

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



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



<https://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**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

Fellowship, Volunteerism, Service

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SCRIBE: MIKE TEBAY

Next Meeting Scribe: July 10 – DAVE MICHONSKI (DAVID@QUIGLER.COM)

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

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." - The Declaration of Independence, 1776

RMA president **WILL MORRISON** opened the meeting at 9:45 am. **KEVIN FLAHERTY** 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 "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed enthusiastically by "Everybody Loves Somebody" and a somewhat more hesitant rendition of "Glow Worm."

WILL recognized today's volunteers: the greeter **BILL FEATHERSTON**, the mentor **DON ROTZIEN**, the scribe **MIKE TEBAY**, the volunteer advocate **BARRY RICHELSON**, and the treats provided by **JERRY COLEMAN**. He then recognized the Board members: **SKIP AUCH, JIM DEAN, MARK GEIMER, JEFF**

JUNKER, JOHN KAVANAGH, MICHAEL LAGAMMA, JOE MANCINELLI, BOB MEANEY, DAVID MICHONSKI, JOHN REESE, PETER STERN, JACK WEIR, and ALAN WEYL.

President's Comments

We have so far received 190 checks for membership renewals, so we are enroute for a good refresh rate for the new year, thanks to the hard work of **JEFF JUNKER** in sending out reminder emails. **WILL** has been going through the members only directory on the new website, and was amazed at how complete some people had been in providing information. The new profile has a section that allows you to fill out information about your past. The goal is to allow people to find birds of a feather, e.g., **WILL** is interested in cartography, and it turns out that **FRED WU** is also interested in cartography. Other examples might be people interested in forming a book group, genealogy, recruiting speakers, walkers and talkers, etc. Reading the profiles is even better than reading train schedules! We should all check out the profiles. Also, you should login to the website if you want to sign up for an event that **ALAN WEYL** and the Special Events Group are putting together. If you have trouble logging in, just email help@greenwichrma.org which gets routed to **WILL**. We wanted to ensure security – it's not too bad and we will get through it.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** mentioned a good opportunity to hear a wonderful concert at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich. As part of The United Church of Christ Musicians Association (UCCMA) National Conference, the free, opening gala concert will be held on Wednesday, July 10 at 7:30 pm featuring theater organist Nathan Avakian, playing on the digital theater organ owned by the New York Theater Organ Society. "The timeless sound of the pipe organ meets virtual instrument technology in this truly unique musical experience featuring music from Disney, Britney Spears, Henry Mancini, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, and Queen."

The annual Dixieland jazz band performance on the Island Beach Ferry will take place on Sunday, July 14. The boat departs at 4 pm and returns at 6 pm.

We seniors hate to admit it, but we may not be as technologically proficient as our younger folks. Well, help is available through Cyber-Seniors, a non-profit organization. For free assistance, just call 844-217-3057 or go to <https://cyberseniors.org/free-tech-help/>

ARNOLD then carried on as jokester for the day with some random musings about life. He confessed to being frugal and offered a money-saving technique. He took his suit to the cleaners, who wanted to charge him \$40. Instead, he gave it to the charity shop next door. They cleaned and pressed it and put it in their window. He bought it back for \$15.

At a wedding reception, someone yelled: "All married people please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living." The bartender was almost crushed to death.

Who was Alexander Graham Bell Pulaski? The first telephone Pole.

A bricklayer lost interest in his building project. He threw in the trowel.

Have you ever role-played in the bedroom? His wife's favorite is The Sexy Librarian. He has to sit quietly while she reads a book.

PETER STERN announced that the RMA has a limited number of Greenwich-issued yellow, numbered parking permits for lined spaces in the Lafayette Place Lot for the exclusive use of current RMA Members. They are valid only on Wednesdays from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Each Current Member gets one (1) permit at no charge. (127 Permits have been issued). If the initial permit is lost, a replacement can be requested with a \$30 cost. In comparison, a ticket for illegal parking costs \$25 to \$50. If you lose a second permit, no further replacement permits will be issued.

