

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.  
1 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)  
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**VOLUME 70 NUMBER 49 August 23, 2023**

**SCRIBE: BOB GIAQUINTO**

Next Meeting Scribe: **JOHN KAVANAGH, [JJKCT176@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JJKCT176@GMAIL.COM)**

*"It is far better to be alone than to be in bad company" - George Washington*

President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting at 9:48 am and announced that the Pledge of Allegiance would be led by **ARTHUR STAMPELMAN**. Our three songs for the day were beautifully sung by our talented **DON CONWAY** with also talented **BOB MORGAN** at the piano. "America the Beautiful," "Shine on Harvest Moon" and a duet with **DON** and **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** singing "Deep in the Heart of Texas" were sung and enjoyed by all.

**JACK** acknowledged the assistance of the following RMA members: CBB Editor **TIM BROOKS**, formatter **MARK GEIMER**, scribe **BOB GIAQUINTO**, projectionists **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI**, volunteer advocate **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **SAM MARASSO**, refreshments **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, audio/video **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE, STEPHEN MARINO, BARRY RICHELSON** and **JOHN FEBLES**, set up **BOB BISHOP, JIM BUTLER, and JOHN CRAINE**.

Comments from **JACK WEIR** included trying to resolve our sound system speakers by working with **BOB BISHOP, LEN CARUSI** and **ED PARKER**. Our president is looking to improve our parking situations with **PETER STERN** and welcomes input from membership via email ([johnkweir47@aol.com](mailto:johnkweir47@aol.com)).

**JACK** reported that we now have 230 paid members, 17 non-paid, five going inactive and two deceased. He emphasized that money from dues is essential for the RMA organization.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PETER UHRY** delivered a eulogy for former RMA board member **NICKY ACHIWA** who three years ago moved with his wife, Reiko, to Japan. **NICKY** was 78 years old, and leaves three children who still reside in the USA. He was an excellent conversationist, superb singer as a member of the Melody Men, jokester and an extremely competitive golfer and tennis player.

*[Click here for Nicky Achiwa obituary](#)*

**BOB BISHOP** followed with a eulogy for **MARSHALL TOPPO** who passed on at age 93. He grew up on the east side of NYC, graduated from Harrison High School, Iona College and was a longtime resident of Port Chester, NY. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Sylvia, three sons and a brother. **BOB BISHOP** said he always made you feel like a longtime friend with his personal stories, and happy go lucky attitude. A moment of silence was given to each former RMA member.

**ARTHUR STAMPELMAN** reminded us of his RMA tour of the Kendall Sculpture Gardens at Pepsico in Purchase, NY, on Thursday, September 28 at 10:30 am. I personally experienced the tour led by **ARTHUR** over a year ago and was amazed by the awesome 45 sculptures and his information on each piece. There is no charge for this tour. You can carpool or drive to this 152-acre site with lots of parking as a bus will not be provided. The walking tour will cover about two miles. Sign-up sheets will be available in a couple of weeks.

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that **CARL WHITE** had a short stay at Stamford Hospital and is recovering from which looks like pneumonia. He would like your calls, emails and prayers. His email is [f4mechanic@gmail.com](mailto:f4mechanic@gmail.com). My comment is to tell him a joke. **MICHAEL** also reported that **AV RIVEL** has spent time at Nathaniel Witherell's PT department for mobility and strength training. He plans to return home this week and does welcome visits and calls on his cell, 917-838-5674. **ERF PORTER** had a stroke on Sunday and is in Greenwich Hospital. At this time, no visitors, emails or phone calls as per **MICHAEL**.

**ARNOLD GORDON**, our corresponding secretary, made the following comments. The dangerous West Nile Virus has been detected in Greenwich; it is prudent to eliminate any

standing water around the outside of the house (pots, barrels, buckets, etc.), a common breeding location for the mosquitos that carry it. The Town has a program underway to apply larvicide periodically in relevant public areas.



Another nasty invader is the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), a new plant pest that is a dangerous threat to Connecticut’s environment, residential areas, and agricultural interests, particularly forests, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries. The Greenwich Conservation Commission urges everyone to kill any that you see. **ARNOLD** showed pictures of the creatures, which you can see here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/caes/caps/caps/spotted-lanternfly---slf>

In his last good citizen report, he noted that August 23<sup>rd</sup> is National Poll Worker Recruitment Day, designed to address the ongoing shortage of poll workers and to “inspire greater civic engagement and volunteerism.” The Greenwich registrars of voters are looking for people in Greenwich who are interested in signing up. Depending on the election, the registrars hire between 150 and 225 poll workers. For details, see <https://www.greenwichct.gov/628/I-Want-to-Work-at-the-Polls>

Finally, **ARNOLD** wanted to remind us about the November 8<sup>th</sup> annual banquet and that the table captains who have thus far volunteered will soon be signing people up. He needs a few more captains than the 15 now identified. Please contact him if you can volunteer for this or possibly other positions for the event ([ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net); 203-340-9336).

Changing hats, as jokester for the day, **ARNOLD** did give us all a good laugh with his joke which thankfully was only one, but very good.

