CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



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

www.greenwichrma.org Chair/Editor: TIM BROOKS



Scribes: Mike Abrahams, Joe Angland, Kris Bratberg, Jim Dean, Bob Giaquinto, Arnold Gordon, Michael LaGamma, David Michonski, John Reese, Frank Scarpa, Charlie Shapiro, Mike Tebay, Fred Wu

Archivist: Tad Larrabee Website: Mark Geimer Format: Len Carusi, Mark Geimer

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SCRIBE: JOHN REESE
April 10 Scribe: MIKE TEBAY, MDTEBAY@AOL.COM

"Like a red red robin, let your spirit soar, hopping along the path of life, singing a tune of hope and joy." – Original quote by ChatGPT 3.5 AI inspired by a song we sang today

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RMA President **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting at 9:45 am. **HORST TEBBE** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. **DON CONWAY** led the songs assisted by **JIM SANTORA** on our grand piano, blasting off with the "Star Spangled Banner," followed by "Blue Skies" (ironic since it was a completely stormy day), and a sprightly springtime favorite, "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along."

JACK acknowledged those who make this meeting possible. For today's meeting, they are CBB Editor TIM BROOKS, Scribe JOHN REESE, formatter MARK GEIMER, projectionist -- our usual duo of LEN CARUSI and TONY COCCHI. Volunteer advocate today is CRAIG WALTERS, greeter JOHN KAVANAGH, the mentor JIM DEAN. Refreshments today are courtesy of the D'Angelo family. And our audio/video team, ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER,

PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE, BARRY RICHELSOPH, ARN WELLES and STEVE MARINO. Setup, BOB BISHOP, JIM BUTLER, and JOHN CRAINE.

JACK convened the annual meeting for the purpose of hearing the nominating committee report and conducting the election to approve the slate. JOE MANCINELLI made the following remarks: "Two weeks ago, I presented the proposed slate for 2024. That includes board members, nominating committee, as well as all the appointed committees and standing committees, chair people, and the full list. What you see in front of you here is just the board members but the full list has been posted on the bulletin board in the back for last week and the week prior to that." JOE asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and there were none. JACK asked for a show of hands, and the board slate was approved.

JACK said we were in good shape and had some new members. Congratulations were extended by the members present. **JACK** adjourned the annual meeting until April 24, the last meeting of members under the current board. Following is the full list for 2024-25.

Nomination Committee - Full List

JEFF JUNKER, our treasurer, announced that "My budget proposal was just approved at the Board meeting upstairs. I'm pleased to tell you that it has a few contingencies in it, and even with that it comes out with a slight positive variance of \$470. That's far better than the thousands of dollars of deficit budgets we've approved over the last couple years, but we did that with the intention to pay down some of the money that was accumulated during the pandemic. We're going to have a balanced budget this year. I hopefully will have for you next week on the bulletin board the proposed budget for fiscal 2024-25. That'll be posted for a couple weeks, and I guess one of the last things **JACK** will do is reopen the annual meeting and look for your approval of that budget. Of course, when it's up there, if there are any questions, feel free to track me down at a meeting or email me."

JACK also mentioned that we still have someone's BMW key fob from last week. If you are missing your BMW key, please contact **JOHN REESE**, who,

using his great technical skills, found the car just outside the church window by pressing the panic button, and drove it home. (Kidding, but I do have the key in my computer bag.)

ARNOLD GORDON began the corresponding secretary's report by introducing **JIM SANTORA**, who provided us with a memorial tribute to our beloved deceased member, **SAL D'ANGELO**. **SAL's** son, Don, was here as well, and followed **JIM** with some lovely comments concerning his father's experience with the RMA.

Eulogy for Sal

ARNOLD called attention to the Greenwich Emergency Alert System, a process by which the Town issues a message about a potential safety hazard or concern. Greenwich Alerts will then send a message through your primary contact path. You can select to be called in one or more ways: your home phone, cell phone, text message, email or through a special app. If you don't confirm receipt of the message, the system will try to reach your second contact path. The system will use the multiple contact paths that you established to reach you until you confirm receipt. For details, see https://www.greenwichct.gov/435/Emergency-Management

ARNOLD reminded us not to watch the eclipse next week (Monday about 3:30 pm) with naked eyes. The certified special glasses for viewing are available at Feinsod's Hardware Store in Old Greenwich for \$2 each. Here are two links that he shared about watching the eclipse yourself, or streaming it live, courtesy of NASA.

https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety

https://www.amnh.org/explore/videos/space/2024-total-solar-eclipse

RMA has been fortunate to hear from experts on prostate health at our speaker program. There are some new, exciting developments in the treatment of prostate cancer using radioactive therapy. Fred Camillo, today's speaker, was cured of his thyroid cancer with a radioactive iodine "Smart Bomb." You can learn about it at a special talk at the Perrot Library on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 pm to hear Sloan Kettering's Dr. Steven Larson, a well-known oncologist, speak about this new "Smart Bomb" technique to cure

prostate and other cancers. There is no charge for attending; attached is the invitation.

