

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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Next Week's Scribe: **BOB GIAQUINTO, BGQ19@LIVE.COM**

"Happiness depends on being free, and freedom depends on being courageous." Pericles

President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting promptly at 9:45, and introduced **MIKE HAYDEN** who led us in the Pledge. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** then led the singing, with **JIM SANTORA** at the piano. Today's patriotic song was "My Country 'Tis of Thee," followed by the tunes "On the Sunny Side of the Street" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

JACK then introduced the support staff. Today's CBB editor was **ARNOLD GORDON** and scribe was **FRANK SCARPA** (Frankscarpa@gmail.com). Projectionists were **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI**. Volunteer advocate was **MIKE AMOROSO**. Today's Greeter was **JOHN KAVANAGH**. Mentor was **JOHN TONER**. **MARK GEIMER** was the Formatter.

Refreshments were provided by **JOHN KAVANAGH**. Audio-Visual staff were **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**. Meeting Set-Up was handled by **BOB BISHOP, JIM BUTLER, and JOHN CRAINE**.

JACK reminded us that our dues checks, made out to RMA for \$100, may be mailed to Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** (9 Treetop Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831). There will be no RMA meeting on August 2nd due to Vacation Bible School at the church.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** told us an interesting story involving Connecticut history. (For a complete history of the State, see

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecticut>). Although some Dutch explorers preceded the English by many years, Connecticut began as a real colony circa 1636, formed by Puritans from the Massachusetts Bay Colony; it was centered at what is now Hartford, with several settlements around the territory. CT was not admitted to the Union until 1788, as the 5th state. It is not commonly known that between 1647 and 1697 twenty-seven women and 7 men were indicted for the alleged crime of witchcraft. Twelve were convicted and all but one were executed by hanging. As in the notorious Salem Witch Trials in Massachusetts, the accusations had often been unfounded and based upon misogyny. The others who were indicted were either forced to flee or were banished. Even those who were acquitted had their reputations destroyed and their family names tarnished. Now, 326 years later, our stalwart CT Legislators conscientiously introduced a resolution (in February) to clear the names of those accused of "witchcraft" and "familiarities with the devil." This resolution (CT House Resolution 34) passed on May 10th. The Resolution reads "The State of Connecticut apologizes to the descendants of all those who were indicted, convicted and executed and for the harm done to the accused persons' posterity to the present day, and acknowledges the trauma and shame that wrongfully continued to affect the families of the accused." Their reputations are now restored and no longer have disgrace attached to their names, and are in good standing in Connecticut. For more details and to find out if one of your ancestors might have been on the list, see this: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HJ-00034-R00-HB.PDF>

ARNOLD also reported on the Greenwich Vietnam-Era Veterans Awards Ceremony held at the Arch Street Teen Center on Monday afternoon, May 15. In attendance were 90 veterans with family and friends in a crowd of more than 200. Organized and chaired by Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, it was one of many such gracious events held in towns throughout Connecticut. It was an impressive and often moving ceremony, with a tribute to the 24 Greenwich residents who were killed in Vietnam. Comments were made by our local politicians (Fred Camillo and RMA members **STEVE MESKERS** and **HECTOR ARZENO**) and the head of the State Department of Veterans Affairs. Several other RMA members were there, including **MIKE AMBROSINO**, **SKIP AUCH**, **ARNOLD GORDON**, **KEATING HAGMAN**, **RICK HOLZ** and **RON WILSON**. Several veterans came to the mike with accounts of their Vietnam experiences, including our very own **MIKE AMBROSINO**. Each veteran was given a certificate signed by the Lt. Governor in honor of their patriotic service, as well as a lapel pin commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. A published account of the event can be found here:

<https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/holiday/powerful-vietnam-veterans-event-in-greenwich-thank-you-and-welcome-home-199760/>

ARNOLD then introduced today's jokester, **TOM HEALY**, who began with numerous humorous signs. A sampling follows:

Gynecologist's office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

Septic tank service: "Yesterday's meals on wheels."

Plumber: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call a plumber."

Door to a birthing room: "Push, push, push."

