

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: BOB GIAQUINTO

Next Week's Scribe: FRANK SCARPA, frankjscarpa@gmail.com

"Try to remember the greener grass across the fence, may be due to a septic issue."

President **JOE MANCINELLI** called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **JACK WEIR**. The following songs were sung and guided by **DON CONWAY**: "America the Beautiful," "My Wild Irish Rose," sung with an Irish accent, and "Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head," co-written by the late Burt Bacharach. Our piano player today was **JIM SANTORA**.

President **JOE** thanked the following members for their work. Projectionists **LEN CARUSI/TONY COCCHI**, refreshments **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, audio visual **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE**, and **BARRY RICHELSON**, and mentor **JOE DOWLING**.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** conveyed the sad news that member **GERRY BOYLE**'s wife of 67 years, Barbara, passed away last week at the age of 85.

He mentioned that the Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on Friday, February 17, from 11:30 am to 4:15 pm in the very same room in which we meet at the church. There is no upper age limit for donation of blood as long as you are in good health. It's a good opportunity to help save lives and rejuvenate your own blood. You can make an appointment at 800-733-2767 or redcrossblood.org, code FPCG.

He then offered to anyone who wants them more than 15 years of the Mayo Clinic Health Letters, most in loose leaf binders and with indexes for all issues. Full of excellent information on everything body and mind. Contact him at ajgordo@verizon.net.

ARNOLD then described his sightings of real signs in various places and some bizarre headlines.

- Outside a secondhand shop: “We exchange anything – bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?”
- Notice in a farmer's field: “The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.”
- “Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over”
- “Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges”
- “Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors”
- “Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft”

Ending the punny pain, **ARNOLD** then introduced the real jokester for the day, **PAUL CAMPION**. **PAUL** mentioned his were jokes told by women in front of women.

- “What is the difference between men and a US treasury bond? The bonds mature.”
- “Why are jokes about blondes so short? So men can remember them.”
- “What do you call a woman who knows where her husband is at all times? A widow.”
- “How long does it take for men to change a roll of toilet paper? We don't know. It has never happened.”

NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

PETER STERN introduced **SAM MARASSO**, who nominated Ashod (AK) Kassabian for RMA membership.

Ashod's grandparents were born in Turkish Armenia, left Turkey under great hardship and settled in Egypt where AK attended a Franciscan French Primary School. The family then moved to Lebanon for a short time and then on to France where he achieved the equivalent of a B.S. in mathematics while noticing the beautiful women of Paris. Then on

to Canada attending McGill University and graduating with a degree in electrical engineering and remembering temperatures of 20 below zero. Next stop was Manhattan.

AK has worked as a freelance Architectural Photographer for many years with such clients as Steelcase and Grey Global Group. He also taught for seven years at the Fashion Institute of Technology. AK transitioned to the computer field, developing front end web design for various companies including Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley. Currently he lives in Greenwich enjoying jogging, group exercise, weight lifting, Yoga, sailing and his favorite is bike riding including riding on a regular basis throughout Manhattan. His son teaches English as a foreign language for the State Department.

PETER STERN seconded the nomination and AK was voted into our RMA. AK thanked the membership for their vote and told of his positive experience with Toastmaster.

SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ nominated Steven Glasser, MD, who he has known for 15 years out of the 40-plus years that he has been on the medical staff of Greenwich Hospital. Steve always has been well respected and loved by his patients. He was educated in Italy, is fluent in Italian, and completed his training at Greenwich Hospital. He married Maria Pavlis, a cardiologist, also at Greenwich Hospital. They raised four children in Greenwich. Steven’s hobbies include chess, gardening, and golf and he is an ardent reader.

Again, **PETER** seconded the nomination (as proxy for **DAVID MICHONSKI**) and welcomed **STEVEN** as the newest member of the RMA. **STEVE** was thankful for election into RMA and looks forward to meeting new people and exploring new opportunities.



