves two goals - to improve health and support local charities. Last year 100% of the tuition, almost \$4,000, was donated. Thank you for being good to your health and to the needs of others.

### **GAMES MEMBERS PLAY**

**Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** gave a report on bridge results for the week of January 4. There were 11 players. The leaders were **BRUNO SCHRAGE** (3750), **TONY COCCHI** (3460) and **RON FRIEDMAN** (3340). New members are always welcome!

**Hearts:** **BOB SHULLMAN** reported that there were eight people playing hearts at two tables last Wednesday. At Table 1, the winners were **JIM DEAN** who won twice and **TOM HEALY** who won once. **JIM** and **TOM** shot the moon once. At Table 2 the winners were **JACK WEIR** (twice) and **DON CONWAY** (once), while **JOHN KNIGHT** shot the moon once.

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** encourages everyone to consider coming to Tai Chi classes on Mondays to learn the basic moves. He observed that tuition for Tai Chi classes goes to charity. Tai Chi and its healthful predecessors have been bringing benefits for three thousand years. They meet in Old Greenwich 9:30. Contact **WILL** at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com) to give it a try.

**Paddle Tennis:** Nine players played 12 sets on a beautiful day. Attending were **ARN WELLES**, **FRED WU**, **JOE MANCINELLI**, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **JERRY COLEMAN**, **JOHN REESE**, and **JIM DEAN**. Returning to the court after an extended absence, but looking quite fit, was Past President **RUSS HARDEN**.

**Tennis:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported the tennis results. In the opening round on Court One, **ANDRE MAZUREK/RANDY MOTLAND** played **BILL FAKUNDINY/RON FRIEDMAN**. Winners were **MAZUREK/MOTLAND**. On Court Two, **MICHAEL**

**AMBROSINO/JIM FISHBEIN** played **JEROME COLEMAN/PAT MACCARTHY**. Winners were **AMBROSINO/FISHBEIN**.

In the Finals Round, on Court One, it was **FISHBEIN/MOTLAND** vs. **MAZUREK/AMBROSINO**. The winners were **MAZUREK/AMBROSINO**. On Court Two, **FRIEDMAN/MACCARTHY** played **COLEMAN/FAKUNDINY**. The winners were **FRIEDMAN/MACCARTHY**. Next week's captain will be **JOHN REESE**.

**Pickleball: PAT MACCARTHY** reported that pickleball was canceled on Thursday and Monday due to wet and puddled courts. They are crossing their fingers about playing tomorrow. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you would like to join the pickleball contact list please email **PAT** at [pmaccarthy415@gmail.com](mailto:pmaccarthy415@gmail.com).

**Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE** reported that the RMA Walkers met at Scalzi Park in Stamford and enjoyed a nice urban walk south on Summer Street and through the center of Stamford and back north via the Mill River Park and along the Rippowam River. It was overcast but not too cold. And at just under four miles, it was slow and level with no hills so it was not overly strenuous. It helped those of us who overate during the holidays!

### **HUMAN INTEREST STORY**

**JOE MANCINELLI** recounted an amusing human interest story about how when he was in high school in Paterson, New Jersey, he and some friends took a ride in a friend's car one day to see a "castle" in Livingston, New Jersey. Upon entering the property, they came upon some strange statues and began to feel there was something wrong with the place. Nonetheless, **JOE** shed his instinctive caution and started to approach the castle on his own. He began to hear vicious dogs barking and then what sounded like fireworks or a gunshot aimed in his direction. He took off like a shot and began running down the driveway to get to the main road. When he got there, after nearly falling several times, he found that his friends were gone.

He was approached by a policeman who began aggressively questioning him to determine who he was and what he was doing there. The policeman put him in his car and took him to the police station where he was reunited with his friends, who were also being

questioned. The police called the boys' parents, none of whom were pleased with their sons.

Shortly after the incident, the "castle" and its owner were featured in *Life Magazine*. It turned out that the boys had been trespassing on the estate of a major mafia gangster, Ruggiero "Richie the Boot" Boiardo, who was a member of the Genovese crime family, which trafficked in illegal liquor, gambling, and other serious crimes.

