

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: MIKE ABRAHAMS

January 17 Scribe: **FRED WU**, FYWU.WU@GMAIL.COM

"These are the times that try men's souls." - T. Paine

President **JACK WEIR** began the business meeting at 9:45 am. **BOB BISHOP** led us in the pledge and **TOM HEALY**, with **JIM SANTORA** at the Steinway, led us in singing "You're a Grand Old Flag," "Mame" and "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree."

JACK thanked all the many men who do yeomen's work in organizing and supporting our meetings: CBB Editor **TIM BROOKS**, Scribe **MIKE ABRAHAMS**, formatter **MARK GEIMER**, projectionists **LEN CARUSI/TONY COCCHI**, volunteer advocate **FRED WU**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **DON ROTZIEN**, refreshments **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, 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**.

JACK announced that the RMA calendar is set through June 30, 2024, but "fees" for use of rooms at FPC are still being negotiated, and will be discussed and approved/not approved by the board at its February meeting. **JACK** made two requests for members to fill the open internal positions of assistant secretary and visiting. **HORST TEBBE** has graciously volunteered to fill in for **MICHAEL LaGAMMA** through the April board meeting, if necessary due to **MICHAEL's** absence (thank you, **HORST!**). **JACK** noted also that **LEE**

LUNDY stepped up to volunteer, and that I am passing that information along to our Nominating Committee. The visiting position still needs a volunteer. With our wild wintry weather now in full swing, he again reminded the membership that RMA will follow the lead of the Greenwich Public Schools on holding meetings in inclement weather. Asked about what one should do if there was only a delayed start, **JACK** responded that the RMA meeting would proceed.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

JACK reported that **ARNOLD GORDON** would be absent for several weeks due to surgery, and in **ARNOLD's** absence, **JIM DEAN** (January) and **CARL WHITE** (February) will take over his responsibilities. **JACK** asked for warm round of applause.

JIM DEAN posed several riddles:

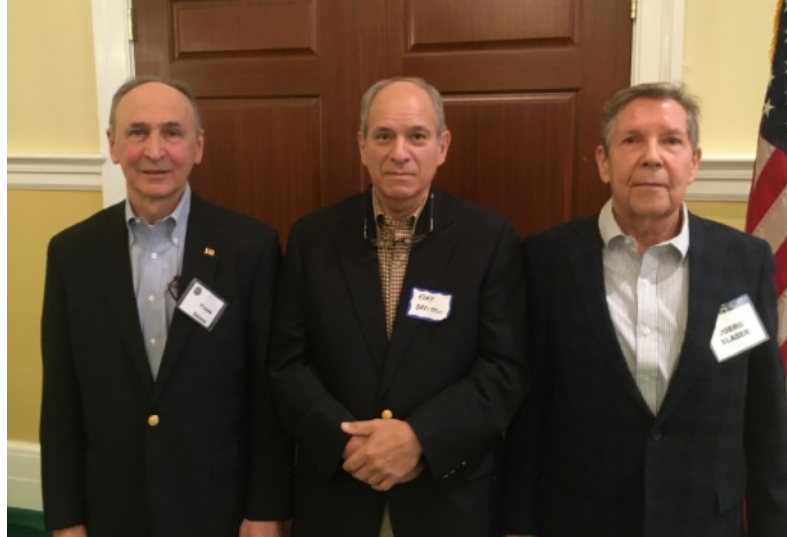
- Which month has 28 days?
- The more you see of this the less you see. What is it?
- What has many keys but can't open a single lock?
- What is harder to catch the faster you run?

This was followed by a discussion about health and welfare, and in particular the importance of hydration. Also, finance, including the income tax surtax and possible methods to avoid paying the tax. Finally, the day's jokester recited a joke about the wedding night following the marriage of an older couple.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PETER STERN began with the induction of Kory Breitel, who was nominated by **FRANK SALEM** and seconded by **JOERG BLASER**. Kory is a retired dentist who is a competitive sailboat racer and involved in many other area activities, including competitive shooting and volunteering for such varied endeavors as Bread for Life, motivational counseling and gardening instruction. **FRANK's** full recommendation for Kory follows below. Guess what? The vote for Kory was unanimous!

