

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 36 May 10, 2023

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Next Week's Scribe: FRANK SCARPA, FRANKJSCARPA@GMAIL.COM

"No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother's love." - Edwin Chapin

JACK WEIR opened the meeting at 9:46 am. **ERF PORTER** led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. On the piano was **BOB MORGAN** accompanying song leader **JIM BUTLER**. **JIM** led the group in "God Bless America;" "Toot, Toot, Tootsie (Goo'bye)" and "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue."

JACK then introduced the support staff. CBB editor is **TIM BROOKS** and today's scribe, **MICHAEL LAGAMMA** (mdlagma@optonline.net). Projectionist was **TONY COCCHI** and Volunteer Advocate **DAVID MICHONSKI**. Today's greeter was **JOHN KAVANAGH**. Mentor **TONY COCCHI**. Refreshments were provided by **JEROME COLEMAN**. Audio/Video staff was **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**. Set Up by **BOB FISHER, JIM BUTLER, JOHN CRAINE**.

JACK WEIR advised that the proposed budget for 2023-2024 was approved by the Board and is now posted. As per the bylaws, the membership must vote to approve the proposal which is scheduled to take place at the May 24th meeting.

JACK mentioned that there would be no live broadcast on cable of today's meeting.

This Saturday, May 13th, the Greenwich Police Department will have an open house. One of the highlights will be their state-of-the-art telecommunications center which is being revamped. There is no fee and it starts in the morning.

ARNOLD GORDON announced that the Greenwich Police Department is holding a benefit car show at Town Hall on Saturday, May 13th from 10 am to 2 pm. It is free to the public. There will be classic, antique, custom, and exotic cars, motorcycles, and vintage fire trucks on display. It's a fun event that will include a DJ, a 50/50 drawing, food trucks, and more. This very worthy cause recognizes the achievements of qualified and deserving students who are the children of Greenwich police officers by awarding them scholarships for college. Details can be found here:

[Greenwich Police Department Benefit Car Show](#)

If you are like a lot of seniors, we try to do our own online research on health issues. Much of the information is highly questionable and often misleading, especially if you use artificial intelligence sources (AI), the latest craze in digital technology. Rather than type the topic of your inquiry into a search engine, it is recommended that you use one or more of these reliable sources, especially useful for seniors:

[National Institute on Aging](#)

[American Geriatric Society](#)

[CDC](#)

[NIH](#)

[American Academy of Family Physicians](#)

[Mayo Clinic](#)

ARNOLD then gifted the audience with a few short zingers.

“If you are trying to lose weight, don’t do what I did. I went to the paint store to get thinner; it didn’t work.”

“My friend said she wouldn’t eat cow’s tongue because it came out of a cow’s mouth. I gave her an egg.”

“My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That’s right...Jack and the beans talk.”

Since jokester **CARL WHITE** had to miss the meeting, **ARNOLD** continued.

“If a man is standing in the middle of the forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him, is he still wrong?”

“If a deaf person swears, does his mother wash his hands with soap?”

“Why isn’t there mouse-flavored cat food?”

“If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?”

“Why don’t sheep shrink when it rains?”

“Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?”

ARNOLD then sat down to enthusiastic applause.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

JOHN KAVANAGH reported that there were 96 members in attendance, plus 11 on Zoom, for a total of 107. **PETER STERN** then continued with birthdays, which were:

PAUL	CAMPION	86
PAUL	BARBIAN	80
DAVID	MICHONSKI	72

Guests were:

Larry DeVan, guest of **BOB MEANEY** and **STEVE SMALL**

Kevin Harrington, guest of **FRED WU**

Steve Johnson, guest of **ANDY HOLMES** and **PETE UHRY**

Tory Johnson, guest of **DON ROTZIEN**

Mike Tebay, guest of **JOHN BLANKLEY** and **ALAN WEYL**

Returnees:

TONY FITZPATRICK from Bonito Springs, FL

PETER TUNLEY from Palm Beach Gardens, FL

PETE UHRY from Amsterdam, the Netherlands

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues are now due! Make out your \$100 check to RMA and bring it to the meeting or mail it to our treasurer, **JEFF JUNKER** (9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831).

RMA members, spouses, and guests are invited (encouraged) to participate in the following events.

