

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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*"What is important about this life is what you leave for those who come after you" -
Unknown.*

President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting and asked **SKIP AUCH** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, led by **JIM BUTLER** and with **JIM SANTORA** on the piano, we sang "You're a Grand Old Flag" followed by "On the Sunny Side of the Street" and concluded with "When You're Smiling."

President **JACK WEIR** introduced those making the meeting possible: scribe **DAVID MICHONSKI**, projectionist **TONY COCCHI**, volunteer advocate **MIKE AMOROSO**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **DON ROTZIEN**, refreshments **JERRY COLEMAN**, audio/video **ED PARKER**, **MARK GEIMER**, **PETER DODGE**, **HORST TEBBE**, **BARRY RICHELSON**, **STEVE MARINO**, and **JOHN FEBLES**, CBB Editor **TIM BROOKS**, formatter **MARK GEIMER**, and set up **BOB BISHOP**, **JIM BUTLER**, and **JOHN CRANE**.

President **WEIR** asked for a moment of silence for those Israelis and Americans killed in the Hamas attacks this past weekend. He then continued with various comments.

1. Parking negotiations. The Greenwich Deputy Police Chief has declined to make any provisions for RMA members' parking. **JACK** hopes to continue to try to get members better parking.
2. One of our young RMA members has stepped forward to volunteer to be a part of our special events team. Accordingly, **JACK** is trying to arrange a meeting with this member, our two coordinators, and one or two other members to develop a strategy going forward, particularly in connection with coordination of trips with other seniors' organizations and offering advice on what has worked and what has not worked in the past. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let **JACK** know ASAP.
3. Yale Bowl trip on October 28, 2023. For those of you going, **JACK** needs the following by next Wednesday: a) \$20 pp for football ticket, b) plus \$10 per car for parking; c) what you are able to bring in the way of food or refreshments, e.g. sandwiches, chips and dips, cole slaw, potato salad, folding tables and tablecloths.

REPORTS

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** noted that **ED BLOOM** passed away last Wednesday and the date of his funeral will be announced when it becomes known.

ARNOLD suggested a couple of interesting events coming up soon. On Sunday, October 15th from 1 to 4pm, the 59th annual Sailboat Regatta will be held at Binney Park Pond. Details here:

[59th Annual Sailboat Regatta](#)

Also, to get rid of all your sensitive and personal documents, take advantage of Paper Shredding Day at Island Beach Parking lot from 9:30 am to noon on Saturday, October 14. Details:

[Paper Shredding Day](#)

ARNOLD described a moving volunteer experience that he had in joining his son's team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's at Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk on a sunny Sunday, October 8. It is held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide. It was the 30th year for this amazing event in Norwalk, which raises money for Alzheimer's disease

research. About six million people suffer from the disease in the US, with 80,000 in CT. At the first Norwalk event, there were only 150 people who raised \$5,000; yesterday's event was attended by about 1,000 people of all persuasions. The event raised over \$400,000. Present at tables spread around the park were representatives from many mental healthcare service providers and other facilities, including from places like Edgehill, whose team raised \$53,000, the highest of all the teams. There was entertainment, including by the Greenwich High School cheerleaders, the Fairfield High School drama group who performed music from *Les Miserables*, and other teenage groups. Donated refreshments were available. Following some brief speeches, including one by Senator Richard Blumenthal, everyone went on the 2.5 mile walk as the finale. It was inspiring to see so many devoted people, young and old, who came together with such great commitment and energy to recognize and work toward a common goal for a very important cause. Forgive the political jab, but it should serve as a model for a certain government body in D.C.

As jokester of the day, he told two stories, one about a politically motivated dirty trick involving parking tickets, the other involving a funeral service for a cardiologist whose casket passed through an elaborate flower-bedecked heart, leading the gynecologist and proctologist in attendance some consternation about their future funeral service.

PETER STERN: delivered the membership report. He began by thanking **JOHN KAVANAGH** for so ably filling in for him over the last two meetings. He reported attendance as 86 with three members on Zoom, for a total of 89, plus two guests. He thanked **CARL WHITE** for the count.

The following birthdays were celebrated, with piano by **JIM SANTORA**.

ANDY HOLMES, 67

ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN, 88

GARY RIDDELL, 67

ED FARRELL, 85

MICHAEL LaGAMMA, 72

DAVID WATKINS, 79

JOHN BLANKLEY, 76

Guests were Craig Walters, guest of **MIKE SMITH** and **BOB MENDELSON**, and Pete Hamilton, guest of **TOG PEARSON** and **PETE UHRY**. The sole returnee was **PETER STERN** from Budapest, Bratislava, and Vienna (trip shortened by COVID19). **PETER** noted that **RUSS HARDEN** and **MIKE SMITH** were on Zoom and welcomed them.