For Breitel nomination, [Click Here](#)



Salem, Breitel, Blaser

PETER reminded us that the new, yellow, numbered parking passes can be obtained at the greeter desk from 9:00 – 9:45 prior to the next meeting. Attendance today was 90 in-person and seven on Zoom, for a total of 97. (Count by **ROBERT MEANEY**).).

With **JIM SANTORA** at the piano, birthday congratulations went to:

BILL	FAKUNDINY	92
STEVEN	GLASSER	75
MIKE	HAYDEN	92
FRED	WU	71
DENNIS	MONSON	77

There were two guests, Mike Tebay, guest of **ALAN WEYL** and **JOHN BLANKLEY**, and Gerry Seitz, guest of **JEROME COLEMAN**. There were no returnees. **PETER** gave an in-person welcome to **JAMIE O'CONNOR**, who has perfect attendance as he was inducted just last week, and (on Zoom) **ARNOLD GORDON**, who is “on the mend,” and **DOUG TAYLOR**, a regular “Zoomer.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Program: **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ** described this week’s speaker, Rick Lawrence, PhD, a chemical and nuclear engineer who worked for IBM among other companies, specializing in machine learning and decision analytics. He will speak on the hot topic of

artificial intelligence (AI): "From Search Engine to Regenerative AI: How ChatGPT Changed the World in a Few Months." **BOB RIMMER** previewed next week's speaker, Odd Arne Westad, PhD., who will discuss "Histories of Asian Imperialism and Today's China." Professor Westad is a scholar on modern international global history of Eastern Asia since the 18th Century. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a visiting professor at Peking University.

DON ROTZIEN reported that the next ROMEO Lunch will be held on Thursday, January 25th at the Tengda restaurant on Field Point Road at 1:00 pm. Seating is limited to 20 people so if you wish to attend, please email **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com so that he can reserve a space for you.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO called attention to the Simon & Garfunkel Tribute, Thursday September 22, 2024 at the Palace Theater in Stamford.

WILL MORRISON outlined 2024 volunteer programs and opportunities. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** described the RMA Food Drive for Covenant House on January 24.

HUMAN INTEREST

PETER BERG discussed an article by *Greenwich Time* columnist David Rafferty about when to start each year. **PETER** suggested March as result of an AI query that cited the Greek calendar and subsequent modifications. **PETER** speculated what would be the first month of the year if Donald Trump became president. **PETER** noted he was born February 29 and was only able to celebrate a birthday once every four years.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reminded us that RMA pickleball is played, weather permitting, from 11 am until 1 pm on Mondays and from 10 am until 12 pm on Thursdays at Christiano Field. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmaccarthy415@gmail.com. Although we currently plan to continue playing pickleball throughout the winter, moving the games indoors to "Pickleball America" in Stamford is being investigated. If interested, let **PAT** know.

Hearts: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that on the last date there were seven men playing five games. **MICHAEL** won two games at Table 1 and at Table 2 **RICK HOLZ, BOB SHULLMAN** and **JOE DOWLING** each won one game. There were four moon shots at Table 1 and three moon shots at Table 2.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** gave the results for eight players at two tables. **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 3,290 points, **ED MASTOLONI**, 3,360 points, and **RON MURRAY**, 3,500 points. **ALEX** and **RON** made a small slam – six clubs doubled. We would be happy to have members and guests join our group. Play takes place every Wednesday at 1 pm in the Library Cafeteria of Greenwich Library. Do not worry if you are new to the game or a bit rusty – we have a number of very good players who are happy to answer any questions you may have.

