

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



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



www.greenwichrma.org

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Fellowship, Volunteerism, Service

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"That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind." - Neil Armstrong, July 20, 1969. Inspired by today's astronomical presentation.

Log your volunteer hours at www.greenwichrma.org/log

RMA president **JACK WEIR** opened the meeting at 9:45 am. **JIM DEAN** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** led the songs, accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano, with a rousing chorus of "God Bless America," followed by "April Showers" (although, in view of recent downpours, Thom Yorke's "And It Rained All Night" would perhaps have been more appropriate), and concluding with "Deep in the Heart of Texas." **JACK** acknowledged those who made this meeting possible: CBB Editor **TIM BROOKS**, scribe **MIKE TEBAY**, projectionists **LEN CARUSI** and **TONY COCCHI**, formatter **LEN CARUSI**, greeter **JOHN KAVANAGH**, mentor **DON ROTZIEN**, volunteer advocate **JOHN DENNE**, refreshments **JOHN KNIGHT**, audio-video **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE, BARRY RICHELSON, STEVE MARINO, and ARN WELLES**, set-up **BOB BISHOP, JIM BUTLER** and **JOHN CRAINE**.

President's Comments

JACK WEIR noted that, thanks to the efforts of **DON CONWAY**, we have obtained a permit for the RMA picnic, which will be held this year on Thursday, September 12, at Greenwich Point. The budget for 2024-25 has been posted on the bulletin board for two weeks, and will be voted on at the meeting on April 24. Any questions should be directed to **JEFF JUNKER**. We are still looking for anecdotal contributions for our RMA history, which is being prepared for publication in October. Please submit any contributions, including photos, via email to **JACK** or to **DAVID RICHARDS**.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

ARNOLD GORDON reported that several RMA members attended the poignant memorial mass for deceased member **ED FARRELL** on Saturday at St. Catherine and St. Agnus Church. His widow, Susan, and their daughters were very appreciative of our representation. They delivered a touching eulogy for **ED**.

ARNOLD commented on the increasingly dangerous driving habits seen on the roads, with frequent violations of stop signs and red lights. He mentioned that April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The state is reminding all drivers that when you get behind the wheel, "put the phone away or pay." Law enforcement will step up its enforcement of distracted-driving laws through April 30. It's illegal to use any hand-help mobile electronic device while driving in Connecticut. In addition, 16 and 17-year-old drivers are not allowed to use a hands-free accessory. Fines start at \$200, then go to \$375, and \$625 for a third offense.

The annual Greenwich Campership Program needs our help. It makes it possible for children from Greenwich low-income families to enjoy a memorable and fun-filled experience at summer camp. Scholarships are available to many local day camps, as well as a sleep-away camp in Connecticut for children ages 5 - 14. The Salvation Army's Greenwich Service Unit has traditionally paid a portion of camperships for local families for many

years. Unfortunately, after an 80+ year relationship, the Salvation Army terminated its relationship with the Greenwich Service Unit. Now without this funding, more than 60 children may have to be turned away in 2024, unless additional funding can be secured. **ARNOLD's** family always supports this cause, and encourage you to do the same. Any donation is greatly appreciated. RMA volunteer efforts contributed \$13,000 last year to the Salvation Army.

[Annual Greenwich Campership Program](#)

If you like browsing and buying at farmer's markets, Sam Bridge Nursery (437 North Street) holds a winter market every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm through May 4, featuring some of the best local farmers and artisans. Details here: <https://sambridge.com/farmers-market>

ARNOLD offers anyone who can use them a box of 48 new Duracell hearing aid batteries, size 13. Contact him if interested: 203-340-9336; ajgordo@verizon.net.