Membership Report

PETER announced that the attendance for the day, as counted by **LEE LUNDY**, was 85 in person, plus five on Zoom, for a total of 90. **PETER** then led the

meeting in an enthusiastic chorus of “Happy Birthday,” accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** at the piano, to celebrate the following birthdays:

CRO	MARTIN	71
JOHN	REESE	71
TONY	FITZPATRICK	75
HOLLISTER	STURGES	85
JEROME	COLEMAN	76
JOE	HAVRANEK	81
DAN	FREDLAND	90

Today’s greeter was **BILL FEATHERSTON**. There were three returnees: **JIM BUTLER** from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, **CRO MARTIN** from Boulder, Colorado, and **PETE UHRY** from Boothbay, Maine. There was one guest: David Scarpa, a guest of his father, **FRANK SCARPA**, but not a potential member, as he was visiting from the West Coast. **PETER** then gave a special welcome to two regular virtual attendees on Zoom: **WALT ANDERES** and **DOUG TAYLOR**.

Special Events

ALAN WEYL announced that today at the board meeting we discussed a very exciting event which is going to go out in an email to all of you shortly. This is the Caramoor Jazz festival, on Saturday, July 27, which we've talked about before. There are three event blocks, first a daytime activity for which gates open at 12 pm. There are jazz sessions, combos and individual performers on the lawns and in the gardens of Caramoor from 12:30 to 6 pm. General admission tickets are plentiful and available. **ALAN** doesn’t need much advanced reservation for those. Second is a picnic meal. My initial thought had been a lunch, but some people have expressed an interest in going to the headliner performance in the Venetian Garden at 7 o'clock with Matthew Whitaker, an avant-garde, young, blind jazz musician of note. So, we may have a dinner around 5:30, which would enable the people who go for the day to join with their colleagues who are going for the night, and have a fellowship dinner together. **ALAN** needs to know pretty soon how many people are going to go. The email will give you the opportunity to reserve a spot. We are

working on the possibility of being able to accept credit card payments. This is all late breaking information. It's at Caramoor in Katonah, a short drive, and it will be a self-drive event, with no transportation provided. We will provide the tickets, at a price to be determined, \$65 to \$70 for the day, and \$95 to \$100 for the evening performance, more or less. Bring a picnic chair because you'll be sitting on the lawn and eating, or sitting and listening. If it rains, the daytime events will move indoors under a tent. The dinner is on your account. If we are going to have a catered meal, that's going to be in the range of \$40 to \$45 a person. Or you can go to the concession stands, and it's probably a little less. More information will be coming soon as **ALAN** masters sending out emails to 190 of you.

In other events, we have 32 sign-ups for the US Open tennis. It's still open and live. And we are going to go to the Army-Air Force football game on November 2 at West Point.

TOM HEALY gave a quick update on the cancelled Aqueduct Racetrack trip. The refunds will be issued next week. We have already got the refund from County Coach. We're still waiting for the funds from the New York Racing Association, but we should have them by next week, and then we'll start issuing the refunds. The sad part was the air conditioning unit in the room where we were supposed to have our buffet was broken.

Membership Volunteer Activity Report

LEE LUNDY announced that for the three quarters ending June 30 about 35% of RMA members reported volunteer hours, and the RMA volunteers reported spending 10,241 total volunteer hours during this period. RMA leaders in reported volunteer hours for the period were:

1	TAD LARRABEE	827
2	JEFF JUNKER	662
3	ALAN GUNZBURG	455
4	MIKE HAYDEN	441
5	TIM BROOKS	441
6	FRED WU	427

7	BOB RIMMER	372
8	ARNOLD GORDON	321
9	CRAIG WALTERS	252
10	JIM DEAN	235

The non-profit organizations with the largest number of reported RMA volunteer hours during the period were:

