

# 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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*"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."* - Abraham Lincoln

**JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting at 9:47 am with **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ** leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, with **BOB MORGAN** at the piano, **JIM BUTLER** led us in song, first with one of America's most iconic songs, "God Bless America," then from 1913, "You Made Me Love You," and finally a song about reminiscing about singing in a barbershop quartet, "Heart of My Heart."

**JOE MANCINELLI** said refreshments today are compliments of **JERRY COLEMAN**. There were no other special announcements, but, like last week, he urged those giving reports at these meetings to send them to the scribe in the form of an email or Word document, if possible, rather than handwritten. Each issue of the CBB contains the email address for the following week's scribe so you know who to send to.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** whetted everyone's appetite by reporting that even though it is winter, there is still a Greenwich farmer's market held every Saturday from 9:30 am to 1 pm indoors at Sam Bridge Nursery on North Street, until May 6<sup>th</sup>. A group of 15 local farmers and artisan vendors from Connecticut and the surrounding area will have high-quality, small-batch products, including local produce, meats, fresh

seafood, bread, greens, and other items. For details, see: <https://sambridge.com/farmers-market>.

For those interested in how the Town is addressing climate change, the Greenwich Sustainability Committee will hold the first event of its 2023 Speaker Series on Tuesday, January 31 at Coffee for Good at 48 Maple Avenue. The event is free and open to the public and it will focus on the potential impact of climate change on the world's food supply. The hour-long event will begin at 12:30 pm. The event is called "A Farmer's Perspective on Food & Climate Change" and will feature Steve Munno, a farm manager at Massaro Farm in Woodbridge, who will discuss his work as a farmer in Connecticut and the challenges presented by climate change. Send an RSVP email to Kim Gregory at [staglanefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:staglanefarm@yahoo.com) if you wish to attend. More information on the Sustainability Committee is at <https://www.greenwichct.gov/1775/Sustainability-Committee>.

There will also be a climate justice event at the Greenwich YWCA on February 1, from 7 to 8:30 pm. It will feature a panel moderated by former Greenwich Conservation Director Denise Savageau, featuring Sharon Lewis, the executive director of the Connecticut Coalition on Environmental and Economic Justice, Brenda Watson, the executive director of Operation Fuel, and Ashley Stewart, the manager of community engagement for the Connecticut Green Bank, on how climate change is impacting our lives and how it can be particularly felt in communities of color and other marginalized groups. The Town of Greenwich is a community partner on this event along with the Greenwich Police Department, GEMS and many Greenwich non-profits. This is a free event and open to the public. Register here: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E341977&id=127>

**ARNOLD** included the following message received by **PETER UHRY** from former member Geoffrey Burge, who resides in Sydney, Australia.

"We are doing well ... we have moved to Manly, a beach suburb of Sydney. We get to swim most days and have moved into a pre-Federation townhouse that was built in 1890. It is a serious downsize for us with little storage space and no car parks. My golf clubs and bike are kept under the stairs. Our old place on 25 acres had too much maintenance. I had a total hip replacement late August due to severe osteoarthritis. Best thing I ever did! No more pain. I just stepped off a 110 km, six-hour bike ride which had 2,000 meters of climbing so it is fair to say that the hip replacement has worked. We will be spending the

European summer in London as we are expecting our first grandchild in May. I plan to ride from the bottom to the top of Ireland in July to try to avoid babysitting duties! I miss the interactions with my RMA buddies and wish them all the best. I still enjoy reading the CBB." You can write to Geoffrey at [gburgesydney@gmail.com](mailto:gburgesydney@gmail.com).

Before **ARNOLD** introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** to relate his humor for the day, he once again tortured the men with a few more punny jokes. Some examples:

- How do you describe the activities at an Arabian ball? They dance sheik to sheik.
- What do you call the sanctuary for sick salad dressing? The Mayo Clinic.
- What did the plow say to the tractor? Pull me a little closer, John Deare.
- What is a hermit? A woman's baseball glove.

The laughter and the groans were about equal in volume.

**JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** told us a joke about two Indians and a hillbilly walking in the woods. It went like this:

All of a sudden one of the Indians ran up a hill to the mouth of a small cave. "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" he called into the cave and then he listened very closely until he heard an answering, "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" He tore off his clothes and ran into the cave.

