



# 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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**SCRIBE: JOE MANCINELLI**

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

Henry Ford

President **RUSS HARDEN** provided a "Good Morning" greeting to all and the meeting kicked off at 10:01 with the uplifting *We Are the RMA* theme song. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** led us in the *Pledge of Allegiance* with the American flag in full view.

**ARNOLD GORDON** informed everyone that in response to the state's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's (PURA's) recent approval of Eversource's request to increase its delivery rate, PURA has scheduled a public hearing via Zoom for Monday, August 24th, at 10:00am. Given the hullabaloo surrounding the recent storm-related outages, it will be a contentious event. For details and registration to join:

<https://greenwichfreepress.com/news/business/pura-schedules-public-hearing-to-question-eversource-on-rates-143550/>

He then introduced **GEOFFREY BURGE** who humored us with a tale of several duck hunters who met an early demise. However, once they entered the pearly gates, they not only gained a new respect for ducks in heaven, but they also learned that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** was up next. He introduced **HECTOR ARZENO** as the RMA inductee for today. **HECTOR** was sponsored by **PETER UHRY** and **HOWARD RICHMAN**. **HECTOR ARZENO** was born in Argentina, moved to Cos Cob in 1987 and spent 40 years in international banking. He is a doer... active in our community and involved beyond the norm.

He has 4 children, 3 having graduated from Greenwich High School and one a sophomore now. He volunteers at GHS by touring with new parents looking to move to Greenwich. He is a Conservation Commission Volunteer and works with the Mianus Pond Fish Ladder. As an RMA member, there is no doubt we will find him participating in our activities. A graduate of Catholic University in Buenos Aries, he also attended Advanced Management programs at the Wharton School in PA. Finally, he is an RTM member and on the finance committee. When put to a vote, **HECTOR** was unanimously welcomed as a new RMA member!

**PETER** then went on to announce the Birthday Boys, as listed below:

Joe Mancinelli	70	8/8/1950
Alan Gunzburg	61	8/10/1959
Bob Underwood	94	8/10/1926
Bruno Schrage	82	8/12/1938

**JEFF JUNKER** informed us that as of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 201 members have paid their annual dues and eight have declined asking to be placed on the inactive status. The VPs are working to contact the remaining truant members.

In addition, **JEFF** informed us that **MAURICE KROHN's** wife is seriously ill and in the hospital. You may contact **MAURICE** with your support at [krhonmauric142@gmail.com](mailto:krhonmauric142@gmail.com).

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** added a new twist to our meeting by providing a book review of *Yogi: A Life Behind the Mask*. Despite growing up in Brooklyn, **MICHAEL** is a NY Yankee fan and his favorite player was Yogi Berra. The book includes many tidbits regarding the famed Yankees and insider stories about Yogi's teammates and managers. While sometimes overshadowed by Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle, Yogi went on to be one of the best loved and most appealing Yankees of his day. His career was highlighted with 15 All Star selections, three MVP awards and 10 World Series rings. Of course, his witty quotes or Yogisms have made him a pop-culture favorite. "No one goes there nowadays, it's too crowded."

Other RMA members are encouraged to come forward with Human Interest presentations from their own personal experience.

**JOHN FEBLES** informed us that on Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM the League of Women Voters of Greenwich will be presenting A Community conversation with Dr. Toni Jones,

Greenwich Public Schools Superintendent. Click below to sign up for Community Conversation with Dr. Toni Jones.

**CLICK** Here for League of Women Voters

**HORST TEBBE** introduced today's speaker, Nelson Tebbe who will present via Zoom, *The Roberts Court and the Future of the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment*.

**ED MILLER** introduced next week's speaker Norman Roth, President and CEO of Greenwich Hospital, who will speak on *Innovations at Greenwich Hospital*.

