

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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VOLUME 70 NUMBER 27 March 8, 2023

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Next Week's Scribe: **BOB SHULLMAN**, bob.shullman@gmail.com

"Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young."
- Ben Franklin

President **JOE MANCINELLI** began the business meeting at 9:45 am. Before the usual "festivities," he announced that some villain parked in the speaker's designated parking spot and asked him to remove it! **MIKE HAYDEN** led us in the pledge followed by **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN'S** artful song leading with **BOB MORGAN** at the Steinway. Seasoned voices belted out "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Heart" (as in "You Gotta Have..."), and "Everybody Loves Somebody."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAURICE KROHN reminded the members that the next planned session for Red Cross Certification for First Aid, CPR and AED will be held on April 30th (Sunday) from 9 am until noon at the Red Cross building, 99 Indian Field Rd, Greenwich. The cost is \$105 by check made payable to the RMA; it must be in no later than April 3rd! Please contact **MAURICE** at Maurice142@optonline.net.

JOE MANCINELLI described a new organization in Town on Mason Street, called Elderhood ("Connecting older adults with enriching activities and vibrant community"). It

is a new kind of social club designed for adults over age 65 looking to spend time in an engaging and intimate environment. As a special treat for RMA, the organization has offered to provide lunch for up to 40 members on both April 19 and April 26 in order to see their facility and to acquaint us with their offerings, membership and cost. To reserve a spot, contact **JOE** at jlmanc@optonline.net or 973-886-1798. To request more information, go to <https://www.myelderhood.com/>.

BOB FRISHMAN invited everyone to bring their grandchildren to a Lion's Club pancake breakfast Saturday morning, March 10th, for a reduced price of \$8 per person.

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, jokester for the day, said he would relate some "Catholic humor." You be the judge. The Mother Superior in her 90s was on her death bed. The Sisters offered her some warm milk for comfort but she refused to drink it. However, they secretly added some whiskey to the milk and she gulped it down. The Sisters then asked her to give them some parting wisdom. She told them: "Do not sell that cow." (Do I hear a moo or a boo?) Trying to redeem himself, **JERRY** related the story of a farmer whose dog had died. When he asked the priest if he would hold a mass for his deceased pet, the answer was a swift no – not done for animals. The farmer told the priest that he would be glad to make a \$1000 donation to the church, whereupon the priest said excitedly "I didn't know your dog was Catholic."

Not to be upstaged, President **JOE** had his own story. A young man went to confession. "Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl." The priest asks, "Is that you, little Louie Pagano?" "Yes, Father, it is." "And who was the girl you were with?" "I can't tell you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation." "Well, Louie, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Tina Minetti?" "I cannot say." The priest then rattled off four more names but still the lad refused to say ("My lips are sealed.") The priest sighed in frustration. "You're very tight lipped, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for four months. Now you go and behave yourself." Louie walked back to his pew where his friends were waiting to find out what happened and asked "What'd you get?" "Four months' vacation and five really good leads."

Membership. **PETER STERN** began by holding two inductions. Candidate Reinhard Augustin was nominated by **KLAUS JANDER**. Reinhard was born in Koenigsberg Kaliningrad (Russia) in East Prussia on March 14, 1939. He and his family fled the Russian

advances in January 1945 to West Germany. After the war he grew up in and near Hamburg, Germany. He graduated from the University of Kiel with a degree in economics after which he was drafted and served in the West German military. Thereafter, he worked in various large German accounting firms, rising to partnership for international clients and industrial concerns. In 1985 he came to the United States as a liaison to Coopers and Lybrand and thereafter, at Price Waterhouse, both as a partner. **KLAUS** met Reinhard and his family as soon as he arrived in 1985. They became friends and also had various professional interactions over the years. After age-mandated retirement from Price Waterhouse Reinhard led his own consulting firm for European related clients and transactional work until 2021 when he fully retired. Reinhard was President of Deutsche Verein (German Club) in New York City. He continues to be a board member of the Max Kade Foundation, which fosters exchange studies for university graduate students. He loves classical music and likes to research European history, especially around the 30 years' war in the 1600's. He also likes to research family ancestry history. Reinhard's nomination was seconded by **DIETER BLENEMANN**. Augustin was accepted unanimously.

