

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Joe Angland, Paul Barbian, Jim Dean, Bob Giaquinto, Arnold Gordon, John Kavanagh, Michael LaGamma, David Michonski, John Reese, Av Rivel, Frank Scarpa, Bob Shullman, Fred Wu**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

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SCRIBE: JAMES DEAN

Next Week's Scribe: ARNOLD GORDON, ajgordo@verizon.net

"Man is the principal syllable in management." - C.T. McKenzie

President **JOE MANCINELLI** brought the meeting to order at 9:45 am, with **JEFF JUNKER** leading the Pledge of Allegiance. **JIM SANTORA** was at the keyboard as **JIM BUTLER** led the group in songs: "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Always," and "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover." **JOE** announced the passing of former member, Gerry Lessuk, an RMA member from 2009 until 2021. Gerry passed away February 24, 2023. A funeral service will be held at Fred D. Knapp & Sons on Friday, March 3rd. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Gerry's name to the MPN Research Foundation.

<https://www.mpnresearchfoundation.org/>

TAD LARRABEE announced that he received a call from Christina Cahill, daughter of RMA member **TOM CAHILL**. **TOM's** wife Susan passed away on February 23rd. **TOM** has been a member since 2008 but has not been able to attend meetings lately. There will be a funeral mass at St. Mary's, Greenwich, on Friday, March 3rd, which would have been their 61st wedding anniversary. They met following a car accident in the Hamptons which led to Susan's being courted by then federal prosecutor, **THOMAS J. CAHILL**. They married in 1962, moved to Greenwich in 1975, and have six children.

Corresponding Secretary. In the absence of **ARNOLD GORDON** President **JOE** decided to step into his shoes with a series of one liners, all beginning “Old is when...” **ARNOLD**, your job is safe. However, **JOE** did show a humorous clip from a 1990 Johnny Carson episode. **TOM HEALY** then provided additional levity with several one liners and a joke about a woman about to jump from a bridge.

Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** provided the following summary of today’s meeting. Attendance on site was 77, plus 19 on Zoom, for a total 96 members. Birthdays were **PHIL SCIBONA**, 80, **DON ROTZIEN**, 81, **RALPH NEWITTER**, 80, **ED MASTOLONI**, 86, **PETER BERG**, 75, and **PETE JUNIUS**, 84.

There were three guests: Lawrence Merl, guest of **PETE UHRY** and **PAT MACCARTHY**; Pete Hamilton, guest of **TOG PEARSON** and **PETE UHRY**; and Kevin Flaherty, guest of **DIETER BLENEMANN**. An in-person welcome went to **PETE JUNIUS**, birthday boy joining us for the first time in a long time. Welcomed on Zoom were **ARNOLD GORDON** from Punta Gorda, FL, **RICK HOLZ** from Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, FL, and **CARL WHITE** who is on leave from his “Official Counter” duties.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN announced today’s guest, Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director, American Immigration Council, Washington, DC. **ARTHUR** also noted that next week’s guest will be **JIM LOCKHART**, RMA member, US Naval Officer, business executive, financial manager and high-ranking government official, on his new book, *America: Underwater and Sinking: Time to Surface with Lessons Learned*.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

WILL MORRISON introduced **MIKE RYAN** and **MARK FOX**. **MIKE** has been leading the Ukrainian Family Support program. **MIKE** reminded the group that in early January, Fiona Porter spoke to the RMA about the need to help recently arrived Ukrainian families. At that time, Fiona gave the number as twenty families. A number of RMA members have stepped up big time, donating more than \$3,500 in cash as well as many gifts in kind. The RMA compassion and generosity has been wonderful. In less than two months the number of Ukrainian families has reached forty with four more due in the next week. There is

more to be done. Cash donations are gratefully accepted, and following is a list of items needed by the families.

[UKRANIAN FAMILIES' NEEDS](#)

MIKE then introduced Olga and her daughter Anna, recipients of our aid and **MARK FOX's** generosity. Fiona had found Olga's family an apartment in the Glenbrook neighborhood of Stamford, but it was unfurnished. At the same time **MARK FOX** was down-sizing, selling his home, and moving to South Carolina. **MARK** had offered his excess furniture to other local charities who declined it, but then he called **MIKE** who matched **MARK's** gift with the Ukrainian family's needs, filling the empty apartment for them. Thank you, **MARK**, you will be missed.



Mark, Olga with daughter Anna, and Mike



A beaming Anna

WILL announced that this weeks' NPO requesting help is Call-A-Ride. Volunteers who can assist should see **RUSS HARDEN**. He also noted that a volunteer activity survey has been sent to all members. He requested that we all take a moment to help us RMA understand the kind of volunteer activity members would find most appealing.

The volunteer activity leaderboards, for the first five months since October 1, are as follows.

Member/volunteer hours

1	Gunzburg, Alan	423
2	Junker, Jeff	354
3	Tebbe, Horst	259

4	Rimmer, Bob	184
5	Gordon, Arnold	177

Non-profit Organizations/hours donated

RMA - internal	1281
Call-A-Ride	662.5
Melody Men	619
Misc external organizations	365
Greenwich, Town of	327.5

WILL reminded members to visit greenwichrma.org/log to record their service and check any of the eight status reports that are updated continuously.

