

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: FRED WU

January 24 Scribe: DAVE MICHONSKI, david@quigler.com

RMA President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting at 9:44 am. **DON CONWAY** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. **MIKE HAYDEN** led the songs (assisted by **BOB MORGAN** because the piano was locked!), starting with the "God Bless America," and followed by "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" and "Zip A Dee Doo Dah."

JACK started with an announcement that **GERRY BOYLE** left a maroon jacket here last week. **JACK** recognized the scribe, **FRED WU**, CBB Editor **TIM BROOKS**, formatter and projectionist **LEN CARUSI**, volunteer advocate **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **HOLLISTER STURGES**, **BOB GIAQUINTO** for the refreshments, audio/video **ED PARKER**, **MARK GEIMER**, **PETER DODGE**, **HORST TEBBE**, **BARRY RICHELSON**, and **STEVE MARINO**, setup **BOB BISHOP**, **JIM BUTLER** and **JOHN CRAINE**.

JACK announced that the next board meeting will be on February 6 and devoted to a discussion of the 2024-25 budget, necessarily including such matters as dues and alternative funding mechanisms. He invited all those with views on these issues to send emails to him, **ARNOLD GORDON**, and **JEFF JUNKER** no later than February 1. **JACK** is still looking for a volunteer to take on the visiting function. If no one volunteers, the function will have to be eliminated at least temporarily, or performed informally by the president or corresponding secretary.

Sadly, **JACK** reported that former Board Secretary **ED FARRELL** passed away. There will be a memorial service at St. Catherine's in April, but the RMA will hold a memorial sooner. If those who knew **ED** well would like to give a eulogy, please advise **JACK** or **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, in **ARNOLD**'s absence.

The RMA will reach its 70th anniversary on October 13, 2024, and we should form a committee look into how to mark the event; **JACK** is looking for volunteers.

Corresponding Secretary Report: JIM DEAN, as substitute corresponding secretary, reported that the last time the Jets won the Super Bowl was 55 years ago; he offered sympathies to Jets fans. Early voting is starting in Connecticut with the presidential primaries in April 2024. He reported that skin lotions are absorbed into the body, and any good ingredients can give benefits to more than the skin. Finally, **JIM** asked whether anyone knew the meaning of "zwieback." Zwieback is a word adopted from German, meaning a cracker made by baking a small loaf and then toasting slices until they are dry and crisp.

LARRY DeVAN served as substitute jokester, and successfully delivered a joke involving aging NFL players.



Weyl, Tebay, Stern

Membership Report: PETER STERN conducted the induction of Michael Tebay. **ALAN WEYL** gave the nominating speech. Michael, born in England and a graduate of Cambridge University, has had a long and successful career in the transportation industry. He came to the US in 1971 and he and his wife Barbara raised their two children here. He retired in 2010, and is an avid rower, president of his local homeowner's association, and a voracious reader, especially

about current affairs. As **JOHN BLANKLEY** was unable to attend as seconder, **PETER STERN** seconded the nomination and the membership approved. Mike gave a gracious acceptance speech, accompanied with a few good-natured barbs directed at the absent **JOHN BLANKLEY**.

[Nomination Speech for Mike Tebay by Alan Weyl](#)

Today we had one guest, Tak Eng, a guest of **FRED WU**. There was one returning member, **PETE UHRY**, from Boston.

PETER STERN announced the birthdays this week, and **BOB MORGAN** played the Birthday Song while the membership sang along to wish this week's birthday celebrants a happy birthday.

LOU RUPNIK	82
ARN WELLES	77
JERRY POLLACK	95
FRANK HEGEMAN	72
DOUG TAYLOR	97
STEVE JOHNSON	82
BILL FISHMAN	77

There were 59 members in attendance at the meeting in person, and 14 by Zoom, for a total of 73. **PETER** welcomed, as Zoom attendees, birthday boy **DOUG TAYLOR**, attendance counter **CARL WHITE**, and **DAVID MICHONSKI**, on Zoom twice.

PARKING PERMIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Reminder, you can get a new, yellow, numbered permit at the Greeter Desk from 9:00 – 9:45 on January 24.

Announcements: **MIKE AMBROSINO** spoke about the RMA food drive for the Covenant House. Drop off is in the parking lot next week.

DON ROTZIEN reported that the next ROMEO Lunch will take place on Thursday, January 25 at Tengda Asian Bistro on Field Point Road at 1:00 pm. Seating is limited to around 20 people so please email **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com if you wish to attend. Lunch prices are generally between \$15-\$20 plus beverages, tax and a suggested 20% tip. We look forward to seeing you there. For new members it's a great way to make some new friends and for long time members it's just a great way to get together.