Before introducing **LARRY DeVAN**, making his debut as the newest jokester on the team, **ARNOLD** presented "More Awful Humor," including a few illustrated "philosophical" tidbits, such as: "How does a hippie polygamist count his wives? One Mrs. Hippie, two Mrs. Hippie..." Interviewer: "What is your opinion on Roe v. Wade?" Woke politician: "That's the only two ways Mexicans can cross the river." For **ARNOLD's** hilarious slide show click on the following:

[Arnold's Slide Show](#)

LARRY DeVAN launched his career as jokester with the following cracks: Wife to husband, "I have blisters on my hands." Husband to wife, "Next time use the car."

- Car and Driver recently reported that 95% of electric vehicles are still on the road. It appears that the other 5% finally made it all the way home.
- Breaking news: it has been reported that a British man honeymooning in Australia has been eaten by a great white shark. The report also stated that he didn't suffer for long – he had only been married for three days.

- My wife has been hinting for what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said she wanted something shiny that did 0 to 150 in three seconds. I got her some bathroom scales. The doctor said that I would walk again, but that I will always have a limp.

Membership Report

PETER STERN announced two inductions today. The first was for George Warnock, nominated by **JOHN REESE**. **JOHN** said that he had met George and his wife, Lois, through his partner, Madelyne, and had gotten to know him personally over the past two years through their shared interests in gourmet dining and golf. He described George as a true renaissance man, with interests spanning from travel to photography, cooking, reading and even crossword puzzles. George is in the midst of remodeling a beautiful shoreline home in Shippan. He is also a member of multiple yacht clubs, gourmet cooking and book clubs, and serves on two non-profit boards.

After graduating from SUNY Albany with an accounting degree, George began a distinguished career at Deloitte and Touche, where he was named Partner after just 10 years. He led the New York audit practice, and worked with major international clients, particularly in Japan, ultimately taking on global responsibility for Deloitte's Asian client practices. George and his college sweetheart, Lois, recently celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary, and are the proud parents of two grown children.

JOHN attested that George is not only an excellent cook but a thoughtful friend, with a sharp wit and sense of humor. George's nomination was seconded by **DAVID WATKINS**, and was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

[George Warnock Nomination](#)

The second induction was for Dr. Philip Schweizer, nominated by **FRANK SCARPA**. **JOHN KAVANAGH** read the nomination, acting as proxy for snowbird **FRANK**, currently in Naples, Florida. Phil is a native of Pelham, New York. **FRANK** first met Phil when they were both pre-med students at Holy Cross., and where they roomed together for two years. Phil went to medical

school at Cornell. He then served for two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, including a year in Vietnam, before resuming his post graduate training with a fellowship in gastroenterology at Mount Sinai. Phil then spent his entire career in gastroenterology in the Bronx and on the medical faculty of the Albert Einstein Medical school, before retiring in 2016.

Phil and his wife, Esther, have two sons, and dote on their eight grandchildren. Phil’s avocations include reading, cycling, travel, playing the violin and the study of languages (including Biblical Hebrew). On retirement, he volunteered with the Jesuit inspired “Ignatian Volunteer Corps,” where he tutored and mentored 14 students. A year ago, the Schweitzers moved to Rye Brook, and Phil became a regular volunteer at the St. John Bosco soup kitchen in Port Chester. Phil’s nomination was seconded by **ED PARKER**. **PETER** decided to hold a voice vote, and Phil’s nomination passed resoundingly.

[Phil Schweizer Nomination](#)



Watkins, Warnock, Reese



Parker, Schweizer, Kavanagh

Two birthdays were celebrated, with accompaniment by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano:

LEN	CARUSI	76
GEORGE	UBOGY	86

PETER STERN reported that attendance was 72 in person, plus five on Zoom, for a total of 77. Count was by **PETE UHRY**. Today's Greeter was **JOHN KAVANAGH**. There were no guests. Five Returnees included: **CHARLIE ADAMS** from Maldives, **KRIS BRATBERG** from Spain & Italy, and **TROY JOHNSON** from Turkey and Thailand. **PETER** announced that **RICH WHITE**, who joined last week and returned today, has 100% attendance as a member.

