



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org
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SCRIBE: Charlie Shapiro

President **JACK WEIR** called the meeting to order at 9:45 and thanked the many men who do Yeomans' jobs in organizing and supporting our meetings; scribes, formatters, CBB editor, projectionists, volunteer advocate, greeter, mentor, audio/video, set-up, and refreshments. **Steve Small** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. With **Jim Santora** accompanying on piano **Granville Burgess** then led the membership in singing several songs including our "*National Anthem*," "*and Old Susanna*."

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

JACK began by acknowledging the many members who have offered support for today's meeting and the CBB: **JIM SANTORA** and **GRANVILLE BURGESS**, for our opening music; **JIM DEAN**, CBB editor; **LEN CARUSI**, and **TONY COCCI** as projectionist; Volunteer Advocate **FRED WU**; Greeter **BILL FEATHERSTONE**; Mentor **JOE DOWLING**; the Audio/Visual team of **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HOTT TEBBE, BARRY RICHELSON, STEVE MARINO, and JOHN FEBLES**. Refreshments were provided by **BOB GIAQUINTO**. Today's set up was done by **BOB BISHOP, JIM BUTLER, and JOHN CRAINE**.

JACK then gave the president's remarks:

1. Report on Parking-meeting with First Selectman Fred Camillo. Suffice to say the meeting did not result in any change in the parking situation. However, **PETER STERN** has 200 parking placards available to the membership.
2. RMA Special Events Committee has been reconstituted under the leadership of **ALAN WEYL** and **JOHN FEBLES**, with coordinators **DON CONWAY**, **MAURICE KROHN**, and **TROY JOHNSON**.
3. There is a request for RMA assistance/volunteers from the Women's Club for their annual Holiday Boutique to be held November 17th and 18th.
4. The RMA needs volunteers for Human Interest presenters after 11-15-2023.
5. Yale-Columbia football game and tailgate for October 28th has been cancelled.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

ARNOLD GORDON is still seeking a volunteer to deliver the eulogy for recently deceased member **ED BLOOM**, who died on September 29th at the age of 93. A memorial gathering and service will be held this coming Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 1pm to 4pm at Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home, 31 Arch St.

Meanwhile, you can read about his interesting life in this obituary:

[Obituary for Ed Bloom](#)

ARNOLD urged members to check their clothes closets for new and gently used children and adult winter coats they may no longer use or need. Donate them to the Greenwich Coat Drive for people in need, sponsored by the Town Department of Human Services. Donations can be dropped off at Greenwich Library, Town Hall Lobby, or St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 200 Riverside Avenue. The Drive runs through November 15th.

ARNOLD provided an update on the November 8 banquet at Tamarack Country Club. There will be 190 members and guests plus 8 widows of deceased members at 19 tables. This is no doubt a record as far as **ARNOLF** knows. Preparations are well under way for another great RMA event. Tables are filling up fast. Several table hosts are still recruiting attendees. **JOHN CRAINE** has 6 spaces available (203-698-0118; johncraine123@hotmail.com). If you have not yet been approached and would like to participate in this

important event, feel free to contact any of the hosts listed on the bulletin board and attached here, or contact ARNOLD (ajgordo@verizon.net; 203-340-9336).

Reflecting on our senior status, **ARNOLD** related some observations:

- Being a little older, it's very comforting to have someone call and check on me every day. The caller is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty and computer health.
- It's fine to eat a test grape in the produce section, but you take one bite of
A rotisserie chicken and it's "Sir, you need to leave!"
- I like to make shopping lists. I also like to leave them laying on the kitchen.
counter, and then guess what's on the list when I am at the store.
- A guy walks into a lumberyard and asks for some 2x4s. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're going to build a house."
- Can you believe that my neighbor recently knocked on my front door at 3 am. 3 AM!!! Luckily, I was already up playing the bagpipes.

To the members' relief, he then introduced **CARL WHITE** to tell some real jokes. **CARL** said "Most weeks, I like following **ARNOLD** because his jokes are so bad, you think my jokes are so good. Unfortunately, this week that won't be the case!" He was right.

"This just in: The Boston Police Department arrested the Red Sox for trying to impersonate a baseball team. The Red Sox finally beat out the Yankees for last place in the American League East."

What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?. Sofishticated.

What do you call a poor Santa Claus? Saint Nickle-less

Where do fruits go on vacation. Pear-ish

How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.

What do you call someone with no body and no nose? Nobody knows.

I'd like to go to Holland someday. Wooden shoe?

Membership Report:

Returnees: We had five returnees at the meeting: **JOHN KAVANAGH**, substituting for **PETER STERN**, gave the membership report. He indicated

that there were 98 people attending the meeting and he thanked **CARL WHITE** for doing the counting.

In-Person: 90

Zoom: 8

Total Attendance: 98

Birthdays:

JIM SANTORA played the Birthday song while the membership sang along to wish this week's Birthday celebrants a Happy Birthday.