1	RMA - Internal	2155
2	Melody Men	1301
3	Call-A-Ride	1285
4	Greenwich Choral Society	827
5	USS Intrepid	342
6	RMA-External	276
7	Condo/Co-op	275
8	Religious Organization	249
9	Greenwich Symphony	241
10	Salvation Army	220

DAVID MICHONSKI said that he grew up in Boston, and was accustomed to spending the 4th of July on the Esplanade, listening to Arthur Fiedler play the 1812 overture, followed by fireworks. So, he was delighted to learn that at Caramoor on July 4th, you could be on the lawn and listen to the 1812 overture, followed by a fireworks display.

DAVID went on to state that, with regard to our meetings on August 7 and August 21, we are not going to be allowed in the normal room, so we have signed a contract with Christ Church to have our meetings in their auditorium. You don't have to worry about parking. There are 210 spaces there. He will bring in a map before those meetings, so that you will know exactly where to go. We also don't have to worry about spilling drinks, and we can have a drink while we're listening to our speakers. **WILL MORRISON** thanked **DAVID MICHONSKI, HORST TEBBE** and **BOB MEANEY**, who are members of Christ Church and have been instrumental in putting this together.

Speaker Introductions

BOB MEANEY introduced the day's speaker, Anastasia Mills Healy, who's an expert on travel and an editor for travel magazines, and has written a book *100 Things to Do in Connecticut Before You Die*. It will be interesting for us people from this little corner of the State to learn about the other cities and the things that you can see in those cities and in the great hinterlands of our State.

TIM BROOKS announced that next week we will have a speaker with a very evocative title for his talk. He's Professor Foster Hirsch from Brooklyn College, and his topic is *Hollywood and Movies of the Fifties, the Collapse of the Studio System, the Thrill of Cinerama and the Invasion of the Ultimate Body Snatcher--Television*. That's what happened to Hollywood. He will talk about two kinds of movies that were very popular in the 1950's, the more traditional films, which he's sure we all love, *Father of the Bride, Cinderella, Brigadoon*, and the ones that shook things up like *East of Eden, From Here to Eternity, On the Waterfront, The Wild One*, and **TIM's** own personal favorite, *Jailhouse Rock*. Next week, Foster Hirsch on "Hollywood and Movies of the Fifties."

Genealogy Project

TIM then went on to report that **BART BARTHOLOMEW** and **TIM** are organizing a group of those interested in genealogy. If you're interested, please email **TIM**, who will put you on the list. We plan to have our first organizational meeting in the back corner of the meeting room before the regular membership meeting on July 17, so it'll be at about 9 or 9:15 am. We'll determine from the members who are interested exactly what they'd like to pursue. Is it online resources? Is it what to do when you get to those resources? How to interpret the census?

Activities Reports

Walkers and Talkers: **JEFF JUNKER**, reported that last Thursday they had a very good walk in the Rye Marshland Conservancy. It was fairly cool in the trees, and a breeze came up. They went out to a number of islands, saw an

osprey, and saw a deer in distress, which turned out to be a deer giving birth. They also saw a bunch of very friendly turkeys. Seven members walked for about three miles, and towards the end **JOHN DENNE** and **JEFF** stayed back because they'd always wondered about the Jay Heritage Center, and they had a wonderful view of it. **JOHN** and **JEFF** went there, and ended up meeting the President of the Historical Society. They are planning to open the Center by appointment on Thursdays and Sundays. So, in the future we'll plan a walk there and make an appointment, so we can also walk through the gardens and the house. There will be no walk this Thursday, the 4th of July, but we'll plan something for next week.

Hearts: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that they had two tables with eight players. At table number one, **DON CONWAY** won one game. **JOHN STANKUNAS** won two and shot the moon twice. At table number two, **JOE DOWLING**, **JACK SWEGER** and **JOHN KNIGHT** each won one game and **JOHN KNIGHT** shot the moon once. **MICHAEL** expressed his thanks to **JOHN FEBLES**, who left the dark side of bridge and joined them for hearts last week. Hopefully, he will maintain that!

