

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: **JIM DEAN, JHDEANCO@GMAIL.COM**

"You miss 100% of the shots you never take" - Wayne Gretzky

President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting at 9:45 am and introduced **DON CONWAY** who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. With **JIM SANTORA** on piano, **MIKE HAYDEN** led us with the following songs: "This Land is Your Land," "Oh! What a Beautiful Morning" and "It Had to Be You."

President **JACK** mentioned appreciatively today's support staff, including editor **TIM BROOKS**, scribe **BOB GIAQUINTO** (bgq19@live.com), formatter **LEN CARUSI**, projectionists **TONY COCCHI** and **LEN CARUSI**, volunteer advocate **DON ROTZIEN**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **TAD LARRABEE**, refreshments **MIKE AMBROSINO**, audio/video **ED PARKER**, **MARK GEIMER**, **PETER DODGE**, **HORST TEBBE** and **BARRY RICHELSON**, and set-up helpers **BOB BISHOP**, **JIM BUTLER** and **JOHN CRAINE**.

The membership voted approval of the 2023-2024 RMA budget. **JACK WEIR** reminded members that our \$100 annual dues is now overdue. Kindly present your check made out to "RMA" to Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER**, or mail the check to him at 9 Tree Top Terrace Greenwich, CT 06831. **JEFF** reported that he has received 90 out of 240 checks so far.

For those Viet Nam vets who missed the town ceremony, our President **JACK** gave certificates to numerous RMA members from Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, for example stating “I take great pleasure in honoring **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** in recognition of your patriotic service to our country during the Vietnam war era. It is because of your bravery and dedication to serve in the United States Armed Forces that all Americans are able to live in a free and democratic nation today. Thank you for your commitment to our state and to our nation.” This scribe also says thank you. This is a partial list of certificate recipients: **DON CONWAY, JIM DEAN, RUSS HARDEN, CAPTAIN MIKE HAYDEN, TOM HEALY, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, TOM MORONEY.**

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** introduced **HARRY FISHER** who delivered a memorial for longtime RMA member **PETER CRUMBINE.**



Bea and Peter Crumbine

“I first met **PETER** in 1995 when he ran for the BET term commencing January 1, 1996, which was my last term of my first stint on the board. We formed an immediate bond of two like-minded people. While I stepped off in 1997, we kept up with each other throughout the years. Before the BET he served on the RTM for three terms, and after he served five terms as second selectman to four first selectmen, Lolly Prince, Dick Bergstresser, Jim Lash and Peter Tesei. After that he served on the selectman’s Nominations Advisory Committee, helping make sure that qualified volunteers like him were able to participate on boards, commissions and committees. In 2019 **PETER** received the David N. Theis Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.

“**PETER** had a long and fruitful career, mostly in the energy businesses, both domestically and internationally, working for Mobil, Lockheed, Amerada Hess, Navios, Citicorp, and finally Sempra Trading in Stamford. His 18 years in town government was marked by his strong conservative values, and ability to work with all reasonable people no matter their political views. He would never cave on his values, but often found compromise positions that worked for all. He truly was a nice person, as is his widow Bea, who also is a strong volunteer in town and affectionally known as Greenwich’s ambassador.

“In later years **PETER** suffered from a slow moving, but devastating degenerative disease. He never let it slow him down. He walked as long as he was able until confined to a wheel chair. But then he still turned out at local events where we would share some time together. He will be missed by the entire community. A service has not been announced, but I will watch for it and communicate it to the members.”

ARNOLD then highly recommended a visit to the American Museum of Natural History, not only for its regular exhibits but to see the new and unusual Gilder Center and the amazing Invisible Worlds Exhibit. There are other new exhibits and installations, such as a live butterfly vivarium, an insectarium, and new planetarium specials. It’s a fun way to spend a few hours and learn a lot about our world and its peoples. Reservations for general entry and exhibit tickets are now required and are time-dependent. For details and to order tickets, see www.amnh.org.

He then showed a stimulating video featuring a team of 61 senior students from the Citadel - The Military College of South Carolina - who performed a novel and very tricky drill routine that has been executed since the 1930's all around the world. **ARNOLD** likened them to the Rockettes but suggested that they be called the Jockettes.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE CITADEL VIDEO](#)

ARNOLD then introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** who delivered his brand of humor by performing a fantastic imitation of Allan Sherman singing “Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh (A letter from camp).” Thanks, **JERRY**, for your very entertaining piece which brought back memories from 1963.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by PETER STERN

Attendance count by **DOUG TAYLOR**: 79 present in-person, seven on Zoom, for a total of 86. The latest birthdays are as follows.

