

# 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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**SCRIBE: FRED WU**

Next Meeting Scribe: **DAVE MICHONSKI, [DAVID@QUIGLER.COM](mailto:DAVID@QUIGLER.COM)**

RMA President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting at 9:48 am. **TONY FITZPATRICK** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** led the songs accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano, starting with the "Star-Spangled Banner," and followed by "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Get Me to the Church."

**JACK** recognized the scribe, **FRED WU**, projectionists **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI**, volunteer advocate **ALAN WEYL**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **JOE MANCINELLI**, **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ** for the refreshments, audio/video **ED PARKER**, **MARK GEIMER**, **PETER DODGE**, **HORST TEBBE**, **BARRY RICHELSON**, **STEVE MARINO**, and **JOHN FEBLES**, set up **BOB BISHOP**, **JIM BUTLER** and **JOHN CRAINE**, and formatter **LEN CARUSI**.

**JACK** announced that **RUSS HARDEN** is recuperating at home today. We are waiting to hear back from the Town of Greenwich about changes to the parking situation. The board met this morning and talked at some length about special events. Starting now there will be a moratorium on all bus trips; we are still looking for a leader of special events programs. We also need some assistance from people who have computer or technical background to sit in for **LEN CARUSI** to help **TONY COCCHI** with projection while **LEN** is

away. This could become a permanent role. Also, please sign up for the RMA tailgate at the Yale-Columbia football game.

## REPORTS

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** began with a eulogy for former member **AV RIVEL**, who passed away at 87 two weeks ago. See attached.

### [Av Rivel eulogy](#)

**ARNOLD** passed along the news from **TOG PEARSON** that **ED BLOOM** passed away on September 29 at the age of 93. He had been a member of the RMA since June, 2011. A memorial service will be held at the Gallagher Funeral Home on a date to be announced. **ARNOLD** asked for anyone who knew **ED** well to volunteer to give a eulogy at a future meeting.

He informed members that the Town of Greenwich Conservation Commission seeks public feedback to help guide the development of the town's Climate Action Plan. The information from this survey will allow them to establish a vision as a community as well as gather data and prioritize key topics and action plans. Please try to complete the survey, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.greenwichct.gov/1927/Greenwich-Sustainability-Climate-Resilie>

**ARNOLD** pointed out that lots of political campaign ads are starting to appear all over Town and in the mail for the November 7 municipal election for eight offices on the local ballot. In addition, 230 slots for the RTM are up for grabs. Volunteers are still needed at the polls: <https://greenwichct.gov/628/I-Want-to-Work-at-the-Polls>. The League of Women Voters urges people to sign up for one or more of several other activities including postcard writing, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) lawn signs, and GOTV information distribution at community events. For details:

[https://lwvgreenwich.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=2664&club\\_id=784813&actr=3](https://lwvgreenwich.org/content.aspx?page_id=2664&club_id=784813&actr=3)

There are candidates for the eight offices on the ballot. In addition, there is a site where all candidates post their photo, bio, short statement of positions and answer three questions

the LWV poses to them all for a given office ([www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)); those entries will be posted shortly. I note that out of 12 candidates vying for the BET, two are RMA members **HARRY FISHER** and **DAVE WEISBROD**.

### [LWV Candidates List](#)

**ARNOLD** reminded us about The Greenwich Department of Health flu and pneumonia vaccine clinics this month at Greenwich Town Hall, ground floor. He again urged members to get the latest flu and pneumonia vaccines if they have not already done so. Both are covered by insurance. For details: [https://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/greenwich-announces-flu-pneumonia-vaccine-clinics?utm\\_term=article-slot-1&utm\\_source=newsletter-daily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter&utm\\_content=email-test\\_E1:v1&user\\_email=38f6f21c5d0664291a034f97e85c0e5f77d67632ad41eda9a731604a198d2a0b](https://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/greenwich-announces-flu-pneumonia-vaccine-clinics?utm_term=article-slot-1&utm_source=newsletter-daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=email-test_E1:v1&user_email=38f6f21c5d0664291a034f97e85c0e5f77d67632ad41eda9a731604a198d2a0b)

He also strongly recommended that everyone get the latest Covid booster shot, as the number of cases is rising. There seem to be supply shortages, but keep trying; Walgreen's seems to be a good choice. [Ed note: CVS also has them outside of Greenwich.]