Golf: **JIM SANTORA** reported that on Tuesday they had 16 players or four foursomes, and teed off at the Griff at 10:50. Twelve played 18 holes and four played nine holes. Nearest to the pin on #5 was **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, on #7 was **BILL GRAD**, and on #15 was **ANDRE MAZUREK**. Longest drive was **CHARLIE ADAMS** on #8. Of the 12 who played 18 holes, scorers under 100 were **JOE MANCINELLI** and **PAT YUEN**, 99, **GRAN BURGESS**, 98, **TOM HEALY**, **JIM BOARDMAN** and **JIM SANTORA**, 97, **PHIL SCIBONA** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 94, and the winner with 89 was **CHARLIE ADAMS**. The captain next week will be **JOE MANCINELLI**. The signup sheet is in the back of the meeting room on the bulletin board. There's also a sign up for captain for July and August. We still have a few spots open for a captain.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** reported the bridge results for last Wednesday, June 26. We were short one player due to the theft by the Hearts Group, but we nevertheless carried on. We had eight players. The top results were: in third place was **RON MURRAY** with 2,210 points, second was **STEVE SHAPIRO** with 2,420, and the winner was **ALEX KOSSEIM** with 2,750. The scores were a

little lower than usual. The good news was that two slams were bid. The bad news was that none were made. 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, whether you're a new player or an experienced player, to join our group. Don't worry if your game is a bit stale; we have some excellent players, who will be happy to give you any advice you need.

Pickleball: **PAT Mac CARTHY** said that he knew that we have been missing pickleball reports. but we're only doing it once a month to make these meetings a bit snappier. So just on the first Wednesday of the month you'll hear about pickleball. It's the fastest growing sport by far in America. We play at Christiano, which has the best pickleball courts in the area. No country club has better courts. We play at different times. On Mondays we play at 11 am, for people who like to have coffee with their wife and make it a little bit more leisurely, and we will be playing on the 4th of July. Anybody is welcome to join the group. **PAT**'s email address is pmaccarthy415@gmail.com and if you provide **PAT** with your email address, you'll get more emails than you can stand.

TODAY'S SPEAKER



BOB MEANEY introduced the speaker for today, Anastasia Mills Healy, and welcomed her to the RMA. Anastasia has researched unusual and fascinating sites in our State. She's the author of a new book, *100 Things to Do in Connecticut Before You Die*. Anastasia is a former editor at Conde Nast magazines, and has covered

Connecticut for *Timeout*, *Lonely Planet* and *Business Insider*. She has knowledge about the whole State, and is ready to help us residents of the extreme southwest corner of the State open our minds about what is out there in the great beyond, interesting sites and activities across Connecticut.

Healey introduced her presentation by noting that, as a travel writer, she researched the state extensively during the pandemic, speaking with museum curators, librarians, and others to uncover fascinating stories and places. Her first book, *Secret Connecticut, a guide to the weird, wonderful, and obscure*, tells 84 stories that most people don't know about the State.

Her new book covers five categories: food and drink, music and entertainment, sports and recreation, culture and history, and shopping and fashion. Healy aimed to include places representative of different areas, with longevity and high quality. She highlighted some tourism promotions like Connecticut Open House Day in early June, when about 200 places offer free admission or special programming. The Connecticut Art Trail pass allows access to 24 arts institutions for \$35/year. She also noted that many libraries, including Greenwich, offer museum passes.

