

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 41 June 14, 2023

SCRIBE: ARNOLD GORDON

Next Week's Scribe: AV RIVEL, AV@RIVELS.ORG

"How can anyone govern a nation that has two-hundred and forty-six different kinds of cheeses?"
Charles de Gaulle

President **JACK WEIR** began the business meeting at 9:48 am. **STEVE MARINO**, reminding us that today is Flag Day, led us in the pledge followed by **TOM HEALY**, with his Melody Men's voice, and **BOB MORGAN** at the Steinway, who led us in singing "America the Beautiful," "Manhattan" and "Heart of My Heart." **JACK** thanked all the many men who do yeomen's jobs in organizing and supporting our meetings: scribe, formatter, CBB editor, projectionists, volunteer advocate, greeter, audio/video, set-up and refreshments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JACK reminded us that he is looking for human interest presentations, only 5-10 minutes, and can include personal experiences. He mentioned that next week (June 21), such a presentation will be given by **JOHN REESE** on the ultra-hot topic of AI. The dates for the picnic (September 13) and the banquet (November 8) have been set by the Board. Therefore, there will be no meetings on those Wednesday dates.

JEFF JUNKER reported that dues have now been collected from 134 out of our 246 members. E-mail reminders will be going out to those who have not yet paid, as payments

are overdue. Either bring a check (\$100) to the next meeting or mail it, made out to RMA, to **JEFF**, at 9 Treetop Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** mentioned that members of AARP have free admission on June 30th to the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport. He reminded everyone that Jim Knox, director of education and curator for the zoo, has spoken twice at the RMA, and would gladly welcome RMA members and possibly give a private tour. For details, see <https://events.aarp.org/event/56053a2d-3b6a-47ff-9c33-fb6de7b8b88b/summary>.

Returning this summer will be Free Music Fridays at Greenwich Commons behind the Havemeyer Building on Greenwich Avenue. All concerts are from 5 to 7pm; the first concert will be on June 23rd. For details, see <https://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/free-music-fridays-returns-downtown-greenwich>

For some good news on the financial front, the Connecticut House of Representatives passed a biennial budget that includes the largest personal income tax cut in Connecticut history and exempts more retiree income from the state income tax.

ARNOLD then acted as substitute jokester for **PAUL CAMPION**, who was unable to appear. He brought back some famous unscripted one-liners from the old TV show, *Hollywood Squares*, a quiz show featuring entertainment personalities such as Paul Lynde, Charley Weaver, George Gobel, and Rose Marie. Some examples:

Q. "True or False, a pea can last as long as 5,000 years..."

A. George Gobel: "Boy, it sure seems that way sometimes."

Q. "You've been having trouble going to sleep. Are you probably a man or a woman?"

A. Don Knott: "That's what's been keeping me awake."

Q. "What are: 'Do It,' 'I Can Help,' and 'I Can't Get Enough'?"

A. George Gobel: "I don't know, but it's coming from the apartment next door."

Q. "In bowling, what's a perfect score?"

A. Rose Marie: "Ralph, the pin boy."

Q. "According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with getting into the habit of kissing a lot of people?"

A. Charley Weaver: "It got me out of the army."

Q. "According to Ann Landers, what are two things you should never do in bed?"

A. Paul Lynde: "Point and laugh."

Q. "Paul, what is a good reason for pounding meat?"

A. Paul Lynde: "Loneliness!"

ARNOLD closed with a tale about the novice priest who was advised by the Monsignor to sip some vodka before officiating a mass to settle his nervousness. But he overdrank and ended up by mangling his sermon. The Monsignor corrected the priest after the mass: Jesus was consecrated not constipated; Jacob wagered his donkey, he did not bet his ass; David slew Goliath, he did not "kick the crap out of him."

DON ROTZIEN reminded us that the **ROMEO** lunch scheduled for last Thursday was cancelled due to poor air quality. The rescheduled lunch will be held at the first concession stand at Greenwich Point on Thursday, June 29th at 1:00 pm. Bring your own lunch and your beach card. If you don't have one just let the guard know that you're with RMA and you will be let in. If you're interested in attending the lunch, please email **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com so you can be notified of any changes.

