



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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“Blood should never be thicker than morality or common sense.”

Dr. Laura Schlessinger

Another virtual meeting using the zoom technology got under way at 10am. With President **RUSS HARDEN** opening the meeting, **RUSS** asked **TOM HEALY** to lead the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** recounted the tale of a mid-sixties senior introducing his much younger, sexy blond wife to his senior friends. Asked how he had managed to entice the sexy blond into marriage, he replied that he had changed his age by adding 30 years.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ARNOLD GORDON** made two announcements:

1. A reminder that there is a Republican and Democrat primary in CT on August 11, 2020. Anyone can obtain a mail-in-ballot for covid-19 related concerns.  
**CLICK HERE** to obtain Absentee Ballot

Or call Town Hall at 203-622-7897, or write to [tclerk@greenwichct.org](mailto:tclerk@greenwichct.org).

2. The links below will produce two articles by covid-19 experts on dealing with the virus on a day to day basis.

**CLICK HERE** for [How Dr. Fauci and Other Specialists Deal with COVID-19 Risks](#)

**CLICK HERE** for [Protecting Yourself from COVID-19 by Dr. Mirkin](#)

**RUSS HARDIN** raised the matter of the annual picnic normally held in September. On this past July 6th, RUSS and JACK WEIR had sent an email to the membership, advising that the RMA Board of Directors had been discussing whether or not to hold the annual picnic in September in light of the corona virus pandemic. Asking for a show of hands, a large majority indicated they would not attend. The RMA Board of directors will meet next week to vote on the matter, and this will represent the RMA's official position.

**TAD LARRABEE** said that last week the RMA Walkers walked a history trail in north Port Chester. On July 9th, the walk will take place in the Mianus River Park starting from the Stamford entrance.

**ANDY HOLMES** announced that indoor tennis will resume its 2019/2020 season beginning Friday, June 10th and continue for the next seven weeks. The 2020/2021 indoor tennis season will begin in September. Interested persons who have not yet contacted ANDY can use email [andyholmes56@gmail.com](mailto:andyholmes56@gmail.com) or telephone 203-615-3351.

## MEMBERSHIP

**PETER STERN** reported that 72 members zoomed in on the virtual meeting. Bo Jarnstedt, a guest of **ARNOLD GORDON**, attended. Bo is now eligible for RMA membership induction.

**PETER** advised members that a spouse can receive the Speaker Program Announcements by sending her name and email address to PETER [pmstern@optonline.net](mailto:pmstern@optonline.net). The following members celebrated birthdays: **DAN FREDLAND 86, JOE HAVRANEK 77, HOWARD RICHMAN 67, BUD SPANN 90, WAYNE WRIGHT 87, and TOM CAHILL 89.**

**JEFF JUNKER** reported on the status of the collection of annual membership dues. As of today, 192 members have paid including the two new members inducted at recent virtual meetings. Eight members have asked to be moved to inactive status. This leaves 34 members who have yet to pay. **JEFF** and the Vice Presidents will be reaching out to the 34 with phone calls.

## PROGRAMS

**STEVE MYERS** introduced today's program. Professor Steven Levitsky will discuss his view that American Democracy is crisis, what is involved, and the future outlook. Professor Levitsky received his B.A. in Political Science from Stanford, his Ph.D. from the Univ. of California at Berkley and has been on the faculty at Harvard since 2000.

**ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** introduced next week's speaker Dr. Harold Shapiro, who will discuss genetic engineering and therapy.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

Professor Steven Levitsky has titled his presentation *American Democracy in Crises: Outlook for the Future*. Levitsky believes that U.S. democracy is under serious threat and has fallen into crises over the last decade. He claims that the U.S. Constitution is never enough and what is needed is strong democratic rule and a relationship where rivals are not treated as enemies. Levitsky argues that this polarization has occurred over the last half century and has been brought about by racial and cultural re-alignments. He lists three threats going forward: (1) a slide into autocracy as voter choices are not implemented; (2) a slide into dysfunction by the lack of mutual toleration and failure to observe the separation of powers and (3) a slide into minority rule. In this writer's opinion, Professor Levitsky used a large portion of his talk to strongly malign the character and competence of the President of the U.S., Donald Trump, the Trump Administration, the republicans in Congress, and republican governors in states where they preside. In other parts of his presentation, Levitsky calls for a return to comity and mutual respect, and he evidently believes that President Donald Trump, the Trump Administration, and many republicans do not merit such treatment.

## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Harold Shapiro, Ph.D.

*Genetic Engineering: Altering Ourselves and Our Progeny*

**NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week's CBB scribe will be **ARNOLD GORDON**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **ARNOLD** at [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net).

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