



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting **February 5, 2020** at **11:00 a.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT**

## **Tom Shachtman**

### **“The Founding Fortunes: How the Wealthy Paid for and Profited from America's Revolution”**



Author Tom Shachtman will discuss economic patriotism, war profiteering, and other issues raised in his new book, *The Founding Fortunes: How the Wealthy Paid for and Profited from America's Revolution*.

To secure victory for the American Revolution and to establish the new Republic, money was as important as guns. While history teaches that successful revolutions depend on participation by the common man, the establishment of a stable and independent United States first required wealthy American colonials to unite and disrupt the very systems that had enriched them. They also had to fund a very long war. While some fortunes were made during the war at the expense of the poor, many of the wealthy embraced the goal of

obtaining for their poorer countrymen an unprecedented equality of opportunity and independence.

After the war, the new Republic needed to replace many aspects of the former mercantile system that had tied them too closely to Great Britain. These included manufacturing, banking – formerly there had been no banks and almost no corporations – and expansion into previously uncolonized areas. These gave rise to new ways of accumulating and multiplying wealth, and to a new middle class. While the presidencies of George Washington and John Adams established financial institutions primarily of help to the wealthy, the presidencies of Jefferson and Madison changed the focus and effect to more favor those nearer the bottom of the financial ladder.

Tom Shachtman is an author, filmmaker and educator. He has written or co-authored more than thirty books including today's book *The Founding Fortunes*, published in January 2020.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in experimental psychology from Tufts University and a Master of Fine Arts in Theater from Carnegie Mellon University. He has taught writing at New York University and at Harvard University Extension, and lectured at many colleges and universities on topics based on his books.

**Tom Shachtman's presentation is co-sponsored by the Greenwich Library.**

Following his lecture the Library is hosting a community discussion led by author Shachtman on **"Money and Wealth in Politics, Past and Present."** The discussion will be held in the Jewel Room from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The public is invited, but participants are required to register using the library's on line calendar.

**Next Week: February 12, Alan Barry, Ph.D.,** Commissioner, Human Services, Town of Greenwich, **"Safety Net to Self Sufficiency: Narrowing the Wealth Gap."** *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 speaker at 11:00 AM. 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)*