

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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Next Week's Scribe: BOB GIAQUINTO, bgq19@live.com

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn" –Benjamin Franklin

JOE MANCINELLI called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM. **JOE** then introduced **MIKE HAYDEN** who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. **MIKE HAYDEN** then followed with "The Marines Hymn" followed by "Drunken Sailor" and "Deep in the Heart of Texas" accompanied on the piano by **BOB MORGAN**.

JOE then thanked the support team for managing the meeting: Projectionists **LEN CARUSI/TONY COCCHI**; Refreshments **BOB GIAQUINTO**; Greeter **JOHN KAVANAUGH**; Audio Visual **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**; and the Mentor **JOE DOWLING**.

ARNOLD GORDON, our corresponding secretary, then came to the podium and described an interesting offer by Broadway theaters. If you have a child or grandchild 18 or younger, for every ticket you purchase for a show on Tuesday, March 21st, there is no charge for the child. Restaurant discounts will also be made available. For details, see <https://kidsnightonbroadway.com/>

ARNOLD then asked if any member knows of something important or useful that he believes would be of interest to all the members to let him know and he will then include the message on their behalf in his announcements. (ajgordo@verizon.net; 203-273-5779)

He once again tested the patience of the members with the following, saying it was time to squirm a little:

Do you know why a Koala bear is not really a bear? Because he doesn't Koalify.

I went to the beekeepers to buy some bees. All the bees had price tags on them except one. It was a freebie.

Yesterday I stopped at a roadside stand that said "Lobster tails \$2." So I paid my \$2 and the guy said, "Once upon a time there was this lobster..."

Quizzing the audience, **ARNOLD** then posed these profound questions:

How does one become a naturalized German? You germinate.

If God dropped acid, would he see people?

Where did Captain Hook buy books? At the second hand store.

If you are born again, would you have two bellybuttons?

ARNOLD then introduced **TOM HEALY**, the authentic jokester for the day, who then recounted a tale from the wild, wild, west.

"An old woman walked up and tied her old mule to the hitching post. As she stood there, brushing some of the dust from her face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other. He looked at the woman and laughed," Hey old woman, have you ever danced?" The woman looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No ... I never did dance ... Never really wanted to". A crowd has gathered as the young gunslinger grinned and said, "Well you old bag, you're gonna dance now!" and started shooting at the old woman's feet. The old woman prospector - not wanting to have her toes blown off- started hopping around. Many were laughing. When his last bullet was fired, the gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon. The old woman turned to her pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled shotgun and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air, and the crowd immediately stopped laughing. The gunslinger heard the sounds too, and turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening. The crowd watched tensely as he stared at the woman and the large gapping holes of those twin barrels. The barrels of the shotgun never

wavered in her hands as she quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?" The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No ma'am, but I've always wanted too"

Tom ended the tale by stating there are five lessons in the tale for all of us:

- 1 - Never be arrogant.
- 2 - Don't waste ammunition.
- 3 - Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are.
- 4 - Always make sure you know who has the power.
- 5 - Don't mess with old people; they didn't get old by being stupid."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

PETER STERN announced there were no new member inductions this week and the stated there were a total of 88 individuals attending the meeting: 73 members in the church, 15 members on Zoom and two guests.

The two guests were Steve Small who was the guest of **TONY FITZPATRICK** and **JACK WEIR** and Steve Glasser who was the guest of **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ** and **DAVID MICHONSKI**.

PETER then announced the following member birthdays:

JACK SWEGER is 92
JOERG BLASER is 77
GRAN BURGESS is 76

PETER announced that **TOM** and Kathie **HEALY** were celebrating 55 years of marriage.

Peter then welcomed on Zoom:

DOUG TAYLOR

PETE ARTURI

PETER TUNLEY, a snowbird from Florida

SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ from the British Virgin Islands

ANNOUNCEMENTS/HUMAN INTEREST

JOE MANCINELLI stepped in for **BILL FEATHERSTONE** and announced a ROMEO luncheon will occur next Thursday. **JOE** asked the members to contact **PETER** at billfeatherston@gmail.com if they plan to attend the luncheon, so that the restaurant is prepared with an accurate head count. The venue is Rico's Pizza pm the Post Road. Space has been booked for 1:00PM on Thursday, February 16th for 10-15 people.

