

# 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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Next Week's Scribe: DAVE MICHONSKI, [david@quigler.com](mailto:david@quigler.com)

*"Travel First Class while you can, or your children will."*

President **JOE MANCINELLI** opened the meeting. **PAUL CAMPION** led the pledge. **JIM BUTLER** and **BOB MORGAN** led the group in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner," "April Showers," and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

**JOE** thanked the members who help make the meetings happen: scribe **PAUL BARBIAN**, projectionists **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI**, volunteer advocate **TOG PEARSON**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **PAT MacCARTHY**, refreshments provider **JEROME COLEMAN**, audio/video techs **ED PARKER**, **MARK GEIMER**, **PETER DODGE**, **HORST TEBBE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**, and set-up workers **BOB BISHOP**, **JIM BUTLER** and **JOHN CRAINE**.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** made note of the Greenwich Town Party on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. The lottery for tickets is open through April 7. The program this year is a New Orleans jazz theme including the famous Preservation Hall musicians. For more details, see <https://www.greenwichtownparty.org>

From now until September 3, 2023, the Frank Family Foundation Special Exhibits Gallery at Greenwich Historical Society is home to "Sports! More than Just a Game." For details see <https://livinggreenwich.com/must-see-sports-more-than-just-a-game-greenwich-historical-society/>

Membership Chair **PETER STERN** noted that attendance at the meeting totaled 96—81 in person, 12 on zoom, and 3 guests. The guests were:

- Vic Caruso, guest of **FRANK SALEM** and **JOHN MURPHY**
- Enrico Viselli, guest of **SAM MARASSO** and **AK KASSABIAN**
- Alan Weyl, guest of **BOB MEANEY** and **DAVID MICHONSKI**

**PETER** also welcomed back **WAYNE DE VRIES** from Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Italy. Four birthdays were celebrated: **SKIP AUCH**, 78; **JOHN AWDZIEWICZ**, 91; **ALLAN DEERING**, 89; **LEN CARUSI**, 75.

## INDUCTION



*Mastoloni, Mack, Ambrosino*

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** sponsored Michael Mack for membership. Michael Mack was raised in Santa Monica, CA. He graduated from the University of Portland (Oregon) where he met his wife whom he married one day after graduation. They moved to Omaha, Nebraska where Michael enrolled in the Creighton School of Dentistry. After graduation they moved to Greenwich, where Michael practiced dentistry for 44 years in Cos Cob. Michael and his wife Vicky have three adult children and eight grandchildren. Besides spending time with his family,

Michael enjoys reading, gardening, and occasionally tennis.

Michael's nomination was seconded by **ED MASTOLONI**. He was voted into RMA by a unanimous show of hands

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/HUMAN INTEREST

**PETER BERG** announced that today's speaker is Jim Himes, U.S. Congressman, who will provide a "Report from Washington." The speaker next week will be Dr. Jose Niell who will provide piano classics from around the world, a recital with commentary.

**DON ROTZIEN** reported that the next ROMEO lunch will take place on Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. The venue will be the Cobber North at the Griff Golf Course. Entrees are in the \$15 range but please remember to add a 20% gratuity to your bill. In order allow them to prepare for us, please confirm your attendance by email to Don at [dsrotzien@gmail.com](mailto:dsrotzien@gmail.com) by Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **RMA Member Recommendation**

My recommendation for RMA members would be Garelick & Herbs, the breakfast and lunch restaurant just down Putnam Avenue from FPC. I go there for lunch or coffee at least twice a week, and the food is superb. Excellent sandwiches, salads, desserts, coffee and other beverages, and dinner items to be taken out. Not great in terms of ambience, but could get better once they re-open the back room. They are closed Sundays (a bit annoying for someone who lives in the neighborhood), and lock the doors no later than 5:00 pm the rest of the days. One added benefit: it is walkable to our Wednesday morning meetings, and offers free parking if you patronize any of the stores in the shopping center. Food for thought? – *Jack Weir*

Note: we are asking for member recommendations—books, movies, products, services, anything that you think other members might like to know about. You can also submit questions. Send recommendations/questions to the editor at [tbroo@aol.com](mailto:tbroo@aol.com).

