



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"In the time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

George Orwell

This ZOOM meeting was a few minutes late getting off the starting blocks, on account of the number of key members who had suffered power outages from the Tropical Storm Isaias.

MIKE AMBROSINO very capably took the reins in the electronic absence of **RUSS HARDEN**. A bearded **BOB MORGAN** led us in the pledge after the playing of the RMA anthem.

Corresponding secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** gave those of us interested in the environment a heads up on a webinar sponsored by Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Observatory: a free online program *The Heat is On: The Climate Imperative* which will take place on Tuesday, August 18 from 3 to 4 PM. (Access: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-heat-is-on-the-climate-imperative-tickets--115511711639?aff=LDEO>).

ARNOLD then continued with the horse-racing motif with a story from the archives of the RMA, involving the equine ventures of a pastor, a nun, and a bishop and the "fake news" of their day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Early in the session, **PETER STERN** noted that only 38 members had signed on, but that he expected more as the meeting went on.

BIRTHDAYS: **COOKIE GIBB** is 78. **JOHN HOFFMAN** turned 91. **JOE FAHYS** is 81. New member **ANDERS EKERNAS** is 75 and **TOM MORONEY** is 81. Happy Birthday was sung as the membership unmuted their screens.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** had nothing new to report (196 members having paid their dues).

HOLLISTER STURGES gave a brief preview of today's speaker Robert Galucci, Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, on the topic: *A Conversation on America's Place in the World*. Next week's speaker will feature a return of Nelson Tebbe, Professor of Constitutional Law at Cornell on *The Current Supreme Court and Religious Freedom*.

INDUCTEES

GERRY GIBIAN proposed **STEVE STEIN** for membership, seconded by **PETER STERN**.

STEVE attended Cornell and then NYU Law School. After his military service, he joined the law firm of Proskauer Rose. A resident of Greenwich since the 1970's, **STEVE** is a member of the Milbrook Club and an avid tennis player. Hands were unanimously raised on video in support of **STEVE**'s induction into the RMA.

FUN AND GAMES

GOLF: GEOFFREY BURGE noted that three stalwarts chanced the impending weather and the wet turf to complete 18 holes.

TENNIS: MIKE AMBROSINO reported that on Friday July 31 **GEOFFREY BURGE** and **DON BREISMEISTER** won on court #1. **RICK LANAMAN** and **SAM MARASSO** won on court #2. Indoor tennis dues are payable asap: \$525 and \$265 for full and half season, respectively.

OUTDOOR TENNIS: JOHN KNIGHT had reserved one court from 9 to 10 on Thursday. The high school courts are available but cannot be reserved.

WILL MORRISON reminded us that Tai Chi is available online on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 PM.

MIKE AMBROSINO reported that Hearts is still going strong on the Internet, and that two groups have been participating. (Bridge is also available online.)

TAD LARRABEE reported on the latest walk through the Tree Tops area of the Mianus River. Thursday's walk is planned for the Kensico Dam area. (For details, contact tlarrabee@optonline.net)

MIKE AMBROSINO threw out a couple of ideas for pepping up the business meeting

- 1) A weekly 5-minute period for "Public Service Announcements" which might include items such as restaurant reviews.
- 2) A revival of the Member Profiles. (Member Profiles are archived and available on the RMA web site.)

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Robert Gallucci, who has spoken before us in the past, makes a reappearance. This week's format was in an interview format, with **HOLLISTER STURGES** capably serving as the "moderator." Professor Gallucci has held many positions in the fields of diplomacy and education. Notably, he is a former Assistant Secretary of State and is currently the Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. The title of today's program is *America's Place in the World*.

Among issues discussed were: The "America First" policy of the current Administration. The undoing of some of the "bad deals" of previous administrations has had effects on immigration policy, climate policy, trade agreements and "sympathy with Russia". "Isolationism" is not new. It was espoused by Woodrow Wilson and made an appearance before World War II.

Professor Gallucci stated that our "self-interested" policies have caused our "standing" to have slipped world-wide. He feels that, with regard to the Global Pandemic, "we have not led the world" and we have not coped domestically.

With regard to our relations with our European Allies, the concept that we "are not getting enough back" bespeaks a poor understanding of history. Why NATO?, "because we value open societies and oppose hegemonies". (We fought two World Wars to oppose hegemonies.)

Gallucci feels that the recent withdrawal of 11,000 troops from Germany will not significantly affect our "capability". But the disparagement of the Alliance has damaged our credibility.

An extensive discussion of our security threats (China, North Korea, Iran, and Russia) ensued.

A lively Q and A period ensued covering items such as "the threat from within", Taiwan, and Cuba. Professor Gallucci's final recommendation to our Government "Be honest with the American people."

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week's speaker will feature a return of Nelson Tebbe with
A Conversation on America's Place in the World.

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **JOE MANCINELLI**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **JOE** at jlmanc@optonline.net.

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