Reminder, the annual RMA picnic will be held on Wednesday, September 13 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at Tod’s Point, Greenwich.

**PETER BERG** reminded us that today’s speaker will be Caroline Simmons, mayor of Stamford, on “What’s Next for Connecticut’s Fastest Growing City?” Per **HOLLISTER STURGES**, our speaker next week will be Page Knox, who has been voted by RMA

membership as one of our best presenters. I strongly suggest your attendance. Knox, who is associated with both Columbia University and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will speak on “Van Gogh’s Cypresses,” some of the artist’s iconic images of the south of France, capturing the region’s distinctive landscape.

**TIM BROOKS**, who serves on **SKIP AUCH’S** publicity committee, was then invited to project the concise slide show he created to publicize what the RMA is and does. This slide deck can be shown to prospective members to vividly illustrate the range of activities the association offers to members and how much members seem to enjoy participating (lots of smiling faces!). It is available for viewing on the RMA website ([www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)), and can be supplied as a PowerPoint by contacting **TIM**.

Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** reported today’s attendance as 92 plus five on Zoom and two guests. The count was by **JOHN KAVANAGH**. We all wish a speedy recovery to regular counter **CARL WHITE**.

Birthday boys, serenaded on piano by **BOB MORGAN**:

HARRY	FISHER	70
JIM	BUTLER	81

Guests were George Macri, guest of **JAMES DEAN** and **DICK FRANCK**, and Fernando Carranza, guest of **ANDRE MAZUREK**.

Returnees:

**JIM BUTLER** from Edinburgh, Scotland

**TROY JOHNSON** from Naples, Florida

**JOHN CRAINE** from Arlington National Cemetery for the interment of **CHARLIE MARSHALL**

**JOE MANCINELLI** from Iceland

**RANDY MOTLAND** from Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts

**HORST TEBBE** from Telluride and Denver, Colorado, and Asheville, North Carolina

**CRO MARTIN** from Coastal Maine

Welcome on Zoom: **GERRY MAYFIELD**

## **RMA RAFTUP ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ahoy mates! The annual RMA Raftup will be held Thursday, August 31, on an anticipated beautiful day. Again, this year, our traditional event will include both rag haulers (sail) and stink potters (power). Our rendezvous location is the picturesque anchorage off Great Captain's Island. Plan to bring delectable edibles, lots of frosty beverages and enjoy friendly scuttlebutt with new and old friends. When the celebration is over, some of us plan a relaxing cruise and sightseeing of Captain Harbor and its beautiful surroundings, including Island Beach and Wee Captain Island.

Boaters, former boaters and non-boating members, spouses and guests are invited, subject to our current boaters' capacity limitations. The raftup should conclude about 2:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Four boats confirmed plus two maybes. Non-boater participants will be advised assigned boat details. We look forward to seeing you at this most relaxing and enjoyable festivity. **JOHN CRAINE**, 203-698-0118.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS**

**WILL MORRISON** introduced **ALAN GUNZBURG**, RMA member and secretary of the Greenwich Lions Club, who presented an interesting volunteer program for children called the Kidsight program, which helps screen local kids for vision problems. For more information **ALAN's** email is [24fado@optonline.net](mailto:24fado@optonline.net)

[\*Click here for Kidsight Program info\*](#)



**WILL** requested that RMA members record their hours soon. As a reminder, the volunteer hours season ends September 30<sup>th</sup> and awards will be presented at the banquet.

### **RMA Member Recommendation**

While catching up on films I hadn't seen, I encountered "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima," two films produced as companion pieces by Clint Eastwood in 2006. These are remarkable portrayals of the World War II battle of Iwo Jima, one of the fiercest battles in the Pacific and the one where the iconic picture of U.S. Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi was taken. "Flags" is from the American point of view, and "Letters" is from the Japanese perspective (with a Japanese cast), making a fascinating comparison. Available on Amazon Prime, Paramount+, YouTube TV, and elsewhere. – *Tim Brooks*

### **GAMES MEMBERS PLAY**

**Tai Chi.** **WILL MORRISON** spoke about Tai Chi and more advanced movements. For precise information contact [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com).

**Walkers and Talkers** report from **JOHN DENNE**. On August 17 the Walkers and Talkers took advantage of the fact that school was not yet in session and convened at the Riverside School parking lot for a leisurely walk led by **JOHN** through the neighborhood to Riverside Yacht Club, where they took in the water views, and then made their way back. It was a beautiful summer day with a pleasant breeze. Anyone interested in joining the group for our Thursday morning walks should contact **TAD LARRABEE** ([tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net)), **JEFF JUNKER** ([jjunker@optonline.net](mailto:jjunker@optonline.net)) or **JOHN DENNE** ([jhdenne@gmail.com](mailto:jhdenne@gmail.com)) to get on the list for the Wednesday emails announcing the next day's walk.

**Pickleball** report from **PAT MACCARTHY**. RMA pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 9 am until 11 am Mondays and from 10 am until 12 pm on Thursdays at Christiano Field. Pickleball was rained out last Thursday but we had another bumper turnout last Monday, more than filling both Christiano courts. Monday also marked the welcome return of top player, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, to the courts. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at [pmacCarthy415@gmail.com](mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com).