### **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**

**WILL MORRISON** is looking for volunteers to work with Jewish Family Services of Greenwich to join their corps of “Supermarketing for Seniors” shoppers. The group helps homebound seniors remain independent, regardless of religion or other demographics. For more information write to [mbasilereolon@jfgreenwich.org](mailto:mbasilereolon@jfgreenwich.org).

**WILL** then reported the stats on RMA volunteering for the past six months—halfway to the annual volunteering awards at the banquet in the fall. Ninety-five members out of 239 have volunteered one hour or more so far - 40% of the membership. Total hours volunteered are 7,249. Breakdowns are as follows.

RMA – internal service: 1,543 hours - 27%

RMA – external service: 5,706 hours - 73%

#### **Top Three Individual Volunteers**

- **JEFF JUNKER**, 438 hours
- **ALAN GUNZBURG**, 423 hours
- **HORST TEBBE**, 345 hours
- 29 members volunteered 100 hours or more

### Top Three Supported Non-Profit Organizations in hours

- RMA (internal), 1,543 hours
- Melody Men (externally focused), 865 hours
- Call-A-Ride, 778 hours
- 16 NPOs received 100 hours or more support

### Top Three NPOs with the broadest support from members

- RMA (internal), 43 members
- Melody Men, 25 members
- Religious Organizations, 13 members
- 95+ NPOs are being supported

## GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

**Bridge:** **RON MURRAY** announced the scores: **RON MURRAY**, 3950, **RON FRIEDMAN**, 2740, **BRUNO SCHRAGE**, 2610. Bridge players play at 1 pm on Wednesdays in the Café on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available. We invite all members of the RMA and guests who are interested in bridge, whether beginner or expert, to join our group.

**Golf:** **MIKE RYAN** reported that for the start of our golf season, we were blessed with wonderful weather. We had 10 members who played on April 4. Notable scores were **TONY COCCHI**, 99, **JOE MANCINELLI** and **TOM HEALY**, 97. Low score of the day was a 95 carded by **CHARLIE ADAMS**. Sign-up sheets for April 11 and 18 are on the bulletin board. The weather forecast for next Tuesday is good, with a high of 65 degrees. At the break, **MIKE** collected \$20 dues and looked for volunteer captains for May and early June.

**Hearts:** **BOB SHULLMAN** said that last Wednesday, March 29, eight members played eight hearts games at the library at two tables as follows.

- At table 1, **JACK SWEGER** won two games while **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** each won one game. Also, **SWEGER**, **FAKUNDINY**, **AMBROSINO** and **ANDY HOLMES** each shot the moon once.
- At table 2, **BOB SHULLMAN** won two games while **DON CONWAY** and **TOM HEALY** each won one game. Also, **HEALY** shot the moon three times while **JOHN KNIGHT** shot the moon once.

**Pickleball:** **PATRICK MacCARTHY**. There were competitive games last Thursday, March 30. Playing were **BOB GIAQUINTO**, **ARN WELLES**, **BILL FAKUNDINY**, **PETER CRUIKSHANK** and **MacCARTHY**. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 10 am

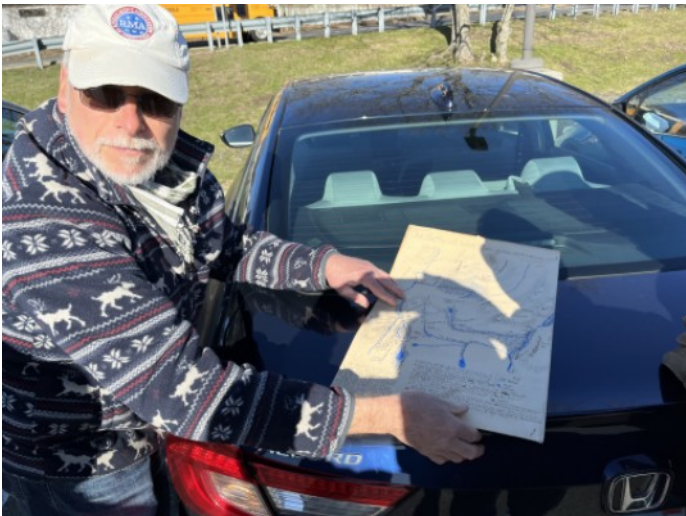
until 12 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, email **PAT** at [pmacCarthy415@gmail.com](mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com).