Special Events

TROY JOHNSON shrugged off his Asian jetlag to announce that all is in place for what should be a great trip on Friday to the New York Botanical Garden.

ALAN WEYL announced that the next tour is at Yale on May 7. It is now subscribed to around the 20 level. Please let **ALAN** know if you would like to go. It is a self-drive tour to see the campus, to have lunch at Mory's, and to see the Art Museum in the afternoon if you wish.

The next event after that is opera night in New Rochelle on Saturday, May 11. There are still five seats available, so if interested, let **MIKE RYAN** know.

There is a poll up on the bulletin board about a performance by Wynton Marsalis, with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, on Saturday, June 22, at 7 pm at Caramoor. We have 10 people who have indicated interest, which meets the minimum, but if we can get more than 20, tickets become less expensive.

We have one hole in the schedule for the rest of the year in July, and we are working on trying to find a connoisseur's event of some kind. The Mets trip is still on hold because the organization is a bureaucracy, and it's debating the terms and conditions that **TOM HEALY** gave **ALAN**.

Speakers Program

TIM BROOKS announced that today's speaker at 11 o'clock was Brother Guy Consolmagno, who is the Pope's astronomer. The Pope not only has an astronomer, but also two observatories. Brother Consolmagno travels around the world talking about the relationship between religion and science, which

is closer than you might think. Today he was going to be talking about his latest book, *When Science Goes Wrong - the Desire and Search for Truth*.

PETER BERG announced that next week's speaker will be Beth Evans, Greenwich's Director of Environmental Affairs. She oversees both the Conservation Commission and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, and the title of her talk is "Our Greenwich Environment - Looking to the Future for our Children and Grandchildren." Thanks to **BOB RIMMER** for working with Beth to put this together.

Human Interest Presentation

JACK WEIR called on **TIM BROOKS** for today's human-interest presentation, which was on the subject of "Internet Scams." First **TIM** asked the audience how many had been targeted by an internet fraud? Every hand went up. Then, how many had actually lost money to such a scam? Half a dozen hands went up (honest people!). He then described two recent and sophisticated scams with which he had personal experience.

The first targeted the adult daughter of a friend, who lost her entire life savings. Scammers posing as her convinced T-Mobile to switch her number to a new phone (which they in fact controlled). Using this phone, they quickly told Citibank to add a new name to her savings account, and that individual immediately drained her account and disappeared. All of this took place within an hour. During that time, the scammers had caused her real phone to be out of service so that she could not see messages from T-Mobile and Citibank. This scam is called "the SIM card swap" (the SIM card connects your mobile phone to the Internet).

The second scam involved Booking.com, a large and reputable site for booking hotel rooms and other travel services. **TIM** used them to book a hotel room in Los Angeles, then just days before he was to leave, he received a message from Booking.com saying there was a problem with his reservation, and he needed to reenter his credit card information immediately. The message had full details on his reservation, including the reservation number and special instructions he had given the hotel. In this scam, the scammers had gained

access to the hotel's reservations system, and the hotel's credentials with Booking.com, so that they could contact incoming guests through the trusted Booking.com site. Fortunately, **TIM** smelled a rat and contacted the hotel directly, rather than reply to the email, and did not lose money.

TIM then gave a number of tips on how to avoid being caught by these scams, including (1) if your cell phone goes dead, immediately tell your carrier to FREEZE YOUR ACCOUNT, before you try to get it fixed; and (2) if you get a suspicious email from a trusted site or friend, especially one that says you need to act immediately, CALL THE SOURCE to make sure it is legitimate. Do not click on anything you are not expecting. **TIM's** full presentation is attached.

[Tim's Presentation on Internet Fraud](#)

Solar Eclipse

JACK WEIR invited **WILL MORRISON** to describe his trip to Vermont on Monday to observe the solar eclipse. **WILL** recounted that the plan was to start on Monday morning, April 8, with friends who live in Putney, in Southern Vermont, and drive up to St. Johnsbury, which is 20 miles inside the so-called "Totality Zone," for lunch. They then planned to go to a special viewing spot, an observatory, for which they had booked tickets. But they never got there. Congestion became so bad that they decided on Plan B. The Putney friends said that the son of a friend had a sheep farm in Danville, a bit west of St. Johnsbury. A quick phone call, and it was arranged to join them there.