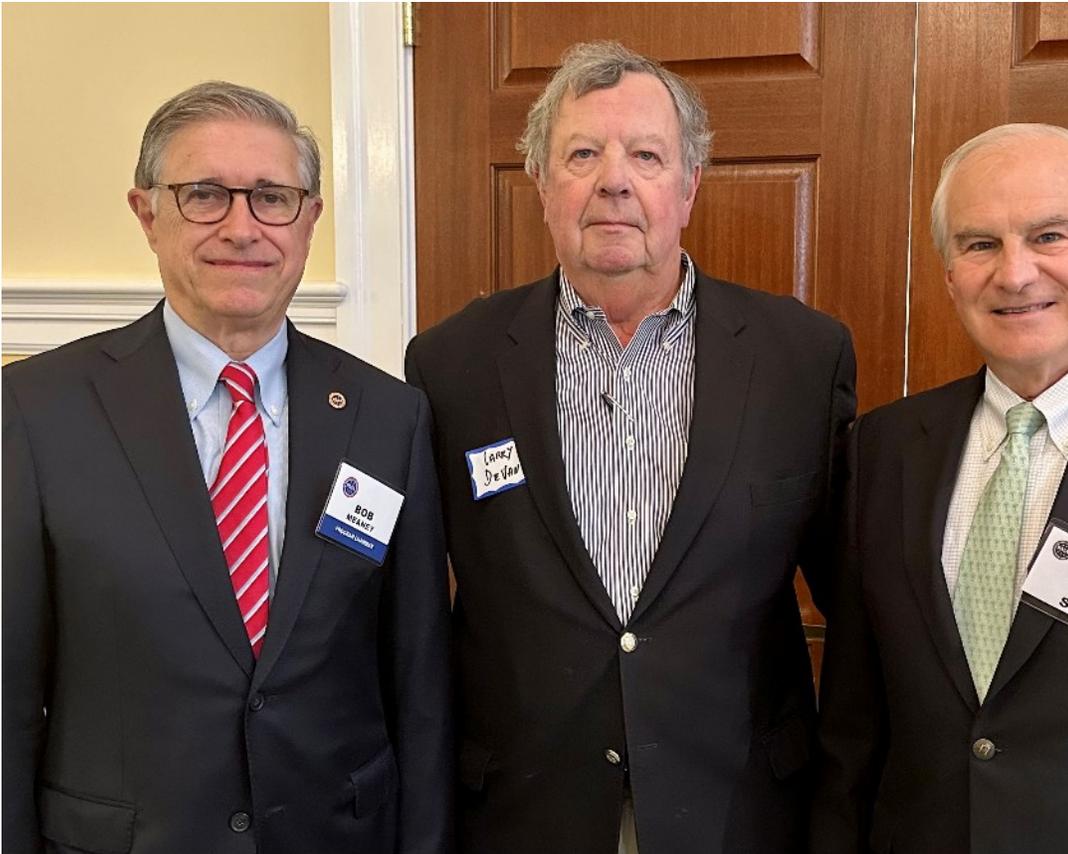
Veterinarian: "Sit. Stay."

Restaurant: "Come on in and get fed up."

There's more: **TOM** reprised a few oldies, like the one about the woman who won the lottery and sent her husband packing, the Polish fellow recognizing his friend's name on an eye chart, and the nun who was happy to hear about the case of gonorrhoea in the convent, because she was tired of the chardonnay.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PETER STERN started us off with an induction of Larry Devan who was introduced by **BOB MEANEY**. Larry has lived in Greenwich for 38 years, and **BOB** has known him for 45. Larry grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Dartmouth and the Wharton School at Penn. He has worked in banking and finance for many years. A member of Greenwich Country Club and Christ Church, he is an avid outdoorsman and race horse owner. Larry has two children and four grandchildren. **BOB's** nomination was seconded by **STEVE SMALL**, who had worked with him at Chase Bank. A unanimous vote brought Larry in as our newest RMA member.



Attendance, as compiled by **CARL WHITE**, was 94 members physically present, and 9 on Zoom, for a total of 103. Guests were Peter Hamilton, guest of **TODD PEARSON**. Don DeAngelo was the guest of his dad, **SAL DeANGELO**; a very special shout out was given to **SAL**, age 99!