**ARNOLD** continued to remind everyone about the annual banquet on November 8 at the Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich. Nearly 170 people have signed up at 16 tables. Some table hosts are still recruiting attendees. Among them are **JOHN CRAINE** (203-698-0118; [johncraine123@hotmail.com](mailto:johncraine123@hotmail.com)) and **BOB RIMMER** ([rsrimmer25@yahoo.com](mailto:rsrimmer25@yahoo.com); 203-344-1550 or 203-223-1159). If you have not yet been approached and would like to participate in this important event, feel free to contact them or **ARNOLD** ([ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net); 203-340-9336).

In recruitment mode, **ARNOLD** is looking for someone to replace **AV RIVEL** on the RMA jokester team; please contact him if you would like to join this famous group.

To make up for not making members groan for the past two meetings, he offered these gems:

"If Adam and Eve were Cajuns they would have eaten the snake instead of the apple and saved us all a lot of trouble."

“There’s a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny.”

“My idea of a Super Bowl is a toilet that cleans itself.”

“Have you ever felt like a male trapped in a female body? I have, but then my mother gave birth.”

**ARNOLD** claimed that “You can blame **JAY SCHONDORF** for sending these to me.” Then, at last, he introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** to regale us with some real humor.

**Membership Report:** **JOHN KAVANAGH**, substituting for **PETER STERN** while he was away on vacation, announced that there were 101 people attending the meeting, one of the largest attendance figures in recent months. He thanked **CARL WHITE** for doing the counting. The figures were in-person, 93, Zoom, 8, total attendance, 101.

**BOB MORGAN** played the Birthday Song while the membership sang along to wish this week’s birthday celebrants a happy birthday.

**BILL HORN** 90

**GERRY MAYFIELD** 88

**HECTOR ARZENO** 76



*Curry, Brown, Hagmann*

**JOHN KAVANAGH** then began the induction ceremony for prospective new member Michael Brown. Sponsor **KEATING HAGMANN** nominated Michael for membership with a brief biography. Michael was born British but is now an American citizen. Although he left school at 16, he became a chartered accountant. He served in the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers, an armored reconnaissance regiment, and joined a major manufacturing group, working

extensively in Africa. Later he joined *Times Newspaper* in London as business director. From there he became president of Thomson Publishing, restructuring the company and moving the headquarters to the US. Thomson Reuters is now in Stamford. Michael has

served on several non-profit boards dealing with environmental issues and medical research. He is highly knowledgeable of food and wine. He is a widower, with two daughters and two grandchildren. **BOB CURRY** seconded the nomination. **JOHN** called for a show of hands vote which was unanimous in favor of inducting **MICHAEL**, who then made some brief acceptance remarks.

**JOHN** announced that there were three guests at the meeting, Peter Mougros, guest of **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ**, Larry Allen, guest of **BILL FEATHERSTON** and **TOG PEARSON**, and Joe Waide, guest of **GERRY BOYLE** and **BRIAN O'CONNOR**. We had three returnees at the meeting: **RICK HOLZ** from Fort Lauderdale by the Sea, Florida, **JIM BOARDMAN** from Canada, and **TROY JOHNSON** from Naples, Florida.

**Speaker Program:** **STEVE MYERS** announced Christopher Shays as our speaker today, with a talk entitled "We Have a Democracy If We Can Keep It." **GEORGE UBOGY** announced that next week we will have our possibly first ever talk about mental health. The speaker will be Dr. Jerome Brodlie talking about PTSD, and the title of the talk is "Best Practices for Treating Catastrophic Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome."

**Technology:** **JOHN REESE** gave a report for the RMA Technology Group. There are two such groups. The first is for any members interested in artificial intelligence, and met just recently on Zoom. The second group is exploring the use of technology by the RMA. One topic is use of electronic payment systems such as PayPal and Zelle for payments from members to the RMA. The team also explored the preference of members on paying via credit card as compared to direct debits. The team is struggling with the cost associated with accepting credit cards, which is approximately 4%. Furthermore, the RMA team is planning to experiment with AI summaries of the meetings and is seeking interested members for an internal committee.

## **VOLUNTEERING REPORT**

**WILL MORRISON** reminded us that you should contact him if you want to highlight during the business meeting the needs and activity of a non-profit that you are supporting. Your initiative will help us reach out and volunteer. Also, whether a big or small number, please log your hours at the volunteer advocates desk or at <https://greenwichrma.org/log>.

**ALAN GUNZBERG** described a program of vision testing of elementary school students. The Greenwich Lions will visit 11 elementary schools in the Town of Greenwich performing vision screening eyes of first, second, fourth, and fifth graders. We have completed screenings at the following schools: North Mianus Elementary school, Hamilton Avenue Elementary school, New Lebanon Elementary school, and Julian Curtis Elementary school. Next Tuesday we will be at Parkway Elementary school. To date we have screened approximately 750 students and referred 110 students for further treatment by a professional.

