

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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SCRIBE: ARNOLD GORDON

Next Meeting Scribe: May 29 – CHARLIE SHAPIRO

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

“When I was a boy, I was told that anyone could become President of the United States; I’m beginning to believe it.” - Clarence Darrow

President **WILL MORRISON** began the business meeting at 9:45 am. **JOHN DENNE** led us in the pledge and **GRAN BURGESS**, with **BOB MORGAN** at the Steinway, led us in singing “This is My Country,” “Sixteen Tons,” and “Listen to the Land.” The latter was written by talented **GRAN**, and with a wee bit of rehearsal for the tune, our members did him proud. You can listen to the lovely song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdQVcKgqzmM>

WILL announced today’s greeter (**RICK HOLZ**), mentor (**JIM SANTORA**), and volunteer advocate (**SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ** – who also provided refreshments). He also recognized all 13 members (14 with **WILL**) of the Board; they are

listed on our website, www.greenwichrma.org. He reminded us that RMA will participate in the Memorial Day parade in Old Greenwich on Monday, May 27. We will gather at 9:30 am at the corner of Sound Beach and St Claire Avenues. Bring family and friends for a great RMA experience. **WILL** continues to encourage members to volunteer to tell a brief story as part of what he calls "curiosity special interests" (e.g., genealogy, photography, oral history, etc.).

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reminded us that dues (\$125) should be paid as soon as possible. To date, 110 members have done so. Please pay by June 14 or get flagged (on Flag Day). Bring a check to a meeting or pay via the new Zelle system (see the RMA web site).

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

ARNOLD GORDON said he was remiss in not mentioning member **HECTOR ARZENO** (D-151) along with **STEVE MESKERS** when he thanked and congratulated **STEVE** last week for recent accomplishments as our CT House representative; kudos to both for their tireless work. Out of curiosity, he asked for a show of hands for those who were lucky to get tickets and planned to attend the Greenwich Town Party on May 25. There are at least four members who will be going. **TOM HEALY** reminded us that the Melody Men are part of the program.

Before introducing **TOM** as jokester for the day, **ARNOLD** offered some of his typical wordplay:

- Why can't you use beef stew as a computer password? It's not Stroganoff.
- From one of America's greatest writers and wits, when hearing sad news about someone who he disliked: "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." (Mark Twain)
- Who said "When I burnt my bra, it took the fire department four days to put out the blaze?" (Dolly Parton)
- How do you describe someone who always sings off tune? "He has Van Gogh's ear for music."

TOM entertained us with two short ones and a long one. (1) Two Irishmen in a pub asked for two pints of Guinness. The barman said they did not open for another hour. One of the men asked if they could wait. Barman: "Would you like a pint while waiting?" (2) A Scotsman and his wife walked past a swanky restaurant. "Did you smell that food?" she asked. "Incredible." He being kind-hearted thought, "What the hell, I'll treat her." So, they walked past it again! (3) Keeping it short: Woman felt overcharged for a one-night stay in a nice hotel, \$500. Manager said the high price was due to the many wonderful amenities offered (breakfast, pool, entertainment at night...). She did not use any of them, but the manager insisted on the \$500. She gave him a check for \$100 and told him she charged him \$400 for sleeping with her. "But I didn't." "Well, too bad, I was here and you could have."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Junker, MacLaury, MacCarthy

In **PETER STERN'S** absence (he Zoomed in), **WILL** gave the report. An induction was held for **DOUG MacLAURY**, sponsored and nominated by **PAT MacCARTHY**. **DOUG** grew up in the central New Jersey hamlet of Titusville, just north of where George Washington "crossed the Delaware River" on December 25, 1776. Although his home life was rather sophisticated (his father was a

tenured history professor at Trenton State College), his outside environment was very rural and **DOUG** became an accomplished hunter and fisherman. As a youth he would occasionally, with the aid of his trusty pointer, bring home pheasants, rabbits, ducks, or other small game for the dining enjoyment of his parents and four siblings. In addition to the normal academic subjects in high school, He was an early adapter of that European sport, soccer. He also threw the discus during the Spring track season. He graduated from Rutgers University majoring in landscape architecture and city planning. He used his education quickly by going into the Peace Corps immediately after graduating.

