

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: DAVID MICHONSKI

Next Week's Scribe: JOHN REESE, jreese@validea.com

"A house divided against itself cannot stand" – Abraham Lincoln, 1858 Dickinson College Speech

JOE MANCINELLI opened the meeting with **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, with **BOB MORGAN** at the piano, **TOM HEALY** led us in song with "My Country Tis of Thee," "Don't Fence Me In" (an old Bing Crosby song), and "Get me to the Church on Time" (a great *My Fair Lady* classic).

JOE MANCINELLI asked everyone to look out for a survey sent to all members soliciting our views on special events activities. He also urged those giving reports at these meetings to send them to the scribe in the form of an email or Word document if possible. These are much easier for the scribe to incorporate into his report than the contents of scribbled, written notes. Thank you.

ARNOLD GORDON, our corresponding secretary, began by telling us "Nothing important," namely some "dad jokes." They were all painful, but delivered with the great good humor that **ARNOLD** always provides.

TOM HEALY provided the following joke. "A circus owner runs an ad for a lion tamer and two people show up. One is a retired golfer in his late sixties and the other is a gorgeous blonde in her mid-twenties. The circus owner tells them, 'I'm not going to sugar coat this.

He is one ferocious lion who attacked and ate my last tamer, so you two had better be good or you're history. Here's your equipment -- a chair, whip and a gun. Who wants to try out first?' The lady says, 'I'll go first.' She walks past the chair, the whip and the gun and steps right into the lion's cage. The lion starts to snarl and pant and begins to charge her. About halfway there, she throws open her coat revealing her beautiful naked body. The lion stops dead in his tracks, sheepishly crawls up to her and starts licking her feet, ankles and legs. He continues to lick and kiss her entire body for several minutes and then rests his head at her feet. The circus owner's jaw is on the floor. He says, 'I've never seen a display like that in my life.' He then turns to the retired golfer and asks, 'Can you top that?' The tough old golfer replies, 'No problem ... just get that lion out of there'."

Turning to a more serious note, **ARNOLD** reported that **PETER MAHER** passed away last October. **FRANK SCARPA** delivered a memorial via Zoom from his home in Florida. His eulogy is attached.

[Eulogy for Peter Maher](#)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

PETER STERN introduced Howard Chickering, who was sponsored by **DAVID MICHONSKI** and seconded by **MIKE HAYDEN**. **DAVID** delivered the following remarks.

Howard is a fourth generation Californian who attended Wharton School and then Stanford Law, practicing in San Francisco. In 1979 he joined a startup insurance group, Clarendon, based in New York and Bermuda and found himself moving to Greenwich. Ten years later he founded another Bermuda insurance company, R.V.E. Guaranty Co., and served as its president and chief underwriting officer until he retired in 2007. He and his wife, Bebbie, have been loyal members of Stanwich Church since 1991 where Howard served as deacon, moderator, elder and as the administrator and facilitator of its Alpha Course in Christianity. Recreationally, he served as Director of the Belle Haven Club and was its commodore. He loves boating, fishing and hunting. Amazingly, Queen Elizabeth II appointed him "Commander Brother" of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the oldest hospital in the world founded circa 1100 AD. Howard resides in Cos Cob and summers at his family place "Summit Soda Springs" in the Sierra Nevada Range of Nevada County, California. **HOWARD** was approved by unanimous vote.

Then **JOHN KAVANAGH** introduced and sponsored Peter Cruikshank, with his nomination seconded by **BART BARTHOLOMEW**. **JOHN** delivered the following remarks.

Peter was born in Rahway, NJ, and raised in Fairhaven, NJ, and as a boy became an Eagle Scout. He attended Princeton University where he rowed lightweight for two years. After graduation he toured the U.S. in a van he reconfigured and then started his work life in human resources, then became a sales recruiter for a specialty chemical company before moving to Chase Manhattan bank in 1986. During his 35 years at what became JP Morgan Chase, he held a variety of management roles. In 2002 he led a team to design and build a web-based year-end salary and bonus administration program for the entire bank, which is still in use 20 years later. Peter lives with his wife, Sharon, in Cos Cob and has three children. In his retirement, he enjoys walking, hiking, reading, lounging by the pool, entertaining working out, traveling and having fun with his two grandchildren. **PETER** was also approved by unanimous vote.



Michonski, Chickering, Hayden



Kavanagh, Cruikshank, Bartholomew

PETER STERN then announced that the RMA now has 228 members! The official audience counter today is **CARL WHITE**, who tallied 74 present in-person, plus eight on Zoom for a total of 82.

STERN then followed with this week's birthdays: **ARN WELLES**, 76, **JERRY POLLACK**, 94, **DOUG TAYLOR**, 96, **BILL FISHMAN**, 76, **ABBEY SMOLER**, 92, and **BOB CURRY**, 77.

