

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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Next Meeting Scribe: June 5 – **JIM DEAN** (jhdeanco@gmail.com)

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

"It is better to fail in originality than succeed in imitation." - Herman Melville

President **Will Morrison** opened the meeting, introducing pledge leader **Peter Berg**. He was followed by song leader **Jim Butler**, who, accompanied by **Jim Santora** on the piano, rendered the hymns of the four branches of the military in honor of Memorial Day: "The Marines' Hymn," "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," "Anchors Aweigh" and "The Air Force Song."

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Will then reported on RMA participation in the 2024 Memorial Day parade. Around 25 members happily and proudly marched in the parade which somehow threaded the needle between two rain-storms. The crowds loved our signs, such as "Avoid the honey do list, join the RMA!" Also, our choreography. At each major intersection banner carriers **Tony Cocchi, Tom**

Healy, and Bob Bishop spun a 360 to cheers and smiles. We hope to see you at the next parade.



Also, the RMA Melody Men proudly performed at the opening of the Greenwich Town Party on Saturday.



Will, in his weekly rotating recognitions, then recognized the contributions of greeter **Craig Walters**, mentor **Skip Auch**, CBB scribe **Charlie Shapiro**, volunteer advocate **John Denne**, refreshments provider **Jerry Coleman**, and the special events team of **Troy Johnson**, **Larry Allen**, **John Febles**, and **Alan Weyl** (Chair).

Will also asked about interest in organizing some new activities, such as family genealogy or a book club. There was interest, and he will follow up.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

RMA Picnic: **John Kavanagh** announced that the 2024 Annual RMA Picnic will be held on **Thursday, September 12, 2024**. Please note that the picnic this year is on Thursday in recognition of the fact that Wednesday is the anniversary of 9/11. There will be no membership meeting on September 11, just the picnic on the 12th. Please save the date so you can attend. We will have great food and beverage options, games, raffles, and lots of good fellowship. Members, spouses, significant others, and widows of members will all be welcome. It will take place in the clambake area at Tod's Point, with more details to come in future weeks. Thanks to **Don Conway** for help in obtaining the town permit for the event.

Corresponding Secretary Arnold Gordon mentioned that the Greenwich Ferries will begin running on Saturday, June 8. He also recommended that everyone sign up for the Greenwich Emergency Alert System which is activated when the Town is aware of a potential safety hazard or concern, weather related or otherwise. It is easy to sign up:

<https://www.greenwichct.gov/435/Emergency-Management>

Our library facilities in Greenwich continue to offer excellent programs on a variety of topics. A case in point are the unusual programs scheduled at the Perrot Library, including an evening of entertainment by Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand impersonators (stage names: Summer Orlando and Barbra Streetsand) who will perform on June 5 at 7 pm a "live singing cabaret stage show full of rip-roaring comedy, scintillating solos, and dazzling duets." See <https://perrotlibrary.org/upcoming-events/2/>

Substituting for **Joe Mancinelli** as a jokester, **Arnold** told an IRS story that does seniors proud. The IRS decides to audit Grandpa, and summoned him to the IRS office. Grandpa showed up with his attorney. The auditor said, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. I'm not sure the IRS finds that believable."

“I am a great gambler, and I can prove it,” says Grandpa. “How about a demonstration?” The auditor says, “OK. Go ahead.” Grandpa says, “I’ll bet you a thousand dollars that I can bite my own eye.” The auditor thinks for a moment and says, “It’s a bet.” Grandpa removes his glass eye and bites it. The auditor’s jaw drops. Grandpa says, “Now, I’ll bet you two thousand dollars that I can bite my other eye.” The auditor can tell Grandpa isn’t blind, so he takes the bet. Grandpa removes his dentures and sinks them into his remaining eye. The astonished auditor now grasps that he has gambled and lost three grand, with Grandpa's attorney as a witness. His unease begins to mount.

