

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, Kris Bratberg, Jim Dean, Bob Giaquinto, Arnold Gordon, Michael LaGamma, David Michonski, John Reese, Frank Scarpa, Charlie Shapiro, Mike Tebay, Fred Wu**
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Fellowship, Volunteerism, Service

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SCRIBE: JIM DEAN

Next Meeting Scribe: June 12 – KRIS BRATBERG (krisbratberg@gmail.com)

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

President **WILL MORRISON** called the meeting to order at 9:45am. **STEVE SHAPIRO** led the group in the pledge. **DON CONWAY** was the song leader accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on the piano. The group sang “My Country Tis of Thee,” “Don’t Fence Me In,” and “Get Me to The Church on Time.”

WILL then recognized members who assisted with today’s meeting: **BILL FEATHERSON** served as greeter; **KRIS BRATBERG** was the mentor; **JIM DEAN** is the scribe; volunteer advocate was **TROY JOHNSON**; refreshments were organized by **BOB GIAQUINTO**; the AV team includes **ED PARKER, MARK GEIMER, PETER DODGE, HORST TEBBE, BARRY RICHELSON, STEVE MARINO, ARN WELLES, and JOHN FEBLES.**

WILL noted that the membership has approved an on-line member directory recommended by the Board. The software used is “Wild Apricot” which has a very rigorous security protocol. He emphasized that protecting the personal

information of members by all members is important. The membership information will be prepared by the RMA for distribution through an online directory that can be accessed only by members. This directory will be only for the private use of members and may not be shared in any fashion other than within the membership. Each member can determine what personal information he wants to share by either editing his profile or requesting help from Support@greenwichrma.org.

[Link to Member Directory presentation]

Corresponding Secretary Report

ARNOLD GORDON introduced **JIM DEAN**, who delivered a memorial about former member and his long-time friend, George Chelwick, who died May 8.

JIM shared that he had known George for 50 years. They had served together on the Greenwich Boy Scout Board, were fellow Rotarians, had professional dealings through George's role at Putnam Trust, and golfed together at Millbrook. After graduating from Greenwich High School George enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served in the team monitoring ground control at Nichols field in Manila, the Philippines. After his service he returned to Greenwich and began work under the "Returning Veterans Program" at Putnam Trust. He met his beloved wife Nancy and together they established their home in Greenwich. At night he attended college at Pace and NYU. He retired in 1983 as Senior Vice President of the mortgage and loan division. George was devoted to his sons and volunteered for the athletic department at Greenwich High School by filming football games for the coaches. He was inducted into the Greenwich High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016. **JIM** remembered George as a fine man, very approachable and always willing to lend a hand to many organizations in the Greenwich community.

ARNOLD provided an update on coming events. He recommended attendance at a free-admission festive party by the Greenwich Historical Society on the Bush Holley House grounds to celebrate *Juneteenth*. On June 22 from 11 am until 2 pm, there will be a curated market in the Tavern Garden highlighting local businesses, lawn games and jazz music from the Demolition Brass Band

on the great lawn, and there will be free food. Register here for the *Juneteenth Event*: <https://greenwichhistory.org/event/juneteenth-celebration/>

Members may also want to take advantage of the free summer outdoor concert series at Binney Park and Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. The first one, by the Bob Button Big Band, will be at Binney Park on June 26 at 7 pm. The complete schedule can be found at:

<https://www.greenwichct.gov/2084/Summer-Concerts>

Before introducing the new jokester, **ARNOLD** could not resist leaving us with a few gems, which this time are signs that are examples of good intentions but guilty of malapropisms and other language mishaps.

At a doctor's office, Rome: "Specialist in women and other diseases."

In a Tokyo bar: "Special cocktails for ladies with nuts."

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand: "Would you like to ride on your own ass?"

And found at various synagogues:

- "Don't let worry kill you. Let your synagogue help."
- "If you enjoy sinning, the choir is looking for you!"
- The Associate Rabbi unveiled the synagogue's new fundraising campaign slogan this week: "I Upped My Pledge. Up Yours."

FRANK SCARPA then took the podium as the meeting jokester. **FRANK** provided a couple of shaggy dog stories thus joining the company of Mark Twain, Buddy Hackett, Grandpa Simpson and The Big Lebowski. His jokes were long winded anecdotes with irrelevant details and an anticlimactical punch line—just as all shaggy dog stories should be.

Treasurer's Report

JEFF JUNKER presented the comparative financial statements as of May 31, 2024. **JEFF** reminded the group that dues were due by May 31. Dues are now \$125 and can be paid by check made out to the RMA or by Zelle (instructions on the RMA web site). So far 140 members have paid their dues for 2024-

2025; Email reminders will be sent to those members who have not. **JEFF** advised that the RMA has a CD coming due. The board determined that 10% of the proceeds will be invested in a 90-day CD and the balance will be invested in a 9-month CD.