Our guests this week were:

John Blankley, guest of **PETE UHRY**, **HOLLISTER STURGES** and **JACK WEIR**,

Paul Coughlin, guest of **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **JEROME COLEMAN**,
Larry Furst, guest of **STEPHEN MARINO**,
Ashod “AK” Kassibian, guest of **SAM MARASSO**,
Mark Pruner, guest of **JOHN TONER**,
Howard Ressler, guest of **PETE UHRY**,
Phil Scibona, guest of **BOB GIAQUINTO** and **PAUL CAMPION**.

PETER extended a special welcome to **DWIGHT CHAPIN**, present for the first time in a long time, and on Zoom, **PETE ARTURI**, a local regular, and **FRANK SCARPA** from Naples, Florida.

SPEAKERS

GERRY GIBIAN announced that today’s speaker would be Captain Michael Freddie, who will speak about the U.S. Coast Guard and its role in U.S. history. **HOLLISTER STURGES** then advised that next week’s speaker would be Steven Roach, the former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia. Roach is an economist who knows China inside and out. His book is called *Accidental Conflict, America, China and the Clash of False Narratives*. Roach promises to present a clear-eyed analysis of superpower collision over the two nations’ economies, policies, and politics. He argues that much of the rhetoric on both sides is dangerously misguided, amplified by information distortion, and more a reflection of each nation’s fears and vulnerabilities than a credible assessment of the risks they face. His book concludes with a creative plan for conflict resolution that he believes offers a new road map to a healthier Sino-American relationship.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Congratulations to **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** for the record-breaking RMA response to the Covenant House Food Drive. Advance planning and caring leadership made the difference in this time of deep food insecurity. Thank you to the many who donated food and cash money. In December we had a hit with the Salvation Army effort. We are on a roll!

MICHAEL introduced a Covenant staffer named Merritt Freeman who worked with him on the food drive. **MICHAEL** said that a record amount was raised and welcomed additional checks. So much was raised that he had to go food shopping again.



Mancinelli, Freeman, Carusi



Food collected for Covenant House

WILL MORRISON adds the following. Are you volunteering below the RMA radar? Don't think "hours" captures the nature of what you contribute? Member of a non-profit board? Or want to be on one? Have a volunteer project that some of your fellow members could get behind? Make it known by contacting **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Also, "Log'em before you forget'em." Please log your service at greenwichrma.org/log. While you are there, check out the reports summarizing your contributions since October 1 as well as the which non-profits are being supported and by whom.

GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that pickleball was canceled on Thursday due to wet weather, but there were rousing games on Monday in spite of the 10 am temperature being 32° F. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. To join email **PAT** at pmaccarthy415@gmail.com.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** gave the scores for Jan 11. Seven players gathered with **ANDRE MAZUREK** earning 1260 points, **BRUNO SCHRAGE**, 1290, and **RON MURRAY**, 2070.

Paddle Tennis: **JAMES DEAN** reported on play on Tuesday, January 18. Gathered were **ANDRE MAZUREK**, **FRED WU**, **JOE MANCINELLI**, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **JERRY COLEMAN**, **JOHN REESE**, **RUSS HARDEN** and **JAMES DEAN**. They played 12 sets before

court time was up with a full complement of eight players. Returning to the court was also **BOB FRISHMAN**.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** reported eight players on two tables playing hearts at the Greenwich Library last week. On Table 1, three games were played. Winners were **TOM HEALY** twice and **ANDY HOLMES** once. Plus, **TOM HEALY** shot the moon twice. On Table 2, three games were also played. Winners were **JOHN STANKUNAS**, twice, and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, once. Three players shot the moon: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **JOHN STANKUNAS** and **JAMES DEAN**.

Indoor tennis: **JOHN REESE** reported that in one of the most evenly matched and grueling competitions this season, with most games going back and forth between Ad and Deuce five or six times, **DON BREISMEISTER** and **JOHN REESE** narrowly defeated **ANDY HOLMES** and **RALPH NEWITTER** in a tiebreaker upset that went 11 to 9. On court 2, **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **ANDRE MAZUREK** had a similar competitive match and narrowly defeated **JERRY COLEMAN** and **JIM FISHBEIN** in a 7 to 5 tiebreaker. In the final round, **ANDRE** and **JOHN** rallied from two games behind to defeat **DON** and **BRIAN**. On court 2, **RALPH** and **JERRY** prevailed over **ANDY** and **JIM**. Has anyone ever wondered why tennis is scored 15, 30 and 40? Apparently, tennis scores were shown in the Middle Ages on two clock faces which went from 0 to 60. On each score the pointer moved round a quarter from 0 to 15, 30, 45 and a win on 60. Somehow the 45 got truncated to 40 when the clock faces dropped out of use. And the term Deuce was used to mean “two points from winning”. Now you know. Next week’s captain will be **JOE MANCINELLI**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** reported the following. “Looking to up your game on the court, greens, or at the gaming table? Join us to improve clarity, reaction time, balance and flexibility Mondays 9:30 in Old Greenwich. Contact **WILL** to find out more or to get on the class reminder email list, wdmorrison@gmail.com.”