KEVIN FLAHERTY 74

BRUCE SOCKET 68

JOHN KNIGHT 83

RON FRIEDMAN 89

INDUCTION:

JOHN KAVANAGH then began the induction ceremony for a prospective new member, **LARRY ALLEN**. The nominating remarks were made by his sponsor, **FRANK HEGEMAN** and the seconding remarks by his seconder **TOG PEARSON**.

FRANK relayed that he has known Larry for over 4 years. Larry graduated from the Wharton School of Business as an undergraduate the same year (1979 **LARRY** graduated with an MBA. **Larry** went on to get his MBA from Wharton shortly thereafter. After which he went on to build a long and distinguished career in asset management which he still exercises to this day. **Larry** has a host of hobbies that he actively pursues, one of which is photography for which he has been awarded prizes. Larry has been in Greenwich for the last 23 years and is married.

JOHN called for a show of hands vote which was unanimous in favor of inducting **LARRY** then made some brief Acceptance Remarks.



GUESTS:

JOHN announced that there were two guests at the meeting Joe Waide, who was the guest of **GERRY BOYLE** and **BRIAN O'CONNOR**
Hal Doshan, the guest of **ARNOLD GORDON**.

RETURNEES

STEPHEN MARINO from San Diego and Los Angeles

ANDY HOLMES from Arizona and Utah

RON MURRAY from Palm Springs, California

PETE UHRY from Martha's Vineyard

HORST TEBBE from Asheville, North Carolina

Today's Speaker: HOLLISTER STURGES is CT Attorney General William Tong

(see below for summary).

Next Week's Speaker: Spike Lipschutz spoke regarding the speaker next week,

Sunil Saksena, a member of the Darien Men's Association and one of its past presidents. The presentation will be "*Fraud of the Century? - The Presidential Election of 1876*" and will focus on the now almost forgotten election of 1876, marred by claims of fraud, voter intimidation, arbitrarily changed vote counts

and multiple sets of "certified" electoral college votes. That election involved Congressional committees, Supreme Court Justices, and many backroom compromises.

Sunil was born in India in 1944, received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, master's degree in engineering, and an MBA from the University of California Berkeley. For most of his career, he was in finance, first as an international banker with Bankers Trust Company serving in Singapore, Mumbai, and New York and later with Fidelity Investments from which he retired in 2004. He and his wife have lived in Darien for the past 38 years.

Human Interest Presentation: There was no presentation this week; however, here is some helpful information from Tad Larabee regarding solar Panels for your home:

[Solar Panels for your Home](#)

Announcements:

JIM DEAN described RMA's plans for this year's Salvation Army fund-raising goal of \$10,000. Kettles will be placed after Thanksgiving at three locations, to be decided by us. As of today, the locations are Acme Foods in Riverside, Richards in downtown Greenwich, and an additional site to be determined. Cash or credit cards can be used to make donations at each site. The Salvation Army serves more than 25 million people across America. And provides direct support to residents of Greenwich by sponsoring summer camp for children, winter coats and other social services that are paid for in part by the Kettle collections. That Donations in the red kettle stay local - directly impacting the lives of our neighbors means meals for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and countless Christmas gifts for those who may otherwise go without. Volunteers are needed; to man shifts at each Kettle location; please contact **JIM** (203-550-0657; jhdeanco@gmail.com). To have enough volunteers, RMA will partner with some other groups, such as the Boy Scouts. There will be a series of sign-up sheets on the Bulletin Board for Committee members, kettle volunteers, and administrators. **JOIN THE ARMY!**

ENRICO VISELLI is having his artwork shown at The Mayor's Gallery, Government Center (photo ID req), 888 Washington Blvd 10th Floor,

Stamford, CT 06901. The show runs from 11/9/23-12/27/23. Opening night Reception, Friday, November 17th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Free indoor parking is available on-site. **ENRICO** says his intention is to convey emotion via color and movement. “Like feelings, my work is abstract.” His website is: EnricoVaselliArt.COM ; Instagram: EnricoViselli_Art: and email eviselli@aol.com. For gallery hours contact the curator Ellen Gordon at esgordon@optonline.net.

Visiting:

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported that **PETER DODGE** as of last Monday was in Greenwich Hospital awaiting test results. **BOB SHULMAN** has tested positive for COVID. **RUSS HARDEN** is in Yale New Hospital. I’m sure he would appreciate contact with RMA members.

Volunteer Opportunities:

WILL MORRISON reminded members to make sure to record volunteering hours.

WILL noted that **Tai Chi** meets Mondays 9:30 am for Drop-in class in the Auditorium at the First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich 9:30am. Please sign in before class. Afterwards at 10:30 is the Form Class which is also held on Thursday at 8:30am. A commitment to regular attendance and practice is requested.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY:

Pickleball: PAT MacCARTHY

PAT reminded pickleball is played, weather permitting. After about 3 weeks of rain, this week’s weather was great for pickle balls. We play from 11am-1 pm on Mondays, and Thursday 10am-12am at Coniglio Fields in Greenwich CT. It’s lots of fun. For information please email **PAT** at pmacCarthy415@gmail.com.