DOUG was posted to Chad, a former French colony in central Africa, for two years before making a hasty retreat due to a military coup. Immediately after escaping from Africa, he studied at another dangerous location, Columbia University, where he obtained a masters in real estate development. He spent the next 43 years working in progressively more senior positions in New York City in the acquisition, planning, finance, and sales of commercial real estate. He retired just last month as a senior vice president for Mattone Investors. **DOUG** is married with two grown children, both of whom live in southern California. He just sold his house in Rye, where he lived for 23 years, and is now renting in the Pemberwick section of Greenwich. **JEFF JUNKER** seconded the nomination.

Attendance at today's meeting included 74 warm bodies and seven Zoomers. Birthdays were celebrated for six members, with **BOB MORGAN** at the piano.

MICHAEL BROWN	89
JAMES CLEMENT	77
KLAUS JANDER	84
KIP SCHULZE	85
BILL O'DONNELL	79
TOM HEALY	86

There were no guests, but several returnees popped up:

JIM DEAN from Boulder and Breckenridge, CO

GERRY BOYLE from San Francisco, CA and Boston, MA

BILL O'DONNELL from Lauderdale by the Sea, FL

JOHN CRAINE from Colorado Springs, CO

TIM BROOKS from St. Paul, MN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BART BARTHOLOMEW asked members to participate in a trial book swap program. It would be optional, of course, and would not be held if an author-speaker had a book for sale that day. The Stamford Senior Men's club has such an arrangement. Bring two or three books you no longer need or want to the next meeting. If you wish to bring many books (e.g. 10 or more), let **BART**

know. A good way to pass books on and obtain new-to-you books. Books not taken will be returned to the donors or contributed to the Book Exchange at the Town Transfer Station (aka The Dump).

Speaker Program: **CHARLIE ADAMS** encouraged us to stay for today’s talk by Rachel Kornfeld and Lala Addeo who will speak about “Jewish and Family Services of Greenwich: Overview of Refugee Resettlement Program and Volunteer Opportunities.” **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ** told us about next week’s speaker, Kelley Franco Thropp, whose topic is “Getting Schooled on Baseball’s Greatest Rivalries.” She will give a one-hour crash course on baseball’s greatest rivalries. There will be trivia contests and chances to show off your baseball acumen. She will cover the well-known rivalries - Yankees/Red Sox and Dodgers/Giants, but will also dig deep into other matchups including Cubs/Cardinals, Ted Williams/Joe DiMaggio, and some off-the-field surprises.

Special Events: **ALAN WEYL** was still recruiting members to attend the Jazz @ Lincoln Center event at Caramoor, featuring Wynton Marsalis, on June 22. Tickets are \$120 (if 10 or more); payment is due by the May 29th meeting. Contact **ALAN** for details: aweyl@outlook.com, 203-536-7755.

ROMEO: **DON ROTZIEN** announced that the ROMEO Community has selected Thursday, June 13 for its rescheduled lunch at Greenwich Point. It will start at 1:00 pm in the area behind the main concession stand. We have our approval from Parks & Recreation; if you don’t have a beach card, just tell the guard that you’re with the RMA. See you there.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Hearts: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** dealt the results for May 15.

<i>TABLE 1 Winners</i>	Games Won	Moonshots
PETER STERN	1	0
ANDY HOLMES	1	0
<i>TABLE 2 Winners</i>		
TOM HEALY	1	2
MICHAEL AMBROSINO	1	1

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** summarized the results for May 15. There were 12 players. The top three scores were by **ED MASTOLONI**, 4610, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 4570, and **RON**, 4130. There were two slams in six clubs, one by **ED** and **ANDRE**, the other by **TONY COCCHI** and **STEVE SHAPIRO**. Play takes place every Wednesday at 1 pm in the Cafeteria at Greenwich Library. Lunch is available. All those interested, whether beginner or not, are welcome to join the group.

