



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards!

Which famous playwright was terrified of Christmas? Noël Coward!

As 2020 rapidly drew to a close (hallelujah!) the December 23rd meeting opened with a raucous singalong version of "We Are the RMA," followed by a proudly waving flag and the pledge of allegiance recited by **TOM HEALY**. President **RUSS HARDEN** followed with opening remarks about the RMA in the year just past, and how we should all be thankful to the many volunteers who have kept the organization not only functioning, but functioning well in such difficult times.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** popped up on our screens with faux palm trees waving behind him, and several announcements. **ALBERT RAY SLOAN**, an RMA member who joined in 2001, died in April 2020 but his obituary appeared only recently (see <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/greenwichtime/obituary.aspx?n=albert-raymond-sloan&pid=197343633>). **ARNOLD** asked that if anyone knew **RAY** well enough to present a memorial at a future meeting, to please let him know (ajgordo@verizon.net). **ARNOLD** then reminded members to attend the end-of-year Zoom holiday event that would start at 10:45am, and offered a few bon mots about the institution of marriage that did not necessarily reflect much bliss. (A woman advertised in the personals column, "Husband wanted." The next day she was deluged with replies from wives who said "Take mine!").

Scribe **TIM BROOKS** made an impassioned plea for speakers to get their reports to him promptly, which, thankfully, most did this week.



Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** followed with a brief report that there were 59 in attendance at the virtual meeting, and that birthdays of the week were those of **LYN KAUFMAN**, 94, and **STEVE BOIES**, 79. They were given a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday.” Harvey Yablonsky was welcomed as the guest of **ARNOLD GORDON**, as were some members who joined us virtually for the first time, **HENRY BAKER**, **NORMAN MASRI**, **DOUG TAYLOR**, and the recuperating **CHET RISIO**. No inductees this week.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported that the most recent new member had paid promptly, but that otherwise everything was quiet in the RMA Bank Vault.

Visiting Chair **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that **DON HELLER** had a stroke in mid-October and while rehabbing at Stamford hospital tested positive for covid 19. His virus issues are now over and he is making progress physically with his rehab. **TOM CAHILL** is doing fine but would appreciate it if some RMA members would join him for short 15-minute walks during the week. His daughter, Christina, can be reached at 917 593-4656 or at christinacahill@hotmail.com. **BILL WIGGIN** had gall bladder surgery recently and his recovery is progressing; he plans to be released from Greenwich Hospital today. **CHET RISIO's** rehab is progressing slowly but he is feeling fine (and joined us today). **MICHAEL** thanked **BRUCE PANTANO**, **ARNOLD GORDON** and **PETER STERN** for alerting him to the status of the aforementioned.

BOB RIMMER reminded us that there would be no speaker today, due to the end-of-year holiday event upcoming shortly. The next speaker will be on January 6, 2021, and will be Michael Mason, Chair of the Greenwich Board of Estimate & Taxation (BET), on “Budget Challenges for the Town of Greenwich – Fiscal Year 2022.” **LEN CARUSI** chimed in with a reminder that next week’s (December 30) meeting will be accessible through a different link than we normally use. This will be an open chat session, rather than a business meeting. The normal link that we have been using all year for business meetings will not work for this one meeting. In January we return to the normal link. (Something was mumbled about the vagaries of the Internet.) The special December 30 link will be sent out in an email; look for it!

AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, THE SPORTS REPORT!

Tennis: **JOE MANCINELLI** reported that on Friday, the 18th, there was a very lively and competitive tennis session. Three sets were played by **STEVE STEIN, BRIAN MAHONEY, PETER DODGE** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. The winners were, Round 1, **STEIN** and **MANCINELLI**, Round 2, **DODGE** and **MANCINELLI**, Round 3, **MAHONEY** and **MANCINELLI**. Seems to be a theme going there. Per **RUSS HARDEN**, platform tennis played on Tuesday.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** advised members that Tai chi is “No pain, all gains.” Online sessions are held Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 pm. For further info contact WILL at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that there was no walk last Thursday due to the snow, however one was scheduled for (and took place) this week, on Thursday, December 24, at Manursing Island in Port Chester.

Hearts: Per **DON CONWAY**, table one consisted of **TOM MORONEY, ANDY HOLMES, JACK SWEGER** and **DON CONWAY**. Five games were played with **TOM M.** winning the 1st, **DON** and **TOM M.** tying the 2nd, **ANDY** winning the 3rd and **JACK** winning both the 4th and 5th games. Moon shots were had by **DON** in the 4th game and **JACK** in the 5th. At table two were **MIKE AMBROSINO, TOM HEALY, GRANT PERKINS** and **DON CONWAY**. There were four games played with **MIKE** winning the 1st, **DON** the 2nd, **TOM H.** the 3rd, and **GRANT** the 4th. Moon shots were had by **MIKE** and **TOM H.** in the 2nd game, **TOM H.** twice in the 3rd, and **GRANT** in the 4th. Table three players were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO, LOU TRAVATO, GRANT PERKINS** and **TOM HEALY**. **MICHAEL** won two games, and **LOU** and **TOM H.** each won one. Moon shots were scored by **LOU** (1), **GRANT** (1) and **TOM H.** (2).