The hillbilly was puzzled and asked the other Indian what that was all about, was the other Indian crazy or what? "No," said the Indian. "It is our custom during mating season when Indian men see cave, they holler, 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' into the opening. If they get an answer back, it means there is a girl in there waiting to mate." Just then they saw another cave. the Indian ran up to the opening of the cave, stopped, and hollered, "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" Immediately, there was an answering "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" from deep inside the cave. He tore off his clothes and ran into the cave.

The hillbilly wandered around in the woods alone for a while, and then he came upon a great big cave. As he looked in amazement at the size of the huge opening, he was thinking, "Hoo, man! Look at the size of this cave! It is bigger than those the Indians found. There must be some really big, fine women in this cave!"

He stood in front of the opening and hollered with all his might, "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" He grinned and closed his eyes in anticipation, and then he heard the answering call, "WOOOOOOOOOO! WOOOOOOOOOO! WOOOOOOOOOO!" With a gleam in his eyes and a smile on his face, he raced into the cave, tearing off his clothes as he ran.

The following day, the headline of the local newspaper read, "NAKED HILLBILLY RUN OVER BY FREIGHT TRAIN."

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS**

**PETER STERN** introduced Phil Scibona, who was sponsored by **BOB GIAQUINTO** and seconded by **PAUL CAMPION**. **BOB** delivered the following remarks.

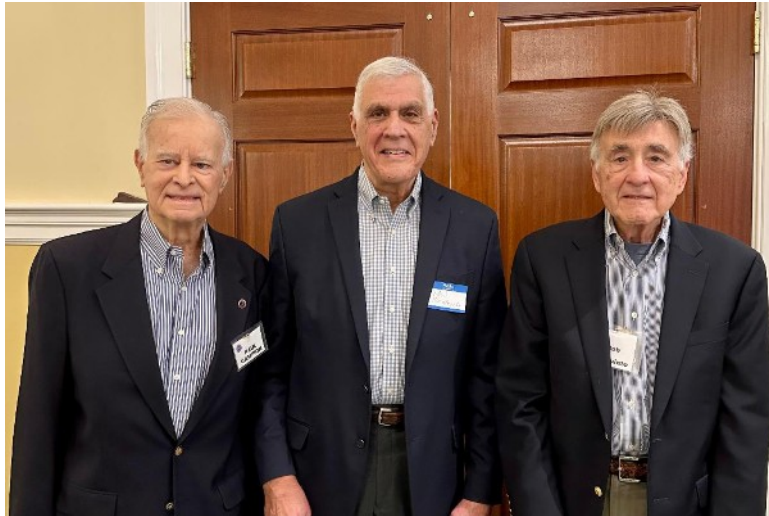
"In 1943, Phil was born in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, New York, and attended Bushwick High School where he played basketball and was VP of the student body. He graduated with an electrical engineering degree from NYU. After working two years in engineering, he entered the computer sales field. His career included Control Data for eight years, DEC, WANG for seven years, and 13 years with Sterling Commerce advancing to VP, where he started and expanded the New York office to half of the USA and Canada, reaching \$90 million in sales.

"Phil married Marge, a teacher, in 1967 and has a son and daughter who individually graduated from Rye High School with my two sons. They are blessed with three grandchildren. They moved to Rye, New York in 1975. After two homes in Rye, they recently moved to the Brook Hills section of White Plains where he serves on the board of this pleasant townhouse community.

"In 1978, I met Phil at a tennis party which evolved into a group of early morning singles tennis players. Phil and I vigorously competed against each other in our weekly games for over 30 years and over 1,000 contests. Unfortunately, Phil won 60% of the time. However, great games, good times and I am alive today because of that experience. Since retiring, Phil has volunteered mentoring high school students and adults. He evaluated and coached them on how to approach the job market with résumé writing and interviewing skills. At Bedford Hills correctional facility for women, he discussed with them all the challenges associated with reentering civilian life, and how to find employment. These

days, both he and Marge enjoy golf locally and at their winter home in Myrtle Beach. Phil, a very good athlete, is playing pickleball, likes professional sports, the theater and playing cards. I am very proud to nominate Phillip Scibona for membership into our RMA. “

**PAUL CAMPION** said he also has known Phil since the 70’s and in fact lives on the same street in Rye. **PHIL** was approved by unanimous vote. In **PHIL’S** acceptance remarks, he said he had found the people he met so far at the RMA interesting, that meetings were very well organized and he looked forward to getting involved with sports and volunteering in particular.



Campion, Scibona, Giaquinto

**PETER** then followed with this week’s birthdays: **BOB GRAYSON** is turning 78 and **DIETER BLENEMANN** is turning 88.