Golf: **BOB PHILLIPS** said there were 24 golfers on May 21; 16 played 18 holes, eight played nine. Closest to Pin 5, **TOM HEALY** (who also hit a 60-foot putt on #17), to Pin 7, **GRAN BURGESS**. Longest drive was by **JOE MANCINELLI**. Players breaking 100: **TOM HEALY**, 98, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, 96, **PAT YUEN**, 94, **TONY FITZPATRICK**, 90, **GRAN BURGESS**, 87, **CHARLIE ADAMS**, 87. **BOB** reminded all golfers that tee times must be submitted to the Griff by the Friday before play-day. You should sign up no later than Thursday night to assure the proper number of slots for the following Tuesday.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that there was no walk last week and none planned for this week (the usual Thursday) due to rain.

SPEAKER PROGRAM



Kornfeld (L), Addeo

CHARLIE ADAMS introduced Rachel Kornfeld, the chief executive officer of JFS of Greenwich (Jewish Family Services) and Lala Addeo, director of volunteer services. A licensed clinical social worker and certified school administrator, Rachel has been providing mental health and education services in New York and Connecticut for over 20 years. Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, Lala immigrated to the U.S. with the help of HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), JFS, and

Temple Sholom in 1990 and brings a unique perspective to the resettlement volunteer effort at JFS. She speaks fluent Russian. The focus of their presentation was on their extensive refugee resettlement program, but Rachel began by tracing the history of JFS Greenwich.

It was founded in 1983 and grew steadily. In 1990 they began to provide settlement services for refugees from the former Soviet Union. In 2022, JFS Greenwich was granted State Department approved resettlement agency status for their program serving hundreds of people from around the world. They are aided in their efforts by various churches in Greenwich and many volunteers. She explained that the resettlement process is difficult, tedious and very time consuming, invariably needing legal help, provided pro bono. Over 200 clients received such assistance in the past month. As of June 1, JFS will have three paralegals on staff.

There are two pathways for resettlement: (1) Refugee status – persons forced to flee their country for fear of persecution, who must obtain official refugee status through the UN; (2) Humanitarian Parole – temporary admission to the US of foreign nationals, otherwise not admissible. This may take from six months to several years.

A travel date for the immigrants is established and they are met at the airport with a translator, as needed, and brought to the housing location that JFS has arranged in advance. Lala described the various services provided and the many volunteer opportunities available in four categories.

One-Time: helping with apartment set-up, holding a welcome dinner, translation, transportation, financial/digital literacy. Translators are needed for many languages, especially for greeting at the airport.

Weekly: one-on-one English lessons, with possible field trips (grocery, coffee shop, etc.); career coaching, such as resume preparation, mock interviews, networking with corporate partners, job hunting. Lala mentioned that she is looking for people like RMA members to participate in an Employment Task Force to advocate for the clients.

Events: Special occasions, such as back-to-school, field trip to the Maritime Center which is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, etc.

Other Volunteer Opportunities: Rachel outlined these items. JFS mental health services for six years old and higher through the auspices of the Bennett Center for Behavioral Health at JFS, which is supported by the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Foundation. More than 800 sessions are held each month by 20 professionals. Also, “Compassionate Companion” for older adults is offered in the form of bringing clients to appointments and seeing them home safely. “Supermarketing for Seniors,” is a popular program for the community at large, which helps about 75 clients using 40 volunteer shoppers.

JFS also concentrates on reducing food insecurity. Every Tuesday from 10 to 12 at their offices, they hold a farmers’ market and friendly fridge event where the needy are provided with essentials and over 100 donated meals. A similar program is held at Westhill High School in Stamford.

JFS is a 501-c3 non-profit social services agency serving the greater Greenwich community. Although its counseling services accept most insurance plans, all other services rely on donations from individuals, businesses, foundations, government grants, and, of course, volunteers. As noted, there are many volunteer opportunities to help JFS manage their broad-ranging, excellent humanitarian services. It is located at 67 Holly Hill Lane. Their web site is www.jfsgreenwich.org; you can reach Lala at 203-622-1881.

The usual hearty Q&A session followed the presentation.

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 →**CHARLIE SHAPIRO**←. 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** and **TIM BROOKS**.

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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– 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