MAURICE KROHN then came to the podium to discuss member's interest in a Red Cross Training Class that is currently scheduled for Sunday, March 19th, at 99 Indian Field Road, Greenwich, CT from 9 AM-12 Noon that will result in those participating in the class being certified for First Aid, CPR and AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The cost to participate is \$105 per member and checks should be made payable to the RMA (a Tax Deductible fee) which will then pay the fees. Member checks are required by February 22nd in order to participate. The class is limited to 15 seats per class. If sufficient members participate, Maurice may be able to have the class held on another date.

MAURICE then made an announcement regarding Black History Month. **MAURICE** asked if anyone knew what two songs from Texas dealt with Black History Month? The correct answers were:

- The Yellow Rose of Texas
- Buffalo Gal

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

WILL MORRISON reiterated the **PETER UHRY** announcement of last week. Noting that Fred Camillo said the February 1st was designated as **PETER UHRY** Day. **WILL** then advised that he made a change to the volunteer sheet by adding an additional column. If additional support is needed, a Y should be inserted into this additional column.

Mention was made of the RMA's working to develop a stronger relationship with the Greenwich United Way.

GAMES

Pickleball: Although pickleball was canceled last Thursday due to frosty weather, we had seasonably pleasant weather on Monday and played 7 spirited games. Players included **Tony Cocchi, Bob Giaquinto, Lou Rupnik, Pat MacCarthy, and Peter Cruikshank**. **Peter** is in line to become our pickleball "rookie of the year" with his excellent play and, after nearly a month of perfecting his game in the Turks & Caicos islands, **Tony** unleashed his well tuned & powerful new serve.

Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays & Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT MacCARTHY** at pmacCarthy415@gmail.com.

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** filling in for **RON MURRAY**. Bridge is played on Wednesdays in the Greenwich Library cafe at 1:00 PM. Winners were ANDRE **MAZUREK** WITH 4600 points followed by **TONY COCCHI** with 3300 points and **RON FRIEDMAN** with 3000 points.

Platform Tennis: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** taking over for **JIM DEAN**. There were four players on Tuesday: **JOE MANCINELLI, ANDRE MZUREK, MICHAEL AMBROSINO AND JERY COLEMAN**.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** reported the following results: Eight RMA members played Hearts at two tables last Wednesday at the Library.

Table 1 results for four games were:

- **JOE DOWLING** won three games and shot the moon four times.
- **JAY SCHONDORF** won one game and shot the moon twice

Table 2 results for three games were:

- **JOHN STANKUNAS** won two games and shot the moon once.
- **TOM HEALY** won one game and shot the moon once.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE**-Last Thursday, nine walkers gathered at Cove Island in Stamford and walked through the bird sanctuary and nature preserve and then around the island. We chose to visit Cove Island this time of year because we would need Stamford

beach passes during the beach season. It was a very enjoyable walk with lots of good conversations.

Tennis: ANDY HOLMES-Last Friday we had eight players play four matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the Opening Round, court 1 winners were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **JOHN REESE** and on court 2 the winners were **PAT MacCARTHY** and **RANDY MOTLAND**. In the Finals Round, court 1 winners were **JOHN REESE** and **PAT MacCARTHY** and on court 2 the winners were **PETER DODGE** and **JIM FISHBEIN**. This week's captain will be **RALPH NEWLITTER**.

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON. Tai Chi takes place on Mondays at 9:30 AM in Old Greenwich. The focus of Tai Chi is the opposite of Physical Therapy. It stresses relaxation as much as possible. The aim is to relax into the movement.


TAD LARABEE then made an announcement regarding the Greenwich Choral Society's upcoming performance later this month. Details about the event follow.

Music...Magic...Joy!

Greenwich Choral Society
presents


Sainted Debauchery!

Join the Greenwich Choral Society for an exhilarating performance
featuring music for Chorus, Two Pianos and Percussion,
with professional soloists and instrumentalists!




- Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*
- Excerpts from
Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*
Chávez's *Toccata for Percussion*
- The Chamber Singers of the
Fairfield County Children's Choir

Saturday, February 25, 2023 / 4:00 pm
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,
Greenwich High School
10 Hillside Road, Greenwich, CT



Scan to Order Tickets

Tickets: \$55, \$40, \$25 (free for K-12 Students)
Order: online at www.gcs-ct.org
Or call 203-622-5136



RUSS HARDEN then made an announcement that Call-A-Ride needs a stronger driver bench as volunteers are lacking. Call-a-Ride operates Mon-Fri in the mornings and afternoons.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

DAVID MICHONSKI then came to the podium and introduced Officers Keith Hirsch and Daniel Palladino, whose presentation that will occur after the coffee break, is entitled "What to do in the event of an Active Shooter".



CIO Keith Hirsch



CIO Daniel Paladino

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What do you do when a six-year old child comes into a kindergarten with a loaded gun and shoots his teacher? While the thought makes us gasp, the reality is that our children from grammar school to high school live with this reality and go through drills to prepare them for just such an eventuality. But we as adults are less likely to know what to do.

Officer Keith E. Hirsch and Officer Daniel Paladino, two highly trained police officers of the Greenwich Police Department, will address the question: what to do in an active shooter situation? Both officers are assigned to the Community Impact Section within the Detective Division of the Greenwich Police Department and are passionate about educating the public about this critical social and safety issue. Both have been educated in specialty classes all over the country becoming certified in Threat Assessment, Crime Prevention, and Crime Analysis and both are certified as instructors for Civilian Response to an Active Shooter. Their presentation will help inform adults on how to react.

Officers Hirsch and Paladino have provided these presentations to hundreds of adults. Attendees learn what is the first action to take, how to anticipate a shooter, what defense mechanisms ordinary people have, how to case out a room to be prepared, and other proven actions to deflect and even overcome a shooter. Both officers pride themselves on their attention to detail and helping empower Greenwich citizens to make the community one of the best and safest places to reside and raise a family anywhere in the nation.

Both officers are highly decorated members of the Police Department. Detective Hirsch has been named Officer of the Month several times, was the recipient of the Doctor John A. Clarke award for Officer of the Year and was the recipient of the Community Policing Award for 2017 from the U. S. Attorney’s Office. Detective Paladino has served for 20 years and also has received accolades that also include Officer of the Month and the Community Policing Award.

Both officers are life-long Greenwich residents and graduates of Greenwich High School.

Next week's speaker will be Stuart Malina, Music Director and Conductor, of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra whose presentation will be "Dvorak, Elgar, and the Future of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra."

SPEAKER PRESENTATION

After the coffee break, Officer Hirsch opened the presentation by asking "what would you do in an active shooter situation?"

Officer Hirsch then indicated that situational awareness is important. There are three components of situation awareness:

- Recognition-be alert.
- Assessment. Is there danger?
- Response. What to do?

Officer Hirsch then spoke about how we have all become complacent. We are not aware of our surroundings. Officer Hirsch listed some examples:

- What route do you take to work?
- Where do you buy your coffee?
- Where do you sit in a restaurant/movie theater?
- Where do you park your car?
- Check your e-mails and texts

Officer Hirsch believes we need to start being aware of our surroundings.

Officer Hirsch then discussed some interesting statistics regarding mass shootings. What is the definition of a mass shooting? A mass shooting is when there are three or more victims excluding the shooter. The perception is that we are having a mass shooting every day. In 40 years from 1982 there have been 140 mass shootings, over 1500 injured with over 1,000 fatalities. In 30 years over 4000 people have been injured and over 700 killed in lightning strikes! The first mass shooting occurred in Pennsylvania on July 26th 1764 when 3 men killed 10 school children and the headmaster. From 1800 to August 1st 1966 there have been 153 mass shootings. That's less than 1 a year!

Why is the date of August 1, 1966 memorable? On that date a shooter in an Austin, Texas bell tower killed 17 people and that incident was broadcast live on TV. Big picture, that incident showed how shooters could get their 15 minutes of fame and from August 1, 1966, there have now been 300 mass shootings and media plays a big role.

