

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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*Fellowship, Volunteerism, Service*

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**SCRIBE: BOB GIAQUINTO**

**Next Meeting Scribe: June 26 – MIKE ABRAHAMS**

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Log your volunteer hours at [www.greenwichrma.org/log](http://www.greenwichrma.org/log)

*“Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.” – J.M. Barrie*

President **WILL MORRISON** opened the meeting at 9:45 am. The Pledge leader was **JOE DOWLING**, piano player, **BOB MORGAN**, and the song leader, **DON CONWAY**, who led us all in “America the Beautiful,” “Drunken Sailor,” and “Danny Boy” (very few can sing that better than **DON**).

President **WILL** then followed with recognition for greeter **LARRY DEVAN**, mentor **PATRICK MacCARTHY**, CBB scribe **BOB GIAQUINTO**, volunteer advocate **HAROLD KUPLESKY**, and refreshments provider **SPIKE LIPSCHUTZ**. This was followed by recognition rotations for meeting set up **BOB BISHOP, JIM BUTLER, JOHN CRAINE**, and greeters and mentors **BILL FETHERSTON, TOM NACINOVICH, DON ROTZEIN**, and **LARRY DEVAN**.

Additional comments from President **WILL**:

- The "Members Only" website update: over the coming days, those that are current with their dues will receive an invitation to create a password and to enter the site. Look for an email from [grma@wildapricot.org](mailto:grma@wildapricot.org) containing the details for the next steps. Have a look at some the member profiles that are already in place. Many have photos!

- The Genealogy Project: based on the large number of raised hands at a prior meeting, **TIM BROOKS** and **BART BARTHOLOMEW** have volunteered to coordinate a group effort whereby participants share tips and best practices to create their family trees. Both gentlemen have done some extensive research on their own. Contact **TIM** to join ([tim@timbrooks.net](mailto:tim@timbrooks.net)).

- Free Book Sharing: If you have books that would be of interest to fellow members, display them on the table to the right as we enter. If they are not chosen, please take them home. A possible next step would be to arrange for their being taken to the Book Swap. Let **BART BARTHOLOMEW** know if you would be interested.



- **WILL** noted that he had two signs from the last RMA parade, and asked who stores them? No one admitted to doing so.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** provided an update on **JACK WEIR**'s condition since his major stroke on Monday, June 10. **JACK** will remain at Greenwich Hospital until suitable arrangements are made for his transfer to a rehabilitation site. He seems to have

increased consciousness and his speaking is slightly improved, but is not receiving visitors. **ARNOLD** conveyed the RMA members' thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery through **JACK**'s wife, Lucy. A card on behalf of the RMA will be sent to **JACK**.

Saxophone playing member **LOU RUPNICK** will be playing with the Bob Button Band next Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 at Binney Park. The concert is free.

**ARNOLD** also mentioned that there is a table tennis facility on Railroad Avenue in Greenwich for RMA members that are interested in playing the sport. He will look into obtaining a special rate for RMA.

Since **ARNOLD** did not have anything else important to report this week, he went straight into his groaners.

- "There is a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny."

- Some genuine tombstones of note: Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York: "Born 1903--Died 1942. Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was."

- In a Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery: "Here lies Johnny Yeast. Pardon him for not rising."

- On a tombstone in Boothill Cemetery, Tombstone, Arizona: "Here lies Lester Moore. Four slugs from a 44, No Les, no more."

- In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery: "Anna Wallace. The children of Israel wanted bread, And the Lord sent them manna. Clark Wallace wanted a wife, And the Devil sent him Anna."

**ARNOLD** then introduced **JOE MANCINELLI** as the real jokester for the day, who gave forth with the following.

- "A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion."

- "I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian."

- "She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still."

- "The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work."

- "No matter how much you push the envelope it'll still be stationary."

- "A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering."

- "A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart."

- “Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.”
- “When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.”

Next came Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** with the membership report. Attendance today was 103 in-person plus five on Zoom, for a total of 108 (count by **RICK HOLZ**). This was followed by a listing of birthday boys, serenaded with **BOB MORGAN** at the piano.