**Bridge** report from **RON MURRAY**. Here are the results for Wednesday, August 16. We had eight players.

- |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1. <b>RON MURRAY</b>    | 3940 |
| 2. <b>ANDRE MAZUREK</b> | 3750 |

### 3. STEVE SHAPIRO

2890

We play Wednesday afternoon at the cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available (except for August 23). We invite all members and guests, whether beginners or experts, who are interested in bridge to join our group. It does not matter whether you have played recently. We have several excellent players who will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

**Golf** report by **TOM HEALY**. With fifteen participants, the best scores were **GRANVILLE BURGESS**, 80, **MIKE SMITH**, 92, **JOE MANCINELLI**, 93, **TOM HEALY**, 93, **PAT YUEN**, 95, **RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW**, 96, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, 98. Closest to the pin on Hole #5, **AMBROSINO**, on Hole #7, **BURGESS**, on Hole #15, **YUEN**. Longest drive was Hole #8, **AMBROSINO**.

**Hearts** report by **JOHN STANKUNAS**. There were 12 players at three tables. Table 1: winners of one game each were **BILL FAKUNDINY**, **DON CONWAY**, **JOE DOWLING**, and **JACK SWEGER**. Moon Shots by **SWEGER** (2), **CONWAY** (1) and **DOWLING** (1). Table 2: winners of one game each were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **JOHN KNIGHT**, and **GRANT PERKINS**. Moon Shots by **AMBROSINO** (2) and **PERKINS** (1). Table 3: winners of one game each were **TOM HEALY**, **ANDY HOLMES**, and **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Moon Shots by **STANKUNAS** (3) and **HEALY** (1).

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

AT 11:00 am **PETER BERG** introduced Caroline Simmons, the mayor of Stamford. The title of her presentation was "what is next for Connecticut's fastest growing city?"

Caroline Simmons mentioned she was born and grew up in Greenwich. A married mother of three, she served for seven years in the Connecticut General Assembly before being elected the first female mayor of Stamford. One of her quotes to constituents is "You are my boss, I work for you."

Stamford, which recently gained 10,000 new residents, is now the second largest city in Connecticut after Bridgeport. The resident occupancy rate is over 90%. Simmons is very proud of her city being #1 in the tristate area with the most Fortune 500 companies except for New York City. Her goal is to attract even more businesses. The city boasts of

many diverse restaurants with more coming. The mayor announced that the Stamford Town Center is transforming, adding Pickleball America with 36 courts, the NY Comedy Club, Children Fun Zone and more active businesses on the way.

Simmons, working with her police and public safety staff, have seen Stamford designated as the safest city of its size in the region. The fact that Stamford now has attained a Triple A Bond Rating is very important to her and demonstrates sound fiscal policies.



Mayor Simmons is very supportive of small businesses noting that two thirds of all jobs come from this sector. She is very astute in obtaining grants and funding for all of her projects including small business. One of her innovations is a Permitting Center where on certain days a resident can obtain a permit easily and efficiently. Another initiative is her “Made in Stamford” program. She is working to lure all types of companies to her city, including making Stamford the American headquarters for foreign corporations. Her efforts have brought in 20 companies, which means more jobs.

The purpose of her tech hub program is to train students in the tech field. She believes that nine out of ten future jobs will involve technology. Other projects include the beautification of the 56 Stamford parks and to have a park within a ten-minute walk from each residence. The improvement of 200 roads, sidewalks, railroad station, schools, marinas, electric cars for the city fleet, LED street lamps, and dredging near Cove Island Park are all in progress. A very important priority has been identifying the 20 most dangerous intersections and thereby reducing pedestrian fatalities.

Her Green projects include composting, which can reduce waste by 40% and is good for the environment and the soil, bioswales, where street water runoff can be collected and used for intersection vegetation and thereby reduce flooding by 30%, and a multi-use trail from Scalzi Park in Stamford to Binney Park in Greenwich.



Mayor Simmons wants to restore faith in government which has been lost. Improvements include the veteran research center, a website in 100 languages with easy access, Permitting Center, fix it Stamford system, and regular updates from town hall. If you are interested and living in Stamford, she encouraged applying for openings on boards and commissions. Caroline Simmons is certainly a dynamic, well spoken, intelligent, exciting young politician.

For your interest, I looked up Wikipedia which mentions that in high school she was a two time lacrosse All-American, graduated from Harvard and has a master degree from George Washington University.

A lively Q and A followed.

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

Note: The views expressed in RMA presentations 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. Get your checks to **JEFF** in person or by mail to 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831.

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next meeting, on August 16, will be →**JOHN KAVANAGH**←. 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](http://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](mailto: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.

Pictures by **STEVE MARINO, PETER UHRY** and **ANDY HOLMES**.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 1 West Putnam Avenue · 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 – <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Mondays	9:00 am	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Michael LaGamma – <a href="mailto:mdlgamma@optonline.net">mdlgamma@optonline.net</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	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 Fall	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - <a href="mailto:Andyholmes56@gmail.com">Andyholmes56@gmail.com</a>

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