PAT MacCARTHY nominated Lawrence Merl. Lawrence was born and raised in Nassau County, NY (Long Beach) a half block from the ocean. Although most of his childhood friends were Dodger fans, he inherited a passion for the Yankees from his father. Married to Rayna for over 55 years, they had two children, both now married and living in Westchester County. Although the first five years of his marital life were spent in Greenwich (Putnam Green), Lawrence has lived in the same house in Rye Brook for nearly the past 50 years. He obtained an associate degree in hospitality management from CCNY and then managed a family-owned catering company that focused on events at Nassau County beach clubs. After he sold the catering business, he bought and ran three dry cleaning locations for 15 years. At the age of 50 he sold the dry cleaners and took a position with David Lerner Associates, a regional brokerage firm. After 30 years with DLA, Lawrence retired just this past November as a senior VP. He enjoys dining out, traveling, and playing racquet sports, including, recently, pickleball. **PETER UHRY** seconded the nomination pointing out that Lawrence walked in the door a month ago not knowing anyone. As mentor for the day, **PETER** learned that Lawrence was from Rye Brook and introduced him to **JIM FISHBEIN** who is from the same town, and connected him with **ANDY HOLMES**, **PAT MacCARTHY** and Membership chairman **PETER STERN**. Merl was accepted unanimously.

A hearty welcome to **REINHARD** and **LAWRENCE**.



Blennemann, Augustin, Jander



Uhry, Merl, MacCarthy

Official in-person attendance was 98 members and 15 watching on Zoom, for a respectable total of 113. There were four guests, Pete Hamilton (guest of **TOG PEARSON** and **PETE UHRY**), Kevin Flaherty (**DIETER BLENNEMANN** and **JOHN TONER**), Steve Small (**TONY FITZPATRICK** and **JACK WEIR**), and Bill Grempe (**JACK WEIR** and **RUSS HARDEN**). Birthdays were honored for:

David	Weisbrod	76
Mike	Ryan	85
Bob	Stark	75
John	Heyd	86
Don	Breismeister	81
Steve	Meskers	65
Frank	Zavattaro	92
Lou	Trovato	83

Speakers: **HOLLISTER STURGES** announced that RMA member **JIM LOCKHART** would speak today on the subject of his recent book: *America: Underwater and Sinking, Time to Surface with Lessons Learned*, which provides in detail the financial challenges facing our country and asks whether the government is really solvent. **HOLLISTER** also mentioned that next week’s speaker will be Alexander DelVecchio, M.D., whose topic will be “Heart Health and the Management of Atrial Fibrillation and Cardiac Arrhythmia.” Dr. DelVecchio practices at Greenwich Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

HORST TEBBE shared some of his interesting experiences as a driver for Call-a-Ride as he urged members to consider joining that very worthy service which is facing a shortage of drivers. One meets all kinds of interesting people, rich and poor (about 25% of Greenwich residents are below the poverty line), and they enjoy sharing stories. Drivers often find it an opportunity to have a conversation, since many clients live alone. Examples of the clients **HORST** has met include an elderly woman who was born on a sharecropper farm as one of 20 children; and a 101-year-old man who described his WWII adventures flying P41 Mustangs and shooting down 10 Japanese Zero planes. For more information about joining, contact **HORST** (tebbe@berkeley.edu; 203-219-0389) or **RUSS HARDEN** (russharden27@gmail.com; 203-554-5842).