BOB	CAREY	92
TONY	COCCHI	83
MARK	PRUNER	69
HERNANDO	MADERO	85
MIKE	AMOROSO	87

Guests were Dick Danehower, guest of **GEORGE UBOGY**, and Dean Gamanos, guest of **JIM BUTLER** and **JEFF JUNKER**. Returnees were **TIM BROOKS** from Hanover, New Hampshire, **MICHAEL LAGAMMA** from Punta Gorda, Florida, **ED MILLER** from Stuart, Florida, and **WILL MORRISON** from Bend, Oregon.

**PETER** noted as a special occasion, **DAVID** and Linda **MICHONSKI** were celebrating their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He also gave an in-person welcome to **JOE WATTS** for the first time in a “very” long time, and a welcome on Zoom to regular virtual attendees **WALT ANDERES** and **DOUG TAYLOR**.

**JEFF JUNKER** delivered the treasurer’s report, saying “Please pay your annual dues of \$125 which can be accomplished online with Zelle (instructions on the RMA website), in person, or via mail (be sure to mask your check with plain paper).” He noted our CD was split into two and now gets even better interest rates.

Upcoming special events were described by Chairman **ALAN WEYL** and assistant **TROY JOHNSON**.

1. Aqueduct Raceway on Thursday, June 27.
2. Caramoor jazz festival on Saturday, July 27. Transportation is self-drive. Event pricing is \$89 for the evening headliner and day access while \$56 is

for day access only. The campus is beautiful, and food can be purchased or bring your own.

3. Grand slam tennis event USTA Fan Week on Thursday, August 22. Sign-ups can be done online. Bus transportation is provided leaving in the morning and returning in the evening. This event at the USTA Billie Jean King national tennis center is free except for the bus charge.
4. A possible future event is a four-winery tour in Connecticut.

**BOB RIMMER** announced that this week's speaker would be economist Larry Kantor. **HORST TEBBE** then previewed next week's speaker. At the June 26 meeting of the RMA Alexis Voulgaris, Moderator of the Greenwich Representative Town Meeting, will explain the purposes of the 230-member RTM, her goals for the next two years, and answer questions from the audience. Upon her reelection to the post in January 2024 she said "This term, I would like to see the RTM promote itself so we aren't simply something people think about a few weeks leading up to the November election. To that end, I'd like for the RTM to become more active in educating the public about what the RTM is, why it's important, and why everyone should know who we are and what their local legislative body is and how we work."

## Sports Reports



**JOE DOWLING** returned recently from a pickleball tournament in Richmond Virginia. The event was held at performance Pickleball RVA. At the Body Armor 804 Tournament event, **JOE** and his partner, Sandra, earned a bronze medal in the hybrid wheelchair event, and **JOE** also earned a bronze in the full court singles event.

**Bridge Report** by **RON MURRAY**. We had nine players, all of whom played 20 boards. The top four were **RON MURRAY**, 4760, **STEVE SHAPIRO**, 4460, **JOHN FEBLES**, 3610, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 3180. There were two slams bid and made. **STEVE** and **JOHN** bid and made six No-Trump worth 1440 points. **ANDRE**, who appears weekly, and **RON**

**FRIEDMAN** made six hearts worth 1430 points. We play every 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 newcomers or experienced players, to join our group. Don't worry if you haven't played recently or otherwise a bit rusty - we have skilled players who are happy to deal with any questions you may have.

**Hearts Report** by Captain **TOM HEALY**. Below are last week's winners of the seven games played. Next Week's captain is **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**.