Attach Cancer Presentation Invitation

Before introducing the jokester for the day, **ARNOLD** teased us with his usual offbeat word play. For example: "What is an astronaut's favorite location on a computer keyboard? The space bar!" He then mentioned a book he recently received, *Put Downs: A Collection of Acid Wit*, filled with clever quotes by the famous and not-so-famous. Some examples:

- British Prime Minister David Lord George, on a fellow politician: "When they circumcised Herbert Samuel, they threw away the wrong bit."
- Mark Twain: "Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."
- Mae West: "I used to be Snow White, but I drifted."
- Sammy Davis, Jr. when asked what his golf handicap was: "I'm a colored, one-eyed Jew."

JOE MANCINELLI, our jokester for today, hooked us with his first joke about a pirate in a bar. His second joke was about a wife who knew just what to say to humble her husband after he visited the Social Security office and proved his identity by removing a piece of clothing. His third was about Little Mary Margaret who gave the right answers to her teacher's questions after being poked by another student, until the last one. The punch line was "if you stick me with that thing one more time, I'll break it in half."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

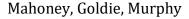
PETER STERN conducted the first of two inductions today. This first was for Rob Goldie, with nomination by **BRIAN MAHONEY. BRIAN** shared with us "I have known Rob for over 40 years as an 'across the street' neighbor, fellow parishioner at Christ's Church Rye, and a fellow tennis player. Some of our children attended the Rye public schools together. Rob and I are still on the same ushering team at Christ's Church.

Rob and his wife, Julie, lived in Rye until they moved to Greenwich in 2012. They have three children and four grandchildren located in MA, NY, and OR. Academically, Rob graduated from Princeton, magna cum laude. He graduated from Columbia Law School where he was the editor of the International Law Review.

Professionally, Rob has practiced law for over 50 years. He is a partner at Duane Morris, LLP, a firm he has been with through three mergers. Rob's areas of expertise are estate planning, international tax, and real estate. Rob has a subspecialty advising international sports figures in these areas. Rob has given generously of his time to community activities. Over the years at Christ's Church, Rye, Rob has served on the Vestry and been chairman of the annual pledge drive. Rob has also served the Rye Historical Society, holding roles such as VP and treasurer. Rob is a member of both the Apawamis Club and the Manursing Island Club, of which he is a former governor. By Rob's own admission, he is a good tennis player, a middling pickle ball player and a bad golfer. Sounds like Rob will fit right in with the RMA." Rob's nomination was seconded by **JOHN MURPHY**, and passed unanimously.

The second induction was for Rich White, with nomination by **JIM DEAN. JIM** introduced Rich to us by sharing "Rich grew up as a "Navy brat" and relocated multiple times to Naval bases on the East Coast and two overseas tours to Japan with his family.







Morrison, White, Dean

Rich graduated from Johns Hopkins University, attended the University of Washington Seattle, and received an MBA from De Paul Univ in Chicago. He is

an avid sailor and tennis player, and may be a good candidate for the Pickle Ball team. Rich was married to Carolyn (deceased) and has three children and five grandchildren." Rich's nomination was seconded by **WILL MORRISON** and passed unanimously.

PETER STERN then reported that attendance was 95, with seven on Zoom, for a total of 102. (Count by **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ)**. Today's Greeter was **JOHN KAVANAGH**.

Birthdays were celebrated, with JIM SANTORA at the piano

JOHN	HARKINS	82
SKIP	AUCH	79
JIM	FINN	62
JOHN	AWDZIEWICZ	92
BILL	GRAD	78

There were three guests: Tom Kutzen, guest of **BOB PHILLIPS**, Herb Roseman, guest of **FRED WU** and **SAM MARASSO**, and Don DeAngelo, guest of **JIM SANTORA**.

SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

ALAN WEYL gave us a quick update on RMA special events. "I have some very, very good news to share with you. I want you to save the date, Sunday, August 18, when we have a dual opportunity. The Melody Men will sing the National Anthem at City Field at the Mets vs. Marlins game at game time, 1:40 pm, and there will hopefully be tickets available for members and spouses. I have a good connection with the Mets. There will be bus transportation, so put it on your calendars."

He continued that there was a pile of event calendars available, and they would be listed in the CBB. He began with two events, saying that the box office has a very friendly ticket policy for the RMA, and thought we could do this without any risk to the association.

On Saturday night, June 22, 2024, Wynton Marsalis is performing at Jazz at Lincoln Center. You can sign up for this event, or send **ALAN** an email, aweyl@outlook.com. It's not a binding commitment, just a poll of interest.

Secondly, another event will take place at Caramoor Jazz Festival in the afternoon on July 27, 12:00 – 5:00 pm, which is a picnic day for a jazz festival. The tickets are very reasonable. We don't have to have any commitment right now, but it's going to be posted very shortly.

One bus ticket has come unstuck from the Orchid show this coming Friday, April 12. There are people on the waiting list. You can have a fight in the back room to see who's going to get the ticket, and **JEFF** will deal with the money transfer from the resigning member.

Regarding the Yale University tour on May 7, there are 17 or 18 people signed up. We don't know whether we are going to be able to take more, but if you're interested, be sure reach out to either **SKIP** or **ALAN**.

Met Live in HD on Saturday, May 12. There are still some tickets available. If you're interested, let **ALAN** know, and he will notify **MIKE RYAN**.

Last, but not least, race day at Aqueduct on Monday, July 17. It's the usual trip via charter bus, and it looks like it's well underway. It is \$115. Sign-ups are on the board.

JACK WEIL complemented **ALAN WEYL** on the Special Events program bobbing along so well, just like the red, red robin. (Did anybody else notice Jack and Alan's last names sound the same, and my alliteration with the word Well?)

SPEAKER PROGRAM

PETER BERG informed us that today's speaker is Fred Camillo, the First Selectman of Greenwich, that he had solicited questions from members, and sent Fred 10 questions that are all pretty intriguing. The last one is, are you planning to run for reelection next year? Even if you're not a resident of

Greenwich, you'll find some of these questions interesting. We do it this way so that he has time to come up with thoughtful answers. In addition, we'll open the floor for additional questions.

TIM BROOKS introduced the next speaker by declaring "And now for something completely different," then asking if anybody knew where that line came from? Answer: Monty Python. [The line is spoken by the announcer, played by John Cleese, to transition from one strange thing to something even weirder.] Next week's speaker is Brother Guy Consolmagno. He is the Director of the Vatican Observatory, and he says that when most people are introduced to him that way, they say "The Vatican has an observatory?" In fact, it has two, one in Castel Gandolfo in Italy and one in Arizona. Br. Guy has a Ph.D. in astronomy. He has a very nice manner of speaking, a sense of humor. He has written or co-written several books including *Turn Left at Orion*, and another titled *Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?* His latest book is called *When Science Goes Wrong: The Desire and Search for Truth*. He will talk about how science and religion are not diametrically opposite, as some people might think, but they are very well connected. Br. Guy is a very engaging speaker, and you are encouraged to hear him next week.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WILL MORRISON provided an update on the level of RMA service activity for the first half of the "Volunteer Year" that runs from Oct 1 to September 30. While our goal is for 50% of members to volunteer at least one hour per year, so far only 73, or 30%, have done so. Our total hours came in at 6,010, consisting of 1,238 internal and 4,772 external hours. We ended last year with over 15,000 hours total.

Internal hours represent the time spent to make our meetings operate smoothly, membership to grow, accounting to be accurate and responsive, to say nothing of identifying and selecting excellent speakers. When asked to serve in one of these critical roles, *please go out of your way to say YES* to keeping operations at a high quality. We have some critical openings right now in our internal operations, including someone to work with our membership chair and another volunteer to work with our treasurer. Please

ask us how you might get involved; we need your talents. Current leaders are **TIM BROOKS** with 253 hours, **ARNOLD GORDON** with 137, **BOB RIMMER** with 110, and **JEFF JUNKER** with 110. Log your hours online and bring your totals up to date. www.greenwichrma.org/log

ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOHN REESE shared a reminder. "On April 16, Tuesday, 3 pm to 4 pm. we'll have a Zoom Meeting of the RMA ChatGPT/AI/Tech Discussion Group. As ARNOLD mentioned, there was an article in today's *New York Times* talking about the penetration of AI into our elections, and its potential for misrepresentation. I commented a while back that it used to take just a 30 second speech sample for AI to imitate anybody's voice and make them say anything. It's now down to a 15 second snippet. So, you put those two together with fake social media, and you've got an interesting big problem. But that's just one of the things we talk about in our tech discussion group. Reach out to me jreese@validea.com to join the mailing list for this group or to receive the Zoom link."