**Tennis: ANDY HOLMES.** This past Friday, March 31, eight players played four tennis matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the opening round, the winners on Court 1 were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **RANDY MOTLAND**. On Court 2 the winners were **RON FRIEDMAN** and **BILL HOWLAND**. Then, the finals round winners on Court 1 were **AMBROSINO** and **FRIEDMAN** and over on Court 2 the winners were **RALPH NEWITTER** and **ART DELMHORST**. This week's captain is **BILL FAKUNDINY**.

**Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON** reported that the secret meetings of the Tai Chi Society continue at an undisclosed time and place - 9:30 Mondays in Old Greenwich. This Monday the mysteries of the movement White Crane Spreads Wings will be revealed. Contact Agent **WILL MORRISON**.

**Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE.** The Walkers and Talkers met in White Plains last Thursday and walked the eastern side of the massive 1776 Revolutionary War battlefield. They were guided by **JEFF JUNKER**, an expert on that pivotal battle, using a detailed map he had prepared in fifth grade! **TAD's** fascinating description of the battlefield is attached.

[CLICK HERE](#) for description



Jeff Junker with his map



General Junker points the way



The RMA Army, with cannon

Note: pictures are eagerly solicited from other RMA activities. Come on guys, you've all got a camera in your phone!

### **THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER**

U.S. Congressman Jim Himes was introduced by **PETER BERG**. Congressman Himes has served for 14 years representing Connecticut's 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District. He is a member of the House Financial Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He was born in Lima, Peru, to American parents, and spent his early childhood in Peru and Colombia where his father worked for the Ford Foundation and UNICEF. He speaks Spanish fluently.

After completing his undergraduate work at Harvard, Congressman Himes earned a Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford University. He began his professional career at Goldman Sachs where he worked his way up to vice president over the course of a 12-year career. Jim lives in Greenwich with his wife Mary and two daughters.

The Congressman began his presentation with an overview of three critical issues facing the Country:

- The debt ceiling;
- U.S. / China relations;
- Politics in the U.S.

With regard to the debt ceiling, the Congressman considers the recurring debates about it a waste of time. The ceiling has to be raised to pay for programs the Congress has previously approved. Failure to raise the ceiling would cause the U.S. to default on its obligations which would have extensive, negative impacts on the entire system of international finance.

With regard to China, the Congressman pointed out that the U.S. and China have extensive trade connections and that to rupture those connections would do great harm to both parties. The issues with China are complicated, but the Congressman urged thoughtful assessment of those issues so as not to provoke further conflict or even a shooting war which would negatively affect both parties.

With regard to politics in the U.S., the Congressman observed that formerly wealthy areas, such as Ohio, have become economically depressed due to massive changes in technology and trade patterns. The population of some of those areas are bitter and feel that they are denigrated by more affluent populations. This is part of the reason for the dissension that pervades U.S. politics today. He urged that we try to understand each other.

Questions asked of the Congressman by the large RMA audience dealt with, among other things, forgiveness of college debt, government spending on semi-conductor production, Ukraine, how to put Social Security on a sound financial footing, and how to deal with the anger that seems to permeate much of our political discussion.



Congressman Himes



The Congressman drew a large crowd

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 will be →**DAVE MICHONSKI**←. 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](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.

Thanks to **ANDY HOLMES** and **TIM BROOKS** 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 – <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	9:30 am	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – <a href="mailto:ryantomac@netscape.net">ryantomac@netscape.net</a>
Tuesdays	Resumes in fall	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	James 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	1:00 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> Michael LaGamma – <a href="mailto:mdlgamma@optonline.net">mdlgamma@optonline.net</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