### **FUN AND GAMES**

**Golf:** **PAUL CAMPION** reported that we had only eight golfers who knew they were facing two obstacles on Tuesday: summer heat and "temporary greens." Putting on temporary greens is like trying to play Hearts without a table! However, it did not seem to bother **JOHN CRAINE** and **MIKE RYAN** matching pars. **JIM SANTORA** related that our early start helped them avoid the maintenance work on the "back nine." Also, the appearance of **WILL MORRISON** helped show us how good balance can generate a better swing. Next week we have an early start - 8:00am. Send your names to **PAUL** by Thursday. We may have to go to -"First Come First Served. "

**Outdoor Tennis:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, speaking for **JOHN KNIGHT**, notified us that Outdoor Tennis will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Due to the heat, vacations and concerns over the virus, there has been a significant drop off in player participation.

**Indoor Tennis:** **ANDY HOLMES** announced that the Indoor Tennis group gathered once again at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy courts. The winners on Court 1 were **MIKE SMITH** and **BRIAN MAHONEY**. The winners on Court 2 were **SAM MARASSO** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**. Next week's captain will be **PETER DODGE**. For those who signed up for the upcoming Indoor Tennis season, fees are due. If you have not yet mailed in your check, please make the check payable to "RMA" and mail it to **ANDY HOLMES** as soon as possible.

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** invited members to attend the virtual Tai Chi sessions every Monday and Wednesday at 3:00pm.

**Walking & Talking:** **TAD LARRABEE** informed us that last week they had an interesting walk in the Kensico Dam area that involved a long flight of stairs to the top of the dam. This Thursday, the walk will be on level ground with **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** as our guide to the historical district of Rye, NY. Some of us may get lunch after our walk at a 101-year-old outdoor hotdog

stand in Mamaroneck. If anyone wants to join our group, please email [tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net) to be added to the email list.

**Hearts:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that the virtual Hearts game continues on a weekly basis, they played five games last week. Anyone interested in participating can contact **MICHAEL**.

**Bridge:** **TONY COCCHI** is experimenting with virtual Bridge and hopes to initiate a weekly game. Stay tuned for further information.

**Bike Ride:** **JEFF JUNKER** and **TAD LARRABEE** will be organizing an RMA bike ride on the North County Trailway, an old railroad bed that has been paved for walking and riding. The ride is targeted for Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact **JEFF** at [jjunker@optonline.net](mailto:jjunker@optonline.net) or **TAD LARRABEE** at [tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net).

### THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

The RMA was pleased to have Nelson Tebbe (son of **HORST TEBBE**) making a return as our weekly speaker. Nelson is a professor at Cornell Law School and spoke on *The Roberts Court and the Future of the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment*. This proved to be a very enlightening and complex topic. He explained that the constitution's religious reference, as written by James Madison, is fundamentally broken down into two clauses: The Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause. Today, both clauses are being reworked by the Robert's Court. The Free Exercise Clause primarily protects against burdens that pressure someone to act contrary to their religious beliefs and the Establishment Clause addresses the separation of church and state. The Supreme Court's views on religious freedom were somewhat unchallenged and universally accepted up until the 1940's, when the Court seemed to struggle with the meaning of these clauses. Finally, in 1963, with *Sherbert v. Verner*, the Court adopted what is known as the compelling interest test, e.g. if a law substantially burdens the free exercise of religion, it is presumptively unconstitutional. However, in the 1990's many challenges in terms of Civil Rights vs. Religious Freedom became evident, leading to the current situation with conservatives supporting religious freedom and progressives opposing such freedom. Hobby Lobby, Masterpiece Cake Shop, and Little Sisters of the Poor are some of the more notable religious freedom cases of our time. *Fulton vs. City of Philadelphia* is a much-watched case where the Court will revisit the Free Exercise rule. Regarding the Establishment Clause, a major change in the Courts opinion was noted with the decision to allow tax dollars to flow to funding of religious schools under Paycheck Protection Program. This represents a major change in the Court's interpretation regarding the separation of church and state.

Nelson's presentation gave rise to several Q&A contemporary issues pertaining to our religious freedoms and how the US Supreme Court will view them.

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

Next week's speaker is Norman Roth, President and CEO of Greenwich Hospital, who will speak on *Innovations at Greenwich Hospital*.

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

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Visit our website at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).