WILL MORRISON then presented the results of a member survey entitled “What volunteer activities appeal to you?”, that he and **JOHN DENNE** prepared. The goal is to find ways to make it easy for members to find and sign up for opportunities that match their interests, skills and availability - and to have some fun! Complete details can be found at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17YCSB5S20_UK99FgMVi1ECdijzjYN5ld/view?usp=sharing

Some of the highlights are as follows:

- 113 members responded - about half the membership
- Top three areas of need to address: Education, Senior citizen support, the RMA
- Top member skills available to utilize: Analytical, Organizational, Teaching, Manual
- Level of commitment: Weekly, Monthly, for Special Events

Some 40% of respondents have a leadership position at a non-profit organization (NPO). Next steps: prioritize deepening relationships with current NPOs, create an opportunity book, look for new NPOs that match members’ skills and desires.

FUN AND GAMES

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** served up the results for last Friday. In the opening round, winners on Court 1 were **DON BREITMEISTER** and **JEROME COLEMAN**; on Court 2 the winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **JOHN KNIGHT**. In the finals round, the winners were **ANDRE** and **JEROME** on Court 1 and **PETER DODGE** and **JIM FISHBEIN** on Court 2. This week’s captain will be **ANDY**. Although it’s still early March, he is starting to get

organized for next year's indoor tennis season which will run from September 2023 to May 2024. Play is on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00 at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. For those currently participating, he sent out an email on Tuesday asking if you would like to play again in the upcoming season and if so to please send him a deposit. Any RMA members that would like to join should contact **ANDY**. (andyholmes56@gmail.com).

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** gave the weather report for Monday (a bit cool and breezy, but with brilliant sun) and so the pickleball was well focused. For the first time since last fall, players utilized both Christiano Field courts which made for competitive round-robin play. The consistent winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK**, as expected, and **PETER CRUIKSHANK**, a new pickler, who has taken to the game as a "duck takes to water." Also playing were **TONY COCCHI**, **BOB SHULLMAN**, **MICHAEL LAGAMMA**, **MERL LAWRENCE**, **BILL FAKUNDINY**, and **PAT**. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am until 12 pm 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** mentioned that March winds did not hurt platform tennis. There were eight players: **M. AMBROSINO**, **J. COLEMAN**, **J. DEAN**, **B. FRISHMAN**, **R. HARDEN**, **A. MAZUREK**, **J. MANCINELLI**, and **J. REESE**. Thanks to Parks and Recreation the courts at Loughlin Field in Cos Cob are in good shape. Interested? Contact **JAMES** at Jhdeanco@gmail.com.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** invited everyone to get in shape for all the games you play by improving your balance and resilience. Sessions every Monday at 9:30 am. Contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** told us that ten walkers met last Thursday at the ONS parking lot in western Greenwich and were guided by **JEFF JUNKER** on a complicated walk south through Chickahominy and into downtown Greenwich. They followed the lower parts of Tom's Brook that they missed three weeks ago and added Horseneck Brook which empties into Greenwich Harbor. **JEFF** has an amazing encyclopedic knowledge of the details of the roads and difficult topography of that part of Greenwich. He took them down dead-end streets which he knew would end in a set of stairs leading to the next destination. Sometimes walkers had to make their own short path where there were no sidewalks or roads. It was a real "mystery tour" of the tiny byways of old-time Greenwich

which was laid out before zoning and is now disrupted by many high stone ridges and streams that cut through different watersheds. When you walk through territory that you may have only driven past, you see a lot of otherwise hidden detail. However, **TAD** said that he still couldn't replicate last Thursday's walk if you paid him! Come join the walkers for future "mystery tours!" Contact **TAD** at tadlarra@optonline.net.