After finishing the story, **JOE** showed several slides about Boiardo, his crime family, and the pictures of celebrities who partied with him. All-in-all, a very interesting presentation.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

Peter Gogolak, the famous NFL field goal kicker who revolutionized field goal kicking was Wednesday's speaker. He emigrated from Hungary with his family and came to America when he was fourteen in 1956. His story is a wonderful example for us all.



In Hungary, Peter Gogolak and his family lived in a totalitarian communist state that dictated everything its citizens did. When the Communists took over in 1945, they nationalized all businesses, put all farming activities into collective farms, took away people's professional status and forced them to work for low wages in government jobs, compelled homeowners to take people into their homes as full time residents, had local people spying on them, and had sometimes

serious food shortages. Peter's father, who was a dentist before the Communist takeover was compelled to become a government worker at much lower wages than he received as a professional. He had to supplement the family's income by doing dental work in his home at night on the sly.

In 1956, the Hungarian people revolted against the Communist regime. The revolt lasted for about a month before the Soviets invaded Hungary and violently quashed the brief rebellion. It was at this point that his parents decided it was time to leave Hungary. They

took a train to a town near Austria and walked across the border into Austria before eventually taking a plane to the United States. They were stationed at an army base until his father found work. Eventually, the family moved to upstate New York and Peter and his brother Charlie went to school there.

Peter had played soccer in Hungary, but there was no soccer team at his local school. So when he learned about American football and field goal kicking, he realized that this would be his entry into the world of football in the United States. He observed that all American field goal kicking was done through straight on kicking with the toe, which he felt would be much less effective than his soccer style kicking. So he joined the football team and began to practice and perfect his soccer style kicking of field goals and extra points.

He kicked in high school and eventually got a scholarship to go to Cornell to play football. There he made 54 consecutive extra points, a college record. He did very well, but didn't get picked in the NFL Draft. He sought out and got a former coach to recommend him for an AFL job, where he was picked last in the draft. He played for the Buffalo Bills for two years, as the Bills won the 1964 and 1965 AFL Championships and Peter made the *Sporting News* All AFL Team. He was the first to switch from the AFL to the NFL, sparking the "war between the leagues" when he signed with the New York Giants, which led to the eventual merger of the two leagues.

While with the New York Giants he became their all-time high scorer. Peter is still the all-time leading scorer of the Giants and in 2010 he was inducted into the Ring of Honor at Giants Stadium. After his playing career ended in 1974, Peter was a long-time sales executive with the financial printing firm RR Donnelly. In 2006 he was asked by the White House to be the US Citizen Representative in Budapest at the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution.

Even though he revolutionized field goal kicking, he did not earn a great deal of money in pro football. In his first contract with the Giants, he was paid \$35,000 a year, while Graham Gano, the current Giants kicker, makes \$5.5 million.

Peter said several times that he is very concerned with the direction of this country and the threats being posed to our freedom. He said that we are so lucky to live in America and in a free country. As someone who experienced the deprivation and sacrifices that were

experienced by those who were forced to live under communism, he has a deep appreciation for the value of living in a free society. In America, we have some degree of control over our lives and a broad array of opportunities we can pursue. We do not want to lose this wonderful gift.

The full presentation is available at <https://greenwichrma.org/>, click on “Speakers.”

Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speakers. 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 January 11, 2023, will be →**DAVID MICHONSKI**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **DAVID** at [david@quigler.com](mailto:david@quigler.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](mailto: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](http://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 – <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>

Mondays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Mark Geimer – <a href="mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com">mark.geimer@gmail.com</a>
Tuesdays	Resumes in Spring	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – <a href="mailto:ryantomac@netscape.net">ryantomac@netscape.net</a>
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - <a href="mailto:Jhdeanco@gmail.com">Jhdeanco@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – <a href="mailto:onehorst@optimum.net">onehorst@optimum.net</a> or Len Carusi at <a href="mailto:lencarusi@gmail.com">lencarusi@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	Bob Shullman – <a href="mailto:bob.shullman@gmail.com">bob.shullman@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - <a href="mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net">tadlarra@optonline.net</a>
Thursdays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Mark Geimer – <a href="mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com">mark.geimer@gmail.com</a>
Friday	Resumes in Spring	Outdoor Tennis, Bruce Park	John Knight - <a href="mailto:johnknight7@gmail.com">johnknight7@gmail.com</a>
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - <a href="mailto:Andyholmes56@gmail.com">Andyholmes56@gmail.com</a>

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