



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

“Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Following a rendition of the RMA anthem (never on the charts, but #1 in our hearts), President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and called on **ED FARRELL** to lead us in the pledge.

ARNOLD GORDON reported some very sad news that Nina Cocchi, wife of member **TONY COCCHI**, passed away at the age of 77 on Saturday, September 20, 2020. An obituary can be found here: <https://www.coxeandgraziano.com/obituaries/Nina-Cocchi-?obId=18400837>. Nina's family will receive relatives and friends, and online condolences, at Coxe and Graziano Funeral Home (www.coxeandgraziano.com), 134 Hamilton Avenue, Greenwich, CT, on Thursday, September 24th from 4 pm to 8 pm. The Funeral Mass will be held Friday, September 25th at 11 am at St. Catherine of Sienna Church in Riverside (www.stc-sta.org). All attendees are asked to wear masks as per CT Department of Health guidelines. There will be a remote broadcast for those unable to attend in person.

ARNOLD advised us all not to let our Corona Guard down as fall and winter arrive along with the flu season. Some helpful information and advice can be found in this article, *How We Survive the Winter*: <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/09/how-america-can-survive-the-winter/616401/>

ARNOLD also advised members can easily check whether you are registered to vote and under what if any party affiliation by going to a site by the League of Women Voters: <https://www.vote411.org/check-registration>.

On a lighter note **ARNOLD** showed a series of humorous signs posted by the town of Indian Hill, CO. He followed with a tale of a confused wife describing her husband's surgery – suggesting the surgery was done on his scrotum when it was done on his sternum.

Memorial: **HORST TEBBE** offered a warm remembrance of Dana Low, a former RMA member, who passed away on August 27. Please see attached.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the remembrance of Dana Low.

RMA Focus Group: **HOLLISTER STURGES** indicated that five focus groups are looking at ways to improve program planning and invited all interested in contributing to this activity to contact him at hollistersturges@aol.com.

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted the return of **PETER UHRY** to the RMA following successful knee surgery. It was also noted that **WAYNE DEVRIES** is recovering from open heart surgery.

Membership: **PETER STERN** indicated there were 71 members in attendance. He announced two birthday boys: **STEVE MARINO** (91), and **DAVE RICHARDS** (75). **PETER** welcomed visitor Alan Barry, a guest of **BOB RIMMER**. **PETER** then introduced **HOWARD RICHMAN**, who nominated **BART STEINFELD** for RMA membership. **PETER UHRY** seconded the nomination and **BART** was unanimously elected to membership. **BART** is a graduate of Yale Law School. Most of his career has been spent in various roles in real estate finance, but most recently he has been working for himself raising debt and equity capital for a national commercial real estate development company in Atlanta, GA. **BART** and his family have been Greenwich residents for 26 years currently residing in Cos Cob.

Treasurer: **JEFF JUNKER** reported that I have received 2 additional dues checks this past week bringing us up to 214 paid; 211 long term members and 3 new inductees. One member's wife reported that the effects of Parkinson's disease were taking hold and asked that he be put on inactive status, but still receive email.

Along with **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **JEFF** continues to make an effort to reach out to the 13 members who have not paid their annual dues: both by email and by telephone.

JEFF also reported that we had recovered \$1,450 in bus deposits from County Coach for special events that we had to cancel owing to the pandemic.

Human Interest: **PETER UHRY** described how, since the early 1970s, Greenwich Audubon volunteers, and now a paid person, count the number of raptor/ birds (hawks, eagles and falcons) that cross Quaker Ridge in Greenwich during the period between September and November. He invited members to enjoy the experience of bird watching in Greenwich.

[CLICK HERE](#) for PETER's presentation on Hawk Watch

or

[Google Greenwich Audubon Center](#) for information on Hawk Week

Program: **BOB RIMMER** announced today's speaker will be Greenwich Library Director, Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, who will update members on the \$18 million library renovation now underway. Next week's speaker will be Hagar Hajjar Chemali, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Greenwich Media Strategies, LLC, who will offer *A Closer Look at the Middle East: Key Developments, Insights, and Where Things are Headed*.

FUN AND GAMES

PAUL CAMPION said that on Tuesday 20 players took advantage of a beautiful day for golf. After a long absence **PETER UHRY** returned to the Griff and celebrated with a birdie on #9. **JOHN CRANE** and **BOB MORGAN** surprised themselves with pars on #7.

ANDY HOLMES announced that last Friday we had two tennis matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. The winner's in the first match were **TOM HEALY** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**. The winners of the second match were **TOM HEALY** once again and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**. This week's captain will be **DON BREISMEISTER**.

WILL MORRISON noted that ZOOM based Tai Chi classes are held on Mondays and Fridays at 3:00 PM. All are invited to improve balance and flexibility. Zoom info <https://zoom.us/j/99622029436>, Meeting ID: 996 2202 9436, Passcode: raisehands

TAD LARRABEE reported by the time you read this, RMA walkers will have completed the second of a 2-walk set; last week we walked part way across the Mario Cuomo Bridge and this Thursday we will have walked along the Hudson River and explored the Sleepy Hollow Lighthouse.

Soon we will be exploring areas for their fall color if we get much this year.

TAD sent a notice late Wednesday afternoon about the walk, so if you want to be on the walkers list, please email TAD at tadlarra@optonline.net.

DON CONWAY reported that five games of Hearts were played on September 21. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** won three games, and **DON CONWAY** and **ANDY HOLMES** each won one game. Moon shots came from **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **DON CONWAY**, **TOM HEALY**, and **ANDY HOLMES**.

Today's Speaker: **BOB RIMMER** introduced Greenwich Library director, Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, who, along with project team leaders Michael Tribe, Tom Heagney and Hank Ashforth provided a comprehensive review of the objectives and status of the ongoing

renovation of the main library. Ms. Ormerod-Glynn offered an overview of how the library will address the changing needs of the community through the re-structuring of the library's three floors to accommodate more group activities through additional meeting facilities, an expanded second floor arts and music space, as well as a newly structured third floor children's space. She also noted that a new café will have indoor and outdoor service and will be managed by a local not-for-profit organization. Mr. Tribe, principal project architect, said the library's new design will express a one building sense where the various sections of the building will be joined by a "colonnaded main street." He also noted that a major feature of the new library will be courtyard access to the new indoor/outdoor café and an expanded Cole Auditorium. Mr. Heagney noted that funding for this renovation is being provided by private, town, state, and federal resources. He and Ms. Ormerod indicated that the newly renovated library will attract 1800-2000 visitors per day – an increase over pre-Covid-19 visits. Mr. Ashforth noted that a key objective during renovation and especially since the outbreak of Covid-19 has been to keep the library open. The project team has been able to accomplish that objective even though syncing labor availability and materials delivery has been challenging. In concluding an informative presentation, Ms. Ormerod-Glynn announced a grand re-opening on the renovated library is schedule for January 28 through February 4, 2021. Save the date.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

On September 30, the RMA will welcome Hagar Hajjar Chemali, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Greenwich Media Strategies, LLC, who will offer *A Closer Look at the Middle East: Key Developments, Insights, and Where Things are Headed.*

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **TIM BROOKS**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **TIM** at tbroo@aol.com

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