Flag Retirement Ceremony held by the Greenwich Council, Boy Scouts of America. Saturday, May 13th at 1:00 pm, Ernest Thompson Seton Scout Reservation, 363 Riversville Road, Greenwich.

and

Memorial Day Veteran Grave Flag Placement, flags provided by American Legion Post 29. Wednesday, May 24th at 5:00 pm, St. Mary's Cemetery, 399 North Street, Greenwich. Meet at the flag pole.

HOLLISTER STURGES previewed today's speaker, **JOHN BLANKLEY**, whose talk is entitled "What would Alexis de Tocqueville say about democracy in America today?" Next week's speaker will be Peter McCornick, Ph.D., professor of biological systems engineering and executive director of Water for Food Institute, University of Nebraska, on "Water and Food Security in a Changing World."

PETER UHRY talked about a Greenwich Green and Clean-sponsored tour of Sleepy Cat Farm gardens of Greenwich Connecticut. The tour will take place on June 3 between the hours of 10-4. Rain date is June 4. A bus will leave from 395 Round Hill Road to Sleepy Cat Farm. Green and Clean's mission is to promote balanced development and open spaces.

PETER UHRY presented the new RMA caps. The caps are of a soft burgundy color with the RMA logo on them. The cost is \$15. Supply is limited. Please contact **PETER** at uhry@sbcglobal.net or call at 203-637-9482 to be put on the purchase list.

TOM HEALY reminded us that the trip to Belmont Racetrack is scheduled for June 15th. The bus leaves from St. Paul's Church in Riverside at 1:30 and arrives back at approximately 8:00 pm. The limit is 40 people. The first 40 people who pay up will go. The cost is \$110, checks made payable to the RMA. They can be mailed directly to **TOM** or brought to the next meeting.

DON CONWAY said that the mini golf event is scheduled for June 4th from 11:00-1:30. It will be held at Parsonage Cottage. The cost is \$100 for a foursome. Cost includes lunch.

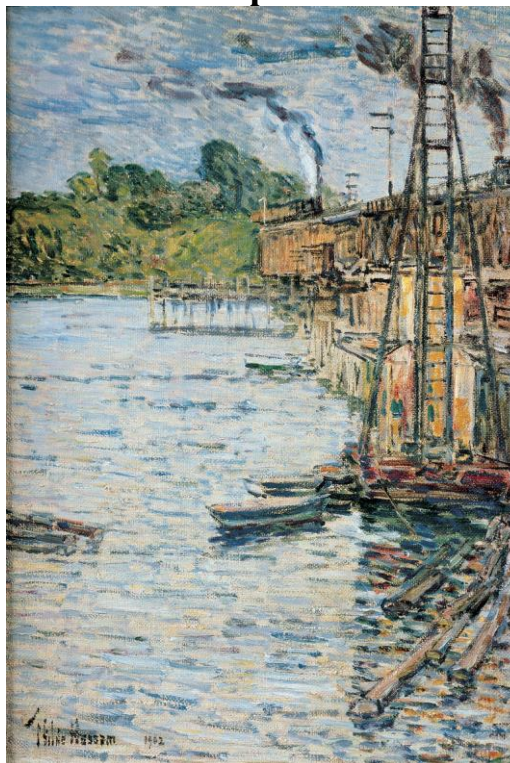
ERF PORTER spoke about the Greenwich Old Timers golf outing at Fairview Golf Course. The outing will take place on May 22. The outing supports scholarships for local athletes.

JACK WEIR made mention that there is a conflict with the Melody Men and the Greenwich Veterans Awards Ceremony on May 15. As such some of the Melody Men who are veterans cannot attend the ceremony. **JACK** asked the group to give the Melody Men who are veterans a standing round of applause.

ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN discussed an upcoming tour of the Bruce Museum.

Bruce Museum Tour for RMA members and a spouse or friend
Tuesday May 30 -10:30 am

Collection Installation: American Modernism
Collection Installation: Connecticut Impressionism



George L.K. Morris, *Precarious Balance* Childe Hassam, *The Mill Pond, Cos Cob*

ARTHUR explained that we will tour sections of these two Bruce galleries for about an hour. Then there will be time to visit galleries on your own – either the same galleries or any other Bruce gallery.

