



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**
Print/Distribution: **Joe Mancinelli**

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 12 SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Following the martial strains of the RMA song, the meeting was opened at 10:00am by President **RUSS HARDEN**, who immediately segued into the pledge of allegiance led by **ED PARKER**, as Old Glory flapped proudly on our screens. We're getting good at this Zoom stuff!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

First on the agenda (and in our hearts) was Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON**, who had two announcements. The first, sadly, was that **JACK POOLE**, long time Greenwich resident and RMA member, passed away Sunday evening at Edge Hill. He was 77. **RUSS HARDEN** knew **JACK** well and will prepare a remembrance of him for presentation at a future meeting. Second, **ARNOLD** reminded members that the COVID-delayed payment of Greenwich Town taxes is due tomorrow, October 1st; if mailed, it must be postmarked on or before that date or interest will be charged.

ARNOLD then introduced joke-teller **TOM HEALY**, who regaled us with a story about a drunken man, a priest, and "making sure you understand the question before you answer it."

Always well-organized Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** then announced that there were 73 in attendance on the call. Birthdays (ta-da!) were **MARK GEIMER**, 72, **HORST TEBBE**, 80, **GEOFFREY BURGE**, 63, **BILL HORN**, 87, **BILLY LONDON**, 80, and **GARY MILLER**, 82. The group received a virtual chorus of "Happy birthday to you..." which was somewhat subdued because somebody left most of it on "mute." **PETER** then officiated at the induction of new member,

ALAN BARRY, who was nominated by **BOB RIMMER**, seconded by **PETER BERG**, and elected to membership by unanimous vote of the attendees. **Dr. BARRY** recently retired as the Greenwich Commissioner of Human Services, after serving in that post for the past ten years. He earned his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from St. Louis University, and has over 35 years of experience in healthcare administration. He was an RMA speaker in February 2020 on the subject of how to break the cycle of poverty in Greenwich. In his brief remarks he looked forward to continuing his engagement with the community through the RMA.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported that we are down to 13 members who have not paid their dues or responded to entreaties to do so (how could they!!). We have received refunds for nearly all deposits made for events canceled due to the onset of the COVID pandemic.

PETER UHRY read a touching remembrance of member **ROGER PISANI**, who passed away on September 22nd. The obituary text can be found [HERE](#). The reading was accompanied by a picture of **ROGER**, which led to a discussion of whether the RMA should assemble a library of photos of all its members for such possible use, or other purposes. Others felt that this might be “tempting fate.”

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported that there was no one currently on the Visiting list, but that members should notify him if they knew of anyone who might be so served. **JOHN FEBLES** followed with an announcement about the upcoming Salvation Army Christmas fundraising auction, which will be held virtually this year. Donations of items and services that could be auctioned are urgently needed, from businesses and individuals. For information contact **JOHN** at 203-550-5049 (c) or 203-869-5343 (h). Suggestions for the auction "wish list" can be found [HERE](#).

In this week’s Human Interest feature, **RUSS HARDEN** related how a comment by golfer Arnold Palmer that he was a “sentimental slob” led him to a poem by that name by Ralph Ellison, and the truth that it is “OK for men to cry.”

GERALD POLLACK provided a preview of today’s speaker, Hagar H. Chemali, a former Mideast analyst for the National Security Council who will speak on “A Closer Look at the Middle East: Key Developments, Insights, and Where Things Are Headed.” **HOLLISTER STURGES** then announced that the October 7th speaker will be Roberto Lenton, Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska, and Chairman of the Board of the International Water Management Institute, on “Food, Water and Global Development.”

AND NOW, THE SPORTS REPORT!

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported: “We started with 16 anxious golfers who were striving to avoid the rain, which did come down sporadically. It was a much-needed rain but most of us

did not finish. The weather did not seem to bother **TONY FITZPATRICK**, who pumped out a few pars, but there was no response from the 'birdie brigade'—it was just too soggy. Next week is our 4-ball tournament, which will start at 8:20 am, as will all of our October dates. Those golfers who are not in this event will have to go online with the Griff this Friday to reserve times for Tuesday the 6th. The slots that will be available will be before 7:50 am and after noon. On October 13 we will go back to normal play beginning at 8:20 am. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** will e-mail instructions on the 4-ball event this week, including the foursomes, Captains, tee times, how the format works, and the Rules. Be well and play well.”

Indoor tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** announced that last Friday we had two tennis matches at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. The winners in the first match were **BRIAN MAHONEY** and **MIKE SMITH**. The winners of the second match were **BRIAN MAHONEY** once again and **BILL FAKUNDINY**. This week's captain will be **ANDRE MAZUREK**. If there are any questions contact **ANDY** at andyholmes56@gmail.com.

Tai Chi. **WILL MORRISON** commented that a number of members had found the exercises valuable as “golf training.” He reminded us that sessions are held Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:00 pm.

Walkers. **TAD LARRABEE** reported, “Fall colors are upon us! I will be sending to the Walkers email list a set of proposed walks for the next six weeks, subject to weather conditions at the time I make a formal email announcement each Wednesday afternoon. We are hoping that this list will give us the best opportunity in our area to enjoy some good leaf peeping experiences every Thursday morning.” If you want to be on the Walkers email list, contact **TAD** at tadlarra@optonline.net.

Bridge/Hearts: Hearts: **DON CONWAY** reported that table #1 had **MIKE AMBROSINO, TOM HEALY, JOHN STANKUNAS** and **GRANT PERKINS**. They played four games. Two were won by **MICHAEL** and two by **JOHN**. **TOM HEALY** was the only player to shoot the moon. The second table had **DON CONWAY, JACK SWEGER, TOM MORONEY** and **ANDY HOLMES**. **ANDY** won the 1st game, **DON** won the 2nd, 3rd and 4th games, and **TOM MORONEY** won the 5th game. **DON** shot the moon twice, **JACK SWEGER** shot the moon three times, and **TOM MORONEY** shot it once.

COMMENTS

RUSS HARDEN opened the floor for other business. **TONY COCCHI** thanked members for their support during his recent bereavement. This led to a brief discussion about whether the RMA might establish some type of widower's support group. This will be taken under advisement. In the meantime, members should know that the RMA is there for them in such circumstances.

Another suggestion was that the ROMEO group (“retired old men eating out”) ought to be revived. Finally, it was noted that the Zoom membership meetings had been going “live” before 10:00 am, with chatter and networking prior to the beginning of the formal meeting at 10:00. Going forward the formal meeting time will remain at 10:00, but the “Zoom room” will be opened at about 9:30 am, and members are invited to log in between 9:30 and 10:00 am if they would like to join the informal pre-meeting discussion.

RUSS adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Program Committee Chairman **HOLLISTER STURGES** opened today’s session with a preview of future speakers and the procedure to be followed for submitting questions (which will be addressed at the end). He then turned the virtual podium over to **GERALD POLLACK**, who provided biographical background on today’s speaker. Hagar Hajjar Chemali is a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia University, and held several senior international policy positions in the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations, including Director of Communications for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and Director for Syria and Lebanon at the National Security Council. She is a senior fellow with the Atlantic Council’s Economic Sanctions Initiative, a commentator on foreign policy issues on MSNBC, CNN, NBC, Fox News, BBC, and Bloomberg, and a self-described “sanctions nerd.” She is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Greenwich Media Strategies, LLC. POLLACK added that her appearance today is in honor of her late friend and RMA member **WIN ADKINS**, who passed away in 2015.

Ms. Chemali’s talk was titled “A Closer Look at the Middle East: Key Developments, Insights, and Where Things Are Headed,” focusing especially on Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the recent UAE-Israel and Bahrain-Israel peace agreements brokered by the Trump Administration. During the Q&A she also spoke about the situation in Lebanon.

Video of the talk can be accessed through the RMA web site or directly at <https://vimeo.com/463908359>.

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

Roberto Lenton, Professor Emeritus at the University of Nebraska, and Chairman of the Board of the International Water Management Institute, will speak on “Food, Water and Global Development.”

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

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA
Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.