MIKE AMBROSINO shared "gentlemen it's been about four or five months since I stepped down from Visiting, and we tried to get a replacement. Mr. PAT MacCARTHY has stepped up to the plate, and officially starts May 1 but unofficially, we're here to accept. If you have anyone that you know of that's infirm or sick, please let us know. I have agreed to be PAT's assistant for the next year, and I'd like to ask PAT to say a few words." PAT then added, "it will be a very few words. I hope to speak at a future meeting more extensively about visiting, and it does not necessarily mean going to someone's hospital room or to their home. It can be visiting via email or via text messages. I'll try to get into that more in the future. But thank you. MICHAEL has done a wonderful job for five or six years now. So, I appreciate his assistance in this new endeavor. Thank you."

SPORTS REPORT

Hearts: **MIKE AMBROSINO** said "Table 1, **JOE DOWLING** won two games, and took one moonshot, while **JOHN KNIGHT** won one game and also shot the

moon once. Last but not least, **BILL FAKUNDINY** won one game. At Table 2, **BOB SHULLMAN** won a game. I won a game, and **BOB** and I split the last game. We tied with no moonshots."

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON said Tai Chi continues to meet Mondays at 9:30 and Thursdays at 8:30. We have shifted focus from "Tai Chi Walk" to a nationally, and medically efficacious, set of internal and external movements called the Tai Chi Fundamentals Form. Contact **WILL MORRISON**, wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Pickleball: PAT MacCARTHY said "We haven't played much pickleball lately. We look at the weather outside. We will hopefully start again in earnest next week. We've got several new pickleball players potentially from new members. Please come and join us, it's a lot of fun. We hope to start next Monday at 11 o'clock. But join the list."

Tennis: ANDY HOLMES announced that "our current tennis season will be over in a few weeks, but we are already starting to get prepared for next season. If you are a new RMA member and play tennis, I hope that you will consider joining as we would love to have you. And if there are any existing members that have thought about playing, I hope that you too will consider joining our group. The season will run from September 2024 to early May 2025. We play on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00 at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. If you sign up for a full season you will play on average two times a month. You can also sign up for a half season, either the fall season for those that go to Florida in the winter, or just the spring season. I will be happy to answer any of your questions about the tennis program. So, please come see me at the break or send me an email, at andyology.com.

"Now, here are the results for last Friday's matches. In the Opening Round, the winners on Court 1 were **RALPH NEWITTER** and **PETER DODGE** and on Court 2 the winners were **BOB GRAYSON** and **ANDY HOLMES**. In the Finals Round, the winners on Court 1 were **NEWITTER** and **HOLMES**, and on Court 2 the winners were **PAT MacCARTHY AND JIM FISHBEIN**. This week's captain will be **JOHN KNIGHT**."

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** gave us the results for Wednesday, March 27. There were five players. High scores were **RON MURRAY**, 3180, **RON FRIEDMAN**, 3020, **STEVE SHAPIRO**, 2690. 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 new players or those with experience, to join our group. If you feel your game is not currently up to par, not to worry - we have some excellent players who are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Walkers: Walkers were rained out last Thursday. See **TAD LARRABEE** for their next walk, for which they are planning plan a nice, springtime walk in the woods next Thursday, April 11.

Golf: **LARRY ALLEN** announced that for golf this Tuesday, April 9, "I'll be serving as captain. I just posted the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. It should be a good day, and the first tee time is probably going to be around 10 am. One idea that we've got for this year that I was just discussing is to compete with the Rye RMA and the Darien RMA. So, if you're up for that in particular, let us know. "

JACK adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

In his address to the Retired Men's Association, Greenwich First Selectman Fred Camillo discussed challenges and opportunities facing the town, with a talk entitled "Greenwich: Knowing the Way. Showing the Way. Leading the Way." Camillo, a lifelong Greenwich resident who graduated from Greenwich High School in 1980, has served as First Selectman for three terms after spending 11 years as a State Representative for the 150th District.