Drawn primarily from private collections in Greenwich, the first gallery showcases varying artistic approaches to American modernism by 17 artists including Suzy Frelinghuysen, George L.K. Morris, Alexander Calder, Edward Hopper, and Andrew Wyeth. Drawn entirely from the Bruce Museum’s permanent collection, the second installation reveals the important role that Connecticut played in the development of American Impressionism with artists such as Childe Hassam, Leonard and Mina Ochtman, and John Henry Twachtman.

Our Guide will be our own **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**. Cost is \$17.50 per person. Sign up by registering at the desk in front with a check today or next Wednesday, indicating who will be coming. Tour size will be limited to 20. For those who are interested, around noon you will also have the option to join others to move to a nearby restaurant, location and price tbd. Restaurant option details will be provided later.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

WILL MORRISON delivered the April 2023 report. A total of 54 members donated 1,310 hours of service. Of these, 273 were internal, and 1037 (80% of the total) were external. Individual leaders and leading recipient activities were:

Leaderboard since 03/31/2023		
	<i>Volunteer</i>	Total Hours
1	Junker, Jeff	124
2	Wu, Fred	66
3	Fisher, Harry	61
4	Larrabee, Tad	54
5	Mancinelli, Joe	47
7	Richelsoph, Barry	42
8	Hayden, Mike	42
9	Dodge, Peter	42
10	Krohn, Maurice	40

Top 10	Non-profit organization or project	Hours Received
1	Melody Men	382
2	RMA – internal	273
3	Call-A-Ride	160.5
4	Greenwich, Town of	67
5	Greenwich Symphony	57
6	Religious organization	49
7	USS Intrepid	42
8	Greenwich Hospital	28
9	Greenwich Choral Society	27
10	Friends of Binney Park	27

GAMES FELLOWS PLAY

Walkers and Talkers. TAD LARRABEE reported that last Thursday, May 4th, five intrepid



walkers met in Glenville and, due to the uncertain weather, decided to change plans and visit Sing Sing Prison; actually, just Ossining, NY, but we got within a few blocks of the prison! Ossining is a late 19th century town with a lot of buildings that reflect that period. Most of the manufacturing has moved out since they no longer depend on water power. A small river ravine cuts through the center of town and flows into the Hudson River. We followed a nice path down that gorge and visited the waterfront,

returning up a steep hill back to the center of town. It was a different and interesting walk that we usually would not visit due to the distance, but we all fit in one car and had an enjoyable walk. I had announced a walk in Rockefeller State Park last Thursday, but since we did not do that walk, we will try again this Thursday, weather permitting.

Hearts. BOB SHULLMAN announced that eight members played eight games at the library last Wednesday, as follows. At Table 1 four games were played and all four players (**STANKUNAS, HEALY, AMBROSINO and SHULLMAN**) each won one game. Also, there were four moonshots with **HEALY** doing it three times and **STANKUNAS** doing it once. At Table 2 four games were also played. The winners were **DOWLING** twice, **SCHONDORF**

once, while **FAKUNDINY** and **KNIGHT** tied as winners in one game. **SCHONDORF**, **DOWLING** and **KNIGHT** each shot the moon once.

Tennis, **ANDY HOLMES** reporting. This past Friday the final four matches of the 2022/2023 season were played at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the opening round, the winners on Court 1 were **JIM FISHBEIN** and **ANDY HOLMES**. On Court 2, the winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **BILL HOWLAND**. In the finals round, the winners on Court 1 were **MAZUREK** and **HOLMES**, and over on Court 2 the winners were **JOHN REESE** and **JOE MANCINELLI**.

We had a wonderful season and look forward to our new season that will start back up in September. If there are any new RMA members that would like to join or if there are any existing RMA members that have thought about joining us, we would love to have you join our group. Our new season will run from early September 2023 to early May 2024. We play on Friday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:00 at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. Should you have any questions about our indoor tennis group, please come see me at the break or send me an email. My email address is andyholmes56@gmail.com.

Pickleball. **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that although pickleball was rained out last Thursday very competitive games were played last Monday. Playing were **BILL FAKUNDINY**, **JOE DOWLING**, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, **PAT MacCARTHY**, and **GEORGE UBOGY**. Pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 9 am until 11 am on Mondays and from 10 am until 12 pm on Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmaccarthy415@gmail.com.

Tai Chi. **WILL MORRISON** mentioned two contests: how long can you stand on one foot, and can you put your pants on without holding on? Tai chi meets on Mondays at 9:30 am in Old Greenwich.