“Want to go double or nothing?” Grandpa asks. “I’ll bet you six thousand dollars that I can stand on one side of your desk, and pee into that wastebasket on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between.” The auditor, twice burned, is cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there’s no way this old guy could possibly manage that stunt, so he agrees again. Grandpa stands beside the desk and unzips his pants, but although he strains mightily, he can’t make the stream reach the wastebasket on the other side, so he pretty much urinates all over the auditor’s desk. The auditor leaps with joy, realizing that he has just turned a major loss into a huge win. But Grandpa’s attorney moans and puts his head in his hands. “Are you OK?” the auditor asks. “Not really,” says the attorney. “This morning, when Grandpa told me he’d been summoned for an audit, he bet me twenty-five thousand dollars that he could come in here and pee all over your desk and that you’d be happy about it.”

Don’t mess with old people!

Treasurer’s Report: Jeff Junker reported that 120 members have paid their dues. The deadline for paying dues is in two weeks.

Membership Report by Peter Stern. Attendance at the meeting was 87 in-person, plus six on Zoom, for a total of 93 (Count by **Rick Holz**). Today’s greeter is **Craig Walters**.



Auch, Ryan, Toner

This was followed by the induction of new member **John Ryan**, accompanied by his sponsors **Skip Auch** (nominating) and **John Toner** (second). **Skip** gave the recommendation to the RMA membership:

"I'm delighted to sponsor John Ryan for membership in the Greenwich RMA. I first met him when my family

moved to Greenwich in January of 1962 and we both attended St. Mary's High School. We lost touch, but recently re-connected here through the RMA.

"John graduated from Northeastern University where he says he majored in 'Fraternity.' His business career included the corporate world, the ownership of a liquor store here in Greenwich, and ultimately retiring from the Ethan Allen Corporation in 2014. After returning from years spent in Stewart Fl., John lived in Danbury where his community service included building houses for the Danbury Habitat for Humanity. John and his wife of 52 years moved back to Greenwich where he is an officer in the Greenwich Jaycees and the Knights of Columbus. They have two grown children. He enjoys cards, social events and, as he says, 'making things happen.' If you approve his membership, I know John will be an active member of the RMA."

John Toner then seconded the recommendation. The RMA voted unanimously to approve. Upon membership, **Ryan** thanked his sponsors, the RMA, and said he looked forward to participating and volunteering.

Peter then announced the week's birthdays (**Jim Santora** at the piano): **Larry Posner**, 76, and **Doug MacLaury**, 69. Guests this week were Jim Coogan, guest of **Pat MacCarthy**, and Ken Schmidt, guest of **Bob Mendelsohn**. A returnee this week was **Harold Kuplesky** from Gasparilla Island, FL.

Program Committee: Spike Lipschutz announced that today’s speaker would be Kelley Franco Throop on “Getting Schooled in Baseball's Greatest Rivalries.” **Bob Meaney** added that next week would be a musical performance by **George Ubogy** and Cynthia Mackay.

Special Events: Alan Weyl reported that the Jazz at Lincoln Center event at Caramoor on June 22, 2024, has been canceled. There is a limited supply of tickets available at list price on the Caramoor website, if you are interested in going on your own. <https://caramoor.org/>. New events are being scheduled to fill the summer calendar.

ROMEO: Bill Featherston relayed that the next ROMEO luncheon will be at Greenwich Point picnic area on June 13 at 1 PM, bring your own lunch.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Hearts: John Knight reported the hearts results for Wednesday May 22. There were eight players.

Tables	Winners	Moon Shots
1	Bill Faukenbury-2; Mike Ambrosino-1; Joe Dowling-1	Bill Faukenbury-1; Joe Dowling-1
2	Robbie Reich-1; John Knight-1; Don Conway-1	None

Bridge: Ron Murray. Here are the bridge results for Wednesday, May 22, Ten total players. There were no slams.

Name	Score
Charley Land	3900
Ron Murray	3780
Andre Mazurek	3520

Play is every Wednesday afternoon in the cafe on the ground floor of the Greenwich Library. Lunch is available. We invite all members and guests who are interested in bridge to join our group. If your game is a bit rusty, not to worry - we have excellent players who would be happy to address questions.

Walkers: Ted Larrabee advised that the Walkers were canceled last Thursday due to rain, so there is no report.

