

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org
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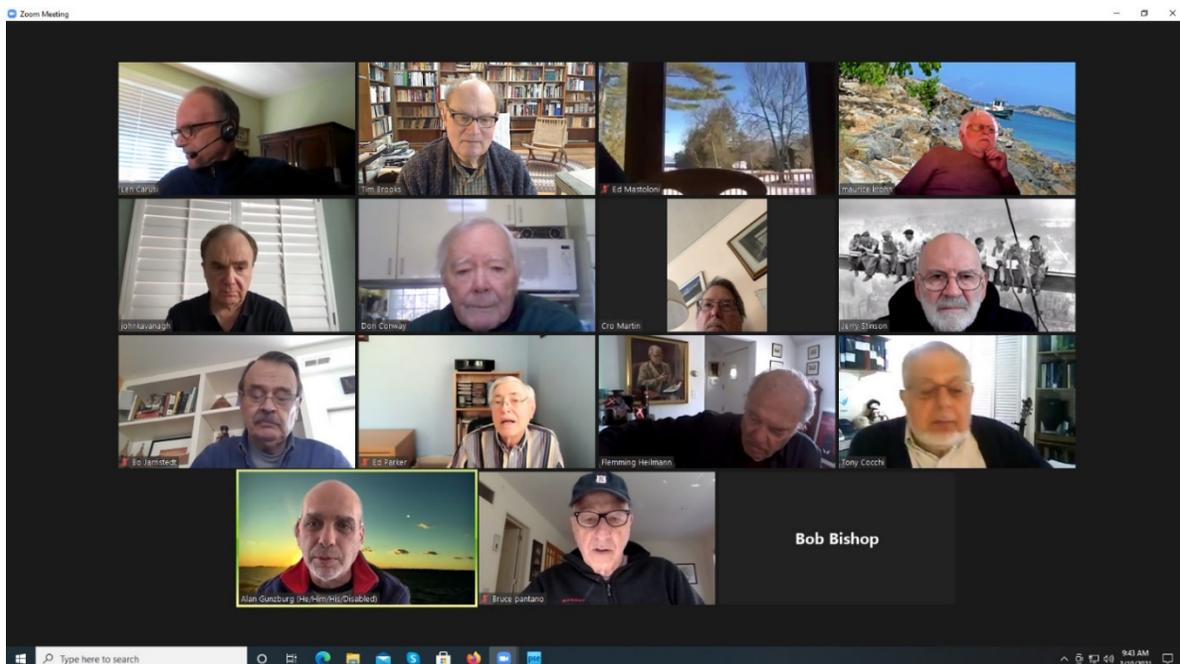
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VOLUME 68 NUMBER 34 March 10, 2021 SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

"Are... you... ready, Hezzie!"

- Guitar player Ken to washboard player Hezzie, of the Hoosier Hotshots

Every Zoom meeting of the RMA these days begins with a 45-minute informal chat session where members can talk with each other and bring up any subject they'd like. It's not quite the same as the "coffee break" mixers before and after the in-person meetings (which will hopefully resume soon), but it does give members a chance to mix and get to know each other better. This morning opened at 9:15 am with about half a dozen participants, growing to around 30 by the time members started pouring in for the 10 AM business meeting. Subjects discussed included aftereffects experienced from the COVID vaccine, a video clip from *America's Got Talent* in which a performer magically duplicated himself (how'd he do that?), feral cats, how to obtain a companion dog, the Greenwich "Blight Ordinance," cops on Greenwich Avenue, and more. More members should drop in.



9:43 AM

President **RUSS “Happy Trails” HARDEN** arrived just before 10 AM and opened the business meeting with a rousing chorus of “We Are the RMA!” by the Melody Men, followed by the pledge of allegiance recited by **ANDY HOLMES**, as Old Glory waved on the screen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONY COCCHI led off with a suggestion that the ROMEO lunches be restarted in some form, and asked if anyone was interested in a “bring your own” picnic at Greenwich Point when the weather gets warmer? Those interested should contact **TONY** at Anthony.Cocchi@Lehman.cuny.edu. This is a first call to judge interest, so please include preferred day of week and any other suggestions.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** took a poll of how many members at the meeting had received their full vaccinations. It appears that more than half had. He seconded the suggestion that with improving weather groups could consider meeting at Greenwich Point for some in-person fellowship. With the new guidelines from CDC and the CT Governor, it may also be possible for a group of vaccinated members to meet at the Church; inquiries will be made.