Game #1 Game #2 Game #3 Game #4 Moon Shots

Table #1

RICK HOLZ	-	-	-	X	-
JOHN KNIGHT	W	-	W	X	2
JACK SWEGER	-	-	-	X	-
TOM HEALY	-	W	-	X	1

Table #2

MICHAEL AMBROSINO	-	-	W	W	-
ANDY HOLMES	-	-	-	-	-
BOB SHULLMAN	W	W	-	-	1
JOHN STANKUNIS	-	-	-	-	1

(Note: X=No game played)

**Golf Report** by **JOHN CRAINE**. We had 19 golfers under beautiful skies, warm temps and light winds. The winners of our four competition holes were:

Closest on Hole 5 – **CHARLIE ADAMS**

Closest on Hole 7 – **TONY FITZPATRICK**

Closest on Hole 15 – **GRAN BURGESS**

Longest drive, on Hole 8 – **JOHN RYAN**

Notable scores under 100 for 18 holes were **JIM SANTORA**, 98, **JIM BOARDMAN**, 96, **GRAN BURGESS**, 94, **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 92, **CHARLIE ADAMS**, 89, and **TONY FITZPATRICK**, 87. **JIM SANTORA** is our captain next Tuesday. Sign-up sheet for June 25<sup>th</sup> is on the bulletin board in the back. We will be starting at 8:00 am and continue playing ahead of the women for this last week of June. Thanks for those golfers who have paid their \$25 dues. As a

reminder, for those golfers who have not paid, please get your check or cash to **JIM SANTORA**. Also, as a reminder, we urgently need captains for a one-week assignment. See **JOE MANCINELLI, JIM SANTORA** or **JOHN CRAINE** to pick a date that works best for you.



**Walkers and Talkers** report by **JEFF JUNKER**. “On Thursday, June 13, seven walkers & talkers met at 9 am in the Cos Cob Library parking lot to explore Cos Cob. We started up a path along Strickland Brook that connects the library with the Cos Cob Elementary School and then crossed Route 1 to go down Mead Avenue which has a

number of Victorian houses on either side of the road. At the end of Mead Avenue we went to the left up River Road past the ‘Squash House,’ looking for the public access path to the boardwalk along the Mianus River. We stopped to read the Greenwich History sign which gave highlights of settlement of the area, and then followed the boardwalk south passing the River Club and a number of marinas until the walkway dead-ended at the I-95 overpass. We returned to River Road to go under I-95 and across the bridge over the Strickland Mill Pond dam. Then turned left to go under the next section of the I-95 overpass and visit the quarter acre Cos Cob Veteran's Memorial Park which is surrounded by the parking area of the town marina on River Road. We continued under the railroad overpass and then made a left into the entrance of Cos Cob Park where we rested under the pagoda next to the soccer field while reviewing the wall mounted plaques depicting the old coal-fired Cos Cob power plant which supplied ‘the juice’ for the first alternating current electric railroad in America. We then went up the mound to the 9-11 memorial, took a quick picture of group with a backdrop of the panoramic view of Long Island Sound, and then backtracked to the railroad underpass. We checked out the 1880's Cos Cob railroad station (unfortunately locked-up) and wandered up several residential roads to arrive at the old cemetery on

Strickland Road (the second oldest cemetery in Greenwich) and then crossed Route 1 to the Cos Cob firehouse, where we noted that the information on another 'History sign' put up for the town's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary did not match several dates on the first sign that we encountered. Then it was up the path along Strickland Brook to the library parking lot to finish our 3.1 mile walk in just under two hours."

The meeting was adjourned by 10:18.

Note from scribe: "Please capitalize the total RMA member name when reporting or mentioning an RMA member in your emailed report or text. It is not enjoyable and very time consuming to capitalize over seventy names. It takes on average 30 seconds to erase the name and then retype it with all capitals. So, 75 times 30 seconds equals 37 minutes of the scribe's time. Help! Thanks, **BOB GIAQUINTO.**"

### Today's Speaker



**BOB RIMMER** introduced our lecturer Larry Kantor, an economist whose career work has included The Federal Reserve Board, Managing Director at Barclays, a hedge fund, TV appearances and more. Kantor noted that after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates from the 0% to 5.25% between March 2022 and July

2023 to combat high inflation, a recession was widely anticipated. However, the economy defied expectations by accelerating, growing over 4% in the second half of 2023. Inflation declined to the federal 2% target during that period.