Officer Hirsch went on to discuss patterns of a mass shooter:

- Feels he's been mistreated
- Feels he's been bullied
- Past over for a promotion
- Mental illness
- Social advances are rejected
- Majority take their own lives when faced with opposition

Officer Hirsch went on to discuss what we are going to do? We are no longer going to be complacent; we are no longer going to be easy targets; we are going to adopt a warrior mindset. Officer Hirsch then discussed what three things you can do if involved in an active shooting incident:

- RUN
- HIDE
- FIGHT

RUN:

- Leave the building
- Do not help the wounded or injured
- Do not let others slow you down
- Help others escape if possible
- Call 911
- Prevent others from entering building
- Have an escape route in mind
- Keep hands visible
- Follow instructions from rescue personnel

HIDE:

- Turn out lights
- Be quiet
- Lock doors
- Turn off phones and electronic devices. Keep on vibrate.
- Hide behind large objects

- Only respond to police
- Do not respond to fire alarms
- Dial 911 if possible and leave phone on so it can be tracked

FIGHT (last resort):

- Improvise weapons
- Commit to taking the shooter down
- Incapacitate the threat
- Act with physical aggression
- Be loud and vocal

In closing Officer Hirsch discussed the role of first responders and what we can do to assist in their efforts to bring the incident to a safe conclusion

First Responders are not there to help the injured. They are there to locate the shooter and disarm the threat.

What can we provide to first responders to help them end the shooting include:

- Location of the threat
- Number of shooters
- Physical description
- Number and type of weapon
- Number of potential victims on the scene

Officer Hirsch then explained what we should do once Law Enforcement arrives on the scene:

- Realize that Law Enforcement is trained to run toward the gunmen
- Aim of Law Enforcement is to stop the shooter before anything else occurs
- Try to remain calm and follow instructions
- Empty hands of all objects
- Avoid making quick movements
- Do not ask law Enforcement any questions
- Stay on the scene after you reach safety. You could provide important evidence.

Officer Hirsch then took questions from the audience.

Question: Should we engage the shooter and some states have said the best way to prevent mass shootings is for everyone to carry a gun?

Answer: Anything you can do to delay the shooter is a good thing. Do anything to delay the situation. If making yourself more personal rather than just a number is the last resort then by all means do it.

Officer Hirsch opted not to answer the second part of this question as he felt it is a political question and should be answered by individual states and the voters within those states.

Question: Do you think ordinary citizens should have access to automatic weapons and machine guns?

Answer: Officer Hirsch repeated his reluctance to discuss political issues in this forum. Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinions.

Question: During 9/11 people were given conflicting information. How should conflicting information be handled?

Answer: Each emergency is unique and has its own set of circumstances. Law enforcement continues to adapt and learn based on every emergency situation. Police across the country are constantly evaluating their procedures and protocols.

Question: What went wrong in the Uvalde, Texas shooting?

Answer: It was an unfortunate situation. A lot went wrong. It was a locked classroom setting. The building was supposed to be secure and it wasn't. Officer Hirsch was unsure of the level of training of the responding law enforcement individuals involved. Officer Hirsch knows how the Greenwich Police Department has been trained and in his opinion they would have responded differently.

Question: There seem to be more mass shooting in the United States than in Europe and Asia. Why? What should we do to fix that situation?

Answer: In the United States we have hundreds if not thousands of different cultures as opposed to countries that are more homogeneous.

Mental health also plays a role. Early detection and proper treatment are needed. Schools and government buildings have changed their security protocols that should help improve the trend as far as school shooting go.

Question: Do police Departments nationwide have positions as to whether it would be safer/not safer if people carried automatic weapons?

Answer: Officer Hirsch couldn't answer as to the nationwide feeling. As to what the opinion of Chiefs of Police Officer recommend, Hirsch indicated that the answer to that question is best answered by The Chiefs of Police.

Question: Have all the bases been covered as far as shooters are concerned?

Answer: Officer Hirsch would like to think that is the case. However the police are constantly learning and adapting.

Question: You mentioned that a cell phone can be a useful tool by putting it on vibrate and then dialing 911? Can the police department trace the location based on this?

Answer: Yes. They can triangulate off the cell towers and get a location.

To see the full presentation, go to <https://greenwichrma.org/>, cursor to “Speakers” and click on “Speaker Videos.”

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 15, 2023, will be →**BOB GIAQUINTO**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him at bgq19@live.com.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members’ enjoyment. We can always use new members to join the Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you can support this effort.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours at www.greenwichrma.org/log.

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

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 - tadlarr@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