ALAN WEYL gave an update on activities of the Special Events Committee. The first event will be a tour of the new Bruce Museum led by **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**. The second tour will be of the New York Botanical Garden; **TROY JOHNSON** is putting together the details. In July there will probably be a gambling trip to Saratoga Race Course. The committee is still looking for good ways to discern members' interests. They are considering splitting up into multiple special interest committees, for example a performing arts subcommittee, a museum trip subcommittee, a spectator sports subcommittee, etc. If interested, please see **ALAN**.

Speaker Program Report: **BOB RIMMER** announced Professor Arne Westad as our speaker today, and his talk entitled "Histories of Asian Imperialism and Today's China." Professor Westad is a scholar of modern international history of Eastern Asia, and will focus on how China's international reforms came into being and how their results have changed the global economy. Next week's speaker will be Dr. Jennifer Homans, author of *Mr. B: George Balanchine's 20th Century*. Dr. Homans was a professional dancer and is now a distinguished scholar in residence at New York University. She earned a B.A. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in modern European history from NYU. The presentation will be in interview format, with Travis Milliman of Greenwich Library conducting the interview. Mr. Milliman is the performing arts librarian at Greenwich Library.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** gave the report for **JEFF JUNKER**, who led the walk last week. "Seven RMA walkers & talkers met in the rear of the Greenwich YWCA parking lot at 9 am on Thursday, January 11 for a walk around central Greenwich. Before crossing Putnam Avenue, we walked across Old Church Road to view the stone and bronze marker that indicated the spot where General Israel Putnam galloped his trusty horse down the steep incline to escape from a troop of British Cavalrymen who nearly captured him imbibing in Knapp's Tavern. None of the cavalrymen dared to follow Israel over the cliff allowing him to escape, muster up the Stamford militia, and then return with his troops to drive the British from their exploratory probe from Mamaroneck into Connecticut. (Note that General Putnam's famous escape down Put's Hill is denoted on the Greenwich Town flag.) We continued our walk by crossing Putnam Ave and the Temple Shalom parking area, then meandering on the backroads of the Putnam Hill condominium complex looking for traces of the old colonial road (Boston Post Road) that made a gradual climb up the cliff allowing horse drawn wagons to ascend the hill into what was then

known as the "Village of Horseneck." After passing through a walking path opening in the condominium fence, we cut across the Julian Curtiss Elementary school fields and traveled down the residential streets and under the railroad and I-95 bridges into Bruce Park. We walked south through Bruce Park and explored the tiny one-acre Audubon sanctuary at the corner of Oneida Drive, where water from the incoming tide into Smith Cove was threatening to flood the sanctuary. We crossed the Smith Cove bridge and made our way down Steamboat Road to the tiny town park and dock at the road-end that bisects the Indian Harbor Yacht Club. After enjoying great views of Long Island Sound, we went back up Steamboat Road past the "Votes for Women Stanton House" and then along the Greenwich Harbor waterfront back to the Delamar Greenwich Harbor Hotel. We went up Greenwich Avenue checking out the storefronts and cut through Pickwick Plaza to the YMCA and then followed East Putnam Avenue (US Route 1) back to Christ Church, Knapp's tavern, and finally the YWCA parking lot."



Tim's "selfie" of the Walkers at Greenwich Harbor

Bridge: RON MURRAY gave the bridge results for Wednesday, January 10. There were seven players. Top scores were as follows.

1. ANDRE MAZUREK	4140
2. CHARLEY LAND	3440
3. ED MASTOLONI	2170

"We play Wednesday afternoon at the cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available. We invite all members and guests who are interested in bridge, whether you are a new or an experienced player, to join our group. If you're a new player,

not to worry - we have several excellent players who would be happy to share their knowledge with you.”

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** gave the Tai Chi report.

Hearts: **BOB SHULLMAN** gave the Hearts report. “After the meeting last week, eight members went to Greenwich Library and enjoyed playing a total of seven games at two tables while listening to lively music, chatting, and sharing quite a few jokes.” At the first table, three games were played. **JOHN KNIGHT**, **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **TOM HEALY** each won a game while **JOHN KNIGHT** shot the moon twice and **TOM HEALY** shot the moon once. At the second table, four games were played. **JOHN STANKUNAS** and **BOB SHULLMAN** each won two games and also shot the moon once while **MIKE AMBROSINO** was able to shoot the moon twice.

Tennis: **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that in the opening round, court 1 winners were **LAWRENCE MERL/PETER DODGE** and court 2 winners were **JOE MANCINELLI/RANDY MOTLAND**. In the final round, court 1 winners were **LAWRENCE MERL/JOE MANCINELLI** and court 2 winners were **PAT MacCARTHY/RON FRIEDMAN**. Next week’s captain will be **ANDRE MAZUREK**.

Pickleball: **PAT** also gave the pickleball report. “Although we haven’t played since New Year’s Day due to the weather, RMA pickleball is normally played 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.”

TODAY’S SPEAKER

Professor Arne Westad is a scholar of modern international global history of Eastern Asia since the 18th Century. Today he addressed the history of Asian imperialism and today’s China, focusing on how China’s international reforms came into being and how their results have changed the global economy. He appeared via Zoom.

Early in his career he focused on the Cold War, China-Russia relations, the history of the Chinese Civil War and the Chinese Communist Party, publishing works on China’s international history since 1750 and *The Cold War: A World History*. Professor Westad has published 16 books on these subjects.



Westad joined the Yale faculty in 2019 as the Elihu Professor of History and Global Affairs where he teaches at the Yale history department and the Jackson School of Global Affairs. Previously, he taught at Harvard University, where he was the S.T. Lee Professor of US-Asian Relations and earlier at the London School of Economics (LSE), where he was school professor of

international history. At Yale he is also an advisor at Davenport College and serves as director of international studies and the director of the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy. Professor Westad is a fellow of the British Academy and a visiting professor at Peking University. Professor Westad's talk aimed to provide insights into the complexities of the US-China relationship and suggested measures to manage tensions and avoid potential conflicts.

It is not surprising that Americans think that China is getting ahead of the US and taking American jobs. China's massive industrial espionage program of past decades harmed relations between the US and China. China remained a one-party government even after the Soviet Union collapsed. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was careful not to surrender any power even after it opened up China's economy to market forces. The CCP always intended the resulting economic strength to increase its own power.

Things clearly began to change when Xi Jinping took office. His anti-corruption campaign was originally quite popular, but it soon became apparent that it was a power grab, aimed to weaken his political opposition. These are the main reasons why the US-China relationship has deteriorated.

The US needs to bear in mind two things: deterrence – we need to deter China's ambitions in the region, especially the South China Sea. Deterrence has a good chance of working, but we must convince Xi that it is too risky to continue military build-up in the area. We also need to have better communication lines with China. We went for over three years without any direct military-to-military communications, which was very dangerous. Deterrence and communication are key.

We also need to convince the Chinese that we are not out to undo China's economic prosperity. If ordinary Chinese get the impression that the US is trying to destroy their prosperity, that can lead to popular support for military conflict. The primary goal for the US regarding China should be to avoid war. We need to pay more attention to regional issues that can cause flareups. Of course, Taiwan is a case in point; we must convince China that an attack on Taiwan would be prohibitively costly to China. China must believe in US capability of assisting Taiwan to provide the deterrence.

The Q&A session following Professor Westad's lecture covered several key topics related to China's international relations and global impact.

Threats against Taiwan and other neighbors: While personal and economic ties between Taiwan and China still exist, they may not be sufficient to prevent a potential Chinese attack on Taiwan, as China is unlikely to give up its claims to sovereignty over the region. China's expansion of military influence is not expected to be significant, with a primary focus on controlling the western Pacific and Southeast Asian seas. The placement of Chinese military bases in foreign countries, such as in Djibouti, is seen as a response to perceived US national decline and concern about other countries' actions. Westad stressed the importance of the US working with allies in the Southeast Asia region to deter China, as deterrence is seen as being in the common interest of these nations.

While closer ties between China and Russia are seen as potentially detrimental to world peace, it is also noted that their differing interests may prevent this relationship from ending well. While China's economic support is crucial for North Korea, it does not necessarily translate into direct control over North Korean behavior.

We should strive for more balanced views among the Chinese through increased exchange of students to counter the one-sided narrative often presented to young people in China.

The recent purges of top Chinese officials are seen as potentially related to both corruption and political maneuvering, reflecting internal power struggles and concerns about Xi's policies and their potential consequences. The significant lack of population growth in China is highlighted as a major concern, with the country set to become the first in human history to have an aged population.

The talk 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 →**DAVE MICHONSKI**←. 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.

Pictures by **FRED WU** and **TIM BROOKS**.

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

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