BOB MEANEY then advised that this week's speaker will be Mark Perlman, who wrote *The Reluctant Soldier*. Mr. Perlman has graciously agreed to speak in place of the scheduled speaker, Dr. Jerome Brodlie, who had to cancel on short notice. Mr. Perlman's historical novel has been called "a wonderful mix of history and fiction about WWI, the interwar years in Paris, and WWII." The book sets out the experiences, both good and laced with discrimination, of a fictional African American soldier.

SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ reported that next week's program will be a presentation by Diane P. Kelly. Diane was appointed president of Greenwich Hospital in 2020, after serving as its Chief Operating Officer (COO). Prior to joining Greenwich Hospital, she held various clinical and leadership roles at Berkshire Medical Center, including 10 years as its COO. Kelly earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and additionally holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Western New England College and a Doctorate in Nurse Practice from the University of San Francisco. The program title is "Greenwich Hospital Update."

She will be joined by Noel Appel, Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer at Greenwich Hospital. Ms. Appel holds a BA and MA in Communication from Fairfield University. Ms. Appel served as the Senior Vice President of Development at The New School and Associate Dean of Development at Bouve College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University in Boston. Ms. Appel will speak about Greenwich Hospital's recently launched capital campaign.

TIM BROOKS was invited to the podium to report on the Publicity Committee initiative to contribute a regular RMA column to the *Greenwich Sentinel*, which reaches 20,000 subscribers each week. He thanked the scribes who write up the talks given by our speakers every week, and **FRED WU** and **FRANK SCARPA** for being the two scribes who take those summaries and modify them for submission to the *Sentinel*. He also read a letter published in the *Sentinel* thanking the RMA for this "community service." **TIM** asked those

present to thank these members for their tremendous work and give them a generous round of applause.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETER UHRY asked for three volunteers on Saturday morning for the paper shredding event. The volunteers serve as traffic cops and are needed from 8:30 am to noon fielding over 300 cars to parking. The event starts at 9:30 am and runs to noon at the Island Beach parking lot. The shredding includes old financial statements, medical records and documents that contain sensitive and personal information. The cost is \$3 per box with a maximum of five boxes. Box size is 12 inches by 18 inches by 12 inches. No bags allowed. Do not include file folders, envelopes, magazines, cardboard, newspapers, metal and plastic clips, plastic bindings and covers. Staples are OK. Food donations for Neighbor to Neighbor will also be accepted. For information e-mail info@greenwichgreenandclean.org or call 203-629-2876.

DON ROTZEIN announced the ROMEO lunch is ON for Friday, October 13. Members will meet at the picnic area behind the main concession stand at Greenwich Point at 1:00 pm. He reminded all to bring their beach card, but if without one, come anyway and tell the guard that you are with the RMA ROMEO lunch group. Bring lunch and maybe a jacket. That day is also the 69th anniversary of RMA being founded.

JIM FISHBEIN gave a human-interest report on astronomy. **JIM** talked about "Space Telescopes and their Amazing Mirrors" with images he obtained from NASA. He showed a chart of milestones in telescope development starting with Galileo in 1609 with two lenses which were two to four inches in diameter, followed by Newton who in 1672 created a reflecting telescope which had a longer focal length and had a mirror that was four to 10 inches in diameter. Eventually, the largest telescopes on earth were the Mount Wilson telescope which is 100 inches in diameter and the Palomar telescope, which is 200 inches. These were the biggest sizes that could be manufactured. Finally, telescopes were launched into space, including the Hubble telescope that was launched in 1990 and it is still there. The Hubble telescope is also 8 feet in diameter and was followed by the James Webb telescope which is 21.3 feet and was put into space in 2021, complete with a sun shield the size of a tennis court that keeps the sun from burning up the telescope. **JIM**

went through the critical steps of polishing the mirrors on a telescope. **JIM** finished with an image from the Webb telescope that shows a star being born. He urged us to go to the NASA website for more pictures.

VOLUNTEERS

WILL MORRISON thanked **ARNOLD GORDON** and **PETER UHRY** for calling attention to their volunteer work. **WILL** called attention to the fact this Sunday at Greenwich Point the ABILIS walk is taking place and **WILL** invited anyone who is interested to join in.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

Tai Chi: On Monday mornings at 9:30 am **WILL MORRISON** conducts Tai Chi and warmly welcomes anyone interested to join the fun. Contact **WILL** for weekly specifics.