Golf: Jim Santora:

Closest to Hole	Score under 100
Tom Healy #5	Mike Ambrosino-99
Phil Spector #7	Phil Seibena-98
Andre Mazurek #8	Pat Yuen-93
Mike Ambrosino #15	Gran Burgess-88
	Charlie Adams-87

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Spike Lipschutz introduced today's speaker, Kelley Franco Throop on "Getting Schooled in Baseball's Greatest Rivalries."



Kelley Franco is a baseball media entrepreneur, and her company is Three Inning Fan LLC. She hosts her own baseball podcast, "A Date in October with KFT." She has been a guest lecturer at the Baseball Hall of Fame and a baseball contributor on CNN's Financial Network. By day, Kelley is a practicing attorney in New Canaan, Connecticut at her firm, Franco and Associates.

Franco began by setting the stage for discussing rivalries, emphasizing how they add passion, excitement, and storytelling to baseball. She then dove into the "four main rivalries" she wanted to focus on. The first was the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants, which Franco called possibly "the rivalry with the greatest baseball moments." She traced the geographic and socioeconomic roots of the rivalry dating back to the late 1800s. The high point was the famous 1951

pennant race, culminating in Bobby Thomson's "Shot Heard 'Round the World" home run to win the pennant for the Giants.

The second main rivalry covered was the Yankees and Red Sox, labeled "the greatest rivalry in sports." Franco hit on several landmark moments, including Bucky Dent's home run in the 1978 playoff game, Aaron Boone's dramatic 2003 ALCS-winning homer, and the 2004 ALCS comeback by the Red Sox from a 3-0 series deficit to finally reverse the "Curse of the Bambino." The third peculiar rivalry discussed was between flamboyant Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley and baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn in the 1970s, stemming from Kuhn voiding Finley's attempted trades and sales of star players. The fourth main rivalry was the Cubs and Cardinals, driven by their geographic proximity and frequent regular season matchups over the decades, as well as shared players and managers like Bruce Sutter.

Franco then covered three "honorable mention" rivalries in a quicker hitting style. First was the combustible relationship between George Steinbrenner and Billy Martin, with Martin getting hired and fired five times as Yankees manager. Next was the fierce on-field battling between the Yankees and Royals in the late 1970s, highlighted by brawls and the infamous "Pine Tar Incident." Lastly, she discussed the underrated but heated Reds-Pirates rivalry which produced several classic playoff matchups in the 1970s.

The talk featured multimedia clips of iconic baseball moments like the Roseboro-Marichal brawl and Carlton Fisk's dramatic game six home run. Franco sprinkled in trivia questions to engage the audience on points like players involved in various plays. She closed by mentioning other potential rivalries to explore like the St. Louis Browns-Cardinals, Mets-Yankees, and Pete Rose's clash with commissioner Bart Giamatti, expressing her passion for unearthing baseball's rich tradition of fiery rivalries.

The Q&A covered topics like the awful racism Jackie Robinson faced with his low initial salary, how baseball's increased reliance on analytics may be diminishing prolonged rivalries, the disastrous Nolan Ryan trade by the Mets, and comical tales of heckling of Ted Williams from the Fenway stands by fans.

Overall, Franco's talk provided a comprehensive overview of some of baseball's most heated rivalries, peeling back the layers on their roots, key moments and personalities, and how they added to the vibrant fabric of the game's history and lore. Her multimedia approach and blend of facts, storytelling and audience engagement made for an entertaining and informative presentation.

The full presentation can be viewed by going to the RMA website at <https://greenwichtma.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 →**Jim Dean**←. 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.greenwichtma.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 **Dick Franck** .

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Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichtma.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-1:00 pm	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma – mdlagamma@optonline.net
Tuesdays	9:30 am	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Joe Mancinelli - jlmanc@optonline.net
Tuesdays	Resumes in Fall	Platform (paddle) tennis	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	Ron Murray - mitmurray@aol.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net Jeff Junker - jjunker@optonline.net
Thursdays	9:00-11:00 am	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma – mdlagamma@optonline.net
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Andre Mazurek - Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com

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