TAD LARRABEE noted that Friends of Binney Park are sponsoring an evening of art and philanthropy on Thursday, June 15th, from 6 to 8 pm at 202 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich. It will include a silent auction in support of the park and its preservation. Local artist Suzy Simpson donated her artworks for the cause. (Too bad you missed it if you were not at the meeting to hear about it.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Substituting for **PETER STERN**, **JOHN KAVANAGH** presided over the induction of Troy Johnson, who was nominated by **PAT MacCARTHY**. He met Troy in the early days of the pandemic when introduced by their dogs in the condemned fields behind the Western Middle School. Although born in the Midwest, Troy came to Greenwich as a child and is essentially a Greenwich native. He attended Julian Curtis elementary school

and Central Middle School before his family moved to Stamford, where he attended Westhill High School (and was a terror on the wrestling team). Troy attended college at Roger Williams University (RWU) in Bristol, R.I., obtaining a BS in Public Administration. Upon graduation from RWU, Troy joined the Air National Guard (weekend warrior) and began a 20-year career in banking, first with small regional banks (Dollar, Dry Dock) and then with large investment banks (Lehman Brothers). After 9/11, Troy was called to active duty with the Air Force, and after working full-time with the USAF, he shifted to working for Northrup Grumman, a defense contractor. Troy retired from the USAF after 25 years in 2008 and for the next 15 years, he worked as an international management consultant.

Although he met his wife, and best friend, Nuchana, stateside, his time in Asia was especially noteworthy because it was there that the two cemented their relationship. They later married on the Costa Brava in Spain which was geographically ideal as it served as a middle point for both family and friends to celebrate their marriage. Troy is a true renaissance man, having lived domestically in California, Florida, Virginia, and Connecticut and internationally in Italy, Thailand, and Singapore. He has visited over 50 countries and is somewhat fluent in Italian and Thai. Troy is currently pursuing graduate degrees in global history, non-profit management, and museum directorship "because the subjects interest me." Besides travel, Troy's interests include walking with his mini golden doodle, Kai, sailing, squash, and tennis. He is also an avid reader of current events and geopolitics.



MacCarthy, T. Johnson, S. Johnson

This may be a historic induction since Troy's dad, **STEVEN**, who seconded the nomination, was inducted two weeks ago. We are not aware of any previous time when a father and son were simultaneously RMA members. In his acceptance comments, **TROY** praised the "high quality folks" and fellowship the RMA has to offer and for the good work we do for the community.

In attendance today were 74 in-person and five on Zoom. Guests in the audience were Charles Shapiro (g/o **ANDY HOLMES**) and Bill Grad (g/o **GRAN BURGESS** and **RUSS HARDEN**). The birthdays for the week were

MICHAEL AMBROSINO, 78, **PETER JOYCE**, 84, and **PAUL KEELER**, 79. **JIM BUTLER** and his wife, Margot, are celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

BOB RIMMER told us that today's speaker will be G. Pascal Zachary, a writer and educator, concentrating on the history of technological change, national security and economic growth. He will speak on his recent book *Endless Frontier: Vannevar Bush, Engineer of the American Century*.

SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ described next week's presentation which will be a panel discussion on "Prostate Disease, Complexities of Cancer Detection and Treatment," moderated by Jeffrey Puglisi, MD, president of the Greenwich Medical Society and also affiliated with Glenville Medical Concierge Care. Panelists are Bruce McGibbon, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Therapeutic Radiation and Medical Director Greenwich Hospital Radiation Oncology; Daniel Petrylak, MD, Professor of Medicine (Medical Oncology) and Urology and Chief, Genitourinary Oncology, Smilow Cancer Center; and Michael Karellas, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Urology.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For the last time before the event, **TOM HEALY** made sure that those going on the Belmont Racetrack trip tomorrow (June 15th) knew that the bus leaves at 1:30 pm from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 200 Riverside Avenue in Riverside. Dress is business casual. He will have everyone's tickets to hand out.

On behalf of **MAURICE KROHN** and **DON CONWAY**, **JACK WEIR** summarized the current plans for trips over the next few months:

Hispanic Museum (NYC) in July (date TBD)

Goodspeed Opera House (probably the musical *Summer Stock*. "Inspired by the classic Judy Garland-Gene Kelly movie, this joyous world premiere musical features a cavalcade of hits from the American songbook that will chase all your cares away!" (July, date TBD)

Intrepid Aircraft Carrier in August (date TBD)

Pepsi Sculpture Garden (September 28)

Oktoberfest (early October)

Yale vs Columbia football game and tailgate party, October 29 at Yale Bowl, New Haven

He reminded everyone that ideas for trips from members who are willing to “sponsor” a trip are always welcome. All logistical arrangements are handled by **MAURICE** and **DON**.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WILL MORRISON mentioned that usually about 50% of members report volunteer hours, but for the month of May it was 40%. He reminded us to assiduously post our volunteer hours, either online through the link at the end of the CBB or at the membership desk on the form provided. Following is his full report for May:

[REPORT ON VOLUNTEER HOURS](#)

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

PETER BERG regaled us with a tale about his clogged sink drain and his exciting discovery of a simple device to clear the mess that he no doubt caused. It is called The Drain Weasel (see photo) and is available at Home Depot.



GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Pickleball: Although pickleball was not played last Thursday due to poor air quality, **PAT MacCARTHY** reminded us that it is typically played, weather permitting, from 9 am until 11 am on Mondays and from 10 am until 12 pm on Thursdays, at Christiano Field. They had very spirited games last Monday with seven members present. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmaccarthy415@gmail.com.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** delivered the winning scores—**JOHN FEBLES**, 2480, **RON MURRAY**, 2020, and **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 1530. Play is every Wednesday afternoon in the cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available to purchase. All members

and guests who are interested in bridge, whether beginners or experts, are invited to join the group. If you are concerned that you haven't played for a while, not to worry - they are a friendly group and have several very good players who will be happy to refresh your game.

Golf: **JOHN CRAINE**, standing in for **MIKE RYAN**, reported that a total of only 13 players participated on a beautiful morning at the last outing. Prize winners were:

Closest to pin on Hole 5 – **GRAN BURGESS**

Closest to pin on Hole 7 – **MICHAEL ROSS**

Closest to pin on Hole 15 – **MIKE SMITH**

Longest drive on Hole 8 – **PAT YUEN**

GRAN BURGESS had a notable score of 97. **MIKE RYAN** will be captain next week.

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.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB RIMMER introduced today's speaker, who was seen via Zoom. G. Pascal Zachary is a writer and educator, concentrating on the history of technological change, national security and economic growth, and spoke on his recent book *Endless Frontier: Vannevar Bush, Engineer of the American Century*. Zachary has taught at Arizona State University, Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley and has consulted on technology development for the Gates Foundation. The National Science Foundation awarded him a grant to study the emergence of computer science as an academic discipline in East Africa. *The Atlantic* described Zachary as "one of the most insightful and creative thinkers on technology in Africa in the West." He was a senior science writer for the *Wall Street Journal* from 1989 to 2002 and was a chief writer on Silicon Valley for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Technology Review*, *Wired*, and *Spectrum* magazines. Born in Brooklyn, Zachary lives in northern California with his wife, Chizo Okon, of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Pascal pointed out that Vannevar Bush is not related to the political family of the same name. His goal was to inform us about one of the most important scientists, engineers and policy influencers of the twentieth century, considered a genius, but who is relatively unknown to the general public. He was born March 11, 1890 in Everett, Mass., and died on June 28, 1974. As an electrical engineer and administrator at MIT, he developed the room-sized Differential Analyzer in 1935 for solving mathematical equations, a harbinger of the digital computer revolution of the 1970s. As early as 1945, he published an article in *Atlantic* magazine, entitled "As We May Think," which presciently described the concepts and functionality of the personal computer and foresaw the use of links and hyperlinks as applied today. It has been described as visionary and influential, anticipating many aspects of our information society. Most importantly, as head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, he oversaw government mobilization of scientific research during World War II and served as a primary conduit to the president, providing information and obtaining approval for next steps. As such he was a senior and highly trusted advisor to Presidents Truman and FDR, and was consulted by Truman on a decision on whether or not to use the atomic bomb in Japan.

Among his many important contributions, he convinced President Truman to establish the National Science Foundation in 1945 and introduced the concept of research contracts for the conduct of original and frontier research, unlike the standard practice of awarding government funds only for tangible products or services. In 1949, at the beginning of the Cold War, he published a very influential book, *Modern Arms and Free Men: A Discussion of the Role of Science in Preserving Democracy*, which foresaw the military-industrial complex associated with the Eisenhower Administration. His legacy extended to the work of two of his PhD graduate students in particular. Frederick Terman earned an ScD in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1924 with Bush as his advisor. Terman became the dean of the school of engineering at Stanford University from 1944 to 1958 and provost from 1955 to 1965 and is widely credited (together with William Shockley) as being the father of Silicon Valley. Claude Elwood Shannon was a 21-year-old master's degree student under Bush at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he wrote his thesis demonstrating that electrical applications of Boolean algebra could construct any logical numerical relationship. This led to the now standard computer coding use of 0's and 1's. A mathematician, electrical engineer, computer scientist and cryptographer, Shannon is known as the "father of information theory." He contributed to the field of cryptanalysis for national defense of the United States during World War II, including his fundamental work on codebreaking and secure telecommunications.

Bush felt strongly about civilian control of the military, but favored a healthy partnership between the science and engineering community with the military and argued for a careful balance between secrecy and transparency. The latter is much more prominent now than in his day.



A lively Q&A followed the talk.

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

JEFF JUNKER reminded the membership that annual dues are now past due. Please get your checks to **JEFF** in person or by mail to 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831. More than one hundred members have paid their dues on time. Please don't burden our leaders with having to make individual calls to delinquents. Thanks.

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting will be →**AV RIVEL**←. Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, *preferably via email* at av@rivels.org.

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 **ARNOLD GORDON** for pictures this time.

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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