



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

"I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them."

Adlai Stevenson

Following the weekly rendition of the RMA anthem President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and called on **ED PARKER** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARNOLD GORDON unexpectedly had few thoughts to share, but he did take the time to survey members on who had already voted. He found about half of the attendees had voted and urged all others to vote.

ARNOLD then introduced **BOB LUCE**, who told a story of a doctor who left his hometown after an embarrassing episode of flatulence only to return years later to learn that time in town was now measured as before or after the fart.

Treasurer: **JEFF JUNKER** reported that RMA paid membership stands at 219. He thanked **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** for his help in pursuing members who have not renewed membership for 2020-21 and noted pursuit of such members has been discontinued. **JEFF** noted the balance in the RMA checking account remains at \$72,000.

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** indicated he was not aware of any member ill or injured, but asked attendees, if they know of any such, person(s) to let him know.

Membership: **PETER STERN** reported 66 members in attendance, and he announced the following member birthdays: **BRUCE SOCKET (65), JOHN KNIGHT (80), RON FRIEDMAN (86), DON SARGEANT (75), FRANK SCARPA (79)**.

Human Interest: **RUSS HARDEN** offered a follow-up to his August account of meeting a couple in Hudson, NY, who were engaged in a boat trip described as The Great Loop. He received a note from Jason Crawford, skipper of the boat, noting the completion of the trip ([CLICK HERE](#) to see Great Loop trip) and referencing a blog that **RUSS** feels might be of interest to members.

Program: **PETER UHRY** announced today's speaker will be Reverend Dr. Thomas Nins, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Greenwich, who will speak on "Diversity in Greenwich: Today's Opportunities and Challenges." **PETER** noted next week's speaker will be Marc Jaffe, CEO at Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield (CLC), who will discuss "Early Childhood Education's Critical Role in the Connecticut Workforce."

Voting Update: **HOWARD RICHMAN** indicated that there are 41,138 registered voters in Greenwich and that there is expected to be a large voter turn-out on November 3. He suggested that, if members do not intend to vote on the 3rd, they should bring their ballots to Town Hall or other drop-off locations rather than rely on the USPS. **HOWARD** does not expect unusual wait time at the polls, but he said it would be best to avoid the 6-8 AM and 6-8 PM hours.

Food Drive: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** requests that those who would like to participate in the food drive to benefit the New Covenant Center should write a check payable to **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and mail it to his home address at 1Knollwood Drive East, Greenwich, CT 06830. The plan this year is to present a list of food items most needed by the Covenant House to Shop Rite in Stamford and have them delivered on November 19th - it would be most appreciated if your checks were mailed prior to November 15th. Those who would prefer to donate food please email **MICHAEL** to arrange for pick up. For those who already have donated, thank you.

FUN AND GAMES

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** noted the impact of Covid-19 on the RMA golfing season and thanked the many players who made the season a huge success through their patience and flexibility.

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** announced that last Friday we had four players play three matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. Winning the trifecta with three wins and no losses was **TOM HEALY**. The winners of the first match were **TOM HEALY** and **MIKE SMITH**, second match winners were **TOM HEALY** and **BILL HOWLAND**, and the winners of the final match were...you guessed it... **TOM HEALY** and **JOHN KNIGHT**. This week's captain will be **BRIAN MAHONEY**.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** reported that there were 4 Hearts players on 10/22: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO, TOM HEALY, JOHN STANKUNAS** and **DON CONWAY**. **MICHAEL** won three games, and **TOM** and **DON** won one each. **TOM** had the day's only moon shot. On 10/23 players were: **JACK SWEGER, ANDY HOLMES, TOM MORONEY** and **DON CONWAY**. **ANDY** won two games, and **JACK** and **DON** won one each. **ANDY** and **JACK** shot the moon.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** noted that ZOOM based Tai Chi classes are held on Mondays and Fridays at 3 PM.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that last Thursday, we had 12 intrepid walkers who explored the trails of Rockwood Hall, the western part of Rockefeller State Park with views of the Hudson River and a nice walk in the woods. Again, fall color was subdued, but nice. Our walk scheduled for Thursday, October 29, was cancelled due to weather.

Several RMA members supported the RMA Walkers Team in the Abilis Walk/Run on October 18th, either participating in the walk and/or donating. Here is the Abilis report regarding that fund raiser:

*As a result of your generosity and that of hundreds of other donors, **we surpassed our goal and raised over \$161,000!** This year the funds raised from the 15th annual Walk/Run will support new initiatives within Abilis that will support the over 700 individuals with special needs and their families from birth through their lifespan within lower Fairfield County, an area hit especially hard by COVID-19.*

Paddle Tennis: **JACK WEIR** reported the RMA will again offer paddle tennis open to all members this coming winter. We have reserved two courts at Loughlin Ave. in Cos Cob from 10:00am to 11:00 every Tuesday morning. The first eight people who sign up will have priority of play, but all are welcome as we will rotate in players. If you are interested in playing, email **JIM DEAN** (jhdeanco@gmail.com) by noon on Monday.

SPECIAL INTEREST



CHET RISIO is currently dealing with some health issues, and while he regrets not being as active in RMA activities as he has been in the past, he has treated us to his captivating and poignant Member Profile.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view **CHET's** Member Profile

TODAY'S SPEAKER

PETER UHRY introduced Reverend Dr. Thomas Nins, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Greenwich, who discussed his view of diversity in Greenwich past and present. He defined diversity in various ways, but ultimately as the melding of integrity and equity leading to an acknowledgement and acceptance of differences. For example, if someone is invited to a dinner party, but is not seated with the other guests, the party is not diverse. Only when the host provides a chair with the other guests is diversity achieved. Diversity occurs when the addition of the new guest does not subtract from those already at table. Dr. Nins suggested that in the past a level of diversity was achieved in Greenwich, but not so much in civic and social structures, where some are seen, but not heard. He suggested that diversity is achieved when all are seen and heard. Dr. Nins concluded by answering several questions regarding diversity in local schools and churches, as well as public and low-income housing. When asked how diversity in Greenwich might be improved, Dr. Nins responded that organizations such as the RMA might seek members from all segments of the community. He added that, from what he has seen of the RMA, he will be happy to recommend the RMA as a welcoming place to members of his congregation.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

On November 4, the RMA will welcome Marc Jaffe, CEO at Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield (CLC), who will discuss "Early Childhood Education's Critical Role in the Connecticut Workforce."

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **TIM BROOKS**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **TIM** at tbroo@aol.com.

NOTE TO RMA Members: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **JOE MANCINELLI** at jlmanc@optonline.net if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	On-Line Tai Chi Beginner	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00 to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Tai Chi Advanced	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
RMA Special Events			
On Going Through Nov. 19th		RMA New Covenant Center FOOD DRIVE	Michael Ambrosino @ brooklynol@yahoo.com