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that Walkers and Talkers were rained out.

TODAY’S SPEAKER

Today’s speaker, Captain Michael Freddie, was introduced by **GERRY GIBIAN**, and spoke about the U.S. Coast Guard and its role in U.S. history. He gave examples of what the Coast



Guard does in the U.S. and around the world. Captain Freddie is the U.S. Coast Guard Academy director of admission.

The Coast Guard's motto is "Semper Paratus" translated as "Always Ready." Founded in 1790, the Coast Guard's creation was urged by Alexander Hamilton when he was secretary of the treasury. He wanted vessels on the high seas to be a "sentinel of the laws" and be certain to collect taxes at the entrance of U.S. ports. Thus, the Coast Guard started as a revenue marine service and then it became a lighthouse service.

The Coast Guard remained under the Department of Treasury until 1967, when it was moved to the Department of Transportation. In 2003 it was moved to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Not being under the Department of Defense gives it special powers because it is exempt from the federal law that prohibits using the military for law enforcement. The Coast Guard CAN enforce laws. Thus, its job is to "Secure the Homeland." By law, i.e., 14 USC 1032, its job is to "maintain a state of readiness to assist in the defense of the United States." To do this it has 60 multi and bilateral agreements to enter into the sovereign waters of foreign nations.

The Coast Guard covers 95,000 miles of coastline, 360 seaports, 3,700 marine terminals and 25,000 miles of waterways. It has 41,600 active-duty members, 7,000 reserves, 8,200 civilians (staff, professionals, et al) and 26,000 auxiliary (volunteers who put on a uniform). This is very small work force for a huge mission. Plus, it has 1,700 "boats" which are those under 65 feet. Those over 65 feet are called a "cutter." It has 251 cutters, with icebreakers, patrol boats, small harbor tugs, seagoing buoy tenders, and the large National Security Cutter class that can land a helicopter on it, as well as its training ship, the tall-ship called the "Barque Eagle," a 295-foot cutter. Its ice breakers can break ice near the poles and river buoy tenders help to keep rivers navigable. It also has 220 aircraft, from fixed wing aircraft to rotary-wing aircraft.

The Coast Guard has 11 statutory missions it performs every day.

1. Search and Rescue. In 2022 it saved 4,747 lives, assisted 21,000 people in distress, conducted 16,402 “search and rescue” cases, worked in 21 named storms during the Atlantic hurricane season, and saved \$61 million of property.

2. Drug Interdiction. In 2022 USCG prevented 381,399 pounds of cocaine and 71,392 pounds of marijuana (with an estimated street value of \$7.2 billion) from entering the U.S. while intercepting 635 suspected smugglers.

3. Migrant Interdiction. In FY 2022, it intercepted 13,357 undocumented migrants trying to illegally enter the United States by sea vs 2,365 in 2021, and 467 in 2020. Thus far in FY 2023 there have been 4,795 interceptions (to compare apples to apples) putting it enroute to about 19,000 interceptions, the largest on record. Captain Freddie said these are largely caused by unstable governments in the Central American and Caribbean region.

4. General Law Enforcement. In FY 2022 the USCG intercepted 169 illegal incursions by foreign fishing vessels into the U.S. waters. It boarded 57 foreign vessels to suppress illegal unreported and unregulated fishing on the high seas.

5. Living Marine Resources. Yearly the USCG boards U.S fishing vessels annually to issue significant fisheries violations and enforce fishery laws.

6. Ports, Waterways and Coast Security. In 2022 the CCG conducted 65,000 patrols of maritime critical infrastructure, escorted 562 high-capacity passenger vessels, conducted 1,733 boardings of high investment vessels (large vessels) and completed 3,065 boardings of small vessels.

7. Defense Readiness. Six patrol boats and an advanced interdiction team support the U.S. Central Command in Bahrain which conducted 9,000 waterside and 12,000 other searches.

8. Aids to navigation. USCG maintains 46,00 buoys and beacons around the U.S.

9. Marine Safety. Inspected 15,000 containers for structural and hazardous material compliance. Conducted 18,000 inspections of U.S. flagged vessel. Performed 5,000 inspections of foreign vessels.

10. Marine Environmental Protection. Responded to over 11,000 pollution incidents and deployments of the National Strike Force to support natural disasters.

11. Ice Operations. Performed nearly 5,000 hours of icebreaking to keep waterways open and enabled 14 million tons of product to safely move through ice impeded U.S. waters. It also deployed its icebreakers to Antarctica and currently tracks 169 icebergs in the North Atlantic.

SEMPER PARATUS: Always Ready!

The full presentation is available at <https://greenwichtma.org/>, 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 January 25, 2023, will be →**JOHN REESE**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him at jreese@validea.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.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.

Photos this week by Andy Holmes.

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