Kassabian, Marasso



Lipschutz, Glasser

In other matters, **PETER** then welcomed two guests, Lawrence Merl, guest of **PETE UHRY** and **PAT MacCARTHY**, and Mark Pruner, guest of **JOHN TONER**. He noted the birthday of **CHARLIE GRAVES**, 86, and welcomed returnee **TIM BROOKS** back from Los Angeles. He welcomed **LARRY POSNER** “all the way from Westport,” and **TONY FITZPATRICK** via Zoom from Florida. Attendance at this meeting, as reported by Official Counter **CARL WHITE**, was 71 in-person and 11 on Zoom, for a total of 82.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

JERRY POLLACK announced that today’s speaker will be Stuart Malina, music director of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra, discussing the repertoire he has chosen for his fourth concert and his experience with the orchestra to date. Next week we will hear from John Reese on “Learning from Luminary Investors: The Wisdom of Warren Buffet, Ben Graham and Peter Lynch.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAURICE KROHN spoke about a Red Cross Training Class on March 19th at 99 Indian Field Road in Greenwich, 9 to 12 noon. This is for training and certification for first aid, CPR and AED. The cost is \$105.00 and is not tax deductible. Make you check out to the RMA. The class is limited to 12 seats per class. For more information email **MAURICE** at krohnmaurice142@gmail.com.

BILL FEATHERSTON reported that the next ROMEO lunch will be at Rika’s on 2010 Main St., Stamford, on Thursday, February 16th.

TAD LARRABEE spoke about the Greenwich Choral Society concert on Saturday, February 25th at 4 pm at the Performing Arts Center at Greenwich High School. The performance features music for chorus, two pianos and percussion with professional soloists and instrumentalists. The program includes Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*... excerpts from Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*... Chavez’s *Toccata for Percussion*... The chamber singers of the Fairfield County children’s choir. Tickets are \$55, \$40, \$25, and free for K to 12 students. Order online www.gcs-ct.org or call 203-622-5136

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

WILL MORRISON announced that these exciting programs are urgently looking for volunteers. Please reach out to the listed contact.

- **Math Champions Tutoring** - tutoring elementary school ages once a week, United Way, Cécile Meunier, cmeunier@greenwichunitedway.org
- **Call-A-Ride** - drive those in need for 2-4 hours using provided car, RMA contact **JOHN DENNE**, jhdenne@gmail.com
- **Ukraine Refugees in Stamford** - need household goods, RMA contact **MIKE RYAN**, ryantomac@netscape.net

Volunteer Programs is introducing the role of Volunteer Advocate. The Advocate stands ready to help you find the volunteer activity that matches your interests and the time you have available. If you are busy with a nonprofit that needs more help, he will assist with organizing a search. You can find the Volunteer Advocate near the volunteer log sheet table. *Stop by and say hello.*

Log your service hours and see where your fellow members are volunteering at: greenwichrma.org/log

SPORTS REPORT

TAD LARRABEE gave the Walkers and Talkers report. On Thursday, February 9, 2023, **JEFF JUNKER** led the walkers on a very interesting and convoluted search for Tom's Brook in western Greenwich. We met at Greenwich Office Park just north of the Post Road on Valley Drive in western Greenwich. We walked a very circuitous route of about four level miles as **JEFF** explained what we were looking at. Very often, you would not know that there is a brook in that part of town because it has been repeatedly piped and buried. A lot of the area drained by Tom's Brook has been substantially filled.

One reason why Tom's Brook is important to Greenwich is that it's in the news when the water at Byram Beach is contaminated and closed after a heavy rain. It is in the news when the contaminated soil from the Greenwich Transfer Station (dump) causes problems. Related environmental issues delayed the recent Greenwich Housing Authority's rehab of Armstrong Court. Tom's Brook and its history are central to

understanding many environmental issues in that part of town including the continuing discussions of what to do with the contaminated top soil at Western Central School, which was landfill ash from the old town trash incinerator. Tom's Brook went right through that area. We will be spending a lot more tax dollars on cleaning up the environmental degradation in that part of town. So, it's an important brook to be aware of. Unfortunately, I had driven through much of that area without realizing that a nice brook was nestled in the small valleys in that part of town before the 20th century when it was overrun by development. How **JEFF** finds these locations is a mystery to the rest of us walkers. His extensive knowledge made this a very interesting walk.

Unfortunately, we have no idea who "Tom" was.

Tennis report by **ANDY HOLMES**. Last Friday we had eight players in matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the opening round, the winners on court one were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **JEROME COLEMAN**, and over at court two, the winners were **JIM FISHBEIN** and **ANDY HOLMES**. In the finals round the winners were **JEROME** and **ANDY** on court one and on court two, winners were **RALPH NEWITTER** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. This week's captain is **RANDY MOTLAND**.

Hearts report by **BOB SHULLMAN**. We had eight players at two tables. Table one winners were **JACK SWEGER** (2) and **JOE DOWLING** (1). Moon shots by **DOWLING** and **SWEGER** (each had one). Table two winners were **JOHN STANKUNAS** (2) and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (1). Moon shots were by **STANKUNAS** and **AMBROSINO** (each had one). Today, February 15, we have 12 players. We meet at the Greenwich Library at 1 pm every Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.