Doug	Fields	81
Bill	O'Donnell	78
Tom	Healy	85
Larry	Posner	75
Al	Knight	81

Rejoining RMA as a member in good standing is **STEVE STEIN**. Welcome back, **STEVE**, we are most happy you are back as “one of us.”

Guests today are:

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

Tory Johnson, guest of **DON ROTZIEN**

Ajmal Qureshi, guest of **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **PETE UHRY**

Returnees:

TIM BROOKS from Pittsburgh, PA

JOHN REESE from Los Angeles, CA and Toronto, ON, Canada

PETE UHRY from Memphis, TN

Special Occasions:

DOUG and Lois **TAYLOR** – Celebrating their 73rd wedding anniversary (!)

RICK WOLFF – Birth of his 1st grandchild, a girl (McKenzie James)

In-Person welcomes to:

SAL DeANGELO

DOUG TAYLOR

Welcome on ZOOM:

WALT ANDERES, a member since August 24, 1994, the most senior RMA Member

ED BLOOM, from Maple Avenue, Greenwich

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHAEL AMBROSINO encouraged everyone to attend the wonderful Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29, 9:30 am on St. Claire Avenue in Old Greenwich.

TOM HEALY mentioned that today is the 11th performance of the year for the Melody Men. They will resume their singing in the fall. As for the Belmont Race Track outing on June 15, 41 folks are attending. The bus leaves at 1:30 pm, racing starts at 3 pm and the bus should return by 8 pm. **TOM** also mentioned jackets are not required but smart casual dress is recommended, and definitely no shorts.

ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN made his final announcement regarding the New Bruce Museum tour for RMA members and friends or spouses on Tuesday, May 30, 10:30 am. Those interested had to sign up and make payment at the May 23 meeting. **ARTHUR** will send everyone who signed up an email on where to meet at the museum and information on lunch arrangements.

DON ROTZIEN announced that the next ROMEO lunch will be held on Thursday, June 8 at Greenwich Point at 1:00 pm. The venue will be near the first concession stand as you enter the park. Use your new EveryPass. But if you don't have one or you are not a Greenwich resident just tell the guard that you are with the RMA and there for the ROMEO lunch; he will let you through. Remember to bring your own lunch.

PETER UHRY reported the RMA hats are sold out, but he will order more when he can reach the 30-cap minimum. See him if interested.

Greenwich, Green and Clean cordially invites you to tour Sleepy Cat Farm, Greenwich, on Saturday, June 3 from 10 to 4. These constantly evolving world-famous gardens enhanced by stunning architecture and sculpture will delight all visitors. For questions call 203-531-0006. Horticultural professionals will be on site along with beverages and edible treats. Rain date is Sunday, June 4.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

JOHN DENNE spoke about the benefits of his five-year volunteer work with Call-A-Ride. He feels very rewarded driving folks to doctor appointments and grocery stores etc. It is to **JOHN** a win/win for the good feeling he receives from his passengers and knowing he is certainly helping others. He encourages other RMA members to volunteer. There are two shifts, 9-12 noon and 12:30-3:30 pm. Sign up online and see what time slot needs your help.

SPEAKERS

TOM HEALY reminded us that today we will hear a special concert by the RMA's own Melody Men. **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** then announced that the speaker for the May 31st meeting will be Howard Husock, on his new book *The Poor Side of Town: And Why We*

Need It. This is a history and critique of more than a century of housing reform policies, including public and other subsidized housing as well as exclusionary zoning, with the idea that simple low-cost housing helps those of modest means build financial assets and join in the democratic process. Husock will discuss the most effective ways to address poverty and narrow the widening gap between rich and poor in America, a gap he feels is a grave threat to American democracy. Husock is senior fellow, contributing editor, City Journal, Manhattan Institute, and a long-time journalist and documentary filmmaker.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

TAD LARRABEE reported on behalf of the Walkers and Talkers that “last Thursday, we had a pleasant walk at Greenwich Point, enjoying another beautiful day. **JEFF JUNKER** and I got within a few feet of a friendly gopher just south of the beach. For your information, I got free, one-time beach passes from the town for anyone living outside Greenwich or who does not have a beach pass. If you want similar beach passes and you are a Greenwich resident, just go to the Town website and they are easy to get via an automated Town email. This is very convenient and is not restricted to walkers!”

PAT MacCARTHY reported that pickleball attendance remained high with the recent comfortable and dry weather. We had seven players last Thursday and 10 on Monday and utilized both Christiano courts. **KEVIN FLAHERTY**, a new pickler, joined us on Monday. 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.

