



RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
Invites you to its meeting, October 11, 2023 at 11 am at
First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT.
The program will also be shown on Webinar: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

Mark Perlman

“The Reluctant Soldier”



The Reluctant Soldier, a novel by Connecticut author Mark Perlman, follows the adventures and misadventures of Virgil Carpenter, an African American teacher at the City College of New York in the early 1900s, who becomes an unwitting combatant in World War I and joins the famous Negro regiment, the 369th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed “The Harlem Hellfighters.” His fictionalized story draws him into the most important events of the twentieth century.

After the war Virgil becomes an expatriate in Paris during the exciting “jazz era” of interwar period and meets famous expatriates such as Josephine Baker, Ernest Hemingway, Eugene Bullard and Sylvia Beach, to name a few. When World War II breaks out, he is recruited into the intrigue of the French Resistance.

The interwar period in Paris provides a vivid backdrop to Virgil’s traumatic and complicated life. Racial segregation and prejudice faced by African Americans are an integral part of American history. This novel addresses this difficult legacy. It also addresses the slow, but steady progress of Black minorities to be accepted and valued in the complex American culture.

Mark Perlman is a resident of Fairfield County, Conn. He has a passion for military history that has taken him to the battle fields and cemeteries of France. The French language version of the *The Reluctant Soldier* has been published in Europe under the title *Le Soldat Involontaire*. More information is at <https://TheReluctantSoldier.com>.

Our speakers on October 18: Diane Kelly and Noel Appel, “Greenwich Hospital Update”

*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 **10:40 am** followed promptly*

by our presentation at **11:00 am**. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave. in Greenwich. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org..