Pickleball presented by **PAT MacCARTHY**. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Cristiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list please email me at pmacCarthy4150@gmail.com.

RON MURRAY announced bridge results for February 8. There were five players. The leaders were **ED MASTOLONI**, 3700, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 3420, and **RON FRIEDMAN**, 3290. We play Wednesday afternoon at the café on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library at 12:30. Lunch is available. We welcome new members whether expert or beginner.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported on Platform Tennis. Seven players enjoyed a spring-like day on Tuesday. Play is every Tuesday at Loughlin Field in Cos Cob at 10 am.

WILL MORRISON reported on Tai Chi. Last week we practiced the skill of “Walking as if on thin ice,” as part of learning how to walk in balance, without falling. One has to wonder how much longer this skill will be needed as the climate continues to warm. Contact **WILL** if you are interested in joining the 9:30 am class in Old Greenwich at: wdmorrison@gmail.com

The business meeting was adjourned by **JOE MANCINELLI**.

TODAY’S SPEAKER

When the Greenwich Symphony's revered conductor, David Gilbert, announced that he would retire after 45 seasons, the administration began a worldwide search for a successor. More than 170 conductors applied. Of these, five were chosen as finalists. Each auditioned for the job by interviewing, giving talks, and conducting the Symphony during one of the scheduled weekend concerts. Stuart Malina won the competition.

Maestro Malina, in his first season as Music director of the GSO, discussed the repertoire he has chosen for his fourth concert and his experience with the orchestra to date.



Malina majored in music at Harvard College, received a master’s degree in music from Yale University and a diplomate in conducting from the Curtis Institute of Music. He has conducted numerous orchestras in the United States and abroad, including in Russia, Hong Kong and China. He is currently the music director of the Harrisburg (PA) Symphony Orchestra, the principal guest conductor of the Florida Symphony Orchestra in Tampa and St. Petersburg, and the music director of the Lake

Placid (NY) Sinfonietta. This past December, he made his St. Louis Symphony debut. Mr. Malina is a skilled pianist and is also a composer and music arranger.

JERRY POLLACK introduced Maestro Malina and mentioned that he was a 2003 Tony Award Winner with Billy Joel. Malina then spoke about the life of composer Edward Elgar, who came from humble beginnings and later in life became a British superstar following Arthur Sullivan of Gilbert and Sullivan fame. On February 18 at 7 pm, and the next day at 3 pm, Malina will conduct the Elgar *Cello Concerto*, a masterpiece created in 1919 and influenced by the upheaval of World War I. The maestro said that the pieces he has chosen should be interconnected and he did that with Dvorak's Symphony #8. Antonin Dvorak grew up in Central Europe and created this masterpiece in 1889 in Bohemia. The compositions of both composers were influenced by the times, their lives and surroundings.

During his talk, Maestro Malina often went to the piano, and I found it wonderful to hear him play the music he was describing so beautifully. It was a treat which you can hear on the RMA video recording. It was also heartwarming throughout his talk to experience Malina's enthusiastic appreciation of the music and the composers. Also heard this weekend will be Jennifer Higdon's *Blue Cathedral*, written in 2000, and described by maestro as "beautiful!"

Malina praised the excellence of the Greenwich Performing Arts Center as among the best he has experienced around the world. This outstanding venue, he stated, makes for a happy orchestra which actually causes them to perform at a higher level. He believes that the differences in symphony performances have become less, and that the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra is very close to the NY Symphony Orchestra. Besides, you can save money, time and aggravation by attending a local performance!

There was a lively question and answer period. Malina said that the conductor makes decisions on how the music will be played, including tempo. He will compromise with the soloist but the final decisions are his.

As for rehearsals, there are three full rehearsals, and one with just the string section. The conductor must know all parts while each musician must learn their part. Malina knows how he wants the performance to go and then tries to shape it to his liking by prioritizing within the time restrictions, for example adjusting if there is too much brass. Another challenge is that the theaters of the world are different when it comes to acoustics.

It was on my bucket list to attend the concert and it has moved up even higher. Enjoy!

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 22, will be →**FRANK SCARPA**←. Since he will be in Florida please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him via email, at frankiscarpa@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 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.

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USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

RMA 2023 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 Michael LaGamma – mdlgamma@optonline.net
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