



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Joe Mancinelli**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Joe Mancinelli, Chet Risio, Frank Scarpa, Tim Brooks**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Len Carusi**
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SCRIBE: AV RIVEL

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

Abraham Lincoln

At 10:02 President **RUSS HARDEN** gave the downbeat, **HORST TEBBE** pushed a button and the sounds of the RMA song wafted over the internet to the 73 members gathered around their electronic devices. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** came off the bench to pinch-hit for a missing assigned pledge leader. With Old Glory luffing on the screen **MICHAEL** led the pledge flawlessly.

ARNOLD GORDON took the speakers screen to report: The wife of our dear member, **MAURICE KROHN**, passed away on Saturday, September 19th due to congestive heart failure. Ruth Krohn was 78 years old. Her obituary can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxabxy8a> **MAURICE** shared with **ARNOLD** her sense of humor with two anecdotes. The day before she died, she told him that if she did not make it, he was not losing a wife, he was gaining 4 closets. She also gave him a sealed envelope to open only if she did pass away. In it she provided a list of 10 women he should never speak to. May she rest in peace.

Mary Hegarty and Fred DeCaro III, voting Registrars for the Town of Greenwich, would be making a presentation later in the meeting with information about voting in Greenwich.

Our speaker today will be Miles Rapoport, former Secretary of State for CT, currently a Senior Practice Fellow in American Democracy at the ASH Center of the Harvard Kennedy School. He will address one of the hottest topics of the day: *What will the November Election Look Like: Unprecedented Challenges*. He will describe the issues and offer perspectives on expectations for the country and our State.

BOB CAREY, this week's appointed jokester told a knee slapper about the psychic powers of a couple of clergymen.

PETER STERN gave his usual stirring membership report: 73 attendees, 1 guest: Bart Steinfield guest of **HOWARD RICHMAN**.

Birthday List:

CARL	WHITE	72
GERHARD	PETER	73
JERRY	STINSON	73
JOHN	TONER	75
JOE	BOLDT	75
PETER	ORBANOWSKI	76
GEOFFREY	HORNBECK	77
JIM	SANTORA	79
STEVE	LEIFER	82

The singing of *Happy Birthday* followed.

The Treasurer's report was presented by **JEFF JUNKER**

1. **JEFF** has received no additional dues checks his past week. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and the VPs have made an effort to reach out to the 16 members who have not paid their annual dues by telephone.
2. The RMA tax filing for the year has been mailed after being reviewed with **STEVE BOIES**.
3. The CD's in our UBS account matured and assistant treasurer **TAD LARRABEE** worked to have our wealth management account with UBS closed and the funds transferred into our checking account at Chase Bank. With the addition of the CD's we have just over \$70,000 in our checking account.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO gave the good visiting news that no one was in the hospital or rehab. It was reported that **CHET RISIO** has been feeling under the weather. **RUSS HARDEN** reported speaking with **CHET** recently and that **CHET** reported that he was feeling "great."

SPECIAL REPORT

Mary Hagerty and Fred Decaro III, Voting Registrars for the Town of Greenwich then gave a most enlightening talk on Voting *in the coming election*. The highlights were:

There is a website greenwichct.gov/vote where in you can put your name and get the status of your registration, or your absentee ballot, your polling place and your representatives.

Voting in person: A survey after the primaries of 100 voters showed that 95 % felt “safe” or “very safe” voting in person. Since that election, further improvements in protecting voter health have been made.

Voting by mail: Do Not Tarry, apply for your absentee ballot as soon as you get the form, submit your ballot as soon as you receive it. Use the drop box at Town Hall or Police headquarters rather than USPS. Your ballot must be received by 8:00 election day. Be sure to follow all instructions exactly and completely.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOLLISTER STURGESS - The program committee is organizing five focus groups to get feedback from you on what you think of the weekly programs, now on webinar. We want to hear your opinions of the programs, what you like and do not like, what concerns you have, and what ideas you have for better programming.

Each focus group will be limited to five people and will be conducted using ZOOM. **ARNOLD GORDON, JIM FISHBEIN. PETER BERG. ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**, and I will each lead a group. Discussions will be open, relaxed and should take about 45 minutes. They will be scheduled at the convenience of the participants. The information we gather from the focus groups will be used to craft a survey questionnaire that will be emailed to all RMA members.

