



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, Joe Mancinelli, Chet Risio, Frank Scarpa, Tim Brooks**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Len Carusi** Print/Distribution: **Joe Mancinelli**

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 29 FEBRUARY 3, 2021
SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

"The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable."
- John Kenneth Galbraith

With practiced efficiency, our President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting with a rousing chorus of "We Are the RMA!" by the Melody Men, followed by the pledge of allegiance as Old Glory waved on the screen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The first order of business was the induction of Representative Steven Meskers for membership. Steve is State Representative for the 150th District, which encompasses the shoreline areas of Byram, Greenwich, Cos Cob, Riverside, and Old Greenwich. He has lived in Greenwich for 23 years, is married with three children, and speaks three languages. In addition to a 35-year career in international banking he served 18 years on the Greenwich RTM before running for the state legislature in 2018, when he defeated the incumbent and became the first Democrat elected from Greenwich in more than a century. He was reelected for a second term in 2020.



Described by his sponsors as a good guy/regular guy/funny guy/smart guy/empathetic guy who would make a fabulous addition to the RMA, Steve was nominated by **PETER BERG**, seconded by **HOWARD RICHMAN**, and approved unanimously by the membership. Welcome, **STEVE** (your name can now appear in **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS!**)

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** made a few brief remarks and then introduced joker **AV RIVEL** who told us two short stories about hearing aids, including one that was placed in the wrong orifice and another which, when used surreptitiously, caused its owner to change his will.

Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** reported that there were 65 members in attendance, no guests, and that the single birthday boy was **ED MILLER**, who turned 78 this week. **ED** was serenaded with the “Happy Birthday” song (which also presumably spins at 78).

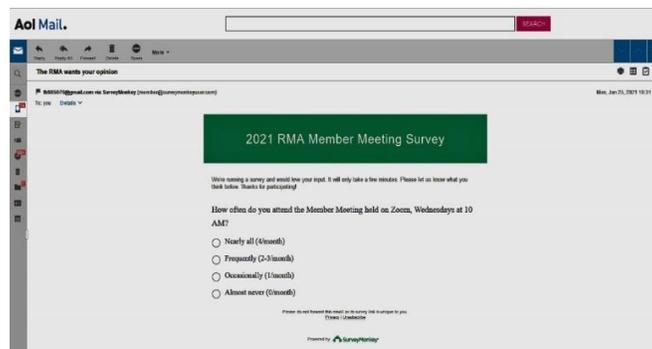


RUSS HARDEN followed with a eulogy for RMA member Dr. **JOSEPH COLEMAN**, who died on January 27th at the age of 92.

[OBITUARY FOR DR. JOSEPH COLEMAN](#)

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported no significant activity in the treasury this week. Visiting chair **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** was a bit busier, reporting that “**DON HELLER** is recovering from a stroke and is rehabbing in Ridgefield and hopes to move to a rehab center in White Plains soon. He has also tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. He is not taking phone calls but is viewing his emails. **DOUG FIELDS** had surgery at Sloan Kettering in NYC to remove a cancerous growth on his tongue and jaw - no phone calls please.” **MICHAEL** thanked **PETER BERG** and **JEFF JUNKER** for relaying the news regarding these two members and reminded all members to let him know when a member is ill and might appreciate our outreach.

JIM FISHBEIN reported on the member survey currently being conducted by himself and survey professional **TIM BROOKS**, with the objective of determining if changes might be made in our membership meetings to persuade more members to attend, and/or to make the meetings more attractive to current attendees. The survey is being conducted using Survey Monkey software and has been sent to all 219 members. If you have not yet responded, please do so! The email looks like this:



Program Committee Chair **HOLLISTER STURGES** previewed this week's speaker, author Flemming Heilmann. A summary of his talk appears below. **BOB PHILLIPS** then described next week's speaker, Steven Ujifusa, author of *Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World's Fastest Clipper Ship*. Award-winning historian Ujifusa will describe the time when ambitious robber barons plied the lucrative trade between China and the U.S.

AND IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** announced that four tennis matches were played last Friday. In the 1st round, the winners were **BILL MAHONEY** and **ANDRE MAZUREK** on court 1 and **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI** on court 2. In the finals round, winning again were **MAZUREK** and **ORBANOWSKI** on court 1, while **PETER DODGE** and **MIKE SMITH** were the winners on court 2. This week's captain will be **BILL FAKUNDINY**. **RUSS HARDEN** reported that platform tennis was snowed out.

Pickleball: Per **ANTHONY COCCHI**, pickleball was also cancelled last week due to the snowstorm. Play is Mondays at 1:00 pm at Christiano Field. Anyone interested should contact anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** advised that "any and all are welcome to try out the 'Basic Moves.' These are easy to learn, low risk movements that, according to extensive research, improve balance and strength as well as help to prevent falls. If you would like to know more, drop me an email at wdmorrison@gmail.com with your phone number and I will call you right back. The formal class meets Wednesdays at 3:00 through Zoom."

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that "eight walkers braved the cold weather and enjoyed good conversations while walking through the Innis Arden Golf Course and into some interesting Old Greenwich neighborhoods. Once **JOHN DENNE'S** cell phone thawed out, he reported that we walked nearly five miles, but the lack of hills made it easy on everyone. Come join us every Thursday at 9 AM!"