The combination of explosive demand and constricted supply caused goods price inflation to spike to a 40 year high. As the impact of Covid faded, goods demand declined, and supply chains healed allowing goods price inflation to plummet. However, services inflation then became high to around 4 to 5%. The historic, smart government stimulus of \$5 trillion enabled the USA to rebound. Remember in early 2020, unemployment went from 3.5% to 15% in two months. Job openings soared to 12 million while the normal number is seven million. Part of this was due to a labor shortage. During Covid about one million residents died, which included 500,000 workers. Many baby boomers also retired, some enticed by buyouts.

The infusion of dollars into businesses and households saved the country from recession. Looking ahead, Kantor expects economic normalization in 2024. Growth should slow to 2 to 2.5% as the labor market cools and excess household savings get diminished. Inflation will settle in the 3 to 4% range which is above the feds 2% target but not out of control. He foresees the fed tolerating this modestly higher inflation range if it proves relatively stable. One or two 1/4 % rate cuts may occur later this year. While falling short of the ultra-low inflation and interest rates seen pre-Covid, he argues the economic environment has fundamentally shifted from that period. He cites factors like increased protectionism, re-shoring of production and more domestic focus on supply chain resilience as catalysts pushing inflation and interest rate structurally higher versus 2010 to 2019 levels.

On broader issues, Kantor expressed concern over the rising income equality in America creating social instability. The tech boom minted enormous wealth at the very top income tier. However, policies like the expanded child tax credit temporarily reduced inequality during Covid until expiring.

He admitted the border is a mess but advocated for higher legal immigration levels to alleviate worker shortages and sustaining economic growth as baby boomers retire and birth rates decline below population maintenance levels. The birth rate is now 1.69 and to maintain the population, it must rise to 2.1 per pregnable female. He acknowledged climate change is a significant, long-term economic threat, likely to display populations, disrupt supply chains and impose substantial recovery/rebuilding costs going forward.

He also said,

1. Increased tariffs cause an increase in inflation but do protect some jobs.
2. There is no sign of inflation in sight.
3. He sees US Treasury Bonds yielding 4 to 5.5% while stocks are fairly priced.
4. The USA has by far the largest economy in the world.
5. Our stable dollar will stay the dominate currency in the world for at least sixty years.
6. There is a risk the hyped-up AI bubble may eventually burst.
7. USA excellence in the world financial markets is due to our tech domination.
8. The deficit, which was 27% of GDP during WW II, 10% in the financial crisis, 15% in 2020, and 13% in 2021, is now 6%. The deficit should be addressed rather than leaving it to others.

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 →**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.greenwichtma.org/log](http://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 [tim@timbrooks.net](mailto:tim@timbrooks.net) 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, TIM BROOKS, JEFF JUNKER.**

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 – <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Mondays	11:00 am-1:00 pm	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Michael LaGamma– <a href="mailto:mdlgamma@optonline.net">mdlgamma@optonline.net</a>
Tuesdays	9:30 am	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Joe Mancinelli - <a href="mailto:jlmanc@optonline.net">jlmanc@optonline.net</a>
Tuesdays	Resumes in Fall	Platform (paddle) tennis	James Dean - <a href="mailto:Jhdeanco@gmail.com">Jhdeanco@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – <a href="mailto:onehorst@optimum.net">onehorst@optimum.net</a> or Len Carusi at <a href="mailto:lencarusi@gmail.com">lencarusi@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	Bob Shullman – <a href="mailto:bob.shullman@gmail.com">bob.shullman@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Bridge	Ron Murray - <a href="mailto:mitmurray@aol.com">mitmurray@aol.com</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - <a href="mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net">tadlarra@optonline.net</a> Jeff Junker - <a href="mailto:jjunker@optonline.net">jjunker@optonline.net</a>
Thursdays	9:00-11:00 am	Pickleball	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Michael LaGamma – <a href="mailto:mdlgamma@optonline.net">mdlgamma@optonline.net</a>
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</a>

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