



RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
Invites you to its meeting, November 30th at 11 AM at the
First Presbyterian Church, 37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.
The program will also be shown on Webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Kermit Roosevelt III

The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story



Kermit Roosevelt III will speak on his new book which challenges the conviction that we owe our ideals and values to the Founders' America. We are not the heirs of the Founders, but we can be the heirs of Reconstruction and its vision for equality.

There's a common story we tell about America: that our fundamental values as a country were stated in the Declaration of Independence, fought for in the Revolution, and made law in the Constitution. But, with the country increasingly divided, this story isn't working for us anymore—what's more, it's not even true. Roosevelt argues in this reinterpretation of the American story, our fundamental values, particularly equality, are not part of the vision of the Founders. Instead, they were stated in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and were the hope of Reconstruction, when it was possible to envision the emergence of the nation committed to liberty and equality.

We face a dilemma these days. We want to be honest about our history and the racism and oppression that Americans have both inflicted and endured. But we want to be proud of our country, too. In *The Nation That Never Was*, Roosevelt shows how we can do both those things by realizing we're not the country we thought we were. Reconstruction, Roosevelt argues, was not a fulfillment of the ideals of the Founding but rather a repudiation: we modern Americans are not the heirs of the Founders but of the people who overthrew and destroyed that political order. This alternate understanding of American identity opens the door to a new understanding of ourselves and our story, and ultimately to a better America.

America today is not the Founders' America, but it can be Lincoln's America. Roosevelt offers a powerful and inspirational rethinking of our country's

history and uncovers a shared past that we can be proud to claim and use as a foundation to work toward a country that fully embodies equality for all.

Kermit Roosevelt has carried his family legacy into the twenty-first century by educating and inspiring the public through his work. He is a professor of constitutional law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, a former clerk for Supreme Court Justice David Souter, and the author of *The Myth of Judicial Activism*, *Conflict of Laws*, and the national campus bestseller, *In the Shadow of the Law*.

Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker. They are not intended to represent the views of the RMA or its members.

Next Week: December 7, Jen Tooker, First Selectwoman of Westport, "Important Issues Common to Westport and Greenwich."

The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free program every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org or contact us by email at info@greenwichrma.org.