Birthdays: **BOB PHILLIPS** has reached 82, **JAY SCHONDORF** 86, **JIM FISHBEIN** 77, **MAURICE KROHN** 74, **PETER CRUIKSHANK** 67, **KIP SCHULTZ** 84, **JIM LOCKHART** 77, **DICK FRANCK** 87, **KLAUS JANDER** 83, and **JIM CLEMENTS** 76.

Returnees: **BOB MEANEY** from Lincoln, Nebraska; **JIM DEAN** from Boulder, Colorado; **CHARLIE ADAMS** from Savannah, Georgia; **JEFF JUNKER** from Dallas, Texas; **BILL O'DONNELL** from Lauderdale by the Sea, Florida; **GEORGE UBOGY** from Sarasota, Florida. **PETER** recognized Zoom attendees, scribe **FRANK SCARPA** and **ED BLOOM**.

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER: **BOB MEANEY** previewed the talk of Dr. Pete McCornick, Executive Director of the Daugherty Water-Food Institute at the University of Nebraska, where he is a tenured professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering. Noting that

only 3 per cent of the world's water is fresh, and that 70% of that is used for agricultural purposes, Dr. McCornick will describe his Institute's work around the world in preserving and husbanding our planet's water resources.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: The Melody Men will grace the membership with an hour of their special musical numbers from the American Song Book.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WILL MORRISON rose to applaud our members for their volunteer activities. He noted that there had been 111 responses to the Survey on Volunteer Activities. He also noted that 40 of our members hold leadership posts in various charitable organizations. These men are superb contacts for members looking for volunteer opportunities. Although we encourage all members to report their volunteer hours, we still appreciate all the "silent volunteers."

TOM HEALY noted that there are still three open spots for the bus trip to Belmont on Thursday, June 15th, a week after the Belmont Stakes. **PAUL CAMPION** provided us with a brief slide show extolling the event. (For details, contact **TOM**: retiredtjh@gmail.com)

ARTHUR STAMPELMAN reminded us of the curated tour of the Bruce Museum on Tuesday, May 30, at 10:30 am. He will be the docent. The tour will last about an hour and cover both the Connecticut Impressionists (including Childe Hassam) and the American Modernist exhibits (including Calder, Hopper and Andrew Wyeth). The price is \$17.50 per person, and the tour will be limited to 20 visitors. There will be an opportunity to have lunch after the tour at the Museum cafeteria.

PETER UHRY announced that the new RMA hats are available for pick up and a few are left for purchase. He will take requests for hats from anyone interested. If the supply is exhausted, names can be added to a waiting list; contact **PETER** at Uhry@sbcglobal.net. He also mentioned that the Old Greenwich Merchants are sponsoring the 5th annual Art Show fund raiser at Binney Park on Saturday, June 4, 2023 from 10 am to 5 pm. (Rain date Saturday, June 11.) The event will have over 50 up and coming artists exhibiting and selling their work.

JOE MANCINELLI, on behalf of **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, announced that there will be a Memorial Day Flag Placement at veterans' grave sites on May 24th starting at 5 p.m.

Volunteers should meet at the flag pole at St. Mary's Cemetery, 399 North Street, Greenwich. Also, there will be a Memorial Day Parade on May 29th in Old Greenwich, along Sound Beach Avenue to Binney Park. More details will follow.

THE SPORTING LIFE

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported that there were 9 players. Top scorer was **ALEX KOSSEIM** with 2940, followed by **ED MASTOLONI** with 2240 and **ANDRE MAZUREK**, with 1910. The players meet at 12:30 on Wednesdays at the Greenwich Library ground floor. Lunch may be purchased there. New members and guests of all skill levels are welcome.

TaiChi: **WILL MORRISON** is still teaching members to "Stand on One Foot" Mondays at 9:30 am in Old Greenwich at the First Congregational Church.

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reminded us that "The sport is piping hot." All are welcome at Christiano Park Courts Mondays from 9 to 11 and Thursdays from 10 to 12.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that "last Thursday was a spectacular day which we celebrated with a 3.75-mile relaxed stroll in Rockefeller State Park. The highlight of our walk was Swan Lake in the center of the park where **GERRY POLLACK** tried twice to photograph a red-winged blackbird on some cattails but it flew away before he was ready. But he did get some good photos of a cormorant drying its wings and many turtles warming themselves on partially submerged logs. Altogether a very pleasant walk."