**JIM DEAN** gave an update on the recruitment of volunteers for the Salvation Army kettle program. They need volunteers to take 30-day enlistments (and avoid the draft!). Volunteers are also needed to sign up for 30-day enlistments on the administration, logistics, or finance committees. Help the RMA bring holiday cheer to our neighbors! Contact **JIM DEAN** (203) 550-0657 or [jhdeanco@gmail.com](mailto:jhdeanco@gmail.com).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STEVE BOIES** spoke about an upcoming concert. “Last week **FRED WU** told you about the concert of the Greenwich Symphony this past weekend. And if you attended that concert, you know how great the GSO has become under the baton of Stuart Malina. I am up here to tell you about a concert by The Chamber Players of The Greenwich Symphony this Sunday afternoon and Monday evening.”

“The Chamber Players have been performing chamber music here in Greenwich for more than 50 years. And while the core of our musicians are the principals of the GSO, and Danny Miller of the GSO is our artistic director, we separated from the GSO some years ago and now often engage guest artists. Our program this weekend, ‘Baroque Perspectives,’ will include guest artist baritone Bryan Murray. And to enhance the Baroque experience, our pianist Andrew Gordon will be playing a harpsichord. Our Sunday concert will begin at 3:00 pm at Round Hill Community Church, followed by our traditional wine and cheese reception where you can mingle with our musicians. We will repeat this program on Monday at 7:30 in the barn at The Historical Society, with wine and cheese served during intermission.”



Thanks to our generous supporters and our hard-working volunteer board, led by my wife Christine, tickets to our concerts are just \$35 for adults and \$100 for our whole season. This is \$25 per concert, no more than you would pay for two glasses of wine at one of our local restaurants. And our wine is free! You can buy tickets on our website or at the door when you walk in. I have placed some brochures on the table at the back of the room and will be here at the break to answer any questions you may have about The Chamber Players. But the best thing you can do to find out more about The Chamber Players is go to our website: <https://www.chamberplayersofthegso.org>, where you will find excerpts of prior performances and read the program notes prior to each upcoming concert.

**DON ROTZIEN** reported that the next ROMEO lunch is scheduled for 1:00 on Friday, October 13 at the picnic area behind the main concession stand at Greenwich Point. If you don't have a beach card, just tell the guard that you are attending an RMA event. At present there is a likelihood of rain, and in that case, the lunch will be held at Riko's Pizza on the Stamford/Greenwich border. A final decision will be announced at next week's meeting.

**ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** led a fine tour of the Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo in Purchase, New York, last Thursday. Here are some photographs.



**TOM HEALY** would like to remind members that the Melody Men fall season is now underway, with performances shown on the attached schedule. Also, the Melody Men are in need of a back-up piano accompanist. If you know how to tickle the ivories, please don't be shy, step up and help. It is easy, fun, and schedules can be arranged to suit your availability.

[Melody Men Schedule](#)

## **SPORTS REPORTS**

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** said that Tai Chi is back to its regular Monday 9:30 drop-in class in Old Greenwich. Get in touch with him to subscribe and get directions. **WILL** reported that his Tai Chi teacher of over forty years, passed away Friday at 91. He was known worldwide for his children's book illustrations for which he was awarded a Caldecott Medal.

[Ed Young Obituary](#)

**Hearts:** **MIKE AMBROSINO** reported that on Table 1, **JACK SWEGGER** won three games, and **MIKE AMBROSINO** won one game and shot the moon once. On Table 2, **ANDY HOLMES** won two games, and **JOE DOWLING** and **JIM DEAN** each won one game. **JOHN KNIGHT** shot the moon once.

**Golf:** **MIKE RYAN**. We had 16 players yesterday, on the most beautiful day imaginable. Winners were: Hole 5, **GRAN BURGESS**, Hole 7, **JIM SANTORA**, Hole 8, **TONY COCCHI** Hole 15, **JOE MANCINELLI**. Notable scores were **JIM SANTORA**, 99, **TOM HEALY**, 96, **JIM DEAN**, 89, **GRANVILLE BURGESS**, 85. Next week we will have our best ball competition. Please sign up for that special event. Sign-up sheets for the next two weeks are on the bulletin board. Today is our annual golf lunch at the Field Club, starting at noon.