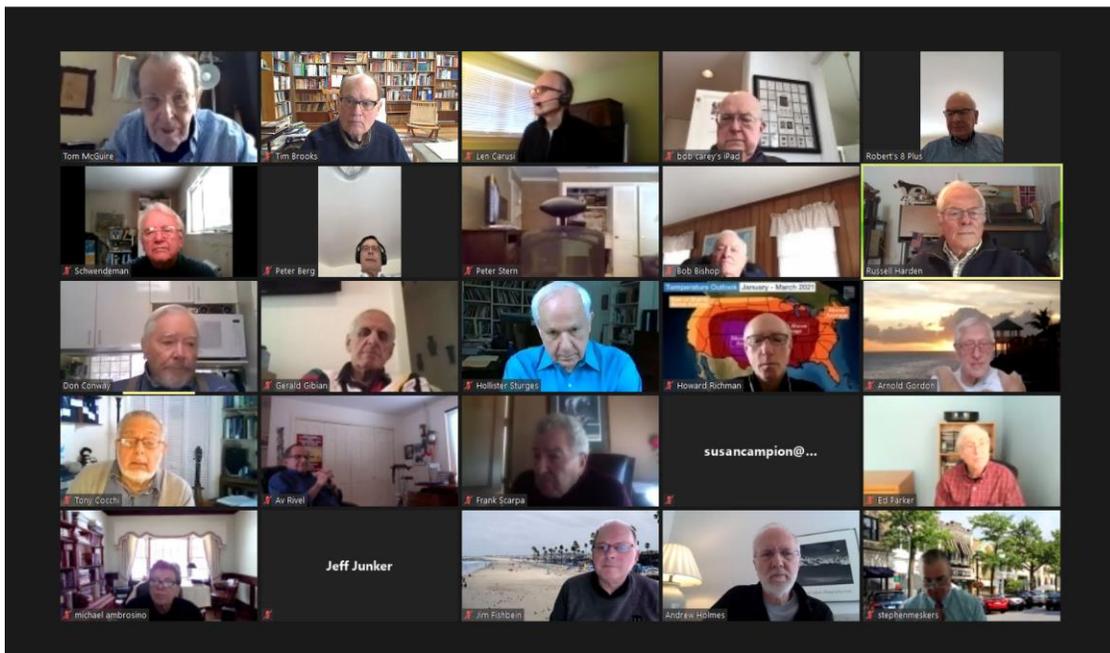
Hearts: According to **DON CONWAY**, "A fantastic Hearts match-up took place on Monday, February 1st." Players were **CONWAY, TROVATO, HEALY** and **STANKUNAS**. Winners: **CONWAY** (1), **HEALY** (2), **STANKUNAS** (2). Moon shots: **TROVATO** (1), **HEALY** (3), **STANKUNAS** (1).

Bridge: **ANTHONY COCCHI** weighed in, "There were five players last week, so we played a round robin system (4 games then switch partners). The scores were unfortunately lost. We play every Wednesday at 1 PM." Anyone interested in joining should contact **TONY** at the address given above.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM MCGUIRE thanked members for their support of the Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home over the holidays. 1,500 Christmas cards were received, along with monetary donations and much appreciated colored socks!

Note from the Scribe: As confirmed by our ongoing survey, most members miss the in-person RMA meetings and are anxious for their return. Until that time, however, the online Wednesday morning Zoom meetings provide an excellent opportunity to keep up to date on important issues such as how and where to get the COVID-19 vaccine, members' experience with it, other important developments in town, low-risk opportunities for recreation and fellowship while we sequester, and more. In addition to the Member Meeting (10 am) and Speaker (11 am), there is an open chat session beginning at 9:15am. If you haven't tried a chat session, you might benefit from doing so. If Zoom presents a challenge (and you don't have a teenager around to help), any Board member should be able to help you.



The meeting was adjourned by **RUSS** at approximately 10:36 am.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Beginning at 11:00 am sharp, **HOLLISTER STURGES** introduced the day's featured speaker, Flemming Heilmann, retired business executive, humanitarian, and author of *The Unacceptable Face: Capitalism, Socialism, and National and Corporate Politics*.

Heilmann was born in Malaya in 1936 of Danish parents, and during his international business career was a senior executive of several manufacturing companies, including Metal Box South Africa Ltd., Continental Can Co. (Europe and the U.S.) and American Can Co. In his talk he focused primarily on his 17 years in South Africa, from the 1950s to the 1970s, during which time he witnessed the rise of apartheid, interacted with many government officials, and met opponents including the young Nelson Mandela. He reflected on the interaction between business and government during those tumultuous years, and his later interactions with the increasingly socialist governments in Europe when he ran businesses there, and which in his view crushed free enterprise. During the Q&A he was asked his view of the future of South Africa now that apartheid has ended but many problems remain. His outlook was pessimistic; corruption and poor education, he said, is doing significant damage there. Video of the talk may be accessed through the RMA web site, www.greenwichrma.org

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

February 10th, Steven Ujifusa, award winning historian will discuss *Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World's Fastest Clipper Ship*.

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.

NOTE TO RMA Members: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **JOE MANCINELLI** at jlmanc@optonline.net if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	1:00pm	Outdoor Pickle Ball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi @ anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: "Tai Chi New Joiners"	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadlarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com