I hope many of you will participate. Please sign by emailing me: hollistersturges@aol.com.

ARNOLD GORDON, for the record reviewed his “This week’s speaker” announcement given earlier.

BOB RIMMER gave the head’s up for next week’s speaker, Greenwich Library Director Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, who will be joined by Michael Tribe architect for the library renovation and upgrade, Tom Heaney Library Board President and Hank Ashford, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. They will report on the progress of the renovation, new spaces, and services to be offered, and the roll of the library in the time of the coronavirus. Sounds like it will be a most informative presentation.

RUSS HARDEN encouraged one and all to come forward with human interest stories to share.

FUN AND GAMES

Golf: PAUL CAMPION - We had 16 players on this cool, crisp day where you could hear the competitive juices starting to flow as the “boys” begin to prepare for the October tournament. So, the “scores” we report on over these next few weeks will be about the

number of members that we haven't seen in several months due to summer "mishaps" or earlier medical stays to add on new "boy parts". On September 22nd we will start at same time: 10:20 am, get those names into me, 9 or 18 holes, by Thursday at paulcampion1@optonline.net. We've had a great response to the "4 ball" event and getting close to a "Waiting List" situation and everyone wants to stay for the light luncheon. What a Group, that RMA! Stay in the fairway!

Tennis: ANDY HOLMES served up the tennis news: Last Friday was the opening day of the 2020 indoor tennis season at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy and there were a couple of exciting matches. The winner's in the opening round match were **PETER DODGE** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. In the second match, the winners were **PETER DODGE** once again and **BRIAN MAHONEY**. This week's captain will be **TOM HEALY**.

Tai Chi – WILL MORRISON All are welcome to Tai Chi Balance and Flexibility class Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:00. Join from the privacy of your living room through Zoom. Select this link <https://zoom.us/j/99622029436> and use the password: raisehands. Spouses are welcome. In fact, there is no problem with her trying it out first. Drop **WILL MORRISON** an email at wdmorrison@gmail.com with any questions or before your first class to give him a heads up.

Walking -TAD LARRABEE announced a "package" of two upcoming walks: 1) The Mario Cuomo Bridge Walkway on September 17, and 2) The Walkway on the Hudson north of the Bridge. (contact tadlarra@optonline.net for details)

Hearts – DON CONWAY reported No Game, No report.

Bridge – ANDRZEJ MAZURAEK - Bridge has been played with 4 players every Wednesday at 1:00 pm, remotely using TricksterCards.com. If you wish to play next week, please email me at mazurek.a.j@gmail.com.

THIS WEEKS SPEAKER

Miles Rapoport, former Secretary of State for CT, currently a Senior Practice Fellow in American Democracy at the ASH Center of the Harvard Kennedy School on

What will the November election look like?

Mr. Rapoport's talk did not cover the issues and personalities involved in November's election, but rather the nuts-and-bolts of the process.

He started by listing the calendar for the election from submitting applications for absentee ballots (already in play), to the vote in Congress to ratify the vote of the Electoral College in January.

He felt that the Virus would cause a heavy load on absentee ballots, and he spent some time on explaining the mechanics of voting and counting the votes. He warned that final results would not be known on Election Day night and maybe not for a week or more. On the other hand, he felt that voting in person is less scary than many thought, as, at least in Connecticut, election officials had learned from the primaries and improved the safety of personal voting. He predicted that turnout would be a record. The 2018 off-year election saw 119 million votes cast, a record for the last decade. He predicted 150 million in 2020.

The main challenges to the vote were discussed. They are extreme polarization, fraud (the issue, not the reality) and voter suppression.

He then revealed some of the mysteries of the Electoral College.

A very spirited RMA Q&A followed.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Greenwich Library: Renovation Update & Future Plans

Greenwich Library Director Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, who will be joined by Michael Tribe architect for the library renovation and upgrade, Tom Heagney Library Board President and Hank Ashford, Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. They will report on the progress of the renovation, new spaces, and services to be offered, and the roll of the library in the time of the coronavirus.

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's 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.

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