Golf: JIM SANTORA told us there were 19 players (a season high). Closest to the pin awards: hole #5--**JOE MANCINELLI**, hole #7--**JAY SCHONDORF**, hole #15--**TOM HEALY**. Longest drive--**STEVE SMALL**. Nine of the 19 players broke 100. **STEVE SMALL** had the low score at 85, with **RUSS HARDEN** excelling at 86. **TONY FITZPATRICK** racked up a 90. **PETER TUNLEY** and **TOM HEALY** both had 92. Next week's round will be a late morning start.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** reported that 8 players completed 7 games last week. At Table 1, winners were **TOM HEALY** (1 game), **RICK HOLZ** (1) and **JOHN STANKUNAS** (1). **TOM HEALY** shot the moon once. At Table 2, **JOE DOWLING** won twice, and **JOHN KNIGHT** and **BOB SHULLMAN** each won once. **JOHN KNIGHT** and **JOE DOWLING** each shot the moon twice.

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

HORST TEBBE rose to inform us of the spectacular performance of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" at the Metropolitan Opera. In **HORST's** opinion, the Met's previous attempts at this opera over the years had been less than stellar. But this one garnered a spontaneous and excited standing ovation. Members might be able to avail themselves of a movie theater performance in the Bronx or NYC

(<https://www.tickets.hollywood.com/movies/the-metropolitan-opera-don-giovanni/935/buy-tickets>).

SPEAKER PROGRAM

RMA member **BOB MEANY** introduced Peter McCornick, Ph.D., tenured professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering at the University of Nebraska. Professor McCornick holds masters and doctorate degrees from Colorado State University; he is Executive Director of the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute (DWFI). Prior to joining DWFI, he was the deputy director general of research at the International Water Management Institute. With an international career focused on sustainable management of water resources, he has led research and implemented programs on water, agriculture and the environment in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North America.

Dr. McCornick delivered his lecture on "Water and Food Security in a Changing World" with a pleasantly light Scottish brogue. He began by pointing out that the current world population of eight billion is expected to reach ten billion by 2050, with twenty per cent of those people living in sub-Saharan Africa. At that time, it is estimated that one billion people will be suffering from food insecurity. The many drivers of such adverse changes include climate, extreme events, conflicts, trade markets and, notably, degradation of the quantity and quality of water resources.

The audience then viewed a brief video describing the work of the Daugherty Institute at the University of Nebraska. The Institute's vision is to have a lasting and secure positive impact on the world's water and food resources. Global water security implies availability and accessibility for water management and maintenance of quality and safety. Crop production consumes seventy per cent of global fresh water use. Need and usage vary from year to year and from season to season.

Dr. McCornick used the example of Nebraska as a "living lab" to illustrate his message. Surface irrigation systems using the Platte River Basin and the Ogallala Aquifer were developed over a hundred years ago. It is now the largest irrigated area in the U.S. Currently, seven-eighths of Nebraska's land is sustainably irrigated by groundwater. And the levels of groundwater have remained relatively stable for two decades. Management, especially in dry areas, is tight and is overseen by boards and peer groups from the community.

The situations on other continents were then illustrated. In Asia, the Ganges River is a "water machine" which floods annually. During the dry season, pumping of water is active. India has over twenty million wells. There are millions of small-scale farms. But overuse has been depleting the groundwater, and there is a need for reform. In Africa, Rwanda has a history of low-producing small farmers. With sub-Saharan Africa's population expected to double by 2050, this area will not be able to meet its food needs by managing rainwater. Only five per cent of arable land in Africa is irrigated. The Nebraska contingent has been working with Rwanda to improve "farmer led irrigation." In South America, the Bahia area of Brazil has a large but under-utilized groundwater resource, but there is little government support of farmers.

Dr. McCornick feels that much has been achieved by efforts like those of the Water for Food Institute. Additional robust institutions are needed, and their progress needs to be publicized. Even more important are leadership and solutions at the local level. A brief Q and A ensued, covering such topics as desalinization, recycling and drip irrigation.



To see the full presentation, go to <https://greenwicherma.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 →**BOB GIAQUINTO**←. Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, *preferably via email.*

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.

Retired Men’s Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · 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	9:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma– mdlgamma@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