During his talk, Camillo highlighted Greenwich's high rankings in safety and its triple-A credit rating, while also emphasizing the need for the town to continuously evolve. He addressed the challenge of meeting the state's affordable housing mandates under 8-30g, with Greenwich currently at 5.8% vs. the required 10%.



Camillo's address included two significant revelations that were previously unknown to the public. First, he announced that the Glenville project, which had been delayed due to residents' concerns about tree cutting and the pandemic, is now fully funded, with construction expected to begin next year. Second, he disclosed active discussions about

relocating the Board of Education offices, which would free up valuable space in the heart of the business district for a potential public-private partnership that could include the addition of up to 100 new parking spaces.

Throughout the address, Camillo fielded a wide range of questions from the audience. When asked about the RTM's consideration of an ordinance to control clear-cutting of trees on private property, Camillo mentioned that the current proposal had been ruled out of legal order. He emphasized the need to strike a balance between private property rights and the town's ability to regulate actions that may impact neighbors, stating that the proponents will return with a revised proposal that addresses these concerns.

Regarding riverine flooding in Central Cos Cob, Camillo acknowledged the financial burden homeowners face in raising their houses or building flood control structures. He encouraged residents to assist in maintaining the town's drains, as it is impossible for the town to check all drains constantly. Camillo also expressed support for Greenwich Communities' plan to build 48 affordable housing units over the commuter parking lot at the Cos Cob railroad station, but stressed the importance of ensuring neighborhood approval through public hearings.

When asked about the lack of housing alternatives for seniors looking to downsize, Camillo recognized the issue but emphasized that many people

wish to remain in their homes. He stated that he never wants to encourage long-time residents to leave the town they have contributed to for many years.

Camillo addressed questions about the town's budget, defending the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) and its role in creating a budget that delivers services, keeps taxes low, and maintains public safety and health. He expressed frustration about the town losing a \$2.8 million grant for ADA upgrades on Greenwich Avenue due to misinformation spread by some RTM members, highlighting the need for accurate information when making decisions.

When asked about the increase in healthcare benefits and the cost per pupil in Greenwich, Camillo noted the importance of balancing competitive employee compensation with fiscal responsibility. He acknowledged that while Greenwich has done a good job at keeping costs lower than many other towns, there is still work to be done to ensure a fair and sustainable system.

Parking issues on Greenwich Avenue were another topic of concern, with Camillo outlining potential solutions such as relocating the Board of Education offices and creating underground parking spaces. He emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships in addressing these challenges and maximizing the use of valuable real estate in the town's center.

Regarding the town's policy on Airbnb regulation, Camillo stated that the issue had been discussed in the past and that while most rentals are likely fine, the town needs to be cautious in its approach to regulation to prevent potential problems.

Camillo also expressed interest in exploring the use of trash as a fuel to generate electricity, as implemented in some European countries. He requested more information to assess the feasibility of such a system in Greenwich, highlighting its potential for fuel efficiency and financial benefits.

When asked about his future plans, Camillo emphasized the importance of focusing on the present and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of Greenwich. Addressing the current rift within the Greenwich

Republican Party, he acknowledged the challenges but expressed optimism about the future, stressing the importance of rising above negativity and working towards positive change.

As Greenwich tackles the intricacies of affordable housing, infrastructure, crime, and other critical issues, First Selectman Camillo's leadership and vision will be instrumental in guiding the town's future. Detailed answers to the questions posed to him are attached.

Answers to Questions during Fred Camillo's talk

The full presentation 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 →**MIKE TEBAY**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to him, *via email please!*

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.

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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 – <u>pmaccarthy415@gmail.com</u> Michael LaGamma– <u>mdlagamma@optonline.net</u>	
Tuesdays	9:30 am	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – <u>ryantomac@netscape.net</u>	
Tuesdays	10 am-12 pm	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	James Dean - <u>Jhdeanco@gmail.com</u>	
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – <u>onehorst@optimum.net</u> or Len Carusi at <u>lencarusi@gmail.com</u>	
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	Bob Shullman – bob.shullman@gmail.com	
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - <u>Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</u>	
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net	
Thursdays	10:00 am	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – <u>pmaccarthy415@gmail.com</u> Michael LaGamma – <u>mdlagamma@optonline.net</u>	
Friday	Contact Holmes	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - <u>Andyholmes56@gmail.com</u>	

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