Our guests this week were:

Reinhard Augustin, guest of **KLAUS JANDER**

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

Howard Ressler, guest of **PETE UHRY** and **JEROME COLEMAN**

Tad Philipp, guest of **BOB GIAQUINTO**

Mark Pruner, guest of **JOHN TONER**

Curt Wood, guest of **JOE MANCINELLI** and **DON ROTZIEN**

Russ Pruner, guest of **ERF PORTER** and **HARRY FISHER**

Ashod “AK” Kassibian, guest of **SAM MARASSO**

**JOE** remarked that he was pleased by the large number of guests and said we should take that as a sign the RMA members must be doing something very well.

**PETER** requested that you let him know when you are a *returnee* (that is, you were away for one or more weeks), and when you are *celebrating* a significant event or milestone, such as a new grandchild or great grandchild or having an anniversary past 50. Email him at [pmstern@optonline.net](mailto:pmstern@optonline.net) .

**PETER** also separately mentioned to me that there were 93 members in attendance today, plus nine on Zoom for a total of 102, plus our eight guests.

### **SPEAKERS**

**HOLLISTER STURGES** announced that today's speaker will be Steven Roach, the former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, and currently with the Yale Law School Paul Tsai China Center. Roach is an economist who knows China inside and out. His book, which is also his topic this morning, is called *Accidental Conflict: America, China and the Clash of False Narratives*. Next week, we switch to the media and we have a former CNN producer, who was also with *60 Minutes*, David Fitzpatrick, talking about cable news and how it changed the American landscape.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FRED WU** announced that the GSO will have its eagerly awaited concert this weekend (January 28-29) featuring one of the most famous and beloved works of Tchaikovsky, his Violin Concerto in D. William Hagen, who has appeared on stages worldwide, will be the violin soloist, with Stuart Malina conducting. There will be two performances, Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 3 pm. On Sunday, there is a post-concert buffet dinner with Music Director Malina, violinist Will Hagen, and GSO Musicians, at Asiana at about 6 pm. If you would like to attend that dinner and meet the players, let **FRED** know. For more information or tickets (just \$40), see <https://www.greenwichsymphony.org/january-28-29-concerts-0>



**DON CONWAY** announced a couple of things happening in Greenwich. First, the BET, which affects our taxes, will start public hearings next week on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 4 pm, with different departments of the town. On the town website, you can find which departments will be appearing and **DON** believes the Board of Education will be going first. Come May, when they release the tax rate, you need to be happy with what they said. If you want to have some input, this is the chance, in April or May, to give your opinion. The meetings are public and will also be broadcast on TV. Find the meeting information at <https://www.greenwichct.gov/calendar.aspx?Keywords=&startDate=&endDate=7/31/2023&CID=38&showPastEvents=false> , or call the town hall at 203-622-7700.

Second, starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Eligible Senior Tax Credit kicks in for Greenwich. To be eligible, you need to be 65 or older, and a Greenwich taxpayer for at least one year. Your residence cannot be assessed for more than \$1,857,240, income from all sources cannot exceed \$78,000, you cannot owe any delinquent taxes, and there are other requirements. Credits range from \$2,486 (if your income is less than \$32,000) to \$654 (if your income is just below \$78,000). File between February 1 and May 15. Find a bit more information and links at <https://www.greenwichct.gov/1390/Credits-Benefits> or call the Town Assessor's Office at 203-622-7885.

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** is chair of the RMA Nominating Committee, which is responsible for a slate of candidates, and is in the process of asking people to chair committees. New members are also welcome to join the committees and he speaks from experience when he says you will get more out of the organization if you participate.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported on the recent Covenant House Food Drive. He said it was OUR food drive –done with our participation—and it wouldn't have happened without you. We help the underprivileged. As of five minutes ago, RMA members had donated \$1,200 in checks and \$1,700 in food for a total of about \$3,000 -- the best we have ever done. Special recognition to **LEN CARUSI, BOB GIAQUINTO, ANDY HOLMES, JOE MANCINELLI, JIM SANTORA,** and **RICK HOLTZ** – your assistance was really appreciated. **MIKE** is more than happy to give you a personal tour of Covenant, where you can see your funds at work. Pat yourself on the back. One heck of a food drive. **JOE** mentioned that he

has been there several times with **MICHAEL** and also with his grandkids and said the Covenant House does great things.