Starting in Fairfield County, Healy mentioned Greenwich Avenue as the best retail street in the state. She highlighted Aquila's Nest Vineyards in Newtown, noting there are 22 wineries on Connecticut's wine trail. The Sheffield Island clam bake combines quintessential New England experiences - being on the water, visiting a lighthouse, and enjoying a clam bake. In Westport, Healy shared the surprising connection to *The Great Gatsby*. F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald honeymooned there, and the Longshore Club building inspired Gatsby's mansion. Frederick Lewis, a mysterious local millionaire, threw extravagant parties like those in the novel. Healy noted that the famous fashion designer, Christian Siriano, has an atelier in Westport, which is an interesting fashion destination. Near New Haven, she recommended the Thimble Islands sightseeing tour, Yale's free world-class museums, and of course, the pizza.

Moving to Middlesex County, Healy discussed Gillette Castle, now a state park, built by eccentric actor William Gillette who played Sherlock Holmes. She suggested Essex as an ideal day trip, highlighting the historic Griswold Inn (opened 1776), where you can stay and also enjoy terrific food, and the Connecticut River Museum, featuring the history of Adrian Block, who sailed up the Connecticut River six years before the Mayflower landed.

In New London County, Healy mentioned pick-your-own farms for lavender and tulips in New Preston, and sunflowers in Griswold. She also highlighted Dinosaur Place, with 50 life-size dinosaur statues, as fun for adults too. For Windham County, Healy shared the little-known fact that Samuel Huntington of Scotland, Connecticut, was technically president of the United States under the Articles of Confederation for eight years before the Constitution replaced the Articles and George Washington became president. She also recommended the massive antiques marketplace in Putnam.

In Tolland County, Healy suggested visiting the Nathan Hale Homestead. For car racing enthusiasts, she noted several options to drive or watch races, including Lime Rock Park. Hartford County offerings included the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum, free tours of the State Capitol, the Museum of Connecticut History and the fascinating Old Newgate Prison. This abandoned copper mine was used as a makeshift prison in pre-Revolutionary times, with prisoners initially simply thrown down the shaft and left. For garden enthusiasts, Healy highly recommended visiting Elizabeth Park's rose garden in Hartford, featuring 800 varieties and 15,000 roses. In Greenwich, she noted Sleepy Cat Farm as a beautiful private garden, which, along with some other private homes, is occasionally open to the public through the Garden Conservancy.

An intriguing attraction is Hogpen Hill Farms in Woodbury, where data visualization expert Edward Tufte has created 100 sculptures on his 234-acre property, including a Stonehenge-inspired installation. Healy highlighted two world-class chamber music festivals: the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (Yale Summer School of Music) pairs Yale students with renowned musicians, and Music Mountain in Falls Village offers chamber music and Dixieland jazz in an acoustically perfect building.

Throughout her talk, Healy emphasized lesser-known attractions and encouraged exploration beyond well-trodden tourist spots. She noted how many sites support local businesses and nonprofits, adding another layer of value to visiting.

In the Q&A, an audience member asked about the Stonington/Mystic area. Healy praised Stonington Borough as one of her favorite places and mentioned Mystic Seaport, the Aquarium, and Enders Island as worthy attractions. She explained that she typically doesn't focus on Mystic in talks since it's already well-known. Another audience member shared information about the Connecticut Sea Music Festival, held in early June in Essex. This four-day event features historical lectures, concerts, and performances at various historical buildings around town. The nearby Fife and Drum Museum in Ivoryton was also mentioned as an interesting, if lesser-known, attraction. When asked about Stamford, Healy enthusiastically recommended the "Fish Church" (First Presbyterian Church) as her favorite attraction there. Designed by architect Robert Harrison and inspired by Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, the church features stunning stained-glass work and unique acoustics due to its fish-shaped design.

The talk emphasized the value of exploring one's own state or region, as even long-time residents can discover new and exciting places close to home. Healy's books and presentations serve not only as travel guides but also as invitations to develop a deeper appreciation for Connecticut's rich history, culture, and natural beauty.

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 →**DAVE MICHONSKI**←. 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 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.

Picture by **ANDY HOLMES**.

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