So, after lunch in an eclipse-themed little café, they arrived at the sheep farm. **WILL** presented a series of photos of the sheep, magnificent scenery, the viewing group of a dozen or so people, and finally dramatic photos of the eclipse itself. It turned out that **WILL's** stepbrother, who is a professional photographer, was himself in Danville, and he took a series of photos, including one of the spectacular "diamond ring," the moment - lasting just four seconds - when the sun first started to emerge from behind the moon. **WILL** is now getting ready for the next eclipse, in 20 years. For **WILL's** slide show:

[Will's Slide Show](#)

Activities Announcements

JACK WEIR announced that the Melody Men will begin their season next Monday, April 15, and he will try to get into the CBB a schedule of all the concerts that will be given in April, May and June.

TOM HEALY announced that the Aqueduct trip will be on June 27, different from the date in last week's CBB. It's \$115, and we have about 20 people signed up. We have to make deposits to the bus company and NYRA, so we would like people to pay next week. The maximum is 50 people, and all the information is on the bulletin board.

FRED WU announced that the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra has its last concert of the season this weekend. Its theme is "Music from Out of This World." It has a piece by John Williams from the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and the highlight is "The Planets" by Gustav Holst.

AI, ChatGPT and Technology: The RMA's next discussion group meeting on AI, ChatGPT and Technology is next Tuesday, April 16, from 3 – 4 pm on Zoom. All members of this group should have received an email with the Zoom link this Wednesday afternoon. If you did not receive the link or want your email added to the list, please email **JOHN REESE** at jreese@validea.com

Sports Reports

JACK WEIR said that there was no time for the sports reports to be given at the meeting, but they should be included in the CBB, so here they are:

Bridge. **RON MURRAY** provided the results for Wednesday April 3. We had eight players. The results were closer than usual; the spread between the 1st and 4th players was less than 500 points. **ALEX KOSSEIM**, 3860, **RON MURRAY**, 3610, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 3490, and **CHARLEY LAND**, 3370. **ALEX** and **CHARLEY** made a slam in six hearts at table 1 and **ANDRE** and **RON** did

the same at table 2. This is the fourth time in five weeks that **ANDRE** has made a slam. We play on Wednesday afternoon in the cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available. We invite all members and guests, whether new or experienced players, who are interested in bridge to join our group. Do not worry if you are concerned about your game - we have a number of very good players who will be happy to discuss your questions.

Golf: **LARRY ALLEN** announced that the RMA season opened with nine players. Five played 18 holes and four played nine holes. The four reward holes were won by: **BOB BISHOP** on the par three 5th hole, **JOE MANCINELLI** on the par three 7th hole, **PAT YUEN** capturing longest drive on the 8th hole, and **PAT** again on the par three 15th hole. Notable scores under 100 were: **JIM SANTORA** with a 99 and **JOE MANCINELLI** with a 98. The sign-up sheet for next Tuesday's (April 16) golf is on the bulletin board. Please, when signing up, add whether you prefer to play 18 or nine holes and whether you choose to walk or ride. Please plan to arrive a half hour before your tee time, to allow the captain to make any necessary last-minute adjustments. The captain next week is **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**.

Hearts. **JOHN STANKUNAS** gave the report for April 3. At Table 1, three games were played. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** won two and **BILL FAKUNDINY** won one. **JOE DOWLING** shot the moon once. At Table 2, three games were played. **JOHN STANKUNAS** won two and **ANDY HOLMES** won one. **BOB SHULLMAN** and **JOHN STANKUNAS** each shot the moon twice, **ANDY HOLMES** once.