**WILL MORRISON** was pleased to report that the request from Greenwich United Way to assist with its non-profit grant assessment process was oversubscribed. This seems to indicate there is a strong interest in short term consulting projects. If you learn of any, please let him know. He also asked if anyone has a professional background in Human Resources? He would like to explore with you how different methods of recognition encourage volunteerism. Please contact him at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com).

**MIKE RYAN** asked that we include in the CBB the following announcement. There are quite a few RMA members who are helping the new Ukrainians in our area. This is a list of items that are needed and would be extremely appreciated, and give these folks a great Greenwich welcome:

- Slim bedside tables
- Tall floor lamps
- Sofa bed
- Small microwave oven
- Kitchen equipment
- New pillows, bed linen
- Gift vouchers for:
  - Stop 'n' Shop
  - ShopRite
  - CVS
  - Target

Please contact **MIKE** at 203-698-0441 ([ryantomac@netscape.net](mailto:ryantomac@netscape.net)), bring to the next RMA meeting, or just leave in the black box outside 76 Tomac Ave, Old Greenwich. Thank you!

## **GAMES**

**Indoor Tennis:** **JOE MANCINELLI**, this week's tennis captain, announced that Court 1 winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **JERRY COLEMAN**, five to three, and Court 2 winners were **BILL HOWLAND** and **PETER UHRY**. In the final round, Court 1 winners were **JOE MANCINELLI** and **ART DELMHORST** and Court 2 winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **PETER UHRY** in a tie breaker. We play on Fridays. Next week's captain is **JIM FISHBEIN**.



**Pickleball:** **PAT MacCARTHY** lamented that playing pickleball this winter has been a challenge! We canceled games both last Thursday and last Monday due to rain. 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).

**Platform Tennis:** **JAMES DEAN** reported on play on Tuesday, January 24. Gathered were **ANDRE MAZUREK, FRED WU, JOE MANCINELLI, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, ARN WELLES, BOB FRISHMAN, JERRY COLEMAN, RUSS HARDEN** and **JAMES DEAN**. **RUSS** was really on his game yesterday. They played 12 games, rotating among nine players on two courts. The ninth player, who sits out for a short period of time, receives invaluable coaching from our mascot Copper while they are waiting.

**Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** gave the scores for Wednesday, January 18. There were four players gathered with **ANDRE MAZUREK** earning 6030 points – a very high number for a bridge game; **ED MASTOLONI** scored 5300 points and **BRUNO SCHRAGE** 2990 points. There was one notable game that **ANDRE** and **ED** played where the contract was four spades, which is normally worth 430 points. But they were vulnerable (which dramatically increases the penalty if you lose or the bonus if you win), and that contract was doubled, which they redoubled while vulnerable, an act of incredible overconfidence. They made a total of 12 tricks--not just their game, but two overtricks. This produced a massive number of points, a real accomplishment. Players of all levels are welcome at the Wednesday afternoon games at the Greenwich Library.

**Hearts:** **BOB SHULLMAN** reported eight players on two tables playing hearts at the Greenwich Library last week. On Table 1, **JOHN KNIGHT** and **PETER STERN** each won one game. **RICK HOLZ** and **PETER** each shot the moon at least once. On Table 2, **MIKE AMBROSINO** dominated. **MIKE** and **JOHN** shot the moon once. We play 1 pm after the RMA meeting on Wednesdays, at the library, and are always looking for more players.

**Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** said that unfortunately, the RMA Walkers were rained out for the second week in a row, so he had no report!

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** said Tai Chi is known to be the secret weapon for bridge, tennis and paddle tennis players, etc. They meet Monday at 9:30 am and this coming

Monday will be focusing on the Chi Hook to stand up straight and the meditation to help clear your mind.

**JOE** adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**



Today's speaker, Steven Roach, was introduced by **HOLLISTER STURGES**. Steven Roach is the former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, and currently with the Yale Law School Paul Tsai China Center. Roach is a PhD economist who knows China inside and out. The title of his book, which is also his topic this morning, is *Accidental Conflict: America, China and the Clash of False Narratives*.

Roach talked about the analysis of the potential collision of the two superpowers, a dangerous, misguided conflict amplified by social media and other means. He asserted that we are at great risk from the false scenarios the two superpowers believe. In an earlier book, *Unbalanced*, he developed the view that this was a favorable relationship that allowed both countries to draw heavily on one another to sustain economic systems. The US got low-cost purchases, and the massive Chinese purchases of US Treasuries financed our government. China was able to sell tons of product to the US and rapidly grow their economy. A conflict didn't have to happen.