Membership Report

PETER STERN provided the following statistics for today's meeting, compiled by counter **RICK HOLZ**. In-person attendance 96, plus five by Zoom, for a total of 101. Birthdays were celebrated with **BOB MORGAN** at "the 88s" for

TROY JOHNSON, 61

MIKE TEBAY, 78

FRANK SALEM, 70

BOB MORGAN, 88

HENRY GUNDERS, 100

Note: **TROY** is our youngest member and Henry is a former member. Returnees recognized were **TOM HEALY** from Salt Lake City, Utah, and **FRANK SCARPA** from Naples, Florida. A special welcome was extended to **HOLLISTER STURGES** for attendance the first time in a long time! **PETER** extended a welcome to the members on Zoom and to RMA senior members **WALT ANDERES**, a member since 1994, and **DOUG TAYLOR**, since 1996.

Speakers Program

BOB MEANEY announced today's program. RMA member **GEORGE UBOGY** will be joined by Cynthia Mackay who will serenade the group with a program of songs, "Schubert Lieder, Irish Folk Songs, and Other Stuff." **STEVE BOIES** announced that the format for next week's program will be an interview of sportswriter Gary Myers by Jim Campbell, radio host of *Business Talk with Jim Campbell*. Many of you will remember Jim's talk three years ago when he discussed his well-researched book about Bernie Madoff, *Madoff Talks*. Gary Myers is a veteran sportswriter who last year published his sixth book: *Once a Giant: A Story of Victory, Tragedy and Life After Football* – the story of the NY Giants team that won the Super Bowl in 1986. In this book, which **STEVE** said he had read, Myers tells us about the impact playing football has had on the

post-career lives of the 1986 Giants as they are now in their 50s, 60s, and 70s. Many of the stories are heartwarming and funny, but some are heart breaking. If you want to know more about Bill Parcells, Lawrence Taylor and Phil Simms, be sure to be here next week.

Future Projects

Annual Picnic- **JOHN KAVANAGH** announced that the picnic is scheduled for September 12 at Tod's Point. The committee had elicited bids from five possible providers: Garden Catering, Shop Rite, Chicken Joe's, Garelick & Herbs, and Costco. The last two were dropped from consideration because they were non-responsive or are not really in the catering business. Quotes were received from the remaining three. The recommendation of the committee is to hire Garden Catering which will provide full service with delivery, set up, serving and clean up. Garden Catering will cost more than the other bidders however the cost is justified by their guaranteeing all functions needed to ensure an enjoyable event for members. The cost will be below the \$5000 budgeted when admission fees and raffle revenue are included. **JOHN** said the committee has created a communication plan that will utilize emails, meeting announcements and the CBB to elicit interests from the membership.

DAVE MICHONSKI is working on the annual luncheon which will be held at the Innis Arden club. More details are forthcoming. **DAVE** and **JACK WEIR** are working on plans for the RMA 70th Anniversary party. **PETER STERN** is continuing work on the parking permits.

Special Events

ALAN WEYL announced that on July 27 there will be a Jazz Day on the Lawn at Caramoor, presented in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center. The program will begin at 12:30. The headliner will be Matthew Whitaker.

TROY JOHNSON announced the US Open Fan Week trip on Thursday, August 22, 2024. There will be fun, fellowship, and food, with RMA mates and their guests! This will provide an unparalleled close-up way to experience world-class competitors battling for spots in the Main Draw! Free admission! TAG

Bus Transportation (member cost). Plenty of food and beverage choices available (member cost).

In the planning stage is a trip to The Bruce Museum for the Andy Warhol "small is beautiful exhibit" and small group lunch at Aux Delices (date late June TBD). More new summer event announcements are coming soon.

The April trip to the New York Botanical Gardens was very successful. A survey was completed with "lessons learned" that will be shared with members in the near future. **DON ROTZIEN** reminded the group that the **ROME**Os will meet for lunch next Thursday, June 13, at Tod's Point.

Activities Reports

Bridge. The results for Wednesday, May 29 were announced by **RON MURRAY**. There were nine players competing. The top three scorers were **CHARLEY LAND**, 4012 points, **RON MURRAY**, 3956, **TONY COCCHI**, 3780. Congratulations to **CHARLEY** who has held first place for two weeks. There were three slams bid and made. **CHARLEY** and **RON** made a slam in six diamonds worth 1370 points. **ED MASTOLONI** made two slams, both worth 980 points - one with **TONY** in six hearts and one with **ANDRE MAZUREK** in six spades. We play 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. Do not worry if your game is a bit rusty - we have some excellent players who will be happy to discuss your questions with you.

Golf. The results for June 4 were reported by **JAY SCHONDORF**. Shots closest to the pin were made by **CHARLIE ADAMS** on hole 5; **JIM BOARDMAN** on hole 7; **CHARLIE ADAMS** again on hole 15. The longest drive was hit by **ANDRE MAZUREK** on hole 8. Players who had scores below 100 were **PAT YUEN** (99), **JOE MANCINELLI** (96), **ANDRE MAZUREK** (95), **PETER TUNLEY** (92), **TONY FITZPATRICK/BART BARTHOLOMEW/JIM BOARDMAN** (91); **GRANVILLE BURGESS** (90), and **CHARLIE ADAMS** with an 80!