Tennis: RANDY MOTLAND

In the opening doubles match the winners on Court 1 were **RANDY MORTLAND** and **JOHN KNIGHT**. On Court 2 the winners were **STEVE JOHNSON** and **JIM FISHBEIN**. In the final round on Court 1 the winners were **RANDY MOTLAND** and **STEVE JOHNSON**, and on Court 2 the winners were **ART DELMHORST** and **PAT MacCARTHY**. Next week’s Captain will be **JEROME COLEMAN**

BRIDGE: RON MURRAY

There were 8 players. The top finishers were:

1. **ANDRE MAZUREK** 3770

2. **TONY COCCHI** 3610

3. **ED MASTOLONI** 2490

Bridge is played Wednesday afternoon sat the Cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. All members and guests who are interested in bridge, whether beginners or experts, are invited to join our group. Do not worry if you're a new player or a bit rusty - we have excellent players who will be happy to provide advice.

Hearts: JOHN STANKUNAS

The following are the results:

Table #1 Winners:

MICHAEL AMBROSINO

JAY SCHONDORF

BOB SHULLMAN

1 each

Moon shots

MICHAEL AMBROSINO

JAY SCHONDORF

BOB SHULLMAN

1 each

Table #2 Winners

DON CONWAY 2

JOHN STANKUNAS 1

Moon shots

TOM HEALY 1

Platform Tennis: Jim Dean

The paddle team played seven sets on a beautiful cool and sunny morning with the following results:

JERRY COLEMAN won three and a half sets,

ANDRZEJ MAZUREL won three.

JAMES DEAN won two and a half.

JOHN REESE won two.

WILL MORRISON won one set.

TROY JOHNSON won half a set.

Great fun. Our new player **TROY JOHNSON** played better than his score.

See you next Tuesday at 10am at Loughlin Field.

Walkers and Talkers: TAD LARRABEE

Last Thursday was another nice Fall Day for a walk in the woods. We visited Rockwood Hall which is an annex on the northwest side of Rockefeller State Park with enjoyable paths along the Hudson River. It includes some beautiful views of the Palisades and the new Tappan Zee bridge, officially named the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Golf: GRAN BURGESS/MIKE RYAN

On a chilly morning we had 11 players at the Griff who bravely set out on their ever-hopeful conquests for excellence - or something like that.

Winners were:

Hole 5 -- Once again - nobody

Hole 7 – **JOE MANCINELLI**

Hole 8 – **CRAIG WALTERS** (who - if you please - became an RMA member last week). That's starting things off with a bang!

Hole 15 - Yours truly – **GRAN BURGESS**

Notable scores:

99 – **JIM SANTORA** and **TOM HEALY**

94 - Yours truly – **GRAN BURGESS**

93 **PAT YUEN**

92 – **JOE MANCINELLI**

Next Tuesday is our very last outing of the golf season - so please sign up. We want to go out with a big turnout. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Jack Weir- adjourned the business meeting.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLISTER STURGES introduced CT Attorney General (AG) William Tong who is in his fifth term. Mr. Tong is a returning speaker for RMA; his prior speaking engagements were very well received as he is a dynamic and engaging speaker.

Today Mr. Tong began by discussing how META and other social media platforms “addict” young people using algorithms luring them to spend as much time as possible on the platform. META and other social platforms rely

on advertising revenue which yields hundreds of millions of revenue dollars each year. In other words, META addiction monetizes products. Among other tools that social media companies use is the self-appointed “social influencers,” who define what’s cool in terms of products one can buy. This technique is analogous to the way Big Tobaccos’ goal was to expose as many people as possible, especially young people, to the notion that smoking was cool. Mr. Tong cited Big Tobacco’s use of the character “Joe Camel,” and contests where gifts were awarded for collecting cigarette box tops. Today vaping is especially targeted to young teens, to get them addicted. Joule, one of largest makers of vaping equipment, is owned by a Big Tobacco company. As a result of prior litigation, the tobacco settlement funds give 120 million dollars annually to CT in perpetuity; the settlement nationally was for billions of dollars. Mr. Tong has now joined with other states’ Attorneys General in a new suit against Meta and other social media companies. A similar consortium of Attorneys General initiated the suits against Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family for the marketing of OxyContin which was represented to be a “non-addictive” pain medication. The suit contended that the Pharma producers and the companies that filled the prescription knew the drug was in fact very addictive resulting in a nationwide opioid crisis. In CT alone opioids kill 1,500 people per year. In Tong’s opinion States have been forced to use their Consumer Protection Laws / Unfair Trade Practices Acts because our Congress is polarized and non-functioning. CT has no statute of limitations regarding this ACT.

AG Wong then discussed monopolies and safeguarding individual privacy. Noting that CT has robust privacy laws.

Mr. Tong then responded to audience questions about Communication, Gun Control, and the Smoking funds.

The entire talk can be viewed by going to <https://greenwichrma.org>, and clicking on “Speakers.”

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to the Scribe, *preferably via email*.

- **ALL MEMBERS:**

Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours at www.greenwichrma.org/log.

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.

- You 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.

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