He called the current accidental conflict – the false narratives – the equivalent of hi octane fuel for cars. Plenty of sparks could ignite the fuel, sparks like Taiwan, Ukraine (China says it is an unlimited partner of Russia), and possible global recession. These could all trigger a worrisome accident.

Roach's book is in four parts: 1) the history of the relationship, 2) and 3) US and China false narratives, and 4) conclusion. He noted that the conflict escalation has occurred primarily just since 2018. He summarized what he believes are some of the false narratives. For instance, despite the Trump narrative that trade deficits caused severe hardships on us and that the biggest piece of the deficit was with China, the truth is there

were 106 countries with whom we ran trade deficits. He said we used the same faulty logic against Japan in the 1980s. But the truth is that the bigger problem in our economy is that our national savings rate is incredibly low, and at a near record low at the current time. So, we *have* to import surplus funds from abroad to make up for the shortfall in savings; it is NOT a reason for a conflict with China. Roach acknowledged that a lot of people in Washington believe this false narrative and are not at all open to a different view.

But the Chinese, he said, are equally culpable in relying on false narratives. The Chinese blame their inability to rebalance their economy on the US and our stated objectives “to contain them” in multiple areas. He said that had nothing to do with China’s ability to restructure their slowing economy. The consumption share of the Chinese economy is very low, below 40% (low among countries today). But it is convenient for President Xi Jinping to blame the US rather than admit his own inability to boost private consumption or on their aging demographics.

Roach was highly critical of state censorship in China. They censor everything. But what about America – are we free, open and honest about the trust and free from the same distortions we are accusing China of? When he first made this point in the book (that the US is not so free from distortions), it created flack for the author. More than half of one major political party, he said, still believes in the “big lie” of the 2020 stolen election, so we have every right to criticize our own regime, as have others around the world, including the Chinese. This dueling narrative is particularly worrisome for an accidental clash. It is one of many potential sparks.

Roach was surprised by the way the conflict evolved from the Trump to the Biden administration. He expected to see big changes, reversing many of the most contentious issues under Trump. And, on his first day in office, Biden did issue four executive orders countermanding the most controversial policies. But Biden did nothing to back off tariffs on China or sanctions on hundreds of Chinese companies, and furthermore upped the ante on aggressive anti-Chinese policies in advanced semiconductor areas aimed at choking off key Chinese initiatives in AI and quantum computing. While the rhetoric is different under Biden, Roach says the policies are actually tougher and more of a threat to China than they were under Trump. We haven’t seen the Chinese response yet to these things.

How do we get out of it? What is a framework for conflict resolution? Roach believes a solution needs to be trust based, but we don't have it at the high-official leadership level. A solution must contain guardrails to contain the trajectory of conflict escalation. Identifying pressure points are key. It needs to avoid addressing conflict from a zero-sum perspective, that we will squeeze China to make things better for us (that approach to trade deficits has backfired). It must take a careful look at the way the leadership of the two nations engage one another. Under Bush, we had twice-a-year meetings with the Chinese leadership, but Trump gave up on them. Under Biden there have been largely Zoom calls, with one major exception, a meeting in Bali. None of these really worked.

- A better way to frame the engagement: We need to restore trust. There is low hanging fruit to break the ice, such as reopening consulates, loosening visa requirements, restarting foreign education exchange. Relaxing NGO constraints as a gesture of goodwill would offer the olive branch and the other country would reciprocate quickly.
- Discuss items of mutual interest of global importance: climate change, global health, cyber security.
- Go from zero-sum to pro-growth. China completely missed their growth target.
- Shift to "structural arbitrage." Examples:
  - Eliminate foreign ownership caps, which render joint ventures moot,
  - Forced tech transfer is off the table (no joint ventures, nothing to transfer)
- Focus on reducing investment barriers, allowing increased investment in each other's economy. Go back to the table and negotiate bilateral investment treaties.
- Change the architecture of engagement by adding a permanent US-China Secretariat office, full time staffed, located in a neutral jurisdiction, working 24/7 on all aspects of the relationship. It would co-author white papers to feed into the policy process.

Roach acknowledged that he has been told that there is no interest in conflict resolution with China. No support in congress. It is worrisome. As an ex-wall street executive, he wants to change the willingness of the powers in our nation to consider the stake and get a better grip on this conflict before it is too late.