### **Walkers and Talkers: TAD**

**LARRABEE.** We met at the Cos Cob Library and first walked a loop to the north on local roads then through the southernmost part of Montgomery Pinetum and out through Pomerance Park and back to central Cos Cob via Sinawoy Road where some walkers peeled off to their cars. Several walkers took another mile-long loop around Mill Pond in south Cos Cob. It was a comfortable overcast day, good

for a walk. When we finished and were talking before driving home, a light sprinkle began – our timing was impeccable!

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

**STEVE MYERS** introduced former US Congressman Christopher Shays. Christopher represented the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Connecticut from 1987 to 2009. A moderate Republican, socially progressive and fiscally conservative, Shays had a strong and successful record of reaching across the aisle to address our nation's problems. After Congress, Shays co-chaired the Commission on Wartime Contracting, then served as a distinguished fellow in public service at the University of New Haven, and later as a resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School. Shays is a graduate of Principia College, NYU's Stern School of Business (MBA), and its Wagner School of Public Administration (MPA).

Shays always had wanted to serve in government. He recalled joining the *Weekly Reader* program, from which he learned about great people in American history. Shays also recalled that every day his dad read newspapers on the train, and would ask him what he thought about issues. By the time he got to college he knew he wanted to run for Congress.

Shays says that when he was running for office, his philosophy was: if you win, be an inspiring, hard-working leader; if you lose, congratulate the winner and encourage your supporters to respect the outcome of the election. In 1974 he went door-to-door talking to people in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Once he came to a home that he knew was owned by a Democrat and in his mind he had a stereotypical image of her. But her primary complaint was about programs that waste money. Later he met an elder Republican man living in a stately home. Although the man deplored all the waste in government, it bothered him that there are so many poor people living in downtown Stamford. These are examples of experiences that influenced him to become a fiscally conservative but socially moderate politician.



For Shays, one of the best things about being an elected official was exposure to different viewpoints. His staff had set up a meeting with a prostitute to discuss her efforts to stop the spread of AIDS. A person of color weighing 250 pounds, she made him laugh, and they kept talking long after the allotted time. She agreed to attend a polo match with him in north Greenwich. At the match he saw a sign for a fundraiser for people afflicted with AIDS. For Shays, this

demonstrated how people of wildly different backgrounds can work toward the same goals.

How do you represent people with widely diverging opinions? Shays says his job was to understand why people think as they do. When in Congress, he often did things that differed from what he had promised while campaigning. Why? Because he listened to people, learned from them, and considered their opinions.

The founding fathers crafted the Constitution through compromise, and the Constitution is designed to encourage compromise. Elected officials should fight for what they believe, but also be open compromise. Unfortunately, the Electoral College system can allow the

presidential candidate with fewer votes to win. The filibuster allows one member to shut down the entire Senate. Gerrymandering has created districts that are not competitive. This has led to a Congress that is not representative of the people, and populated by extremists on both sides.

In response to a wide variety of questions from the audience, Shays touched on many topics. When asked what should be done about the Electoral College system, Shays said that it should be improved by allowing each district to select its own candidate, rather than giving all of a state's votes to the winner.

Since Reagan, the national debt has grown from one trillion to 33 trillion dollars. Although Shays is a Republican, he feels that most Republican politicians' advocacy of cutting taxes is the wrong approach when we have such a huge national debt.

In addition to the effects of gerrymandering, Shays also described the pressures on Congresspeople to abandon moderate stances. For example, he was told that if he championed campaign finance reform, he would not be chosen to lead the government oversight committee. When Shays voted to allow school choice in the District of Columbia, the NEA told him they would campaign against him.

Shays said that today he is proud to be called a RINO (Republican in Name Only), because the Republican party has changed so much. Shays bemoaned the things Trump said about General Milley and the soldiers buried in WWII cemeteries in Europe or in Arlington Cemetery.

Audience member (and state representative) **HECTOR ARZENO**, a Democrat, related a story about telling a reporter that the politician he most admires is Chris Shays. The reporter asked him if was aware that Shays was a Republican, and **ARZENO** said that didn't matter.

In the current crisis of leadership in the House of Representatives, Shays said that if he were in office he would get a small group of Republicans to meet with Democrats to choose a speaker who will lead from the middle. That would leave out the extreme right-wing of the House. He doesn't know where the Republican Party is going; he is hoping a

third-party candidate emerges because that is the only thing that will get Republicans back in line.

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

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next meeting will be →**DAVE MICHONSKI**←. 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 **ANDY HOLMES, TIM BROOKS** and **PETE UHRY**.

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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 – <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	10 am-12 pm	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	Contact Holmes	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - <a href="mailto:Andyholmes56@gmail.com">Andyholmes56@gmail.com</a>

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