Pickleball. **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that with the recent comfortably warm and sunny days, pickleball teams have usually occupied both Christiano courts for most of our games. Pickleball is the only RMA activity played twice a week, Mondays from 11 am until 1 pm and Thursdays from 9 until 11 am at Christiano Field. New players are always encouraged to join us. If you want to be part of the pickleball contact list, please email **PAT** at pmacCarthy415@gmail.com.

Hearts. At Table One, **TOM HEALY** shot the moon, while **JACK SWEGER** won two games and **BOB SHULLMAN** won one.

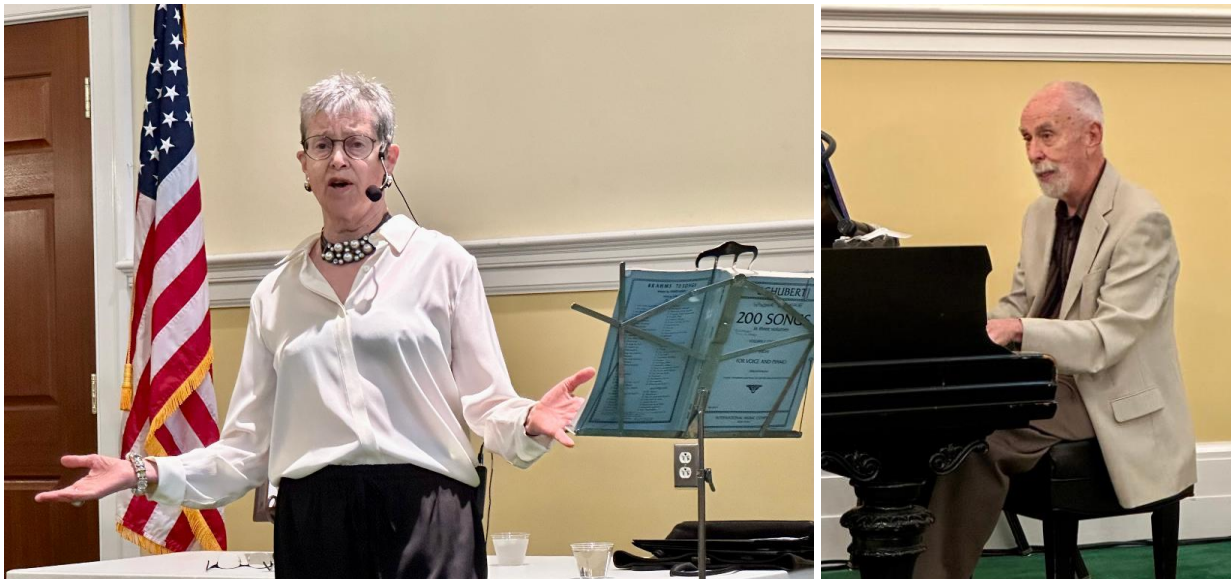


Walkers & Talkers. **JEFF JUNKER** reported that after many weeks of rain-outs, the Walkers were able to gather at the Byram Schubert Library on May 30, and perambulated through a diverse and interesting part of south-western Greenwich.

Today's Program

GEORGE UBOGY and Cynthia Mackay, both retired physicians and accomplished musicians, teamed up to present a program of works by Franz Schubert, with **GEORGE** on piano and Cynthia performing Schubert lieder. As each piece was introduced the pair provided the history and interpretation of the piece. One stirring piece was "Death and the Maiden," a short poem of a dying woman whose fear of death gave way to acceptance and kindness. They also performed a Faustian Goethe composition, "Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel," "The Trout," "Night and Dreams," "To Be Sung on the Water," and ended the set with a beautiful rendition of "Ave Maria." An encore included several folk and popular songs, including Irish songs "Wild Rover" and "Wild Mountain Thyme," the spiritual "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," and a rousing rendition of "The City of New Orleans."

Dr. George Ubogy is a retired internist and for many years Medical Director of the Addiction Recovery Center at Greenwich Hospital. He attended the Juilliard Preparatory Division in his youth, and was introduced to the Schubert lieder by Dr. Mackay. Dr. Cynthia Mackay, a retired ophthalmologist, has sung all her life, including with a Harvard madrigal group, the Radcliffe Choral Society and the Harvard Glee Club, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Recently she co-authored the book *The Unsightly Truth of Laser Vision Correction: LASIK Surgery Makes Healthy Eyes Sick*, was executive producer of the movie *Broken Eyes*, and authored a memoir, *Making the Cut*.



Unfortunately, no recording of the performance is available. 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 →**Kris Bratberg**←. 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, JEFF JUNKER.**

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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-1:00 pm	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – pmaccarthy415@gmail.com Michael LaGamma– mdlgamma@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 – mdlgamma@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