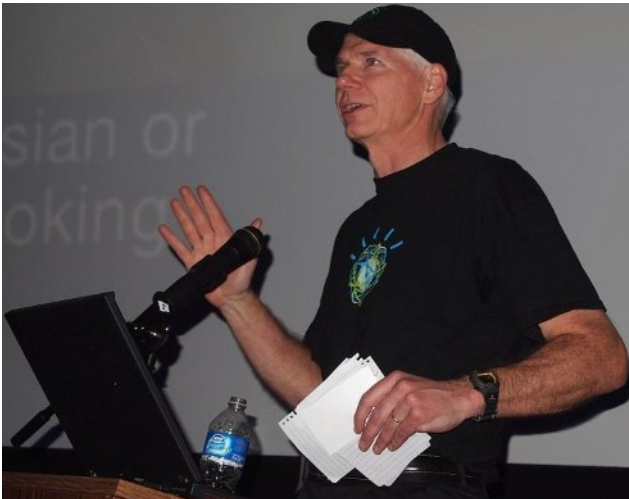
Walkers and Talkers: **JEFF JUNKER** reported that the RMA walkers and talkers met at 9 am in the parking area of Rye Playland Park on Thursday, January 4. Eight walkers enjoyed a stroll along the boardwalk and old ferry dock with great views of Long Island Sound. We then walked along a path around the perimeter of the amusement park area looking in across enclosures (the amusement area was closed for the winter) at the rides and attractions that many of us remember enjoying with our spouses and children in years past. When we arrived at Manursing Pond (Playland Lake), two of our group returned to their cars, and the rest of us followed the road leading into the Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary. After reading a few of the nature signs and meandering through the nature trails where we stirred up a half dozen resting deer, we got to the far end of the sanctuary and headed up Manursing Island Road to Forest Avenue in Rye. We turned south on Forest Avenue to work our way back to our parked cars, exploring the residential streets until we found the pedestrian path break through the Playland Park fence that took us into the rear of the parking area and then past several maintenance buildings back to our cars. We try to walk every week even during the winter months in more urban areas to avoid any issues with the weather and to stay safe. So please feel free to join – and dress warmly. It's good exercise and we always have enjoyable discussions along the way.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ introduced Rick Lawrence, PhD., whose topic was “From Search Engine to Regenerative AI: How ChatGPT Changed the World in a Few Months.”

Rick is a chemical and nuclear engineer who worked for IBM among other companies, specializing in machine learning and decision analytics. **SPIKE** pointed out that the presentation has been updated based on current developments.

Dr. Lawrence started with explanation of the Google search engine which uses a Page Rank algorithm that provides the authority to its findings. It displays verbatim text from websites that appear to be reliable. Artificial Intelligence is different, because it does not use this type of algorithm and does not have this type of function to verify its findings. As an example, a Google inquiry would respond with a simple statement based on information that already exists whereas an inquiry to ChatGPT would provide a long, well written, but newly created response that has been developed based on what it has learned from a large database and may not be accurate.



As an example of its capability, AI could generate computer code in languages that are no longer used based on available examples, i.e., it can learn. He cited examples of AI to score well on SAT tests and to prepare well written, articulate papers. He also cited an example of an attorney using AI to generate legal examples for cases that did not exist. He went on to cite an example of how AI responses can vary based on the request, using examples of responses to a list of liberal issues. He described misunderstandings related

to the fact that ChatGPT standard version is limited by the date it stopped learning at one point in its development, whereas there are more recent ChatGPT versions that for a fee can access more recent information. He also discussed the challenge of regulation of AI and stated that this will take time to develop. In closing he discussed six statements regarding current issues with open AI and offered his discussion of possible outcomes. The issues that were cited:

- Misinformation, particularly related to this year's election.
- Use of copyrighted material but not credited, vs material that is currently protected in Google.
- How do we prepare our children for an AI world?
- Elimination of many jobs. Certainly yes, it is estimated that 10% of 80 % of jobs will be impacted.

- How to regulate AI and who will be responsible – this will take time?
- Could AI destroy humanity? As noted, this is a conversation that is critical, and it spilled over into the questions posed by the audience.

The talk was followed by a lively Q&A period. It can be viewed by going to the RMA website at <https://greenwichrma.org>, and clicking on “Speakers.” Note: The views expressed in RMA presentations are those of the speakers. 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 →**FRED WU**←. Please send 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.

Picture by **FRED WU**.

Retired Men’s Association of Greenwich, Inc. • 1 West Putnam Avenue • Greenwich, CT
06830 • USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

RMA 2024 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– mdlagamma@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 – mdlagamma@optonline.net
Friday	Contact Holmes	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

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