He also asked whether there might be any members who would like to provide female companionship to single women of a certain age. “As long as the member has some teeth, a couple of credit cards and can drive, they qualify!” Seriously, if you or you know someone who would like to have some female companionship, contact **ARNOLD** (ajgordo@verizon.net).

BRUCE PANTANO suggested that the organization At Home in Greenwich (which “supports and empowers older adults to live independently”) might also be a means for finding such companionship (www.athomeingreenwich.org).

ARNOLD then introduced joke teller **WAYNE DeVRIES** who spun two yarns, one about a little boy who was afraid of the dark, and the other about the relationship between Greek vs. Italian culture and their relationship to sex.

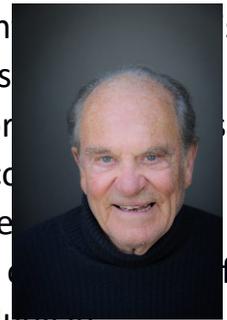
Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** reported that there were 67 members and one guest in attendance. There were nine (count ‘em!) birthday boys in the last week, in order **MIKE RYAN** (83), **ROS CURTIS** (97), **DON BREISMEISTER** (79), **LOU TROVATO** (81), **FRANK ZAVATTARO** (90), **JOHN FEBLES** (77), **BILL HOWLAND** (80), **BO JARNSTEDT** (78) and **MILES MCDONALD** (83). They were all serenaded with the “Happy Birthday” song.

Steve Scheraga, a guest of **JAN MEYER** and **STEVE MYERS**, was welcomed. “Nomads” **FRANK SCARPA**, **PETER TUNLEY** and **GEORGE UBOGY**, all logging in from Florida, were acknowledged,

even though they insisted in reminding everyone how disgustingly warm it is there, with golf days frequent. **WILL MORRISON** just returned from California; he reported that the trip was without incident, and the flights only about half full.

PETER also presided over the induction of the RMA's newest member, Flemming Heilmann. In his nominating remarks **HOLLISTER STURGES** related that "Flemming is a man of great accomplishment and wide interests, and also a wonderful family man and warm friend. He was born in Malaya (modern day Malaysia) of Danish parents shortly before World War II. Ever since his childhood escape from the Japanese invasion in a risky flight to Australia, his life has been one long adventure. He has Danish roots, but was educated in English schools and graduated from Cambridge University."

"Flemming had a stellar career as an industrial executive, and after retirement poured his energy into humanitarian and philanthropic causes. He established a scholarship for students at Cornell University to study economics and served as a director for the Neighborhood Settlement in New York City, its chairman for six years. An accomplished author, he has written a two-volume memoir of his life, placing it in the context of the events. For his contributions, the Queen of Denmark appointed him a Knight of the Dannebrog. He lived for 27 years in Greenwich and today lives with his wife Judy in Rowayton."



After **BOB MEANEY** seconded the nomination, **FLEMMING** was approved unanimously by the assembled membership, and graciously accepted. Henceforth his name will appear in these notes in **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS!**

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported all quiet on the financial front. He said he had a good meeting with 1st VP **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and they had submitted a proposed budget for the next fiscal year for review by the Board.

MICHAEL then followed with his own report, for Visiting, stating that **JOE MANCINELLI** was being treated at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York for a prostate condition, and would be released this afternoon. Emails to **JOE** are welcome.

TAD LARRABEE reported that an email went out this morning to all current RMA members, containing the Nominating Council's slate of nominees for RMA Officers for the next fiscal year, complete with their mug shots. If anyone has questions about the process, or perhaps did not receive the email, please contact **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** at JerrySchwendeman@Yahoo.com or **TAD** at tadlarra@optonline.net. As the process unfolds during March, members will be receiving further emails explaining the next steps. Voting begins on March 24th, with results announced on March 31st.

ARNOLD GORDON popped back in with a human-interest story, a video of a somewhat notorious song by folk singer Bryan Bowers. It was about a Scotsman in kilts, with too much in his cups, and the surprise he had when he woke up and lifted his kilt to relieve himself. If you missed it, you can see it [here](#) (the song, that is, not what was under the kilts).

Program Committee member **GEORGE UBOGY** previewed this week's speaker, John Celock, a summary of whose talk appears below. **BOB RIMMER** then announced next week's speaker, Mark Nunan, who will discuss the career of Robert Moses, "Master Builder, Political Master of New York." Mark describes his subject as a creative visionary, praised as a genius, a pragmatic builder of public structures for five decades beginning in the 1920s. Over time, however, he became highly controversial and seen as "too powerful for an unelected official." A national debate about the shape of twentieth-century metropolises emanated from his tenure.

AND IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

Tennis: **ANDRE MAZUREK** announced that four tennis matches were played last week. In the opening round, the winners were **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **PETER DODGE** in Court 1, and **ANDRE** and **RANDY MOTLAND** in Court 2. In the finals round, **ANDRE** and **BILL FAKUNDINY** won on court 1, while **MIKE SMITH** and **BILL HOWLAND** triumphed on Court 2. **ANDRE** was the week's captain.

Platform Tennis: Although no scores were available from the ever-diplomatic **RUSS HARDEN**, **JOE MANCINELLI** forwarded a picture he took of "**JIM DEAN** and his Paddle Platoon." Who cares what the scores were when you're having this much fun?



"A motley crew"

Pickle Ball: **TONY COCCHI** reported there were eight players this week for pickleball. The group plays Mondays at 1 pm at Christiano Park, and there are a few spare paddles available for anyone interested in trying this fast-growing game. Those interested should contact either **JOHN KNIGHT** at JohnKnight7@gmail.com, or **TONY** at Anthony.Cocchi@Lehman.cuny.edu.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** gently weighed in with “Get all the health benefits without all the sweat. Join your other RMA members Wednesday at 3:00. Contact Will at wdmorrison@gmail.com or check experiencetaichi.org for the details.”

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that last week’s walker gang started at Crawford Park in Rye. **JEFF JUNKER** led the group on a tour overlooking the distant sights of Greenwich, Rye Brook and Port Chester from the hills in the neighborhood, since there were no leaves yet to block the views. In a follow-up, your humble scribe unearthed some clues as to the identity of “Betsy Brown” of Betsy Brown Road, which was part of our route.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** announced that there were four players on March 9th, **PERKINS, HEALY, AMBROSINO** and **STANKUNAS**. Winners were **AMBROSINO** and **STANKUNAS** with 2 games each, and all players got one moon shot each.

Bridge: **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported five players for bridge. Top scorers were **JOHN FEBLES** (2470), **ANDRE** (2210), **RON FRIEDMAN** (2080) and **TONY COCCHI** (2080).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Scribe **TIM BROOKS** appealed to all speakers to email their comments to him promptly for inclusion in this Bulletin, and all did so. On behalf of the Corps de Scriveners, he hopes this will become the norm in the future.

The meeting was adjourned by **RUSS** at approximately 10:40 am.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Beginning at 11:00 am exactly (there was even a second-by-second countdown!), **GEORGE UBOGY** introduced the day’s featured speaker, John Celock, award-winning journalist and author of *The Next Generation: Young Elected Officials and Their Impact on American Politics*. Celock interviewed over ninety young leaders across America serving in various capacities, from Vice President and Governor to Senator and County Legislator, to provide in-depth look at the challenges of political participation for young, elected officials.



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Celock offered a vivid and engaging portrait of young people who run for office, identifying four broad types: (1) children of politicians, (2) idealists, (3) non-elected young government staffers who feel “they can do it better”, and (4) the “Alex P. Keaton type”—always wanted a place in government from the time they were children. Their causes are many and varied, including ethics reform, easier voting, better use of technology in government, greater social equality, and bringing back older ideas that were unfairly discarded.

Celock then profiled several specific candidates, and the unusual ways in which they campaigned, and summarized recent historical eras in which younger candidates have been particularly prevalent. These include young veterans after World War II (e.g., JFK), those inspired by JFK in the ‘60s, those energized by the Vietnam War in the ‘70s (e.g., John Kerry), those motivated by the 9/11 attacks, and those inspired by President Obama.

There was a lively Q&A in which the speaker addressed questions about how much it costs to run for office (varies greatly), whether young candidates tend to be idealists or pragmatic consensus builders (both), whether they tend to be liberal or conservative (many examples of both), the fact that some, once elected, grow in the job, their unusually heavy use of social media and technological innovation, particularly in fund raising, and whether they tend to be recruited to run by the establishment, or are self-initiated. Finally, when asked about the importance of yard signs around election time, he repeated a phrase familiar in politics: “Yard signs don’t vote.”

The feed was cut abruptly at 11:58 am for most viewers due to a technical glitch, but the video of the entire talk may be accessed through the RMA web site, www.greenwichrma.org.

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

March 17th, Robert Moses, “Master Builder, Political Master of New York.”

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.

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Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2021 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.g@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