Golf: **TONY FITZPATRICK** reported that several players withdrew yesterday due to golf course restrictions. Despite this, the golfers went ahead anyway with the best hole competition. The team of **GRANVILLE BURGESS, TONY COCCHI**, and **PAT YUEN** were the winners with a combined score of 81. In second place was the team of **TONY FITZPATRICK, MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **JOHN CRAINE** and in third place was the team of **JOE MANCINELLI, JIM BOARDMAN, FRANK SCARPA** and **BILL GRAD** with a score of 85. Winners of the competition holes were Hole 5, **GRANVILLE BURGESS**, closest to the pin; Hole 7, **JOE MANCINELLI**, closest to the pin; Hole 8, **PAT YUEN**, longest drive; Hole 15, **TONY FITZPATRICK**, closest to the pin. The intention is to end the golf season on October 31, meaning three more Tuesdays of golf with mid-morning starts. A sign-up sheet for next Tuesday is on the bulletin board.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that the walkers carpooled from Glenville to Rockefeller State Park last Thursday. One of the group's favorite hikes is on the western side of the park called 13 Bridges, and **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** made sure to count each bridge to confirm that the name was accurate. It was. It was another good day for an early autumn walk, but the fall colors appeared to be subdued this year due to the lack of cold nights. However, a lot of yellow leaves were falling. Next, the group hopes to walk to the Mianus River Gorge Preserve up near Bedford, New York, where there are

some very nice riverside trails and beautiful old growth forests with some hemlock trees 350 years old.

Pickleball: **MICHAEL LAGAMMA** reported that pickleball is played twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at Christiano Field: Mondays, from 11 to 1 and Thursdays, from 10 to 12. He reported that during the last couple of weeks, they have had some terrible weather, but the last two or three games, they have enjoyed some good weather and he added that tomorrow looks to be good and he invites all to join.

Tennis: **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported that this past Friday, eight players competed in four tennis matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. In the opening round, the first two tennis matches were won by **MARK PRUNER** and **RALPH NEWITTER** on Court 1 and **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **JIM FISHBEIN** on Court 2. In the finals round, the winners on Court 1 were **ANDRE** and **MARK** and over on Court 2 the winners were **ANDY HOLMES** and **JOHN REESE**.

No reports from **bridge** or **hearts**.

TODAY'S SPEAKER



BOB MEANEY introduced this week's speaker, Mark Perlman, who spoke about his book *The Reluctant Soldier*. Mr. Perlman has called this historical novel "a wonderful mix of history and fiction about WWI, the interwar years in Paris, and WWII." The book sets out the experiences, both good and laced with discrimination, of a fictional African American soldier.

The Reluctant Soldier follows the adventures and misadventures of Virgil Carpenter, an African American teacher at the City College of New York in the early 1900s, who becomes an unwitting combatant in World War I and joins the famous Negro regiment, the 369th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Harlem

Hellfighters.” His fictionalized story draws him into the most important events of the twentieth century. After the war Virgil becomes an expatriate in Paris during the exciting “jazz era” of the interwar period and meets famous expatriates such as Josephine Baker, Ernest Hemingway, Eugene Bullard and Sylvia Beach, to name a few. When World War II breaks out, he is recruited into the intrigue of the French Resistance. The interwar period in Paris provides a vivid backdrop to Virgil’s traumatic and complicated life. Racial segregation and prejudice faced by African Americans are an integral part of American history. This novel addresses this difficult legacy. It also addresses the slow, but steady progress of Black minorities to be accepted and valued in the complex American culture.

Mark Perlman is a resident of Fairfield County, Conn. He has a passion for military history that has taken him to the battle fields and cemeteries of France. The French language version of *The Reluctant Soldier* has been published in Europe under the title *Le Soldat Involontaire*.

The entire talk can be viewed by going to the RMA website at <https://greenwichrma.org>, and clicking on “Speakers.” The book can also be purchased at Diane’s Bookstore. Mark Perlman can be emailed at Firstdiv@optonline.net and his website is:

www.thereluctantsoldier.com

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 →**JOHN REESE**←. 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.

Picture by **TIM BROOKS**.

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 – wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	9:00 am	Pickleball	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	10 am-12 pm	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	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma – mdlgamma@optonline.net
Friday	Contact Holmes	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

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