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*"If you are going to do something tonight that you'll be sorry for in the morning, sleep late."* Henny Youngman

President TAD LARRABEE tried to corral the wild bunch at 10:00am as GEORGE UBOGY, freshly back from Florida, frantically rang the bell throughout the room.

MIKE FERRARESE proudly led us in the pledge.

Then DON CONWAY conducted us in *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Five Foot Two*, and *Oh You Beautiful Doll*. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE lent his able hands in piano accompaniment.

RICH BISK as Corresponding Secretary told us about a long-married couple who in a moment of reflection kicked each other in the shins over their respective opinions about their love-making.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. TAD introduced Gayle Paquin, Director of Self-Sufficiency and Independent Living, from Family Centers located on Palmer Hill Road in Stamford. She explained the variety of innovative programs provided to the community for needy aging adults, with in-person and telephone-based services. JACK CUFF, one of their volunteers, lauded the organization and encouraged other RMA members to volunteer. For information, contact Ms. Paquin at 203-324-3167 or [gpaquin@familycenters.org](mailto:gpaquin@familycenters.org).
2. EI Presidente welcomed the returnees: GEORGE UBOGY from Sarasota, FL, LOU TROVATO from Venice, FL, JIM BUTLER from Sea Island, GA, REID McINTYRE from Aruba, HAROLD KUPLESKY from Boca Grande (on Gasparilla Island), FL, and HORST TEBBE from Paris (who later shared a dramatic video he and his wife had taken of Notre Dame Cathedral on fire as seen from the window of where they were staying).
3. BOB RIMMER reminded us that there will be a tour of Greenwich High School for interested RMA members on May 13th starting at 9:30am. For information, call BOB (203-344-1550 or 203-223-1159).

## COMMITTEES.

**PROGRAM:** STEPHEN MYERS invited us to stay for a talk by **Dr. Laura Grego**, a senior scientist in the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, whose topic was *Space-based Missile Defense: Back to the Future?* GEORGE UBOGY reported that next week **Saul Rothenberg, Ph.D.**, a clinical psychologist at Greenwich Hospital specializing in sleep disorders, will tell us about *Insomnia, Sleep Disorders, and Sleep Medicine*.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** JOE MANCINELLI provided the statistics for the week ending April 24th: 399 outside hours by 53 men and 146 RMA hours by 31 men; champ for the week was BOB RIMMER with 22 hours.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE noted that a lot of snow birds have returned as evidenced by the presence of 110 members.

There were also two guests, Don Rotzien was the guest of ROSWELL CURTIS and Lou Rupnik was the guest of MIKE AMBROSINO.

**Birthdays** were celebrated for JOE DOWLING, 80, BOB ROBINS, 81, GERRY BOYLE, 81, and RON WILSON, 77.

Our ranks grew by two members with the induction of two candidates.

JIM DEAN was introduced by JIM BOARDMAN and GARY MILLER who told us that he was a US Navy veteran, received a degree from Fordham University and worked in financial services throughout his career, focusing on life insurance, savings and pension programs for companies, and ultimately private wealth management. JIM was also President of Rotary three times, started a book club, and plays hearts and golf.

RALPH NEWITTER was introduced by GERRY GIBIAN and BOB GRAYSON. He graduated VPI and received an MBA from CUNY, is an Air Force veteran, and spent his career in marketing and sales. RALPH is an avid tennis player, a history buff and enjoys traveling.

**INDUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS:** TAD called all the current officers that were present to the front of the room for a photo shoot (thanks ANDY HOLMES) and to allow the members to express their thanks for great service with a round of applause. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN was traveling and missed the accolades. A new slate of officers will take charge beginning with next week's meeting, May 1, as follows:

President JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, 1st Vice President RUSS HARDEN, 2nd Vice President MICHAEL AMBROSINO, 3rd Vice President JOE MANCINELLI, Treasurer JEFF JUNKER, Recording Secretary JIM FISHBEIN, Membership HORST TEBBE, Program HOLLISTER STURGES, Special Events DON CONWAY& MAURICE KROHN, Publicity JACK CUFF, Director at Large ED FARRELL, Director at Large PETER STERN, Past President TAD LARRABEE, Past President DON CONWAY.

As required by our By-Laws, annual reports on their responsibilities and achievements were given by the President (TAD) and all three VPs (3<sup>rd</sup> VP MIKE AMBROSINO, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP RUSS HARDEN, and 1<sup>st</sup> VP JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, whose report was read by TAD in his absence). Such reports can be found on the RMA web site under Useful Links.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** MIKE FERRARESE brought us up to date on three pending events. Details below. DON HERMANN confirmed that the invitational trip to the Mallin Estate will take place on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Everyone going should meet at the shopping center on High Ridge Road, just off Merrit Parkway Exit 35, near the Cosi restaurant in the parking lot no later than 8:55am.

**IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR RMA TRIPS:** TOM HEALY trotted out the news that the first post-time at the Belmont Track has been changed to 3:00pm; therefore, the bus for that June 13<sup>th</sup> trip will leave St. Catherine's at 1:00pm. HOLLISTER STURGES advised those going to the Cloisters on May 2nd to catch the bus at 8:30am NOT 9:00am as previously scheduled.

## **FUN AND GAMES**

[Note: all but one of the following reports were provided only in writing due to time limitations.]

**BRIDGE:** JOHN FEBLES dealt the details. There were 6 players who formed three teams, whose scores were as follows: TONY COCCHI and FRANK LEE 2820, ANDRZEJ MAZUREK and JOHN FEBLES 2280, BRUNO SCHRAGE and RON MURRAY 1460.

**INDOOR TENNIS:** SAM MARASSO reported for April 19: Court 1 winners – MIKE SMITH and JOE MANCINELLI; Court 2 winners – SAM MARASSO and BOB GRAYSON. Next week's captain – DON BREISMEISTER. Outdoor Tennis has begun; come to Loughlin Avenue courts on Mondays from 9:00 to 11:00.

**PICKLEBALL:** TONY COCCHI reported that 6 players showed up in the iffy weather and played for just over an hour when the rain finally came. All are welcome Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 at the Loughlin Avenue Courts in Cos Cob. Learn about this fastest growing sport here: <https://tinyurl.com/y478zxrh>

**HEARTS:** No report available this week.

**GOLF:** MIKE RYAN wrote that 17 men played on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four players shot under 100 with MIKE SMITH achieving an impressive 93. Closest to the pin on 7 was GEOFFREY BURGE, and on 15 it was TOM HEALY. ANDRZEJ MAZUREK hit the longest drive.

**SHAKESPEARE GROUP:** GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE invited those interested to a showing of *Othello* on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at the home of KEITH SMITH. For information, call GEORGE at 203-698-0710.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks of the reservation or the reservation will be canceled. Buses depart from the St. Catherine Church parking lot on Riverside Avenue opposite the church. Contact persons are listed with each event.

**The Cloisters:** May 2, 2019, lunch at the New Leaf Café, cost \$105. Bus departs at 8:30am. Status: wait listed. Contact HOLLISTER STURGES at 203-861-2279.

**Belmont Race Track:** June 13, 2019, lunch at the Belmont Room where there is a DRESS CODE requiring coats and ties and suitable attire for women. Cost \$85. Bus departs at 1:00pm (NOTE CHANGE IN TIME FROM PREVIOUS SCHEDULE). Status: Six places open. Contact TOM HEALY 203-661-2954.

**Botanical Gardens:** Robert Marx exhibit, July 11, 2019, lunch at Mario's on Arthur Ave., \$115. Bus departs at 8:45am. Status: 26 places open. Contact MIKE FERRARESE at 203-554-0678.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER



Dr. Laura Grego

Dr. STEPHEN MYERS introduced Dr. Laura Grego who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and astronomy from the University of Michigan and a PhD in experimental physics from CalTech. She began her talk on defense against nuclear missiles by showing the potential outcome of even a low-level atomic bomb dropped over Greenwich: 92,000 deaths, 230,000 injuries with damage and destruction extending out beyond Stamford, Rye, and Port Chester. Nuclear weapon stockpiles held by the US and Russia (former Soviet Union) peaked in the mid-1980's reaching about 60,000 weapons. As of 2014, the number had dropped to about 10,000 (including very few in China, North Korea, and other countries), as a result of the SALT 1 Treaty signed by Nixon and Brezhnev in May 1972. Dr. Grego reminded us of the *Star Wars* program proposed by President Reagan in 1983, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), intended to create an impenetrable barrier in space against a full-scale nuclear attack. Due to the enormous costs involved and technical impediments, it was scaled down to a ground-based missile defense system that was implemented during President George W. Bush's term in 2002 in order to protect against long-range missiles (from up to 10,000 miles). However, she pointed out that the system has not proven nearly as effective as desired, with tests showing only a 50% success rate. The program cost the US about 50 billion dollars. President Trump recently falsely claimed that the system could knock out missiles 97% of the time.

The current Administration is now proposing a new system that would attempt to detect and intercept missiles aimed at the US just after they are launched from a foreign site. Congress asked the National Academy of Science to examine this possibility, focusing on threats from North Korea as a model. They concluded that it would require on the order of 650 satellites in constant low orbit at an initial cost exceeding 350 billion dollars. However, any of those satellites would be vulnerable to damage and destruction by the enemy. In addition, the huge number of satellites already in orbit for peaceful uses around the world (business, weather, communication, etc.) could be

threatened. Dr. Grego concluded by pointing out that such a system is not only impractical but carries risks of its own: a false sense of security with miscalculation possible, it would divert resources for diplomacy, could hinder further reduction in nuclear stockpiles, and would actually create incentives for developing more nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

Saul Rothenberg, Ph.D., clinical psychologist at Greenwich Hospital: *Insomnia, Sleep Disorders, and Sleep Medicine.*

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Retired Men's Association of Greenwich Inc. ·

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