FUN AND GAMES

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported there were six players at this week’s game. **TONY COCCHI** was the high scorer with 2590 points. **ANDRE MAZUREK** was second with 2410 points. There was a tie for third with **RON FRIEDMAN** and **RON MURRAY** each scoring 1680.

Hearts report from **BOB SHULLMAN**. There were three tables last Wednesday with 12 members playing. At Table 1 three games were played: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** won twice and **JOHN STANKUNAS** won once. **SHULLMAN** and **STANKUNAS** each shot the moon once. At Table 2 five games were played. **JACK SWEGER** won twice, **JOE DOWLING**, twice, and **ANDY HOLMES**, once. A total of five moon shots occurred with **DOWLING** doing it three times, **SWEGER** and **JIM DEAN** each doing it once. At Table 3 two games were played: **JOHN KNIGHT** and **TOM HEALY** each won a game. **HEALY** shot the moon once.

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reported that despite the nippy 34F on Monday, the sun shone on the pickleball courts, the breezes were gentle, and the pickleball games were spirited. Both “young guns” players, **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **ANDY HOLMES**, participated which raised the caliber of competition considerably. Also playing were **TONY COCCHI**, **LOU RUPNIK**, **PAT MACCARTHY** and “rookie of the year candidate,” **PETER CRUIKSHANK**. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 on Mondays

and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmacCarthy415@gmail.com

Platform Tennis: **JAMES DEAN** reported that the courts were closed yesterday due to the snow; however, the courts are now clear and should be ready for next week's games.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** told the group that balance is not a given; it needs ongoing nourishment and restoration. Tai Chi can help. Bring your curiosity on Mondays at 9:30 to the church in Old Greenwich. For more information contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** reported that last Friday eight players played four tennis matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the opening round, the winners on court 1 were **JOHN REESE** and **JEROME COLEMAN** and over on court 2 the winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **RALPH NEWITTER**. In the finals round, the winners were **REESE** and **MAZUREK** on court 1. On court 2 the winners were **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **RON FRIEDMAN**. This week's captain will be **RON FRIEDMAN**.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN contributed this summary.

The speaker was Aaron Reichlin-Melnick and the topic was "The border crisis: The current state of immigration in America." Mr. Reichlin-Melnick is senior policy counsel of the American Immigration Council, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. This council helps shape how America thinks about immigration, and works toward a more just immigration system that opens its doors to people needing protection. He spoke on the history of our immigration, and current issues facing our country.

Between 1789 and 1882 the US had quasi-open borders. The Nationality Act of 1790 provided that "free white persons" may apply for naturalization. This governed until 1952. At first no federal laws regulated immigration – state laws did. The first federal immigration law was passed in 1882; it barred paupers, the mentally ill and criminals, and restricted Chinese. After that, Congress increasingly formalized the role of the federal government in immigration, including setting up Ellis Island, and Angel Island in California as processing centers.

Nearly all Europeans were allowed in until backlash grew and Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1917 regulating European immigration for the first time. It imposed a literacy test, created the Asiatic barred zone and increased the grounds of inadmissibility. The Immigration Act of 1924 created the modern concept of a visa and required processing abroad. It heavily restricted immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, and further restricted non-white immigration. The result was that few Jews were allowed entry before and during WWII.

The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act replaced national origin quotas with family-based and employment-based criteria. Family-based immigration was intended to preserve majority white demographics, but it didn't work out that way. It added restrictions on the Western Hemisphere immigration for the first time. The Immigration Act of 1990 imposed quotas for each country, with staggering long-term impact. US citizens and lawful permanent residents can bring certain relatives; the employment-based immigration has different quotas for people with different skill levels. Visas must be obtained abroad, and depend upon the category of the applicant and his country; review of an application for a visa can take as long as 10 to 25 years, depending on the category.

Over the years the percent of US population which is foreign born has varied, from a peak of 14.8% in 1890, to a low of 4.7% in 1970, and about 14% now. There has recently been a rising level of undocumented immigration. US border patrol annual apprehensions have varied widely. They reached about one million in 1954, fell to almost nothing around 1960, reached 1.7 million in 2021 and more than two million in 2022.

Asylum-seekers are individuals who come to the border claiming a well-founded fear of future persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. In theory, the asylum seeker should get an interview within seven days by an asylum officer, can go to court to apply for asylum, and gets a decision within six months. In practice they could be expelled, sent to detention, released with a court date in a few months, and could wait anywhere from six months to six years for a decision. The Title 42 law instituted in 2020 allows the CDC to expel them without normal immigration processing on the basis of a threat to public health.

The current White House is trying to follow new humanitarian programs. It has expanded the use of Title 42, has proposed a new process at ports of entry, and proposed new

asylum restrictions on individuals who cross between ports of entry. It has also asked Congress for more funding.

A lively Q&A followed the talk, with questions about what could be done to stem the flow of illegal immigrants, the prevalence of fraudulent amnesty claims, and how to shorten the long wait times for legal immigration.

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 March 8, will be →**ARNOLD GORDON**←. Since **ARNOLD** will be working remotely from Florida, please make sure you send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him via email, at ajgordo@verizon.net.

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.

Thanks to **ANDY HOLMES** for pictures this time.

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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