Walkers following the water

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** shared the results for Wednesday, March 1. There were seven players. Winning scores were: **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 3520, **TONY COCCHI**, 3230, **CHARLEY LAND**, 2380. They play Wednesday afternoon at 1 pm in the cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available for those who arrive early. All members who would like to join the group, whether experts or beginners, are welcome. Contact **ANDRE MAZUREK** at Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** reported that on Wednesday, March 1st, eight members played a total of nine games at two tables of four. At Table 1, four games were played: **TOM HEALY** and **BOB** each won two games; **TOM** shot the moon twice while **BOB** did once. At Table 2, five games were played: **JAY SCHONDORF** and **JOE DOWLING** each won two games while **TOM MORONEY** won one game. **JOE** shot the moon twice while **JAY** did it once. Hearts are played on Wednesday at 1 pm at Greenwich Library. If interested, just let a hearts player know or contact **BOB** at bob.shullman@gmail.com

SPECIAL HUMAN INTEREST PRESENTATION

JOE MANCINELLI introduced long-time Greenwichite Margaret Connor, who has just published a book that she actually wrote in Greenwich Library: *My Ireland*. It is a very personal, factual account of the culture, social fabric, religion and education of Ireland in the 1950s from the perspective of her early life in the country of her birth. “Margaret’s captivating and charming story renders a nostalgic picture of Ireland independent of the inequalities and poverty that existed there at that time. Her story concentrates, instead, on rural life with its wonderful sense of community meitheal (an Irish word that describes how neighbors came together to assist in a range of tasks such as the harvesting of crops).” Books were available for sale at the meeting. For more details, see https://www.amazon.com/My-Ireland-Margaret-Connor/dp/1739872533/ref=sr_1_6?crid=QK9BTLZ7ECQS&keywords=My+Ireland&qid=1678382759&s=books&sprefix=my+ireland+%2Cstripbooks%2C108&sr=1-6

TODAY’S SPEAKER



HOLLISTER STURGES introduced RMA member **JIM LOCKHART** who has had a long, distinguished career in the government and private sectors. **JIM** graduated from Yale University (BA) and Harvard Business School (MBA). From 1989 to 2003, he was executive director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. From 2002 to 2006 he was the principal deputy commissioner/COO at Social Security and from 2006 to 2009, he was the director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency,

regulator of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks, and its predecessor agency. He was also a member of the TARP Oversight Board along with the Fed, SEC chairs, and secretaries of Treasury and HUD, which addressed the financial crisis of 2008-2009. His private sector experience includes serving on four public company boards including Virgin Money in the UK. He co-founded a risk management firm and served in senior positions at a reinsurance company, an insurance broker, an investment bank and a major oil company. From 2009 to 2018 he was vice chair of WL Ross & Co., leading their financial services investments. He is currently chair of the Bruce Museum Board and a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center where he co-chaired a Commission on Retirement Security with former Senator Conrad (D-North Dakota).

JIM based his presentation on his recently published book, *America: Underwater and Sinking, Time to Surface with Lessons Learned*, an analysis of the financial challenges facing our nation. A former submarine officer, he told an important story about managing government agencies that, in submarine-talk, are in his opinion deep underwater. He then provided solutions on how to help them, and the overall government, surface. He pointed out that there are 152 government insurance programs, among them loan guarantees, Fannie and Freddie mortgage programs, federal employees and veterans' benefits, property damage and financial loss, non-federal employee benefits, and the various social service programs (Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid). One of his major concerns related to the appointments of agency heads, which too often are political appointments of people without the necessary competency or managerial experience.

He maintained that balancing the federal budget and the solvency of some of these programs in the medium to long term is questionable without major spending cuts. Our current overall debt, for example, is 30.1 trillion dollars! Projections show that Social Security in 75 years will need 20.4 trillion dollars more than required (net present value), based on current rules and expected demographic changes. Similarly, the shortfall for Medicare Parts A and D will be 74 trillion dollars. Even 10 years from now, the Social Security Trust Fund will need from its current outlay of 1.3 trillion dollars a huge increase to 24 trillion dollars. Although there is strong opposition by AARP and other organizations to "privatizing" Social Security he favors it and pointed out that it has worked successfully in other countries, such as Sweden and Denmark. He noted that "privatizing" is actually a misnomer; the proposal was to establish investment accounts that would be voluntary, for limited amounts, and only available to those below retirement age.

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 15, will be →**BOB SHULLMAN**←. Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, preferably via email.

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** and **DICK FRANCK** for pictures this time.

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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