There were many audience questions, some strongly questioning Professor Roach's conclusions. Here are a few:

Question: Do you ever wake up at night and wonder what you present here today, even though you got a very nice reception in Hong Kong, might just be a polite face, but behind all that, that the Chinese just don't care? Roach responded that he has spent a lot of time in China and he has been involved with top Chinese leadership on debates, and found they are more than willing to engage in an honest debate. He had a strongly optimistic view on China for 25 years, but no longer. They have a lot of serious problems they are not facing up to. Working age population decline is occurring, much faster than we thought, productivity is going down, and there is a failure to boost GDP. He has written a lot about that in the last three months, and the Chinese are chaffing about that – “how can you turn on us?” If he does go back to China in the next few months, he will present that and he will have a better answer to your question. The US-China Business Council could play a more active role in resolving the US China conflict, their efforts are de minimis, and he will say that to the council when he presents to them three weeks from now.

Question: What about the leadership in both countries? It is fashionable to attack China (e.g. Pompeo's new book doesn't give an inch), an article in *Foreign Affairs* (Nov. 30), and the fact that Xi Jinping is reluctant to allow the translation of his speeches into English because they reveal so clearly his Marxist ideology, and belief about China's destiny and its inevitability. How do you deal with a mindset like that? What changed you from a China- US optimist to a strong pessimist? Roach said he “agreed with pretty much everything the audience member said,” and stated that Xi Jinping is the reason he has changed to pessimism. China went from a predictable 10-year time frame of succession, to “leader for life.” There was not supposed to be one strong man. Xi has turned that inside out. “The 20<sup>th</sup> party congress in October reappointed him to a third five-year term, brought in yes men whose main attribute was their loyalty to Xi. Xi is dogmatic and driven both by ideology and fears about security, and China's relationship with Russia is unfathomable and worrisome. It will be tough for the US to restore a relationship while he is in power.”

Question: Please address how you negotiate with an assertive, authoritarian power, as evidenced by its actions in the South China Sea, its Belt-and-Road initiative around the world, its oppression of the Uyghurs. Doesn't dealing with hardline adversaries require you to be hardline as well? They only respect toughness. Roach responded “you can be tough in holding China accountable for its transgressions, its suppression of minorities, its actions in the South China Sea. However, the view inside Xi's circle is that America is in decline. His close associate Wang Huning is architect of the view that this is China's

moment to strike against a declining America, embraced by Xi who promoted him from a second to third leadership term. How do we compete with that? Rather than fight on foreign containment, take care of our own system and the conflict will seem less threatening. Get our facts right, and don't succumb to the false narrative. Whether or not we can respond to that through direct confrontation with China or by making us a stronger system internally, that's where the debate is. And I think if we can defeat the notion that we are a nation in decline and we take care of our own issues more effectively, that will end up being a greater threat to China than tariffs and sanctions might be. I think we need to counter their strength by our own strength. And I say to China as well, rather than fixating on the foreign containment, take care of your own system and the conflict will feel less threatening. But I'm not saying we should back down on these issues you mentioned – just make sure we have our facts right and don't succumb to the false narratives.”

Question: An audience member forcefully stated that the Chinese have engaged in massive industrial espionage, intellectual property theft, currency manipulation and have subsidized their exports. So, the problem transcends the basic issue of the savings issue. Roach agreed “this is a widely held view in Washington, one that goes way back, to the approach that we took in dealing with Japan in the later 1980's,” but said that the problems go beyond that. “And with all due respect... I think that a lot of those views are based on weak evidence and that a careful examination will tell you to look elsewhere for the trade related pressures between the US and China. I spent a couple of chapters in the book where I go through the arguments that you just made point by point by point. Just one example, this notorious estimate of the intellectual property theft by the Chinese that Washington ascribes to [is] from the IP commission, that estimates we are losing \$250-\$600 billion a year. In my writings and in teaching my classes at Yale, I examine the assumptions behind that number, and they are pathetically weak. They would not be admitted as evidence in any court. ChatGPT could have done a better job than Robert Lighthizer, Trump's Trade Representative did in laying out the case. I hear what you are saying in your ascribing a view that is very much part of the Washington rhetoric that is aimed at hammering China on trade, and I stand by my view that our trade deficits are much more a reflection of our problems than the practices China uses to take unfair advantage of us.”

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 February 1, 2023, will be →**FRED WU**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him at [fywu.wu@gmail.com](mailto:fywu.wu@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](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