The Hearts report for May 17 was delivered by **DON CONWAY**, who is next week’s captain. There were eight players, two tables, and three games each. Winner three times was **JACK SWEGER**, twice was **CONWAY**, once was **TOM HEALY**. Moon shots **SWEGER** four times and **CONWAY** once.

There is no report for Tennis or Tai Chi.

TONY FITZPATRICK gave the golf report and he is next week’s captain. With beautiful weather on May 23rd there were 13 players. Closest to the pin on #5 and #15 was **BOB SHULLMAN**, and on #7 was **STEVE SMALL**. The longest drive was on #8 by **SMALL**.

Scores under 100 were **JOE MANCINELLI**, 99, **JIM BOARDMAN**, 99, **TOM HEALY** and **JAY SCHONDORF**, 98, **STEVE SMALL**, 88, and **TONY FITZPATRICK**, 87.

Bridge Report by **TONY COCCHI**. “We had eight players and each played 18 boards. Congratulations to **ED MASTOLONI** who bid a slam on board number 17. Results were as follows: **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 4,250 points, **CHARLEY LAND**, 3,330, **MASTOLONI**, 3,180, **COCCHI**, 2970, **JOHN FEBLES**, 2830, **STEVE SHAPIRO**, 2800, **FRANK LEE**, 1850, and **JOE WATTS**, 1230.

JACK WEIR wished everyone a happy Memorial Day weekend and adjourned the meeting.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

At 11 o'clock the RMA Melody Men, led by **TOM HEALY**, treated the RMA membership and friends to an extremely enjoyable concert. Among the many highlights was the “Rhinestone Cowboy” duet of **TONY COCCHI** and **JOE MANCINELLI**, with **JEFF JUNKER** on trombone and the Melody Men in the background. There was an outstanding solo by **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** singing “Cabaret” a la Liza Minnelli. **JERRY** also shared his exceptional dance moves with us.

Merry Melody Men Leader **TOM HEALY** gave us a noteworthy solo, singing Matt Monro’s 1961 hit “My Kind of Girl” accompanied by the Melody Men and **JEFF JUNKER** on trombone. Another solo was **TAD LARRABEE**’s stirring “The Impossible Dream,” from the 1965 musical *Man of La Mancha*.

A very special treat was the RMA’s own piano man **BOB MORGAN** singing and playing the piano like Billy Joel in his wonderful performance of “Piano Man.” Of course, this would not be “Piano Man” without the remarkable **MIKE HAYDEN** on harmonica. **BOB**, a former major label record producer, worked with Bobby Vinton years ago and so apropos the Melody Men offered a medley of their hits together. In addition, **BOB** accompanied all songs during the concert.

DON CONWAY was awesome singing the Irish standard “Danny Boy.” All the Melody Men were great. The Melody Men appear each spring and fall in retirement homes throughout the area, and I suggest sharing the video of this show with everyone, but especially with those who might be lifted up by seeing this upbeat show.

The full program was as follows.

“Oklahoma!” (ensemble)

“My Kind of Girl” (Healy)

“On the Street Where You Live” and “Standing on the Corner” (ensemble)

“Rhinestone Cowboy” (Mancinelli and Cocchi)

Burt Bacharach medley (ensemble)

“Cabaret” (Schwendeman)

“The Impossible Dream” (Larrabee)

Bobby Vinton medley (ensemble)

“Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral” and “Danny Boy (Conway)

“Singing in the Rain” (Healy and Schwendeman)

“Piano Man” (Morgan and Hayden)

“Sweet Caroline” (ensemble)

“There Is Nothing Like a Dame” (ensemble)

“I Want to Be Happy” (ensemble)

Members of the Melody Men are **TOM HEALY, BOB MORGAN, TONY COCCHI, JOE MANCINELLI, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JIM BUTLER, DON CONWAY, JIM DEAN, BILL FAKUNDINY, RUSS HARDEN, MIKE HAYDEN, BILL HOWLAND, PETER JUNIUS, JEFF JUNKER, TAD LARRABEE, BILL MCKIEGAN, TOM MORONEY, ERF PORTER, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, JACK SWEGER and JACK WEIR.**

To see the full presentation, go to <https://greenwichrma.org>, cursor to “Speakers” and click on “Speaker Videos.”



The Melody Men



Don Conway

“Rhinestone Cowboys”



Schwendeman cuts a rug

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting will be →**JIM DEAN**←. 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.greenwichtma.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 **PETER UHRY** 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 – 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