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** offered the bridge report, saying that last week’s bridge scores were **TONY COCCHI**, 3430 points; **ED MASTOLONI**, 3130; and **RON FREIDMAN**, 2300. **RON** and **TONY** bid and made a Slam. Bridge matches are played every Wednesday at 1PM. Anyone interested in joining should call TONY at 203-698-1922, or send an email to Anthony.Cocchi@Lehman.cuny.edu. He added that anyone interested in playing Winter Outdoor pickleball should also send him an email.

RUSS adjourned the business meeting at approximately 10:30 am, but chatter continued until the start of the holiday event at 10:45.



THE FIRST RMA ONLINE END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION!

The Prez opened the first ever (and hopefully, last ever) Online RMA End-of-Year Celebration, with approximately 70 members in attendance. He then yielded the floor to our own Ed Sullivan, the inimitable **ARNOLD GORDON**, who welcomed us all and advised us to “clap, or else!” **ARNOLD** said goodbye to 2020 by showing off his tie, which was emblazoned with a certain famous painting by Edvard Munch.



The spotlight then shifted to Citi Field, home of the New York Mets, with a video of our own Melody Men performing the “Star Spangled Banner” there, to great applause.



At Citi Field

On the March!

Next came **AV “Henny Youngman” RIVEL**, with holiday jokes about “Pat and Plywood,” kindergarten, and the Christmas Story (what is “Round John Virgin” doing in “Silent Night”?)

Bringing some class to the proceedings, the velvet curtains then parted and **GRANVILLE BURGESS** delivered two poems, one his own original poem in iambic pentameter, and the other the famous “Hope is the thing with feathers” by Emily Dickinson.

The RMA’s resident Aussie, the charming **GEOFF BURGE**, came next with an explanation of why Santa can’t use his regular reindeer down under (Christmas falls in the summer there, and is hot). He then played a song about Santa’s substitute steeds, called “Six White Boomers” by Rolf Harris.

Now, for something completely different (as Monty Python might say), there followed the first ever RMA cooking class, in which **PETER “Julia Child” UHRY** demonstrated how to make really, *really* good eggnog. It was undoubtedly as delicious as **PETER** said it was, but this being Zoom we had to bring our own.

[CLICK HERE FOR PETER’S EGGNOG RECIPE](#)

Next up on the revolving stage was jokester **TOM HEALY**, with humorous stories about Hanukkah and Christmas.

HORST TEBBE’s talented daughter Emma appeared next as the lead soloist in a performance of the traditional “Wayfaring Stranger,” produced on Zoom by the Elus Vocal Ensemble of Denver, with each member of the chorus in a separate location (requiring, reportedly, 120 hours of editing work). It was a technological, as well as an artistic, marvel, and can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PhJjTouElo&t=44s>. Her song is first in the program, at about 45 seconds in.



PETER UHRY then returned with a video of “Deck Us All with Boston Charlie,” an amusing take on a familiar carol as rendered by the characters in the Pogo comic strip.

This was followed by **ARNOLD GORDON’s** talented son Justin Elliot performing two songs, accompanied by his own guitar. One was his own composition, about his fiancé (who didn’t get enough sleep), and the other Bob Dylan’s “The Times They Are a-Changin’.” Unfortunately there were technical glitches in the feed, but the video can be seen in high quality here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xt6YqTLdqGbSiBcF7>.



Continuing with the Gordon family, **ARNOLD's** wife Francesca read a "letter from Grandma," in which the fearsome lady ("I'm not dead yet!") laid down the law with her hilarious rules for celebrating Christmas. Strangely enough, **ARNOLD** had scheduled the Gordons in the next-to-closing spot, which as everyone knows is reserved for the biggest stars in vaudeville!

For the closing, then, the entire audience was asked to sing "We'll Meet Again," in a truly cacophonous performance bravely led by **TOM HEALY**.

With all that ringing in our ears, President **HARDEN** closed the one-hour celebration, offering sincere thanks to all.

SPEAKER FOR JANUARY 6, 2021

Michael Mason, Chair of the Greenwich Board of Estimate & Taxation (BET), on "Budget Challenges for the Town of Greenwich – Fiscal Year 2022."

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: January 6th, 2021 CBB scribe will be ED FARRELL. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to ED at ejf1038r@gmail.com.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA
 Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact

Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 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	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@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
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com