Bridge. Per **RON MURRAY**, bridge results for Wednesday, May 3rd were **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 5380, **JOHN FEBLES**, 5010, **RON MURRAY**, 4190. There was a small six heart slam made by **JOHN FEBLES** and **ED MASTOLONI**. Bridge meets on Wednesday afternoons at 12:30 pm at the cafe in the Greenwich Library.

Golf. **MIKE RYAN** reported that on a very pleasant day, weather wise, we had 12 players. Competition winners were: 5th hole **TOM HEALY**, 7th hole **JOE MANCINELLI**, 8th hole, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, 15th hole **PAT YUEN**. Low scores were **TONY COCCHI**, 98,

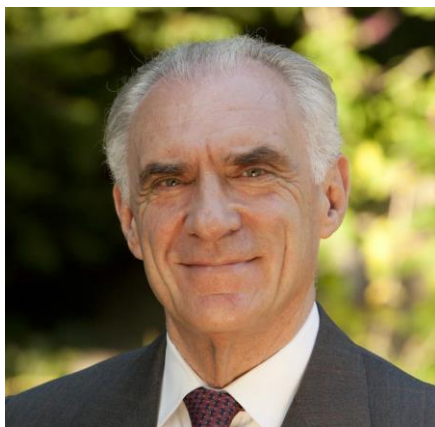
JIM SANTORA, 96, **JOE MANCINELLI**, 94, and **PAT YUEN/TOM HEALY**, tied at 91. In addition, **JOE MANCINELLI** had a birdie on the 9th hole. Sign-up sheets for May 16 and May 23 are on the bulletin board. **JIM SANTORO** is our captain next week.

SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Michael LaGamma, our diligent scribe, produced a nearly-8,000 word verbatim transcript of today's talk, which is too long for inclusion here.

[Click Here for Entire Transcript](#)

Following is a brief summary.



HOLLISTER STURGES introduced **JOHN BLANKLEY**, RMA member, businessman, entrepreneur, and local politician (now retired), who offered his thoughts on the question “What would Alexis de Tocqueville think of our democracy today?” The talk was based on **JOHN’s** life-long affinity with the earliest, and still foremost, interpreter of the American experiment in democracy. Drawing on his own experience and his reading and knowledge of Tocqueville’s works and modern interpretations, **JOHN’s** conclusions may have

surprised some.

The presentation began with some history because in order to answer the question it’s important to understand the times in which de Tocqueville lived and his particular life story, from his family’s aristocratic background in France, his journey to America and his attempts at a political career. They were all essential components of the thinking that went into his masterpieces, *Democracy in America*, written in the 1830’s, and the *Ancien Regime*, written in the 1850’s, a study of what led to the French Revolution.

Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* was the first account and analysis not only of what made democracy work in America (Volume 1) but what was required to make it work anywhere (Volume 2). Equality and liberty are the two touchstones of his work - and it is important to understand how Tocqueville viewed their interaction and how they are both needed to make a true democracy work.

The talk was followed by a lively Q&A, touching on many contemporary issues including the Electoral College, the effects of social media, the January 6th events at the Capitol, and term limits.

Born in England, **JOHN** came to the USA 40 years ago but unlike Tocqueville he stayed and became an American citizen. From his roots in the UK, his degree in modern history from Oxford University, and his journey to citizenship, he brings a special perspective and appreciation of our country. He began his career as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, and later became the CFO and board member of BP North America, Stolt Tankers and Terminals, and other companies. In 2000 he co-founded Flagship Networks, Inc., a computer consulting company, and is currently its chairman.

Like Tocqueville, **JOHN** has been active in politics. Locally he served on the RTM and the BET and ran for first selectman. He also ran for state office: for state representative, for the State Senate, twice, and for state treasurer. He currently serves as a trustee of Greenwich Library, as chairman of Greenwich Green and Clean and as first vice-president of the St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York, the oldest charity in the state. **JOHN** and his wife, Vera, have lived in Greenwich since 1983 and have three children and five grandchildren.

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 →**FRANK SCARPA**←. Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, *preferably via email* at frankjscarpa@gmail.com.

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

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 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 **JERRY POLLACK** 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	9:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmaccarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma– mdlamma@optonline.net
Tuesdays	9:30 am	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – ryantomac@netscape.net
Tuesdays	Resumes in fall	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	James 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	1:00 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 Fall	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact