

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell,
Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Joe Angland, Bob Shullman,
Fred Wu**

Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do." - Jean-Paul Sartre

For this, hopefully our last totally Zoom meeting, President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** called us to order right on the dot of 9:45. **HORST TEBBE** had the honor of leading us in the Pledge. **LEN CARUSI** then treated us to the recorded rendering of "God Bless America" by the incomparable Kate Smith. (Next week, we will resume our in-person meetings, and **BOB MORGAN** will be at the keyboards once again.)

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS

The board has elected to reinstate in-person meetings as of February 16th. Several important protocols will be in effect:

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON MEETINGS STARTING ON FEBRUARY 16th

DISABILITY PARKING PASSES

It would be most appreciated if those using disability passes on their windshields would try, whenever possible without compromising their safety and health, to park on Lafayette Street as opposed to using the disability spaces in the FPC parking lot. All spaces on the street are free as long as you park in an authorized space and display your disability pass; you will not be ticketed if you display your pass.

ATTENDANCE RULES AT THE FPC

- Members (other than the Setup Committee) should not enter the church prior to 9:00.
- Setup Committee can enter the church no earlier than 8:30 using the side elevator entrance.

COVID RESTRICTIONS AT THE FPC

- You must show proof of being fully vaccinated and boosted (or have previously provided such proof to Peter Stern) to enter the church.
- You must wear a mask at all times everywhere in the church, including the fellowship hall. These rules apply for both the membership meeting and the speaker presentation.

You can pre-register your vaccination status by sending a scan or photo of your vaccinations card(s) to members@greenwichrma.org.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO then lobbed in a plea for another person to head up a clothing drive, possibly with Neighbor to Neighbor at www.ntngreenwich.org.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** noted that the Greenwich Library has agreed to give a private guided tour of up to 21 of our members before opening, at 8:00 am. Six members have expressed interest so far. **BOB RIMMER** is spearheading this initiative. **ARNOLD** asked if any members had been able to obtain N95 or KN95 masks at any of the local pharmacies. One member suggested CVS on Putnam Ave. Another suggested contacting Maria Higby at the Senior Center. Another suggested that the RMA itself might look into obtaining a supply of free masks or test kits to distribute to its members. Several members had received COVID antigen tests in the mail.

ARNOLD then challenged members with the following:

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

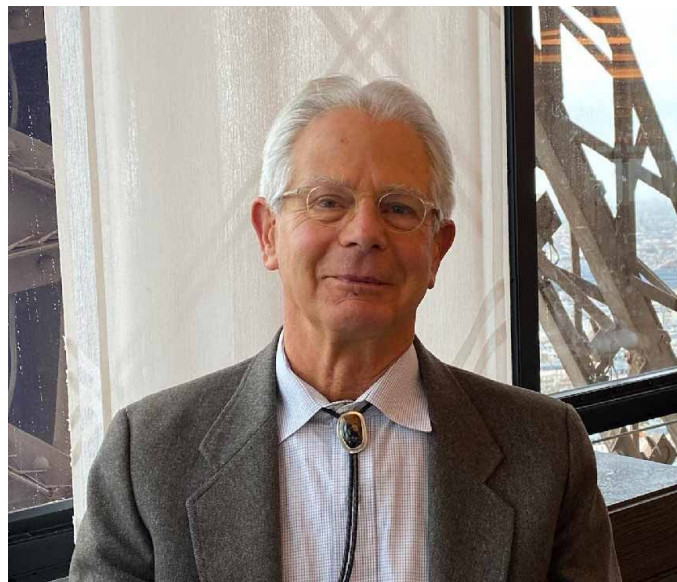
What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

He then introduced us to a new jokester, his protege **CARL WHITE**, who graced us with a half dozen groaners in the true Gordonian style.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership: **PETER STERN** counted 61 members in attendance, all by Zoom. **FRANK SCARPA** and **TONY FITZPATRICK** were the two snowbirds logging in. **PETER** lauded all 74 who had submitted their vaccination status on line. Proof of vaccination and booster will be required of all in-person attendees and guests starting next week, as the previous mask policies will still be in force. Birthday boys were **JACK SWEGER** (91). **JOERG BLASER** (76) and **GRAN BURGESS** (75). All were graced with a heartfelt, though somewhat muted, birthday song.

Induction: Dick Williamson was proposed for membership by **STEVE BOIES**, seconded by **STEVE MYERS**. Dick was born in Paterson, New Jersey and attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges. An avid outdoorsman, he has been a fishing guide at Yellowstone and has climbed several mountains over 14,000 feet in the U.S. In the '70s, he studied land planning at the University of Colorado in Denver, where he met his wife to be, Connie. He started work as a contractor in Connecticut in 1978. His outdoor interests led him to serve on the Board of Directors of the Greenwich Point Conservancy. The RMA membership gave Dick a unanimous vote of approval.



Dick Williamson

JOHN CRAINE announced that, starting next week, members will self-install their badges at in-person meetings. Upon departure, badges should be placed in the proper receptacles. **JOE MANCINELLI** requested more "gatekeepers" to beef up his cadre at the door. **DON ROTZIEN** noted that there is a ROMEO lunch scheduled for noon on Thursday, February 24. For specific details, contact **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com.

Volunteer Hours: **JOHN FEBLES** reported on 507 total volunteer hours by 16 men--368 inside and 139 outside--for the month of January. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** brought in the most hours for an individual, at 88.

Publicity: **JACK WEIR** made note of the "*Greenwich Sentinel* Project," whereby the summaries of our speakers are being published each week in this widely circulated newspaper. Proposals are under way for an expanded relationship with WGCH. **JACK** gave a special shout out to his hard-working committee members.

This week's speaker: **BOB PHILLIPS** previewed Basil Hero of NBC News, who will address us on matters included in his book *The Mission of a Lifetime: Lessons From the Men Who Went to the Moon*. He will share reflections from nine of the 12 surviving astronauts who either walked on or orbited the moon.

Next week's speaker: **HOLLISTER STURGES** previewed State Representative and RMA member **STEVE MESKERS**, who will address "Economic Issues in Post-COVID Connecticut." As the Vice-Chair of the State's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, he is well positioned to discuss the impact of the crisis on state finances.

WINTER PARKS AND RECREATION

Indoor Tennis: Cancelled.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported a rain-out.

Pickleball: **PAT MACCARTHY** reported a rain-out. But the players will be back at Christiano Courts on Thursday.

Paddle Tennis: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported on nine players on Tuesday on heated courts, from about 9:45 to 11:15 am.

Bridge: **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported on play at the home of **ED MASTOLONI**. The top score was 2,520.

Tai Chi: WILL MORRISON invited us to learn more about "Couch Tai Chi" and "Line Waiting Tai Chi" Monday mornings at 9:30 in Old Greenwich.

Hearts: GRANT PERKINS reported on four players and five games. One unnamed player won four games and had one moon shot. Play is currently held at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays.

HUMAN INTEREST

PAUL CAMPION graced us with a colorful and illustrated history of Valentine's Day. Interestingly, there may have been three different St. Valentines. The observance may date back to the third or fourth century. At the time of the decline of the Roman Empire, the hedonistic "lupercalia" may have been replaced gradually with the Christian festival. Around 1800, Valentines seemed to making an appearance in paintings, furniture and other decor. **PAUL** provided colorful illustrations of the evolution of this Holiday--up to and including the accretion of Hallmark, Necco, Hershey and Cabury. He left us with the thought: It is a good time to send someone a kind note.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced today's speaker, Basil Hero. Mr. Hero is an award-winning former investigative reporter with NBC News. His book, *The Mission of a Lifetime: Lessons from the Men Who Went to the Moon*, was selected by the *Financial Times* as one of the top 10 reads of the summer and is considered one of the best books on the leadership skills and spirituality of the Apollo astronauts. Personal interviews with nine of the twelve surviving astronauts who walked on or orbited the moon (all now in their 90s) are the basis for this work. Mr. Hero separated his findings from these interviews into ten discrete issues:

- 1) Leadership and management lessons. The initiation of the space/moon mission by President John Kennedy was a visionary and bold move. That mission came to fruition through advances in management technology and the hiring of "the best people."
- 2) Having a clear mission with a clear deadline. Although this "mission" took eight years, its actual implementation was a key to its success.
- 3) Hiring the Best People. James Webb, Truman's OMB Director, was a critical actor.

- 4) Have Sufficient Funding. With the assistance of Congressman Albert Thomas, through the 1962 Salary Resource Act, the budget was doubled.
- 5) Delegation of Authority, "almost to the point of abdication" (in Werner von Braun's words), was important. Four hundred thousand engineers and 20,000 contractors were ultimately required. George Mueller, the Head of the Apollo II Program, instituted the concept of "All Up Testing," coordinating programs across states.
- 6) Open Communications. Von Braun would hold planning meetings every Monday.
- 7) Owning One's Mistakes. This concept is important in surgical morbidity and mortality conferences in all of our major teaching hospitals. (The Scribe suggests the book *Forgive and Remember* by Charles L. Bosk (1979)).
- 8) Ensuring Quality Control. A reliability of 99.9% is expected--and this may not be good enough!
- 9) Calculated Risk-taking. The first mission to actually go to the moon was Apollo 8 (Anders, Borman and Lovell).
- 10) Moral Courage. For example, Frank Borman disagreed with President Nixon's wish to have the "Star Spangled Banner" played upon the moon landing, arguing that the mission was not about nationalism or jingoism.

BOB PHILLIPS then moderated a question-and-answer session that discussed robotics vs. manned missions (the former is preferred by many), "The Right Stuff" (the "best pilots in the world"), and existential and spiritual changes in the astronauts' outlook after moon missions. Most telling was James Lovell's comment after viewing the Earth from space: "You go to Heaven when you are born."

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on February 16, will be →**FRED WU**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to fywu.wu@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at jfebles13@gmail.com.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members' enjoyment. We welcome new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you are interested.

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

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 Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>.

RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe - onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:45 to 3:30 pm	Hearts at the Women’s Club	John Kavanagh - jjkct176@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge at The Women’s Club	Andre Mazurek - mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	8:00 am	“Tai Chi Fundamentals” – First Congregational Church, Old Greenwich	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Tennis	Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com)

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact