

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **TIM BROOKS**



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"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." – Sherry Anderson

The 68th Annual RMA Banquet was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, on a brisk but sunny day at the beautiful Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich CT. Members and guests were greeted by at least two of the following members: **PAUL CAMPION, DON CONWAY, JAMES FITZPATRICK, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN and JIM DEAN** as the lead greeter. Name tags were distributed by **ANDY** and Sharon **HOLMES**.

Hors d'oeuvres were served in the anteroom with a fire warming the atmosphere and a panoramic view of the golf course. Food choices consisted of various cheeses, dips, grapes and crackers. There was a cash bar serving beer, wine and liquor. At noon the bell rang for everyone to enter the main dining room for food and presentations. The tables were beautifully decorated with elegant floral arrangements. First Vice President **ARNOLD GORDON** was the master of ceremonies as well as the banquet committee chairman. In addition to **ARNOLD** the banquet committee consisted of **WILL MORRISON, ANDY** and Sharon **HOLMES, Francesca Gordon, JIM DEAN, TONY COCCHI, BOB BISHOP, LEN CARUSI** and **PETER STERN**.

The invocation was given by **JIM BUTLER**, the Pledge of Allegiance was given by **BOB BISHOP** and the “Star-Spangled Banner” was sung by **TOM HEALY**. **BOB MORGAN** accompanied on the piano.



ARNOLD welcomed everyone to the 68th Annual Banquet. **ARNOLD** noted that there are 192 members present and that the RMA is now 240 strong and growing. He told of how the RMA began as the Coffee Hour Club with 13 men on March 10, 1954, initiated by Alfred Lorenz, associate general secretary of the Greenwich YMCA, where all the meetings were held. It wasn't long before they formally organized as the “Retired Men's Association of Greenwich at the YMCA” on October 13 that year, with a constitution and by-laws. The secretary, Ramsy Burton, cut a slot in the top of a wooden cigar box that was passed around at meetings for voluntary contributions. Now you know why we call our meeting minutes the Cigar Box Bulletin or CBB. **ARNOLD** acknowledged that it takes a team of dedicated people to put this banquet together and that our committee members and others are listed on the back page of the program brochure (copy attached). **ARNOLD** thanked the 19 table hosts who organized their groups and collected the money. And to **JEFF** “Money Bags” **JUNKER**, our busy treasurer, for handling the proceeds and juggling the budget. **ARNOLD** gave a very special thanks to his co-chair, **WILL** “Tai Chi” **MORRISON**, for his creation and ongoing maintenance of a fantastic spreadsheet that captured all we needed to know about every table and attendee. And finally **ARNOLD** acknowledged Karyn Anastasio and her Tamarack staff for their cooperation in accommodating our needs.

BANQUET COMMITTEE

Arnold Gordon..... Chairman
Will Morrison..... Vice-Chairman
Andy and Sharon Holmes Badges and Reception Table
Francesca Gordon..... Table Flowers
Jim Dean Greeters
Tony Cocchi Brochure
Bob Bishop, Len Carusi, Peter Stern .. Administration

TABLE HOSTS

Michael Ambrosino	Sam Marasso
John Craine	Ed Mastoloni
Tony Fitzpatrick	Robert Meany
Tom Healy	David Michonski
Andy Holmes	Bob Morgan
Jeff Junker	Will Morrison
Tad Larrabee	Bob Phillips
Pat MacCarthy	Bob Rimmer
Joe Mancinelli	Peter Stern
Hollister Sturges	

GREETERS

Tim Brooks
Paul Campion
Don Conway
Jim Dean (Leader)
James Fitzpatrick
Jerry Schwendeman



SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL BANQUET

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

**TAMARACK COUNTRY CLUB
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT**

After **ARNOLD's** opening statements, lunch was served. Meal choices were fish, meat or chicken. Desert was an apple tart. After dinner **ARNOLD** made some post lunch comments.



ARNOLD recognized past presidents from 2006-2022. They are: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JOE MANCINELLI, RUSS HARDEN, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, TAD LARRABEE, DON CONWAY, PETER UHRY, RALPH VIGGIANO, BOB PHILLIPS, MICHAEL R. SMITH, GEORGE SHADDOCK, RICHARD H. BARTHOLOMEW, THOMAS J. HEALY, JOHN P. CRAIN, MICHAEL A. RYAN, RICHARD B. LIMBACHER and SAMUEL J. MARASSO.**

ARNOLD noted that each had moved up the ranks in one-year terms from 3rd to 2nd to 1st vice president. The president organizes and chairs all our business meetings and board meetings and ensures that all our needs and responsibilities are met, from the financial to the administrative to the entertainment.



RMA Presidents: Our Own Mt. Rushmore

MICHAEL AMBROSINO, then awarded the outstanding service award to **BOB BISHOP** for his outstanding contributions to the organization.

WILL MORRISON, chair of the Volunteer Program, then presented the awards for outstanding volunteerism. Volunteer programs have three goals.

1. support RMA activities and local non-profit organizations
2. make it easy for members to engage with others through volunteering
3. help establish RMA as an outstanding civic organization in Greenwich



Outstanding Service Award: Bob Bishop



Outstanding Volunteerism Awards

The Volunteer Advocate team made a big difference. **MIKE AMOROSO** and his team of more than a dozen volunteer advocates helped make volunteerism and volunteer opportunities a topic of conversation each Wednesday morning. And they encouraged members to log their contributions. 101 members, 43% of the membership, volunteered and recorded their hours during the 12 months ending in September. This came to a total of 15,225 hours. Many more gave their time but didn't record their hours. 56% of our volunteers supported internal activities, 93 % external programs.

The top three volunteers in support of internal RMA operational activities were **TIM BROOKS, BOB RIMMER**, and **JEFF JUNKER**.

The top volunteers in support of external non-profits and projects were **JEFF JUNKER, ALAN GUNZBURG**, the late **AV RIVEL** and **MIKE HAYDEN**. **AV** was on pace to be number one.

The top volunteers overall were **JEFF JUNKER, ALAN GUNZBURG**, the late **AV RIVEL** and **BOB RIMMER**.

Of particular interest to the RMA is our support of organizations that in turn support fellow seniors. The past year featured two stand outs.

The Melody Men who performed at over 25 senior residences and other venues during the year and contributed 1,622 hours of their time. **TOM HEALY** accepted the certificate on behalf of the Melody Men.

Call-A-Ride was supported by 16 members with 1,742 hours of their time. This produced more than 3,000 errands completed and doctors' appointments and other essential commitments met. **JEFF JUNKER**, as leading contributor, accepted the certificate on behalf of Call-A-Ride.

ARNOLD then introduced current RMA President **JACK WEIR** and the Melody Men. **JACK** then gave the president's message. **JACK** extended his thanks to **ARNOLD** and his team for a tremendous job in setting up the RMA Banquet. **JACK** gave an account of how he came to join the RMA. He spoke of the difficulties in running the RMA during COVID and how the RMA survived during the pandemic through the efforts of a few members especially **HORST TEBBE** and the implementation of Zoom. He gave credit to **HOLLISTER STURGES** and **BOB MEANEY** for their work in organizing the RMA lecture series. **JACK** also gave credit to the last three RMA presidents (**RUSS HARDEN**, **JOE MANCINELLI** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**) for their work in keeping the RMA strong during the pandemic. **JACK** acknowledged the work done by the scribes on the weekly CBB bulletin. Specifically, **TIM BROOKS**, **BOB SHULLMAN** and **FRED WU** were thanked for their hard work in that regard.

JACK mentioned some of the outstanding issues that still require attention. Among them is parking at FPC for our meetings, reimagining special events and forging new alliances with other non-profits. Lastly continuing efforts to increase membership remains a top priority. **JACK** ended his remarks praising the RMA as one of the premier groups of its kind in Fairfield County.

The attendees were then treated to an outstanding performance by the Melody Men, led by **TOM HEALY** accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano.

The Melody Men performed five songs for the crowd. "Oklahoma," "High Hopes," "Cabaret," "Sweet Caroline" and "Nothing Like A Dame."

The 68th RMA Annual Banquet came to an end with a rousing rendition of “Till We Meet Again” led by **TOM HEALY**.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please make sure you give a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, *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.

Pictures by **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 – wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	11:00 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