Pickleball. **PAT MacCARTHY** said that we had nine players on Monday, April 8, utilizing both Christiano courts for very spirited games. RMA pickleball is played from 11 am until 1 pm on Mondays and from 9 until 11 am on Thursdays, at Christiano Field. Please note that the start of Thursday's pickleball has been advanced by one hour. If you want to join the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmacCarthy415@gmail.com.

Tennis. **PAT KNIGHT** reported that there were eight players on April 5. The winners on Court 1 were **RON FRIEDMAN** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**, and on Court 2 were **PAT MacCARTHY** and **JOHN REESE**. In the finals round, the

winners on Court 1 were **ANDRE** and **JOHN REESE**, and on Court 2 were **JOHN KNIGHT** and **JOE MANCINELLI**.

Today's Speaker



TIM BROOKS introduced today's speaker, Brother Guy Consolmagno, Director of the Vatican Observatory, the Pope's own astronomer. He travels around the world, speaking on the subject of the relationship between religion and science, which is closer than you might think. His latest book is called *When Science Goes Wrong – the Desire and Search for Truth*.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Br. Guy earned undergraduate and masters' degrees from MIT, and a Ph.D. in Planetary Science from the University of Arizona. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard and MIT, served in the US Peace Corps (Kenya), and taught university physics before entering the Jesuits in 1989.

At the Vatican Observatory since 1993, in 2015 Pope Francis appointed Dr. Consolmagno director of the Vatican Observatory. Br. Guy's research explores connections between meteorites, asteroids, and the evolution of small solar system bodies. He has observed Kuiper Belt objects with the Vatican's 1.8-meter telescope in Arizona, and measured meteorite physical properties to understand asteroid origins and structure. Along with more than 250 scientific publications, he is the author of several popular books including *Turn Left at Orion* (with Dan Davis), and *Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?* (with Paul Mueller). In 2000, the IAU named asteroid 4597 Consolmagno in recognition of his work. In 2014 he received the Carl Sagan Medal for excellence in public communication in planetary sciences. He currently serves as chair of the IAU Mars Nomenclature Task Group and vice president of the Meteoritical Society.

Br. Consolmagno's main thesis was that too many students have the wrong idea of what science is. They think that it is the repository of all truth, when, in fact, the fun parts of science are the parts that it gets wrong. The study of science is actually the study of error, and science progresses by studying and learning from the errors. He illustrated his thesis by taking the audience through the history of astronomical theory, and how each of the major concepts of the universe, although logical, and based on the limits of observation of the era, was wrong, but still provided a steppingstone for the development of new and improved theories.

He began with Aristotle's theory of the universe, followed by Copernicus, Tiko Brahe, Galileo and Kepler. They all were entirely logical according to what was known at the time—but wrong according to what we now know.

So, here's the point. If science is trying to come up with some approximation of the truth, one of the really important things you have to be able to do is to recognize what errors are telling you – whether your theory is wrong or that your theory is mildly incomplete. There is no certainty in science. The study of science is actually the study of error. In science, failure is not an option, failure is a requirement. Science only advances when you've learned how to analyze your failures. When you've pushed your theory to the point where it fails, and then you say, All right, what's new?

A similar thing happens in our religion. A phenomenal theologian named Paul Tillich, wrote on the Dynamics of Faith. His insight was nicely summarized by Anne Lamont in her book. She says, “the opposite of faith is not doubt. The opposite of faith is certainty.”

We're willing to risk being wrong, knowing that being wrong carries consequences, but knowing that the risk is worth the game. We never come to an end of understanding the universe, or understanding the people we love, or understanding God. But it's a continual journey of making mistakes, saying I'm sorry, and going forward. The whole point of scientific advance is to say, not that everything before me was wrong, but everything before me was incomplete. And here's a little bit of improvement. That's how we do science. That's how we live our lives.

A more detailed account of Br. Consolmagno's presentation can be found here:

[Speaker Presentation 4.10.24](#)

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 ABRAHAMS**←. 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 **TIM BROOKS**.

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	9:00 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