



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting **November 22** at **11:00 a.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT**

## **Kevin Peraino**

**"A FORCE SO SWIFT: Mao, Truman and the Birth of Modern China, 1949"**



The year 1949 was pivotal for the destiny of China, shaping U.S.-Chinese relations for decades. Mao Zedong's Communist Party won the Chinese Civil War and took control of the mainland, chasing America's former ally Chiang-Kai-shek to exile in Taiwan. Confronted with Mao's victory, the Truman administration was faced with hard choices, choices that roiled an America still trying to determine how to deal with surging world-wide Communism actively headed by the USSR. Should it concede China to the communists or continue to resist?

Secretary of State Dean Acheson's controversial policy of "strategic restraint" brought accusations of appeasement and defeatism from the right, and colonialist thinking from the left.

Kevin Peraino will discuss this tumultuous year, which he has chronicled in his recently published book, ***A Force So Swift: Mao, Truman and the Birth of Modern China, 1949***. He will assess the influences on President Truman and the results of his policies that have reverberated to the present.

Mr. Peraino is a veteran foreign correspondent who has reported from around the world. A senior writer and bureau chief at Newsweek for a decade, he was a finalist for the Livingston Award for foreign reporting and part of a team that won the National Magazine Award in 2004. He is the author of *Lincoln in the World: The Making of a Statesman and The Dawn of American Power*. The New York Times Book Review praised ***A Force So Swift***, calling it "absorbing and timely," and selected it as one of its "Editors' Choice" staff recommendations.

Peraino grew up in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and graduated from Northwestern University.

**Next week, Adam Frankel, "Presidential Speechwriting in the Age of Trump and Twitter"**

*The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at **10:40AM** followed promptly by our speaker at **11:00AM**. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org)*